

HEADLEY THEATRE CLUB *presents*

# *Candleford*

A play by Keith Dewhurst  
based on the book 'Lark Rise to Candleford'  
by Flora Thompson

---

---

Following the successful BBC TV series of *Lark Rise to Candleford*, meet again here with Laura, Dorcas Lane, Zillah, Sir Timothy, Thomas Brown, the blacksmiths and other familiar characters on a winter's day when the hunt meets at Candleford Green

---

---

## PROGRAMME

Touring June 2009

Bohunt School, Liphook    Friday 19th June - 8pm  
The Petersfield School    Saturday 20th June - 8pm  
Rural Life Centre, Tilford    Sunday 21st June - 2.30pm  
The Phoenix, Bordon    Friday 26th June - 8pm  
Headley Village Hall    Saturday 27th June - 8pm

# THE PRODUCTION

## Director's Notes

Welcome to our promenade performance of Keith Dewhurst's *Candleford*, the second of two plays from Flora Thompson's semi-autobiographical novels about the countryside of north-east Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire at the end of the 19th century. This play centres on one winter's day, the first hunt meet of the new year. It begins with Flora's own introduction to set the scene, and follows with her reflections on the characters from the perspective of the future.

All good stories are a journey, and Laura at age 14 (played by Chloe Porter, who celebrates her 15th birthday during the run) is finding out for the first time about the grown up problems that face her as she moves from her home village of Lark Rise to her first job in the Post Office in Candleford Green - an adult world of gossip, intrigue and secrets.

While the play is set in one cold day in January, it contains contemporary themes of growing up and leaving the sheltered world of childhood to forge a future in an adult world of eccentric characters brought to life by the large cast assembled from local theatre groups. The flash forward to Flora's life as a wife and author completes her story.

The first thing you'll notice is that there is no set place for you to be. In a traditional 'proscenium arch' performance the space for the action and the watching are clearly delineated you sit and watch the play like a viewer of TV; the director will ensure that the best view of the action is to the side where the audience is sitting - and this causes odd moments when people engage in an intense discussion while standing side by side facing the audience.

In this promenade performance with you all round and amongst the action, the actors can tell the story in a slightly more authentic and natural way without regard to a particular viewing direction. This is more like directing for TV than directing for a theatrical performance, and as an active participant you will need to move to get the best view for yourself.

You are part of the action, here the action will flow around you - it may ask you gently to move out of its way, it will ask you to get involved and you are an active participant of the action - more like a TV camera choosing your viewing preferences moment by moment than a passive TV watcher consuming whatever is in front of you.

By sharing the space you will get physically closer to the action than perhaps you are used to, watch the drama unfold right in front of you, or right next to you. You may not see all of the action and will need to watch the reaction of others in certain scenes to follow the emotions - you may hear only some parts of some scenes, and you may not get a chance to join us in all the community dances, yet it is my hope that you will, together with the cast and band, help to create an event that is a celebration of Flora Thompson.

*The action is continuous with a 15 minute break.*

# CAST

Laura	Chloe Porter
Edmund Bavour	Alex Clark
Albert Timms Sir Timothy Mr Coulsden Mr Cochrane John Thompson	Rod Sharp
Mrs Gubbins Mrs Peverill	Wendy Downs
Cinderella Doe Zillah Mrs Andrews	Pru Harrold
Mrs Gascoigne Mrs Macey <i>Recorder</i>	Jo Levy
Emma Timms Minnie Hickman Lavinia Laura (older) <i>Guitar</i>	Mel White
Thomas Brown John Gaskin Loony Joe Mr Wilkins <i>Mandolin</i>	Dale Lodge
Cowman Jolliffe Mr Chitty	John Prescott
Tom Ashley Sir Austin Robert Bowler <i>Guitar</i>	Nick Webb
Dorcas Lane	Kat Wootton
Matthew <i>Electric bass</i>	Jo Smith
Bill	Chris Potts
Landlord <i>Percussion</i>	Paul Wareham
<i>Lead Guitar</i>	Martin Levy
<i>Pipes</i>	Steve White
<i>Dance</i>	Freda Lodge

## Production Team

Director ..... Steve White  
Producer ..... John Owen Smith  
Wardrobe ..... Dil Williamson-Smith & helpers  
Food .....  
and thanks to all those others who have helped with this production in any way

*(I'm sure there are more people we should include here ...)*

## Acknowledgements

Rural Life Centre, Tilford: smocks and blacksmiths' equipment;  
*(and there will be more here too ...)*

---

### Future productions by Headley Theatre Club

Headley Theatre Club has a history of ... (etc, etc)

**Saturday, July 25th - Headley 'Hayloft'** - a Charity evening with 50% of the profits going to nominated charities, with songs from the shows such as *Calamity Jane, Oklahoma, Paint Your Wagon* and many others; line dance instruction, raffle and 'fun' features. Dust off your Stetsons, tassel shirts and boots and head for **Headley Village Hall** - have a fun night and help worthwhile causes - £12.50 including a light supper. Bring own drink.

**October 2nd, 3rd, 9th 10th - 'Allo 'Allo** - in Headley Village Hall

**January 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd in 2010 - Pantomime** - in Headley Village Hall

**[www.headley-village.com/drama/](http://www.headley-village.com/drama/) or 01428 712892 for further details**