



# NOISES OFF

*Amateur Players of Sherborne newsletter March 2014*

## THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR by William Shakespeare

Performances 7.30 pm Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 April

### Up Front from your chairman

Thank you to everyone involved in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'. Rehearsals, workshops and production teams have been working very hard to bring Sherborne a great production.

Adrian Hole our lighting director is looking for two strong, able bodies on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th April to help put up the lights etc. If you can help please contact him on 01935 817429.

We are looking for a play and director for our autumn production so if you have any ideas please contact a committee member.

Looking forward to your support at our next production.

*Helen Smith*

### FALSTAFF & MERRY WIVES - SNAPPED!



A cold, gusty Sunday afternoon in Abbey grounds the photo-shoot of publicity photos for the Merry Wives. A couple of occasions Falstaff's panama hat had to be chased after and retrieved as it headed - not unsurprisingly - toward the Half Moon!



Meanwhile, in the Digby Memorial Lee Lyford, Movement Coach and Director, Theatre Royal, Bath, in the second RSC Workshop, took everyone through the exercises and techniques used by professional acting companies.

### WELCOME new members

A warm welcome to two new members: Shelly Daniels and Beverly Gallagher. We wish them a long and happy membership.

### COMING SOON

'Dark of the Moon' Fantastic play-reading 7.30 pm in our Clubhouse Monday 10 March

Led by Gilly Savage, 'Dark of the Moon' is based on the haunting folk ballad of "Barbara Allen."

There's a large cast so you're sure pf a part.

A witch's son falls for a human girl and begs to be

allowed to turn mortal to court her. He marries her but their baby is discovered to be a witch, leading to tragedy for the couple, Don't miss it!



### RAMPS AGOGO

Once there was one ramp, then three, now four. And, taking great shape right now, is a mighty fine laundry basket.

Yes, folks it's all agogo down at your Scenery Workshop.



## APS 2014

### Upcoming Events

#### Monday 10 March

'Dark of the Moon' play reading.  
Led by Gilly Savage.

#### Fri 4 to Sun 13 April

'The Merry Wives of Windsor'  
production period. Performances  
Thurs 10 to Sat 12 April.

#### Tuesday 29 April

Play-reading led by Eve  
Simmonds.

#### Fri 16 May

Annual Dinner, Butterfly House  
Castle Gardens.

#### Tues 10 June

Two Arnold Bennett farces: 'A  
Question of Sex' and 'The  
Stepmother'. Produced by Jim  
Reville.

#### Fri 11 July

AGM and Summer Party.  
Gainsborough House by kind  
invitation of Jim Schofield.

### From your President

Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup>  
-Sylvie Lord's Method  
Workshop. Present: Your  
President, your Chairman, your  
membership Secretary, John  
Crabtree, currently directing 'The  
Merry Wives of Windsor', Gilly  
Savage, David Winks, and Sylvie.

It wasn't raining or blowing a  
gale, so that was no excuse. It  
wasn't Valentine's night, so that  
was no excuse. So where have all  
our members gone, and what kind  
of evenings do they want from the  
Players?

I know rehearsals are in  
progress and cast members can't  
always spare another evening for  
a Club social evening; usually our  
evenings are reasonably well  
supported by the faithful few, but  
it would be nice to see a larger  
turnout of members for Club  
events.

At 8 pm the evening was  
abandoned! Hopefully another  
date will be found for the Method  
Workshop - your presence is  
requested.

*Eve Simmonds*



- One production a year
- Two productions a year
- One major production, plus a minor production i.e. a couple of one act plays

This was the topic raised at the last meeting of your committee.

Now they would like to know what you think.

You can have your say in the determining the future of the APS by emailing your comments, observations etc to me at [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.reville@btinternet.com) and I will pass them on to the committee for their consideration.

### NODA SOUTH WEST REGION ANNUAL WORKSHOP WEEKEND

The Annual NODA South West region Conference Workshop Weekend will take place on 20th & 21st September 2014 at the Palace Hotel, Torquay.

Courses to include: acting, improvisation, directing from the script, puppetry, costumes (all day), business/advertising, building a set, and backstage organisation. More details, including Agatha Christie connections, when available.



## "THE PLAY'S THE THING"

And our autumn production for 2014 is... Yes, already we need to be thinking ahead and coming up with a play - and a director - for November 2014.



All ideas, suggestions and offers to direct contact any member of your committee. Also, if you have any ideas of plays worth considering, please do pass them on to Eve who will read them and pass on her opinion to your committee. Contact Eve on 01935 812933

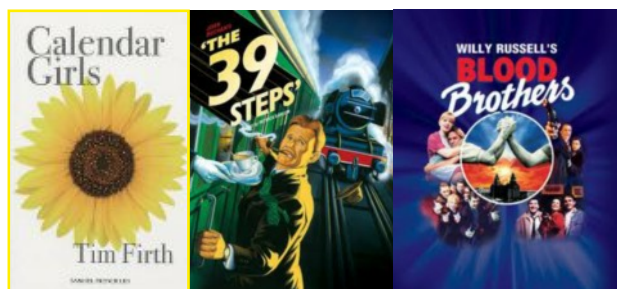
## Top Ten Plays



Following on from Samuel French's top ten plays in our December newsletter we now have the list for 2013 from the Little Theatre Guild. *Calendar Girls* is again top of the lot with 48 productions, well ahead of *Entertaining Angels* with only 12.

Not unexpectedly Tim Firth is top of most performed authors, followed not so closely behind by Shakespeare, Top Shakespeare plays were *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

- 1: Calendar Girls
- 2: Entertaining Angels
- 3: Blithe Spirit
- 4: The 39 Steps
- 5: Blood Brothers
- 6: Death Trap
- 7: Fawley Towers
- 8: Humble Boy
- 9: The History Boys
- 10: Murdered to Death



# WHAT'S ON

A selection of what's on around and about



One of Noël Coward's most popular comedies, **Hay Fever** is set in an English country house in the 1920s and is a 'snapshot' of a weekend where we view the antics of the Bliss family as they set about embarrassing and humiliating their house guests. The self-centred behaviour of the hosts finally drives their guests to flee, while the Blisses are so engaged in a family row that they fail to notice their guests' furtive departure. A cross between high farce and a comedy of manners, **Hay Fever** is a highly entertaining and funny insight into the world of Noël Coward.

It's on at 7.30 pm Thurs 13 to Sat 15 March in Strode Theatre.



**cineworld Yeovil**

Monday 3 March at 1 pm  
**Coriolanus**

Tuesday 11 March at 7.30 pm  
**Coriolanus**

Thursday 13 March 7 pm  
**War Horse**

Tuesday 18 March at 7 pm  
**War Horse**

Saturday 22 March at 2.30 pm  
**War Horse**

Thursday 1 May at 7 pm  
**King Lear**

Wednesday 14 May at 7 pm  
**Henry IV Part 1**

Thursday 22 May at 7 pm  
**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time**

Thursday 12 June  
**A Small Family Business**  
Alan Ayckbourn

Wednesday 18 June at 7 pm  
**Henry IV Part 2**

**Cineworld, Yeovil:** Call 0871 200200 or save 10% by booking online, Google cineworld yeovil

## Betrayal

by Harold Pinter

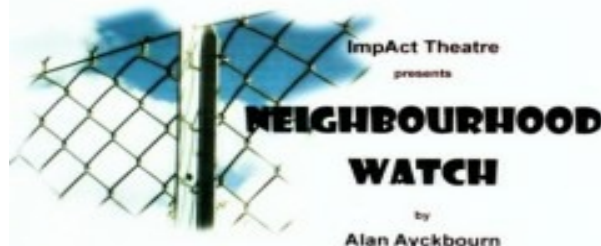


**Betrayal** explores a seven-year affair involving a married couple, Emma and Robert, and Robert's "close friend" Jerry, who is also married. Pinter's compelling play uses reverse chronology to explore the levels of betrayal between the couples: the first scene takes place after the affair has ended, the final scene ends when the affair begins.

It's on at the Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm Tuesday 25 to Saturday 29 March.

A scathingly comic portrait of London manners, fashions and hedonism, this dazzling drama from 1697 has all the hallmarks of great restoration comedy - colourful and profligate characters, intrigues, duplicity and

misunderstandings. **The Innocent Mistress** is on at Bristol Old Vic 7.30 pm Fri 7 to Sat 15 March, matinees Thurs and Sat at 2.30 pm.




Sex, violence, politics, religion, music, romance and garden gnomes! They all feature in Alan Ayckbourn's deliciously dark, comedy -

**Neighbourhood Watch.** See what happens when the residents of the Bluebell Hill Development decide to get organized in order to protect themselves and the area in which they live. In true Ayckbourn tradition things do not go according to plan and well-meaning ideas get somewhat out of hand, causing mayhem for all concerned.

It's on at 7.45 pm Friday 21 March at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### March 2014

Fri 7 to Sat 15	<b>The Innocent Mistress</b> Restoration comedy	Bristol Old Vic 7.30 pm Mats Thurs/Sat 2.30 pm
 Mon 10	<b>Dark of the Moon</b> Play-reading led by Gilly Savage	APS Clubhouse 7.30 pm
Tues 11 to Tues 25	<b>The Killing of Sister George</b> Taunton Thespians	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm
Thurs 13 to Sat 15	<b>Hay Fever</b> Noel Coward comedy	Strode Theatre 7.30 pm
Mon 17 to Sat 22	<b>She Stoops to Conquer</b> Oliver Goldsmith	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
Fri 21	<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> ImpAct Theatre Company	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 7.45 pm
Mon 24 to Tues 25	<b>Boeing Boeing</b> Comedy	Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm
Tues 25 to Sat 29	<b>Betrayal</b> By Harold Pinter	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm

### April 2014

Tues 1 to Sat 5	<b>The Witches of Eastwick</b>	Strode Theatre 7.30 pm
Wed 2 to Sat 5	<b>The Dock Brief &amp; Black Comedy</b> Two one act plays	Shaftesbury Arts Theatre 7.30 pm
Thurs 3 to Sat 5	<b>A Woman of No Importance</b> Bath University Student Theatre	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Sat 5	<b>Great Expectations</b> One man show	Sandford Orcas Village Hall 7.30 pm
Tues 8 to Wed 9	<b>Entertaining Mr Sloane</b> London Classic Theatre company	Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm
 Thurs 10 to Sat 12	 <b>The Merry Wives of Windsor</b> Amateur Players of Sherborne	Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm
Tues 15 to Thurs 17	<b>She Stoops to Conquer</b> Creative Cow production	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm, Mat Sat 2 pm
Fri 25	<b>The Unremarkable Death of Marilyn Monroe</b>	Merlin Theatre, Bath 7.45 pm
 Tues 29	<b>Play-reading</b> Led by Eve Simmonds	APS Clubhouse 7.30 pm

**New Theatre, Exeter:** Call 01392 277189 [www.cygnetttheatre.com](http://www.cygnetttheatre.com)

**Merlin Theatre:** Box Office 01373 465949 [www.merlintheatre.co.uk](http://www.merlintheatre.co.uk)

**Sandford Orcas:** Call 01305 261984. More info at [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk)

**Shaftesbury Arts Theatre:** Box Office 01747 8544321 [www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk](http://www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk)

**Strode Theatre:** Box Office 01458 442846 Mon-Sat 10 am to 2 pm [www.strodetheatre.org.uk](http://www.strodetheatre.org.uk)

**Tacchi-Morris:** Box Office 01823 414141 Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com)

**Mission Theatre:** Box Office 01225 428600 [www.missiontheatre.co.uk](http://www.missiontheatre.co.uk)

**Bristol Old Vic:** Box Office 0117 987 7877 [www.bristololdvic.org.uk](http://www.bristololdvic.org.uk)

**Sturminster Newton Exchange:** Box Office 01258 475137


**Theatre Royal, Bath:** Box Office 01225 448844 [www.theatreroyal.org.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk)

**Octagon:** Box Office 01935 422884 [www.octagon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk)

**Studio Theatre:** Salisbury Information Centre 01722 332860 [www.studiotheatre.org.uk](http://www.studiotheatre.org.uk)

**The Swan Theatre:** Call 07500 376031 or book online [www.swan-theatre.co.uk](http://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 mentioned in the newsletter please email details to: [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.reville@btinternet.com) or call me on 01935 814626. Please leave a message if I'm not available and I'll ring you back. **APRIL Copy Deadline: Thursday 27 March, 2014**