



Newsletter

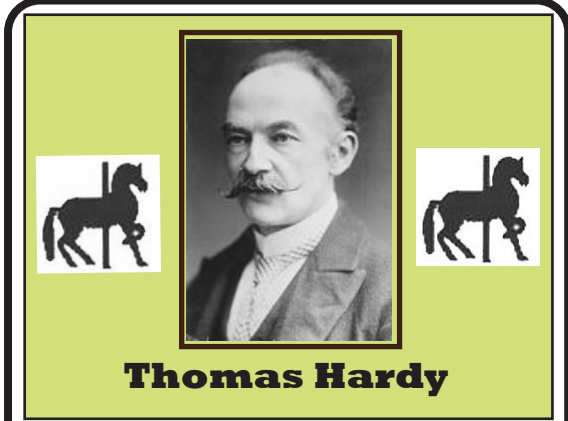
February 2010

Volume 5 - Issue 3

I.C.Burroughs (Hon Sec.)
25a The Paddock, Spring Lane
Canterbury CT1 1SX
Tel : 01227 760295 icbee@icbee.plus.com

For all the Latest News go to www.thecanterburyplayers.co.uk

Words of Wisdom : Any idiot can face a crisis; it is this day-to-day living that wears you out ... Anton Chekhov (1860-1904)



Thomas Hardy

The theme of one of Thomas Hardy's short stories "On the Western Front" was used by Frank Harvey as the basis of his play "The Day After the Fair" which Highlights some of Hardy's deep emotional bond with the rural way of life which he had known as a child, the social problems of the period and the unfairness and hypocrisy of Victorian sexual behaviour.

Thomas was born in Dorchester in 1840 to his father (also named Thomas) who worked as a stonemason and local builder, and his mother Jemima who had been a domestic servant in her youth, but was well-read and educated and very ambitious for her son .

However, a family of Hardy's social position, lacked the means for a university education, and when Thomas's formal education ended at the age of 16 he became apprenticed to a local architect until moving to London in 1862 for extended architectural training. However, his health deteriorated and he returned to his Dorchester home five years later. At this time he began writing fictional works, initially published as serials in magazines, which were set in the semi-fictional land of Wessex (based on the region where he grew up) and exploring tragic characters struggling against their passions and social circumstances.

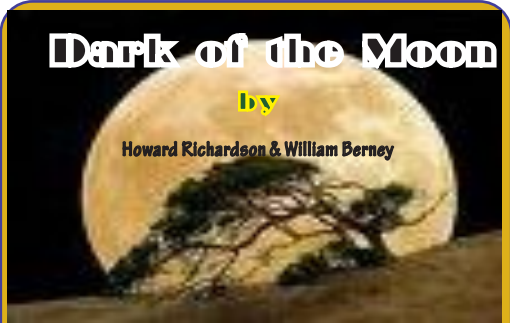
In 1873 *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, a novel drawing on Hardy's courtship of his first wife, was published under his own name. The term "cliffhanger" is considered to have originated with the serialized version of this story (which was published in Tinsley's Magazine between September 1872 and July 1873) in which *Henry Knight*, one of the protagonists, is left literally hanging off a cliff.

Hardy's next novel *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1874) was successful enough for Hardy to give up architectural work and pursue a literary career. Over the next twenty-five years Hardy produced ten more novels, including *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), *The Woodlanders* (1887), and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (1891), the latter attracting criticism for its sympathetic portrayal of a "fallen woman" and was initially refused publication. Its subtitle, *A Pure Woman: Faithfully Presented*, was intended to raise the eyebrows of the Victorian Middle classes.

Hardy became ill with pleurisy in December 1927 and died in January 1928 at the age of 87

"The Day After The Fair" was first presented in October 1972 at the Lyric Theatre in London.

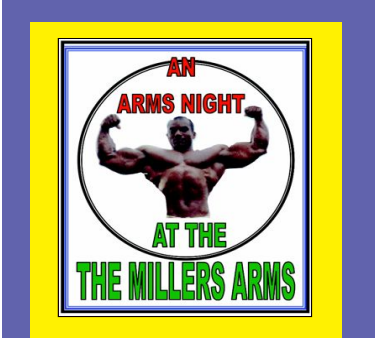
Our Production of
The Day after the Fair
by Frank Harvey
will be presented at
Whitstable Playhouse
on
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
25th 26th 27th March
at 7.45 each evening
BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN
10am-12 Noon Monday to Saturday
Tel : 01227 272042
Online booking
www.theplayhousewhitstable.co.uk



PARK OF THE MOON, set in America's Appalachian Mountains in the 1990's, like Romeo and Juliet, tells the story of two star-crossed lovers. Instead of the Montagues and Capulets, the conflict is between the humans of Buck Creek and the supernatural world of witches. John, a witch boy, falls in love with Barbara Allen, a human. While the lovers only desire to love each other and live a happy simple life they are caught between the opposing sides. The play is a big cast production with 24 acting roles of a wide range of ages for both sexes. There is considerable humour as well as unforgettable drama leaving the audience's ideas of tolerance and justice challenged. Some characters do sing and there is a big barn dance number involving the humans and four witches. In his early career Paul Newman played John, the witchboy.

Auditions will be held at St. Christopher's School over two sessions on July 14th & 21st.

For further information contact
Pip Piacentino on 01304 372740

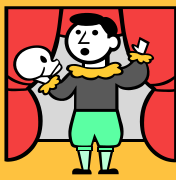


The next "Arms Nights"
At
The Millers Arms
1-2 Mill Lane, St. Radigund's,
Canterbury, CT1 2AW
will be on
Thursday February 25th
and then again on
Thursday April 1st

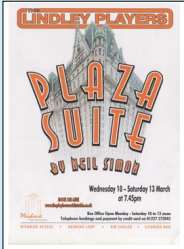
Coming A DRAMA WORKSHOP
lead by *Pip Piacentino* on
Thursday 15th April
entitled
"Shaking Shakespere's Snaps"
at **St. Christopher's School Hall**
commencing at **7.30pm**



A series of theatre workshops have been arranged to take place in the Assembly Hall at St. Christopher's School (Normal Rehearsal Room).
"Members" can book places on the workshops FREE of charge,
"Friends" can likewise book places and are welcome to attend at a cost of £5 per session. A Maximum of 25 places will be available at each session, and they will be allocated on a first come first served basis,
Ring 01227 760295



Support our Members
Pip Piacentino is Directing
"Visitor from Forest Hills"
&
Mike Rivarno is taking the lead in
"Visitor from Hollywood"
within this Lindley Players
production of **Plaza Suite** on
Wed. 10th - Sat. 13th March
Box Office 01227 272042



We sadly record the recent,
Sudden Passing of
Christopher Graves
who has been associated with the
Players and CDS before them for over
30 years in Technical Back Stage Roles
and as
Derek Standing's "right hand" in set
construction, most Respected
Assistant, Confidant and Advocate