

WIMBORNE DRAMA



Dear New Member,

Welcome to Wimborne Drama! We've put this information together which we hope you will find useful and will perhaps answer some of your questions. Please don't hesitate to ask about anything we have missed!

Wimborne Drama was formed in November 1928 by a group of enthusiasts who called themselves "The Wimborne Drama Society". There were other amateur dramatic groups in the town before this date, but no official record of them has been found. The first production was an ambitious one. *Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure* had a cast of forty people and the few remaining photographs show it was a rather stylish affair!

At one point the group merged with Wimborne Operatic Society. This relationship was short lived due to the high cost of staging such productions and a sad but amiable parting took place, each group returning to their former selves.

Early plays were staged at the W.I Hall until it was demolished, and then at Church House. Fire restrictions caused this venue to be abandoned in favour of "the new secondary modern school at Pamhill" and thence to the Allendale Centre.

In 1994 came a large step forward when the Tivoli Theatre reopened. Wimborne Drama were invited to become the resident amateur theatre group and we haven't looked back since! In past years, there have been both highs and lows; successes and (possibly) the odd failure. One thing is for certain: all our members, both past and present, have had a great deal of enjoyment over the years providing entertainment for our audiences and we hope to continue for many years to come!

How much does membership cost?

Annual membership is £30 for adults (£15 if joining after 1st July) and £15 for under 16s. Membership fees contribute towards the hire of our rehearsal venues.

Members receive a monthly newsletter – *Stage Whisper* – that keeps them informed of what's going on in the club, both on stage and off. We arrange trips to the theatre and other social events. We also organize and participate in fundraising activities for the club and for other local charities including quizzes and murder mystery evenings.

If you would like to join please complete the attached New Membership Form and send it with your payment to Miss T Nicholls (Secretary) 50 Lynwood Drive, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset. BH21 1UQ or hand it in at our next monthly meeting.
(Please make cheques payable to "WIMBORNE DRAMA CLUB")

Award winning resident amateur dramatics company at the Tivoli Theatre
<http://www.wimbornedrama.co.uk>



When do we meet?

There is a monthly Business Meeting on the last Thursday of every month (except December). Monthly meetings take place at Wimborne Town Hall and commence at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated. When in rehearsal we meet every Monday and Wednesday (and some Sundays) at the Wimborne British Legion, at 7.30pm.

The AGM

On the last Thursday in January we hold our Annual General Meeting, presided over by our President, Councillor Anthony Oliver, when we elect the Management Committee for the next 12-month period. Any adult member can be proposed and seconded to stand for election.

The Archives

Photographic records of our most recent productions at the Tivoli can be seen on our website:

<http://www.wimbornedrama.co.uk>

There is also a scrapbook containing photos and programmes from our productions.

Here is some basic information about our productions:

- We do three plays per season (September/October, February and May/June).
- They generally vary between Drama, Comedy and Farce.
- Informal auditions are held and the Director casts the play.
- Rehearsals start approximately 12 weeks before opening. They involve two evenings in the week and a Sunday morning or afternoon nearer the time.
- Dress Rehearsals take place on the Wednesday before the opening on Thursday. Performances are normally held at 7.30pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with a 2.30pm matinee also on the Saturday.
- The set is built on the Sunday before opening and taken down after the final Saturday night performance. (Many hands make light work!)

Everyone is encouraged to get involved; there is always plenty to do! Please don't be disappointed if you don't make the cast. We always need willing volunteers to help backstage, sell programmes, sort out costumes, track down props, hand out fliers – the list is endless!