



LET'S GO FOR IT!

by Horry Parsons

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The action throughout the play takes place in the Lounge Bar of Hedgepool Community Centre, and covers a year in which the inhabitants endeavour to win the village of the year competition.

Characters	In order of appearance.
Joe Taylor	Manager / Barman of the Community Centre
Vic Good	Leader of Young Citizens Club
Julie Jones	Vic's assistant
Debbie Green	Julie's assistant
Anne	Teenage/ Young citizen
Carole	" " "
Sophie	" " "
Mel	" " "
Daisy	Barmaid. Of an age to be equal to senior members of the community.
Jack Smith	Senior Citizen
Alan Hincote	Young member of local cricket club.
Meg Morgan	Senior Citizen
Rosie Ford	" "
Pat Hall	" "
Peggy Parr	" "
John Messenger	County Organiser of "Village of the Year" competition.
Kate Bentley-Walls	Hedgepool Parish Councillor

Act One
Scene One.
Winter

(Notices advertising Meeting and new Youth Club posted over Bar . On the bar is a vase containing a winter display,pumps various pub paraphernalia)

(The stage is unlit .Joe enters up centre, switches on lights and exits through bar exit. Vic Good enters up centre and moves in front of bar. She is followed by Julie Jones and then Debbie Green .As they enter they all greet each other,Debbie and Julie move down right ,as Anne,Carole,Sophie and Mel enter and are greeted by Vic before the four youngsters sit on the bench seat ,right. They all continue chatting .)

VIC Right girls quieten down please. As you know we only started our little organisation, the Hedgepool Young Citizens Social Club a few weeks ago in an effort to provide something for our youngsters to enjoy in a village which has so little in the way of community togetherness. To night I can announce how we are moving forward. Firstly you all know Julie Jones who will help me in running our club.

JULIE Yes, and I'm happy to be Vic's assistant and help where I can. Although I'm not very good at organising anything.

DEBBIE I'd also like to help if you'll let me.

VIC Good, what can you do Debbie?

DEBBIE Not a lot, but perhaps I could be second assistant to your first assistant.

VIC Excellent – you're in. Now the second thing to tell you is that I've called a general meeting of villagers, here, to night., to meet the County Organiser of The Village of the Year contest which I hope Hedgepool will enter and our club will show the way to lift the community spirit to a level unknown before in this village.

(All chat excitedly at this news as Joe Taylor appears behind the bar.)

JOE Good evening girls

ALL Hello Joe

JOE *(to Vic)* Usual? *(Vic nods. Joe calls off L)* Two lemonades Daisy please. *(to Vic)* and will the girls have their usual cokes when they've finished singing?

JULIE We're not actually singing tonight, Joe. We all have other business to attend to.

(A tray with two glasses appears to float across the bar as Daisy is not tall enough to be clearly seen above the bar paraphernalia)

DEBBIE Can you make it three lemonades please.

VIC Oh, I forgot we now have a second helper. Make it three please Daisy.
(Tray turns and floats off)

JOE So, why no singing?

JULIE It's so exciting, Vic's called everybody to a meeting here this evening to discuss Hedgepool pulling together to win the Village of the Year Contest.

JOE *(Laughs sarcastically)* What. It will never work. The only time they ever attempted to pull together was the Hedgepool Tug O War Team and they failed miserably on the first pull and never tried again.

(Tray, with three glasses, appears and moves across then Daisy appears as she steps up on 'box' behind bar)

VIC Thanks Daisy. Nice to see you again.

DAISY And it's nice to see you. I don't know why I took this job behind a bar, for most of my life I haven't got a clue what's happening in the world. What is happening?

VIC Well, you know I've started this youth group.

DAISY Yes, I know that.

JULIE And I've become Vic's assistance.

DAISY I didn't know that.

DEBBIE And I've become Julie's assistant.

(Jack Smith enters down left.)

JOE Hello, here comes the first of the village V.I.Ps. Very ignorant personalities, Good evening Jack.

JACK Doesn't seem that good to me, why are we here this evening?

JOE Well, I'll bet it's not to spend much. You know, if I didn't do a bit of catering I'd hardly cover the licence for this place. What'll it be?

JACK Half a shandy please. *(Daisy exits as Alan Hincote enters down left)*

VIC Hello, Alan, you're representing the cricket club, I believe?

ALAN Yes, that's right, but I'm also very keen to get involved personally.

JACK That's your first mistake, Alan my boy. You don't show keenness 'till you know what's in it for you.

ALAN That's not very community spirited is it Mr Smith?

JACK Probably not, but it's served me all right so far.

*(Shandy appears, then Daisy. Jack and Alan move to near bar.
Megan Morgan and Rosie Ford enter down left, greetings all round)*

VIC I'm so pleased you could make it.

MEG I can't wait to hear what this is all about.

ROSIE It's so exciting. Going to change our lives according to the blurb you sent round. *(Meg and Rosie sits)*

VIC Well, I think so, oh! Here are some more village dignitaries

(Pat Hall enters down left and greetings all round)

PAT Oh, it's so cold out there.

DEBBIE Well it is November, Mr Hall. Winter. Winters are cold. Always have been, always will.

PAT Well I don't like it, never have, never will. Why did we have to turn out on an evening like this.

VIC Because I wanted to have a cross section of our community here for this special meeting. *(Pat sits)*

(Peggy Parr enters down left)

PEGGY Sorry if I'm late, I just got so interested in this new book I got from the library. It's called 'Birth signs and how to read them. I can now guess any ones birth sign, shall I just-----

VIC Not now, if you don't mind Peggy.

PEGGY I must just show you. Here Alan, *(Alan moves to Peggy)* do you like coke cola?

ALAN Oh thank you, just a small one.

PEGGY I'm not buying you one, I just want to see your reaction so I can guess your birth sign. Got it. It's Leo. Is your birth sign Leo.

ALAN Could be, my birthdays next week, November 5th. What a birth date. My Dad always told me that the fireworks were for my birthday.

PEGGY Um! Leo's are end of July early August. Something wrong there, you ought to be a Leo, Are you sure you're not a Leo?

(Alan moves back to bar. Peggy sits)

JOE Look, before any meeting starts, do any of you want anything from the bar?
(Silence) Typical, how do you expect me to run this place if you don't buy anything. If I didn't get the occasional party booking and do the catering we would have to close.

(John Messenger enters down left)

JOHN Is this the Hedgepool Community Centre?

JOE It is, and for once the community has decided to turn out, but as usual they are not spending much. Who are you?

JOHN John Messenger, I'm here to meet a Vic Good.

VIC *(Moves to John and shakes hands)* Good evening, thank you for coming. I think we are all here, so, over to you, Mr Messenger.

(Vic moves down right John keeps down left)

JOHN Good evening, please call me John. I have been invited here this evening to---

(Kate Bentley-Walls enters down left)

KATE You haven't started without me, have you?

VIC I'm sorry but it has gone seven thirty.

KATE What's that got to do with it. You know I chair most meetings in the village and meetings just don't start until I arrive. In any case I would have been here earlier if someone had heard me blowing my car hooter to get that wheelbarrow moved from where I park my car. I eventually had to get out and move it myself and the barrow was full of er! er!

JACK Pigs muck.

KATE Quite.

VIC Look we must get started. This is John Messenger.

KATE Good evening. I'm Mrs Kate Bentley-Walls. That's Bentley as in cars.

ALAN And Walls as in brick. *(Kate glares at Alan and sits.)*

KATE You can start now Mr Messenger.

JOHN Thank you. I have been invited to speak to you regarding the Village of the Year Competition of which I am the County Organiser. This competition runs for the whole year and is intended to improve community spirit by getting people to work together organising various events which brings the community together. Each village that enters is monitored throughout the year and the best three are finally judged on the cleanness and general smartness of the village. Giving an overall winner next autumn. Any questions?

JACK Yes. How much to enter?

JOHN It's all free.

JACK What's the prize.

JOHN A thousand pounds for a community party next Christmas.

JACK Well then, I'm up for it. Anything for a free party.

KATE *(stands)* Now, we must do this properly, in a democratic way.

JACK Well get on with it. The year will be passed while you're still gassing on.

KATE I think we should take a vote, those in f-----*(before Kate can finish all shout out and raise their right arms)*

ALL Aye.

VIC Great. Let's go for it. *(all cheer and clap as Kate sits)*

JOHN Good, I will call back in the spring to check how things are going. Good luck with your organising. *(John exits down left)*

VIC Great, now we can start working together. Let's have some volunteers to take on some responsibilities and just in case you are not known to everyone here, please give me your name and I'll take notes.

ROSIE *(stands)* Rosie Ford.

ALAN Ford as in Mondeo?

ROSIE Ford as in river crossing actually. I'll assist in anyway that I can.

DAISY Rosie, assist? You can't even assist yourself.

ROSIE I'll admit I'm not good at organising, but I can help others. Anyway, I'm a first aider, with a certificate.

DAISY You've got a certificate? Well, do me a favour, don't administer first aid to me if I get hurt I'd rather take my chance of surviving without the aid, thank you.

VIC Thank you, Rosie, you'll be a great help. (*Rosie sits*)

MEG (*stands*) Meg, Meg Morgan.

ALAN Morgan as in special cars?

MEG Thank you Alan. I've got an idea, a cycle race to the top of the mountain.

JULIE Which mountain?

MEG I don't know. Any mountain. The nearest mountain.

JULIE That's in Wales.

MEG Is it. Erm! Then I'll do a quiz if you like. I'll have no trouble thinking of questions

JULIE Such as?

MEG Er! er! Where is the nearest mountain?

ANNE A quiz. That sounds fun, can anyone enter?

MEG I suppose so, I haven't got down to details yet.

ANNE Perhaps we could have teams.

SOPHIE Like University Challenge.

MEG I don't think I can come up with those sort of questions.

SOPHIE No, but can we have teams?

MEG Well yes, of course.

CAROLE We could get a team from the youth club, couldn't we?

MEL Yes I'd like to be in it, but I'm not very good at quizzes.

SOPHIE I'm not a good quizzier either, but I want to be in the team.

ANNE I'm certainly up for it, so count me in.

CAROLE We have our team, Mrs Morgan

MEG Good, then it will be Hedgepool Young Citizens verses Hedgepool er! er! Seniors. Is that all right?

VIC Good, we'll put you down for a quiz in the spring

MEG Thank you. Just one question.

VIC It's not going to be a very long quiz if you only ask one question.

MEG No silly, I just want to ask another question about the questions. Would it be too difficult if I asked things like 'How many kangaroos live in Australia?'

VIC I think maybe that's too hard. By the way, do you know how many kangaroos live in Australia

MEG No, I haven't a clue er! perhaps I could organise a car treasure hunt instead. Put me down for both and I'll decide later. (*sits*)

ALAN A car treasure hunt sounds good, we've all ready got some cars here. A posh Bentley, a---

KATE Yes, thank you Alan, now be quiet.

PEGGY (*stands*) Excuse me, I'm Peggy Parr.

VIC And what would you like to arrange

PEGGY Nothing. I just wanted to point out that Mel was born a twin.

MEL No, I'm an only child.

PEGGY I mean Gemini---a twin. That's your birth sign isn't it?

MEL No, I think I'm a Capricorn.

PEGGY Oh, that explains why you'll have problems with the quiz. You should have been a Gemini but you're a Capricorn, very confusing for you.

VIC Thank you Peggy. (*Peggy sits.*) Any more ideas for our winter season?

ANNE Could we have a carol concert?

SOPHIE That would be great. We could sing something like.....
(*The young citizens start to sing a carol or Christmas song and most join in.. After a short burst of singing, Vic calls for order*)

VIC Yes, that's a great community idea, but we'll save that for near Christmas.

PAT Well, I just hope it's inside, that's all. It will be even colder at Christmas. I hate winter events.

KATE (*stands*) Lets get on. I'm Kate Bent----

JACK We all know who you are, just get on with it. If we take much longer I shall have to order another shandy.

JOE That will be a first.

JACK What do you mean, I ordered this one.

JOE Yes, but it will be a first if you go on to a second.

KATE Moving on. I'm looking forward, something I know most of you have difficulty doing. I'm thinking of the overall untidiness of this village. I would like to organise a clean up committee to sort it. Starting with the roundabout as you enter Hedgepool.

JOE You mean Jack's allotment?

KATE Exactly. It should be grassed, or planted with flowers, not dug over for his vegetables.

JACK Hang on, I've always used that roundabout and no ones ever objected.

KATE I have, and you was quite rude about it. (*others agree that they have objected*)

JOE And what about the whiff from your heap of pigs (slight pause) muck?

KATE Fertiliser, please.

JACK I thought you was into recycling. I'm just recycling what my pigs have eaten and no longer want.

PAT I'll join anything to clear out his muck, but lets do it in the summer.

JULIE And me. I'll join the clean up gang.

KATE Clean up committee, Julie, not gang.

ALAN That will be worth seeing. Mrs Kate Bentley-Walls with a shovel cleaning up Jack's pig m-----

KATE I shouldn't hold your breath about that Alan.

DEBBIE It's you that will need to hold your breath, Mrs B.W. if you're going anywhere near Jack's whiff.

KATE Shall we continue. Anyone else like to join my er! er!

JULIE Gang.

KATE Organisation.

ANNE May we join your gang er! sorry organisation?

KATE I don't see why not.

ANNE So we could start a youth section.

KATE No, we will be just one group of workers and I'm happy to take any volunteers on board .I will ,of course, take charge and deal with the organisation.

CAROLE If we are going to clean up after Mr Smith shall we bring our own pegs. (*holds fingers over her nose to show what she means*)

KATE I think we'll manage without pegs

ROSIE You'll want first aid.

KATE Will we?

ROSIE Yes. Jack's whiff is a health hazard.

JACK Funny, I've always felt it was a healthy whiff. Clears your head.

KATE Let's leave his whiff.

PAT No, I protest, his whiff has to go.

KATE I mean leave it for tonight.(*sits*)

VIC Yes, we must get our community events for winter and spring sorted.

ALAN Could we have a photograph competition?

JACK You would suggest that, because you're one of the few people in the village with a decent camera, anyway, it's not suitable as a winter event.

ALAN Winter doesn't stop me, I photograph and film all year.

VIC Look Alan, why don't you be our official film man? We'll probably try harder if we're being filmed or photographed.

ALAN O.K. but I also think a photo competition would be good, even in winter.

PAT Do we have to have anything before spring? Sometimes I wish I had been born a hedgehog so I could hibernate when its cold.

DEBBIE We could do a village Pantomime.

JACK Do one, we're in one now if you ask me.

KATE But no ones asked you Mr Smith.

JACK Why don't you call me Jack

KATE No thank you. The Pantomimes a great idea, those in favour.
(*All except Jack show hands in favour*)

VIC Carried, we will organise a pantomime.

DEBBIE We shall want a principal boy.(*Mel volunteers*) and a princess. (*Sophie volunteers*) a Dame. (*All look at Jack*)

JACK No way. You're not getting me in tights.

DEBBIE And a Pantomime cow.

JACK I can let you have a pig if you like.

DEBBIE No a pantomime cow, we want someone in front.

ALAN I'll do that.

JULIE Good, and as you won't be the Dame Mr Smith, you could be the back half.

JACK Well, I could be the Dame, but I'm not wearing tights.

KATE Great and would the girls sing?

VIC Of-course, we'd love too, oh the community spirit is coming alive just like I hoped.

DAISY Can I be in your pantomime?

VIC Yes, if you are not too busy behind the bar to practise.

JOE Too busy, that's a joke with this lot. Tight is too mild a word.

PAT It's not a question of being mean, it's just that the goods on sale are too expensive. Take crisps – you can get loads of packets of crisps from one sack of potatoes. A sack of potatoes cost just a few pounds and a packet of crisps cost, say ,well far to much. I reckon they should be about four pence a packet

JOE Look, I don't set the price of crisps and I don't get much profit. Anyway I can't even sell you lot one packet.

DAISY Never mind your crisps, what can I be in the pantomime

JULIE Perhaps you could be the good fairy.

DAISY With wings?

JULIE Of course.

DAISY Great, then I can fly backwards and forwards across the stage like this. *(Daisy disappears behind bar and only her arms can be seen as she moves back and forth behind bar, then back into view. As Daisy reappears all applaud)*

JULIE You've passed your audition, Daisy.

ROSIE Shall I be first aider at the pantomime?

VIC Yes please. In fact, you will be in charge of first aid at all of the events.

ALAN You better practise how to treat a fairies broken wing.

JOE And mad cow disease

VIC Now Alan, Joe, that's enough. Rosie is a very good first aider. Don't forget, she has a certificate.

JOE What from, a veterinary college?

DEBBIE We'll finish casting this week, and will start rehearsals next week, my Dads got some old scripts for Jack and the Beanstalk.

JOE Look, if we survive the Panto, I'll put on a supper in the spring and perhaps that evening we could have the quiz or some other entertainment.

VIC The Hedgepool Community Supper, Great. What's it going to cost?

JACK You'll do it for free, won't you?

JOE I can't do that, but it will be very reasonable and cheaper if you'll all help. Any volunteers *(no hands go up)* supper will be free to helpers. *(all hands up)* Right, I'll put it on late spring.

PEGGY Ohhhh! Ohhhh!

MEG Whatever is the matter Peggy?

PEGGY Ohhhh! Quiet everybody quiet, I'm concentrating, a message is coming through.

MEG Where? Where is it coming through?

PEGGY Through, through the mist.

JOE She means fog. The fog where her brains should be.

PEGGY Quiet, Ohhhh! Tis Jack.

MEG Jack and the Beanstalk?

PEGGY Jack Smith, he is a ram.

MEG Are you a ram?

JACK I haven't a clue what she's on about.

PEGGY You were born on the cusp of April/May you are a Ram/Aries.

PAT Is that correct. Were you born in April/May?

JACK I may have been, I was only very tiny when I was born and I can't remember anything about it.

PAT You must know your birthday, is it in April or May?

JACK No it's in July.

PAT I've had enough of this, I'm going where it's warmer.

(Pat exits down left, others say goodnight and all exit leaving Vic, Julie, Debbie and young citizens on stage)

VIC So girls, our first community effort will be the Pantomime. I suggest we just have a run through of that number we learnt last week, it will probably fit in somewhere.