

Issue 103

March 2011



THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

# Newsletter

## Chairman's Note

Spring is just around the corner and so is our next show – *Red, Hot and Cole*.

Heather Legat and Robert Gilman, with help from Laura Musco, are skilfully moulding the cast into a cohesive team of “sophisticates”. PLEASE tell all your friends to come and see what will be a highly entertaining show.

I'm delighted to announce that June Hegarty, encouraged by the success of her production *Dark Lucy* last year, has offered to direct the contrasting *Look Who's Talking* in November, more details of which are given later in this newsletter.

Now that the frenetic activity that surrounds the One Act plays has come to a sudden end, I must thank all those members and friends who helped to make them another tremendous success – exhausting but so rewarding!

The more observant of you will have noticed a change at the top of the column just to the left of this article. After many years, we are changing our logo from the stagecoach and horses to a design created by Sara Rowe, which reflects our mix of musical and “straight” theatre in a modern and attractive way. Sara also designed our Diamond Jubilee logo which we are using on all our publicity material this year. Congratulations to her for resolving a problem we have been wrestling with for a while. As you know, we are celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> year as a society with an anniversary ball which Pauline Harries and Mary Coyte are organising, and about which they give further details later in the newsletter. I urge you all to come and make it as dazzlingly successful as our Golden Ball was ten years ago.

Sadly, after a number of years in charge, Sylvia Boddington and Jan Ashwell have decided to stand down as our wardrobe mistresses. Enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and expert seamstresses, they have dressed our shows with skill and imagination, putting in hours of hard work and scouring the charity shops looking for that elusive item. Both wish to spend more time with families but I am pleased to say that they are staying as society members and Sylvia will continue to assist with some costume preparation. For the time being, Brezetta Thonger has kindly stepped in as custodian and Pauleen Dowsett and Pauline Harries are dressing *Red, Hot and Cole* for us. If you know anyone out there who might be interested in helping with our wardrobe (which thanks to Sylvia and Jan is well organised) then please let me, or a committee member, know.

On a final personal note, after 47 years as an estate agent I am finally hanging up the tape measure. I look forward to a calmer pace of life but with no shortage of things to do!

Best wishes,

*John*

## MEMBERSHIP

Our Musical *Red, Hot & Cole* has introduced two new members to the society, Graham Gale and Ian Wilson-Soppit, whom we warmly welcome. Graham's stage work has included Musical Direction for FAOS and Ian has appeared for several local societies, including The Bourne Players, Tilford and FAOS.

Many congratulations to Helen Coyte, who has not only achieved her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award but has been awarded the highest accolade for Scouting – that of 'Queen's Scout'.



It was good to see Liz and Malcolm Dobson at the recent One Act Plays and we'd love them to move back to this area!

Please do let me know if you have any news to share and, as always, I apologise if I have overlooked anybody or any events. The deadline for copy for our next newsletter is 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

*Jennifer*

*Red, Hot & Cole - come to the party!*

## Red, Hot & Cole 13 - 16 April

Rehearsals have been great fun but also very productive – we've been running sections of the show since mid February and have been running whole acts for several weeks. Costumes and accessories have been gathered together and are looking gorgeous; the cast have been using (and dropping) props in rehearsal and the set is coming together in the scenery shed on Sunday mornings. So we are all set for what I hope will be a fabulous show. If you have missed or forgotten the recent publicity for *Red, Hot and*

*Cole*, let me tell you that the show charts the life story of Cole Porter from his early flops - *See America First* - through his travels in France and Venice to his most accomplished lyrics and melodies in *Anything Goes* and *Kiss me Kate*. You'll see Cole through the eyes of his wife Linda, his friends, Monty Woolley and Ella Maxwell and his colleagues George Kaufman, Moss Hart and Bella Spewack but, best of all, *Red, Hot and Cole* is stuffed full of Cole Porter songs.

To quote Mr. Porter: "Come on down, come on down" to Grayshott Village Hall from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April "because we're throwing a ball tonight!"



*Heather*

Unfortunately, the junction of the A3 and The Headley Road will be closed during the week of the show. Access to Grayshott will still be available via Crossways Road, via Headley Road from Headley, and via Whitmore Vale Road.

## Look Who's Talking

June Hegarty will direct *Look Who's Talking*, a comedy by Derek Benfield in November 2011. This very funny play is the story of Sheila and Andrew, a devoted middle-aged couple enjoying a normal relaxed Sunday; Andrew digging in the garden; Sheila preparing lunch while waiting the arrival of an old friend. Then two totally unexpected visitors wander into this idyllic scene with disturbing and riotous results. Brian, whom Sheila met briefly the week before, hints that their relationship had gone a good deal further than a glass or two of wine. Andrew's pretty secretary arrives with a suitcase, all set for a naughty assignation in Italy. This all leads to a complicated and hilarious series of misunderstandings and mistaken identities.



## One Act Play Evenings



After the success of these events over past years, the two evenings in February were a sell-out, with a waiting list for ticket returns, and our format of 'One Act Plays and Supper' was once again warmly applauded... The three plays provided a well-balanced programme and the food, this year catered by 'Pru's Pantry', was delicious.

With Hilary Lee-Corbin directing for The Stagers for the first time, *Roman Fever* opened the evening. A challenging two-hander, this featured wealthy American widows in Rome, reminiscing about a previous visit, with some surprising revelations.

The curtains then opened to reveal a garden plot on the stage and *The Allotment*, directed by Shirley Jelliss, entertained the audience with a play concerning the dubious lives of four criminal offenders meeting their new probation officer.

After supper, the evening concluded with a verbal and technological tour-de force directed by Brezetta Thonger. *Immobiles*, set in the time before mobile phones, detailed the hilarious tale of communication breakdown as a couple try to meet their German guest, recently flown into England.

The Stagers should continue to be proud of their actors, directors, backstage crew and front of house helpers who all work so hard to make these events in a local Village Hall worthy of a professional society.



[www.grayshottstagers.co.uk](http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk)

## Diamond Jubilee

As most of you will know The Grayshott Stagers are celebrating their Diamond Jubilee this year with a summer dinner dance to take place at The Georgian Hotel, Haslemere on July 9th. Many of you have already expressed an interest but we thought it might be nice to invite a few friends and supporters from other societies, to swell the numbers.

**Tickets:** £30pp to include a three course meal and band  
**Date:** 9th July 2011  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Dress:** Black tie

If you haven't already secured your tickets or wish to increase the number in your party, now is the time. So get your glad rags on and come and join us. It will be fun. I shall be sending out menus and of course collecting money in due course.

Contact: Pauline Harries 01428 723764 or email [pauline.harries1@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.harries1@btinternet.com)



## WEB BYTES



Two online sites that you may be interested to hear about.

Grayshott.com has changed, and is now a great community website. I would recommend that you visit the site and have a look, and join up to be kept up to date with everything that is going on in Grayshott. You can choose to be kept informed of updates by email if you like, but there is no obligation to publicise any personal information.

You will see that amongst the Groups there is a Stagers group which is open for anyone to join, and which will be used to publicise our shows and forthcoming events. Go to <http://www.grayshott.com>

Amateur Stage Magazine has been published since 1947, but has recently added an online community. Visit <http://www.asmagazine.co.uk> to have a look - you'll find a Grayshott Stagers group there too.

## Dates for your Diary

### 2011

22-26 March, Haslemere Hall	Haslemere Players' <i>Guys and Dolls</i>
13-16 April, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>Red Hot and Cole</i>
09 May, Fox & Pelican	Society Pub Night
13 June, Fox & Pelican	Society Pub Night
14-18 June, Farnham Maltings	FAOS' <i>Jack The Ripper</i>
06 July, Common Room	<i>Look Who's Talking</i> read through
09 July, Georgian Hotel	Diamond Jubilee Celebration
14 September, Small Hall	Annual General Meeting
20 September, Small Hall	<i>One Act Play</i> read through
24 September, Small Hall	<i>Look Who's Talking</i> auditions (afternoon)
24 September, Common Room	<i>One Act Play</i> auditions
08 October, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>Something's Afoot</i> auditions
17-19 November, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>Look Who's Talking</i>



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