

Shawbury Village Players News



The last newsletter was March/April 2009. Newsletters are sent by e-mail, post, or hand-delivered locally, 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

"OUR DAY OUT" – Reading/audition at Shawbury Village Hall at 6pm Wednesday 24th June – a play for young people (with some adults). Everyone 10 years old upwards welcome. This will be performed at Shawbury Village Hall on 16th & 17th October. More details below.

Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday 24 June 7.30pm at 12 River Gardens. Apologies to Mariella on 01939 290702. If anyone else is interested in serving on the committee they would be very welcome to attend.

Summer Production "Blithe Spirit" at Acton Reynald Hall 1st to 4th July. More information 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. Please contact Rebecca Ilott on 01939 250556 if you are interested in joining others who are going to see it.

Pantomime (or Winter Play): PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECT DATES ARE 27TH TO 30TH JANUARY 2010. More details below.

Reading/Audition on Wed. 24th June

It has been decided to put on (subject to a successful evening on Wednesday 24th June) 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell. This is a popular, witty and fast-moving drama. The "progress class" is on a trip to Wales where liberal Mrs Kay and strict Mr Briggs have completely different ideas about how the day should be organised!

This is a marvellous play for a large cast of young people (plus adults). The Village Hall has been booked for performances on Friday & Saturday 16th & 17th October.

If you are unable to attend on the 24th June, but would like to be involved, telephone Richard Bray on 01939 250612. Children are more than welcome to bring along friends and family, aged 10 years or older.

The auditions will take place in the main hall, and will be very informal with the opportunity for all those who wish to read extracts to 'have a go'.

"Blithe Spirit" – 1st to 4th July at 7.30pm

This witty comedy is a typical Noel Coward drawing room farce, so where better to set it than in the beautiful drawing room of Acton Reynald Hall.

Charles Condomine, an affluent writer of mystery stories lives comfortably with his second wife Ruth. All goes well until he decides to invite the local medium Madame Arcarti to dinner in order to pick her brains for some material, or "tricks of the trade" as he calls it, for a story he is engaged in writing about a homicidal medium. In a hilarious scene where the Condomines and the Bradmans, their neighbours, try hard to take Madam Arcarti's weird behaviour seriously, a surprise is in store. Suffice to say that they get more than they bargained for and Ruth is not pleased to encounter the ghost of Charles's first wife, Elvira. The stage is set for a visit from the spirit world, which proves eventful and highly amusing.

The oak panelling and the magnificent staircase of Acton Reynald were practically created with Noel Coward's wonderful characters in mind. Also the grounds of the hall are lovely, and ideal for fortifying yourself with a hearty picnic before entering the hall and allowing the cast to introduce you to the spirit world! Let the haunting begin!!

Because performances are being held inside the hall, seating is restricted to 85 seats per night – so it's important to get your tickets early. Tickets are Adults £10, Concessions (children, OAPs and students) £8. Unfortunately we are unable to offer discounted tickets for members on this occasion.

Tickets are now available at Shawbury Post Office, Theatre Severn Box Office (01743 281281 Mon-Sat 10am-7pm) or telephone Jo on 01939 250070.

If you find a perfect place for a poster please contact Mariella on 01939 290702.

Shawbury Fun Day on 4th May:

For those of you who didn't attend, you missed a treat – Mariella dressed up for an amazing session as a fortune-teller and palm-reader. All done in aid of getting publicity for "Blithe Spirit" of course.

But that didn't stop people asking Mariella to "appear" at other events, or to provide individual readings!

Thanks also to Chris Fraser and others who handed out posters and handbills on the day.

Tidy-Up at RAF Shawbury on 9th May:

More thanks – this time to all those who came along for the Saturday morning tidy-up session.

Although there is still work to be done, the number of people who turned up enabled us to move scenery, wardrobes and costume rails – in fact, we were able to accomplish everything we aimed for, plus a little extra.

We are still in need of people who could spare a couple of hours a month to make some sense of the enormous number of costumes, props, wigs etc. that we have in store. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with me, and I'll give you more details.

Play Reading at Elephant & Castle

Unfortunately the play reading evening was very poorly attended, which was a pity as Richard had selected a couple of great plays for us to read through.

Although not living in Shawbury then, I am reliably informed that when the group were first formed, many moons ago, it was originally with the intention of just reading plays for pleasure - putting them on came later!

Things are getting rather hectic now with rehearsals for Blithe Spirit, the start of our October production, closely followed by the pantomime, but it may be something that can be looked at again if people are interested.

Pantomime - 27-30 January 2010

My apologies for the incorrect dates given in the last newsletter. The correct dates for performances are Thursday 27th January to Saturday 30th January.

Stage set-up and technical rehearsals will take place on Saturday and Sunday 23rd & 24th January, with a final dress rehearsal on Wednesday 26th January (Monday and Tuesday 24th and 25th are "nights off"!).

Although the dates have been booked with Shawbury Village Hall, what we now need are people interested in putting it on! We have already had a couple of people interested in helping with directing and producing, and an initial production meeting will be held early in September ready for rehearsals to start immediately following our October production. If you are interested in directing, or helping someone else to direct, or interested in organising the production, please contact Mariella.

Lost Property

I still have a Curl & Shine Ceramic Waver and a red heart hand warmer which were left in the changing room following the pantomime. If anyone would like to claim them please contact me on 01939 251094.

Membership Fees

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

Fees are Adults £15 and Children £5. This is still 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!). Additional rehearsal charges were discussed at the AGM

but we are currently managing to just about 'balance the books', there will continue to be no rehearsal fees – and hopefully this will remain the case.

Other Information

If you are interested in Folk Entertainment there is a free publication called Shreds and Patches which is sent out free of charge and includes details of Folk Arts in and around Shropshire. The Summer edition is now out listing events from May to September. I have a copy if anyone is interested in looking at it or, if you would like to receive your own copy, contact the editor Sheila Mainwaring on 01952 240989.

Other Events

Wellington Midsummer Fayre: Saturday 13 June 10am to 3pm.

Shrewsbury Morris Dancer, Odd Socks Band, Wynddebagge, Wellington Brass Band, Jack the Jester, Georgian Pageant, Crafts and 'Taste of Shropshire' food and drink stalls. Activities at the Parish Church, Market Hall & Square.

Music Festival Shrewsbury College, Main Campus, London Road, 20 June 2009 12noon to 11pm.

Advertised as a Festival for the whole family, with a blend of music, activities and performances for all ages throughout the day and into the night. stalls/circus skills/face painting/food & drink. Tickets available at www.shrewsbury.ac.uk or telephone 01743 342322.

Ludlow Festival: 2009 is the 50th Anniversary and this year's Shakespearian play is Romeo and Juliet with performances from 20th June to 4th July. On Sunday 5th July, the grand Pop Finale and Firework display this year has a sixties flavour with the great Marty Wilde and his Wildcats, supported by Alan Price and his band and The Swinging Blue Jeans. Tickets are £26. Box Office 01584 872150, www.ludlowfestival.co.uk

Shrewsbury Castle: The Lord Chamberlains Men are presenting Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, an open-air production on Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm. Box Office 01743 281281.

And for something a little different! Shrewsbury Green Fair at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury on Saturday 4th July 10am to 4pm.

Free Admittance. Live Music/Family Fun/Local Produce/ Solar Power/Organic Food/Gardening Tips/Ethnically Sustainable Gilfts/Arts & Crafts/Demonstrations and Children's Activities. Find out more about how we can all 'tread more lightly' on the planet.

If you are involved in an activity or event, let us know! All contributions welcome. Contact me on ann@murciabreaks.co.uk, or telephone 01939 251094