

A M A T E U R P L A Y E R S O F S H E R B O R N E

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1986

TEN TIMES TABLE

Vivian Vale has now completed the casting of his production of Alan Ayckbourn's Ten Times Table, to be staged in the Digby Hall on 1-3 May. Hilary Rawlinson heads the cast as Ray, with Christine Hatch as his wife, Helen, and a refreshing mixture of new and familiar faces in the supporting rôles: Meredith Christopher as Sophie, Tony Manns as Donald, Colin Mayes as Lawrence, Michael Roche as Eric, Peter Thomas as Tim, Rosie Tomlinson as Philippa, and Meg Whittingdale as Audrey.

Vivian needs both a Stage Manager, and an Assistant Stage Manager, to complete his backstage team. Any member interested in volunteering their services should contact Vivian on Cerne Abbas 722.

DORSET DRAMA LEAGUE FESTIVAL: 16-22 MARCH

Further to our brief note on this subject in September, we can now tell you that we have entered a small-cast one-act play for this festival: The Big Cats by Alec Baron, to be directed by Eve Snell. It is a gentle little play about a widow faced with the threat of the destruction of the home she has lived in all her married life when the Council decides to demolish her neighbourhood and rehouse her in a flat elsewhere.

Because of the concurrent preparation for the Spring Production, with its cast of ten, and the necessity of forwarding our detailed entry early in January, your Committee decided that, in these exceptional circumstances, Eve could cast her play without the usual practice of holding auditions, bearing in mind the needs of the main production. This she has done, and the play is now in rehearsal with Margaret and Tony Field and Janet Vincent filling the three rôles. You will have an opportunity to see this production at the Dress Rehearsal/Preview stage during the first week in March.

THE FUTURE OF THE APS CLUB ROOM

You will remember that in the September Newsletter we told you of our 'housing problem'. Since then we have been exploring a number of possibilities against the day when we will be asked to vacate our present Club Room. Eldridge Pope, having originally sought planning permission to develop the Brewery site, were advised to modify their plan; this they have now done and a revised application was submitted to the Planning Authority earlier this month. In consequence of the complexity of the plan, the Planning Committee decided to defer a decision on the application until they had held a site meeting. This they will do in early February, and it is then probable that they will determine in favour of the application.

P T O

Even if this proves to be the case, we do not anticipate an immediate request to vacate the premises. Indeed, Eldridge Pope have said that they will give us 'reasonable notice' of their intention to start work. Nonetheless, we are anxious to find a new home, at least for the Wardrobe, as soon as possible.

We are currently considering the implications of being housed - in the long term - in the grounds of the Digby Hall; at the Coldharbour Social Club; in conjunction with the Sherborne Youth Club (should their appeal to utilise Foster's School building succeed); at Nethercoombe Farm (under the aegis of the Dorset Preservation Trust for Historic Buildings); and in unused property belonging to Yeatman Hospital and the District Council. We are still a long way from any decision; when that time comes, we will discuss the matter with you.

Germane to the discussion of a new home is the question of the Players' funds. You will all realise that we have been 'spoilt' by having rent-free accommodation for so many years. It is most unlikely that this privilege will continue; we will probably have to pay an economic rent for any premises we use in the future. To this end, we are carefully husbanding our resources and, although we now have considerably more money on deposit than we have ever had, this sum will prove insignificant should we have to lease, build or modify premises for our use. So we are conscious of the need to raise funds by all possible means. We are not a rich society, not moneywise anyway, but with the support of members in any fund-raising venture, we can go some way towards becoming one.

If you have any thoughts on our future, do, please, contact any member of the committee with your ideas - we need all the help you can give!

CLUB ROOM FUNCTIONS IN FEBRUARY

On February 4th, Jennie Perry will be running a Theatre Technique Workshop. All active members should benefit from Jennie's expertise and dare we suggest that all members rehearsing current productions should attend?

On February 17th Tony Field takes you once again into the realm of comedy with another adaptation from The Norman Conquests. Last year you saw how Saturday turned out - this year find out what Sunday has to offer for that fugitive from East Grinstead

The evening listed on your programme for February 25th has, unfortunately, had to be postponed. It is hoped to fit in the Welsh Evening promised by Steve Walker around this time, but no firm date has yet been fixed. Watch the notice board for this information.