

## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

**Cooper** : Together with his friend Aylott, Cooper uses humour to try to fend off "the dying of the light".in the care home where he has admitted himself so as not to be a burden on his family. With Nurse Wilson he uses a dirty-old-man act, concealing his immense affection for her (which fortunately is reciprocated). With Mrs Baker the cleaner it is crossed swords. With his family, daughter Julia and son-in-law Peter it's usually sarcasm.

page 24 : Wilson : "They didn't bring your grandson today" - page 25 : Cooper : "Not you, Wilson - Anybody but you."

page 46 : Cooper : "Let's ask him. How do you stand it Peter?" - page 47 : Cooper : ... a three boxes of Kleenex job every month. Just sometimes." or with Julia and Peter to their exit.

**Aylott** : He has a gentler wit, largely based around being a fellow-member with Cooper of the Escape Committee, planning to flee to Switzerland and he relies on games of chess and memory exercises, largely trying to recall the names of the Middlesex cricket XI.

page 28 : Cooper : " Well, that was a anti-climax ..." - page 29 : Aylott : "I'm better than you are."

page 54 : Aylott : Cooper! - page 56 : Aylott : "Then why didn't you say so?."

**Nurse Wilson** : A truly *sympatico* character who treats the inmates of the home with kindness and affection but with a special feeling, one suspects, for Cooper.

page 50 : Cooper " :... I went for a walk, if you must know." - page 52 : Wilson : "No, of course I shan't."

**Mrs Baker** : A doughty individual who looks after her elderly father at home and makes sure everyone knows it. She says that she has swapped the cleaning duties of Cooper's room with Mrs Malik because she does not want her being reduced to tears by his cruel humour but it is almost certainly because she loves the cut and thrust of their verbal sparring in which she gives as good as she gets.

page 39 : Cooper : "Does your father like whisky ?" - (cut Cooper's speech on page 41) - page 42 : Mrs Baker : "Well, mind how you go."

**Julia** : Cooper's daughter who comes with her husband, Peter on the first Sunday of every month to visit Cooper. She does try not to seem long-suffering about it but largely fails. There is affection between them but, one feels, not deep love.

page 46 : Cooper : " Let's ask him. How do you stand it, Peter?" - page 47 : Cooper : "Big boys don't cry" - cut down to "... and I want somebody to say they're sorry for me." - page 49 : Cooper : "Goodbye, dear"

**Peter** : He probably conceals his boredom with the monthly routine better than his wife. She tells Cooper that Peter is a good man and he obviously is. Unfortunately he's also a little bit boring.

page 46 : Cooper : "Let's ask him. How do you stand it, Peter? - Peter : "Yes, all right.", then page 47 : Peter : " Sorry. Somebody thought he knew me..." - page 49 : Peter : "Thank you."

Read-through : Tuesday 29 November

First rehearsal : Thursday 1 December