

# Shawbury Village Players News



The last newsletter was May/June 2009. Newsletters are sent by e-mail, post, or hand-delivered, to adult & child members, limited to one per household. If you have an e-mail address, this saves the club postage (or shortens my delivery round!). Please note - if you are not a "paid-up" member, this may be your last newsletter unless you have an e-mail address (I'm happy to leave you on the e-distribution list even if you're not a current member).

## Diary Dates

**Next Committee Meeting: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm at 12 River Gardens.** Apologies to **Mariella on 01939 290702**. Any member interested in serving on the committee or volunteering to help with any production is very welcome to attend.

**"OUR DAY OUT" – 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Shawbury Village Hall.** There has been a good response from the children. Richard is now looking for people for the adult roles. More details below.

**"THE FINAL SUPPER" (A Murder Mystery evening) – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at Shawbury Village Hall** – more details below.

**PANTOMIME (or Winter Play): 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010.** Your help is required – see information below.

## Report on the Summer Production 2009

Another first for Shawbury Village Players with the presentation of *Blithe Spirit* inside Acton Reynald Hall.

The summer production for 2009 evolved over the previous twelve months; originally *Cider with Rosie* was to be performed in the courtyard at the Hall. The difficulties in casting the play forced us to consider other plays and Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* was chosen. Requiring only a small cast, rehearsals started in February at RAF Shawbury. It was still planned to be outside but using the front of the house much in the way that *Twelfth Night* was performed. However, the play is set in a sitting room and when the owners Chris and Judith realized this they suggested we use one of the rooms inside the house. We were therefore able to use the library with the grand staircase as the backdrop for the play. A stunning area in which to perform!

The stage area was planned by Geoff utilizing the stage apron from the village hall, with the lights placed on the balcony overlooking the stage. The task of turning the plans into reality fell to Trevor who set to work to construct additional elements using the group's staging.

I'm sure everyone will agree that an excellent acting area was created, one which potentially could be used again.

The week of the play arrived; excellent publicity from Mariella and helpers ensured that we were to have good audiences. We moved into Acton Reynald the Saturday prior to the performances and once again thanks to the efforts of all members we were ready to rehearse on Sunday afternoon.

A glorious week, the sun shining (typical now we were performing inside!) allowed the audience to enjoy picnics and drinks outside prior to the performances and during the interval (the cast enjoyed the balmy evenings sitting after the performances with drinks in their hands!)

**And the play?** As director I was delighted with the performances of all the cast and with the very positive comments of all the audiences. Noel Coward's plays appear very wordy compared with modern plays; the language is rich and the humour subtle and this makes great demands on the actors. In our production all the cast provided memorable performances.

Excellent support was provided by the Lighting and Sound Team. Front of house again made sure that the audiences were looked after and that care was taken over the home of Judith and Chris.

I'm sure everyone who took part enjoyed themselves and my thanks go to all who were involved. Particular thanks to Chris Fraser who acted as producer and in her role as treasurer tells me that we cleared over £1000 which will help to pay for the rent of the clubroom! A successful Summer Production.

In talking to Chris and Judith they tell me they would be happy to see the Players return on an annual basis! The Committee is keen to take up this offer and would be pleased to hear from any member interested in directing a play in the summer of 2010 at Acton Reynald. **Richard Bray**

## 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell

We are hoping to perform this play on the 16th and 17th October at Shawbury Village Hall. As the title suggests, the play is about a group of children out on a day's visit. The children from the Special Class of a Liverpool Comprehensive School spend their day visiting Conway Castle and leave in their wake a trail

of chaos. The play, a comedy, provides the actors with the opportunity to explore the attitudes of both children and adults to the world in which they live.

The play was chosen to help provide an opportunity for our younger members to take part in a production; however the play also requires adults! I hope many of you will wish to take part. Rehearsals for the children will be weekly but for most of the adult parts there will fewer rehearsals to be held on Sunday afternoons. Please contact me if you would like to be involved.

**Richard Bray Tel: 01939 250612**

## “The Final Supper” - 28 November

It's been some years since the Players put on a Murder Mystery Evening – so for some of our newer members this could be quite an experience!

Rebecca Iltot is preparing the “storyline”, and organising the event. Everyone involved will be briefed on the storyline, but after that the actors use their own words and interact with the audience in order to carry the action forward. There are no “rehearsals” as such, but those involved will need to attend a couple of “briefings”.

A cast of 12 actors/actresses are required, plus waiters/waitresses and kitchen helpers to assist the W.I. ladies who will be preparing the food.

Members of the group who are interested in taking part or helping in any way, please tel. **Rebecca 01939 250556**.

## SVP NEEDS YOU!!

Shawbury Village Hall has been booked from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January for a production – this could be a pantomime, a “winter play” – or something totally different! The Committee are looking for someone interested in directing a production during this time.

Anyone interested would be supported by the Committee and help would be given with the production. If you are interested in taking on this role please contact **Richard**.

## Lost Property

I still have a Curl & Shine Ceramic Waver which was left in the changing room following the pantomime. If anyone would like to claim it please contact **Ann Page on 01939 251094**.

## Membership Fees

Don't forget membership runs from 1 March to 28 (or 29) February. If you haven't already paid your membership fees for 2009-2010 these are now overdue.

Fees are Adults £15 and Children £5. This is exceptional value as we do not charge any rehearsal fees. Those taking part in productions are asked to pay for their script and any refreshments that may be provided (cups of tea, coffee and squash @ 10p!).

## Publications

For a number of years the club has subscribed to Amateur Stage (now renamed AS Magazine). This is now a monthly magazine (The Independent Magazine for

Community Theatre). Typical articles include not only West End Reviews, but reports on Festivals, reviews of local amateur productions and a Diary of amateur productions throughout the UK (Shawbury Village Players has been regularly entered in the diary).

However, despite repeated mentions in the Newsletter, AS Magazine is read by only a couple of committee members. The committee have therefore decided that the magazine is not of benefit to the whole membership, so is not renewing its £24 per year subscription.

If anyone is interested in seeing past copies, please asked any member of the committee. And if you are interested in the magazine yourself, there are more details on [www.asmagazine.co.uk](http://www.asmagazine.co.uk).

## Other Events

### The Belfrey Festival of Youth and The Wellington Drama Festival – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009

In November each year the Wellington Theatre Company, more commonly known as the Belfrey Theatre, hosts two Drama Festivals, one Adult and one Youth, aimed at encouraging Amateur Drama in Shropshire and beyond. All entries to the Festivals are adjudicated – and Shawbury Village Players entered, was adjudicated and won awards last year!!!

Whether or not to have a SVP entry this year will be one of the items for discussion at the next committee meeting. If any member would like to contribute, or express a view, please contact **Richard or Mariella**.

## Other Information

Ann and Chris Page have two holiday apartments in Spain (owned more by the bank than by them!) which are available to rent. Los Miradores (one of the apartments) is a 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom first floor apartment overlooking the waterway between the Mediterranean and the Mar Menor in an outstanding area of Murcia. It sleeps 4 very comfortably, but there is a bed-settee in the lounge which will sleep 2 small adults/children. The complex has a large swimming pool, toddlers' pool and children's play area on site, and is just 2 minutes from a large supermarket.

Short walk to the beaches; plenty of watersports locally; and a choice of golf courses within easy reach.

Dates are available in September at £225 per week (for the whole apartment, not per person – arrange your own flights). The price includes “meet and greet” service, cleaning, linen hire and an English-speaking contact in Spain in case of queries. More details on [www.murciabreaks.co.uk](http://www.murciabreaks.co.uk), or tel: **01939 251094**.

## More News!!

*If you are involved in an activity or event, or want to advertise something – just let us know! All contributions welcome. Tel. 01939 251094 or e-mail [ann@murciabreaks.co.uk](mailto:ann@murciabreaks.co.uk).*