

**Being Sociable** featuring the Stage Two Downham evening get-together

# Spotlight falls on local drama group members at a social gathering

*Photos: Tony Braithwaite*

**T**HE spotlight fell on members of Stage Two Downham when they met at the Moorcock Inn, Waddington, for a well-deserved social gathering.

Members of the amateur dramatic group took a break from rehearsals for this month's production, a comedy written by Raymond Hopkins, 'Love Begins at 50'. They were welcomed to the annual event

by group chairwoman Lesley Knight prior to an evening of good food, good company and relaxation.

The evening was organised by Pat Hargreaves.

'Love Begins at 50' features Lesley in the leading role as 'Anita', and takes place from March 28th to 31st. Tickets are available from Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre.



Some of the officials, from the left: Lesley Knight, Dan Bradbury, Barbara Price and Eddie Bootle 17240101/4



Glen Purchase, Liz Wrigley, Molly Hood and Brett Cleave 17240101/4



Stage Two members at the Moorcock Hotel, Waddington 17210101/5



Above: Some of the diners, from the left: David King, Barbara Price, Janet Hulme, Chris Hulme, Joan Scorchah and Mel Scorchah. 17240101/4  
Left, from the left: Gerry Hood, Dorothy Cushing, John Hatch, Lynn Bootle, Pat Hargreaves and Gerry Purchase. 17240101/4

# Classic farce to get its first local airing



REHEARSALS are well under way for the latest production of Stage 2 Downham.

"Love Begins at 50" is a classic farce not seen locally before – 50-ish Clive Debanks, played by Gerry Purchase, is keen for a last fling via a newspaper lonely hearts column.

His wife, Anita, played by Lesley Knight, has entered the same paper's

ideal mature couple contest and, predictably, the two strands become intertwined.

Mrs Dorothy Cushing is the producer, and society officials feel that their level of urban Ribbles Valley support will help keep houses well-filled, despite

the foot and mouth crisis.

The play goes on from March 28th-31st at Downham Village Hall.

Our picture shows members of the cast, with fling-crazed Mr Debanks unable to keep off the telephone, despite cameras pointed at him on and off stage.

(T110301/7)

## Stage Two Downham Presents "Love Begins At Fifty"

**Wednesday 28th - Saturday 31st March**

This hilarious, yet thought provoking modern farce by Raymond Hopkins will have its Northern Premier in Downham Village Hall for four nights, commencing at 7.30pm.

It tells the story of how an uneventful 28 year old marriage undergoes a startling change, as preparations for the husband's fiftieth birthday are underway. Non-communication between husband and wife leads inevitably to several complications and lots of laughs along the way.

The play is being directed by Dorothy Cushing, and the cast of nine includes our regular team of players, plus two new faces whom we are pleased to welcome to Stage Two. Tickets, £4 each, are available from Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre, Tel. 01200 425566. (Please note the car park at the Village Hall has now been extended).

## Author pays secret visit to see his play

A SECRET was kept from the nine-strong cast of a village play on the final night.

Sitting in the audience at Downham Village Hall was author Raymond Hopkins.

He had travelled north from his home in Oxford to watch the play – the first time it had been performed in the North.

He joined the last of four sell-out audiences which rocked in the aisles at his farce "Love Begins at Fifty".

His presence was kept from the nine-strong Downham Players' cast until the

curtain came down, in case it made them nervous.

Their performance was appreciated by the playwright, who joined members of the cast for supper afterwards.

Society official Lesley Knight said: "We thought it was wonderful that he should take so much trouble to come and watch us perform his play."

Mr Hopkins is a television engineer who has taken up writing plays as a hobby. So far, he has written five plays, two of which have been published.

● Turn to page 12 for a review of the farce.