

# Shawbury Village Players News



The last newsletter was January/February 2009 – but I forgot to change the heading, so it still said Oct/Nov 08 – some of you noticed the error! However, if you didn't receive it let me know. Newsletters are sent by e-mail, post, or hand-delivered locally, to adult & child members, limited to one per household. E-mailing saves postage (or shortens my delivery round), and also means I'm happy to leave you on the distribution list even if you're not a current member!

## Diary Dates

**Summer Production Meeting: Wednesday 22 April 7.30pm** at 53 Bridgeway. Contact Chris Fraser on 01939 250178 for more information.

**Play Reading: Tuesday 28 April 7.30pm** at the Elephant & Castle. A slight departure from our usual meetings – this will be an informal gathering at which attendees will be invited to read through a play (or just listen over a drink). A bit of socialising, a bit of fun – do come along.

**Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 5 May 7.30pm** at 11 River Gardens. Apologies to Mariella on 01939 290702. If anyone else is interested in serving on the committee they would be very welcome.

**Shawbury Fun Day: Bank Holiday Monday 4 May** at the Shawbury Village Hall and Playing Field. More details in village newsletter. The cast and crew of 'Blithe Spirit' will be "doing a turn" and selling tickets for the production. Come along & join the fun!

**Tidy-Up: RAF Shawbury Storage Saturday 9 May 10am – 12 noon.** More details below.

**Summer Production "Blithe Spirit" at Acton Reynald Hall 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July.** More information below.

**October production: Friday and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October.** More details below.

**Social Evening: November** – Theatre Severn is putting on a musical play called 'Silhouette', based on the 1960s underwear factory which was located in Harlescott. Is anybody interested in joining a group outing to see it?

**Pantomime (or Winter Play): 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010.** More details below.

## "Blithe Spirit" – 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July

This production by Angela & Richard Bray is going to be something different, and something special. Rather than our usual outdoor production, which was always subject to the vagaries of our British weather, the grounds of Acton Reynald Hall will be open for picnics from 6.30pm,

but with the actual production taking place within the Hall itself. The setting will lend itself perfectly to the play, and no-one gets wet if it rains! However, it will mean that audience numbers will have to be restricted, so get your tickets early!

Tickets will be available from Shawbury Post Office, Theatre Severn or telephone Jo on 01939 250070.

If anyone is able to help with publicity (finding places for posters!), please contact Mariella on 01939 290702.

## October Production:

The Village Hall has been booked for Friday & Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October. The format for the evenings is yet to be decided. It could be a review, it could involve the younger club members, it could be two 1-Act plays. If you would like to get involved, or have suggestions for an alternate entertainment, please contact Mariella or come along to the next committee meeting.

## Next Year's Pantomime

20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010 has been provisionally booked for our next pantomime (or "winter production"). What we now need is someone interested in putting it on! You might be interested in helping someone else direct, or you might be interested in organising the production. Please let Mariella know if you are interested in getting involved or, again, come along to the next committee meeting and find out all about it!

## A Review of the Pantomime

'1001 Arabian Nights' was a resounding success!!! We attracted some new club members, both young and old; we welcomed the involvement of the Shawbury Belly Dancers, who went down a treat; we introduced a 'very attractive' new 'dame' with Phil; discovered a couple of lovely new 'voices' with Abi and Tasha; Sally managed to 'dance badly' (which was quite an achievement), Tracey portrayed the elder 'self-absorbed' sister perfectly (and she's not like that at all); Mariella and Gemma gave us an hilarious scene with all that shaving foam; David's portrayal of Singbad was so 'right', with lovely interaction with the children, and I loved Chris's descent from 'evil Vizier' to crumbling, 'hard-done-by' husband!

The children's chorus, as usual, excelled – knowing all the words of the song, and managing to learn not only their own, but most of the adults' words as well! Tessa and Jodie successfully moved from 'chorus' to 'character roles', and Emma & Alina transformed our 'panto horse' into a very energetic and appealing camel (and it's not easy being covered with all that 'fur' under stage lighting!). We even managed to cope extremely well with 'a musical score'!

All this, of course, is not possible without the “crew”, so our grateful thanks to Geoff on the lighting, Dan & Mel on sound, Rich & Danny on follow-spots, Janet and her team for front-of-house, and grateful thanks to Chris Fraser for volunteering to be our prompt (never an easy task!). My special thanks to Karen, Cheryl and Stewart for all their help with the children throughout all the rehearsals. And last but not least, a thank you to all those ‘extras’ who turn up trumps setting up the stage, painting scenery, ‘humping and dumping’, and attending final rehearsals and performances to help with the children, costumes, do make-up, sell programmes, tickets and refreshments. Each and every one of you becomes part of the “team” that makes our productions so successful!

P.S. Also some very nice comments were made about the director, which were very much appreciated!

## Lost Property

As usual we have items which were left in the changing rooms after the panto, a scarf, a Curl & Shine Ceramic Waver and a red heart. If anyone would like to claim them please contact me on 01939 251094. I also have a spare copy of the panto script if anyone wants one.

## Report from the AGM

Although we didn't have many members attending, it was a very good meeting. After the ‘business’ was done, we had a general chat about our successes over the past year, possible future productions and other activities. Your new committee is named below, and if anyone else would like to join the committee, just let Mariella know, or turn up at the next committee meeting.

Chairman	Richard Bray
Vice-Chairman	Yvonne Chadwick
Secretary	Mariella Lloyd
Treasurer	Chris Fraser
RAF Liaison:	Gemma Ricks

Members: Rebecca Illott, Paul O'Hara, Ann Page, Geoff Soden.

## Membership Fees

Membership runs from 1 March to 28 (or 29) February, so these are now due.

The AGM agreed an increase in annual fees to Adults £15 and Children £5. This represents an increase from £12 to £15 for each adult, and makes it a flat rate for children (i.e. dropping the £1 for ‘additional children’).

The meeting felt that this was still exceptional value, as although participants are asked to pay for scripts (and children contribute a small sum for their drinks and words etc.) there are no additional rehearsal fees. Additional rehearsal charges were discussed but, as over the past year we have managed to ‘balance the books’, there will continue to be no rehearsal fees – and hopefully this will remain the case.

For those of you who tend only to be involved at panto-time, very often you don't pay membership fees until panto rehearsals start. This is fine, but if you want to pay earlier, Chris Fraser will be happy to take your money!

## Storage Facilities at RAF Shawbury

The good news – Defence Estates have reduced our bill for the storage facilities at RAF Shawbury to £1,000 per

annum. This is a major reduction from the originally proposed amount of £3234 per annum! So many thanks to everyone involved in presenting and supporting our case, and to Tom Wycherley of Defence Estates who has approved the reduction for us (Tom and his family also thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime this year!).

Thanks Geoff, Ann, Richard and the cast of “Blithe Spirit” who managed a quick tidy-up for the last CO's Inspection on 1 April 2009 (yes, the Commanding Officer does check us out regularly, together with the Fire Officer and the Health and Safety Officer!).

## Tidy-Up Saturday 9 May 10am to 12noon

Now the bad news – in return for a lower rent, we have agreed to reduce the amount of square footage we use in the building. This is not as bad as it sounds as the end room has already been cleared and all the costumes & rails moved into the main area. What still needs to be done though is for the scenery and the costume rails to be “swopped”, moving them from one end of the main area to the other, and for sense to be made of some of the very large number of props we have.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the number of costumes “hired out” over the last year has made a considerable contribution to our funds. However, this means that many hours of work lands on the shoulders of only a couple of people, who have been rather busy with other things this last six months, so we now have dozens of garments from productions and returns that need to be hung or stored away. So, whether you have muscles to move large objects, like putting away clothes, or just want to keep everyone going by putting the kettle on and supplying tea and toast, please, please, donate some of your time. We only have 2 hours to get everything done, and even if you can only manage half-an-hour on the Saturday morning, it will make a big difference.

## Oakengates Youth Summer School

Oakengates Youth Summer School operates from the moment school term ends in July. There is a cost involved, but students spend two weeks working closely with a professional director, musical director and choreographer to produce a show stopping, high energy musical. This year the production is “Oliver”. There is a whole range of parts available for male and female singers, dancers and actors. Participants learn how to sing, dance and play characters. You need to be between the ages of 8 and 21 years.

To take part, e-mail [Rachael.hyde@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Rachael.hyde@telford.gov.uk) for an application form and audition pack, or telephone 01952 382 270. Fees: £133 per person (siblings discount – second child £103, third child £83) – concessions available. Audition dates are Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May (Oliver and the Artful Dodger only and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June (rest of cast). The project runs from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August, with performances on 30<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August.

## Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society

SAOC are presenting Summer Holiday (based on the film “Summer Holiday” at Belvidere School, Shrewsbury from Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Tickets are £7 (Tuesday & Saturday Matinee £5), available from Monks Estate Agents, Shoplatch, Shrewsbury, or tel.01743 236855.