



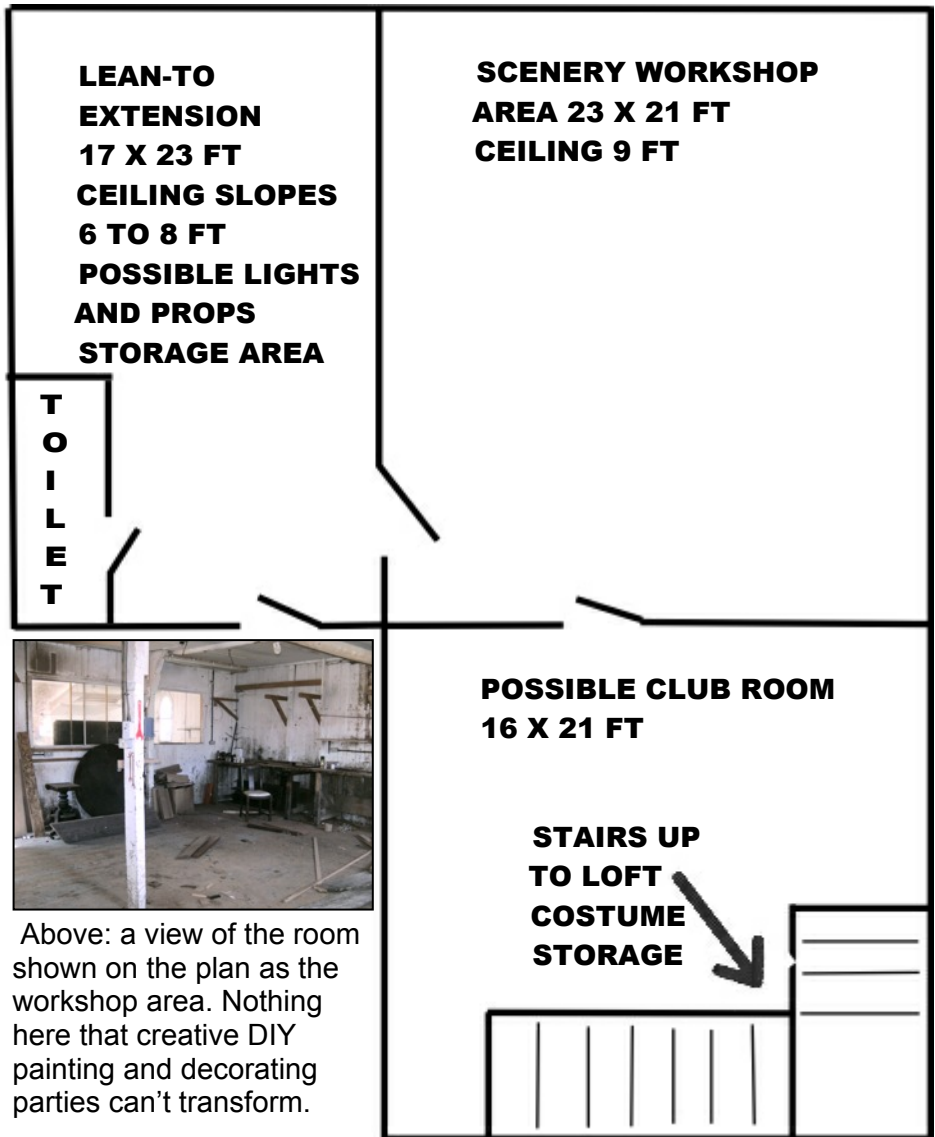
THE OLD CHAPEL - LATEST



Don't hold your breath but there is a possibility that by mid-May we could be in the Old Chapel!

Shown right is the ground plan with possible uses for the various areas.

For the first time since moving out of Sherborne House there is the opportunity to create a place that we can truly call our own. Where we can put up our collection of past production posters and display other memorabilia and where we can hold club evenings and even rehearsals - a place that is undeniably ours and that we can call our home.



Above: a view of the room shown on the plan as the workshop area. Nothing here that creative DIY painting and decorating parties can't transform.

AGM and Summer Party

Our AGM - and Summer Party - will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 22 July at Gainsborough House, hosted by Jim and Gwyneth Schofield.

This is your chance to let your committee know what you think of how they have managed our society over the year, and also 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.

This year there will be vacancies for Chairman and two Ordinary Committee Members.

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



IT'S TIME FOR GREAT IDEAS

Yes, 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. **Also, most importantly, we need to come up with a play for our Spring 2012 slot.**

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



APS calendar for May and June

Wed 4 May: 'Our Town' read through 7.30 pm at The Mermaid

Fri 13 May: APS Annual Dinner 7.30 pm Castle Gardens

Wed 25 & Thurs 26 May: 'Our Town' try-outs 7.30 pm at The Mermaid

Wed 22 June: Play-reading led by Gill Manns 7.30 pm at The Mermaid



Two enjoyable and rewarding APS April events to report back on. First, the 'Game of Love and Chance' at Salisbury Playhouse. An insightful morning session was followed by the exquisite timing and fun of the play itself. Many thanks to David for another successful Theatre Day.

Thanks also to Charles, quizmaster for yet another quite brilliant and stimulating Theatre Quiz. High spot of the evening was the Music round where, with voices raised, we sung songs from the shows, and keeping us in tune the accompaniment of Roy Dinshaw.



NODA MEMBERS FIRST TO BOARD

Sailing from Southampton on 15 September 2012 aboard the luxurious

Celebrity Eclipse, this is your exclusive opportunity to visit eight exciting ports and cities around the Mediterranean - all the while immersed in the magic of musicals!

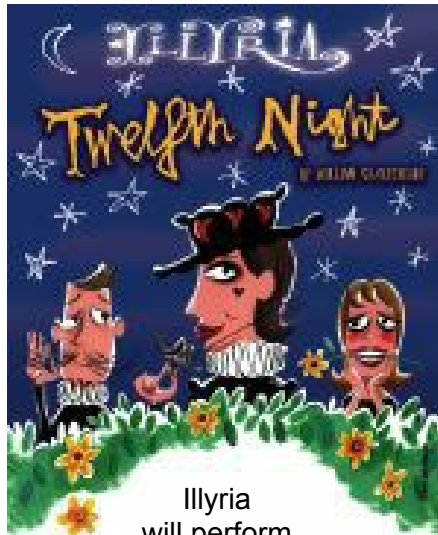
Mingle with West End professionals. Share experiences with like-minded people. Showcase your performance talents. Develop your theatre skills and techniques Or simply sit back and enjoy the show.

MAY AUDITIONS FOR OUR AUTUMN PRODUCTION



Auditions for our autumn production, the Pulitzer prize-winning play *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, and to be directed by Jennie Ward, will be held this month.

The dates are: Wednesday 4th May (read-through) and Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 May (try-outs) and all at 7.30 pm upstairs at The Mermaid.



Illyria
will perform
'Twelfth Night'
Wed 29 June in the grounds of
Sherborne Castle at 7.30 pm

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to indulge your passion for musical theatre whilst enjoying a wonderful cruise!

On board you will be able to immerse yourself in all that is fun about musical theatre and will be able to select from a programme of workshops, master classes and performance opportunities that will allow you to enjoy your passion for performance, learn from the professionals and even take to the stage.

For more information visit www.showcruise2012.com or call 0845 557 6341 for details and how to book.

CIVIC PLAYERS - PREPARE TO MEET THY TOMB

Yeovil-based drama group, Civic Players' next production is "Prepare to meet thy Tomb", the recently-written last of Norman Robbins' black-comedy "Tomb" series. It's on at the **Swan Theatre, Yeovil, Wed 25th to Sat 28th May at 7.30 pm**. More info at:

www.civicplayersyeovil.co.uk



NT live AT CINEWORLD YEovil



The second season of NT Live concludes with Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. It is directed by NT Associate Director Howard Davies, whose recent productions of Russian plays (including *Philistines*, *Burnt by the Sun* and *The White Guard*) have earned huge critical acclaim. Zoë Wanamaker will play Madame Ranevskaya.

It is showing at Cineworld, Yeovil on Thursday 30 June at 6.45 pm.



The 5th season of *The Met: Live in HD* features many of the most popular operas.

Tues 17 May at 5 pm: Wagner's *Die Walkure*

For performance details and video sample go to: www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/broadcast/hd_events_next.aspx
For Yeovil show times and advance bookings go to: www.cineworld.co.uk/cinemas/71

A Brief History of Theatre - in several parts: 9

The English Theatre, 1642-1800

The years between 1642 and 1660 (also known as the Interregnum, or period between kings) saw very little theatrical activity in England as the Puritans worked to drive out "sinful" theatre. A law was passed in 1642 that suspended performances for five years. After the law expired, Oliver Cromwell's government passed another law declaring that all actors were to be considered rogues. Many theatres were even dismantled, including the destruction of Shakespeare's Globe during these eighteen years of stasis.

In 1660 Charles II returned to England from his exile in France, restoring the monarchy. This period, known as the Restoration, was a time of renewal for British theatre. The flamboyant Charles II was a huge patron of theatre and helped breathe new life into British drama. A patent was even issued for two new theatre companies. Led by William Davenant, the Duke's Men was for younger performers, while older, more experienced actors were in The King's Company, led by Thomas Killigrew. While the two companies created new opportunities theatrically, their monopoly on performances hampered the growth of British theatre.



Many scenic innovations developed during the Restoration. One of the most innovative and influential designers of the 18th century was Philip Jacques de Louthembourg. He was the first designer to break up floor space with pieces of scenery, giving more depth and dimension to the stage. Other designers experimented with lighting by using candles and large chandeliers which hung over the floor of the stage.

Usually the playwright was the director of a play, and he held rehearsals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. When it was the actor's turn to speak, he or she would step forward into a star and speak his or her lines. Actors got paid on how popular they were, and they usually played the same type of roles; for instance, tragic actors always played tragic roles. The female was known as the ingénue and the male was known as the juvenile. Playwrights got the proceeds from the third night's performance and also the sixth night's performance, but only for

the original run of the show. Pantomimes would also be performed before and after a play.

A theatre of note between 1642 and 1800 was The Haymarket Theatre, operated by Samuel Foote. (Foote was given special license to operate in the summertime because of sympathy after he had a freak riding accident while trying to prove that he wasn't effeminate.)



Illustration of *Beggar's Opera* performance

Two eighteenth century writers of comedy were Sheridan who wrote *The Rivals* and Oliver Goldsmith who wrote *She Stoops to Conquer*. John Gay authored the popular *The Beggar's Opera*, updated in the twentieth-century playwright by Bertolt Brecht in *The Threepenny Opera*.

FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

2011 marks the centenary of the birth of Terence Rattigan, one of Britain's most gifted playwrights. His career spanned 44 years and he completed 25 full length stage plays, plus numerous one-act plays, radio, television and film scripts. To celebrate Rattigan's centenary, many of his plays are




being staged at theatres around the country throughout the year, including 'Flare Path' at the National Theatre 4th March - 4th June, 'Cause Célèbre' at the Old Vic, 17th March - 11th June, 'In Praise of Love' at the Royal & Derngate, Northampton, 1st - 23rd April, 'The Browning Version' at Bolton Little Theatre, 7th - 14th May, and at Chichester Festival

Theatre, 2nd September - 8th October, and 'The Deep Blue Sea' at Chichester Festival Theatre, 13th July - 3rd September. In addition, the BFI is showing a season of memorable Rattigan films including 'Brighton Rock' and 'Separate Tables'.

There will also be a new film of 'The Deep Blue Sea', starring Rachel Weisz.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 2011

Mon 2 to Sat 14	Evita Lloyd Webber Musical	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 pm Mats Wed to Sat 2.30
Mon 9 to Sat 14	Abigail's Party Mike Leigh	The Swan, Yeovil 7.45 pm
<i>APS event</i> Fri 13	APS Annual Dinner See page 2	Walled Garden Restaurant Castle Gardens 7.30 pm
Mon 16	Freaks and Fishnets The Circus of Horrors	The Electric Palace, Bridport 7 pm
 Tues 17	Die Walkure Wagner	Cineworld, Yeovil 5 pm
Mon 19 to Sat 21	Look Back in Anger Creative Cow	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
Wed 25 to Sat 28	Family Circles Alan Ayckbourn	Backwell Playhouse, Bristol 7.30 pm
Wed 25 to Sat 28	Prepare to meet thy Tomb Civic Players	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.30 pm

JUNE 2011

Thurs 2 to Sat 4	Touched Cygnet Theatre Company	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
Thurs 2 to Sat 4 Tues 7 to Sat 11	Role Play Alan Ayckbourn	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
Fri 3	Tess of the D'Urbervilles New Hardy Players	Dorchester Corn Exchange 7.30 pm
Fri 17	Lockerbie - Unfinished Business Seabright productions	Bridport Arts Centre 8 pm
<i>APS event</i> Wed 22	Play-reading Led by Gill Manns	The Mermaid 7.30 pm
Wed 29	Twelfth Night Illyria	Sherborne Castle 7.30 pm
 Thurs 30	The Cherry Orchard Chekhov	Cineworld, Yeovil 6.45 pm

Illyria/Twelfth Night: www.illyria.uk.com

Bridport Arts Centre: Box Office 01308 424204 www.bridport-arts.com

Dorchester Corn Exchange: Call 01305 251501 www.hardyonline.org

Theatre Royal, Bath: Box Office 01225 448844 www.theatreroyal.org.uk

New Theatre: Box Office 01392 277189 www.cygnetnewtheatre.com

Electric Palace: Box Office 01308 424901 www.electricplayhouse.org.uk

Backwell Playhouse: Box Office 01275 392936 www.backwellplayhouse.co.uk

Studio Theatre, Salisbury: Call 07789 858124 www.studiotheatre.org.uk

Cineworld, Yeovil: Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then select advance booking.

Swan Theatre: Tourist Information Centre 01935 845946. www.swan-theatre.co.uk

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

NewsLetter DEADLINE 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 or give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I'm not there leave your message and I will ring you back.
June Copy DEADLINE: Friday 27 May

Last Word...

A play should give you something to think about. When I see a play and understand it the first time, then I know it can't be much good.

T. S. Eliot