

Issue 85

February 2005



(Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association)

THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

Congratulations to everyone who was involved with *Cabaret*. The show played to full houses, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it. Andy Boughton's direction, and Mandy Sutcliffe's imaginative choreography not only resulted in a highly watchable & entertaining show, but also brought out the sinister background themes that run through it. Grant Hossack's musical direction gave many of the well known songs new life, and the music from the small orchestra was excellent.

As a result of the high attendance, unfortunately we ran out of programmes, and I know that some of the audience and, indeed, some of the cast were disappointed not to get one. We have had a few more printed by photocopy from an original, and these are available at 50p per copy (to cover copying costs). If you would like one, please let me know.

Carol singing around the village was on December 17th, and almost £48.00 was collected for the Macmillan Cancer Relief. Sadly, only a very small number of members took part, so their efforts in raising this amount of money are all the more commendable. Mike & Judy Lee provided an excellent meal afterwards, enjoyed by all present. Next year, I hope to be able to take part myself, and I hope that some more members are able to do so too.

The February plays are almost upon us, and most of the tickets are already sold. If there is

anyone who has not been asked for help, but who is willing to help, please would you give Sylvia a call on 01420 474161.

Postcard Piece

The reason that I was amongst the absentees at the Carol Singing was that, at the time, I was bobbing about in the English Channel, waiting to get into the harbour at Calais. The strong northerly winds that were blowing had closed the greater part of the port, and we simply had to wait until a berth was available. OK, 'bobbing about' is an exaggeration, but the crossing that should have taken less than 90 minutes ended up taking over five hours. We ended up driving off the ferry at around the time we had expected to get to our hotel at Aachen, a good distance away.

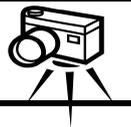
The purpose of our trip was to visit the Christmas Markets, which we duly did, and to stock up on all the usual goodies for Christmas, which we also did.

In Cologne, we stayed in the brightly named 'Jolly Hotel', as featured recently in the BBC's 'Holiday' program. If anyone reading this ever finds themselves wondering where to eat in Köln, or Cologne, I can recommend an Italian restaurant called Mezza Luna, on Kaiser-Wilhelm-Ring, where we had an excellent meal.

Tony



Holiday Snap



On Saturday 8th January the auditions for Holiday Snap took place. The standard of auditions was very high and the panel took sometime to make their decisions. The cast is as follows:

Commander Chittenden - Peter Gardner

Leslie - to be cast

Eve - Brezetta Thonger

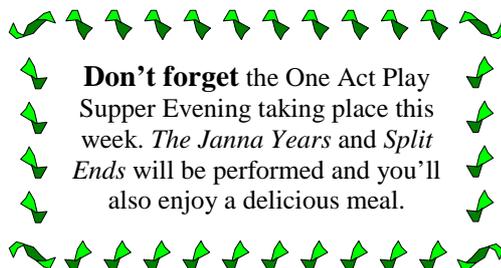
Henry - John Hilder

Mary - Angie Hilder

Perky - Peter Jones

Celia - Barbara Netherwood

Tony Harris is directing and rehearsals are now underway. This play is set to be a real giggle - so don't miss it! If you would like to help with the production in any way please contact Marian Walker.



Don't forget the One Act Play Supper Evening taking place this week. *The Janna Years* and *Split Ends* will be performed and you'll also enjoy a delicious meal.

WANTED

Storage space for some army great coats and uniforms. If you have a dry space, we can supply a trunk. Any help will be gratefully received as we are running out of space in the shed.

Jan & Sylvia

Membership News

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed new or re-joining members Peter Davies, Helen Laver and June Hegarty, two of whom are in the cast of *The Janna Years*.

We are also sorry to report the deaths of two long standing members who will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with the families of Honorary Life Member Stella Marshall and Patron Member Pat White.

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

Melanie

Stella Marshall - 1920-2004

Stella and John Marshall became members of the Grayshott Stagers in 1967. They had moved to Headley from Putney, following Stella's retirement from a position in the Governor's Office at the Bank of England, and Stella brought to the Stagers a wealth of theatrical experience, having performed with ENSA during the war, and subsequently taking leading roles with the prestigious Bank of England Dramatic Society.

She was quickly recruited on to the Committee and served on various sub-committees before becoming the Honorary Secretary in 1973. She remained in this post until 1979, as volumes of hand-written Minutes will witness! She was then elected to the position of Vice-Chairman, and remained in this post until 1995. She became an Honorary Life Member of the Stagers in 1985. Ill health has prevented her from taking an active part in the Society since 1997, but she always retained her interest in its members and all their endeavours.

Her first appearance on the Grayshott stage was in *The Servant of Two Masters* in 1968, and her subsequent appearances were far too numerous to mention! Apart from the major plays and musicals, she took part in the annual Summer Shows, the Mince Pies-and-Music events, and the various entertainments the Stagers were asked to supply for other societies and clubs. The breadth of her acting ability was perhaps demonstrated in her success of her role as Mrs. Paddy in *The Curious Savage* when she was on stage a great deal of the time with only two lines to say in the entire play, to her last leading role in the play *Lloyd George Knew My Father*, when she hardly ever stopped talking! She was generous, not only as a performer, but in sharing her extensive knowledge of all aspects of the theatre with any member who sought her advice.

She directed several plays for the Society, and brought to these productions not only her theatrical expertise, but also the meticulous eye for detail which was a hallmark she carried into all her other interests and activities.

She took principal roles in many of the Stagers' musicals, again too numerous to mention, but perhaps most notably in recent times as Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma*, and one of her favourite roles as Lady Higgins in *My Fair Lady*- and it is as this elegant and humorous character that many members will always remember her.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2005

25–26 February, Grayshott Village Hall

19–21 May, Grayshott Village Hall

08 June, Grayshott Hall Common Room

26 June, Haslemere Hall

07 September, Grayshott Village Small Hall

21 September, Grayshott Hall Common Room

01 October, Grayshott Village Hall

01–03 December, Grayshott Village Hall

08–10 December, Haslemere Hall

February One Act Supper Evening

Holiday Snap

Me and My Girl Presentation

Me and My Girl Auditions

Annual General Meeting

February One Act Play Read-through

February One Act Play Auditions

Me and My Girl

Me and My Girl



2006

24–25 February, Grayshott Village Hall

18–20 May, Grayshott Village Hall

06 September, Grayshott Village Small Hall

30 November–02 December, Grayshott Village Hall

07–09 December, Haslemere Hall

February One Act Supper Evening

Spring Play

Annual General Meeting

Musical

Musical