



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! 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!

April 2013

## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



Dear fellow members,

Welcome to the first edition of Codswallop which has been compiled by our new Editor, Lee Hatcher. I am looking forward to seeing Codswallop develop under Lee's control in the coming month's and, at the same time, wish to thank our former Editor, Michelle, for all the hard work carried out in editing Codswallop in recent years.

There is plenty to read in this issue, has much as happened since our last Newsletter and there many events cropping up within the next few months for you all to look forward to and participate in.

I daresay many, if not all of you, attended our recent Production of Calendar Girls, which was clearly appreciated with gusto by the largest audience for a CODS Play since 2007. The Queens Hall was very busy for all three performances and the Production was a credit to everyone involved, particularly to Louisa and Rachel, who directed the play to an extremely high standard. Inside this issue you will be able to read the full NODA review, as well as one of several complimentary emails received from member of the audience. Our challenge now is to maintain such high standards and audience numbers and, together, we can achieve this.

No sooner have the curtains closed on our Spring Play than our ambitious summer event has started, under James' sterling leadership and I am very pleased to see a number of new directors also taking responsibility for this Production. Not only are we venturing into the streets to take live theatre to our audiences, we are also entering the world of on-line booking via Ticketsource, which hopefully will improve our ticket sales prior to our performances. Full details of this will be on the forthcoming publicity, though we will still be having a High Street Box Office and/or contact telephone number for those who choose to buy tickets in person.

The Sound of Music is also gathering pace; inside this issue you will see Pat's audition notice and further details of the Production. However, we will need rehearsal pianists, wardrobe assistance and a Production Assistant shortly, so if you can help in any way, please get in touch with either Pat or myself as soon as possible.

Jack is currently finalising scripts for our Christmas Pantomime and we are aiming to announce a title in mid May. Auditions for the Pantomime will be held in late June / early July.

Turning to 2014, we welcome suggestions for a Spring Play and/or offers of direction and assistance, and you will find details of how to become involved in all of this inside this issue. Our Show Selection Sub Committee will be busy in the next few months, and they require the help of one other person. Interested? Please let either Angela or myself know as soon as possible.

In addition to our Productions, the Committee are addressing measures to ensure that the Society fully complies with the School's No Smoking policies, as well as devising a more strategic and imaginative approach to our Marketing and Publicity. If you have any concerns regarding the No Smoking policy, and/or ideas to improve our Marketing and Publicity, please let me know.

It's a very exciting time in the Society at present, and I am looking forward to the forthcoming events with considerable enthusiasm. I do hope you share my view and join me in what will be a productive time for the Society within the next few months.

Andrew

Tel 01424 718328

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

**"I am confused by life, and I feel safe within the confines of the theatre" - Helen Hayes**

# Cranbrook Shorts

Dear CODS members, here are all the details for our Summer Production, Cranbrook Shorts. This is to be a series of 6 performances taking place in 6 different venues in Cranbrook on the 29th June.

This will be an exciting and different opportunity for CODS and I hope you will be eager to be involved or if not come along with all your friends to watch!

Thanks all  
James

Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Presents:



**Cranbrook Shorts**

Six, different, ten minute performances in six different venues:

**SHORT PLAYS** **Film**  
**Music & DANCE**

Includes Feeding the Ducks by Paul Matthews and A life-changing experience by Tom Jensen

**7pm, Sat. 29th June**  
Start and Finish at the Vestry Hall  
**Cods.ticketsource.co.uk**  
Or from **Ubertogs in the High Street**  
or call **01622 749762**

**A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE**

A short play by Tom Jensen

Gareth's not happy with his life, and even though he doesn't have a receipt or the extended warranty and the manufacturers have gone bankrupt, he's going to try and take it back to the shop anyway. Lucky for him, Janice the manager is on hand to offer him a rare deal...



Cranbrook High Street

**FEEDING THE DUCKS**

A Short Sketch by Paul Matthews

Moira loves to feed the ducks, and has done so ever since her husband died. But Paul is an ornithologist on a mission to save ducks from those who clog their crops with damp bread!



A Park Bench

**CATE BLANCHETT WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND ON FACEBOOK!**

A short play by Alex Broun

In a construction site office, Barry gets an unusual Facebook friend request... does he accept it, ignore it? And who is this Cate Blanchett anyway...?



The Vestry Hall Cranbrook

**A CODS Choir Performs!**

A showcase of the singing talents of CODS members



St Dunstan's Church

## Cranbrook Shorts



Lonely serial killer Henrik may have found a kindred spirit. But the course of true crime never did run smoothly...

A Third Light Film  
Produced and Directed by Leon Chambers  
Written by Simon Lord.

Cast: Nigel Pilkington, Morag Cross



Cranbrook School Performing Arts Centre



A short story by James Hanaway  
& Contemporary Dance set to The Windmills of My Mind

Dylan meets and falls for the lady in the Windmill, but where will her voice lead him too...



Cranbrook Windmill

### Cranbrook Shorts

#### Performance Date:

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June  
7pm

#### Information & Audition Dates:

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm

Cranbrook School Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

#### Read through and Auditions

Contact James Hanaway for audition pieces beforehand

07825 393306

or

Jameshanaway@hotmail.com

## Breakthrough Breast Cancer

I have received a letter of thanks from Breakthrough Breast Cancer for the donation from the CODS Panto and that it has pushed my target amount, over £1,000.00. Consequently I will be able to nominate Cranbrook Operatic Society to be included on the next wall to be unveiled in their Research Centre.

Through the news letter will you allow me to say a big thank you on their behalf. This money helps the researchers make incredible strides towards a future free from the fear of breast cancer, which, as you know has affected many past and current members of CODS. I will be forwarding Breakthrough's letter to the Chairman for CODS records in due course. Once again, Thank you all so very much.

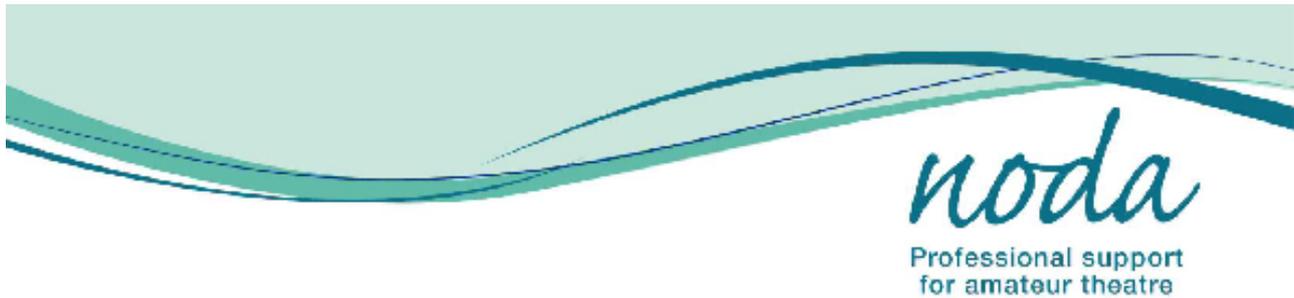
Madeleine

## Calendar Girls

We received the following by email from a 'Calendar Girls' audience member.

In 2009, my husband and I went to see a production of 'Calendar Girls' in the West End, with the cast including Anita Dobson, June Brown, Jerry Hall and Jill Halfpenny to name but a few. We came last night, 13th April, to see the Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of 'Calendar Girls' and felt the cast was just as professional. The set, costumes, props, lighting and sound all helped make a superb night out and well worth the journey from Hastings. Congratulations to all concerned.

## Calendar Girls - NODA Review



**Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society**  
**Calendar Girls by Tim Firth**  
**11<sup>th</sup> April 2013**  
**Queens Hall, Cranbrook**  
**Director: Louisa Nelson-Chambers**  
**Assistant Director: Rachel Croft-Golding**

This play must surely now hold the record for performance around the country. I have had the pleasure of attending four different groups, all with amazingly high quality performance and still I am moved with both emotion and at the same time much laughter. I'm quite sure the story line is well known to you all. It tells of a group of extraordinary women, members of an ordinary Yorkshire WI whose fundraising efforts posing for a new calendar. The target is £500 to provide Skipton General with a comfortable settee for the relatives' room in memory of John, who dies of Leukaemia. Exceeding all expectations, over a half a million pounds was raised and made it possible for the settee to be housed in the John Clarke Wing! The reality is we are all touched by the subject matter and the fact that the story is a true one.

**FRONT OF HOUSE:** A stunning themed sunflower floral display on entry was perfect, and again a lovely display of foyer photographs. We received a warm welcome from newly appointed Chairman Andrew Wight prior to the performance and again during the interval, with an introduction to talented Director Louisa on her CODS production debut. A raffle was held – regretfully no prizes for me, but I hope you raised lots of money.

**PROGRAMME:** Beautifully constructed A5 programme by Lee Hatcher, with a glossy black and white interior and coloured cover depicting sunflowers under a blue sky. Well supported by advertisers, Director's Notes together with a message and photograph of Helen Mirren – a very nice touch. Principal player biogs, rehearsal photos, production team and back stage with acknowledgements of help given also included. An updated list of Officers and Officials of the Society were there together with the correct NODA logo and wording, and past productions and forthcoming Sound of Music all making interesting reading. Don't forget you can enter the Regional Programme Competition – details are on the NODA website and we need five copies to put forward.

**MUSIC:** Sympathetic incidental music was well chosen with special musical arrangement and original music from Glyn Roberts. A moving rendition of Jerusalem with harmony was led by Alison Withey-Harrison with of course the added advantage of her musical background.

**SCENERY:** The Church Hall was most realistically designed by Derek Moore and well built and painted by the usual stalwart construction team. All aspects of a hall were there – I particularly like the chapel shaped windows and the vestibule certainly gave an extra dimension for the nervously waiting young photographer Lawrence. It was just a pity the double doors didn't always remain

### National Operatic and Dramatic Association

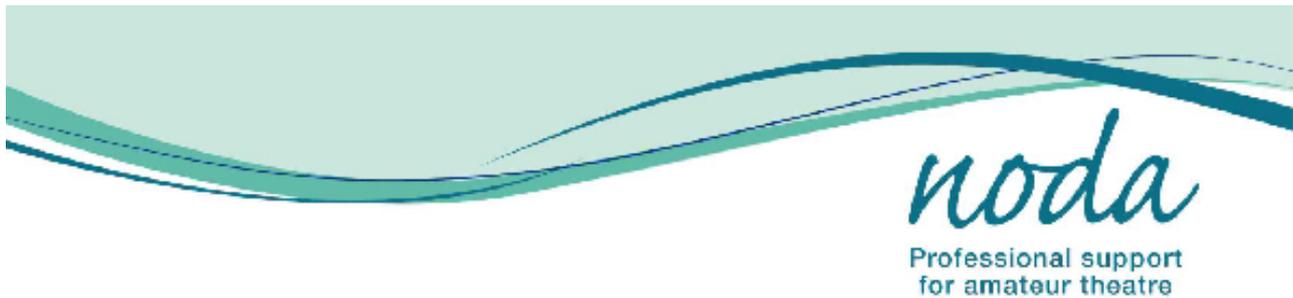
NODA House, 58-60 Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2RZ

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)

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## Calendar Girls - NODA Review



closed. The effects for John's hill worked really well and particularly when his troughs of sunflowers came into full bloom. Back projection billowing clouds and gauze were most effective. The AGM lectern was excellent in both looks and timing of lights and buzzers.

**PROPS:** So very many required for this play but very well gathered by **Lee Hatcher** and **Ian Wookey**, including the large iced buns for the photo shoot!

**MAKE UP/HAIR:** Everyone was well in keeping with their character. Clever idea using the woollen hat for John after his chemo – I have seen shaven heads, but this worked well.

**COSTUME:** **Rita Wilkins** and **Marilyn Coleman** again produced sets of good character costumes, but some footwear was possibly inappropriate.

**SOUND/LIGHTING:** The sound and lighting designs, including the wonderful skies nicely designed and operated during the scenes and between changes. One reservation on lighting, I felt there might have been a blackout for John's departure from stage after his death.

**THE PRODUCTION:** Undoubtedly **Louise** and her assistant **Rachel** had an excellent team to work with who explored and developed the quite varied characters and emotions. Both **Jo Reader** as **Chris** and **Jo Levett** as **Annie** gelled and gave strong performances with a mix of pathos and comedy. **Glyn Roberts** portrayed a lovable **John Clarke**, maintaining his sense of humour perfectly and holding his Yorkshire accent. **Alison Withey-Harrison** made **Cora**, single mother, somewhat hippy, colourful, vicar's daughter come alive with both her physical actions and musical ability. **Westlife** fan **Ruth** was nicely played by **Sarah Davis**. It was a pity more wasn't made of the wonderful scene with wife snatcher beautician **Elaine**. Great badminton scene from **Joanne Hill** as straight laced **Marie**, Chair of the WI group. Special mention goes to **Simon Tomlinson's** portrayal of timid photographer **Lawrence**. Other players were certainly well cast and the whole team performed this very wordy, fast paced piece with seesaw emotions exceedingly well. The stage crew under the direction of **SM Maurice Wilkins** moved quickly and quietly throughout.

Thank you **CODS** for your kind invitation, your hospitality and hard work. A shortened review will be available on the website shortly.

**Anne Lawson**  
Regional Representative  
NODA SE DISTRICT 3

### 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)

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## The Sound of Music

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Show Dates</b>                                       | Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> October - Sat 2nd November |
| <b>Sing Through/Help Night</b> Adults only Queen's Hall | Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 7.30 p.m.              |
| <b>Auditions</b> adults including Liesl Performing A C  | Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30 p.m.            |
| <b>Children's workshop/auditions</b> Old Gym            | Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2.30 - 5.00 p.m.       |

Director- Pat Smith      Musical Director - Michael Jarrett      Choreographer- Vicky King

### **URGENT PLEA!!**

We need a rehearsal pianist. If you have any ideas please contact Pat 01580 830857 or Andrew 01424 718328. Ruth Roberts will play for the sing through and auditions but she is taking a break after that.

#### Audition Details

| Character   | Music to audition  | Dialogue to look at                                 |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Mother Abbess</b> A very big role with a lot of dialogue and singing. She could be any age from 30- about 50 years   | Climb every Mountain No 28   | Act 1 Sc 3 Pages 25-28<br>Act 1 Sc 13 pages 94-97   |
| <b>Sister Margaretta</b> Mistress of Postulants. Any age  | Maria No 4 Pages 15-22   | Act 2 Sc 7 145-148<br>Act1 Sc 13 Page 94            |
| <b>Sister Berthe</b> Mistress of Novices. Any age   | As above   | Act 1 Sc 3 Pages16                                  |
| <b>Sister Sophia</b> A main nun any age   | As above   |   |
| <b>Maria Rainer</b> A young postulant who finds the discipline in the abbey difficult .A huge part with most of the singing and dialogue  | The Sound of Music No2<br>The Lonely Goatherd No 14<br>Pages 70-75     | Act 1 Sc 3 pages 22-28<br>Act 1 Sc 9 pages 72- 74   |
| <b>Captain George von Trapp.</b> A retired naval captain. A widower with 7 children whose ages range from 5-16 years. Age 40-50 years   | Edelweiss No 42<br>Part of The Sound of Music No 17<br>Pages 95+ 96    | Act 1 Sc 9 Pages 61- 66<br>Act 2 Sc 1 Pages 107-111 |
| <b>Elsa Schraeder</b> A handsome woman. Late 30's. Rich, cosmopolitan and attractive. Set to marry the captain.<br>A lot of sophisticated dialogue. Sings a duet with Max and a trio which includes the captain | Act 1 No16 How Can Love<br>Survive Pages 61- 66.                       | Act 1 Sc 9 Pages 61- 67<br>Act 2 Sc 1 Pages 109-111 |
| <b>Max Detweiler.</b> A charming dilettante. Busy arranging concerts in the area. Age 40-60 years. A lot of sophisticated dialogue. Sings a duet with Elsa and a trio which includes the captain                | Act 1 No 16 How Can Love<br>Survive Pages 61- 66                       | Act 1 Sc 9 Pages 64- 67<br>Act 2 Sc 1 Pages 109-111 |
| <b>Liesl</b> Eldest von Trapp child 16 years. Thinks she is in love with Rolf. This is a huge role. She does everything with the younger children but also a lot without them                                   | Sixteen going on Seventeen .<br>No 11. Needs to be able to dance a bit | Act1 Sc 6 Pages 47-49                               |
| <b>Rolf Gruber</b> 17 years. He is a telegram boy interested in Liesl but later in the story he joins the Nazi party  | Sixteen going on Seventeen<br>No 11                                    | Act1 Sc 6 Pages 47-49<br>Act 2 Sc 5 Pages132-133    |

## The Sound of Music

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Frau Schmidt</b> -the housekeeper. On and off stage for most of the show. She has a lot of dialogue but doesn't sing        |  | Act 1 Sc5 Pages 31-33<br>Act 1 Sc7 Pages 52- 54 |
| <b>Franz</b> the butler On and off stage for most of the show. He has dialogue but doesn't sing                                |  | Act 1 Sc5 Pages 31-33                           |
| <b>Herr Zeller</b> Guest at a dinner. No singing. Pro Germany  |  | Act 2 Sc5 Pages 126-127 and 136-139             |
| <b>Baron Elberfeld</b> Guest at the dinner Anti Germany  |  |   |
| <b>Admiral von Schreiber</b> . No singing. A naval Officer. He brings orders for the Captain von Trapp to join the German Navy |  | Act 2 Sc5 Pages 136-139                         |
| <b>Baroness Elberfeld</b> . No singing, Could double as a nun  |  |   |
| <b>Frau Ullrich</b> . No singing, Could double as a nun  |  |   |

**The Ladies Chorus.** They are nuns for most of the time but double as party guests in Act 2 where they will need to dance a waltz and some of them a Laendler, an Austrian dance. It wasn't until I look at the score that I realised how challenging the nun's singing is mostly in Latin. We are planning to record the off stage singing in the church to get the authentic sound. Some of the singing is in four parts so we need as many nuns as possible but because this show is mainly about Maria and the children rehearsals will not be too arduous.

There is no men's chorus as such but there are small parts for men but only in Act 2. We will need men to be guests at the party in Act 2. A plea will go out later but it need not be the same men every night except for those dancing the Laendler

### The Children

**Friedrich** 14 years, **Louisa** 13 years, **Kurt** 11 years, **Brigitta** 9 years, **Marta** 7 years, **Gretl** 5 years.

This is not a children's chorus.

They all have a lot of dialogue and even more singing and are on stage right through the show with about seven changes of costume. We are having two sets of children and they must be able to attend most of the rehearsals. They need to be confident and hard working as they will have a lot to remember.

We are doing a workshop/audition on Sunday 9th June in The Old Gym at the back of the school. We will start at 2.30 and finish at about 5.00. We will have some chaperones but do not want parents to stay to watch as this is distracting for the children. They need to learn the tune of My Favourite Things , which is No6 in the score pages 25-28. I expect most will know it. If you need a copy we can provide one.

Vickie will give them simple moves as there is no dancing but a lot of movement in their songs and Pat will organise some sort of little play lets to see how well they can act and make themselves heard. We are expecting this show to be lots of fun.

We will start rehearsing on Monday 24th June in the Old Gym and will work from 6.00pm-7.30 .They will not be needed for the later rehearsal on Mondays. Thursday 27th they will be needed from 7.00 pm until 8.30.in The Performing Arts Centre. We will follow this pattern of rehearsal every Monday and Thursday until the school breaks up at the end of July. There will probably be no rehearsals in August but when we start again in September there will be times when they will need to attend the whole rehearsal from 7.30 to about 10 p.m and, of course during show week they will be needed from 6.30 for make-up until the show finishes at about 10p.m. Not every performance, of course and it will be half term.

*See you all at auditions*

*Pat*

## Notices

### Archivist Needed

The CODS is now over 91 years old and all past productions are stored safely and chronologically in our archives. We now stage 3 or 4 performances every year and we need someone to sort and file the programmes, posters and photos for each show in the archive store at Flushinghurst. This is not an arduous task, but vitally important to the society. If you are interested in taking on this duty please get in touch with a member of the committee. Many thanks.

### Patrons

If someone you know, does not wish to be an active member of the society, but still wants to support CODS, please ask them to consider becoming a patron. It will cost £30 per annum and will entitle you to a mention in each programme and preferential ticket bookings.

### Queen's Hall Rules

Just a reminder to all members that food and drink are not permitted in the Queen's Hall auditorium, and that the whole school is a **NO SMOKING** site during the school term. We will be organising a smoking area for those performers who wish to smoke during performances, but it will be well away from the stage door. If any members have any queries or concerns with regard to the School's policy, please can they address these to the Committee, c/o Jackie in order that they can be considered.

### Publicity

We are putting together a list of places to put A4 posters and fliers to advertise shows (e.g. shops, notice boards, schools, garden centres, farm shops etc). Please can people list places which have been happy to take and put up our posters/fliers before?

Also if you are willing to put posters and fliers up in a particular town/village please let us know. Thank you, Alison ([awh@thompsons.co.uk](mailto:awh@thompsons.co.uk)).

### Vacancy for Show Selection Sub-Committee

A vacancy currently exists on our Show Selection Sub Committee, and we would hope that a member of the Society will step forward to join this important group to consider selections for our Productions. As seen elsewhere in this issue, consideration and selection of our Spring Play 2014 will be taking place within the next few months, and this is your opportunity to help the Executive Committee make a final decision. Anyone interested should be prepared to help consider all suggestions made, comment on all aspects of possible Productions and offer unbiased views on any shortlisted Productions worthy of being performed by the Society. Anyone interested in joining this Sub Committee should contact either its Chairperson, Angela Woodcock ( tel 01580 712175 ) and/or Andrew ( tel 01424 718328 ) within the next few weeks, as the Sub Committee will be starting work in a few weeks time in respect of consideration of our Spring Play for next year.

## Spring 2014

### We need a Play, a Director and Assistance !

#### Can YOU Help ?

At the AGM this year, members present were invited to submit suggestions for our forthcoming Productions. In respect of a Spring Play, titles of "Allo Allo" and "Dad's Army" were put forward. These plays are based upon the ever-popular television comedies and have been successful choices for many groups throughout the country. However, the suggestions need not stop at the AGM and by way of this article, I am inviting all members to submit further suggestions for a Spring Play next year. Any further suggestions ? Or should the Charity Concert be resurrected ? What do you suggest ?

Every Production needs a Director and, in a similar vein, if anyone wishes to be considered for directing in the Spring of next year, or being a Production Assistant / Assistant Director, again please let me know. Prospective director's are encouraged to submit up to two suggestions of their choice, together with a brief statement in support of their suggestion, with emphasis on the marketability of their choices.

Once the Production and Director are selected, it will be necessary for a Production Team to be formed. Whereas the Society has capable members who carry out these duties, they are small in number and none of these roles are their exclusive territory. It will be necessary for more members to assist and start to take the lead in some of these duties within the foreseeable future, in order for the Society to continue to thrive. Whereas this is a pressure area for many groups, this could be more pronounced next Spring, when we could have very limited lighting, sound and backstage resources available, which in turn could influence the final choice of our Spring Production. At this moment in time, and for the next few months, we are proceeding as normal with regard to the selection of our Spring Production, but if any member is interested in learning about lighting, sound or backstage, or indeed any of the many off-stage areas, please get in touch with me; the forthcoming Autumn Musical and/or Christmas Pantomime could provide full hands-on experience and full support and assistance will be provided.

I look forward to hearing from anyone with regard to suggestions for Productions and offers of direction or assistance, by no later than **Sunday 19th May**, in order that our Show Selection Sub Committee can consider all suggestions. Your input could influence the success of our Spring Production next year, and we look forward to hearing from you. All being well, we hope to be announcing details of our Spring Production in mid July this year.

Andrew

Tel: 01424 718328

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

## CODS Sponsored Walk

The date of Sunday 10th March was selected for our now - annual Charity Walk, this time our selected Charity was the Holly Eatwell Trust, which we felt was appropriate having regard to our forthcoming Production of Calendar Girls. As we gathered in the Jockey Lane Car Park, we witnessed a phenomenon we had not seen for months....the rain was holding off, the grey clouds were clearing and the sky was turning a majestic blue. Something yellow and hot was peeking through the few white clouds up there. At 10am off we strode, on what was the first decent Sunday morning weather-wise of the year so far.



Our small group reached Angley Road and started to head towards Angley Woods. As we passed the Sports Centre, the loud squeal of car tyres on gravel stopped us in our tracks....the Harrison's had arrived, slightly late, but determined to join the fun! A few moments later, with our numbers more or less now doubled, we re-started and into the Woods we strode.

Ten minutes or so later, our cheery conversation was shattered by the sound of a mobile ringing, to which we found Jo Levett on the other end, having turned up late at the car park and headed out to find us, but taken the

wrong path somewhere in the process. Easily done, I know. After working out where we were in relation to Jo, we were able walk on, at a slightly slower pace in order that Jo could double back and catch us up. One further phone call and 20 minutes later, Jo caught us up, having walked at a pace that would have left Usain Bolt standing.

We walked along the High Weald Landscape Trail and after a few miles, the skyline of Goudhurst came into view and the pace quickened, probably as the opening time of the Star and Eagle Inn was rapidly approaching. However, the star of our group was definitely young Raife, who showed no sign of fatigue as we headed up the steep hill into Goudhurst, and left us in his wake. After a long climb, we arrived at the Inn's beer garden, where we were able to enjoy our lunch in the sun, with great views looking back upon the route we had travelled so far, all with a good round of drinks.



Once lunch was over, we said goodbye to the Harrison's, who had strategically parked a second car in the village, and we carried on our journey, this time travelling eastwards towards Ladham House, and then through various orchards and fields. We were hoping to surprise Sarah and possibly call in for a free cup of tea, but she clearly heard us coming and

## CODS Sponsored Walk

decided to pop out; undaunted, we carried on through the woods and towards Colliers Green, where just past the School we turned southwards and down to the Goudhurst Road. We soon found ourselves on the familiar path leading to Gravel Pit Wood ( how many times have we walked along here on these



events ? ) and as we reached Spratsbourne Farm, the owner, Colin, took great delight in showing us two barns full of sheep and some cattle, as well as making a hearty pledge to our sponsorship. Shortly after leaving the Farm, we came across arguably the largest dog stile ever made, and it was suggested that it was probably big enough to squeeze through rather than use the adjoining gate. Having never experienced crawling through a dog stile, I decided to try this for myself to the amusement of everyone else, and was able to announce that it was not too much of a squeeze after all. A few moments later, we arrived at the point

from where Jo had first called us earlier, and we duly made our way back to Cranbrook, having had a most enjoyable day out.

Whereas the numbers of our sponsors were down compared to previous years, the level of sponsorship raised was clearly consistent, and in spite of the current economic climate, we are pleased to announce that a sum of **£413** plus Gift Aid will shortly be paid to the Trust, to help them with the sterling work that they carry out. The total sum raised from our four Charity Walks to date is now close to £3,000, plus Gift Aid, which we feel is something to be proud of.



In concluding this article, we would like to thank once again everyone who either attended or helped sponsor this event. We had a great day out, and hope to arrange a similar event in March next year .

Andrew and Marian

## The Back Page

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your Codswallop Editor Lee Hatcher: tel: 07877 419185 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!

**Thanks so much to Michelle for a smoo-ooth handover and all your hard work - Lee**

### 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.

### The Executive Editor Ponders....

Good day to you all. As Executive Newsletter Editor, Executive Programme Editor, and Executive Props Dog, I thought it only right, and timely, that I offered the benefit of all my knowledge, experience and generally being cuddlesome to the society at large. I hope to make this feature a regular item, only if I can fit it into my already packed schedule – of course!

As overseer of all things CODS I would like to offer my congratulations to every director in the last year, from Fallen Angels to the Jubilee celebrations, and on to Oklahoma, Robin Hood and Calendar Girls. All these shows have been a joy to watch, obviously none of you could have done it without me, thank you for your assistance.

During rehearsals it may have seemed that I fell asleep often when my carrier (I forget his name at the moment) lifted me to view proceedings. This is far, far from the truth. I was merely closing my eyes to better immerse myself in the piece, to let the music and comedy and drama *wash* over me.

I hope, in future months, to share with you some of my experiences of this business we call 'Show'. My time with CODS will stand as a lesson to you all and thusly it is my duty to pass this on to you.

I will leave you now, I can be contacted through this newsletter, or my personal carrier/butler, but don't expect a rapid response – One is very important.



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

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