



Newsletter

Chairman's Note

At the time of writing the very mild weather is continuing, confusing some of our garden plants and lulling us into a false sense of security against the inevitable cold weather. But we have plenty to keep us occupied, with *Look Who's Talking* almost upon us (buy your tickets now!), the One Act Plays and *Something's Afoot* now (almost) cast and about to start rehearsals.

Looking back, the A.G.M. had an encouraging attendance and there were more applications than vacancies for the General Committee, giving rise to an election, the first for several years. The Officers and Committee personnel with their contact numbers, are given later. I reiterate my thanks to my fellow Officers and Committee members for their work and help through the last year, as well as to all the other members who support the Society in a variety of ways. For those who were unable to come to the meeting the Society awarded a Life Membership to Peggy Blakeborough in recognition of her 57 years as a Stager. Peggy has acted in, and directed, innumerable plays for the Society over the years and has been a loyal supporter when not taking part. Now unable to come to our shows for health reasons, she has just celebrated her 90th birthday and we send her all our best wishes.

Another piece of news I gave at the meeting is that we have received a very generous donation of an almost new 48 channel digital memory lighting control board to replace our old manual one, together with 4 extra dimmer packs and an interface unit. This is a wonderful acquisition and will considerably enhance our stage lighting. It will mean rebuilding the operator's "nest" over the door in the O.P. wings, but this has been a pending project for a while.

At the end of the meeting several interesting points were raised and discussed and will be taken forward by the new committee.

A number of members met recently at the scenery shed and had a blitz on the wardrobe, as it had become so full that the heating had to be switched off for safety reasons. Fond memories returned at the sight of costumes from old shows, but we had to be brutal and only retain items that we felt had a chance of being used in the future. Although there is still some work to do, the result is a clearer, cleaner space which can be safely heated during the cold weather. Thanks to all the helpers.

As you know, *Calendar Girls* is our chosen play for November next year and to help with publicity a few of our gallant ladies took part in a photo shoot, posing "in character" for a new calendar that the BIG organisation in Grayshott is producing for 2012. Rumour has it that we are going on the front page, but no doubt everything (almost) will soon be revealed! Mmmm...that's a few Christmas presents sorted.

John

Dates for your Diary

2011

17-19 November, Grayshott Village Hall
12 December, Fox & Pelican

Look Who's Talking
Society Pub Night



2012

24-28 January, Farnham Maltings
17-18 February, Grayshott Village Hall
27-31 March, Haslemere Hall
25-28 April, Grayshott Village Hall
23-27 October, Haslemere Hall

Hello Dolly, FAOS
One Act Play Evenings
Oliver!, Haslemere Players
Something's Afoot
How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, Haslemere Players
Calendar Girls

Look Who's Talking

Don't miss this top notch comedy written by Derek Benfield an accomplished RADA trained stage and TV actor. The play will be directed by Stagers experienced member June Hegarty who directed last year's thriller Dark Lucy.

Forget the economic woes of the world and come for an evening of fun and laughter. This two act modern day comedy, takes place in the drawing room of Sheila's and Andrew's comfortable home in the country. They are a devoted middle-age couple enjoying a normal relaxed Sunday, Andrew digging the garden, Sheila preparing lunch while waiting the arrival of an old friend. Then two totally unexpected visitors wander into this idyllic scene with disturbing and riotous results. Brian, whom Sheila met briefly the week before, hints that their relationship had gone a good deal further than a glass or two of wine. Andrew's pretty secretary arrives with a suitcase, all set for a naughty assignation in Italy. This all leads to a complicated and hilarious series of misunderstandings and mistaken identities.

The characters are played by familiar faces:

Sheila	Jennifer Charters
Andrew	John Dowsett
Brian	Paul Bailey
Carol (Andrew's secretary)	Brezetta Thonger
Jane (friend of Sheila)	Angie Hilder

The play is being performed at Grayshott Village Hall 17th, 18th and 19th November 2011 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £9.00 and are available online at www.grayshottstagers.co.uk and from Grayshott Books, The Square, Grayshott .Tel 01428 604798.

There will be a licensed bar at all performances.

Come and let your hair down and have a good laugh.

Membership News

There have been some really happy events to note over the past few months. Laura and Steve Musco became grandparents for the first time when Brooke Ria was born to Karen and Sam on 16th July and John and Angie Hilder had a second grandchild, Felix, born on 17th July to Tom and Emily. The latest 'Grandad' is Richard White and he and Mel were delighted when Tom and Stacey announced the birth of Naomi Angela on 24th October.

Jennifer Charters was again a very proud 'mother-of-the-bride' when Abigail married Joe White on 28th August.

We often receive news of members who have moved away from this area and the Maguires have visited from their home on Sark and sent good wishes to all.

Unfortunately Betty Penny has been poorly over the summer but is back at home now. We wish her well.

We were sad to hear of the death of Eve Buck, a former member of the society, and our thoughts have been with the Legat family following the death of Tony's father. Another loss has been that of Alan Stevens who although especially known as a member of FAOS was also a Patron of the Stagers.

With apologies if I've overlooked anybody or any events. Do let me know if you have any news to share.

Jennifer

Peggy Blakeborough

We have just heard the very sad news that Peggy Blakeborough has passed away just a week after her 90th birthday. A full obituary will appear in the next Newsletter.

Something's Afoot

Auditions for **Something's Afoot** have been held and casting has **almost** been completed.

Lettie	–	Amy Turner
Flint	–	Ellis Nicholls
Clive	–	John Dowsett
Hope Langdon	–	Susie Dean
Dr. Grayburn	–	Peter Gardner
Nigel Rancour	–	to be confirmed
Lady Grace Manley-Prowe	–	Brezetta Thonger
Col. Gillweather	–	Mike Clarke
Miss Tweed	–	Sara Rowe
Geoffrey	–	to be confirmed

Our thanks go to all those who took part; congratulations to those who got a part and commiseration's to those who lost out, at times it was a very difficult decision to make and deliberations went on for some time.

Negotiations are in hand to cast Nigel Rancour, however, at the time of writing an actor to play the part of Geoffrey has yet to be found. The character has to be able to sing and dance as well as act. The description in the script is that he is in his late twenties, however, this could be flexible a within reason.

The show is a murder mystery musical that spoofs detective stories, mainly the works of Agatha Christie, and especially her detective novel *And Then There Were None* (aka *Ten Little Indians*). The book, music, and lyrics were written by James McDonald, David Vos, and Robert Gerlach, with additional music by Ed Linderman.

Anne Bradley is the MD and Laura Musco will be responsible for the choreography.

Performances at the Grayshott Village Hall will take place on Wednesday 25th to 28th April 2012.

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