



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

## The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Newsletter

### Inside this issue:

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Chairmans Notes          | 1       |
| Snow White               | 2 - 5   |
| A Streetcar Named Desire | 6 - 7   |
| Oliver                   | 8 - 9   |
| War Shorts               | 10 - 11 |
| Notices                  | 12      |
| John Hammond             | 13      |
| The Back Page            |         |

### New Members!

WELCOME! We hope you  
have a long & happy life with  
CODS!

### Did you know we are on Facebook?

For all you computer  
minded people, CODS  
has its very own group  
page on Facebook  
with lots of information, news  
and  
photographs.



Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

'Cranbrook Operatic and  
Dramatic Society CODS (official  
page)'

Contact [Steph](#) or [Jackie](#) for more  
information and to submit copy.  
Thank you.

### CODS Website

If anyone would like anything  
put onto the CODS website  
please contact Matt at  
[m.g.barker@talk21.com](mailto:m.g.barker@talk21.com) or call  
07872557446, Thanks.

# Codswallop!

December 2013



## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear fellow members,

As we approach Christmas time, I hope many of you will look back over the past 12 months, preferably with a large glass of something strong to hand, and recall what a great time we have all had with the Society productions we have either taken part in, or watched, this year.

Notwithstanding the success of "Calendar Girls" and "Cranbrook Shorts", even further accolade was generated by our recent production of "Oliver", and it was great to see the Queens Hall filled to capacity at all of the performances. Well done to everyone involved! Particular credit goes to Pat and Michael, for completely changing course when our original proposals fell through, and delivering a successful and acclaimed production which was clearly enjoyed by everyone involved and our audiences.

In a few weeks time, our third Pantomime will be performed, this time being "Snow White", directed by the ever-energetic Jack Davidson. The cast are working very hard during rehearsals, ticket sales to date are encouraging, and we intend to donate healthy sums to our selected charities, these being the Paediatrics Unit at Benenden Hospital and the Cranbrook Weald Centre. When not rehearsing, many members of the cast have been busy with essential off-stage activities, such as devising their own costumes, painting the scenery and publicising the production itself. We look forward to seeing you at the Pantomime, it should be a great way to end the year.

Whereas it is very encouraging to see the "Snow White" cast working hard on the production whilst not at rehearsals, it is highly likely that this will become the norm within the near future, as several long-standing experienced members will shortly be stepping down from roles they have carried out for many years. This will create pressure on our resources, and if we are to continue performing as many shows as we do to prevailing high standards, we will need both an injection of new blood and members learning new roles. None of these roles should be seen as dull nor intimidating, nor should anyone feel they will become pigeon-holed by learning such new skills; at the end of the day, everyone involved in a production contributes to the success of the Society. We are holding an event in February to publicise this matter, which we hope you will attend to learn about the importance of many of the essential off-stage activities.

The New Year will also see rehearsals starting for our production of "A Streetcar Named Desire", which we are entering within the Kent Drama Festival 2014.. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Louisa every success with this production, and hopefully we will see further silverware added to our large collection of awards in June, shortly to be followed by our "War Shorts" event.

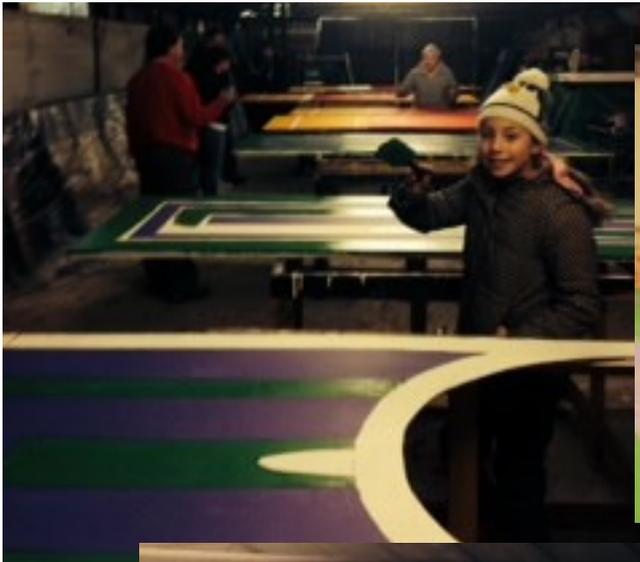
May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have shown to the Society this year, it is gratefully appreciated and I hope this will continue well into the future. I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, and every best wish for the New Year.

Andrew Tel 01424 718328

E Mail [supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk)

**"I have always thought of Christmas as a good time; a kind, forgiving, generous, pleasant time; a time when men and women seem to open their hearts freely, and so I say, God bless Christmas! ." - Charles Dickens**

## Snow White



**Photos from one of our set painting days for Snow White. A big thank you to all members who came along!**

## Snow White

### Get in and Set Build

We will need assistance with the get in and set build for our forthcoming production of Snow White, and I hope you can spare a few hours on either of the following days:-

Friday 20th December - gather at Flishinghurst from 10am, for a 1030 load-up and delivery to Queens Hall. One or two journeys will be needed, afterwards we will be in Queens hall building the set, until the early evening.

Saturday 21st December - further building in Queens Hall, from 930am onwards.

Christmas treats will be served on both days, so please come along if possible to join in the fun and help get the set built. Many members of the cast have given up their time at weekends in helping paint the set, to Dennis' superb designs, and we want to show this off to our audiences accordingly !

Please feel free to contact Andrew if you have any queries, tel 01424 718328 or 07736 406 504

### Promotion

Several members of our Snow White cast and their friends recently spent a full afternoon at a local nursing home to sing some songs from various musicals, other popular songs as well as a few Christmas numbers. Snow White's director, Jack Davidson, as well as all the others, were very happy with how it was received by the residents and they all had a great time. The specially made 'Snow White' cake was also well received!

## Snow White

### Photos from our promotion of Snow White during Cranbrooks Christmas Fayre



**Snow White**

**The Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society  
Christmas Pantomime 2013**



**SNOW  
WHITE**

*A Lazy Bees script by Alexandra Slater.*

**December**

**27 – 31**

**[www.cods.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.cods.ticketsource.co.uk)**

**Telephone 01622 749762**

**or from Lambert and Foster**

**Sponsored by Peter Jones (Opticians) and Waterloo House Tearooms**

## A Streetcar Named Desire

Streetcar is cast and the first month's rehearsal fixed. The production team is in place. We also have some new members, both in the cast and our production team. I am looking forward to starting work on what will be a fabulous production and look forward to working with the team during our rehearsal journey.

Vicky Bray will be on the production team as prompt, Vicky Tinkler will be assisting me in directing, and the lovely Maurice Wilkinson will be our stage manager as well as being in the production. Here's wishing Sarah Calcutt a speedy recovery, she will soon be joining us as production secretary. A big thank you to everyone who attended the read through and auditions. What a fabulous wealth of talent there was. I am just sorry there weren't enough parts for everyone. And a big thank you to the Society for their continued support in this production.

### Cast:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Stanley         | David Baker          |
| Blanche         | Angela Woodcock      |
| Mitch           | James Hanaway        |
| Stella          | Rachel Croft Golding |
| Eunice          | Vicky King           |
| Steve           | Jez Druce            |
| Pablo           | Simon Tomlinson      |
| Woman/Nurse     | Debbie Knight        |
| Young Collector | James Hammond        |
| Doctor          | Maurice Wilkinson    |

May I take this opportunity to wish all members a very happy Christmas and New Year, and a rollicking successful 2013 Panto.

Louisa

Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society presents:

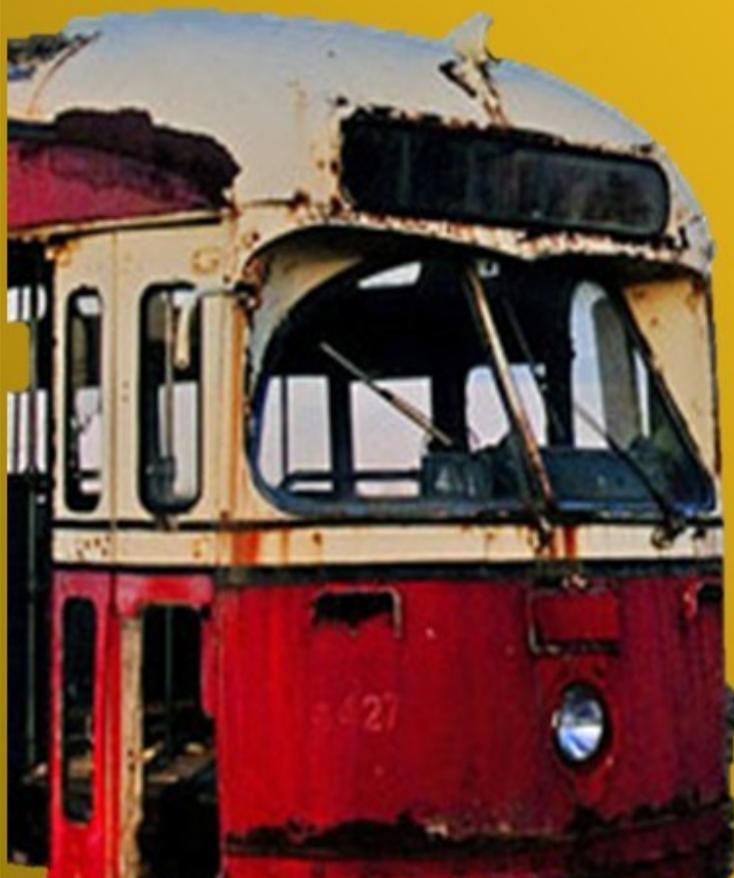
# A Streetcar Named Desire

By Tennessee Williams

**April 10 - 12  
2014**

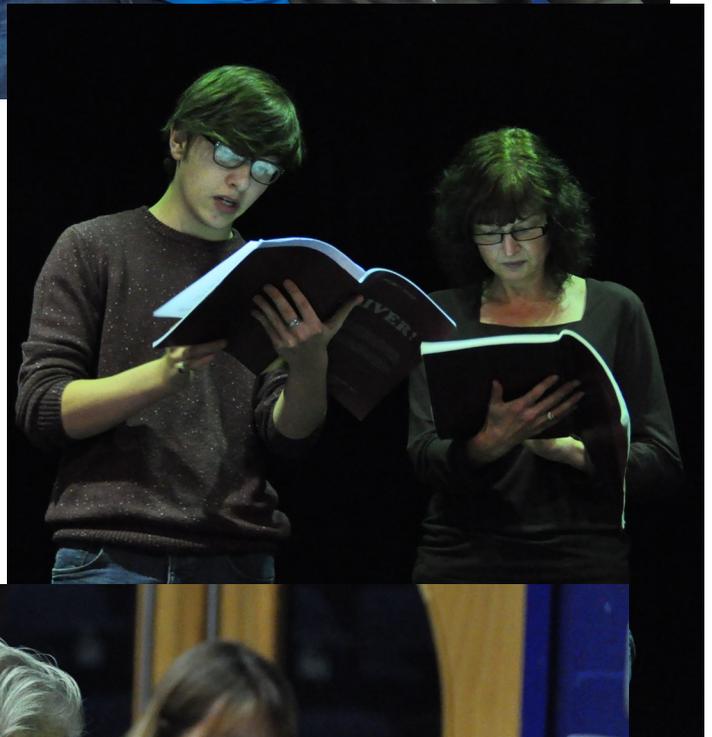
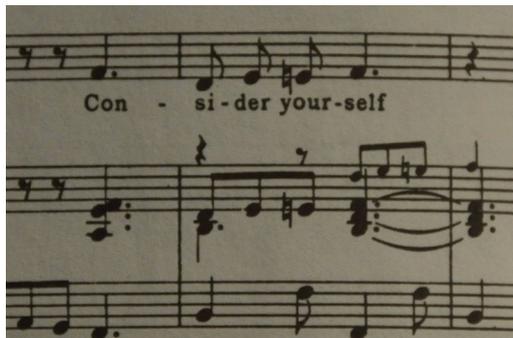
**Queen's Hall  
Theatre**

**Cranbrook**

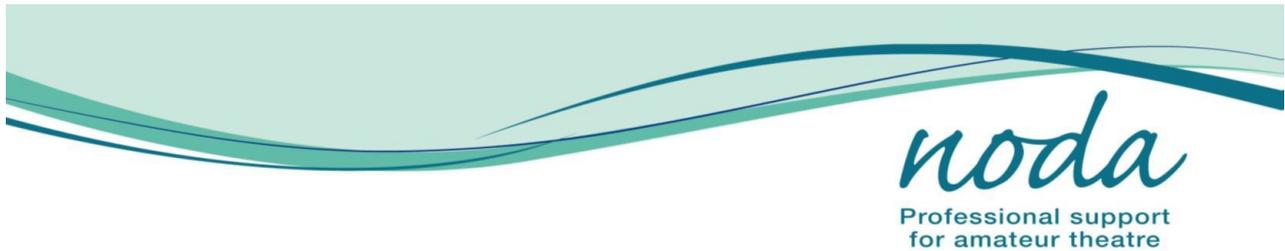


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Waterloo House Tearooms

# Oliver



## Oliver - NODA Review



**Gordon Harris**  
*District 5 Representative Noda*  
 1 Catherine's Court.  
 Star Hill, Rochester, Kent ME11GA.  
 Phones 01634 402323 Mobile 07817606639  
[gordon@starhill.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:gordon@starhill.fsnet.co.uk)

After seeing 3 "Oliver!"s in the last year I thought I was "Oliver - ed" out. So when Anne asked me to cover Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society's production, I was a little sceptical of another "Oliver!". But I'm glad I accepted the invitation, it was a very nice entertaining evening. I'm not going to bore you with a synopsis of the story of "Oliver!". We all know this and the wonderful score of Lionel Bart's.

Heading this cast was little 9 year old Henry Fillmore his little voice and acting ability was adequate for this big role, I am sure Samuel Pope matches this on the alternating nights as with Keir Roberts and Will Venner, playing the Artful Dodger's on alternating nights. Good luck to them.

Cranbrook's venue for this Oliver! has a nice fair size stage, that housed a fabulous set designed by Derek Moore. It looked very atmospheric with mood lighting that was executed professionally by David Beeken. Costumed well by Rita Wilkins and Marilyn Coleman.

This large cast of about 50 players were directed by Pat Smith and they did her proud, at times with this great set this "Oliver!" made my visit worthwhile. Uncomplicated and easy on the eye the performance seemed to flow easily.

Michael Jarrett's superb 13 piece orchestra, along with his musical direction of this cast paid off. Perfect just perfect. Jez Druce (Bumble) and Annie Chesters (Widow Corney) gave us great comedy timing, Robin Harrison as Fagin could have been more miserly and Jewish but looked good and sang well. Mathew Barker looked really funereal as Mr. Sowerbury. Nancy (Rachel Croft Golding) and Bill Sykes (James Hammond) gave dramatically strong performances especially Nancy's "As Long As He Needs Me". All other supporting roles in this "Oliver!" were all acted to the best of their ability. If I am being a little picky I found some chorus scenes a little static. Other scenes with choreography by Victoria King came to life with good movement and dance.

Pat, this production was a joy to watch and in parts very slick. Your cast of young and older members made my visit very enjoyable.

Thank you, Cranbrook, for inviting me.

Gordon Harris...NODA SE District 5 for Anne Lawson

### National Operatic and Dramatic Association

NODA House, 58-60 Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2RZ

Tel 01733 865 790 Fax 01733 319 506 Email [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk) Web [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

Registered charity number 256460 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address

Patron: The Lord Lloyd Webber

## War Shorts

Following on from the success of Cranbrook Shorts last summer, we're putting on another production of six short performances, in six different Cranbrook locations, in June 2014. To mark the 100th Anniversary of the First World War, all the performances will be based around a theme of War.

Performances will include:

**First World War Poets** - readings from English & German poetry from the trenches and from homeland, read in native tongue and translated - Set at the Cranbrook War Memorial.

**Excerpt from Oh What a Lovely War** - The profiteers scene, exploring how capitalism expands through war and sometimes takes no sides when it comes to making profit. - Set in the Gardens of the Cranbrook Museum

**A local War** - Real stories & pictures from local people. Tales and memories from relatives in the war and stories of life in surrounding villages at the time... - Set in the Cranbrook Museum

**Performance of Eric Bogle's No Man's Land** (also known as The Green Fields of France) - set in St. Dunstan's Graveyard.

**A funny thing happened on the 267...** a short comedy play, (To be written!) about an argument that breaks out on the top deck of a bus, travelling around Cranbrook...

Plus one open slot, possibly an excerpt from **Journey's End** or a piece about the **Christmas Day** football match... set in the Vestry Hall.

The format will run in the same way as this year's Shorts, with the Guides this year being Sgt. Majors, barking their orders to the audience around the town and then surprising them with relevant, funny and poignant quotes before and after performances.

Anyone interested in directing one of the pieces or getting involved in the production of the shows should contact James Hanaway on 07825 393306 or [jameshanaway@hotmail.com](mailto:jameshanaway@hotmail.com) by Friday 10th January. The performance date and the team for the shows will be put together by the end of January and auditions for performers will take place after the Spring Play.

Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society presents:



# **WAR SHORTS**

**Six short performances,  
six Cranbrook locations,  
on a theme of War.**

**JUNE  
2014**

**Watch this  
space...  
further  
details to  
follow  
later in  
the  
year!**

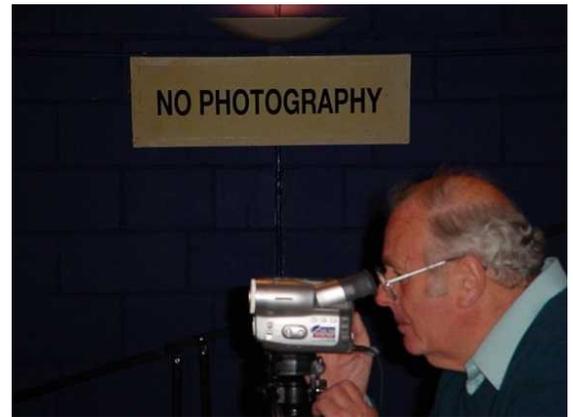
**Sponsored by Peter Jones (Opticians) and Waterloo House Tearooms**

## Notices

### Tom Foy

Just as this issue of Codswallop went to press, we received the very sad news that Tom died on 9th December. Our sympathy has been communicated to Tom's family, whom we are all thinking of at this very difficult time.

A full tribute to Tom will appear in the next Codswallop and if any members have any memories of Tom that they would like included, please can these be sent to Andrew direct.



### Date of 2014 AGM

The next Society Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th March, probably at the Council Chamber at the Vestry Hall, Cranbrook. Further details will follow in the next issues of Codswallop.

**The following advert will appear in our Snow White programme and in an upcoming edition of the Wealden Advertiser. All members and their friends are also welcome.**

**A NEW YEAR - A NEW CHALLENGE ?**

**Are you interested in the theatre?**

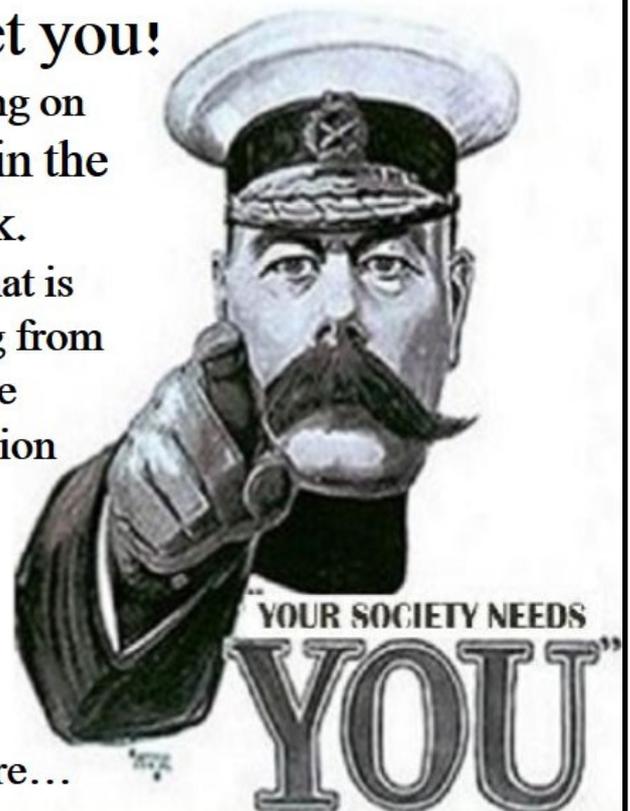
**CODS would love to meet you!**

Come along to a open rehearsal evening on Monday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook.

There will be an opportunity to see what is involved in staging a show, everything from the lighting and the sound effects to the wardrobe, the set design and construction as well as the stage management and the acting – in fact all the jobs that are needed to put on a production.

We would love to see you and hope you will be able to help us out!

Please come along – we'll see you there...



## John Hammond

I first met John in a CODS production of 'The Merry Widow' in 1996. It was Robin and mine's first CODS show and I had to sit on John's knee which caused some hilarity. A particular favourite CODS show of John and Maisie's was 'Kiss Me Kate' in 1994. John loved playing one of the gangsters with Maisie as the Musical Director. They often mentioned this with great fondness over the years.

John had a wicked sense of humour and was never backwards in coming forwards, particularly when the more mature men were asked to go down on one knee as part of a dance routine! There was often much heckling from the Tenor camp too at the Wealden Consort! However this was soon swiftly forgotten as we set the world to rights in the pub afterwards.

When it came to discussing shows we were often rather like the two grumpy characters in the Muppets who sit in the audience and comment. This carried on after the move to St Neot's as John still continued to come down and watch the CODS shows. We would have amusing conversations on the phone which always went along the lines of 'How's what's-his-name?' Neither of us would remember the name so John would say 'You know Herbert- what's his name'. The last chat we had was like this was only a couple of weeks ago after he drove down from St Neot's especially to see 'Oliver'. We were trying to remember the name of the character he always used to sing at Christmas wearing a smock and floppy hat. (Still can't remember the characters name!)

John was the kindest most caring gentleman I have known. He was always so thoughtful and considerate, often thinking of things which would be really helpful and personal to that particular person. As Robin didn't read music, John would always make tapes for him to listen to in the car to prepare for concerts and shows. He taught me how to grow geraniums and sweet peas (and grew sweet peas in abundance for our wedding). John would always do little acts of kindness in a subtle quiet way. However if there was a problem he would roll up his sleeves, make his feelings clear and do something about it. He was a wonderful man who will be truly missed.

Alison Withey-Harrison



## The Back Page

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your Codswallop Editor Lee Hatcher: tel: 07539 460571 or email: [leedavehatcher@facebook.com](mailto:leedavehatcher@facebook.com)

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

### WANTED / FOR SALE

Do you have anything you wish to sell that might be of interest to other members? Are you looking to buy something that another member might be wanting to sell? Do you have an event, an occasion, or a notice you'd like your fellow members to be aware of? If so, for a small donation of £2 per entry, you can ADVERTISE YOUR GOODS OR "WANTS" in Codswallop. To advertise in the next edition, or for further details, please contact me using the details at top of this page.



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### *Did you Know?*

If you receive CodsWallop by email, things like website addresses, or email addresses are usually 'clickable'.

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

### The Executive Editor Ponders....

Ho, Ho, Ho everybody! Christmas, my dear fellow, don't you know. They are keeping it very quiet this year though.

I love this time of year. I have already donned my obligatory Father Christmas hat, eaten copious mince pies and treats and watched, every, single, chop of a vegetable, or spoon full of ingredients as they move from preparer to bowl (why-oh-why can't more be dropped for those of us with shorter legs?)

All that remains is to wait for the day itself. My Christmas starts with bacon and sausages, continues with unwrapping of presents (bacon and sausages) and we eat our Christmas dinner, sausages and bacon this time, and fall asleep curled up in front of the fire. Bliss!

Merry Christmas to all my loyal fans, the boy here sends his felicitations also. Have a lovely time and have a wonderful new year.

Charlie Knight (Sir) B.A. DO.g. Ar.F. g.RR.



**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION: FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2013**