



## GREAT START TO NEW SEASON

Wonderful news from the Rose Bowl Awards. Christine Yardley has been nominated for the Eileen Hartley Hodder Award for Best Actress (Drama) for her performance in *Lettice and Lovage*. Many congratulations to her - but it is of course a splendid recognition for the entire production.

Being nominated for the award doesn't - yet - mean she has won it. Final decisions on these awards are announced, Oscar-style, at the Rose Bowl ceremony which this year takes place at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare on Sunday 19 October from 7 pm. Guest Presenter is Catherine Johnson, writer of the musical *Mamma Mia*. Tickets cost £21 per person, to include what is described as a 'Hot Supper'. Dress Code described as 'Smart - Dress to Impress'.

Our nomination entitles us to priority booking. This advance period lasts the first two weeks of September. After that, non-priority booking continues until 27 September.

Anyone who wants to be there should let our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe, know on 01935 431321 by Thursday 11 September at the latest and send him a cheque for £21 per person made out to him (c'mon, you can trust him) at The Cider House, Compton Park, Sherborne DT9 4QU. He will then put in a block booking. The tables are for ten and as long as we are not more than that we will be seated together. Any requests for bookings received by Adrian after 11 September will still be sent on to the organisers but with no guarantee of success or certainty of being seated with other APS members.

Well done, Christine! Let's hope she wins, and let's see if we can send a good group of APS members to support her at the Awards Ceremony.

On top of the Certificate of Excellence from NODA, it certainly is a great start to a new season!

## FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

I hope you have enjoyed our so-called summer and are looking forward to our new Season and a good programme of events for the next year.

I am still recovering from the excitement and joy of seeing David Tennant in 'Hamlet'. I am not a Time Lord fan and I have seen him several times at the RSC but this production was truly memorable more so because it had Patrick Stewart as Claudius. Oh, for the resources and money of the RSC. (A sneaky secret here, I bought a poster of said Mr Tennant.)

To come out of the Tardis and down to earth, our opening night is on Friday 19th September and will be a social evening held at the Over with Nether Compton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

I know some of you have reservations about the venue but this is the chance to see the facilities and support the Society. If you can, please bring some new potential members with you.

We have two newly-elected Ordinary Members, Gill Manns and Andrew Cross. Jim Reville has been co-opted to the Committee to replace Elaine Marshall. I must thank Jim for the new format of the Newsletter, very professional - look out RSC Marketing Department! A full list of Committee members will be on your new Programme Card.

I look forward to seeing you on the 19th.

*Patricia*

## 'OPENING NIGHT'

Make a note in your diaries right now for **7.30 pm, Friday 19th September at Over with Nether Compton Village Hall**. The occasion, the First Night of our 2008/9 programme of social club events and productions. All our members are invited to come along.

As well as enjoying a wonderful get-together, you can pick up your membership card heralding the complete programme of events for the coming season. A buffet will be provided. Please bring KFS and plate. Your first drink is free from the bar.



## OFF WITH THE OLD...

It had to come, the days when we would have to evacuate ourselves and our belongings from that cosy corner of Sherborne House. The fag-end days of June saw Adrian and his willing band of helpers sort through all our belongings, dispersing stuff in a convoy of cars in myriad directions: books stored in an attic, likewise the bookcase, no longer needed bits and pieces to Furnicare in Yeovil, or failing acceptance there - the dump, and the piano, the piano, still with a few good tunes in it, remained in Sherborne House, as did the tables. And as for Sherborne House itself, it's future seems as yet unresolved. And so Still, as the saying has it, as one door closes, another opens.

If you would like a lift or are able to take others to Nether Compton, please get in touch with either Patricia or one of the committee. We'd really love to see you there.

## FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

On Thursday 23rd October new member and Newsletter Editor, Jim Reville, will be hosting 'I know that voice..', an audio quiz of live recordings of some of the most well-known voices in Shakespearean acting.

The fun begins at 7.30 pm in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

we'd be very grateful. (we could also do with a small crystal chandelier...) And Pat Harris would like to hear from anybody prepared to help with costumes - either making/alerting them, or helping backstage with the several quick-changes required by the play.

*Charles*

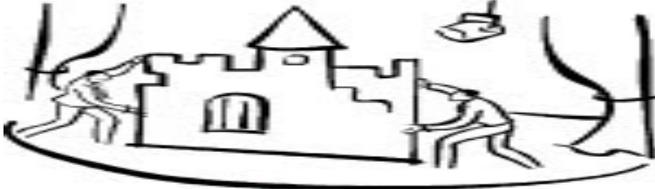
## OUR SPRING PRODUCTION

Our 2009 spring production will be that perennial favourite '**When we are Married**' by J. B. Priestley. To be directed by Jennie Ward, it boasts a large cast of superbly-drawn characters offering a wide range of roles for the young and not-so-young.

Those keen on bagging a part in this classic Yorkshire comedy might want to head along to the Little Theatre in Wells where it will be performed mid-October. For more details on that see the **Dates for your Diary** section on page 4.

Of course, having sussed out the parts that suits your particular talents, you'll have to wait until after our autumn production for the announcement of audition dates.

## The Love of Four Colonels



We are just about to start rehearsals for 'The Love of Four Colonels', our autumn production - November 20th - 22nd. The play is now fully cast, with George Pearson (as the Mayor) and Caroline Hart (as Mme Ikonenko) joining the cast members announced last newsletter.

We've made a start on the scenery - the working party meets every Saturday at 2.30 at Sherborne Castle stables, and anybody prepared to wield a paint-brush is very welcome to join us.

On the props front, Sylvia Smith is looking for four folding wooden chairs and a small trestle or folding table, all fairly tatty: if anyone has anything suitable we could borrow,



## OTHER EVENTS

The Dorset Theatre Company is touring the South West this autumn with their take on Jane Austen's **Northanger Abbey**. On Saturday 20th September they'll be on stage at 2.30 and 7.30 pm in the Shaftesbury Arts Centre, and in the Powell Theatre Monday 20th October at 8 pm.

Employing live music, physical performers and their own unique performance style, they aim

### ...ON WITH THE NEW

On Wednesday 2nd July our residence at Over and Nether Compton Village Hall was opened by Eve Simmonds with 'A correspondence between...', an engaging presentation of the touching twenty-year transatlantic friendship by mail between Helene Hanff, an outspoken New York writer and Frank Doel, a rather more restrained London bookseller.

Eve Simmonds captured the dry wit of Helene, David Duff the stiff upper-lip Britishness of Frank Doel, and Jill, the vibrant enthusiasm of bookshop assistant, Cecily Farr.

This most fascinating evening was enjoyed by an appreciative audience, who afterwards availed themselves of the refreshment facilities at our new clubhouse.



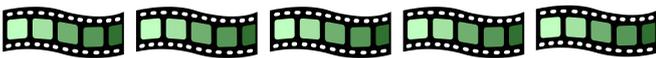
to thrill audiences with their adaptation of Austen's gothic satire.

To date Alan Ayckbourn has penned no less than an amazing 71 plays. His 66th, **Drowning on Dry Land** will be performed at the Salisbury Playhouse from 4th to 27th September.

It was inspired by an incident on a reality TV programme where a young girl jumps up and down in a field for several minutes then asks "Am I famous yet?" The play centres around Charlie, a modern-day celebrity whose claim to fame is that he doesn't actually have any talent.

Performances are at 8 pm, Thurs to Sat, Mondays at 7.30 pm. Matinees at 2.30 pm on Thursday and Saturday, except opening night.

There is a Theatre Day for this play on Thursday 18th - 11.30 to 1 pm. Director, cast members and crew will be on hand, offering insights into the production, its design, rehearsal and technical challenges. Cost £5.



### SHERBORNE IN FILM

The Sherborne Documentary Film Group will hold a film show on Wednesday 29th October at The Digby Hall, Hound Street.

The following films will be shown:-

**Building Sainsbury's:** A film of the knocking down of Wincanton Engineering and the building of Sainsbury's in 1998-1999. (22 minutes)

**An Ordinary Pilot who served in the First World War:** (10 Minutes) With songs sung by the Amateur Players at the Summer party. (10 minutes)

**Our Abbey:** At look behind the scenes at the working of Sherborne Abbey. (45 minutes)

**Sherborne Town Carnival:** Cine film taken in 1960s by Harold Pearson and Joan Miller and video taken in 1980s. (38 minutes)

The show will start at 2.30 pm with the programme being repeated during the afternoon and evening until about 9.39 pm. (Nearer the time, please see posters for exact timings.)

### THEATREGOERS OF SHERBORNE

Members may be interested in joining this group who arrange visits by coach to theatres in Bath, Bristol, Poole and Salisbury for matinees on the last Saturday of each month (except July, August and December).

For each show tickets are made available at a variety of prices.

Membership costs £8 a year (£10 for couples).

All 2008 productions are fully booked but to join for 2009 contact Brian Walker on 01935 816266 by 6 October, 2008.

### IN THIS MONTH

This month marks 100th anniversary of the world premiere in London of J. M. Barrie's 'What Every Woman Knows'.

The play portrays a determined woman, Maggie, whose husband eventually realizes that he owes his success to her. It was filmed three times: 1917, 1921 and 1934, which version preserves Helen Hayes in one of her most celebrated roles,

Oh, and of course, James Matthew Barrie also wrote Peter Pan.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****SEPTEMBER 2008**

Thursday 4th	<b>Sherborne Comedy</b> Pierre Hollins, Ivor Dembina, Sal Stevens	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30 pm, show at 8.30pm
Thurs 4th to Sat 27th	<b>Drowning on Dry Land</b> By Alan Ayckbourn A Salisbury Playhouse Production	Salisbury Playhouse Times vary. See page 2 of this newsletter
Mon 8th to Sat 13th	<b>A Murder is Announced</b> By Agatha Christie	The Swan Theatre, Yeovil At 7.45 pm
Wed 10th to Sat 13th	<b>Jack the Ripper - The Musical</b>	Little Theatre, Wells At 7.30 pm
Friday 19th	<b>Our Opening Night</b> First Night of our 2008/09 season Don't Miss It!	Over with Nether Compton Village Hall At 7.30 pm
Saturday 20th	<b>Northanger Abbey</b> Dorset Corset Theatre Company	Shaftesbury Arts Centre 2.30 and 7.30 pm
Tues 23rd to Sat 27th	<b>Stepping Out - The Musical</b> Presented by KassMatt Productions	The Swan Theatre, Yeovil At 7.45 pm
Wed 24th to Sat 27th	<b>Talking Heads</b> by Alan Bennett Taunton Thespians	Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, School Road, Taunton At 7.30 pm

**OCTOBER 2008**

Thursday 2nd	<b>Sherborne Comedy</b> Tim Clark, George Egg, Cameron Blair	Powell, Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30 pm, show at 8.30pm
Mon 6th - Sat 11th	<b>The Merry Widow</b> Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society	The Octagon, Yeovil At 7.30 pm, matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Wed 15th to Sat 18th	<b>When we are Married</b> A Yorkshire Comedy by J. B. Priestley	Little Theatre, Wells Box Office open early October
Monday 20th	<b>Northanger Abbey</b> Dorset Corset Theatre Company	Powell Theatre, Sherborne At 8 pm
Thursday 23rd	<b>'I know that voice...'</b> A Shakespearean audio quiz	Over with Nether Compton Village Hall At 7.30 pm
Wednesday 29th	<b>Sherborne in Film</b> Sherborne Documentary Film Group	Digby Hall 2.30 pm onwards

**Powell Theatre:** Call 01935 810579 or [www.powelltheatre.co.uk](http://www.powelltheatre.co.uk) for tickets.

**Salisbury Playhouse:** Call Box Office on 01722 320333 for times and tickets.

**Swan Theatre:** Contact South Somerset Information & Heritage Centre on 01935 845946 for tickets.

**Little Theatre:** Box Office opens early October. Call 01749 672280

**Shaftesbury Arts Centre:** Call 01747 854321 (Mon-Sat 10.30-12.30) or [www.goldhilltickets.co.uk](http://www.goldhilltickets.co.uk)

**Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre:** Call the Box Office on 01823 414141

**The Octagon:** Call 24 hour Hotline 01935 412282

**From Jim, your new editor**

Many thanks to Elaine, who helped me smoothly into the Editor's Chair. Not only new editor, but also relatively new member, my aim is to bring you a monthly newsletter that is lively, entertaining and above all informative.

Remember, if you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section in future newsletters, please send any details to me at: [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.reville@btinternet.com) or

give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I am not there, I will ring you back.

**Last Word...**

"For the theatre one needs long arms; it is better to have them too long than too short. An artiste with short arms can never, never make a fine gesture." Enid Bagnold, *Autobiography, chapter 3, 1969.*