



# AMATEUR PLAYERS of SHERBORNE

NEWSLETTER  
JULY 1993

Dear Member

Following a very entertaining evening at our End of Season Party, for which our appreciation goes to Tony and Gill Manns, Ann Brooks and their casts, your Committee is now hard at work planning the programme for the 93/94 Season which will begin with **Opening Night on Friday 17th September 1993** with an entertainment arranged by our Chairman.

Various ideas have been put forward regarding our social evenings, but if any member would like to volunteer or put any suggestions forward to the Committee, please contact a Committee member before 21st July. As a result of the AGM, we warmly welcome Joy Saunders as our new President. It is very fitting that Joy be our President, as it was her father, Fred Alcock, who founded the Players in 1934 and Joy has supported the Players in every possible way for as long as she can remember.

## Your new Committee is:

President:	Joy Saunders
Chairman:	Patricia Harris
Hon Secretary:	Tony Stephens
Hon Treasurer:	Tony Field
Committee Members:	Margaret Field
	Gill Manns
	Jane Shuldham
	Eve Snell
	Janet Vincent
	Anthea Watson
	Andrew Cross (Membership Secretary)
	Stephen Kettle
	Bob Service

At the AGM our subscriptions were raised to **£8 per person** with the only concession being £1 for people under the age of 18. The subscriptions are due on or before Opening Night and can be sent to the Membership Secretary at 2 Greenhill Court, Sherborne, or brought to the Clubroom on 17th September. Please note that no Membership Cards will be issued, neither will a player be covered by insurance if a subscription is not paid, so please play fair and pay up.

As you know, the Autumn Production during the week beginning Saturday 27th November (Move in to Digby Hall) will be "**The Heiress**", a dramatisation of Henry James's celebrated novel, and will be directed by Vivian Vale who writes:

Set in the downtown residential quarter of New York in the year 1859 - a great opportunity to create 'period' and 'atmosphere' - the play explores the plight of a young and diffident heiress, daughter of a brilliant but cold and dryly ironic father who regards her as commonplace. Wooed by a worthless suitor, Morris Townsend, a ne'er-do-well whose experience in worldly matters is in strong contrast to her own innocence, Catherine's conflict of loyalties is exasperated by a sentimental and rather preposterous

aunt, whose well-meant interventions propel the plot to a crisis and a chilling consequence. The characters are:

Dr Austin Sloper (the father)	60's
Aunt Lavinia Penniman (his sister)	50's
Catherine (his daughter)	20's
Mrs Almond (his other sister)	50's
Maria Almond (his niece)	20's
Arthur Townsend (Maria's fiancé)	30's
Morris Townsend (Arthur's cousin)	30's
Mrs Montgomery (Morris's sister)	30's/40's
Maria (the parlour maid)	

**Auditions** will be held in the Clubroom from 8.00 pm on **Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd July**. If these dates don't suit you, please ring Vivian Vale on 0300 341722 and he will be happy to fix another time to meet. Vivian also requires volunteers for backstage, including a Stage Manager, Front of House Manager, etc, etc. Please overwhelm him with offers.

Our **Director for Spring 1994** will be **Gill Manns** who is busy reading and deliberating over various possible plays. Gill will undoubtedly offer something exciting and of great interest.

It is also worth noting that 1994 will be our **60th Anniversary** and the occasion will be marked in an appropriate way. One suggestion has been to restage "Tons of Money", the play that gave birth to the Players through the talent and enthusiasm of the late Fred Alcock.

On a sad note we learnt of the death of one of our members - **Mary Walker**. Mary had not been a member for many years but had made a valuable contribution to the success of several productions.

Our love and best wishes go to **Meg Whittingdale** who has been poorly. Meg is a long serving and very loyal member of the Players and we hope to see her back fit and well very soon.

Stephen Kettle would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in a weekend **Theatre Trip to London**. The cost would be in the region of £30 and would include your seat for a matinee performance and the return rail fare from Sherborne to Waterloo. If anyone is interested, please contact Stephen on 0963 251303 so that he can assess the viability. To keep costs down to £30 a group of no less than 10 people would be necessary.

Your Committee hopes that you all have an enjoyable and restful summer. If you are off on holiday, come back safe and sound and full of enthusiasm for what promises to be a busy and exciting season.