



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 to all new members

We hope you will have a long and happy association with our Society

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:
www.cranbrookods.org.uk

Codswallop!

JANUARY 2012



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Luvvies and Techies,

Happy New Year to one and all, may it bring to you all that you desire, (well lots of things you desire anyhow).

Our first pantomime was a great success and we have learned many things to ensure that future pantos will be even more of a success.

We made over £3,500.00 profit which we had originally decided to split equally between ourselves and the church tower appeal. I have just spoken to the Vicar of St. Dunstan's Church who is very happy indeed that we will be donating £2,000.00 towards the appeal to restore the church tower.

As director of 'Alice in Wonderland' I was very ambitious with regard to the number of people in the cast and the amount of music, but it was all alright on the night and I was so proud of the huge effort made by the cast and crew. We had a very short rehearsal period and all sorts of spanners in the works, but the end result had people raving about the show and queuing to buy tickets at the door.

As a result, the committee have decided to stage another panto next Christmas!

Meanwhile, 'Fallen Angels' is rehearsing already and will be a splendidly written, acted and directed play with a witty script and nostalgic art deco setting. **Do not miss it!**

Please read your latest Codswallop carefully and you will find that we are asking for your suggestions for the Jubilee Entertainment, for future shows and for publicity and marketing ideas.

The latest Charity Walk has also been arranged, and there are details of the AGM.

Please continue to support your society in any way that you can. We value your input and appreciate your comments and suggestions.

See you all at the AGM and at 'Fallen Angels'.

Annie

x

STOP PRESS!!!

AGM

**IN VESTRY HALL AT 7.30PM
ON WEDNESDAY 14TH
MARCH 2012**

We've also got a free piano in the PAC, so there will be no more problems with use of the grand and/or the lack of piano in the drama studio (hopefully). It came from the now defunct Bowles Lodge in Hawkhurst and we have just had to pay for moving it and tuning it.

News & Diary Dates

CHARITY WALK

Sunday 11th March 2012

Following on from our successful Charity Walks in 2009 and 2011, I am pleased to announce details of this year's Charity Walk, which is being organised to raise funds for the Paediatrics (Childrens Services) Unit, at Benenden Hospital (Registered Charity No. 1065995). The Unit itself provides a full range of surgical and medical services for children aged between 1 - 16 years of age.

Details of the Walk are as follows:-

Meeting Point: Jockey Lane Car Park, Cranbrook, from 930am for a 10am start on Sunday 11th March 2012

Total Distance: just under 8.5 miles

Route: From Cranbrook up to Friezley, then across to Sissinghurst Castle, to the village of Sissinghurst and back into Cranbrook.

This event is open to all Society members, friends and families. Dogs are also welcome to come along, though they may need to be kept on leads at times. We recommend all walkers prepare for the possibility of foul weather to be encountered en route (jeans are not recommended as these become cold and heavy once wet). We would particularly be interested in hearing from anyone with a car who would be willing to be "on standby" to come out and rescue any participants who feel unable to carry on with the walk once it has started.

The tea-room at Sissinghurst Castle will not be open on the day of our Walk, though we are hoping to stop at the Castle for a lunch stop. Please could all attendees bring their own food and drink. Whereas The Bull at Sissinghurst is currently closed, it is hoped that upon arrival back in Cranbrook, a local hostelry will be open for refreshments. All being well, we

consider we should be back in Cranbrook circa 230pm.

Last year, our Charity Walk raised just over £1,200; whether or not we will match or exceed this remains to be seen, though we will be aiming to raise a commendable sum for the Unit, as well as having an enjoyable time on the day itself.

Sponsorship Forms are now available from either of us, and we would hope that all previous attendees will wish to join us, and perhaps bring a friend or two.

For those unable to attend, but wish to get some fresh air in February, we will be testing the route out on Sunday 12th February, if you would prefer to join us on this date or walk the route on both occasions, we will be more than pleased to hear from you.

We hope to see as many of you as possible on Sunday 13th March and should you have any queries or require any further information, please feel free to contact either of us:

Marian Cumberland (tel 01580 - 715580) and Andrew White (01424 718328)

WARDROBE PLEA

Do we have any **budding wardrobe mistresses or, indeed, masters** who would be willing to lend a hand for this and future productions? Rita and Marilyn do a super job making sure we all look the part but they do need help, urgently. Looking forward to next year they may not be able to take on quite so much, so, if you think you are up to the challenge and would like to find out more, do please speak to Rita when you see her.

Could you help with the business side of things?

We are looking for somebody to help with ordering tickets and communicating with local businesses about sponsorship and advertising. Our 'Mr Business Bod.' would be happy for you to shadow him to see what's involved. If you would like more information please speak to Maurice or contact a member of the committee.

Are you a publicity/marketing genius? We urgently require members to step forward and help with advertising our shows and getting "bums on seats"; could you help with this very important role? Please contact a Committee

PLEA FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

What shows do you want to see? What shows would you like to be in? Have you always fancied directing a particular play? We'd love to hear your suggestions, so if you have any ideas, however fanciful they may seem, please contact Andrew White

WANTED

Graphic Designer or similar
Is there anyone out there who could design a new CODS logo? Ideas or designs to Annie please, chesters853@btinternet.com

IF THE PLEAS FOR HELP SO FAR HAVEN'T INSPIRED YOU, WE ALSO NEED:

• SOMEONE TO SHADOW IAN WOOKEY WITH A VIEW TO TAKING OVER AS PROPSMASTER

PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER IF INTERESTED, THANK YOU!

**"FALLEN ANGELS"
Our next production in April 2012**

**Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society
presents**

FALLEN ANGELS
by Noël Coward

**Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
12th, 13th, 14th April 2012 7.30pm**

**Tickets £8 available from Phillips Man's
Shop, Cranbrook or telephone 01580 713887
www.cranbrookods.org.uk**

Amateur production by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



A Vintage Comedy

SCREENPLAY BY PETER JONES (REGISTERED OPTICIAN)



**Fallen Angels 12th, 13th, 14th
April 2012**

It is so nice to start the New Year by rehearsing a new play and just five days into January, rehearsals for Fallen Angels began. I have been blessed with a fantastic cast who auditioned (or succumbed to my gentle persuasion) way back in November. They are Jo Levett as Julia Sterroll, Shirley Staddon as Jane Banbury, Sharon Pickles as Saunders, James Hanaway as Fred Sterroll, Leon Chambers as Willy Banbury and Glyn Roberts as Maurice Duclos. Thank you to everyone who auditioned and a special thank you to Dennis, who stepped in on the audition committee at the last minute (literally). Rehearsals have already been great fun and the characters are starting to develop and take shape, despite the fact that we were still in panto mode when we started (James and Leon had only been married six days before so the honeymoon wasn't quite over). I would also like to thank everyone who has already helped me on the admin/backstage side, especially Andrew White. CODS are very lucky to have such wonderful, hardworking and professional people who never seek the limelight but make all our productions possible. Please support this hilarious comedy so that we can continue to produce a wide and varied range of material.

Jo

**Jo Levett &
Shirley Staddon
in rehearsal
for
"Fallen Angels"**

I would like to thank once more everybody who turned out on January 2nd to clear out and clean up the theatre after the pantomime. Whilst we were downing a few coffees in the dressing room I counted 20 people and there were at least 4 more somewhere around the stage. The clear up was completed, but we still had to return in the evening to transport the scenery back up to Flushinghurst and another 8 people turned up at 6 o'clock. A tremendous response to my appeals and my undying thanks goes to everybody who turned out, especially Natalie, Laura and Grace 3 of our youngest members and, of course, Ivor for providing the essential transport.

On a slightly contradictory note, at the after show dinner Annie said some very nice things about me and Rita amongst which was "Without them there would have been no show!" Well that may or may not be debateable, but what is certain is that without a number of people there would have been no show. In fact, Alice in Wonderland came perilously close to being pulled because of a lack of essential back up! I like to perform as much as anybody, but every show needs a host of back up people. Back stage crew, wardrobe people, front of house folk, technical people, props people and a variety of other helpers. Many of the people who currently do these jobs are now approaching their dotage and they won't be there for much longer. So for the next show, if you are not a member of the cast, why not volunteer to carry out some of these activities, because no matter how brilliant an actor you may be, no matter how wonderful the show may promise, without these background people *you have no show!*

Maurice

Members Page

What can you add to update it?

CODS WEBSITE

Have you ever looked at the Members Page on the society's website? The page was put together for members to share a little bit about themselves. We all lead diverse and interesting lives; indeed it is amazing how some of us fit 'CODS' into a very busy existence!

You can include as much or as little as you like. You might have a photograph you'd like to share or a few sentences about what you get up to both on and off the stage.

Please contact Stephen Kent (our Webmaster) if you wish to post an entry on the page.

kent@hollowcrest.com

Oklahoma – CODS Autumn Musical 2012

Directed by Angela Woodcock

Preliminary dates and venues are as follows:

Mon. 23 rd April	?PAC	Sing Through 7.30pm
Thurs 3 rd May	?PAC	Help Night 7.30pm
Sun. 13 th May	?QH	Auditions 2.30pm
Mon 14 th May	?QH	Recalls 7.30pm
Mon 21 st May	?QH	1 st Rehearsal 7.30pm

Show Dates : October 31st – 3rd November

CODS FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

APRIL 2012	FALLEN ANGELS	NOEL COWARD	DIR. JO READER
JUNE 2012	JUBILEE SHOW	PLEASE SEE DETAILS ON OPPOSITE PAGE ???	
OCTOBER 2012	OKLAHOMA	RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN	DIR. ANGELA WOODCOCK
DECEMBER 2012	PANTOMIME???	???	???
APRIL 2013	CALENDAR GIRLS	TIM FIRTH	DIR. ANDY CHESTERS

BUT WHAT ABOUT JUNE 2013, OCTOBER 2013 & DECEMBER 2013???

WE NEED TO REPLACE THE QUESTIONS MARKS! THE SHOW SELECTION COMMITTEE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT AND IDEAS FOR FUTURE PRODUCTIONS. SUGGESTIONS TO DATE INCLUDE ROBIN HOOD (PANTO FOR 2013), SINGALONGA SOMETHING (JUNE 2013), CABARET/OLIVER/SOUND OF MUSIC (OCTOBER 2013). IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DIRECTING ANY OF THESE SHOWS OR IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER SUGGESTION (TOGETHER WITH AN OFFER TO DIRECT), PLEASE CONTACT ANDREW WHITE ON 01424 718328 (supertr@mp7902.wanadoo.co.uk) or ANGELA WOODCOCK ON 01580 712175, BEFORE 1ST MARCH. THANK YOU.



**WANTED
FOR QUEEN
&
COUNTRY!**



On Tuesday June 5th CODS will be helping celebrate the Queens Jubilee by providing some outside entertainment for the Cranbrook Street Party.

The Plan

We are planning on performing a short series of musical numbers- one for each decade. The idea is that each song or dance represents a musical which was very popular or representative of that period of time (e.g. a song/dance from Oklahoma for the 1950's; Oliver for 1960's or 'Jesus Christ Superstar' to represent the 1970's; Cats for the 1980's; Les Miserable for the 1990's, Wicked for 2000. These are just rough ideas. We are open to any suggestions as long as they are family friendly! We would like to include some songs which the audience are likely to know and can join in with.

We aren't planning on having lots of costumes but just accessorising numbers (e.g. feather boas/change of hats here and there). Backing tracks can be used so if people have their own that would be helpful (don't worry if not).

We would like to keep everything as simple as possible.

What are we looking for?

The entertainment can consist of duets/solos/large groups/small groups. We need people to come up with their own numbers which they can practise at home and then show to an auditioning panel (Date TBC). The most fitting numbers will be chosen. If there is a particular number you have always fancied doing which fits in with the decades theme- now could be your lucky chance! People are also welcome to direct a number as well as perform in a different number.

However if anyone is interested in taking part in large Chorus numbers and doesn't have any ideas but wants to perform please do get in contact too. We may possibly end up performing numbers from recent shows which you already know and plan on including a couple of Chorus numbers too. It would be a great opportunity to advertise our forthcoming production of 'Oklahoma'.

If you would like a song to be considered for inclusion/want to be involved in performing/choreographing or help organise the event in some way please e-mail Alison Withey-Harrison awh@thompsons.co.uk or Annie Chesters chesters853@btinternet.com

Deadline for submission of entries or to register an interest is Thursday 23rd February.

Thank you,

Alison Withey-Harrison

SUBMISSION FORM IS ON THE NEXT PAGE.....

The Queens Jubilee Celebrations- CODS

Name:

Contact Details:

Phone:

E-mail:

Name of suggested song/dance:

Title of Musical:

Which decade is this covering?

Does it include any audience participation?

Is this a solo/duet/group item?

Do you have your own backing track?

Please submit this form to Alison or a Committee Member.

Thank you!

The Back Page

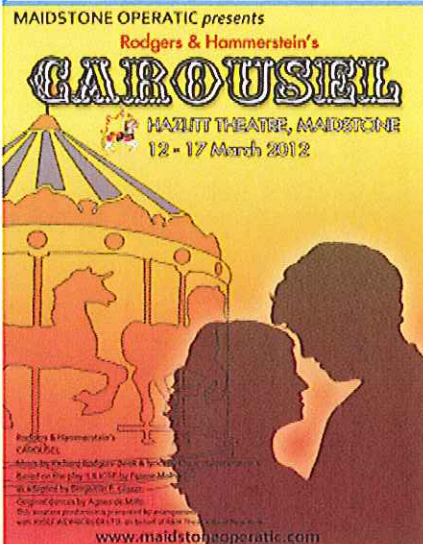
Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your
Codswallop Editor Michelle: 01580 752802
or email: michellesandys@yahoo.co.uk

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. ***Might be the perfect opportunity to get rid of any unwanted Christmas presents...!!!***



Steph Beeken & Wilson Rush are taking part in the latest MAOS production. Steph writes "The show dates are 12th-17th March, performances at 7:30pm with a 2:30pm afternoon performance as well as 7:30pm on the Saturday at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone.

It was my very first show with CODS 21 years ago in 1990 and I am over the moon to be appearing in it again with MAOS as my first show again with them.

All the show stopping numbers and heart breaking story line of Rogers and Hammerstein production are being performed to the max and definitely bring a ton of tissues!

If anyone would like tickets then let either me (07733253345) or my mum (01580 712561) know and we will get them for you".
Good Luck Steph & Wilson!

**DON'T FORGET
AGM**

**IN VESTRY HALL AT 7.30PM
ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH
2012**

**Deadline for copy for
next edition:
Friday 30th March 2012**

THE THIRD FRANT THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL / MARCH 2012

*'emphatic exuberance' - DAILY TELEGRAPH 'Superb perfection' - SUNDAY TIMES
'the performance gives unalloyed pleasure' - GRAMOPHONE MAGAZINE*

Dame Felicity Lott

with Sebastian Wybrew, piano

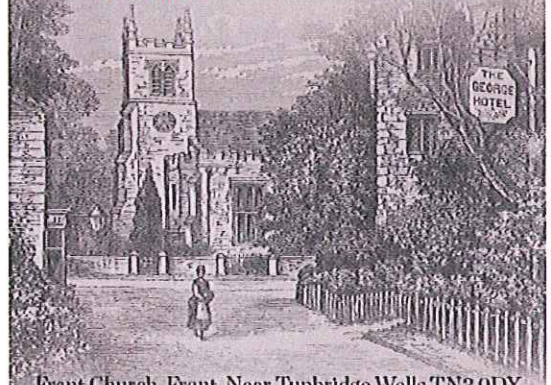
Sunday 25 March; 7.30pm

and three wonderful choirs

The Chancel Singers / Friday 23 March; 7.00pm

Quorum / Saturday 24 March; 3.00pm

Polyphony / Saturday 24 March; 7.30pm



Frant Church, Frant, Near Tunbridge Wells TN3 9DX
Tickets from £5 to £22

available from Frant Stores or tel. Paul Barber 01892 750665 or David Cragg 01892 750845

In aid of the restoration of Frant Church, a road Ed Church 11 listed building in the heart of Frant Village Registered Charity 245134