



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 Beeken 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!

March 2013



## New Chairman Andrew White

### NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear fellow members,

I feel very honoured to have been elected as your Chairman and am looking forward to leading the Society for the next two years.

Having now taken the reins, I would firstly like to say a Big Thank You to Annie for leading the Society during the last two years, in addition to all the hard work put in as Director to ensure the success of our first two Pantomimes and the generous donations to the selected charities for both of these Productions. I would also like to thank Vix for all the work carried out whilst being our Secretary during the past two years and I also wish her successor, Jackie, all the best for her new role as Secretary, particularly as this has been taken on at very short notice. Vix will be handing over to Jackie during the next few weeks, please bear with us during this period, though I am sure we will be up to speed within the near future.

Our Production of Calendar Girls is now only a few weeks away and I am aware of all the hard work that everyone involved is putting in to ensure it represents another success for the Society. Whereas there is plenty of advertising taking place at present, I would encourage you all to display a few posters, spread the word, support the Production and bring as many people along as possible. TODS and the Stables have both recently played to full capacity audiences for their Productions of Calendar Girls and with a good effort from all of us, we too can swell our houses. Marketing of our Productions is an area where we can all make a vital contribution, and I look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming performances.

Turning to the future, we will shortly be holding auditions for Cranbrook Shorts and The Sound of Music, initial details of which you will find within this issue. We are also shortlisting selections for our Pantomime and I hope to announce which Pantomime we shall be performing within the next issue. Plenty of opportunities for members ( and aspirant members ) to become involved in all aspects of our Productions and if anyone wishes to become more involved in any particular area, please let me know.

Subscriptions will be due on 1st April and I would encourage you all to send these to Jackie as soon as possible, as these form a vital part of income to the Society.

As mentioned at the recent AGM, I am happy to be contacted at any time with regard to any aspect of the Society which anyone wishes to raise. Unless specifically requested, any such matters will be discussed at the monthly Committee Meetings and I will ensure a response is provided to you as soon as possible thereafter. I cannot guarantee providing anyone with the answer that they want to hear, but rest assured any decisions made by the Committee will be in the best interests of the Society.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter. See you all at Calendar Girls!

Andrew

Tel 01424 718328

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

## Thank you for everything, Annie!

## News & Diary Dates

### NEVILLE GIBBS

Neville was already a member of CODS when I joined in the early 70's and was well involved, taking part in both plays and musicals and loved the progressive dinners we had when he invariably did a starter ,tomato soup I seem to recall! Neville was a talented accountant and had worked and travelled in Africa which he thoroughly enjoyed (if I say Kenya it will turn out to be Nigeria) before he worked in Cranbrook for Kayser Steel (spelling?) from where he retired at a very early age. He suffered greatly with anxiety, this was much later diagnosed as bi-polar but we all put it down to 'just Neville'. He enjoyed so many things and I know he and Jill visited some interesting places for the museums and art galleries, and in later years one of the things he enjoyed collecting were letters written by famous historical figures. He was an only child, something he lamented but had in the last few years tracked down some very distant cousins and talked of visiting them in Essex, whether he did or not I don't know.

He was a member of CODS with what I call the old gang, before Cods thought they were semi-professional!! Nicky Clark, Chris Welfare, Dinah, Mary Aylwin (his neighbour in Goddards Close) me, Louise, Sue Russell, Peter Gray, and we did have a fine old time. Those were the days when we performed out of the old Vestry hall where we had to build the stage every time, but it was fun . One performance, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Neville played the art master and I was the naughty schoolgirl he has an affair with. We had a good adjudication on the Friday night but one of the things the geezer picked on was the fact that I was not naked under my silk dressing gown (I wore a skimpy). So, on the final night with the aid of a couple of glasses of sherry and quite a lot of support from Louise I left it all off (apart from the very slippery dressing gown). Because of Neville's nervous disposition I did not tell him this until I was on his knee waiting for the curtain to go up. Panic on his part would be an understatement and I nearly ended up on the floor minus everything, but I managed to settle him down just in time. It all went very well in the end.....

Even though his health had been poorly for several years he still managed to get up to London now and then and last year he enjoyed being with Mary and Bob and friends when they came back to Kent to celebrate their golden wedding. He also has some good friend in the little church he went to in the High Street. He also owned a car for many years but preferred it to remain in the garage (it could still be there!) Perhaps Dinah can help you out with a snippet or two. Despite his disposition he was a lovely bloke, good fun and always helpful if financial advice were needed. I will miss him

Love Norma Williams

### CLIFF SWINDELLS

Cliff and his wife Pat joined CODS shortly after coming to Cranbrook in the early sixties. With his background in the professional theatre and his experience as Senior Tutor at the Rose Bruford School of Drama after a career as Newsreader and Sports commentator with Southern Television it was no surprise when we found him as the adjudicator at one of our plays for Kent Drama Festival. He was never active on stage with us - though he did turn out for us on the cricket field against Hastleons ! - but Pat has always supported us and took the title role in our production of "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" in our laterdays in The Vestry Hall. She is in our thoughts at this sad time.

George Hudson

### **YOUR NEW COMMITTEE 2013/14**

Chairman - Andrew White  
 Vice Chairman - James Hanaway  
 Hon. Secretary - Jackie Barker  
 Treasurer - John Tapper  
 Business Manager - Maurice Wilkins  
 Social Secretary - Marian Cumberland  
 Committee Member - Annie Chesters  
 Committee Member - Matt Barker  
 Committee Member - Victoria King  
 Committee Member - Debbie Knight  
 Committee Member - Alison Withey-Harrison

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS 2013/14**

As agreed at the AGM, annual subscriptions for membership of the Society for the forthcoming year remain unchanged, though they will be payable on 1st April. Unless you pay by direct debit or standing order, please can all members arrange to send their cheques payable to CODS to our new Secretary, Jackie Barker, at the following address:-

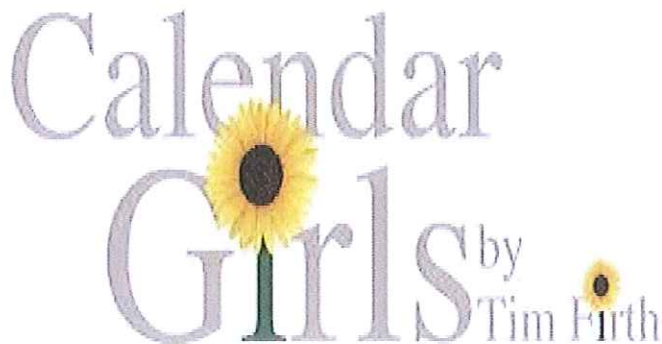
53 Linden Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent ME17 4QS

The subscription rates are as follows:-

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Patron      | £30 |
| Full Member | £20 |
| Student     | £ 5 |
| Juniors     | £1  |

Mailing List only £1

Additional donations to the Society are also most welcome ! Thank You ! "

**Our Latest Productions****FRONT OF HOUSE NEEDED**

If you are able to volunteer your services as Front of House staff for "Calendar Girls", please telephone Louise Dixon on 01580 714962.

**"Calendar Girls" – Get In and Set Build**

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, together with the technical and dress rehearsals before First Night.

Once again the Flishinghurst Gang have worked hard since Christmas and the scenery is nearing completion. We will be meeting at Flishinghurst at 6pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April to load the scenery and props onto various trailers, with a view to getting into Queens Hall from 7pm onwards. Thereafter, we will be building part of the set 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 6<sup>th</sup> April, 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.

I am looking forward to this Production and if anyone can help with the get – in and set build, I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Maurice Wilkins

Tel 01580 713887

E-Mail: [ritpetite.rita@googlemail.com](mailto:ritpetite.rita@googlemail.com)

## The Sound of Music

### October 2013

What a perfect title for a musical show! And what a popular show! This will be our next musical. which will take place at the end of Oct 2013 (half-term week).

The story is set in Austria in 1938 when the storm clouds of war are gathering over Europe. It is based on the true story of the Von Trapp family. Captain Von Trapp is a widower with seven children and requests that the near-by abbey provides him with a nanny to look after his children. The Mother Abbess decides to send Maria, a young postulant, who is finding it hard to accept the discipline of the abbey. I am sure everyone knows how the story turns out and can hum the tunes

The Cast

#### At The Abbey

Mother Abbess Large speaking and singing part. Sings Climb Every Mountain

Nuns with dialogue and singing Sister Berthe, Sister Sophia, Sister Margaretta

Maria Rainer young postulant

Chorus of Nuns could double as party guests in a dance scene in Act 2

#### Von Trapp Villa

Captain George von Trapp... Big acting part, sings Edelweiss and other numbers

Franz the butler

Frau Schmidt the housekeeper large speaking part

Children: *All the children need to sing confidently and be able to act and move well*

Liesl - 16 going on 17 years, needs to sing and dance

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

Rolf Gruber. Starts as boyfriend of Liesl 17 going on 18. Joins the Hitler youth. Needs to act and sing well.

Elsa Schraeder. Attractive, cosmopolitan, sophisticated widow in her late 30's. She is going to marry von Trapp. Big acting part but also sings

Max Detweiler... a charming dilettante. 40-50 He is a theatrical entrepreneur big acting part but also needs to sing.

Guests at the Trapp house ; A small group of party quests. The ladies could double as nuns

Two men loyal to Hitler Admiral von Schreiber, Herr Zeller....small speaking parts.

It will be directed by Pat Smith but we do not have a musical director yet and so can't set an audition date but it will probably be at the end of May. Ruth Roberts is having a well-earned rest this autumn so is there someone who could offer to be a rehearsal pianist? It is a time consuming job so maybe we could have more than one pianist and they could share the load? If you can help get in touch with Andrew - 01424 718328, Annie - 01580 388716 or Pat - 01580 830857. Thank you.

# 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 Lee know!

*Thanks for your support during my time as Editor—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, Lee, details at top of this page.



### PASTRIES, PRESENTS & PAMPERING , SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2013, VESTRY HALL CRANBROOK

A very big thank you to everyone who either turned up to help, ran a stall, donated cash or came along to browse & buy! We had a very successful day and managed to raise over £1000 to donate for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. As a new £1000 Challenger, I was delighted with the support from so many CODS members, so thank you, and please do try to come along to my next 2 events in July and November.

Good luck to everyone involved in Calendar Girls!

Over & out,

Michelle (ex-Editor) ...and good luck, Lee! x

**Deadline for copy for next edition: Friday 19th April 2013**