

# CODSWALLOP!

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Bi-Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2017

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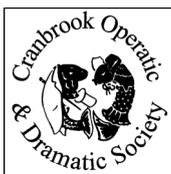
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**““WHEN ONE WITH HONEYED WORDS BUT EVIL MIND  
PERSUADES THE MOB, GREAT WOES BEFALL THE STATE”  
— EURIPIDES, ORESTES**

## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMEN

Hi Folks,

A long awaited newsletter this time, but well worth it I hope for all the great things that have happened since the last one!



Christmas saw us put on some Singalong with the movies events, which although could have been better attended, were enjoyed tremendously by all who came and managed to raise a good sum of money for the society in the process. Speaking of fundraising it was lovely to see some friends old and new at our London Beach Hotel, Reunion Lunch and just by munching on a delicious Sunday Lunch & enjoying good company and conversation, we managed to raise £1000 for the society!

And of course we have just run a successful play in Alan Ayckbourn's "A Chorus of Disapproval" with great audiences and fantastic reviews and again another profit coming to the society! Well done to all involved.

Moving on I have handed over the Chair to the well qualified and excellent individual that is Guy Fillmore, It's been a fun roller-coaster over the last two years! and I am sure that in his safe hands and with the backing of the newly elected committee and all you members that we will see the society go on to strengthen in numbers of people and pounds!

There's so much to look forward to this year, not least our up-coming shows – Scrooge the Musical and Peter Panto! But look out for some exciting social and fundraising opportunities as well...

I will leave my successor and all of you with some wisdom from Douglas Adams, a man whose advice has served me well in everything I have done in my life...

"There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another theory which states that this has already happened."

## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMEN

Also...

"A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools."

And...

"It is a mistake to think you can solve any major problems just with potatoes."

Lastly...

"42"

Cheers, James



Dear fellow members of CODS

It was great to see so many of you at the AGM last month and to witness such a strong interest in the future of our society.

I consider it an honour to have been asked to take on the role of Chairman and a great responsibility following on from ninety seven years of the society. It is evident that we have many of the right assets in the society combined with evident enthusiasm and now I look forward to bringing my mix to the business and pleasure of CODS.

A warm welcome to Charlotte Maughan-Jones and Jo Levett who have joined the Executive Committee as Social Secretary and Committee Member respectively. I look forward to their forthright contributions and strong organising abilities.

I take over as Chairman from James Hanaway in the legacy of the numerous productions of all challenges, hues and successes... A Streetcar Named Desire, War Shorts, High Society, Beauty and the Beast, The Wind in the Willows, Short Letters, The Producers, Cards on the Table, Silly Shorts, Gypsy, Sing-along-a-film, A Chorus of Disapproval plus CODS and Chips, Quiz Night and the Reunion Lunch... an impressive list of memories.

Along with many societies, we face the challenge of the modern world. Our

## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMEN

legacy in CODS dates back to seven years before BBC wireless was awarded its Royal Charter, when it co-exist with the phonograph cylinder and had seven years of performances before The Jazz Singer was screened.

Coming up to date, there are hundreds of television channels available, instant gratification from YouTube which (I understand) can be watched on your smartphone... videogames and social media. How can we compete?

Comics have largely disappeared and the board game is rarely played (no more playing that game of Monopoly until past midnight, so it's not all bad).

But sport has a massive following, cycling is growing, football is a mega phenomenon, the Olympics were fantastic (again). So the imagination can be captured... and a sense of belonging from supporting your favourite team or personality.

Imagine combining a group of people that you don't just follow as a supporter but one in which you can join and learn new skills, grow in confidence, contribute, create new friends... well that is your CODS.

Our possible range of productions has broadened widely but can never go through a digital revolution like so many other forms of media. We have to maintain our appeal in our ever-changing world of near-instant gratification and think of how we can maintain and develop the appeal of our craft.

We have succeeded with new material and challenging productions. Not all have been successful but that we have learned what works, what doesn't and what we can build upon for our future.

Imagine being involved in a team with a common purpose with a sense of fun and bucket loads of professionalism that meets at least a couple of times a week during the run up to productions and which, after it is all over, leaves everyone with great memories and life lessons that could not be found anywhere else.

When I have seen the cast and crew after productions, without exception the young and old, the principals and the chorus, the singers and dancers and actors, the lighting and sound, the set builders and props managers, the

## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMEN

stage crew and the back-stage contributors all have grins of contentment that don't disappear if the battery has run flat. (Apologies for not mentioning all the others that make up a team of 50+ that contribute to a production.)

Coming up we have great opportunities for everyone to become involved and hopefully large and enthusiastic audiences to cheer us along the way.

Please do become actively involved in your great local society and help us deliver unforgettable productions... over the next eighteen months we hope to welcome you, in any way you can, to Scrooge the Musical, Peter Panto, "People" by Alan Bennett, Jeeves & Wooster: Perfect Nonsense, Guys and Dolls.

Finally, a big "thank you" to everyone who came to Flishinghurst on an increasingly damp Saturday the other week to help with cleaning, inventorying, organising, rationalising, burning, salvaging (including a box of rubber chickens) and clearing the site... from young Raife to not-quite-so-young Maurice, Glyn (and his great array of tools), Ruth, Rita (and her portaloo), James, Annie, Lisa, Lee, Laura, Alison, Robin, Peter, Rachel, Sarah, Henry and Richard (who couldn't come on Saturday and so visited on Friday to blitz the undergrowth).

Best wishes

Guy

# SCROOGE THE MUSICAL

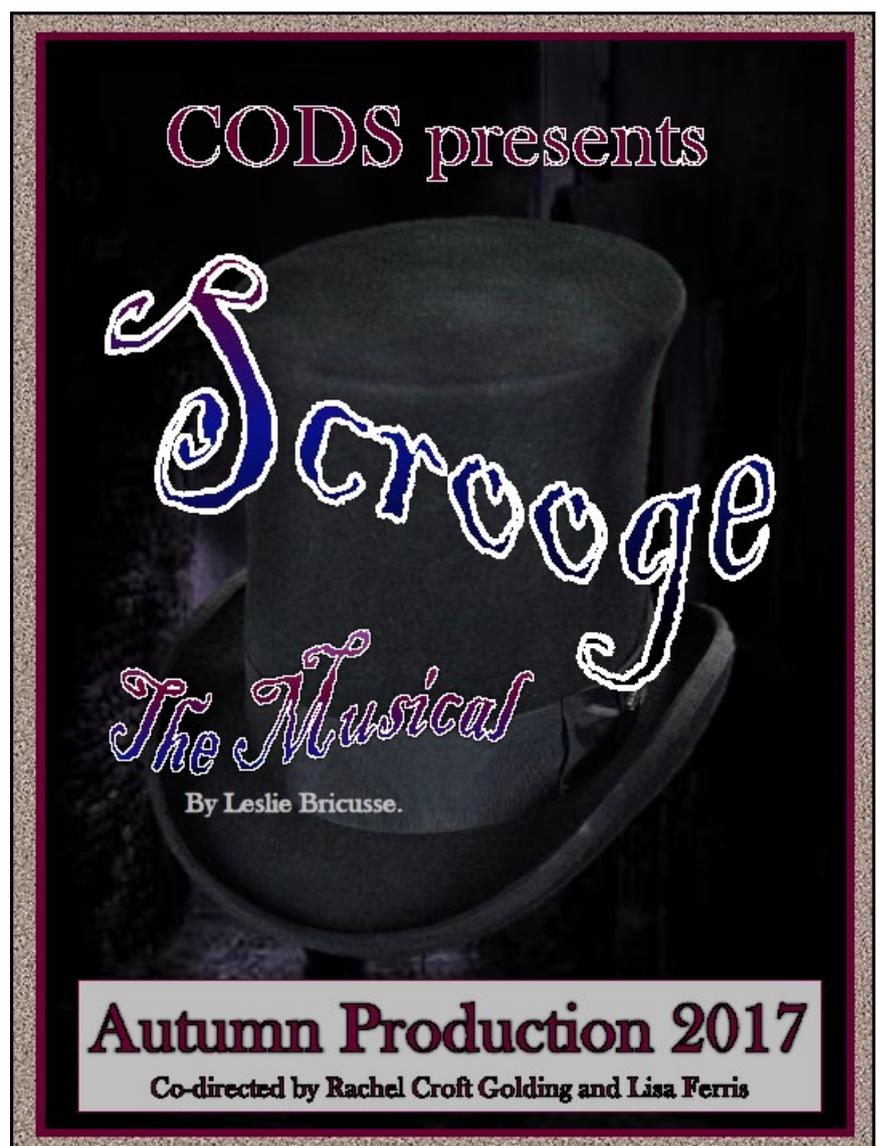
Scrooge the Musical is a 1992 stage musical with book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse.

It's score and book are closely adapted from the music and screen play of the 1970 musical film 'Scrooge' starring Albert Finney and 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.

Bricusse was nominated for an academy award for the song score he wrote for the film. Most of these songs were carried over to the musical although there are six new songs not featured in the original film.

Like the film, the musical closely follows the plot of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.

Within this, the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a profound experience of redemption over the course of a Christmas Eve night after being visited by the ghost of his former partner Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas past, Christmas present and Christmas future.



# SCROOGE THE MUSICAL

Scrooge - Andy Fairweather  
Bob Cratchit - Glyn Roberts  
Ethel Cratchit - Charlotte Fillmore  
Tiny Tim - Raife Withey-Harrison  
Charlie Jenkins - Henry Fillmore  
Tom Jenkins - James Hanaway  
Mr Fezziwig - John Wright  
Mrs Fezziwig - Wendy Thomas  
Isabel - Katie Kember  
Young Scrooge - Mark Jeffery  
Jacob Marley - Peter Ashby  
Ghost of Christmas past - Charlotte Maughan Jones  
Ghost of Christmas Present - Jez Druce  
Ghost of Christmas yet to come - Colin Barnes  
Mary - Laura Larkin  
Helen - Vix King

All auditionees have been cast including:

Kaz Kember, Angela Wright, Debbie Knight, Val King, Geoff King, Roy Barclay, Sarah Hutchings, Heather Kemeys, Michaela Adams, Shirley Staddon, Emma Hancock.

Children

Caitlin Mathieson, Juniper Thomas-Davies, Cedar Thomas-Davies, Keira Ashton, Rosie-May Barker, Willow Golding, William Stoneham, Lilirose Hancock, Piers Hancock

They will all have named parts (some cameos / parts have already been given out and the rest will be given during rehearsals)

Any questions - please shout

Many thanks

R & L

# PETER PANTO

A poster for the CODS Pantomime 'Peter Pan' in December 2017. The background is a textured, light green color. At the top, the text 'CODS Pantomime December 2017' is written in a bold, black, serif font. Below this, the title 'PETER PANTO' is written in a large, ornate, black, serif font. Underneath the title, it says 'by Suzan Holder' in a smaller, black, serif font. Further down, it says 'Adapted From J.M. Barrie's Story 'Peter Pan'' in an italicized, black, serif font. The bottom section of the poster, separated by a horizontal line, contains the performance dates and times: 'Friday 29th December 5.30pm', 'Saturday 30th December 2.30pm & 7.30pm', and 'Sunday 31st December 2.30pm'. The poster is framed by a thick, black border. Silhouettes of Peter Pan flying, a large full moon, and a city skyline with a clock tower are also visible in the background.

**CODS Pantomime  
December 2017**

# PETER PANTO

by Suzan Holder

*Adapted From J.M. Barrie's Story  
'Peter Pan'*

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm & 7.30pm  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2.30pm**

# PETER PANTO

The information night for our Christmas Pantomime is on Thursday 6th July and the auditions on Monday 10th July, timings tbc.

## **Characters**

There are six male, seven female and nine non-gender specific roles, plus a flexible number of Indians and Pirates to suit production, minimum recommended 5 Indians and 4 Pirates. Dancers are flexible in number, minimum recommended 4.

Peter Pan - Male/female. Peter is the leader of the Lost Boys and is confident and very sure of himself, most of the time. He is lively and fun, brave and fearless and loves fighting pirates and leading his gang in adventure and imaginary games. Sometimes with Wendy and Tinkerbell he shows that he is vulnerable and does need a mother, even though he says he doesn't.

Tinkerbell - Female. Tink is Peter Pan's fairy and has a feisty attitude. She hates Wendy as soon as she meets her, and gets jealous of anyone who gets close to Peter. She is bossy and not how most people imagine a fairy to be, she can be a bit rude and cheeky and very unladylike!

Wendy - Female. Wendy is the eldest of the Darling children and acts more grown up than she really is. From the start of the story she is getting fed up with having to be the sensible one all the time and decides to go with Peter to Neverland because she decides she wants to have adventures. She wants to enjoy being young and carefree before having to grow up and be a lady. She has quite a crush on Peter and is naturally quite bossy although always eager to please. She loves the idea of making friends with fairies and mermaids, but finds out they don't like her as much as she likes them.

John - Male. John is the eldest of the Darling boys. He likes to act like a big man and wears a top hat to be more like his father. Wendy often gets on his nerves and he thinks Peter is a complete hero and wants to be just like him. He loves joining in adventures with the Lost Boys and the Pirates but Indians are his favourite.

Michael - Male. Michael is the baby of the Darling family and takes his teddy bear with him to Neverland. He's never quite sure what is going on and soon thinks Wendy is his real mother. He sometimes hides behind John when they meet up with Indians and Pirates although Pirates are his favourites.

## PETER PANTO

Mr Darling/Great Big Little Panther - Male. Mr Darling is meant to be the head of the house but never quite seems to be able to get the hang of being in charge. He is often too busy to play with his children and gets very annoyed with Nana. During the story he appears in disguise as the Indian Chief, Great Big Little Panther, Tiger Lily's father. By the end of the story he has realised he must spend more time with his children and play more games with them.

Mrs Darling/Morning Cloud - Female. Mrs Darling is an anxious woman who tries to keep everyone happy. She fusses over the children and tries to keep her husband from losing his temper. When she hears about Peter Pan visiting the nursery she gets very worried and obviously remembers something about meeting a boy like Peter when she was a girl. During the show she appears in disguise as Indian squaw Morning Cloud, Tiger Lily's mother. At the end of the story she is delighted her children have returned home and welcomes the Lost Boys too.

Nana - Female, played by a Dancer. Nana only appears in the opening scene. The character wears a full, fluffy dog costume and performs a dance routine with John and Michael. Nana has no lines but needs to act out her part with good dog acting. This part would suit one of the dancers as an extra role as a talent for gymnastics is required.

Shadow - Female, a small role so could be doubled up to also play a Pirate, an Indian or a Dancer. Shadow only appears in one scene, in the nursery where Tinkerbell finds Peter Pan's Shadow and gets them back together. Shadow is dressed in a dark version of Peter's costume and needs to mirror Peter's moves. They sing a song and dance routine together.

Captain Hook - Male. Captain Hook is a mean and evil pirate. He is determined to capture Peter Pan and will be dastardly and devious in his attempt to defeat Peter and the Lost Boys. He is impatient and loses his temper quickly but he can be smarmy and turn on the oily charm if he thinks it will help him get his own way. The only two things that stop him being nasty and vicious are the two people he is terrified of, Mr Crocodile, who ate his arm and is now after the rest of him, and his own mother - Mrs Hook the cook, who treats him like he is a very naughty boy!

Smee - Male/female. Smee is a pirate and Captain Hook's right hand man. Unfortunately he really is not cut out to be a pirate and is far too soft hearted and nice for the job. He actually only signed up to be a pirate by mistake, he thought the application form said

## PETER PANTO

something else altogether! He copes with being bossed around by Captain Hook by being nice and a bit dim and never being that sure of what is going on around him.

Mrs Hook - Male/female. Mrs Hook is the dame part in this production. She is Captain Hook's mother and the cook on the pirate ship the Jolly Roger. She is a typical dame, full of fun and larger than life. She takes part in two action scenes, one involving custard pies and the other a game show where she is on an ejector seat that flips her onto a crash mat. Good physical and verbal comedy skills needed.

Mr Crocodile - Male. Mr Crocodile is the sinister character who is stalking Captain Hook all through the story trying to eat up what is left of him after biting off his arm! He is polite and well-spoken, especially for a crocodile, and talks a lot to the audience trying to get them to help him find Hook so he can eat him up. This character does not wear a Crocodile costume but is dressed in a top hat and long coat with crocodile skin accessories.

Tiger Lily - Female. Tiger Lily is the Native American Indian girl that Peter saves after Captain Hook ties her to a rock in Mermaid Lagoon. Hook tries to get Tiger Lily to betray Peter but she stands up to him and refuses to reveal where Peter's hidden home is. Tiger Lily, like Wendy, Tinkerbell and Marina, has a crush on Peter and thinks she is his favourite girl.

Marina - Female. Marina is the mysterious mermaid who sings a haunting song that lures sailors onto the rocks around the Mermaid Lagoon. She is jealous of Wendy when she first meets her and doesn't try to help Tiger Lily when she is tied to the rocks by the pirates. She is quite grand and very confident and sure of herself. This part could be shared out between 2 or 3 if the production wanted a Mermaid Chorus and there were enough suitable females in the cast. If so, suggested names for extra Mermaids would be Serena, Athena and Davina.)

The Lost Boys - Tootles, Nibs, Slightly, Curly, The Twins etc. Male/female. The Lost Boys have several members who are named and have a number of lines. They all join in with all the action scenes and songs. The Lost Boys live with Peter in a underground home and have a few songs and routines they perform and a fight scene with pirates. Tootles is the boss when Peter is away, Nibs and Slightly are both eager members of the gang, Curly is too shy to speak, apart from one comedy line, and uses a horn instead to join in, the Twins should be cast looking as different from each other as possible for full comedy

# PETER PANTO

value. More Lost Boys with names at the production's discretion could be easily accommodated.

Indians - Male/female. In addition to Great Big Little Panther, Morning Cloud and Tiger Lily there are a tribe of Native American Indians who perform a song and dance routine around a totem pole. Some of them also appear as extra Peter Pans in the fight scene between the Lost Boys and the Pirates.

Pirates - Male/female. A mixed group of pirates who are the crew of the Jolly Roger. They accompany Captain Hook and Smee and generally try to scare the Lost Boys and the audience! They perform several songs, routines and a fight scene.

Dancers - Fairies, Mermaids and Native American Indians. The dancers can have 6 dance performances throughout the show, plus a few other appearances. They appear as fairies in one number mermaids in another and American Indians dancing around a totem pole in yet another. They also have one balletic dance, a rock n roll style number and a show tune. There is an opportunity for a dancer to also double as Nana and another as Shadow.

## **Back Stage**

We are also in need of volunteers for the following back stage roles;

Stage Manager and Crew

Lighting person

Musicians to create a live band

Prompt

Front of House manager and helpers

Interested? Please contact Alison - [awh@thompsons.co.uk](mailto:awh@thompsons.co.uk)

## CHAPERONES NEEDED!

As well as actors, we also urgently need chaperones for both Peter Panto and Scrooge so children can take part.

If you would like to be a chaperone, you need to apply at least 6 weeks before your license is needed. You would need to attend a short course. See Kent County Council website for possible dates, venues and how to apply. The nearest venues and dates are:

Mon 24th July 2.00pm - 4.00pm Sevenoaks

Tues 1st August 4.30pm - 6.30pm Canterbury

Mon 4th September 4.00pm - 6.00pm Ashford

Tues 5th September 5.30pm - 7.30 pm Maidstone

Tues 3rd October 5.30pm - 7.30pm Sevenoaks

Mon 30th October 2.00pm - 4.00pm Canterbury

Tues 7th November 5.30pm - 7.30 pm Maidstone

Contact Jackie Barker for more information -

[j.i.barker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j.i.barker@hotmail.co.uk)

## CODS FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

**2017 Autumn Musical:**

**SCROOGE**

**2017 Christmas Pantomime:**

*Peter Pan*

**2018 Spring Play:**

**People** by Alan Bennett

**2018 Late Summer Production:**

**JEEVES & WOOSTER: PERFECT NONSENSE**

**2018 Autumn Musical:**

**Guys & Dolls**

## NOTICES

### CODSWALLOP!

We aim to release the newsletter bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November, shortly after the Committee Meeting of the previous month (second Friday of each month). All articles need to be submitted by the Friday following the meeting, keeping them concise (under two pages) with contact for, or links to, further information if required.



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

We are continually looking to improve CODSWALLOP! Please contact Lee on [leedavehatcher@gmail.com](mailto:leedavehatcher@gmail.com) with your thoughts. Thank you.

### FRONT OF HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR

Our shows couldn't happen without the assistance of so many people, on stage and back stage. They also couldn't happen without the many volunteers who work front of house for us, selling tickets, programmes, ice creams and many other tasks. We need someone to take charge of this small band of volunteers for each show, organising everyone and liaising with other members of the society in the run up to the shows.

For more details please contact a member of the committee.

### TONGSWOOD CHAMBER CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT 'UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE'

In Aid of Pancreatic Cancer Research Reg. Charity No. 1155322

At All Saints Church, Brenchley TN12 7NH Sunday 2nd July 2017 6.00 pm.

You are cordially invited to join us at All Saints Church, Brenchley, for a concert to celebrate the summer season with love songs from composers including Orlando Gibbons, Thomas Morley, Charles Parry, and Edward Elgar.

Doors will open at 6.00 pm with a glass of wine, and the concert will begin at 6.30 pm, with an interval of 20 minutes, ending at approximately 8.15 pm.

## NOTICES

The concert is in aid of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, and is being held in memory of Mandy Swift, who died aged 54, last year. A charitable fund has been set up by Mandy and Robin's children, Freddy and Hannah, and donations can be made via the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Annie-Oulton> and donation envelopes will be placed in pews on the night.

All enquiries can be made to Annie Oulton on 01580 713399.

Tickets can be purchased from the Post Office in Brenchley.

Tickets can also be purchased online via:

<http://www.tongswoodchamberchoir.org/>

We do hope you will be able to join us for this special evening, and please bring your friends.

## MARIAN CUMBERLAND

On behalf of everyone on the committee and all of the CODS members past and present, a huge Thank You to Marian Cumberland who has stepped down from the role of Social Secretary after years of dedicated service to the society. Over the years Marian has organised many events, raised thousand's of pounds and helped hundreds of shows celebrate the end of their runs! She will be greatly missed on the Committee, but we are glad to say that she remains a Trustee of the society. Thank you Marian for all you have done and all the best from everyone. James

## RULES AND CONSTITUTION

A copy of the society's Rules and Constitution is available on our website, please go to the following link to view these -

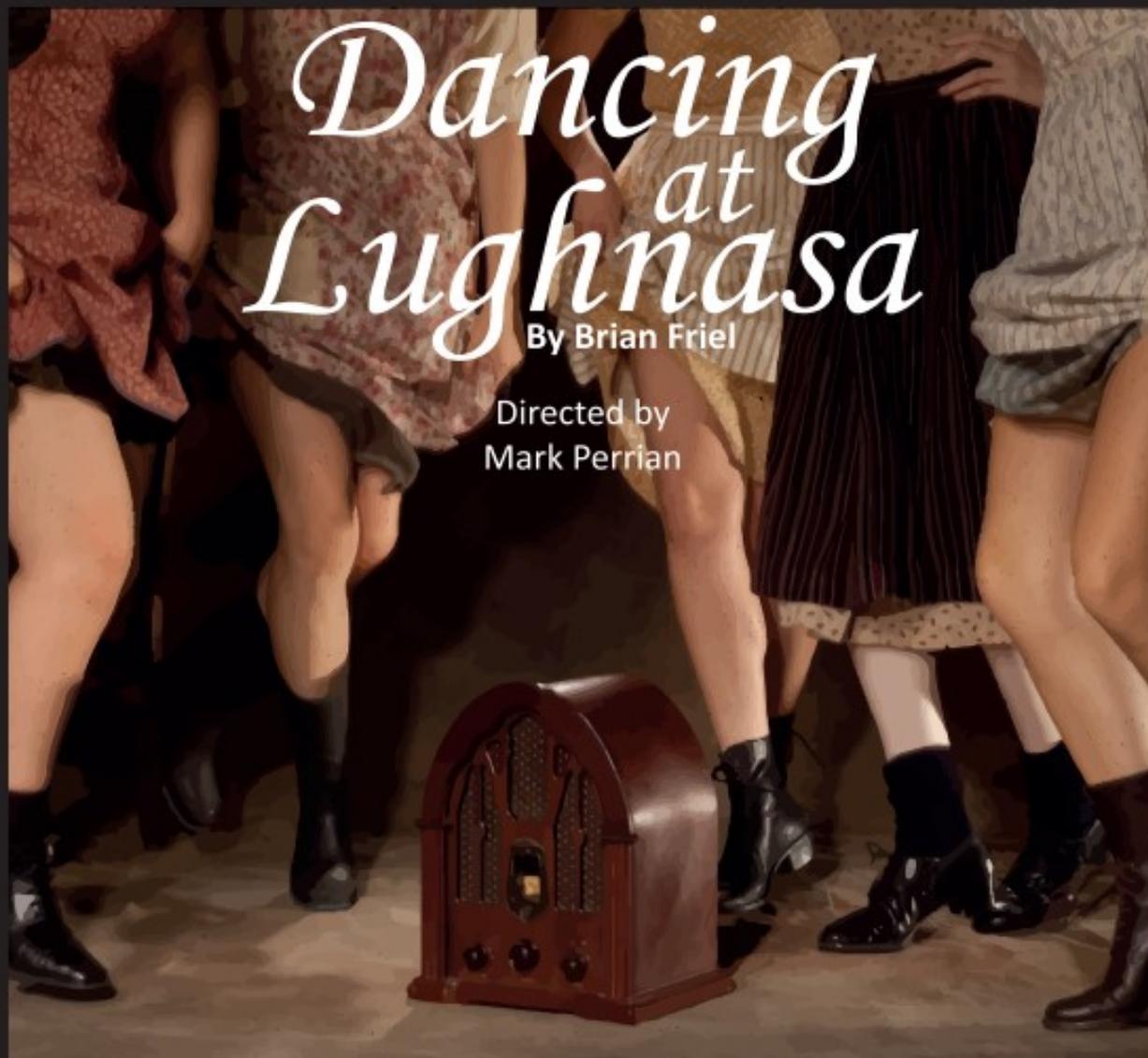
<http://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/committee/constitution.pdf>

# NOTICES



## WOODCHURCH PLAYERS PRESENTS

An amateur production in association with Samuel French



# Dancing at Lughnasa

By Brian Friel

Directed by  
Mark Perrian

18th - 20th May 2017

7:30pm

Woodchurch Memorial Hall

Book online at:

[www.woodchurchplayers.com](http://www.woodchurchplayers.com)

Find us on Facebook: /WoodchurchPlayers

Or over the phone:

01233 861 381

Follow us on Twitter: @WoodchurchPS

# A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL – NODA REVIEW

## **CODS**

**A Chorus of Disapproval by Alan Ayckbourn**

**Director: Jack Davidson**

**Assistant Director: Penny Tobin**

**Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

After the confusion of CODS not expecting our arrival, seats were swiftly arranged for this first-rate performance of Alan Ayckbourn's comedy once again enthusiastically directed by Jack together with his most able assistant Penny. At the acting helm, James Hannaway again held us with the mammoth role both physically and verbally with a constant beautiful Welsh accent in both speech but in Welsh in a vocal as Dafydd, please not 'David', Llewellyn. Exceedingly swift movement, plenty of thigh and shoulder slapping, cursing and bluster. Exasperation well portrayed, much as one knows is possible when trying to direct an am-dram group with an ambitious piece like the Beggar's Opera! He was supported by Rachel Croft-Golding as his wife Hannah and mother of twin girls, who is to play Polly Peachum. Having opened with Scene 1 as the final performance of BO we go back three months in time to see how newcomer to the world am-dram, recent widower timid Guy Jones, beautifully portrayed by Fraser Johnston, deals with his inability to say 'no' and the trouble he encounters. This play is hugely funny, with an underlying sense of emotion, tension, manipulation, frustration and ultimate achievement.

As usual the foyer was buzzing and incoming Chairman Guy Fillmore had once again displayed most professionally photos old and new, together with posters of forthcoming productions, to which I look forward to be invited to. Refreshments and raffles were also available. An easy to follow A5 programme using the boxer short theme throughout was pleasing to the eye, containing all relevant information. Remember that NODA does run an annual Programme and Poster Competition within the SE region and that winners go forward to the national competition. District 3 has done well in the past, so do bear this in mind. It was good to connect with Jack and Penny again and meet Guy to establish who should be the NODA point of contact and impress the importance of keeping me up-to-date with contact changes.

## A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL – NODA REVIEW

The five-man design/construction team developed a well-set stage using the two side stage extensions. One which remained in situ, a rather '80's typical sitting room contained a rather large super man-doll with the other side multipurpose with slight changes from the Hubbard's seductive sitting room complete chaise longue and erotic paintings, to not quite so posh Rebecca Huntley Pike's garden. Blacks for backdrop used as central entry and exit of small pieces. Effective local bar set with good props, the main theme of course being an open stage as would be for rehearsal with a few chairs and firmly set to one side the upright for dear Mr Ames aka The Beggar sitting patiently waiting to be summoned to play. The lamp standard, jail door and hanging platform were all well-constructed, placed and swiftly removed. SM Chloe Swan oversaw the stage crew. Sound from back of the theatre was fine although sometimes during passages where actors faced upstage I did struggle a bit. Singing came across well and musical cues were fine. There were a couple of sound effects that didn't seem to happen. The lighting plot section was hysterical and very well executed. Costuming from Rita and Charlotte was particularly good for each character during both the play and the play within together with natural make-up and in keeping footwear.

So many lovely cameo parts. I have to mention the particularly good pairing of 'swinging' couple Fay and shell-suited, medallion man Ian, namely Louisa Nelson-Chambers and Jez Druce. Great character gum chewing Crispin Usher from Simon Tomlinson and you always have to have a Rebecca Huntley-Pike, a majestic performance from Angela Woodcock. To you all as a team well done for portraying this insight into the world of British am-dram. Long may it thrive, and we should never forget the unsung heroes. It was just a pity the audience didn't have an opportunity to applaud the performers during a customary curtain call that they so deserved.

A precis will be available on the NODA website shortly.

**Anne Lawson**  
**Regional Representative**  
**NODA South East**  
**District 3**

## A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL

In April the group put on "A Chorus of Disapproval" by Alan Ayckbourn. The play was a challenge, not just technically, but also logistically and with a relatively short rehearsal time. The show was greeted by a warm reception from all audiences, especially those from an amateur dramatic background as they really appreciated the references and nuances in the piece.

I was blessed as the director to be working with a wonderful cast who had a good understanding of comedy and farce which greatly helped the pace of the piece. We made good use of the stage and also the floor of the auditorium and so it was a conscious decision on my part to take out the first five rows of seating. As many of you are aware, we have a smaller audience sizes generally for plays than for musicals or pantomimes so by taking out the first few rows meant that the theatre looked and felt fuller, benefitting both actors and audience.

On this production, recognising financial pressures felt by so many societies these days, I adopted a new approach to the budget and finances and we kept a very tight hold on the purse strings whilst retaining a good standard of quality throughout the show. This was particularly highlighted with the costuming of the show as, looking at past budgets, the costuming has been particularly expensive in some productions whereas we manage to come in at about £50; just one way in which we cut back on outgoings.

The play, being set in an amateur dramatic society, highlighted many of the issues that we face in an every-day society but we must all remember why each and every one of us is here. It's because we love what we do and we love the support and networking great friends can provide. I think that we face more testing times now we have work and family as we all lead increasingly busy lives and this can sometimes be a juggling act when in a production; we should never forget that this is a hobby and something that we all should enjoy.

I am looking forward my next directing challenge for CODS with Guys & Dolls in autumn next year and look forward to seeing you in the audience.

Once again, thank you to all the cast and back stage support, I loved it and hope you did too.

Jack

# OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

## **President**

Bernard Beardsmore

## **Vice Presidents**

Pam Baker, Jeremy Cartwright, Dinah Chamberlin,  
Peter Gray, Alan Hodge, George Hudson,  
Peggy Latter, Bill Marshall, Alan Pickett, Dennis Russell,  
John Tapper, Maurice Wilkins, Ian Wookey

## **Executive Committee**

Chairman

Guy Fillmore

Vice Chairman

Annie Hatcher

Hon. Secretary

Rachel Croft-Golding

Board Secretary

Victoria King

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

Social Secretary

Charlotte Maughan-Jones

Business Manager

James Hanaway

Show Selection Chairman

Angela Woodcock

Committee Members

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Matt Barker, Alison Withey-Harrison

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Make-up Advisor

Debbie Knight

Publicity Officers

Matt Barker, Ruth Saunders

Orchestral Secretary

Ruth Roberts

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Bill Marshall

Wardrobe Mistress

Rita Wilkins

Properties Master

Lee Hatcher

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Chaperone Co-ordinator

Jackie Barker

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Biddy Danin, Clem Danin, Lee Hatcher

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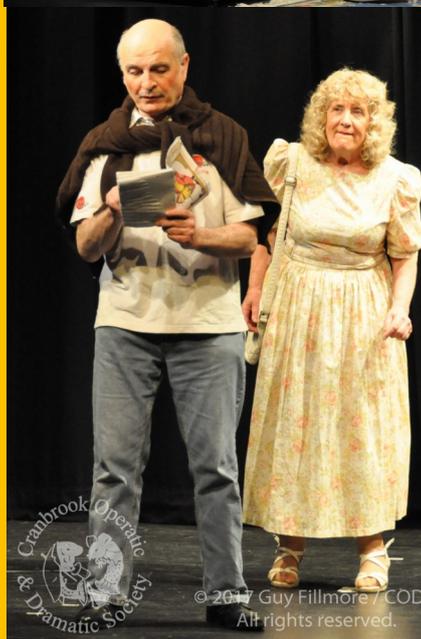
Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your Codswallop Editor Lee Hatcher: tel: 07539 460571

or email: [leedavehatcher@gmail.com](mailto:leedavehatcher@gmail.com)

If you have any news, views, or ideas as to what YOU want to see in Codswallop, let me know!



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