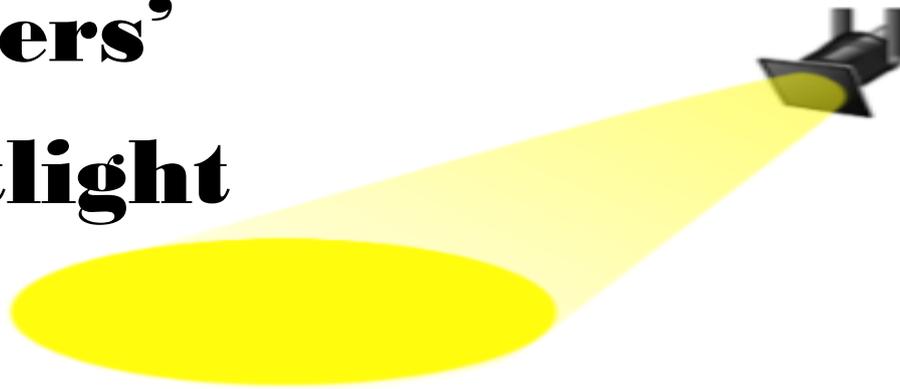


Stagers'

Spotlight



January 2022

Chair's Message

Welcome Stagers to the first Spotlight of 2022, I hope you had a wonderful time over Christmas and New Year in whatever way you chose to celebrate the passing of one year into the next. It was certainly lovely to meet up with some of you for Twixtmas drinks, we were a small but happy band and special thanks should go to Ellis for bringing his ukulele and leading a festive Hawaiian singsong and to Jennifer and Heather for providing delicious nibbles.

We are starting the year with a lot of hope and excitement for our upcoming shows. You will hopefully have seen the box office for the One Acts has opened and it will be the return of the supper evening again this year. Full details can be found later in this edition but if past years are anything to go by tickets will sell out quickly, so if you want to guarantee your place at the table,

[Book here through the Box Office today.](#)

Additionally, as we come in to the new year, the thoughts of the committee have been turning to the future of the Society and how we can ensure positive succession planning to pass on the important roles and responsibilities to a new generation and ensure that people learn from and build on the experience of those who have been doing these jobs for years. Our first change for 2022 is that Eric Collins has agreed to take over responsibility for the Publicity Sub-committee, with a particular brief to enhance the way in which we use social media, and Ruth Wilbraham has agreed to help manage the box office for our upcoming shows.

A huge thank you must go to Peter Budd who has done an amazing job in both of these areas for many years. Peter will continue to manage the extensive archive which documents the historic achievements of the Society and we hope that he will now be able to

share more of this inspiring content with us in the future.

Finally, I hope you don't mind if I take a little time to highlight some Stagers' involvement in other societies' shows, especially at a time when it is more important than ever that we all support each other.

A number of Stagers past and present have been in the Haslemere Thespian's Panto, Jack and the Beanstalk, at Haslemere Hall last weekend and you may still be able to get tickets for the final performances from Thursday 20 to Saturday 22 January. **[Click here for tickets](#)**

Our wonderful Vice-Chair Heather Legat is directing USS Pinafore with FAOS, taking the Gilbert and Sullivan classic to the final frontier at the Farnham Maltings from Tuesday 25 to Saturday 29 January. **[Click here for USS Pinafore Tickets](#)**

Then, following hot on the heels of 'I am What I am' in our last show, I will be putting a dress back on in my first outing as a Pantomime Dame alongside a number of fellow Stagers performing with CADS in Camelot at the Churt Village Hall from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 January and Friday 4 to Saturday 5 February. We would love to see you there as would all of your other fellow stagers at each of these shows.

[Click here for Camelot Tickets](#)

Remember you can always find out about upcoming events on the **[Diary Dates](#)** on our website – Tony Legat is great at having his finger on the pulse and updating the diary with other societies' shows. If there is something you know about which you think your fellow Stagers might be interested in, don't hesitate to let us know and we can add it to the calendar and give it a shout out here in Spotlight. Go well, Joe

A Quick Trip Around the NODA Website

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), of which the Stagers is one of

2,500 amateur theatre group members, has recently re-styled its website (<https://www.noda.org.uk/>), so this is an opportune time to look at what the site offers.

The two main areas of the site are "Regions" and "Member Benefits".

The "Regions" area probably holds the most of interest and relevance to us. From the South

East region in the list, you can navigate to District 18 - East Hampshire and North West Surrey, and see the list of societies within our District, with links to their respective NODA pages and to their own websites.

The "Show Reports" link on each society's NODA page takes you to a list of the productions that a NODA representative has attended (in most cases only the last eight productions seem to be shown), together with their reviews. It's possible to view every society's page, so an entertaining few hours can be whiled away in reading the reviews. Unsurprisingly, NODA's reviews tend towards the glowing; the most damning comment I came across was that, in a production of *Oliver!*, some of the cast's make-up and footwear may not have been "period-appropriate"!

The "Member Benefits" section of the website is strangely available to members and non-members alike. (It is possible to have individual membership but the benefits amount to little more than receiving the NODA magazine in hardcopy - but that can be viewed on the website anyway.)

Within this section, as well as links and downloads covering legal and administrative matters (Musicians' Union rates, data protection, health and safety, etc), there are several helpful training videos produced during lockdown. I particularly enjoyed the ones about stage combat; the advice on hair-pulling, biting and eye-gouging may have come too late for *Honk!* but will no doubt be invaluable for *Come On, Jeeves*.

Barry Levy

NODA Representative

Upcoming Events

One Act Plays and Supper Evenings

18 & 19 February 2022

7.00 for 7.30 pm.

You are warmly invited to buy your tickets now, as The Grayshott Stagers present 3 one-act plays and a tasty supper each evening for only £17 per head

Details of the plays - the Premiere performance of *The Highwayman* (written and directed by our very own Martin Sims), *Accommodation Haunted*, and *Lockdown in Little Grimley* - can be found on our website www.grayshottstagers.co.uk .



Food: Nibbles will greet you on arrival and the main course will be brought to your table as usual. This will be provided on the Friday by The Gurkha Durbar (including mild chicken or vegan curry) and by Frankie's Fish and Chips (with a choice of Fish & Chips or Jacket Potato & Coleslaw) on the Saturday. As always, this event requires many people working Backstage and Front of House.

If you can help, especially Front of House, please contact: jennifer.charters@grayshottstagers.co.uk by 1st February.

We hope you can come and enjoy an entertaining evening out.

Musical Sub Committee

Musical choices

We're now starting to consider which musicals we should put on over the next few years and would love to hear your suggestions of shows you would like Stagers to perform.

We are also thinking about ways we could perform musical pieces outside of the normal May full show slot so don't feel you need to think of full-scale shows!

Please email us at musicals@grayshottstagers.co.uk by Monday 31st January with any ideas and we will add them to the list!



Honk Update-26th-28th May 2022:

including a matinee

Please put a reminder in your diaries for this event.

Rehearsals are due to begin very soon.

If you would like to help in some capacity; publicity, social media, rehearsals, front of house, back stage bar etc. please email Caroline Thompson, at: ct.phoenix@yahoo.co.uk

Committee Profile

Who are you?

I am Ruth Wilbraham, born in Carlisle, Cumbria, married to David, with 2 boys, Luke and Philip and 2 grandchildren, Olivia and Rafe.

By day, I am gainfully employed as the IT Systems Manager in a local school.

I first moved to Hindhead in 1994, then spent some years in Oxford before returning to Hindhead in 2017.

What is your history with the theatre?

I launched my stage career at the tender age of 5 with a heavenly role as the Archangel Gabriel in the school nativity play.

In my late teens and early twenties, I took part in a number of musical performances. More recently I was in the musical drama "Jekyll and Hyde" whilst living in Oxfordshire with the theatre company, Parabola. I have also participated in various concerts including a scratch performance of the Phantom of the Opera which also starred a real 'Christine' from the West End.

I am a musician, playing the guitar in Church and for Children's activity holiday clubs.

What is your history with the Stagers specifically?

I joined 'Stagers' in 2018 and took part in 'O What a Lovely War' by mistake! – I had only gone for a meeting to find out information on behalf of the Grayshott Community Choir and found myself

excited by the presentation and wished to take part.

I was welcomed and enjoyed immensely the challenge of learning and performing this show. Everyone was extremely friendly and supportive. Having been drawn in, I am now part of the organizing committee and have participated in several other performances.

Apart from Stagers, what else do you do with your spare time?

In my spare time I am a keen gardener, I enjoy cooking and entertaining, especially outside. I have 2 Black Labradors and love training and walking them.

I learned to ride a Motorbike in 2008 and toured France, The Mediterranean, The Pyrenees, Northern Germany and the British Isles before hanging up my helmet in 2017.

Other hobbies include sailing and singing



18th & 19th February 2022: One Act Plays

26th-28th May 2022: Honk

24-26th November 2022: Come on, Jeeves

Visit our website for more Information

<http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk>

Visit us on  Facebook Follow us on  twitter

LATE NEWS....

Do you enjoy performing on stage and would like to extend your skills?

Chris Mead is an international performer and teacher of **Improv Comedy** (the Art of Scriptless Theatre). He is setting up a school of improvisation and comedy in Farnham. His first class, *Improv Comedy for Beginners*, is due to start at The Maltings on Tuesday 8th February 7-9pm and runs for 6 weeks.

Chris has sent us more information than we can include in this issue of Spotlight but, if you are interested in discovering the benefits of this art form or signing up for the course, please email teach@chrismead.co