



Newsletter –April 2012

Greetings dear friends. Welcome to another enthralling instalment of the YSP Newsletter. With spring upon us where better for an Englishman to spend his time than out in the garden taking high tea? And that gentle reader is exactly where you find me at this very moment. Sipping sugary tea from a china teacup and nibbling on a fruit scone smothered in cream (I must remember to shower later). And as I sit here admiring my Great Aunt Felicity's prize-winning bush I have come to the conclusion that it is a bachelor's life for me. If last month's events have taught me anything it is that I simply do not understand the fairer sex. I've tried plying them with alcohol, regaling them with stories from the Bodyline tour of 1932/3, even conducting them on tours of my famed collection of 1920s cricket pads and yet, for some unfathomable reason, I never seem to have any success. However, please brush that tear from your cheek. I am not looking for sympathy. Women are all very well and good but like most men I can honestly say that I am never happier than when out in the middle with the wood in my hands giving those balls a good, hard whack. But who comes here? Ah, Hargreaves. How are you my faithful retainer? Oh. An impression of Winston Churchill. How splendid. I hate to be pedantic Hargreaves but it would be even more convincing if you held a cigar between those fingers. Ah, now this one is more difficult. Is it a man filing his nails? No. Well I'm stumped. But enough of this merriment what brings you here my much-valued servant? A visitor you say? Is it a woman?! Quick get out my collection of continental colognes! Have I time for a shower? A shave? How do I look? Pretty yet manly I hope? It's not a woman? Oh. I see. Headingley my faithful carrier-ostrich has returned. Well send him out here. I shall peruse the epistle he bears upon his leg over tea and scones. And do stop filing your nails Hargreaves. There's a time and a place for everything and that place is Essex. Well, while we await the arrival of dear Headingley let us indulge in a little dissemination. The more eagle-eyed among you would have noticed that the cast list for Strasz's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* included two actors called TBA. Well not anymore for here is that cast list in all its glorious entirety...

## *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

Falstaff- Clive Lyons  
Mistress Ford- Clancy McMullan  
Mistress Page- Victoria Delaney  
Page- Tony Bower  
Ford- Ben Sawyer  
Anne Page- Katy Devine  
Shallow- Jeremy Muldowney  
Slender- Joe Gregory  
Caius- Richard Johnston  
Fenton- Glen Collier  
Hugh Evans- Sam Valentine  
Host- Charles Hunt  
Quickly- Kayleigh Oliver  
Bardolph- Brenton Spyker  
Pistol- Mark Simmonds  
Nym- Dave Malinsky  
John Rugby- Sarah Redhead  
Simple- Joseph Bower

Ah, Hargreaves. You've brought Headingley. Jolly good. Oh Hargreaves. It's a message from the YSP Chair Janet Looker! Am I finally to be excommunicated with extreme prejudice? I can barely bring myself to open it. Give me it back at once Hargreaves! I will face the music...and dance...

*At 6.30am on Sunday 22nd April (the day before Shakespeare's Birthday) Janet Looker, Chair of York Shakespeare Project, will lead a group of friends to Kings Square where they will read, to the assembled pigeons and street cleaners, "All's Well that Ends Well". This is a sponsored read to raise money for YSP and we have been doing this once a year since 2008 when we started the venture by reading "Timon of Athens". It has been a good fundraiser and I am hoping that this year we will do even better. If you would like to sponsor us then you can send an email to [janet25.looker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janet25.looker@hotmail.co.uk) and let me know how much you would like to contribute - no sum too large (or too small). But if you would like to do it more easily then you can text to 70070 **YSPF12£....** filling in the amount you would like to give (£10, £5, £4, £3, £2 or £1). Or you can potter along to Kings Square later on Sunday 22nd and share with YSP their fundraising and celebration of Shakespeare's birthday.*

Oh joy of joys! I'm safe for another month. But what else has Headingley brought us? Has Mike Gatting finally responded to my letters questioning him on his victorious Ashes tour of 1986/7?

### **April's Fundraiser, King's Square, Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

6.30am - 9.30am – Janet's read-through of 'Alls Well That Ends Well'

10.00am - 11.00am – Brenton Spyker gives us his Hamlet

11.00am – 3.30pm – Men with big balls; An exclusive preview of Strasz's 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'; and Matt Simpson's legendary 'Wheel of Outrageous Misfortune'.

*It's still not too late to get involved. Please get in touch at [b.sawyer@btinternet.com](mailto:b.sawyer@btinternet.com) if you have anything to offer (within the realms of common decency you understand?)*

*Please note that although the line-up may change, develop, evolve and expand, the presence of a whole glittering galaxy of YSP stars (and Maurice Crichton) is guaranteed. Be there or be an Australian pace-man.*

Well, that seems jolly exciting. Make a note in my diary Hargreaves. But what else has Headingley brought us?

### **'Venus and Adonis', Pocklington Arts Centre Studio, Wednesday, 25th April**

*I'm delighted to announce that YSP's production of 'Venus and Adonis', our first foray into the world of Shakespeare's narrative poems, will be performed at Pocklington Arts Centre Studio on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Readers Andy Curry (Richard of Gloucester in 'Henry VI') and Gemma Sharp (Beatrice in 'Much Ado About Nothing') will be joined by lutenist Nicki Andronikou, and the show also features projected images drawn from 3000 years of Western art. Tickets are £10 – which includes a glass of wine and a canapé – and are available from:*

*Pocklington Arts Centre Box Office: 01759 301547*

*Or online at: [www.pocklingtonartscentre.co.uk](http://www.pocklingtonartscentre.co.uk)*

It's all go this month isn't it? I'm so pleased that I followed your advice Hargreaves and bought a carrier-ostrich rather than the traditional carrier-moth. But what else do we have? A message from the precocious Patroclus James Osman no less...

*Hello, I hope you are all doing well. I am so looking forward to seeing 'Merry Wives', I'll hopefully be going to Stratford with you amazing people. Thanks for putting me in the Newsletter, it was great to see it! Unfortunately, I must tell you that I'm in the documentary 'BBC Off by heart Shakespeare' The 23rd of April, Shakespeare's birth and death day ;D, sorry if I didn't clarify it.*

*Thanks guys.*

*P.S I just found out that I got into the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and I'm doing a 10 day workshop in the summer!*

What a delightful boy that is. But there really was no need to thank us. He's not the first precocious young man I've assisted in my time I can tell you...ahem...I mean...what I mean to say is...that...oh look! My favourite Time Lord...

***Dialogue So Delicious It Could Have Been Written By  
The Bard Himself***

***Number 5: The Fifth Doctor in 'Doctor Who: Frontios'***

*"Oh, marvellous. You're going to kill me. What a finely tuned response to the situation"*

**Hargreaves:** *"What a shame there doesn't seem to be any pictures in this edition"*

Well my dear Hargreaves, it has been observed that April is the cruellest month. Let's sock it to them with a few plugs...

**Hargreaves:** *"Somebody please make him stop"*

## Coming soon...to a theatre near you...

### Hedda Gabler

Do you find the thought of 'The face that launched a thousand ships' dominating 'The face that inspired a thousand insults' strangely alluring? Hmm...me too. In that case you won't want to miss Mooted Theatre's upcoming production of Henrik Ibsen's classic *Hedda Gabler*. The cast includes Margaret *She turned me into a newt* Hillier, Bill *I got better* Laughy and Anna *Out on the wiley, windy moors* Rogers as the eponymous she-dragon. Starting at 7.30pm it runs Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 41 Monkgate Theatre. Tickets £12/£9 concessions. Tickets are available from [www.mootedtheatre.com](http://www.mootedtheatre.com) or York Theatre Royal on 01904 623568.

### Going Grey

Do you like the thought of Matt Pattinson in a dress? Hmm...me too. In that case you won't want to miss Drip Drop Theatre's (world premier no less) musical comedy *Going Grey*. The cast also includes Maurice *You are an enemy of Bolingbroke and will be exterminated!* Crichton and Daniel *My eyebrows went to RADA* Wilmot. Starting at 7.30pm it runs Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> at 41 Monkgate Theatre. Tickets £9/£8 concessions. Tickets are available from [www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk) (01904 623568).

### The Government Inspector

Do you like masks? Do you like curry? Do you like love? Hmm...me too. In that case you won't want to miss Six Lips Theatre's upcoming production of Nikolai Gogol's classic *The Government Inspector*. The cast includes Andy *Henry VI* Curry, Gemma *Much Ado About Nothing* Curry and Andy **ESPERANZA!** Love. Running over two weekends on 11th, 12th & 13th May and 18th, 19th & 20th May, 7.30pm nightly with a 2.30pm matinee on the Saturday at Friargate Theatre. Tickets £14/£12 concessions. Tickets are available from [www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk) (01904 550164) and [www.ridinglights.org](http://www.ridinglights.org) (01904 613000).

Well, before we go, I dare say that like myself many of you will be counting the minutes until the start of the cricket season. It still seems an awfully long way off doesn't it? But please don't despair because a new exciting game has arrived that guarantees literally seconds of pleasure. Featuring many of your favourite characters from the world of *Henry IV Parts One and Two* the MWSAS proudly presents ...

## Shakespearean Top Trumps: The *Henry IV* Edition

### *Falstaff*



**Gluttony 10**

**Intemperance 10**

**Mendacity 10**

**Legendary Status 10**

**Most likely to say "EMBOWELLED!" 10**

**Least likely to say "Put your wallets away lads, this round's on me" 3**

**Drink of Choice Sack 8**

## Prince Hal



**Choice of friends** 1

**Choice of enemies** 9

**Cunning** 10

**Ability to pull off a gorgeous garment** 10

**Most likely to say** *“He hasn’t got long to go. I might as well take the crown now”* 4

**Least likely to say** *“Looking at any one of my brothers is like looking into a mirror”* 5

**Drink of Choice** Whatever Falstaff’s having 1

## Hotspur



**Northernness** 10

**Trousers** 10

**Horsemanship** 10

**Powers of Diplomacy** 0

**Most likely to say** *“There’s four of us and twenty-seven thousand of them. So what are we waiting for?”* 10

**Least likely to say** *“Why don’t we just sit down and talk about it”* 2

**Drink of Choice** An ale so dark it consumes light 8

## King Henry IV



**Beard** 10

**Silver Streak** 10

**Winning Streak** 5

**Ability to do an impression of Hastings whilst holding a candlestick** 8

**Most likely to say "Belie"** 10

**Least likely to say "I have never once doubted the legitimacy of any of my sons"** 5

**Drink of Choice** The lees and dregs of a pyrrhic victory 0

## Northumberland



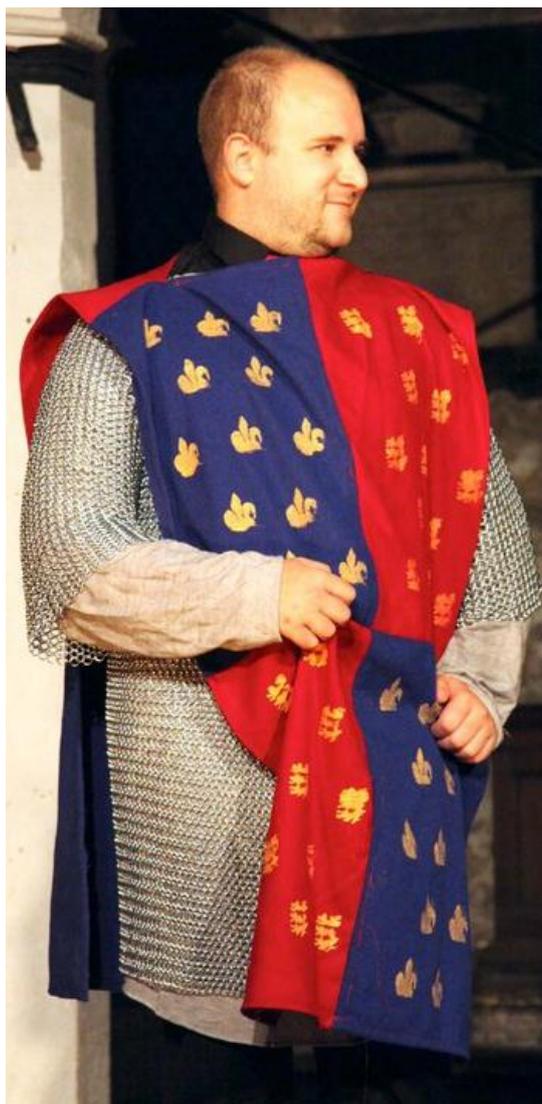
<b>Bravery</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Shawl</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Dependability</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sense of levity</b>	<b>10</b>

**Most likely to say** *"I have just received news that my son is dead. There's a joke there somewhere"* **2**

**Least likely to say** *"Me? Not fit? I tell you it's only a flesh wound!"* **3**

**Drink of Choice** Lemsip **4**

## Westmoreland



<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Tabard</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Bird Impressions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Powers of Insurrection</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Most likely to say "I have news"</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Least likely to say "How would I know?"</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Drink of Choice</b> A pint of mild	<b>7</b>

## Douglas



<b>Scottishness</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Mullet</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Insanity</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Depravity</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Most likely to say "HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!!!!"</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Least likely to say "Give peace a chance"</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Drink of Choice The blood of an Anglo-American Lord</b>	<b>1</b>

## *Doll Tearsheet*



**Social Status** 1

**Accessibility** 10

**Favourite haunt** 2

**Favourite number** 69

**Most likely to say "By my troth!"** 9

**Least likely to say "I'm saving myself for the right man"** 6

**Drink of Choice** Neat gin 7

## *Mortimer*



<b>Frills</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Thrills</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Pills</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bellyaches</b>	<b>0</b>

**Most likely to say** *"My wife doesn't understand me"* **5**

**Least likely to say** *"My recent marriage has done nothing to weaken my appetite for the cause"* **5**

**Drink of Choice** A golden goblet overflowing with prosperous hope **9**

## Simon Shadow



**Musicianship 10**

**Ingenuousness 10**

**Powers of non-comprehension 10**

**IQ 10**

**Most likely to say “.....?” 5**

**Least likely to say “I am absolutely thrilled to be crowned Mastermind champion for the seventh year running” 6**

**Drink of Choice** Does not understand the concept of choice **0**

## Fang



**The Walk 9**

**The Talk 10**

**The Fringe 10**

**The Ability to Binge 1**

**Most likely to say "Sir John Falstaff!" 10**

**Least likely to say "Stay where you are Snare! I can handle this one myself" 4**

**Drink of Choice Absinthe 8**

## Hastings



**Beard** 2

**Pink Tie** 4

**Mustard Cravat** 3

**Bubble Perm** 1

**Most likely to say** *"I think you've dropped your soap"* 0

**Least likely to say** *"What time does the football kick-off?"* 5

**Drink of Choice** Dry white wine and Perrier 7

Ah, such memories. But enough of the past, let us look to the future. Join us next month when we shall put out the bunting and make a plethora of punch for a special production issue in which we finally welcome Tom ‘Strasz’ Straszewski’s *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Farewell till then dear people.

*“O, how this spring of love resembleth  
The uncertain glory of an April day”*

*The Two Gentleman of Verona, Act I Scene 3*

Feedback, questions, propositions and general abuse to [mwignall79@hotmail.com](mailto:mwignall79@hotmail.com)