

NOISES OFF

Amateur Players of Sherborne

newsletter December 2014

Up Front from your chairman

Dear members,
It was good to see many of you for the E.G.M. for us as a committee to outline the difficulties we as a drama group have been having. Thank you to those people who gave their views on how we can move forward. I am pleased to say that the spring production will go ahead in April giving everyone time to offer help in any way they can to make it a success.

Please contact John Crabtree 01935 814720 or at jcrabbers@aol.com if you wish to get involved.

Thank you to Eve and Pat for providing memorabilia of APS over the past 80 years, and I for one raised a glass to the next.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Christmas party, and for those who cannot make it, a very happy Christmas to you.

Helen Smith

ROLL ON THE NEXT 80 YEARS



Just over a third of our membership came along to the Extraordinary General Meeting in the Catholic Church Hall, Westbury.

With our President, Eve Simmonds, in the chair the meeting began with John Crabtree giving a detailed overview of 'Tonight at 8.30', our spring production and the need for firm, active commitment from all members.

There was a short break for a glass of wine and cheese.

A reasoned discussion with several contributions from the floor followed regarding the name of the society. A motion to rename the society did not garner the support of the required two thirds majority.

And so, 80 years on, the name of the society remains the same.

TIDY UP

JOIN IN THE BIG TIDY UP

There's so much more to our society than performing

under the bright lights. We need to keep our invaluable resources in tip-top shape. Play your part and lend a hand and a couple of hours in the Clubhouse:

Costumes Wardrobe: 10 am
Saturday 29 November.

Scenery Workshop: 10 am
Saturday 6 December

TIME TO RENEW

Renew your membership now by sending your cheque for £15 payable to APS to Jim Reville The Chantry, Marston Road, Sherborne DT9 4BL



LIFE MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce two new Life Members: Sylvia Smith and Malcolm Cockburn.

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Friday 19 December

It all begins at **7.30 pm on Friday 19 December** at the Sherborne Bowling Club, Culverhayes.

Cost £5 - pay at the door - includes food and your first drink. Subsequent drinks at our very generous prices.

Feel free to dress for the season, but above all come with festive cheer. Cutlery, crockery and glasses provided.

There's also the opportunity, if you haven't already done so, to renew your membership if you pay by cash or cheque, Parking is freely available.

It would be a great help with catering if you would let Helen Smith know **by Friday 12 December** that you will be coming. Call her now on 01963 210824 or email her: helen.smith49@googlemail.com



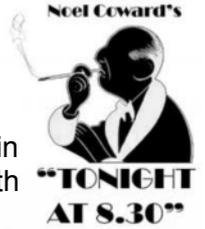
From your committee

Kindly note that the January 2015 edition of your newsletter will be a little later than usual.

It's something to do with the festive season, apparently!



“TONIGHT AT 8.30” OUR SPRING PRODUCTION



Our spring production, to be directed by John Crabtree, is Noel Coward’s “Tonight at 8.30” and features three one act plays from this ten play cycle.

Peep through your fingers at the chaotic *Red Peppers* music-hall show. Join Lady Gilpin for a soiree of mistaken identities in *Hands Across the Sea*. And break your heart along with Laura in the famous *Still Life*, the original version for the film *Brief Encounter*.

Auditions will be held at 7.30 pm in our Clubhouse on Tuesday 6 and Thursday 8 January, 2015. Rehearsals will be held every Monday and Thursday in the Church Hall Studio Room, Digby Road at 7.30 starting on the 2nd February. Production period Friday 17 - Sunday 26 April 2015 Performances 7.30 pm Digby Hall Thurs 23 - Sat 25 April 2015.

Hands Across the Sea cast:

- Lady Maureen Gilpin (Piggie) - sophisticated, slightly scatty, charming. 40s/50s
- Cdr. Peter Gilpin, RN - charming, smooth, upright. 40s/50/early 60s
- Lt. Cdr. Alastair Corbett, RN - smart, smooth. 40s
- Mrs Wadhurst - A planter's wife visiting from Malaya. Sweet, unsophisticated, slightly timorous. 40s
- Mr Wadhurst - Her husband. Pleasant, charming, out of his depth. 40s/50s
- Mr Burnham - An architect's clerk. Young, shy, polite. early 20s
- Hon. Clare Wedderburn - rather formidable, gruff. 40s/50s
- Major Gosling RM (Bogey) - a bit stiff but charming, Royal Marines officer. 30s/40s
- Walters (The Maid) - can be any age. Very small part.

Plot synopsis:

Piggie, an avid traveller and socialite, is constantly entertaining people -- she never rests, which soon becomes confusing and, perhaps, chaotic. A phone continues to ring as the room begins to fill up with more and more guests, forcing Piggie to attend to both the people in her home and the people on the phone. The comedy lies in the chaos and Piggie's inability to recall who is who.

Still Life cast

- Laura Jesson - attractive, ordinary, pleasant, charming. 40s
- Myrtle Bagot - manageress of the railway buffet. Pseudo-'refained'. Authoritarian. 50s
- Beryl Waters - her assistant. A bit dim, sweet. 30s/40s
- Stanley - Ticket inspector. Myrtle's suitor. Rather reverential to her, but can be cheeky. 50s
- Albert Godby - Refreshment seller. 40s/50s
- Alec Harvey - Pleasant, mild, charming, unhurried. 50s
- Young man - early 20s. Very small part.
- Bill & Johnnie - two soldiers. 20s/30s
- Mildred - a friend of Beryl's. Young. 20s/30s
- Dolly Messiter - Fussy, gushy, striking. 40s/50s

Plot synopsis:

The play depicts the love affair of Alec and Laura across a twelve-month period. The sadness of Alec and Laura's serious and secretive affair is contrasted throughout the play with the boisterous, uncomplicated relationship of Myrtle and Albert, two of the station staff.

Red Peppers cast:

- George Pepper - past-it music hall performer. Loud, argumentative. Should be able to sing and dance (badly). 40s/50s/60s
- Lily Pepper - his wife. Loud, brash, spoiling for a fight. Should be able to sing and dance (badly). 40s/50s
- Bert Bentley - music director. Rather flashy. Enjoys a drink or two ... or three. 50s
- Alf - theatre callboy. Young. early 20s. Very small part.
- Mr Edwards - cigar-wielding theatre manager. Pompous, full of himself. 50s
- Mabel Grace - a has-been legitimate actress now reduced to the music halls. 50s/60s

Plot synopsis:

A lovingly cynical tribute to the music hall, “Red Peppers” features a performing couple whose onstage choreography and off-stage marriage leave something to be desired.

Lily and George are still doing the same venerable routine of lamely comic songs and hackneyed patter that George's parents were doing before them, and as they change out of their sailor costumes after a disastrous performance, they snap and scrap in a comic but sympathetic picture of variety show life.