



WTW NEWS

June
2009

Website: www.wargravetheatre.co.uk

'*Sumer is Icumen In*' So goes the ancient medieval ballad. Reputedly written in Reading Priory, so most apt for the medieval theme to this year's Wargrave Village Festival, which I am sure you are aware, is almost with us.

I have great confidence that the weather is going to be kind to us this time and all the rainfall for June is going to be out of the way this week.

As one of the most prominent and successful organisations in the village, we are involved in many aspects of the Festival including the most popular, centrepiece event of our outdoor production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

Polishing and finishing touches are now being applied by the very hard working team of producers, director, costume, Backstage workers, musicians and actors and it promises to more than live up to our high standards.

As one of Shakespeare's more visual comedies, there will be much to enjoy and for the first time, there will be live music interspersed with the action.

New tiered seating will be provided, increasing our capacity to more than 1200 over the four performances and whilst we have sold more tickets than ever before, there are still some available for each night, **Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th June** (but singles only for Thursday). Box Office number **0778 6425479**.

The following week on **Thursday 25th June**, we are showcasing the talents of Wedge Members as part of 'The Best of Wargrave Youth' in the Festival marquee on Mill Green. Ann Roberts is directing two lively and bawdy medieval comedies by Geoffrey Chaucer that are sure to go down extremely well. The first tells the story of ***The Wife of Bath*** and the second is ***The Reeve's Tale***. The two performances will run for a total of about 40 minutes. The talents of many other younger members of our Group in the field of dance, music and drama will be on show through pieces presented by The Piggot School choir and Drama Group and The Madeleine Kelly School of Dancing. Tickets are priced at £5.50 (£3.50 concessions) or a family ticket (two adults & two children) at £15. Volunteers for 'backstage' assistance on the night would be most welcome. Ann has a number of tickets for sale (9402656), or they can be purchased through the normal Festival sources.

www.wargravevillagefestival.co.uk

Martin Lorenz's high-spirited, colourful and amusing modern interpretation of another of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, ***The Nun's Priests Tale (or The Nonne Priestes Tale)*** will be performed by his band of strolling minstrels at the village fete on **Saturday 27th June**. The performance will take place in the Arena on Mill Green at around 2.30pm and possibly spontaneously reprised later on. Of course this is a free event and will appeal to all ages.

Not to be left out, Junior Workshop will also be presenting a short version of ***The Pied Piper of Hamelin*** at the fete, immediately before Martin.

I hope the whole membership will be there at the parade and fete to give their full and vocal support. There is no excuse.

Contact information:

Chairman: Stephen Farrow; Secretary: Julia Tabrah; Treasurer: Linda Daman; Membership Secretary: Joy Haynes (940 3962).
Committee: Mike Watt, Lauren Priestnall, Emmajane Dean, Martin Lorenz, Judi Rowlands

Life after The Wargrave Village Festival

It is difficult at the moment to think much beyond The Village Festival, but of course there will be lots of activity within the Group preparing for future production events and planning workshops and improvements to our facilities and equipment to allow the Group to continue to develop and flourish. First on the agenda is:

House of Bernardo Alba by Frederick Garcia Lorca **7th - 10th October 2009**

Ann Roberts, our director for this, our autumn production will be holding a reading on **Thursday 2nd July** in The Green Room to introduce us to this highly interesting play with an all female cast. Ann is looking for a Producer and Stage Manager and other volunteers.

Unfortunately, the planned **Make-up Workshop** had to be cancelled, but will be re-arranged at a later date. We are also planning a **Set Design Workshop**, a **Theatre visit to Windsor**, and more **Acting Workshops** following the huge success of the Voice Coaching Workshop in March (more below).

Looking further ahead, thoughts are already focused on the **November Wedge production**, to be directed by Chez Payne Annetts who has some interesting plans, to be revealed shortly! **Panto 2010** is to be directed by Emmajane Dean and the search is on for some original scripts. In spring 2010 Mike Watt will be directing **Under Milk Wood, by Dylan Thomas**, so 'look you now', start practising those Welsh accents!

News Round Up

Since the last Newsletter, we have held a very worthwhile **Voice Coaching Workshop** with a professional Drama teacher.

Fifteen members attended this all day event one Saturday in March and all found it hugely enjoyable, not at all intimidating and very useful.

The course focussed on breathing, posture, proper exercise and warm-up of the vocal chords, enunciation, pitch, pace and variation of tone.

The course ended with each participant reading a favourite passage of text they had brought with them followed by a very positive exploration of the different ways this could be delivered.

All came away extremely energised by the day and requesting a repeat on an associated theme, in the future.

The **AGM** held on 20th April, was unfortunately poorly attended, but nevertheless, details of the achievements of the hard working committee and particularly our Chairman, Stephen Farrow, and the exciting plans for the future were enthusiastically greeted.

The new committee comprises:

Chairman	Stephen Farrow
Treasurer	Linda Daman
Secretary	Julia Tabrah

Emmajane Dean, Lauren Priestnell, Judi Rowlands, Joy Haynes, Martin Lorenz and Mike Watt.

A big thank you to Stephen and Linda for their continued contribution and to Susannah Todd for her work as Secretary. A warm welcome to Julia, who as well as looking after her new baby Charlotte has taken on the task of keeping us all in order as our new Secretary. Somehow I think she will cope admirably.

Also a welcome back to Joy, who always works tirelessly for the good of WTW.

In view of the intensive use to which our Green Room is now put, Lauren has agreed to take on the role of 'bookings secretary' and all proposed meetings, rehearsals etc must be booked through her (9344989).

A new logo was introduced at the AGM, which it is hoped you will have noticed at the top of this Newsletter and is also used in our standard advert in The Wargrave News. Many thanks to Lisa Henderson for coming up with a range of innovative ideas for the committee to chose from. As

many of you will know, Lisa also designed the Twelfth Night poster which has received considerable favourable comment.

The Chairman reported on a highly successful year and gave details of the considerable work and money that had been undertaken in improving the 'over stage' facilities in The Woodclyffe Hall and upgrading The Green Room.

Future plans include a new digitised lighting board, sound, lighting, heating, and flooring improvements to The Green Room and the possibility of a set storage facility/workshop being constructed in the rear yard of The Woodclyffe Hostel.

Our Wardrobe facility just gets better and better, thanks largely to the tremendous work done by Maureen and Judi. Their 'Sewing Bee's have proved very successful, with a number of volunteers coming forward to help with the costuming for Twelfth Night.

Dates for your Diary

***Wednesday - Saturday 17th
-20th June***

Thursday 25th June

Saturday 27th June

Thursday 2nd July

***Wednesday - Saturday 7th-
12th October***

***Wednesday - Saturday, 18th
- 21st November***

***Wednesday - Sunday, 20th
- 24th January 2010***

***Wednesday - Saturday, 21st
- 24th April 2010***

Twelfth Night

WEDGE entertainment - The Canterbury Tales

WTW does The Festival Parade, Fete,

***The Pied Piper of Hamelin and The Nuns Priests Tale
@ The Village Fete***

***First reading - House of Bernardo Alba - Green Room,
8pm***

House of Bernardo Alba

Wedge Autumn Production

Pantomime

Under Milk Wood