



**FREE WITH THIS ISSUE-
XMAS GHOST STORY**



Up front from your Chairman

I write this still feeling the warm glow of the last night of 'Tons of Money'. What a splendid week it was, and what an explosion in Act 1! The show gathered pace and impact night by night and transported us, via its machinations, back to another era where anything seemed possible and no lie was too outrageous. Congratulations and thanks to Charles and his team, both on and off stage, for a stupendous achievement. Audiences obviously enjoyed themselves, and plenty came, despite some quite severe flooding south of the A30 on the Saturday.

Our hope that past members would attend to mark our 75th anniversary was fulfilled, and there was much nostalgic reminiscing as people looked at Mark's delightful display of photos from 1934 to 2009. We can feel proud that we still carry on the enterprise launched by Fred Alcock and nurtured by his daughter Joy. I think they would both have approved of our revival of the very first play.

Inspired by the 'Tons of Money' plot, the theme of the Christmas party is Mexican. I hope to see you there on 18th December, at Adrian's house.

Gill Manns

Tons of Money Anniversary Triumph



Our 75th anniversary revival of 'Tons of Money' was very well received with audience numbers over 350, including our distinguished guests from West Dorset District Council and Sherborne Town Council.

Our Chairman's praise (see left) for all involved is warranted most "certainly, certainly and... certainly".

For those of you who missed the performances or want photos from the production go to: www.mark-lambert.co.uk Click on his 'Client galleries' and scroll down to below the weddings to 'Theatre'. Click on the Tons of Money cast photo and the gallery will open.

You will see a number of thumbnails. Click on any thumbnail for a larger image. To see all the thumbnails on one scrollable page, click 'all' at the end of the row of page numbers at the top.

If you want to view the images in a slideshow, there is a slideshow button at the bottom of any large image page. So that the images fit more or less onto your screen, it is probably best to view the slideshow using full screen (Press F11 on your keyboard -- press F11 again to come out of full screen mode)

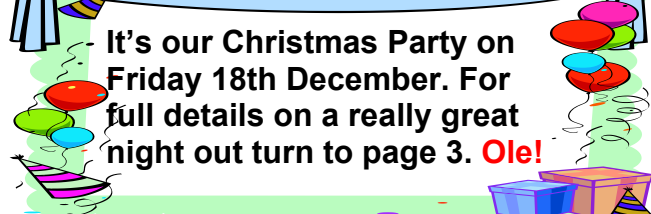
Right click has been enabled for this gallery and the images are not watermarked, so you are welcome to copy and save images if you wish. Bear in mind though that they are only 700 pixels max dimension. Fine for viewing on your computer, but not much good for printing.

There is no shopping cart with this gallery, but you can order photos from Mark Lambert by post (no email orders, please, as payment is required with order) You can order a CD of all the photos (high resolution jpegs, suitable for printing) for £2.00.

.....turn to page 2, col 1

CHRISTMAS PARTY

It's our Christmas Party on Friday 18th December. For full details on a really great night out turn to page 3. **Ole!**



And/or you can order prints:

6" x 4" £1.00

7" x 5" £1.50

8" x 6" £2.00

Larger sizes available. POA

If you order images that are cropped to odd sizes, only the longer dimension of the image will correspond to the longer dimension of the print size ordered. Example: an 8" wide print of image number 026 will be just under 3" high. Please add 50p to cover postage (£1.00 if ordering 10 prints or more). Please enclose payment with order and send to:

Mark Lambert
Ridge Farm
King's Stag
Sturminster Newton
Dorset DT10 2AU

SONGS FOR THE STAGE

Our first social event of 2010 is 'Songs for the Stage', an afternoon of songs from musical theatre, opera and operettas. By John Clarke and led by Jakki Gregory at **3 pm Sunday 24th January in Nether Compton Village Hall**. Full details in our January newsletter.

OUR MAILING LIST NEEDS YOUR HELP



Our mailing list -- the list of people to whom we send A5 leaflets about forthcoming productions -- is declining. This is not good, as it is probably one of the most important forms of advertising/promotion that we do. At one stage there were over 400 people on the list. At the time of writing there are 284, and this number is reduced at every mailing when leaflets are returned because the recipients are no longer at the address or send it back as 'not wanted'.

So could everyone PLEASE take a moment to



**Christmas Tree Festival
5th - 13th December**
Our APS-sponsored tree will join the 40 plus illuminated and decorated trees in the Cheap Street Church. The Festival opens with a Dedication Service at 10 am on Saturday 5th and closes with a Carol Service at 6.30 pm on Sunday 13th

think of friends or acquaintances who might like to receive information about forthcoming productions and pass their names and addresses

If you would like to see who is currently on the list you can do so by downloading this file <http://www.mark-lambert.co.uk/aps-mailing-list.zip> Unzip (extract) the folder and you will find an Excel file within. Those who don't already have Microsoft Excel on their computers will have to install Excel Viewer -- a copy of the setup file for this is also included in the zipped folder.

Pride and Prejudice with Susan Hampshire

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that Jane Austen's story of the five Bennet sisters' relentless pursuit of husbands in a classic. Here's another chance to enjoy that romantic comedy, this time starring Susan Hampshire as...no, not Elizabeth but as Mrs Bennet. It's on at Theatre Royal, Bath from **Monday 7 December to Saturday 2 January**. Times: Mon-Wed 7.30 pm, Thurs-Sat 8 pm. Matinees: Wed, Thurs and Sat 2.30pm. Box Office: 01225 448844 or book online <http://www.thetheatroyal.org>



AFTERNOON WITH JULIAN FELLOWES



At 3.30 Sunday afternoon **13th December** enjoy tea with actor, director, producer and Oscar-winning scriptwriter Julian Fellowes - if not already sold out. Cost £15. Contact Marjo Walker on 01963 362207.

Fellowes description of hearing his name being read out at the Oscar ceremony: "It is as if the angels seize the corners of the carpet and you are lifted into the air. And from that point you just float through the rest of the evening."

CHRISTMAS CAROL AT THE EXCHANGE

Pip Utton, purveyor of fine one-man shows, performs this festive classic himself did, costumed and bearded, original Dickensian script. The one-performance should be wonderfully as it is performed totally by candlelight. 7.45 pm **Thursday 17 December**, at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton. For tickets and more details call Box Office at 01258 475137 or go to website: www.stur-exchange.co.uk



A warm welcome to new member, Barbara Porter. Immediately she was much involved, together with newish member, Helen Smith, in organising costumes for 'Tons of Money'. And a job very well done by both of them!

“Hey, Rosita - come quick - down at The Cider House they're having a Christmas Party”



Merry
Christmas

The date to note is Friday 18th December from 7.30 pm and the place is The Cider House, Over Compton, home of our generous hosts, Adrian and Miyoko Thorpe. Cost £3 - pay at the door - includes food and your first drink. Subsequent drinks at APS prices. And the theme? This year it's **MEXICAN** with a prize for the best outfit. Please remember to bring KFS, bowl and plate. Glasses will be provided. And now for directions. The Cider House is directly opposite Trencherman's at Over Compton. If you're not sure where that is, ring Miyoko or Adrian on 01935 431321. Parking in the courtyard for essential deliveries only - food and drink - and those with walking difficulties. Parking available along the wall outside and in St Michael's Church car park on the other side of the church.

“Hasta la vista, amigos!”



THEATRE
SUPERSTITIONS

COLOURS: Blue is an unlucky colour for an actor to wear the world over, silver being its only saving relief. Certain shades of yellow, also, are considered unlucky, particularly in a tie, a vest, or a hat. It is believed to be disastrous to allow a yellow clarinet in the orchestra.

The Origin: In the early days of theatre, blue was an extremely difficult dye colour to create, and therefore was very expensive. Any theatre company spending such extravagant amounts on costumes was sure to close without turning a profit. Unless, of course, they were wearing silver, which was an indicator that the entire company was being funded by a VERY wealthy source; wealthy enough to afford silver adornments. Green and yellow, during the era of the morality plays, were often considered a symbol of the Devil. A devil in disguise might be identified by wearing a green or yellow tie, vest or hat. As for the yellow clarinet ... **I'm open to suggestions!**

To be continued....

FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE





Matilda Alice Powles (13 May 1864 - 16 September 1952), was an English male impersonator. At the age of 11, she adopted the stage name Vesta Tilley, becoming the most famous and well paid male impersonator of her day. She was a star both here and in the United States for over thirty years.

Tilley was born in Worcester. She first appeared on stage at the age of three and a half. At the age of six she did her first role in male clothing. In 1912 she performed at the first "Royal Variety Performance" as 'The Piccadilly Johnny with the Little Glass Eye': "The most perfectly dressed young man in the house". Her popularity reached its all-time high point during World War I, earning her the nickname 'Britain's best recruiting sergeant.' Her last performance was in 1920 at the Coliseum Theatre, London, at the age of 56. She died aged 88, was buried Putney Vale Cemetery, where a black granite memorial marks the spot.

IN THIS MONTH

December 2, 1867 - Dickens' first U.S. reading
Charles Dickens gives his first public reading in the United States, in a New York City theatre. Dickens was a hit with the American public, who anxiously awaited each instalment of his serialized novels. The line for his first reading in New York was more than a mile long. This was his second visit (the first in 1842) and he stayed five months and gave 76 performances for which he earned an incredible 19,000 pounds.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**DECEMBER 2009**

Tues 1st to Sat 5th	An Inspector Calls Next Stage Theatre Company	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm. Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Wed 2nd to Sat 9th Jan	Cinderella Pantomime	Salisbury Playhouse Times: check website or Box Office
Sat 5th to Sat 13th	The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin Fitch Repertory Players	Merlin Theatre, Frome Times: check website or Box Office
Mon 7th to Sat 2nd Jan	Pride and Prejudice Stars Susan Hampshire	Theatre Royal, Bath See page 2
Mon 7th to Mon 25th Jan	When Santa Fell To Earth Pantomime	Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton Times: check website or Box Office
Wed 9th to Sat 12th	The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol	The Warehouse, Ilminster 7.30 pm
Thurs 10th	Sherborne Comedy Ronnie Golden, Steve Hall and Nicholas Martin. MC Gary Coleman	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30. Show 8.30 pm
Sun 13th	Tea with Julian Fellowes Oscar-winning film script writer	Stourton Caundle Village Hall 3.30 pm (see page 2)
Fri 11th to Sat 2nd Jan	Dick Whittington Pantomime	Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton Times: check website or Box Office
JANUARY 2010		
Thurs 14th to Sat 23rd	Aladdin Pantomime	Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton Times: check website or Box Office
Thurs 17th	A Christmas Carol Dickens' festive classic	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 7.45 pm
Thurs 21st to Sat 20th Feb	Private Lives By Noel Coward	Salisbury Playhouse Times: Check Box Office or website
Sun 24th	 Songs for the Stage By John Byrne, led by Jakki Gregory 	Nether Compton Village Hall 3 pm
Tues 26th to Sun 31st	The History Boys Alan Bennett	Theatre Royal, Bath Times: check website or Box Office

Theatre Royal, Bath: Call Box Office 01225 448844 or www.thetheatroyal.org.uk

The Brewhouse Theatre: Call 01823 283244 or www.thebrewhouse.net

The Octagon, Yeovil: Call Box Office 01935 283884 or www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

Powell Theatre: Call 01935 810579 or www.powelltheatre.co.uk for tickets.

Merlin Theatre: Box Office 01373 465949, www.merlintheatre.co.uk

Salisbury Playhouse: Box Office 01722 320 333 or www.salisburyplayhouse.com

The Warehouse Theatre: Box Office opens 6-8 pm Mondays, 10-12 noon Fridays. Call 070502 189717

The Exchange Sturminster Newton: Box Office 01258 475137 www.stur-exchange.co.uk

Mission Theatre: Call 01225 428600, www.missiontheatre.co.uk

NB: As Diary Dates are compiled in advance, do check with the venue for any programme changes.



If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section please send any details to me at: jjm.reville@btinternet.com or give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I'm not there, leave your message and I will ring you back.

JANUARY COPY DEADLINE: FRI 8 JANUARY

Last Word...

The drama is not dead but liveth, and contains the germs of better things.

WILLIAM ARCHER, *About the Theatre*