

Issue 112

May
2014



Letter from the Chair



Where have the first four months of the year gone?

For the 'Stagers' they have probably passed quickly because it's always our busiest time of the year, preparing for and 'staging' the One Act Plays and Supper evenings whilst also rehearsing for the Spring Musical. In addition, your Committee has met three times, the play reading and musical subcommittees have been working hard, and social events have been planned.

For my part, I left everyone to get on with things during February, as I was privileged to have the opportunity to spend a month travelling in New Zealand, an experience I would recommend to anyone!

When I returned, I was delighted to be told by several people how much they had enjoyed the 'One-Act' evenings, the supper being particularly well received. You will see from Stephen's report that we made a very healthy profit, an increase of over £300 from last year. This success was only made possible again by the generosity of those members who provided so much of their time and various talents. It is the one occasion when those who tread the boards are also seen working 'front of the house' and in the kitchen. I need hardly say that 'many hands make light work', so please see if you can help again, or for the first time, next year.

Whilst thinking ahead to 2015, I am particularly pleased that the Stagers will be presenting a musical with which we have such close personal links. Heather Legat tells you more on page 3.

We are always happy to support other societies, as we all struggle at times to cast and stage productions. Our stage crew is well known in this part of Surrey, several of our members also belong to other groups and we have reciprocal advertising arrangements. In this context I would like to pass on a notice from Alton asking for help with all aspects of their production of "Fawlty Towers" in October. Check their website www.aods.org for further information.

I'll close now by encouraging you to come along and bring your family and friends to 'The Shakespeare Revue', when I can guarantee you an entertaining evening, and I look forward to seeing you at our social events and the read through for 'The 39 Steps'.

With warmest wishes,

Jennifer

A Shakespearian Review of The Shakespeare

Shall I compare this to a normal play?
It is more lively and it captivates.
We're working hard - four darling days in May
And now they seem too troubling close -those dates!
Sometimes too hot, Brezetta 's eye doth shine
And Robert's gentle manner's all too grim
And we try hard to get them right, our lines
And sing our songs without offence to him.
But our enthusiasm does not fade
And shall not – e'en unto our final bow
And all the merry steps by Laura made
We shall strive to remember – Oh but how?
In Grayshott then, our show is offered thus
We hope you'll come and laugh along with us



The 39 Steps

I am delighted to have been invited to direct the Stagers' autumn play – *The 39 Steps*. It is some years since I was involved in Stagers' on-stage activities and I am greatly enthused and looking forward to being back.

As a boy I wasn't the most avid of readers, but I did read *Wind in the Willows* several times, all the short and long *Sherlock Holmes* stories and notably several of John Buchan's novels, including *The 39 Steps*. In typical Stagers' fashion, the Society has made a bit of a coup in acquiring the performing rights for this much acclaimed play which is still being performed at *The Criterion* in Piccadilly. Those of you who have seen the play will know what a rattlingly good production it is, certainly not one to be missed.

Based on the Buchan novel, first published in 1915, the play closely follows the plot and script of Hitchcock's b/w film classic of 1935. Bereft of any female involvement, the original plot was glamorised to meet Hollywood needs. However, murder and other dastardly intentions threatening national security remain at the core of this fast-moving, clever and very funny play. Escapes from the London-Edinburgh Express, leaps from the Forth Bridge, chases across Highland moors, and aircraft reconnaissance remain as production challenges! To fill the roles of 28 named characters, I am looking to have a cast of 7; the London production uses only 4 actors! Five men and 2 women; apart from the main character *Richard Hannay*, the other 4 men have 6 roles each and require a wide range of accents and characterisations. All in all a very physically demanding and theatrically challenging play, but one which is likely to be hugely satisfying. If you are male, 30s to 40s, consider yourself dashing and full of energy and élan, why not have a go at playing *Hannay*, it could change your life!!! I look forward to seeing you all at the read-through in June.

A special musical for the Stagers - Spring 2015

The Night Maxie Tortellini Hit Big Lola Latrobe's

'Maxie' is set in Chicago, in the roaring twenties. Mostly taking place in Lola's casino club where the stories of the night club singers and dancers and Lola, herself unfold. It is quite a special show for me and Laura Musco because I was in the original cast and the score was written by Peter Brittan, Laura's father. It is catchy and eminently singable.



It could be described as a Bugsy Malone for grown ups! There are no splurge guns but there are gangsters, tap dancers and black roses. It is a fun filled show with a bitter sweet ending and there are plenty of opportunities for singing, dancing and over acting. I think there is great scope for fabulous flapper styled ladies and pin stripe suited, fedora wearing gangsters - so it should look amazing; always a treat for the audience. We'll need to recruit some younger members who can dance but, as ever, I'll try to be creative with the chorus so that there is something for everyone to do.

It should be great fun and I am very much looking forward to bringing it to life again. I hope to see many of you at 'Big Lola's' after 'Will Fest'!

Heather

Social EventsSocial EventsSocial

Come and join us in the small hall on Friday 13th June for a fun evening of games and quizzes. Nibbles, tea and coffee will be available. Feel free to bring a bottle. Please can you let Pauleen know by 21st May if you would like to come along and join the fun.

Please watch for further details of our late summer barbecue to be held on Saturday 6th September.

Directors Wanted!!!!



The Play Reading Sub Committee is busy finalising a short list of plays for next February's Supper Evenings. However, we need to find Directors for them. So, if you are a first-timer or an old hand please contact Angie as soon as possible – 01428 751898 or thehilders@hotmail.com.

Membership News

Many of you will be aware that several of our members have been suffering badly through ill health since Christmas. They are very grateful for all the care and support they and their families are receiving from fellow 'Stagers'. Please keep them in your thoughts and Audrey Siddle has asked us to include Tony.

You will have already received the news of the death of George Streeter and any details we have about the arrangements for his funeral. George was closely associated with the Stagers, on and off the stage, for many years. We will be circulating a tribute to him soon.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Venue	Time
21 st to 24 th May	<i>The Shakespeare Revue</i> Grayshott Stagers	Grayshott Village Hall	7.30 pm
13 th June	Social Event – games evening	Grayshott Village Hall	See our website
17 th to 21 st June	<i>Copacabana</i> Farnham Amateur Operatic Society	Farnham Maltings	See FAOS website
25 th June	Presentation <i>The 39 Steps</i>	Common Room Grayshott Village Hall	7.30 pm
19 th July	Auditions <i>The 39 Steps</i>	Large Hall Grayshott Village Hall	2.00 pm
27 th August	Read through and auditions for 2015 One Act Plays	Common Room Grayshott Village Hall	7.30 pm
6 th September	Social Event - Barbecue	TBA	TBA
10 th September	Presentation of <i>The Night Maxie Tortellini</i> <i>Hit Big Lola Latrobe's</i>	Common Room Grayshott Village Hall	7.30 pm
12 th September	Grayshott Stagers AGM	Grayshott Village Hall	See our website
16 th September	Audition rehearsal for <i>The Night Maxie Tortellini</i> <i>Hit Big Lola Latrobe's</i>	Common Room Grayshott Village Hall	7.30 pm
18 th September	Audition rehearsal for <i>The Night Maxie Tortellini</i> <i>Hit Big Lola Latrobe's</i>	Common Room Grayshott Village Hall	7.30 pm
22nd September	Audition rehearsal for <i>The Night Maxie Tortellini</i> <i>Hit Big Lola Latrobe's</i>	Common Room Grayshott Village Hall	7.30 pm
4 th October	Audition for <i>The Night Maxie Tortellini</i> <i>Hit Big Lola Latrobe's</i>	Common Room Grayshott Village Hall	2.00 pm
21 st to 25 th October	<i>The Producers</i> Haslemere Players	Haslemere Hall	Haslemere Players' website
20 th to 22 nd November	<i>The 39 Steps</i> Grayshott Stagers	Grayshott Village Hall	TBA

February One Act Plays – Financial Report

Finance Report

February Plays 2014

		Initial Budget	Final Budget	Actual
5040	Acting Fees	63.00	63.00	63.00
5100	Tickets Sales - Shows	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,898.00
5120	Ticket Sales - Meals	0.00	0.00	45.00
5140	Bar - Sales	400.00	400.00	723.00
5150	Raffle - Sales	200.00	200.00	230.00
5180	Rehearsal Material - Sales	0.00	0.00	14.00
Total Income		<u>3,463.00</u>	<u>3,463.00</u>	<u>3,973.00</u>

1200	Royalties	240.00	240.00	240.00
1210	Premises License - EHDC	21.00	21.00	21.00
1330	Printing - Programme	15.00	15.00	36.00
1340	Printing - Tickets	15.00	15.00	15.40
1350	Publicity	55.00	55.00	48.00
1360	Rehearsal Material Hire/Purchase	60.00	60.00	37.00
2000	Hall Hire - Grayshott Village Hall	660.00	660.00	656.00
2110	Set Construction	20.00	20.00	0.00
2120	Properties	30.00	30.00	30.24
2130	Lighting	10.00	10.00	0.00
2140	Sound & Effects	15.00	15.00	0.00
2160	Wardrobe	30.00	30.00	15.45
2170	Make-Up	10.00	10.00	0.00
3000	Catering Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00	775.14
3020	Bar - Expenses	0.00	0.00	263.53
3100	Gifts & Subscriptions Outgoing	10.00	45.00	41.00
3200	Miscellaneous / Contingency	49.00	14.00	0.00
Total Expenditure		<u>2,240.00</u>	<u>2,240.00</u>	<u>2,178.76</u>

Profit/(Loss)	<u>1,223.00</u>	<u>1,223.00</u>	<u>1,794.24</u>
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<u>Ticket Sales:-</u>	Friday	105
	Saturday	102
	Total	<u>207</u>