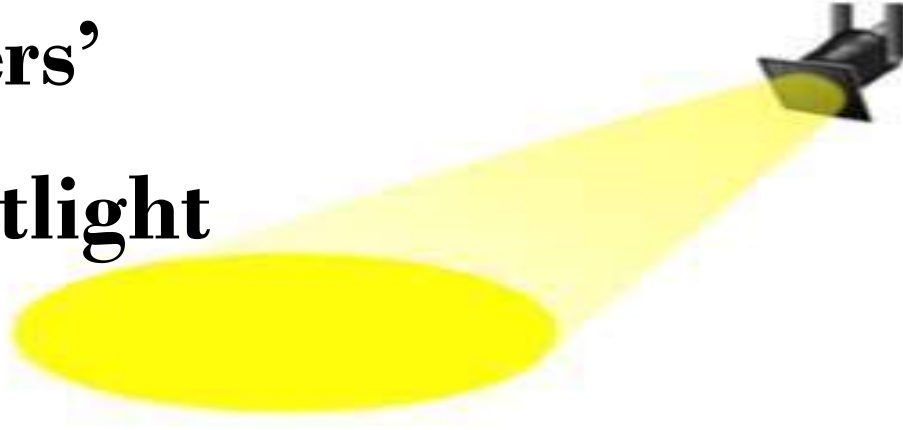


Stagers' Spotlight



October 2022

Chair's Message

The first newsletter after the AGM always feels like the start of a new year and always comes at such a busy period when we are working on three shows all at the same time in various forms.

We have the wonderfully characterful and laugh out loud funny 'Come on, Jeeves' as our November Play. Please book your tickets today as this is a great show and our friends in the cast are working really hard to bring you all an evening that everyone will enjoy.

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/grayshotstagers/>

We are working on the One Acts Evenings and have just held a successful read through, meaning the two shows are almost fully cast now. Planning has also begun to get the presentation evening and auditions ready for Return to the Forbidden Planet, our Musical for May 2023. There is always a lot going on behind the scenes as we host the AGM.

Speaking of the AGM, thank you to everyone who was able to attend. It was wonderful to get a chance to talk to so many of you and sorry to anyone I missed, but hopefully there will be more opportunities for us to get together over the next year - the first of which is announced later in Spotlight, so make sure you put it in your diary today.

Thank you also to those who helped to arrange everything behind the scenes, especially Jennifer for making sure we were quorate and Heather and Tony for the lovely food and drink.

We welcome two new Committee members into our ranks, Buff Cooper and Kate Buxton. I am very excited that they have already rolled up their sleeves and jumped in to start helping out and you will get to learn more about both of them in Spotlight in the coming months. Sadly Eric Collins chose to step down from the Committee and whilst I got a chance to thank him at the AGM, I want to also take this opportunity to highlight again how much Eric did for the society. He took on a lot of difficult jobs, especially coming out of the Pandemic, and really helped to get the society back up and running. It is great to know that he will continue to play an active role on stage and beyond with Stagers.

During the AGM we confirmed our upcoming shows and their directors. For the 2023 One Act Plays Supper Evenings we will be putting on two short plays, with first-time director Ann Bartholomew directing 'Stake Out' and June Hegarty, who is coming back to Stagers after some time away, bringing us 'Rude Awakenings'.

The spring musical next year is, "Return to the Forbidden Planet". Leading man from many recent shows, including Honk!, Tony Carpenter is stepping up to direct his first musical and yours truly will be partnering up with him to share the directing responsibilities. We will benefit from Rob Miller's experience as MD, following his success with Honk! this year. Our subsequent musical in 2024 will be Nine to Five, the Dolly Parton Musical. Rob Miller will once again be our Musical Director but this time he will be joined by Laura Musco as the Director.

Finally, I was thrilled to be able to award Jennifer Charters Honorary Life Membership at the AGM. There was a brief discussion on whether it could be considered nepotism for me to be the one to present this award to my Mother-in-Law but given how much Jennifer has done for the society over the years and how much she continues to do (I have stopped counting the number of hats she is currently wearing), I think there can be no doubt that this is very well deserved and that you will join me in thanking her for her ongoing service to Grayshott Stagers. If anyone was unable to attend the AGM and would like any more information please contact either myself, the Secretary or the Treasurer.

Come On Jeeves.

When I started directing Come On, Jeeves, I was expecting it to be fun. It's a wonderful play, beautifully written, full of vibrant characters. I had a terrific cast, a great production team and all the amazing support that comes with the territory at Grayshott Stagers. Little did I know that it would



turn out to be, in the words of Miranda's mother "Such fun!".

We are now about 6 weeks away from performance and while there is still plenty to do, the cast have done excellent work developing their characters, learning their lines and throwing themselves (sometimes literally) into the rehearsal process. I'm not an experienced director, so it has been, and still is, a steep learning curve for me. Luckily I have an experienced troupe who know what they're doing and their ideas and contributions are invaluable. It's fascinating to watch as the actors find new and funnier ways of delivering

their lines, or try out different moves to get the maximum impact from the scene. This is all done with a few chairs as furniture, no scenery, no props, costumes or sound effects – just their imaginations.

What wonderful characters P.G. Wodehouse has created. Hapless Bill, the Earl of Towcester (Piers Husband), on his uppers, trying to keep his head above water by moonlighting as a bookie with the help of the immaculate and peerless Jeeves (Ellis Nicholls); the feisty and delightful Jill (Caroline Thompson), his fiancée who, like many of Wodehouse's women, won't stand for any nonsense. There is the sophisticated, highly intelligent and canny Monica (Helen Wigram), Bill's sister, who is one of life's fixers and her dapper husband Rory (David Gow), who is, in Bill's words, a bit of an ass. Rory loves a good joke.



There is Ellen, the maid (Ruth Wilbraham) whose demeanour fills the air with Eeyore-like glumness, and excitement to Towcester

Abbey – Captain Biggar (Ian Wilson-Soppitt) more at home hunting wild animals than Earls and, Mrs. Spottsworth (Susie Gow) the glamorous, eccentric American millionairess whose power can bring strong men to their knees .

There is a short but memorable appearance by



Chief Constable Blagden (John Hilder), on a fruitless visit to administer the law.

I won't spoil the story for you, but I am sure you can imagine what might happen with this collection of creatures under one roof.

We had the best time two weekends ago, when we gathered for the photoshoot. With set and props provided by the Gows, and everyone in character, Peter Sillick and Tony Legat were able to take some wonderful pictures. I've had the devil's own job trying to pick a few for Spotlight – there are so many excellent ones.

Sadly, the main man, our Jeeves, was unable to join us but I nabbed him at rehearsal later. I forced myself to pick four pictures.



Anyway, don't take my word for it – come and see for yourself. I hope you have either already bought your tickets or at least saved the date for Come On, Jeeves. I can promise you a most enjoyable evening.

Sara Wilson-Soppitt

We are looking for people to help with our fantastic front of house team. If you would like to offer your help please

email kate.buxton@grayshottstagers.co.uk

One-Act Play Evenings 17 and 18 February 2023

As previously reported we had a very entertaining read through of the two plays chosen for next February and almost cast them. Keep checking our website for news of the final member of the team for *Rude Awakenings*.

Rehearsals will start in the middle of December.

We're still planning for the entertainment to include a brief preview of our Spring Musical, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*.

The choice of food for the evenings is already well in hand with our in-house caterers, so do put the dates in your diaries and tell your families and friends

AGM:

Thank you to all who were able to attend our AGM on 14th September.

The 25 attendees meant that the meeting was quorate, with a few to spare!

It was good to linger afterwards over a drink and some delicious nibbles too.

I would like to say a personal thank you to The Grayshott Stagers for appointing me an Honorary Life Member.

When this was announced at the AGM, I'm afraid I was so busy trying to record the meeting that it took me a while to fully appreciate what was happening, causing much amusement! However, I am now regularly reminded of this honour as I look at the framed citation in my study.

I feel very proud when I think of all those who have been awarded this over the years.

Jennifer Charters

Membership News

Our local Theatre Groups have recently been sharing some sad news.

Doreen Wylde passed away on 22nd September at the age of 96.

Our thoughts are with her family, both at this time of loss and on into the future when they will miss her presence.

Personal invitations to her Funeral and Celebration of Life are currently being sent to family and friends.

This lovely and very talented lady played such an important part in local theatre.

Grayshott Stagers remembers Doreen for both her musical and directing skills. She made our Musicals that she was involved with so special to be part of and to watch.

We will be publishing a Tribute to her in the next issue of Spotlight.

If you have any memories you would like to share please contact Jennifer:

jennifer.charters@grayshottstagers.co.uk.

Grayshott Tea Party

Some of us over the last few years have been providing entertainment for Grayshott Tea Party's Christmas Lunch, and we've been asked again this year.

The entertainment is very relaxed and has evolved from us doing Christmas carols, songs and poems with a few for everyone, to them asking for carols and songs that anyone who wants to can join in.

If you'd like to join us please let me know by 22nd October - lauramusco55@gmail.com or 07717 211762. The lunch is on Tuesday 6th December and we'll be needed at 2pm-2.15pm, depending on when lunch finishes, to provide about 40 mins of music. We rehearse 3-4 times beforehand on dates most convenient to everyone and these have generally been during the daytime.

Grayshott Tea Party is a group who organise monthly afternoon meetings, with some amazing speakers, for those who are on their own or who would just like to enjoy other people's company. At the end of the meeting they have an afternoon tea - hence the name!

Come and join us. Everyone loves singing Christmas music!

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Twixtmas!

Following last year's successful festive get-together, we are once again having Stagers 'Twixtmas Drinks' at the Grayshott Social Club on Thursday 29th December from 7:30 – 11:00pm.

So if you're bored with turkey sandwiches but still not ready to tackle those New Year's resolutions, come along to the 'Twixtmas Drinks' for an evening of good conversation, jollification and perhaps even an impromptu sing song or party game

The bar will be open, you can bring your own nibbles, or even a ukulele or sousaphone for some festive entertainment.

So put the date in the diary and we'll see you there!

Haslemere Players



ANYTHING GOES

WRITTEN BY COLE PORTER
MUSIC BY COLE PORTER
LIBRETTO BY GAY BOHON

Haslemere Hall
25 - 29 October

ANYTHING GOES SAILS INTO HASLEMERE!
"In olden days a glimpse of stocking
Was thought of as something shocking
But now God knows... ANYTHING GOES!"

The Haslemere Players are delighted to be performing the hit comedy musical theatre classic *Anything Goes* - currently wowing audiences in the West End!

Set aboard the cruise ship SS American in the early 1930s, *Anything Goes* is a joyous musical romp across the Atlantic - a tale of romance, subterfuge, music, dance and laughter, with a hilarious script by PG Wodehouse and Gay Bohon, and a wonderful collection of familiar songs by the great Cole Porter, including *I Got A Kick Out Of You*, *You're The Top*, *Friendship*, *It's De-Lovely* and, of course, the show-stopping *Anything Goes*.

We're thrilled to be supporting the mental health charity *Oxleas* (oxleas-enterprise.org) with this production and look forward to welcoming you on board!

Tickets Available From £10
01428 642161 haslemerehall.co.uk

Haslemere Players proudly supporting 

Haslemere players are performing, "Anything Goes" at the end of the month

A number of familiar faces from Grayshott Stagers' will be on stage in this production.

It is always good to support our members as they perform elsewhere.

Advertise your business in our next programme

If you run a local business, why not advertise it in the programme for "Come On, Jeeves"?

The programme will be seen by an estimated 300 pairs of audience eyeballs over the three performances, plus those of the cast, crew and front of house - the great majority belonging to people based in the local area.

Advertising space is available in quarter-page, half-page and full-page sizes. If you don't have existing copy, we can help with the formatting and design. For the list of the prices for each size of advert, email barry.levy@grayshottstagers.co.uk by Sunday 23rd October



25-29 Oct- Haslemere Players - Anything Goes
Haslemere Hall

24-26th Nov: Come on, Jeeves , [Trailer Click Here](#)

Book your Tickets here

Wed 30 Nov. Studio – Presentation: Return to the Forbidden Planet

Fri 2 Dec. Common Room. Return to the Forbidden Planet **Audition Rehearsal 1**

Wed 7 Dec. Common Room. Return to the Forbidden Planet **Audition Rehearsal 2**

Sat 10 Dec. Main Hall 2-6 pm. Return to the Forbidden Planet **Auditions.**

Thu 29th Dec 7.30- Twixtmas- Grayshott Social Club

17th-18th Feb 2023 One Act Supper evening



Visit our website for more Information <http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk>

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