

Dear Member,

While the prime purpose of this newsletter is to remind you of forthcoming events and alterations to our published programme, may I start by listing, for the benefit of those of you unable to attend the AGM in September, the constitution of the committee for the forthcoming year. It is as follows:

Chairman	Hrolf Trump
Hon Secretary	Meg Whittingdale
Hon Treasurer	Madeline Farrant
Members	Jonathon Black
	Stuart Carter
	Andrew Cross (Hon Asst Secy)
	Tony Field
	Pat Harris
	Tony Harrison
	Christine Hatch (Ex Officio)
	Colin Mays
	Joy Saunders
	Eileen Snelling

Unfortunately, and unforeseen at the time of the AGM, owing to increasing pressures of work, change of residence or other personal reasons, I regret to report that this committee will soon be three members short as a result of the resignation, or impending resignation, of Jonathon Black, Tony Harrison and Eileen Snelling. All have much experience in the theatre and their contributions to our productions (and committee deliberations) will be sadly missed. This may mean that the committee may decide to co-opt other members in the near future.

Now to forthcoming events - firstly the CHRISTMAS PARTY on December 16th. Daisy Mangnall is overseeing this annual event which will take place in the Clubroom at 8.00 pm. There will be entertainment, foolish party games and light refreshments - for which a charge of 75p will be made - and a wine bar. Members wishing to attend should tell Daisy as soon as possible - and certainly NOT LATER THAN December 13th - at St Stephens Lodge, 10, Acreman Street, telephone 812850. Those attending are requested to come armed with a photograph of themselves as a child!

On January 5th, the evening devised by Eileen Snelling will unfortunately have to be abandoned and in its stead an evening of 'Give us a clue' and theatrical brain teasers will be presented by Madeline Farrant and helpers. Come along for a jolly New Year giggle - either to take part or to be entertained.

The SPRING PRODUCTION to be presented from 9th - 12th May, 1984 will be THE SECRETARY BIRD by William Douglas Home. It will be produced by Eve Snell who provides a brief synopsis of the play and its characters as follows:

'After twelve years of apparently happy marriage to her somewhat older husband, Hugh, Liz suddenly announces that she has fallen in love with the handsome John Brownlow and wants a divorce. Outwardly acquiescing, Hugh agrees to provide grounds for the divorce. When Hugh invites his secretary down for the weekend to act as co-respondent, Liz is not best pleased, and her embarrassment is complete when Hugh insists that John Brownlow is also a weekend guest'

Hugh Walford	early 50's, pleasant, easy-going, humorous.
Liz Walford	early 40's, attractive, a little emotional.
Molly Forsyth	pretty, rather matter-of-fact, young.
John Brownlow	early 40's or even late 30's, attractive, eligible.
Mrs Gray	housekeeper - motherly, slightly lugubrious.

Auditions will be held in the Clubroom on Wednesday, February 1st at 8.00 pm. The usual helpers will be required, both front stage and back and anyone willing to help in any way should contact Eve Snell on Sherborne 812933 or Meg Whittingdale on Sherborne 812698.

So much for the look forward. May I now take a little space to talk about recent productions which have done nothing to detract from the good name of the APS. Firstly the JAPS production of ON MONDAY NEXT which took place in the Church Hall at the beginning of November. When this was first mooted, some committee members suggested that it would be very difficult for juniors to do adequately, it being a difficult play for amateurs to stage, full stop. However, because of the sheer enthusiasm shown by the young people concerned and their producer, Margaret Field, the committee promised their support as usual. What resulted was a very creditable production indeed by youngsters from four of our local senior schools, very well supported on the two nights it was staged, and encouragingly reported in the Western Gazette, whose contributor found it necessary to comment adversely only about voice projection and delivery - and this in a hall where, as all who have played there will realise, the acoustics are pretty frightful. The producer was particularly pleased to note the degree of support the production received from you, the members of APS, and wishes to thank you for that support and encouragement. As the Western Gazette correspondent noted - 'It augers well for the future that there should be so many talented youngsters in the town...' A number of these youngsters have evinced a desire to become full members of APS as a result of their enterprising production and it is to be hoped that they will be made welcome and helped to take an active part in our activities.

Our Autumn production, CAT'S CRADLE, at the end of the month, by contrast played to small audiences, a matter of some regret to the committee and particularly to the players taking part. Whilst it is possible to lay some blame for the poor attendances at the door of the publicity department, working under the impossible position of being unable to find anyone from our quite large society willing to undertake the task of co-ordinating this vital side of any production, it may be some small consolation to know that our relative failure to attract audiences to our last two productions is, to a degree, echoed by other societies and organisations not least in the larger centre of Salisbury. Those that did see the production were enthusiastic about it, seeing in it evidence of the firm direction of Stuart Carter, despite the latter's inability to see the final stages of production himself, being translated at the ante-penultimate moment to the Antipodes. Like the JAPS production, the Western Gazette correspondent was lavish with his praise of the production and of the performances given by those taking part. As with our production of 'The Woodlanders', Stuart entered the play in the Bristol Evening News Rose Bowl Competition and we look forward to hearing the adjudicators' comments in due course.

One final comment concerns our evening functions. Those held this season so far have, regrettably, been ill-attended. Those organising them put in a great deal of work and their own time on your behalf. Please will you make a New Year's Resolution to attend our evening functions when it is possible for you to do so. See you at the Christmas Party -

Yours sincerely,
Tony Field

P.S. From your committee come best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.