



There is no 'From Your Chairman' letter this month. Look out for its return next issue.

LAST MONTH'S SOCIAL EVENT

Our Opening Night went very well, was enjoyed by the great many of our members who came along. There was lots of food - thanks to the committee for preparing the buffet.

Membership cards were handed out, revealing a fascinating variety of events and activities. There is so much to look forward to in our 2008/9 season.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all in Over with Nether Compton Village Hall.

Remember, if you would like a lift or are able to take others to Nether Compton, please get in touch with one of the committee members.



"I know that voice... Join me on Thursday 23rd October in an audio quiz of live recordings of well-known voices in some of my most famous plays.

The fun begins at 7.30 pm in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall. 'T will be hosted by your editor, Jim Reville. Prithee, be there."



FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

Tony Gregory leads another of his hugely entertaining 'Poetry Please' evenings on Tuesday 11th November at 7.30 pm in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

Conducting his usual thorough research into the treasure-house of poetry, Tony has put together an evening both inspiring and through-provoking. The significance of the date should not be overlooked.

Members will be offered the opportunity to read their favourite poems.

ROSE BOWL AWARDS

Though the date for priority bookings has passed for the Rose Bowl Awards (Sunday 19th October, Weston-super-Mare), Adrian says he can always try. Come along and support Christine Yardley. Call Adrian now on 01935 431321

OUR SPRING PRODUCTION

Jennie Ward will be holding a read-through of 'When we are Married' at 7.30 pm on Friday 28th November in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

Try-outs will take place at 7.30 pm on Monday 15th, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th December at The Chantry, Marston Road, Sherborne. There will be fuller details next newsletter.

Inexplicably, the Little Theatre, Wells has deleted all details of its intended October production of the play from its web site.



The Sherborne Documentary Film Group in association with Artslink will be holding a film show on Wednesday 29th October at The Digby Hall, Hound Street. Screening schedule as follows:-

Building Sainsbury's: 2.30, 5.00, 7 pm.

An Ordinary Pilot: 2.55, 5.25 7.25 pm.

With songs sung by the Amateur Players at the Summer party.

Our Abbey: 3.10, 6.05, 7.45 pm.

Sherborne Town Carnival: 4.20, 8.50 pm.

Admission is £2.50 on the door. Any profits will go to local charities.

OTHER EVENTS

Artsreach, have launched their autumn performance programme of small-scale theatre, music, dance, puppetry, comedy and literature at venues throughout Dorset. Here are just a few local highlights.

On Thursday 2nd October at 7.30 pm in Chetnole Village Hall Richard Derrington presents 'And Now...Ezekiel Taylor!'. It's a heart-warming but funny play about a hopeless Warwickshire poacher. For bookings call: 01935 873555.

Redcape Theatre present 'The Idiot Colony' at 8 pm on Wednesday 15th October in Gillingham School. It's about three women locked away for years in a mental asylum for their illicit loves. They re-live faltering memories amidst the drugs and brutality of the asylum. Apparently based on true stories, it promises a genuinely funny and incredibly moving evening. For bookings call 01747 833844.

Either on Saturday 18th October in Sandford Orcas Village Hall or Sunday 19th in Thornford Village Hall you can enjoy 'Taste' - in a few more senses than you'd expect. At 7.30 pm each evening and presented by Theatre Chipping Norton, it responds to 60 years of change in the countryside, exploring the role of food in life's rituals.

And now for the treat. Throughout the play a caterer will be preparing food which audiences are invited to sample.

For bookings call 01963 220208 for Sandford Orcas and 01935 873762 for Thornford.

You can get on Artsreach Mailing List by calling 01305 269512 or via their web site www.artsreach.co.uk

How about a gripping thriller? That's what's going on at the Shaftesbury Arts Centre from Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th October where the theatre's Music and Drama group is putting on 'Wait Until Dark' by Frederick Knott, who also wrote 'Dial M for Murder'.

Very briefly, it's about a recently-blinded woman who is terrorised by a trio of thugs while they search for a heroin-stuffed doll they believe is hidden somewhere in her basement flat. It builds to an edge-of-the seat, nail-biting climax. Just the thing as the nights draw in!

Performance times: Friday 17th at 8 pm, otherwise it's 7.30 pm. For the Opening Night - Wednesday 15th - if you buy two tickets (£9.50 each) they'll give you a third one free. Call 01747 854321 (Mon-Sat 10.30-12.30) or www.goldhilltickets.co.uk.

FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

Ellen Terry was one of the greatest English actresses of the 19th century, renowned for her liveliness, depth of feeling and beauty. Born in Coventry in 1847, she came from a theatrical family; her father, mother and four of her siblings were also actors. She was trained by her parents, and began acting as a child, appearing at the age of eight as Mammilius in *The Winter's Tale*. After a brief marriage to the painter George Frederick Watts, she established herself as Britain's leading Shakespearean actress. As a leading lady to the famous actor-manager Henry Irving, she was adored by Victorian audiences. Her stage career spanned sixty-nine years. With her son she helped popularise the work of Ibsen and George Bernard Shaw. She died in 1928.



The Winslow Boy



Last year's Theatre Day at Salisbury proved very popular with the 25 members who went to see 'The Herbal Bed', so your Committee has decided to arrange another trip in 2009 on Thursday 12th February.

The play will be Terence Rattigan's 'The Winslow Boy'. Based on a real case, this compelling drama is a deeply moving story of passion and politics. On the eve of the First World War, cadet Ronnie Winslow is expelled from Osborne Naval College, accused of stealing a five-shilling postal order. The legal battle to clear his name provokes a national outcry, which affects the lives of all involved, and the price of justice becomes an ever-heavier burden.

We will travel by train from Sherborne station on the 09.26 train, arriving Salisbury at 10.15. There is a 10 minute stroll to the theatre or you may prefer a taxi. We leave Salisbury on the 17.48, arriving back in Sherborne at 18.33.

The Theatre Day starts at 11.30 with the Director and several of the cast offering an insight into the artistic and technical processes.

Lunch arrangements are entirely up to you. There is a restaurant at the theatre or you can go to a restaurant in town, take your own lunch or visit the Chippie.

I have reserved 30 seats, all in Row B, for the matinee performance at 14.30. The play finishes in time for us to walk to the station.

The total, including fares, will be from £22.50 to £23, providing train fares are not increased.

To reserve your place please ring or email me. Payment will be due not later than Monday 5th January, 2009.

David Smith: 01935 817439
drysmith@btinternet.com

IN THIS MONTH

At its premiere on the 17th October 1896 Chekhov's *The Seagull* was booed by the audience at the Alexandrinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg. Chekhov left the auditorium during the second act vowing never to write for the theatre again.

But thankfully he did, and *Ivanov*, his first full-length play and written in just ten days, is currently on at Wyndham's, London with Kenneth Branagh in the lead role.

The Love of Four Colonels

With a little under two months to go before the production opens at the Digby Hall, it's heads down as work continues on the set at The Stables on Saturday afternoons. And now, over to Charles for the latest news.

"We've started rehearsals for "The Love of Four Colonels": everything seems to be going (worryingly?) well at the moment, and the cast are enjoying the improved facilities and slightly larger rehearsal area that Nether Compton Village Hall offers us. We've solved the chandelier problem, and Sylvia thinks she has found some folding chairs: now we are looking for six gilt court chairs. We also need a folding or trestle table – the one we have at the moment is 6' long and 2'2" wide, and ideally we'd prefer something slightly smaller – anything in your garage that might do?"

Charles



A GLOSSARY OF THEATRE TERMS

Eternity -

The time that passes between a dropped cue and the next line

Prop -

A hand-carried object small enough to be lost by an actor 30 seconds before it is needed on stage

Director -

The individual who suffers from the delusion that he or she is responsible for every moment of brilliance cited by the critic in the local review

Blocking -

The art of moving actors on the stage in such a manner as not to collide with the walls, the furniture, the orchestra pit or each other. Similar to playing chess, except that the pawns want to argue with you.

Blocking Rehearsal -

A rehearsal taking place early in the production schedule where actors frantically write down movements which will be nowhere in evidence by opening night

Dark Night -

The night before opening when no rehearsal is scheduled so the actors and crew can go home and get some well deserved rest, and instead spend the night staring sleeplessly at the ceiling

because they're sure they needed one more rehearsal

Quality Theatre -

Any show with which you were directly involved

Turkey -

Every show with which you were not directly involved

Dress Rehearsal -

Rehearsal that becomes a whole new ball game as actors attempt to manoeuvre among the 49 objects that the set designer added at 7:30 that evening.

Tech Week -

The last week of rehearsal when everything that was supposed to be done weeks before finally comes together at the last minute; reaches its grand climax on dress rehearsal night when costumes rip, a dimmer pack catches fire and the director has a nervous breakdown. Also known as "hell" week.

Set -

An obstacle course which, throughout the rehearsal period, defies the laws of physics by growing smaller week by week while continuing to occupy the same amount of space

Monologue -

That bright, shining moment when all eyes are focused on a single actor who is desperately aware that if he forgets a line, no one can save him

To be continued

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**OCTOBER 2008**

Thursday 2nd	Sherborne Comedy Tim Clark, George Egg, Cameron Blair	Powell, Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30 pm, show at 8.30pm
Thursday 2nd	'And now ...Ezekiel Taylor!' Presented by Richard Derrington	Chetnole Village Hall At 7.30 pm
Mon 6th - Sat 11th	The Merry Widow Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society	The Octagon, Yeovil At 7.30 pm, matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Wednesday 15th	The Idiot Colony Redcape Theatre	Gillingham School At 8 pm
Wed 15th to Sat 18th	Wait Until Dark A Thriller	Shaftesbury Arts Centre At 7.30 pm, Fri 8 pm
Sat 18th Sandford Orcas Sun 19th Thornford	'Taste' Theatre Chipping Norton	Village Halls both evenings At 7.30 pm
Monday 20th	Northanger Abbey Dorset Corset Theatre Company	Powell Theatre, Sherborne At 8 pm
Thursday 23rd	'I know that voice...' A Shakespearean audio quiz	Over with Nether Compton Village Hall At 7.30 pm
Wednesday 29th	Sherborne in Film Sherborne Documentary Film Group	Digby Hall 2.30 pm onwards. See page 1
Wed 29th to Sat 1st Nov	The Three Musketeers Swashbuckling Historical Comedy	The Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster 7.45 pm
Thursday 30th	Sherborne Comedy Simon Bligh, Henning Wehn, Ruth Levy	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30pm, show at 8.30pm

NOVEMBER 2008

Tues 4th to Sat 8th	An Ideal Husband Taunton Thespians	The Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton At 7.45 pm, matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Tuesday 11th	'Poetry Please' Led by Tony Gregory	Over with Nether Compton Village Hall At 7.30 pm
Fri 14th to Sat 22nd	The Servant of Two Masters A Comedy	The Swan Theatre, Yeovil At 7.45 pm
Thurs 20th to Sat 22nd	The Love of Four Colonels By Peter Ustinov	Digby Hall, Sherborne At 7.30 pm

Chetnole Village Hall: Call 01935 873555 **Gillingham School:** Call 01747833844 **Sandford Orcas:** Call 01963 220228 **Thornford Village Hall:** Call 01935 897762

Powell Theatre: Call 01935 810579 or www.powelltheatre.co.uk for tickets.


Swan Theatre: Contact South Somerset Information & Heritage Centre on 01935 845946 for tickets.

Shaftesbury Arts Centre: Call 01747 854321 (Mon-Sat 10.30-12.30) or www.goldhilltickets.co.uk

The Octagon: Call 24 hour Hotline 01935 412282

The Brewhouse Theatre: Call 01823 283244 for tickets

The Warehouse Theatre: Box Office open 6-8 pm Mondays, 10-12 noon Fridays. Call 070502 189717



From Jim, your editor
If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section in future newsletters, please send any details to me at: jim.reville@btinternet.com or give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I'm not there, I will ring you back.

Last Word...

Abbie Hoffman: I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.