

## For the Diary

### Open Auditions: Wednesday May 15th, 2013 Les Miserables; The Memoirs of Jean Valjean

Full cast required for this full-length non-musical show.  
Auditions at 7 for 7.30pm, at Chestnut Heights Community Centre, Poplar Close, Brixham TQ5 0SA, rehearsals taking place from the following Wednesday at the same time (until around 10pm). If you cannot make this date but wish to be auditioned, please contact us in advance to arrange alternative.

Auditions will consist of group script readings (scripts supplied). Please bring your diary, and a pen.

Please note that auditionees for Little Cosette, Petit Gervais, and Gavroche, (the three child roles) must be accompanied by a parent/ legal guardian at auditions and at all rehearsals and shows.

The show will be directed by one of the theatre company's founders; Miss Laura Jury, who as well as being a professional performer and model in her own right, also holds a Masters degree in teaching theatre & performing arts from the University of Exeter, as well as degrees in film direction & production, and photography – and has performed in a named role in another production of Les Miserables in the past, elsewhere. She is accompanied by Mrs Louise German, as assistant director. Louise is the other co-founder of the South Devon Players, who has decades of community and amateur theatre experience in her own right. Both are experienced directors, and looking forward to joining you to create the biggest show the South Devon Players have yet produced.

**Performances will be September 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 2013.**  
**Ticket bookings open from May 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

### Open Auditions: Wednesday Sept 18th, 2013

#### ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

#### A Panto written and directed by Louise German

Auditions for the above pantomime will be held at Chestnut Heights Community Centre at 7pm on Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup> 2013. Actors and singers required for principals and chorus.

Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons at Chestnut Heights Community Centre.

**More information on our auditions, as well as maps to audition/  
rehearsal venue, can all be found on our main website  
<http://southdevonplayers.weebly.com>  
Queries always welcome**



## *The Ballad of Resurrection Bob* *Theatre programme* *April 2013*



### Contact us

Website: <http://southdevonplayers.weebly.com>

Twitter: [sdevonplayers](#)

Facebook: [southdevonplayers](#) or [sdevonplayers](#)

Telephone Laura (secretary) on 07855 090590 (evenings)

## **Resurrection Bob: The True Story...**

Brixham fishermen travelled far and wide, even to fish in the waters of Newfoundland, and many families had connections, namely in other parts of the country – there being strong connections, as shown by genealogical records, between the Shears of Brixham, and of Hull.

In those days, income from fishing was often supplemented by smuggling – brandies, wines, silks, and tobacco, and smuggling was rife all along the coast. The Coastguards and Excise were most diligent in trying to catch these smugglers, and in turn, the smugglers devised more and more elaborate, and often quite humorous, ruses to escape detection.

The Ballad Of Resurrection Bob, is not based upon fiction – in fact, it is based upon events that are as true as can be ascertained these years on! Bob Elliott, nicknamed “Resurrection Bob” lived at what is now the Smugglers Haunt Hotel where a plaque commemorates his escapades. At the time of the story, what is now the hotel was divided into two cottages, and it is believed that the coffin itself, was in the area that is now the Reception. This escapade is believed to have happened in 1851.

Bob had several people in his immediate gang, recorded as Bob Dugdale, Aaron Trier, and persons of the surnames Pogwell (sometimes transcribed as Fogwell), Myers, Shears, Green, and Lakeman, Information on these people is highly sketchy, and for casting considerations some characters became female – local fishwives ( I.e., Mrs Dugdale.) The names of the coastguards, who were fooled by Bob Elliott, also remain unknown, and in this show appear as Isaac Trotter, and Jack Southern.

The Prings also existed, and Prings Court, a small row of cottages, is just below the Smugglers Haunt Hotel. A local guidebook; The Ghosts of Brixham, by Wiliam Wyley, mentions that John Wheaton Pring who lived at Number 3, was well known local sea-captain in the 1870s and that the house seems to be the home of the ghosts of fishermen and smugglers! The interaction between the Prings and Elliott’s in the play is sheer fiction.

Dugdale, the smuggler, may still haunt Brixham. Derek Acorah , during filming of the TV show Most Haunted picked up the spirit of a smuggler named Dugdale at the Globe Hotel. The psychic reports are that the real Dugdale was quite an evil character! The sequence in the play wherin Mrs Dugdale pretends to be an evil spirit to frighten off the coastguards is a known Brixham legend, although sadly the name of the real smuggler involved is long since forgotten.

The Lakemans, it seems, owned a brewery in Brixham, a descendant of the family informed me via email correspondence in 2008, that this would have been the building on the corner opposite the Bolton. The owner was Thomas Lakeman, but again through casting constraints, Thomas became Mrs Lakeman, and Martha a

relative. No old information could be found on local people of the surnames Pogwell/Fogwell, Dyers/Myers, Green, or Trier, in that era, sadly.

Elliott, or Jackman ?

One version of the Bob Elliott story refers to Resurrection Jackman, rather than to Elliott, and for a long time this was puzzling to say the least. However, examining boat registrations for Brixham of the late Victorian period, it turns out that R Jackman was a local shipbuilder, and that several different people of the surname Elliott, owned boats built by his company. It is therefore probable that the names have simply become confused over time.

## **About the South Devon Players**

In the summer of 2012 The South Devon Players were filmed for a BBC programme, Escape To The Country, performing a clip of their upcoming 2013 production The Ballad Of Resurrection Bob, the humourous true story of a 19th century smuggler, in the Devon fishing port of Brixham, where the theatre company is based.

This award-winning non-profit community theatre company primarily specialises in bringing to life the history and legends of the county of Devon, in newly researched and written shows. We mainly specialise in shows about local history, but sometimes expand to wider historical events as well. We are family friendly, lively and welcoming to all who wish to be involved in theatre at any level. In the past, members have gone on to perform in major feature films, and train at RADA. Our membership ranges from age 10 to 65, and from professional performers to complete beginners, all of whom work as part of a team to create new exciting shows which are then brought to our local community.

## **The Cast and Crew**

Jack – Shaun Matthews

Jim – Richard O Donnell

Isaac – Andrew Cooper

Emily – Molly Wellspring

Ruth – Kit Saunders

Mrs Dugdale – Dori Smith

Mrs Gillard – Shirley Thrift

Mrs Lakeman – Mary Earle

Maria – Pam Vince

Mrs Pring – Laura Jury

Martha – Hannah Shipley

Bob - Phil Bradshaw

Commodore Davies – Charles McKeating

*Sound & lighting: Allan Wagner*

*Director– Laura Jury*

*Assistant director- Steve Stapleton*

# Open Theatre Auditions

with the South Devon Players,  
an award-winning non-profit Brixham amateur theatre company  
recently featured on BBC 1 TV

## **Les Miserables**

### **The Memoirs of Jean Valjean**

A new play (not the musical) retelling of Victor Hugo's  
classic story of revolution, love and redemption



## **Full cast required**

Auditions at

Chestnut Heights Community Centre, Brixham  
**May 15th (Wednesday) 2013 at 7pm.**

More info: <http://southdevonplayers.weebly.com>



 Twitter  
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or /sdevonplayers

 Laura (after 5pm)  
07855 090589

### *Show Tickets for Les Miserables*

Tickets will be available for booking from May 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Performances will be taking place in Paignton, Brixham  
and Torquay, September 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Please phone 07855  
090589 or check our website or any social network for all  
information and updates, alternatively speak to our Front  
of House staff, to be added to our postal mailing list.

## News in Brief

### **Performance at Yacht Club**

Some of our members will be performing at a blue plaque unveiling on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>, at Torbay Yacht Club, with local sea songs, including a local ballad song telling the true historical story of the 1866 Great Storm of Brixham.

### **American university students using our materials**

Students at the University of Southern Mississippi are using Act 1 of our Les Miserables script for their degree courses in theatre arts, in a module exploring characterization and development.

### **Volunteers and helpers needed**

With our shows getting much larger in scale, we are also looking for volunteers who would like to be involved but who would rather not perform on stage. We are looking especially for people good at DIY to help with set building, stage hands for moving sets on the performance days, and people who would like to help with front of house duties at shows (box office, teas and coffees for audience, etc). Please get in contact if you would be interested.

### **Working with local film makers and model agency**

Several of our members have recently been working with local film maker John Tomkins, on a gothic comedy film A Dark Tale, filmed at Oldway Mansion in February 2013. We also now have links, and work on a regular basis with the local Torbay model agency Aesthetic Clarity Ltd on a variety of projects including upcoming shows, modeling assignments and photoshoots.

### **Further short-notice opportunities for performers local for theatre, film and TV**

We regularly receive requests for extra shows and performances, ranging from murder mystery nights to children's fete drama activities, and expect to be announcing castings and opportunities to become involved in these projects, these will be fairly short notice, and for all details, please follow our website or one of our social networks, to be alerted as soon as any casting opportunity comes up.

We also often receive film/ TV actors and extras requests from TV and film companies filming in the area hoping that we have available members for their projects. These frequently include national TV stations (like BBC, Channel 4, Sky, etc) and film companies ranging from local production companies through to Disney.

**Complementary adverts for local groups and businesses  
Supporting other local people and community events  
in Brixham**

The South Devon Players theatre company  
Bringing exciting new historical theatre shows to  
the local South Devon and Torbay community since 2006

As seen performing on national BBC1 TV in Jan 2013  
Winners of the Torbay Together: Creativity In The Community 2010 Award

**Founders:**

**Miss Laura Jury BA(hons) PGCE MEd, and Mrs Louise German**



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**BRIXFEST**  
Celebrating Brixham's past, present and future.



**May 25, 26 & 27th 2013**

Cooking Demonstrations - Food Stalls - Arts & Craft Market - Kid's Day  
Live Music - Street Party - Classic Car Rally  
Crabbing Competition - SWUK Water Show **FIREWORKS**  
Heritage Sail - Try a Kayak - Parrot Show - Seagull Trail - Beach Jam  
Laughter Yoga - Grand Tombola - Barista Competition - WW2 Tours

**Brixham Pirate Thursdays**

A great day for the whole family with music, entertainment,  
and all manner of swashbuckling fun, in the beautiful  
historic fishing port of Brixham.



May 30th and then every Thursday from  
July 18th to September 5th 10am - 4pm

Run by the Brixham Buccaneers,  
a non-profit voluntary group of local residents.  
<http://www.brixhambuccaneers.co.uk/>

BRIXHAM OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY  
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**FAULTY  
TOWERS 2**

The Hotel Inspectors - The Germans - The Psychiatrist

**29th May - 1st June 2013**  
Tickets £10 - Children £7

Available NOW from 01803 857654 or from the Box Office  
as of 10th May Daily 10am-12pm: 01803 882717  
Performances begin at 8pm. Doors open 7:30pm.

**Brixham Theatre**  
By John Cleese & Connie Booth. By arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.