



AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE

# Newsletter

MAY  
1996



*This photograph is one of the publicity shots taken for And Then There Were None. I include it here for no better reason than I like it and it was not actually used at the time. There is something of a saga behind these publicity shots. Barbara's original idea was to take the whole cast down to West Bay and take photos with boats and the sea in the background. A meal of fish and chips was mentioned. However, getting a largish cast all together in one place at the same time is not easy at the best of times and this plan was soon abandoned. It was then decided to find somewhere local and after a recce a site in the grounds of the Castle was chosen. Even so it proved impossible to get everyone there at the same time, hence this photograph which should have included all ten of the 'Indians' actually only shows six of them. Ah well, the best laid plans of mice, men and directors..... From left to right are Graham Baker (William Blore), David Smith (Mr Rogers), Gill Manns (Mrs Rogers), Tony Stephens (Dr Armstrong), Tony Field (Sir Lawrence Wargrave) and Vivian Vale (General Mackenzie).*

Dear Member,

The end of the 1995-96 season draws near and it's time for the last of the five annual Newsletters.

First, congratulations to Barbara and all of the cast and production team of *And Then There Were None*. The play came together very well and was much enjoyed by all those who came to see it. The total audience was in the region of 350 and we made an overall profit of just over £220. The audiences were smaller than one might have expected for an Agatha Christie (I understand the last one was a sell-out), which just shows that you never can tell. The matinee was a good idea; it was reasonably well attended--about as many in the audience as on the Thursday evening--and those who came to it (mostly elderly people who would not have come to an evening performance) much appreciated the opportunity. The play was entered for the Rose Bowl Competition and we have now had James Patrick's critique, a copy of which can be found on the clubroom noticeboard. His comments are generous and fair and his criticisms are useful and constructive.



## A NEW HOME FOR APS

As many of you already know, the time is rapidly approaching when we will have to leave the present Clubroom. The development that has been threatened for many years is almost certain to begin soon. Temporary accommodation for the costumes has been organised, but we do need somewhere to hold meetings and rehearsals. The committee is currently looking at possibilities, one of which looks very promising. Discussions and negotiations are currently in hand and we hope to be able to give you more news at the AGM. Meanwhile if you know of anywhere that might be suitable and available (a modest rent could be paid if necessary), do please let the committee know.

## Prompt Corner

Thursday 6th June  
**Summer Poetry Pleas.**  
A 'do it yourself' evening  
umpired by Margaret Field

Wednesday 19th June  
**Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 29th June  
**End of Season Summer Party**



Incidentally, the turnout for both setting up and getting out was excellent. Thank you to all of you who came; your help was much appreciated.

Since the last Newsletter there have been two club evenings. About 23 people (excluding cast) turned out to Vivian Vale's evening of 'Pshaw'. We were given two short plays, interspersed by readings by Shaw himself--or rather a very good, albeit beardless, facsimile of him. The pieces were all excellently read and the result was a most entertaining evening.

The evening earmarked for Gerald Pitman's Literary Treasure Trail of Sherborne was marred by being miserably cold and damp. Even so 12 members turned out and four teams toured Sherborne in search of the answers to Gerald's questions. The winners were the team that consisted of Meg Whittingdale and Tony and Mytyl Stephens. On being presented with their prize of a bottle of wine, they promptly shared it with those present and 11 glasses of wine were extracted from one bottle!

The remaining club evening is Margaret Field's **Summer Poetry Please**. Do come and bring your contributions of poetry (or prose) on this theme. The AGM is on the 19th of June and among the business to be dealt with will be the election of Officers and Committee Members. Margaret Field retires as Chairman at the end of this season and we must therefore elect a new Chairman. In addition there will be three vacancies on the committee. Last year there were complaints that there was insufficient opportunity to nominate candidates for these posts and so this year Nomination Forms are included with this Newsletter. A list of this season's Officers and Committee and their current status is given below.

The final evening of the season is the Summer party on Saturday 29th June. Margaret and Tony have once again kindly offered the use of their home and so the party will be at **Nethercoombe House**. If the ladies would be kind enough bring something to eat and the gentlemen bring something to drink, a good time will be had by all. Kieran Millar will provide a little entertainment, aided by Simon Manaton--last seen cavorting around the Digby Hall in the guise of Tony Lumpkin. M.L.

## Officers and Committee 1995-6

### President

Joy Saunders  
(elected 1993)

### Chairman

Margaret Field  
(retiring)

### Treasurer

Tony Field  
(standing for re-election)

### Secretary

Anthony Stephens  
(standing for re-election)

### Committee Members

#### Elected 1995

Jessica Colson  
Jakki Gregory  
Tony Manns  
Kieran Millar

#### Elected 1994

Mark Lambert  
Colin Mayes (resigned)  
Linda Woods

#### Elected 1993

Janet Vincent (retiring)  
Anthea Watson (retiring)

## WHAT'S ON

Artsreach Productions:

### Visions of Hildegard

Horse and Bamboo Theatre  
The Church Hall, Yetminster  
Fri 21, Sat 22 June, 8.00 p.m.

### Cider with Rosie

Old Vic Theatre School  
Sturminster Newton Hall, Tue 25 June, 7.30

### Tregeagle

Kneehigh Theatre  
Shillingston Rec, Fri 19 July, 8.00

### At the Octagon Theatre, Yeovil,

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.

## APS WARDROBE

For many years now the APS wardrobe has been in the very capable hands of Pam Richardson. Her knowledge of costume and unflagging attention to detail has been the mainstay of many a production. We owe a great deal to Pam, as without her many productions would have been almost impossible to stage. In this work she has been aided by a number of dedicated ladies, of whom (if the others I do not mention here will forgive me) the most notable has been Mary Micklewright, who has also devoted her time and talents to the wardrobe department for many years.

Sadly, however, all good things must come to an end and Pam and Mary have decided that time has come to hand over the reins to others. Not that they have been idle recently. On the contrary, during the last year or so they have been quietly beavering away at what by any standards has been a truly awesome task. The result of their labours is that the entire wardrobe, well over 2000 items, has been sorted into categories. Some historical items have been sent to Sherborne Museum on permanent loan, whilst other, older, more fragile dresses (definitely smaller than our modern Venuses could wear) have been sent to Philips the Auctioneers in London, for inclusion in collectors sales there and in Sherborne. Thank you Pam and Mary for this and for all you have done over the years. Words cannot really express the gratitude we feel.

The Committee have decided that the next step is to try and reduce the number of items we hold. Jim and Gwyneth Schofield have drawn up a catalogue of the clothing and a team of volunteers has undertaken the task of trying to sort out what we should keep. A number of items that are surplus to requirements have thus been identified and these will be offered for sale to members, other local dramatic groups and finally the general public. Anything unsold will go to charity or recycling.

The reduced wardrobe will, hopefully, be considerably easier to manage. We do, however, need someone to undertake this management and are still looking for a volunteer--male or female. We would be grateful if anyone who has *any* interest in the costume side of amateur drama could give this serious consideration. You will not be entirely alone; there are always a number of members willing to help. Nor would you have to be wardrobe mistress/master for every production. Surely there is someone out there with the ability and willingness to take this on. Please!