



# WTW NEWS

March  
2009

Website: [www.wargravetheatre.co.uk](http://www.wargravetheatre.co.uk)

The rigours of winter are well and truly behind us (we hope) and spring is sprung. 2009 is of course Wargrave Village Festival year and you should by now have received your Programme of events with the recent edition of The Wargrave News.

As one of the most prominent and successful organisations in the village, we are involved in many aspects of the Festival.

Perhaps the most important date for you all to remember is ***Festival Ticket Day on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March.***

As a paid up member, you can of course take advantage of Members Priority Booking for Twelfth Night by using the form attached to this Newsletter, but it is essential your ticket order arrives with Sue Edwards no later than 7.30pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, as tickets go on general sale at 9.00 am the following day, and as the most popular event of the Festival, are highly likely to sell out quickly. Please note there was an error on the Booking Form sent with the February Newsletter. Wednesday and Thursday tickets are £12.50, not £12.00.

As well as Twelfth Night, members have the opportunity to be involved in a number of other events. We are showcasing the talents of Wedge Members at 'The Best of Wargrave Youth' on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June and Martin Lorenz is producing an adult extract from Chaucers Canterbury Tales at the fete and probably elsewhere. These performers and Junior members may just pop up at other events during the Festival to entertain and amuse villagers.

We hope to continue the long tradition of entering a float in the village parade on 27<sup>th</sup> June and having a stall at the fete. We have also been asked to enter a tug of war team into the village competition, but we need some volunteers to come forward to organise or assist in all these events. Come on now, it's time for all you butterflies to emerge from your chrysalis and spread your wings. Please call Mike Watt (9406257) or EJ (0778 2325661) to show your interest.

## ***Voice Coaching Workshop with Irene Bradshaw***

***28<sup>th</sup> March 2009***

About a dozen members have signed up for this workshop, but there are still spaces available. The Workshop runs from 11am till 5pm with a break for lunch and is yours for the highly subsidised price of only £10. In my experience you could pay over £100 for this workshop commercially.

Irene is an experienced professional voice coach and is in great demand from both the performing arts and business sectors in providing workshops to give participants greater confidence in their presentation, delivery and voice projection skills. Actors will find the techniques learnt of great benefit on the stage. Furthermore, in this current economic climate it is increasingly important that individuals are able to project themselves to others in a confident and comfortable manner, both in a working and social environment and this workshop will help to equip you with the necessary tools to do this, even if you have little interest in acting.

Participants will be asked to bring a piece of text, either from a speech, book, play or poem to work on and there will also be vocal games and improvisation.

The start time of this workshop will allow you to queue for your Festival tickets beforehand.

This workshop is being organised by Jane Moore whose contact number is 01628 628546 or email [nigel.hains@talktalk.net](mailto:nigel.hains@talktalk.net). Cheques payable to Wargrave Theatre Workshop to be sent to Jane at 10 Lutman Lane, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 7HH.

### **Contact information:**

Chairman: Stephen Farrow; Secretary: Susannah Todd; Treasurer: Linda Daman; Membership Secretary: Wendy Roberts (940 3092).  
Committee: Joe Haynes, Mike Watt, Lauren Priestnall, Emmajane Dean, Martin Lorenz, Judi Rowlands

### ***Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare***

***17th to 20th June 2009***

Rehearsals are now in full swing with the actors being firmly 'encouraged' by director, Joe Haynes to learn their lines.

It is nice to see several new members in the cast.

This production promises to be another milestone in the glittering history of WTW and features live musicians for the first time in a WTW Shakespeare production.

As mentioned above, ***priority booking of tickets by members is available up to 7.30pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March***, by completing and returning the attached form to Sue Edwards.

### ***Canterbury Tales at Wargrave Village Festival***

***Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009***

Rehearsals by *Wedge* members are also underway under the watchful eye of Ann Roberts. These lively and bawdy mediaeval comedies of Geoffrey Chaucer promise to go down extremely well. The first tells the story of **The Wife of Bath** and the second is **The Reeve's Tale**. The performance will run for approximately 40 minutes. Tickets for the evening will be on sale at Festival Ticket day, so please support the younger members. Volunteers for 'backstage' assistance on the night would be most welcome. More details from Ann on 9402656.

### ***More Canterbury Tales***

***Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009***

Martin Lorenz has cast his production of *The Nun's Priests Tale (or Thee Nonne Priestes Tale)* which will be performed by his band of strolling minstrels at the village fete and probably elsewhere around the village. One or two more 'walk on' non-speaking(!) hens and other farmyard animal characters would be more than welcome additions to his 'flock'. If you want to get involved in the heart of the village festivities, this is where to be. The story is of a gentle, naïve priest who relates to pilgrims on their way to Canterbury the tale of Chauntecleer the cockerel, his number one wife, Pertelote and his near fatal encounter with Russel the fox. A further reading takes place in the Green Room on ***Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March*** but if you can't make that, call him on 9403400.

### ***Junior Workshop***

Over the last few weeks the two junior groups led by Joy Haynes, Jane Jordan and Tanya Wilkie have been focusing on the importance of concentration and working together as a team to create scenes for performance. The juniors are also being introduced to the concept of verbal dynamics combined with voice projection. It has always been a mystery to me how youngsters tend to mumble when on stage delivering learnt lines, but when saying something totally inappropriate in a shop or restaurant, their comment can be clearly heard above whatever other noise is going on. It is the aim of our leaders to bring that level of projection and clarity to the performance arena!

The juniors are currently devising a short presentation to parents, family, friends and members based on the poem 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' by Robert Browning. All are invited to The Green Room on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm to see the results of their efforts.

Following the Easter break, they will continue the theme with a view to presenting a longer version during the Village Festival. Contact Joy on 9403962 for further details.

### ***Annual General Meeting 8pm, Green Room***

***Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009***

Our Constitution requires that the Chairman, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary be elected every year and both Stephen Farrow and Linda Daman are prepared to offer themselves for re-election. Susannah Todd has decided to stand down as Secretary.

Additionally three of the six committee members retire by rotation each year.

It is important the membership takes an interest in the running of our highly successful group and supports the democratic process of selecting a committee to continue our success.

Please consider if you can spare a small amount of your time to get involved in this process.

Feel free to speak in confidence to Stephen, our hardworking Chairman or any of the current committee.

We do need someone to offer their services as Secretary. More details are on the website including details of the existing committee, the AGM agenda and a nomination form. If you require a hardcopy please contact the Hon Sec, Susannah Todd on 07961 813352.

***House of Bernardo Alba by Frederick Garcia Lorca*** 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Ann Roberts, our director for this, our autumn production will be holding a reading later in the spring for you all to learn more about this highly interesting play with an all female cast. Ann is looking for a Producer and Stage Manager and other volunteers.

***News From the Costume Team***

More information about the sewing bee below, but here are a few other things that members should be aware of.

The stock of medieval costumes in WTW wardrobe is likely to be fully utilised in costuming the various events we are involved in (as is the time of our hardworking costume team). It is unlikely a WTW member or the general public will be able to walk into the wardrobe room on a Saturday morning a week or two before the Festival to pick up a costume for a festival event. However, if you still haven't got a 'Clue', all is not lost. Miss Rowlands will be doing it in The Library with a needle and thread on **22<sup>nd</sup> April**. Yes, Judi from our redoubtable costume team will be in the **Library from 10.30 -12.00** that day to give advice on putting together your own medieval costume. A helpful leaflet will also be available that will include details of other places that hire out costumes. Fun & Frolic in Reading have agreed to give a 10% discount to Wargravians.

Please note also that Costume Hire is closed on all forthcoming Bank Holiday Saturdays and throughout August.

As ever, our undying love and appreciation goes out to Maureen and Judi, the 'bag ladies' of Wargrave. Contact them.

Maureen - 07786 948650 Judi - 9403872, [judianne@waitrose.com](mailto:judianne@waitrose.com).

***Other Interesting Bits***

***Green Room Curtains and projector screen.*** - Have you noticed in the Green Room that Stephen Farrow and Martin Lorenz have been hard at work hanging the old 'blacks' from The Woodclyffe Hall stage and installing an electronically operated projector screen. This greatly improves the appearance of the room and allows much greater versatility in our use of it. Many thanks to yet more hard work behind the scenes from these stalwarts of the group.

***Sewing Bee - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm.*** The Green Room hive was buzzing with enthusiasm, ideas and activity at the first sewing bee on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, helped in no small part by copious amounts of white wine! A further 'Bee' is planned at the hive on the above date, so come along and join the fun. You won't get stung into taking on a massive burden, but you will be encouraged to contribute by taking on a small task if you can.

Help will also be required on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June to bring together and organise/label all the costumes ready for the final rehearsals. Exciting moments.

Just imagine sitting in your comfortable seat on Mill Green on a balmy June summers evening, admiring the wonderful actors and their exquisite costumes and being able to turn to your partner or friend and say 'I helped with that'. Be a honey and ring Queen Bee Judi on 940 3872.

***Make-up Workshop - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 8pm.*** Please make a note of the changed date for this workshop (we previously scheduled it for Easter Monday - whoops!). Ann Roberts has agreed to run this workshop to teach the basic rules of stage make-up. Actors should understand the techniques of stage make up and be able to apply their own 'slap' so come along to what will I am sure be a very interesting (and probably amusing) session.

***Theatre Outings*** - Theatre Royal Windsor is now presenting an extremely varied and interesting programme. We have strong contacts with the theatre through Ann Roberts and their management have come to and admired several of our recent productions. The opportunity exists for us as a group to visit them, see a show and possibly have a backstage tour and meet the cast. Please register your interest with Ann (9402656) if you would like to be part of a small group that would be contacted from time to time when a visit is planned. (Name, phone and email details please).

**Personal Stuff** - Our best wishes are extended to Chez Payne-Annetts and Joe Haynes, both of whom recently underwent major operations and are now well on the road to recovery. WTW breeds 'em tough!

Many congratulations to Julia and Tom Tabrah on the birth of a healthy, bouncing daughter, Charlotte Rose, weighing 7lb 10oz. on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Looks like we will have another drama queen on our hands in a few years time!

**Book the dates in your diary now, complete the ticket order form for Twelfth Night and ring/email to reserve your place on the Voice Coaching Workshop. You'll regret it if you don't.**

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 8.15pm**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 7.30pm**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 8pm**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 8pm**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm**

**Wednesday - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>  
-20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**Wednesday - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>-  
12<sup>th</sup> October**

**Read through - The Nuns Priest**

**Members Priority Booking for Twelfth Night closes.**

**Festival Ticket Sales day**

**Voice Coaching Workshop 11am**

**Junior Presentation, The Pied Piper of Hamelin**

**AGM**

**Sewing bee**

**Make up workshop**

**Twelfth Night**

**WEDGE entertainment - The Canterbury Tales**

**WTW does The Festival Parade, Fete, Tug of War**

**The Nuns Priests Tale @ The Village Fete**

**House of Bernardo Alba**