

CODSWALLOP!

JUNE 2021

FLISHINGHURST
TIDY & BBQ
14TH AUGUST

CHARLIE
BLACK

ROM &
JULIE

ARABIAN
NIGHTS

PRISCILLA,
QUEEN OF THE
DESERT

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CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

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CODS WEBSITE

CONTACT LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: VIA CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

CHAIR'S NOTES

I can hardly believe we are half-way through May, and on the cusp of a momentous change with the careful return of CODS to live theatre this year. (Hurrah, I hear you shout!) I've really missed the fun and work that goes into rehearsals, getting the creative juices flowing. Meeting up with people, being part of a community. I think I'm going to have to re-train myself to become a social being again! You know, being in a room with someone who isn't my husband or cats! Scary!



So what's going on in the World of CODS? Well the new committee has had two meetings. We're reviewing the constitution and checking that everything is in place for us to meet the needs of the changing face of the Society for the 21st century! The committee has new faces who are slowly bedding in along with our experienced members. So together we hope to channel the committee's different energy and enthusiasm to help renew your interest in ***your** Society*.

We have lost a number of members and we want you **back!** We also want to welcome **new** members and bring the buzz back! We understand we have to do shows that people want to be a part of. We need Performers, Back-stage staff - the back-bone of any society, without doubt! The invisible people who keep us going, and who do so much work that makes our shows look and sound good. We want performers to bring life into the characters, who are given the opportunity to challenge themselves. We want people to come and have fun at our Quiz Nights, and other social gatherings. We want writers, directors, a pool of choreographers, singers, dancers. If you are 8 or 100 we want you to come and be part of the Society. We do three shows a year, you may not be interested in being in all of the productions, but there should be something that you want to either be in, or want to support, by offering your services backstage, sound, lighting, assistant directing. We can offer you so many opportunities. Have you ever wanted to direct but are a tad nervous? Well we can support your dream. We can assign you as an Assistant Director so that you get to see what's involved and help shape the production you are working on. A new string to your bow! Are you artistic? Why not try your hand at designing posters, stage sets, learn to make props, and help build and paint sets (another string, another bow!) Are you good at organising, but not crazy about treading the boards? Take a look at what we can offer in terms of back-stage roles. Membership offers you all that, plus new friendships, camaraderie, problem solving and above all **F.U.N.**

We are finalising our **Christmas Panto** which is scheduled for December **2021**. Details will be available shortly.

Our **2022** Season is planned, we still have an opening for our Christmas 2022 production, so if you have any ideas email: cods.secretary@gmail.com and tell us your suggestions

And finally, if anyone has any questions, suggestions, complaints, or would like to put themselves forward for something within CODS please email Cods.secretary@gmail.com and let us know. We really want to know what you think and all comments will be reviewed by the committee.

Until Next Time

Lou :-)

FLISHINGHURST TIDY - 14TH AUGUST

SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

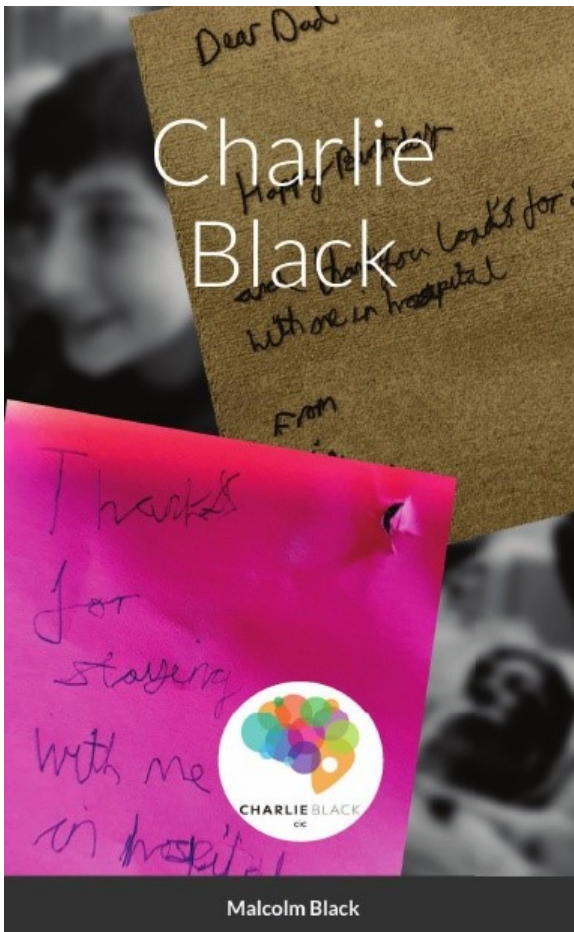
FLISHINGHURST CLEAN-UP
AND SOCIAL EVENT.

GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS PERMITTING - A MESSY
AND FUN DAY
FOR ALL THE FAMILY CULMINATING IN A BBQ...

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

CHARLIE BLACK

Please consider buying 'Charlie Black' - Profit from the sales goes to supporting 'the neuro diverse, those recovering from brain injuries and their families' - a cause very close to many of our members hearts. Link to buy the book below.



Some phone calls are life changing. None more so than when you are told your child has been hit by a car and is unconscious. Malcolm Black narrates his emotional rollercoaster as a father, with a close look at the events and an open heart about his feelings, from the moment he held his son in his arms, knowing just how close he was to losing him. "It was amazing to read [his] words; all of [his] grit and determination. To see how Charlie coped inspired me again in my job. It's been a tough year for the NHS and particularly ITU in Covid. [He] actually kept me going!" - Dina, NHS Nurse

Buy the book here - <https://www.lulu.com/en/gb/shop/malcolm-black/charlie-black/paperback/product-eng4e9.html?page=1&pageSize=4>

KDA RADIO PLAY FESTIVAL 2021

The Adventures of Rom & Julie

If members would like to listen to the play it is available online for a short time at the following link;

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tXYexvIQgarEqUqOOSqF043afDH1IIgN/view?usp=sharing>

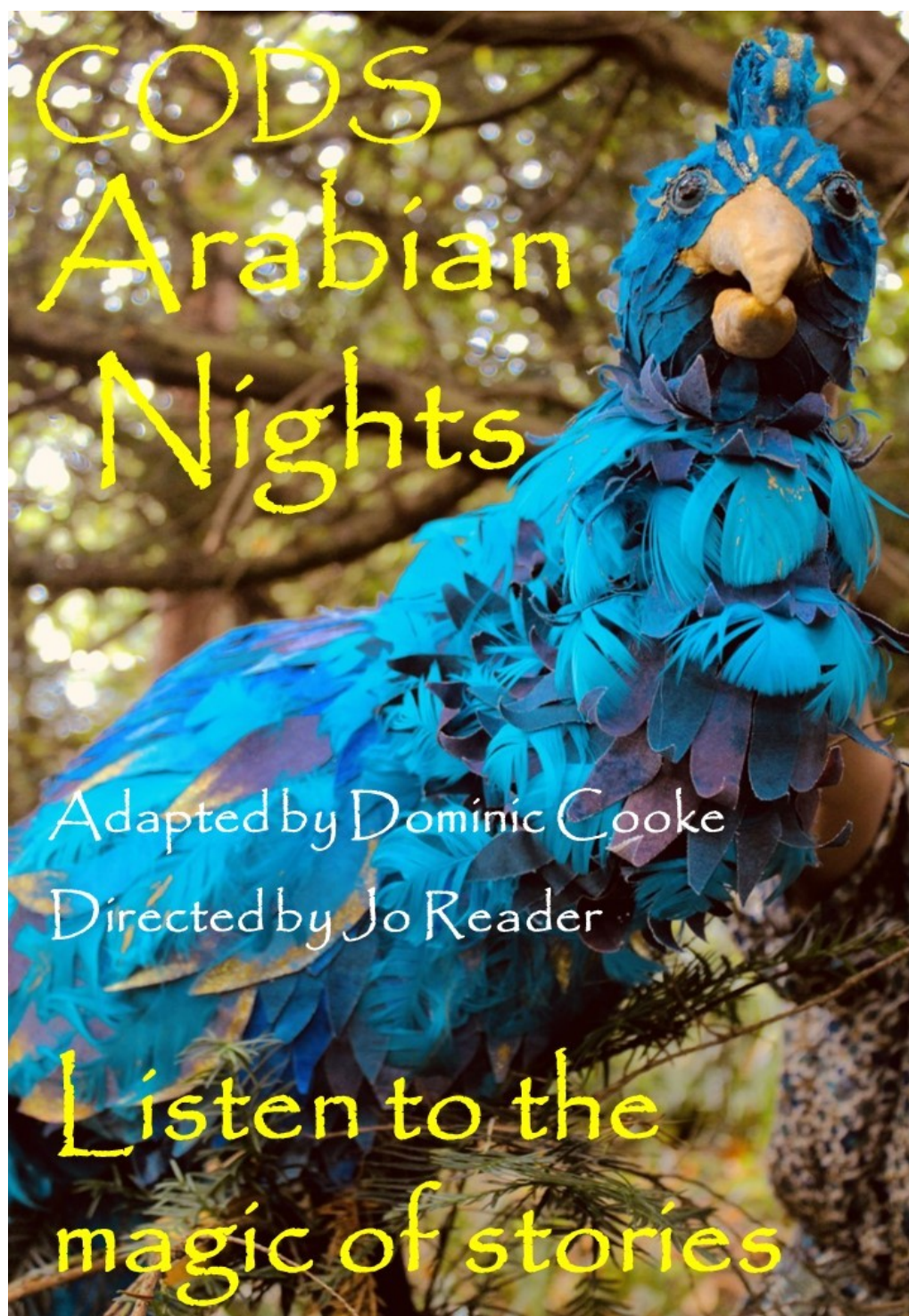


We should hear results of the Radio Play Festival very soon - watch this space!

Andy Clarke - andyclarke1964@gmail.com

ARABIAN NIGHTS

Our Spring 2022 play is due to be Arabian Nights, postponed from 2020. We will be working over the coming months to plan how to bring this spectacular show to the Queens Hall Theatre stage in 2022. Watch this space for news on dates, any recasting etc. In the mean time we have one of our puppets from the show below and details of the stories and characters of Arabian Nights!



CODS Arabian Nights

Adapted by Dominic Cooke
Directed by Jo Reader

Listen to the
magic of stories

ARABIAN NIGHTS

There are 70+ characters of various ages which can be played by a company of about 18 actors or more (the script says a minimum of 9). Ages are flexible and every actor has to double up. Below is an outline of the scenes and characters.

Frame story – Shahrazad, Dinarzad (her sister), Vizier (her father), King Shahrayar, headsman, Queen, jester, slave, bride, company.

The Story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves – The thieves are played as a chorus, becoming the horses, the cave, the treasure inside. (reversible cloaks) Kasim is cut in to four pieces.

Characters - Shahrazad, Shahrayar, Dinarzad, Ali Baba, 6 thieves, Captain, Kasim (Ali's brother), Ali's wife, Kasim's wife, Marjanah the clever slave-girl (performs exotic dance), druggist, Baba Mustapha (poor cobbler), Ali's son.

The Story of the Little Beggar – comedy with slapstick death routine, singing and a tambourine, choking on a fish bone and comedy hanging scene.

Characters -Shahrazad, Beggar (must be able to fall over/tumble/perform slapstick/be agile), Tailor, Tailor's wife, passers-by, Shahrayar, Dinarzad, maid, doctor, doctor's wife, steward, merchant (drunk, urinates, fights), watchman, chief of police, King, hangman.

The Story of Es-Sindibad the Sailor – Es-Sindibad the Sailor tells the story using a puppet of his younger self. Company create images and characters using masks, models, objects, and puppets.

Characters -Shahrayar, Dinarzad, Shahrazad, Es-Sindibad the porter (sings), page, 3 wealthy merchants, 2 male servants, 2 slave-girls, Es-Sindibad the Sailor (uses puppet), company.

How Abu Hassan Broke Wind – the tale that finally makes King Shahrayar laugh.

Characters - Shahrayar, Dinarzad, Shahrazad, Abu Hassan (must be able to mime a huge and deafening fart), marriage broker, bride, uncle, aunt, preacher, fakir, friend, foe, King, girl, mother.

ARABIAN NIGHTS

The Story of the Wife Who Wouldn't Eat – A gruesome tale of a flesh-eating wife and sorcery. Sidi 1 tells the story and Sidi 2 acts it out in flashback – they are identifiable as the same person by distinctive items of the same clothing. Some audience participation.

Characters - Shahrayar/ghoul, Shahrazad, Dinarzad, Sidi 1, Sidi 2, Amina/horse, Haroun, company as dogs, baker, customer 1, customer 2, sorceress.

The Story of the Envious Sisters – a moral tale closely mirroring the King's own story. Uses puppets, cloaks, branches, props, dolls.

Characters - Shahrazad/talking bird/youngest sister, Eldest sister, second sister, Dinarzad/Princess Parizade, King/Shahrayar, Vizier, Prince Bahman, steward, steward's wife, Prince Perviz, passers-by, woman, dervish, head cook, company as stones, tree, birds.

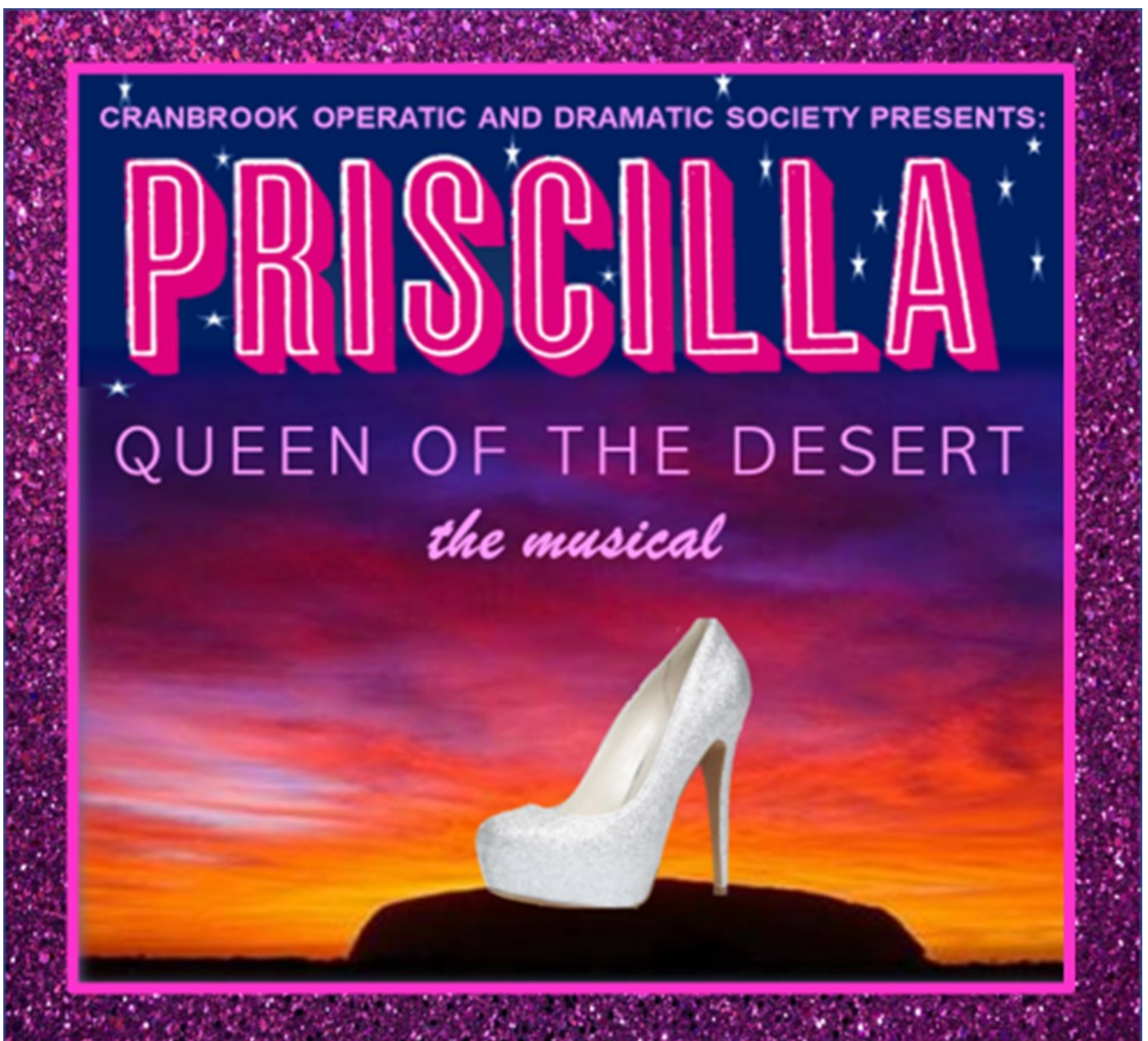
The Story without an Ending – frame story – Shahrazad, Dinarzad, Vizier, King Shahrayar. Characters from previous stories – beggar, Vizier, dogs, thieves, snakes, bird, Marjanah, Es-Sindibad, eagle, Ali Baba. Full company dance a celebration of rebirth.

Epilogue – frame story – Shahrayar, Shahrazad, Dinarzad and full company.

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL

**Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
(dates tbc)**

**Here's all you need to know about our next musical -
Watch this space for news about Auditions**



PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL

SYNOPSIS

Based on the smash-hit movie, PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT is the heart-warming, uplifting adventure of three friends, Tick, Bernadette and Adam, a glamorous Sydney-based performing trio who agree to take their show to the middle of the Australian outback. They hop aboard a battered old bus (nicknamed Priscilla) searching for love and friendship and end up finding more than they ever imagined. With a dazzling array of outrageous costumes and a hit parade of dance floor favourites including "It's Raining Men", "I Will Survive", "Hot Stuff", "Boogie Wonderland", "Go West", "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun", and "I Love The Nightlife", this wildly fresh, colourful and funny musical is a journey to the heart of FABULOUS!

CAST

7 female, 9 male, and 1 boy featured roles

Opportunities for featured casting in the ensemble.

Adam (Felicia)	Lead – young man - drag artiste
Bob	Lead - Older male
Bernadette	Lead – Older male – transexual
Tick (Mitzi)	Lead – approx. 40s – drag artiste
Jimmy	Local (originally Aboriginal character) any age
3 Divas	Female singers, good voices, able to hold a line
Miss Understanding	Compere in nightclub – drag artiste, any age
Cynthia	Bob's Thai wife – sings and does a 'turn' with ping-pong balls!
Frank	Prejudiced thug, any age
Marion	Tick's wife 35/40 ish
Farrah	Drag artiste – any age
Young Bernadette	Dream sequence - sings
Shirley	Bar owner – any age - sings
Benji	Young boy – son of Tick – under 12 years
Ensemble	Male and female - these appear in many of the songs, lots to do!

Many of the drag queen vocals can be lip synced, some can be sung, depending on casting.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Most numbers are group songs - if the drag queens are singing, they are usually accompanied by the 3 divas who are major players.

There is lots more work for the ensemble in the stage show than in the film and this is the main draw for the cast.

You'll see from the list below that it's all rather stylised and the company turn up in most musical numbers.

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT - THE MUSICAL

Here is a list of who sings what:

It's Raining Men	Company
What's Love Got to Do With It	Miss Understanding and Divas
Don't Leave Me This Way	Company
Venus	Company Felicia (Adam)
Go West	Company
I Say a Little Prayer	Tick and Divas
I Love the Nightlife	Company
True Colours	3 Queens
Sempre Libera	Adam (Felicia)
Color My World	Company
I Will Survive	Company
Thank God I'm a Country Boy	Company
A Fine Romance	Young Bernadette
Shake Your Groove Thing	3 Queens and Divas
Pop Muzik	Company
Girls Just Want to Have Fun	Felicia (Adam) /Divas
Hot Stuff	Queens and Divas, then Company
MacArthur Park	Queens and Divas
Boogie Wonderland	Company
Always On My Mind	Tick and Benji then Company
We Belong	Company
Finale	Company

Dancing requirements and difficulty - this will be adjusted according to the abilities of those cast. Dancing can be as simple or as complicated as necessary.

Possible Crew – Would you like to be involved?

I will need a stage manager, a production secretary, a MD, a choreographer as well as crew for set building, sound, lighting, wardrobe, wigs, make up and props – though I've already had lots of enthusiastic volunteers for some of these roles. Please get in touch if you'd like to help -

annie.hatch33@gmail.com

Sooooooooo exciting!

Annie x

NOTICES

HALL MANAGER

In charge of locking up the theatre after performances, which is much more involved than that may sound! Maurice has retired after many years on the committee and in his various roles (what will we do without him?) We wish him all the very, very best and thank him for his many unstinting years of devoted service to CODS. If anyone is interested in this role please contact via CODS Secretary. CODS.secretary@gmail.com

FLISHINGHURST KEYS

Could members who have any keys for Flishinghurst please let us know? Contact Annie via email annie.hatch33@gmail.com

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

FLISHINGHURST HELP

CODS relies on 2 or 3 long standing members to build the scenery for all of our shows, at all times of year, in all kinds of weather. They work really hard and are all well past retirement age. They need much more help and we need other people to learn how to build sets for us. They currently work on Fridays but with enough help they could also work on other days. Can you help?

Without these chaps our scenery wouldn't exist, or it would be very expensive!

Let us know if you can help and when you can help. CODS.secretary@gmail.com

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President

Bernard Beardsmore

Vice Presidents

Pam Baker, Jeremy Cartwright, Dinah Chamberlin,
Alan Hodge, George Hudson, Peggy Latter,
Alan Pickett, Dennis Russell,
John Tapper, Maurice Wilkins, Ian Wookey
Marian Cumberland, Rita Wilkins

Executive Committee

Chair

Louisa Nelson-Chambers

Vice-Chair

Sharon Pickles

Business Manager

Guy Fillmore

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

Committee Members

Annie Hatcher, Penny Tobin,
Alison Withey-Harrison, Andy Clarke,
Kaz Kember, Katie Kember

Contact details for the committee are
available via :

Website - cranbrookods.org.uk/committee

Email - CODS.secretary@gmail.com

Officials of the Society

Orchestral Secretary

Ruth Roberts

Wardrobe Mistress

Sharon Pickles

Properties Master

Lee Hatcher

Front of House Manager

John Tapper

Newsletter Editor

Lee Hatcher

Independent Examiners

Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams

Trustees

Marian Cumberland, James Hanaway,
Glyn Roberts, Jackie Barker, John Tapper

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

Lee Hatcher:

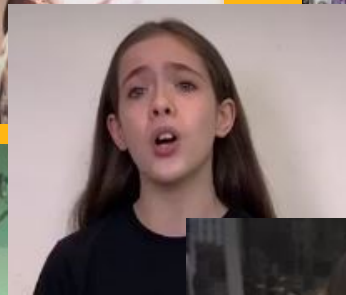
tel: 01580 388716

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!



GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR VIDEOS FROM LAST YEAR & MUCH MORE
CRANBROOKODS.ORG.UK/CODS-2020-LOCKDOWN



WATCH OUT FOR
2021 PANTO NEWS
COMING SOON



**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:
FRIDAY 30TH JULY 2021**