



July 2011

Up front from your Chairman

The hot topic at the moment has to be The Old Chapel. It has the potential to be a workable and well-loved home for the Players, their wardrobe and their scenery. It would be wonderful to start next season with our opening evening in the cheerful surroundings of our very own place. However, with only just over 2 months to go, and with so much refurbishment needed, members might perhaps consider how best they can help to make it "all right on the night". If you are reasonably fit and strong, the Wednesday and Saturday afternoon sessions are for you.

Alternatively, you may like to contribute with a donation towards paying someone else to the work, as I, and some other members, have already decided to do. See news item right.

This will be my last Newsletter message, since my term as Chairman expires in July. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in office, and I would like to thank my hard-working (and hospitable!) committee, and you, the company, for so much entertainment during the past 2 years. I hope APS will continue to give its members rewarding experiences such as I have found over the past 28 years.

Gill Manns



Arrows indicate parking spots



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW FOR OLD CHAPEL CLEAN-UP

Wednesday and Saturday afternoons 2 till around 4

The transformation of the Old Chapel has begun. Already the exterior of the Old Chapel is wearing a brand new dove grey coat. And inside, painting of the loft area is under way so that our hundreds of costumes (yes, that many) can be re-housed.

Your help now is vital! Every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon from 2 pm till around 4 pm volunteers are urgently needed. We'll kit you out with rubber gloves, paint brush or roller - no experience necessary.

Come and help as if our future depends on it. Which, of course, it does!

Parking is tight but can be found along the wall just above Easons, up Marston Road and in the Coombe. See map above left.



Summer Party and **agm'11**

Our AGM - and Summer Party - will take place at **7.30 pm on Friday 22 July** at Gainsborough House, hosted by Jim and Gwyneth Schofield.

This is your chance to let your committee know what you think of how they have managed our society over the year, and also to air your views and ideas for the future. It is also your opportunity to vote for new Committee members. And also to propose and second candidates.

This year there are vacancies for Chairman and two Committee Members.

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 £5 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 home afterwards. Plastic cups will be provided.



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



AFTER THE DANCE A STEP FORWARD

Our play-reading last month of Rattigan's neglected 'After the Dance', a finely crafted satire, was made all the more rewarding to readers and audience alike by being partly staged.

Led by Gill Manns, it marked an inspiring step forward for more realistic performances of our future play-readings.

'Our Town' Cast List of Major Players



Auditions are over for 'Our Town', our next production, which will be directed by Jennie Ward.

The list of major players (right) is nearly firmed up with just a few more yet to be confirmed. A host of APS members are involved.

Rehearsals expected in the autumn.

Performance dates in the Digby Hall are Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th November.

Cast List:

Stage Manager	Charles Napier
Mrs Julia Gibbs	Caroline Hart
George Gibbs	Josh Hart
Mr Webb	Colin Hart
Mrs Webb	Jane Pitts
Emily Webb	Annabel Fricker
Wally Webb	Ben Hart
Howie	Roy Catchpole
Professor Willard	Malcolm Cockburn
Simon Stimpson	Rob Stephens
Mrs Louella Soames	Christine Yardley
Constable Bill Warren	Stuart McCreadie
Si Crowell	Joshua Tregale
Sam Craig	David Smith
Joe Stoddard	Zac Graham

Other roles either by 'doubling up or by other APS members.

IT'S TIME FOR MORE GREAT IDEAS

Yes, 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. **Also, most importantly, we need to come up with a play for our Spring 2012 slot.**



Get in touch with any member of the committee right now.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

With great pleasure we welcome four new members.

Roy and Linda Catchpole and Geoffrey and Daphne Martyn.

We wish them a long and rewarding time with us.



As reported in the June Newsletter our 'Wind in the Willows' production has been nominated for both the Haslemere Award for Visual Excellence and the Wilfred Rowe Trophy for Stage Décor.

The Awards will be presented at the NODA South West region AGM at the end of the Bicton Weekend on Sunday July 24th, to which we are 'cordially invited to attend.'

The location is Bicton Agricultural College in Devon, about a one and a half hour drive from Sherborne. The presentation of awards follows the agm which begins at 10.45 am. For a full listing of nominations go to www.noda.org.uk, click on regions and south west, then click on regional awards.



AMDRAM MEMBER WINS TALENT SHOW

Jai McDowall, the Scottish singer who won the fifth series of *Britain's Got Talent* in June was a member of Ayr Amateur Opera Company and Loudoun Music Society. He

played roles such as Frank in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

He received £100,000 and will perform at the 2011 Royal Variety Performance.

'Author, Author' - New play-writing competition launched

Amateur Stage Magazine has launched New Directions Play-writing Competition.

The aim of New Directions is to help promote new writing by raising the profile of writers and encouraging amateur groups to take a risk on new writing.

The competition is being sponsored by Lazy Bee Scripts, Spotlight Publications, Josef Weinberger, Scottish Plays, New Theatre Publications, Samuel French, Stage Scripts, Nick Hern Books, The Little Theatre Guild, Amateur Stage Magazine, Amdram.co.uk and Stage Whispers Magazine in Australia.

This new competition is open in two sections: One Act and Full Length Plays. There is a cash prize of £500 for the One Act Play section and £1000 for the full length play.

The winning entries will be announced in 2012 at a gala event in a West End Theatre. Closing date for submissions is December 2011.

For full details of the competition go to the [Amateur Stage Website](#).



TURN ON StageTalk.tv TO...

Stage Talk is a new monthly TV programme dedicated to the interests of amateur theatre groups.

Amongst the regular features are The Dressing Room (make-up and wardrobe tips and stories), Tech Corner (technical know-how and demos), Westenders (interviews with some of the West End's cast and crew who began their careers in amdrum).

A one hour programme on the first Sunday evening of every month, StageTalk's first showing was in May. Which means it's next on at **5 pm Sunday 3rd July.**

You can catch it on Showcase TV Sky Channel 201, Freesat 403. It's also available online at www.stagetalk.tv where you can also catch up with the previous programmes.

SONGS FROM THE MUSICALS



Performed by Back to Broadway offers the best of musical theatre with songs from Les Misérables, Chicago, Phantom, Beauty and the Beast, West Side Story, Footloose and many more. It's on at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton at 7.30 pm Thurs 25 August. See P4.

TWO NOBLES IN BATH FOR TWO DAYS

When two cousins fall in love with the same woman, someone's bound to lose out ...

Two Noble Kinsmen, Shakespeare's last and least-known play - co-written by John Fletcher - is brought vividly to life in a short chamber performance with live period music at the Royal Theatre Bath at 8 pm 3rd and 4th August. Each performance is followed by a reception with the chance to talk to the company.

Tickets £12.50/£7.50 discounts - includes performance, reception, a glass of wine and nibbles. Box Office: 01225 448844. More info at www.theatreroyal.org.uk

HOLMES IN FINAL BATTLE?

Sherlock Holmes has a brand new mystery to solve - and this time he seems to be the victim. Investigating a most ingenious crime, where the only witness is a garden gnome, Holmes gets a tip off from beyond the grave and enlists Dr. Watson to follow the trail of criminal masterminds and suspicious fairies.

In **The Death of Sherlock Holmes** Cornwall's Miracle Theatre stirs up all the ingredients of Sherlock Holmes mystery with a large measure of comedy to bring a period thriller with a sting in its tail.

It's on - outdoors - at 7.30 pm at the ECOS amphitheatre, Frome Sun 17 July and at Sandford Orcas Thurs 4 Aug.



SHERBORNE FLICKS



Wed 13 July: Brighton Rock

A strong cast including Helen Mirren as the worldly Ida and Andrea Riseborough as Rose her innocent protégée star.

Writer Director Rowan Joffe restores the religious and moral complexities of the original novel in this fine remake of Graham Greene's classic thriller updated from 40's to 60's Brighton.

Showing at: The Church Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne. Doors Open: 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start Tickets: £5 in advance from Sherborne Tourist Information Centre (01935 815341) or on the door if available.

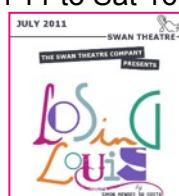
The Junior Wriggle Valley Players present

Cider with Rosic

At 7 pm on
Friday 8 and Saturday 9 July
Leigh Village Hall

LOSING LOUIS AT THE SWAN

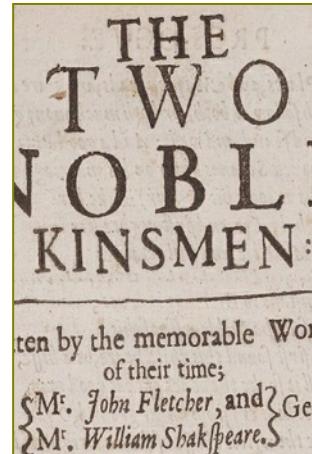
On at the Swan Mon 11 to Sat 16 July is **Lousing Louis**, Simon Mendes da Costa's black comedy exploring how the relationships of one generation can shape those of the next generation for good or for ill and directed by Ian White. The action takes place in a large bedroom along two different timelines, one in 1950s and the other present day.



The 1950s scene sees Louis and his wife, Bobby, with their young lodger, Bella. Present day, we see Louis' two sons, Tony and Reggie with their wives, meeting for Louis' funeral.

The play explores how the relationships of one generation can shape those of the next generation for good or for ill. It does so with a great deal of humour and compassion.

Tickets from Yeovil Tourist Information Centre 01935 462781. More info: www.swan-theatre.co.uk.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY 2011

Tues 5 to Sat 9	Prime of Miss Jean Brodie Next Stage Theatre Company	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Wed 6 to Fri 8	Billy Elliot Yeovil Youth Theatre	Octagon Theatre, Yeovil 7.30 pm Matinee Thurs 2.30 pm
Wed 6 to Sat 9	Our Country's Good Adapted from Keneally novel	Little Theatre, Wells 7.30 pm
Thurs 7 to Sat 9	Touched Drama set in spring 1945	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
Fri 8 to Sat 9	Cider with Rosie Junior Wriggle Valley Players	Leigh Village Hall 7 pm
Mon 11 to Sat 16	Losing Louis Black comedy	Swan Theatre, Yeovil Probably 7.45 pm
Sat 18 to Thurs 22	Hamlet Part of RSC's Open Stage project	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
<i>APS event</i>	Friday 22 Our AGM and Summer Party	Gainsborough House 7.30 pm

AUGUST 2011

Wed 3 to Thurs 4	The Two Noble Kinsmen Just Enough company	Theatre Royal, Bath 8 pm
Thurs 11	Midsummer Night's Dream Lord Chamberlain's Men	Kingston Lacy Outdoors 7.30 pm
Wed 17 to Sat 3 Sept	The Madness of King George 111 Peter Hall company	Theatre Royal, Bath 7.30 Mats Thurs/Sat 2.30 pm
Fri 19	Cranford Chapterhouse Theatre Company	Bishop's Palace, Wells Outdoors 7.30 pm
Thurs 25	Songs from the Musicals Back to Broadway group	Exchange, Sturminster Newton 7.30 pm
Thurs 25 to Sat 27	Fame Merlin Theatre Youth company	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7 pm
Fri 26 to Sat 10 Sept	The Fair Maid of the West Creative Cow	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 Mat Sat 2 pm

Cider with Rosie: Caroline Hart 01935 872471

Octagon: Box Office 01935 422884 www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

Bishop's Palace: Call 01749 988111 extn 200 or online tickets www.seetickets.com

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

Kingston Lacy: Box Office 0844 2491895 More info at www.tlcom.com

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

Little Theatre, Wells: Box Office 01749 672280 opens 18 June, times vary. Online at www.littletheatrewells.org

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

Illiya/Twelfth Night/Castle Gardens: Call 01935 817747 or email thegoldclub@thegardensgroup.co.uk

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

New Theatre: Box Office 01392 277189 www.cygnetnewtheatre.com

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

Swan Theatre: Tourist Information Centre 01935 845946. www.swan-theatre.co.uk

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

Newsletter DEADLine If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section please send any details to me at: jim.revilles@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 25 August

Last Word...

"If you give audiences a chance they'll do half your acting for you."

Katharine Hepburn