

NOISES OFF

AGM AND PARTY

There was a goodly turnout of friends old and new at our AGM and Summer Party, in the new Theatre on 21st August. Minutes of the formal meeting, and copies of accounts etc will be available in due course; this Newsletter is just to give a bit of a flavour of what went on.

Our President, Eve Simmonds, welcomed all present and expressed the Players' huge appreciation of Malcolm's generosity in his benefaction, and also to Adrian, Mark and Helen in their roles of unsung heroes during the recent performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Bev Taylor-Wade, the Committee Chair, then explained how over the past year so much of the Committee's energies had been directed towards the opening of the Theatre, that there had been fewer activities, shows and social events than usual. However, the highlight had undoubtedly been "The Dream", regarded as a resounding success on all counts. John Crabtree, who had directed, indicated that it had been a labour of love, one of the happiest plays he had ever been involved in, in which all had given 100%, and in which there had been - to use his own phrase - "no divas"!

John was then able to reveal that, in the **Rose Bowl competition**, which covers all amateur groups



throughout the South-West (including all of Bristol), the APS had received not one but THREE nominations: for Technical Achievement (Adrian Hole's lighting), for Best Supporting Actor (Adrian Harding's Bottom) (*could that be re-phrased?* - Ed), and the whole show for Best Shakespearean/Restoration Play. Well done to John, and especially to the two Adrians - we eagerly await the awards evening on 21st October, and very much hope to be able to bring you even better news after that!

Bev continued by reminding us of the Murder Mystery Evening, the rehearsed readings of "Love, Loss and What I Wore", and the Spring staging of "London Suite", directed by Sylvie Lord.

Three members of the Committee - Sylvie Lord, Avril Griffiths and John

Crabtree - are standing down, although John will continue in the role of Artistic Director. All were given a warm ovation in gratitude for their many years of service to the Players.

We were delighted to be able to welcome three new committee members to replace them: Sarah Webster (who will take over as Treasurer), Nick Baker and Jessica Colson. Congratulations and welcome to all three - we look forward to benefiting from your wisdom!

Bev confirmed what we all know already, that the Chapel had been formally re-named the **Sherborne Studio Theatre**, soon to be crowned with a handsome new illuminated sign, and already in possession of newly painted doors in a theatrical red.



OPENING NIGHT

The first event of the new calendar will be our traditional Opening Night, the date for which has yet to be agreed as this Newsletter goes to press. A supplementary email/letter will be sent out with details as soon as these become available.

After Roy posed a very pertinent question about the shelf-life of the refreshments waiting us, the meeting was adjourned and given over to the important matters of eating, drinking and chatting!

Martin Williams

THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Bev indicated that the new Theatre demands a formal and agreed structure for its management, both in day-to-day running, and its development as a financial concern, and as a hub for artistic enterprises for the whole of Sherborne. As such, the committee wanted to create a new sub-committee devoted to these matters. All members of the APS are invited to get in touch with any of the committee members (email addresses on the website) if they would like to serve on this committee in any capacity whatever. It is an exciting time, and a great opportunity to make your

mark and do your bit! Adrian and Avril immediately jumped at the opportunity!

TRUSTEES

Avril Griffiths (Treasurer) reported that even though some reserve funding had been used to get the Theatre finished and open on time, the profitability of the plays performed, as well as the sale of props and costumes, meant that the APS finances were healthy. However, as a Registered Charity, we are need of new Trustees, and, again, all APS members who could consider becoming a Trustee are urged to contact Avril at avlondon@aol.com



“WINTER RIDGE”

We have been asked to make APS members aware of the following film screening in Yeovil:

11-time award winning psychological thriller Winter Ridge is coming to Yeovil this September 7th for one night only!

The film, shot in South West England, stars Hannah Waddingham (*Game of Thrones*, *Les Miserables*), Michael Mckell (*Allied*), Ian Pirie (*The Dark Knight*) and Alan Ford (*Lock Stock, Snatch*), rising star Matt Hookings, and is written by Somerset's own Ross Owen Williams.

Winter Ridge is slick, stylish and full of suspense. I jumped out of my seat and shouted at one point! Great film making. Great watch. - Andrea Ormsby. BBC Spotlight.

Winter Ridge is the British Scandinavian drama we've been waiting for. - Giles Alderson - Filmmakers podcast

Tickets are available through - <https://www.westlandsyevovil.co.uk/whats-on/screenings/winter-ridge/7570/#schedules>

FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER
AT WESTLANDS, YEOVIL
FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

6.30PM START
£10/£8.50 CONCESSIONS
£5 UNDER 16S

BOOK ONLINE AT
[WESTLANDSYEOVIL.CO.UK/
WHATS-ON/ALL-SHOWS/
WINTER-RIDGE](http://WESTLANDSYEOVIL.CO.UK/WHATS-ON/ALL-SHOWS/WINTER-RIDGE)



**WINNER OF NUMEROUS FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS
FILMED IN THE SOUTH WEST AND WRITTEN
BY SOMERSET'S OWN ROSS OWEN WILLIAMS**