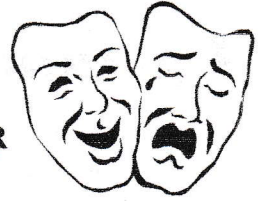


AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE

Newsletter

OCTOBER
1995



Dear Member,

The 1995-6 season is now well under way. It began with an excellent opening night when our Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary--who appear to have gone into business together as 'Top Table Productions'--gave us an entertaining production of John Mortimer's 'Edwin', whose paternity seemed to be in some doubt! About 35 members--not as many as last year--came and were treated to a little libation as well as being well entertained. Thank you, Margaret, Tony and Tony.



The season's second entertainment was provided by BADS, who performed the first three plays of *The Sneeze*, by Anton Chekhov. For those of you who are still mystified, this acronym stands for Buckland Newton Amateur Dramatic Society, and be you comment, yes, the N is 'missing', but the society prefers BADS to BNADS. I regret to have to report, however, that the evening was not very well supported by APS members--the audience of 12 only just outnumbered the cast! However those that did attend enjoyed themselves and we hope that more of you will feel able to come and see Act 2 on April 12th next year.

Geoff Lewis has now cast *She Stoops to Conquer* (see page 3). Rehearsals are under way and are going well. The production team, however, is not yet complete. We are still looking for someone willing to take on the task of organising costumes for this highly costumed period play -- a volunteer is urgently sought. The Front of House Manager, **Tony Gregory**, will be recruiting front of house assistants in the not too distant future. Anyone willing to help should contact him on 01935-850708.

The second meeting of the Entertainment Group was held in the clubroom on Wednesday 13th September. It was attended by rather fewer people than the first, which we hope is indicative of how busy you all are rather than of lack of support. A number of sketches--some of them amusing, others extremely funny--were read aloud and most of them gained general approval for inclusion in a future repertoire. There is clearly sufficient material available to make up a successful show, although of course,

.....continued on page 2

Membership Fees

Adults £8.00 Students £1.00

Membership fees for the current season should by now have been paid. If you have not paid your subscription you will not yet have the 1995-96 Programme/Membership Card. If you wish to renew your membership, please do so as soon as possible. If you do not, you will not be sent future Newsletters, and we will be very sorry to lose your support.

Overleaf is printed a list of paid up members. If your name is not on this list, either a mistake has been made or you have not yet paid. In either case, please contact me as soon as possible.

Mark Lambert
Membership Secretary
01258-817270



The APS archives contain a number of interesting pictures of past plays. This is a scene from the 1989 production of *A Murder is Announced* by Agatha Christie, which was directed by Lance Salway. From left to right the players are Meg Whittingdale, Lucy Garrett, Joy Saunders, Jennie Ward (now Harvey-Hull), Jill Hudson, Meg Hulme (seated) as Miss Marple, and Mandy Kippax. Meg W., Meg H., Joy and Jill are all members still, and Jennie, having just rejoined the Players this year, is playing Mrs Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*.

Upstage Left

As promised, here are some statistics from last summer's survey. Out of 93 adult members 34 replied, which is a revealing statistic in itself. Answers to the length of membership question showed a cluster of members who joined within the past three years, the remainder being spread out over quite a long period of time. Among the longest standing members who replied are Jack Dodge (49 years) Joan Miller (50 years) and Joy Saunders (53 years).

Not surprisingly a high proportion (24) of respondents are keen or willing actors. 9 are prepared to sing solo, 17 said they would like to sing in a chorus, and 7 are willing dancers.

10 are keen or willing to direct, 7 are prepared to be stage managers, and 9 would be happy to be assistant stage managers.

Lighting (4) had fewer willing people than sound (7), but 13 would be willing to assist with lighting and sound. Set design (5), set painting (11) organizing props (8), assisting with props (13) and setting up (11)

all seem to be covered, although no one actually said they were *keen* to paint scenery or organize props.

Publicity (9) and Front of House Management (6), similarly had willing rather than keen members, but a gratifying 18 respondents were willing to assist with front of house work.

We have just a few members willing to do make-up (5) and hair-styling (3). 8 members said that they would be willing to help with costumes, but sadly only one member placed a tick against 'wardrobe'-- and as the young man who did so is still at school, it seems unlikely that he will have the time!

Club evenings seem to be popular. 4 people said that they did not enjoy quizzes, 2 don't like 'Give us a Clue' and 2 dislike workshops. Otherwise everyone claimed to enjoy most things, with the 'always enjoy' column being ticked by at least 40% of respondents in each case. This, of course, begs the question of why attendances are sometimes so low.

As before, I shall be happy to receive any more survey forms, should anyone else care to fill one in.

M.L.

additional material will always be welcome. The next step is to cast some of them and begin putting a programme together. With this in mind the next meeting of the Entertainment Group will be held in the clubroom on Wednesday 18th October, when members will have the opportunity of auditioning for parts. Rehearsals will probably begin that evening as well. Please do come along and join in. Our major productions can only provide parts for a limited number of people, so this is a chance for those who would like to act but do not often get the opportunity. If plenty of people are involved, the task should not be too onerous for anyone. We hope to add songs to the repertoire at a later stage, when Deirdre Stewart has more time available.

Before we get to the production week of 'She Stoops' there are four more club evenings organised. **Janet Vincent** is arranging an unrehearsed playing reading of 'Dear Octopus' on Tuesday 3rd October-- another chance for everyone to have a go at reading a part. We hope that Friday 13th won't be too unlucky for **Jill Hudson** and **Jakki Gregory**, or at least that it really will be 'All Right on the Night'.

On Tuesday 24th October we are to be entertained in the Powell Theatre by **Jane Tapley**, from the Theatre Royal Bath, with a talk on the history of theatre from Greek and Roman times to the present day entitled 'All the World's a Stage'. **Please make a note of this important event.** There will be an admission charge of £1.00 to paid-up APS members (£2.00 to non-members--another incentive to pay your subs soon!), in order to defray the not inconsiderable costs. Tickets are available from Forget-Me-Not (the card shop near Somerfields) or from Margaret and Tony Field. Posters have gone up, some schools and other local drama groups have been notified and we hope to attract a good audience for what promises to be an interesting and

Backstage chat

As yet nobody has written, although several of you have been kind enough to say that you like the new Newsletter, for which many thanks. Anyway, the space is still here for your comments, grumbles or words of wisdom. Do write. Last copy date for the December Newsletter is November 30th.

Prompt Corner

Tuesday 3rd October

An unrehearsed play reading presented by Janet Vincent

Friday 13th October

Even with Jill and Jakki

It'll be All Right on the Night

Wednesday 18th October

ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

Auditions and first rehearsals

Tuesday 24th October

'All The World's a Stage' with Jane

Tapley in the Powell Theatre, 7.30 p.m.

Friday 10th November

An evening of song and....

with Deirdre Stewart at the piano

Thursday 30th Nov. - Saturday 2 Dec

Performances of *She Stoops to Conquer*

Thursday 7th December

An unrehearsed play reading presented

Jessica Colson

Members 1995-6

(30th September 1995)

Life Members

Queenie Coles
Jack Dodge
Mrs Jack Dodge
Meg Hulme
Margery Morgan
Gerald Pitman
Joy Saunders
Yolande Taylor

Ordinary Members

Graham Baker
Marie le Billon
David Bowen
Ann Brooks
Charles Collis
Isobel Collis
Jessica Colson
Andrew Cross
Tony Field
Margaret Field
Ann Gower
Jakki Gregory
Tony Gregory
Jean Harrap
Patricia Harris
Jennie Harvey-Hull
Jill Hudson
Louise Lambert
Madeline Lambert
Mark Lambert
Tamsin Lambert

Fizz Lewis
Geoff Lewis
Daisy Mangnall
Gill Manns
Tony Manns
Kathy Messinger
Kieran Millar
Joan Miller
Jane Minett
Dod Pearson
Michael Quinn
Gwyneth Schofield
Jim Schofield
Jill Service
Bob Service
David Smith
Sylvia Smith
Eve Snell
Joan Snelling
Anthony Stephens
Mytyl Stephens
Deirdre Stewart
Patricia Stewart
Hrolf Trump
Iris Trump
Jack Tucker
Vivian Vale
Janet Vincent
Anthea Watson
Meg Whittingdale
Linda Woods
Michael Woods

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

Cast (in order of appearance)

Mrs Hardcastle	JENNIE HARVEY-HULL
Mr Hardcastle	GRAHAM BAKER
Tony Lumpkin	SIMON MANATON
Kate Hardcastle	KATHY MESSINGER
Constance Neville	PATRICIA STEWART
Stingo, the landlord	JOHN BOWLES
Marlow	ANDREW CROSS
Hastings	KIERAN MILLAR
Marlow/Diggory	MARK LAMBERT
Fellow/Roger	DAVID BOWEN
Fellow/servant	ALAN CLIFFORD
Pimple, a maid	ANTHEA WATSON
Jeremy, a servant	JACK TUCKER
Sir Charles Marlow	GERALD PITMAN

Stage Manager
Front of House Manager
Business Manager

Mark Lambert
Tony Gregory
Tony Field

entertaining evening. Please come; it really is important that APS members support the evening, as it is quite a feather in our cap to have booked Jane Tapley and it will, frankly, be something of a disaster if there is only a small audience. If you are involved with a school in any way, please make this event known to the teachers and pupils. The schools we have already contacted have shown considerable interest.

Then on Friday 10th November **Deirdre Stewart** is due to lead us at the piano for an evening of song and...who knows there may even be a sketch or two ready to be performed. Soon after 'She Stoops', on December 7th, there will be another unrehearsed play reading, this time arranged by **Jessica Colson**.

Please do pay your subscriptions soon. Even if you are not involved in a production and do not wish to come to any of the evenings, remaining a member is a way of showing your continued support for APS. Subscriptions are important as they help to pay the fixed running costs, such as insurance and the clubroom electricity bill.

Mailing list

The mailing list invariably needs updating. We need to avoid sending material to people who have moved away and particularly to those who have died, as this can cause distress. We appreciate that it may be difficult to remember the names of people you suggested some time ago, but please let us know as soon as possible of any changes of names and/or addresses you are aware of or even of those you are not sure about.

WHAT'S ON

OCTAGON THEATRE

Monday 2nd -Saturday 7th October
Nightly 7.30 p.m. Sat 2.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society
present Bizet's **Carmen**.

THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE

Saturday 7th October, 7.30 p.m.
Rohan McCullough in Vera Brittain's
Testament of Youth. A solo performance of
Vera Brittain's autobiography centred on the First
World War. An Artsreach production.

DORCHESTER ARTS CENTRE

Friday 20th October 8.00 p.m.
Ridiculusmus with **At Swim Two Birds** by
Flann O'Brian. Anyone who saw 'The Third Po-
liceman' and 'Three men in a Boat' will want to
see this Artsreach production.

OCTAGON THEATRE

Tuesday 31st Oct.-Saturday 4th Nov.
Nightly 7.30 p.m. Sat 2.30 & 7.30 p.m.
The Exorcism. A ghost story by Don Taylor.

OCTAGON THEATRE

Tuesday 7th -Saturday 11th November
Nightly 7.30 p.m. Sat 2.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Annie.

OCTAGON THEATRE

Tuesday 14th -Saturday 18th November
Nightly 7.30 p.m. Sat 2.30 & 7.30 p.m.
A Bedfull of Foreigners. "Dave Freeman's hi-
larious West End Hit".

STURMINSTER NEWTON HALL

Thursday 17th November, 7.30 p.m.
Quondam Theatre Company
in **Act of Faith** by David Naphthine
An Artsreach production

CLAYSMORE THEATRE

IWERNE MINSTER
Saturday 18th November, 7.30 p.m.
Public Parts Theatre Company
will perform **Red Dust and Blue Dreams**.
An IMPACT/Artsreach production.

THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE

Friday 24th November, 7.30
Hijinx Theatre in **The King of Prussia**, a play by
Nick Dark that deals with Cornish Smuggling in
the 18th Century. Another Artsreach production.

Artsreach is a charity based at the Dorchester Arts Cen-
tre, whose purpose is to enrich the quality of life of peo-
ple living in rural Dorset by providing both outlets for
and access to the arts.