

APS Newsletter

March
2008

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to say that we will have the use of the Clubroom until the end of our season in July enabling us to have more time to move out. The Committee will form a sub-committee to deal with this. If anyone has any area where they could store a few things please let us know.

From September our meetings and rehearsal will be held in Over & Nether Compton Village hall. There has been no news on the new Arts Centre in Sherborne but we will keep members informed.

After a well attended play reading in January, we have had three very successful social events in February. The fish & chip quiz night was enjoyed by everyone and the fish and chips were delicious. The trip to Salisbury Playhouse to see 'The Herbal Bed' was an outstanding success and I hope that this can become a regular event. Maybe the Globe next! Anyone who did not make it the Annual Dinner missed a really good evening. Good food and a very funny and entertaining speaker was enjoyed by a small but select number of members. I hope next year more people will be able to come. More about these events further in the Newsletter.

'Lettice & Lovage' is progressing well and I do hope members will support us by coming to see the production, bringing family and friends! Remember the Saturday night is party night. We have to strike the set and move out by lunch time on Sunday. I know Charles and Elaine would appreciate help with this so please let them know if you are willing to help.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Patricia



LAST MONTHS CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

The Fish & Chip quiz, hosted by David and Silvia Smith was up to its usual high standard and won by Ed, Jack, Tony Gregory and Tony Harris. It was a very enjoyable evening and the fish and chip supper from the Abbey Friar was excellent.

For the first time this year a visit to another theatre, Salisbury Playhouse, was arranged. This included a morning session where through discussion with the Director of 'The Herbal Bed' Caroline Lesley, the assistant stage manager and four of the actors, the audience were able to appreciate how the play took shape and the time involved. We then had the opportunity of 'directing' two scenes from the play by stating where the actors should be placed as well as how they would portray the character. APS were quite voluble at this point and suggestions were made by Donald Warren-Knot, John Bowles and Jennie Ward (that's the voices I recognised, so apologies if you made suggestions and you have not been mentioned). We then attended the matinee performance of the Herbal Bed – the set was magnificent, and included a Tudor house, a herbal bed, a grassed area, and a cathedral scene, which was flown in. The day was most informative and I think gave all who attended

food for thought re our performances. Thanks to David Smith for organising it. And from one who enjoyed it, I hope we continue with an annual visit to a professional theatre – if anyone is interested in organising this for next year have a word with our Chairman Patricia.

Our Annual Dinner, held at the Crown Inn in Sherborne was attended by 29 members. The food was marvellous (with good sized helpings!) and many thanks are due to George Pearson for organising this. All agreed that it was a good venue and this year's speaker, Jim Donnelly (from the Powell Theatre at Sherborne Boys School) gave a most entertaining speech including anecdotes from his experiences working in the Fringe at the Edinburgh Festival.



SOCIAL EVENTS IN MARCH

The **Rehearsed Play Reading on 5th March** will be **The Wyrd Sisters** adapted for stage by Stephen Briggs and is based on the book of the same name by Terry Pratchett. For those who do not know Terry Pratchett's work, it all takes place on the Discworld where magic abounds through Wizards and Witches, dragons still exist and there are peculiar Guilds for assassins, thieves and fools to name but a few. You may think this type of fantasy work is only for kids, but it does appeal to all ages, this is evident as Charles Napier is an avid fan! Do come along as there is an unusually large cast involved and it would be good to have an audience that outnumbers the cast!

The DIRECTORS MEETING takes place on the 13th March at the Clubroom. Please come along as our Chairman, Patricia and other members of the committee will be there and would like some company! If you would like to put on a full length play, a short play, a pantomime, a musical, or suggest a film project – whatever – this is your opportunity to come along and discuss your ideas. We need folk, with ideas of possible projects as we have next years programme to organise and for things to come to fruition, planning has to be done.

SPRING PRODUCTION: Lettice & Lovage – 23rd March to 29th March 2008

There are only 2 full Saturdays left for set building, so if you can give spare a couple of hours on Saturday to help at the Castle (from 2.00 pm onwards) please give Charles Napier a ring (01935 812698).

Get in day is Saturday 22nd and Monday 24th (Easter Monday), we will also be able to get into the hall on the evening of Good Friday 21st. If you can help, even with making a cup of tea for the workers, please come along as more hands mean the set gets built quicker. I should add that set painters are always required so you don't have to be able to wield a hammer!



FUTURE EVENTS

Maurice Freeland is hosting '**Five plays by Oscar Wilde**' on **Monday 7th April**

Our Chairman, Patricia will test the old brain cells on **Wednesday 23rd April by hosting a Shakespearean Quiz.**

The Swan Theatre Company in Yeovil is presenting '**Democracy**' by **Michael Frayn**. This is a dual political biography outlining the life of the German Chancellor Willy Brandt, from 1969 to his resignation, and is a mix of cold war thriller, political shell game and human drama about the true nature of identity. The performances are 14th to 19th April and our Secretary, Adrian has a part in this production. So go along and support him.

Our **Autumn Production** has now been decided and it will be 'For the Love of Four Colonels' by Peter Ustinov and directed by Charles Napier. Audition dates to be announced.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRODUCE A FILM?

A small group has been formed called "The Sherborne Documentary Film Group" to produce films / DVDs that are of interest to Sherborne. The Group are currently copying and saving old cine films etc of Sherborne and are also learning how to work together as a team to produce a high technical standard of film. (If you would like to join the Group please contact Jim Schofield on 01935 812051.)

If any member of the APS would like to produce a film during the summer, could they make their proposals known to any member of the committee at or before the Directors meeting on the 13th March. Their proposal should include the name of the play, a script, an indication of actor's availability, locations required and also whether the play has any copyright restrictions. The Producer will be expected to direct the whole production, undertake rehearsals prior to the filming and oversee the editing of the final film. The Documentary Film Group will provide all the technical equipment and expertise required but work under the direction of the Producer.

WARDROBE / PROPS at the CASTLE

Jakki has asked that folk contact her before taking anything up to the Castle as space is now at a premium due to the move and unfortunately we don't have room for duplicates. Please contact Jakki on 01935 389201 or drop an email to tandjax@yahoo.co.uk.

HELP WITH THE MOVE OUT OF THE CLUBROOM

With the move from the Clubroom now fixed for July, a sub-committee will be set up headed by Adrian Thorpe. If you would like to be involved with the move, it may be just offering your help on a particular day, please contact him. We do have quite an accumulation of stuff in the various rooms up at the Clubroom, so help will be needed re sorting, storing and disposing of items.

Adrian's contact details are
Phone - 01935 422141 (office), 431321 (home)
Email – adrianthorpe@tiscali.co.uk

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The new members are -
Chris Yardley, Fizz Lewis, Lenna Webster and Mr J Reville.

I hope you enjoy the remaining events in this seasons programme and we all look forward to meeting you.

NEWS FORM NODA

NODA, the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, will be running their annual Summer School at Loughborough University from 2 to 9 August 2008. This intensive week of training courses in amateur theatre is available to adult society members of all ages. Details on <http://domain992762.sites.fasthosts.com/summer.asp> or from our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe - 01935 422141 (office), 431321 (home). To make it easier for students to take advantage of this, NODA has a number of bursaries which effectively halve the cost of attendance.

There is also NODA's South-West Regional Weekend at Bicton Agricultural College, East Budleigh, from 29 to 31 August 2008. Participants can choose from a variety of workshops, and take part in other events. Again, details are - or will be - available from our Secretary, Adrian.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2008		
Wed 5 th	A Rehearsed Play 'The Wyrd Sisters' adapted by Stephen Briggs	The Club Room at 7:30pm
Thurs 6 th	Stand up Comedy Show	Powell Theatre ¹ Sherborne
Thurs 13 th	Directors Meeting	The Club Room At 7.30pm
Thurs 25 th to Sat 27 th	Spring Production 'Lettice and Lovage' by Peter Shaffer	Digby Hall 07.30 pm
APRIL 2008		
Thurs 3 rd	Ben Waters and his band (a night of boogie woogie)	Powell Theatre ² Sherborne
Sat 5 th	Showing of the film of "The Woodlanders"	Sherborne Library At 7.15pm
Mon 7 th	Five Plays by Oscar Wilde	The Club Room at 7:30pm
Mon 14 th to Sat 19 th	'Democracy' by Michael Frayn	The Swan Theatre ³ Yeovil
Wed 23 rd	'Will and me' A Shakespearean Quiz	The Club Room at 7:30pm

1. Contact 01935 810579 for tickets
2. Contact 07740 109657 for tickets
3. Contact 07899 787037 until 25th March, thereafter Yeovil Tourist Information Centre for tickets

From the Editor, Elaine

I have to second Patricia's comments about the visit to Salisbury Playhouse as I also thoroughly enjoyed it and hope it becomes an annual event.

Something discussed at recent committee meetings is the future of the APS and one thing the committee thinks we need to do is encourage new members to join, especially younger ones. To do this we need to try out new types of productions that would attract younger audiences and so hopefully encourage younger people to come forward as actors and directors. I think it is essential that as a club we broaden our horizons and try to show the town that we are there, not just to put on the classic playwrights but we are also willing to try more modern and avant-garde writers. What do you think – please help with this and bring any ideas forward for plays and other events to either the Directors Meeting on Wed 13th March or pick up the phone and talk to our Chairman Patricia, or any member of the committee.

Remember, if you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diaries** section in future Newsletters, please send any details to me at elaine@grumpyhaggis.com or give me a ring -01935 873085 – if I am not there, I will call you back.

Elaine

