

BEWSEY DYKE - an appreciation

In the fifty years of our history no-one has been so closely identified with, and such an essential part of the Players as Bewsey, who died last month. For forty-six of our fifty years, the Players occupied a significant place in his life; for despite his many public and business commitments, the Players, their success and their problems were of prime concern to him. The work he has done for us in the past has been prodigious; the debt we owe him is immeasurable.

It was Bewsey who, with Meg Hulme, way back in 1947, formed the Players into a properly constituted Society. He became known as our 'Producer-in-Chief', directing no less than eighteen plays in succession for us. Through the years he has played innumerable roles, and last produced a play for us as recently as 1981. He was to have been our Chairman this year.

Bewsey was a genuinely talented actor who never gave the slightest indication of knowing it. In his younger days he shone at his brightest perhaps as a solo entertainer, with his gift for mime, his ability to win immediate rapport with an audience and his originality. Above all else he was immensely likeable, but this only reflected his own personality. Acting with him was a delight; always unselfish and supportive, he could be relied upon utterly - again, just as in real life.

With his passing, we have lost our longest serving Player, our most generous supporter and, for some of us, a close and life-long friend.

F.B.A.

OPENING NIGHT this season is on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th and this will be a night to remember. There will be entertainment, food (for which a charge of 50p will be made) and wine will be available. Members will be able to pay their subscriptions at this meeting and to obtain their membership cards and programmes for the year - and a very exciting year it promises to be. If you know of anyone contemplating joining the Players, do bring them along so that they can 'start the year right'.

On the subject of membership, you will recall that the status of the J.A.P.S was discussed at the A.G.M. and that it was decided that all Junior Members (age 14 - 18) shall be eligible, on payment of £1.00 annual subscription, to attend all Players functions. So, equally, if you know of any budding thespians, persuade them to come along to our Opening Night.

On the subject of membership and our evening meetings, your Committee has decided that, whilst very happy to see non-members at our meetings,

in future visitors will be invited to sign a Visitors Book and that the Member introducing them will be responsible for the payment of a small temporary membership fee to cover that meeting.

The GRAND JUBILEE AUTUMN PRODUCTION of 'QUALITY STREET' slips into top gear on September 11th, when Gerald Pitman holds his first cast meeting. Gerald was delighted with the response to the call for auditions and reports that the play is fully cast - though this probably doesn't preclude the inclusion of additional 'walk-on' parts should the crowd scenes need thickening up ! A number of sub-committees have been formed to ensure the success of this production, so, if you haven't volunteered your services yet, it's not too late.

Jean Harrap and Janet Vincent are your contacts for THEATRE VISITS this season. It is hoped that some evenings out may be arranged, and an autumn trip to the Theatre Royal, Bath for a new Ayckbourn play sounds a possible starter. Additionally, it would be nice to see whether parties can be made up to visit local amateur productions during the year - The Swan, Stalbridge and Sturminster spring to mind. If you have any ideas for theatre visits, do contact Jean or Janet direct.

And finally, on a personal note - congratulations to RON & ROSIE TOMLINSON, married in the Abbey on September 1st.