



## Breaking News!

### TWO AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR 'WIND IN THE WILLOWS'

Our 'Wind in the Willows' production has been nominated for both the Haslemere Award for Visual Excellence and the Wilfred Rowe Trophy for Stage Décor.

The Awards will be presented at the NODA South West AGM by National President, Gerry Branton, at the end of the Bicton Weekend on Sunday July 24th.



### OLD CHAPEL - LATEST

Contracts have been exchanged and work has begun upon the exterior. There's still some it's to be dotted and t's crossed, though. A 'site visit' by your committee members left them simply fizzing with enthusiasm. Charles has agreed to head up a Cleaning & Decorating working party. Helen Smith will look after Costumes & Props.

Full details of days and times when we need your help when we get a start date. Volunteer now!

## APS calendar for June and July

**Wed 22 June:** Play-reading of Rattigan's 'After the Dance', led by Gill Manns 7.30 pm at The Mermaid. **See page 2 for full details**

**Fri 22 July:** Annual General meeting and Summer Party 7.30 pm at Gainsborough House. **See panel right for full details.**

## BIG NIGHT OUT IN THE WALLED GARDEN



Nearly half our membership sat down to a thoroughly enjoyable evening of delicious food and delightful entertainment in the Walled Garden of Castle Gardens last month.

Life Member Madelaine Farrant (pictured above between Joan Miller and our President, Meg Whittingdale) even changed her flight date from South Africa to be able to sit down with us.

A potpourri of song and verse from Ruth Rice (pictured above) as well as stepping through a precise scissor cut postcard, nicely rounded off the evening.

Many thanks to Helen Smith for organising a memorable night.

## 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. And also to propose and second candidates.

This year there are vacancies for Chairman and two Committee Members.

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 £5 per head, payable at the door to cover food 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 home afterwards. Plastic cups will be provided.**

## MAKE A DATE FOR 'AFTER THE DANCE'

Our final social evening of the season is one you'll not want to miss. Gill Manns will be leading a play-reading of quite possibly Rattigan's masterpiece 'After the Dance' at 7.30 pm Wednesday 22 June at The Mermaid.

As the world races towards catastrophe, a crowd of Mayfair socialites party their way to oblivion. At its centre is David, who idles away his sober moments researching a futile book until the beautiful Helen decides to save him, shattering his marriage and learning too late the depth of both David's indolence and his wife's undeclared love. But with finances about to crash and humanity on the brink of global conflict, the drink keeps flowing and the revellers dance on.

Revived at the National Theatre last year, it emerged as the biggest winner of the 2011 Olivier theatre awards.



## IT'S TIME FOR MORE 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.**

Get in touch with any member of the committee right now.



## HOLMES IN FINAL BATTLE

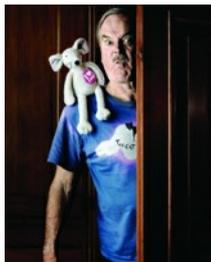
Sherlock Holmes has a brand new mystery to solve - and this time he seems to be the victim. Investigating a most ingenious crime, where the only witness is a garden gnome, Holmes gets a tip off from beyond the grave and enlists Dr. Watson to follow the trail of criminal masterminds and suspicious fairies. Cornwall's Miracle Theatre stirs up all the ingredients of Sherlock Holmes mystery with a large measure of comedy to bring a period thriller with a sting in its tail.

It's on - outdoors - at 7.30 pm Thurs 23 June at Melbury Osmond. Call 01935 83410. Also at the ECOS amphitheatre, Frome 7.30 Sun 17 July and at Sandford Orcas Thurs 4 Aug.

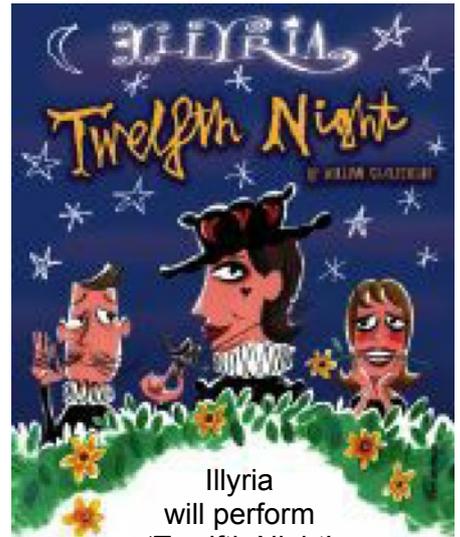


## AN EVENING WITH CLEESE

At the Theatre Royal, Bath at 7.30 pm from Tues 28 June to Sat 2 July. See page 4 for info.



## Note Venue Correction



Illyria will perform 'Twelfth Night'

Wed 29 June in the grounds of [Castle Gardens](#) at 7.30 pm  
Tickets £15 Concessions £12.50  
Call 01935 817747 or email: [thegoldclub@thegardensgroup.co.uk](mailto:thegoldclub@thegardensgroup.co.uk)



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 have earned critical acclaim. Zoë Wanamaker will play Madame Ranevskaya.

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

## GO AHEAD GIVEN FOR ARTS CENTRE



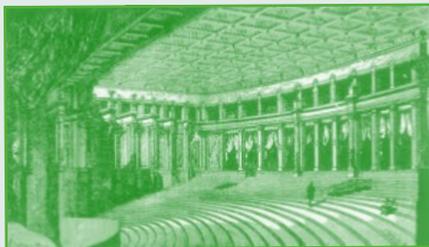
West Dorset District Council has approved the planning application for the £1.2 million Sherborne Community Arts Centre. Conditions attached to the planning permission require details of the construction materials and landscaping design, as well as wildlife and tree surveys to be submitted to the district council before building work can begin.

The permission will expire in three years. So, all that remains now is to raise the money to have the centre built. To date the trust has secured only a tenth of what is needed. Trust chairman, Michael Peart, reckons there are funding sources available and will be pursuing them. Eventually, he says, there are plans to appeal for public donations.

# A Brief History of Theatre - in several parts: 10

## The Beginnings of Modern Theatre, 1875-1915

Richard Wagner was an innovator who injected theatre with the contemporary trend toward realism, calling for many changes to take place in the theatre world. Wagner is probably best known for his concept of a new type of theatre structure--the Festival Theatre. He designed the structure to fulfil his ambition of a classless theatre. Famous throughout the world, the architectural design of the Festival was fan-shaped, making all seats equal in sight lines, as well as equally priced.



Interior Wagner's Festival Theatre, Bayreuth. The foundation stone was laid on 22 May 1872 (Wagner's birthday) and opened for the premiere of the complete four-opera cycle of 'The Ring of the Nibelung' August 1876.

The theatrical evolution during this period included the emergence of the modern director. Germany's Georg II, Duke of Saxe-Meiningen was one of the most famous early modern directors. He produced plays that were the most historically accurate of the 19th century. He designed all the costumes, scenery, and properties used by his troupe. Georg also adopted the practice of long rehearsal schedules and the idea of ensemble acting. He created carefully blocked crowd scenes and family groups, which made a small number of actors seem like a large gathering.

The United States' Belasco was another famous director known for creating realist plays and sets. He was also a noteworthy designer for his creation of the most modern lighting instruments of the time. Other designers were Craig who prominently featured drapery in



Ibsen, "a Norwegian who has broken the boundaries and challenged the established order" on tail of Norwegian Air plane.

his designs, and Appia, a Swiss designer who used three-dimensional scenery and used the stage floor as a part of his set. The prolific and controversial playwright Heinrich Ibsen wrote 25 plays during the late 19th century, two of which are the oft-produced *A Doll's House* and *Hedda Gabler*. Ibsen is known as the father of modern realism. His greatest talent was giving the audience background on people and situations, without making the exposition boring or obvious. His plays were very symbolic, and some of his subject matters were thought scandalous for their time. Four other plays by Ibsen are *Ghosts*, *Peer Gynt*, *The Wild Duck*, and *The Master Builder*.

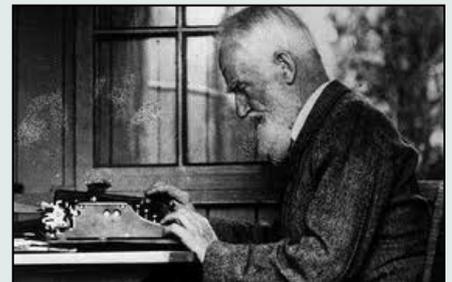
Another notable playwright of the time was Russian comedy writer Anton Chekhov, who wrote *The Seagull* and *The Cherry Orchard*. German playwrights included Gerhart Hauptmann who wrote *The Weavers*, the first play with a group protagonist. An associate of Hauptmann, Maxim Gorky, wrote *The Lower Depths*, which also had a working class hero.

France also had a wealth of modern playwright talent, such as Alexandre Dumas (above) who wrote *The*



*Demi-Monde* and *The Lady of the Camellias*, now usually referred to as *Camille*, a realistic story about a "prostitute with a heart of gold." Considering himself a realist, Dumas wrote about contemporary social problems. Other noteworthy French writers included Emile Augier, who wrote *Olympe's Marriage* and *Madame Poirier's Son-in-Law*; and Eugene Scribe. Scribe developed what's known as the well-made play. His plays, including *A Glass of Water* and *Marriage for Money*, had five full acts, clear exposition of situation, and logical resolutions. French theorist Emile Zola railed against Scribe's concept of the well-made play. Zola wrote on two types of subjects, scientific findings and things recorded about natural life. He became famous for his novels, *The Experimental Novel* and *Naturalism in the Theatre*.

English playwrights of the time included Arthur Pinero who wrote *The Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith* and



GBS in his summerhouse at Ayot St Lawrence, Herts. Built on a central steel-pole frame with a circular track, it could be rotated on its axis to follow the arc of the sun's light during the day.

William Butler Yeats who wrote *Purgatory*. The brilliant satirist George Bernard Shaw was one of the most prominent writers of late 19th and early 20th century England. Shaw, a vocal writer on social problems, wrote satiric plays such as *Pygmalion* and *Arms and the Man*.

This period also witnessed the beginnings of the independent theatre movement. A few of the theatres involved in this movement were the Independent Theatre in England, the Moscow Art Theatre in Russia, and Theatre du Vieux Colombier in France.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****JUNE 2011**

Thurs 2 to Sat 4	<b>Touched</b> Cygnet Theatre Company	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
Thurs 2 to Sat 4 Tues 7 to Sat 11	<b>Role Play</b> Alan Ayckbourn	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
Fri 3	<b>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</b> New Hardy Players	Dorchester Corn Exchange 7.30 pm
Fri 17	<b>Lockerbie - Unfinished Business</b> Seabright productions	Bridport Arts Centre 8 pm
<i>APS event</i> Wed 22	<b>'After the Dance' play-reading</b> Led by Gill Manns	The Mermaid 7.30 pm
Tues 28 to Sat 2 July	<b>An evening with John Cleese</b>	Theatre Royal, Bath 7.30 pm
<i>NT live</i> Wed 29	<b>Twelfth Night</b> Illyria	Castle Gardens 7.30 pm
Thurs 30	<b>The Cherry Orchard</b> Chekhov	Cineworld, Yeovil 6.45 pm

**JULY 2011**

Tues 5 to Sat 9	<b>Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</b> Next Stage Theatre Company	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Wed 6 to Fri 8	<b>Billy Elliot</b> Yeovil Youth Theatre	Octagon Theatre, Yeovil 7.30 pm Matinee Thurs 2.30 pm
Wed 6 to Sat 9	<b>Our Country's Good</b> Adapted from Keneally novel	Little Theatre, Wells 7.30 pm
Thurs 7 to Sat 9	<b>Touched</b> Drama set in spring 1945	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
Mon 11 to Sat 16	<b>Losing Louis</b> Black comedy	Swan Theatre, Yeovil Probably 7.45 pm
Sat 18 to Thurs 22	<b>Hamlet</b> Part of RSC's Open Stage project	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
<i>APS event</i> Friday 22	<b>Our AGM and Summer Party</b>	<b>Gainsborough House</b> 7.30 pm

**Little Theatre, Wells:** Box Office 01749 672280 opens 18 June, times vary. Online at [www.littletheatrewells.org](http://www.littletheatrewells.org)

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

**Illyria/Twelfth Night/Castle Gardens:** Call 01935 817747 or email [thegoldclub@thegardensgroup.co.uk](mailto:thegoldclub@thegardensgroup.co.uk)

**Bridport Arts Centre:** Box Office 01308 424204 [www.bridport-arts.com](http://www.bridport-arts.com)

**Dorchester Corn Exchange:** Call 01305 251501 [www.hardyonline.org](http://www.hardyonline.org)

**Theatre Royal, Bath:** Box Office 01225 448844 [www.theatreroyal.org.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk)

**New Theatre:** Box Office 01392 277189 [www.cygnetnewtheatre.com](http://www.cygnetnewtheatre.com)

**Studio Theatre, Salisbury:** Call 07789 858124 [www.studiotheatre.org.uk](http://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](http://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](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: Monday 27 June**

**Last Word...**

"I know it was wonderful but I don't know how I did it."

Laurence Olivier