

Issue 91

October 2006



THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

Welcome to a new Stagers season and my first one as chairman. Having been a Stager for nearly 40 years, I am very proud of my new position and it is my fervent wish that the Society continues to stage a varied and interesting programme of productions, and that our reputation as a friendly and welcoming society is maintained.

My thanks to Tony Legat who has led the society through challenging times over the past few years and, despite having a busy job in London, was a very "hands on" chairman. I am delighted that he will continue to be actively involved in the society. Thanks also to the outgoing members of the committee for all their hard work, and a warm welcome to the new members.

We have a very entertaining season of productions lined up, starting with *Night Watch*, a tense thriller by Lucille Fletcher which will keep you guessing right to the end. Peter Budd is directing a strong cast of new and old faces. Performances are at 7.30pm on 23-25 November - don't miss it!

The February One-Act Plays have been chosen; *Cupboard Love* by Jean McConnell (director - Brezetta Thonger), *Caught on the Hop* by Derek Foxton (director - June Hegarty) and *The Retiring Highwayman* by Michael Legat (director - Tony Legat). All three plays are very funny and well written. Auditions are at 2pm on Saturday 4th November (please note new date).

We are fortunate to have an expert production team to create our Spring musical *Carousel*. Sally Wooding and Milva Sandison are very experienced directors and I am sure that this will be a show to remember.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that our Spring musical for 2008 will be *Cowardy Custard*, an entertainment devised by Gerald Frow, Alan Strachan and Wendy Toye featuring the words and music of Noël Coward. I am pleased to welcome back Heather Legat to the role of director.

All the important dates and details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

It is becoming increasingly important to fill seats for any production, so please do all that you can to get friends and relatives along.

I hope to see you all soon,

John

Committee

I am pleased to report that this year we will have a full committee. During the A.G.M. the following officers were elected:

Chairman	John Hilder	01428 751898
Hon. Treasurer	Stephen Penny	01428 606964
Hon. Secretary	Melanie Tyrrell	01420 22291

The following members were also elected to serve on the committee:

Gillian Chard	01428 605005	Jennifer Charters	01428 605635
Mary Coyte	01428 722961	Pauleen Dowsett	01428 717796
June Hegarty	01428 713791	Shirley Jelliss	01428 654770
John Preskett	01428 648969	Lynne Mitchinson	01428 604589
Jane Sargeant	07818 422250		

All Officers and most committee members can be emailed using a Stagers address, eg; stephen.penny@grayshottstagers.co.uk

Melanie



NIGHT WATCH

23-25 NOVEMBER



Since the last Newsletter we had a very good turn out for the read through of our Autumn production, *Night Watch*. This was closely followed by the auditions, which were, again, very well supported with strong competition for many of the parts. As usual the high standard gave the audition panel much food for thought but eventually a cast was chosen:

<i>Elaine Wheeler</i>	June Hegarty	<i>John Wheeler</i>	Michael Clarke
<i>Helga</i>	Trudy Hathaway	<i>Blanche Cooke</i>	Jane Clayton
<i>Vanelli</i>	Brezetta Thonger	<i>Lt. Walker</i>	John Hilder
<i>Curtis Appleby</i>	Peter Gardener	<i>Dr. Tracy Lake</i>	Shirley Jelliss
<i>Sam Hoke</i>	John Preskett		

Since then rehearsals have been well attended, given the usual breaks for holidays, and have been progressing well and as the final stretch to the finishing line approaches these have been increasing in intensity and enthusiasm. Not surprising, given that *Night Watch* is a play of suspense, a melodramatic psychological thriller in two Acts set in 1970's Manhattan

Do come along and support the production, which takes place on 23rd, 24th and 25th November starting at 7.30pm in The Grayshott Village Hall. Tickets at £7.00 will be on sale shortly at the Grayshott Bookshop or contact Thelma Robertson, telephone 01428 605194 or email to boxoffice@grayshottstagers.co.uk

Finally, I am sure that Alex, our production secretary, would like to hear from anyone who is willing to assist with any of the usual jobs that need doing, so if you are available, even if only for one evening, please let Alex know. (alex.yates@grayshottstagers.co.uk).

Many thanks and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Peter

Dates for your Diary

2006

24–28 October, Haslemere Hall
and I

27–28 October, Farnham Maltings

04 November, Grayshott Village Hall Common Room

23–25 November, Grayshott Village Hall

29 November, Grayshott Village Hall Common Room

10 December, Haslemere Hall

Haslemere Players' *The King*

Junior FAOS' *Noah*

February One Act Play Auditions

Night Watch

Carousel Presentation

Carousel Auditions



2007

04–07 January, Haslemere Hall

12–13 January, Haslemere Hall

23–27 January, Farnham Maltings

23–24 February, Grayshott Village Hall

27–31 October, Haslemere Hall

10–12 May, Grayshott Village Hall

17–19 May, Haslemere Hall

22–24 November, Grayshott Village Hall

Haslemere Thespians' *Cinderella*

Haslemere Thespians' *Cinderella*

FAOS' *Yeoman of the Guard*

February One Act Plays

Haslemere Players' *Titanic the Musical*

Carousel

Carousel

Autumn Play

2008

22–23 February, Grayshott Village Hall

April/May, Grayshott Village Hall

February One Act Plays

Cowardy Custard

*** Backstage Update ***

Last year we received a legacy of £500 which after some consideration your committee decided to put towards the cost of a communications system for the Village Hall.

Having researched the various systems available we decided to split the project into two sections:-

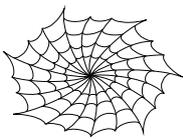
1. A 'telephone' style system to allow the Stage Manager, Electrician, Box-Office and Bar to communicate and co-ordinate 'curtain-up' times etc.
2. A 'head-set' system to allow communication between stage-crew, lighting and the orchestra pit during performances.

Having costed the various systems available we were fortunate to receive a donation of a further £1,000 towards the total cost of £1,700.

The equipment was purchased in September and we hope that installation will be complete in time for the production of Night Watch at the end of November.

NODA	One Act Plays
<p>I have been sent the Autumn edition of the NODA National News, which has a lot of news, articles and letters about other societies, including one about the Haslemere Players written by their immediate past chairman (and Stager) Richard Tytler. Please let me know if you would like to see it, or would like to know more about the Association.</p> <p><i>John Hilder</i></p>	<p>This is just to remind all you Society Members of the forthcoming auditions for our February 2007 Supper Evening with One Act Plays. The auditions will take place in The Common Room, Grayshott Village Hall at 2pm on Saturday 4th November. Don't miss it - you might miss the part you've been waiting for all your Amateur Dramatic life to play!</p> <p><i>Shirley</i></p>

A bit of Halloween fun



A burning a candle inside a jack-o-lantern (pumpkin) on Halloween keeps evil spirits and demons at bay.



Put your clothes on inside out and walk backwards on Halloween night to meet a witch.

How do witches keep their hair in place while flying?
With scare spray...



From ghoulies and ghosties and long leggety beasties and things that go bump in the night,
Good Lord, deliver us!
- - - Scottish saying

According to an old English folk belief, you will invite bad luck into your home if you allow a fire to burnout on Halloween. To remedy the situation, the fire must be rekindled by a lighted sod brought from the home of a priest.

The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.



Girls who carry a lamp to a spring of water on this night can see their future husband in the reflection.