

## **Memories of the early days of Lyminge Dramatic Society**

### **Interview by Ingrid Goodchild**

"The first meeting took place well over 50 years ago in the later 50s as I recall. Unfortunately I have mislaid any programmes I had but I am certain there is a scrap book in existence.

Frank Clayson formed the society. I worked for him at the time and was persuaded, with trepidation, to take a part in "*The Ghost Train*", which Frank produced. Our first meeting was held in the old church hall in Rectory Lane. John (Architect) and Doreen Gough were very involved. Doreen played the lead, Bobby Stacey, Paul Baker (had local electrician's business and still lives in the village), Gordon Keutenius, (also still in the village). I B Thomas (local pharmacist), Tom Wood (teacher) and I made up the rest of the cast.

We met for the first read in the Committee Room in the hall. John Gough did set design often assisted by Paul Rand (also still in the village) and Alan Stanley (now in Hythe).

The son of the Methodist Minister whose name I cannot recall dealt with the Sound Effects. He was responsible for playing the recording of the Ghost Train rushing through the station at the appropriate times.

Dress – we wore our own clothes and we did our own make-up. John Lott was Front of House and strictly in charge.

One evening of rehearsal a formidable actor from Canterbury by the surname of Stevens came to adjudicate the play. I seem to recall that for a while the society took part in competitive acting for the Kent Amateur productions organisations.

I don't remember the name of the first prompt but Joy took over from her. I was asked to prompt a couple of times but found it rather nerve wracking (in other productions I mean!).

I can't recall anything else except to say we so enjoyed it. I'm proud of being in the Society and also being in the first production of what is now and has been for sometime, a very successful Dramatic Society.

Good luck with the Web.

Joyce Stanley."