



## Up front from your Chairman

Greetings, everybody, and welcome to the new season.

What a season it promises to be! With the first night of our November production falling on the exact date of the very first APS opening night 75 years ago, we hope to generate widespread publicity to make many more people aware of our existence and the pleasures that await if they attend our shows or join the Players. We have set up a sub-committee to brainstorm ideas to reach the parts as yet unreached, who would welcome any suggestions from you.

Choosing to repeat the very first play has made us look back over our history, and copies of Fred Alcock's book, 'AS IT WAS', have been dusted off and consulted. We also have high hopes of putting on a challenging and exciting play next March. With two significant productions and a full programme of events, this year should be memorable.

New season, new clubroom. Most of you know that meetings and rehearsals this year will be held at the Mermaid Hotel; it is good to be back in Sherborne. The facilities are spacious, with a bar downstairs. I look forward to seeing you there on Opening Night, 18<sup>th</sup> September.

## 'OPENING NIGHT'

Make a note in your diaries right now for **7.30 pm, Friday 18th September Upstairs at The Mermaid**. The occasion, the First Night of our 2009/10 programme of social club events and productions. All our members are invited to come upstairs at The Mermaid on Bristol Road, our very first home from way back in 1937.

As well as enjoying a wonderful get-together, you can pick up your membership card unveiling the complete programme of terrific social events and activities for the coming season. There will be a savoury finger buffet and a Grand Raffle with great star prizes to be won.

We'd really love to see you there.

## THE ROSE BOWL AWARDS ...and the nomination goes to...

Another season, another nomination, this time our set, designed by Charles, for 'When We Are Married' has been nominated for the Walter Hawkins Award for Creativity and Design at the Rose Bowl Awards Ceremony on Sunday 18 October at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare.

Being nominated doesn't - yet - mean it is in the bag. Final decisions on awards are announced, Oscar-style, at the Rose Bowl ceremony at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare on Sunday 18 October from 7 pm. Guest Presenter is Cameron Mackintosh, the successful theatrical producer. Tickets cost £25 per person, to include a Lucky Programme raffle and a hot supper. Dress Code described as 'Smart - Dress to Impress'.

Our nomination entitles us to priority booking. This advance period lasts the first two weeks of September - **till Sat 12th**. After that, non-priority booking continues until **8 pm Saturday 26th September**.

Anyone who wants to be there should let our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe, know on 01935 431321 **by Monday 21 September at the latest** and send him a cheque for £25 per person made out to him (c'mon, you can trust him) at The Cider House, Compton Park, Sherborne DT9 4QU. He will then put in a block booking. The tables are for ten and as long as we are not more than that we will be seated together. Any requests for bookings received by Adrian after 12 September will still be sent on to the organisers but with no guarantee of success or certainty of being seated with other APS members.

Well done, Charles and everyone involved! Let's see if we can send a good group of APS members to the Awards Ceremony.

## TONS OF MONEY - LATEST NEWS



The auditions are over and as you read this director Charles is busy mulling over casting for our 75th anniversary production. As soon as a cast list is available it will be posted on our website. Just google [thisisdorset.co.uk/aps](http://thisisdorset.co.uk/aps)

Meanwhile, join the nomination-winning set-building team. From mid-September on, if you can lend a couple of hours from 2.30 pm on a Saturday afternoon that would be great. **But, please, first contact Charles on 01935 812698**

## AN EVENING OF SONGS, POEMS AND PRATTLE

Kicking off our 2009/10 season of entertainments, Ruth Rice will be hosting **An Evening of Songs, Poems and Prattle** at 7.30 pm on Friday 9th October in our 'new' clubroom upstairs at The Mermaid. Bring along your singing voices.

## King Lear WORKSHOP

On **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** I am arranging a workshop on *King Lear*. I am holding open the **following evening, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>**, in case there are so many eager actors at APS that I am overwhelmed! Therefore, **it is essential that you contact me** to tell me you are coming and which evening you prefer. It will begin sharp at 8.00pm which means you need to be there for 7.45pm. There will be a (gentle) warm-up, followed by some voice and movement exercises, and then we will practice Shakespearean delivery using the sonnets, before we move onto the play itself. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing with flat shoes. I will provide all the texts needed, so all you have to do is bring your lovely selves!

**Please ring me, or e-mail me as far ahead as possible**, David Duff 01963 250358 or email me at: david@davpat.co.uk

## AGM GOES ALFRESCO

Bet you never thought you'd see a sight like this - especially during the so-called 'barbeque summer' we're enjoying! Our alfresco AGM, well attended by around half of our membership, enjoyed a rare rain-free evening. Ray Dinshaw provided musical accompaniment for the customary sing-song.

By the way, a bowl, a long handled spoon and a pen were left behind. Would the owner(s) please arrange with Jim Schofield (01935 812051) for their collection.



## LAST CHANCE FOR SEKOU KEITA QUINTET

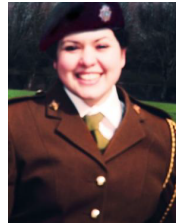
Here is a very special opportunity to enjoy one exclusive final Dorset concert by the Seckou Keita Quintet at **The Exchange, Sturminster Newton, at 7.30 pm on Thursday 24 September.**



West African musician Seckou Keita is a talented exponent of the kora, a west African harp-lute, both melodic and percussive. The Seckou Keita Quintet is not confined to any one genre, dipping comfortably in and out of jazz, classical music, Flamenco, with sometimes hints of rock and reggae. A very audience friendly event and infectious live experience. Tickets £10, under 18s £7.50. Call: 01258 475137 for bookings.

## DEEP CUT AT BREWHOUSE

18 year old Private Cheryl James from Llangollen was one of four young soldiers who died from gunshot wounds at Deepcut Barracks between 1995 and 2002. Cheryl's parents wanted answers from the people responsible for their daughter's care. But how do you begin to grieve when no-one seems to have a proper explanation? What would give you the determination to continue asking awkward, demanding questions? Taken from original source material and powerful first hand testimonies, the multi award-winning **Deep Cut** is a bold and compelling account of one family's journey through a time they thought they'd never experience.



## A WALK WITH THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN

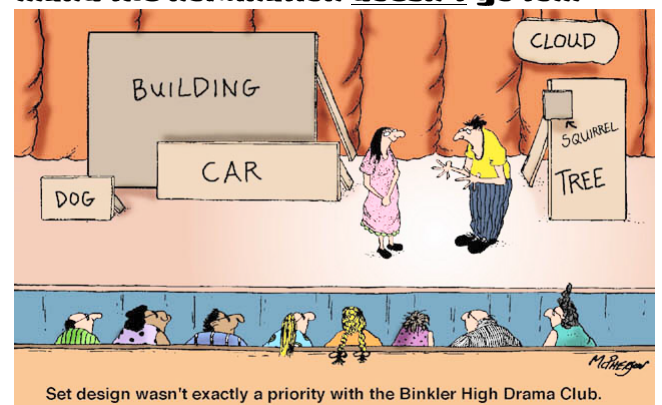
Lyme Regis will be forever imprinted in the minds through the work of the novelist John Fowles.



Explore the landscapes that inspired the French Lieutenant's Woman, enjoying extracts from the novel and Fowles' diaries. The walk, on Saturday 26th September, will last approximately one hour. Meet at Regent Cinema, Broad Street 2:30pm. Cost: adults £2.50, children free. Also on Sunday 4th October.

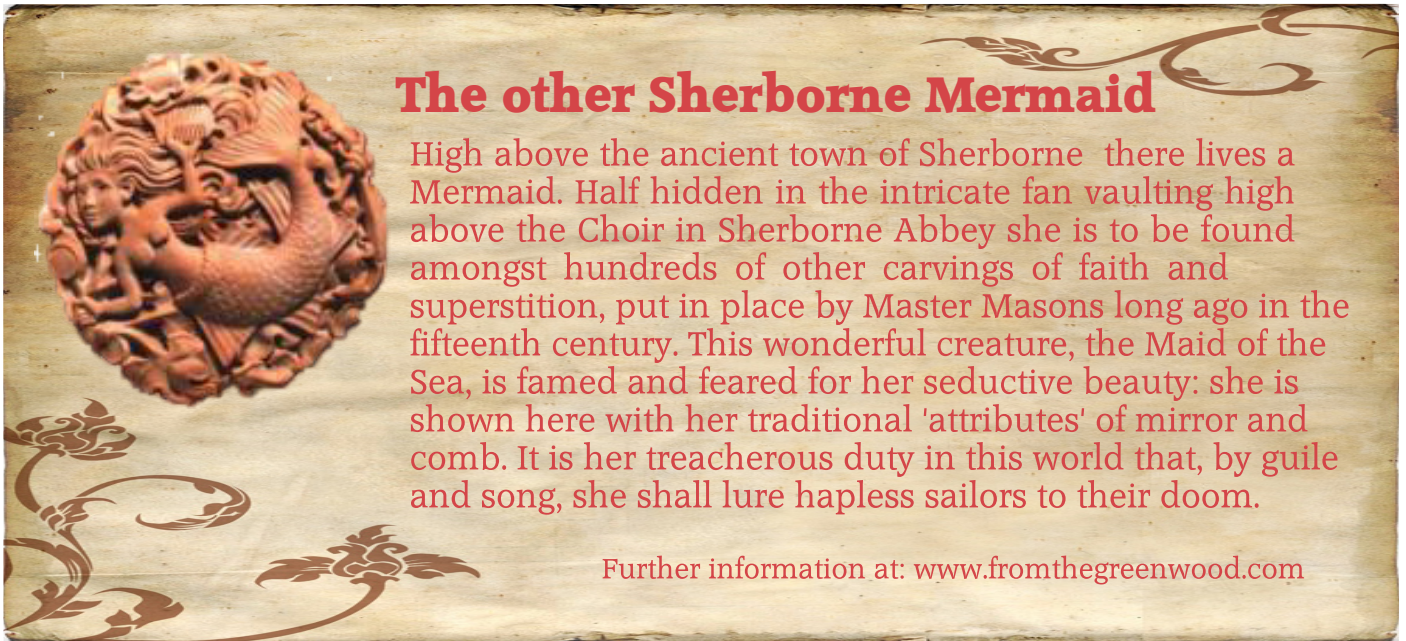
Advance booking not essential, but to book or for further info contact Natalie on 07763 974569 or at natalie.manifold@hotmail.co.uk.

## ...and the nomination doesn't go to...



Set design wasn't exactly a priority with the Binkler High Drama Club.





## The other Sherborne Mermaid

High above the ancient town of Sherborne there lives a Mermaid. Half hidden in the intricate fan vaulting high above the Choir in Sherborne Abbey she is to be found amongst hundreds of other carvings of faith and superstition, put in place by Master Masons long ago in the fifteenth century. This wonderful creature, the Maid of the Sea, is famed and feared for her seductive beauty: she is shown here with her traditional 'attributes' of mirror and comb. It is her treacherous duty in this world that, by guile and song, she shall lure hapless sailors to their doom.

Further information at: [www.fromthegreenwood.com](http://www.fromthegreenwood.com)

## Theatrical Anecdotes



"Somewhere in the world," Canadian-born actress Clara Morris once remarked, "there is an actor - and a good one - who never eats celery without thinking of me. It was years ago, when I was playing Camille. In the first scene, you will remember, the unfortunate Armand takes a rose from Camille as a token of love. We had almost reached that point, when, as I glanced down, I saw that the flower was missing from its accustomed place on my breast.

"What could I do? On the flower hung the strength of the scene. However, I continued my lines in an abstracted fashion, and began a still hunt for that rose or a substitute. My gaze wandered around the stage. On the dinner table was some celery. Moving slowly toward it, I grasped the celery and twisted the tops into a rose form. Then I began the fateful lines:

"Take this flower. The life of a camellia is short. If held and caressed it will fade in a morning or an evening."

Hardly able to control his laughter, Armand spoke his lines which ran: 'It is a cold, scentless flower. It is a strange flower.' I agreed with him."

## IN THIS MONTH

The famous picture of Marilyn Monroe, laughing as her skirt is blown up by the blast from a subway vent, was shot on on September 15, 1954 during the filming of 'The Seven Year Itch'.

The scene infuriated her husband, Joe DiMaggio, who felt it was exhibitionist. The couple divorced shortly after.



**BOUQUET OF FLOWERS:** To receive a bouquet of flowers at the stage door BEFORE the play begins is an omen of failure. However, it is very lucky for an actress to receive flowers AFTER a performance

**The Origin:** See Flowers

**FLOWERS:** Real flowers must never be used on stage.

**The Origin:** The problem with real flowers is they have to be replaced; especially on a stage, which is given to all kinds of false light and dark throughout a day. Real, fresh flowers can be expensive and few theatre companies have money to spare. (Not to mention actors who may be allergic!)

**KNITTING:** Knitting on the side of the stage or on stage by an actor or actress is regarded as unlucky.

**The Origin:** Knitting needles are pointy and can rip costumes rushing by to make an entrance. Also, a knitting needle on the floor may roll under the foot of a stagehand or actor, causing them to fall.

**PINCH FOR LUCK:** Before making a first entrance, an actor or actress should be pinched for luck.


**The Origin:** It is an Old Wives' Tale that a pinch brings good luck. Maybe because it is proof that you're not dreaming . . . or dead.

*To be continued...*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****SEPTEMBER 2009**

Tues 1st to Sat 5th	<b>Anything Goes</b> Bridport Musical Theatre Company	Bridport Arts Centre 7.30 pm, matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Wed 2nd to Sat 5th	<b>The Game of Murder</b> Edge-of-the-seat thriller	The Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Thursday 3rd	<b>Sherborne Comedy</b> Earl Okin, Pat Gallagher, Christian Steel Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30, Show at 8.30pm
Thurs 3rd to Sat 26th	<b>Lady in the Van</b> Alan Bennett	Salisbury Playhouse For times contact Box Office/website
Mon 7th to Sat 12th	<b>The Sunshine Boys</b> Neil Simon	The Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
<b>Friday 18th</b>	 <b>'OPENING NIGHT'</b> <b>Launch of our 2009/10 season</b>	<b>Upstairs at The Mermaid</b> <b>7.30 pm (See Page 1)</b>
Tues 22nd to Sat 26th	<b>Entertaining Angels</b> A thought-provoking comedy	Theatre Royal, Bath Tues/Wed 7.30, Thurs/Sat 2.30 & 8
Thursday 24th	<b>Seckou Keita Quintet</b> World Music	The Exchange Sturminster Newton 7 pm [See page 2]

**OCTOBER 2009**

Thurs 1st to Sat 24th	<b>After Miss Julie</b> A version of Strindberg's play	Salisbury Playhouse For times contact Box Office/website
Mon 5th to Sat 10th	<b>The Gondoliers</b> Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society	The Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
<b>Friday 9th</b>	 <b>Songs, Poems and Prattle</b> <b>Hosted by Ruth Price</b>	<b>Upstairs at The Mermaid</b> <b>7.30 pm (See page 2)</b>
Tues 13th to Sat 17th	<b>Ruddigore</b> Chard Light Operatic Society	The Warehouse, Ilminster 7.45 pm
Tues 13th to Sat 17th	<b>Dial M for Murder</b> Thriller by Frederic North	Theatre Royal, Bath 8 pm. Mats Wed, Thurs, Sat 3.30 pm
Tues 27th to Sat 31st	<b>Deep Cut</b> Sherman Cymru	The Brewhouse, Taunton 7.45 pm

**Theatre Royal, Bath:** Call Box Office 01225 448844 or [www.thetheatreroyal.org.uk](http://www.thetheatreroyal.org.uk)

**The Brewhouse Theatre:** Call 01823 283244 or [www.thebrewhouse.net](http://www.thebrewhouse.net)

**Powell Theatre:** Call 01935 810579 or [www.powelltheatre.co.uk](http://www.powelltheatre.co.uk) for tickets.

**Swan Theatre:** Call 01935 428646

**The Octagon:** Call Box Office 01935 422884, [www.octagon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk)

**Salisbury Playhouse:** Box Office 01722 320 333 or [www.salisburyplayhouse.com](http://www.salisburyplayhouse.com)

**The Warehouse Theatre:** Box Office opens 6-8 pm Mondays, 10-12 noon Fridays. Call 070502 189717

**Bridport Arts Centre:** Box Office 01308 424 204 [www.bridport-arts.com](http://www.bridport-arts.com)

**NB:** As Diary Dates are compiled in advance, do check with the venue for any programme changes.

**From Jim, your editor**

If you would like any local performances advertised in the *Dates for your Diary* section in future newsletters or on our website please send any details to me at: [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.reville@btinternet.com) or give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I'm not there, leave your message and I will ring you back.

**OCTOBER COPY DEADLINE: WED 30 SEPT**

**Last Word...**

"The virtue of dress rehearsals is that they are a free show for a select group of artists and friends of the author, and where for one unique evening the audience is almost expurgated of idiots."

*Alfred Jarry, French playwright, author.*