# Aldermaston Players




*Freely adapted for male and female pirates by Phil Willmott, from the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson*

## 25th & 26th July 2014

"The Barn", Frouds Lane, Aldermaston

*Treasure Island (Wilmott)" is presented by special arrangement with* ***SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD***

# Welcome



Aldermaston Players are delighted to welcome you to The Barn. This is surprisingly our 20th production since starting in 1996, and some of you have supported us throughout, for which we are exceedingly grateful. And for those of you that ventured to our last picnic theatre in 2012, *A Laughing Matter*, we are overjoyed at being able to offer the more traditional English summer, portrayed in movies & literature, where umbrellas are called parasols and protect from the sun rather than wind & rain!

We have talked for some time of bringing pantomime to Aldermaston but until now we hadn't found a stage big enough for the large cast ... and so to The Barn!

Now, we are ready to transport you back into the world of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" with pirates and piratesses and the usual familiar characters. Please sit back or even sprawl on the ground, relax and let us entertain you.

# Future Shows & Village Events

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22-24 Aug | Flower Show | St Mary's, Aldermaston | |
| 6 Sep | Aldermaston & Wasing Show | Old Mill, Aldermaston | |
| 29 Oct-1 Nov | Return to the Forbidden Planet | Hexagon, Reading | *Sainsbury Singers* |
| 10-11,17-18 Oct | Twelfth Night | Silchester Village Hall | *Silchester Players* |
| 17-18,24-25 Oct | Death Trap | St John's Hall, Mortimer | *MDS* |
| 11-14 Dec | York Nativity Play | St Mary's, Aldermaston | |
| Feb 2015 | Dinner & Theatre | Parish Hall | *Aldermaston Players* |
| 4 July2015 | Blues on the Meadow | The Barn, Frouds Lane | |

# Our Thanks & Gratitude

To Neil & Karen Dignan for their generosity and kindness in allowing us to use their land and facilities here at "The Barn". Along with their fellow Blues on the Meadow organisers, Jane Boyes & Simon Hopkins, they have also made available their marquees and equipment for us to use.

***To our very own Theatre Angels, THANK YOU.***

Blues on the Meadow is a one day Blues Music Festival held at The Barn every 1st Saturday of July.

# Take a Swallow of Culture



In 2013, a pair of Swallows made "The Barn" their home for the summer. Their first brood of young took a free grandstand seat at Blues On The Meadow, up in the rafters. The parents were timid during the festival to go in and feed so the poor things weren't feed much that day. This year they are back. They must love Blues Music! They have hatched 5 young, and were seen swooping in over the performers heads during this years festival , though only in the quieter numbers.

They have been ever present during rehearsals for Treasure Island, so don't be surprised to see more birds than a parrot in this production!

# Cast

## In Order Of Appearance

| | |
|---|---|
| Jim Hawkins | Catherine Hannan |
| Gentleman Jack | Darren Lock |
| Israel Hands | Adrian Thomas |
| Meg Trueblood | Cynthia Newman |
| Piccadilly Poll | Elena Martin |
| Nightingale Nell | Tricia Goodchild |
| Shoreditch Sal | Nicola Gniotek-Lock |
| Natalie Crisp | Mari Flemming |
| George Merry/Billy Bones | Christopher Boott |
| Old Joe | Chris Goodchild |
| Cheng I Sao | Mel Bush |
| Lady Jaqueline Trelawney | Cathy Ramsell |
| Lucinda Livesey | Karen Dignan |
| Blind Pugh | Sean Faulkner |
| Black Dog | Warwick Brown |
| Long John Silver | Chris Faulkner |
| Captain Smollett | Nigel Wilson |
| Captain Flint | Tricia Goodchild |
| Ben Gunn | Sean Faulkner |



# Chandliers, Seamstresses, Shipwrights, Sailmakers et al

| | |
|---|---|
| Director | Chris Boott |
| assisted by | Cynthia Newman, |
| Production Team | Ange Boott, Chris Boott & Cynthia Newman |
| Wardrobe Mistress | Ange Boott |
| assisted by | Mari Flemming,, Tricia Goodchild, Gemma Moore & Zoe Webster |
| Stage Manager | Sandra Faulkner |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Jane Boyes |
| Prompt | Sandra Faulkner |
| Make-up Artist | Louise Marshall |
| Lighting | Chris Chapman |
| Properties & set dressing | The Players |
| Set Design | Chris Boott |
| Set Construction | Chris Chapman, Bill Macdonald, Roy Smith, Adrian Thomas & Tricia Goodchild |
| Set Artwork | Chris Newman, |
| assisted by | Cynthia Newman, Tricia Goodchild & Bryon Ray |
| Publicity & artwork | Rebecca Fowler |
| assisted by | Cynthia Newman, Zoe Webster, Theresa Thomas & Ange Boott, |
| Box Office | Chris & Ange Boott |
| Landlord | Chris Newman |
| Barfolk | James Thumwood, Mitch Timberlake & Chris Tomlins |
| Front of House | Cynthia Newman |
| Front of House Staff | Brenda Scott, Cathy Jones, Theresa Thomas, & Kerry Woodley |
| Tattoo Artists (Matinee) | Jon & Rachel Newman |

# Aldermaston Players

The Players are the local amateur dramatic troupe in Aldermaston. In their modern guise the Players came into existence in 1996 to help raise funds for Aldermaston amenities & charities. But there also are records of Aldermaston theatre groups from the 1950's and the 1960's and even a mention in medieval times of a troupe of Players from Aldermaston.

Originally made up of friends of the director we now involve more people from the local area … in fact, some have even moved into the village after being a Player! From 1996 to 2011 we helped the Parish Hall raise thousands of pounds by jointly putting on Dinner/Theatre evenings.

Since 2011 we continued with the dinner theatre evenings each February jointly with the Parish hall and have expanded into evenings of one-act plays and outdoor picnic theatre.
There is more information about us on our website where you can find details of forth coming shows, join our mailing list or find contact details for getting involved.

**www.aldermastonplayers.co.uk**

Or stay in touch with us on Facebook:

**www.facebook.com/AldermastonPlayers**

The Players are members of NODA, National Operatic and Dramatic Association. We would like to wish Henry Hawes (see opposite) a happy 'retirement' from his role as area representative and are delighted that his successor, Jeanette Maskell, will be here at our Friday evening performance.

Affiliated to the
National Operatic and
Dramatic Association

# Past Productions

| | |
|---|---|
| 2014 Feb | **Old Time Music Hall** - a traditional songs & sketches celebrating the Greta War |
| 2013 Oct | **Charity Begins & The Boundary** by Tom Stoppard & Clive Exton |
| 2014 Summer | **Charity Begins** by Sandi Toksvig ... Henley & Wallingford Drama Festivals |
| 2013 Feb | **Beyond A Joke** a British comedy by Derek Benson |
| 2012 Jul | **A Laughing Matter** a comedy by April De Angelis set in the 18th century |
| 2012 Feb | **Oh Coward!** words & music of Noel Coward devised by Roderick Cook |
| 2011 Nov | **Art** by Yasmina Reza & **Man's View** by Derek Webb—Two One Act plays |
| 2011 Feb | **The Red Barn** - a melodrama in 3 acts by Brian J Burton |
| 2010 Feb | **Dry Rot** - the original 'Whitehall farce' by John Chapman |
| 2009 Feb | **Personals** - a musical revue by a team of renown writers & composers |
| 2008 Feb | **We'll Meet Again** - a World War II concert party - songs & sketches |
| 2007 Feb | **Murdered to Death** - a comic *whodunit* by Peter Gordon |
| 2006 Feb | **Cole** - words & music of Cole Porter, by Benny Green & Alan Strachan |
| 2005 Feb | **Old Time Music Hall** - a traditional offering of songs & sketches |
| 2004 Feb | **Cut & Run** - a comedy by Peter Horsler |
| 2003 Feb | **Memories Are Made of This** - a popular music - 1950's to 1990's |
| 2002 Feb | **Just the Ticket** - a comedy by John Waterhouse |
| 2000 Feb | **Old Time Music Hall** - a traditional offering of songs & sketches |
| 1997 Feb | **Valentine's Evening** - poetry & music about 'love' |
| 1996 Feb | **Old Time Music Hall** - a traditional offering of songs & sketches |



*2012 , The Barn, A Laughing Matter*
*Henry Hawes presenting a NODA award*

# Treasure Island - The Story

Robert Louis Stevenson conceived of the idea of *Treasure Island* (originally titled, "The Sea Cook: A Story for Boys") from a map of an imaginary, romantic island idly drawn by him and his stepson on a rainy day in Braemar, Scotland. Completing 15 chapters in as many days, Stevenson was interrupted by illness and, after leaving Scotland, continued working on the first draft outside London. While there, his father provided additional impetus, as the two discussed points of the tale, and Stevenson's father was the one who suggested the scene of Jim in the apple barrel and the name of *Walrus* for Captain Flint's ship.



Stevenson consciously borrowed material from previous authors. In a July 1884 letter to Sidney Colvin, he writes "*Treasure Island* came out of Kingsley's *At Last*, where I got the Dead Man's Chest - and that was the seed - and out of the great Captain Johnson's *History of the Notorious Pirates*." Stevenson also admits that he took the idea of Captain Flint's skeleton point from Poe's "The Gold-Bug," and he constructed Billy Bones' history from the pages of Washington Irving, one of his favorite writers.

One month after he conceived of "The Sea Cook," chapters began to appear in the pages of *Young Folks* magazine. Eventually, the entire novel ran in 17 weekly installments from October 1, 1881, through January 28, 1882.

# This Adaptation

This adaptation of *Treasure Island* by Phil Willmott *was* first presented by the Steam Industry, at The Scoop open-air amphitheatre, More London on 1 July 2006. It is the first ever stage adaptation of Treasure Island with equally great parts for both male and female performers.

