

Issue 99

July 2009



THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

A little later than planned, but here is our latest Newsletter.

Before I review our productions, I have some very exciting news. Some of you may know that the actress Joely Richardson lives in the village and often shops locally with her mother Vanessa Redgrave. After some informal discussion with Kevin Kaighin during visits to his shop, followed by an invitation from the committee, Miss Redgrave has kindly agreed to become an Honorary Patron of the society. It is a great honour and privilege for the society to be associated with one of the world's leading theatrical families, and we extend her a very warm welcome.

The One Act plays last February turned out to be particularly successful; with a well balanced trio of plays directed by Melanie Tyrrell, Jennifer Charters and Angie Hilder. The food was prepared and served to our now customary high standard under the expert organisation of Sylvia Boddington, the social committee and an army of helpers. We sold all the tables for both nights well before the event, and turned in a very tidy profit of £1,400.

Many months ago your committee chose a musical whose title could hardly be more ironic as subsequent events unfolded, and we found ourselves rehearsing and performing *Spend, Spend, Spend* during the newly dubbed "credit crunch" era. However, thanks to the energy and skill that Tony Creasey, ably assisted by Doreen Wylde, brought to the production, and the enthusiasm they generated in the cast, it was tremendously successful. Several innovative fund-raising ideas helped the expense of staging a technically difficult show and thanks must go to all those who worked hard to make it all run slickly and professionally. Ticket sales on the whole were very encouraging, with an almost full house on the Saturday, helped by good publicity and hard work by the cast in persuading friends and family to come along. The net result came in under budget with an expected loss of under a £1000. We are delighted to hear that the show has been awarded a regional Accolade of Excellence by NODA, the first such award we have won for a production for a number of years. Awards for the South-East Region will be presented at the NODA Area Conference in Lewes on July 11th when Tony will be travelling down to receive it. If anyone else would like to attend then please contact me for further details. In the meantime congratulations to Tony, Doreen and everyone involved.

We also congratulate Mary Coyte for winning a NODA SE Region Youth Award for her production of *The Adventures of Mr Toad* for Farnham Junior AOS.

Our next production is *Improbable Fiction*, a very entertaining and interesting play by Alan Ayckbourn with a good variety of characters – more elsewhere from director Brezetta Thonger.

The choices for the February One Act plays are being thoroughly researched by the play-reading sub-committee and these will be announced in the near future. If anyone would like to take a shot at direction then you are very welcome to put your name forward for consideration – contact Angie Hilder or Brezetta Thonger.

We are very pleased to announce that we will be staging *Little Shop of Horrors* as our musical in 2010. This highly entertaining show about deadly flora will be directed by two newcomers to the society; Simon Law, an experienced director, will be in charge of action and dialogue, with Ann Bradley as our musical director. Ann has directed the music for several Alton AOS shows. Both are looking forward enthusiastically to the show and we are delighted to welcome them.

The committee has decided that we should refresh our society logo and replace the coach and horses with something more modern. We have therefore decided to have a competition and are throwing out a challenge to all members to send in their ideas before the end of August. Make it simple and effective and send them to Melanie Tyrrell by post or email. The entries will be judged by the committee and the winner announced at the A.G.M. So get those creative juices flowing and have a go!

Hope to see you all soon,

John

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Your Social Sub Committee is pleased to offer the following suggestions for your possible entertainment. If you are interested, please put a note in your diary.

Tue 28th July to Sat 1st Aug - Go horse-racing at this years' 'Glorious Goodwood' festival. You can opt for free entry to Trundle Hill, where you can place bets on the Tote. Sometimes there are also Bookies on Trundle. Entry on to the Racecourse is priced at £15 a head for the Lennox Enclosure, unless you want to go for the giddy heights of the £35 a head in the Gordon Enclosure. Whichever you choose, you can win or lose the same amount, depending on your choice of horse and jockey for each race!



007

Sat. 26th Sept - The James Bond Casino Night - we are hoping that this will be a really special event, the first of its kind for the Stagers. You can join in the optional fancy dress and come as 007 himself, or as any of his many adversaries, ladies in distress etc. There will be a prize for the winning character. At present the suggested ticket price for the evening is £15, which would include some gaming chips to get you started, as well as a delicious buffet. We still have some other details to plan to make this an evening to remember, so watch this space. Your support is all important, so do remember the date and bring your family and friends for some super fun.

Shirley

Improbable Fiction 19–21 November

Six aspiring authors meet on a winter evening to discuss their work. Among them are writers of historical romances and children's literature who are finding it difficult to start writing and a crime writer who can't stop. A creator of extremely complicated science fiction, a librettist without a musical partner and the Writer's Circle chairman, who produces instruction booklets, make up the rest of the team. The chairman, Arnold, attempts to get the rest of the group out of a rut by suggesting they collaborate on a piece of writing, an idea that is received without enthusiasm. However, as Arnold is clearing up after the meeting there is a clap of thunder, a black-out - and then the story that would have resulted from the collaboration takes place before his very eyes.

Sharp comedy and affectionate satire characterise this zany and imaginative play written by Alan Ayckbourn.

Characters M3 F4 - ages flexible

Ilsa Wolby	shop assistant
Arnold Hassock	chairman, shop assistant
Jess Bales	farmer, (historical romance)
Grace Sims	housewife, (children's fiction)
Vivvi Dickins	journalist, (crime fiction)
Clem Pepp	council worker, (science fiction)
Brevis Winterton	retired schoolteacher, (musical adaptations)



Please do note that all but Arnold will be acting very varied parts in the second half of the play. This offers a great chance to show off your talent for extreme characters.

Read Through	8th July	7.45pm
Auditions	25th July	2.30pm

Due to it being the holiday season please do let me know if you require an alternative audition date. I look forward to seeing you then,

Brezetta Thonger

www.grayshottstagers.co.uk

Subscriptions

The treasurer would be pleased to receive members' subscriptions (which became due on 1st July).

The rates as agreed by members at last year's AGM are as follows:

Ordinary Members	£16
Patron Members	£17+
Junior Members (under 18)	£7

Please make cheques payable to 'The Grayshott Stagers' and forward to:

Stephen Penny (Honorary Treasurer),
Odessa,
The Avenue,
Grayshott,
Hindhead,
Surrey GU26 6LA.

Membership News

John Marshall

As many members will be aware John Marshall passed away in his sleep on 29th May aged 89.

John had been associated with the Stagers for over 40 years and his long service was formally recognised some years ago when he was made an Honorary Life Member.

Some members will only have known John 'from afar' in his capacity as Honorary Auditor, a role which he fulfilled since the late 1990's. His steady financial input, however, went back to the early 1970's as in John's words he was a 'poacher turned gamekeeper', having served as Treasurer for over 25 years before he agreed to be 'promoted' to auditor.

John's involvement with the Stagers was not limited to matters financial and over the years he built scenery, stage managed, took charge of the lighting and delighted in being billed as 'call boy' in the programme at a time when he was well into his 70's.

Those of us who were privileged to know him will remember a kind, gentle man who possessed a great sense of humour and fun.

Stephen Penny

We say belated 'Congratulations' to Marian and Alan Walker on their 50th wedding anniversary and to Milva Sanderson who has remarried and is now Milva Pearse.



Curtis Daybek has been appearing in *Pinafore* at Woking and will be in *Yeoman* at The Tower of London in August.

Chris and Irene Threadgold (Yeovil) are well and send best wishes to everyone.

For those who remember her from the late 1960's, Nina Cutting (Phillips) has recently died after a brave battle against cancer.

Also, Bob Pooley from Haslemere who, although not a member, was known to many.

The shocking tragic news of James Patton and sad news of our Honorary Auditor, John Marshall, feature elsewhere in this newsletter.

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

Melanie

James Patton

It was a terrible shock to learn of the death of James, at 21 the youngest child of long term member Lynn Creasey, who tragically drowned on holiday in Thailand a month ago. Many of you will remember his very engaging performance as the Artful Dodger in our production of *Oliver!* in 2001. Our thoughts are very much with Lynn and her family, as well as James' fiancée, Beth, with whom he was on holiday, and who is expecting their baby in November.

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of The Grayshott Stagers will be held in the Small Hall of the Grayshott Village Hall on Wednesday 9th September 2009 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.

All current Officers and Committee Members resign at the end of each year and have to be nominated for re-election – remember, any fully paid up member is eligible to stand for election to the Committee. I am not re-standing as Hon. Secretary and Stephen Penny has indicated that he wishes soon to stand down as Hon. Treasurer. We are therefore looking for volunteers to 'train-up'. Don't be shy, there's loads of support. Please talk to any Officer or Committee Member to find out more.

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 2/9/09). 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.

Melanie

Dates for your Diary

2009

08 July, Common Room
13 July, The Fox & Pelican
25 July, Grayshott Village Hall
09 September, Small Hall
16 September, Common Room
23 September, Common Room
26 September, Grayshott Village Hall
26 September, Grayshott Village Hall
01-03 October, Haslemere Hall
17 October, Grayshott Village Hall
27-31 October, Haslemere Hall
29-31 October, Frensham Heights
19-21 November, Grayshott Village Hall

Readthrough *Improbable Fiction*
Pub Night
Auditions *Improbable Fiction*
Annual General Meeting
Readthrough *February One Act Play Evenings*
Presentation *Little Shop of Horrors*
Auditions *February One Act Play Evenings*
Bond Casino Night
Haslemere Thespians' *Little Women*
Auditions *Little Shop of Horrors*
Haslemere Players' *Scrooge*
Junior FAOS' *The Vackees*
Improbable Fiction



2010

26-30 January, Farnham Maltings
19-20 February, Grayshott Village Hall
21-24 April, Grayshott Village Hall

FAOS' *Crazy For You*
February One Act Play Evenings
Little Shop of Horrors