

Murder at Medstead

PREVIEW

The Medstead Players: Tiptoe Through The Tombstones

A FAMILIAR treat is in store in Medstead later this month at the villages' autumn production.

The Medstead Players' present *Tiptoe Through The Tombstones* from November 29-December 1 at the village hall.

A comedy thriller written by Norman Robbins, it is the sequel

to *A Tomb with a View*, performed by the players in 1984.

It follows the offbeat Tomb family as the crusty old family lawyer and his secretary gather together the family members to inform them of their inheritance.

But little do the family know that the lawyer and secretary want the money themselves which means the Tombs must all be killed.

A clown, heavy fog and a gloomy mansion only add to the mystery when bodies start piling up in the cellar.

Doors open at 7.30pm each night for an 8pm start. Tickets cost £6 from the box office on 01420 563424.



Anita Prior, Pam Kercher, Jane Parsons, Sue Ovell (seated), Carol Bedingfield, Stan Whitcher, Claire Fraser and Stephen Forster.

Book event explores reshaping of geographical features

PREVIEW

Andy Jordan's poetry reading at Portsdown

A WINCHESTER poet is staging a poetry reading with a difference.

Andy Jordan's latest book *Hegemonick* is largely set on the hillsides overlooking Portsmouth.

So instead of hiring a local hall he has organised a field trip to the Portsdown Hill area on Saturday November 24. The day will include a hike as well as readings.

People can meet at 10.30am

at Southampton Central Station to catch the train or else meet at the Fort Nelson car park at noon.

Mr Jordan, who works at Sarsen Press, on Hyde Street,

says: "We will go to Portsdown Hill to explore how we

have internalised the reshaping of geographical features by various forces (political, industrial, military, etc.) and then we will project those features back into the material world to reveal the wider social and economic

conflicts they had masked. It will be a hoot."

The advice is for those travelling by rail: Buy a return ticket to Cosham. The train will depart at 10.44am and alight at

Portchester at 11.23am.

For those travelling by road: Meet Mr Jordan at Fort Nelson (PO17 6AN). Fort Nelson is a Royal Armouries museum. There is free parking. (Portchester Station has no car park)

Mr Jordan promises: We will walk to Fort Nelson (entrance is free and there is a cafe and toilets) and conduct a suburban ritual in the Powder Examining Room. We will then visit Paulsgrove chalk pit to look at the Cooper Shelter and the Underground Radio

Station. Having completed our investigations we will head for The Churchillian pub (PO6 3LS).

Those travelling by rail will return via Cosham Station.

● See next page for a review of *Hegemonick*.

We will conduct a suburban ritual in the Powder Examining Room

Lively evening of mystery and romantic intrigue

REVIEW

Winchester Operatic Society: The Merry Widow at the Theatre Royal, Winchester

UNDER the musical direction of Derek Beck, the orchestra at Winchester Operatic Society's opening night of *The Merry Widow* instantly put us in the mood for a lively evening.

Then Tony Ayres' pacy direction grabbed the audience and swept us through parties and balls with dollops of mystery and romantic intrigue.

Alison Bradley's Anna was delightfully coquettish, flirtatious and highly colourful, in direct contrast with her stark black attire.

The dashing Count Danilo, an embassy official who spends most of his time drinking and debauching rather than on diplomatic duties was played to a tee by Adrian Hickford.

Tony Blackshaw was a wonderfully pompous, stuffed-shirt ambassador. He and his secretary Njegus (Graham Light) raised many titters as they treated us to dialogue reminiscent of scenes from *Yes Minister*.

A special mention must go to Katie Hickson as



the ambassador's wife. The projection and clarity of her voice whilst singing and speaking was of the highest quality.

A highlight of the performance was the *Women!*

Women! Women! song and dance routine by the leading gentlemen under the expert choreography of Suzanne Hall.

This was a superb start to the Society's centenary season.

Penny Jeffreys

New platform for artwork

RAW Artwork has opened a pop-up gallery opposite the Theatre Royal in Jewry Street, Winchester, displaying student, local and amateur art until December 22.

It has been set up by Vanessa Reynolds, art teacher at Barton Peveril College, and business partner Jules Faux.

Vanessa said: "Teaching in the arts for the past 10 years, I recognised the need for a platform to show student work as I come across such a wealth of artwork talent in my job; art that is hidden away after the students have had their coursework marked, and never sees the light of day again."

RAW Artwork is aiming to set up a permanent home in Winchester.



Aspace's final Bargate show

HAVING taken the decision to move on to new projects, art group Aspace are holding their final exhibition at the Bargate Monument Gallery, Southampton.

The Last Picture Show runs until December 16 and features work by the Arches Artists, who are based in the railway arches under Central Bridge in Southampton.

Opening hours are Thursday to Sunday, noon to 5pm.

Annual charity fundraiser

THE Honeypot Children's Charity, which gives respite to young carers, will hold a Christmas carol concert at Romsey Abbey on Monday December 3 at 7.30pm.

It will feature the Romsey Choral Society and the Hampshire Collegiate School Choir.

There will also be readings by the Mayor of Test Valley, Dorothy Baverstock, Honeypot trustee Hugh Whitaker and a presentation on the abbey by local historian Phoebe Merrick.

For tickets, call 023 8089 0002 or email emma@honeypot.org.uk.