

STRONG CAST FOR 'ABELARD AND HELOISE'

Rehearsals are now well under way for the Spring production: Abelard and Heloise, by Ronald Millar. Stuart Carter has selected a large and talented cast for his production, headed by Tony Harrison and Anna Jenkins in the title parts. The cast also includes new members Tarn Bradley-Carter, Nicola Clarke, Glynnis Congrave and Jane Parsons, and is completed by the more familiar faces of Malcolm Cockburn, Madeline Farrant, Jean Harrap, Chris Lea, Daisy Mangnall, Malcolm Matson, Margaret Morris, Lance Salway, Eileen Snelling, Peter Thomas, Janet Vincent, Peter Wellby, Sue Whelan and Meg Whittingdale. Sound effects and lighting will be in the capable hands of Hrolf Trump, Ron Tomlinson is to be stage manager, Monica Parsons will be in charge of props, Christine Hatch will be managing publicity and Yolande Taylor and Wendy Farley have the mammoth task of clothing the large cast in the 12th century costumes.

Because the size of the audience will be restricted by the thrust staging of this production (the audience will be seated on three sides of the acting area), four performances of Abelard and Heloise are to be given in the Digby Hall from Wednesday, 29th April to Saturday, 2nd May, with a possible extra performance in the afternoon of 2nd May. Be sure to book early if you want good seats; tickets will be available at Carter's from Thursday, 9th April.

COMMUNITY THEATRE COMING TO SHERBORNE

Many members will already know that the Colway Theatre Trust, under the direction of Ann Jellicoe, is hoping to stage a community play in Sherborne in late 1982. This will take the form of a play specially written for and about the town by a distinguished playwright, produced by a professional director, and acted by a very large cast drawn from the town as a whole and from local schools. Ann Jellicoe has already organised extremely successful productions of this kind in Lyme Regis and Seaton and is at present arranging a community play for Bridport to be produced later this year. Ann, who now lives in Lyme Regis, is internationally known as a director and playwright; her plays include The Sport of My Mad Mother, The Knack, Shelley and The Giveaway and she has translated plays by Ibsen and Chekhov. Since she moved to the West Country with her family, she has concentrated on community theatre within the region.

The Sherborne community play will be organised quite independently and it is in no way a Players production. But the project does enjoy the full support of your committee, who feel that this exciting venture deserves every encouragement.

PROGRAMME CHANGES

The date of the Annual General Meeting has now been changed from Wednesday, 3rd June to MONDAY, 8TH JUNE. The time and place remain the same: 8 p.m. in the Club Room. Further details will be circulated later.

The evening of drama and costume in Sherborne Castle announced for Thursday, 11th June cannot now take place. Instead, Gerald Pitman and Madeline Farrant will be organising an evening of 18th century music and poetry to take place in Castleton Church on Friday, 26th June. Further details of this event will be announced later.

PLAYERS TO HELP 'IT'S A KNOCKOUT'

The Players have been asked to supply half a dozen members dressed in Elizabethan costume to decorate the exterior of Sherborne Castle during the filming of It's A Knockout in April. As we have to supply the costumes as well as the performers, the selection of the fortunate few will depend on which costume fits which member! J.A.P.S. will be well represented in the programme too: SARAH LEA (recently seen in the title role of Aladdin) is to be the Sherborne team mascot for the contest.

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CLUB ROOM

All members visiting the Club Room are asked to make sure that they close the outside gate behind them on entering and leaving the premises. The Eldridge Pope management have made a particular request that this be done for security reasons and it is most important that we co-operate.

Observant members attending events in the Club Room will have noticed that the premises have recently been redecorated. Our thanks to those committee members who so willingly and cheerfully gave up their time to carry out this necessary but thankless task.

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PLAYERS POT-FOURRI

Members who may be interested in joining organised theatre visits to Bath, Bristol, Salisbury, etc., are invited to get in touch with MARGARET MORRIS (Sherborne 3684) or JANET VINCENT (Sherborne 4481).

Will those members who have not yet returned their completed membership forms please do so as soon as possible. We can only cater for your special interests if we know what they are! Please return the forms to JOY SAUNDERS (Sherborne 2670).

Those members still in possession of items from the Players' Wardrobe are asked to return them immediately to WENDY FARLEY (Sherborne 4150).

The sub-committee which has been set up to organise the presentation of entertainment to other clubs and organisations is anxious to obtain sketches, monologues and other material suitable for inclusion in short programmes of entertainment for both elderly and more general audiences. Any member who may know of likely material is asked to contact JOY SAUNDERS (Sherborne 2670). Joy would also like to hear from any member who has a special skill or party piece (fan dancing, perhaps, or conjuring or tightrope walking!) that they would be willing to present to a wider audience.

A small doll has been found in a bundle of fur presented to the Wardrobe by an unknown donor. The owner of the doll is asked to claim it from WENDY FARLEY (Sherborne 4150).

WELCOME to the following new members: Jane Alington, Tarn Bradley-Carter, Nicola Clarke, Glynnis Congrave, Anna Cutler, Anna Jenkins, David Lower, Maureen Power, Georgina Smith and Iris Taylor.

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DON'T FORGET .....

Thursday, 5th March: PLAYREADING produced by Tony Harrison.

Wednesday, 25th March: LITTLE MONSTERS: a Gathering of Horrible Children from Poetry and Plays, Fiction and Fact, arranged as an entertainment.

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Wednesday, 25th March: LITTLE MONSTERS: a Gathering of Horrible Children from Poetry and Plays, Fiction and Fact, arranged as an entertainment by Lance Salway and performed by an Astonishing Array of Amateur Players.

Wednesday, 1st April: PLAYREADING produced by Christine Hatch.

All these events take place in the Club Room at 8 p.m.