



NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2002

It's been a busy time for many of us during the past few months; in particular for Tony and Leslie Birks-Hay who have taken on much of the production side of the current show as well as Tony's direction of the play. In just a few days, though, they will be able to take a well-earned rest.



Recent events

Due to the late start to the season, combined with restricted availability of those organising evenings and the need to avoid the run-up of the current production, the first few evenings of the season were rather closer together than usual. As always, the season began with the Chairman's Opening Night, which this year took place on September 27th. About 40 people came and made this was a very pleasant, convivial evening, with the Chairman, Jason Hepple, and Fred Collier supplying a highly amusing entertainment in the form of some more Pete And Dud sketches.

On Sunday October the 13th, nine of us went up to Weston-Super-Mare to attend the Rose Bowl Awards. Sadly, our nominees (Janet Vincent and Anthea Watson) did not win awards, but we all agreed that the Weston-Super-Mare venue and general arrangements were a vast improvement on previous years in Bristol.

A few days later we had a very well-attended reading of the script of *Alice*. A most enjoyable read-through and an excellent opportunity for people to spot the parts they might audition for next week (see later).

A relatively small number of you came to Face The Music and the plan to have a panel of two opposing teams had to be changed at the last moment due to the fact that only three panelists could be found. In the end, this proved to be an excellent way of conducting the proceedings, with one team made up of the panelists and the other made up of the audience, giving them a greater level of participation than usual. In the end (due, perhaps, to some inspired mathematics from the scorer, Louise Lambert) the panelists won by a single point.

The Fish and Chip Quiz in early November was attended by enough people to make up four teams. David Smith had clearly worked hard to make up some taxing questions, but to begin with all the teams showed

Membership 2002-2003

Paid up Members, as at 26th November

Des Armour
Claire Axelson
Michael Baatz
Barbara Beak
Adam Birks-Hay
Leslie Birks-Hay
Tony Birks-Hay
Jan Bridgman
Nick Brooke
Vikki Brown
Daphne Clapperton
Malcolm Cockburn
Fred Collier
Althea Collier
Jessica Colson
Kathryn Dalziel
Margaret Dixon
Pat Evans
Tony Field
Margaret Field
John Flint
Suzanne Ford
Joan Freeland
Mark Freestone
Pauline Gardner
Janet George
Jakki Gregory
Jenny Hall
Freda Hance
Peter Harrison
Colin Hart
Jason Hepple
Adrian Hole
Jill Hudson
Chris Hutton
Patrick Knox
Madeline Lambert
Mark Lambert
Tamsin Lambert
Elsie Lombard
Stuart McCreadie
Blair McLaughlin
Daisy Mangnall
Gill Manns
Tony Manns

Colin Mayes
Kathy Messinger
Joy Parkinson
Monica Parsons
George Pearson
Jean Pearson
Ann Russell
Jim Schofield
Jill Service
Bob Service
Wendy Simmonds
David R. Smith
Sylvia Smith
Anthony Stephens
Mytyl Stephens
Caitlin Stewart
Fiona Stewart
Patricia Stewart
Barbora Stiess
John Sutherland
Lucy Sutherland
Peter Thomas
Pauline Tillett
Jack Tucker
Vivian Vale
Robert Vince
Janet Vincent
Jennie Ward
Anthea Watson
David Winks

Life Members

Jack Dodge
Jean Harrap
Meg Hulme
Joan Miller
Dod Pearson
Pam Richardson
Joy Saunders
Eve Snell
Hrolf Trump
Meg Whittingdale

Honorary Members

Adrian Hole
Andrew Hoddersmith

up well. The scores were level until David's tortuous system of bonus points, jokers and practical jokers began to take its toll. Sylvia Smith kept the score and braved the elements to fetch the fish and chips, and we all left well-fed and well-entertained.

Forthcoming events

Next Tuesday and Wednesday (3rd and 4th December) Margaret Field will be holding auditions for the spring production of *Alice*.

Prompt Corner

All events at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom unless otherwise indicated

Tue 3rd and Wed 4th December

Auditions

Alice

Directed by Margaret Field

Thursday 12th December

The Seven Ages of Man &

Anticipating Christmas

Presented by Michael Baatz

Friday 3rd January

'Twelfth' Night Party

with an entertainment arranged by Jennie Ward

Tuesday 14th January

Give Us a Clue

Devised by Mally Lambert and Jill Hudson

More details are shown overleaf.

Please note that the Sherborne Museum Evening listed in your membership card/programme has been cancelled.

On December 12th Michael Baatz, aided by Mally Lambert, will present an entertainment in two parts, entitled **The Seven Ages of Man and Anticipating Christmas**.

As last year we are not having a pre-Christmas party, but there will be a **'Twelfth' Night party** on Friday 3rd January (ninth night, of course, but who cares!). Jennie Ward will present an entertainment, but unfortunately, we are not able to provide Jessica Colson's excellent catering this year, so please would you bring some food yourselves. As always alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided at a meagre cost.

Then on Tuesday 14th January Mally Lambert and Jill Hudson will host the annual **Give Us A Clue**. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this evening it is basically a game of charades that gives all of those who attend a chance to show off their acting and miming skills. Always good fun and well worth attending.

Autumn production

When you receive this Newsletter, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* will be in full swing. As I write, the set has been built and the technical and dress rehearsals are taking place. Since I published the the last Newsletter, all

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Chief Bromden	Peter Harrison
Aide Warren	Chris Hutton
Aide Williams	Adam Birks-Hay
Nurse Ratched	Wendy Simmonds
Nurse Flinn	Jennie Ward
Dale Harding	Stuart McCreadie
Billy Bibbit	Colin Hart
Scanlon	Tony Manns
Cheswick	Colin Mayes
Martini	Nick Brooke
Ruckly	Malcolm Cockburn
Randle McMurphy	Mark Freestone
Dr Spivey	Robert Vince
Aide Turkle	David Winks
Candy	Kathryn Dalziel
Technician	Gill Manns
Sandra	Suzanne Ford

directed by

Tony Birks-Hay

Associate Director: **Jennie Ward**

Stage Manager: **Pauline Tillett**

of the roles have, of course, now been filled and we are pleased to welcome five new members, Nick Brooke, Peter Harrison, Chris Hutton, Robert Vince and David Winks, in the cast. In addition Malcolm Cockburn has rejoined us after an absence of twenty years. A full cast list is shown above.

Tony Birks-Hay tells me that advance ticket sales are encouraging. Gay Pirie-Weir from the BVM came to a rehearsal two weeks ago and wrote a very enthusiastic preview. The cast and crew have all worked very hard and there are some fine performances to be seen; Tony believes that audiences will not fail to be moved by this impressive play. Performances are from Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th November. So if you are not involved already, do come—and spread the word among your friends.

Next Issue

The next Newsletter will appear in January

Lost Property

Most of the lost property listed in the last Newsletter has now been claimed. I forgot to list one item, however; a wooden folding director's chair with a blue canvas seat. This was left behind in the marquee after *Twelfth Night* and is currently in the store next to the clubroom.

Two Life Members

As I promised in the last Newsletter, here is a bit more about our latest Life Members, Jean Harrap and Eve Snell.

Jean joined The Players in 1978, soon after she and her husband moved to Sherborne, finding the welcome she received a good start to their retirement. Since joining she has been involved in countless productions, either taking small parts or working backstage—dealing variously with props, costume, coffees, in fact anywhere she could make herself useful.

Among the many small parts Jean has taken have been a sentimental spinster committed to the Suffragette cause in *The Militants* (1980), a 'pain-in-the-neck bore' in a country hotel in *Waters of The Moon* (1983), and an elderly doctor who did herself in at the end of Act I in *Cat's Cradle* (1983). She has also appeared, together with her good friend Dod Pearson, in numerous crowd scenes as "archetypal peasants" (her words!), ladies of the court and most recently (in *Twelfth Night*) as a fish! Twenty-four years of non-stop service to The Players makes Jean's Life Membership richly deserved.

Eve joined the players ten years earlier, in 1968, when she auditioned for a part in *Berkeley Square* (1969). Being a fine actress, she got the part, but promptly discovered that she was pregnant, which meant that rehearsals were punctuated by visits to the loo to combat 'morning' sickness. After a necessary period of 'resting' she started again by organising a number of club evenings, including voice workshops, play readings and a number of anthology evenings, which she very much enjoyed putting together.

Eve has appeared in or directed a number of plays for APS. She took part in *The Boyfriend* (1971) and played Olivia in *The Chalk Garden* (1976) and was persuaded to play Rosabel Fleming in *Venus Observed* (1993). She directed *The Secretary Bird* (1984), *Pack of Lies* (1987) and *Those Radio Times* (1994)—a nostalgic look at wartime radio that formed part of Sherborne's commemoration of the D-Day landings. Eve also directed the one-act play *The Big Cats* in the 1984 Dorset Drama League Festival and later took the role of the social worker in a radio version of the same play broadcast on the Yeovil radio station Mirage FM in 2000.

Today, Eve usually prefers to watch rather than take part, which is quite understandable after such a long and varied career with APS and we are extremely pleased to have her as a Life Member.

ML

and contain, amongst other things, details of auditions (3rd February) for the summer production of *Macbeth* and the APS dinner (21st February). In the meantime, I and the rest of the Committee hope very much to see you at forthcoming evenings; new members please

note that these are an excellent opportunity to meet existing members and, incidentally, enjoy a very good evening out.

To all those involved in the production—break a leg! And to each and every one of you—have a good Christmas!

ML

Alice

Auditions for *Alice* will take place in The APS Clubroom on **Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December, from 7.30 pm.**

Anyone interested in taking part is welcome.

If you cannot come on either night but would like to audition, please contact the director,
Margaret Field on 01935 815427.

Production week is from **Saturday 5th to Sunday 13th April 2003**, with performances on the evenings of Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th, Friday 11th and Saturday 12th, and a **matinée on Saturday 12th.**
A real family show that Margaret hopes to present in the round.

This musical play needs a large, variegated cast of all ages, ranging from Alice herself, through Kings, Queens, Knives and Duchesses to footmen, not forgetting, of course, characters such as the Mad Hatter, Dormouse, Mock Turtle, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, to name but a few, and Margaret is hoping to include plenty of children.