



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

### 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)'

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

### 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!

DECEMBER 2012

## DECK THE HALLS!

## NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hello luvvies and techies,

Another's successful show under our belts and two more primed and ready to go!

'Oklahoma!' was a big box office draw and Angela and her cast and crew should be congratulated on a great show. People in the area are still talking about it and, though we have yet to see final figures, it seems to have done well financially.

'The pantomime adventures of Robin Hood' is in mid rehearsal. In a departure to the usual format, we have no specific chorus or dancers in this show (simply because so many people dropped out after casting). This means that, apart from the children, everybody else is a named character. There is lots for everyone to do and a good time is being had by all. A few of us even spent a very wet and windy day making a film as part of the show - our grateful thanks to King Richard (aka Leon) for that.

Tickets are already available from Maurice (713887) and the box office opens at the beginning of December at Lambert and Foster in the High Street.

Our designated charities for this year's panto will be 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer' and 'Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala', which is the group, linked with Cranbrook School, whom I spent some time in Tanzania several years ago and which helps to build wells, hospitals and schools in a very remote part of Africa. I hope you will approve of our choices.

'Calendar Girls' has been cast and later in Codswallop you will find a list the people who will be treading the boards for that one from April 12th -14th. There will be further information from our new director, Louisa, later in the newsletter.

Good luck to Louisa and her team for the start of rehearsals at the beginning of January.

It seems increasingly unlikely that the rights holders will allow us to put on 'Cabaret' next Autumn, due to the professional tour (though we are still hoping).

If this proves to be the case then we will do 'Crazy for You', the Gershwin show. We will let you know as soon as there is any news!

Lastly, a plea from your chairman and your committee to use our Facebook page with care and consideration. There have been several incidences in the past year or so when conversations on Facebook have got out of hand and have caused upset and distress to members. Our page is for people to communicate items of interest to the membership rather than for private conversations which should possibly be kept private. I hope you all understand this plea and will realise that Facebook is a public forum. Anybody can access it, and it can show us in a good light or in a bad one (sorry David, I'm sure there is no such thing as a bad light)...rant over!

Enjoy this edition of Codswallop and we will see you all at the Panto!

Annie x

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### Charity Walk - Sunday 3rd March 2013

We shall be organising an 8-9 mile charity walk for the Holly Eatwell Trust, starting from Cranbrook, on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013. At the time of writing, the precise route is yet to be determined, but we are looking to walk to Goudhurst and back, probably with drinks at the Star and Eagle half way round. To date, our previous events have generated over £2,500 for charity and a great day out for all our participants and will be aiming to exceed the £3,000 mark next year. Further details will be announced in the next edition of Codswallop.

Andrew White and Marian Cumberland

### Quiz Night - Saturday 16th February 2013

We are hoping to organise a Quiz Night on Saturday 16th February 2013 at the Vestry Hall, to help raise funds for a Society project. This event will be open to all members, friends, partners and possibly one or two other Societies. Details will be announced as soon as possible but in the meantime, anyone who is willing to help organise or assist in any capacity with the operation of the Quiz should contact Marian Cumberland, on 01580 715580.

**Do you have an idea for a fundraising event?  
If so, please contact your Committee now  
We're very happy to consider all (legal...!)  
suggestions!**

Our Latest Productions

# Calendar Girls by Tim Firth

## CALENDAR GIRLS CAST LIST

Chris - Jo Reader

Annie - Jo Levett

Ruth - Sarah Calcutt

Cora - Alison Withey-Harrison

Celia - Vicky King

Jessie - Angela Woodcock

Marie - Joanne Hill

Lady C/Brenda - Sharon Pickles

John - Glyn Roberts

Rod - James Hanaway

Liam - Mark Cheeseman

Lawrence - Simon Tomlinson

[Tenterden Operatic and Dramatic Society's Forthcoming Production](#)

directed by Heather Leslie

**Wed 30th, Thurs 31st January  
Fri 1st & Sat 2nd February 2013**

Tenterden Town Hall

7.30pm

Tickets from Travelux, Tenterden

Rehearsal will commence either January 7th or 10th 7:30 Old Music Room.

I'd like to thank everyone who took part in the read through and auditions for Calendar Girls. What an amazing turn out and what a wealth of talent. I look forward to working with cast and production team. Together we will produce a show to the best of our talents, I am absolutely sure of that.

Louisa N-C (Director)

## Please Note...

**“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens**

“A Christmas Carol” - Stables Theatre, Hastings—14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012

I am appearing, in numerous on-stage roles, in the Stables Theatre's Production of “A Christmas Carol” in December this year. Having been involved in a previous Production of this play, as well as seeing it on several occasions since, I consider this will be a great pre-Christmas treat for all the family.

Dickens' classic tale is always a festive favourite and the version of this play, as written by John Mortimer, does the story full justice. The Production has a great cast as well as a strong technical team, and will feature singing, dancing, special effects, 3D animation and flying. Well, that's what we were promised at the first rehearsal....

Most of the Performances will be in the evening on the dates listed above ( 17<sup>th</sup> December excepted ), starting at 730pm. On 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December there will be a matinee ( only ) starting at 3pm. The total length of each performance will be in the region of 2.5 hours, inclusive of one interval.

Ticket prices are £12.50 per adult, with discount for group bookings at £7.50 per ticket. If anyone wishes to attend any performance, I shall be happy to obtain tickets on their behalf, alternatively tickets can be obtained via the Stables Box office ( tel 01424 423221 ) or via the Stables Website.

Tickets are already selling and I daresay this Production will sell out, so if anyone is interested in coming along, please order your tickets soon to avoid unnecessary disappointment. However, if you are unlucky not to get ticket's, there will be the Society's own Pantomime of “Robin Hood” the following week, which will also be a great evening out !

I hope some members will come along to “A Christmas Carol”, which will be a great start to the forthcoming Christmas festivities !

Andrew White (Tel 01424 718328 or [supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk))

## **“CODSWALLOP” EDITOR REQUIRED**

My final edition of Codswallop will be March 2013. If you enjoy being creative and fancy having a go at producing our newsletter on a bi-monthly basis, please contact Michelle or a Committee Member for more details and to register your interest. Very happy to give you a crash course in Publisher!

Thanks, Michelle 0775 442 4082

**RSC**  
ROYAL  
SHAKESPEARE  
COMPANY

CHARLES DICKENS'

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL



ADAPTED BY  
JOHN MORTIMER

**SFL**  
SAMUEL  
FRENCH  
LIMITED

## Coming Up...



**Robin Hood**  
The CODS Charity Christmas  
Pantomime 2012

27<sup>th</sup> December – 5.30pm  
28<sup>th</sup> December – 2.30pm  
29<sup>th</sup> December – 5.30pm  
30<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2.30pm

Tickets £10 (£5 under 16s)  
From Lambert and Foster  
Or telephone 01580 712887

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

The committee would like your input regarding charity donations for the profit from the 2012 Panto.

In 2011 we raised over £4,000.00 which was split between two charities.

We hope to raise a similar sum this year and, if anyone has a pet charity they would like to nominate as recipient of a couple of thousand pounds and some publicity, then please let us know.

Contact Annie or Andrew.

**Christmas Pantomime 2013**

We are pleased to announce that our Pantomime next year is to be directed by Jack Davidson, who recently directed our acclaimed concert for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Further details regarding this event will follow in future editions of Codswallop.

**Staplehurst Dramatic Society  
Presents**

**Once upon a time...**

13th-15th December 2012

7.30pm

**Matinée 15th-16th**

3pm

Tickets, £6

Staplehurst Village Centre,  
North Hall  
Box office:

Coachmans Cottage Studio  
High Street Staplehurst.

5th January 2013

3pm

The Sinden Theatre - Tenterden

## CAN YOU HELP US FRONT-OF-HOUSE...?

**A plea for Front of House staff for the panto - stewards, programme sellers, raffle ticket and ice cream sellers. Can anyone willing to help telephone me on 01580 714962 after 12th December. Thank you!**

**Louise Dixon**

...and finally...

## AN "OKLAHOMA" GOODBYE...

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone for my lovely present of theatre vouchers. You could not have chosen anything more appropriate; I love going to the theatre and look forward to planning my next trip. I would also like to say a very special thank you to Dinah and Rachel for their constant hard work and support. They are terrific.

Thank you all.

Angela x

Hi all,  
Thank you to all that helped with the 'children' during the Oklahoma! Run. To help us chaperones for future shows I am asking for a donation of games, playing cards, puzzles, colouring pencils and colouring books anything (quiet) to entertain the children in-between times on stage. Any donations can be handed to Annie or myself.

Jackie

If anyone wants a CD of Oklahoma photos please send me a cheque for £5 (for each CD) payable to CODS to Tina Gallagher, 1 Church Cottages, Church Road, Kilndown, Kent, TN17 2SF, e-mail [tinagallagher22@aol.com](mailto:tinagallagher22@aol.com) tel. 01892 890426 - please include your contact details when sending. Stephen Kent is very kindly copying the CDs and will send them to me to send out/give to people when we have orders in. Any profit will go to CODS.

### Never Mind an Oklahoma Hello, or a Persian Goodbye, Here's a Cranbrook Thank You!

Sorry, I don't do Facebook, where I believe a lot of comments get posted, so this is my only means of general communication.

Some of our newer members might not realise that before we can put on a show, apart from the obvious of building the set on stage and rigging the lights, a lot more work has to be carried out to prepare the theatre for our performances. Seats have to be moved around, the piano has to be put away, the orchestra pit opened up and barriered off, music stands put out and dressing rooms organised. The foyer has to be cleared and the displays put out. And then, of course, it all has to be repeated in reverse and cleaned up when we finish. It doesn't happen by magic! If we didn't set to and carry out this work ourselves it would cost us a pretty penny or two for the school to organise it on our behalf, so I am always so grateful for those who turn up to do this necessary work. Having said that it is always with some anxiety that I turn up never knowing just how many people have taken heed of our plea. But once more I needn't have worried, you turned up almost in droves both on the Friday evening move in and on the Sunday morning clear out. From the ladies who made the coffee to the muscle power in the pit, from those who could only spare a short time to those who stuck it out to the bitter end, from those who provided transportation to those who did the loading, from the newbies to the old stagers, my sincere thanks to each and every one.

Maurice

# 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.

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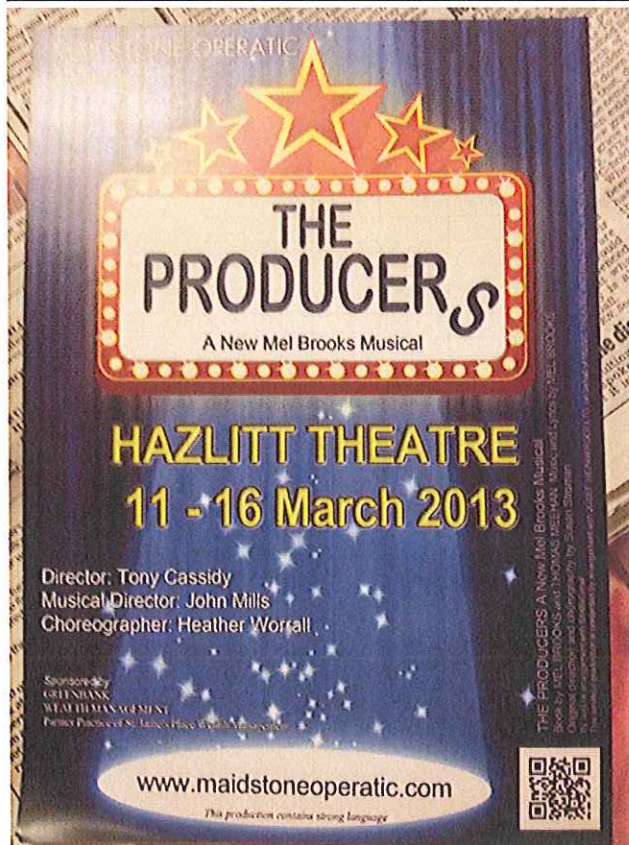
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MAIDSTONE OPERATIC  
THE PRODUCERS  
A New Mel Brooks Musical  
HAZLITT THEATRE  
11 - 16 March 2013  
Director: Tony Cassidy  
Musical Director: John Mills  
Choreographer: Heather Worral  
www.maidstoneoperatic.com  
This production contains strong language

First of all, may I offer my warmest  
congratulations on CODS latest produc-  
tion of "Oklahoma"!

### FOR SALE

Vintage (1947) Ambassador Table Radio-  
gram, in full working order;

also Sony MDS-S707 Minidisc Deck  
(recorder).

Alan Pickett (Vice-President)

Deadline for copy for next  
edition: Friday 18th January 2013