

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everybody

I am writing to you on Sunday the 27th of October having put our clocks back an hour last night, so it's official, Summer is over. I don't feel too glum about this as Autumn is visually my favourite month. The colours of Autumn are amazing.

"The Suspicions of Mr Whicher" has just finished a very successful run with a full house on its last night (and for most of the week!). My thanks and congratulations to cast and crew, and especially the director, Yasmin Nixon, whose directorial debut with the Players this was.

In case you are feeling a little depressed with Winter on the horizon let me lighten your mood by reminding you of our next production "The Vicar of Dibley" - details below.

I'm sure most of you are aware how our list of volunteers has depleted over the last few years. With that in mind we did an extensive leaflet drop throughout Arundel asking for volunteers to help with building/painting our sets. We were very fortunate as two lovely gentlemen responded and were a great help on "The Suspicions of Mr Whicher" set. But we still need more help in many areas: bar, front of house, back stage. If any of you feel you could lend a hand in any of these areas please contact me on 0791 7834456. As you will be receiving this newsletter in November and our next one is in January, a little early I know but I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Best wishes to you all

Dawn

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Rehearsals are now under way for our Christmas production, "The Vicar of Dibley". Adapted and directed by Kate Bennett, it incorporates a wealth of seasonal material from this much loved sitcom. Tickets are selling like hot cakes so 'don't delay, book today'.

As previously announced, there will be no February '25 production. Instead we will be using this time to refurbish the bar and common ways. Our first production in the New Year will be "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" in April, a great opportunity to come along and see what we've done with the old place! **For those interested in taking part in this production, the Audition Notice appears at the end of this newsletter.**

Our June production will be “God Of Carnage”, by Yasmina Reza. This edgy comedy, from the writer of Art, will be directed by Helen Harries-Rees, who has recently enjoyed great success with her productions of “Home, I’m Darling” and “Surplus Women”.

Our Festival 2025 production is the musical version of “Wind in the Willows”, directed by Kate Bennett. This charming piece of musical theatre should appeal to a wide audience including families with young children.

By popular request we will shortly be issuing a leaflet detailing ALL of our 2025 productions, up to and including December 2025. You will be able to pick up a copy at the theatre and it will also be reproduced on our website. So that you can plan ahead, all these productions will be available for immediate booking.

SUBSCRIPTION ALERT!

A gentle reminder that subscriptions fell due on 1st September. The annual subscription is £15.00. Payment may be made by cheque payable to The Arundel Players sent to:

Julie Waite
Membership Secretary
The Arundel Players
Updown Cottage
Arundel Road
ANGMERING
West Sussex
BN16 4JZ

Alternatively, you can pay by bank transfer **quoting your surname as reference**. The bank details are as follows:

Payee: ‘Arundel Players’ - sort code **30-95-09**, account no. **00103102**

Over the past few years we have noticed a gradual reduction in our membership. **Our members are our lifeblood so please do support your local theatre and ‘join up’ again this year**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

‘An actor is a sculptor who carves in snow’

Edwin Booth

Arundel Players - Audition Notice

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

By **Simon Stephens** based on the novel by **Mark Haddon**.

Production dates: 7th – 12th April 2025.

Workshop/Read Through: Wednesday 15th January 7.30 p.m.

Auditions: Wednesday 22nd January 7.30 p.m.

Rehearsals: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays starting Monday 10th of February, 7.30 p.m. start and finishing at 10.00 p.m.

**...ALL at The Priory Playhouse, London Road, Arundel, West Sussex
BN18 9BZ**

N.B. Non-members are welcome to attend the workshop/read through and audition, but if cast you must join the company. I will see anyone who wants to audition but cannot change the audition date to another time.

Synopsis

The play is a kind of murder/mystery story, except that it is a dog that has been killed, and

Christopher Boone, a fifteen-year-old autistic boy, is the detective who sets out to solve the

“murder”. The title is a nod to the Sherlock Holmes short story Silver Blaze, in which Holmes solves a killing by noting that the “dog didn’t bark in the night-time”. The narrative explores Christopher’s struggle to make sense of a chaotic world which, to his strictly logical mind, makes no sense at all.

The narrative is in the classical form of a quest, and the adventures and difficulties that the

protagonist must overcome on his journey to gain his objective. In this case this is to find his mother whom he has been told (by his father) is dead, but who, in fact, is very much alive.

This play is an ensemble piece and will be a challenge and great fun to do.

No one leaves the stage throughout, all set changes will be done by the cast, and actors in the ensemble will need to change characters in a split second.

Lead Characters:

Christopher: a fifteen-year-old autistic boy who never leaves the stage.

Siobhan: Christopher’s teacher who is key to the narrative because she reads Christopher’s journal

to the audience. She's an understanding sympathetic character, playing age 20s/30s.

Ed: Christopher's father. a screwed up embittered man who was the person who killed the dog out of a fit of pique. Playing age 40s.

Judy: Christopher's mother she ran away with her neighbour's husband, in conflict with herself over abandoning Christopher. Playing age 30s/40s.

Ensemble:

1. Mrs Alexander/Posh woman/Voice 6.
2. Mrs Shears/Mrs Gascoyne/woman on train/woman on heath/shop keeper/Voice 1.
3. Roger Shears/Duty Sergeant/Mr. Wise/Man Behind the Counter/Drunk 1/Voice 2.
4. Policeman 1/Mr. Thompson/Drunk 2/Man with Socks/London Policeman/Voice 3.
5. No 40/Lady in the Street/Information voice/Punk Girl/Voice 5.
6. Reverend Peters/Uncle Terry/Station Policeman/Station Guard/Voice 4.

All playing ages in the ensemble are flexible.

For more information and audition pieces please contact the Director, Harry Atkinson at atkinsonwilliam2003@yahoo.co.uk or ring 07766405959