

# Shawbury Village Players News

Newsletters are sent by email or by post to all fully paid up members, both adults and children, but limited to one per household. We are trying to send the newsletter by email wherever possible, and so if you have an e-mail address and are still receiving a printed newsletter, please let us know. The last newsletter was in September 2010. Sorry its been a while, this was due to editorial changeover.

## DIARY DATES

**Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday 15 June at 7.30pm - 53 Bridgeway, Shawbury**

**Next Production: "The Importance of Being Earnest" at Acton Reynald Hall on 6-9 July**

**Readings/Auditions: A maritime murder mystery featuring 'Hercules Parrot' will take place in 3 village halls starting with Shawbury on 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. Those interested in taking part should contact [Mariella Lloyd on 01939 290702](mailto:Mariella.Lloyd@btinternet.com) for further details.**

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Membership runs from 1 March to 28/29 February each year. If you have not yet renewed for 2011-12 could you please contact Christine Fraser who has the membership forms. Up-to-date membership is necessary to be involved in a production and more importantly is also essential for our insurance cover!

Membership is also necessary to have full access to the SVP website, which is soon to be up and running.

Membership Fees are £15 for Adults and £5 for Children. Family Membership £30.

## ALICE IN WONDERLAND

What a wizard production! Well done to Phil Page on his directorial debut, and to Chris Fraser, the Director.

The production was a great success. It would not have been possible without the myriad of unseen and backstage helpers. Our thanks go to the childrens' helpers particularly Karen, Tracy, Claire Unsworth and Claire Hughes both during rehearsals and the production. Also our thanks to the superb backstage management and help from Trevor, Viv, Dave, Andy and Chris; the brilliant lighting from Melanie, Paul Stuart and Callum; sound from Harry "loud and clear"; Alina as a marvellous prompt; Sophie, Melanie and team for the picture perfect set design; Ann and Chris for costumes; Mariella and Steve for posters and publicity and finally but very much at the front of house to Jo and her team.



As for the cast: Lewis Carroll might have penned something as follows....

**A**nnaliese was an amazing Alice,  
who got invited to the royal palace;  
Ben was a whimsical White Rabbit,  
Who ran around in tartan habit;  
Sophie played a jolly good Joker,  
Whose one liners caused a groan-er two;  
Richard made a devastating Dame,  
Out to find riches and fame;  
Chris was the evil nasty Knave,  
With plans for the lands to enslave.

**J**odie and Meg were terrific Tweedles,  
With duelling light sabres, of danger heedless.

**S**ally a quintessential Queen,  
Who to the King was awfully mean;  
Gordon the henpecked cuckold King,  
Who calmly took it on the chin;  
Angie strutted and shouted as the Sarge,  
To bring some order to the cards;  
Mariella and Tessa were useless at fine arts,  
The soon-to-be-headless Ace and Deuce of Hearts.

**J**o the swashbuckling perfect Prince,  
Who haggis hunting made us wince;  
Katie the pretty singing Princess,  
Whose solo did us most impress;  
Chris was cool as the Cheshire cat,  
Wha gobbledegook zit ert bart;  
Elaine encapsulated the caterpillar,  
Whose fashion sense made us titter.

**R**oger was a marvellous Mad Hatter,  
Who made us laugh with his chatter;  
Peter played a remarkable Mad March Hare,  
Whose headgear made us stop and stare (in the headlights...);  
Natasha dazzled with her Dormouse,

Who had a teapot for her own house;  
Tony was a whiz as the Wiz and  
Gave his magic lots of fizz.

**N**ot last, nor least....

Our child performers were little stars,  
They gave their all and worked so hard;  
Catrina, Jordan, Callum, and Georgia,  
Ella Mae, Cain, Natasha and Tessa;  
As Wonderlanders, Soldiers, Hippies,  
Miners and Goblins you were the bestest!

A DVD of the pantomime will shortly be available.

## NEXT PRODUCTION:

**“The Importance of Being Earnest, ” 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July at Acton Reynald Hall.**

Also titled, “A Trivial Comedy for Serious People”  
The Importance of Being Earnest is probably Wilde's most popular play. Written in the early 1890's it is a farcical comedy which pokes fun at the social conventions of late Victorian London, and is renowned for its sparkling and witty dialogue.

There are only about 80 tickets per night. Saturday tickets are going fast and if members particularly want Friday seats or the other remaining nights, you need to buy them soon. Tickets are available at the Post Office or contact Jo Humphreys on 01939 250070.

## HAS SVP GOT TALENT?

**Sky Arts** has launched a nationwide search for the best amateur theatre company. Theatre groups are invited to upload an audition video of their performance of a short extract from a pre-selected list of plays and productions, which includes *The Importance of Being Earnest* !! The auditions will be based on society members' acting prowess and their ability to approach the chosen work in an innovative and refreshing way. Entries will open on 16 May and the deadline is midnight 25 July 2011.

## BETTER STILL: DO YOU HAVE TALENT

SVP are looking for a new logo. We have received many great ideas and suggestions are still coming in so a decision will likely be made at the next committee meeting in June. If you have not done so already: Do you think you can design something

suitable? We want a logo that will stand out and be instantly recognisable for all posters, letterheads and the new website. There are no limits as to colour or shape, although we would prefer a rectangular shape around 14 x 5 cm. Also wanted for the website are photographs of any of the productions during rehearsals, on stage, backstage, publicity, anything! Contact Melanie Horbury on [melaniehorbury@hotmail.com](mailto:melaniehorbury@hotmail.com)

## STILL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**John Bishop's Britain** is back and the BBC are looking for people all over Britain to interview about their funny, true stories from their lives. So, wherever you are from, in Britain, whatever you do for work, whatever your thoughts/opinions are...they want to hear from you. They want to hear your stories/opinions on everything from food and music to fashion, friends, DIY and regional Britain. They also have a Christmas special – so get your funny Pantomime/Christmas stories in too. Email your contact details to: [takepart@objectiveproductions.com](mailto:takepart@objectiveproductions.com) or call them on: 020 7202 2430

## ON A MORE LOCAL LEVEL

### The Shropshire Olympian Festival:

Shrewsbury Heritage Celebrations invites old and new members to be part of the festival which takes place on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June. It's a big 3-day affair, which is celebrating the eponymous festival of 1864 – so they are going VICTORIAN! SHC will provide Victorian walkabout characters and scenes in the Quarry and some Alice in Wonderland figures as part of the magical Illuminations on Saturday night. For more information contact SHC via [www.shrewsburyheritage.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburyheritage.co.uk)

In the 1864 Games there were many sports classes but quite a few arts competitions too, including water colour, poetry, knitting and embroidery. Now the organisers cordially challenge you to join in the knitting and/or embroidery competitions and to compete for a medal in the Olympian Festival. There are Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to be won in Knitting and Embroidery competitions in each in of two abilities. The closing date for receipt of competition entries is 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011. All entries (and results of the judging) will be displayed in the exhibition marquee and the medal award ceremony will take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June at the Great Victorian Picnic, in The Quarry Shrewsbury – a day of Victorian entertainment and fun. For more information contact the competition Administration:

Sarah Rollason, 01743 252305,  
[sarah.rollason@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.rollason@shropshire.gov.uk) and for the event  
itself see [www.shropshire1864.org.uk](http://www.shropshire1864.org.uk)

## A CALL FOR PIANISTS:

The South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is inviting pianists, either as soloists or as part of a group, to play their Steinway grand piano (and anyone who plays a portable instrument - including voice!) for their service users and staff. The recitals are held at the Cedars Restaurant, Shelton Hospital, Shrewsbury on Mondays from 2 to 3pm and performers would be met and accompanied throughout their visit. They have been running the recital programme since October last year and are now looking for musicians for the summer term, starting in May. You can choose any repertoire you like: everything from Mozart to Snow Patrol. If you'd like to register your interest, please contact Jessica Kent, the Trust's Arts for Health Coordinator on 07814 752783 or email her on [jessica.kent@sssft.nhs.uk](mailto:jessica.kent@sssft.nhs.uk)

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteer Arts Assistants are needed for the Shrewsbury Folk Festival on 26th - 29th August. The arts assistants will be helping children to take part in the various activities and ensuring that it is a safe and enjoyable experience for all. If you volunteer as an arts assistant you will get a free festival ticket for the whole weekend, plus free camping (worth £131) and free or discounted tickets for children (depending on age). It's a brilliant family friendly festival. Facilities are really good and there are a wide variety of food stalls and a great real ale bar!

Children's activities include music, dance, drama, crafts and lantern making, and you can select your preferred choice of activity to support. You will be required to work around 14 hours throughout the whole festival, so you'll have plenty of time to enjoy everything else the festival has to offer. All volunteers must be over 18. If you are interested please contact Jenny Smith for an application form - [jenny@shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk](mailto:jenny@shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk) or call 07582 003203

## INTERESTING WEBSITES

Apart from the much anticipated SVP website, the new **Discover Shropshire website** has now been launched, [www.discovershropshire.org.uk](http://www.discovershropshire.org.uk) The

site is the essential guide to the county's cultural, sporting and countryside activities; Leisure, Literature,

Arts, History, Nature, Parks and Countryside. Whatever your scene is, find out how you can get active.

## NEWS FROM NODA

If you would like to know more about NODA and receive their free newsletter direct, email: [virginia@noda.org.uk](mailto:virginia@noda.org.uk) with your details. Or if you simply want to know what's on and where see the interesting website at [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

## GOT SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT!!

If you are involved in an activity or event, have won an award, or just want to advertise something – please let me know and I'll get you in print!

## THEATRE TRIVIA

Before a theatre is locked up for the night, what should one always do?

- Cover the mirrors in the green room
- Leave a light on backstage
- Make sure the curtains are open, at least a crack
- Give a brief round of applause

Many types of props are considered unlucky, both for superstitious and practical reasons. Fakes should be used in place of the actual objects. Which of these is NOT considered a bad luck item? (ie, safe to use on stage)

- Bibles
- Playing cards
- Money and jewellery
- Food

Answers next newsletter!