A CHORUS OF APPROVAL

Casting for our spring production of ‘The Merry Wives of Windsor’ is in the process of taking place. A big ‘thank you’ to all those of you who are already showing a lot of interest and enthusiasm in the project. A full cast list will be issued as soon as auditions have been held. In the meantime, there are a lot of jobs on the creative team that need to be filled. We are looking for:

- Production manager – to handle the ‘nuts and bolts’ of the show
- Business manager – to take care of the finances
- Publicity manager – to ensure that the play is well marketed throughout the area
- Movement director
- Voice coach
- Assistant to the director – to maintain a ‘book’ of the production
- Designer
- Set builders and painters
- Stage manager
- Deputy/Assistant stage manager (s)
- Prompt
- Front of House manager

If you would like to be part of what promises to be an exciting and fun project please get in touch with John Crabtree on 01935 814720 or by email at jcrabbers@aol.com as soon as possible.

Very many thanks to everyone involved - whether on stage, back stage or wherever - in turning out a solidly professional and brilliant APS production. And which was well rewarded each evening by good-sized audiences who clearly had a jolly good time. And, with takings over £3K, looks like giving a welcome boost to our finances.

And now, a few words from our NODA rep and past APS member, Peter Wheeldon in an email to Pat.

“Just a few lines to thank you for your invitation to your play, and to congratulate you, and everyone involved, on an excellent production. In addition to some really convincing characterisations by the members of the cast, there were all the signs of some good directing. It was nice to see an almost full house in the Digby Hall, and there was no doubt that everyone certainly enjoyed the evening.”

Friday 13 December
Full details see Page Two.

Kindly note that the January 2014 issue of your newsletter will be a little later than usual. It’s all something to do with the festive season, apparently!
**APS 2014**

**Upcoming Events**

**Fri 13 December**
Christmas Party at The Cider House, Over Compton 7.30 pm

**Friday 17 January 2014**
Gilly’s Fish and Chip Quiz Night

**Thurs 13 February**
Method Workshop led by Sylvie Lord.

**Monday 10 March**
‘The Dark of the Moon’ play reading. Led by Gilly Savage.

**Fri 4 to Sun 13 April**
The Merry Wives of Windsor production period. Performances Thurs 10 to Sat 12 April.

**Tuesday 29 April**
Play-reading led by Eve Simmonds.

**Fri 16 May**
Annual Dinner, Butterfly House Castle Gardens.

**Tues 10 June**

**July**
AGM and Summer Party. Gainsborough House by kind invitation of Jim Schofield.

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**Gilly’s Fish & Chip Quiz Night**

The BBC Good Food website rates fish as number two in the top ten foods that boost your brainpower. So, if you and/or your team aren’t doing too well to start with you can bet your life you’ll all be storming ahead after the break in Gilly’s Fish and Chip Night at 7.30 pm on Friday 17 January in our Clubhouse. Here’s a puzzle for you - clue is geeks, answer ~~~~~~~~~~

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**TOP 10 Plays**

1. **Calendar Girls** by Tim Firth
2. **‘Allo ‘Allo** by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft
3. **Teechers** by John Godber
4. **Last Tango in Little Grimley** by David Tristram
5. **Confusions** by Alan Ayckbourn
6. **Bliteh Spirit** by Noel Coward
7. **Blood Brothers [play]** by Willy Russell
8. **When We Are Married** by J B Priestley
9. **Peter Pan** by J M Barrie
10. **The 39 Steps** by Patrick Barlow and John Buchan

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**Christmas Party!**

It all begins at 7.30 pm on **Friday 13 December** in The Cider House at Over Compton, home of our generous hosts, Adrian and Miyoko Thorpe. Cost £5 - pay at the door - includes food and your first drink. Subsequent drinks at generous APS prices.

Feel free to dress for the season, but above all come with festive cheer. Please bring KFS, bowl and plate. Glasses provided.

The Cider House is directly opposite Trencherman’s at Over Compton. Parking in the courtyard is for those with walking difficulties and essential deliveries - food and drink. Parking available along the wall outside and in St Michael’s Church car park on the other side of the church.

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**NODA Summer School 1 Dec Launch**

At 12:01am on Sunday 1st December NODA will launch full details about their Summer School 2014. It will again be held at the University of Warwick and run from Sat 2 to Sat 9 August. For full details click on the link below: [www.noda.org.uk/summersch](http://www.noda.org.uk/summersch)

And our autumn production for 2014 is... Yes, already we need to be thinking ahead and coming up with a play - and a director - for November 2014. All ideas, suggestions and offers to direct contact any member of your committee.

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According to Samuel French - here are London’s Top-10 most licensed plays over the last year.

‘The 39 Steps’ made it into the top ten despite still being restricted.
A selection of what’s on around and about

**JANE EYRE**
Charlotte Bronte’s classic novel of romance and mystery comes to the Cygnet Theatre, Exeter in a new vibrant production.

Orphaned Jane lives miserably with her aunt, Mrs Reed until she is sent to Lowood, a place of fleeting moments of joy and friendship amid the privation and challenges of school life.

Moving to Thornfield Hall as Governess, Jane meets the brooding Mr Rochester. Her emotions blossom and marriage beckons. However, Rochester hides a secret which threatens to tear them apart.

At 7.30 pm Tues 10 - Sat 14 December, matinee Sat 14 at 2 pm.

**THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK AT STRODE THEATRE**
Following their success with ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ and ‘Great Expectations,’ Strode College Performing Arts students present another contemporary classic play, based on the vivid and moving diary of a Jewish teenage girl in German-occupied Amsterdam in World War II.

Performances at 7.30 pm Tues 3 and Wed 4 December. Contact details page 4.

**WITNESS ‘A PERFECT MURDER’**
Victor Smiley and his wife Joan have been married for a long time. But their marriage has reached crisis point and Victor has decided there is only one way to get Joan out of his life forever... but he’s about to get a nasty surprise. As young Detective Roy Grace starts to investigate his very first homicide case, dark forces intervene and Grace begins to fear that nothing is quite as it seems.

It’s on at the Theatre Royal, Bath Mon 13 to Sat 8 January. Same times as ‘Moon Tiger’.

**MOON TIGER prior to West End**
Compelling, moving and eloquent, one of the great novels of the 20th century is brought to the stage for the first time. Winner of the 1987 Booker Prize, Penelope Lively’s Moon Tiger is a haunting story of loss and desire. It spans the time before, during and after World War II.

Starring Jane Asher, it’s on at the Theatre Royal, Bath prior to the West End, Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 January at 7.30 pm Tues/Wed 7.30 pm, Thurs/Sat 8 pm, Matinees Thurs and Sat at 2.30 pm

**ALL SET FOR ‘A FINE BRIGHT TODAY’**
Since the death of her husband Margaret Harvey has lived with her daughter Rebecca in a small cottage. Rebecca is moving out, so when she meets Milton Farnsworth, an American in the area to paint the landscape, she invites him to lodge with Margaret. Margaret has become set in her ways, but with patience, humour, and cheap wine, Milton gradually encourages her to relinquish her hold on control. Warm, funny and moving, ‘A Fine Bright Day Today’ explores love in later life, and is on at 7.45 pm in The Swan, Yeovil Monday 20 to Saturday 25 January.

On at the Studio Theatre, Salisbury at 7.30 pm 5-7 and 10-14 December, matinee Sat 14, is ‘Fawlty Towers’.

Created from unexpurgated scripts of the most celebrated TV sit-com, Fawlty Towers is the best-loved bad hotel in the world and here we meet the snobbish, manic Basil; his over-coiffeured domineering wife, Sybil; the hopeless but ever-hopeful waiter Manuel; the calm and capable Polly — and, of course, the steady stream of abused guests.

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<tr>
<th>Mon 2 to Sat 7</th>
<th>The Woman in Black</th>
<th>Theatre Royal, Bath</th>
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<td>Christmas ghost story</td>
<td>Mon:Wed 7.30 Thurs:Sat 8 pm</td>
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<td>Tues 3 and Wed 4</td>
<td>The Merry Wives of Windsor Auditions</td>
<td>Our Clubhouse 7.30 pm</td>
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<td>Tues 3 to Wed 4</td>
<td>The Diary of Anne Frank Strode Theatre Performing Arts</td>
<td>Strode Theatre 7.30 pm</td>
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<td>Wed 4 to Sat Jan 11</td>
<td>Dick Whittington and his Cat</td>
<td>Salisbury Playhouse Time various</td>
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<td>Thurs 5 to Sat 7 and Tues 10 to Sat 14</td>
<td>Fawly Towers</td>
<td>Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm Mat Sat 7 Jan at 2.30 pm</td>
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<td>Tues 10 to Sat 14</td>
<td>Jane Eyre</td>
<td>Cygnet Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2 pm</td>
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<td>Wed 11 to Sat 14</td>
<td>A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens</td>
<td>The Warehouse, Ilminster 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2.30 pm</td>
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<td>Thurs 12 to Sat 5 Jan</td>
<td>Snow White &amp; the 7 Dwarfs</td>
<td>Octagon, Yeovil Times various</td>
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<td>Fri 13</td>
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**January 2014**

| Wed 8 to Sat 11 | Talon Gothic thriller | Bristol Old Vic 7.30 pm |
| Mon 13 to Sat 18 | The Perfect Murder | Theatre Royal, Bath Times see page 3 |
| Fri 17 | Gilly's Fish & Chip Quiz night | Our Clubhouse 7.30 pm |
| Mon 20 to Sat 25 | A Fine Bright Today The Swan Theatre company | The Swan, Yeovil 7.45 pm |
| Tues 21 to Sat 25 | Moon Tiger Stars Jane Asher | Theatre Royal, Bath Times see page 3 |
| Tues 28 to Sat 1 Feb | Dick Whittington | Octagon, Yeovil |
| Thurs 30 Jan | Coriolanus | Cineworld, Yeovil 7 pm |

**DECEMBER Copy Deadline: Saturday 4 January, 2014**

If you would like any local performances mentioned in the newsletter please email details to: jim.reville@btinternet.com or call me on 01935 814626. Please leave a message if I’m not available and I’ll ring you back.