



NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2004

As you know, my time as APS Membership Secretary is almost up and therefore this is the last Newsletter you will receive from me. But before I make any valedictory remarks, here is the news.



Recent events

In mid April Jakki Gregory had originally planned an evening presented by younger members. Unfortunately not enough young members could be found (most of those who took part in *Alice* did not rejoin this year) and Jakki therefore presented an unrehearsed play reading instead.

David and Sylvia Smith's Fish and Chip Quiz Evening was much enjoyed by the sixteen members who attended. David always manages to dream up some fiendish questions and his ingenious 'going for broke' scoring system, with heavy penalties for getting answers wrong, ensured that everyone was kept on their toes. His mid-session puzzles had some of us well flummoxed and it was an interesting and salutary experience sitting in the chair for David's version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?'.

In May Gill Manns presented her learnt one-act play; a light-hearted romp entitled *Nellie's Nightlights*. An appreciative audience of 19 members, augmented by a similar number of family and friends, enjoyed a good laugh, though it has to be said that not all of the humour was scripted. The cast had not had a great deal of time to learn their lines and cues thoroughly, with the result that such things as helpless cast members in need of a prompt, Chris Hutton's post-it notes and Ed Oaksford's wayward moustache provided much additional amusement.

Forthcoming events

The next few events come in quick succession. On Monday 21st June Jill Hudson will present an evening she has put together. Among the program items is a rehearsed reading of a one-act play.

On Monday 28th June Fizz Lewis will hold the first of her auditions for the autumn production, *The Farndale.....Christmas Carol*. More details in the next column and overleaf.

On Tuesday 29th June Jennie Ward, will host an unrehearsed play reading.

Finally, on Friday 16th July there are the AGM and Summer Party. Again more about these events below.

Auditions

Please note that the audition dates for the autumn production have changed, due to the fact that Fizz Lewis can no longer make the original dates. The new dates are **Monday 28th June and Friday 2nd July**. If you know of any potential members who are thinking of coming to these auditions, please could you inform them of the new dates.

AGM

Minutes of the 2003 AGM are enclosed, together with the agenda for this year's AGM. Nothing startling is planned, although who knows what will come up under AOB, and one of the main purposes of the meeting will therefore be to elect officers and Committee.

The Committee has changed a bit since the start of the season. We were very sorry to lose both Margaret Dixon, who retired early for health reasons, and Patrick Knox, who found that he could not fit our meetings in with all his other commitments. To take their places, the Committee co-opted Barbara Stiess and Dave King, both of whom will stand down at the end of this season. Thanks to both of them for standing in at short notice.

Jill Hudson retires from the Committee at the end of this season and we thank her for all her work on the Committee over the past three years. Of the remaining Committee Members Jakki Gregory and Joy Parkinson both have one year left to serve, and Carolyn Faussett has two years left.

It will therefore be necessary to elect three new Committee Members, two of whom will serve for three years and one for two years.

No elections for the posts of President or Chairman are required; Tony Field has two years left to serve as President and Jennie Ward has one year left to serve as our Chairman.

The remaining three offices require elections. It is known that Ed Oaksford is willing to stand for re-election as Treasurer. However, Pauline Tillet and Mark Lambert, the current Secretary and Membership Secretary respectively, will not be standing for re-election and candidates for these posts are definitely required. Nomination forms for Officers and Committee Members accompany this Newsletter.

Prompt Corner

All events at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom unless otherwise indicated

Monday 21st June
An Evening with Jill
Presented by Jill Hudson

Mon 28th June and Fri 2nd July
Auditions for
The Farndale.....A Christmas Carol
By David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin
Directed by Fizz Lewis

Tuesday 29th June
Unrehearsed play reading
Arranged by Jennie Ward

Friday 16th July
Annual General Meeting
and
Summer Party

It is worth noting that a suggestion was made at the last Committee Meeting that two separate people might in future be involved in the two main activities currently undertaken by the Membership Secretary. In other words the Memb. Sec., would maintain the membership records and someone else, who could be any member of the Committee, could write the Newsletter. So if anyone finds either of these roles more attractive than the combined role, the Committee will be very pleased to hear from them. Contact me (01258 817270) or Jennie Ward. (01935 817567), if you are interested. As yet no candidates have appeared, and a volunteer for either (or both) of these vital tasks will be an enormous relief to the Committee as the date of the AGM gets worryingly closer.

Summer party

As in previous years the AGM will be followed by the Summer Party, to which members' families are, as always, invited. If the weather holds, maybe we can hold this in the garden of Sherborne House. Both food and drink will be provided and the cost of the food and soft drinks will be borne by the society; a modest donation will be required for alcoholic beverages.

Food arrangements are being coordinated by Joy Parkinson. Several other Committee members are providing dishes, but more volunteers will be welcome (expenses will be paid). Contact Joy on 01963 250594.

Festival 2005

As promised a leaflet about the planned Mediaeval Mystery Play next year accompanies this Newsletter. Do contact Margaret Field (01935 815427), or Pat Harris (01963 210462) if you would like to be involved in any way.

A Valedictory Note

Well, as I said before, this is my last Newsletter. After ten years on the Committee, (nine as Membership Secretary), I have finally decided that it is time to go, a decision helped by the fact that my increasing professional workload means that I no longer really have enough time to devote to the task. Nine years in office is by no means a record, though; Ernest Hulme's time as Treasurer spanned 18 years from 1961 to 1979. However, I don't think I have his stamina.

It has been an interesting and rewarding ten years, during which I have learned a great deal and made many good friends. I have served with six Chairmen, four Secretaries, four Treasurers and 32 other Committee Members. And this is, I think, my 46th Newsletter. That's just for those keen on statistics.

I am not disappearing, though. I'll still be around, playing with sound, acting or whatever. It's just that I am relinquishing the tasks of maintaining the membership records; writing the Newsletter and attending Committee Meetings.

Over the years I have developed my own style of presentation for this publication, and many of you have been kind enough to comment favourably. But my successor will have new ideas and thus future editions will undoubtedly be very different, and that is the way it should be. I wish whoever does it every success.

In the meantime, thank you all for attending to my scribbles and a special thanks to all those who have contributed to past Newsletters and helped with their distribution. See you at the AGM.

ML

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of *A Christmas Carol*

There are several Farndale plays all with the same basic characters. All their plays are pretty dire with the coarsest of acting, sets and props to match. (In order to make this work we do of course need brilliant actors and an awful lot of help with the technical side, both sound and lighting!) This particular play, *A Christmas Carol*, is a beautiful Dickens story that is ruined by the 'cast' and 'technicians' of the Farndale Dramatic Society. You will notice that each character has several parts in the 'play' requiring some fierce concentration as to what part you are doing and therefore what costume you are wearing, which entrance etc etc. It's quite difficult. Some singing. Great fun.

Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Fridays and some Sundays, because of the nature of this play, attendance at rehearsals is fairly essential for everyone called. Do come along to the auditions if you would like to read for a part or help backstage.

The Cast

Thelma

40s; theatrical 'prima donna', quick tempered; plays Ebenezer Scrooge

Mrs Reece Chairman of the Society

50s; elegant, bossy; plays Tiny Tim, Fred's wife, A Gentleman, Mrs Dilber, The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Mercedes

40/50s; accident prone, long suffering; plays Bob Cratchit, Belle, A Boy

Gordon

50s; fairly thick and thick-skinned (he has to be); can't act; plays Mrs Cratchit, Jacob Marley, Half of the Ghost of Christmas Present, The Ghost of Christmas Past, and maybe Mr Fezziwig.

Felicity

Late 20s; nervous well meaning but idiotic; plays Half of the Ghost of Christmas Present, Fred, Little Fan, Old Joe.

Adrian (yes, really!) Lighting lad

I need someone to play this role, on a mock-up lighting desk. There are no words. The actual lighting will be operated as normal by the real Adrian I hope.

I would like someone to do various 'voices off' over a microphone—split second timing will be essential here—and maybe play Mr Fezziwig instead of Gordon.

I would also like someone to play the piano to accompany the singing and beforehand whilst the audience are coming in.

All Front of House staff are members of the Farndale T. G. D. Society.

**Thank you. Ring me if you'd like to know more. Fizz Lewis 01300 345521.
Auditions are Monday 28th June 7.30 p.m. and Friday 2nd July 7.30 p.m. at the Club Room.**

Productions 2005

Spring

No Goodbyes (provisional title)

An anthology of wartime letters and memories.

Compiled and directed by Sarah Nolte

Autumn

Hobson's Choice

by Harold Brighouse

Directed by Chris Jessiman