

# Sodbury Players Newsletter

Issue 39



Edited by Robert and Diane Owen



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## Spring Play

Rehearsals for our next production, "A Day of Reckoning" by Pamela Valentine, which is being directed by Sue Bridgeman, are now well underway. The show runs from May 23 to 26th. Tickets are now on sale from Roy Whitlow - please do your best to help get a good house for each night. If you can display a poster somewhere please contact Karin Davies  
Set building has started - please contact Phil Oliver if you can help.

Debbie Bashford will be organising our regular "after show" meal on the Friday night - an Indian is planned this time - see Debbie for details.

## One Act Festivals - 2001

Our one-act festival entry "Privileges" has now been performed at all three One-act play festivals (Avon, Cheltenham and Malmesbury). At Cheltenham, Sian won best actress for her performance of Dora and Roy Whitlow won the cup for the best unpublished play. Congratulations to Roy and Sian and thanks to all the cast and crew for all their efforts over the last few months.

## One Act Regional Final

On Saturday 7th April, Sodbury Players hosted the All-England's Theatre Festival Western Area Central Division Final (pew! what a mouthful) at the Town Hall. Five winning plays from the surrounding area competed to go through to the next round to be held in Teignmouth on 12th May. Old Town Theatre Company, Swindon were the winning group with their production of "The Open Couple" by Dario Fo. Our running of the event generated much genuine praise from both the organisers and the participants. Many thanks to Mark and Norma Graves who took the lead in the

organisation and to everyone who helped make it such a successful day. A special mention also to Tim Hunter and his assistants for their efforts in setting lights at unsocial hours to fit in with other events at the the Town Hall.

## Autumn Play

Our autumn production will be "The Winslow Boy" by Terrence Rattigan and will be directed by Mark Seaman. The play is set in the early 20th century and is based on a true story about a young boy who is expelled from a Navy school for stealing. The play covers his family's fight to prove his innocence and the effect of this on their relationships.

More details and audition dates will be in the next Newsletter.

## Play Readings

Two further play readings are planned for Tuesday 1 May and Tuesday 15 May. If you are not involved in the current play please come along and join in. Everyone who has come along has enjoyed this activity - a great chance to read plays in an informal atmosphere. Also if you have any suggestions for plays to read please contact Diane Owen.

## Chipping Sodbury Festival

As part of the Chipping Sodbury Festival, Sodbury Players will be putting on an evening of one-act plays at the Town Hall on Saturday 9th June. In the first half, SPYS will do three short pieces; "Sir Jasper" (a melodrama), an extract from "Under Milk Wood" and a short play "We Three" about 3 witches. In the second half, we will be presenting our one act festival entry "Privileges".

## Town Hall

The Town Hall has now completed the planned work on the stage area. The walls have been painted black with notice boards fitted at the sides. The main curtains have been replaced in red velvet and the wings and drapes in a light grey. Extra care will be needed by all those involved in work on stage to ensure that we do not cause any damage to these new fittings.

## SPYS

SPYS continue to thrive and have continued to meet each week on a Monday night at Ridgewood. Its great to see such enthusiasm and talent in our younger members. They are currently working towards the Chipping Sodbury festival performances in June and also hope to put on an evening for members and parents at Ridgewood in July.

If any of the adult members are interested in directing a one-act play with the youth in the future or can offer help in any other way please contact Karin Davies or Maggie Allsopp.

## John Osman

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the recent untimely death of John Osman. John had been a keen member of Sodbury Players for many years and had acted in many of our productions as well as directing. His last performance was in autumn 2000 as Syd in "Breezeblock Park". John will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with Margaret and his family.

## Social Events

Our block booking of 12 tickets for "Oliver" at the Town Hall on 4th May are all sold.

Our next social event will be a bowling evening at Longwell Green on Tuesday 12 June at 7:30pm. The cost will be £12.99 which includes 2

games of bowling, basket meal, games tokens and camera. The menu choices are:-

- Mexican burger and spicy wedge fries
- Mississippi chicken dippers + french fries
- Lincolnshire fish cakes and wedge fries
- Vegetable Kiev with French fries

Please contact Debbie Bashford if you wish to come - a good night is guaranteed!

Our annual Car Treasure Hunt will be held on Sunday 8th July - please make a note in your diaries - more details nearer the time.

The date for our Xmas dinner dance has also been set for Friday 14th December - to be held at the Golf Club.

## Annual General Meeting

Our 2001 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th June at 7:30pm prompt at Ridgewood. Details will be sent out shortly.

## Dates for your diary

1 May	Play reading
4 May	Oliver
15 May	Play reading
23-26 May	Spring Play
9 June	Sodbury Festival production
12 June	Bowling Evening
19 June	Annual General Meeting
8 July	Treasure Hunt
19-23 Sep	Autumn Play
14 Dec	Xmas dinner dance