

APS newsletter July 2010

www.aps-sherborne.co.uk



WIND IN THE WILLOWS AUDITIONS 6 and 7 July

Make a note of the dates and place: Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th July at 7.30 pm in The Cider House (courtesy of Adrian and Miyoko) for auditions for our autumn production of **WIND IN THE WILLOWS**. There's a host of characters large and small just waiting to be cast so do come along as there is nothing--absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply being in this terrific production.

The Cider House is directly opposite Trencherman's at Over Compton. Not sure where that is, ring Miyoko or Adrian on 01935 431321.



'HYDROSTATICS' AT THE RIVALS READING

"Oh! it gives me the hydrostatics to such a degree," proclaimed Mrs Malaprop. And members enjoyed themselves too in our well-attended unrehearsed reading of Sheridan's delightfully witty comedy of manners with its plot and various sub-plots.

Thanks to Adrian for the opportunity of meeting and being these extraordinary comic characters.

By the way, the play will be on at the Theatre Royal, Bath from Tuesday 7 to Saturday 18 September, starring Penelope Keith and Peter Bowles. www.theatreroyal.org.uk

FOOTNOTE: Two dukes told Sheridan one day in St James's that they had been trying to decide if he was a greater fool or rogue. Insinuating himself between them and taking an arm of each, he said solemnly, "Why, I'faith, I believe I am between both."



Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 July: It's the audition evenings for **Wind in the Willows** at 7.30 pm at Adrian's - The Cider House, Compton Park. More information opposite.

Friday 23 July: AGM and Summer Party. For full details see below.

Friday 3 September: 'Opening Night' at 7.30 pm at The Mermaid. And, for your entertainment, a reprise of our contribution to the 150th anniversary celebrations of the coming the railway to the town.

AGM & Summer Party

Our AGM - and Summer Party - will take place at **7.30 pm on Friday 23rd July** at Gainsborough House, hosted by Jim and Gwyneth Schofield.

This is your chance to let your Committee know what you think of the way they've managed the society over the past year and to air your views and put forward ideas for the future.



It is also your opportunity to vote for new Committee members. Not only that, but actually to propose and second candidates.



This year there will be vacancies for two Ordinary Committee Members and Membership Secretary. Yes, after seven years of dedicated service in the post George Pearson is stepping aside. So, now we're looking for someone happy on the computer to take on this well-established position.

Nomination papers will be sent out with the formal notice of the AGM by Adrian, our Secretary, approximately three weeks beforehand.

The charge will be £3 per head - payable at the door to cover food and a first drink. Please bring a bottle - alcoholic or otherwise - for second drink onwards.

Please also bring with you cutlery, plate (for main course) and bowl (for pudding) - and take them away afterwards! Plastic cups will be provided.

On-street parking is not easy on South Street. The nearest public car park is Culverhayes - or you may be able to park in the roads that lead to the railway station.



This is your last newsletter of the the current season. Your next newsletter will be for September and previewing our new season. In the meantime, you'll receive any 'breaking news' by email and you can always keep in up-to-date via our website: <http://www.aps-sherborne.co.uk> . Have a Happy Summer.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!



It's time for us to be getting our thinking caps on and coming up with great ideas for our next season's programme of social events and productions. What about a themed evening, play-readings, musical evenings, theatre trips, quizzes - or something completely different.

Now, don't leave it until the day of our AGM, get in touch with any member of the committee well beforehand.

SUMMER ROMANCE WITH MIRACLE

Cornwall's Miracle Theatre is touring a fresh adaptation of Shakespeare's timeless love story, Romeo and Juliet.

This promises to be no ordinary retelling of a classic tale. With a reputation for richly inventive and physical theatre, Miracle aims to create a totally original world where senses soar and humour is found in unexpected places.

Two venues close to us are: Melbury Osmond, 7.30 pm, Thursday 5th August (Call 01935 83410) and Sandford Orcas, 7.30 pm, Saturday 7th August (Call 01963 220208)

UNIQUE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

Taking one of Shakespeare's lesser known comedies, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Two Gents Productions transform it into a sparkling two hander in which the energetic Denton Chikura and Tonderai Munyevu take on no less than 15 roles to tell a story of friendship, betrayal, and disguise, using only a few items of clothing and a battered old trunk.



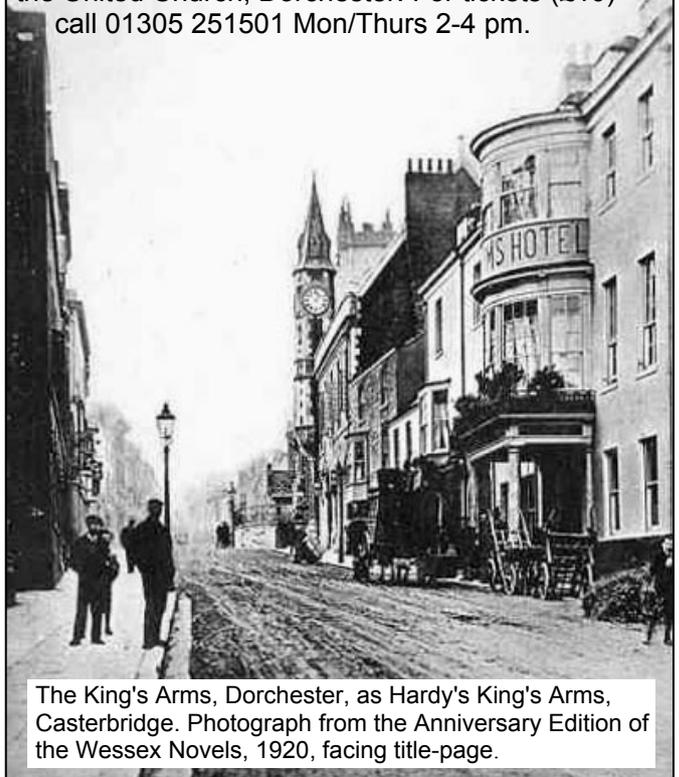
It's on at 7.30 pm on Thursday 23 September in Milborne Port Village Hall. Tickets £8. For more info call 01963 250063.

Wind in the Willows
Digby Hall
November 18-20

I say Ratty old bean — are you sure those aren't G.M. tomatoes in the picnic hamper?



As part of the 19th International Thomas Hardy Festival and Conference programme of events the New Hardy Players will be performing **The Mayor of Casterbridge** at 8 pm on Sunday 25th July in the United Church, Dorchester. For tickets (£10) call 01305 251501 Mon/Thurs 2-4 pm.

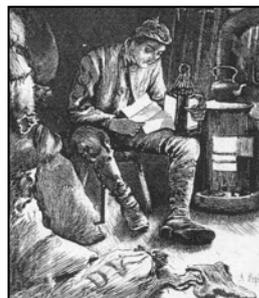


The King's Arms, Dorchester, as Hardy's King's Arms, Casterbridge. Photograph from the Anniversary Edition of the Wessex Novels, 1920, facing title-page.

A Walk Through Thomas Hardy's Weymouth Sunday 11 July 2010. 2 miles.

Meet at the Railway Station at 10.30 am for a gentle stroll through the heart of Hardy's Weymouth - the town he knew intimately as a young man and where he lived in the late 1860's. Budmouth (Hardy's Wessex name for Weymouth) features in many of his poems and short stories and in his novels Desperate Remedies, Under the Greenwood Tree, The Return of the Native and The Mayor of Casterbridge.

The walk will visit places which feature in Hardy's novels and poems as well as real locations from his life in Weymouth - and as



Diggory Venn in The Return of the Native observes: "Budmouth is a wonderful place - wonderful - a great salt sheening sea bending into the land like a bow - thousands of gentle people walking up and down - bands of music playing - officers by sea and officers by land walking among the rest - out of every ten folks you meet nine of 'em in love."

Please let the Programme Secretary know in advance if you are coming, Call 01305 2515021 or 01305 837331 or email info@hardysociety.org

The Tailor's Riot



In the Little Theatre in the Haymarket there occurred, in 1805, one of the most curious riots in theatrical annals.

Years previous, the manager, Samuel Foote, had produced a burlesque, the author of which has never been discovered, entitled 'The Tailors: A Tragedy for Warm Weather'. The satire of the piece gave great umbrage to the craft after which it was called. The actor William Downton announced the revival of the piece for his benefit.

The bills were scarcely issued when an indignation meeting was convened among the knights of the needle, who vowed to oppose the performance by might and main.

Menacing letters were sent to Downton, telling him that seventeen thousand tailors would attend to hiss the piece, and one who signed himself "DEATH" added that ten thousand more could be found if necessary. These threats were laughed at by the actors; but when night came, it was discovered that the craft were in earnest, and that, with few exceptions, they had contrived to secure every seat in



the house, while a mob without still squeezed for admission. The moment Downton appeared upon the stage, there arose a hideous uproar, and someone threw a pair of shears at him. Not a word would

the rioters listen to, nor would they accept any compromise in the way of changing the piece. Within howled and hissed without intermission hundreds of exasperated tailors; outside howled and bellowed thousands of raging members of the craft, who



attempted to storm the house.

Downton is said to have faced them down with a sword preserved at the Haymarket for years after. But so formidable did the riot become that a magistrate had to be sent for and special constables called out; but these were helpless against the overwhelming odds; so that a troop of Life Guards was summoned, who made sixteen prisoners and put the rest to flight.



WHISTLING: Whistling is expressly prohibited in the theatre, pertaining to all parts of the building, particularly the dressing rooms, where it is said that if heard, someone (not necessarily the whistler) will soon be out of work.

The Origin: The reason for this superstition is as follows: before the advent of walkie-talkies or clear-coms, cues for theatre technicians were called with a sailor's whistle. Therefore, one who whistles in a theatre may, inadvertently, call a cue before it's

time, setting all types of catastrophe into motion. Should this happen, someone (not necessarily the whistler) will likely get fired, making the superstition come true.

UNLUCKY TUNES: Certain tunes are considered unlucky in the theatre, especially: 'I dreamt that I dwelt in Marble Halls' or "The Dead March". Also, 'Three Blind Mice' is considered extremely unlucky. **The Origin:** No idea! Aren't some of these superstitions just plain strange?!!

THROWING COAL FOR LUCK: To ensure a successful career for a new theatre, you must stand on the stage and throw a piece of coal to the top balcony - the gods.

The Origin: Not so good for the lanterns, fittings & fixtures, perhaps possibly related to the Scots' tradition of the 'First footer' bringing a piece of coal on Hogmanay. After the last stroke of midnight & bringing good luck for the ne'er [new year] day.

THEATRICAL ANECDOTES



"I once found myself in Petrograd and I was excessively bored," Somerset Maugham recalled. "I hardly understood Russian at all, but I decided that the only way to cheer myself up was to go to the theatre, choosing the largest and cleanest I could find, and sat down to watch the play.

"It was a comedy, and so far as I could judge the audience found it

amusing. It did not amuse me in the least because I could not understand a single word of what it was about. But toward the end of the first act it seemed to me that there was something vaguely familiar about the situation on the stage. I had a sense of listening to something I had heard in a dream. I looked down at the programme to discover who had written it. The author's name was 'Mum' and the name of the play was 'Jack Straw'.

Maugham's 'Jack Straw' was first produced in 1908.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**JULY 2010**

Thurs 1st to Sat 3rd	Blithe Spirit Noel Coward farce	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
Tues 6th to Sat 10th	Comedy of Errors Shakespeare's Globe on tour	Vivary Park, Taunton 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2 pm Outdoor
Tues 6th to Sat 10th	Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Next Stage Theatre Company	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2.30
Thurs 15th	Romeo and Juliet Miracle Theatre	Millenium Park, Bridport 8 pm Outdoor
 Fri 23rd	APS AGM & Summer Party	Gainsborough House 7.30 pm
Sun 25th	The Mayor of Casterbridge New Hardy Players	United Church, Dorchester 8 pm
Wed 21 to Sat 24 and Tues 27 to Sat 31st	Comedy of Errors Studio Players	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm

AUGUST 2010

Sat 7th	Romeo and Juliet Miracle Theatre	Village Hall, Sandford Orcas 7.30 pm
Thurs 12th	The Tempest The Lord Chamberlain's Men	Kingston Lacy 7.30 pm Outdoor
Sat 14th	Sense and Sensibility Chapterhouse	Bishop's Palace, Wells 7.30 pm Outdoor

SEPTEMBER 2010

Thurs 2nd to Sat 2nd Oct	A Voyage Round My Father John Mortimer play	Salisbury Playhouse Times vary
 Fri 3rd	'Opening Night'	Upstairs at The Mermaid 7.30 pm
Tues 7th to Sat 18th	The Rivals Directed by Peter Hall	Theatre Royal, Bath Times vary
Thurs 23rd	Two Gentlemen of Verona Two Gents production	Milborne Port Village Hall 7.30 pm

Romeo and Juliet/Sandford Orcas: Call 963 220208. **Millenium Park:** Bridport Arts Centre on 10308 424204

Shakespeare's Globe: Call 020 741 9919 www.shakespearesglobe.org

Bishop's Palace Wells: Call 01749 678691 extn 200

New Hardy Players: Call 01305 267419 or 07787 123927

Milborne Port/Two Gentlemen of Verona: Call 01963 250063 www.twogentsproductions.com/wordpress

Studio Theatre, Salisbury: Call 07789 858124 or www.studiotheatre.org.uk

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

Lord Chamberlain's Men: Call 0844 2491895 www.tlcm.co.uk

Salisbury Playhouse: Call 01722 320 333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

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

Mission Theatre, Bath: Call 01225 428600 or 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: 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.

SEPTEMBER Copy Deadline: Thursday 26 August

Last Word...

"Drama is life with the dull bits cut out."

Alfred Hitchcock