

APS newsletter

March 2010

www.aps-sherborne.co.uk

ALL CHANGE ABOVE: Just a little typeface makeover to harmonise your newsletter heading with that of our website.

Up front from your Chairman

The British February has lived up to its reputation as the dreariest month; on the evidence of people I meet we seem to be having an unhealthy winter; but for us, the month has been brightened by two APS activities: the splendid 'Private Lives' theatre day in Salisbury, and a theatrical quiz (yet to take place as I write) at the Mermaid.

March promises two cheering events: our Spring production of 'A Ghost on Tiptoe' on 25th to 27th March, followed the next day by the start of British Summertime! I urge as many members as possible who are not involved in the play to come to the last night party. The many past and present members who stayed after 'Tons of Money' helped to create a warm and enthusiastic feeling.

Recently I and two committee members attended a meeting about the proposed new Sherborne Community Arts Centre which will be behind the Paddock Gardens. It is an imaginative plan, and we are invited to submit our thoughts concerning the needs of APS. What with that and several responses to our new website, our future looks promising.

Gill Manns



Amateur Players of Sherborne
www.aps-sherborne.co.uk

A Ghost on Tiptoe

a comedy
by Robert Morley &
Rosemary Anne Sisson

25-27 March
Digby Hall, Sherborne
7.30 pm

OPENING SOON, IT'S THE ONE TO WATCH

Rehearsals and set building are proceeding apace. We will move the scenery, lights and costumes into the Digby Hall on **Friday evening 19 March**, and build the set on **Saturday 20 and Sunday 21**. We need all the help we can get on those days, so if you can spare time on any of those days that would be much appreciated. Friday evening will involve mostly carrying things, but on the Saturday and Sunday there will be lots of jobs - painting, construction, etc. Lunch will be provided on the Saturday.

And finally, of course, do come to the play. Bring a friend, bring the family - and do tell all your friends about it.

Tickets on sale from Marsh's shortly.



SET SATURDAYS

Not long to go now before our spring production opens in the Digby Hall. If you can spare a couple of hours on the few Saturday afternoons left - from 2.30 pm - up at The Stables that would be very much appreciated. No experience required!

Officially spring may begin on Sat 20th March but it's Sunday 28th that clocks go forward.



Here is the news...Keep up-to-date between newsletters at <http://www.aps-sherborne.co.uk>



What a wonderful day and another thoroughly enjoyable Theatre Visit to Salisbury Playhouse, this time for a very well-acted performance of Noel Coward's exceedingly passionate and witty love story 'Private Lives'. Particularly fascinating was the Theatre Day morning offering a insight into all the processes involved in staging the play.

Very many thanks indeed are due to David Smith who, in the midst of a hectic rehearsal schedule, organised such a memorable day out.

Grand Theatrical Quiz

Wow, but the brain cells were fizzing and sizzling, delving deep for the answers to Charles's challenging questions covering all topics theatrical.

It was a tightly fought but thoroughly stimulating and enjoyable contest. Without question it should make a regular appearance in our programme of events. Hats off to Charles for a *coup de theatre!*

NODA 2010 SUMMER SCHOOL

Once again NODA is inviting adults of all ages (minimum age 18) and experience to join their Summer School. It runs from Saturday 31 July to Saturday 7 August at Loughborough University.

NODA will be offering 36 national bursaries of £275 each. Each NODA region has the opportunity of awarding various regional bursaries.

The NODA Summer School brochure is available as an ebook and a downloadable PDF file at www.noda.org. A copy of the brochure is also available from our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe - 01935 422141 (office) 01935 431321(home).



CYNET'S AIM TO CREATE SWANS

Exeter-based Cygnet Training Theatre (patron Peter Brook) is offering short courses for all actors who wish to refresh or hone their skills and develop some new ones. An intensive week of workshops will use a variety of approaches to develop skills in monologue, scene and ensemble work. Courses are scheduled for Mon 12 to Sat 17 April and Mon 9 to Sat 14 August. And cost £295 (discount for early booking). Full info call Marina O'Shea on 01392 277189 or cygnetnewtheatre.com

SPECIAL REPORT SHERBORNE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

The Manor House, Feb 19: At a presentation given by the newly-established Sherborne Community Arts Centre Trust (SCACT) plans were unveiled for the creation of a new arts centre for the town and surrounding villages. Your Chairman and Secretary were among the representatives of Sherborne arts organisations present.

Philip Proctor Associates of Shaftesbury have been appointed managing architects of the project. The same firm that delivered the Exchange Building in Sturminster Newton.

The centre is designed to be in sympathy with the existing environment but will be of modern design with as many eco-friendly features as possible. It won't be a tall building. The Trustees are looking towards a development that, taken together with a refurbished Sherborne House and the maturing Paddock Garden, will re-define the centre of Sherborne and transform community access to the arts.

Basically it will comprise two rooms approx 9 by 6 metres and one area double that size but with a retractable divider and racked, foldaway seating. There will be a generously-sized foyer where art exhibitions and similar can be displayed. There will be the usual facilities: kitchen, toilets, storage and office space.

Dorset County Council has donated to Sherborne Town Council the piece of land to the south of

Paddock Gardens in Newland (lower half of picture opposite); West Dorset District Council has allowed access from the Old Market Car Park and STC has provided initial funding to launch the SCACT. The value of the land and access is £450,000.

The site is currently surrounded on all four sides by a wall. Access from the Old Market roadway will be through a gateway built into the wall. No parking allowed on the site so traffic into the centre will be limited to delivery vehicles. The existing large trees will be retained, if they prove to be healthy



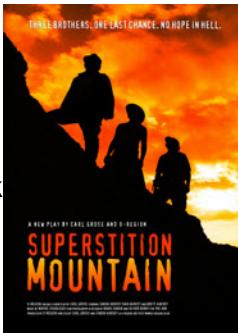
SCACT will be launching a fund-raising campaign. They anticipate a fund totalling at least £1.4 million will be required to build, equip and resource the centre. However, the donation of the land and its access, has given a large boost to this target - £450,000 - leaving a sum of at least £950,000 required. The Trust will approach local and national funding bodies as well as encouraging donations from within the community in Sherborne and surrounding area.

Input from the meeting will be considered and public consultations planned as a next stage.

SCACT website: www.scact.org.uk

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN IN HALSTOCK

Blending the spirit of a Hollywood blockbuster with epic music, innovative film and powerful performances from three real Cornish brothers, **Superstition Mountain** is a dark comedy adventure exploring the intimate bonds and savage divides of brotherly love.



**It's on at 8 pm on Saturday
6th March in Halstock Village Hall. Tel: 01935 83347.**

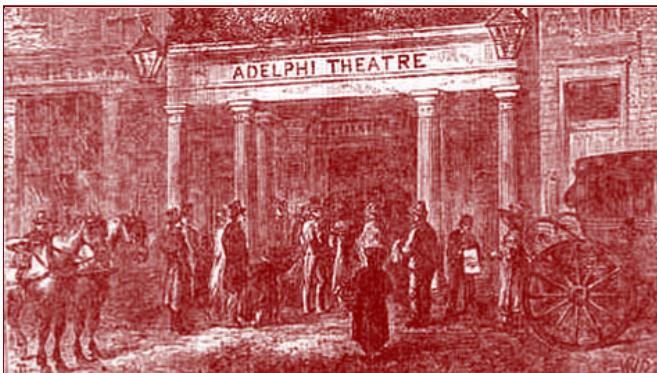
SHERBORNE BOYS DO THE SHREW

Shakespeare's famous tale of the Battle of the Sexes is being performed by Sherborne Boys on **Wed 17 to Fri 19 March at 7.30 pm in the Powell Theatre.**



Written in the form of a play-within-a-play, it is a boisterous and farcical comedy that barely stops for breath.

Tickets free from Reception on the left in the archway entrance to the school.



How William Terriss Met His Death at the Hands of a Madman at the Stage Door of the Adelphi *Part 2*

The wounded man was carried inside the theatre and doctors were sent for from nearby Charing Cross hospital. Mr Terriss was laid on the landing of the stairway just inside the theatre, where Miss Jessie Millward, his leading lady in the current production, rushed to assist, taking his head in her lap and attempting to comfort him. Once or twice he shouted out "Get away; get away" as he lay there groaning, whereupon Miss Millward gently asked him if he knew her, but he made no sign of recognition. Others present tried to staunch the copious flow of blood in any way they could.

Dr Hayward, a physician from Charing Cross Hospital answering the summons, arrived on the scene within fifteen minutes of the incident but it was already too late to save him. Giving evidence at the

A GHOST ON TIPTOE - the other author

Everyone has heard of Robert Morley but what about his co-author of our spring production, Rosemary Anne Sisson?



She was born in London in 1923. Her early ambition was to be a theatre actress but this was thwarted by the war. She attended the University College, London, where she obtained a B.A. (with honours) in 1946; she then went on to Cambridge University where she earned her M. Lit. in 1948.

She wrote seven plays before having one produced in 1957. She has also written novels but the majority of her work has been in TV. She scripted several episodes of '*Upstairs, Downstairs*', '*The Brettts*' and '*Wind in the Willows*'. In 1971 she was nominated in the Best Script category of the BAFTA TV Awards for her episode of '*Catherine of Aragon*' in '*The Six Wives of Henry VIII*'. Most recently she has written segments for '*The Adventures of Young Indiana Jones*'.

subsequent Coroner's hearing Dr Hayward said: "I found Mr Terriss just inside the door, where he was lying with Miss Millward supporting his head. His vest and undergarments were opened, and there was a large piece of ice on the wound directly over the heart. He was breathing heavily. After I examined the wound I saw there was no hope and that death must ensue almost immediately from the extensive internal haemorrhage. He was not quite conscious and writhed once or twice." Mr Terriss succumbed to his wounds moments later, Miss Millward cradling his head to the last.

A large audience which had by then assembled inside the theatre for the evening performance knew nothing of the incident until the manager came to the footlights and announced that, as Mr. Terris had met with an 'accident', no performance would be given that evening.

Constable Bragg from the Bow Street police station had meanwhile arrived and taken Archer into custody; apparently Archer had made no attempt to escape but sat quietly until the police arrived after the onlookers to the incident had restrained him. A carriage was called and the prisoner was taken to Bow Street station, followed by an angry crowd, where he was arraigned for the crime. Mr Graves, who had witnessed the stabbing, accompanied the officer and assailant to the station. Both he and Constable Bragg later gave evidence that, on the way to the station, Archer had said to them that he did it from revenge, believing that Mr Terriss had prevented him from gaining employment for some years past.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2010

Thurs 4th to Sat 6th	The Glass Menagerie Shared Experience Production	Theatre Royal, Bath Times: Check Box Office or website
Thurs 4th to Sat 6th	The Tempest Firebird Theatre	Bristol Old Vic 7. 30 pm Matinee Thurs 2 pm
Sat 6th	Superstition Mountain O-region	Halstock Village Hall 8 pm (see Page 3)
Tues 9th to Sat 13th	Cold Comfort Farm Taunton Thespians	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm Matinee sat 2.30 pm
Mon 15th to Sat 20th	Haunted by Edna O'Brien prior to West End	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 pm
Wed 17th to Fri 19th	Taming of the Shrew Sherborne Boys School	Powell Theatre, Sherborne 7.30 pm (See page 3)
Tues 23rd to Sat 27th	Much Ado About Nothing Encore Theatre Club	Bridport Arts Centre 7.30 pm
Thurs 25th to Sat 27th	 A Ghost on Tiptoe Amateur Players of Sherborne	 Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm

APRIL 2010

Thurs 1st	Sherborne Comedy Matt Hardy. Compere Paul Rickets	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30 Show 8.30 pm
Tues 6th to Sat 24th	Low Pay? Don't Pay! A Dario Fo farce	Salisbury Playhouse Times: Check Box Office or website
Mon 12th to Sat 17th	Out of Order A Ray Cooney comedy	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
Mon 19th to Sat 24th	The King and I The Musical	Little Theatre, Wells 7.30 pm
Wed 21st to Sat 24th	Black Veil Based on a Dickens short story	The Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Thurs 22nd to Sat 24th	Dumb Show A Joe Penhall play	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
 Fri 23rd	Bill on Will Maurice Freeland & Pat Harris host	 Upstairs at The Mermaid 7.30 pm
Fri 30th	The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	Bridport Arts Centre 8 pm

New Theatre, Exeter: Box Office 01392 277189. Credit cards: 01392 211080 cygnetnewtheatre.com

Powell Theatre, Sherborne Comedy: Call 01935 810579 www.powelltheatre.co.uk

Little Theatre, Wells: Call Box Office 01749 672289 www.littletheatrewells.org

Bristol Old Vic: Call Box Office 0117 987 7877. Info www.bristololdvic.org.uk

The Swan: Tickets for 'Out of Order' on sale Mon 22 March. Call 01935 845946

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

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

Bridport Arts Centre: Call Box office 01308 424204. More info www.bridport-arts.com

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

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre: Box Office 01823 414141 (10-4 pm & 6.30-7.30 pm) www.tacchi-morris.com

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: jim.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.

April COPY DEADLINE: Thurs 25 March

Last Word...

It is a great help for a man to be in love with himself. For an actor, however, it is absolutely essential

Robert Morley