



## Amateur Players of Sherborne Celebrating 75 years 1934 - 2009

### "Thanks for your memories"

As well as celebrating our 75th anniversary by performing our very first play, we intend to mark this magnificent milestone in the existence of APS with a programme of other activities and events.

We also want to compile an historical document consisting of memories from members, past members and indeed anyone else.

You can email your memories and recollections to [apseditor@btinternet.com](mailto:apseditor@btinternet.com), on the 'Thanks for your Memories' page at <http://thisisdorset.co.uk/aps> or in writing to Jim Reville, The Chantry, Marston Road, Sherborne DT9 4BL. All contributions very much appreciated.

Also, if you have any items of APS memorabilia tucked away, we would be delighted to see them. Whether it be programmes, press cuttings, posters, photographs or whatever. We promise to take good care of any item we receive.

### Something to mark our 75th anniversary

Your Publicity Subcommittee has come up with several items to mark our 75th anniversary: pens, mugs, coasters, T-shirts, polo shirts and a calendar, and all carrying the APS 75 logo, or in the case of mugs with wrap-around scenes from our past productions. But, before we steam ahead, we'd like to know what you think and what your preferences are. You may also have other ideas as to how we might best commemorate this unique occasion. Please email: [apseditor@btinternet.com](mailto:apseditor@btinternet.com) or fill in and submit the Feedback Form at our website: <http://thisisdorset.co.uk/aps>. Or you can write to Jim Reville, The Chantry, Marston Road, Sherborne DT9 4BL.



## TONS OF MONEY - LATEST NEWS



Here is the cast list for our 75th anniversary production:

Aubery Allington:	Andrew Cross
Louise Allington:	Jane Pitts
Jean Everad::	Jo Freestone
Miss Mullett:	Jennie Ward
Sprules:	Adrian Thorpe
Simpson:	Gilly Savage
Chesterman:	Derek Williams
Giles:	George Pearson
Henery:	Zac Graham
George Maitland:	Colin Hart



Rehearsals are now well under way. Meanwhile, join the nomination-winning, set-building team. If you can lend a couple of hours from 2 pm on a Saturday afternoon up at the Stables, Sherborne Castle that would be great.

## 'OPENING NIGHT'

We celebrated our Opening Night and our return to The Mermaid with a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and well attended by members.

New membership cards were snapped up revealing much to look forward to in our 75th year.

The Mermaid did us proud with table upon table of savoury bites and lots of fruit - including strawberries! Lots more than we could consume.

The Grand Raffle proved highly popular, so much so that, in all likelihood, it may well become a regular part of Opening Night proceedings.

## 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 Wednesday 7th October - note date change** - in our 'new' clubroom upstairs at The Mermaid. Bring along your singing voices.

### What lasts for a year and only costs £10?

Make sure you've sent your membership subscription to George Pearson, Wren Cottage, Trent, Sherborne, DT9 4SW. Now, that's better!

**REMINDER** Keep up-to-date between newsletters at: [thisisdorset.co.uk/aps](http://thisisdorset.co.uk/aps)

## Theatre Visit



That perennial APS favourite the Theatre Visit has come around again. It's on **Thursday 4th February, 2010** and David Smith has reserved 25 seats for Noel Coward's **Private Lives** and 25 places at the Theatre Day morning.

The play revolves around Elyot and Amanda, a divorced couple who become unexpectedly reacquainted while honeymooning with their new spouses, whom they quickly abandon in order to resume their torrid passion for each other. The trouble is, although Elyot and Amanda love each other desperately, they are as compatible as two scorpions in a bottle.

**Time:** 1.30 am, performance 2.30 pm.

**Travel:** 9.26 train Sherborne/Salisbury, 5.53 Salisbury/Sherborne, arriving 6.33 pm.

**Price:** Morning £6, play £12, return rail fare approx £6.50 group booking. Total: £24.50 pp.

**Booking:** Absolutely last day for reserving and paying is Friday 27 November.

Last year we had to confirm numbers 30 days in advance, this year it is 60 days. Prices have gone up by £3 for theatre and about 50p for the train. I must pay the theatre by Friday 4th December or our seats will be released. Anyone dropping out after booking will either forfeit the £18 theatre cost or find someone to take their place. Rail fare for 'drop-outs' can be refunded..

**BOOK NOW!**

To reserve your place please ring or email David Smith.

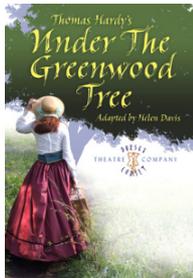
**David Smith: 01935 817439**  
**drysmith@btinternet.com**

Or at <http://thisisdorset.co.uk/aps>

Last date for reserving and paying **Friday 27 November.** So, don't delay, **BOOK NOW!**

### 'UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE' IN DIGBY HALL

Using live music, choral singing and physical theatre, the Dorset Corset Theatre Company will be performing Thomas Hardy's 'Under the Greenwood Tree' at 8 pm on Wednesday 21st October in the Digby Hall, Sherborne. Tickets £10, Artslink members £9, £8 under 18s from the Tourist Information Centre, Digby Road on 01935 815341.



It will also be on at the Dorchester Corn Exchange at 6 pm on Sunday 15th November. Call Dorchester TIC on 01305 267992 for tickets.

## SHERBORNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Sherborne is to host its own International Film Festival from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 October at the Powell Theatre. Three films will be screened daily, with a different geographical flavour every day. The play-list currently features a French day, a Latin American day with films from Brazil and Mexico and an Oriental theme on the third day with films from China, Japan and South Korea.

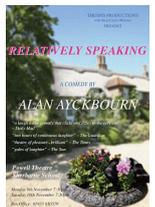
In keeping with the theme, refreshments from the country or region being presented will be available between the two evening films. Tickets, at £5 per film but also including different package combinations and a season ticket, will go on sale at the Sherborne Tourist Information Centre from the beginning of October.

The event is being organised by the International Committee of the Rotary Club of Sherborne Castles and it is hoped to raise funds for local and international charities.

Full details of the programme will be published early October.

### AYCKBOURN PLAYS SHERBORNE - RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Relatively Speaking, Alan Ayckbourn's first major London success is on at the Powell Theatre, Sherborne 9th and 10th November.



Briefly, the story concerns a young man who unexpectedly turns up at the home of a middle-aged couple he mistakenly believes to be his girlfriend's parents.

This feather-light farce of misunderstandings has kept audiences happy for a long time.

Tickets from the Tourist Information Centre, Digby Road. Tel: 01935 815341



### COMING SOON TO A VILLAGE HALL NEAR YOU...

Here's a couple of events from the new Artsreach autumn programme that are on close by

#### 'Charity Shop Cabaret'

A boisterous pot pourri of pure entertainment offered by the Trifle Gathering trio promises a stimulating and dazzling evening out and leave you fortified against our frugal times! Sandford Orcas Village Hall, Thursday 8 October at 7.30 pm. Tickets: £8, £6 concessions. Call 01963 220208 to book. [www.truewest.co.uk](http://www.truewest.co.uk)



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## AN AD FROM OUR PAST

We don't usually carry adverts. However, let this one be an exception. From the Western Gazette, dated Friday 16th November, 1934, it heralds our very first play, 'Tons of Money'. Around 1850 people enjoyed the four performances in the 540-seater Carlton theatre, which stood where Somerfield now stands. The amount raised in aid of the Yeatman Hospital was an impressive - for the time -£101.

<b>CARLTON</b> SHERBORNE	
ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE—SHAW'S MUSIC SALON, CHEAP St. Phone 101	
<b>To-day (Friday) &amp; Saturday—THE RADIO REVUE, "ON THE AIR."</b>	
MONDAY, NOV. 19TH, FOR 3 DAYS. ONCE NIGHTLY AT 8 p.m. MATINEE WEDNESDAY AT 2.30 p.m.	THURSDAY, NOV. 22ND, FOR 3 DAYS. NIGHTLY AT 6.15 & 8.30 MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2.30 p.m.
<b>"TONS OF MONEY"</b> In Aid Of Yeatman Hospital	<b>GINA MALO</b> IN <b>LILY OF KILLARNEY</b>
FREE CAR PARK OPPOSITE THEATRE.	

## Theatrical Anecdotes



One day in 1935, Cornelia Otis Skinner, enjoying great success in the title role of George Bernard Shaw's *Candida* on Broadway, received a congratulatory message from the playwright.

"Excellent! Greatest!" he declared.

"A million thanks but undeserving such praise," she cabled back.

Shaw promptly sent a second cable: "I meant the play" - and promptly received a second reply: "So did I!"

## IN THIS MONTH

Czech playwright and political leader Vaclav Havel was born in Prague, October 5, 1936. He spent over 5 years in prison for speaking out against government abuses. He went on to lead the peaceful "velvet revolution" which ended Soviet-style Communism in Czechoslovakia in 1989.

What else?

Well, on October 23, 1969 it was announced that Samuel Beckett had won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

*Artsreach continued...*

### "MY DARLING CLEMMIE"

This is the moving and highly entertaining story of the woman who married Churchill. Rohan McCulloch, stage and screen actress performs this solo show written by Hugh Whitmore as a companion piece to his TV film 'The Gathering Storm'. **Cerne Abbas Village Hall, Sunday 1 November at 7.30 pm.** Call 01300 341332 for tickets. [www.indigoentertainments.com](http://www.indigoentertainments.com).



Go to [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk) for their full programme.



### FLOWERS FROM GRAVEYARD

There is a closing night tradition for the cast to give the director and/or leading lady a bouquet of flowers that has been stolen from a graveyard.

**The Origin:** Actors are typically poor and flowers and arrangements can be expensive. The site of a new funeral and freshly filled grave is a wealth of lavish flowers. For an actor, it seems, the macabre is no deterrent to thrift.

### GHOST LIGHT

There is a superstition that if an emptied theatre is ever left completely dark, a ghost will take up residence. In other versions of the same superstition the ghosts of past performances return to the stage to live out their glory moments. To prevent this, a single light is left burning at centre stage after the audience and all of the actors and musicians have gone.

**The Origin:** The origin of this superstition is rooted in both practicality and further superstition itself! The practicality, of course, is that people coming into a darkened theatre cannot see what delicate costumes, sharp and pointy props and dangerous set pieces have been left lying about, and a light is important to prevent injury, property damage or lawsuits. The other reason lends itself to further superstition. A "dark" theatre is a theatre without a play. There is nothing more sad to a drama artist than an empty house and a playless stage. Therefore, a light is left burning centre stage so that the theatre is never "dark". It is simply awaiting the next production.

*To be continued...*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****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>Wednesday 7th</b>	 <b>Songs, Poems and Prattle</b> Hosted by Ruth Price	<b>Upstairs at The Mermaid</b> 7.30 pm (See page 2)
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
Wed 21st	<b>Under the Greenwood Tree</b> Dorset Corset Theatre Company	Digby Hall, Sherborne 8 pm
Thurs 22nd to Sat 24th	<b>Murdered to Death</b> Agatha Christie spoof	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 7.30 pm
Fri 23rd to Sun 25th	<b>Sherborne International</b> <b>Film Festival</b>	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Times in early October
Tues 27th to Sat 31st	<b>Deep Cut</b> Sherman Cymru	The Brewhouse, Taunton 7.45 pm
<b>NOVEMBER 2009</b>		
Tues 3rd to Sat 7th	<b>Hotel Paradiso</b> Feydeau and Desavallieres farce	Bridport Arts Centre 7.30 pm
Wed 4th to Sat 7th	<b>Silhouette</b> A Simon Brett whodunnit	The Warehouse, Ilminster 7.30 pm
Mon 9th to Tues 10th	<b>Relatively Speaking</b> By Alan Ayckbourn	Powell Theatre, Sherborne 7.30 pm
Tues 10th to Sat 14th	<b>Daisy Pulls It Off</b> Taunton Thespians	Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, Taunton 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2 pm
Thurs 12th to Sat 14th	<b>Three Sisters</b> Frome Drama Club	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7.45 pm
Thurs 19th to Sat 21st	 <b>TONS OF MONEY</b> APS 75th anniversary production	Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm

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

**Merlin Theatre:** Box Office 01373 465949, [www.merlintheatre.co.uk](http://www.merlintheatre.co.uk)

**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)

**Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre:** Box Office 01823 414141, [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com)

**The Exchange:** Call 01258 475137, [www.stur-exchange.co.uk](http://www.stur-exchange.co.uk)

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



If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section 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.

**NOVEMBER COPY DEADLINE: THURS 29 OCT**

**Last Word...**

.From the start it has been the theatre's business to entertain people ... it needs no other passport than fun.

BERTOLT BRECHT, *A Short Organum for the Theatre*