

CODSWALLOP!

JUNE 2023

MADE IN
DAGENHAM

CODS
WINS

GRAY
ROOM

CODS
SOCIAL

CHAIR'S
NOTES

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Contact details for the committee are available via :

Website - cranbrookods.org.uk/committee

Email - CODS.secretary@gmail.com



CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

CONTACT: REBECCA EVANS, GUY FILLMORE, LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: VIA CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM



CODS WEBSITE

CONTACT LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: VIA CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

CHAIR'S NOTES

So it is that time again where CODS has a new Chair.... *suspenseful drum roll please*.... ME!



I am James or 'Little James' to those members who have been around long enough to remember the persistent confusion of too many James' in the Queen's Hall at once. I have been a part of CODS for over half my life now, since the age of 13, back when *Kiss Me Kate* and that infamous piece of set was a thing! Over this time I have been back stage, above stage and on stage, approaching 50 shows in total, with the odd performance in a Woodchurch panto.

Recently, CODS had their AGM. This was fairly well attended; the fact we chose a smaller venue than usual nearly came back to bite us. There were members old and new - some as new as the turn of the year which was great to see. During the AGM there were many points raised, some of which I would like to highlight.

Firstly, I come to role of Chair with a tough act to follow, as under the guidance of Louisa and the committee, CODS are currently on a run of profit-making shows, with 2022's *The Vicar of Dibley*, *Priscilla* and *Evermore!* being the best year of shows we have seen in a very long while. This puts us back to as steady a place as we were pre-covid. Hopefully we can continue this form going forwards with *Made in Dagenham*, under the watchful eyes of Angela Wright and Wendy Thomas in October. With rehearsals commencing this month it will be exciting to see things begin to come together.

Secondly, with times as they are, CODS are very grateful to our longstanding sponsors Peter Jones Opticians and Cranbrook Farm Shop, and of course our programme advertisers. However, our advertising numbers have reduced for one reason or another. Are you a local business owner, or do you know one? Would you or someone you know be interested in advertising through CODS, or perhaps working with CODS in some way? If so, the lovely Penny or Rebecca would love to hear from you at cods.secretary@gmail.com.

Also, the AGM saw the return of the CODS Most Promising Young Persons' Award, which was this time jointly awarded to William Stoneham and Tom Luck for their continued and dedicated input to lighting and backstage roles in multiple CODS shows - well done to both of them, many thanks from myself and the committee and here's to many more shows!

Our most recent show *Blackadder Goes Forth*, directed by Katie Kember, was met with rave reviews and solid audience numbers for a spring play. The cast of Stuart Collier, Steve Saunders, Richard Gray, James Harper, Steve Lenham, Rebecca Evans, Jez Druce, Hayley Jones and Robin Harrison all performed their role superbly against the magnificent set designed and brought to life by the fabulous talents of Kirstie Scarlett-Bruff. Of course no show would be complete without the authentic sounds courtesy of Penny Tobin, and the atmospheric lighting from William Stoneham, whilst backstage was kept under control by the skills of Brian Hobson and Tom Luck. The show has in fact been nominated for KDA awards, including Best Cameo for Jez's Lord Flasheart and Best Set Presentation, as well as being in the running for Best Director, Best Play, and Adjudicators' Special Award. The rewards evening takes place on the 17th June by which time this issue of CODSwallop will have gone to press. Further details later in this newsletter.

As always, we are on the lookout for anyone who may be interested in treading the boards or even instead being involved with other aspects of theatre such as set building and painting, props sourcing and making, lighting and sound design, backstage, front of house, stage management, costumes and everything else. If any of these strike your fancy, then get in touch with us, either at cods.secretary@gmail.com or with me directly, at james@hhevents.co.uk We will be happy to point you in the right direction.

For now, its bye from me, and time to go enjoy the 2 weeks of British Summertime sun!

Little James

CODS WINS!

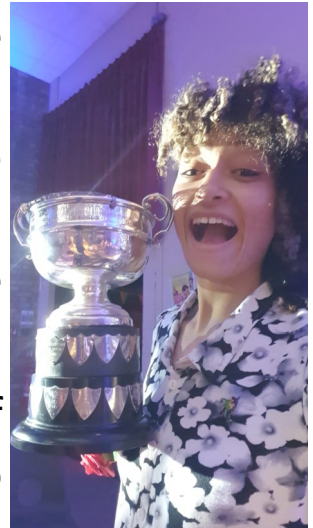
Blackadder Goes Forth - KDA Awards 2023

We won!

CODS production of Blackadder won Best Stage Presentation at the KDA awards. The last time we won this was 1984 so quite some time ago. A big well done to Kirsty and James who designed the set, James and Steve Smith who sourced some authentic props and the whole cast who put it all together.

Jez Druce was commended for his portrayal of Flashheart and was runner up for best cameo performance.

Penny was also mentioned for best sound for her use of authentic music. A special mention was made for Maisie the dog who tried hard not to steal the show if not the scene!



CODS WINS!

Vicar of Dibley - NODA

CODS 2022 production of Vicar of Dibley won the NODA Accolade of Excellence for SE District. Well done to Louisa Nelson-Chambers and all of our cast and crew from the show.



CODS SOCIAL EVENING

**Do come and join us for our next
CODS Social evening on Saturday 8th
July, 7.30pm at the George Hotel,
Cranbrook.**

MADE IN DAGENHAM



So, the anxious wait for our brave and talented auditionees is finally over and we can reveal our Cast List for our incredible Autumn musical! We have been planning this show since last Summer and we are incredibly excited to get started and turn our vision into glorious reality.

We're starting our rehearsals on Monday 5th June and if you would like to come and join us, either behind the scenes or as part of our stunning gang of Dagenham Boys and Girls, please just get in touch with us wendy_carol@hotmail.com or angela.c.w@protonmail.com

Cast List

Rita O'Grady	Samantha Tomlinson
Eddie O'Grady	Tony Chase
Beryl	Siana Weston
Cass	Monique Syred
Clare	Emma Clarke
Sandra	Jess Leaper
Connie	Sharon Pickles
Monty	John Wright
Jeremy Hopkins	Steve Lenham
Lisa Hopkins	Katie Kember
Barbara Castle	Debbie Katis
Harold Wilson	Frank Shepherd

MADE IN DAGENHAM

Gregory Hubble

Adrian Williams

Ron Macer

Dave Clarke

Bill

Mark Jeffery

Sid

James Harper

Stan

Peter Ashby

Mr Tooley

Richard Gray

Graham O'Grady/Barry

Ben Clarke

Sharon O'Grady

Amy Hine

Ensemble

Rebecca Evans, Kaz Kember, Emily Sanderson, Sarah Brennan, Sarah Hutchings, Briony Chaplin, Fiona Bond, Louise Franklin

Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society Proudly Presents



Queen's Hall Theatre Cranbrook

Wednesday 25th – Saturday 28th October 2023, 7.30pm

Tickets: £15 adults / £12 children from [ticketsource.co.uk/cods](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cods)

Book by RICHARD BEAN Music by DAVID ARNOLD Lyrics by RICHARD THOMAS
Based on the Wootley/Karlson/Number 9 Motion Picture www.mtishows.co.uk

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials also supplied by MTI



NOTICES

GRAY ROOM HELP NEEDED

WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO HELP ANNIE TO CLEAR AND SORT THE GRAY ROOM COSTUME STORE AND ALSO THE SCHOOL COSTUME DEPARTMENT SO THAT THEY CAN BE COMBINED AND THE EXTRA SPACE USED FOR A BASIC PROPS STORE.

SOME OF THIS CAN BE SOLD ON 'VINTED'/EBAY, AUCTIONED OR SIMILAR, SO IF YOU ARE CLEVER AT SUCH ONLINE THINGS IT WOULD BE FANTASTIC. THIS IS TO RELIEVE THE CONGESTION IN THE GRAY ROOM AND TO AVOID ANY FURTHER DETERIORATION OF COSTUMES AT FLISHINGHURST.

I AM HOPING THAT MOST OF THIS CAN BE DONE ON A FEW FRIDAYS WHEN I AM NOT WORKING, SO IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON FRIDAYS IT WOULD BE MARVELOUS.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

ANNIE

annie.hatch33@gmail.com

07876 501760

CODS STILL NEEDS AN ARCHIVIST

We would love someone to take over the organisation of CODS' archives. We have 100 years of information, most of which has already been filed in plastic boxes. Posters and photographs of shows from the past few years however are waiting to be added, and we need someone who can continue to keep our records up to date. If you are interested in helping with this please get in touch. It would be lovely to have a society member getting involved.

Contact: cods.secretary@gmail.com

NOTICES

DIRECTORS NEEDED FOR OUR SHOWS

Would you like to direct a show for CODS?? We are open to pitches for our 2023 Christmas Pantomime as well as our 2024 play and 2024 musical.

Please get in touch with your ideas!

cods.secretary@gmail.com

MEMBERS' CORNER

Members are invited to contribute to the Newsletter by sending in their comments, jokes, ideas, opinions, recipes, tips etc., to **CODSWALLOP** at

cods.newsletter@gmail.com. Depending on the response, we are thinking

about creating a Section called **MEMBERS CORNER**.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Presidents

Maurice Wilkins & Rita Wilkins

Vice Presidents

Bernard Beardsmore, Pam Baker, Jeremy Cartwright,
Dinah Chamberlin, Alan Hodge, George Hudson,
Peggy Latter, John Tapper,
Ian Wookey, Marian Cumberland

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James Harper

Business Manager

Guy Fillmore

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

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Penny Tobin, Rebecca Evans

Committee Members

Annie Hatcher, Alison Withey-Harrison,
Kaz Kember, Mark Jeffreys,
Stephen D Smith, Kester Hulland-Rumley

Officials of the Society

Orchestral Secretary

Ruth Roberts

Newsletter Editor

Lee Hatcher

Independent Examiners

Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams

Trustees

Marian Cumberland, James Hanaway, Glyn Roberts,
John Tapper, Annie Hatcher, Sharon Pickles

THE BACK PAGE

Any questions about what you have read?
Please contact your CODSWALLOP Editor

Lee Hatcher:
tel: 01580 388716

or email: cods.newsletter@gmail.com

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



Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society Proudly Presents

made in Dagenham

THE MUSICAL



Queen's Hall Theatre Cranbrook

Wednesday 25th – Saturday 28th October 2023, 7.30pm

Tickets: £15 adults / £12 children from ticketsource.co.uk/cods

Book by RICHARD BEAN Music by DAVID ARNOLD Lyrics by RICHARD THOMAS
Based on the Woolley/Karlsen/Number 9 Motion Picture www.mtishows.co.uk

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre
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**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:
FRIDAY 28TH JULY 2023**