

Stagers' Spotlight



April 2023

Chair's Message

Welcome to the April edition of Spotlight.

As we head through Easter we leave behind us the One Acts and a very enjoyable final meal at the Gurkha Durbar where our casts have celebrated performance week with a delicious meal. Thank you to Laura for organising this and to everyone involved at the Gurkha Durbar for their hospitality over the years.

The main focus of the society at the moment is on building up towards the May musical, Return to the Forbidden Planet (box office open and tickets available), so we are in the middle of getting a lot of useful jobs done for the society this month. You can see more about the progress we are making in this edition.

The committee has also been working to sort out some of the technology for the society as there have been issues with one of our spotlights and some of our audio equipment. We should however have everything fixed and ready to use in time for the May musical!

We have started talking about a plan for a summer social meet up, so watch this space. We will also share information around these types of events on our WhatsApp group. If you are not part of the group but would like to be you can find out how on this page

Go well to everyone,

Joe, Chair



Stagers' WhatsApp Group.

Did you know that there is a Grayshott Stagers' WhatsApp group?

This online, social group is open to all members and currently has 35 participants. It is used to share information informally between members. Recently this has included details of the Churt Pantomime, an impromptu trip to see Tony Carpenter's Laurel and Hardy Cabaret show in Guildford and the fielding of not one, but two winning quiz teams at the Haslemere Youth Hub Quiz.

You can join the group by using the link below on a device that has WhatsApp.



[Grayshott Stagers
chat.whatsapp.com](https://chat.whatsapp.com/GrayshottStagers)

24th - 27th May Return to the Forbidden Planet



Rehearsals are going well for our May musical, Return to the Forbidden Planet. With so many well-known songs, Musical Director Rob is ensuring that the cast sounds great!

Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood, Only The Lonely would miss out on the opportunity to come and enjoy **the Good Vibrations** of this show. Whilst not aiming to **Change The World**, It certainly won't be a **Wipe Out**. To be honest, **I'm Shaking All Over** with excitement and on that note, **I'll Go Now**.
The box office is open

Kate Buxton, Production Secretary



Return to the Forbidden Photoshoot

A big thank you to Eric and Ingrid Collins for allowing us the use of their business (Classic Car Mechanic <https://www.classiccarmechanic.co.uk/>) as the location for our Return to the Forbidden Planet photoshoot. Whilst it usually plays host to any number of fabulous vintage motor cars being brought back to working order, we were able to use the industrial elements of the setting, the



pieces of technical equipment and the large silver doors to give a suitably science fiction feel. Especially with the costumes which Laura Musco, Mary Coyte and Heather Legat have been

able to gather so far.

You are sure to see a lot more of these photos in the coming weeks as publicity for the show ramps up - Buy your Tickets today: [Box Office](#) but for now, thanks also to the members of the cast who were able to attend and made it so much fun, and thanks to Peter Sillick and Tony Legat for recording all of our escapades. A short trailer is available by clicking [this link](#)

Joe White and Tony Carpenter, Directors



NODA - Q and A

What is NODA?

It's the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, which was founded in 1899 (a time when Gilbert and Sullivan operettas were the stock-in-trade of most amateur theatre groups) to represent the interests of amateur dramatic and operatic societies in the UK. Any amateur society can join, and there are currently over 2,000 society members and over 1,000 individual members.

How is NODA structured?

The UK is partitioned into 11 Regions, each headed by a Regional Councillor who is supported by administrative staff (secretary, treasurer, webmaster, etc). The Regions are in turn divided into Districts, each with a Regional Representative.

As a charity, NODA is run by a board of trustees, which includes the 11 Regional Councillors.

What is the Stagers' relationship with NODA?

We belong to the South-East Region (of which the Regional Councillor is Kay Rowan) and within that, District 18 - East Hampshire and North-West Surrey (Regional Representative the appropriately named Pauline Surrey). We welcome a NODA representative - usually Pauline but sometimes Kay - to come along to our productions (other than the One-Act Plays).

How do we benefit from being affiliated?

The greatest tangible benefit is the insurance package that we get through NODA. It's a comprehensive package designed for the needs of amateur groups like ourselves, and includes cover for accidents, property and public liability. When a NODA representative attends our productions, they produce a report covering not only what happened on stage but also the venue, the welcome, the programme, etc.. The reports are published online, and there are annual awards for outstanding productions. We have recently been recognised for "There's No Business Like

Show Business" and "Come On, Jeeves". This all helps maintain the public profile and reputation of the Stagers.

Where can I find out more?

The NODA website www.noda.org.uk shows the range of services offered. From the menu, you can select "Regions" and then "South East" (or any other region) and see details of forthcoming productions across the region, as well as reports on past productions.

NODA's reports on our own past productions are also available on our website.

Barry Levy

What Our Friends Are Doing

Haslemere Thespians

www.haslemerethespians.co.uk

"Around The World In 80 Days" 28-29 April (matinée on the 29th) at Haslemere Hall, a dramatised version of the Jules Verne novel.

Tickets from www.haslemerehall.co.uk

Join the Haslemere Thespians on a spectacular journey "AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS" starting (and finishing!) at Haslemere Hall on Friday 28th & Saturday 29th April 7.30 & 2.30pm. <https://tickets.haslemerehall.co.uk/.../around-the-world..>

Phileas Fogg, a fantastically wealthy, majestically mysterious and a dedicated man of scientific reason, has deduced that a mere 80 days is enough to circumnavigate the globe and he's staked his entire fortune on it. Will bandits, a herd of buffalo, an act of chivalry and a meddlesome inspector from Scotland Yard prevent him completing his mindboggling task? Follow Fogg and his loyal valet Passepartout from the misty alleys of Victorian London to the steamy subcontinent, aboard steamships, locomotives and elephants as he learns about the heart, himself and a world even bigger than he imagined.

Haslemere Thespians are delighted to present Fogg's adventures with over 50 characters played by a small ensemble of actors.

A rollicking romp round the world. And all for £15.50. See you there!

Haslemere Players www.haslemereplayers.com

"Show Stoppers - A Journey Of Love" 1-3 June at Haslemere Hall. Travels through a lifetime of romance from the musicals.

"Calendar Girls - The Musical" 24-28 October, based on the 2003 film, with musical score by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth.

Tickets from www.haslemerehall.co.uk

Farnham Amateur Operatic Society (FAOS)

www.faos.org.uk

"Raise The Roof", 15-17 June at Church on the Heath, Fleet. A night of the best melodies from the last century of popular music. Proceeds go towards vital repairs to their storage.

Headley Theatre Club

www.johnowensmith.co.uk/htc

"Bard's Night " 21-22 April at Headley Village Hall, an Elizabethan banquet with Shakespearean overtones.

They are also hoping to stage the bedroom farce "Don't dress for Dinner" on 6 & 7 October. Contact the director at tina.wareham@btinternet.com if you're interested in being involved.

Grange Park Opera Offer

We are excited to announce the upcoming 2023 season of Grange Park Opera, a renowned summer opera festival located in Surrey. This year's season will feature three great love stories, from the medieval romance of Wagner's Tristan und Isolde to the tragic tale of Puccini's Tosca, as well as our first production of Werther, Massenet's classic masterpiece of a young poet's heartbreak.

We understand that experiencing opera can often come at a high cost, which is why we are delighted to launch our 'Try it' offer. This invitation is for first-timers to purchase two tickets for £150, a 40% saving on our usual ticket price. We believe this offer will make the magic of opera more accessible to everyone.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit our website at <https://grangeparkopera.co.uk/try-it/>

The Box Office Team
Grange Park Opera
01962 737373

Tilbourne Players

Reading for the Spring One-Act play evenings

Sara Wilson-Soppitt will be holding a reading for the one-act play evenings on **Wednesday 26th April**, 8pm at the Tilford Institute. The performances are on 5th and 7th of July, and there are three short plays by local author Alan Goodchild. Please see the cast lists below. Hope to see you at one of these events.

Casts for the One-Act Plays

Speed Dating

A one-act black comedy for four people (30 minutes approx.)

Cast:

GINA - 50+ Female - Married, carer for sick husband

ROB - 50 Male - Separated from wife, living alone

Malcolm - 50+ Male - Doctor

Announcer - Male, mature.

Premise:

Two people lacking in confidence and suffering personal tragedy for different reasons, attend a speed dating evening to see whether they can still function as man and woman. If only things had been different. They can't turn the clock back, or can they?

Feet to the Fire

A one-act black comedy for four people (30 Minutes approx.)

Cast:

Gender Age Status Job

Jane: Female Fifties +/- Married Writer

Simon: Male Fifties +/- Married Orthodontist

Charlotte: Female Fifties +/- Married Food Bank

Clive: Male Fifties +/- Married Unemployed

Premise:

Two couples share a week's camping holiday in Swanage. They have very different experiences in work and in marriage. A game of "Would I lie to you?" highlights these and reveals a dark secret.

Phoebe

Cast:

Madeline Jenks 60's Female

Suzanne Gray 30 Female

Joan Gray 60's Female

Premise:

Two babies were inadvertently swapped at birth at Addenbrookes hospital, Cambridge. One mother was made aware of the possibility, one not. One baby suffered from a genetic abnormality and the child died at the age of nine, the other (Suzanne) was healthy. The three meet on Suzanne's thirtieth Birthday.

Sara Wilson-Soppitt
07973 963406



21st-22nd April: "Bard's Night " *Headley Theatre Club*

28th-29th April: *Around the world in 80days- Haslemere Thespians*

24th-27th May: *Return to the Forbidden Planet - Stagers*

Box Office



1st-3rd June: *Showstoppers- Haslemere Players*

15th-17th June: "Raise The Roof" - *FAOS*

2nd July: *Stagers Barbecue*, more information in next month's Spotlight

5th and 7th July: *One Act Plays Tilbourne Players*

23rd to 25th Nov 2023: *The School for Influencing Scandal. Stagers*

