

Registered Charity No 1105153  
Affiliated to the National  
Operatic & Dramatic Association  
and Kent Drama Association

## The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Newsletter

### Inside this issue:

Kiss Me Kate—read through & auditions	2
Barn Dance	2
Quiz Night Review	2
Not Strictly Shakespeare Review	3
What's On	4

### New Members

#### Welcome to:

Harry McLennan and Sebastian Williams (Juniors) and Guy Fillmore (Full Member)

### News from old CODS

**Nick Tassell** was a Junior member during the early to mid nineties. He recalls his days with CODS very fondly and sends his best wishes. Particularly to the cast and crew of "Noises Off". Nick now lives in Kingston Upon Thames, has been married and has a son, Joseph, who is nearly 5.

**Geoffrey Grinstead** will be remembered by many of you. He now lives near Rye and is 84! Unfortunately, he and Barbara do not enjoy the best of health, but manage to get out and about with the help of a friend with a car! Geoffrey remembers all his friends in CODS and is still very proud to have been associated with the Society for so many years.

# Codswallop!

April 2010

## SAVE OUR CHILDREN!



### CODS are in the difficult position of possibly not being able to include children in our future shows.

It is law that the children be chaperoned during dress rehearsals and runs of shows, but unfortunately we are not able to find enough people willing to fulfil this role.

Recently, Lindley Players were inspected by their local council during one of their shows and were threatened with having to be closed down due to inadequate chaperoning. We, obviously, do not want this to happen to us but without sufficient, police checked, chaperones we are in danger of being in the same situation.

It would be a great shame to have to exclude children from our shows. We are

fortunate to have nearly thirty younger members, many of whom have been committed members for a number of years. Their talents are ever growing and they are our future...

We ask you to consider becoming a chaperone and I would like to arrange an informal meeting where I can explain what this role involves, from police checking to 'on the job!' (It would be similar to helping out front of house, but instead of selling programmes you would be overseeing children busily playing on their Nintendo's!)

Please email or 'phone me if you are interested in finding out more—with no obligation! If you know of anyone suitable from outside of the society you could bring them along too!

Thank you in anticipation—Charlotte.

[charlottefillmore@hotmail.com](mailto:charlottefillmore@hotmail.com)

01580 766476



### The Chair's back

Thanks to all who attended the AGM and the support you have given to the committee. Welcome onto the committee to James Hanaway, who has agreed to replace Jo Reader—thanks Jo for your valuable contributions over the last year.

#### A few small items to note:

Angela is keen to have another person on the show selection committee; if you are interested please contact her on 712175.

John has asked me to make you aware that our insurance policy does not cover over-80s for personal accident; please, check your own insurance if you are concerned.

A small HSE (safety) reminder; if you have

an accident or spot a potential hazard during a production **you must inform the stage manager** to ensure that the necessary actions are carried out and the admin is done; this is essential for our insurance and legal obligations.

Finally, I know it is tempting, but please do not use CODS e-mail distribution lists for personal items; it may cause us legal problems with Data Protection.

All the best for a continuing successful anniversary year; come along to the 'Kiss me Kate' sing through and buy your tickets for the Barn Dance (see next page for more details)

*Glyn*

**SING THROUGH AND AUDITIONS**

**Kiss Me Kate**

Music and lyrics by Cole Porter  
By arrangement with Musicscope.

**Sing Through – 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Help Night – 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Auditions – 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Venue – Check the website for details or 'phone  
Annie on 01580 211749

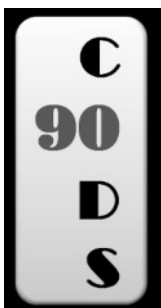
[www.cranbrookods.org](http://www.cranbrookods.org)

CODS  
90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Barn Dance**

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 7.30-11pm
- Sissinghurst Field
- ONLY £10 including food
- Live band 'Rattle the Boards'
- Marquee, Hay Bales, Dancing, Laughs ...

**Tickets from Marian Cumberland**  
**01580 715580**



**Quiz Fizz!**

ENTHUSIASM,  
EXCITEMENT,  
CONFUSION, TENSION,  
ANTICIPATION...

How did your team respond?

Those who attended the very successful quiz night in February were sure to have experienced one or more of the above emotions.



Jack Dale, ably assisted by Stella, complied and fronted an affable, yet taxing evening of questions

including testing contestants' knowledge of, amongst others, musicals, transport, TV advert themes and food. Marion and her merry bunch of helpers provided a



delicious ploughman's supper to fuel the brains of the eager participants. This sustenance, no doubt, was enhanced by the 'al fresco' additions of alcohol and nibbles supplied by individual teams.

Glyn's technological ability enabled all players to keep up with their particular scores with his wide screen projection of increasing totals.

The evening culminated with liquid prizes



to the winning team and commiseration as well as reward to the losing team.

This enjoyable event was a huge success, not only due to the enjoyment had by those who attended, but because it raised over £300 for CODS' funds.



Thank you to Jack for devising such an enjoyable quiz and to Marion for working so hard to secure the venue and ensuring we were well fed!

If you were not able to attend this year's quiz, make sure you note the date of the next one in your diaries—we intend to make it an annual occasion!

Charlotte—Event Correspondent!



## NOT STRICTLY SHAKESPEARE

### Facts and Firsts...

#### *This is the first time CODS has performed Shakespeare*

- The show involved an amazing 36 items; drama, songs, sketches and dances performed by 44 people and a dog!
- The age span from youngest to oldest performer was over 60 years!
- Andy Chesters and Jo Reader wrote 'King Lear in 5 Minutes' and 'Rough Magic' specifically for this production
- 'Such Sweet Thunder', 'This must be Love' and 'Put out the Light' were all arranged by Glyn for the show
- Our youngest band member, Patrick, is only 13
- Max – only 7 – did a solo act
- Andrew White stage managed and acted as well as having his singing and dancing debuts for CODS
- Lydia, although only ten, has been performing with CODS for eight years
- Sarah Hutchings built the globe theatre out of cake for the cast
- Charlotte had her first go at choreography with PC or not PC
- 11 people performed in a tap dancing routine- only 3 of whom have ever had lessons!
- The show was attended by Jeremy Stockwell—a TV personality whose family have been involved with CODS

### A few words from Maurice:

No, it's not once more into the breach dear friends, but once more many thanks dear friends. Yes indeed, many thanks to the few who turned up to clean up the theatre following our Shakey production. There weren't many, but there was enough, so those of you who couldn't get out of bed after Annie and Andy's last night party don't need to feel too bad about it!

Of the ladies there was Marian who came in to clean up the foyer, Marilyn who tidied up the costumes and brought in all the necessities for the reviving cup of coffee, and Peggy who just can't keep away from the place. Apart from them there was Brenda, Jo R and Jo L who did a sterling job of cleaning the dressing rooms and auditorium. Thank you so much, ladies.

The muscle men were provided by Derek, Alan, James H, Andrew, Glyn and especially Gavin who not only worked half way through the night to dismantle his techy stuff, but was also the on site beaverer away an hour before anyone else. It's blokes like this that the society owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for without them the shows would simply not go on! Ian came in to look after his beloved props and Ivor the engine, together with Gavin yet again, provided transport to take everything back up to Flishinghurst. Tony and Peter came in to help Marian whilst I put the mirrors to bed, replaced the seating with Jo's help and generally supervised before locking everything up and going home.

A million thanks again one and all.

### However, spare a thought for Demelza....

We should rightly celebrate the supreme effort it took to put on this production and the enjoyment of all involved.

But we did not have full houses and will not have raised as much for our chosen charity as we would have hoped. Have you any ideas how can we attract more people to see our productions?



**Demelza**  
Hospice Care for Children

