

# CODSWALLOP!

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Bi-Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2018

CINDERELLA

ANNA  
KARENINA

JANUARY  
SOCIAL

CENTENARY

GUYS &  
DOLLS

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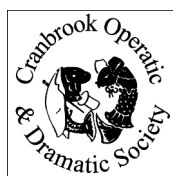
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## CODS FACEBOOK GROUP & WEBSITE

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## CODS BUSINESS MANAGER

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**THERE ARE THREE STAGES OF MAN: HE BELIEVES IN  
SANTA CLAUS; HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS;  
HE IS SANTA CLAUS – BOB PHILLIPS**

# NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Greetings from your Chairman,

Last month I wrote about the apparent quietness over the preceding months but now, as we leave autumn for winter, I can state that autumn is truly bonkers.



It's not the manic and losing battle against Mother Nature's efforts to cover the garden in leaves... that is an easy challenge compared to the multiple efforts of so many of our members.

I hope that everyone who reads this piece took the opportunity to be thoroughly entertained by Guys and Dolls. I personally loved the simple, understated sets which allowed us to concentrate on the depth of characterisations that were brought out by our director Annie Hatcher and enjoy the superb musical arrangements from our musical director, John Williams.

It was back in April that preparations started for Guys and Dolls with the casting decisions. Scores of people were involved over hundreds of hours during the ensuing six months to bring out such a polished production. (See page 8).

Do read the review of the show later in this issue by NODA representative Anne Lawson. (See page 6).

Similar efforts are being invested in our next production, Jack Davidson's Cinderella, directed by Sharon Pickles and Jack. My bonkers comment earlier refers to the supreme efforts of many members who were rehearsing for Cinderella whilst also rehearsing and appearing in Guys and Dolls.

The beautiful poster for Cinderella, designed by Sharon's son Luke, is an indication of the great quality panto I hope you and your family will come along to watch... from previous experience I know you will thoroughly enjoy the production whether you are attending as cast, behind-the-scenes or as an ardent supporter. (See page 4).

I am very pleased to advise that we will be continuing our ongoing efforts to make our productions more accessible to our local community and am pleased to confirm that once again we will have a BSL signer who will be interpreting the first show, Friday 28th December.

Next year we have a true treat – already well into its preparation and planning – of Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina by Helen Edmundson, directed by Jo Reader. The show is already cast (see page 9) and opens in just 4½ months... more bonkers efforts to come, delivering you another great CODS experience!

Have you shared your ideas for CODS Centenary in 2020? Do you have suggestions for a new or refreshed logo? We have suggested a February Concert, an open-air summer play, possibly Shakespeare, with a picnic, an autumn musical or regalia of previous productions. But it is really your ideas and involvement that we are seeking. Let us know!

Guy - [CODS.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.chairman@gmail.com)

# CINDERELLA

You are all cordially invited by King Harry and Queen Meghan to attend the Royal Ball of the century! They are desperate to find their son, Prince Charming, a lovely girl to marry. If the young prince doesn't marry before his 22nd birthday, the Kingdom of Cranbrook and all its wealth will become the property of the wicked Fairy Godfather (dun da dun dun da!) There will be plenty of maniacal laughing (mwah ha ha!) and dastardly deeds from the Fairy Godfather and his cronies, Heads and Tails, who will endeavour to stop the prince from marrying.



Meanwhile, back at Hardup Hall, young Cinderella is running around after her lazy step-sisters, Verruca and Gorgonzola. She dreams of escaping her life as a drudge and with the help of the bumbling Fairy Godmother and her two young fairy assistants (Fairy Nuff and Tinker) Cinderella shall go to the ball. Watch out for the pesky Panto Pixies and the Comedy Tree turning up at unexpected moments to throw a magical spanner in the works.

We are lucky to have a wonderful cast of children in our production of Cinderella; bursting with enthusiasm and energy; they bring vibrancy to every rehearsal. Throw in some fabulous turns from our adults, who are old hands at hamming it up in panto, then you have a recipe for a fun and heart warming night out. So, please encourage this wonderful Cinderella cast by getting your tickets booked nice and early and promoting the show everywhere you can. If you would like some A5 flyers or A4 posters, please email Sharon Pickles or Jack Davidson. Look forward to seeing you at the ball!



# CINDERELLA

## Tickets:

online from <https://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/cinderella>

In person from The George Hotel, Lambert & Foster, Fancy Pants Emporium - Cranbrook

By phone from 01580 713887



Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Pantomime 2018

# Cinderella

by Jack Davidson

**SPECIAL OFFER!**  
Signed performance of Cinderella  
Half-price tickets for BSL Users  
(£6 adults, £3 children)  
28th December, 2:30pm  
Contact - Jo Levett on  
[jolevettslt@gmail.com](mailto:jolevettslt@gmail.com)  
07803 585012

28th & 29th December 2.30pm  
30th December 1pm & 6pm  
Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook

Tickets from: [cods.ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.cods.ticketsource.co.uk) | 01580 713887  
The George Hotel | Lambert & Foster | Fancy Pants

Sponsored by Hartley Dyke Farm Shop and Peter Jones (Opticians)

# GUYS AND DOLLS – NODA REVIEW



Be inspired by amateur theatre

## **CODS**

**Guys and Dolls**

**Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook**

**Director: Annie Hatcher**

**MD: John Williams**

**Choreographer: Hannah Carter & Dance Captain Sarah Hutchings**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

First performed professionally in 1950 this is a well-tested Broadway storyline of Damon Runyon characters creating a musical romantic comedy with memorable numbers written by Frank Loesser. These include 'I've Never Been in Love Before', 'I'll Know When My Love Comes Along', 'Adelaide's Lament', 'Luck be a Lady', 'Sit Down you're Rocking the Boat' and 'More I Cannot Wish You' being some. A big NY gambler Sky Masterson and Save -a-Soul Mission Sergeant Miss Sarah Brown looking for more sinners to convert, seem an unlikely pairing as the leads. Nathan Detroit is looking to run a crap game but needs \$1000 and where to get it from? Hot Box dancer Miss Adelaide takes the comedic role and is frustrated with 'full of promises' Nathan after 14 years engagement. All the time Lt. Brannigan is on the trail of the gamblers, who finally all repent their sins and the couples happily unite.

Easy to handle and read, the standard A5 informative programme was again designed by Lee Hatcher, with the exceptional photographic display of past shows and a large collection from the current show, nicely set up in the foyer, arranged by Lisa Hills and Guy Fillmore - always of interest. It was good to see that on this Thursday the performance was being 'signed' adeptly, which I found to be most interesting.

Director Annie Hatcher also designed the set. The five-man construction team created an open stage set with angled side wings depicting the street wall complete with flyers and telephone booth one side, and the Mission showing coloured glass windows and a central door used for both exterior and interior scenes. Downstage was a walled archway containing the sewer entrance with a circular hatch on stage. The steam effect from the sewer was most atmospheric and well used by the athletic actors. Changes of scenes were done by various moveable clothes and decorations - a clever idea but somewhat slowing up action and leaving the hardworking stage crew rather too visible. However, this was opening night and I'm sure pace will speed up. Steps down to the front of the auditorium were well used, as was front of stage. The lively band led ably by John Williams were placed at the back of the stage - sometimes seen and others with a white backdrop used for projections drawn across. Perhaps distracting but perfect for the Havana scene. This left a limited stage area which was well managed by the performers and dancers alike. The illuminated Hot Box sign looked stunning.

Penny Tobin set up and provided good realistic sound effects, radio mikes, with volume and balance just right. James Harper and Elly Hills oversaw the adequate lighting.

Singing was well rehearsed and beautifully coherent. The men did a grand job with 'Luck Be a Lady' - full company numbers most enthusiastic. The Mission Girls may have benefitted from a few more singers to encourage the volume. Excellent duet/trio renditions came from Nicely- Nicely, Benny and Rusty, with good accents throughout, portrayed by Robin Harrison, Glyn Roberts and Max

## GUYS AND DOLLS – NODA REVIEW

Chesters. Duncan Fryer characterised well Nathan Detroit – his first appearance with CODS pairing with Louise Franklin as his long suffering, perfectly costumed Miss Adelaide, sounding well matched, with some classic comedy lines that were beautifully timed. Monika Green played a delightful Sarah, quite a contrast from last seeing her perform Delores, with top quality singing, who worked very well with tenor Simon Tomlinson the worldly yet vulnerable Sky, particularly enjoying their 'I've Never Been in Love Before' and most amusing was their 'If I were a Bell' Havana night. Keith Hedley performed a perfectly cast Arvide Abernathy, master of the big drum, singing a touching rendition of 'More I Cannot Wish You' to Sarah and this was a highlight moment for me.

Rita Wilkins and Sharon Pickles dressed the whole show rather well for the 50's era, both colourful and fun, Hot Box girls looked appropriately naughty, all-well shoed with good accessories too. Ladies' hair was well groomed and suitably styled, with make-up also of the time – good red lips under the supervision of Penny Tobin's expertise. The numerous props required, including instruments, were well provided by Lee Hatcher wearing yet another hat!

As usual an army of hardworking helpers were involved with this production, headed by direction of Annie Hatcher, with the company and dance movements arranged by Hannah Carter assisted by Dance Captain Sarah Hutchings.

Thankyou CODS and I'm also pleased to say I won one of your raffle prizes!

A precis will appear on the NODA website very shortly.

Anne Lawson  
Regional Representative  
NODA SE  
District 3

**National Operatic and Dramatic Association**  
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Twitter @NODAtweets Facebook [NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation)

Registered CIO charity number 1171216 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address.

Patrons: The Lord Lloyd Webber and Connie Fisher



# GUYS AND DOLLS

Having taken over this wonderful show at a late stage I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed making it happen with the help of such a great team.

I would like to express my thanks to all those CODS members who pulled together both onstage and offstage, during the run and prior to the run, and indeed everybody who made 'Guys and Dolls' such a resounding success.

The production came in on budget and we produced a show to be proud of; looking great, sounding great and with wonderful performances from a very talented cast including a few new faces who are now members and friends.

We have a huge auditorium to fill and we worked hard to get 'Guys and Dolls' publicised so that as many people as possible would come along, this is always a difficult task and those audience members I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed it. I hope that all members of the society managed to get along to see the show. Again, many thanks to everybody!

Annie xx



**GUYS AND DOLLS**





# ANNA KARENINA

**Anna Karenina by Helen Edmundson – 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Directed by Jo Reader**

Thank you to everyone who auditioned. It was lovely to see so many people and have so much choice. As always, the panel had some difficult decisions to make and we could not include everyone in the final list.

## **Cast List**

Anna –  
Levin –  
Dolly –  
Stiva/Petritsky –  
Kitty –  
Vronsky/Nikolai –  
Karenin/Priest –  
Countess Vronsky/Princess Betsy/Agatha–  
Railway widow/Governess/woman –  
Muffled figure/Vassily/Servant –  
Nurse/Guest/Nikolai's woman–  
Seriozha/2<sup>nd</sup> Guest –  
Peasants/Guests/Crowds/Singers/Dancers –

Victoria Jones  
James Harper  
Alison Withey-Harrison  
James Hanaway  
Katie Kember  
Simon Tomlinson  
Jez Druce  
Louise Franklin  
Maddie Humfries  
Mark Jeffery  
Karen Kember  
Sarah Hutchings  
Members of the company

I am really looking forward to starting rehearsals in January with such a talented cast and I would like to welcome new members Victoria Jones and Maddie Humfries.

Jo Reader



## CENTENARY – SHOW SELECTION

### SHOWS AND DIRECTORS FOR TWENTY-NINETEEN AND TWENTY-TWENTY

To give as many potential directors as possible the chance to get pitches together the Show Recommendation Committee (SRC) have moved their next meeting to MARCH, on Sunday 3rd, 7.30pm in the Montgomery Room at the George Hotel. This should also suit all those rehearsing shows at the moment.

As we are celebrating our centenary in 2020, we are asking all directors if they would be interested in directing a production for CODS during that year. The SRC are inviting directors for; Pantomime 2019, then for 2020 a musical compilation show involving many members for Spring, a play in the Summer followed by an Autumn musical and a Christmas pantomime or play to end the year.

The Centenary Committee's ideas for the 2020 shows are as follows;

A February Concert, a director or directors needed to oversee this, to involve as many current members as possible alongside returning ex-members.

A Summer Play, an open air production, possibly Shakespeare, possibly A Midsummer Night's Dream with a picnic! A director needed for this or for their own plans.

An Autumn Musical. Show ideas and directors needed for this slot.

A Christmas pantomime or play, again, ideas and directors needed please. We hope to extend the booking after the Christmas show to have a New Years Eve Party at the Queens Hall.

We appreciate that many of you are already involved with various shows and work commitments and 2020 seems a long way off. But, time flies! So put on your thinking caps and share with us any ideas you may like to present to SRC in celebrating our 100 years.

If you are interested in directing a centenary, or any, show for CODS then please do contact the SRC chair, Angela, - [angelacowling1@gmail.com](mailto:angelacowling1@gmail.com) and the Honorary Secretary - [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com).

## CENTENARY – HOW YOU CAN HELP

### CODS LOGO AND CENTENARY LOGO – REMINDER!

The Centenary is an ideal opportunity to think about updating the CODS logo, hopefully for the next one hundred years! We are seeking ideas for a new CODS logo that reflects our history and location. We would also like to have something special for the Centenary itself - a design we can use to celebrate our first one hundred years.

Please send in your ideas for a new CODS logo and a Centenary logo. All ideas in by the end of this year (31st December) please so that we can put them before the membership in the run up to our next AGM and decide upon them at the AGM, in March. PLEASE NOTE THIS DEADLINE

Email to [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com) or post to; CODS Honorary Secretary, Ashleigh, The Hill, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3AD

Here's a few early ideas

From this:



To one of these?



You could adapt your logo for the centenary, or come up with something special?



## CODS WEBSITE

Work on the new website is going well and we have some interesting updates to let you know about!

### PAST PRODUCTIONS PAGE

<https://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/past-productions-page-2>

I have steadily been adding back in content for previous shows that were in the original website. There are some pretty interesting and wonderful photos of members, old and new, as well as previous programmes, posters and other show related stuff. Go to the link above to have a look! In the meantime here's a selection of just a few.



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

I would love to make our previous show pages much more complete. I'm looking for any programmes, photos or posters that anyone may have for CODS previous productions. All I need is to borrow them for a little while, scan them and I will then return them to you.

The centenary for Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society is approaching! It would be wonderful to have a much more complete archive of those one hundred years.

Please also let me know if you spot anything on the website that needs changing or if any searches you do online return broken results - I can sort anything like that but need to know.

Please get in touch by email, [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com), or by phone, 01580 388716.



# NOTICES

## CODSWALLOP SCHEDULE

We release the newsletter bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. All articles need to be submitted by the third Friday of the month before publication keeping them concise (under two pages). Any article received after this will go into the next issue.



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

## RULES AND CONSTITUTION

A copy of the society's Rules and Constitution is available in a members only, password protected, area on our website. Please contact Hatch ([CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com)) for the password and go to the following link to view these - <https://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/members-only>

## TICKETSOURCE

CODS now absorb the booking fee charged to us by Ticketsource when you buy tickets for our shows and events online. That means the price for tickets remains the same whether you buy them online or from one of our box office partners. Go to [cods.ticketsource.co.uk](https://cods.ticketsource.co.uk) or [cranbrookods.org.uk/tickets](https://cranbrookods.org.uk/tickets) to buy your tickets!

## FLISHINGHURST HELP

CODS relies on a few 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 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 work on other days also. 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](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com)

# NOTICES

## SHOW RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE

Would you like to help CODS find directors and shows for our future productions? The Show Recommendation Committee (SRC) meet when they are needed to talk to potential directors and find out about the Plays, Musicals and Pantomimes that they are hoping to Direct for CODS. The SRC will then make recommendations to the Executive Committee via the SRC Chair, Angela Woodcock. To find out more or join the SRC please contact her by email - [angelacowling1@gmail.com](mailto:angelacowling1@gmail.com).

## CODS JANUARY SOCIAL

**We would love to see as many members and their families as possible at our next social event, on Friday January 11th. If you have been involved in any of our 2018 productions this would be an ideal opportunity for you to meet and catch up with your cast or crew mates.**

**Join us on Friday January 11th in the evening at London Beach Hotel. Any money spent on food will be donated back to the society, so this is a wonderful way to catch up with friends and also to raise money for CODS.**

**We will have more details, exact timing, prices and menu options very soon. In the mean time, save the date, and feel free to contact Jackie if you have any questions.**

**Email - [j.i.barker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j.i.barker@hotmail.co.uk)**

## ARMISTICE CENTENARY

When Hatch first put it to the committee that we had been invited to take part in Cranbrook's WW1 Centenary Celebrations It seemed almost like a one man band effort. It had been publicised in Codswallop, but he had received no takers and he therefore proposed to do something on his own. Then, of course, we got heavily committed with Guys and Dolls and it all had to take a back seat.

The event drew nearer and still very little had been done to prepare for it. With a week to go I offered my services (I had been unable to commit before), but much to my surprise he told me it was all organised and I was not needed after all.

With much musical help from John Williams he had been able to gather a gang together and so it was that along with several other CODS members as well as a good collection of Cranbrook folk we joined the audience to watch the performance of a dozen or more CODS members in St Dunstan's Church on Sunday 3rd November. The performance consisted of Hatch reading excerpts from the diaries of Charles Evernden, a Cranbrook lad and the son of the founder of Evernden's hardware shop in Stone Street, a shop well known for being able to supply anything from a washer to a wheelbarrow, sadly no longer there, although the name lingers on, interspersed with typical WW1 songs like Pack Up Your Troubles and It's a Long Way to Tipperary and poetry spoken by each member of the cast. I found the whole thing moving, emotional, sad and yet invigorating and wholly entertaining. Well done, Hatch and everyone involved.

Maurice.



# TW LOTTO

Here's a great opportunity to support your society **and** get the chance to win £25,000! Buy tickets for the TW Lotto for just £1 each and CODS receive 50p from every ticket sold! There are cash prizes and extra tickets to be won each week! So go on what are you waiting for? Click on the image and buy your lucky ticket today!



**Happy 2018**

Put your **New Year promises** into actions! Sign up to support local causes in **YOUR community**

- Support local causes that could change lives forever
- Sign-up for only £1 a week and be part of something great
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket (and a further 10p goes to other good causes in the area)
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting - visit:  
**[www.twlotto.co.uk](http://www.twlotto.co.uk)**  
Search for:  
**Operatic Dramatic**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older \* Terms and Conditions apply - See website



# OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

## President

Bernard Beardsmore

## Vice Presidents

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

## Executive Committee

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Chairman                            | Guy Fillmore  |
| Vice Chairman                       | Annie Hatcher   |
| Hon. Secretary                      | Lee Hatcher   |
| Board Secretary                     | Jo Levett   |
| Treasurer                           | Glyn Roberts  |
| Business Manager                    | Matt Barker   |
| Social Secretary                    | Jackie Barker   |
| Show Recommendation Committee Chair | Angela Woodcock   |
| Committee Members                   | Jo Reader, Maurice Wilkins,<br>Sharon Pickles, Alison Withey-Harrison |

Contact details for the committee are  
available via :-

Website - [cranbrookods.org.uk/committee](http://cranbrookods.org.uk/committee)

Email - [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com)

## Officials of the Society

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Hall Manager                    | Maurice Wilkins                  |
| Orchestral Secretary            | Ruth Roberts                     |
| Librarian                       | Bill Marshall                    |
| Wardrobe Mistress               | Rita Wilkins                     |
| Properties Master               | Lee Hatcher                      |
| Front of House Manager          | John Tapper                      |
| Newsletter and Programme Editor | Lee Hatcher                      |
| Hon. Auditors                   | Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams |

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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](mailto:cods.newsletter@gmail.com)

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



These and many more photos from Guys and Dolls are available on a DVD, available for £5 from Guy.

Email him on [guyfillmore@hotmail.com](mailto:guyfillmore@hotmail.com)



**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:  
FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY 2019**