

# FOND MEMORIES OF A FINE CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT



Dramatised versions from the works of Charles Dodgson and Charles Dickens were on the programme for the KGS Christmas Entertainment in 1953. Scenes from 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'A Christmas Carol', were performed alongside Christmas carols and, judging by the account in The Kingstonian of January 1954, it was an excellent evening.

'In the scenes from 'Alice' every word was easily heard from the back of the hall. The colours of the costumes were excellent, vivid and pleasing. The made-up heads of the White Rabbit, the Gryphon, the Dormouse and others were magnificent, and our thanks are due to their skilful manufacturer, Mr. Browne. Every one of those fantastic characters put up a very good show. They were full of vitality and carried off their parade of cheerful idiocy (mingled with weird touches of subtle metaphysics) with the utmost gusto.'

Sadly no photos remain of the 'Alice' section of the entertainment, so we can only conjure up images of the 'parade' in our heads.

We are, however, fortunate to have been lent some photographs of 'A Christmas Carol' by David Fenner (OK 1948-54), who played the part of Bob Cratchit. He is described as an 'admirable Cratchit, whose easy simple goodness could not but be immediately appreciated'. The part of Scrooge was played by R T Dorrington, who made 'an extremely convincing miser'. Other cast members J F Ireland (the Ghost of Jacob Marley), M C Paternoster (the Ghost of Christmas Past) and E Rump (the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come) 'played their difficult parts effectively' and 'P G Cobb deserves praise for his playing of Mrs. Cratchit.'

Merry Christmas Everyone!

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