

Up front from your Chairman

May I take this opportunity to welcome all members to a new season of the APS. At the end of July we held our AGM and summer party to mark the end of what had been a very successful season. I must pay tribute to our outgoing Chairman Gill Manns who has held the reins of the society with great enthusiasm and care over the last two years. So, it is with a great sense of both pride and humility that I take over the post of Chairman and thank the members of APS for vesting me with this responsibility.

The forthcoming season will be one full of promise and excitement as we move into our new premises, namely The Old Chapel (for which we all give huge thanks to Malcolm Cockburn for his generosity) and look forward to a varied programme of club night events and two stimulating and challenging productions in the autumn and spring.

I hope that we may continue to grow our membership during the forthcoming year by offering a wide diet of theatrical experiences to both old and young alike. Whilst we may be secure in our choice of tried and trusted plays that suit the atypical Sherborne audience we should not be afraid to be innovative with material that may challenge us and our audiences.

Please continue to support your society by attending as many events as you can and by volunteering to help with productions however minimal or simplistic that help may appear to be. Above all, let us look forward with passion, excitement and confidence to an action packed season underpinned by the knowledge that our energies can be steered into artistic endeavours now that any uncertainties about our future accommodation have been solved once and for all.

Stuart McCreadie

Opening
Night



7.30 pm **FRIDAY**
16 SEPTEMBER IN
OUR NEW HOME -
THE OLD CHAPEL



Make a note in your diaries right now for our '**OPENING NIGHT**', the launch of our 2011/12 season at **7.30 pm, Friday 16th September** in our new home - **The Old Chapel**.

Wielding the scissors at the Front Door ribbon-cutting ceremony will be Robert Gould, Leader of West Dorset District Council.

Pick up your membership card, which lists our complete programme of social events and activities for the coming season.

Take the grand tour of our new home: the lofty Costume Wardrobe, our Scenery Workshop, the Props and Lights Store and our Club Room - and all under one corrugated tin roof.

For sustenance, there will be a finger buffet and liquid refreshment.

And to entertain you: '*It's a beginning*', a part-rehearsed dramatisation of the birth of the Amateur Players of Sherborne in 1934, as adapted from the memoir '*As It Was*' by our founder, Fred B. Alcock.

Huge thanks are due to all who pitched in, one way or another, to make our Opening Night in our new home possible.

Parking maybe tight around The Old Chapel but can be found along the wall just above Easons, up Marston Road and in the Coombe. See map above.

giftaid it If you haven't already returned your signed Gift Aid form please make sure you bring it with you and hand it to Charles. Blank forms will also be available.

**THE
ROSE
BOWL
AWARDS**

Breaking News - Three Rose Bowl Nominations!

What a year! Our productions have earned not one but three nominations in the annual Rose Bowl awards, which celebrate the best in amateur dramatics from all over the South West.

Last autumn's *The Wind in the Willows*, directed Pat Harris, is nominated for The John Coe Award for Best Dramatic Production. Our secretary, Adrian, is nominated in the John Lewis Award for Best Actor

(Drama) category for his part as Mr Toad in *The Wind in the Willows*. And Ruth Rice is nominated in the Best Supporting Performance (Drama) for her part earlier this year as Agnes Twitterton in *Busman's Honeymoon*.

The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare on Sunday 16th October.

Too early to be preparing acceptance speeches?

BOOK NOW FOR THEATRE DAY 2012

Noel Coward's **Design For Living**



Thursday 9th February 2012 is the date for our annual theatre visit to Salisbury Playhouse, and organised once again by David Smith.

The play is Noel Coward's witty and passionate 1930s comedy '**Design for Living**'. It centres on a group of bohemians for whom three is not a crowd.

From the garrets of Paris to the penthouses of Manhattan, a tempestuous love triangle plays out between the artist Otto, the playwright Leo and the interior designer Gilda, three people who are irresistibly and unashamedly drawn to each other.

David has booked 18 seats in row B and 2 in row C plus 20 Theatre Day tickets.

Theatre Day lifts the lid on the production by offering insights into both the artistic and technical choices.

As well as delving into the writer or play's production history, the director, cast members and crew are on hand to offer exclusive opportunities to explore a production; its design, rehearsal and technical challenges.

And now, the cost. Theatre Day at 11.30 am is £7, the play at 2.30 pm is £14 = £21 per head plus rail fare of approx £7 - to be confirmed.

Bookings must be confirmed and payment made to the theatre by 9th December 2011. So, please note, David will need reservations (with £28) by **Sunday 4th December**. Anyone using their own transport need, of course, pay only £21.

Get in touch with David right now on 01935 817439, email: drysmith@btinternet.com

WYRD SISTERS PLAY SET FOR SPRING 2012

Wyrd Sisters,
Terry
Pratchett's
take on
Macbeth, will
be our 2012



Spring Production. Performance dates are 29-31 March. To be directed by Sylvie Lord, this hilarious fast paced adventure brings to life Pratchett's most famous characters.

Note for diaries. A read-through will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 24 November in The Old Chapel with auditions also there on Tuesday 29 November and Thursday 1 December - both at 7.30 pm. Casting will be decided before Christmas and rehearsals begun early in the new year.

"...THEN THERE WAS A MIRACLE"

The words of our outgoing Chairman, Gill Manns, during her summing up of what has been quite an eventful year. The miracle referred to was, of course, our rescue by Malcolm Cockburn with his purchase of The Old Chapel for our tin tabernacle home.

A non-scheduled downpour did nothing to dampen spirits at our AGM and Summer party.

Very many thanks to our hosts at Gainsborough House, Gwyneth and Jim Schofield. And



thanks also to the Committee for their provision of such a varied selection of such appetizing snacks.

FIRST REHEARSALS IN OUR NEW HOME

An historic moment was notched up Friday evening 26 August with our first ever rehearsals taking place in the Club Room of our new home. Indeed, it was our very first use of The Old Chapel. Jane Pitts as Mrs Webb and Annabelle Fricker as her daughter, Emily, get to grips with their characters in our Autumn production of '*Our Town*'. Jennie Ward, directs, as well as helping



out with American English pronunciations.



A NAME' COMPETITION




What's in a name? Well, a newsletter, is a newsletter is a...so, we've launched a members' competition to come up with a new, snappy and friendly name for our...newsletter.

To encourage you, the winner will be awarded an eminently 'quaffable' bottle of wine.

Any and all ideas: typeface, colour, how it might look are welcome to your editor Jim Reville, email: jim.reville@btinternet.com or by post to: The Chantry, Marston Road DT9 4BL.

Closing date for our 'Give our newsletter a Name' competition is Tuesday 27th September.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**SEPTEMBER 2011**

Thurs 1 to Sat 10	Fair Maid of the West Creative Cow	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Thurs 8th Sept to Sat 8 Oct	Way Upstream Alan Ayckboun farce	Salisbury Playhouse Mon-Wed 7.30 Thurs-Sat 8 pm
Sat 10th to Fri 16th	Single Spies Alan Bennett double bill	The Swan, Yeovil 7.45 pm probably
Mon 12th to Sat 17th	Three Days in May World prem prior to West End run	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon-Wed 7.30 Thurs-Sat 8 pm
 Thurs 15th	One Man, Two Guvnors Based on 'The Servant of Two Masters	Cineworld, Yeovil 7 pm
 Fri 16th	OPENING NIGHT See page 1	The Old Chapel, Sherborne 7.30 pm
 Thurs 22nd	Henry VIII Shakespeare Globe Company	Cineworld, Yeovil 7 pm
Wed 28th	Macbeth Platform 4	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 1 pm & 7 pm

OCTOBER 2011

Wed 5th	Henry V Company Boudin	Merlin Theatre, 7.45 pm
 Thurs 6th	The Kitchen Arnold Wesker	Cineworld, Yeovil TBA
 Sun 9th	Das Rheingold Wagner - Live at The Met	Cineworld, Yeovil Time TBA
 Mon 10th	Play reading led by Adrian Thorpe	The Old Chapel, Sherborne 7.30 pm
Tues 11th to Sat 15th	Half a Sixpence Moorlight Theatre Productions	Strode Theatre, Street 7.30 pm
Thurs 13th to Sat 15th	The Gin Game Pulitzer Prize winning play	Mission Theatre, 7.30 pm
Thurs 20th	When we are married Sturminster Newton Amateur Soc	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 7.30 pm
Sun 23rd	Playing to the Gallery Stephanie Cole & Patricia Routledge	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 5 pm

Mission Theatre: Box Office 01225 428600 www.next-stage.co.uk

Tacchi-Morris: Box Office 01823 414141 www.Tacchi-Morris.com

Strode Theatre: Box Office 01458 442846 www.strodetheatre.co.uk

The Exchange, Sturminster Newton: Box Office 01258 475137 www.stur-exchange.co.uk

Salisbury Playhouse: Box Office 01722 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

Theatre Royal, Bath: Box Office 01225 448844 www.theatreroyal.org.uk

New Theatre: Box Office 01392 277189 www.cygnetnewtheatre.com

Merlin Theatre: Box Office 01373 465949 www.merlintheatre.co.uk

Studio Theatre, Salisbury: Call 07789 858126 www.studiotheatre.org.uk

Cineworld, Yeovil: Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then select advance booking.

Swan Theatre: Tourist Information Centre 01935 845946. www.swan-theatre.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 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: Monday 26 September

Last Word...

A play should give you something to think about. When I see a play and understand it the first time, then I know it can't be much good.

T. S. Eliot