

Issue 110

August 2013



The Grayshott Stagers

# Newsletter

## Chairman's Note

I hope you have all enjoyed basking in the recent sunshine – you never know, it might be all we get this summer!

Our quiet season is a chance to look back on recent events and look forward to our busy autumn period. Back in our chilly spring “Nunsense – The Mega Musical” burst onto the stage with great success. It proved to be a very entertaining show with a first rate cast directed with verve and enthusiasm by Laura Musco and Rob Miller. Audience numbers were better than hoped for, boosted I’m sure by new faces who came to see “Calendar Girls” and returned for more, even though the ladies retained their habits throughout! Members also sold more tickets, and publicity started early. We usually budget for a significant loss on musicals as they are very expensive to stage, but this one came very close to breaking even (a detailed report further on). A tremendous effort and congratulations to all concerned.

The presentation and auditions for “A Laughing Matter” have now taken place and rehearsals are under way. There is a large cast with several new male faces, and under Ellis’s direction the play has all the makings of a particularly enjoyable production.

September is always a busy month for the Society, and I would draw your attention to the Diary dates at the end of the Newsletter for upcoming events. We start the month with the AGM on the 4<sup>th</sup> and I urge you all to attend if you can. It looks as though we will have a couple of vacancies on the general committee, so please consider standing – the commitment is not frightening and the meetings usually take place in members homes. The AGM is followed in quick succession by the presentations and auditions for the One Act Plays and our spring show “The Shakespeare Revue”. More of them later, but suffice to say that we are delighted that Brezetta Thonger has agreed to direct the latter for us, assisted by Laura Musco with choreography and Robert Gilman with the music. Finally, the legacy of £500 from the estate of former patron member Muriel Smith has been used to acquire new LED and spotlighting for the stage. We have also replaced a convector heater and the water heater in the scenery shed and new shelving will be installed.

John

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## November 2013 - A Laughing Matter

by April de Angelis.

Our Autumn Play, with performances from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November, gives the Stagers the opportunity to appear in 18<sup>th</sup> Century period costume in an 'irreverent version of real-life events (which) tells the story of David Garrick, Dr Johnson, Oliver Goldsmith and a new play called She Stoops To Conquer'.

The Director, Ellis Nicholls, is very pleased to report that rehearsals have begun with a full cast, as follows:-

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|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Dr. Samuel Johnson &amp; Rev. Richard Cumberland:</i><br>Bernard Whelan | <i>Samuel Catherley &amp; Mr Richard Cross:</i><br>Michael Thonger |
| <i>James Boswell &amp; Mr Spranger Barry:</i><br>Adrian Warner             | <i>Mrs Susannah Cibber:</i> Angie Hilder                           |
| <i>Oliver Goldsmith &amp; Duke of Kingston:</i><br>John Hilder             | <i>Mrs Butler:</i> Trudy Hathaway                                  |
| <i>Edmund Burke &amp; Mr Charles Macklin:</i><br>Nigel Dams                | <i>Mrs Lavinia Barry:</i> Valerie Shears                           |
| <i>David Garrick:</i> Richard White  | <i>Hannah More:</i> Lynne Mitchinson                               |
| <i>Mrs Eva Garrick:</i> Jane Clayton                                       | <i>Cedric Bounce:</i> David Landau                                 |
| <i>Lady Kingston:</i> Melanie Tyrrell                                      | <i>Miss Sarah Kemble:</i> Margot Tringham                          |
|  | <i>Peg Woffington:</i> Brezetta Thonger                            |
|  | <i>Mr Larpent:</i> Jennifer Charters                               |

## February 2014 - One Act Plays

As has been the practice in recent years, there will be no formal auditions and the plays will be cast from the read through on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. If you are unable to come on that date contact me (01428 751898) to register your interest and find out more about the plays. The three plays are as follows:

### **"Garden Pests" by Jean McConnell – Director: Shirley Jelliss**

Another well written piece from the Deckchairs series for two mature females. The comedy focusses on two keen gardeners meeting in a magnificent garden from which neither intends to go home empty handed.

### **"Dear Diva" by Jan Morris – Director: John Hilder**

Cast of two mature females and a small male part of a foreign taxi driver.

A fast fading mega-star of stage and screen unintentionally lands up in the humble home of a loyal fan, with chaotic results. The Fan and The Star gradually come to terms with their situation and learn to be careful of what you wish for, because it might come to pass.

### **"The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley" by David Tristram – Director: Paul Bailey**

Two male and two female characters, not too age-specific.

We have previously performed "Last Tango" and "Last Panto in Little Grimley", now here is the last of the trilogy. The last four members of a village am-dram society face a threat to their existence in the shape of a newly-formed rival society with an award-winning musical. An ingenious plan to combat the threat begins to fall apart – is this finally the end of their society? It's never over ..... until the fat lady sings.

I hope I have whetted your appetite with the above, so please come along and enjoy the read through.

Angie Hilder

## April 2014 – The Shakespeare Revue

What a real treat to be able to direct The Shakespeare Revue!!! An extraordinary collection of songs and sketches written by hugely talented people all inspired by Shakespeare. Cleverly compiled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee the evening will be filled with fun and laughter. Songs and sketches by Victoria Wood, Cole Porter, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Alan Bennett and Stephen Sondheim to name but a few. With Robert Gillman and Laura Musco on board we will be able to have a great show!! We are keen to cast around 4/5 men and around 8/10 women and look forward to seeing you at the presentation on September 18th at Grayshott Village Hall.

Brezetta

## Membership News

We look forward to welcoming four new members, who will be taking part in our Autumn Play. We hope that Nigel Dams, Michael Thonger, Adrian Warner and Bernard Whelan enjoy belonging to the Stagers. Our best wishes go to our former Treasurer Jim Hegarty and patron member Ian Badger for their speedy return to health.

## Subscription Reminder

Many thanks to those members who have already paid their subscriptions for the year commencing 1st July 2013. If you have not already paid I would be pleased to receive your payment as soon as possible. Subscription rates for the current year are as follows:-

Ordinary Members - £17.00

Patron Members - donations £18.00 or more

Thank you  
Stephen

How to Pay Internet banking:-Sort Code 72-00-01Account Number 09375505Please quote your name and 'sub' as the reference Credit / Debit Card:-visit

<http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk/subs.html> By Post:-Please make cheques payable to the Grayshott Stagers and send to:-Stephen Penny, Odessa, The Avenue, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6LA.

## Dates for your Diary

|           |   |                                |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 2013      |   |                                |
| 4 Sept    | AGM   | 8.00 pm Grayshott Village Hall |
| 11 Sept   | Read through & auditions for February One Act Plays | 7.30 pm Grayshott Village Hall |
| 18 Sept   | Presentation for "The Shakespeare Revue"            | 7.30 pm Grayshott Village Hall |
| 5 Oct     | Auditions for "The Shakespeare Revue"               | 2.00 pm Grayshott Village Hall |
| 22-26 Oct | Haslemere Players: "HMS Pinafore"                   | Haslemere Hall                 |
| 21-23 Nov | "A Laughing Matter"                                 | Grayshott Village Hall         |
| 2014      |   |                                |
| 21-25 Jan | Farnham Operatic: "Jane Eyre"                       | Farnham Maltings               |
| 21-22 Feb | One Act Plays                                       | Grayshott Village Hall         |
| 21-24 May | "The Shakespeare Revue"                             | Grayshott Village Hall         |

*N.B. We have decided to stop the Society Pub Nights, as they had become meetings for the same few 'regulars', who keep in touch anyway. We'd welcome any ideas for other ways to meet socially.*

## Nunsense – Financial Report

|   | <b>Initial<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Current<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Actual</b>          |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 4001 Tickets Sales                      | 3,602.00                  | 3,602.00                  | 4,314.53               |
| 4002 Refreshments - Profit              | 31.00                     | 31.00                     | 68.32                  |
| 4003 Bar - Nett Profit                  | 313.00                    | 313.00                    | 344.30                 |
| 4004 Raffle - Nett Profit               | 157.00                    | 157.00                    | 224.06                 |
| 4005 Programme - Income                 | 53.00                     | 53.00                     | 128.50                 |
| 4006 Acting Fees                        | 150.00                    | 150.00                    | 143.00                 |
| 4008 Rehearsal Material Sales           | 36.00                     | 36.00                     | 42.00                  |
| <b>Total Income</b>                     | <b><u>4,342.00</u></b>    | <b><u>4,342.00</u></b>    | <b><u>5,264.71</u></b> |
|   |                           |                           |                        |
| 2010 Pay Pall Fees                      | 0.00                      | 0.00                      | 55.25                  |
| 3001 Royalties                          | 648.00                    | 648.00                    | 647.73                 |
| 3002 Hall Hire - Grayshott Village Hall | 1,675.00                  | 1,631.00                  | 1,466.40               |
| 3004 Hall Hire - Other Venues           | 0.00                      | 44.00                     | 44.00                  |
| 3005 Publicity                          | 150.00                    | 150.00                    | 110.70                 |
| 3006 Ticket Printing                    | 110.00                    | 110.00                    | 101.26                 |
| 3008 EHDC Premises License              | 21.00                     | 21.00                     | 21.00                  |
| 3009 Set Construction                   | 100.00                    | 100.00                    | 97.91                  |
| 3010 Properties                         | 150.00                    | 150.00                    | 72.24                  |
| 3011 Lighting                           | 25.00                     | 25.00                     | 0.00                   |
| 3013 Sound Enhancement                  | 75.00                     | 75.00                     | 39.20                  |
| 3014 Wardrobe                           | 250.00                    | 250.00                    | 199.24                 |
| 3015 Make-Up & Hair                     | 10.00                     | 10.00                     | 0.00                   |
| 3016 Rehearsal Accompanists             | 1,290.00                  | 1,290.00                  | 1,250.00               |
| 3017 Orchestra - Grayshott              | 960.00                    | 960.00                    | 960.00                 |
| 3020 Box Office Expenses                | 10.00                     | 10.00                     | 11.00                  |
| 3021 Prod Secretary's Expenses          | 50.00                     | 50.00                     | 14.99                  |
| 3022 Rehearsal Material Hire/Purchase   | 208.00                    | 208.00                    | 235.76                 |
| 3023 Band Parts                         | 60.00                     | 60.00                     | 60.00                  |
| 3025 Piano Tuning                       | 50.00                     | 50.00                     | 0.00                   |
| 3999 Miscellaneous / Contingency        | 100.00                    | 100.00                    | 50.00                  |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                | <b><u>5,942.00</u></b>    | <b><u>5,942.00</u></b>    | <b><u>5,436.68</u></b> |
|   |                           |                           |                        |
| <b>Profit/(Loss)</b>                    | <b><u>(1,600.00)</u></b>  | <b><u>(1,600.00)</u></b>  | <b><u>(171.97)</u></b> |

### Attendance:-

|                             | <b>No</b>         |     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Wednesday                   | 39                | 22% |
| Thursday                    | 91                | 52% |
| Friday                      | 128               | 74% |
| Saturday                    | 126               | 72% |
|                             | <b><u>384</u></b> |     |
| Average over 4 performances | 96                | 55% |