



NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2000



As this season's autumn production draws near, it is time to bring you up to date with events.



Events review

APS modern has got off to a very reasonable start; the last two meetings have attracted a dozen or so members on each occasion. We now meet on Monday nights upstairs at The Swan Inn, Sherborne and the evenings are very varied and always convivial. Anyone who wishes to can drop in at any time. Jason Hepple plans to cast *Lost and Found* on Monday 20th November.

This year's ACT IV US evening was not a success. Last year there was little response to advertising and those who came had mostly been brought along by existing members. This year the turnout was very disappointing and the event is unlikely to be repeated next year.

The **Chairman's Opening Night**, on the other hand, was great fun. Six couples—Steve and Sandie Evans; Mark and Mally Lambert; Tony and Mytyl Stephens; David and Sylvia Smith; Jason Hepple and his violin; and Tony and Gill Manns—entertained with a varied range of pieces. A substantial buffet of 'nibbles' was provided and a good time was had by those who came.

Face the Music was also a great success. Fred Collier and Kevin Beer battled manfully picking up a number of points on the Rock Music round and ending with a score only marginally behind that of the opposing team of Tony Stephens and Peter Thomas, who once again astounded everyone with his encyclopaedic knowledge of music.

The evening was well attended and the atmosphere was very lively. During the audience participation round of classical TV advert music, the host, Jason Hepple, had to exercise some degree of control. Yours truly, aided by a computer and minidisc recorder, provided the sound 'bites'.

Those of you who were able to tune in to Mirage FM on 28th October will have heard The Players first attempt at a radio play. Jennie Ward, Tony Birks-Hay and Eve Snell performed *The Big Cats* by Alec Baron. The play was recorded by yours truly here at Ridge Farm, and Jason Hepple directed. Rehearsal and recording took just 3½ hours and the result, we think, was quite impressive. Reception was unfortunately not very good in

places—as far as I can gather it was better out here than in some parts of Sherborne!—but bear in mind that Mirage FM have only a relatively weak transmitter until and if they get a full time licence in late 2002. The adverts were also a bit intrusive, but this is one of the things one has to put up with when listening to commercial radio.

All in all it seems to have been a successful enterprise. For those of you who could not listen for one reason or another, I can lend you a tape of the recording. Alternatively, if there is sufficient demand, I could arrange for the recording to be played one evening at The Crown.

Forthcoming attractions

Next Tuesday (7th November) Steve Evans, together with Mark Freestone and Tamsin Lambert will present a rehearsed reading of David Mamet's *Speed-The-Plow*. I happen to know that a considerable amount of work has gone into this evening so it should be well worth coming to. I must remind you, however, that this play contains a fair amount of strong language. Anyone likely to be offended by this should, perhaps, think twice before coming.

At the end of November is the Autumn production *Country Life*, which is to be performed in the round. This play is being much rehearsed and promises to be very good indeed. Tickets (adults £6.00, students £3.00) can be obtained from Sherborne Photographic, on the door, or from the Production Manager—me again!

Setting up starts at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday 25th November. Despite the fact that there is no set, there is in fact a great deal to do. We have to collect some 35 pallets from Hunts Frozen Foods, boards and backing flats from the Castle, and turn these into seating rostra. A large team is required for this, added to which Adrian Hole would like a considerable amount of help setting up the lights. Volunteers *please* telephone me (01258 817270). The more people we have, the easier the task will be.

A few days after this, on December 5th and 6th, Jennie Ward is holding **auditions** for the spring production, *Arms and The Man*. As always, if you cannot attend, but would like to be considered for a part, telephone Jennie on 01935 817567. Dramatis personae are shown in the panel overleaf.

The **Christmas Party** will take place on

Prompt Corner

Tuesday 7th November
Speed The Plow by David Mamet
A rehearsed play reading.
Presented by Steve Evans
The Crown Inn, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 25th Nov
Setting up for Country Life
Digby Hall 9.00 a.m.

Mon 27th -Wed 29th November
Technical and Dress Rehearsals

Thur 30th Nov - Sat 2nd Dec
Performances of Country Life

Sunday 3rd Dec
Strike Country Life

Tue 5th and Wed 6th December
Auditions for Arms and The Man
Director: Jennie Ward
The Crown Inn, 7.30 p.m.

Fri 15th December
Christmas Party
Entertainment arranged by Jo Freestone
Food (£2.50 per head) by Jessica Colson
Silver Birches, The Avenue, Sherborne

Tue 9th January
Give Us a Clue
Devised by Peter Thomas
and Madeline Lambert
The Crown Inn, 7.30 p.m.

Wed 17th January
Auditions for Hamlet
Director Mark Freestone
Cheap St Church Hall

Friday 15th December at Silver Birches once again, by kind permission of our hosts Patricia and Ian Stewart. Jo Freestone has promised to organise some entertainment and Jessica Colson will once again be providing some of her tasty food, at a cost of £2.50 per head. It would be a kindness if you could let me or Jessica know if you intend coming, as this will help her gauge the amount of food she has to prepare.

After Christmas, on Jan 9th, comes the annual **Give Us a Clue**, which this year will

Arms and The Man

by George Bernard Shaw

Cast list

- Catherine Petkoff** 42-45; handsome, imperiously energetic
- Raina Petkoff** 22 (looks younger); beautiful and idealistically romantic.
'intensely conscious of her own youth and beauty.'
- Louka** 18-22; the Petkoff's maid; handsome, proud, defiant—almost insolent
- Captain Bluntschli** 30s; a Swiss Officer; business-like and direct
'The Man' in Act 1 'The Chocolate Cream Soldier'
- A young Russian Officer** walk-on part in Act 1
- Nicola** middle-aged; the Petkoff's manservant; professionally servile, quiet, intelligent
- Major Petkoff** late 40s; unpolished, insignificant, cheerful, excitable
- Major Sergius Saranoff** late 20s; tall, romantically handsome, Byronic.
'Untamed mountain chieftan.'

The play is set in Bulgaria in 1885-86 and is described by the author as an anti-romantic comedy. Ages are flexible.

be devised by Peter Thomas and Mally Lambert. On Jan 17th Mark Freestone will hold auditions for *Hamlet*. More details about this in the next Newsletter in early January. The **Annual Dinner** is on January 26th. The venue has still not been decided, but the aim is to attract more than the usual 40 or so that The Crown can accommodate. To this end, black ties will not be de rigeur; we would like members to dress as they wish—informally but glamorously. Tony Birks-Hay is organising the evening and will be arranging for a guest speaker, who will be a well-known actor or actress. Details of venue and menu will appear in the January Newsletter, at which time the name of the guest speaker will, I hope, also be revealed.

Rosebowl Awards

Most of you already know the results of the Rosebowl Awards, but for those few who don't, I am delighted to be able to announce that Mark Freestone gained the award for Best Actor (Drama) for his portrayal of Septimus Hodge in *Arcadia*, and Robert Doling's design for *The Tempest* publicity won The Evening Post Award for Best Publicity Material. Neither of these awards was totally unexpected as they were both richly deserved. Congratulations to Mark and Robert.

Productions 2002

Continuing the current policy of forward planning, there will be a **meeting for potential directors** at the Crown Inn on Tuesday 20th February. Anyone who would like to suggest plays that they would like to direct is urged to attend. No decisions will be taken at this meeting, which is solely intended to give potential directors an opportunity to present their ideas and 'sell' their suggested plays to the committee.

If you would like to direct a play but cannot attend this meeting, do let us know, but it is better if you can attend in person and make a convincing case for the play or plays you have in mind. As a result of this meeting the committee will formulate a production plan for 2002.

Membership Subscriptions

Current paid-up members are listed above. If your name does not appear on this list, it is because we have no record of having received a subscription from you (our apologies in advance if we have made a mistake). For those who have not yet paid their subscriptions a reminder slip accompanies this Newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

APS Membership

1st November, 2000

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael Baatz | Gill Manns |
| Graham Baker | Tony Manns |
| Claire Baker | Joan Miller |
| Barbara Beak | Joy Parkinson |
| Adam Birks-Hay | Monica Parsons |
| Tony Birks-Hay | Dod Pearson |
| Jan Bridgman | Ann Russell |
| Daphne Clapperton | Jim Schofield |
| Charlotte Colson | David Smith |
| Jessica Colson | Sylvia Smith |
| Margaret Dixon | Eve Snell |
| Angela Englefield | Jonathan Stark |
| Steve Evans | Jane Stein |
| Sandie Evans | Anthony Stephens |
| Tony Field | Mytyl Stephens |
| Margaret Field | Patricia Stewart |
| Sue Francis | John Sutherland |
| Joan Freeland | Lucy Sutherland |
| Jo Freestone | John Sutherland-Smith |
| Pauline Gardner | Peter Thomas |
| Jean Harrap | Jack Tucker |
| Marilyn Hawkins | Vivian Vale |
| Peter Hawkins | Janet Vincent |
| Jason Hepple | Jennie Ward |
| Adrian Hole | Arthur Whittaker |
| Jill Hudson | Jean Whittaker |
| Lucy Kneller | |
| Patrick Knox | |
| Madeline Lambert | Life members |
| Mark Lambert | Jack Dodge |
| Tamsin Lambert | Meg Hulme |
| Geoff Lewis | Mary Micklewright |
| Elsie Lombard | Gerald Pitman |
| Stuart McCreadie | Pam Richardson |
| Amanda McEvoy | Joy Saunders |
| Ian McEvoy | Hrolf Trump |
| Daisy Mangnall | Meg Whittingdale |

Lost Property

The following unclaimed items were left on site after *As You Like It*:

A fringed blue and cream throw—cheek design with fishes and shells.

A silver-coloured plastic wine cooler.

A black scarf.

A pair of legs from a small table or stool.

Claimants please apply to
Mark Lambert (01258 817270)

LOST AND FOUND

Dramatis personae

- Peter Clare** 20s; a freelance proof-reader
- Sean Banks** 20s; a London bus driver
- Richard Lawson** 30s; a sales executive
- Lynette Lawson** 30s; his wife
- Tracey Everson** her friend and neighbour
- Vera Glass** 40s-50s; a lecturer in social policy

Susan Goring 20s; a PhD student

Catherine (Kitty) Carr 40s; a woman of leisure

George Carr 40s; a stockbroker

Mrs Dalrymple 60s; their cleaner

Court usher

Dean 20s; take-away counter assistant

Canford Rogers 50s; a psychotherapist

Director: Jason Hepple (01935 817956)

Auditions at the APS modern meeting on Monday 20th Nov,
The Swan Inn, Sherborne