

Issue 87

August 2005



(Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association)

THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

Holiday Snap was, as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, a great success. Congratulations to Tony Harris, the cast, and all who were involved.

Rehearsals for *Me & My Girl* are now under way, and only a small number of minor roles remain to be cast. The main problem, as ever, is a shortage of men. We need a few more men to step forward and volunteer to be guests, 'pearlies', footmen, and in particular, ancestors. The book calls for a chorus of ancestors, and at present we have one! I look forward to a flood of 'phone calls.

I am delighted to be able to report that, following Shirley & Peter Jelliss's return from the wilds of Herefordshire, Shirley has agreed to direct our play next May. Further details in due course.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM on Wednesday 7th September.

Postcard Piece

I had thought that I would avoid writing about Indianapolis again as I expect that you have heard enough about this from me before. The events of this year, however,

made me decide to mention it again. For those of you who are not aware of what happened, a problem with Michelin tyres caused fourteen cars to withdraw from the race, leaving just six cars to take part. Disappointing, yes, but looking back on it, this was a piece of Formula 1 history, and I was there!

Olympia in West London may seem a strange place to choose to spend a week, but that is what I did in the first week of August. The Great British Beer Festival has taken place there for the past fourteen years, and being a member of the organising body, I usually volunteer to help. To give you an idea of the scale of the event, there were over four hundred and fifty different beers on sale, almost fifty thousand people visited during the week, and between them (and the volunteer staff) they got through around a quarter of a million pints of beer or cider. Next year's event will be even bigger as it is moving from Olympia to Earl's Court, so if anyone is interested in knowing more about it, let me know.

Tony

Dates for your Diary

2005

07 September, Grayshott Village Small Hall

21 September, Grayshott Hall Common Room

01 October, Grayshott Village Hall

06-08 October, Haslemere Hall

25-29 October, Haslemere Hall

01-03 December, Grayshott Village Hall

08-10 December, Haslemere Hall

Annual General Meeting

February One Act Play Read-through

February One Act Play Auditions

The House of Dracula,

Haslemere Thespians

42nd Street, Haslemere Players

Me and My Girl

Me and My Girl

2006

24-28 January, Farnham Maltings

24-25 February, Grayshott Village Hall

18-20 May, Grayshott Village Hall

06 September, Grayshott Village Small Hall

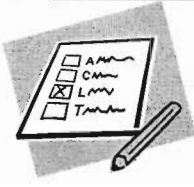
Jesus Christ Superstar, FAOS

February One Act Supper Evening

Spring Play

Annual General Meeting





Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Grayshott Stagers will be held in the Small Hall of the Grayshott Village Hall on Wednesday 7th September 2005 at 8.00pm. The Agenda, Nomination Form and a copy of the Minutes of last year's meeting will be sent to you nearer the time. Please remember that only fully paid up members are eligible to vote, take part in the A.G.M. or to submit

nominations.

Also, don't forget that if there is any matter that you wish to be discussed formally and added to the Agenda it must be submitted to me, the Hon. Secretary, in writing, properly proposed and seconded, not later than 7 days prior to the Meeting (ie: by 31/8/05). Any other matter may be discussed at the Meeting without notice being given, by leave of the Chairman or on demand by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting, of any matter which may have arisen meanwhile subject to Rule 13.

Following the main business, members are invited to stay on after the Meeting and partake of some wine and cheese.



Your committee needs you!



Do your bit for the Society - it's your chance to have a say and shape the way things happen. We need new people (and older ones too!) and fresh ideas.

We have been two Committee Members short this year and not everyone will be re-standing - all current Officers and Committee Members resign at the end of each A.G.M. and have to be nominated for re-election.

THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE for this coming year, so please get

recruiting or nominate yourself! Remember, any fully paid up member is eligible to stand for election to the Committee.

Please don't be shy, there's not too much commitment (one meeting a month maximum) and loads of support. Talk to any Officer or Committee Member if you are interested and would like any more information.

Get those nomination forms filled in and returned to me.

Melanie



Barry Penny

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Barry Penny at the end of April. His loss to the society is immense, and of course we send our condolences to Betty and Stephen.

Barry was a founder member of the society in 1951, and although he spent some time living away from Grayshott, he was involved with the Stagers throughout the following fifty four years, appearing in, and indeed starring in, an enormous number of productions. He was also Chairman of the Stagers for many years during this time.

There is a photograph of the cast of *John Marlow's Profession*, the first Grayshott Stagers' production, in May 1951, on the Grayshott Stagers website including Barry as the character *Don Amers*.

In more recent years, Barry brought us memorable performances as *Daddy Warbucks* in *Annie*, *Nathan Detroit* in *Guys & Dolls*, *The Kralahome* in *The King & I*, *Daddy Brubeck* in *Sweet Charity*, *Staff* in *Lock Up Your Daughters*, *Buffalo Bill Cody* in the first *Grayshott 24*, *Earnest* in *Rumours*, *Jarvis* in *A Chorus of Disapproval*, and *Galbraith* in *Shop for Charity*.

Dick Little

Whilst teaching at Rodborough School, Dick Little was always involved in the school's dramatic productions, taking a keen interest in back stage matters, and doing a great deal of hard work.

In 1964, after the death of his first wife, Dick was introduced to the Grayshott Stagers by Betty Penny, thinking that a few new friendly faces might be beneficial. This proved very much to be the case, as he threw himself whole-heartedly into being a good member, and by 1965 he had wooed and married Mary Mordaunt.

From then until his death, aged 93, in March of this year, he remained a loyal member, whether as Stage Manager, House Manager, tea/coffee wallah, or organising Stagers' barbecues and treasure hunts at The Birches, and was always there with his ready smile.

Even when, as a valued patron member, advancing years relegated him to a seat in the corner of the kitchen while Mary 'did her bit', he was still supportive.

He will be greatly and fondly missed.

One Act Play Supper Evening

The Play Reading Committee have selected three plays for the February 2006 Production, hoping that we can cast them all. There are roles for 9 women and 7 men in all, so of course this needs your support.

The plays are : *Whose Wedding is it Anyway* (5 women)
The Return (4 men, 2 women)
Red Spy at Night (3 men, 2 women).

Two of the roles are very small and could be doubled.

The Read Through for all three plays will take place in the Common Room on Wednesday **21st September**, at 7.45pm. The Auditions will be on Saturday afternoon **1st October** and the Performances on the evenings of Friday and Saturday **24th and 25th February**.

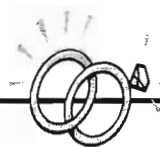
Please try to come along to the Read Through, I'm sure it will be a very enjoyable evening and it will give you a chance to see if there's a part for you.

Without your support there will be no production, so please be there.

Marian



Bits and Pieces



Membership News

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed new or re-joining members Jane Clayton, Alice Cox, Elizabeth Holden and Peter Terry, two of whom are in the cast of *Me & My Girl*.

We are also delighted to welcome back Shirley and Peter Jelliss to the local area.

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

Good Luck

Best wishes go to Richard Milla who is leaving us for a while to take up a post in Houston, Texas.

Richard will still be working for BAE Systems, but has been given this wonderful opportunity to work abroad.



Wedding bells...

The marriage of Alex Legat and Danny Yates will be taking place on Saturday 3rd September at 1.30pm. The service will be held at St Alban's church, Hindhead. Friends are most welcome at the church.



Bon voyage...

In September we wave goodbye to Richard Batten, who will be taking up a position in the Royal Navy.

Richard's contributions to the society, both on and off stage, will be sorely missed and we send him every good wish for a successful career at sea.

Me and My Girl

The *Me and My Girl* auditions were well attended and you can see the successful auditionees in the cast list below. Rehearsals have already started under the watchful eyes of Tony Legat (Director), Tony McIntee (Musical Director) and Laura Musco (Choreographer).

Bill Snibson – Will Keith
Maria, Duchess of Dene – Vicki Gavin
Sir John Tremayne – Michael Clarke
Herbert Parchester – Peter Gardiner
Lady Battersby – Jane Clayton
Lady Brighton – Lynne Mitchinson

Sally Smith – Lizzie Holden
Lady Jaqueline – Rachel Perkins
Gerald Bolingbroke – John Hilder
Charles, the Butler – Peter Davies
Mrs Brown – Teresa Marsh
Sophia Stainsley-Asherton – Marian Walker





Holiday Snap



Two couples, one villa, no speaka de lingo, a bumbling rep, mother-in-law, plenty of intended hanky panky, numerous doors and a telephone and the scene is set for non-stop hilarity. The Grayshott Stagers have become the past-masters of theatrical farce and their latest production, *Holiday Snap*, was no exception. Written by Michael Pertwee and John Chapman, the play provided audiences with a non-stop barrage of mistaken identity, innuendo, double entendre and sufficient wit to fill a corn merchant's store.

Tony Harris's slick production provided an evening of splendid entertainment. Set in a time-share villa in Portugal, we find Henry, ex-Harrow, arrives with Mary, although he's really married to Kit, but Leslie, of the motor trade, and Eve, wife of Leslie's boss Sid, have arrived before them, all looking for that idyllic setting for a week of naughtiness, but victims of a double-booking by the eccentric Commander Chittenden, 'please call me Chitto', representative of Share-A-Lux. The unexpected arrival of Celia, aka Mumpots, Henry's mother-in-law, throws everything into chaos and confusion as an elaborate game of bluff is acted out to protect Henry's integrity. Further confusion is added by the arrival of Henry's golfing chum Sir Piers 'Perky' Marchbanks, and the non-arrival of domestics Pedro and Maria, and eclipsed finally with the arrival of Kit, with sprained ankle. It sounds, and was, wonderfully chaotic and wonderfully funny.

The barmy Chittenden, incapable of running a bath, never mind his side of the villa rental business, was splendidly played by Peter Gardner. His timing and inflection were perfect as he fell in and fell out of conversations, cupboards and drink induced incomprehensibility, throughout the entire proceedings.

The considerable acting talents of John and Angie Hilder were thrown to great effect into the parts of stuffy, hypocritical Henry, and the superficially straight-laced Mary, antagonised to perfection by John Dowsett and Brezetta Thonger as Leslie and Eve, the archetypal Brits on holiday. The exchanges between this talented foursome were a delight to watch.

June Hegarty put in a stalwart performance as party pooper 'Mumpots' in her welcome return to the Stagers. Peter Jones waded into the confusion as Perky Marchbanks with his usual aplomb and measured interjection. Julia Harris, as Kit, hobbled on at the end, as to provide us that final twist and bring to a close an evening of pure fun.

Well done to all those who worked behind the scenes to produce such a professional production, in particular congratulations to Tony Harris who's direction was excellent as he guided a talented cast to extract the most from a very funny script.

AJDB.