



FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

The trip to Salisbury Playhouse to see 'The Winslow Boy' was a great success. These 'days out' are such good value and I must thank David Smith for handling all the organisation so well, not an easy task by any means when you have to deal with Network Rail.

The Spring Production 'When We Are Married' is soon to be upon us and I urge all members to help in advertising and spreading the word so that we can encourage good audiences.

Although the AGM is some time away yet, please think about new Committee Members and nominate someone (make sure you ask their permission first). Any ideas should be passed onto the Secretary or a member of the Committee.

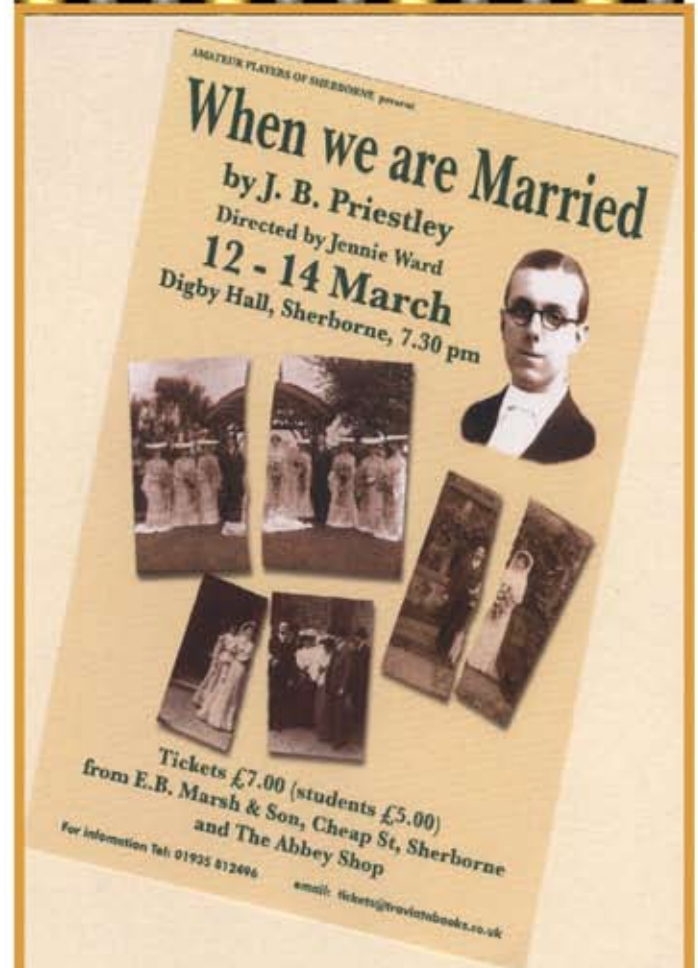
The money for the Annual Dinner is now due so please send your cheque to George Pearson. This is a really enjoyable and social evening so please come along and have a good time.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Digby Hall for the Spring Production and especially at the Saturday night Party.

Patricia

Annual Dinner

Just a reminder that there is still time to book your places at our Annual Dinner in the Crown Inn on Friday 27th March. Contact George Pearson at Wren Cottage, Trent DT9 4SW. Tel: 01935 851194 or by email george.pearson@tinyworld.eclipse.co.uk Latest date to book is **Thursday 19 March.**



Sweep away the doom and gloom of these 'credit crunch' times with a laughter-filled night out at 'When We Are Married' - 7.30 pm Thursday 12-14 March. Bring a friend, bring the family. Get your tickets now from The Abbey Shop, Marsh's, by calling 01935 812496 or emailing: tickets@traviatbooks.co.uk

WIND IN THE WILLOWS AUTUMN PLAY



Yes, folks, it has been confirmed, 'Wind in the Willows' will be our autumn production (19-21 November)

But before then there's a welcomed return to the world of Mole, Ratty and Mr Toad to enjoy the second part of the play-reading, led again by Patricia Harris. It will take place on **Wednesday 1 April at 7.30 pm** in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall.

Audition dates will be announced after 'When



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.

Take a fresh look at us now



We've had the builders and decorators in at our Amateur Players of Sherborne website. Things have been tidied up, updated, old pictures taken down and new ones hung up, pages re-titled and exciting new ones added.

To get onto our freshened-up site, just type Amateur Players of Sherborne into your search engine - Google or whoever - and click on our Home Page entry, and in you go. And then, before you go any further, don't forget to add/bookmark our site in your Favourites listings.

Important: the page titled '**Join the A List**' is our offer to those who are interested but not yet members to keep them informed. So, please **do not** submit the form on this page. However, if you have a friend or know someone who might be interested in joining, you can easily email them this page - or indeed any other - simply by clicking on the words 'Click here to email this page to a friend' middle page left under the Beehive logo.

And now! Not only explore our site, but also let us have your Feedback, especially if you spot something wrong or a broken link or if you have any ideas for pages etc. All contributions welcome. Enjoy!

SUMMER WITH *ILLYRIA*

Touring company, *Illyria*, have set out their 2009 programme, which will consist of the following productions. Dates and venues yet to be announced: Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. A perennial favourite to be performed with a magical twist.

The Mowgli Stories by Rudyard Kipling. This classic is thoughtful, funny and very exciting.

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas. *Illyria* reckon they have a reputation for staging some of the finest swordplay in the business, and in Dumas's comic adventure they say it promises to be more dazzling than ever!

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.



'MY ZINC BED' ON AT THE SWAN

On at The Swan, Yeovil at 7.45 pm from Mon 20 to Sat 25 April is David Hare's profound and unsettling play *My Zinc Bed*. It centres on a strange triangular relationship that arises between the mysterious Victor Quinn, ex-communist now computer software mogul; Paul the talented young writer struggling with alcoholism who becomes his protégé, and Victor's wife Elsa, herself tenuously clinging to a life free of addiction.

Through Hare's elegantly crafted dialogue we are plunged into a kind of erotic nightmare in which reasons for living are challenged and notions of self are put under terrifying yet thrilling strain.

Bookings open Monday 30 March.

NODA Summer School 2009

Courses are filling up fast for the NODA Summer School 2009 being held at Loughborough University between 1st – 8th August.

Some with places still available are Directing Youth Theatre, Musical Directors, Choreography, Stage Make-Up and Stage Sound.

Have you ever wanted to be a Director? Well now's your chance with a great course on offer teaching everything from the audition process to



Our Theatre Visit



Crisp was the morning as 12 APS members boarded the 9.26 am train for our Theatre Day of The Winslow Boy at Salisbury Playhouse (4 other members travelled by car)

Once there, and after a mid-morning coffee break, we took part in a well attended session hosted by Mark Powell,

Director of Participation (how's that for a title!) Louise Hill, Assistant Stage Manager (unpaid. Philip Wilson the Director on holiday in Egypt) and most of the cast. We, the audience, were able to appreciate how the play took shape.



We were also invited to 'direct' two scenes from the play by stating where the actors should be placed as well as how the characters

should be portrayed. That was a lot of fun!

The play itself was wonderfully well performed, and the £2.50 programme explained the puzzling sight of a forest behind the door to the dining room.

(Ran out of cash for more scenery, some surmised)

In every respect this was a grand and very enjoyable day, and many thanks to David Smith for arranging it all for us lucky ones.



running the band on opening night.

Do you want to create the ideal youth theatre experience? Why not attend Directing Youth Theatre, featuring great ways to enhance your work with young people in theatre.

After a couple of years break Stage Make-Up is back! It provides a broad insight into theatre make-up. A great course to show you many handy techniques and special effects created with make-up. Beards, wigs and moustaches will also be featured.

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).



SPRING SOON TO BE SPRUNG

A Public Service Announcement to let you know that spring officially begins on Friday 20th March, and that the clocks etc spring forward by one hour a week later on Sunday 29th March.



FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

Born Beatrice Stella Tanner in Kensington, London in 1865, she was well-known as an amateur before she made her stage debut in 1888 at the Alexandra Theatre, Liverpool, four years after her marriage to Patrick Campbell. She took Mrs Patrick Campbell as her stage name.



Remembered today for her association with G B. Shaw, she was an actress of great beauty and wit. She achieved her first London success in 1893 in the title role of Pinero's 'Second Mrs. Tanqueray'.

In 1901 she made the first of her numerous tours to the United States; in 1912 she met Shaw at whose request she originated the role of Eliza Doolittle in 'Pygmalion'.

The pragmatic approach she took to her career is perfectly summed up in this sample of her own words "Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm"

Despite her success, she lived her final years in relative poverty, dying in Pau, France in 1940.

IN THIS MONTH

Edmund John Millington Synge, Irish playwright and poet, was one of the cofounders of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. The play widely regarded as Synge's masterpiece, *The Playboy of the Western World*, was first performed in the Abbey in January 1907. A comedy centring on the story of apparent parricide, it provoked a week of riots. He died on 24th March, 1909 just three weeks short of his 38th birthday, struggling to finish his last play 'The Last Black Supper'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**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 At 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 At 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]

APRIL 2009

Wednesday 1st	Wind in the Willows - Two Play-reading led by Patricia Harris	Nether Compton Village Hall At 7.30 pm
Thursday 2nd	Sherborne Comedy Geoff Norcott, Helmut, Ryan McDonald	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30. Show at 8.30 pm
Thurs 2nd to Sat 25th	Restoration A Salisbury Playhouse Production	Salisbury Playhouse Times vary, call Box Office
Mon 20th to Sat 25th	My Zinc Bed By David Hare	The Swan, Yeovil At 7.45 pm
Wed 22nd to Sat 25th	Noises Off Frome Drama Club	Merlin Theatre, Frome At 7.45 pm
Tuesday 28th	The World of Harold Pinter Presented by Maurice Freeland	Nether Compton Village Hall At 7.30 pm
Wed 29th to Sat 2nd May	Our Town Ilminster Entertainment Society	The Warehouse, Ilminster At 7.45 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 or www.thebrewhouse.net for tickets and matinee times.

Salisbury Playhouse: Call 01722 320333 or www.salisburyplayhouse.com for times and tickets.

Swan Theatre: Call 01935 845946 from 30th March.

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

Merlin Theatre, Frome: Call Box Office on 01373 465949

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: BY SATURDAY 28 MARCH

Last Word...

From the start it has been the theatre's business to entertain people ... it needs no other passport than fun.

BERTOLT BRECHT, *A Short Organum for the Theatre*