



The Windsor Fringe Marriott Award for New Drama Writing: June 12th 7pm

It was with baited breath that the readers of the scripts awaited the results of the Windsor Fringe Drama Award. After a glass of bubbly and a sandwich or two at Waterstones in High Street Windsor, Ann Trewartha of the Fringe put us all out of our misery, by announcing the winning three plays, 'Young Shakspeer', 'Fairy Lights' and 'The People's Act of Literature'.

There were 45 readers in all, many of whom were present at the winning announcement. They shortlisted 9 scripts, which were then passed over to none other than Kenneth Branagh and the famous director, Iqbal Khan, who then whittled it down to 3 winning plays. Unbelievably, 304 scripts were submitted from 14 countries for

the competition. Out of the winning plays, one writer came from Finland, another from Somerset and the third, Andy Gittins, is from Windsor! Andy is a local amateur actor who does a lot for the Windsor Theatre Guild and works in Waterstones in Slough. This is the first time in the 5 years of the Award, that someone from Windsor has been shortlisted, let alone been one of the winners—so needless to say, the Fringe were very pleased with the results!

The winning plays will be performed in October, with a £500 cash prize for the best play, which will be announced at the Grand Finale of the Fringe Festival.

Fraser and Carol from Waterstones put on a lovely 'do', also reminding me of a couple

of dates for the diary—two authors talks in July: Anne de Courcy talking about her perceptive and authoritative new biography of Lord Snowden, and Leo Hollis discussing his intriguing new book, *The Phoenix* about St Paul's Cathedral and the men who made Modern London. I was quick to add that there were probably a few women as well! Details on the talks in the What's On Pages.

Above: The script readers raise a toast!

Right: Andy Gittins celebrates in the Criterion following news of his winning play



Photos by Adam Trewartha