



NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2004



Is it my imagination or does Christmas come round faster every year? I have been told that this is linked to the curious facts that doctors are getting younger and newspaper print is getting smaller, but I can't for the life me see the connection! Whatever the case, now that the festivities are over we can look forward to the rest of 2004, which I trust will proceed at a more moderate speed.



Autumn Production

Alan Bennett doesn't give much away does he? You had to follow the dialogue of *The Old Country* very carefully in order to understand what was going on and there were some members of the audience who went away a little puzzled. Even so, Jennie Ward's inspired choice of this play drew very respectable audiences, totalling about 350, who all appeared to enjoy it. And as costs were relatively low we made an excellent overall profit of around £500.

Congratulations to all concerned, particularly the cast, who had such long and difficult speeches to learn.

Recent Events

The Christmas Party was much enjoyed by all who came—about 45-50 of you. Jakki Gregory and Mally Lambert put on an excellent spread and this was followed by Chris Jessiman's specially written pantomime, entitled *Long John Alladin and the Forty Babes in the Wood*, or *Peter Pan or Sherwood on Treasure Island*, or what you will really. Complete with a politically correct Dame, a Long John Silver with a miraculously cured leg, a character called Alla Din (geddit?) a Cinderella who deliberately wandered off-script, not to mention the Flag Song, this was enjoyed equally by performers and audience. Our thanks to Chris for a lot of very hard work.

On Twelfth Night Maurice and Joan Freeland hosted a most enjoyable music quiz, with Joan on the piano and Maurice acting as compère. About 20 members made up four teams, all of whom scored highly. This may have been due in part to the fact that cheating was allowed (the alternative title for Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* is, after all, "What you Will"), but in the end cheating was

not really necessary as the quiz was intentionally not too highbrow.

Forthcoming events

As announced in the last Newsletter auditions for the Summer Shakespeare play, *Macbeth*, will be held in the clubroom on Monday 19th January at 7.30. Details are as stated previously, but if you have mislaid your Newsletter (one or two were left behind in the Digby Hall!) let me know.

There is an update on the venue. English Heritage turned down the idea of us staging the play at the Old Castle, on the grounds that we would be on site for too long. No other suitable outdoor site has come to mind, so we propose now to stage *Macbeth* indoors, in the Powell Theatre. The Production Manager is currently negotiating for the use of this venue.

The **Annual Dinner** is being held at **The Antelope Inn on Friday 13th February**. The menu is shown overleaf and a booking form is enclosed. Please book as soon as possible and in any case no later than **31st January**.

Up to this point Margaret Dixon has made all the dinner arrangements, for which the Committee proffer grateful thanks. However, Margaret has now decided to retire from the Committee for health reasons. We do wish her luck and a speedy return to full health. In her place Barbora Stiehs has volunteered to coordinate the bookings, a task in which she will be aided by Jennie Ward.

On **Monday 1st March** Joy Parkinson will host an **unrehearsed play reading**. As always the choice of play will remain unknown until the night, but these evenings are nearly always well-attended as they provide an opportunity for everyone to read and perhaps to discover a new play.

This is a good moment to remind you all of the **Director's Meeting on Monday 29th March**. Anyone who would like to direct a play for APS in 2005 is welcome to attend and present their ideas to the Committee. Last season there were only three directors present and we do hope to see more this year. So please do start thinking about this now.

We will be looking for plays to stage in the spring and autumn of 2005, as at present there are no plans to stage a summer production. This is partly because of a Committee decision in early 2003 to try and stage summer productions every two years

Prompt Corner

All events at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom unless otherwise indicated

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

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

Monday 1st March
An unrehearsed play reading
Arranged by Joy Parkinson

Saturday 14th March
Move in day for Spring production
Digby Hall, start about 9.00 am

Thursday 18th - Saturday 20th March
Spring Production, *Nude With Violin*
Directed by Jennie Ward
Performances, 7.30 pm Digby Hall.

Monday 29th March
Directors' Meeting
Anyone who is considering directing a play for the year 2005 is invited to present their ideas to the Committee.

rather than every year, and partly because we are aware that Margaret Field will be staging a Churches Festival production, with which APS members may wish to be involved.

Spring Production

Rehearsal for Noel Coward's *Nude with Violin* are under way. The majority of the roles have been cast, although there are still one or two 'vacancies'. A cast list is shown overleaf. Jim Schofield is constructing the boxed set and will welcome any offers of help (01935 812051).

New Committee Members

Sadly Patrick Knox has had to step down from the Committee due to pressure of other commitments. And, as indicated above, Margaret Dixon has also resigned.

Fortunately, the Constitution empowers the Committee to co-opt new members when necessary, and Patrick's place has been taken by Barbora Stiehs. David King, who joined The Players only very recently, has joined the Committee to replace Margaret.