

**A Visit to Salisbury Playhouse Theatre 18th November 2010 to see "The Picture" by Philip Massinger.**

**Report by Colin Wynn - Social Secretary**

Inclement weather was no deterrent to the 47 members and wives who joined the recent theatre outing to Salisbury. Their optimism was justified as the sun came out as the coach travelled through the Forest and so on via Ringwood. Fortified by coffee on arrival, the ladies enjoyed some retail therapy until retiring to one of the local 'eateries' for lunch.

Thus refreshed, it was off to the Salisbury Playhouse and their current offering. "The Picture", an early 17th century play by Philip Massinger, who had been born in Salisbury in 1583. The Playhouse's Artistic Director, Philip Wilson has transposed the action to the early 19th century and thus the picture is really a photograph, which was just being developed as a technique. This labour of love involved detailed research of the Elizabethan script and modernisation while retaining the verse structure of the dialogue. No staging of this play has taken place for the last 100 years and so this was very much uncharted territory. The basic plot involving sex, lust, seduction and marital infidelity augured well and although the verse dialogue was not always easy to follow - partly due to the tendency of some members of the cast to cram a quart into a pint pot oratorically speaking - by the interval most of the audience were well into the plot. Refreshed by coffee and /or ice-cream the second half sped away. Lively with many twists and turns until the final "all lived happily ever after", the audience left with smiles on their faces after yet another good day out.