



AMATEUR PLAYERS of SHERBORNE

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 1995

Dear Member

First, Best Wishes for a very Happy and Healthy New Year to you all.

Next, congratulations to EVERYONE involved in Margaret Field's 'mould-breaking' 60th Anniversary production of "A CHRISTMAS CAROL", in the Powell Theatre. More than 650 people saw the show; Friday and Saturday evenings were both sold out; and a profit of over £1200 was realised. Following an APS custom of past years, your committee has agreed to donate some of these profits. The League of Friends of The Yeatman Hospital and The Sherborne Ambulance for the Elderly and Disabled will each receive cheques for £200.

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MEMORABILIA : Eve Snell's foyer exhibition was an interesting feature of production week. As 'Keeper of the Archives', she is appealing for photos (with dates), posters and programmes, to add to our collection. Especially needed are those for shows from the 60's to the 80's. If you don't want to part with your photos, they can be copied and returned. Please contact Eve on 0935 812933 if you can help.

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SPRING PRODUCTION : Tony Field reports that "DANGEROUS OBSESSION" by N.J.Crisp is under way, with the three characters being played Jessica Colson, Matthew Day and Stuart McCreadie. 'I suggested this small cast, super thriller', he writes, 'in view of the additional requirements of a cast and supporters for Jim's entry for the DDL One Act Play Festival running at the same time. The original production toured in 1987 before going to the West End; I saw it in Bath and was bowled over by it.'

The Daily Mail : 'N.J.Crisp's suspense exercise achieves the near impossible by tightening its grip in a steady way, then exerting greater pressure after breaking point seemed inevitable.'

The Times : 'The second act so powerfully applies the tricks of suspense that the audience dared not cough for fear of missing the next turn of the screw.'

Performances: March 23rd to 25th in the Digby Hall. See you - on the edge of your seats.

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DORSET DRAMA LEAGUE : The competition will be held at The Old Market Playhouse, Shaftesbury Arts Centre, Bell Street, Shaftesbury, from 8th-11th March. Our entry is Jim Schofield's production of Noel Coward's "STILL LIFE", better known, in its film version, as "BRIEF ENCOUNTER". The cast is headed by Mark and Madeline Lambert as Alec and Laura; with Anthea Watson, Kirsty Abbott, David Smith and Kieran Millar as the station staff; David Bowen and Simon Manaton as the soldiers; and Gill Manns as Dolly. Gwyneth Schofield and Dod Pearson will provide the 1930/40's costumes and Jean Whittaker the period hairdressing.

The date of our performance will be known after Feb. 11th. Amateur Players and their friends will have an opportunity to see the play at the Church Hall, Digby Road on Tues. 7th March at 8pm. Please come and support us. Admission free!

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OTHER EVENTS : Already in 1995 we have enjoyed a **TWELFTH NIGHT PARTY** at Nethercoombe House and our traditional 'GIVE US A CLUE' evening with Meg Whittingdale. Our thanks to those who contributed to these entertainments.

PROGRAMME CHANGE : As Tony Stephens is currently basking in New Zealand sunshine, his advertised **QUIZ NIGHT** on Feb. 1st has been replaced by 'POETRY PLEASE'. Do come along and bring a poem.

VALENTINE'S EVENING, Feb. 14th : Eve Snell is preparing a rehearsed play-reading of "THE CONSTANT WIFE" by W. Somerset Maugham. As she unfortunately has to be elsewhere on the night, (though NOT in New Zealand!) Janet Vincent will present the entertainment on Eve's behalf.

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THE GRAPEVINE : (the system whereby the committee notifies all members about matters at short notice) seems to have fallen into abeyance recently, but we hope to have it up and running again forthwith.

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MAILING LIST : This proved to be a resounding success in selling tickets for the last production. Please note that it is VERY important to tell us about names to REMOVE (to avoid distress) as well as giving us more names of potential theatregoers. Contact Gill Manns 0935 74206, or any committee member.

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AND FINALLY, we hope you will continue to support and enjoy the remaining activities on offer for the rest of the season.