

## BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS

### **PACK OF LIES** by Hugh Whitmore

This highly polished performance from the entire cast was a credit to Bartholomew Players and the directors, Laurence Marks and Debi Lisburn Diacon.

Barbara Jackson (Elaine Leggett) a good suburban housewife and mother took us superbly through a whole range of emotions and was particularly good when portraying a woman under pressure and near breaking point. Her reaction to Helen in the latter stages was excellent. A shining performance. Her husband, Bob Jackson (Chris Carson) was solid in his reactions to the evolving situation and very good under pressure from Stewart. Julie Jackson (Seren Lemaire) was very confident and very effective playing the 'stropky teenage daughter'.

Helen Kroger (Claire Crowther) was imposing and convincing as the American/Canadian friend. She had a great presence and was able to command the stage throughout all aspects of her relationship with Barbara. Peter Kroger (Gareth Hammond) was very effective, with a good accent and quietly persuasive in his manner.

Stewart (John Casey) was very authoritative, quietly spoken, but with menace. He was convincing in his questioning, with excellent timing. His constant encircling of the room was a little off-putting.

The tension was well maintained the whole time and kept everyone guessing who was involved with the spying. It raised the question of whether there was a 'Christie' 'double-bluff' of a crooked police officer and was there any involvement of Julie? The appearance of Thelma (Sara Miller), police surveillance officer dispelled that theory. She was very professional in her portrayal, as was Sally (Pip Burns) her replacement officer.

The soliloquies from each of the cast members were well delivered and were very effective.

The set was ingenious, with everyone well-disciplined to ensure that they followed the correct routes through the rooms, even during blackouts. Sound and lighting were outstanding. The costumes were all appropriate and well thought out, with a different costume effected with just a change of cardigan.

Overall, the play was exceptional and the professionalism of the directors and cast shone through.

Congratulations.

Nigel James