



AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE

Newsletter

MARCH
1996



Dear Member,

It hardly seems any time since I wrote the January Newsletter, in which I let slip that Mally and I were disappearing for a while to sail around the Caribbean. Well, we've been---and come back; seven weeks passed all too quickly and here we are again, back in a freezing cold England. I have changed the symbol this month just to remind myself that we really were out there in the sun. It wasn't all like this of course---sometimes it was even better!

The main event that took place while we were away was the Dorset Drama League Festival. Actually we only just missed it, which I am sorry about as by all accounts our entry of *Pity About Kitty*, was a tremendous success. Both **Jennie Harvey-Hull** and **Stephanie Green** were nominated for Best Actress (and I am told that they shared both have won it), and **Jakki Gregory** carried away the Producer's Trophy. Congratulations to all three. Margaret Field's review of proceedings is overleaf. I understand that there is a possibility that it may be revived for a performance locally and if so I shall certainly attend.



Prompt Corner

Wednesday 27th March
An unrehearsed playreading
from 'A Man Born to be King,
with Margaret Field

Friday 12th April
The Sneeze, Act 2
We regret that this evening has been
CANCELLED, owing to the unavailability of key members of the cast.

Sunday 21st April
'And Then There Were None' moves
into the Digby Hall. PLEASE COME
AND HELP IF YOU CAN.

Thur. 25th, Fri. 26th, Sat. 27th April
Performances of '**And Then There Were None**' at 7.30 p.m. Also Saturday Matinee, 2.30 p.m.

Sunday 28th April. Strike set and move out of Digby Hall. Any help will be welcome.

Wednesday 8th May
"Pshaw!" A Shavian Entertainment.
Arranged by Vivian Vale

Friday 17th May
A Literary Treasure Trail Through Sherborne, devised by Gerald Pitman

Thursday 6th June
Summer Poetry Please
presented by Margaret Field

Wednesday 19th June
Annual General Meeting

Saturday 29th June
End of Season Summer Party
at which Kieran Millar will present
'Kieran's Comic Cuts'

Now of course we are in the run up to the next production, *And Then There were None*. **Barbara Beak** is directing and reports that rehearsals are progressing promisingly. **Margaret Field** is Stage Manager and **Tony Manns** is in charge of building the set. Tony doesn't need any more help at the moment, but a great deal of help will be needed on the day of the move into the Digby Hall---a boxed set has to be built and wallpapered. Move in day is Sunday 21st April (not Saturday, this time). Contact Tony (01935 74206) nearer the time to find out times and places and how best you can help. Finally, **Mally Lambert** is Front of House Manager. Contact her (01258-817270) if you would like to help with Front of House. If there is an insufficient number of volunteers, the press gang will be put into action!

Meanwhile the APS programme has continued on. Just before we fled the country, Meg Whittingdale held another of her highly successful 'Give Us a Clue' evenings. With about 25 members present, it was barely possible to fit two teams down each side of the room and, as usual, some of the mimed interpretations of films, books and plays were quite hilarious. It was the best attended evening of the season thus far, which attests to the continued popularity of this game.

On 23rd January Tony and Gill Manns presented to a small select audience a rehearsed reading of *Show of Hands*, an intriguing play about a young man who receives a graft of a pair of hands and becomes influenced by the mind of their former owner. A notable part of the evening was the moment Patricia Stewart burst into melifluous song; a talent she had hitherto kept quiet about.

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

CAST

Rogers	David Smith
Narracot	Mark Lambert
Mrs Rogers	Gill Manns
Vera Claythorne	Sue Francis
Captain Lombard	Stuart McCreadie
Anthony Marston	Andrew Cross
William Blore	Graham Baker
General Mackenzie	Vivian Vale
Emily Brent	Jill Hudson
Sir Lawrence Wargrave	Tony Field
Dr Armstrong	Anthony Stephens

PITY ABOUT KITTY

Our entry in the Dorset Drama League Festival of One Act Plays turned out to be a triumph for new Director Jakki Gregory and the four members of her cast, new member Stephanie Green, Jennie Harvey-Hull, Jessica Colson and Tony Birks-Hay, not forgetting the two much-admired dummies made by Jim Schofield (one of which bore a remarkable resemblance to a former health Minister!). Hrolf Trump controlled the arrival and departure of various ambulances and an omnibus, and Adrian Hole planned and executed the complex lighting plot.

Some 70 Sherborne supporters attended the Preview in the Digby Hall and were much impressed by this poignant story set around a medical tribunal. At the Festival, held the following week in the Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne, a few APS stalwarts

supported on the Thursday and four 'hopefuls' were there to collect any crumbs which might fall from the high table on the final evening. In the event they came away with a new Certificate of Merit to add to those collected over the years, two nominations for 'Best Actress' for Stephanie and Jennie--though unfortunately **not** the trophy--but the high point of the evening was the award to Jakki of **'The Producer's Trophy'**. The cheers of our small group contrasted with the profound silence from other supporters groups, who were clearly expecting that they would take the trophy away yet again.

An excellent result for the players, and many congratulations and thanks to all those who gave their time and efforts to earn it.

M.H.F.

WHAT'S ON

Thur 9th - Sat 11th May
Sturminster Newton Hall
SNADS present
How the Other Half Loves
by Alan Ayckbourn

At the **Octagon Theatre, Yeovil**, the Young Octagon Theatre presents *The Wizard of Oz* Tue.21st-Sat 25th May. The June Festival consists of *House of Secrets* (Peter McKelvey), *Loot* (Joe Orton), *The Boyfriend* (Sandy Wilson) and *Educating Rita* (Willy Russell). Save 50% of the normal ticket price by booking seats for all four productions.

SITS VAC

An opportunity has arisen for a person to take on the important role of

Wardrobe Supremo

This is a responsible position that involves taking overall charge of The Players large stock of costumes, acting as wardrobe master/mistress for some productions and providing help and advice for others.

A knowledge of dressmaking and costume would be an advantage, but is not essential, as 'on the job' learning will be a feature of this post.

Hours are flexible. Salary is commensurate with those currently offered to committee members. Apply a.s.a.p. in writing, by telephone or other means of communication to The Chairman, Amateur Players of Sherborne.

Due to what I understand was inclement weather (what is this stuff called snow?) Kieran's Comic Cuts had to be postponed and will now be presented at the End of Season Party on June 29th.

On 21st February James Patrick, our 'local' adjudicator entertained about 25 members with 'A Voyage Round My Life'. Margaret Field writes "[this was] an amusing account of his years as Director, Adjudicator, Member of the English Speaking Board--you name it, he's done it all. In particular he was, I am sure, of help to Jakki Gregory with her forthcoming Festival entry in the DDL week, with his thoughts on the lot of the adjudicator and what he/she is looking for at a Festival. All in all a most amusing and informative evening--we hope that we might see him again at one of our club evenings."

On Monday 18th April 'Paddy' Field (actually, he let on that he has no Irish blood in him whatsoever) celebrated the day after St Patrick's day with a selection of Irish music, some truly awful Irish Jokes, a sketch and two plays. The first play, *Roman Fever*, in which two ladies reminisced about an earlier occasion spent in Rome, was ably and amusingly performed by our President and Chairman. The second, *Pizazz*, in which a forceful American lady and a stubborn Irishman appear to meet as strangers and start to play verbal games, was treated as an unrehearsed playreading. Both plays were most enjoyable and the dozen or so members who came left feeling that they had had a very entertaining evening.

Future evenings are as listed in **Prompt Corner**. Please do come if you can; most of this year's club evenings have not been noted for huge attendances and those of you who have read previous Newsletters will know my views on this. Please note that the evening originally scheduled for Friday 12th April, Act 2 of *The Sneeze*, will not now take place, as key members of the cast will not be available. I have a suspicion that their lack of availability may have been influenced by the lack of support given to Act 1 last September; I rest my case.

Finally, congratulations are due to **Andrew Cross**, who has started a new job. Sadly from our point of view, this new job is based in Bournemouth and involves working evenings and weekends, which means that for the next four years or so Andrew's amateur dramatic activities will have to be curtailed. Andrew is a quiet, unassuming man, who has nevertheless been a tremendous asset to The Players, both on and off the stage. He has been a member for 17 years, of which about 12 have been spent as a committee member, 6 as Hon. Secretary and 3 as Membership Secretary. As an actor, he has successfully played many characters over the years, but his recent portrayal of the two sides of Charles Marlow, the one brash and the other shy and stammering, in *She Stoops to Conquer*, was one that we will remember for a long time. Andrew will continue to be based in Sherborne and intends keeping up his membership of The Players. We wish you the very best of luck in your new job, Andrew, and we look forward to seeing you as often as possible and to the time in a few years when with any luck you will once again be able to take to the boards.

M.L.

Backstage chat

The more observant of you will have noticed that in January I was reduced to writing a letter to myself! In view of the lack of response, this section is now being dropped!