

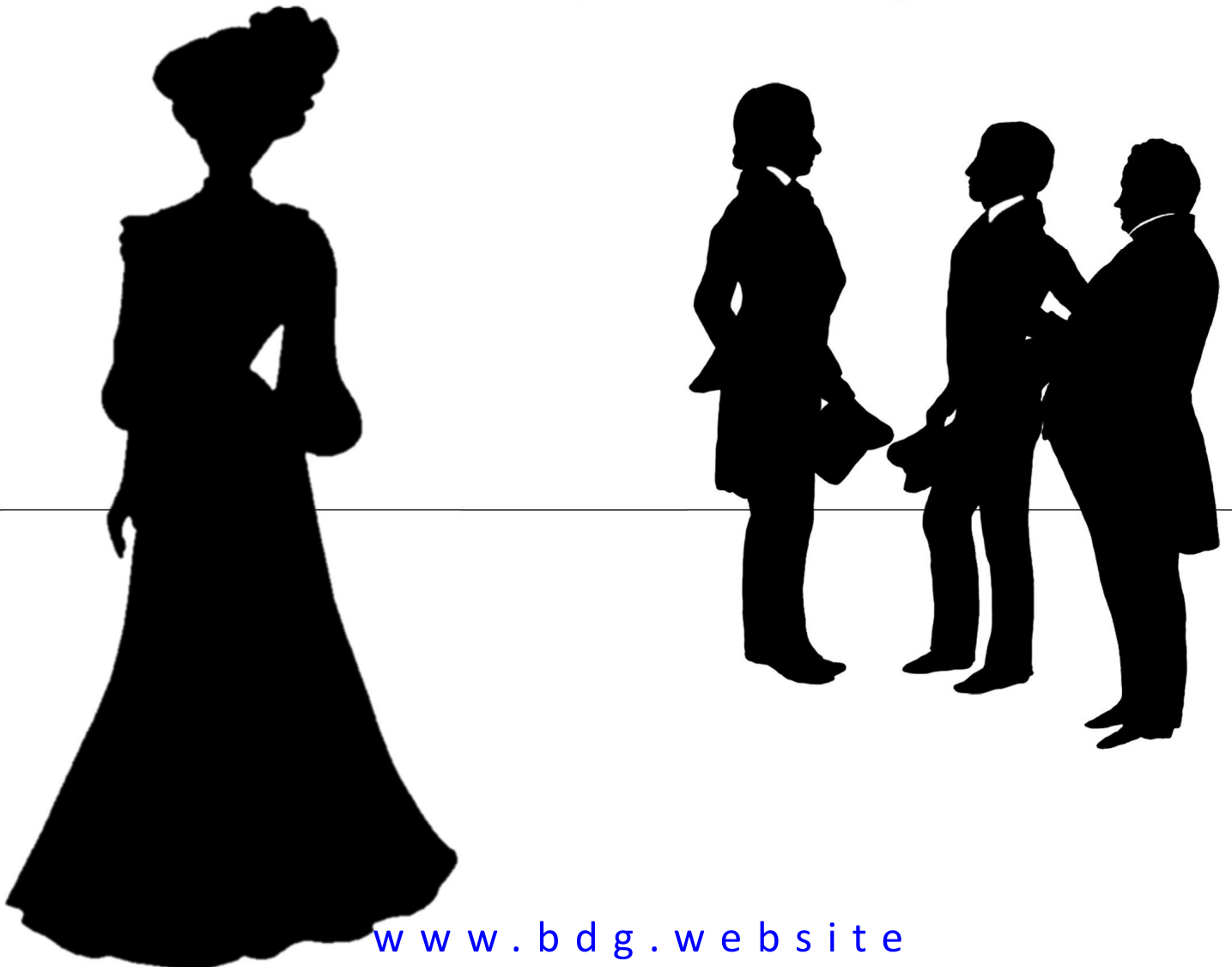


Presents

*Oscar Wilde's*  
*A Woman of*  
*No Importance*

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> to Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019

At 7:45pm in The Village Hall, Barton.



[www.bdg.website](http://www.bdg.website)

## Cast

Lord Illingworth	David Sear
Mrs. Arbuthnot	Ellis Cooper
Mrs. Allonby	Gill Reed
Gerald	Jonny Sellin
Lady Hunstanton	Suzanne Carter
Lady Caroline	Rosemary Eason
Hester	Grace Harper
Lady Stutfield	Val Watson
Mr. Kelvil M.P.	Graham Vaughan
Sir John	Ken Eason
Frances	Norma Eaton
Alice	Helen Newstead

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A Woman of No Importance is a play by Irish playwright Oscar Wilde. The play premièred on 19 April 1893 at London's Haymarket Theatre. Like Wilde's other society plays, it satirizes English upper-class society with the main theme the secrets of the upper-classes.

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### Acknowledgements:

Our thanks to Mead Construction for the use of their transport, for moving the sets and staging to the hall.

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There are a *limited* amount of seat pads available for the *red* chairs (only), for your added comfort, please ask a member of the front of house team if you would like one.

# For Barton Drama Group

Director	Andrew Shepherd
Co-director	Tracy James
Stage Manager	Neil Dunlop
Prompt	Helen Newstead
Props	Members of the cast
Set Design	Mike Vaughan
Set Construction	Members of the group
Set Painting	Linda Samson & Tracy James
Box Office	Norma Eaton
Wardrobe Supplier	Dress Circle
Wardrobe Supervisor	Tracy James & Andrew Shepherd
Front of House Managers	Meta and Hugh Greenfield
Lighting & Sound	Chris Bell
Flowers	Maggie Edwards
Poster / Programme Design	Graham Vaughan
Photography	Robert Vaughan

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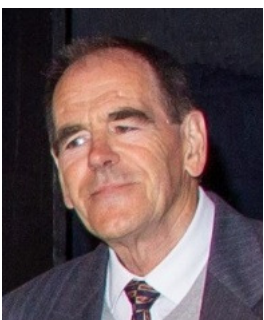
Act I ~ Lady Hunstanton's Mansion, afternoon.  
Act II ~ Lady Hunstanton's Mansion, later that day

There will be a 20 minute interval

Act III ~ Lady Hunstanton's Mansion, after dinner.  
Act IV ~ Mrs. Arbuthnot's house, the following day.

Set in the early 1890's

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## **Geoff Nicholls 1946 – 2019**

Former chairman and one of our founding members, Geoff lost his long and brave battle with cancer in June of this year. He was a wonderful person and friend, and the group will miss him immensely. We would like to dedicate these performances to Geoff.

## From our Director.

When Winston Churchill was once asked whom he would like to meet and talk with in the afterlife he immediately replied “Oscar Wilde”. Max Beerbohm said, in 1954, “I have had the privilege of listening to many masters of table talk, all of them splendid in their own way, but Oscar was the greatest of them all – the most spontaneous and the most polished, the most soothing and yet the most surprising. Nobody was willing to interrupt the music of so magnificent a virtuoso.”

Oscar’s father, Sir William Wilde, was the leading eye specialist of his time and invented the operation for cataract – performing it on the King of Sweden, among others – while Oscar’s mother was an ardent Irish Nationalist, writing poems and articles for ‘The Nation’. Oscar’s education began in Enniskillen, earning a scholarship to Trinity College, Dublin where he won a gold medal for his Greek. Thence to Magdalen College, Oxford gaining a double first in Classics and a prize for his English verse.

Finding his poetry didn’t earn him enough on which to live, in 1882 he embarked on a lecture tour of America. Two years later, back in England, he fell in love with Constance Lloyd, married very happily and soon was the proud father of two sons. He became the editor of ‘Woman’s World’, published a couple of books of short stories and then his only novel, ‘The Picture of Dorian Gray’ in 1891. In the same year he wrote ‘Lady Windermere’s Fan’, performed to great acclaim in 1892. Salome followed soon after, but Sarah Bernhardt’s desire to perform the title role in London was thwarted by the Lord Chamberlain, on the grounds that no play containing biblical characters could be performed on the English stage... Angry, but undaunted, Wilde wrote ‘A Woman of No Importance’, produced in 1893, proving every bit as popular as Lady Windermere. ‘An Ideal Husband’ hit the stage in January, 1895, with ‘The Importance of Being Ernest’ opening in another theatre the following month – Oscar was just 40 years old. Five years later, suffering from meningitis in a Paris bedsit, he uttered his last words “My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or other of us has got to go”. By how much the wallpaper outlived him we shall never know...

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For a full list of our previous productions, go to: [www.bdg.website/previous](http://www.bdg.website/previous)

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If you would be interested in being part of Barton Drama Group, please talk to one of our Front of House staff, or visit our website: [www.bdg.website](http://www.bdg.website)