

MacBeth

Mar 15 2007

Shinfield Players Theatre

By and large, amateur groups tend to steer away from Shakespeare, and normally the only opportunity of watching his work locally is the annual production in the Abbey ruins masterminded by Progress Theatre.

It was, therefore, very brave of the Shinfield Players to grasp the nettle and present 'The Scottish Play'.

And it must be even more rewarding for them to know that the production was such a resounding success.

In his programme notes, director Gary Ellmes indicated he and his cast were striving for what he referred to as 'the two Es rule' - emotion and effect. It is fair to say they attained both!

The emotion in the text was successfully allowed to speak for itself and the effect was not only there in the acting but in the sound effects and Martin Terrell's excellent lighting design, one of the best I have experienced recently, be it on a professional or an amateur stage.

The challenging title role was superbly portrayed by Matt Hart, ably supported by Heidi Ashton as Lady Macbeth, and all members of the large cast in this traditionally costumed show.

Barrie Theobald