

# NOISES OFF

AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE

newsletter September 2015

## OUR OPENING NIGHT!

### FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Make a note in your diaries for the date of our 'OPENING NIGHT', the annual gathering of members to celebrate the launch of our 2015/16 season at **7.30 pm, Friday 4 September at the Crown Inn, Sherborne.**



A highlight of the evening will be a play-reading of our autumn production 'Natural Causes', a dark comedy by Eric Chappell of Rising Damp fame. See synopsis opposite.



Those members who renew their membership by cash or cheque will have the opportunity of doing so at the Membership Renewal Desk.

New members warmly welcomed.

Parking: Limited parking at the Crown. Acreman Street car park. Free 6 pm to 8 am.

### Natural Causes - a synopsis

Vincent is from Exodus, a euthanasia group that assists people in suicide.

When he is invited to Walter Bryce's country house to assist in the disposal of Walter's wife he senses something is wrong.

Why are the suicide notes unsigned? What is the role of Walter's attractive secretary? Why has the Samaritan been sent for?

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday 8 October 7.30 pm  
in our clubhouse**

A play-reading of 'Colder than here' led by Bev Taylor-Wade

**Saturday 14 to Sunday 22  
November**

'Natural Causes' Autumn production week:

Performances Thursday 19 to Saturday 21 November 7.30 pm Digby Hall.

### FORWARD IDEAS FOR APS AND THE CHAPEL



The recent productions have been excellent and a credit to the directors, however it seems that we can no longer fill the Digby Hall with a large enough audience to cover our costs. Sadly this cannot go on for long and I can see no future for the society unless we scale back our production costs. I look at

the Theatre Royal Bath and see that the two smaller venues, The Ustinov and Egg, put on successful productions with small audiences and often minimal scenery. I suggest that we might consider using the chapel in the same way to keep our talent and our many faithful patrons.

This would involve a fairly drastic re-modelling of the interior, but it is probably time this was done anyway. The flats and general scenery (which are pretty decrepit) are using the major part of the downstairs and, frankly, could be scrapped. If the upstairs was to be retained the internal pillars could be relocated to the side. I would be happy to ask an architect to give views.

There are many implications of health and safety, public access, fire and all those things which would complicate my ideas, but it is not impossible. Public parking is available at the Acreman Street car park.

A time scale could begin with assessment in the next couple of months, shifting of the flats etc at the time of the Autumn production and thereafter start work on remodelling the interior. The props need not be moved until later but in the end that space would be needed for access to the stage. I would not expect the work to be done in time for a Spring production in the chapel.

Malcolm Cockburn.

# AGM and Summer Party 2015



A late, late rain shower failed to make a dent in an interesting and enjoyable AGM and Summer Party.

Mind you, it deserved a better attendance from members, not withstanding the presence of Life Member Madeline

Farrant, now resident in South Africa.

Malcolm outlined his idea for the future of our Clubhouse.

Many thanks to committee members, including our president, for providing a wonderful and enticing spread.



A sneak peek at our completely new website. You can now see the real thing at [www.aps-sherborne.co.uk](http://www.aps-sherborne.co.uk). Many thanks to Mark Lambert for all his hard work in creating it.

## TWELFTH NIGHT AT THE SWAN



Twelfth Night is a Shakespearean comedy. It centres on the twins, Sebastian and Viola who become separated when shipwrecked off the coast of Illyria.

There are romantic and comic turns and twists between the twins and the Countess Olivia in mourning, Malevolio in his yellow stockings, Toby Belch inebriated and Duke Orsino in love.

Doors open 7:15 pm, show starts 7:45 pm.

Tickets on sale to the public from Tuesday 25th August. For more info and to book online go to [www.swan.theatre.co.uk](http://www.swan.theatre.co.uk) or email [swantheatreboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:swantheatreboxoffice@gmail.com).

## APS AND THE CHAPEL

## progressreport

Wednesday 7 Aug, the architect, Tom Maunder, brought me the plans he has done of the chapel as it is now. A copy will be available at the opening night and people can ponder on it. Tom, is going to find out all the bureaucratic hoops we will have to go through for 'change of use' to a theatre (however small), health and safety, car parking etc.

He is well qualified in this because at the moment he works for Fry's the main contractors for Poundbury. I have not allowed myself too many thoughts about how I visualise the alterations except to think that we should remove the upstairs floor as far back as the second truss away from the door (see upstairs) and make the 'stage' end of the chapel full height.

*Malcolm*



## HAMLET AT <sup>NT</sup>live cineworld Yeovil

Benedict Cumberbatch, Oscar nominee for his role as Alan Turing in The Imitation Game, plays Hamlet, a man forced to avenge his father's death. With his country preparing itself for war, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of the predicament, his sanity collapsing as his family tears itself apart.

This bold take on Shakespeare's classic tragedy sees Cumberbatch bringing fresh energy to the role of the tormented Prince. The National Theatre will broadcast this eagerly awaited production live 7 pm on Thursday 15 October.

**Deadline** Newsletter If you would like any local performances mentioned in the newsletter please email details to: [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto: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. **OCTOBER Copy Deadline: Tuesday 29 September 2015**