



THEATRE GROUP

The Hagley Theatre Group was started in 1946 when Jo Adams was asked to produce a play for the Hagley Girls' Training Corps. The GTC was a wartime organisation to give girls training in such things as first aid, map reading and aircraft recognition before they entered the forces. Their syllabus included music and drama and so this first play, "Ladies in Waiting," was done with an all girls cast. It was decided to do further plays with mixed casts and the Let's Do A Play Club was formed. The early productions were put on at the Free Church School and then in the old Church Hall which stood on the corner of Church Street. The plays are now put on in the Hagley Community Centre. The early plays were all produced by Jo Adams - he picked the plays and the cast, acted as set designer, builder and director.

The Club went from strength to strength under Jo's guidance until his death in 1977. New members and directors have come along and in 1985 the Club changed its name to the Hagley Theatre Group in order to up-date its image and show its wider range of activities. It is now run by a committee under the chairmanship of Stephen Jones. In order to strengthen the Theatre Group, a Youth Section was added in 1987 and this has now become very active in its own right, putting on one production each year. Over the last 12 years it has entered several Drama Festivals achieving many successes.

Having celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1996 with the very successful production of "The School for Scandal," Hagley Theatre Group looks forward to many future successful productions in the new millennium.

Pauline Lewis