

Issue 82

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(Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association)

THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

A Chorus of Disapproval was a great success, and I would like to record here my congratulations to Betty Penny, and everyone involved. It was certainly enjoyed by the audiences and by all those taking part. The only exception to this was the temperature in the shed, but regrettably, there was not much we were able to do about that at the time.

This raises the question of what it will be like in the shed during *Me & My Girl* in December next year. This has been discussed in some detail, and as there is precious little that we can do to heat the shed, we intend to use both of the rooms at the rear of the stage as dressing rooms, with the props going out into the shed. The props folk are always rushing around, so, hopefully, they will keep warm! Three people have contacted me with misgivings regarding the change in the calendar. As has been said before, there is little doubt that something needs to be done, and if we should decide later that we would be better off with the old calendar, or even another variation, there is nothing to stop us from changing again. Meantime, it is now confirmed that the play will be presented on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of May 2005, and *Me & My Girl* will be presented on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd December 2005 in Grayshott, and on the 7th, 8th, and 9th December 2005 in Haslemere.

Most of you will remember that six years ago I persuaded the committee into agreeing to put on the 'Grayshott 24', and then cajoled people into taking part, mostly against their better judgement. Well, not content with doing it just once, I have persuaded the current committee that what they *really* want most of all is to do it again! More details elsewhere in this newsletter.

The February plays are almost upon us, and from the rehearsals that I have seen recently, we are in for some splendid entertainment.

As I write, tickets are going fast, so if you haven't bought yours yet, contact Thelma Robertson without delay. I have also been watching the early rehearsals of *Copacabana*, of which more elsewhere in this newsletter, and, again, from what I have seen, it should be a great show.

Postcard Piece: Escaping to the Canary Islands at half term last November, Heather & I toured around Tenerife, amazed at the differences in terrain across the island. In the south, the landscape is similar to the Costa del Sol, whilst in the north, there are areas that look more like leafy lanes in Surrey. Climbing up the road to 'El Teide', the volcano on the island, claimed by Spain as their highest mountain, we came across a huge plateau that is like nothing else that I have ever seen, other than on film. The landscape is often referred to as 'lunar' and it has been used as the setting for many films, including *Planet of the Apes*, and *Star Wars*.

Cologne in December has an air of magic about it, as do all of the German towns where Christmas markets are held. We flew from Stansted with Ryanair to the airport that they call Dusseldorf, but which is actually 50 miles away from Dusseldorf and is really called Niederrhein. It was raining almost all the time that we were there, not that we were particularly bothered by it, and it didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the locals, who congregate socially in these markets areas. There are stalls, huts really, selling trinkets, carvings, paintings, in fact, anything and everything that you could think of. There are even huts selling gluhwein and beer; I'm sure that there must be an EC regulation that would stop that from happening here!

Next time: New York in February, with 40 teenagers.



Wild West Barn Dance



Yee-haw and *swing your partner* are not usually commonplace in Churt Village Hall. However, on Saturday 3rd April I'm hoping you'll all be joining in!

The Grayshott Stagers' Wild West Barn Dance promises to be a wonderful evening. Tickets are £7.50 and include a themed cowboy supper as well as plenty of 'stomping' your feet with the help of our caller Tony Kelly. There will also be a licensed bar available.

To add to the fun, guests are requested to dress 'Wild West' style - just think in the vein of our last show! To help you, costumes are available from our wardrobe at a discounted rate.

You may not believe this, but I volunteered to organise this evening as an alternative to the jumble sale to help us 'swell the funds' a little. So please do come along and enjoy yourselves - I promise it's going to be much more fun and far less strenuous than 'jumbling'!

There are approximately 100 tickets available and I'd like to invite our sister societies too, so please be quick. Tickets are available from me and I will have them at the February Plays. Please feel free to bring family and friends along. I do hope you'll come.

Alex 01252 627722 alex@grayshottstagers.co.uk

The Grayshott 24: we are going to do it again!

The second sextennial Grayshott 24 will take place on the 2nd/3rd July 2004

As we did in 1998, we are going to put on an entire musical show in just twenty four hours on the 2nd & 3rd of July 2004. This is how it will work...

At 7.15pm on Friday the 2nd, all those who wish to take part will gather in Grayshott Village Hall, ready to start work at 7.30. At 7.30 the show will be announced, and scores, libs, etc., will be distributed to the assembled company. The Director and MD will have to make instant decisions about casting as there will be no time for auditions. The show will have a large chorus, and everybody who wishes to take part will be able to do so, no matter how many.

Rehearsals will commence immediately, and will continue around the clock until late in the afternoon on Saturday 3rd. It is hoped that the Director and MD will be able to organise sufficient rest periods for a little sleep! A full breakfast will be provided on the Saturday morning. The only costumes 'allowed' will be what can be found in the wardrobe, and what people can provide themselves. Likewise the set & props - if we have it we will use it, if not we will improvise.

The show will be presented on Saturday 3rd July at 7.30pm.

An audience will easily be found by the (hopefully) large number of people taking part, from our own members and members of other societies who do not wish to take part, and from our mailing list. As long as the concept is explained clearly, and it is understood that a full musical is to be presented, albeit with rough edges, it should be easy to fill the available 160 seats for one night. The main challenge is to sell someone a ticket without knowing what the show will be. There will, of course, be a licensed bar.

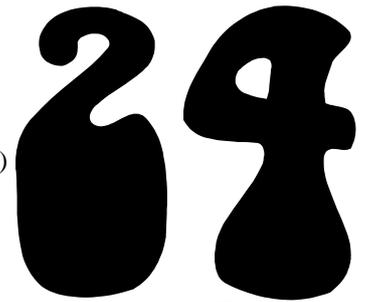
The participation fee will be £5.00 each, but this will include all fees for the scores & libs, bottomless tea and coffee pots, and breakfast.

Clearly, we shall also need an army of helpers to do all the other jobs that need to be done, so even if you do not want to tread the boards this time, you will still be needed.

I should be pleased to discuss the venture further, so please feel free to ring me (01428 606501) if you would like further information. If you would like to 'refresh your memory of' or just read about the 1998 event, visit our website at www.grayshottstagers.co.uk.

If you would like to take part please get your cheque for £5 (payable to the Grayshott Stagers) to either myself, or Stephen Penny.

Tony Legat
tony@grayshottstagers.co.uk



Does anyone have...

A caravan?

You may recall that to help with dressing room space we used to have a caravan beside the shed, typically used for the principals.

Are there any caravans out there that could be de-camped to Grayshott for show week? The use of this sort of facility is likely to be even more useful with the main Musical moving to December.

Please let a member of the committee know if you can help.

Eats and Drinks

Don't forget...

Our February One Act Plays Supper Evening will be presented at Grayshott Village Hall on 27th and 28th February 2004.

Rehearsals are progressing extremely well and the menu sounds delicious. Tickets are selling like hot cakes... See you there.

The Haslemere Charter Fayre

This year the Charter Fayre falls on the 3rd May: the Monday of the Haslemere week of *Copacabana*. The committee has applied for a table as this is a perfect opportunity to publicise the show.

We hope to have members of the cast, in costume, promoting the show to help ticket sales. Any help with the table and 'flyering' would be most welcome. More details in the next newsletter.

Mayor's Charity quiz

On Saturday 13th March Michael Foster (Mayor of Haslemere) is holding a quiz night to help support the Haslemere Hall.

Many of you will be aware that Waverley Borough Council have recently announced that they will be halving the usual grant given to the Hall for 2004/5.

Teams of between 6 and 10 people are welcome to take a table and to join in the fun of a not-too-serious general knowledge quiz. Tickets are £10 a head to include a fish and chip supper during the interval. Wine and soft drinks will be available from the bar.

If you would like to take part, please contact Melanie Tyrrell who is coordinating the Stager's team/s.
01428 643352
melanie@grayshottstagers.co.uk



Copacabana

29 April–01 May & 06 May–08 May



The rehearsals for Copacabana are well under way. Megan and Edward have made a really strong start with some spectacular choreography and singing from the principals. I've made strenuous attempts to 'structure' rehearsals in order to minimise attendance as I'm very conscious of how busy people's lives are these days. We are extremely fortunate to have really strong principals (something not always associated with me – at least the 'les' version!) but would still welcome you into the production if you'd like to take part. There are several cameo roles still to be cast.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite members along to watch a rehearsal if you feel you'd like to get to know the show better or just to spend a few hours away from the box. Come along and join us for a cup of coffee!

Please encourage your relatives, friends and neighbours to come along to see this show. It's full of great Barry Manilow music – guaranteed to get your toes and other bits tapping along. Seats are now on sale from Thelma.

Tony Creasey

Christmas Carols

On 19th December eleven good men and women set forth on the annual adventure of carol singing in Grayshott, otherwise known as "How to freeze your bits off and still think you're having fun." Stephen Penny had provided the lanterns to save us from disappearing down pot holes and drowning in puddles. (Although it must be said that on this occasion the weather had been more kind to us than in previous years.) Melanie Tyrell had added the required festive decorations of flashing snowmen, jingling bells etc to herself that we have come to rely on to set the mood and before we knew it we were off.

As usual, Richard White was Choirmaster and given the unenviable task of choosing the key we sang in and trying to keep us all together. Luckily for us all (and probably unknown to newer members of Stagers) Stephen Penny and Tony Legat are excellent singers and together with seasoned professionals like Heather Legat and Marion Walker we were sounding pretty fine. This time the vocal range was added to and enriched by Sylvia and Katy Boddington who provided the top soprano harmonies for the carols.

Jane Sargeant's penchant for running everywhere was put to good use as tin rattler and door knocker. There was a good response from people and some were even waiting for us to come by. (That's a much needed boost when you start losing feeling in your fingers!) Everyone was pleased with the amount raised that night for charity.

Finally, the stars of the show were Judy and Mike Lee. After lending their voices to the cause they then invited everyone back to their home for a wonderful meal.

The only thing remaining is to thank everyone who took part in the carol singing in December and to hope that this little insight in to the event inspires more members to join the party this year.

Dates for your Diary

2004

27–28 February, Grayshott Village Hall
03 April, Churt Village Hall
01–03 April, Haslemere Hall
29 April–01 May, Grayshott Village Hall
06–08 May, Haslemere Hall
08 September, Grayshott Small Hall
25–27 November, Grayshott Village Hall

February One Act Supper Evening
Wild West Barn Dance
Haslemere Thespians One Act Festival
Copacabana
Copacabana
Annual General Meeting
Cabaret

2005

25–26 February, Grayshott Village Hall
19–21 May, Grayshott Village Hall
01–03 December, Grayshott Village Hall
08–10 December, Haslemere Hall

February One Act Supper Evening
Full Length Play
Me and My Girl
Me and My Girl





Our social committee have been busy organising our diaries for us, so please have a look and join in when you can. Theatre trips have been carefully planned not to clash with rehearsals and the Barn Dance and BBQ should give us some well earned relaxation (and fun!) in between the February Plays, *Copacabana* and the Grayshott 24!

Date	Show	Venue	Price
Tuesday 16 th March	Carousel	New Victoria, Woking	£18.00
Thursday 25 th March	Half a Sixpence	Haslemere Hall	£8.50
Saturday 3 rd April	Wild West Barn Dance	Churt Village Hall	£7.50
Thursday 15 th April	Whistle Down the Wind	New Victoria, Woking	£19.00
Thursday 20 th May	The Constant Wife	Haslemere Hall	£TBC
Thursday 17 th June	Sweet Charity	Farnham Maltings	£12.00
Sunday 1 st August	Stagers BBQ	Beefolds Cottage	£TBC

Carousel – Sam Kane stars as loveable rogue Billy Bigelow who falls in love with Julie Jordon at the carousel ride. However, their happiness is cut short when Jigger the sailor persuades Billy to take part in a robbery with disastrous consequences. Featuring songs You'll Never Walk Alone, Mister Snow and What's The Use Of Wonderin'.

Half A Sixpence – Haslemere Players production featuring Laura Musco. Kipps marries his childhood sweetheart but the small fortune he inherits causes trouble between them. Only when the fortune is lost do things get resolved. Includes songs Flash Bang Wallop, If The Rains Got To Fall and I Don't Believe A Word Of It.

Whistle Down The Wind – A young girl finds a mysterious man hiding in the barn and thinks he is Jesus. She and the other children vow to protect him but the townspeople are determined to catch a fugitive. Songs include No Matter What, The Vaults Of Heaven and Whistle Down The Wind.

The Constant Wife – Haslemere Thespians production of Somerset Maugham's comedy. Staring Mike Clarke and Barbara Netherwood. Constance Middleton's husband John is having an affair with her best friend. Rather than humiliate herself she denies the affair, defends the two and sets about turning the situation to her own advantage.

Sweet Charity – FAOS production directed by Heather Legat and music director Milva Sandison. Charity is a dancer that hopes that romance will help her get out of her sleazy life. By chance she meets Oscar who may be the answer to her prayers but only if he can get over her past. Features songs Big Spender, Rhythm Of Life and If My Friends Could See Me Now.

BBQ – Held at Beefolds Cottage. Last year's highlights included exceptional food, drinking games, jive dancing and good company. Don't miss it!

Forthcoming Events

Farnham Shakespeare Company – Summer production at the Farnham Library Gardens.

Guildbury – Loves Labours Lost at Farnham Castle.

If you would like any further information about the above, or would like to book tickets, please contact Jane Sargeant on 07818 422250 or jane@grayshottstagers.co.uk



NODA News



It is a sad story. There I was happily snoozing my way through a committee meeting 2 months ago probably dreaming of playing Hamlet - or anything really I'm not fussy! Only to wake up to be told that I was Grayshott Stagers new NODA liaison. In my befuddled state I was unable to formulate a two letter word beginning with N and ending with O. So here I am.

NODA of course stands for National Operatic and Dramatic Association and they support amateur theatre in many ways too numerous to go into now. Suffice to say we could do without them but we would not want to. They issue a quarterly 'NODA NEWS' which is quite a substantial magazine full of interest. At the moment The Stagers receive one copy per quarter this is available to any member who wishes to borrow it. However, there maybe some members who would like their own copy. I can arrange this - the cost is currently £10 per year.

I also have details of the NODA Summer School at Loughborough University which runs from the 7th - 14th August 2004. Many different courses covering different aspects of amdram - details available on request.

Anyone interested in any of the above phone Alan Stone on 01428 607071.

