



## APS DINE WELL IN MERMAID

There was quite a gathering of members last month for our Annual Dinner, this year held in the 'Neptune Suite' at The Mermaid. Consensus was that we ate fairly well. Last-minute speaker, Damien Thomas, gave us a glimpse of his 40 years in the acting profession through humorous anecdotes.

Many thanks to Gilly Savage for organising the occasion and to others for the afternoon setup.



Braving an dull and very chilly 8th May, our Victorian-costumed members ably delivered their railway-themed pieces of prose and verse from Pageant Gardens bandstand. And charming performances, thanks to Caroline Hart, from the Junior Wriggle Valley Players. Thanks too to Mark Lambert for the train sound effects and with Louise Lambert for 266 photos of every aspect of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the coming of the railway. View them at <http://www.mark-lambert.co.uk>

## 'THE GARDEN PARTY'



A thoroughly enjoyable and well attended evening was had by all at our unrehearsed play-reading of 'The Garden Party' led by Pat Harris. It centred around a family party to celebrate the 70th birthday of Richard, only for his children to discover he is not their biological father. Our cast gave spirited performances through the play's high and lows and it ended with all happy ever after - well, sort of!



**Thursday 17 June:** Unrehearsed play-reading of Richard Brinsley Sheridan's very funny comedy 'The Rivals' and led by Adrian Thorpe at 7.30 pm upstairs at The Mermaid. More details see page 2.

**Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 July:** It's the audition evenings for **Wind in the Willows** at 7.30 pm at the Adrian's - The Cider House, Compton Park, well away from the madding World Cup crowds. More information on page 2.

**Friday 23 July:** AGM and Summer Party. For full details see below.

## AGM & Summer Party

Our AGM - and Summer Party - will take place at **7.30 pm on Friday 23rd July** at Gainsborough House, hosted by Jim and Gwyneth Schofield.

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. Not only that, but actually to propose and second candidates.

**Situations Vacant** This year there will be vacancies for two Ordinary Committee Members and Membership Secretary. Yes, after seven years of dedicated service in the post George Pearson is stepping aside. So, now we're looking for someone happy on the computer to take on this well-established position.

Nomination papers will be sent out with the formal notice of the AGM by Adrian, our Secretary, approximately three weeks beforehand.

The charge will be £3 per head - payable at the door to cover food (weather permitting a barbecue) and a first drink. Please bring a bottle - alcoholic or otherwise - for second drink onwards.

**Please also bring with you cutlery, plate (for main course) and bowl (for pudding) - and take them away afterwards! Plastic cups will be provided.**

On-street parking is not easy on South Street. The nearest public car park is Culverhayes - or you may be able to park in the roads that lead to the railway station.





Make a note of the dates and place: Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th July at 7.30 pm in The Cider House (courtesy of Adrian) for auditions for our autumn production of **WIND IN THE WILLOWS**. There's a host of characters large and small just waiting to be cast so do come along as there is nothing--absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply being in this terrific production.

The Cider House is directly opposite Trencherman's at Over Compton. Not sure where that is, ring Miyoko or Adrian on 01935 431321.

### THE RIVALS - UNRESERVED!

Mrs Malaprop strikes again! For an unrehearsed play-reading of Sheridan's 'The Rivals'. pop upstairs at The Mermaid for 7.30 pm on Thursday 17th June One of the best loved comedies, it follows the meddling Mrs Malaprop on her quest to marry off her spirited niece, Lydia Languish. But with the handsome Captain Absolute and the poetic but penniless Beverley vying for her hand, Lydia has ideas of her own. Little does she realise that these rivals are one and the same man!



### THE SHOW MUST GO ON...

It's time for us to be getting our thinking caps on and coming up with great ideas for our next season's programme of social events and productions. What about a themed evening, play-readings, musical evenings, theatre trips, quizzes - or something completely different.

Now, don't leave it until the day of our AGM, get in touch with any member of the committee well beforehand.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT BRITAIN?

A new BBC show, fronted by comedian John Bishop, wants to know what the public think about Britain!

They are looking for people from all walks of life to appear in a new BBC entertainment show, 'John Bishop's Britain', which takes a closer and comical look at all the things that affect our lives in this country!

So if you would like to appear on the show, or know someone who would like their chance to speak up, have their say and share their stories, email [takepart@objectiveproductions.com](mailto:takepart@objectiveproductions.com)

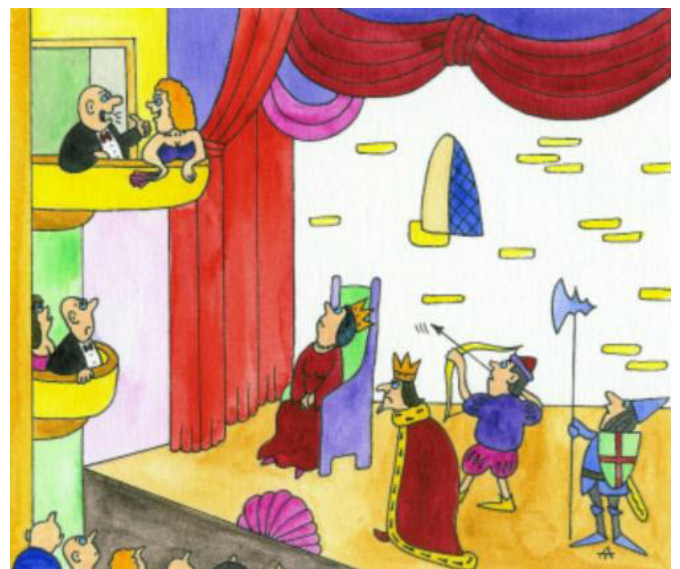


## There's a lot of me about this summer



Shakespeare's this, Shakespeare's that, locally my plays are popping up all over the place. Chapterhouse Theatre Company have '**The Merchant of Venice**' open air at the Bishop's Palace, Wells Friday 11 June at 7.30 (Call 01649 988111). From mid-June on there's Taunton Thespians touring Somerset with their 1970s version of '**As You Like It**'. It's on outdoors at 7.30 pm at Glastonbury Abbey Wednesday 16th. Meanwhile, back to the Bishop's Palace, Miracle Theatre perform '**Romeo and Juliet**' Saturday 26th at 7.30 pm. (and also at the Millenium Park, Bridport at 8 pm on Thursday 15th July). Here's a treat. Shakespeare's Globe on Tour entertain you with '**The Comedy of Errors**' from Tuesday 6th to Saturday 10th July at 7.30 pm Vivary Park, Taunton. Matinee Saturday at 2 pm. As part of this year's Beaminster Festival The Castle Theatre, Durham bring you '**Macbeth**' at 6.30 pm Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th July - matinee Saturday 2.30 pm - in the grounds of Mapperton, two miles east of Beaminster. To book call 01308 862943 website: [www.beamfest.org.uk](http://www.beamfest.org.uk). On 21st July the Festival Players offer '**The Tempest**' at 7.30 pm in the grounds of Shaftesbury Abbey. Call 747 852910 or [www.thefestivalplayers.co.uk](http://www.thefestivalplayers.co.uk) Oh, and before I forget, if you missed the previously mentioned performance of '**Romeo and Juliet**' do note that you can catch it either on Thursday 5th August at Melbury Osmond - for times and tickets call 01935 83410 or on Saturday 7th August at Sandford Orcas - call 01963 220208. Pop over to Kingston Lacy for 7.30 pm on Thursday 12th August and '**The Tempest**' by The Lord Chamberlain's Men. Call 0844 2491895 or [www.tlcm.co.uk](http://www.tlcm.co.uk).

You can't have too much of a good thing, can you? Reminds me of a phrase I coined, that does.



## How William Terriss Met His Death at the Hands of a Madman at the Stage Door of the Adelphi



On January 14th, 1898, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against Richard Arthur Prince in the murder of William Terriss, but spared him from hanging by finding him irresponsible for his actions by reason of insanity. He was committed to Broadmoor Prison for the Criminally Insane, where he would remain until his death, some thirty-nine years later.

William Terriss was buried at Brompton Cemetery on December 21st, where an immense crowd, estimated by the police to be in excess of 50,000, was gathered to pay their last respects to the much loved entertainer. All the leading theatrical personalities were present; the Bancrofts, Sir Henry Irving, Mr. Seymour Hicks (the deceased son-in-law), Mary Anderson and Lily Langtry to name but a few. Miss Millward, who had been with him at the end, also attended the funeral and had delivered a cushion of white chrysanthemums and lilies with the inscription "My dear comrade" picked out in violets. The funeral procession, which started from Bedford Park,

consisted of over 100 carriages. In spite of the funeral taking place in mid-winter, the floral tributes were as numerous as they were splendid, the Prince of Wales himself sent a magnificent wreath of white lilies and orchids accompanied by a card of condolence. The tributes in fact were so numerous that it seemed all London must have been stripped of flowers, and with only a few able to be carried with the coffin two additional hearses were required to carry the remainder to the grave site.

William Terriss left a personal fortune of 20,000 pounds to be divided equally amongst his children, his wife being already independently wealthy.

A Strange Aside to The Story. The day before the murder of William Terriss his understudy, Frederick Lane, had come to the theatre in an agitated state and related to all who would listen the details of a vivid and distressing dream he had had the night before. He recounted that he had dreamed that William Terriss, surrounded by actors and stage hands, was lying unconscious on the stairs leading to the theatre's dressing rooms. His chest was bare and blood was streaming from a gaping wound. An exact portent of what would occur the following night. Three witnesses later signed affidavits that Lane had related his story to them before the murder occurred



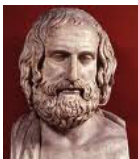
**WISHING AN ACTOR "GOOD LUCK":** It is considered very bad luck to wish an actor (or director, or playwright) "Good Luck" before an performance. Instead, you should say to him or her "Break A Leg".

**The Origin:** Wishing anyone, particularly an actor, "Good Luck" is apt to fill them with confidence -- feeling as though they have "luck" on their side. Confidence in an actor can quickly lead to

catastrophe, as it causes them to lose focus. "Break A Leg" is a very old military term for "taking a knee", or bending down to one knee and breaking the line of the leg. In the theatre it is a reference to "taking a bow". To wish someone to "Break A Leg" is to ask them to give the best performance they are capable so that they may deserve to take a bow at performance end -- or, to "Break A Leg". Another reference to "break a leg" is to slightly bending one's knees. Nervousness and adrenaline can make an actor "lock" their knees, which makes them look stiff on stage and can lead to feelings of illness under the hot lights and even cause them to pass out. Therefore, to "break a leg" can also be applied as a reminder to relax, loosen up, and enjoy giving the performance. Yet another explanation: Because the curtains would billow up when raised and lowered, wooden "legs" were sewn into them. Many curtain calls bringing them up and down would break the wood ... hence Break a leg = many curtain calls.

## FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

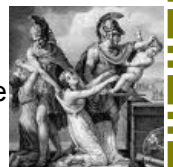
Euripides (ca. 480 BCE 406 BCE) was the last of the three great tragedians of classical Athens (the other two being Aeschylus and Sophocles). Ancient scholars thought that Euripides had written ninety-five plays, although four of those were probably written by Critias. Eighteen or nineteen of his plays have survived complete.




Euripides is known primarily for having reshaped the formal structure of Athenian tragedy by

portraying strong female characters and intelligent slaves and by satirising many heroes of Greek mythology. His plays seem modern by comparison with those of his contemporaries, focusing on the inner lives and motives of his characters in a way previously unknown to Greek audiences.

His play, 'The Trojan Women' aka 'Women of Troy', is on at 7.15 pm in Poltimore House, near Exeter Thurs 24/Sat 26 June. Honour, dignity, and the bitter pain of survival drive this searing and moving drama.



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****JUNE 2010**

Tues 1st to Sat 5th	<b>Ash Girl</b> By Timberlake Wertenbaker	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
Wed 16th	<b>As You Like It</b> Taunton Thespians	Glastonbury Abbey 7.30 pm, outdoors
Wed 16th to Thurs 17th	<b>Beautiful Thing</b> By Jonathan Harvey	The Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm
 <b>Thurs 17th</b>	<b>Unrehearsed play-reading</b> Led by Adrian Thorpe	<b>Upstairs at The Mermaid</b> 7.30 pm
Fri 18th to Sat 26th Not Sun 20th	<b>Vincent in Brixton</b> Nicholas Wright	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
Thurs 24th to Sat 26th	<b>Women of Troy</b> Cygnet Theatre	Poltimore House, nr Exeter 7.15 pm, indoors
Sat 26th	<b>Romeo and Juliet</b> Miracle Theatre Company	Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, Taunton 7.30 pm, outdoors
Wed 30th to Sat 3rd July	<b>Silhouette</b> Simon Brett Thriller	Little Theatre, Wells 7.30 pm

**JULY 2010**

Tues 6th to Sat 10th	<b>Comedy of Errors</b> Shakespeare's Globe on tour	Vivary Park, Taunton 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2 pm Outdoors
Tues 6th to Sat 10th	<b>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</b> Next Stage Theatre Company	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2.30
Thurs 15th	<b>Romeo and Juliet</b> Miracle Theatre	Millenium Park, Bridport 8 pm, outdoors (see page 2)
 Fri 23rd	<b>APS AGM &amp; Summer Party</b>	Gainsborough House 7.30 pm
Sun 25th	<b>The Mayor of Casterbridge</b> New Hardy Players	United Church, Dorchester 8 pm
Wed 21 to Sat 24 and Tues 27 to Sat 31st	<b>Comedy of Errors</b> Studio Players	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm

**Swan Theatre:** Tourist Information Centre 01935 845946

**New Hardy Players:** Call 01305 267419 or 07787 123927

**Romeo and Juliet:** Call Bridport Arts Centre on 10308 424204 or [www.bridport-arts.com](http://www.bridport-arts.com)

**Studio Theatre, Salisbury:** Call 07789 858124 or [www.studiotheatre.org.uk](http://www.studiotheatre.org.uk)

**Cygnet Theatre, Exeter:** Box Office 01392 277189. Credit cards: 01392 211080 [cygnetnewtheatre.com](http://cygnetnewtheatre.com)

**Powell Theatre:** Call 01935 810579 [www.powelltheatre.co.uk](http://www.powelltheatre.co.uk)

**Little Theatre, Wells:** Call Box Office 01749 672289 [www.littletheatrewells.org](http://www.littletheatrewells.org)

**Tacchi Morris Arts Centre:** Call 01823 414141 or [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com)

**The Octagon, Yeovil:** Call Box Office 01935 283884 or [www.octagon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk)

**Glastonbury Abbey:** The Brewhouse (01823) 283244 or Taunton TIC (01823) 336344 [www.thebrewhouse.net](http://www.thebrewhouse.net)

**Mission Theatre, Bath:** Call 01225 428600 or [www.missiontheatre.co.uk](http://www.missiontheatre.co.uk)

**NB: As Diary Dates are compiled in advance, do check with the venue for any programme changes.**



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

**JULY COPY DEADLINE: Tuesday 29 June**

**Last Word...**

"The structure of a play is always the story of how the birds come home to roost"

**Arthur Miller**