Siy Corner

Celebrating BATS 100th production

Commemorative Programme - Winter 2014

Cast

- Stewart Hiorns
- Roger Bell
- Sian Cole
- Helen Gwilliam
- Heather Cooper
- Doreen Davies / Julie Greenwood
- Steve Richardson
- Steve Nelson
- Ian Evans
- Marcus Brace

Synopsis of the Play

The Shop At Sly Corner focuses around the activities of an antiques shop run by Descius Heiss. After a crime-riddled past, he has settled in London and to all appearances is a respectable gentleman. His chief aim is to provide happiness and security for his gifted daughter Margaret, who has been brought up in complete ignorance of her father's past. However, Descius has not quite given up his sideline in black market buying and selling of stolen jewels, and when somebody close to him discovers not only his past but his present and begins to blackmail him, Descius is overcome. He is no longer in control, and when the threat of truth may be exposed to his daughter, Descius must find a way out, a way to retain his secret, forever...

ACT I	- A Friday evening in August
ACT II	- A Sunday evening in the following Winter
Interval	- 15 minutes
Act II	- Continued
ACT III	- The following Tuesday morning

Behind The Scenes

Director	-	Piers Morgan-Harvey
Set Design & Construction -		Vic Ireland, MikeTurner, Arthur Childs, Malcolm Poole,
	-	Guy Littlemore
Sound & Lighting	-	Piers Morgan Harvey, Guy Littlemore, Alan Bailey
Poster & Programme	-	Neil Chamberlain, Andrew Liney, Barry Cooper, Sarah Govier
Props	-	Vic Ireland and the cast
Costumes	-	Heather Cooper & Rosemarie Meates
Hair & Make up	-	Julie Greenwood & Joyce Childs
Front of House	-	Malcolm & Jill Poole, Val Hiorns, Philippa Cooper,
& Refreshments		Maureen Bailey, Geoff Davies, Arthur Childs, Keith Gwynn,
		Linda Nelson, Sarah Govier, Barry Cooper, Ros Brace,
		Mike Turner & Samantha Fox

Thank you for the generous help received from: -

Rosemarie costume alterations T: 234959 Your support is valued greatly, we hope you enjoyed the show and keep coming with all your friends.

BATS 100th PRODUCTION

6.45pm	-	doors open, refreshments served, now with Joe's ice cream will be available to buy before or at the interval	
7.30pm	-	Curtain up	
8.45pm	-	Interval, with a now famous BATS raffle	
9.55pm	-	Curtain down, we all hope you enjoyed tonights performance and have a safe journey home.	

Note: All times are moved back by 30 minutes on Saturday 22 November



Thanks to The Plough & Harrow in Murton, Dr Organic and Sainsburys, Quay Parade Swansea for donating prizes

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Our website www.batsgower.co.uk is well worth a visit for details of past productions, photographs and future productions





A Note From The Director

A message from the director:

Having put my name down along with a few others to be willing directors, I had no idea that I would end up with the opportunity to direct such a milestone production.

I originally had a farce in mind, but when I found out that I was to direct BATS 100th production, I decided to change and find something a bit - but not too - different. I wanted something gritty, something challenging, very importantly something that would appeal to an audience of all ages and genres.

I believe I found that in Sly Corner, and I hope you'll find that too - an exciting production that will have you on the edge of your seats from start to finish.

I really do thank you for joining us and helping us to celebrate our 100th production together.

Piers Morgan-Harvey

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BATS History

BATS has a long history. It was formed in 1967 under its original name, St Teilo's Amateur Dramatic Society (STADS), by a group of like-minded local Christians with thespian leanings, with the intention of bringing live theatre to Bishopston village (population around 1,700) and its surroundings.

STADS itself had grown out of the original St Teilo's Dramatic Society, which was formed in the 1920s to perform Passion and Nativity plays and pantomimes (with many local children participating in the latter). However, as Church membership dwindled, the Passions, Nativities and pantomimes disappeared, but enthusiasm for murder mysteries and comedies grew, and from 1967 the group began putting on two plays a year, one in spring, one in autumn – a practice which continues today.

Since that time only five productions have had to be cancelled, mostly because of actor shortages! The only serious occasion was in 2000-01, when two consecutive productions were cancelled, and the possibility of folding arose. Happily, though, the group recovered and the Autumn 2014 production The Shop At Sly Corner is the groups 100th Production

A copy of the original minutes where the society was formed is included in the programme. The first information we have on ticket prices was for "The House On The Cliffs " where the adult ticket was 2/6d!!!!

It is interesting that originally there were only 2 performances. It then it moved to 3 performances, then 4 and in 1979 we moved to 5 performances each production and that practice continues to this day.

Our website www.batsgower.co.uk has a wealth of information and photographs of the various performances. We are, however, missing photographs and programmes for the first 2 plays which were "Breath of Spring" in 1967 and "Easy Money" in 1968.

If anyone has access to this information please get in touch with us. Over the next few pages you will find information about previous BATS since The BATS was formed there have been 197 members!! Why not join us, you never know you could be the 200th and feature in our 50th anniversary in 2017!!



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BATS CHAT - Stewart Hiorns



When did you join BATS?

1992, in a production of Anagram of Murder

Why did you join BATS?

The "infamous" Dorothy Morris asked me to help out " just this once" – desperate times !

What is your favourite character you have played for BATS?

Rene in 'Allo 'Allo followed closely by the intrepid Inspector Pratt

Favourite Book?

I am an avid reader and Lee Childs / Peter James / David Baldacci are current favourites.

Favourite Actor / Actress?

David Nielsen (Roy Cropper in Coronation St) Don't always catch the programme, but he's marvellous without dialogue. Undecided between Sian, Heather, Julie, Sarah, Doreen, Helen, Ros, oh! and Julie Walters.

Favourite Play?

I'll focus on BATS and select two - not to upset the Cooper family. 'Allo 'Allo (Directed by Jaimes) and Abigail's Party (Directed by Barry)

Pearl of wisdom?

Smile – it always helps.

Sum up BATS in three words

Farces, Fun, Friendships.

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FLASHBACK BATS



Brenda today and back in November 1968 in The House On The Cliff

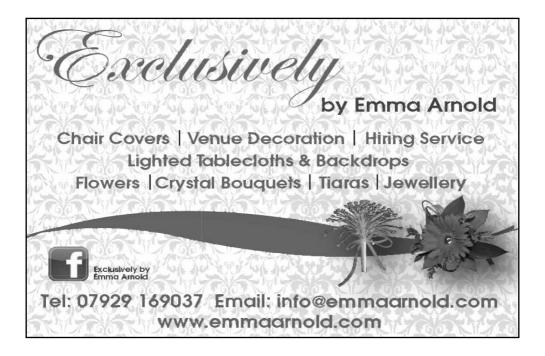
BRENDA MORGAN (JONES whilst a BAT)

Brenda joined the **BATS** in 1967 and appeared in the 1st Production "Breath Of Spring" and went on to appear in another 29 productions. Her last appearance was in "Cat On The Fiddle" in 1990.

Her memories of her time in The BATS include, surprisingly enough, more tales of mistakes and mayhem. There was one production where she had to smash a picture over Brian Shaw's head. The action was so realistic that other cast members on stage thought he had hit his head on the frame and was really unconscious!! Then there was the play where she announced to the audience that she and another cast member were going to play cards to occupy some time. When she opened the desk drawer the pack of cards was missing. She said she was going to look for them and left the stage but they weren't on the props table either. She went back on stage and said they would play noughts and crosses instead!

Brenda wasn't always the innocent party in all this. She recalls making faces at Robin Wayne whilst her back was turned to the audience trying, successfully, to make him laugh.

Brenda says she was delighted with the wide variety of roles she had with The BATS and made many friendships across those years. By the time she left The BATS she had moved to Gorseinon and was finding it difficult to get to rehearsals especially in the winter. Brenda continued to act, first with the Llanmorlais and currently at St Catherine's Church in Gorseinon



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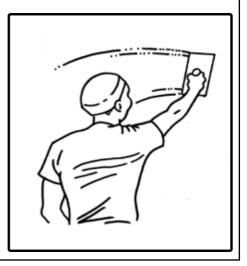
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FLASHBACK BATS



David today and a dashing new comer back in November 1979 in Book Of The Month

DAVID SPEAR

Dave Spear joined the BATS in 1979 when he returned to Swansea from Devizes where he had performed for the local amateur dramatic society. He was a member until 2011 when he left to concentrate on other ventures. He was a member for 32 years which, at the time of his departure, made him the "longest serving BATS member"

He first appeared in the BATS 23rd production "Suddenly At Home" by Francis Durbridge and went on to appear in 26 other productions. Dave was also part of the team who decided to keep the BATS going when it was threatened with closure in early 2002. He offered to direct/produce plays on a rota basis with other members and was responsible ,in that role, for "Family Planning", "Trivial Pursuits", " Murder In Company", "Outside Edge" and "Two And Two Make Sex"

Dave has fond memories of his time in The Society where he felt everyone got on very well together and, whilst they always wanted to produce good performances, nobody took themselves too seriously.

He remembers walking on stage in a play and hearing a member of the audience saying "that chap with the beard is in it and he's quite good!!" He also smiles when he recalls being typecast in many plays as a policeman or detective.

He also has many stories of the cast forgetting their lines and adlibbing to great effect. A nameless actor once stated "you can't expect me to walk, act and remember my lines"

He fondly recalls his part as the burglar in "Noises Off" and his struggling with a Northern accent in "Hobson's Choice"





SA3 4BN

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BATS CHAT talks to BATS member



Our new feature will see us 'chatting' to two members of BATS and finding out a little more about what makes them tick.

Sian Cole

When did you join BATS?

2004. I joined as a prompt for Hobson's Choice and within 2 weeks had a part!

Why did you join BATS?

We had just moved to the area and it was a good way to meet people. Plus I didn't have a job at the time and it was a great way to fill my time.

What is your favourite character you have played for BATS

Michelle from 'ello 'ello. I grew up watching the program as Saturday night family entertainment so getting to say the famous line "I will say this once and once only" in a bad French accent was a childhood dream come true.

Favourite Book?

love reading, so narrowing it down to one is hard. I enjoy Historical fiction so C J Sansom's Dissolution series had me gripped.

Favourite Play?

Hmm difficult. To be in was 'Allo 'Allo, although 'Noises Off' is another favourite, both to act in (despite the scenery falling on me one night) and to watch. Have travelled the length of Wales on several occasions to see it, although I still think ours was one of the best!

Favourite Actor?

James Dean

Any words of wisdom for us?

Laughter definitely is the best tonic!

Sum up BATS in three words

Fun, friendly, biscuits

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Become a B.A.T.S Member ?

Perhaps you could act, paint scenery; help with costumes, props, no experience necessary. We meet every Monday 7.30pm - 9.30pm. We all take a well earned rest after this production and start afresh again in the New Year.

Become a Patron ?

A £14.00 fee payable in January each year covers a small donation and the cost of a ticket for both the Autumn & Spring productions, your seat is reserved for you on the night of your choice and we acknowledge your support in our programme.

Interested ? Contact...

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Deputy	Roger Bell 07853 842908
Secretary/Marketing	Heather Cooper 234385
Treasurer	Tony Currell 232366
Patron & Ticket Secretary	Philippa Cooper 07805 362546
	tickets@batsgower.co.uk
Social Secretary	Stewart Hiorns 873909

Dates for our next production Spring 2015 An Evening With Gary Lineker

by Arthur Smith and Chris England Directed by Tony Currell

a comedy... The action takes place against the backdrop of the 1990 Football World Cup semi-final between England and West Germany, which is taking place in Italy while Monica and Bill are on Mediterranean holiday. Bill desperately wants to watch the match; Monica wants to talk about their relationship...

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st March,

Thursday 26th, Friday 27th & Saturday 28th March 2015

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FLASHBACK BATS



Dorothy today and back in December 1971 in The Janus Case

DOROTHY MORRIS

Dorothy moved to Swansea at the end of 1967 where she had appeared in productions and joined the BATS (St.Teilo's Amateur Dramatic Society at that time) in 1968. She became the cornerstone of the BATS and remained a member until 2010, a total of 42 years!!

Her first performance was in "Cat Among The Pidgeons" the BATS 5th production in 1969. Dorothy went on to appear in 34 plays, many directed/produced by Beryl West. When Beryl left the society in the early 1980's, Anita McNamara directed/produced two plays before Dorothy took the reins and directed/produced a record 31 plays up until 2010.

Dorothy was a stickler for detail. For example where a play called for a letter to be on stage, Dorothy would not only address the envelope correctly but write a letter to put in the envelope with "real" content. Where it called for a character to come in from the rain, Dorothy was only too happy to pour a bucket of water over the hapless actor. The sound of Dorothy "hoovering" the stage would often be heard 5 minutes before the start of the play.

Dorothy recalls a spooky occurrence during a rehearsal of Agatha Christie's "Murder On The Nile" in January 1976. Whilst rehearsing in the body of the hall a loud noise was heard from the stage but, on investigation, nothing was found. The net day Dorothy learnt that Agatha had died the night before!! Perhaps it was some sort of critique on the quality of the rehearsal??

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FLASHBACK BATS



Robin today and armed back in November 1986 in Panic Stations ROBIN WAYNE

Robin was "encouraged" to join The BATS in 1985 by Brenda Jones, as was. That was the start of a 10 year membership in which Robin, apart from his acting career, held the important roles of Vice - Chairman and Secretary.

He had previously appeared in a Penmaen production of "See How They Run" and at least 2 productions at his school but his outstanding performance was as an Elf in Kindergarten.

His BATS acting career was spread over 9 productions from "Dear Children" in 1985 to "Busybody" in 1994.

His many stories seem to involve upsetting the director, but of course, he is not alone in achieving that. In "Here We go gathering"" he had to hold a "duck "and had received instructions from the director to hold the beast with the beak towards the audience. He realized suddenly that he had failed and the rear end was pointing outwards. He tried to remedy the situation but, in his haste, he knocked it against himself and feathers started to fall, one by one, on to the stage. The actors, noticing this, started laughing until the whole cast were in fits. The director was not amused.

He was also bored in "The Happiest Days Of Your Life" in 1992 where his part involved continually coming on stage to change the rugby posts to basketball posts to football posts with no lines. One night he wandered across the stage ad-libbing "I don't know, all I do is change posts etc etc.". This brought complaints from other actors who claimed he had put them off. The director was not amused.

There are many more stories but, unfortunately, no more room. Well done Robin.

	"ST. TEILO'S" AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY.
	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY, 22ND MAY, 1967.
	Attend of the second se
PRESENT	The Rector, Mrs.J. Griffiths, Mrs.M. Lloyd, Mrs.B. Leng, Mrs.Pam Taylor, Mrs.Patricia Quick, Mesars.J. Trollope, H.Williamson, D.Jones, H.Maslin, W.C.Mort, W.J. Payne, D. Powell.
APOLOGIES	Were received from Mr. & Mrs Sidney West.
FORMATION APPOINTMENTS.	It was unanimously agreed that a Dramatic Society be formed and named "The St.Teilo's Amateur Dramatic Society".
	The following officers were elected: The Rector - President. Mr.W.J.Payne - Chairman.
	Mr.W.O.Mort - Secretary. Mrs.Patricia Quick - Treasurer.
MATTERS ARISING	It was resolved that a Comedy be presented in October, 1967 and Mr. W.J. Payne was requested to Produce the play and Mr.W.O. Mort to act as co-producer.
	It was also unanimously agreed that the Society participate in a Passion Play to be performed at Easter, 1968 i.e. two nights - Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
PINANCE	The Treasurer submitted an interim financial report, and, after considering future committeents, it was decided that £5.0.0. (five pounds) be donated to help defray the cost of a coffee morning which the female members present intended holding in aid of the Sunday School outing fund.
	After some discussion it was also agreed, in order to augment our funds, a coffee morning be held. Arrangements for same to be carried out by the lady members.
PUTURE MEETING	It was resolved that the next meeting be held at the Church Hall on Wednesday, 7th June, 1967.
	There being no other business, the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.
	SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD OF EVENTS:
	(FAP) 11

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