



# NOISES OFF

APS Newsletter February 2014



Performances Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 April

## RSC WORKSHOP & REHEARSALS



Gryphon School pupils, youngsters from the RendezVous and APS members gathered in the Digby Memorial Hall, Sherborne for a Sunday afternoon RSC workshop led by with the opportunity to learn new skills and develop their acting craft. It was led by Lee Lyford, Theatre Royal, Bath, Movement Coach and Director and Robin Robin Benfield, Assistant Director at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton, both brilliant teachers.

Meanwhile, rehearsals are well under way in the Raleigh Hall.



COMING SOON



Thursday 13 February Sylvie will engage us in all sorts of amazing activities in her Method Workshop which kicks off at 7.30 pm in our Clubhouse. Bound to be fun.

## Gilly's Fish'n'Chip Film Quiz Night

Many thanks to Gilly for a hugely enjoyable and entertaining evening - and ably assisted by Helen as scorekeeper.

It had us scouring our brain cells to come up with answers to all sorts of questions testing our film knowledge.



Winners: 25 (sic) years a slave

SPECIAL EDITION

A five-page special this month to include a statement from the trustees of the proposed Sherborne Community Arts Centre.

## APS 2014

### Upcoming Events

#### Thurs 13 February

Method Workshop led by Sylvie Lord.

#### Monday 10 March

'Dark of the Moon' play reading. Led by Gilly Savage.

#### Fri 4 to Sun 13 April

'The Merry Wives of Windsor' production period. Performances Thurs 10 to Sat 12 April.

#### Tuesday 29 April

Play-reading led by Eve Simmonds.

#### Fri 16 May

Annual Dinner, Butterfly House Castle Gardens.

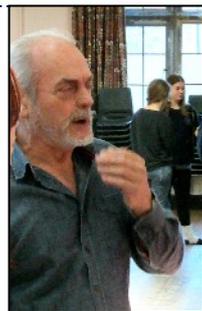
#### Tues 10 June

Two Arnold Bennett farces: 'A Question of Sex' and 'The Stepmother'. Produced by Jim Reville.

#### Fri 11 July

AGM and Summer Party. Gainsborough House by kind invitation of Jim Schofield.

## WELCOME new members



A warm welcome to new members.

There's Dina Oktaviani and Judy King, who will be helping out at Front of House. In the cast of 'The Merry Wives of

Windsor'. Is Mike Brown (pictured), Host of the Garter Inn, Adrian Harding as Mr Page and his son Max as Fenton. There's also Steve Crumpler as Dr Caius. Another new member is Richard Culham.

Passed away just after Christmas past member Jeremy Brett. Condolences to his wife Ann, who contributed greatly to APS.



- One production a year
- Two productions a year
- One major production, plus a minor production i.e. a couple of one act plays

This was the topic raised at the last meeting of your committee. Now they would like to know what you think.

You can have your say in the determining the future of the APS by emailing your comments, observations etc to me at [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.reville@btinternet.com) and I will pass them on to the committee for their consideration.

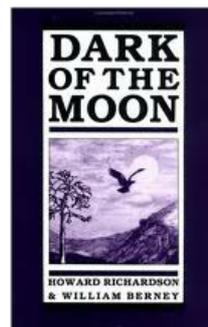
**NODA SUMMER SCHOOL 2014** NODA Theatre Summer School 2014 will run from Saturday 2nd - Saturday 9th August 2014 and will be held again at the University of Warwick..

It offers an unrivalled training opportunity for all those involved in amateur theatre. Following the latest trends in professional theatre, we offer a wide variety of week long and 3 day courses in a mix of disciplines for performers, directors and technicians.

With competitive course fees and top class residential facilities at the University of Warwick you are guaranteed a fun packed week of top quality training, morning warm-ups, optional evening activities, great food and plenty of time for socialising.

To browse the courses on offer and read about the vast range of experience amongst the professional tutors click on the link below: [www.noda.org.uk/summerschool](http://www.noda.org.uk/summerschool)

### 'Dark of the Moon' Fantastic play-reading 7.30 pm in our Clubhouse Monday 10 March



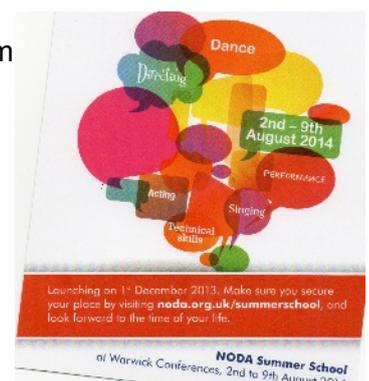
Led by Gilly Savage, 'Dark of the Moon' is based on the haunting folk ballad of "Barbara Allen." Employing a large cast and imaginative settings in the Smoky Mountains, it recounts the story of John, a strange "witch boy" who upon first beholding the beautiful

## "THE PLAY'S THE THING"

And our autumn production for 2014 is... Yes, already we need to be thinking ahead and coming up with a play - and a director - for November 2014.



All ideas, suggestions and offers to direct contact any member of your committee. Also, if you have any ideas of plays worth considering, please do pass them on to Eve who will read them and pass on her opinion to your committee. Contact Eve on 01935 812933



Barbara Allen immediately falls in love. He is given human form to woo and marry her on the condition that she remain true to him. The marriage is consummated and Barbara gives birth to a witch child whom the townspeople destroy in a superstitious frenzy. During a religious revival Barbara is led to betray John thus breaking their spell of love. As she dies, he returns forever to the world of the mountain witches.

# WHAT'S ON

A selection of what's on around and about



**Fallen Angels**  
By Noel Coward

## FALLEN ANGELS APPEAR IN THEATRE ROYAL, BATH

Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe star as best friends Julia and Jane, in a new production of Noël Coward's sparkling comedy.

It's on at the Theatre Royal, Bath from Monday 17 Feb till Sat 1 March. See page 4 for times and other details.

A scathingly comic portrait of London manners, fashions and hedonism, this dazzling drama from 1697 has all the hallmarks of great restoration comedy - colourful and profligate characters, intrigues, duplicity and

misunderstandings. **The Innocent Mistress** is on at Bristol Old Vic 7.30 pm Fri 7 to Sat 15 March, matinees Thurs and Sat at 2.30 pm.



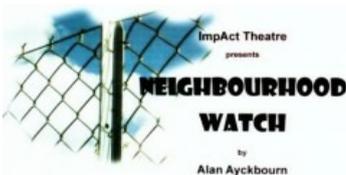
## Betrayal

by Harold Pinter



**Betrayal** explores a seven-year affair involving a married couple, Emma and Robert, and Robert's "close friend" Jerry, who is also married. Pinter's compelling play uses reverse chronology to explore the levels of betrayal between the couples: the first scene takes place after the affair has ended, the final scene ends when the affair begins.

Performed by Next Stage Theatre Company, it's on at the Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm Tuesday 25 to Saturday 29 March.



Sex, violence, politics, religion, music, romance and garden gnomes! They all feature in Alan Ayckbourn's deliciously dark, comedy - **Neighbourhood Watch**. See what happens when the residents of the Bluebell Hill Development decide to get organized in order to protect themselves and the area in which they live. In true Ayckbourn tradition things do not go according to plan and well-meaning ideas get somewhat out of hand, causing mayhem for all concerned.

It's on at 7.45 pm Friday 21 March at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton.



Thursday 27 February at 7 pm  
**War Horse:**

Thursday 1 May at 7 pm  
**King Lear**

Wednesday 14 May at 7 pm  
**Henry IV Part 1**

Wednesday 18 June at 7 pm  
**Henry IV Part 2**

One of Noël Coward's most popular comedies, **Hay Fever** is set in an English country house in the 1920s and is a 'snapshot' of a weekend where we view the antics of the Bliss family, perhaps more dysfunctional than 'The Simpsons', as they set about embarrassing and humiliating their eclectic selection of house guests. The self-centred behaviour of the hosts finally drives their guests to flee, while the Bliss family are so engaged in a family row that they fail to notice their guests' furtive departure. Often described as a cross between high farce and a comedy of manners, **Hay Fever** is a highly entertaining and funny insight into the world of Noël Coward.

It's on at 7.30 pm Thurs 13 to Sat 15 March in Strode Theatre.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### February 2014

Sat 1	<b>The Complete works of God (abridged)</b> Arena Theatre	Sturminster Newton Exchange 7.30 pm
 Thurs 13	<b>Method Workshop</b> Led by Sylvie Lord	Our Clubhouse 7.30 pm
Thurs 17 to Sat 1 March	<b>Fallen Angels</b> Noel Coward	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs Sat 8 pm Matinees Wed and Sat 2.30 pm
Wed 19	<b>The Girl with no shoes</b>	Cerne Abbas Village Hall 10.30 am
Thurs 20 to Sat 1 March	<b>Making Money</b> By Terry Pratchett	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
Fri 21	<b>Jack at the Beanstock Cafe</b>	Nether Compton Village Hall 10.30 am
Mon 17 to 1 March	<b>Hammer &amp; Tongs</b> Theatre Alibi	Phoenix Theatre, Exeter 8 pm Mats Wed 1.30 Fri 10.30 am
 Thurs 27	<b>War Horse</b> NT Live	Cineworld, Yeovil 7 pm
<b>March 2014</b>		
Fri 7 to Sat 15	<b>The Innocent Mistress</b> Restoration comedy	Bristol Old Vic 7.30 pm Mats Thurs/Sat 2.30 pm
 Mon 10	<b>Dark of the Moon</b> Play-reading led by Gilly Savage	Our Clubhouse 7.30 pm
Tues 11 to Tues 25	<b>The Killing of Sister George</b> Taunton Thespians	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm
Thurs 13 to Sat 15	<b>Hay Fever</b> Noel Coward comedy	Strode Theatre 7.30 pm
Mon 17 to Sat 22	<b>She Stoops to Conquer</b> Oliver Goldsmith	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
Fri 21	<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> ImpAct Theatre Company	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton 7.45 pm
Mon 24 to Tues 25	<b>Boeing Boeing</b> Comedy	Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm
Tues 25 to Sat 29	<b>Betrayal</b> By Harold Pinter	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm

**Strode Theatre:** Box Office 01458 442846 Mon-Sat 10 am to 2 pm [www.strodetheatre.org.uk](http://www.strodetheatre.org.uk)

**Tacchi-Morris:** Box Office 01823 414141 Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com)

**Mission Theatre:** Box Office 01225 428600 [www.missiontheatre.co.uk](http://www.missiontheatre.co.uk)

**Bristol Old Vic:** Box Office 0117 987 7877 [www.bristololdvic.org.uk](http://www.bristololdvic.org.uk)

**Sturminster Newton Exchange:** Box Office 01258 475137

**Nether Compton Village Hall:** Call Joe Puszet 01935 413220

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

**Cerne Abbas Village Hall:** Call Sandy and Alan Morrell 01300 341332

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

**Salisbury Playhouse:** Box Office 01722 320333 [www.salisburyplayhouse.com](http://www.salisburyplayhouse.com)

**Studio Theatre:** Salisbury Information Centre 01722 332860 [www.studiotheatre.org.uk](http://www.studiotheatre.org.uk)

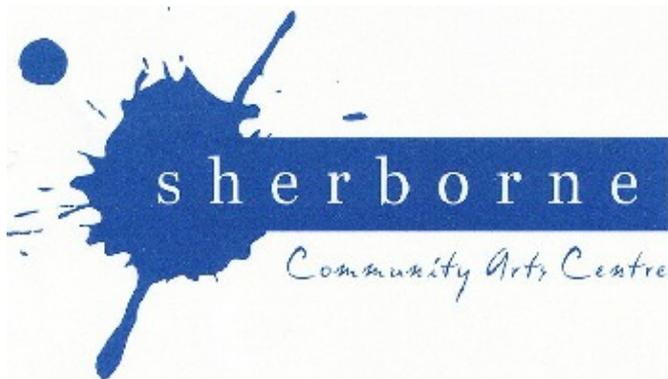
**Cineworld, Yeovil:** Call 0871 200200 or save 10% by booking online, Google cineworld yeovil

**The Swan Theatre:** Tickets on sale from 29 Dec. Call 07500 376031 or book online [www.swan-theatre.co.uk](http://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 mentioned in the newsletter please email details to: [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.reville@btinternet.com) or call me on 01935 814626. Please leave a message if I'm not available and I'll ring you back. **MARCH Copy Deadline: Wednesday 26 February, 2014**

**In the interests of keeping you up-to-date and informed about the progress of the creation of the Sherborne Community Arts Centre here is the full text of a statement recently issued by the trustees.**



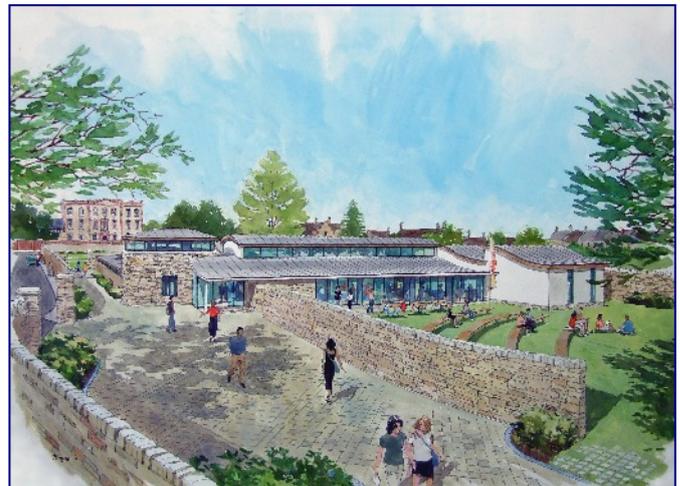
SCACT - STATEMENT - December 2013

Since the Town Council meeting in September where it was decided to withdraw Town Council support for the Community Arts Centre project, which the Town Council had instigated by resolution in August 2009 there has been a lot of confusion in the town as to what is happening. This has been aggravated by mis-reporting in the local press and mis-understandings which in a small town gain amazing weight as they get repeated in the coffee shops and pubs.

In August 2013 the Trustees offered to release the Town Council from their pledge of £40,000 towards the build costs as they were aware that the town was very short of reserves with which to maintain the town's multi-million pound property portfolio. At the council meeting on the 16 September the Council resolved to accept the offer, but at the same time withdrew their support for the project and agreed to start a 12 month feasibility study into the future of the Digby Hall. This study was to involve the three tiers of local government and SCACT. The Trustees had hoped the council would discuss an alternative resolution that they had submitted prior to the meeting that would have adopted all the proposed resolutions with the exception of withdrawing support. The Trustees regret that this was not discussed.

The project had begun with the backing of the local MP, Oliver Letwin, and both the County and District Councils. Following the Town Council decision the Trustees discussed the situation with both County and District councils and were reassured by both that the project still had the full support of both Councils.

The costs so far of running the project are about £90,000. This covers things like architects fees, legal and planning fees, publicity material, fundraising materials, professional support and advice, and insurance. The cash to cover this has largely come from WDDC (£65,150) who realised that this type of project needed money just to run before the actual building phase. Other funding has come from a



number of sources including Sherborne Town Council (£16,500).

The minutes of the November 2013 WDDC Executive Committee state: "That the council continues to support the Sherborne Community Arts Centre Trust project in accordance with the Corporate Plan but retains the currently allocated financial resources in order to contribute to construction costs."

This has been misunderstood to suggest that WDDC no longer support the project, whereas what it actually means is that the first call on any donations, subject to the donor's agreement, will be spent by the Trustees on achieving our funding goal, which remains "to have completed our full funding of £1.725 million by 21 September 2014."

The Trustees continue to drive towards this goal recognising that the target amount and the current financial environment are both challenging. Their belief in the project comes from a vision for Sherborne that includes not only a beautiful new building for the community to use, but one that will bring people into Sherborne. When added to the forthcoming attractions to be offered at Sherborne House, Oliver Letwin's vision of a Sherborne Arts Quarter could become the hub of a new era of prosperity and inclusivity for the town.

The Trustees are grateful to all the people who have expressed support for the project and are committed to do their utmost to deliver the vision.

The charity will be updating supporters on Twitter (@SherborneCACT) and Facebook (www.facebook.co.uk/SCACT). Full details of the plans for the community arts centre can be found on the website at [www.sact.org.uk](http://www.sact.org.uk) and there is a link to the online donation pages hosted by MyDonate. For more information or to suggest fundraising ideas email: [info@sact.org.uk](mailto:info@sact.org.uk).

SCACT Trustees