

# APS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2006

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have said farewell to our newest Life Member, Vivian Vale, whose funeral was earlier this week. It is somewhat ironic that as a society we had decided to confer life membership upon Vivian, who gave so much during his time with the APS, yet who was unable to reap the benefits of his new status. We will all have our own fond memories of Vivian as an actor and director, whose erudition and gentle ways will be sadly missed.

## **Dates for your diary: All meetings are at 7.30pm in the Clubroom**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April:** The Humour of Pinter (acted out) organized by Maurice Freeland

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May:** Directors' Meeting

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May:** Film Quiz organized by Ed Oaksford

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June:** Unrehearsed Play Reading organized by Charles Napier

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June:** Auditions for the Autumn Production (see details below)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July Annual General Meeting: venue still to be decided.** Please note that this is an important meeting, especially if you wish to have a say in the way your society is run. In previous years the attendance has been a little low, so perhaps this year we can make a special effort to attend. There are several vacancies for members of the committee and all members of the society have the right to propose candidates for election. Nomination papers will be sent out with the formal notification of the AGM.

**'Confusions'** by Alan Ayckbourn was a very successful Spring Production and our thanks go to all those who were involved to make it such a success. The play was well received by large audiences on each night as well as by the Rose Bowl Adjudicator. The play was aptly titled and certainly there were numerous confusions during the run that added to the enjoyment of all concerned (I think!).

**The Autumn production** will no longer be 'Our Country's Good' as sadly Melissa Jones is leaving the district in August; however, Gill Manns ably assisted by Jakki Gregory (or so we are led to believe!) will be putting on 'Off the Hook' - a Farce - by Derek Benfield. The cast is made up of:

5 Men between the ages of 30 - 75

5 women between the ages of 30 - 70

This play holds quite a few cameo parts and auditions will be held as previously advertised. There may be a read through in May but details of any such proposal will be communicated to the membership separately – keep watching the spaces!

Information about the proposed film of 'The Woodlanders', a separate project organized and run by Jim Schofield, with the support of APS, follows below.

**AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE.**

From your chairman, Jakki Gregory

April 2006,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting project proposed by some of our Members which you may like to support and take part in.

With the development of digital camcorders and computer editing systems it is now possible for amateurs to produce films to DVD and TV quality. Your Committee has therefore been asked to support a project to produce a film of Thomas Hardy's *The Woodlanders* during the summer.

In order for the Committee to determine whether such a production is feasible and to gauge the support of the Members I should be grateful if you could complete the attached form and return it to Sarah Finnegan or by email to Jim S

*The Woodlanders* has been chosen because it is set in and around Sherborne, is of local interest and would allow the use of authentic location for many of the scenes. Copyright lasts for 70 years from the date of the author's death. As Thomas Hardy died in 1928, there are no longer any copyright restrictions on *The Woodlanders*, allowing us to use the result in any way that your Committee decides.

The Players very successfully performed *The Woodlanders* about 20 years ago in the Digby Hall. The stage adaptation from the book was made by local author and APS member Lance Salway who is prepared to help with this production too.

Responsible for the production would be a Director, who would direct the scenes and actors and be responsible for the artistic side of the production, and a Producer, who would be responsible for the organisation. Jim Schofield, who originally proposed the project and whom you will know from his excellent set design and construction of our recent productions, will be the Producer. The choice of Director will depend on the interest expressed by you, our Members.

It is intended to undertake screen tests and auditions shortly, and the main filming during July and August. If you express an interest and return the attached form you will be contacted in good time. Modern digital filming techniques will mean that, unlike a stage production, scenes can be shot by small teams working and experimenting together. If something works, the learn but it should be interesting and enjoyable.

**AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE.**

Very interested  
I am Interested in being involved in filming The Woodlanders.  
Not interested

**as an actor / actress :-**

Grace Melbury - Young Lady                      Dr Fitzpiers - Young Gentleman  
Marty South - Working class Girl.                      Giles Winterbourne - Working man  
Frelice Charmond, - High Class lady.  
George Melbury – Grace’s father Woodmill owner.  
Mrs Melbury – Grace’s mother                      Grammer Oliver – Elderly woman family retainer  
Labourers: Robert Creedle - Timothy Tange  
Sake Damson - Loose young woman                      John Upjohn.  
Mr South, Old man  
Villagers, traders Musicians. horse riders etc etc.

**As part of the production team :-**

Director	Producer	Musical Director
Costumes,	Props	Make-up
Camera,	Sound	Set staff
Continuity	Script writer	Lighting
Unit Directors	Teleprompter	Film editor
Designer	Dogsbody	

(It is hoped that the actors/actresses will also be involved as part of the production team and individuals will undertake more than one task.)

Name.....Telephone.....  
Address.....

Please specify preferences above and return to S. Finnegan, 8 South Street,  
Sherborne DT9 3LT  
e-mail to schofieldj @ hotmail.co.uk