



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

'Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society CODS (official page)'

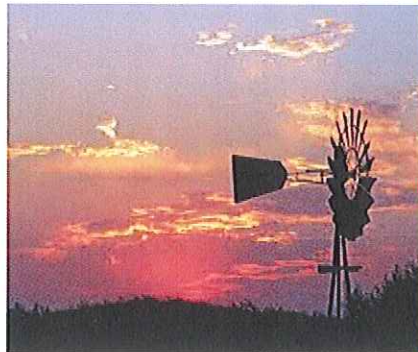
Or speak to Sarah Hutchings, James Hammond or Steph Beeken for more information.

CODS Website

If anyone would like anything put onto the CODS website please contact matt at m.g.barker@talk21.com or call 07872557446, Thanks.

Codswallop!

SEPTEMBER 2012



OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Luvvies and Techies,

Oklahoma drives its way forward towards the run at the end of October – 'Yee Haa'! Tickets are already available from Maurice on 01580 713887. Please order yours as soon as possible as they go on sale to the general public on 6th October.

Prices are £9 for adults (£5 for under 16s) on Wednesday and Thursday and £12 for adults (£6 for under 16s) on Friday and Saturday. There is a poster later in CODS-WALLOP should you need further information, or if you would like to print it out and stick it up somewhere visible to potential audience members.

All those involved have worked very hard to produce a great show. Please support them.

We welcome several new members to the society, one of whom – Louisa Nelson Chambers – will be throwing herself in at the deep end and directing the forthcoming production of Calendar Girls in the Spring. Please make her feel at home and offer your assistance if there is anything you can help with.

As far as more established members go, our thoughts are with Peter Gray and Neville Gibbs, who have had spells in hospital recently. We send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to both of them.

I for one am looking forward to Robin Hood – it's funny already and we've only read it through! We will have a few rehearsals before the end of Oklahoma followed by lots of very intensive rehearsals afterwards. Wish us luck!

I am listing contact details for some members of the committee below in case you should need to get hold of any of us. We are here for you, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Annie x

annie.chesters33@gmail.com

m.g.barker@talk21.com

AWH@thompsons.com

jameshanaway@hotmail.com

supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk

ritpetite.rita@googlemail.com

dknight@caseware.co.uk

vixytrixy@googlemail.com

Annie

Matt

Alison

James

Andrew

Maurice

Debs

Vix

News & Diary Dates

OKLAHOMA! AFTER-SHOW DINNER

**PLEASE NOTE, THIS WILL
NOW BE TAKING PLACE AT:
THE GREEN CROSS INN,
GOUDHURST ON
TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER**

**MARIAN CUMBERLAND WILL
BE TAKING NAMES, MENU
CHOICES AND YOUR
PAYMENT AT REHEARSALS,
OR YOU CAN POP IN TO SEE
HER AT PETER JONES
OPTICIANS IN STONE STREET,
CRANBROOK.
THANK YOU.**



WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS !

Congratulations and Best Wishes to former CODS Member Lesley Wond, who chose the only decent day of the summer to date, namely Saturday 18th August, to marry Graham Findlay at the Archbishops Palace, Maidstone, followed by a Reception at Andred Hall, Headcorn. Lesley appeared in our recent musical productions of *Anything Goes* and *The King And I*.

Sadly Lesley and Graham had little time for a honeymoon as they were in the process of moving to The Cotswolds before and after the Wedding ! However, it was a lovely day for them both and I am sure all members of the Society will join me in sending their Congratulations and Best Wishes to Lesley and Graham for the future.

CODS 2013 SEASON

The Committee are pleased to announce the following Productions, for your participation and enjoyment:-

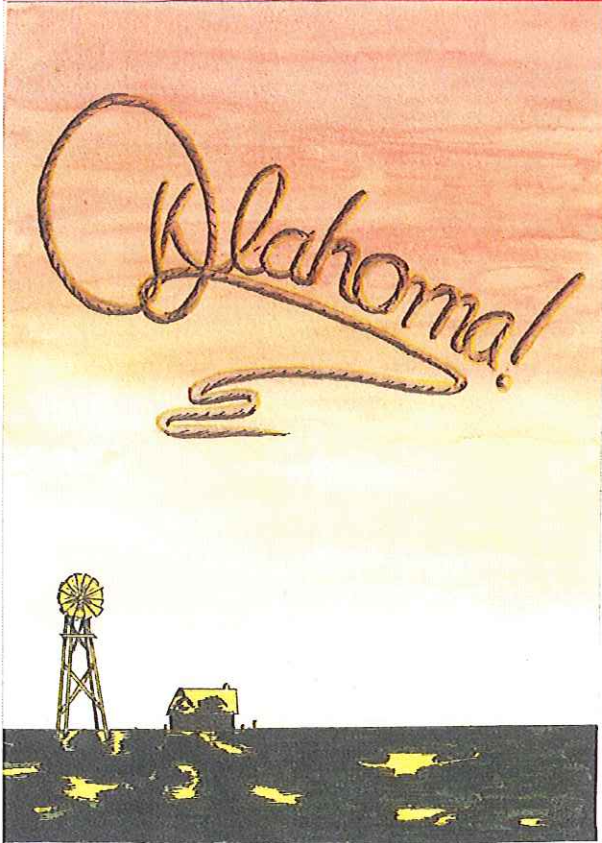
April 2013 - "Calendar Girls" - to be directed by Louisa Nelson-Chambers. Louisa is an experienced director and we very much look forward to having another fresh enthusiastic face within the Society and directing a play that should swell our houses.

October 2013 - "Cabaret" - the musical, to be directed by Annie Chesters. However, in the event of "Cabaret" being unavailable, in view of the imminent West End production, Annie will be directing the popular musical of "Crazy For You".

In addition to these two Productions, we are keen to hold a Summer Social, to provide some form of theatrical entertainment, perhaps a Concert of some kind in a different venue, as well as a Christmas Production, which could be in the form of a Pantomime or a family orientated play, such as "A Christmas Carol" or "Wind In The Willows". Anyone who is interested in taking the lead in organising and/or directing either of these two events, please contact me by no later than Sunday 11th November.

Thank you - your Society needs you !

Our Latest Productions



A Director's View Calendar Girls

The moment arrived; after extensive touring, mixed reviews, and an audience turnover that beggared belief, the Rights to Calendar Girls were finally released. It was noted on the CODS website rather humorously, but with absolute truth '*There are 346 productions of Calendar Girls being performed in the next year. That's a lot of buns*' (JR). The story is straight forward enough. Members of a Yorkshire WI are galvanised into action to raise a collection for a replacement settee in their local hospital, when the husband of one of their members dies from Leukaemia. As befitting the 21st Century they come up with a unique twist on a traditional theme, the annual WI calendar. The twist being, that they pose nude carrying out everyday tasks. The calendar unexpectedly goes global. To date, raising over £5 million pounds and still rising. The bare bones.

So what could appeal to CODS performers? It's an amusing ensemble piece providing a rich assortment of female characters, both protagonists and cameo's with flexibility across a broad age range which celebrates 'The Female'. What appeals to an audience? Its reputation precedes it. It's based on truth, and is within people's memories. It's a very British story which appeals to quirky British sensibilities. It's based on truth and proceeds to charity. The people the story is about are very probably the theatre going target audience who'll respond. Above all it's entertaining.

Tickets for Oklahoma are now available. The box office at Phillips Mans Shop opens on Saturday October 6th, but you can now get them from me any time beforehand. They will be available at every rehearsal (at least, those in which I appear!) from September 3rd onwards or you can give me a phone call (01580 713887). One new philosophy was agreed at our last committee meeting which may prompt you to put a bit of extra effort into your sales drive and that was; for group bookings there would be 1 additional free ticket for every 10 tickets bought. So get selling folks and let's see if we can get full houses every evening. Maurice

Oklahoma! Props(!)

I am still after a few props for the production at the end of October. Please let me know if you're willing to lend, donate, rent any of the following and I'll arrange to collect if necessary. Even if you know someone else that could help - that'd be great.

Postcards - we need some 'saucy' Edwardian cards to decorate the set, and also some that won't be seen by the audience.

A Barrel - Even if you have something in your garden, I'll get it collected and returned after the shows.

Rag Dolls - We need four, I've had offers of two so far.

Pen and Paper - An old 'dippy' pen and old looking paper.

If you can help, and save my budget :,), please see me at rehearsals, or email leehatcher@madasafish.com

What do I think the play is about? It's about relationships, camaraderie, over-coming obstacles, loss, empowerment, conflict, bitterness and jealousy. Who you are and how you see yourself in your community - your value!

Of the 346 potential productions of CG, CODS will be remembered by audiences because we will touch them emotionally whether through laughter, tears or both. They will remember fine performances, and a fine simple set. Simply it will be a production that they are glad they came to see. And the cast will have enjoyed their journey knowing they gave it their best. Hopefully not only will our audience have been entertained, but so to the cast and crew.

So together, cast and crew, here's to us fleshing out those bones! I look forward to working with you.

20/9/2012 LNC

Please Note...**"Oklahoma" – Get in, Set Build and Scene Changes**

Now that the summer break is over, rehearsals have re-commenced for our forthcoming Production of "Oklahoma". As Stage Manager to the Production, it is necessary for me to address the issues of getting our scenery to Queens Hall and making sure it is assembled in time for the lighting to be rigged, the technical and dress rehearsals before First Night.

Once again the Flishinghurst Gang have worked hard throughout the summer and the scenery has been completed. We will be meeting at Flishinghurst between 4 – 430pm on Friday 26th October to load the scenery and props onto various trailers, with a view to getting into Queens Hall from 530pm onwards. Thereafter, we will be building part of the set – including the taking up of the orchestra pit – for a few more hours. If you are able to help with either or both activities, please let me know, turn up or call for further details.

I anticipate being in the Hall finishing construction of the scenery for most of Saturday 27th October, again, if anyone is able to help, please let me know or turn up at Queens Hall from 930am onwards, I shall have many jobs available with plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits for sustenance.

Turning to the dress rehearsals and performances, we only have one major scene change in each Act to deal with and from the timings taken during rehearsals to date, I anticipate there will be plenty of time to achieve this. Having Steph Beeken as Deputy Stage Manager will help free me up to lead on the scene changes, though I will need assistance at every Performance. Whereas I shall be contacting our usual backstage staff for availability, new faces are always welcome and if anyone does wishing to help out – even if only for one or a few Performances – please let me know accordingly. It is possible that some of the cast members could also help out with the scene changes, if not on stage, and I will happily delegate such tasks within the remainder of the rehearsal period.

As ever, I am looking forward to our Autumn Musical and if anyone can help with the get – in, set build and performances, I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Andrew White

Tel 01424 718328

E-Mail supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk

SET BUILDING SUCCESS!

On behalf of performers and directors in the society I would like to send a very heartfelt and sincere 'thank you' to Derek, Dennis and the wonderful Flishinghurst Gang, who have not only designed and built the set for Oklahoma, but also have almost finished building and painting the scenery for Robin Hood-the Panto.

Thank you very much indeed to our unsung heroes!

PUBLICITY

A plea for help!

Would anyone be willing to assist with publicity for our shows?

If you have an hour or so to spare three or four times a year we would be most grateful for your help. You could volunteer for as much or as little as you wish, from putting up posters to collecting publicity material from the printer, doing something more creative with designs or sending promotional material to the media.

Please get in touch with James Hanaway if you can help.

RSC
ROYAL
SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY

CHARLES DICKENS'

A
**CHRISTMAS
CAROL**



ADAPTED BY
JOHN MORTIMER

SF
SAMUEL
FRENCH
LIMITED

Coming Up...

**PANTO**

The set design is now complete and help with the painting will be appreciated. It will all be drawn out and a colour chart with paint and brushes provided. If you can "paint by numbers" then this will suit you.

Any FRIDAY morning at Flishingurst between 9.30am and 1.00pm. Just turn up.

Any SATURDAY morning, same times but for Saturdays please notify Dennis in advance that you will be there (01580 712283).

...ARE YOU GETTING A NEW KITCHEN???

We require some wall cabinets for Flishingurst. Ours are falling to pieces and we need somewhere to store our first-aid box and other special items. Can you help?

Please contact Dennis Russell

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.

"A Christmas Carol" - Stables Theatre, Hastings—14th – 23rd 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 (17th December excepted), starting at 730pm. On 16th and 23rd 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.

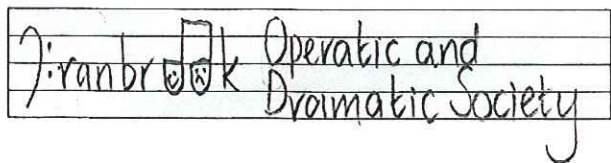
Tickets are already selling and I daresay this Production will sell out, so if anyone is interested in coming along, please order your tickets soon to avoid unnecessary disappointment. However, if you are unlucky not to get ticket's, there will be the Society's own Pantomime of "Robin Hood" the following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

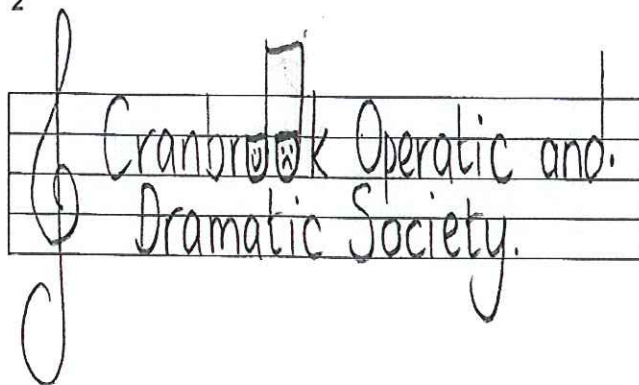
Andrew White (Tel 01424 718328 or supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk)

NEW CODS LOGO - WHICH ONE DO YOU LIKE ?

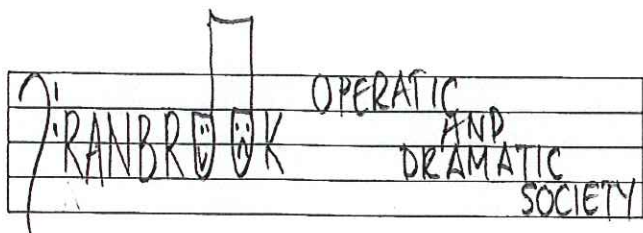
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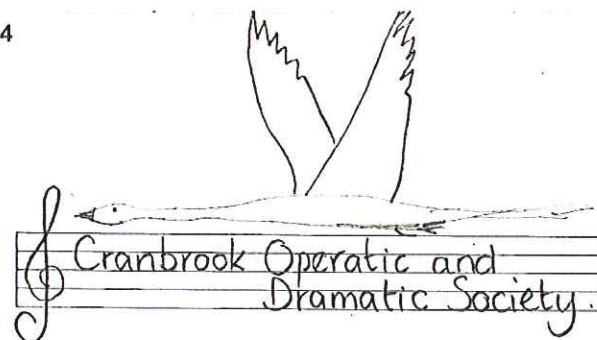
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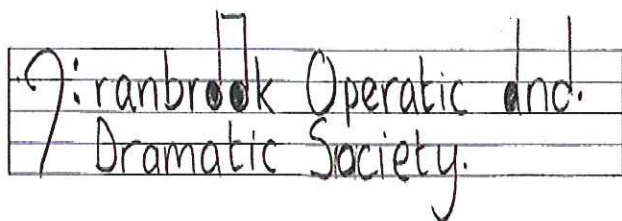
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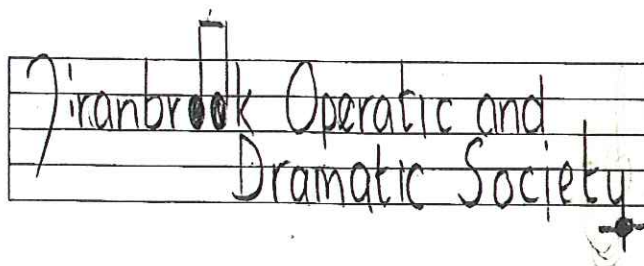
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5



6



7



8



Which of the above logo designs, if any, would you favour as our new logo?

Or do you have a better idea...?

Either way, your Committee would very much appreciate hearing your views, so please contact a Committee member as soon as possible so that a decision can FINALLY be made!

THANK YOU!

The Back Page

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your
Codswallop Editor Michelle: 01580 752802
or email: 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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Bushes and Briars

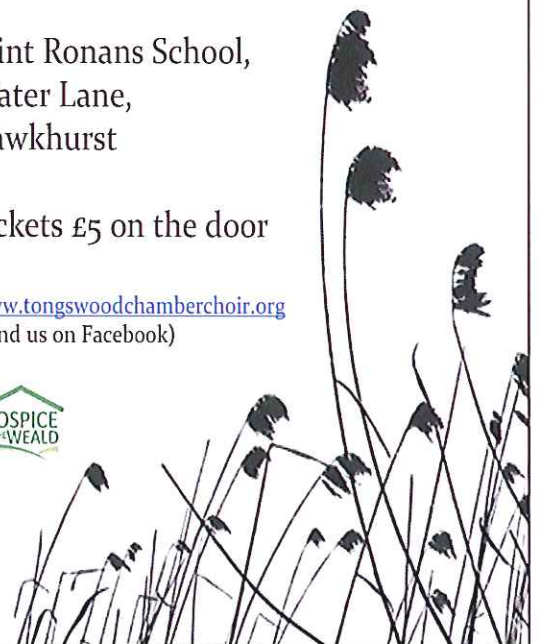
English Choral Music for an Autumn Afternoon

3 p.m. Sunday October 7th 2012

Saint Ronans School,
Water Lane,
Hawkhurst

Tickets £5 on the door

www.tongswoodchamberchoir.org
(Find us on Facebook)



November

I'm joining in with Movember again this year. For those who might not know, this involves me growing a moustache for the entire month of November. I am doing this in aid of mens' health including prostate and testicular cancer.

As an added incentive for you to donate, if I manage to raise £100 before November I will on 1st November, shave my beard, leave my moustache so that it grows to, I'm sure, luxurious lengths AND I will shave my head.

To find out more about this worthy cause please go to the Movember website
<http://uk.movember.com/mens-health/>

And to donate to me, please see me, or donate on my MoSpace - <http://mobro.co/LeeDave>

Thanks, Lee H

Deadline for copy for
next edition:

Friday 16th November