



# Victorian romp is still a rib-tickler

CHARLEY'S AUNT is one of those plays which everyone has heard of but few people have seen.

Best described as a Victorian romp, Wimborne Drama Club put on such sparkling performances at the Allendale Centre that the audiences could not help but be swept along by the fun and games.

Written about 100 years ago by Brandon Thomas, this is a classic in which the comedy has lost nothing by the passage of time and changing fashions in entertainment.

Martin Lodge as Lord Babberley, looking and acting like the comedian Michael Barrymore, was energetically splendid, as was Anthony Feltham and James Ruegg as Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham, the two young men with romance on their minds who frolicked through the piece with alacrity.

With not one weak link in the cast, special mention must be made of Simon Jackson, as Stephen Spettigue.

Pamela Feltham was a delightful Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez, and the three young ladies providing the main romantic interest (Carolyn Woodward, Shirley Ilott and Helen Wood) were as pretty as Victorian pictures.

David Green was distinguished as Col Sir Francis Chesney, and put-

ting the icing on this cake of pure English comedy was Howard Lovejoy as the manservant Brassett.

The play was co-produced and directed by Arthur Brooks and James Ruegg. Others behind the scenes were Joyce Eidmans (stage manager), Paul Hewett (assistant), Chris Richards and Louise Eaton (lighting), Janet Stevenson (prompt), Sheila Morrell (props), Sylvia Fowle, Suzanne Elliot, Louisa Elliot, Clare Miller, Sandra Chapel and Peter Brooks (scenery), Enid Davies (wardrobe), Daphne Young (front of house) and A Hewitt (poster design).

● Cast members seen above (from left): Kitty (Carolyn Woodward), Jack (Tony Feltham), Lord Fancourt Babberley (Martin Lodge), Charley (Jim Ruegg) and Amey (Shirley Ilott).  
Picture Kevin Allison.