CODSWALLOP!

JUNE 2024

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URGENT! HELP NEEDED

ALADDIN

2025 PITCHES

MAURICE WILKINS

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Contact details for the committee are available via :

Website - <u>cranbrookods.org.uk/committee</u> Email - <u>CODS.secretary@gmail.com</u>



CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

CONTACT: REBECCA EVANS, PENNY TOBIN, GUY FILLMORE, LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: VIA CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM



CODS WEBSITE

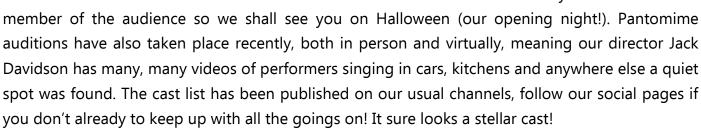
CONTACT LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: VIA CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

CHAIR'S NOTES

Greetings once again as summer seems to have reached us (fingers crossed the weather errs on the sunny side). This time of year is a little quieter for CODS, giving us breathing room to complete projects that aren't always visible on stage while continuing with our rehearsals for the October Musical.

Rehearsals for **Addams Family Musical** are underway, complete with groaning, crypts, and a lot of black clothing (and that's just the backstage crew!). This show is sure to be a fantastic amount of fun for all those involved and every



Play and musical pitches are still open for April and October next year so any grand ideas, email cods.secretary@gmail.com or speak to any committee member, full list can be found here cranbrookods.org.uk/committee. Support is available from the committee for any first time directors who are making that leap so come and discuss the plans and see where it can take you!

Now looking at our off stage projects, the first of these was the incredibly successful painting weekend that took place at the Queen's Hall. Our fabulous home venue was last painted over 30 years ago, so a new coat was overdue. It was great to see so many members there, volunteering their time to give back to the Queen's Hall. Max in particular rose to the challenge but I am concerned that there was more paint on him than the wall by the end of the weekend!

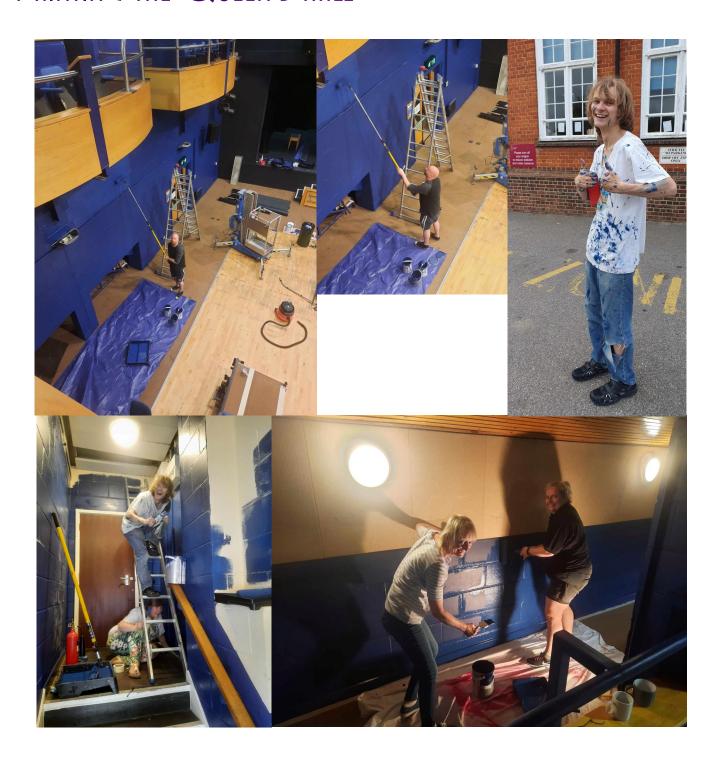
Flishinghurst improvements are now underway! Now that the weather has become (slightly) drier, we are due to be clearing our huts to make way for new spaces. We need people to come along on **Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd** to help clear some of the huts. See the back page for more details.

Speaking of Flishinghurst, I must also mention the sad news about one of our beloved members of the "Flishinghurst gang". Maurice Wilkins was a long serving member and so many people will have heard his reminders to be prompt for a 9am start for set take down. He passed away on April 15th and his funeral service was broadcast to a huge number of friends and family in mid May. As a stalwart of the society, he will be fondly remembered and even more dearly missed.

Wishing you all the best,

Little James

PAINTING THE QUEEN'S HALL



ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL



FIDDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL



FIDDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL

ACTORS NEEDED FOR ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL FRONT OF HOUSE

As soon as the audience enters the theatre foyer for our Halloween musical, they will find themselves in a totally immersive experience.

There will be black drapery, cobwebs, bats and candles all around the bar area as well as the Addams Family mansion and portrait gallery. The whole foyer and bar area will be full of spooky and Addams style décor and characters, who will be manning the bar and selling the new style programmes as well as running the raffle.

In order to be able to organise this, I need to recruit the FOH personnel who will need to be dressed as Addams Family Ancestors in full costume and make-up. They will need to stay in character before the show and in the interval, and it might therefore be best if they could do more than one performance.

If there is anyone who I had to turn away from the auditions or anyone else who might like to get involved in this new venture, please get in touch as soon as possible, so that we can fit your costume and get you all involved in the show.

Welcome to the Addams Family!

Annie (annie.hatch33@gmail.com) xx



2025 SHOWS

CALLING ALL DIRECTORS!

We are looking for director with a proposition for our

Spring Play in April 2025

and another for our

Autumn Musical at the end of October 2025

Are you interested in putting forward a pitch for either of these slots?

If so, please contact a member of your committee or cods.secretary@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you with exciting show suggestions for next year.

CODS PANTO 2024 - ALADDIN

ALADDIN CAST LIST -ALADDIN-JESS LEAPER PRINCESS-ZARA REDSHAW WASHY- JACOB SANTER ABANAZER-MICHAEL FITZGERALD WIDOW TWANKEY- JACK DAVIDSON GENIE- SIANA WESTON SPIRIT OF THE RING- CATHERINE DAVIDSON COMEDY POLICE 1-SHARON PICKLES COMEDY POLICE 2- KAY FITZGERALD COMEDY POLICE 3- STEVE LENHAM HANDMAIDEN- EMMA CLARKE EMPEROR- JEZ DRUCE ENSEMBLE CAPTAINS- MONIQUE SYRED MARDON

CODS PANTO 2024 - ALADDIN

It's happening. It really is!

This year, CODS is delighted to welcome back Jack Davidson who has agreed to direct our Pantomime 'Aladdin'. He is as excited as we are and plans and preparation are already afoot, and behind the scenes activity is taking place!

It is going to be a great event with colourful scenery and even more colourful characters.

As you will have seen from our April edition, this is going to be a traditional, family

Panto, creating a magical experience for all, and embracing Christmas with that spirit of the theatre that makes the child's first experience of theatre a memorable one.

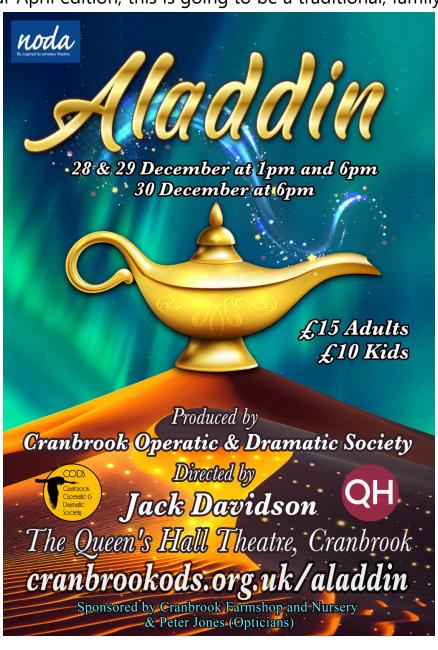
Our core lead of actors will be enhanced with an ensemble of local children who will dance and sing, bringing a family theme to the stage.

Dates of the shows:

December 28th 1pm & 6pm December 29th 1pm & 6pm (BSL will be in attendance time to be confirmed)

December 30th 6pm

Get ready to buy your tickets as they will be on sale soon!



MAURICE WILKINS

Maurice Wilkins, our dear friend.

For those of you who knew Maurice, you will understand my sentiments and the huge respect in which he was held.

I had only known him for 14 years, but grew to love him as a genuine person and one to whom one could always go for advice or help.

His love of cycling and his adventures across the globe that he and Rita enjoyed, were a testament to his humility and modesty, as he never boasted about cycling across Asia or South America, riding their bikes through Vietnam and India, or spending months cycling throughout Europe, feats that they managed without mobile phones, Sat Navs or any other modern technology.

After Maurice's accident during Covid, he spent weeks in hospital and many months in a neck brace, but managed to email me occasionally with tales of jigsaw puzzle completion and garden delights. He visited me when he was able to get in the car once more and never once complained of the pain that he endured.

His work at CODS was inspirational. He was a singer, an actor, set builder and painter, set designer, stage manager, and Queen's Hall manager, and many more roles in between. He was patient and calm, a delight to work with and for, every task being completed with a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face.

It was my greatest honour to be asked by the family to read at his funeral on 16th May. It was an even greater privilege to be asked to read something that I had written.

I had seen Maurice on the day of his passing and spent some quality moments with him, recollecting his valuable time both on the stage and behind the scenes. He smiled and held my hand. I left his side with a kiss and a hug, saying goodbye to this wonderful man, for I knew I would not see him again.

The words I wrote, and subsequently read, were written from the heart.

Penny Tobin

MAURICE WILKINS

The Final Bow by Penny Tobin

On the stage, resonating with music, lines and cues, as heavy waves beat on a shore, the actors are entwined with thespian spirits of long ago,

and speeches echo with voices clear, within the memory of all that have gone before.

And dreams are illuminated, as lights, lit by hopes and ambitions.

As the audience applauded, standing tall and proud as trees rising from a fertile soil, and flowers, tender and soft as snow, raise their heads in bouquets,

you breathe and smile, you are complete.

But now, our costumes are ready, and with silent fears and tears,

hushed,

we join you as you take your final bow.

Memories only remain of your smile, radiating from that gentlest of faces, and that twinkle in the eyes, as Sirius glowing a thousand years from now, shines bright.

Our show is now ended.

The performance is complete, the scene has finished, the script is closed. The lights have dimmed. The curtain has come down.

Take a bow dear friend, for all you have done, for your show will always go on.

From Andrew White

Maurice and Rita made me feel very welcome within the Society when I first joined in 2007 and I enjoyed working on the Production of Habeas Corpus, for which Maurice was nominated for an acting award at the KDA Finals.

It was clear to me within many other productions just how much time and effort Maurice gave to the Society; not only was he on stage but he was also the Society Business Manager and a regular attendee of the Flishinghurst Gang who build the sets and arrange transportation of the scenery to Queens Hall and back. It was not until I stood in as Hall Manager for one of the pantomimes that I realised just how responsible this task was

MAURICE WILKINS

too, this was another of many roles which Maurice regularly carried out.

Maurice also learnt a new skill - the role of Stage Manager - for the production of Calendar Girls in 2013 and I was pleased to nominate Maurice to the role of Vice President a year later, which was richly deserved. Maurice set a very good example of membership, loyalty and devotion to the Society and will be greatly missed.

From Lee Hatcher

Maurice was there for every CODS show that I helped with, and probably most of those that I didn't, since I became involved in CODS. He was a source of knowledge, a hard working set builder, a large presence on stage, and an interesting and funny gentleman backstage. I am glad that I met Maurice and pleased that I could call him a friend.

We will miss you Maurice.









ALAN HODGE

From Debbie Knight

So I've been asked to write a few things about Alan who sadly left us in April 2024. A very long time member of CODS and respected by many.

The man I knew was a dedicated member of CODS. He loved the whole atmosphere and was in so many musicals, pantomimes and other show over the years. I remember listening to his wonderful voice and envying his presence on a stage. I was partnered with Alan a lot in the dance numbers in various productions. I wasn't the best at dancing and I'm happy to admit that. But poor Alan seemed to be landed with me on numerous occasions. This was one time when he wasn't at the front of the stage but very much at the back and nearest to the wings as I could possibly go. I mean who was going to be looking at us at the very back? Sadly probably most of the audience. Alan was very patient with me and when our steps went right, then we both came off stage giving each other plenty of high fives.

The two shows I have such fond memories of with my partner in crime were My Fair Lady and Not Strictly Shakespeare. My Fair Lady actually saw us at the front of the stage either side of Mr Doolittle being carried away after over indulging the night before his wedding. For this production I chose to be part of the male ensemble to make up the numbers. Not Strictly Shakespeare saw Alan and I both rapping to a passage from Othello. It really was so much fun and his energy for a man in his later years was so refreshing.

Writing about Alan like this reminds me about all the laughter, tears and hard work we experienced together. Not forgetting his wonderful stories and his love for the theatre.

Alan I miss my Dancing Buddie, but rest easy my friend, until we meet again.





ALAN HODGE

From Lee Hatcher

I remember coming to see the Strictly Shakespeare CODS show in 2010 - I think three of the photos below are from that show! This shows how talented Alan truly was - he was a wonderful singer and had true comic timing, on and off stage! I was privileged to also work back stage for many of the shows Alan was in. He was kind and welcoming while also being a consummate professional performer. He will truly be missed.









Officers of the society

President Rita Wilkins

Vice Presidents

Bernard Beardsmore, Pam Baker, Jeremy Cartwright, Dinah Chamberlin, Peggy Latter, John Tapper, Marian Cumberland

Executive Committee

Chair
Business Manager
Treasurer
Secretary (Board & Membership)
Publicity
Committee Members

James Harper
Guy Fillmore
Glyn Roberts
Penny Tobin
Rebecca Evans
Annie Hatcher, Alison Withey-Harrison,
Mark Jeffery, Stephen D Smith,
Julie Hine, Louise Franklin,
Kester Hulland-Rumley

Officials of the Society

Orchestral Secretary
Newsletter Editor
Independent Examiners
Trustees

Ruth Roberts Lee Hatcher Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams Marian Cumberland, James Hanaway, Glyn Roberts, Sharon Pickles, Annie Hatcher, Guy Fillmore

THE BACK PAGE

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your CODSWALLOP Editor Lee Hatcher:

email: cods.newsletter@gmail.com
If you have any news, views, or ideas for what YOU want to see in CODSWALLOP, let me know!

HELP NEEDED 22/23 JUNE

We really need your help to tidy and clear the scenery/prop store next weekend.

Help required 22nd and 23rd from 10.30am each day. You will need to wear your grottiest clothes and probably bring work/gardening gloves and sturdy shoes. We will be clearing some very grubby stuff!

Bring the family for an exciting day out. We may well adjourn to the pub afterwards!

It might be a good idea to share cars, as it is going to be tricky to park and rather muddy.

Address and Postcode - Flishinghurst Woodyard, Chalk Lane TN17 2QB or

what3words - majority.freedom.reset

Hope to see you there.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION: FRIDAY 26TH JULY 2024