



FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank everyone for their support and good wishes through the last few months, especially the Committee who have done such a sterling job.

Monday night was a 'raw wild night' but almost 20 people braved the weather to come and hear the play reading of 'Wind in the Willows'. This was the adaptation by Alan Bennett. Although we went through it at quite a pace - we reached Act 11 by 9.15 pm - so it was decided to have an extra play reading evening to finish the play. Details of the date will be announced later on.

I have not been around to bully anyone recently so here goes - please support Jennie Ward with her Spring production in anyway you can. Directing is rewarding but hard work and we do need your support.

Years ago the last night (Saturday) was called 'members night' when Club members attended the play and stayed to join the last night party. This seems to have gone the way of many traditions but I think we should endorse it again so please buy your tickets for Saturday and stay and enjoy the party. Thank you to the member who bought this up but I cannot remember who it was!

LAST MONTH'S SOCIAL EVENT



Earlier in the day (Thursday 22nd January) the Oscar nominations were announced. By late evening, there were several more worthy candidates. Well, if not for Oscars, then Oliviers!

Led by Pat, our chairman, on her usual exuberant form, in a play-reading of Alan Bennett's adaptation 'The Wind in the Willows' several members morphed before our eyes into Ratty, Mole, Badger, Rabbit (lots of them!) Weasel, Stoat and the irrepressible Mr Toad. Off we went down the river...messaging about in boats...and getting involved in all sorts of adventures. And - stretching the movie theme even further - since we only read half the play, there will more adventures to be enjoyed in 'Wind

Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 27th March in the **Crown Inn, Sherborne at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.**

After dinner speaker will be Martin Cosgrif, Head of Performing Arts at Accrington and Rossendale College.

The ticket price this year will be £24, and you have three choices of starter, five for main course, and four for dessert. It also includes coffee and mints.

A menu choices order form is either attached, for those receiving their newsletter by post, or sent as a separate email. Please forward your application form together **with your cheque, payable to Amateur Players of Sherborne** to: George Pearson at Wren Cottage, Trent, Sherborne, DT9 4SW Tel. (01935) 851194 or email: george.pearson@tinyworld.eclipse.co.uk as soon as possible and not later than **Thursday 19th March**. Please contact George individually about other specialist menus.

Details about parking in the International School will be sent with your ticket. **Preferred dress is smart. Wine and other drinks to be purchased at the bar.**



DATE FIXED FOR WIND IN THE WILLOWS II



Wednesday 1 April has been fixed as the date for the second half of the play-reading of 'Wind in the Willows'. To enable this to be accommodated within this season's programme of social events, Gill Manns has generously offered up her play-reading slot.

Led again by Pat Harris, it will take place at 7.30 pm in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

According to sources close to the committee, 'Wind in the Willows' is expected to be confirmed

BIG IDEAS POWWOW



It's time to think ahead and map out a programme of future productions. So get your

Director's caps and ideas's hats on and gather at **David Smith's house (Fortune's Fold, Long Street) at 7.30 pm Thursday 16th April.** Whether you

fancy directing or not, all ideas for plays and other events very welcome.

NODA Summer School 2009

The NODA Summer School will take place at Loughborough University on 1-8 August 2009. A wide range of courses will be offered and taught by their professional tutors. NODA will be offering 36 national bursaries plus 2 Barnes bursaries of £275 to help offset the cost of coming to Summer School. Preference



will be given to applications from first time students (minimum age 18) but anyone wishing to try a completely new theatre discipline can qualify as a first time student. Bursary forms can be downloaded from the NODA website. Please complete the form and send to NODA HQ where your form will be processed and sent onto your Regional Councillor.

The Summer School brochure is available to download on the website or contact Antonia Johnson for a copy on 0870 770 2480. Don't forget you can also apply online at www.noda.org.uk/summer-school, or from our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe - 01935 422141 (office), 431321 (home).



PATHWAY TO THE RED SUN

Inspired by Madame Butterfly and set in a futuristic landscape, Rogue Theatre draws influences from Japanese ghost stories, myth and legend and Guillermo Del Toro's **Pan's Labyrinth**.

Their production tells the story of a samurai's daughter who falls in love with a hero. In a world where birds have forgotten how to fly, where honey is a precious commodity and people train to fight off salesmen.

With poetry and text, original live music, humour, acrobatics and a highly visual style; Rogue Theatre mixes circus spectacle, the passion of opera and the tension of Japanese horror to create a vivid and dream like production – a love story at the end of the world.

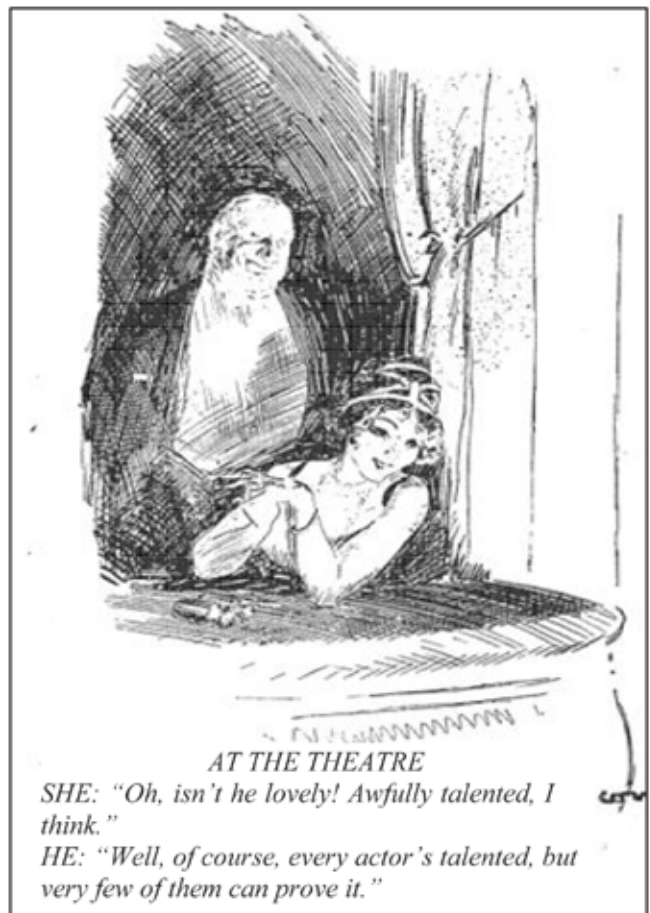
It's on at Gillingham School at 7.45 pm Wednesday 25 February (Tel: 0747 833844) and Sturminster Newton Exchange at 7.30 pm Sunday ! March (Tel: 01258 475137)



SHERBORNE ARTSLINK APRIL TEMPEST THEATRE VISIT

Artslink together with Foster's Field Resident's Association are organising a coach trip to the Theatre Royal Bath on Tuesday 7 April 2009. for an evening performance of The Tempest, starring Anthony Sher and John Kani. All-in cost is £29.

To book contact Artslink at The Manor House, Newland, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 3JL. 01935 815899 (there is an answer phone out of office hours) The Artslink Office is open from 10-1 every weekday on the first floor of the Manor House. A lift is available. Or you can email them at info@sherborneartslink.org.uk. Members will take priority. Please note that places remain unsecured until payment has been received in full.



Cartoon by David Low (1891-1963), one of Britain's greatest political cartoonists. Active throughout the 30s and 40s, his work earned him a place on the Gestapo's deathlist, and he was asked by the foreign secretary to 'tone it down'. From the online British Cartoon Archive. First published by [The Bulletin] between 1 January 1915 and 31 December 1915.



WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

12-14 March, Digby Hall, Sherborne

With just under six weeks to go before the production opens at the Digby Hall, the cast are maintaining a busy rehearsal schedule, aiming to get line-perfect and working on their 'blocking'. That's the subtle art of moving actors on the stage in such a manner as not to collide with the walls, the furniture, or each other. And director Jennie is currently battling with a heavy and nasty cold!

This is a rollickingly funny play and should have everyone falling off their chairs and laughing in the aisles. Not to be missed, make sure you note the dates and bring along family



and friends. And why not spread the word by 'casually' dropping mention of the play into conversation - especially when there are lots of people around!



Spare an hour or so to help out with scenery creation every Saturday - 2.30 pm at the Castle stables. Any assistance very much appreciated!



THEATRE SUPERSTITIONS

CURTAIN: The looping of a drop curtain is the certain forerunner of evil and nearly every actor and manager believes it is bad luck to look at the audience from the wrong side of the curtain.

The Origin: An actor peeking through the curtain at the audience is likely to see friends, family or, worst of all, a media critic furiously writing a review. This is enough to make any actor nervous and nervousness leads to disastrous performances.

CANDLES: Actors usually dislike three candles on the stage or in a dressing-room.

The Origin: Costumes and fresh paint are quick to catch fire. However, there may be another, stranger origin for this superstition. There is a very old superstition stating that if three, and only three, candles are lit in a room, the one closest to the shortest candle will be the first to either marry . . . or die. To some, either is as hazardous.

CATS: Actors say it is very ill-omened to kick a cat. It is lucky, however, to have one in the theatre. But if one runs across the stage during a performance, some misfortune will follow.

The Origin: Cats have always been considered to have magical powers. This superstition dates back to ancient Egyptians, who considered them Gods. Therefore, having a cat live in your theatre is much like having a god in your home.

To be continued...

FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

John Boynton Priestley, born in Bradford in 1894, was a journalist, novelist, playwright, and essayist. His output was vast and varied - he wrote over one hundred novels, plays, and essays. His first major success was with the novel *The Good Companions* in 1929. A man of versatility, he was a patriot, cosmopolitan Yorkshireman, professional amateur, cultured Philistine, reactionary radical, and a common-sense spokesman for the ordinary man-in-the-street. Priestley refused both knighthood and peerage, but accepted in 1977 the prestigious Order of Merit.



When *We Are Married*, his Yorkshire comedy, was first performed on October 11th, 1938 at St Martin's Theatre (home of *The Mousetrap*) it was filmed by the BBC for transmission from there on 16th November 1938, the first play to be televised direct from a theatre.

Priestley's production spanned nearly sixty years. From the age of 70 to 84 he produced 21 books. Married three times, his third wife was Jacquetta Hawkes. He died at their home, Kissing Tree House, Warwickshire, on 14th August, 1984.

IN THIS MONTH

The Beatles are mobbed by adoring fans after landing at Kennedy Airport in 1964 to start their first U.S. tour. Later in the day, they appeared on Ed Sullivan's TV show, becoming the first British rock group to perform on U.S. television. Singing five songs, they earned the show the distinction of being the most viewed TV programme in U.S. history (up until that time)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**FEBRUARY 2009**

Mon 2nd to Sat 7th	ART Swan Theatre Production	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.30 pm
Tues 3rd to Sat 7th	Lord of the Flies Pilot Theatre with York Theatre Royal	The Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton 7pm, matinees Wed, Thurs, Sat 2pm
Tues 3rd to Sat 14th	God of Carnage Theatre Royal Bath Productions	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon-Wed 7.30 Thurs-Sat 8pm
Thurs 5th	Sherborne Comedy Nick Revell, James Dowde Swell	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30, show at 8.30 pm
Thurs 12th to Sat 21st	Romeo and Juliet Bristol Old Vic Theatre School	Theatre Royal, Bristol 7.30 pm, matinees 2.30 Thurs & Sat
Mon 23 to Sat 28th	Lloyd George Knew My Father By William Douglas Hume	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 pm
Wed 25th to Sat 28th	The Accrington Pals An IES Production	The Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster 7.45 pm
Fri 27 Feb to Sat 28 March	Suspension By Catherine Johnson (Mamma Mia)	Theatre Royal, Bristol 8 pm, matinees Thurs & Sat 2.30 pm

MARCH 2009

Mon 2nd to Sat 7th	Life and Beth Supernatural comedy by Alan Ayckbourn	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 pm
Thurs 5th	Sherborne Comedy Felix Dexter, Hils Barker, Ben Herrington	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30. Show at 8.30 pm
Thurs 12th to Sat 14th	When We Are Married Amateur Players of Sherborne	Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm
Tues 17th to Sat 21st	Black Coffee Taunton Thespians	The Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton 7.45 pm, Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Mon 23rd	Chinese National Circus Presents Confucius	Octagon Theatre, Yeovil 7.30 pm
Tues 24th to Sat 28th	Look Back In Anger A Northern Stage Production	Salisbury Playhouse Tues/Wed 7.30. Thurs/Sat 8 pm Matinees Thurs/Sat 2.30 pm
Friday 27th	Annual Dinner Amateur Players of Sherborne	The Crown, Sherborne [7 for 7.30 pm]

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

The Octagon: Call 24 hour Hotline 01935 412282.

The Brewhouse Theatre: Call 01823 283244 for tickets and matinee times.

Salisbury Playhouse: Call Box Office on 01722 320333 for times and tickets.

Swan Theatre: Call Yeovil Tourist Information Centre on 01935 845946.

Theatre Royal, Bath: Call 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk for tickets and matinee times.

Theatre Royal, Bristol: Call Box Office on 0117 987 7877 for tickets

The Warehouse Theatre: Box Office opens 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.

COPY DEADLINE: THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Last Word...

"Acting is the most minor of gifts and not a very high-class way to earn a living. After all, Shirley Temple could do it at the age of four."

Katherine Hepburn