



It's a Smash Hit!



Not for many years has one of our productions achieved such outstanding success! And not only in the numbers of folk coming along to enjoy 'When We Are Married', but also in financial terms, too. Our Treasurer confidently predicts a four figure profit of income over expenditure!

Minutes before the Friday evening performance there was a frantic rush to find sufficient seating to accommodate the ever-rising numbers of the expected audience.

But wait, this marvellous achievement of ours all goes back to 7.30 pm on the cold and blustery night of Friday 28th November with a run-through play-reading in Nether Compton Village Hall; frequent outbursts of laughter pointing up the witty writing of J B Priestley. Auditions were somehow squeezed in before Christmas, and sharply after the season's festivities a hectic several-times-a-week rehearsal schedule began. Meanwhile, as the cast put in the time learning

their lines and blocking, a model of the set had been created and on wet, windy and chill Saturday afternoons up at the Castle work began, sawing, screwing, hammering, painting to make it a reality. At the same time, lighting and sound cues were being prepared and costume and props sought and found.

So soon it seemed, we were in the Digby Hall with the scenery up and time for the Technical Rehearsal, Dress Rehearsals and - First Night.

First Night audience numbers were very respectable; their laughter and applause said they enjoyed themselves. A full-to-capacity Friday night required two curtain calls for the audience to demonstrate their appreciation. As was also the case on Saturday evening.

That it has all paid off so handsomely is down to real team spirit. A big round of applause to everyone pulling together to produce such a splendid result, director, actors and production crew together.

WIND IN THE WILLOWS - Part Two



Previously...our 'Wind in the Willows' play-reading only managed to get around halfway through. All down to messing about on the river, going on gypsy caravan journeys and things of that sort. Enjoy a welcome return to the world of Mole, Ratty and Mr Toad at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 1st April** in Nether Compton Village Hall and led by Gill Manns. Poop, poop!

Long.....Pregnant.....Pauses Monologues disguised as Dialogue. Hints of Menace and Invasion of Personal Security. Sexual Anxiety and Gratification. Rashomon style Memories. Such is

THE WORLD OF HAROLD PINTER
(and our own)

Presented by Maurice Freeland, and illustrated by four two-handed playlets, on Tuesday 28 April at 7.30 pm in Nether Compton Village Hall



Our AGM -and Summer Party - will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 24th July. Jim and Gwyneth Schofield have very kindly agreed to host the event again at Gainsborough House.

This is your chance to let your Committee know what you think of the way they've managed the society over the past year and to air your views and ideas for the future.

It is also your opportunity to vote for new Committee Members and Officers. Not only that, but actually to propose and second candidates! This year there'll be vacancies for Chairman, and

two Ordinary Committee Members. Nomination papers will be sent out with the formal notice of the AGM.

BIG IDEAS POWWOW

It's time for us to be thinking ahead and to be putting together a programme of next year's productions and social events. 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.



FRAYN PERFORMED BY FROME

Noises Off by Michael Frayn is not one play but two - simultaneously, a traditional farce, *Nothing On*, and the backstage farce that develops during *Nothing On*'s final rehearsal and tour. The two farces begin to interlock, as the characters make their exits from *Nothing On* only to find themselves making entrances into the even worse nightmare going on backstage, and exit from that only to make their entrances back into *Nothing On*. In the end, at the disastrous final performance in Stockton-on-Tees, the two farces can be kept separate no longer, and coalesce into one single collective nervous breakdown. Confused? So you should be!

Noises Off will be performed by the Frome Drama Club from 22nd to 25th April at the Merlin Theatre, Frome. Performances begin at 7.45 pm.



THE FUNNY SIDE AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

An actress, a costumer and a stage manager found an old bottle in a pile of junk backstage. The actress rubbed it against her sleeve, and poof! A genie appeared.

"You got me fair and square," the genie said. "So you each get one wish."

"I want a world tour in a starring role," the actress declared.

"Granted," said the genie, and poof! The actress was off on her tour.

"I want a yacht and unlimited funds to cruise the exotic ports of the world," wished the costumer.

"Granted," said the genie, and poof! The costumer was off on his cruise.

The stage manager rubbed his chin, thought for a minute and said, "I want them back after lunch."

THE CEMETERY CLUB

This comedy by Ivan Menchell, and performed by Sturminster Newton Amateur Dramatic Society, mines a rich vein of Jewish humour. It is about widows Doris, Esther and Lucille, whose husbands died one after another in just a few years. The three friends, in their 50's, react quite differently on the deaths, but they make it a habit to meet every year at the graves of their husbands and talk about perspectives in their lives. For Dates and Times etc please see Dates for Your Diary page.



noda SOUTH WEST CONFERENCE

This year's conference will be held on 5th and 6th September at The Palace Hotel, Torquay. Full details of accommodation and workshop packages available from our Secretary, Adrian: Tel: 01935 422141



Annual Dinner at The Crown



It was knives and forks at the ready, heads down and tuck in at The Crown, Friday evening 27th March. And a sumptuous feast it was.

The advertised speaker had withdrawn through ill health and it was Adrian, our Secretary, who stepped into the breach, regaling us with amusing and fascinating tales of his theatrical 'career', which began at the age of 7 and included Japanese Kabuki and Noh theatre.

An enjoyable evening was had by all and many thanks to George Pearson for his sure organising hand in yet another successful year's Annual Dinner.



Still to Come... in our programme of events

Wed 1st April: Second part of *Wind in the Willows* play-reading led by Gill Manns.

Tues 28 April: 'The World of Harold Pinter' presented by Maurice Freeland.

Wed 20 May: A Theatrical Quiz hosted by Charles Napier.

Thurs 18 June: A play-reading led by Eve Simmonds

Thurs 2 July: A play-reading led by Adrian Thorpe

All the above at 7.30 pm in 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 either one of the committee members or Jennie Ward on 817567.

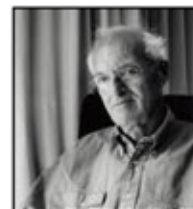
Fri 24 July: Our AGM and Summer Party to be held in Gainsborough House, Sherborne.

FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

Born 8 September, 1933, playwright and novelist Michael Frayn is best known as the author of the farce *Noises Off* and the dramas *Copenhagen* and *Democracy*. All his plays had a modest West End success and established Frayn as a writer of highly intelligent comedy. But it was with *Noises Off* (1982) that he achieved both an instant commercial hit and international fame.

His novels, such as *Towards the End of the Morning*, *Headlong* and *Spies*, have also been critical and commercial successes, making him one of the handful of writers in the English language to succeed in both drama and prose fiction.

His films for television include *First and Last* (1989), for which he won an Emmy, and an adaptation of his novel *A Landing on the Sun*. He also wrote the screenplay for *Clockwise* (1986), a comedy starring John Cleese.



IN THIS MONTH

In April 1962 the Hollywood musical *West Side Story*, an updated Romeo and Juliet tale set in gang-ridden New York, sweeps the Oscars. The movie, based on the Broadway hit by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, won 10 Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor and Actress, and Best Director.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**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
Tues 28th to Sat 2nd May	Quartet Ilminster Entertainment Society	The Warehouse, Ilminster At 7.45 pm
30th April to 23rd May	The Importance of Being Ernest Oscar Wilde	Salisbury Playhouse Times vary, call Box Office
MAY 2009		
Thurs 7th	Sherborne Comedy Steve Gribbin, Isy Suttie, Richard King	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30, show at 8.30 pm
Mon 18th to Sat 23rd	Spider's Web Agatha Christie	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 pm Matinees Wed, Thurs, Sat 2.30 pm
Wed 20th	A Theatrical Quiz Led by Charles Napier	Nether Compton Village Hall 7.30 pm
Thurs 21st to Sat 23rd	The Cemetery Club SNADS (See Page 3)	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 7.30 pm
Tues 26th	Tess of the D'Urbervilles Bristol Old Vic Theatre School	Little Theatre, Wells 7.30 pm
Fri 29th	Dorset Extravaganza Friends of Weldmar Hospicecare Trust	Sherborne Boy's School & nearby From 10 am

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

The Exchange: Call 01258 475137.

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

Swan Theatre: Call 01935 845946

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

Little Theatre, Wells: Call 01749 672280 May 16, 23, 25, 26 - 12-2 pm, 25th 7-9 pm, 26th 6.30/7.30 pm

**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.

MAY COPY DEADLINE: THURSDAY 30 APRIL

Last Word...

"The theatre, for all its artifices, depicts life in a sense more truly than history, because the medium has a kindred movement to that of real life, though an artificial setting and form."

George Santayana (1863-1952) American philosopher and poet.