



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

# Codswallop!

October 2014



## The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Newsletter

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### Codswallop is changing!

If you receive Codswallop via email you can navigate through the newsletter simply by clicking. For instance, clicking 'Chairman's Notes' above will take you directly to that article. Clicking our contact details below will open your default email program or the CODS Facebook page etc., clicking at the top of any page will bring you back here. Please let me know what you think, or if you have any ideas for Codswallop! Lee



[CODS Facebook Group](#)

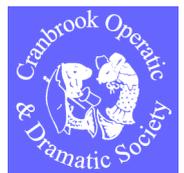
Contact [Rachel, Lee or Jackie](#)

Email: [codsfacebook@gmail.com](mailto:codsfacebook@gmail.com)

[CODS Website](#)

Contact Matt Barker

Email: [m.g.barker@talk21.com](mailto:m.g.barker@talk21.com)



**"I drink it when I'm happy and when I'm sad. Sometimes, I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I'm not hungry and drink it if I am; Otherwise I never touch it - unless I'm thirsty."  
- Madame Bollinger (on champagne)**

## Notes From Your Chairman

Dear fellow members, it is possible that a few of you are making the most of the next few weeks to enjoy the very last part of the glorious summer we have had. After that, the clocks change, the dark nights draw in and suddenly those long sunny days of 2014 seem ages ago with an eternity ahead of us before the fresh spring air of 2015. Not to mention events such as Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas which are rapidly looming up at us all.

Fortunately, most of us are all very busy with our next two productions to worry about these forthcoming dark times and by the time both of these events are over, the spring of 2015 will only be a few weeks away.

Last week I discreetly observed a High Society rehearsal and was very impressed with the quality of the acting, singing and dancing. Annie, Louisa and Lisa are doing a great job, and our audiences will soon see the results of their hard work. Up at Flishinghurst, the scenery is looking superb, so we have yet another quality show on our hands. I look forward to seeing you and your friends at the forthcoming performances.

Whilst this has been taking place, initial Pantomime rehearsals have been taking place and many of the songs are sounding very polished already, together with several dance numbers already set. I am truly amazed by the commitment to the Pantomime, particularly from cast members who are also in High Society.

Of course, none of these performances would be taking place without an army of unsung heroes who are also putting in a high degree of time offstage, and whose efforts are frequently overlooked and unappreciated. Ironically, their hard work would be more visible if they did not happen ! As ever, we are always looking for people to help in these essential areas and within the next few months, two of our best unsung heroes will be stepping down, creating large vacancies to fill. Details of such opportunities are described inside, hopefully you may be able to consider what you can do to assist in these areas, your Society needs YOU !

Looking well ahead, we are still looking for a Director for a 2015 Pantomime, and have started the process of preparing for our 2016 season. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone.

I look forward to seeing you all at High Society,

Andrew

Tel 01424 718328

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

## Wind in the Willows

I am really excited to be directing 'Wind in the Willows' for CODS. The book is a childhood favourite of mine and I am sure it is for many of you too.

### Synopsis:

The story begins with Mole doing his spring cleaning. Fed-up with the task he emerges on to the riverbank and meets Ratty (a water vole). The two encounter various other creatures during their adventures, such as an otter and his son called Portly, squirrels, rabbits and a kindly old Badger who invites them to stay at his house. They also meet the irrepressible Toad who owns Toad Hall, a very impressive property. When Toad Hall is taken over by the wicked creatures from the Wild Wood (weasels, stoats and ferrets) the new band of friends help Toad recover his home which culminates in the 'Battle of Toad Hall' where they are victorious.

### Characters:

#### The River Bank

**Mole** – A mild-mannered, home-loving animal (could easily be played by a female dressed as a male)

**Rat** – Ratty- cultured, relaxed and friendly. Ratty loves the river and takes Mole under his wing. (must be able to sing)

**Toad** – Spoiled, conceited, and impulsive, he is prone to obsessions and crazes (such as punting, houseboats, and horse-drawn caravans, cars)

**Badger** – Gruff and solitary, who "simply hates society"; Badger embodies the "wise hermit" figure.

**Otter and Portly** – the extrovert Otter is tough and self-sufficient. Portly is his young son.

**Albert the Horse** - he is the Eeyore of the horse world

Squirrels, rabbits, field mice, hedgehogs- generally good (although rabbits are described as "a mixed lot"). These can also become the woodland choir and involve children if there are enough parent helpers/chaperones.

## Wind in the Willows

### The Wild Wood

**The Chief Weasel** – The story's main antagonist. He and his band of weasels, stoats, and ferrets from the Wild Wood plot to take over Toad Hall. (Could be played by a mean female). This could possibly include a few wild children!

**Weasel Norman, Gerald Ferret, Sergeant Fred Ferret, Fox**

### The Wide World

**The Gaoler's Daughter** – a "clever, wise, good girl", she helps Toad escape from prison. Other characters include: **Washer Woman, Guard, Train Driver, Ticket Clerk, Barge woman, Gypsy, Parkinson, Rupert, Monica**

Whilst the 4 main characters of Toad, Ratty, Badger and Mole are usually played by men (and a number of other characters in the play), I would also consider talented women to play these parts (although dressed as male characters).

A large cast is required; some characters will be doubled up. This will be a real team effort and ensemble piece.

### A Play or a Musical?

There are many adaptations of Wind in the Willows. I have chosen the witty Alan Bennet version. A simple musical score has been written to accompany the play. It is not a musical but does have a number of songs written by Jeremy Sams. I am hoping to have a small band on stage. Some of the cast will be required to sing. The songs are simple but I would like to include a four part harmony Christmas carol as well.

### Set

Dennis has designed a really imaginative set- further details will be revealed at the Information Evening!

## Wind in the Willows

### Costumes

I am looking for a vintage feel with lots of knitted ears and bob tails. A costume team is required as Rita is stepping down from CODS next year. If you are interested in helping source costumes or being creative please get in touch.

### Interested?

I hope this has inspired some of you to take part. If you are interested in either performing or being involved backstage then please come along to an information/play reading evening. Rehearsals will begin in January 2015.

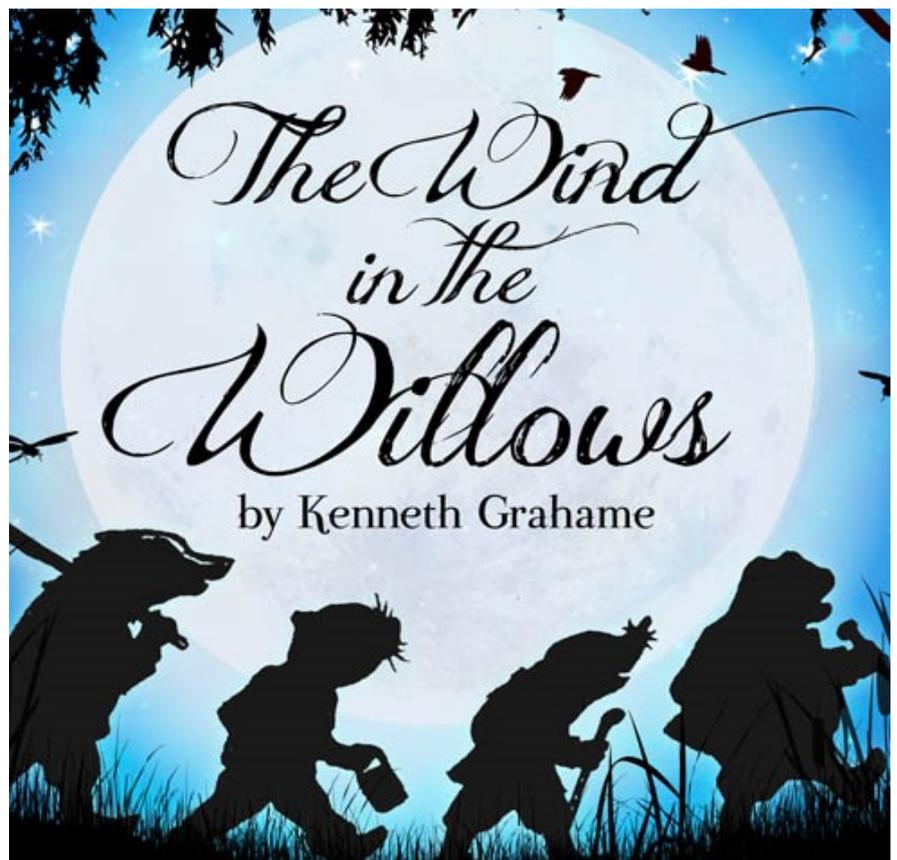
### Important Dates

**Information Evening/Play Reading: 7.30pm Tuesday 11th November 2014, Venue: Queens Hall**

**Auditions: 10am - 2pm Sunday 16th November 2014, Venue: Queens Hall**

**Show Dates: 16th-18th April 2015 (4 performances to include a matinee)**

For any other information about the play please e-mail me at [awh@thompsons.co.uk](mailto:awh@thompsons.co.uk)



## Notices

### **Pantomime Charity Selections and Tribute**

Following our recent appeal for possible Charity selections, the Executive Committee have now decided that the net proceeds generated from this year's production of "Beauty And The Beast" shall be donated to "Changing Faces" and "Cranbrook In Bloom". We hope you will support the Pantomime and in so doing, help raise lots of money for these worthy Charities.

Following the recent sad death of Geoffrey Grinstead, who was instrumental in the formation of Showtimers many years ago and in so doing, created Pantomimes for Cranbrook that have been enjoyed ever since, we are pleased to announce that this year's Pantomime will be performed as a tribute to Geoffrey. We will have a full tribute to Geoffrey in our next newsletter.

### **New Treasurer Needed!**

After seven year's sterling service, our current Treasurer, John Tapper, will be stepping down from this role at next year's AGM. An opportunity now arises for a new Treasurer to join the Executive Committee, from March next year onwards.

The Treasurer is a pivotal role within the Society, carrying out many functions, such as collecting monies, payment of bills and expenses, preparing a monthly Committee report, ensuring the Society's accounts are kept in good order and presenting audited accounts at the AGM. John is willing to show anyone interested in this role the precise requirements of the job, and we naturally hope someone will step forward to take on this important position within the very near future.

### **Wardrobe Assistance Is Also Needed!**

We are looking for several people to help Rita and Vicki with wardrobe requirements for this years Pantomime! If you are able to assist in any way, please get in touch, we need your help!

Once the Pantomime is over, and after many years of excellent service to the Society, Rita will be stepping down from her role as Wardrobe Mistress. This will

## Notices

create an opportunity for new leadership and management of the Society's Wardrobe requirements, and this could be handled by a small team, rather than one individual. Our Wardrobe representative's have an impressive track record at the Kent Drama Festival, with many nominations and awards in recent years, so here is your chance to contribute to the ongoing success of the Society. We hope you can help with this.

### **Calling all previous and potential Chaperones.....**

We have a shortage of Chaperone's, which in turn is limiting our opportunities for children to take part in our productions. This is not a healthy sign; many members of the Society were introduced to non-professional theatre by their parents, when the world was somewhat different and Chaperone laws and rules were non-existent, but we need to comply with the legislation in order that our future generations can take the Society forward. Many of our most successful productions feature children, and without Chaperones, such productions would not be possible. We would urge all previous Chaperones to consider renewing their licence and for any potential Chaperones to register their interest in this activity as soon as possible. Our lead Chaperone officer, Jackie Barker, will be pleased to offer any guidance in this matter.

If you wish to become involved in any of the above positions, or require any further information, please contact Andrew as soon as possible, tel 01424 718328 / 07736 406 504 or email [supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk)

### **CODS Productions for 2016**

The Executive Committee will be planning the 2016 season, and we are hoping to perform a Spring Play, an Autumn Musical, a Pantomime and, possibly, a small summer event. If you are interested in directing one of these production, please contact our Show Selection Chairman, Angela Woodcock (tel 01580 712175) accordingly, in order that a meeting can be arranged with you to discuss your ideas and proposals at length. Please can all expressions of interest be received by no later than 1st December?

We hope to announce a balanced and exciting season for 2016 in the Spring of next year. As ever, there are plenty of opportunities to become involved and your contribution to the Society is needed.

## High Society

### Prompt

We are two weeks, at time of writing, from show week of High Society. We are still looking for someone to act as prompt for as many rehearsals between now and then and the entire show week, including all dress rehearsals. Please contact Annie ([annie.chesters33@gmail.com](mailto:annie.chesters33@gmail.com)) if you can help.

### Get In, Set Build and Strike / Clear Up

After month's of hard work, our production of "High Society" will be taking place in only a few week's time. To achieve this, we need to get all the scenery, props and wardrobe from Flushinghurst to Queen's Hall, and back again once the show is over !

Our Get In is scheduled for Thursday 23rd October. If you can help, please gather at Flushinghurst from 430pm onwards. We anticipate 2-3 journeys will need to be made.

We will be in Queen's Hall building the set on Friday 24th October, from 930am onwards, with plenty of coffee and biscuits to feed the troops. We may also be building on Saturday 25th October in Queens Hall, much depends upon how successful we are on Friday ! See you there ?

The all-important set strike, clear up and put-a-way will take place on Sunday 2nd November, from 930am onwards, at Queens Hall.

All these events are open to everyone, no previous experience is necessary and is all very rewarding and essential to the success of the production.

We hope you can spare a few hours to assist; any queries please contact Maurice on 01580 713887 or Andrew on 01424 718328 / 07736 406 504.

### After Show Meal

The after show meal for cast and crew will be on the 5th of November at 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Milk house in Sissinghurst.

Contact Marian on 01580 715580 home evenings or 07780 526 766

Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society presents:

# HIGH SOCIETY

Music and lyrics by Cole Porter

An amateur production by kind permission of Boosey and Hawkes



**Queen's Hall  
Theatre  
Cranbrook**

**29th October -  
1st Nov 2014**

Tickets: £12/10 (£6/5)  
[cods.ticketsource.co.uk](http://cods.ticketsource.co.uk)  
'Ubertogs' High Street  
or 01580 713887

Sponsored by Peter Jones (Opticians) and Waterloo House Tearooms

## High Society

### Get Your Tickets!

CODs members and their nearest and dearest will need to book their tickets soon for 'High Society' at the Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook from 29th October - 1st November.

The rehearsals promise a fantastic run with wonderful performances, great choreography and a marvellous Cole Porter score.

Go to [cods.ticketsource.co.uk](http://cods.ticketsource.co.uk) or Ubertogs (on Cranbrook High Street) or phone 01580 713887. See you there!



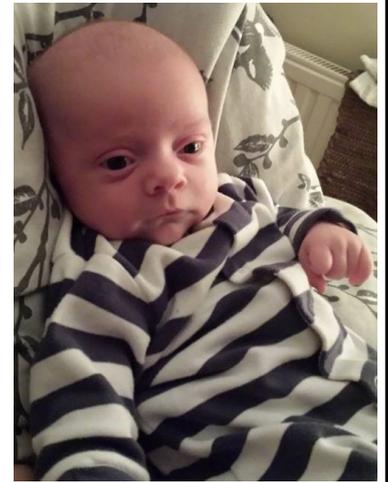
Some of our principal cast members during rehearsals for High Society

## The Back Page

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!

Matt and Jackie would like to thank everyone for their support during Jackie's illness and pregnancy. Emmett was born 31st August, weighing 7lb, I'm sure it won't be long before you see him on stage! Now Jackie is back at full health, and Emmett has settled into the family, she will be chasing up membership, so have your wallets at the ready!



### The Executive Editor Ponders....

What's with the long face lad? You hate Halloween? Me? Why would I? Are you mad boy? Think of the treats, sweets, hot buttered things, roasted other things....

Erm, anyway. Our next show's very soon isn't it? I think I told you last time about my near miss with High Society? Good, good. Did I tell you that I actually got involved in later years with the stage show? Oh it was marvellous.

Somehow, no idea how, they got the idea that I'd been heavily involved in the film all those years ago. Okay, okay, it was very unlike me, but I *may* have exaggerated my own importance for a change.

Well, by that point, I'd semi-retired, but they pulled me back in for one last hurrah! I worked very closely with the producers and director in the early days of the stage show, I think I probably did everything from designing the scenery, to coaching the actors and even choreographed the big set pieces. I'm ignoring the eye-rolling this time laddie! Wonderful times, wonderful.

Two things, to my eternal regret, that I didn't do. **I didn't sell any tickets!** Imagine if I did! All the great and good that would have rolled up to their doors.

The other? I left the backstage food ordering to someone else. I'm ashamed to say - no bacon sandwiches!

CHARLIE KNIGHT (SIR) B.A. DO.G. AR.F. G.RR.

