

ARTS EXTRA



Bert Simpson bringing back memories of Albert Chevalier by singing My Old Dutch at the Chelmsford Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society's Olde Time Music Hall. On the left is the genial chairman, Mr Christopher York-Edwards.

A VERSATILE MUSIC HALL

OLD variety is the spice of life. That was the message at Sandon Village Hall on Saturday when Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society held an evening of Old Time Music Hall.

In the Sachsian tradition of The Good Old Days, chairman, Christopher York-Edwards plunged the audience into a verification of the verismultitude of vaudevillian versatility.

The acts were as versatile as the chairman's speech. Comedy followed light opera, while can-can vied with ballad for audience attention.

Throughout the evening the name of the game was entertainment. The energy and effort the whole cast put into the production was evident from the start.

REFRESHING

Inevitably in a full night's entertainment some acts shine above the others. Gay Jackson's singing of Don't

Be Cross was excellent. Her controlled voice was as refreshing as the wine, both of which the audience thirstily quaffed.

Stars were not confined to song. Arthur Howell a comedian reminiscent of Professor Stanley Unwin did a wonderful set based on some of the cleaner Max Miller material. He even ended with the George Formby song My Little Ukulele.

To add to the variety the most professional man on the stage was a woman. Or was it the other way round. That grand old dame of show business Ray Jeffery, who produced the show, had them rolling in the aisles with a set of quick-fire near-the knuckle quips.

The show ended with the entire cast — resplendent in their superb period costumes — singing Row, Row, Row. The words Fool Around and Then seemed apt. I hope they continue to fool around, to enjoy themselves and to entertain us as they did on Saturday.

— Sam Jaffa