

## BRAINTREE & WITHAM TIMES

### BRIGADOON

Brigadoon, a really colourful show was presented by Witham Amateur Operatic Society last week.

The multicoloured plates of the Trews and kilts were offset by the pastel shades of the ladies costumes, the music ranged from gentle love songs to village frolics.

It is the story of a village that only appears out of the mist of the Scottish Glens for one day every hundred years on this day in 1946 to young American men stumble upon the village. One of them falls in love with a girl who will vanish for the next century.

Stewart Adkins played the young lover opposite Val ditch man the pleasant voices blended together well in the duets on the solos the rather static were clear and true Mariah Irving made a lively animated Meg Brockie a young lady who set out to entice the other visitor played by Michael Dagnan. His cynical reluctance was an excellent foil for her exuberance.

The shorthand of the producer Derek Collins was to be found in many subtle touches. There was however the sight and sound of Chris apps a piper in full dress on stage to play a dirge for the funeral.

The scenery, especially in the opening scene was outstanding and the lighting and stage effects most convincing, dry ice was even used from above to produce cloud effects. Steve Rogers gave a very good performance of a young man, full of misery and hate. This was well-balanced by the philosophical avuncular character played by David Adams.

Cynthia Stead's choreography was excellent there were many good dance scenes but the sword dance and the funeral dance were the highlights. Gone are the days of the heavy slow stepping chorus the fight scene was most dramatic. Kathryn Adkins and Philip Cousins were the young couple about to be married and they played and sang the parts with useful joy.

Brian Brown the musical director had some excellent musicians to conduct. Brigadoon is a very well written musical when it's pretty well produced and performed as this is a joy to watch.

**James Bright**