

Issue 97

October 2008



THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

Hello everyone,

Well we finally got something of an Indian summer, and now it seems as though we are heading for a winter of financial discontent. Thank goodness we have a great season of forthcoming productions to take our minds off the gloomy news!

During the quiet summer "off-season" we performed a potted version of *Cowardy Custard* as a requested entertainment for the NODA South East Regional Annual Conference in July. We felt that we put on a sparkling half hour's entertainment to round off the day, but unfortunately by that time a number of delegates had left. The cast relished the chance to perform again, but particular thanks must go to Heather, who condensed the show brilliantly, as well as Angela Jones, Tony McIntee, Geoff Hunt, Barbie Badger, Tony Legat, and the refreshment team who provided gallons of tea for the delegates.

Since then it has been a round of read-throughs, presentations and auditions for all the next seasons' productions: *The Odd Couple* (female version) the February One Act Plays and *Spend! Spend! Spend!* All of these were encouragingly well attended and the casting is announced elsewhere in this newsletter. We held our AGM in September, also reasonably well attended (although more would be nice!). The officers and most of the committee were re-elected, with Jane Sargeant standing down after some years and Brezetta Thonger taking her place. Jane now lives in Woking, and with a demanding job, finds the trip to Grayshott increasingly difficult. I am delighted to say that she is keen to remain as involved with the society as possible. Brezetta is a welcome new face on the committee as well as being our new director for next year's Autumn play. Stephen announced that we had a better year financially and we are in reasonable fiscal shape.

At the AGM I announced a new initiative, a monthly "Society Night", an informal get-together in the village where we can enjoy a chat over a drink. Society matters aren't necessarily on the agenda, and it is an ideal occasion to introduce new members. The first meeting has been fixed for Monday 10 November at 8pm in the Fox & Pelican, so make a note, get away from that screen, and come along.

Following another point that was raised at the AGM, I sent a note round to all those on our email database asking what everyone felt about changing one of our regular rehearsal nights from Friday to Monday, as the former could be unpopular with new people wanting to join us, especially the younger element. Thanks to those of you who took the trouble to reply – almost all of you came down in favour of a change, mostly because you felt that all should be done to encourage new members, and some of you preferred Monday anyway. We discussed this at length at our last committee meeting, the upshot being that we cannot abandon Friday night altogether as we will be in danger of losing this village hall "slot" permanently, and it is the only night we can have the stage. However, when the stage is not required then it would be possible to change to a Monday in the Common room. Watch this space!

Hope to see some of you on the 10th – bring a friend!

John

Membership News

We say a belated 'Congratulations' to Richard and Rachel Griffiths (nee Charters) on the birth of Rhiannon Louise on August 23rd.

Audrey Siddle has been unwell over recent months but is now much recovered and we wish her well. She has asked us to convey her thanks to everyone who kindly sent her cards.

If we have overlooked anybody or any event, apologies, please let us know.

Melanie

Don't forget to come along to the Fox & Pelican in Grayshott on Monday 10th November 8pm to support the first Society Night.



The Odd Couple 20-22 November

Not looking forward to the dark, dreary November evenings? Well why not spend one of them being thoroughly entertained by the Grayshott Stagers presentation of the highly amusing and witty play, *The Odd Couple*?

Some years after Neil Simon wrote the original play for six men and two women, which was subsequently made into a television series, he wrote a second version, this time for six women and two men; still with his inimitable brand of humour, especially in the 'one-liners'.

The six women are a group of friends who get together once a week to play 'Trivial Pursuit', in Olive's apartment in New York. The play is about the strength of their friendship, despite the differences in the character of each woman and everyone in my super cast is already bringing the role she plays to life - and I'm delighted to say that rehearsals are going well!

As with all Neil Simon's work, the dialogue is funny and clever and should keep the audiences interested and wanting to know how it all turns out. The play offers them an evening of laughter and in the true sense of live theatre, great entertainment.

Don't miss it!

The box office opens on Monday 3rd November at Grayshott Books, The Square, Grayshott, telephone no: 01428 604798. For advance tickets, contact Peter Budd on 01428 605464. All seats are priced at £8, with 10% reduction for groups of ten or more at all performances.

Shirley

February One Act Play Evening

Auditions for the February One Act Plays took place on Saturday, 4th October. The turn-out was good and the three directors discussed long and hard before deciding on the final casting.

Congratulations to those who were successful and commiserations to those who were unlucky this time. The results were not entirely a reflection of the ability to play a part, but also a question of the final balance of the characters as a whole.

The casting is as follows:

CRUISE MISSILE from *Deckchairs* by Jean McConnell. Director: Melanie Tyrrell.

Goldie – Jane Clayton
Janet – Teresa Marsh

TOASTERS from *Alarms and Excursions* by Michael Frayn. Director: Jennifer Charters.

Shirley Jellis, Laura Musco and Brezetta Thonger

SHERLOCK HOLMES' LAST CASE by Charlie Cook. Director: Angie Hilder.

Sherlock Holmes – John Hilder
Dr. Watson – Peter Gardner
Inspector Lestrade – John Dowsett
Lady Michelle – Lynne Mitchinson
Mrs. Hudson – Brezetta Thonger
Isobel Norris – Trudy Hathaway
Sarah (the maid) – to be decided

Many thanks to all who auditioned and helped in any way. The Directors are very pleased with their casts and looking forward to arranging/starting rehearsals once the November production is over.



The Adventures Of Mr Toad - directed by Mary Coyte

Spend a heart warming evening reacquainting yourself with the endearing characters of Mole, Ratty, Badger & of course Toad himself. The evil Chief Weasel & a multitude of woodland creatures will also be there acting, singing & dancing their way through the story.

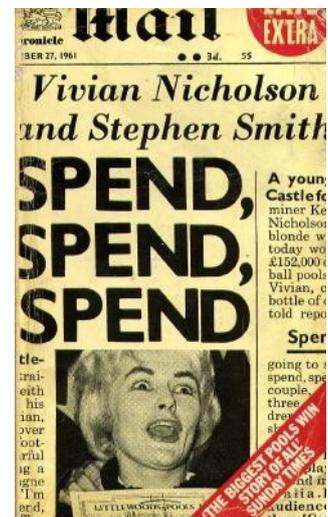
Farnham Junior Amateur Operatic Society
Frensham Heights Performing Arts Centre 30 Oct, 31 Oct, 01 Nov
Ticket details from www.faos.org.uk or 01256 704791

Spend, Spend, Spend

There was stiff competition for the major roles in *Spend, Spend, Spend* on Sunday 5 October at the Haslemere Hall (three people having auditioned on Friday 3 October who were not able to be present on the day itself). A fantastic total of 21 people put themselves through the 'horrible' process of auditioning and the panel actually had four (yes 4!!) men vying for the same role - a first for Grayshott I believe, at least for some considerable years! Immediately after the auditions, the panel spent a gruelling two hours debating the allocation of the various parts and the following (very strong) cast list is the result.

Viv	Sue Stuart-Smith
Young Viv	Alexandra Yates
Keith	Kevin Sampson
George	Richard White
Mother	Mary Coyte
Mrs Waterman	Teresa Marsh
Vicar	Peter Gardner
Stewardesses	Brezetta Thonger, Jessi McCluskey, Katie-Jane Bevan

Other parts will be played by Katie-Jane Bevan, Jennifer Charters, Lynn Creasey, Peter Gardner, Trudy Hathaway, June Hegarty, Shirley Jelliss, Jessi McCluskey, Teresa Marsh, Brezetta Thonger and Melanie Tyrrell.



Congratulations to all those who were successful and commiserations to those of you who were not. A personal thank you from me to everyone who auditioned and inevitably there are some of you who are extremely disappointed that we were not able to give you the part(s) which you wanted. There are still many small (and wonderful!) cameo roles to be cast, many of which can be doubled or trebled so please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to be considered for one or more of these or indeed if you would like to be part of the very busy 'chorus' - especially if you are male!! The first rehearsal is on Wednesday 26 November and takes place in St Luke's Church Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Tony

Were you at the *Spend, Spend, Spend* auditions? Did you lose a dangly silver earring shaped like a cat?

If so, Barbara Badger has it. Please contact her to arrange to have it returned to you.



Dates for your Diary

2008

21-25 October, Haslemere Hall	Haslemere Players's <i>Broadway Pirates</i>
30 Oct - 01 Nov, Frensham Heights	Junior FAOS's <i>Adventures of Mr. Toad</i>
10 November, Fox & Pelican	First Society Night
20-22 November, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>The Odd Couple</i>



2009

9-11 January, Haslemere Hall	Haslemere Thespian's <i>Jack & the Beanstalk</i>
15-17 January, Haslemere Hall	Haslemere Thespian's <i>Jack & the Beanstalk</i>
27-31 January, Farnham Maltings	FAOS's <i>High Society</i>
20-21 February, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>February One Act Play Evening</i>
22-25 April, Grayshott Village Hall	<i>Spend, Spend, Spend</i>

www.grayshottstagers.co.uk

THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS

Directory of Officers & Committee Members
2008-2009

<http://www.grayshottstagers.co.uk>

OFFICERS

Chairman	John Hilder	01428 751898
Vice Chairman	Shirley Jelliss	01428 607040
Hon. Treasurer	Stephen Penny	01428 606964
Hon. Secretary	Melanie Tyrrell	01420 22291

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Jennifer Charters	01428 605635
Mary Coyte	01428 722961
Pauleen Dowsett	01428 717796
June Hegarty	01428 713791
Lynne Mitchinson	01428 604589
John Preskett	01428 648969
Brezetta Thonger	01428 717033

All Officers and most Committee Members can be e-mailed, eg: stephen.penny@grayshottstagers.co.uk

SUBCOMMITTEE CONVENORS & AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Musical	Pauleen Dowsett
Play	Angie Hilder
Social	Brezetta Thonger
Publicity	Lynn Mitchinson
Shed	Stephen Penny
Wardrobe	Sylvia Boddington / Jan Ashwell
Costume Hire	Sylvia Boddington / Jan Ashwell
Make-up Custodian	Jennifer Charters
Costume Jewellery Custodians	Sylvia Boddington / Jan Ashwell
Wig Custodian	Pauleen Dowsett
Lighting & Props Custodian	Stephen Penny
Website	Tony Legat
NODA Liaison	John Hilder
GVHMC Liaison	Tony Legat / Stephen Penny
Newsletter	Alexandra Yates
Mailings	Tony Legat
Box Office	Peter Budd
Programme Compiler	Richard White
Hall Bookings	Peter Budd
Cast Photographs	Peter Sillick
Society Archives	Peter Budd

www.grayshottstagers.co.uk