

Issue 101

July 2010



(Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association)

THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

# Newsletter

## Chairman's Note

How things change! It doesn't seem that long ago that I commented on the massive snowfall we had back in January, and I am now writing this in the middle of a heat-wave. Climate change or not, we are certainly experiencing extremes of weather, but.....no complaints from me about the heat.

*Little Shop of Horrors* proved to be very successful, with passable audience numbers giving us a slightly lower loss than budgeted for. Simon Law's enthusiastic direction coupled with the musical of Tony McIntee brought out the best of a largely young and talented cast. Congratulations to all involved in the production.

The traditional early summer lull was broken by the lively interruption of the *Grayshott 24*. A pleasingly large and eager number of stagers and friends from adjacent societies turned up at 7.30pm on Friday June 25<sup>th</sup> to hear Tony Legat announce that the show we were going to stage 24 hours later was *Anything Goes*. More about this later, but congratulations and thanks to Tony for again organising this event, which has become a popular Stagers fixture every four years. Unlike the Olympics and the World Cup however it needs no preparation by the vast majority of participants. Maybe if the England team had had no preparation...

The action is now about to wind up again, with the presentation and auditions for the November play *Dark Lucy*, a one off play reading, the AGM and presentation and auditions for *Red, Hot and Cole* all coming shortly. As usual the dates are in this newsletter.

Please come along and support these new productions, and if you know anyone else who could be interested bring them along too.

I will finish with a story about the late Wilfred Lawson, a great character actor who was prone to forgetfulness. He had invited Richard Burton to see his latest play and as he did not make his first appearance until later, Lawson offered to sit with Burton during the early scenes. After a while Burton began to get anxious as Lawson seemed in no hurry to leave and get ready. Instead he sat enthralled by the play only moving to tap Burton's arm a few minutes later saying "You'll like this bit, this is where I come on."

*John*

## MEMBERSHIP

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed new member, Barbie McSean, to the society.

We already have Stagers closely involved with the community life of Grayshott, especially the Village Hall, and now congratulate Laura Musco on being appointed as Grayshott Parish Clerk.

Mary Coyte thanks the Stagers for their care and support during her illness and we are pleased that Betty Penny continues to make progress after breaking her hip.

We don't usually note every retirement and house move within the society but would like to wish Pauleen and John all the best as John retires and hope that Peter Budd will be very happy in his new home, only a few minutes walk from the Village Hall!

Our thoughts have been with our Honorary Patron, Vanessa Redgrave, who has lost two more close family members; her brother Corin and sister Lynn.

To end on a happier note, three new babies have been born into the wider Stagers' family. Congratulations to Lisa Siddle on the birth of Lewis. John and Angie Hilder became new grandparents when Noa Lily was born to Tom and Emily and, on the same day, Rachel and Richard presented Jennifer Charters with another granddaughter, Evelyn Seren.

If we have overlooked anybody or any events, our apologies. Please let us know.

*Jennifer*

## Grayshott 24

The third sextennial Grayshott 24 took place on the 25th & 26th June. Planning had started some months earlier, as there were some things that simply had to be done in advance, and as the evening approached, all we had to worry about was whether enough people would turn up to enable us to proceed. In fact, as 7.30pm approached, it was apparent that we didn't have enough people, but as we knew that there were traffic problems on the A3, we delayed the start by 15 minutes. We also decided to keep to our original plan of starting the show at 7.30 on the Saturday, so the Grayshott 24 became the Grayshott 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

As 7.45 approached, it looked as if there were enough people, and the show was announced: Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*. We were very fortunate that Robert Gilman and Tanya Holmes-Jeffers had volunteered to play for rehearsals, and under Jeremy Legat's direction, and with assistance from Anne Bradley, music rehearsals were under way within minutes.

The casting committee took around ten minutes to make their decisions, and the cast was announced. Music rehearsals continued until a little after midnight, while rehearsals on stage progressed, scene by scene, with people popping in and out as required. Meanwhile, the props team, Barbie Badger, Angie Hilder, Steph Ridler and Alison Owen set about finding the many and varied items that were needed, and Sylvia Boddington & Jan Ashwell set to work preparing costumes, and in some cases five or six costumes, for everybody.

As darkness fell, the stage construction crew, Stephen Penny, Peter Budd, and David Peerman were to be found in the car park wallpapering flats to create a State Room, and a cabin, after which they explored deep into the corners of the loft to find all the trappings to create the ballroom scene. Steve Georgii, our sound wizard, had been hard at work all evening putting microphones up and positioning speakers to ensure that everyone could be heard, and he continued to make adjustments and tweaks right up until the performance.

Shortly after midnight, most people, other than the principals, went home to get some sleep, while work continued on stage. Unfortunately, at around 1am, our Billy Crocker found that he was unable to continue with the role, and this presented us with something of a headache. Help was at hand, however, with Will Forde agreeing to take on the part, but only if the other person that we had in mind was unable to do it, as he had to work and would be unable to be with us for the rehearsals during the day. Although he was hoping not to have to play the part, Will worked through on stage until around 6am, just in case.

Those who had gone home had been requested to return by 7am, and this they duly did; music, dance and stage rehearsals got under way again. By 8am, Heather Legat & Alex Yates were hard at work in the kitchen, preparing a full English breakfast for everyone, and very good it was too. It was at about this time that Danny Yates, who had played the part for another society about eighteen months previously, agreed to take on the role of Billy Crocker.

A full run through commenced at 1pm, and slowly chugged it's way through the show. This highlighted the sections of the show that had only been rehearsed briefly, if at all, and adjustments were made accordingly. The final dress rehearsal started at 4pm and finished just in time for us to clear the hall and put out the chairs for our audience.

At 7.30 on Saturday 26th June, the countdown clock reached zero, and the show started in front of an audience of about 60. Of course, we knew from the beginning that the show wouldn't be perfect, but our audience were very forgiving, and appeared to be enjoying themselves.

As for the performers, I think that they enjoyed themselves more as the performance progressed, although whether that was because their confidence increased, or because the end was in sight, I couldn't say.

All who took part deserve congratulating on their achievements; in particular, Choreographer Laura Musco, and Musical Director Jeremy Legat, without whom the whole event would not have been possible.

Tony



## One Act Plays—IMPORTANT NOTICE

The read through for the one act plays will now take place on MONDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, Grayshott Small Hall.

Also, please note that there will be NO AUDITIONS but the Directors will be casting from the read through. Therefore, it is important to attend that evening if you possibly can if you wish to be considered for a part.

On that evening, everyone will be given an opportunity to read the parts which interest them. Before they leave, they will be asked to indicate the parts for which they wish to be considered. The Directors will then choose their casts that evening, if there is time, or as soon as possible afterwards. If they feel that they are unable to cast from those who attended, then they have the option to look elsewhere.

To prepare you beforehand, I have given a short synopsis of each play, the characters and the name and contact number of the appropriate Director (enclosed with this newsletter). Please get in touch with them or myself if you have any queries.

We will start promptly at 7.30pm to ensure that all the plays are reviewed to everyone's satisfaction.

Angie Hilder – 01428 751898 [thehilders@hotmail.com](mailto:thehilders@hotmail.com)

## PUBLICITY

During the last show, *Little Shop of Horrors*, I heard that someone (or maybe more – and I don't know who) reportedly remarked that they didn't think the publicity for the production was very good.

I acknowledge that with everything that was going on in my private life at the time I may not have spent as much time on it as I should have. However, all the usual avenues of advertising were explored: posters of all shapes and sizes were distributed and displayed in many of the village shops and notice boards; all the web sites that I could think of, including [grayshott.com](http://grayshott.com), were notified and a vast number of handbills were printed and distributed as well as notification via the emailing list (thanks for the last two to Tony Legat). I also sent articles to the local papers. I know that one appeared in the *Bordon and Petersfield Post* and a much-truncated version in the *Herald* on the week of the show.

As far as papers are concerned the *Herald* is notorious for not publishing items I send them and in future I intend to bombard them with loads of stuff leading up to the show dates.

I have no problem with people criticising but just to comment 'it wasn't very good' is a little unhelpful to say the least. I am always open to suggestions of ways to improve publicity – we need the bums on seats. So please, if you think I didn't do a very good job **PLEASE** let me know in what way you think it can be improved.

Let me have your suggestions by email at [pwbudd@gmail.com](mailto:pwbudd@gmail.com) by phone 01428 605464 or the old fashioned way by writing to me at my lovely new home: 9 The Kings Peace, Crossways Road, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey: GU26 6HS. *Peter*

## Dates for your Diary

### 2010

24 July, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>Dark Lucy</i> auditions
9 August, Fox & Pelican	Society Pub Night
13 September, Fox & Pelican	Society Pub Night
15 September, Grayshott Small Hall	Annual General Meeting
20 September, Grayshott Hall Common Room	<i>February One Act Play Evening</i> read through/auditions
22 September, Grayshott Hall Common Room	<i>Red Hot and Cole</i> presentation
9 October, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>Red Hot and Cole</i> auditions
11 October, Fox & Pelican	Society Pub Night
26-30 October, Haslemere Hall	Haslemere Players' <i>The Music Man</i>
8 November, Fox & Pelican	Society Pub Night
18-20 November, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>Dark Lucy</i>
13 December, Fox & Pelican	Society Pub Night

### 2011

25-29 January, Farnham Maltings	FAOS' <i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>
18-19 February, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>February One Act Play Evenings</i>
13-16 April, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>Red Hot and Cole</i>



[www.grayshottstagers.co.uk](http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk)

# DARK LUCY

Written by Phillip King and Parnell Bradbury, this mystery will be directed by June Hegarty.

When Carol, the highly strung ex-actress wife of the vicar, complains hysterically that she has been assaulted by "Dark Lucy" – an unpleasant old village woman who lives in a dirty broken-down cottage – the doctor is inclined to put it down to hallucinations and she is believed by nobody. But, when another young girl disappears Carol decides to investigate what goes on in the old cottage. What she discovers exceeds her wildest nightmares!



This play, set in the 1970's, has a cast of three men and four women. The Rev. Gavin Clevedon, his wife - Carol, Dr Thomas Vann, Mrs. Wilson, Lucy Manning, Edward Hastings and Grace Roberts.

The read through is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.45pm in the Common Room with auditions on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00pm in the Large Hall. Anyone who cannot make the audition date will need to audition before 24<sup>th</sup> July. Please let June or Peter Budd, the Production Secretary know.

Contact details:

June Hegarty: 0778 8803152 [mflannery@uk-consultants.co.uk](mailto:mflannery@uk-consultants.co.uk)

Peter Budd: [pwbudd@gmail.com](mailto:pwbudd@gmail.com) 01428 605464



## Red Hot & COLE



*Red Hot & Cole* celebrates the life of one of the great song writing masters of this century. This two-act revue traces Cole Porter's career from Indiana to the world stages of New York, London, Paris and Venice, through his marriage, his friendships with the greats of his age and the tragic riding accident that crippled him in mid-career, physically, but not artistically.



*Red Hot & Cole* bubbles with songs that have become international standards, from fabulous shows and movies such as *Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *High Society* and *Can-Can*. The show features over 25 Porter classics including *Night and Day*, *I Love Paris*, *Anything Goes*, *Let's Do It*, *Miss Otis Regrets*, *Just One of Those Things*, *In The Still of the Night* and *My Heart Belongs to Daddy*.

A scintillating mixture of biography and song, *Red Hot & Cole* celebrates the great American songwriter who brought style, elegance and sophistication to the stages and soundstages of Broadway and Hollywood, delighting the world with his devilishly clever rhymes, fresh and unexpected melodies and sassy, sexy sensibility.

It's a champagne tribute to a glittering age gone by and the man and talent who was Cole Porter.

To find out more, make a date to come to the presentation on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and meet your *swellegant* production team of Heather Legat and Robert Gilman.

### 'ALLO 'ALLO PLAY READING – AUGUST 2010

Hilary Lee Corbin, who joined us for the Shakespeare Revue in February, has kindly offered to host a reading of *'Allo 'Allo* at her house on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August. This is purely for enjoyment, but if we have a good enough turnout (IT NEEDS MEN!) then it could be considered for staging in the near future.

Hilary's address is:

Rafpuncher House, Frensham, Farnham, GU10 3EQ

Contact no: 01252 792398

Any queries, please ring either Hilary, or myself on 01428 751898.

Hope you can make it – it will be a fun evening!

Angie

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