

Issue 106

April 2012



The Grayshott Stagers

# Newsletter

## Chairman's Note

Kia Ora!

Greetings from the land of the long white cloud and the All Black shirts. Having escaped as soon as decently possible after the One Act evenings, we are now enjoying a wonderful holiday despite a very poor New Zealand summer. In fact, by the time you receive this Angie and I will probably be on our way home, ready to throw ourselves into the preparations for "Something's Afoot". I know Peter and Ann, assisted by Laura, are working hard to make the show a success, so please do your bit by bringing along all your friends and relations to this hilarious musical comedy "whodunnit".

The One Act Evenings were once again extremely successful with three diverse plays all with a theatrical theme. As usual this event takes a lot of organising as so much off-stage help is required, so a big "thank you" to Angie who rallied the personnel, and to everyone who helped dish, serve, dispense, sell and usher. Also, of course, our three directors Brezetta, Angie and Shirley and their casts and crew. I am delighted to say that we have made a very gratifying profit of over £1600, an increase of 34% on last year's profit for our One Act Play and Supper Evening. A particular mention should also be made of Sarah Morrison, resident chef of the Fox and Pelican, who provided the excellent food.

Those of you who keep an eye on the website will have noticed that we have chosen our show for 2013 - "Nonsense - the Mega Musical". The original was the second longest running off-Broadway show and has now been updated with extra songs and to provide a variety of parts for women and a few men.

The reading and audition dates for "Calendar Girls" (see later) have been brought forward this year from their normal slot, so please make a note of them now rather than be taken by surprise later.

We have several social events planned for later in the year, including another informal play-reading, barbecue, skittles evening and inter-society quiz. Further details elsewhere in the newsletter/in due course.

Well - must throw another possum on the barbie.....

G'day!

*John*

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# The One Act Play Supper Evening

## The One-Act Play Evenings

*"I've been attending for many years but think this is amongst the very best...a brilliant evening all round".* This spontaneous message of thanks was received from a member of our audience at our One Act Plays and Supper evening in February. What better critique could we receive? Many similar comments have been received, complimenting the quality of both food and entertainment.

As John has said in his letter, all three plays this year had a theatrical theme and the first, **"Theatrical Digs"**, directed by Angie Hilder, got the evening off to an excellent start. We were highly entertained by the chance meeting, in adjacent deckchairs at a seaside resort, of two ladies who discover they have a lot in common, theatrically speaking.

The other two directors report the following:

### **"The Dreaming"**

How bold and exciting to have accomplished a very experimental 20 minutes!! Without the huge effort and very gutsy approach of John D and John H it would not have been possible. I would love to say that it was solely due to hard work but I must be honest and say that we had great, great fun rehearsing and we made a good team. I was very proud of the result and proud of the Stagers not being scared to take a risk.

*Brezetta Thonger*

### **"Darlings, You Were Wonderful"**

Once again I was very pleased to be asked to direct a one-act play for our February Supper Evening. This year's choice was 'Darlings, You Were Wonderful' and, as last year, it was an all female cast. This is a play about an amateur drama group taking part in a local festival, and has six really good parts for us girls (with pre-recorded voice-overs. Thank you Trudy and Mike).

Having agreed to direct this play, I was disappointed to find that my grandson would be getting married on Saturday 18th February, and as the wedding was taking place in Kent, I had to travel there on the Friday. Oh dear.....

However I was able to be at final dress rehearsal and went home from that feeling very confident and somewhat sad that my part in the event was now over. For me it is always the hardest part of being a director when the moment comes that there is absolutely nothing more one can do except sit (or maybe pace), and watch the result of everyone's efforts.

However, on my return I immediately contacted my lovely cast and heard that our play had been very well received and that the two evenings had been as successful and well supported as our February event continues to be. In fact I did hear that there had been a waiting list for any available tickets and that a number of people hoping to come were disappointed. We must be doing something right!

All I can say is "Viva! - the February One-Act Evenings"

*Shirley Jelliss*

I think we would all agree with Shirley.

## Something's Afoot

Prepare yourselves for a night of suspense, mystery and .... murder! Fans of Agatha Christie and the whodunnit genre will have a marvellous time. Words and music have been learned; the set is under construction; props are being gathered and after a worrying first few weeks we have a full cast ready to take to the boards and present a really great show:

**Flint** – the caretaker who takes care of more than just the house – Ellis Nicholls

**Lettie** – the saucy maid with an eye for a chance - Amy Turner

**Clive** – the faithful and luckless butler – John Dowsett

**Hope Langdon** – the lovely young ingenue – Susie Dean

**Dr. Grayburn** – the family doctor and confidant – Laura Musco

**Nigel Rancour** – the dissolute nephew and legal heir – Ian Wilson-Soppitt

**Lady Grace Manley-Prowe** – the glamorous grande dame – Brezetta Thonger

**Colonel Gillweather** – the blustery and brave old army man – Mike Clark

**Miss Tweed** – the tweedy, elderly amateur detective – Sara Rowe

**Geoffrey** – the handsome young stranger - Jason Davenhill



Special thanks must go to Laura Musco, Ian Wilson-Soppitt and Jason Davenhill for filling those initial gaps. They have been directed by Peter Budd, with Anne Bradley as Musical Director and Laura Musco teaching the choreography.

This fun musical spoof of murder mysteries will be performed from Wednesday to Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April, curtain up at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Bookshop, the Square, Grayshott. Telephone 01428 604798 or online at [www.grayshottstagers.co.uk](http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk).

See you all there.

## Calendar Girls

Be excited.....as there is reason to be.... **CALENDAR GIRLS** by Tim Firth November will be staged in November 2012..... at Grayshott Village Hall !!!!!!!

The dates for the read-through and auditions are as follows:

*Wed 13th June at 7.45 pm – read through*

*Sat 23rd June at 2.00 pm - auditions*



With 10 ladies and 4 men parts to be cast there are lots of varying roles to try for. Please come to the read-thru and see what all the fuss is about. All are welcome, members or not, whether you wish to audition or not just come and say hi!

Brezetta Thonger (Director) – 01428 717033

Bjorg Arnadottir (Assistant Director)

Barbie Badger (Production Secretary)

And keep your eyes peeled for some special promotional events to support this production!

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## Membership News

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Not much to report this time but it's all good!

As Jane Sargeant looks forward to her wedding later this year, we also send congratulations and best wishes for the future to Caroline, Ian and Barbara Badger's daughter, and Paul Saunders, who married at the end of last December.

Helen Coyte has been moving in élite circles again, attending a royal reception at St James' Palace for her Duke of Edinburgh Gold award.

With apologies if I've overlooked anybody or any significant events. Do let me know if you have news. It's an easy way to share it.

*Jennifer*

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## Social Events

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Firstly Grayshott Village Hall has been booked for our next **social play reading**. All members and friends and any other interested parties are very welcome. Drinks and nibbles will be served and I am sure it will be a great evening. We will be reading 'The Admirable Crichton' by J M Barrie. Do join us for a 7.30 p.m. start on May 23rd.

On Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>, we have booked a **skittles evening at The Black Fox Inn, Liphook**. Cost £12 per head. Start 7.30 p.m. Menu selections are as follows.

*Fish and Chips mushy peas with tartare sauce*  
*Our own recipe sausages chips and beans*  
*Louisiana style fried chicken, chips, sweet chilli dip*  
*Beef chilli with rice and cheesy tortilla stack*  
*Vegetarian mushroom risotto, hot crusty bread*

I can recommend the food at The Black Fox so it should be a great evening. We need to confirm numbers and menus by May 25<sup>th</sup> – please send your payment for tickets to Jim Hegarty, 76 Parkhurst Fields, Churt, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2PQ. We also hope to have a barbeque in the summer, but we haven't fixed a date yet.

*Pauline*

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## Dates for your Diary

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|             |   |                         |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| 19-21 April | Bourne Players: "Key For Two"           | Bourne Hall             |
| 25-28 April | "Something's Afoot"                     | Grayshott Village Hall  |
| 14 May      | Society Pub Night                       | Fox and Pelican         |
| 23 May      | Play reading – social evening           | Grayshott Village Hall  |
| 12-16 June  | Farnham Operatic: "Half A Sixpence"     | Farnham Maltings        |
| 13 June     | Read through "Calendar Girls"           | Grayshott Village Hall  |
| 16 June     | Skittles Evening                        | The Black Fox           |
| 22 June     | Fashion Show                            | Grayshott Village Hall  |
| 23 June     | Auditions "Calendar Girls"              | Grayshott Village Hall. |
| 13 Oct      | Inter-Society Quiz                      | Grayshott Village Hall  |
| 23-27 Oct   | Haslemere Players: "The Sound of Music" | Haslemere Hall          |
| 22-24 Nov   | "Calendar Girls"                        | Grayshott Village Hall  |