

CODSWALLOP!

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Bi-Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2019

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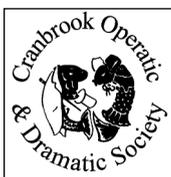
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“I AM ALIVE AND GOD HAS MADE ME SO THAT I NEED TO LOVE AND LIVE.” – ANNA KARENINA

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Greetings from your Chairman,

Wow, what a success. This year's pantomime was extraordinary in so many ways for CODS; I do hope you were able to come along and join in.



Firstly, I was totally absorbed by the fantastic dancing and acting by our younger members in Cinderella. The immaculate timing and interactions with each other is a testament to the relentless practicing and honing of the routines I know went on in so many rehearsals. Every one of the cast should be proud of putting on such a well received show. The superb band, staging, and everyone backstage, including mums and dads and carers all contributed to the supportive infrastructure that turned a production into a great show.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read a review of Cinderella from our local NODA representative.

Cinderella broke CODS records for audience numbers and net revenue. This allows us to continue to pursue our three-pronged objectives of generating sufficient funds to support the continuation of CODS, to support our inclusiveness agenda and, when we can, to support charities which impact our community. The CODS committee unanimously voted to make a significant donation to the Sam West Foundation <https://www.samwestfoundation.org/>

Each production we stage comes with its challenges, achievements and opportunities for honing our activities for forthcoming shows. At the last CODS Committee meeting we blocked out a significant portion of the agenda to hear from the co-directors of Cinderella, Jack Davidson and Sharon Pickles, about the good and the bad of the production. We discussed what needs to change and what should be built upon. Onwards and upwards!

One aspect of which I am especially proud is the openness CODS has for inclusivity... on stage, off stage and in the audience. "First night is signing night" is now a fixture of CODS shows for members of the deaf community to access and enjoy our productions.

Later this year we are looking forward to Jo Reader's direction of a stage adaptation by Helen Edmundson of Anna Karenina followed by Heather Barnes' direction of Fiddler on the Roof, last put on by CODS in 2002 (how time flies).

Coming up in March (Friday 22nd at the Vestry Hall) is the CODS AGM, more details will be sent out during February. Come along and contribute to the future of CODS, hear about the ups and downs of the last year, the plans for the future and to support the process of selecting and electing committee members for the coming year.

We were all saddened by the news that Bill Marshall passed away on 18th January. Bill was a multi-talented supporter of CODS for many years, lending his skills to so many aspects of CODS; a true gentleman whose support throughout the organisation generated such respect; we will remember Bill with smiles on our faces.

Best wishes for a happy and fulfilling 2018, Guy - CODS.chairman@gmail.com

BILL MARSHALL

It is with great sadness that we are writing to let you know that Bill Marshall passed away on 18th January 2019.

Bill was a long standing member of CODS, having served on the committee, as Chairman, President and many other roles. He directed for CODS, and was latterly a member of the 'Flishinghurst Gang', building our sets. CODS would not be the group that it is today without Bill's hard work behind the scenes over the years.

Bills funeral will be held on Friday 22nd February, 11 am, at St Dunstans Church, Cranbrook.

A few of our Members shared some memories of Bill:

'Bill Marshall first introduced me to the CODS. He was the Producer of "The Importance of being Earnest" in 1989 and it was designed and being painted by the late Tony Walton. He could not complete the job as a result of illness and Bill asked me if I would step in and finish the painting. The rest is history!!' - Dennis Russell

'Noel Cowards 'Relative Values' was my first play. I was nervous, inexperienced and my voice projection poor. Bill suggested I read one of the speeches from the dressing room and timidly I attempted to do some justice to the script! Bill moved out to the corridor. "Carry on" he said encouragingly and moved to the stage. "Keep going, deep breaths, use your voice and project!". Finally, he made his way to the auditorium. I found that shouting got me nowhere but, at last, I found my voice. He could even understand what I was saying in an American accent! I've never forgotten that lesson, offered in a constructive and kindly way. Thank you Bill. You will be missed by many.' - Angela Woodcock

'One incident that remains in my memory and involved my late wife, Doreen, was Bill's period of recuperation in a rest home in Littlehampton. Bill had undergone a triple bypass operation in a London hospital which entailed a post-op period of rest. Doreen made several visits to Littlehampton during his sojourn there but decided that he would be happier recovering in Cranbrook. So we obtained permission to transfer him to our house for the rest of his recovery period. I am sure that this move helped him to return to health more quickly.' - Bernard Beardsmore

'Bill was a 'legend' as they say. When I joined CODS over 30 years ago he was the first one to welcome me. My first acting role with CODS was directed by him when I played Miss Prism in the Importance of Being Earnest, I am so grateful to him for giving me that opportunity as it was a super part. It was he who persuaded me to be Honorary Secretary whilst he was Chairman in the mid nineties and I stayed in that role for five years. CODS was very dear to his heart and he gave it his all. Even when he became more involved with NODA as their local rep he still gave a lot of his time to CODS particularly working with the Flishinghurst gang. I enjoyed going to see several productions with Bill when he was NODA rep (he was usually given two free tickets!) and I have happy memories of going to The Oast Theatre in Tonbridge and The Royal Victoria Theatre in Southborough with him and seeing some super productions. He was also very involved in the Ellen Terry Theatre at Smallhythe and appeared in and directed some excellent shows there. His light will shine on in all those he encouraged and supported over the years. Thank you Bill you will be missed.' - Tina Gallagher

'When I was a very small Codling, way back in the dim and distant past, I remember Bill Marshall's magnificent set of mutton-chop whiskers! Bill Marshall was involved in all aspects of our society on and off stage and in various roles on the committee for at least 40 years and was the fount of all knowledge on all things CODS related. He will be sorely missed.' - Annie

CINDERELLA – NODA REVIEW



Be inspired by amateur theatre

CODS

Cinderella by Jack Davidson

Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook

Director: Jack Davidson & Asst. Sharon Pickles

Choreographer: Rachel Croft-Golding

Saturday 29th December 2018

A buzz of Christmas in the hall which was full of hanging presents, F of H greeters, box office, programmes and raffle vendors in action, refreshments available from the busy bar, photos as usual beautifully displayed, children and grownups waited for the bell to open the auditorium for the magic to commence.

This adaptation of a familiar story was the writing of Jack Davidson who tweaked characters and added a twist here and there – corny jokes still part of the script that made us all laugh, plenty of audience join in and reaction and altogether a good fun experience. So not only did he write the script he directed with the assistance of Sharon Pickles – her first experience on the other side of the stage. And just to add to the task Jack played the pivotal role of a lovable Buttons.

The stage was draped in blacks, maybe an economy cut but most effective and great for our individual imaginations. Set each side of stage were two pairs of magical trees – set design again created by Dinah Chamberlin and constructed by the regular stalwart team, supervised by SM Maurice Wilkins, with his Deputy Mark Jeffery. Simplicity was the key and our scenes changed by adding a hinged flat depicting a fireplace, red regal panels dropping in and a central double throne appeared, drapes and dressing table for the Sisters' bedroom, large props including a giant pumpkin wheeled in a small truck turned into a golden carriage, injections of colour either side of stage and some clever lighting effects together with personal lighting on Button's flashing shoes, Cinder's blue ballgown, fairy wands, a live walking comedy Christmas tree, all working admirably. Lee Hatcher adding to his admin. duties prepared the varied Props and produced the information packed A5 programme.

Completing the staging picture, the Technical side was controlled by Elly Hills, Rachel Croft-Golding, Max Chesters, and Damien Thorne aloft, with Penny Tobin once again in charge of sound desk, which includes setting up the mics, balancing and creating some wonderful intro housekeeping tapes by the younger members in addition to noises off, efficiently recorded and timed.

Musically we were entertained by the CODS quartet namely Ruth & Glyn Roberts, Jez Druce and Simon Tomlinson, with some good upbeat numbers ranging from Blues Brothers to Chitty Chitty Bang Bang songs, with the children's ensemble working hard with both lyrics and well-rehearsed movement, thoughtfully choreographed by Rachel and performed with confidence. I was most surprised to learn some members were making their first-time stage appearances. Well done, and a big thankyou to the efficient ladies in performing their Chaperone duties too.

Sharon Pickles and Rita Wilkins produced some fab costumes – some really bizarre and psychedelic for the two truly horrid ugly sisters Verruca and Gorgonzola aka Vicky King and Wendy Thomas,

CINDERELLA – NODA REVIEW

plus their great hair and makeup designs created by Penny Tobin, as was each individual named character face design, with every member receiving a box of ingredients and a template! Attention to detail all so important to create the enchantment. An Addams family lookalike monochromed Baroness Hardup, a colourful Baron, plus most regal King and Queen. The baddies to boo at – The Fairy Godfather - Mark Cheeseman, in black complete with wings, and accompanied by colourful punk hapless assistants – Michaela Tick and Sarah Hutchings. Booted learner spell maker Fairy Nuff, suave dashing Dandini and Prince Charming, a real dance enthusiast young Tinker waiting for his wings in jeans, bomber jacket and baseball cap. The youngsters of the ensemble looked smart in their company polo shirts, poor Cinders in her housework garb and beautiful change into blue ballgown, perfect, and I loved the sparkling trainers for the slippers! Buttons delighted in his blue tunic with traditional pillbox and great flashing shoes. A forgetful, northern rather zany sometimes rhyming Godmother sparkled, but I do think a clear winner of the costumes has to be the walking Christmas tree, namely Phil Mummery – brilliant.

A good feel pantomime with some great moments headed by Jack – a charming duet from Chloe Swann and her Prince Phoebe Harris, first-class ‘Little People’ and ‘Naughty’ from cheeky Tinker – Jacob Santer and the children, comedy from Annie Hatcher particularly with ‘Whatever Happened to My Part’ assisted by spiky Fairy Nuff delightfully played by Caitlin Mathieson, not forgetting a profusion of Panto Pixies and other cameo parts. In the short period of time this large company, not all of you named, not forgetting the unseen troupers, delighted the audience, with a happily ever after finale, a good family afternoon’s entertainment and I wish you all an inspiring 2019 of theatre.

A shortened Review will appear on the NODA national website shortly.

Anne Lawson
Regional Representative
NODA SE
District 3

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

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Twitter @NODAtweets **Facebook** 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

CINDERELLA GET OUT

As I have said many times before, as our Hall Manager, it is my responsibility to prepare the theatre for all our shows and return it to the school as it was when we took it over, although I think it is fair to say that we always return it in a cleaner state than it was when we moved in! But I can't do it all on my own and rely on the cast and crew to help.

It is my never ending thanks to all those who turned up for both the move in and clear out, especially those who couldn't make it on New Year's Eve and stayed behind after the show to break the back of the job. Even some of the children turned up.

I cannot name anybody for fear of upsetting anyone I forget, but you know who you are and I thank you all. It is one of the necessities of the amdram scene and there would be no shows without you. However, I would like to mention just 2 people who did more than their fair share. Penny Tobin, who virtually lived at the theatre during the show and for the run up to it and Mark Cheeseman and his family who provided the transport and muscle power for moving everything down to the theatre and then taking it back to Flishinghurst.

Thanks a million everybody.

Also, as stage manager, I would like to thank all of the back stage crew including those not mentioned in the programme!

Maurice

CODS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2019 AGM For CODS is on Friday 22nd March at 7.30pm.

The meeting will be in the Vestry Hall, Cranbrook, at the corner of High Street and Stone Street.

We are pleased to invite you to attend the meeting, to hear about CODS over the last year, its plans for 2019-20, to vote for your executive committee membership and to take the opportunity to contribute to the future of your society.

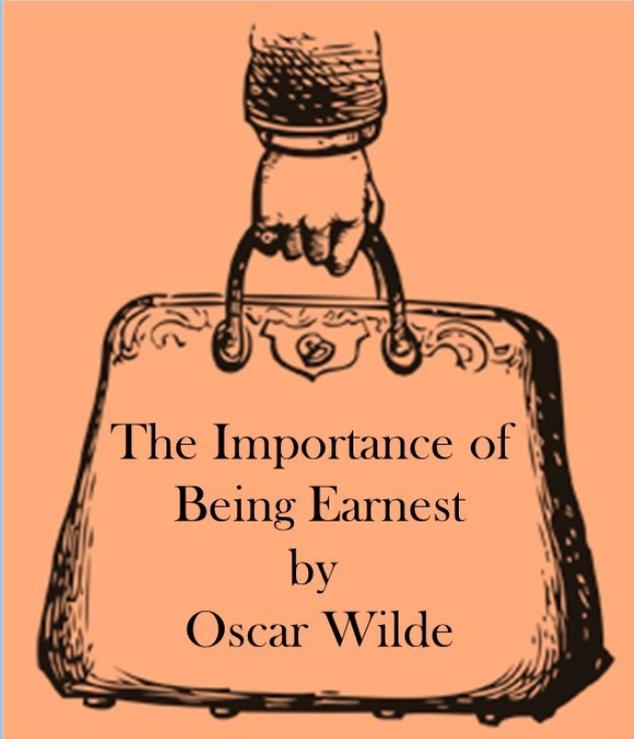
The formal notification and meeting agenda, will be sent out in the next few weeks and these and minutes from the 2018/19 AGM will be available upon request from cods.secretary@gmail.com.

Drinks (a paying bar) and snacks will be provided from 7:30pm and also after the meeting. Stick around after the meeting for a Jam session.

CODS PLAY READING GROUP

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Please join us for an informal reading of this hilarious comedy. Scripts will be provided and roles will be rotated to give everyone an opportunity to read. It will be a chance to socialise with other members too. Drinks and nibbles will be available. Please let us know if you are planning to attend.



CODS Play Reading Group

Friday, 1st March 2019 7.30pm

Ashleigh, The Hill, Cranbrook,
Kent TN173AD

Please contact
CODS.secretary@gmail.com or
01580 388716 to let us know if you
are planning to attend.

ANNA KARENINA

Helen Edmundson's adaption of Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina is a fast moving and engrossing version of what is often called the greatest novel of all time. The story is told through an imaginary conversation between the two main characters and the action constantly shifts from reality to thoughts, memories, imaginings, hallucinations and symbolism. Rehearsals are well underway and the cast are enjoying the challenge of bringing this emotionally complex play to life for a 21st century audience.

Supporting our efforts on stage we have a number of extremely talented members who will be adding their creativity and professionalism to achieve something very special. Most notably, our band consisting of Ruth Roberts, Glyn Roberts and Annie Hatcher. Having met with them, to discuss ideas and to experiment, I am very excited about how live music and singing will add another dimension to the production.

There is also a strong backstage crew assembled, including Andrew White, Maurice Wilkins, Victoria King, Rachel Croft-Golding, Penny Tobin, Lee Hatcher, Megan Hollands, Max Chesters, Sharon Pickles and the Flushingurst Gang. So far, I have counted 31 members who are currently involved and that is before we start to include Front of House, displays, refreshments, photography and our exciting new lighting team.

Tickets are on sale now so please support this production, start buying your tickets and spread the word. Jo Reader

CAST

Anna	Victoria Jones
Levin	James Harper
Dolly	Alison Withey-Harrison
Stiva/Petritsky	James Hanaway
Kitty	Katie Kember
Vronsky/Nikolai	Simon Tomlinson
Karenin/Priest	Jez Druce
Countess Vronsky/Princess Betsy/Agatha	Louise Franklin
Railway widow/Governess/woman	Maddie Humfryes
Muffled figure/Vassily/Servant	Mark Jeffery
Nurse/Guest/Nikolai's woman	Karen Kember
Seriozha/2nd Guest	Sarah Hutchings
Peasants/Guests/Crowds/Singers/Dancers	Members of the company

ANNA KARENINA

Leo Tolstoy's

PARENTAL
DISCRETION
ADVISED

Anna Karenina

a stage adaptation by

Helen Edmundson



7.30pm 11th-13th April Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook

Tickets from: cods.ticketsource.co.uk 01580713887
The George Hotel and Fancy Pants Emporium

Sponsored by Peter Jones (Opticians), Waterloo House Tea Rooms and Hartley Dyke Farm Shop

CODS

An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

SHOW RECOMMENDATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Show Recommendation Committee is to be held on Sunday 3rd March at 7pm in the Montgomery Room of The George Hotel Cranbrook.

We are seeking directors for our 2019 Christmas Pantomime and also for our shows in our Centenary year, 2020.

Our 2017 Pantomime, Peter Panto and our 2018 Pantomime, Cinderella, were so well received and such a success, we would love someone to come forward with ideas for and direct our 2019 Pantomime. The CODS Christmas Pantomime is rapidly becoming a much anticipated event for Cranbrook and all our audiences, our casts and crews had such a blast. YOU could be just the person to help CODS bring a wonderful Christmas experience to our audiences this year.

Contact the Show Recommendation chair, Angela Woodcock - angelacowling1@gmail.com

We are also planning a packed schedule for 2020, our Centenary year!

The Centenary Committee have lots of ideas to make 2020 special! Currently our plans are to have a February Members Concert, any member, current or previous could come forward with a song, a comedy routine, anything really, with tickets to go on sale to the public.

Later in the year we hope to have a play, probably Shakespeare, in an outdoor location. This would involve minimal sets, props and costumes.

That will be followed by an Autumn musical in its traditional end of October slot.

Lastly, but by no means least, a Christmas show, to finish our Centenary year with a bang!

We need directors for all of these shows. We need someone to manage the February Concert, a director interested in an outdoor production of Shakespeare in the summer that will have minimal set, a director for the Autumn Musical and someone to drive the CODS Christmas production! Interested? Or have different ideas?

Contact the Centenary Committee via the Secretary - CODS.secretary@gmail.com.

Have a brilliant idea but no experience directing? Don't worry! We have numerous experienced directors in CODS. You can find a director who will talk through your ideas and get them involved. You can be their assistant director, or co-director, or think about other roles you could do as part of the production. If the director thinks its a wonderful idea and you can both convince the Show Recommendation Committee of that, we can all have a great show that, perhaps, no-one else might have thought of!

So, if you have an idea and a director for either Pantomime 2019 (that's this year!), or any of our Centenary 2020 shows, please get in touch!

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
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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) 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 or 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?

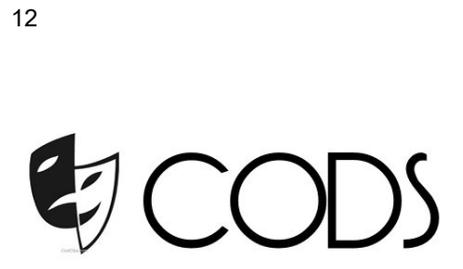
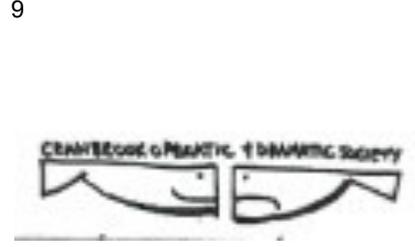
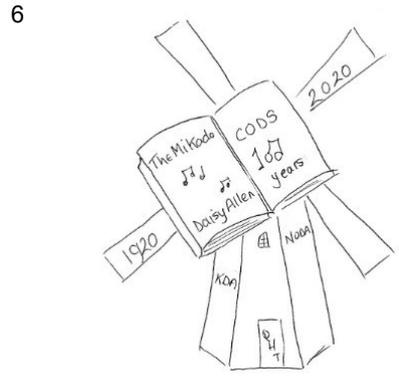
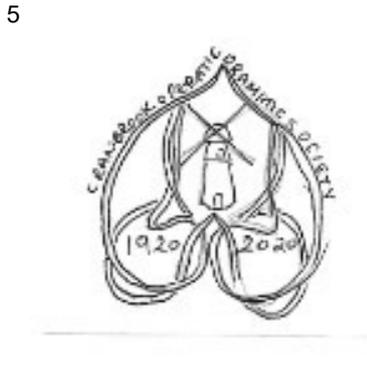
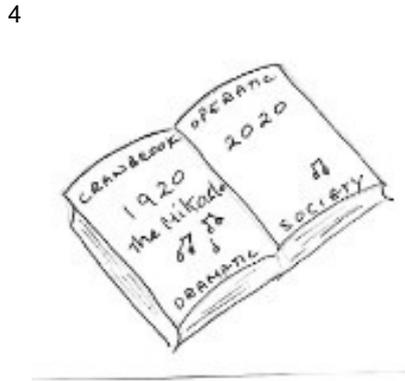
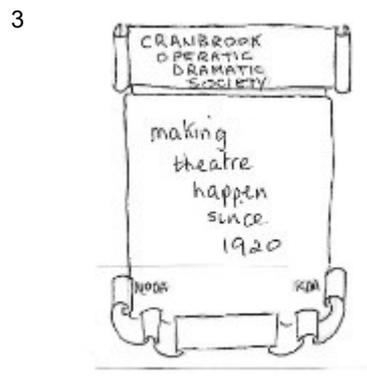
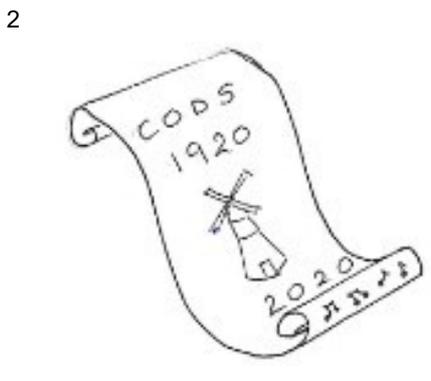
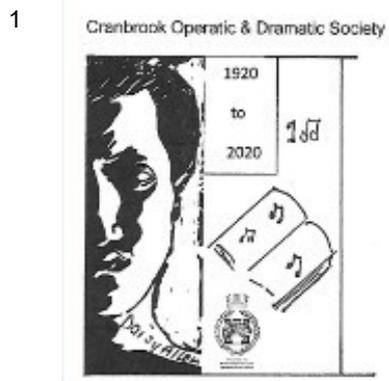
Without these chaps our scenery wouldn't exist, or it would be very expensive! Let us know if you can help and when you can help. CODS.secretary@gmail.com

ERIC FILLMORE

As we were finalising CODSwallop, I learnt of the passing of Eric Fillmore. Eric was Charlotte and Guy Fillmore's father, and grandfather to Henry. He was long a supporter of CODS productions and was responsible for the design and building of The Gray Room, our wardrobe store at the Queens Hall. Eric will be greatly missed.

NEW CODS LOGO & CENTENARY LOGO

At the forthcoming AGM all current members will have the chance to choose CODS new logo. Attached to the members email that this newsletter was attached to is a document with near FIFTY possible future logos. Please have a look, choose your top three and bring the form along to the AGM, or post it to; CODS Honorary Secretary, Ashleigh, The Hill, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3AD. Or email to CODS.secretary@gmail.com. All the logos, as well as being on the attached document for members, can also be seen below, or online at <https://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/logos>.

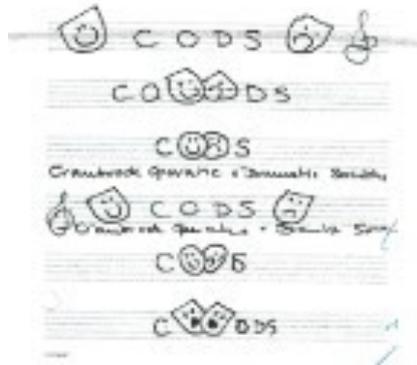


NEW CODS LOGO & CENTENARY LOGO

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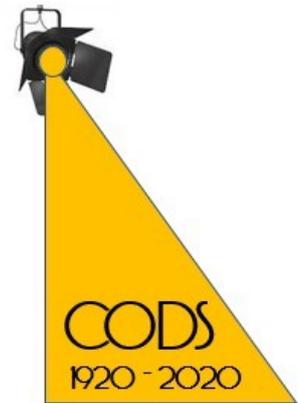
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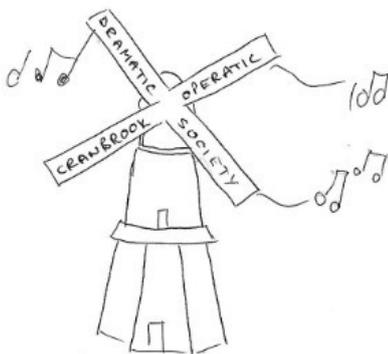
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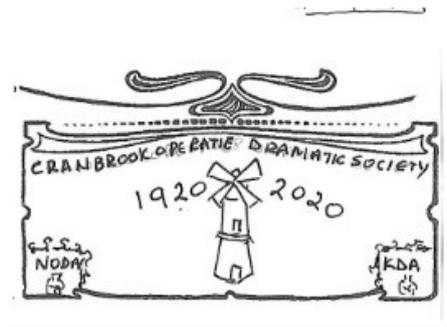
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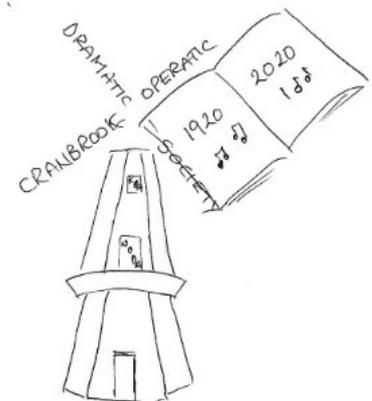
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NEW CODS LOGO & CENTENARY LOGO

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NEW CODS LOGO & CENTENARY LOGO

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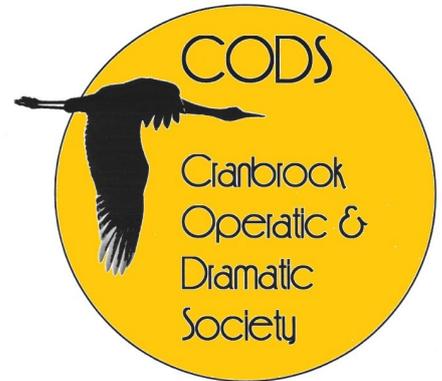
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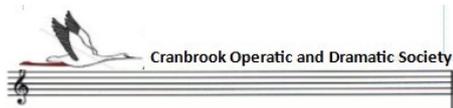
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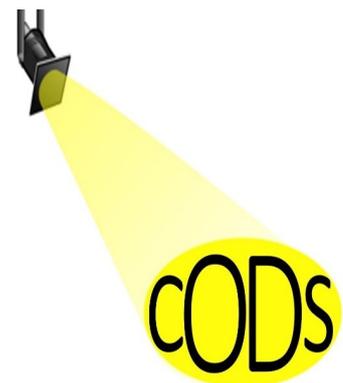
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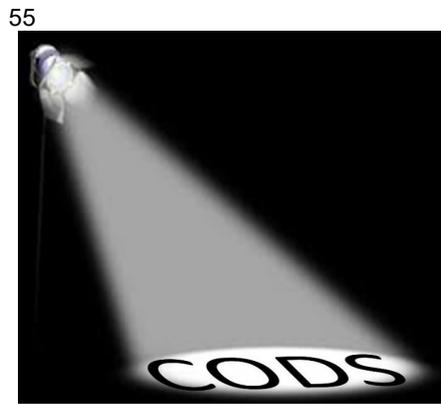
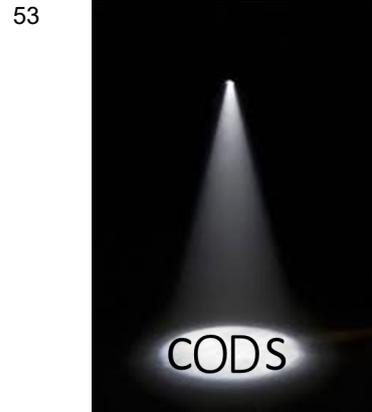
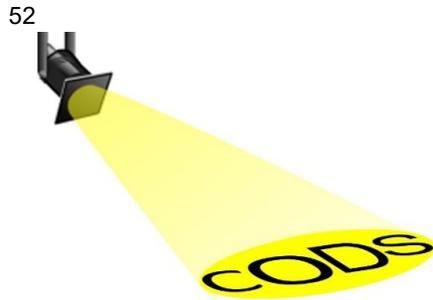
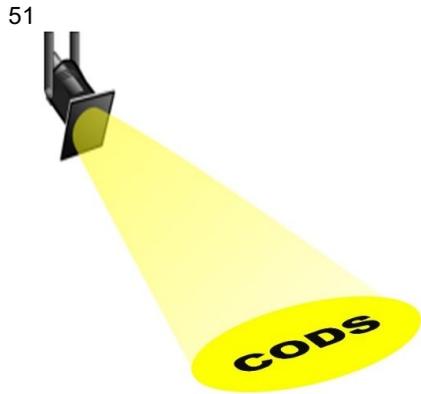
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NEW CODS LOGO & CENTENARY LOGO



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, Sharon Pickles, Alison Withey-Harrison

Contact details for the committee are available via :-

Website - cranbrookods.org.uk/committee

Email - CODS.secretary@gmail.com

Telephone - 01580 388716

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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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
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