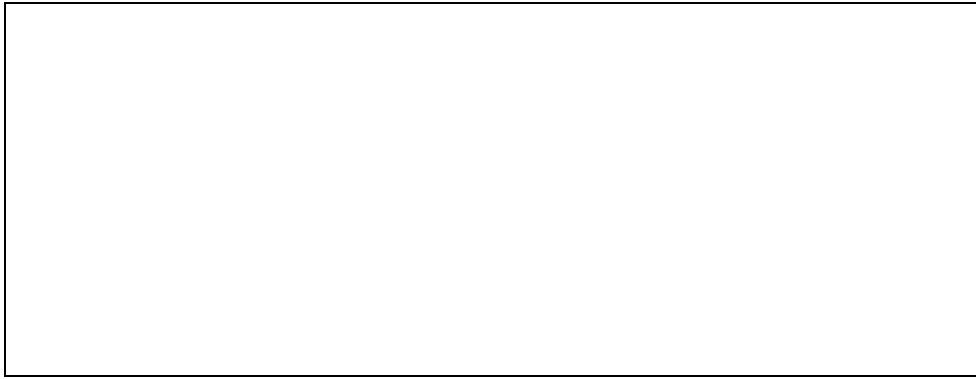


*Flora's
Heatherley*



11 - 26 Sept, 1998



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Flora's Heatherley

**A community play celebrating the centenary
of Flora Thompson's arrival in Grayshott,
in September 1898**

*written by Jo Smith
directed by Derek Watts*

*Flora Thompson, the author of "Lark Rise to Candleford,"
was in Grayshott from 1898-1901. This play brings to life the period
when she passed through her 'Sinister Street' days*

The action of the play takes place in various locations
in and around Grayshott, in the years 1899 and 1901.

The performance is continuous, with one interval of 15 minutes



Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to a great number of people whose kindness and help enabled me to research the local period of Flora's life. I hope I have not over-stepped my dramatic licence too much in translating their memories and information into a live stage performance.

John Owen ("Jo") Smith, Author/Producer

Supported By



Our thanks to Haslemere Museum for promoting this play, and once again allowing us to disrupt their life by using their facilities first as a rehearsal space and then as a theatre – their toleration and help is much appreciated.

Our thanks also to the following:—

Ticketing outlets:

- Haslemere Museum
- Grayshott Gallery in Crossways Road, Grayshott
- Headley Post Office in High Street, Headley
- Headley Down Post Office at Whittles Stores, Eddey's Lane, Headley Down

Headley Theatre Club, LAMPS, The Phoenix Arts Centre and Grayshott Stagers for assistance with costume, lighting and properties.

For your further entertainment – Dates for your diary

Grayshott Stagers **'Murdered to Death' – a comedy** **19-21 Nov 1998**
– Peter Budd (01428) 605464 or <<http://home.clara.net/legat/gs.html>>

LAMPS at Liphook **'Aladdin' – pantomime** **3-5 Dec 1998**
– Mary Coyte (01428) 722961

Headley Theatre Club **'Sleeping Beauty'. – pantomime** **15-23 Jan 1999**
– Jo Smith (01428) 712892 or <<http://www.headley1/demon.co.uk/htc/>>

The Phoenix Arts Centre, Bordon – see published programme of events
– Tel: (01420) 472664 or <<http://freespace.virgin.net/the.phoenix/>>

FLORA THOMPSON

Flora Jane Thompson was born (néé Timms) in 1876 at Juniper Hill on the Oxfordshire/Northamptonshire border. She started work in a neighbouring post office at the age of fourteen, thus beginning a long connection with the Post Office. At the age of twenty-one, she took a position as sub-office assistant to the postmaster in Grayshott, Hampshire, and was to stay in Hampshire, more or less, for the next thirty years of her life. On leaving Grayshott she moved to Bournemouth and in January 1903 married John Thompson. Their daughter Winifred (called Diana) was born in October of that year, and their first son Basil in 1909. In 1916, a month after Flora's favourite brother Edwin was killed in action in Belgium, John Thompson applied for the position of postmaster at Liphook.

The family thus moved back to within three miles of Grayshott, and Flora was able to renew her acquaintance with the area. Easier times followed the end of the First World War and, despite the arrival of a third child, Peter, in 1918, Flora began writing more industriously during this period than at any other time. Here she wrote her nature notes, *The Peverel Papers*, from her own observations during her long and frequent walks in the area, and here in 1926 the family bought a house of their own for the first time, having previously been forced to live in rented Post Office accommodation. But hardly had they settled in than John Thompson applied for promotion again, and moved to Dartmouth in November 1927. Flora stayed in her beloved Liphook for nearly a year more while the house was sold, and then followed, never to return to Hampshire.

During the next ten years she revised some of the notes she had written previously about her early childhood and developed them into the book *Lark Rise* which was to bring her fame late in life. The success of this book led to the publication of two more, and their eventual appearance as the trilogy *Lark Rise to Candleford*. She wrote a fourth book, *Heatherley*, a sequel following on from *Candleford Green* and telling of her time in Grayshott, but she chose not to publish it. Instead, she wrote *Still Glides the Stream*, which was to be her final publication.

Flora Thompson died at Brixham, in Devon, on 21st May 1947.

'Heatherley' — Flora Thompson's lost sequel to *Lark Rise to Candleford* in which she describes her time in Grayshott — will be republished later in 1998, having been out of print for several years. For further information, contact John Owen Smith at 12 Hillside Close, Headley Down, Hampshire GU35 8BL
Tel/Fax: (01428) 712892 — E-mail: wordsmith@headley1.demon.co.uk

For further information on Flora Thompson, visit the web-site at
www.headley1/demon.co.uk/flora/

Local History books written and published by John Owen Smith:—

One Monday in November (ISBN 1-873855-09-5) *the Selborne & Headley Workhouse Riots*

All Tanked Up (ISBN 1-873855-00-1) *the Canadian troops in Headley during World War 2*

A Balance of Trust (ISBN 1-873855-12-5) *Fifty years of history in and around Haslemere*

On the Trail of Flora Thompson — Beyond Candleford Green . . . (ISBN 1-873855-24-9)

CAST - in order of appearance

Walter Chapman, postmaster at Grayshott	Nick Webb
Emily Chapman, his wife	Jane Dawes
Flora Thompson (née Timms)	Mel White
Annie Symonds	Sarah Farnes
Mr Foreshaw	Stan Sharp
Sir Frederick Pollock	John McGregor
George Bernard Shaw	Noël Diacono
Marion	Madeleine Street
Bob Pikesley	Simon Coyte
Isobel	Theresa Sharland
Winifred Storr	Stephanie Hay (Haslemere: Carey Hay)
'Gee' Leuchars	Laura Knight
Arthur Conan Doyle	Stephen Quinlan
William Austen Sillick, reporter for the <i>Herald</i>	Peter Sillick
Ernest Chapman, brother of Walter	Derek Watts
Mrs Davidson, wife of the Bishop of Winchester	Penny McKay
Man in pub	Steve White
Richard Brownlow	Jeremy Cogman
Mrs Parkhurst	Janet Cockerill
Mavis Brownlow, sister of Richard	Pam Ridgwell
Telegram boys	Alex Grant, Gary Knight

The Grayshott Brass Band: Flora writes in *Heatherley* that, during the Boer War: "Every victory, even the smallest, was celebrated at home ... and the village brass band was called out to play patriotic airs." Sadly there is no longer a Grayshott Band in existence, so we have created a small one of our own for the purposes of this play. Let's hope we may have started something!

Musicians: Nick Dawes, trumpet; Jo Taw, baritone; Georgina Pearman, horn; Katy Walker, cornet

Production Team

Author/Producer	Jo Smith
Artistic Director	Derek Watts
Stage manager	Dil Williamson
Lighting/Sound	Steve White, Paul Kosinski
Wardrobe	Dil Williamson, Maureen Parmenter & helpers
Properties	Penny McKay & helpers
Research/Publicity/Programme	Jo Smith
Front of House	Carol Hawkins & helpers
Cast Photographs	Angus McKay

– and thanks to all those others who have helped with this production in any way.

SCENES OF THE PLAY

Act 1 - 1899

- Scene 1: Inside the Chapman's accommodation at Grayshott Post Office
- Scene 2: In Grayshott Post Office, next morning
- Scene 3: At the site of the proposed Refreshment House, Grayshott
- Scene 4: In Grayshott Post Office, some weeks later
- Scene 5: On Ludshott Common, later that day
- Scene 6: A Sunday afternoon in Crossways Road, Grayshott
- Scene 7: In Grayshott Post Office, a few days later
- Scene 8: Inside the Chapman's accommodation at Grayshott Post Office, that night
- Scene 9: In Grayshott Post Office, a few days later
- Scene 10: In Crossways Road, Grayshott, soon after
- Scene 11: In Mr Foreshaw's House, next Sunday afternoon
- Scene 12: In Crossways Road, Grayshott, a Sunday afternoon some weeks later
- Scene 13: The opening of the Fox & Pelican, Grayshott
- Scene 14: In Grayshott Post Office, a few days later

— INTERVAL —

Act 2 - 1901

- Scene 15: In Grayshott Post Office
- Scene 16: In the Chapman's accommodation at Grayshott Post Office
- Scene 17: At Flora's lodgings with Mrs Parkhurst
- Scene 18: Sir Frederick Pollock meets with Conan Doyle
- Scene 19: In Grayshott Post Office soon after
- Scene 20: On Ludshott Common soon after
- Scene 21: In Crossways Road, Grayshott
- Scene 22: Mrs Parkhurst's house, some weeks later
- Scene 23: In Grayshott Post Office, some time later
- Scene 24: In Crossways Road, immediately after
- Scene 25: In Grayshott Post Office, at the same time
- Scene 26: In Crossways Road, Grayshott, some time later
- Scene 27: By the new Hindhead Telegraph Office
- Scene 28: Mrs Parkhurst's house, some days later
- Scene 29: In Grayshott Post Office, a few days later
- Scene 30: Farewells in Grayshott
- Scene 31: Inside the Chapman's accommodation at Grayshott Post Office
- Scene 32: Epilogue and Flora's Wedding

CAST NOTES

Janet Cockerill [*Mrs Parkhurst*] since returning to her favourite hobby after retiring from the family shoe business, has had a variety of parts with the Highbury Players and Townswomen's Guild, and is a member of Haslemere Thespians. She appeared in 'A Balance of Trust,' and comes back to the part of *Mrs Parkhurst* having played her in 'Flora's Peverel'.

Jeremy Cogman [*Richard*] appeared as the unsavoury *Geoffrey* in 'The Lion in Winter' for Bunbury Theatre Co, as the *Genie* in 'Aladdin' for O.D.S. in Fleet, and directed 'Suddenly at Home' for Bunbury last year. Played *Sgt Mumford* in 'Flora's Peverel'.

Simon Coyte [*Bob Pikesley*] is the present chairman of Liphook Amateur Productions (LAMPS), and appeared as *Sir Frederick Pollock* in 'A Balance of Trust' and as *Harry Envis* in 'Flora's Peverel'.

Jane Dawes [*Emily Chapman*] is a recent arrival at Headley Theatre Club, and plays the part of Emily before tackling the even greater task of producing this year's Headley pantomime!

Noël Diacono [*George Bernard Shaw*] played Sir Robert Hunter in 'A Balance of Trust' and makes a welcome return here as another eminent character.

Sarah Farnes [*Annie Symonds*] is a member of Bunbury Theatre Co and was seen recently in their 'Suddenly at Home' playing the sinister foreign au-pair *Ruth*.

Alexander Grant [*Telegram Boy*] played *Young Peter Thompson* in 'Flora's Peverel' last year, and was in last year's LAMPS production of 'Cinderella'. His hobbies include football, roller-blading and horse riding.

John McGregor [*Sir Frederick Pollock*] has played a number of roles for Headley Theatre Club, including *Squire Aldworthy* in 'Tom Jones,' the *Duke of York* in 'Humpty Dumpty' and, memorably, the Dame role in 'Dick Whittington.' He took two parts in both 'A Balance of Trust' and in 'Flora's Peverel,' but has just the one to tackle this time.

Carey Hay [*'Winifred' Storr-at Haslemere*] is standing in, bravely and successfully, for his sister Stephanie, who cannot be present at the Haslemere performances.

Stephanie Hay [*Winifred Storr*] is an award-winning young playwright herself, but shows her talents as an actress in this production.

Gary Knight [*Telegram Boy*] has performed in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and 'Cinderella'. His hobbies are football and swimming.

Laura Knight [*'Gee' Leuchars*] is making her first appearance here in one of our community plays.

Penny McKay [*Mrs Davidson*] is a member of Headley Theatre Club where she has played a range of parts. She appeared as Sir Robert Hunter's wife *Ellen* in 'A Balance of Trust'.

Stephen Quinlan [*Conan Doyle*] made the mistake of walking into a rehearsal for a Music Hall and came away with a part in this play – it's tough being a man when the theatrical press-gang is out! Welcome, Stephen.

CAST NOTES (continued)

Pam Ridgwell [*Mavis*] is a teacher at Stoughton Grange juniors in Guildford. She has taken part in a number of productions for Bunbury Theatre Co, Alton College and Rolle College, and played *Diana* in 'Flora's Peverel.'

Theresa Sharland [*Isobel*] appeared in 'A Balance of Trust' and as *Elsie Parkhurst* in 'Flora's Peverel.' She enjoys singing and is a member of LAMPS where she has appeared in 'Annie', 'The Lion the Witch & the Wardrobe', and 'A Dragon for Dinner'. She also played a fine *Ugly Sister* in last year's 'Cinderella,' and was in the recent LAMPS production of 'The Sound of Music'.

Stan Sharp [*Mr Foreshaw*] a member of Headley Theatre Club, has been active in many different kinds of amateur entertainment and in a variety of places over the years. Has played parts in both 'A Balance of Trust' and 'Flora's Peverel.'

Peter Sillick [*William Sillick*] has been given the rare opportunity here, literally, to be his own grandfather! He is a member of Haslemere Players, and is often seen at local shows wielding a camera – obviously the reporting instinct dies hard – but this time he's on the other side of the lens.

Jo Smith [*Author / Producer*] is a local historian and author. This is the fourth of his historical community plays to be produced locally, the others being 'This Bloody Crew' (1993); 'A Balance of Trust' (1995); and 'Flora's Peverel' (1997).

Madeleine Street [*Marion*] is a member of LAMPS and teamed up with Theresa Sharland to make a memorable *Ugly Sister* in last year's 'Cinderella'.

Derek Watts [*Artistic Director / Ernest Chapman*] is a member of Bunbury Theatre Co and runs the weekly Monday evening arts magazine *Cornucopia* on Wey Valley radio. He was Artistic Director of 'A Balance of Trust' and 'Flora's Peverel,' and was once more persuaded to do the job again!

Nick Webb [*Walter Chapman*] is a long-serving member of Headley Theatre Club, and its current chairman. He has played many and varied roles both on and off the stage, and was Stage Manager for 'A Balance of Trust.' He also doubled that role with the *Corporal* in 'Flora's Peverel.'

Mel White [*Flora*] has been a member of Headley Theatre Club for over twelve years, where she has played various roles, both front and back stage. She particularly enjoys singing in folk clubs and musical shows. Previous roles have included the title role in 'Sinbad the Sailor,' *Louie Woods* in 'Flora's Peverel,' and (predictably) the young *Flora* in 'A Balance of Trust'.

Steve White [*Lighting / Man in Pub*] also a member of Headley Theatre Club, is a man of many talents, knowing about lights and most things electrical as well as turning in a stirring performance on the range of whistles which he hauls into folk club sessions. He also acts.

Dil Williamson [*Stage Manager*] is another Headley Theatre Club member, and as often to be found on the boards as behind the scenes.

Historical Calendar of Events

- 1859 London to Portsmouth Railway opens through Haslemere and Liphook
- 1861 Edward I'Anson buys Grayshott Park Estate and builds *Heather Lodge* – first new development in Grayshott
- 1867 Mar: Tennyson rents Grayshott Farm (now Grayshott Hall) for about a year while *Aldworth* is built
- 1876 **Dec 5: Flora Jane Timms born in Juniper Hill, Oxfordshire [Lark Rise]**
- 1878 Sep 29: Sarah Annie Symonds [*Alma Stedman*] born in Liscard, Cheshire
- 1884 Professor John Tyndall builds a house at Hindhead, encouraging other 'eminent men' to follow
- 1892 Walter Chapman [*Mr Hertford*] takes Grayshott post office
Nov: Annie Symonds moves from Cheshire, aged 13
- 1896 Arthur Conan Doyle moves to Hindhead for his wife's health
- 1897 Flora leaves Fringford, (after the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, June 22) to take temporary jobs elsewhere
October: Arthur Conan Doyle moves into *Undershaw*
- 1898 Flora sees her first moving film in Halstead, Essex
June: George Bernard Shaw (GBS) spends his honeymoon at *Pitfold House*, Hindhead
Jul: Foundation stone laid of St Luke's church, Grayshott
-
- 1898 Sept: Flora arrives in Grayshott, aged 21, and lodges with the Chapmans
- 1898 Nov: Dr Lyndon notes Walter Chapman made accusations of his wife's immorality at this time
Nov: GBS rents *Blen Cathra* (now St Edmund's School), Hindhead
- 1899 Jan 28: GBS delivers a 'vigorous oration' at a Peace Meeting in Hindhead Congregational Hall – Conan Doyle in the chair also spoke.
Mar: Flora moves lodgings away from Grayshott post office
August: GBS leaves the district
Aug 23: *Fox & Pelican* opens in Grayshott – Flora orders her 'immense ninepenny dinners' from it
Flora starts seeing 'Mr Foreshaw' about this time?
Oct 10: Boer War begins
Edwin enlists for Boer War – meets Flora on Aldershot railway station
- 1900 Jan 6: Boers attack Ladysmith
May 17: Mafeking relieved
Aug 10: John Volckman [*Mr Foreshaw?*] dies at Grayshott, aged 63 – buried in Headley churchyard
Sep: Hindhead telegraph facility opens
Oct 17: St Luke's church, Grayshott, consecrated
- 1901 Jan 22: Queen Victoria dies
May/Jun?: 'Mrs Parkhurst' gives birth to 'Elsie'?
– latest date for Flora leaving Grayshott

- 1901 Jul 29: Walter Chapman murders his wife Emily at Grayshott and is committed to Broadmoor
- 1903 Jan 7: Flora marries John Thompson at St Mary's, Twickenham
Thompsons make home in Winton, a suburb of Bournemouth
- 1906 Mar 15: All five of Walter Chapman's children re-baptised at St Luke's, Grayshott
- 1910 Jan 12: Annie Symonds marries Harold Oliver Chapman (nephew of Walter) at St Luke's, Grayshott
- 1911 Feb: Flora wins competition in 'The Ladies Companion' – essay on Jane Austen
July: Flora wins again for an essay on Shakespeare's heroines
- 1912 Short story ('The Toft Cup') published in 'The Ladies Companion' – Flora's first payment
Flora wins prize for writing a crit. on Dr Ronald Macfie's ode on the sinking of the *Titanic*
Macfie visits Flora, and starts a literary correspondence
- 1913 Flora writes 'The Leper' and sells it to 'The Literary Monthly'
- 1916 Apr: Flora's brother Edwin killed in action in Belgium
May 30: Vacancy for postmaster at Liphook advertised
Aug: Thompson family moves from Bournemouth to Liphook
- 1918 Oct 19: Peter Redmond Thompson born in Liphook
Nov 11: Armistice - end of First World War
- 1919 Flora takes a correspondence course in the *Daily News*
- 1920 Flora wrote six stories for *The Catholic Fireside*
- 1921 Flora writes 'Out of Doors' nature articles (set in the New Forest)
for *The Catholic Fireside*
Book of Flora's poems published: *Bog Myrtle & Peat* – her first publicity
– pictured at her typewriter in newspapers
Country bus services start in Liphook
- 1922 Flora begins writing her 'Peverel Papers' nature notes (set mainly around Liphook) for *The Catholic Fireside*
Sept: Basil Thompson starts at Churchers College (age 12)
- 1923 Peter Thompson starts school (age 5)
- 1923-5 Flora writes a 'Fireside Reading Circle' article and a 'Peverel Paper' each month, plus setting and judging her competitions and dealing with volumes of correspondence
- 1925 Flora helps to write the *Guide to Liphook*
Ends the 'Fireside Reading Circle' and starts a postal writers group 'The Peverel Society' with Mildred Humble-Smith
- 1926 Feb: Basil Thompson and Cecil Cluer (engaged to Diana) go out to Queensland, Australia
Thompsons buy *Woolmer Gate* at Griggs Green
- 1927 July 6: Vacancy for postmaster at Dartmouth advertised
Aug 3: Appointment of John Thompson to Dartmouth recorded

- 1927 Sep 9: *Woolmer Gate* put on the market
 Nov: John Thompson moves to Dartmouth – Flora, Diana & Peter stay behind in Griggs Green
- 1928 Autumn: Thompsons move from Griggs Green
-
- 1935 John Thompson retires
- 1936 Mar 30: “Richard Brownlow” retires (?)
 Flora (aged 60) sends short story ‘The Tail-less Fox’ to *The Lady* magazine – published in December
- 1937 Apr: ‘Old Queenie’ published in *The Lady*
 Aug: ‘An Oxfordshire Hamlet in the Eighties’ published in *The National Review* – became the start of ‘Lark Rise’
 Aug: Basil Thompson marries Dora in America
- 1938 May: ‘May Day in the Eighties’ published in *The National Review*
 ‘Lark Rise’ accepted by the Oxford University Press
- 1939 Mar: ‘Lark Rise’ published
 Flora starts writing ‘Over to Candleford’
- 1940 Thompsons move from Dartmouth to Brixham
- 1941 Feb: Proofs of ‘Over to Candleford’ ready
 Sept: Peter Thompson lost at sea, aged 22
 ‘Peverel Society’ disbanded
- 1942 Flora writes ‘Candleford Green’
- 1943 Jan: ‘Candleford Green’ published
- 1944 Flora writes ‘Heatherley’
- 1945 Apr: Trilogy of ‘Lark Rise to Candleford’ published
 Flora starts writing ‘Still Glides the Stream’
- 1946 Aug: ‘Still Glides the Stream’ completed
- 1947 May 21: Flora dies in bed in the evening, aged 70
- 1948 Jul 13: John Thompson dies, aged 74
 ‘Still Glides the Stream’ published – Diana literary executor
- 1966 Diana dies, aged 63
 Flora's papers sent to the University of Texas
- 1970 Anne Mallinson discovers the East Hampshire connection
- 1976 Centenary of Flora’s birth – literary lunch in the ‘Anchor’ at Liphook
- 1978 Plaque put on house next to old post office in Liphook
- 1979 ‘A Country Calendar’, an extended biographical essay by Margaret Lane, published including ‘Heatherley’ and selections from ‘The Peverel Papers’
- 1981 Sculptured bust of Flora by Philip Jackson erected outside sorting office in Liphook (subsequently moved into the Library in 1995)
- 1997 50th anniversary of Flora’s death
 ‘Flora’s Peverel’ performed in East Hampshire
- 1998 Centenary of Flora’s arrival in Grayshott

