

*Spring Grove Fringe - 2015*

# ***The Beaux' Stratagem***

***Lust and Looting in Lichfield!***



***Friday 27th November at 8.00pm  
Saturday 28th November at 7.30pm***

***Reg. Charity No. 1150982***

# The Beaux' Stratagem

by George Farquhar

adapted and directed by  
Sandy Gavshon and Nigel Duffin

Lichfield 1707

## Act 1

The George Inn

The garden at Lady Bountiful's house

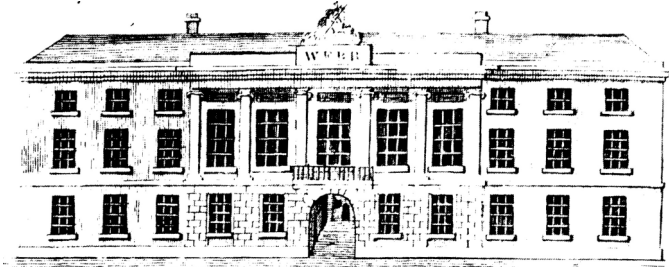
The drawing room in Lady Bountiful's house

## Act 2

The George Inn

A bedchamber in Lady Bountiful's house

The drawing room in Lady Bountiful's house



Musician

Stage Manager & Props

Additional Props

Stage Crew

Lighting

Costumes

Choreography

Make up

Box Office

Bar

Catering

Catering Logistics

Jackie Steinitz

Helen Dawson

The Antelope, Surbiton

Barbara Higham

Mark Springthorpe

Sandy Gavshon

Suzanne Nail

Emma Nail

Tessa Kind

Mike Charlton

Amanda Shaw, Jenny Robson, Barbara Higham

Roger Chown

## **Be pleased to meet the characters**

Aimwell and his friend Archer have lost all but two hundred pounds of their money gambling in the London clubs. To escape their creditors, they leave London, posing as master and servant, hoping to find wealthy ladies and, if absolutely necessary, to marry them.

Their first stop is the George Inn in Lichfield, where Boniface, the landlord, has a few money-making sidelines and colourful guests. There is the flamboyant Count Bellair, a French army officer under arrest after capture during the War of the Spanish Succession. He is full of money. There is also the gang of highwaymen, led by Gibbet, who use the George as a headquarters.

You will find that the Tapster at the George is a man who knows more than he says!

Boniface's feisty daughter Cherry finds Archer – who calls himself Martin – a pretty fellow. She would not be tempted to marry a mere footman, but does not believe that is his real status.

Lady Bountiful, a wealthy widow, is well known locally for her 'cures' of distempers, distensions, and the like, for which she has a range of remedies, including her very own cordial water. Her son, Squire Sullen, a country blockhead, has recently married a fine lady from London, who finds the country life full of racks and torments. She is seeking a way to punish her sullen sot of a husband. Lady Bountiful's daughter, Dorinda, is worried by the example she sees in her friend Mrs Sullen about the joys that matrimonial life may hold in store.

Aimwell, in an unaccustomed visit to church, fixes his eye on Dorinda, in whom he sees beauty and a fortune. She sees his looks, seemingly so humble, yet so noble, and is faint at the sight.

The Squire's servant Scrub has a world of simplicity and some cunning. His skills are multi-faceted – driving the coach, following hounds, going to market, drawing beer, waiting at table, whetting knives. Chiefly, laying out a fine venison pasty for his master.

It is Sir Charles, bringing news from London, who is able to resolve the problems in which the couples find themselves.

**'Twould be hard to guess which of these parties is the better pleased, the couple joined, or the couple parted!**

## Characters in order of appearance

Will Boniface, landlord of the George

Cherry, his daughter

Thomas Aimwell, a London beau, fallen on hard times

Frank Archer, his friend, also lacking money

Tapster at the George

Count Bellair, a French Officer, under arrest at the inn

Dorinda, daughter to Lady Bountiful

Mrs Kate Sullen, a London lady, married to the Squire

Squire Sullen, her husband, son to Lady Bountiful

Scrub, the Squire's servant

Gibbet, chief of the highwaymen

Gipsy, servant to Lady Bountiful

Foigard, an Irish priest, pretending to be Belgian

Cook to Lady Bountiful

Lady Bountiful, a local eccentric, specialising in 'cures'

Biddy, chambermaid at Lady Bountiful's house

Minnie, a second chambermaid

Hounslow, a member of Gibbet's gang

Bagshot, another member of the gang

Sir Charles Freeman, brother to Mrs Sullen

Keith Glenny

Suzanne Nail

Adrian Treloar

David Hamilton

Laurie South

Allan Lloyd

Karina Ramnarain

Sandie Glenny

Chris Brookes

Scott Milligan

Lynn Charlton

Val Boyle

Tony Tresigne

Sarah Richardson

Amanda Shaw

Barbara Higham

Charlotte Quarmby

Linda Rhead

Jenny Robson

Roger Chown



### Next production – Ali Baba – February 5th/6th

Transport yourself into the magical world that is the Spring Grove Fringe Annual Pantomime. Enjoy an 'Arabian Night' – or even Matinée – where children of all ages can open sesame into the den of the forty thieves.

Make sure you are on the email list to get further information.

Spring Grove Fringe thanks The Antelope Ale and Cider House for loan of a barrel (as near 17th century as we could manage) and stools for the George Inn.

The Antelope, in Maple Road, Surbiton, is passionate about good beer, home-cooked food and friendly service.

THE ANTELOPE



ALE & CIDER HOUSE