

## **On Golden Pond – Writtle Cards**

### **Performed on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 at Writtle Village Hall**

Director – Nick Caton

*On Golden Pond* is a gentle exploration of relationships between an elderly man and his wife and their estranged daughter. Before being reunited with his daughter and spending time with his stepson Norman Thayer Jr. is a lazy and cantankerous old man morbidly obsessed with his own mortality. Afterwards he gets a new lease of life and makes plans for the future. Put like this the plot is thin but this play is wonderfully written and the main character, played by Boot Banes, is well characterized. His dialogue is dry, laconic almost but tinged with bitterness at least until he forms a bond with the stepson, a fine debut by Toby Harris. The mood then changes and pessimism gives way to optimism about what lies ahead. Clare Williams, as Ethel Thayer, absorbs Norman's barbs like a sponge and her gentle chiding keeps the play moving forward. Chris Rogerson plays the larger than life postman, Charlie Martin, and his infectious laugh is very endearing. Jodee Goodwin, another debut performance, as daughter Chelsea, plays it cool and doesn't lose her temper despite ample provocation. Chris Ivermee as Bill Ray seems to get Norman's measure but Norman remains a law unto himself until the last syllable of this gentle yet moving and funny play. The set was excellent and the music accompaniment set the mood nicely. This was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Reviewer – Stewart Adkins

Regional Representative

NODA East, District 8