

# NOISES OFF

APS newsletter February 2012



Well, not quite 'somewhere', actually, as everyone knows, it's Lancre (pronounced Lanker) a small kingdom on the Sto Plains side of the Ramtop Mountains. And that's what set designer Charles and his team are hard at work aiming to recreate in our Scenery Workshop. More about that below. Meanwhile, back to the story...

Something is rotten and really quite stinks in the Kingdom of Lancre (pronounced Lanker). The King is dead, Long Live the King! Well actually no, because the New King, the evil Duke Felmet, murdered the previous King and

will stop at nothing until the whole Kingdom is under his iron hand.

The only person who could take the throne would be the missing infant Prince. Hunted by the Duke's men the baby finds safety under the protection of three local witches, Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick. The witches have a rule never to interfere but with the life of a child at stake and the fate of the Kingdom at hand, Granny has a saying about rules, if you're going to break them "Break them good." and hard!"



Wyrd Sisters and the Fool in rehearsal



## OUR TOWN WINS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

I have great delight in informing you that the Amateur Players of Sherborne have been awarded the NODA South West District 11 Achievement Award 2011 for the production of "Our Town".

The Award will be presented by NODA Immediate Past President, Mrs. Gerry Branton, during the South-West Region's Annual Awards Dinner which will take place at the Palace Hotel, Torquay on Saturday 3 March commencing at 7:00 p.m. Pre-dinner reception and meet the National President, Mr. Fred Piggford, from 6:30 p.m.

Please let me know the names of the representatives who will be present to receive the award.

A photographer will be on hand to take pictures of the presentation which you can access for your programmes and society records. Details of his website etc., will be available on the day.

Tickets for the dinner are £30 per person which includes pre-dinner reception and a top class three course meal in beautiful surroundings.

Many congratulations to all the members & helpers of your club.

With best wishes,

Nick Lawrence

National Operatic and Dramatic Association  
South West Regional Councillor

If you can spare a couple of hours on a Saturday and/or Wednesday afternoon - from 2.15 pm - in our Scenery Workshop at The Old Chapel that would be very much appreciated. Do come along. **No experience needed!**



## THE MAGIC OF PANTOMIME

What a gloriously entertaining evening as Bernard Tinker whisked us through the history of pantomime, the jokes, the gags and one liners, tales of the headline celebrities and tricks of the genre. Like why a balloon wouldn't pop when stuck with a pin.

And then, following some absolutely hilarious video clips from his productions, the evening was topped off with almost everyone playing a part in a spirited read-through of Act 2,



Revealed: why the balloon wouldn't pop

Scene III from Cinderella, a pantomime Bernard had co-authored. What a terrific treat!

## Programme of events 2011-2012 season

### 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. Venue to be decided

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

## WINTER PROGRAMME FOR 2012 OUT NOW

*Artsreach*

The Winter programme of Artsreach, Dorset's rural touring arts organisation, is out now.

It brings to rural communities all over Dorset the opportunity to see and participate in high quality arts events in their own villages.

There are live performances covering small and large-scale theatre, live music, dance, comedy, literature, film and puppet shows.

There are also visual arts exhibitions and participatory workshops with professional artists and practitioners in local communities.

Pip Utton as Charles Dickens in Melbury Osmond Village Hall - see page 3 - is an Artsreach event.

For the full events listings go to [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk)

## THE VIEW FROM MY BROOM



Wise words from  
**Granny Weatherwax**

There I was, in an idle moment, just making sure my entry in Witchipedia was up-to-date when...lo and behold... see below what I came across. None other than our esteemed Wyrd Sisters director as the Wicked Witch of the West in the Wriggle Valley Players 2009 panto *The Wizard of Oz*.



Now, not many people know it but I was intended by nature to be a "wicked witch". Yes, I know it's hard to believe. However, at an early age, I realised I had to be "the good one" to balance my sister, Lily. Ironically Lily, who became a fairy godmother was convinced she was the good one, because she gave people what she thought they wanted. I give people what I *know* they really need.

I have to fly now. You see it's the time of the year when we witches are abroad. Well, not actually abroad. We don't like the food and you can't trust the water and the shamans always hog the deck chairs.

Anyway, I'll be back in time for 'Wyrd Sisters' 7.30 pm at the Digby Hall from Thursday 29 to Saturday 31 March.

## NODA SOUTH WEST REGIONAL WEEKEND AT BICTON COLLEGE

FRIDAY 20 TO  
SUNDAY 22 JULY

Make a note of the dates for the NODA South West Regional Weekend - Friday 20 to Sunday 22 July in the idyllic setting of Bicton Agricultural College, East Budleigh, East Devon. It's just over an hour's drive from Sherborne.

Courses will include master classes with West End Actor/Director Jim Patterson and West End Choreographer Andrew Wright. Especially for this year a day's workshop on the production of good Sound Enhancement is

planned. There will also be classes in make-up, acting skills and voice production.

The good news is that everything points to the costs being kept down to around last years', which were fairly reasonable.

Brochures and booking forms are expected in March and will be displayed on their website. If you would like to see a copy please email me at: [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.reville@btinternet.com)

# Arts SCENE

A selection of what's  
on around and about

## DUETS TO BE PERFORMED AT THE SWAN

'Duets' by Peter Quilter is aptly called and features a set of four encounters.

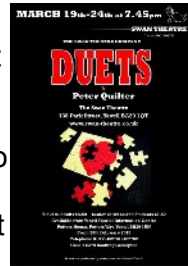
Four pairs of characters, four crucial moments....

**Jonathan and Wendy** are on a blind date and hoping to get it right this time, even though they've never got it right before. **Barrie** is not really interested in women but **Janet** sees that as no reason to stop trying.

**Shelley and Bobby** have decided to holiday in Spain to finalize their divorce whilst drowning in cocktails. And **Angela** is marrying for the third time to the dismay of her brother **Toby** and amidst a barrage of bad omens and a dress resembling a parachute

The result is a gloriously funny examination of the chaotic world of love, relationships and why the grass is never greener....

Duets is on at The Swan at 7.45 pm from Monday 19 to Saturday 24 March. Tickets on sale from 28 February.



## PIP UTTON AS CHARLES DICKENS

Charles Dickens, the greatest English novelist walks on to the stage, clutches his chest, staggers, slips from his sister-in-law's arms and falls down dead. Seconds later he leaps up, entertaining the audience by describing his final moments and relating what he believes were the happiest years of his life.



Over the past 12 years Pip Utton has become internationally recognised as one of the leading performers and writers of solo drama.

See him as Dickens in Melbury Osmond Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 18 February. Contact Tessa Oaksford on 01935 83410.



**Outside Edge  
Tacchi-Morris  
Arts Centre  
Taunton  
13-17 March  
at 7.30 pm  
Matinee Sat  
at 2.30 pm**

Set in a cricket Pavilion, Outside Edge deals with an eventful Saturday afternoon in the lives of five men and four women. Roger struggles to keep together his team to play against the British Railways Maintenance Division Yeading East, while the wives and

girlfriends of his players help and hinder to devastating and hilarious effects.

The action takes place at the cricket pavilion before and during a match. While the play is ostensibly about cricket, it's actually about relationships - lifting the lid on all manner of angst and extra-marital shenanigans among the lead characters. See P4 for contact details.

## TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY AT SHERBORNE FLICKS

Missed it first time or catch it again at 7.30 pm Wed 8 Feb Church Hall, Digby Rd. Tickets £5 from the Tourist Information Centre or call 01935 815341

The spy thriller starring Gary Oldman has been nominated for 3 Oscars, 11 Bafta awards, including best actor for Oldman and outstanding British film.

## CORIOLANUS AT CINEWORLD

Actor-director Ralph Fiennes turns Shakespeare's drama into a tense political thriller. May show at Cineworld, Yeovil late January.

**StageTalk**, the monthly TV programme

dedicated to amateur theatre groups is on at **5 pm Sunday 5 February**. Catch it on Showcase TV Sky Channel 201, Freesat 403. It's also available online at [www.stage-talk.tv](http://www.stage-talk.tv) where you can also watch previous programmes.

**National  
Theatre  
Live** AT CINEWORLD  
YEovil

**Thurs 9 February: Travelling Light**, a funny and fascinating tribute to the Eastern European immigrants who became major players in Hollywood's golden age. At 7 pm

**Thurs 1 March: Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors**. At 7 pm

**Thurs 29 March: Goldsmith's She Stoops to Conquer**. At 7 pm

The Metropolitan  
Opera **HD LIVE**

## AT CINEWORLD YEovil


**Sat 11 Feb: 'Götterdämmerung'** by Wagner. A bewitching plot of magic potions, deception, betrayal, deaths and funerals - not to mention the most blazing finale to any opera you will ever witness. At 7 pm.

## Sat 25 Feb

This early Verdi operatic masterpiece deservedly reaches a wider audience - with a little help from the Met. At 6 pm.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

Tues 7 to Sat 11	<b>Translunar Paradise</b> Theatre Ad Infitum	Bristol Old Vic 8 pm
 Thurs 9	<b>Travelling Light</b> New Nicholas Wright play	Cineworld, Yeovil 7 pm
Mon 13 to Sat 18	<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> Alan Ayckbourn	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 pm
Thurs 16 to Sat 25	<b>As You Like It</b> Cygnet Company	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
Mon 20	<b>Stalin's Favourite</b> Adapted from Orlando Figes' book	Strode Theatre 7.30 pm
Tues 21	<b>Defying Hitler</b> Growing up in the Third Reich	Strode Theatre 7.30 pm
Thurs 23 to Sat 25	<b>Two One Act plays</b> Trouble in Amdram world	Little Theatre, Wells 7.30 pm
Mon 27	<b>Charles Dickens</b> Simon Callow	Strode Theatre 7.30 pm

**MARCH 2012**

Thurs 1 to Sat 31	<b>Red Light Winter</b> UK premiere	Theatre Royal, Bath 7.45 pm Mat Sat 2.30 pm
Fri 9 to Sat 10	<b>A Midsummer Nights Dream</b> RumDoxy Theatre Company	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Tues 13 to Sat 17	<b>Outside Edge</b> See page 3	Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, Taunton 7.30 pm Mat sat 2.30pm
Thurs 15 to Sat 17	<b>And Then There Were None</b> Agatha Christie thriller	Strode Theatre 7.30 pm
Thurs 15 to Sat 7 April	<b>The Seven Year Itch</b> George Axelrod	Salisbury Playhouse Times vary check Box Office
Sat 18	<b>Charles Dickens</b> Played by Pip Utton See page 3	Melbury Osmond Village Hall 7.30 pm
Mon 19 to Sat 24	<b>Duets</b> Play by Peter Quilter	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
<b>APS event</b> Thurs 29 to Sat 31	<b>Wyrd Sisters</b> Award-winning APS company	<b>Digby Hall, Sherborne</b> 7.30 pm

**Melbury Osmond Village Hall:** Contact Tessa Oaksford on 01935 83410

**Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre:** Box Office 01823 414141 [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com)

**Salisbury Playhouse:** Box Office call 01722 320333 [www.salisburyplayhouse.com](http://www.salisburyplayhouse.com)

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

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

**New Theatre, Exeter:** Box Office 01392 277189 [www.cygnetnewtheatre.com](http://www.cygnetnewtheatre.com)

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

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

**Strode Theatre:** Call 01458 442846 10/2 pm Mon -Sat [www.strodetheatre.co.uk](http://www.strodetheatre.co.uk) Book early for Dickens.

**Little Theatre, Wells:** Box Office 01749 672280 [www.littletheatrewells.org](http://www.littletheatrewells.org)

**Swan Theatre:** Tickets on sale from 28 February Box Office 01935 462781 [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 advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section please send any details to me at: [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

**March Copy Deadline: Saturday 25th February**

**Last Word...**

"Mythology's jus the folktales of the people who won 'cos they had bigger swords."

**Granny Weatherwax**