

Issue 94

September 2007



THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

Well, here we are at the start of another Stagers' year! My first year as Chairman has fairly zipped by and it appears that summer has finally arrived! Firstly, thanks to all those who came to the AGM – not an impressively large turn out, but one which I hope will be remedied by good support for our future events.

Carousel seems an age away now, but after a very shaky start it turned into a great success, artistically if not financially. Sadly ticket sales were down and the new committee will be looking at ways of turning this around. A huge vote of thanks must go to the two directors, Doreen Wylde and Tony McIntee, as well as Laura Musco who encouraged everyone when things looked bleak.

We now look forward to the new season and an interesting and exciting programme ahead. *Party Piece* is now cast and into rehearsal, and the read-through and auditions for the One Act Plays are now looming – further details on these can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Earlier this summer Angie and I went to see *Cowardy Custard* at the West End Centre in Aldershot. The performers were graduates from the Guildford School of Acting and very impressive they were too. It was thoroughly enjoyable and reinforced my opinion that this is an ideal show for us. The presentation is not far away and I look forward to seeing you there. We also had the pleasure of being guests of Farnham Amateur Operatic Society at their production of *Anything Goes* at The Maltings - a very polished show with Alex Yates outstanding as Erma, the gangster's moll. Keeping it 'in the family' we also went to see Heather Legat's production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet* at Weydon School and were knocked out by the talent and the sheer enthusiasm of the youngsters. Thérèse Robinson, who played Louise in *Carousel*, again showed that she surely has a future on a wider stage.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support during the year and I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming productions.

John

Cowardy Custard

The presentation evening for our next musical is on Wednesday 26th September, with auditions on Saturday 6th October. Performances will be on Wednesday-Saturday 23rd-26th April 2008 at Grayshott.

The show we have chosen, as you all know by now, is *Cowardy Custard*, an entertainment devised by Gerald Frow, Alan Strachan and Wendy Toye. This kaleidoscopic revue of Noël Coward's best loved work will be directed by Heather Legat, with Angela Jones joining us as Musical Director.

The show was an immense success in London, imaginatively presenting a mixture of Noel Coward's words, music, sketches and snippets from plays which include *Shadow Play*, *Present Laughter*, and *Design for Living*, as well as personal reminiscences taken from the Master's books, interspersed with many of his wittiest and most poignant songs like 'Mad Dogs & Englishmen', 'There Are Bad Times Just Around the Corner', 'The Stately Homes of England', 'Poor Little Rich Girl' and 'London Pride'.

The original London production used a cast of twelve (six men, six women), although this can be increased/decreased to suit, it having similarities in format to *Tarantara! Tarantara!* (also directed by Heather for us, in 2001). There is something for everyone! The setting can be as simple or elaborate as the stage allows and the orchestration is for a four-piece band.

We very much hope to see as many of you as possible at the presentation on the 26th. when Heather and Angela will be explaining *Cowardy Custard* in more detail.



COMMITTEE

We are pleased to report that this year we will again have a full committee. During the A.G.M. the following officers were re-elected:

Chairman	John Hilder	01428 751898
Vice Chairman	Shirley Jelliss	01428 654770
Hon. Treasurer	Stephen Penny	01428 606964
Hon. Secretary	Melanie Tyrrell	01420 22291

The following members were also elected to serve on the committee:

Jennifer Charters	01428 605635
Mary Coyte	01428 722961
Pauleen Dowsett	01428 717796
June Hegarty	01428 713791
Lynne Mitchinson	01428 604589
John Preskett	01428 648969
Jane Sargeant	07818 422250

All Officers and most Committee Members can be e-mailed, eg:
stephen.penny@grayshottstagers.co.uk

Party Piece—plunged into rehearsal!

Intrigued by our Chairman's use at the AGM of the verb **plunged** to describe the state of members who are rehearsing for our next production (*Party Piece*, a comedy by **Richard Harris**) I was moved to do a little research. Dictionary definition: **plunge**

v. *tr.*

To thrust or throw forcefully into a substance or place:

To cast suddenly, violently, or deeply into a given state or situation:

v. *intr.*

To fall or throw oneself into a substance or place:

To throw oneself earnestly or wholeheartedly into an activity or situation:

To enter violently or speedily:

To descend steeply; fall precipitously:

To move forwards and downwards violently:

To speculate or gamble extravagantly.

Take your choice! As to the reason for John choosing this particular verb I can only speculate, but I do **know** as the Director, that I feel incredibly honoured to have working with me a group of people, on and back stage, who are throwing themselves *earnestly and wholeheartedly* in to rehearsals which augurs well for great entertainment on Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th November 7.30pm at Grayshott Village Hall.

See you there! **Betty**

ADVANCE TICKET ORDERS CAN NOW BE PLACED

Please send orders, with SAE and cheque to:
Mrs T Robertson, 4 Jubilee Lane, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6HQ (01428 605194)

Tickets £7.50

All cheques payable to THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS

www.grayshottstagers.co.uk

Social Committee

INTERSOCIETY QUIZ

This year it falls to the Stagers to host the annual Intersociety Quiz. It will be held on Friday 30th November at Grayshott Village Hall. Tony Legat has kindly agreed to be the Quiz Master for the evening. If anyone has any ideas for questions please contact Jane Sargeant on 07818 422250 or jane.sargeant@grayshottstagers.co.uk. We are also looking for volunteers for our team and supporters are more than welcome. Everyone attending will be rewarded with a night of great fun!

Murder Mystery Evening

On Saturday 2nd February 2008, the members of Grayshott Stagers are invited to turn back the clock and transport themselves to a hotel at Luxor, Egypt in 1929. There they will find puzzles and clues to solve a heinous murder!

It is free to the membership but it will be on a "bring your own picnic" basis where you provide your own food and drink. You are encouraged, but not obliged, to get in character with prizes awarded to the best dressed man and woman. There will also be a luxury prize raffle and a bottle of champagne for the table that solves the crime.

Space will be limited so please book your place with Jane Sargeant on 07818 422250 or jane.sargeant@grayshottstagers.co.uk. Initially this evening is being offered to the members only in order to allow everyone a chance to attend, but if there is enough room it will be extended to friends. Please take this opportunity to support your society, socialise and have a great night out.

Jane

February One Act Plays

The read-through for our next *One Act Plays and Supper Evening* is on Wednesday 19th September, with auditions on Saturday 29th September. Performances will be on Friday and Saturday 22nd and 23rd February 2008.

The plays we have chosen this year are :

Properly Processed by Lynn Brittney is to be directed by John Hilder.

A cast of four is required - two men, one woman, one man or woman – all roughly middle-aged. This is a strong, witty play full of biting satire on modern bureaucracy. Carol, an officious and high-powered Chief Planning Officer, walks into an office feeling ill and disoriented to elicit help. Moaning at having to complete countless forms, she learns that the aim is to cause maximum discomfort for the individual – this is language she understands! Offering a management review with a system which will prolong the process, she is offered and accepts a permanent position. This is not good news for anyone about to enter for this is no ordinary office, this office processes applicants for the afterlife!

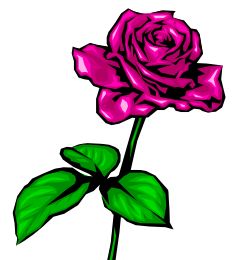
Plaster by Richard Harris

An entertaining two-hander (one man, one woman, both middle-aged) set in a hospital ward. Eric, hospitalised following a car accident, is visited with hilarious results by his canny wife! This one act is part of Richard Harris' full-length play '*Visiting Hour*' which comprises six interlinked short plays set in an NHS hospital during visiting hour.

The Eagle Eye by Peter Rolls is to be directed by Jane Sargeant with Barbara Badger as assistant director.

Set in the Vicarage of Graystone Abbots, the Vicar's wife has invited a couple of friends to share their Creative Writing. The results are appalling, but she is convinced there is an outlet for their talents - in the shape of anonymous letters. As the Eagle Eye, they will tackle Sin in the village: scourging guilty souls, imposing penance and increasing church attendance. Their campaign is most successful, but they are finally rumbled by a certain Happy Harry.

As usual the evening will include a fabulous meal (please let us know if you can help) and a bar will be available. A representative of the Parish Council will be present to receive the annual ground rent for the scenery shed, one red rose.



Membership News

We offer our belated congratulations to Judy and Mike Lee who had their Golden Wedding anniversary at the very end of last year but have only recently had a party to celebrate!

Congratulations also go to Mary Coyte who was presented with her NODA 40 year service bar at the *Carousel* after-show party. This marks her 40 years' continuous membership of Grayshott Stagers and involvement in amateur dramatics. Well done!

We say a fond farewell and good luck to Jane Hamlyn who has moved to Devon and Mike and Diane Clarke who have moved to Spain (although they also have a 'base' in Beacon Hill). Please keep in touch and come back and see us whenever you can.

Adam Zirps has passed all his nursing exams, assignments and work placements at Bristol University and is now a fully qualified nurse. He joined the Stagers for *Oliver* in 2001, before going on to play the lead in our 2002 production *Deathtrap*. Adam also helped backstage for a number of shows. He starts work in mid-August on the General Surgery Ward at Southmead Hospital in Bristol. We wish him future success.

Shirley Jelliss would like to thank everyone who sent cards, etc, to her and the family after the sudden death of her husband, Peter, who was also a Patron Member of Stagers.

Therèse Robinson, who joined Stagers for 'Carousel', recently appeared in 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' and will play the lead in 'Peter Pan' for Junior FAOS in November. We wish her success.

We have just heard that Charlotte Patton got engaged to Jamie Gateshill recently and the wedding is planned for next August. So our congratulations and good wishes go to them and Lynn.

If we have overlooked anybody or any event, apologies, please let us know.

Melanie

Peter Jelliss

In 1982 Peter and Shirley Jelliss moved to this area from Essex, bringing their daughter Toni with them and leaving behind their married son Steve. As both Shirley and Toni had previously acted with a Shakespearian group they quickly joined The Stagers and it was not long before Peter was roped in to help, both behind and in front of the stage. He became a Patron Member and in more recent years was often to be seen behind the bar at our productions in the village hall. Peter's sudden death in June, after a short illness, shocked us all and our sympathies go out to Shirley, Toni and Steve and their families. A warm and cheerful personality, with a ready smile, Peter's presence will be sorely missed.

John

Dates for your Diary

2007

19 September, Grayshott Hall Common Room

26 September, Grayshott Hall Common Room

29 September, Grayshott Village Hall

04-06 October, Haslemere Hall

06 October, Grayshott Village Hall

23-27 October, Haslemere Hall

25-27 October, Frensham Heights

22-24 November, Grayshott Village Hall

February Plays Readthrough

Cowardy Custard Presentation

February Plays Auditions

Haslemere Thespians' *A Month of Sundays*

Cowardy Custard Auditions

Haslemere Players' *My One and Only*

Junior FAOS' *Peter Pan*

Party Piece

2008

22-26 January, Farnham Maltings

22-23 February, Grayshott Village Hall

23-26 April, Grayshott Village Hall

FAOS' *Hot Mikado*

February One Act Plays

Cowardy Custard

