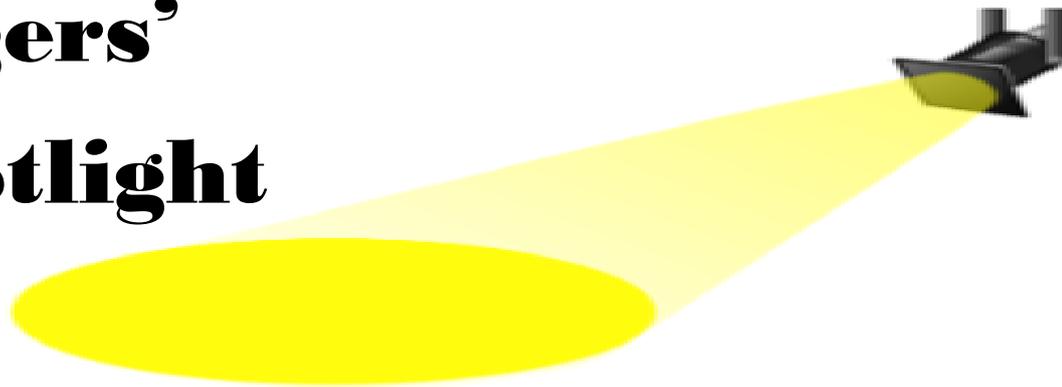


Stagers' Spotlight



April 2021

Chair's Message

Welcome to the April edition of Spotlight. Whilst there are a lot of exciting plans happening behind the scenes at the moment to get us back to doing what we love, I feel that I should start this message on a more serious note. In the committee we get to hear a lot of membership news and this month sounds like it has been particularly tough for a number of members coming on the heels of a very difficult year.

Whilst I won't share those personal stories in this public forum, I do want to take the opportunity to make two requests; firstly if you are going through a hard time at the moment please know that the society is here to help. Often our shows and the rehearsals and preparations can provide people with energy and enjoyment, social connection and creative stimulation all of which are great for our mental and physical health. Not having that has left a big gap in a lot of our lives and if you are feeling that particularly keenly at the moment or if you are going through any kind of challenge, know that there are a lot of people in the society ready, willing and able to help.

I also know that it is not always the easiest thing to stand up and ask for help so my second request goes out to the whole society. If there is a fellow Stager that you have not spoken to for a while, now is the time to reach out and just make sure that they are ok. We will soon be back together so let's help each other through the challenges of the next few months.

Speaking of coming back together, the committee is having a number of exciting discussions looking at what will be possible for the rest of the year. We are talking with Tilbourne Players about coming together for a small shared One Act Plays Evening;

we are looking at options for our November show, it is after all the 70th Anniversary of Grayshott Stagers so it would be a great time to celebrate getting back on stage; not to mention the work going on planning the One Act Supper Evening and Honk! which will kick off next year with a bang.

You will be able to find details of these as they evolve, not to mention information about what other societies are doing on, the calendar page of the Grayshott Stagers website - a big thank you to Tony Legat for all his hard work keeping it up to date with all the latest changes.

Finally I am very excited to see what delights the upcoming Cornucopia brings as the last one was so much fun. I hope to see you there - though I do need to go and practice my chosen piece!

Go well,
Joe

Membership News

We are very pleased to welcome Ann Penfold as a new member of The Grayshott Stagers. Ann was so keen to join us that she was one of the first to offer a contribution to our Cornucopia evening on 1st May.

Do join us via Zoom and meet her.

As you have read in Joe's messages We understand that several members have been ill over this past year, some even requiring a stay in hospital. Without regular rehearsals and meetings such news has not been spreading by word of mouth as it would have done before.

Please let me know if you or another Stager is unwell. As social restrictions begin to lift there may be practical ways in which we can help and we could always show we care by a call or a message. Thanks.

Jennifer Charters (Hon.Secretary)

Vice Chairman's Profile

Who are you?

I am Heather Legat, wife to Tony who is also a Grayshott Stager. We live on the side of a steep hill in Hindhead with our two cats, Smokey and Mabel.

What is your history with the theatre?

I started ballet lessons when I was about 5 years old and loved the end of year productions on the stage of the Town Hall. When I was in my last year of junior school my teacher decided we would put on a production of 'Toad of Toad Hall' and I was cast as 'Mr Toad'. I had a glorious time – nobody really reined me in and I could show off as much as I liked! The same teacher must have recognised my interest in the dramatic because as a leaving gift she gave me 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare'. It was second-hand but I still have it and have never owned another. I wonder what Miss Lewis would make of that. At roughly the same time, my ballet teacher explained to my parents that I was the wrong build to be a ballerina but that I did seem to be a born mime and a bit of a comedienne so ballet lessons stopped and the comedy bit developed in various Guide and Scout skits. I joined the local youth theatre and ultimately trained as a teacher at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.



What is your history with Stagers specifically? I have two children, Alexandra and Jeremy, who have both been involved in Stagers' shows. In 1989 Alex decided to audition for 'Annie' and was cast as one of the orphans. We had only been living in this area for a couple of years and I wasn't really involved in the show because I was still driving back to South London to perform *with* a society I had joined soon after meeting Tony. We went to see 'Annie' with no real knowledge of Grayshott Stagers but were very impressed with the production values so the following year I auditioned for 'Guys and Dolls' and was cast as Adelaide.

Since then I have played a range of roles – Miss Mona, the owner of 'The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas', Velma Kelly, Sister Robert Anne from 'Nunsense', Chris in 'Calendar Girls' and the tap dancing Maxine in 'Stepping Out' – and I've directed a myriad of shows – 'Lock Up Your Daughters', 'La Cage Aux Folles', 'Windy City', 'Cowardy Custard', , 'Red, Hot and Cole' and 'Tarantara! Tarantara!' I have found that I like to direct something new and a bit different. The most recent additions to the list are 'Oh What A Lovely War' and 'The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes'.

I directed the first 'Grayshott 24' which turned out to be 'Annie Get Your Gun' and with Alex, I have also cooked up (and cooked) the menus for the February Plays for three years.

Apart from Stagers what else do you do with your free time?

Until I retired I was Head of Drama at a local secondary school, having taught drama or speech in some capacity since I qualified as a teacher.

I enjoy sewing and that has enabled me to make costumes both for school productions and local societies: 7 principal boy's jackets, a selection of 1920's dresses and 31 'Titanic' life jackets spring to mind. I spent the first part of the first lockdown making scrubs. This year I have taken up a 52 week sewing challenge to try to create something each week following the challenge's prompts. I'm trying to be eco-friendly doing this by only using stuff I already have – so far, I'm doing well because I've only bought a zip and piece of cord. I also enjoy 'yoga for old ladies' as my grandsons call it. Travelling is also something we enjoy and I'm looking forward to getting on a plane again but in the meantime Cornwall beckons.

We hope this was fun and interesting for everyone, if you have a question you would like to ask the members of the committee, let us know. Next month will feature Jennifer Charters, your Secretary

Upcoming events

Stagers' Cornucopia will be on Saturday evening, 1 May (7:45 for 8 pm)

15th September - Stagers AGM

26-27th November - November Celebration

May 2022 - Honk

Stagers' Cornucopia - the final countdown!

Many thanks to all those of you who have volunteered to participate in the second Stagers' Cornucopia on Saturday; a really interesting and varied programme is taking shape. I'll be contacting you later this week with the running order and any technical details you need to know.

And if you haven't submitted a piece yet, but are now feeling you'd like to perform, we may still be able to squeeze you in if you're quick! Send details of your proposed piece (or pieces) to barry.levy@grayshottstagers.co.uk

Just to remind you, the Cornucopia will be an on-line event (using Zoom) consisting of a series of performances by members. These could be for example:

- A monologue
- A poem
- A song
- A sketch
- A drama scene

The Stagers' Cornucopia will be on Saturday evening, 1 May (7:45 for 8 pm) and will be open to all members to join in and watch, whether performing or not. You'll be receiving the Zoom details by email.

See you then!

Missing Live Theatre ?

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www.broadwayhd.com/

[Globe Player | Shakespeare's Globe](#)

[Cirque du Soleil](#)

[National Theatre at Home \(ntathome.com\)](http://NationalTheatreatHome.com)

[Full Musicals on-line](#)

<https://stage2view.com/>

<https://www.wischildrendigital.com/>

Chichester Theatre reopening [Click here to book](#)

Haslemere Hall is reopening [Click here to book](#)

Haslemere Players, including some familiar Stager's faces, have been getting their "flower power" on to raise funds for The Haslemere Hall, a valuable entertainment venue in the local community.



Please click here to see the vibrant performance of The Rhythm of Life and if you enjoy it then you can use this link to make a donation to The Haslemere Hall

You're invited
to celebrate...

ANOTHER STAGERS' CORNUCOPIA

Saturday 1ST May - 7.45 for 8pm

Zoom (details to follow)

***Bring your choice of party piece -
monologue, sketch, song, what-you-will.***

***Or ... just pour a glass, sit back and
watch.***