



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

## The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Newsletter

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### New Members

Welcome to all new members  
We hope you will have a long  
and happy association with  
our Society

### Did you know we are on Facebook?



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

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

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

Or speak to Sarah Hutchings,  
James Hammond or Steph  
Beeken for more information.

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

# Codswallop!

**NOV/DEC 2011**



**CHRISTMAS  
ISSUE**

**"Alice In Wonderland  
PLEASE SUPPORT  
YOUR LOCAL PANTO**

## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hello Luvvies and Techies,

'Annie' over and we now have less than 6 weeks until the next one!

Huge congratulations to all involved with 'Annie'. We do not have final figures available yet, but the treasurer assures us that there looks to be a good profit involved.

The committee decided to change the ticket pricing arrangements for the show and to charge less for the Wednesday and Thursday performances and also the discount children's seats. By all accounts this seems to have been a successful experiment, and resulted in good attendance and healthy box office takings. We also, now have many new members and hope that they will all have a long and enjoyable career as CODS. Well done everybody!

On to the next one....

....there are yet more pleas for help in this issue of Codswallop. Most importantly we need a prompt and a Front of House manager for the panto and if you are at a loose end between Christmas and New Year we will certainly be able to find you something useful to do to fill your time. See later in this issue for even more 'Chairman begging for your help' articles!

We have very little time to do this show, but have a wonderful cast ranging in age from 6 to 76, some stalwart bods backstage, a funny script, lots of panto mayhem, fantastic music, fun dancing and all the ingredients for a brilliant pantomime. We anticipate that a good time will be had by all! **Please buy your tickets as soon as you can and sell seats to your friends, neighbours and any passing strangers.** This is our first panto and we want to make it a huge success and to make oodles of cash to help prevent the church tower from falling down.

**The Box Office is Lambert and Foster (Estate Agents) or you can phone Maurice on 01580 713887.**

.....and the one after that.

'Fallen Angels' has been cast (almost) and our director - Jo Reader is champing at the bit to get going.

Lastly, there is a faint possibility that we might be able to help with the 'rescue' of the sadly crumbling Providence Chapel in Stone Street. The TWBC will be contacting us shortly to let us know further information. Watch this space and please contact Annie or Andrew White if you have any views that you would like taken into consideration on the subject.

A slightly early Merry Christmas to you all – see you at **Alice in Wonderland.**

Annie

X

## News & Diary Dates

Firstly can I thank all the cast of 'Annie' for my lovely scarf, which I know I shall get lots of pleasure from and I apologise for being preoccupied with getting the dressing rooms cleared.

And secondly a big thank you to the small group of ladies who bought Hooverville hats etc. or gave me donations to help me raise funds for my £1,000.00 Challenge for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. You raised £135.00 towards my year's target. Thank you again, you are stars!

Madeleine

### PLEA FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

What shows do you want to see? What shows would you like to be in? Have you always fancied directing a particular play? We'd love to hear your suggestions, so if you have any ideas, however fanciful they may seem, please contact Andrew White

### WANTED

**Graphic Designer or similar**  
Is there anyone out there who could design a new CODS logo? Ideas or designs to Annie please,

### WARDROBE PLEA

Do we have any budding wardrobe mistresses or, indeed, masters who would be willing to lend a hand for this and future productions? Rita and Marilyn do a super job making sure we all look the part but they do need help, urgently. Looking forward to next year they may not be able to take on quite so much, so, if you think you are up to the challenge and would like to find out more, do please speak to Rita when you see her.

### MESSAGE FROM MAURICE...

As our Hall Manager it is my responsibility to see that the theatre is set up ready for our shows and that it is handed back in condition ready for school afterwards and I obviously cannot do this on my own. So once more a huge thank you to all the people who turned out for the setting up of the theatre on the Friday evening, set building on Saturday and also the clear up on the following Sunday morning. It is no easy task opening the orchestra pit and setting up the barriers and subsequently replacing them and some of us are simply getting too old for all this heavy work now and we really do rely on some younger muscle power of which we are pretty short of at the moment so we are extra grateful for the few who were available. For the Sunday clear up there was a little reluctance for a 9 o'clock start, in spite of the extra hour in bed from putting the clocks back. I was also aware that some of our regular helpers had other commitments this time and could not be there so I wasn't sure how many would turn out, but whilst some were a little later than others our work force was adequate to deal with the task in hand and we were clear of the building well before lunchtime. It would be invidious to name any individuals because it was a team effort, albeit a small team, but you know who you are and you have my undying thanks. Whilst I appreciate that some people have other commitments and can't turn out to help it should be remembered by those who *only* "tread the boards" that the setting up and clear out is every bit as important as the performance itself and without them there would be no show! Maurice

### Could you help with the business side of things?

We are looking for somebody to help with ordering tickets and communicating with local businesses about sponsorship and advertising. Our 'Mr Business Bod.' would be happy for you to shadow him to see what's involved. If you would like more information please speak to Maurice or contact a member of the committee.

**Are you a publicity/marketing genius? We urgently require members to step forward and help with advertising our shows and getting "bums on seats"; could you help with this very important role? Please contact a Committee Member!**

"I would like to thank everyone who took part or supported my production on "Annie" for the October musical. It was a huge undertaking and I couldn't have done it without such an excellent dedicated team both on stage and off. I had a fabulous cast and crew and you all thoroughly deserved the packed houses every night and especially the standing ovation at the end! Well done and thank you to you all."

### **IF THE PLEAS FOR HELP SO FAR HAVEN'T INSPIRED YOU, WE ALSO NEED:**

- **A PROMPT FOR THE PANTOMIME;**
- **A PROPS ASSISTANT FOR THE PANTOMIME;**
- **SOMEONE TO SHADOW IAN WOOKEY WITH A VIEW TO TAKING OVER AS PROPSMASTER NEXT YEAR.**

**PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER IF INTERESTED, THANK YOU!**

**"FALLEN ANGELS" - Our next production in April 2012**

**MESSAGE FROM ALISON  
RE. "ANNIE"**

## SINGING FOR GEOFFREY

As some of you will know, George Hudson organised a trip by a few volunteers on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, to entertain the CODS' old friend Geoffrey Grinstead, who, sadly is suffering from dementia and is a resident of the Derwent Care Home in St. Leonards.

There were 11 of us singing a selection of songs from the shows; shows which meant something special to Geoffrey – either because he appeared in them or directed them in his long career with CODS. George was organiser, compere, singer and host throughout the afternoon and deserves a huge vote of thanks, as does the wonderful Ruth Roberts who, despite being up to her ears in preparations for 'Annie', played for us so beautifully.

The afternoon was very much appreciated by Geoffrey, Barbara and the family, but also by the other residents at Derwent Care Home, many of whom commented to us that they get so very bored and it was lovely to join in with all the old favourite songs (though one old lady said that it was far too noisy and left)!

Music can be a great friend and healer and I think all of us who gave up our time to sing on Saturday felt much moved to be able to make a small difference in someone's life – we should do it more often.

Stephen, Geoffrey's nephew (who originally suggested that we should do this) sent this message to George and myself following our afternoon of entertainment, I will leave the last words to him.

Annie

*We arrived back in Spain late last night so this is the first opportunity to make contact with you to thank you both and the CODs on behalf of the family for making Geoffrey's day so special on Saturday. We all appreciated it so very much.*

*As you will have noticed Geoffrey is not the same person you all once knew but during the afternoon we saw an immense change in him. We heard him sing the words along with you and even conduct you, in what to me at least, seemed perfect timing, so part of the old Geoffrey did come back for a while. He said to me afterwards "we don't get that here and I miss it so much", so we know he also had great joy from your performance.*

*Thank you all very much for all the time and effort you put into the afternoon.*

"I would like to thank everyone who took part or supported my production on "Annie" for the October musical. It was a huge undertaking and I couldn't have done it without such an excellent dedicated team both on stage and off. I had a fabulous cast and crew and you all thoroughly deserved the packed houses every night and especially the standing ovation at the end! Well done and thank you to you all."





## Our under 16s need your help!

A couple of years ago when the government introduced new laws about involving under 16s in shows, many societies stopped involving children. We all know how much children gain from being in shows: perhaps you can remember what it offered you as child...confidence, social skills, new abilities...

By undertaking the role of 'chaperone organiser' I have been making sure that we could continue to offer children these opportunities. I will be giving up my post as 'chaperone organiser' in the New Year and for the sake of our younger members, really hope that someone will come forward to take over the role.

The role includes the following, for which all the systems are in place and up to date:

- Supporting people applying for chaperone licenses
- Organising for contact details forms to be given to children
- Organising a rota of chaperones to look after children during performances
- Recommending dressing room arrangements

The role could be a 'job share'. Please do get in touch if you think you can help or would like more information.

Thank you,

Sarah x

[shutchings05@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shutchings05@hotmail.co.uk)

01580 892424



**DIRECTORS  
WANTED**

**FOR QUEEN  
&  
COUNTRY!**



CODS WILL BE PROVIDING THE MAIN ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE EVENT BANK HOLIDAY **TUESDAY 5TH JUNE 2012**

THIS WILL BE AN OUTDOOR EVENT ON STAGING IN THE STREET, WHILST RESIDENTS OF CRANBROOK TUCK IN TO A PICNIC TEA.

WE MIGHT ALSO REPEAT THE ENTERTAINMENT OR ADD MORE DURING THE EVENING CELEBRATIONS.

WE ANTICIPATE ORGANISING A SHORTISH RAMBLE THROUGH THE 6 DECADES OF HER REIGN - INCLUDING MUSIC FROM THE FIFTIES THROUGH TO THE NAUGHTIES.

SEVERAL DIRECTORS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THIS VENTURE AND IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMITTEE OR CONTACT;

01580 211749 or [chesters853@btinternet.com](mailto:chesters853@btinternet.com)

## Alice In Wonderland

### PROMPT & FRONT OF HOUSE NEEDED!

We also need various other helpers and if I ask enough times I am sure that I can wear somebody down so that they offer to help out....

Ian and Mo need some help with **props** for the run of 'Alice'. Can you spare some time to hand people silly things to wave on stage during the run (27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December)?

Rita and Marilyn still need offers of help to deal with the many **costume** changes during the show. Can you change someone from a Hippie into a playing card in 20 seconds flat? If so please volunteer.

We also need someone who will **film the show** – just point a camera and turn it on – we don't need to win a BAFTA but the panto cast would like a momento.

We are still asking for someone to shadow Maurice as **business manager** and to help us with **marketing/publicity** (liaising with local publications and sending press releases etc).

**GO ON, HELP OUT, YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO!**

## The Back Page

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your  
Codswallop Editor Michelle: 01580 752802  
or email: [michellesandys@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michellesandys@yahoo.co.uk)

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

*Michelle x*

### 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 your Editor, Michelle, details at top of this page. *Might be the perfect opportunity to get rid of any unwanted Christmas presents...!!!*

**Dennis sold his oil  
heater on the day the  
last edition was issued!  
What have you got to  
sell? Send your adverts  
for next edition!**

*Deadline for copy for  
next edition:*

*Friday 13th January 2012*

As this is the last edition of 2011,  
I'd like to take this opportunity to  
wish all CODS Members a very

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**