



“The beginning of a new era”

Wielding the scissors at our ‘Opening Night’ on Friday evening 16th September was our distinguished guest, Robert Gould, Leader of West Dorset District Council.

He snipped the red ribbon to mark our move into our new home, the 128 year old tin tabernacle - The Old Chapel, saying, “I am absolutely delighted to open this new headquarters for the Amateur Players. It is a great Sherborne landmark and provides this distinctive old building with a new lease of life. It’s a place I’ve passed countless times but never been inside. It is so marvellous to see such a creative use being found for it.”

Heading the ceremonial party was our President, Meg Whittingdale, who said, “It is an absolutely wonderful feeling for

the first time in our 77 year to have a place of our own.

Meg joined the Players in 1956, playing the part of a nun in ‘Bonaventure’, a murder mystery set in a nursing convent.

“Not only are we now a more visible part of the community life of the town, it is also the beginning of a new era for the Players. I am confident that we are going to go from strength to strength and build on our past successes to achieve greater heights.”



The evening was very well attended by the majority of our members - and, by all accounts thoroughly enjoyed.

In a remarkable coincidence of timing members performed ‘It’s a beginning’, a lively dramatisation of the founding of our society.

Very many thanks are due to all those who laboured over the summer, both outside and in, to transform the building into a place we could call our own. And huge thanks also to Malcolm Cockburn, without whose generosity none of this would be happening.

It took very many tables to display the finger buffet, a truly appetizing spread of snacks. Thanks for that go to Helen Smith et al.

Certainly a night to remember!

Programme of events 2011-2012 season

Monday 10 October:

Play-reading led by Adrian Thorpe, and preceded by an Extraordinary General Meeting

Saturday 12 to Sunday 20:

November: Autumn production, *Our Town*. Performances 17 to 19 November

Thursday 24 November:

Read-through of *Wyrd Sisters* led by Sylvie Lord

Tues 29 & Wed 30 November:

Try-outs for *Wyrd Sisters* led by Sylvie Lord

Friday 9 December:

Christmas Party at the Cider House, Over Compton

Thursday 19 January:

Presentation on pantomime by Bernard Tinker

Thursday 9 February:

Theatre Visit to Salisbury, to see Noël Coward's *Design for Living*

Sat 23 March to Sun 1 April:

Spring production, *Wyrd Sisters*' Performances 29 to 31 March

Tuesday 17 April:

Play-reading, led by Charles Napier

Friday 18 May:

Annual Dinner at Castle Gardens

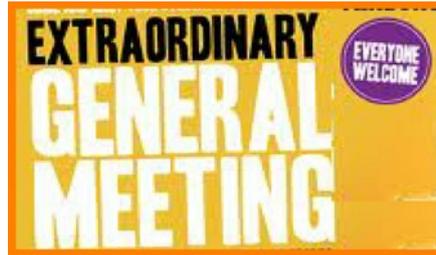
Wednesday 20 June:

Poetry evening *Life and Death on Mount Helicon* led by Maurice Freeland. In Paddock Gardens (weather permitting)

Friday 20 July:

AGM and Summer Party at Gainsborough House. Venue to be decided

All events at 7.30 pm in our Club Room at The Old Chapel unless indicated otherwise



A bit of serious business needs to be attended to at **7.30 pm Monday 10 October in The Old Chapel** before enjoying the evening's play-reading led by Adrian.

As you will have read in the letter and notice issued by Adrian as our Secretary, some changes need to be made to our Constitution so that we can enjoy the very worthwhile financial benefits of obtaining charitable status. And so, an EGM.

The amendments must be approved by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting at the Meeting. Your attendance would be much appreciated.

BLACK UMBRELLAS AND WOODEN FOLD UP CHAIRS WANTED FOR 'OUR TOWN'



The hunt is on for much needed props for our autumn production of 'Our Town'. Many black umbrellas and wooden fold-up chairs need to be found.

Any help you can offer in locating these items please contact Sylvia Smith on 01935 817439 or email:

drysmith@btinternet.com



High on your Committee's agenda is a sign to let the world know we're at The Old Chapel because **It's got our name on it**

BOOK NOW FOR THEATRE DAY 2012

Thursday 9th February 2012 is the date for our annual theatre visit to Salisbury Playhouse, and organised once again by David Smith.

The play is Noel Coward's witty and passionate 1930s comedy '**Design for Living**'. It centres on a group of bohemians for whom three is not a crowd.

From the garrets of Paris to the penthouses of Manhattan, a tempestuous love triangle plays out between the artist Otto, the playwright Leo and the interior designer Gilda, three people who are irresistibly and unashamedly drawn to each other.

David has booked 18 seats in row B and 2 in row C plus 20 Theatre Day tickets.

Theatre Day lifts the lid on the production by offering insights into both the artistic and technical choices.

As well as delving into the writer or play's production history, the director, cast members and

**Noel Coward's
Design
For
Living**



crew are on hand to offer exclusive opportunities to explore a production; its design, rehearsal and technical challenges.

And now, the cost. Theatre Day at 11.30 am is £7, the play at 2.30 pm is £14 = £21 per head plus rail fare of approx £7 - to be confirmed.

Bookings must be confirmed and payment made to the theatre by 9th December 2011. So, please note, David will need reservations (with £28) by **Sunday 4th December**. Anyone using their own transport need, of course, pay only £21.

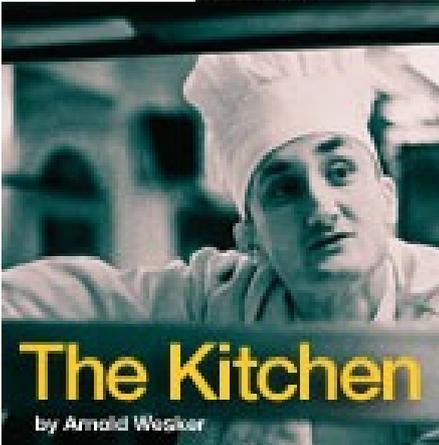
Get in touch with David right now on 01935 817439, email: drysmith@btinternet.com

Arts SCENE

A selection of what's
on around and about

NT
live

COMING SOON
TO CINEWORLD
YEovil



The kitchen of a West End restaurant in the 1950s is the setting for a fast and blackly funny examination of life lived a breakneck speed, when work threatens to define who we are.

Renowned as one of the fathers of the 'kitchen sink drama', Wesker was inspired to write his first play by his own experiences as a hotel worker.

It's on at 7 pm on Thursday 6th October. Tickets: Adult £12, Senior & Student £10. Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then select Advance Booking.

Also on on at Cineworld Yeovil

Brought to you by Cameron Macintosh, a lavish, spectacular 25th anniversary performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical,



Phantom of the Opera, live from the Royal Albert Hall.

It's on Sunday 2nd October at 6.30 pm. Tickets: Adult £15, Senior & Student £12. Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then select Advance Booking.



MYRA & JOYCE

"Playing to the Gallery"

On for one night only on Sunday 23rd October at The Exchange Sturminster Newton is 'Myra and Joyce - Playing to the Gallery'.

It is an Entertainment with Stephanie Cole and Patricia Hodge and tells the story of Dame Myra Hess and her lifelong friend Joyce Grenfell. Pianist Myra Hess gave a lunchtime recital at London's National Gallery every day during the Blitz; and Joyce Grenfell toured the front lines with ENSA - when she wasn't busy serving tea at the concerts! The third member of the cast is pianist and satirist, Richard Sisson. With his help the two friends reminisce. He plays some of Dame Myra's shorter classical pieces, and accompanies Patricia Hodge in a few of Joyce Grenfell's delightful songs, and one or two Noel Coward numbers of the period.

Tickets are £10 up until the week beginning 17th October when they will then cost £12.

Box Office: 01258 475137

www.stur-exchange.co.uk



Wells Festival of Literature runs from Tuesday 11th to Friday 21st October. All Festival events take place within walking distance of the Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace. You can hear talks on fiction, politics, travel, history, biography, and science, Film and poetry are also represented.

Brochure from Sherborne library. Check out the website at www.wellslitfest.org.uk



Sherborne hosts its third International Film Festival from Thursday, 20th October to Sunday, 23rd October at the Powell Theatre.

Three films will be screened daily with a wide-ranging choice from all over the globe.

The official opening party hosted by the mayor, Marjorie Snowden, is on Thursday 20th October at 7.30 pm. The festival opens with 'A Separation', an Iranian film. It won the best film award at the Berlin Film Festival this year. There will also be a short, colourful animated film of Rossini's overture of **The Italian Girl in Algiers**, its first screening in the UK. Tickets for this charitable event cost £10.

Tickets for all other films cost £5 per film and a season ticket for all nine films is £37.50. Tickets will be on sale at the Tourist Office, Digby Road.

For more details about each film plus trailer visit

www.shiff.org.uk

Film Timetable:

Thursday 20 October:

A Separation (PG) 7.30 for 8 pm

Friday 21 October

Heartbreaker (PG) 3.20 pm

Senna (12) 6 pm

Animal Kingdom (18) 8.30 pm

Saturday 22 October:

French Cancan (PG) 3 pm

Nine Queens (15) 5.30 pm

Biutiful (15) 8.15 pm

Sunday 23 October

My Name is Khan (12A) 2.30 pm

The Maid (15) 6 pm

Incendies (15) 8.15 pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 2011

Sun 2nd	Phantom of the Opera 25th anniversary	Cineworld, Yeovil 6.30 pm
Wed 5th	Henry V Company Boudin	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7.45 pm
 Thurs 6th	The Kitchen Arnold Wesker	Cineworld, Yeovil 6 pm
 Mon 10th	Play reading led by Adrian Thorpe	The Old Chapel, Sherborne 7.30 pm
Tues 11th to Sat 15th	Half a Sixpence Moorlight Theatre Productions	Strode Theatre, Street 7.30 pm
Thurs 13th to Sat 15th	The Gin Game Pulitzer Prize winning play	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
 Sat 15th	Anna Bolena Donizetti - Live at The Met	Cineworld, Yeovil 6 pm
Thurs 20th	When we are married Sturminster Newton Amateur Soc	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 7.30 pm
Thurs 20th to Sun 23rd	3rd International Film Festival	Digby Hall, Sherborne See page 3 for times
Sun 23rd	Playing to the Gallery Stephanie Cole & Patricia Routledge	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 5 pm

NOVEMBER 2011

Wed 2nd to Thurs 3rd	Hard Times Creative Cow	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
Thurs 3rd	Comedy Club Paddy Lennox	Powell Theatre, Sherborne 8.30 pm
Tues 8th to Sat 12th	A Murder is Announced Taunton Thespians	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm
Wed 9th to Sat 12th	The Elephant Man Platform 8 Productions	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Fri 11th to Sat 19th	Tess of the D'Urbervilles Thomas Hardy	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
 Thurs 17th to Sat 19th	Our Town An APS Production	Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm
Tues 22nd to Sat 26th	The Real Thing Tom Stoppard	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm

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

Strode Theatre: Box Office 01458 442846 www.strodetheatre.co.uk

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

Studio Theatre, Salisbury: Call 07789 858126 www.studiotheatre.org.uk

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

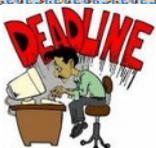
Powell Theatre: www.powelltheatre.co.uk

Tacchi-Morris: Box office: 01823 414141 www.tacchi-morris.com

Cineworld, Yeovil: Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then select advance booking.

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.



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.

November Copy DEADLINE: Thursday 27 October

Last Word...

"The stage is not merely the meeting place of all the arts, but is also the return of art to life."

Oscar Wilde