

## Village Players' Information (VPI) February 2014

### THOUGHTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

#### Fitzmaurice Voicework® Workshop

On January 11<sup>th</sup> James Spencer held a workshop for the Village Players to share his extensive knowledge of the Fitzmaurice Voicework technique that uses a full body approach for voice production.

8 participants of varying ages, all with different "voice" backgrounds and reasons for being there, got together, armed with exercise mats, cushions and ready to spout forth the poetry that we'd been asked to learn.

After introducing ourselves & talking a little about the idea behind Catherine Fitzmaurice's Voicework, we warmed up by learning how to sway, shake and become aware of what our bodies were doing and learning to breathe effectively. James then taught the group several techniques and exercises intended to defy gravity and we got so good at these that, after a while, and a little coaxing, some of us were able to get our limbs trembling and hence find a tremor in our voices. This was called deconstructing the voice, or trying to focus on the voice rather than the language spoken. The room was full of incoherent sounds, proving that we were on the right track!

A pairwork exercise involved observing one another's breathing patterns while we talked and recited our poetry. This showed us how using the whole body can influence voice output.

All in all, it was an interesting and useful experience and one that many performers could benefit from. Thank you James for giving us this insight into how to make one's whole body contribute to improved voicework.

Susan Morris

#### St George's Quiz Night



## ST. GEORGE'S QUIZ 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014

If you've ever wanted to know in which century the Chinese started to build their Great Wall; or why Greenwich Mean Time came into existence; or what was William Shakespeare's father's trade, then the CPO on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January was where you should have been.

The occasion was John Middleton's traditional St. George's Quiz, which this year, by force of circumstances, was held some three months early. How come? As one other of the evening's questions began "Shakespeare died on April 23<sup>rd</sup> - St. George's Day. At what age?"

Perhaps it was this advancement from the traditional date that was the reason why we did not have the usual circa five participants for each of the four teams. Nevertheless, the resultant turnout of three per team meant that we could cosily fit into the bar area at the CPO.

As usual the quiz was, sometimes confusingly, led by our own Quiz Master in Chief - John Middleton. This year, some sort of order of the proceedings was kept by John McKillop acting as "referee" for the evening. The usual John Mid. led jollity of the quiz was further enhanced this year by the fact that John had mislaid his list of answers to the questions!

Fortunately - or so John claimed - he could "remember" the answers to all but one of the first half's 24 questions. So no team scored any points for this one question - no matter what answers, right or wrong, they gave.

When yours truly found the answer sheet during the interval, we all thought the second half would run more smoothly than the first. However, in true John Mid. quiz confusion, we found that, due to a cut-and-paste error (said John), four of the first half's questions also appeared on the second half list!

This led to even more hilarity as John was forced to ad lib four questions for which he did not have the answers written down. At least one of these was remembered by some of us as being in last year's quiz.

As John is wont to say, there are no winners, losers or prizes of the quiz, but I can't resist pointing out that the team of Carole, Sylvia and Colin recorded

(according to John's arithmetic) the highest number of points.

The very last question of the evening from John Mid. to all present was: "Do you want the St. George's Quiz to continue in its present format?"

The answer was a fitting conclusion and a big "Thank You" to John as it was a resounding YES! - with the added request that it goes back to its traditional slot in April.

As the Committee are presently putting together the calendar for the VPs 2014/2015 Season, it must be noted that St. George's Day 2015 falls on a club night Thursday - 23<sup>rd</sup> April of course!

Colin Gamage.



## **FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS & EVENTS**

### **FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

#### **POETRY EVENING** - Organised by *Geoffrey Peek*.

This will be a great evening of poetry, with a wide variety of poems read by our talented actors. The poems will be sad, tragic, comic, romantic, and... Well, come along and find out for yourselves! The readings will start at about 8pm, and the doors and bar will already be open at 7.30 to enable people to socialise before it all begins. Entry is free, so there will be nothing to pay, unless you buy anything at the bar. All are welcome!

### **FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> & MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **AUDITIONS FOR SPRING PRODUCTION: "CONVERSATIONS"**

Jacqueline Caunt and John McKillop will be holding auditions for this play on **Saturday, February 15th at 12:00 and Thursday, March 6th at 19:30** at John's house, Chemin de l'Epignau 16, 1373 Chavornay.

The play traces the poetic careers of John Betjeman and Philip Larkin, how they saw each other's works and what inspired them to write and to publish. The play is amusing, sometimes a little naughty and quite revealing. It contains poetic passages from both its subjects. The roles are:

John Betjeman (M)

Philip Larkin (M)

John Betjeman's inner spirit (F)

Philip Larkin's inner spirit (F)

Two voices to recite the works of the two poets (can be M or F)

There you have six roles in all.

The two reciters are not expected learn lines as their parts are to be read -- not memorised.

We are also looking for production staff, namely:

Stage Manager + Assistant Stage Managers

Front of House Manager + Staff

Make-up team

Lights and sound experts

Ticket sales control

There are no particular costumes or properties and no set. However, the use of spotlights and sound amplification is very important.

If you would like to audition but cannot attend on either of the dates above, please contact

Jacqueline [jcaunt@gmail.com](mailto:jcaunt@gmail.com) 021 543 00 47

or John [jmckillop@yahoo.fr](mailto:jmckillop@yahoo.fr) 024 441 15 71/(078) 742 16 66

## MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> 2014

### "In the Middle of Nowhere" - written by Chris Hemmens

On 20th March, the Village Players will host the first ever public reading of a brand new, comic one-act play "In the Middle of Nowhere" from a first-time playwright. What starts out as a fairly ordinary family gathering in rural Lincolnshire takes a turn for the surreal when a man claiming that he can't spend too long outside or his heart will stop seeks refuge in their home.

## APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> 2014

### "A Woman of No Importance", by Oscar Wilde - A play-reading organised by Carole Hetzel

This play was first performed at the Theatre Royal, London in 1893. It has a serious theme and builds up to a tense climax, but the portrait Wilde paints of the high society of his day, with his customary perception and wit, is a constant source of amusement, as is the inclusion in the cast of an outspoken young American woman. She inevitably shakes to its foundations the hidebound, upper-class world of Wilde's unforgettable characters.

## MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup> 16<sup>TH</sup> 17<sup>TH</sup> 2014

### SPRING PRODUCTION - "Conversations" -

Meet John Betjeman and Philip Larkin, two of England's leading poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century  
John Betjeman and Philip Larkin were arguably two of the greatest English poets of the 20th century. Their bi-polarized quintessential Englishness ranges from Betjeman's '*The scent of the conifers, the sound of the bath ...*' to Larkin's '*Their nippers have got bare feet, their unspeakable wives ...*'. But what is intriguing about these two poets is the way their works complement each other (as the poets compliment each other in our production). They are related to one another in such a way that if - hold tight for a minute whilst we bring some maths into the Conversation and combine the beauty of mathematics with the beauty of poetry and then either multiply the reciprocal of Betjeman with Larkin, or the reciprocal of Larkin with Betjeman - their product is ONE. Come and watch some alchemy in action at the CPO in May as the VPs present Messrs Betjeman and Larkin in *Conversations*.

## AUTUMN

### Getting There

Mike Scott would like to prepare with you an entertaining Clubnight for next autumn using the theme "Getting There". Texts, sketches, music in one form or another. All ideas, all talents welcome, from first timers to experienced theatrical troupers. So far nothing has yet been fixed. Urgently needed - a volunteer to type out a final text before next June - about four hours interesting but unpaid work!

For those volunteers willing to take part, it would imply one meeting before Easter, one rehearsal before the summer school holidays and then one or two rehearsals before the Clubnight. Interested? Please contact Mike Scott in Prilly.

## EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GEDS : [www.geds.ch](http://www.geds.ch)

Tues. 11 Feb. Playreading: Henry IV part 1 by William Shakespeare [MORE](#)

Tues. 25 Feb. Playreading: A Business Like Affair original script by Bill Lloyd [MORE](#)

GAOS : [www.gaos.ch](http://www.gaos.ch)

16 February 2014 - Musical evening, for members and friends only.

**International Club of Lausanne :** [www.icl-club.ch](http://www.icl-club.ch)

Friday 14th February at 19h00, a cheese fondue evening at the Restaurant "Au XXe siècle", Passage de la Couronne 5, in Morges.

(Fondue CHF 22.-, viande séchée CHF 7.--)

Friday 21st February at 19h00 Balinese Dances in the Hotel La Longeraie in Morges, followed by some finger food and drinks. (CHF 25.- show, finger food, drinks).

**St John’s Church, Territet** – World Day of Prayer on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 12h30.

Performance of “Streams in the Desert”, written by Christian women of Egypt - followed by buffet lunch

For more information Susan Szymanski 021 652 69 44

**SOME EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT**

**THIS MONTH’S JOKE!**

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity.

I can't put it down.

**CHRIS’S PUZZLE**

Below are ten words, from each word, remove a single letter and rearrange the remaining letters to find ten new words which are related to each other.

**ENERGY-DOORMAN-CLEAREST-WEIGHT-OUTLIVE  
EMBARK-CALMER-SOLEMN-VOIDING-ARCHERY**

Solution below.

**VILLAGE PLAYERS COMMITTEE**

Chairman	John McKillop	024 441 15 71	<a href="mailto:jimmckillop@yahoo.fr">jimmckillop@yahoo.fr</a>
Membership	Chris Hemmens	079 658 42 95	<a href="mailto:chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk">chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Administrative Director	Susan Morris	021 964 52 05	<a href="mailto:susanmorris22@hotmail.com">susanmorris22@hotmail.com</a>
Production Coordinator	James Spencer	079 344 27 63	<a href="mailto:spencejam1@me.com">spencejam1@me.com</a>
Events Coordinator	Barbara Balbo	021 711 13 79	<a href="mailto:barbara.balbo@yahoo.com">barbara.balbo@yahoo.com</a>
Publicity Coordinator	Christa Baan	021 807 26 19	<a href="mailto:baan@bluewin.ch">baan@bluewin.ch</a>
Treasurer	Derek Betson	021 635 30 84	<a href="mailto:derekhbetson@msn.com">derekhbetson@msn.com</a>
Secretary	Colin Gamage	021 701 31 58	<a href="mailto:gamage@bluewin.ch">gamage@bluewin.ch</a>
Business Manager	Position to be filled		
Technical Director	Ian Griffiths	078 713 94 43	<a href="mailto:ian.m.griffiths@gmail.com">ian.m.griffiths@gmail.com</a>

**& HELPERS**

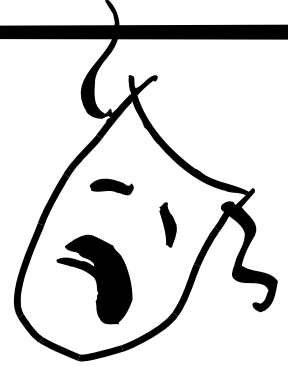
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Fliers & programmes	Dorothy Brooks		<a href="mailto:dot.brooks@hotmail.com">dot.brooks@hotmail.com</a>
General Committee help	Catherine Fitzsimons		<a href="mailto:swissfitz@yahoo.com">swissfitz@yahoo.com</a>

\* Deadline for articles to be submitted to VPI editor: 25<sup>th</sup> of each month

Solution to Chris’ puzzle above:

GREEN - MAROON – SCARLET – WHITE – VIOLET – AMBER – CREAM – LEMON – INDIGO - CHERRY

**VP EVENTS CALENDAR BELOW FOR EASY REFERENCE**



**THE VILLAGE** ENGLISH-SPEAKING **PLAYERS**  
THEATRE · LAUSANNE

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Preview of our next VP events to be held at the  
**Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy, Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne**

### CLUBNIGHT – POETRY EVENING\*

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two poets is the way their works complement each other (as the poets compliment each other in our production). They are related to one another in such a way that if – hold tight for a minute whilst we bring some maths into the Conversation and combine the beauty of mathematics with the beauty of poetry and then either multiply the reciprocal of Betjeman with Larkin, or the reciprocal of Larkin with Betjeman – their product is ONE. Come and watch some alchemy in action at the CPO

**May 14, 15, 16, 17th 2014 at 20.00 - bar opens 19:30 – Tickets 25Fr**

\*\*For more information on any of these productions, contact James Spencer 079 344 27 63

\*For more information on any of these clubnights or workshops, contact  
**Barbara Balbo 021 711 13 79 or 079 321 15 25**

Or visit the Club Website [www.villageplayers.ch](http://www.villageplayers.ch)