

Issue 79

June 2003



THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

I haven't been anywhere since the last newsletter was issued, so I am unable to give you 'thoughts from' this time, however, so much has happened since last time that there probably wouldn't have been enough room anyway.

The one act play evenings in February were, once again, a great success, and I would like to thank Jane Sargeant & Sylvia Boddington for all their hard work with the catering. The rent for the land on which the shed stands was duly paid to the Parish Council, so we can safely keep it there for another year.

In March we presented 'Alarms' & 'Look Away Now' at the Haslemere Thespians' festival, and both plays were well received by the audience and the adjudicator. The festival in general was a great success, and I hope that we shall be able to support it again in the future.

In early April, we said our *au revoirs* to Liz & Malcolm Dobson and Shirley & Peter Jelliss, who have departed to Ross-on-Wye to realise Liz's 'dream' of running a hotel. I say *au revoirs* rather than *goodbyes* as they have said that they will return at some

point in the future, and we certainly hope that they do. Meantime, I am sure that we all wish them well in their new venture. The hotel is the Pencraig Court Country House Hotel, Pencraig, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6HR (www.pencraig-court.co.uk) ☎ 01989 770306. I know that members of the Stagers will always be welcome, and I have been assured that there will be a special rate available!

'Annie Get Your Gun' in April and May was a great show, and very well received by those who saw it. What a pity that they were so few in number. Thank you again to Doreen Wylde for all her hard work as both Director *and* Musical Director, and to everybody who worked so hard to ensure its success. The unedited version of the review that appeared in the Haslemere Herald can be seen on the Grayshott Stagers' web site.

The read through for 'A Chorus Of Disapproval' took place on the 21st May, and was well attended. I hope that there will be a good turnout for the auditions as well. The date for the auditions had to be changed from that previously announced, and they will now be on Friday 27th June.

A Chorus of Disapproval

URGENT: Please note that the audition date for A Chorus of Disapproval has been changed to **27 June**. Auditions will take place in the committee room at the village hall.

This show charts the progress of a amateur production of *The Beggar's Opera* and the lives of the cast preparing to perform it.

Written by Alan Ackbourn, this show is a real treat for both cast and audience alike. We need a cast of thirteen (7 men, 6 women ranging in age from 20s to 60s) plus possible extras, so please come along.

If you would like details of the audition pieces or any other information please contact the Production Secretary, Marian Walker: 01428 605046 marian@grayshottstagers.co.uk



Social Committee



As you are probably aware, the summer BBQ is returning this year and will be held at Beefolds Cottage. Barbara would like to start to get a rough idea of the number of people to cater for, so please let her know if you are intending to come - we wouldn't like anybody to starve! The Skittles evening has now been provisionally re-booked for September 26th. Please let the Social Committee know if you would like to go.

And just in case there wasn't enough going on, a group of Stagers will be packing their 'posh' picnics for Petworth Park on 28th June where Status Quo will be playing, followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

Proposed Theatre Dates New Victoria, Woking
(contact the Social Committee)
26th June *An Inspector Calls*
24th July *Blood Brothers*
10th September *My One and Only* (matinee)

Social Events

3rd August Barbeque at Beefolds Cottage, Churt
26th September Skittles Evening

Barbara Badger
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Nicky Irvine Performance Workshop

'Zombie' and 'Kevin the Teenager' are not behaviours that Grayshott Stagers members are often directly called on to portray on stage. They were, however, two of the 'states' taken on in an exercise by some 25 participants during the first 'Nicky Irvine Performance Workshop' on March 22nd.

The theme of the workshop, facilitated with clarity, humour and sensitivity by Martin Wylde (coincidentally the nephew of David Wylde, who had just previously adjudicated the Festival of One Act Plays) was 'Communicating Character and Relationships by Positioning, Posture and Body Language'. 'Zombie' and 'Kevin' were part of a spectrum of types of movement that all the participants will be able to call on when considering their characterisations in future plays and musicals.

The workshop, made possible by Nicky Irvine's generous bequest to the Stagers, began with vocal and physical warm-up exercises that we would all do well to incorporate into our rehearsal regime. Reaction and confidence in eye-contact were another focus. In some ways the most challenging exercise had pairs of participants, each ignorant of the other's given 'status' but playing according to their own given 'status', attempting without words to persuade the other to sit in a chair. It was revealing, when we had all used large amounts of gesture and movement to persuade, how Martin then approached the same task and showed us how the same effect could be brought about by little more than a turn of the head and the raising of an eyebrow.

The closing section of the workshop brought us into contact with three very contrasting texts - modern, classical and verse - and showed us how to approach the reading of each for understanding and better communication.

Everyone that took part agreed that the workshop had provided them with many ideas to pursue and left them looking forward to another opportunity to explore the technique of acting in more depth than rehearsals often allow. Above all, we had enjoyed the morning, and felt that in every way the workshop had been a fitting tribute to Nicky's wholehearted commitment to the Stagers.

The committee will discuss a suitable date for another workshop in 2004. If anyone has suggestions for its theme (we already have one or two ideas), please do not hesitate to let me know.

Richard White, Vice Chair

Bits and Pieces

 Congratulations are in order! Helen Page (Ian and Jenny's daughter) has recently married. While Tony and Heather are pleased to announce the engagement of Alex to Danny.

STOP PRESS!

Annie Get Your Gun

The 'final' after show party will take place on 4th July at 10 Golf Links Avenue, Hindhead (01428 606501). This debriefing session will begin at 7:30—please bring nibbles and a bottle. Hope to see you all there!

PLAY READING

A play reading evening is being organised for 16 July. We haven't had one of these evenings for a while, but they have proved to be enormous fun in the past. If you are interested please contact Marian Walker for further details.

Best Wishes

Many of you will know that Jane Sargeant was unable to take part in Annie Get your Gun, despite attending rehearsals, due to illness. I'm pleased to report that Jane is now on the mend.

Please note: Marian Walker has filled Shirley Jelliss's place on the committee.



Dates for your Diary

2003

27 June, Grayshott Village Hall Committee Room

28 June, Petworth Park

04 July, 10 Golf Links Avenue, Hindhead

16 July, Grayshott Village Hall

03 August, Beefolds Cottage, Churt

03 September, Grayshott Small Hall

10 September

17 September

11 October

20–22 November, Grayshott Village Hall

A Chorus of Disapproval Auditions

Status Quo at Petworth Park

Annie Get Your Gun, Final After Show Party

Play Reading Evening

Stagers' Summer BBQ

Annual General Meeting

Copacabana Presentation

2004 February One Acts Read-through

Copacabana Auditions

A Chorus of Disapproval

