



## Chairman's Column

### This evening

We welcome Alan Brindle with his very interesting "Magic Lantern Show." So sit back and enjoy Victorian Humour, Comic Strips, American Railroads, and a selection of other plates from Alan's vast collection.

### Next Month's Meeting

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Pete & Jane Marshall will present to us "A Night At Blackstone Hall." Details of the evening and play can be found on page 4.

Pete, Jane and George will be travelling down from their home and craft workshop, based at Audlem, on the Shropshire Union Canal.

Bring along friends and family and enjoy the evening.

An American supper, kindly brought along by our Members will follow the performance.

### December 6<sup>th</sup>

A reminder that the Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz will be taking place as usual at the beginning of December. As last year's winners, SCS will be hosting the evening.

Peter Oates & Laura Sturrock have kindly offered to be the Quiz Master and Scorer.

Also as part of the traditional pre-Christmas occasion, an American Supper will finish off the evening.

*Alan Rose*

## Brandy Island plan approved by council

**Plans to turn a derelict water treatment works site on an island in the River Thames into a marina have been approved by councillors.**

Cotswold Boat Hire's proposal to develop Brandy Island at Buscot Weir, near Faringdon, in Oxfordshire will see 17 new moorings built.

The plans were approved by the Vale of White Horse Council on Wednesday night.

Residents, the National Trust and others had objected, saying it will ruin a tranquil part of the river.

The application had been supported by planners but the council had received 348 objections mainly on the ground of increased traffic, noise and disruption to wildlife. There were just 54 responses in support.

Cotswold Boat Hire plans to turn Buscot Mill, known as Brandy Island after a distillery that was housed there in the 19th Century, into a boat hire business.

The plans also include a car park and turning the old chlorinator building, pump house and garage into a visitor reception, storage and boat repair areas.

### Villagers 'devastated'

The firm says traffic generated will "have an imperceptible impact" on the local roads and a majority

of the site towards the western end would be an "ecological restoration area for wildlife".

"There would be no loss of existing trees or vegetation and a wildlife pond would be created," it said.

But residents say the new boatyard will be an eyesore and will destroy a beautiful area.

Ellen Hopkins, of the Save Buscot campaign, has lived at the Old Parsonage next to St Mary's Church for 30 years.

She said all 200 villagers had objected against the plans.

Mrs Hopkins said: "We are so devastated by last night. We were defeated unanimously. We haven't been represented by our elected representatives. It wasn't so much a vote for the boatyard, it was against the local community."

Brandy Island was compulsory purchased by the Water Board in 1955 and the pumping station remained in use until 1992. In 2009 Thames Water sold it at auction.

The National Trust, which owns surrounding land, also opposed the proposal and had tried to buy the site but its offers were rejected.

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-19583411](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-19583411)

## Trent & Mersey Canal will be closed for months

Following the recent heavy rain, the entire 16 miles pound of the Trent & Mersey Canal between Middlewich Big Lock and Preston Brook is at present (28 September) closed due to two breaches. Initial inspection of the breaches have revealed that although one repair can be completed in weeks, the other will take much longer.

The flooding water caused no damage to buildings or injuries, but the breaches are extensive.

The repair to the breach at Croxton Flash will take a number of weeks to complete, but the one at Dutton Hollow will take longer, and could run into months before the waterway is reopened.

Nine boats are stranded in the dry section near the breach at Dutton Hollow, and an attempt is to be made to re-float them, with other boats stranded throughout the length of the waterway, though some have made it to visitor moorings.

To limit potential damage temporary dams and stop planks have been installed at a number of locations throughout the affected area including at Bridge 174 (Croxton Aqueduct), Bridge 181, Bartington Wharf and Bridge 213. The Flood gates at Marbury and Wincham have been closed and locked shut.

However, engineers surveying the situation are attempting to reduce the lengths of waterway under restriction by removing some of the stop planks and/or dams to allow water to raise the low sections, so boats can move.

A Canal & River Trust spokesman says that the opportunities for movement between Croxton and Preston Brook are very limited and asks boaters to remain at visitor moorings for the short term. Boaters who are stranded have been asked to contact the Red Bull office to ensure that it has contact details so that their difficulties are understood.

<http://www.narrowboatworld.com>

# Waterways Diary

The following is a list of waterway events taking place within approximately 50 miles of Southampton. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the correctness of this information, please check with the listed contact who will be glad to confirm and supply further details.

Recently, OS grid references and/or postcodes have been added (where known but not guaranteed) to aid location of the event. If YOU know of an event taking place that should be in this list then please contact the editor.

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Thu 4 Oct 2012 10.30am	Wey & Arun CT	Circular 4 mile guided walk from Sydney Wood with a visit to the canal at it's summit before heading down close to the Surrey/Sussex border and returning. Paths can be muddy - please have suitable footwear. Meet in the Sydney Wood car park, near to Tickners Heath, GU6 8HU (TQ037352)	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/walks.php">www.weyandarun.co.uk/walks.php</a>
<b>Thu 4 Oct 2012 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>A "Magic Lantern Show" presented by Alan Brindle. American Railroads, Red Indians, Victorian Humour &amp; Comic Strips. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>
Sat 6 & Sun 7 Oct 2012	Basingstoke Canal Boating Club	Fox & Hounds Rally. Behind Fox & Hounds, 71 Crookham Road, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 5NP (SU803530).	Jan Byrnes Email: <a href="mailto:basingstoke.boating@googlemail.com">basingstoke.boating@googlemail.com</a>
Tue 16 Oct 2012 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	'Larry Crozier' slides - presented by David Copley. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Wed 17 Oct 2012 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"Canals and Rivers of Eastern France" - Robin Higgs showing slides from 2010 and 2011. Waterways featured will include the Canal L'Est and the River Saone. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millet: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:d.millett7@ntlworld.com">d.millett7@ntlworld.com</a>
Thu 18 Oct 2012 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Branch	"The Somerset Coal Canal". Revelations, excavations and restoration of the Canal. Derrick Hunt talks about the exciting activities of the last five years. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3AR (SU182274).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover3@gotadsl.co.uk">glover3@gotadsl.co.uk</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Thu 18 Oct 2012 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The S.C.C. Archive: Maps, photographs and more" by Roger Halse. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST688547)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882. Email: <a href="mailto:lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk">lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Sun 21 Oct 2012 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Carrying Coals to Dundas - 1. Paulton to Camerton. First of a series of walks to cover the length of the Northern Branch of the S.C.C. from Paulton to Dundas. Meet: Goosard Bridge, Paulton, BS39 6JU (ST654576).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Sat 27 Oct 2012 11.00am - 1.30pm	Wey & Arun CT	Small Boat Rally at Dunsfold (Dunsfold Road, Alford, Surrey near to Three Compasses pub, GU6 8HY)(TQ035359). Pub open for refreshments. £2 (per boat) for canoes, dinghies, kayaks, etc. Application form: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/DunsfoldRally2012.pdf">www.weyandarun.co.uk/DunsfoldRally2012.pdf</a>	John F. H. Taylor-Cram: 02392 250463 Email: <a href="mailto:tractor1936@btinternet.com">tractor1936@btinternet.com</a>
Wed 31 Oct 2012 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"The River Kennet Through History" by David Peacock, local historian. David is the author of the 2011 book 'The Story Of Newbury'. His talk will cover the river's significance from the Stone Age to the Canal Age. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:GrahamV.Smith@btinternet.com">GrahamV.Smith@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Thu 1 Nov 2012 7.45pm</b>	<b>Southampton CS</b>	<b>"A Night at Blackstone Hall" performed by Day-Star Theatre. Ticket includes an American Supper supplied by our members. Tickets £8.00 available from Angela Rose or Gill Herbert. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	<b>Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a></b>
Tue 6 Nov 2012 10.30am	Wey & Arun CT	4.5 mile guided walk from Wisborough Green, heading down to the canal to see Lordings Lock and the waterwheel before returning. A small stretch of walk will be on a fast road, with no pavement. The walk can be very wet underfoot. Please phone WACT office to check the walk is going ahead if the weather is / has been wet. Meet at The Three Crowns, Wisborough Green, RH14 ODX, (TQ052256).	WACT Office: 01403 752403 Email: <a href="mailto:office@weyandarun.co.uk">office@weyandarun.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.weyandarun.co.uk/walks.php">www.weyandarun.co.uk/walks.php</a>
Thu 15 Nov 2012 7.30pm	IWA Salisbury Branch	"Narrow Boating on Tidal Waters". Nick Grundy will be giving an account of his travels in his 70-foot narrow boat "Beatty" cruising some of the great tidal rivers of the waterways system. The Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3AR (SU182274).	Ron & Myra Glover: 01722 710322 Email: <a href="mailto:glover3@gotadsl.co.uk">glover3@gotadsl.co.uk</a> Jon Van de Geer: 01722 412841
Sun 18 Nov 2012 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Carrying Coals to Dundas - 2. Camerton to Dunkerton. Second of a series of walks to cover the length of the Northern Branch of the S.C.C. from Paulton to Dundas. Meet: Bottom of Red Hill by the Old Post Office, Camerton, BA2 0PB. (ST681579)	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Tue 20 Nov 2012 7.30 for 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Reading Br)	Xmas Party + Speaker to be advised. The Grange Free Church Hall, Circuit Lane, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3HD (SU691719)	John or Pam Swift: 01189 415540 Email: <a href="mailto:swift.john21@gmail.com">swift.john21@gmail.com</a>
Wed 21 Nov 2012 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	Murray Jones - "History of Dragon Boat Racing" (First Half) and Kathryn Dodington - "The Jubilee Thames River Pageant" (Second Half). Murray Jones is an international official of the Dragon Boat Racing Association. Kathryn Dodington will talk about her participation in her narrow boat 'Leo No. 2' in this year's pageant. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millet: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:d.millett7@ntlworld.com">d.millett7@ntlworld.com</a>
Thu 22 Nov 2012 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	Talk on Paulton Foundry with several expert guest speakers. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST688547)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882. Email: <a href="mailto:lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk">lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Wed 28 Nov 2012 7.45pm	Kennet & Avon CT (Newbury Br)	"Narrowboating at the Speed of Life" by Cheryl Holliday, boater and author. Cheryl is a boat owner based on the K&A canal and author of 'Dreams Really Do Come True', a memoir of the challenges of her life and adventures afloat. She will share some of the highlights with us. Stone Building, Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS. (SU473672)	Graham Smith: Tel: 01635 580356 Email: <a href="mailto:GrahamV.Smith@btinternet.com">GrahamV.Smith@btinternet.com</a>

Continued on page 3

# September Meeting

## The Wilts & Berks Canal - Chris Coyle

25 members and 3 visitors enjoyed a very informative evening with Chris Coyle Secretary of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust at our September meeting.

A former member of SCS, Kath Everitt, came along as well. As some members may remember, Kath and her husband moved to France 9 years ago. Kath now lives near Devizes and is involved with the WBCT as Fund Raiser. We were also able to pick up leaflets, cards, etc from their sales stand.

The aim of the Trust is to restore the canal to a navigable state from the "Jubilee Junction" with the Thames near Abingdon to the Kennet & Avon Canal near Melksham passing along the Vale of White Horse and through Swindon.

Chris was a very enthusiastic speaker. He began by giving brief details of the history of the waterway. In 1793 work started on the construction of the canal and the route of 52 miles opened in 1810. It ran from the K&A at Semington near Melksham to the Thames at Abingdon. The main cargo was coal from the Somerset coalfield.

Through traffic ceased when the Stanley Aqueduct between Chippenham and Calne collapsed in 1901 and the canal was finally abandoned in 1914. Now, nearly 100 years later, much of the route has managed to survive.

In 1971, L J Dalby, a local canal enthusiast and historian, first published a book about the Wilts & Berks. This inspired others to consider the potential restoration, and in 1977 the Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group was founded with a remit to protect what remained of the canal, and restore short sections for their amenity value. The Trust was formed in 1997.



Restoration will benefit not only boaters but also fishermen, bikers, walkers - indeed the public at large! The hedgerow habitat and a green corridor has already been established through sections of urban Swindon.

Various projects are currently in hand and managed by volunteers at Calne, Foxham, Dauntsey, Wootton Bassett, Shrivenham and Wantage.

Some of the interesting points that Chris and Kath mentioned:

From America a person had sent an old photograph from the book "Tom Brown's Schooldays", showing a picture of Uffington Mill.

Didcot Power Station were only pleased to offer ASH, as much as needed, to lay over a new bridge, pictures were shown of the ash surface being rolled in.

During a discussion, Chris admitted that W&BCT do not have as large a presence or membership as the Cotswold Canals Trust. He said that they needed to set a higher profile. For a start the W&BCT are moving their main office to

Melksham where major work to build a new weir on the River Avon by the former Avon Rubber Works site is in hand.

For more information and the Trust Activities visit web site [www.wbct.org.uk](http://www.wbct.org.uk) or write to Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, PO Box 3630, Swindon, Wilts, SN4 4AN.

N.B. The last talk on the Wilts & Berks Canal restoration given to this Society was in April 1999 at the St John Ambulance Hall and Clem Barnett was the speaker.

Angela Rose

## Waterways Diary

Continued from page 2

Time	Organiser	Details	Contact
Mon 3 Dec 2012 7.30pm	Wilts & Berks CT	The Restoration and Progress in Melksham, Calne and Chippenham area of The Wilts & Berks Canal by Derek Flexer. Church Hall at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7AH. (SU069828) Admission £2 to include refreshments.	Cheryll Yeowell: 01793 812708 Email: <a href="mailto:cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk">cheryll.yeowell@wbct.org.uk</a>
Thu 6 Dec 2012 7.45pm	Southampton CS	<b>Annual Inter-Society Waterways Quiz. As last year's winners, SCS will be setting the questions and hosting the evening. Followed by an American Supper. Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. (SU410184).</b>	Angela Rose: 02380 675312 Email: <a href="mailto:info@apas-engineering.com">info@apas-engineering.com</a>
Sun 16 Dec 2012 10.00am	Somersetshire Coal CS	Walk: Carrying Coals to Dundas - 3. Dunkerton to Combe Hay. Second of a series of walks to cover the length of the Northern Branch of the S.C.C. from Paulton to Dundas. Meet: Dunkerton layby on A37, (nearest post code BA2 8BS) (ST715597).	Mike Chapman: 01225 426948 Email: <a href="mailto:mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk">mike@chapman76.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Wed 19 Dec 2012 8.00pm	Surrey & Hampshire CS	"Crofton Beam Engines on the K&A Canal" - John Willis, Chairman of the Crofton Beam Engines Group of the K&A Trust will describe the history and operation of the 1812 Boulton and Watt engines. Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham, GU24 8AZ (SU974615).	David Millet: 01252 617364 Email: <a href="mailto:d.millet7@ntlworld.com">d.millet7@ntlworld.com</a>
Thu 20 Dec 2012 7.30pm	Somersetshire Coal CS	"The Working Life of the SCC" by Patrick Moss. The Radstock Working Mens' Club, Radstock, BA3 3EP. (ST688547)	Patrick Moss: 07736 859882. Email: <a href="mailto:lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk">lazydaysafloat@yahoo.co.uk</a>

## Thank you

Thank you to the committee and members for the voucher given to me on my resignation from the committee. No-one who does voluntary work expects any thanks or reward so it was a great surprise and pleasure to receive such an acknowledgement of the work I have done whilst on the committee. I feel that it is time for new blood and new ideas on the committee and I am pleased to see that others have come forward. I wish the new committee well and look forward to attending events that others have organised. Thank you again for the kind gift.

Maureen Greenham



# SOUTHAMPTON CANAL SOCIETY

Established 1967

The objectives of the Society are to foster interest in canals and inland waterways, to assist in their preservation, restoration and development, and to give practical help on waterway projects.

**President:**

Brian Evans.

**Chairman:**

Alan Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire SO40 3HP. Tel: 02380 632558 (day) 02380 675312 (eve)  
Email: [info@apas-engineering.com](mailto:info@apas-engineering.com)

**Secretary:**

Angela Rose, 33 Brackley Way, Totton, Hampshire SO40 3HP.  
Tel: 02380 632558 (day) 02380 675312 (eve)  
Email: [info@apas-engineering.com](mailto:info@apas-engineering.com)

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary**

Gill Herbert, 25 Rosemoor Grove, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, S053 1TB. Tel: 02380 262365. Email: [p\\_herbert1@sky.com](mailto:p_herbert1@sky.com)

**Committee:**

David Townley-Jones, Aelred and Sue Derbyshire, Gordon Osborn

**Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:**

Peter Oates, 39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH. Tel: 01327 341798.  
Email: [scs@whitenap.plus.com](mailto:scs@whitenap.plus.com)

**Meetings:**

Normally 1st Thursday each month at 7.45pm (see Waterways Diary). Chilworth Parish Hall, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7JZ. OS Grid Ref: SU410184.

**Society Website:**

<http://www.sotoncs.org.uk>

## Waterwheel given top transport award

Claverton Pumping Station, near Bath, which opened in 1813 as part of the pioneering canal route between London and Bristol, has been honoured with a Red Wheel award from the Transport Trust.

The Red Wheel programme, which is a transport equivalent of the English Heritage's blue plaque scheme, recognises Britain's greatest transport heritage sites.

The Pumping Station was designed by one of the innovators of the Industrial Revolution, engineer John Rennie (1761-1821), to supply water to the Kennet & Avon Canal which acted as a freight route between the two major trading cities.

The principal method of supplying water for canals was by drawing off from streams or rivers, but where a natural supply was unavailable an alternative method was needed. To solve this problem on the K&A, Rennie built two pumping stations to supply water from sources at lower levels. At Crofton he used a coal fired steam engine to pump water from Wilton reservoir, at Claverton he used a

large waterwheel on the site of a former grist mill to pump water from the mill pond supplied from the River Avon.

Claverton Pumping Station, a Grade II listed building, is owned by the Canal & River Trust and managed in conjunction with K&ACT volunteers, who carry out all the maintenance and repair work.

Today, separate electric pumps provide a regular supply of water to the canal at Claverton, but the historic pumping mechanism driven by a pair of mill wheels still works and is capable of supplementing the supply if required.

Vince Moran, operations director at the Canal & River Trust, which is responsible for the 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales, said: "The Red Wheel plaque recognises John Rennie's engineering masterstroke and the dedication and foresight of today's volunteers who have made sure the station continues to operate.

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/>  
12 September 2012

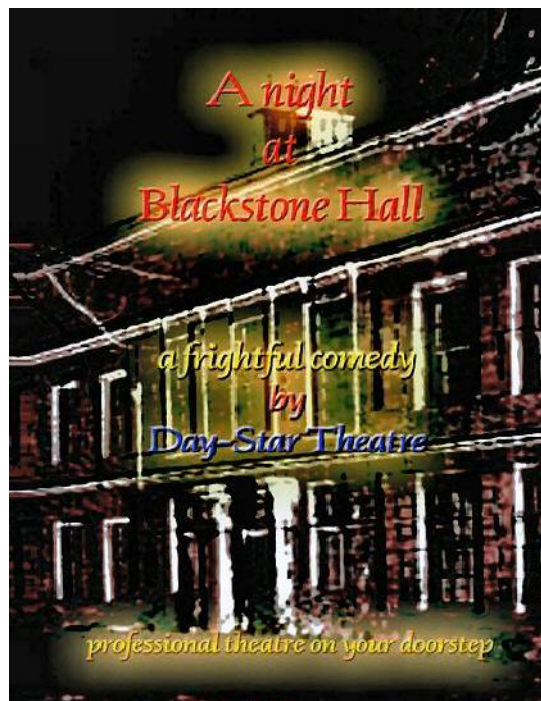
## Day-Star Theatre

When Clarissa De Vere, Britain's popular T.V. psychic medium is accused publicly of being a fake by an old adversary, Dr Thomas Cruickshank who has written many books de bunking all things paranormal, the trouble is only just starting.

They agree to spend a night in Blackstone Hall, the second most haunted house in England. With their careers and reputations at stake each intends to convince the other that they are right. But neither is going to leave anything to chance even if it means a little bit of cheating.

Clarissa's personal assistant and brother and Cruickshank's charming wife are reluctantly drawn in to the conflict and as the night in the infamous Hall unfolds so do the doubts and misgivings of the visitors as well as the secret and troubling events that were taking place with the occupants of the hall during the second world war.

A story of loyalty, devotion and principles... and a bit of cheating.  
Another off beat comedy from Day-Star Theatre.



*One reviewer of this play wrote:*

"This particular drama is their best so far. There's no way of predicting what will happen in this tale of challenge and cheating, ghostly episodes and expositions of a horrible past. The audience was completely mesmerized and charmed."

*And a comment about Day-Star Theatre:*

"There are many small, fine touring companies now, offering original plays or new interpretations of classic drama. Day Star with its new work and stylistic acting and staging techniques is one of the most intriguing companies around. If they come your way, don't miss them."

*The Granary Theatre, Wells-Next-The Sea*

— 000 —

So this is one meeting you MUST attend. Tickets are available from Angela Rose or Gill Herbert (contact details above). Tickets cost just £8.00 - where else will you get to see live

theatre at such a bargain price? Members are asked to bring food for an American Supper afterwards.