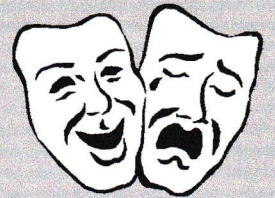




# NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2003



We had a few problems at the start of this season, resulting in not one but two changes of autumn production. However, I'm happy to report that we are back on course now, thanks in no small measure to our Chairman, Jennie Ward.



## Recent events

The opening night in September was as usual fairly well attended. Some 45 members enjoyed a sumptuous meal, provided by Jakki Gregory and Jill Hudson, and a lively entertainment, based on her life in the theatre, provided by Jennie Ward.

Chinese Whispers, hosted by Ed Oaksford later that month, turned out to be a team game

of charades with each member of the team having to 'pass on' to the next member a mime that they had watched someone else perform, whether or not they actually understood what it was about. Great fun, especially when things go seriously pear-shaped. About 14 members enjoyed themselves a great deal.

Jennie Ward's play reading of *Nude with Violin* was well-attended. It does seem that play-readings are popular, particularly those that provide a preview of forthcoming productions.

On the other hand, Your Choice, the evening of DIY poetry and prose organised by Margaret Dixon, was very poorly attended. As recently as the mid-90s there would have been 20-30 members at such an evening, but on this occasion there were just six. Clearly, times are changing

The poor attendance may have been partly due to some confusion over dates. The September Newsletter is, of necessity, always published before the programme has been finalised and unfortunately this time certain events had to be altered after the Newsletter was published. But these changes were promulgated as widely as possible by word-of-mouth, telephone and e-mail and the correct dates do appear in the membership card. If you were caught out I apologise.

## Autumn Production

As most of you probably now know the autumn production is *The Old Country* by Alan Bennett, the two previous choices of play, *Hedda Gabler* and *The Anastasia File*, having proved too difficult to cast. Jennie Ward stepped into the breach with this play at the last moment. By this time there really wasn't time to announce and hold auditions, so Jennie relied largely on those who had shown interest in the previous plays. Rehearsals started as soon as Jennie had finished her play at the boy's school—and of course she will go on to direct the spring production as well! We are fortunate in having a director with this prodigious amount of energy, so do please give her plenty of support throughout.

A cast list of *The Old Country* is shown overleaf. Publicity and ticket sales are under way and production week starts on Sat 22nd December at 9.00 am at The Digby Hall. By the time you receive this Newsletter, production week will probably be under way,

## Prompt Corner

All events at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom unless otherwise indicated

Saturday 22nd November  
**'Move in' day for Autumn production**  
Digby Hall, start about 9.00 am

Sunday 23rd - Wednesday 26th November  
**Set building, tech and dress rehearsals**

Thursday 27th - Saturday 29th November  
**Autumn Production, *The Old Country***  
Directed by Jennie Ward  
Performances, 7.30 pm Digby Hall

Sun 30th November  
**'Move out' morning** from The Digby Hall  
Any help offered will be gratefully received.

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th December  
**Auditions for 'Nude with Violin'**  
Directed by Jennie Ward

Friday 19th December  
**Christmas Party**  
Entertainment by Chris Jessiman

Tuesday 6th January  
**Music Quiz**  
Devised and hosted  
by Joan and Maurice Freeland

Monday 19th January  
**Auditions for *Macbeth***  
Directed by Jason Hepple

Friday 13th February  
**Annual Dinner**  
The Antelope, Greenhill, Sherborne

but help during setting up and dismantling (Sun 30th Nov) will be much appreciated.

## Spring Production

**Auditions** for the spring production, *Nude With Violin*, written by Noel Coward and directed by Jennie Ward, will be held in the clubroom on **Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December**. Details overleaf.

## Other Forthcoming Events

**The Christmas Party** will be in the clubroom on **Friday 19th December**. Chris Jessiman is organising an entertainment, which from past experience of his evenings I thoroughly recommend. A two-course meal will be provided by Jakki Gregory and Mally

## Membership November 2003

Des Armour	Jean Pearson
Michael Baatz	Philip Rogerson
Barbara Beak	Ann Russell
Adam Birks-Hay	Jill Service
Tony Birks-Hay	Wendy Simmonds
Vikki Brown	David Smith
Daphne Clapperton	Sylvia Smith
Victor Clark	Anthony Stephens
Margaret Dixon	Mytyl Stephens
Carolyn Fausset	Fiona Stewart
Ray Field	Patricia Stewart
Margaret Field	Barbora Stiess
Suzanne Ford	Adrian Thorpe
Joan Freeland	Pauline Tillett
Maurice Freeland	Vivian Vale
Pauline Gardner	Janet Vincent
Jakki Gregory	Jennie Ward
Freda Hance	Anthea Watson
Patricia Harris	David Winks

### Life Members

Jill Hudson	Jack Dodge
David King	Jean Harrap
Anne Knox	Meg Hulme
Patrick Knox	Daisy Mangnall
Madeline Lambert	Joan Miller
Mark Lambert	Dod Pearson
Tamsin Lambert	Pam Richardson
Elsie Lombard	Bob Service
Gill Manns	Eve Simmonds
Tony Manns	Hrolf Trump
Colin Mayes	Meg Whittingdale
Ed Oaksford	

### Honorary Members

Joy Parkinson	Adrian Hole
Monica Parsons	Andrew Hodder Smith
George Pearson	

## The Old Country

Hilary	David Smith
Bron	Anthea Watson
Eric	Jason Hepple
Olga	Barbora Stiess
Duff	Adrian Thorpe
Veronica	Wendy Simmonds
Directed by Jennie Ward	
Stage Manager: Colin Mayes	
Business Manager: Michael Baatz	

Lambert at a cost of £3.50 per person. We know that this is an increase on last year's charge, but where else could you get a good meal for that price! Please bring your own plates (2) and cutlery. As always spouses and other family members are welcome, as are potential new APS members.

After Christmas, there will be a **Music Quiz**, devised and hosted by Joan and Maurice Freeland, on **Monday 9th January**.

**Auditions** for the summer production of *Macbeth*, directed by Jason Hepple will be held on **Monday 19th January**. Details are shown on this page.

On **Friday 13th February** the **Annual Dinner** will be held at The Antelope in Sherborne. Details of menu etc will appear in the next Newsletter.

### Membership

This year's appeal to you all to be prompt in paying your subs was, I'm sorry to say, not heeded by everyone. Of the 116 members on my current list only 67 appear on the list of paid-up members on the previous page

If your name is not on this list, this means that I have no record of a subscription having been received from you. If for any reason you think I have made a mistake, please let me know.

If you haven't yet paid your membership sub but still intend to rejoin this season please send your sub to me (Ridge Farm, King's Stag, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2AU) as soon as possible. If I don't hear from you by December 1st, I'm afraid I shall have to assume that you are not rejoining. ML

## Congratulations Eve

Those of you who have studied the membership list overleaf carefully will have noticed that a new name has appeared in the list of Life Members. This is not a mistake. Earlier this year Eve Snell sneaked off and quietly got married to a long-standing friend, Graham Simmonds. Delightful news and we wish them both every happiness. ML

## Nude with Violin

by Noel Coward

To be directed by Jennie Ward at the Digby Hall, 18th-20th March, 2004

Auditions will be held in the clubroom on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December. A synopsis and a list of characters is shown below. If you would like to audition but cannot make either of the above dates, contact Jennie on 01935 817567.

The brilliant modern painter Paul Sorodin has just died in Paris. Indecently soon his estranged, bereaved family and business manager come over from England for the funeral etc—grief not entirely untinged with greed—and await the reading of the will. This is the propitious moment for Sébastien, valet and companion extraordinaire to Sorodin, to tell the 'mourners' that Paul Sorodin was not all that he seemed – he has never painted in his life! It transpires that he had four 'periods' in his so-called artistic life: 1. the Russian period, 2. the Jamaican period, 3. the blousy period, and 4. ....?!

**Sébastien Lacréole**: about 52; cosmopolitan, basically French but speaks other languages too—German, Russian, Chinese etc—on the phone, and perfect English.

**Marie-Celeste**: the 'bonne' (maid); any age; speaks only French; a small rôle.

**Clinton Preminger Junior**: late 20s/early 30s; US art critic—writes for 'Life' magazine; very energetic.

**Isobel Sorodin**: early 50s; artist's widow; upper-middle-class English; vague as they come!

**Colin**: 30s; Isobel's son; army major; pompous and rather boring.

**Pamela**: 30s; Colin's wife; prim and also rather boring.

**Jane**: 30s; Colin's sister; has definite style and sense of humour.

**Jacob Friedland**: 50-70; well-known British art dealer; very pleased with himself; always in the right!

**Anya Pavlikov**: about 50; eccentric Russian Princess; volatile

**Cherry-May Waterton**: 40s; blousy, cheerful, middle-aged, American blonde

**Fabrice**: 20s/30s; her excessively handsome toy-boy; silent

**Obadiah Lewellyn**: Black; respectably dressed; silent but sings (the singing is offstage and could be someone else); a very small rôle

**George**: US press photographer; another very small rôle

**Stotesbury Lauderdale**: 14; Sébastien's son; also volatile; small rôle but chatty last three pages

## Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

To be directed by Jason Hepple at an outdoor venue, 2nd-7th August, 2004

Auditions will be held in the clubroom on Monday 19th January, 7.30 pm. If you would like to audition but cannot make the above date, contact Jason on 01935 817956.

Summer Shakespeare productions often create rehearsal and casting problems. Aware of this, Jason intends to cast *Macbeth* using a small core of about 8 main actors (say, 4 men and 4 women), with a lot of doubling of minor parts. To make things easier he will also be cutting some of the less interesting sections of the play. Who plays which rôles will depend largely on who auditions, but Jason intends to be very flexible regarding age for all the parts.

So required for the auditions in January are people prepared to play more than one significant speaking rôle. However, other APS members will be able to join the cast as 'extras' nearer the time of production, and if you would like to take part as an 'extra' (in some cases there may be the odd line to say), please let Jason know that you are interested sometime in the spring.

Jason plans that the main rehearsals will take the form of two or three intensive weekend sessions, that will include a Friday evening, all day Saturday (with a social break—a meal, perhaps—in the evening) and all day Sunday, finishing late afternoon. The dates of these rehearsal weekends will be decided after the auditions, but attendance will be compulsory. There will probably also be one regular weekday evening rehearsal.

The venue for this production has not yet been fixed but the Production Manager is currently negotiating with English Heritage to stage the play at Sherborne Old Castle.