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Operatic & Dramatic Association
and Kent Drama Association



Codswallop!

April 2015

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic
Society Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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Codswallop has changed!

If you receive Codswallop via email you can navigate through the newsletter simply by clicking. For instance, clicking 'Chairman's Notes' above will take you directly to that article. Clicking our contact details below will open your default email program or the CODS Facebook page etc., clicking at the top of any page will bring you back here. Please let me know what you think, or if you have any ideas for Codswallop! Lee



[CODS Facebook Group](#)

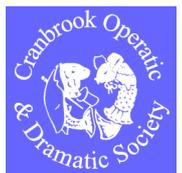
Contact [Rachel, Lee or Jackie](#)

Email: codsfacebook@gmail.com

[CODS Website](#)

Contact Matt Barker

Email: m.g.barker@talk21.com



“Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius.” - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Notes From Your Chairman

Hi CODS folks, Here's my inaugural intro to CODSWALLOP as the new Chair. Thanks for giving me the comfy seat by the way...?!

So, first... Andrew White, I said a big thank you at the AGM for the last two years, if you weren't there then you'll not have heard how great he was! Thank you, Andrew. If everyone comes next year then this piece will be even shorter! Seriously come next year if you want a say in your society.

Second, *The Wind in the Willows*, what a production! As much drama off stage, as on and a glowing report from Arthur Rochester, the KDA adjudicator (insert own joke about "Arfer Tunbridge Wells or other Arf of Rochester here). Should be worth a few gongs Alison Withey-Harrison?! Everyone involved knows how much they put in to making this a fabulous show and one that had so many different people pulling together to make it happen. Thanks to you all.

Third, we have some exciting productions coming up, *Short Letters* at Smallhythe and *The Producers*, see all the details in the newsletter, and there's *Sleeping Beauty* in the pipeline for the pantomime this year... but we need more ideas for next year's Spring Play, Summer Production, October Musical and the Christmas Show, so don't be shy... get in touch with the show selection committee (see more in the newsletter for details) and let us know if you have a new idea that you want to Direct, Produce or just have a fabulous new idea for a production that you would like to see put on...?

Fourth... of July? of Firth? He's a jolly good fellow? Ah forget it...

Lots of Love, James

jameshanaway@hotmail.com

A Message From Andrew White

Dear fellow members,

I am writing to express my gratitude to you all for your support during the past two years, whilst I served as your Chairman. Together, we produced eight great productions, featuring diverse music, dance and drama and I feel we can all look back on the last two years with a sense of achievement and pride.

Many kind words were said at the AGM and I shall treasure the gift of the picture for several years to come. Already it is generating considerable interest to visitors to my house, and it gives me pleasure to explain the wide range of activities carried out by the Society and the fun it provides to us all and our audiences.

Whereas I have now stepped down from the Committee, I shall still be helping out and participating in our productions, and I hope to enjoy many more years with the Society.

Best Wishes to you all,

Andrew

The Wind In The Willows

Dear Former River Bank Dwellers/Wild Wooders,

Guy took some wonderful photographs at the dress rehearsals which are now for sale. You can order a DVD containing over 600 photographs from the production for just £7.00 (£7.50 if postage required) by contacting Guy Fillmore at guyfillmore@hotmail.com - all proceeds to CODS.

The winner of the 'who can sell the most tickets' competition is Noah Castle. Well done Noah- a small well done present will be winging its way to you soon.

Thank you so much for the lovely e-mails and messages about the production (apologies if I haven't replied yet). I am so glad you enjoyed taking part and it will certainly be a show to remember! Thank you also for the wonderful presents I received. I opened them at the After Show Dinner (thanks Marian for organising this). They were just perfect. I love the Wind in the Willows board game (attached is a photo as it is so beautiful I thought you should see it). Arwen has been quite restricted as to what she is able to do.

She has been able to play this game with me and it has really cheered her up- it has been a brilliant distraction. Raife has joined it too. I also absolutely love the print with the whole of 'The Wind in the Willows' text on it- such a clever idea. Thank you all so much.

Many Thanks,

Best Wishes,

Alison



The Wind In The Willows

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with 'The Wind in the Willows'. It really was a huge team effort by many different people on and off stage. This production presented many challenges along the way in various guises, some expected, some not. The Willows team tackled these with great commitment, enthusiasm and humour. I received a huge amount of unstinting support from many different people, some of whom were wearing many different hats (the superb Sharon Pickles was wearing several!). If you were one of the team in whatever guise -thank you so much.

We also had fantastic audiences for virtually every performance. This was a result of a huge publicity drive in which my cast and crew stepped forward and helped promote the show in various ways, including painting the lovely mural in Cranbrook High Street, spending the Easter weekend at Sissinghurst Castle, Toad being interviewed on Drivetime radio and then featured on the front page of The Courier with a couple of hedgehogs! There was also a colouring competition and a window competition around Cranbrook.

Friday night of the run was CODS KDA adjudication night by Arthur Rochester. He was extremely complimentary about virtually every element of the play. We couldn't have received more lovely feedback. Even if we don't win an award it was wonderful to hear such warm, heartfelt praise for our ambitious production.

On a personal note thank you to everyone who helped my daughter Arwen (Squirrel Shirley). She sadly broke her collar bone between the matinee and evening performances and had to be rushed off in an ambulance 30 minutes before curtain up. Once again the cast and crew rallied around without any fuss or additional drama so the show could go on. Arwen is already healing well and making steady progress. Thank you to everyone who has sent her messages and cards. It has really cheered her up.

It is now time to pass the theatrical baton on to James Hanaway and Jack Davidson for their forthcoming productions. I wish them well and hope you all support them as much as you have supported me.

Thank you,

Alison Withey-Harrison

(Director of The Wind in the Willows and serial e-mail sender!)

"Here today, up and off to somewhere else tomorrow! Travel, change, interest, excitement! The whole world before you, and a horizon that's always changing!"

— Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows

Wind In The Willows - NODA Review



Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society
The Wind in the Willows by Alan Bennett
adapted from the book by Kenneth Grahame
Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
Friday 17th April 2015
Director: Alison Withey-Harrison Asst Director: Sharon Pickles
Music: Alison Withey-Harrison and Ruth Roberts
Choreographer: Rachel Croft-Golding

Firstly, I must congratulate the Publicity Team for the terrific effort made prior to production with a colouring competition and excellent location photographs, including NT's Sissinghurst Castle, which were also included within the programme.

A favourite for all, an Edwardian and nostalgic story of woodland and riverside friends. Good honest fun written with a dry wit with the added attraction of song and dance. Messing about on the river and in Rat's words 'there's nothing, absolutely nothing quite so much worth doing as messing around in boats'. Adventures or misadventures, wealthy Toad's obsession with something new in transportation – cars, caravans and even steam trains. 'Poop, poop', Watch out, Toad's about – we all remember it well. With a theme of kindness, adventure and a little bit of badness from the Weasels and Stoats breaking out, running through its veins, this was a production that required a huge team spirit which most certainly shone through.

FRONT OF HOUSE: Bustling as usual, we collected our tickets from **Maurice**, met with familiar faces and chatted with Director **Alison**. There was a very good photographic display in the foyer, refreshments available together with the usual raffle. F of H Manager **Marian** had made ready her programmes and posters to put forward into the annual NODA competition.

PROGRAMME: A most attractive, comprehensive A5 colour fronted programme from **Lee Hatcher**, with good easy to read print, NODA mention, lovely black and white sketches of Rat and Mole in their rowing boat, very nice photography both costumed and in rehearsal. Well constructed, including running order, interspersed with advertising, notes, past show titles, and forthcoming production info.

MUSIC: This was a story with music led by three versatile musicians, dressed in woodland character at the front of the stage, even getting a little script to deliver. A first class job from the Roberts clan. Good melodious chorus numbers with strong harmony.

SCENERY: **Dennis Russell** excelled in designing a super revolve, thus enabling the numerous changes to be executed swiftly and quietly and allowing for such detail to be set, with **Sarah Davis** as SM assisted by the crew. On an open stage we were transported to the river side and the Wild Wood with some excellent construction and painting by the team. A most effective central gap giving the

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Patron: The Lord Lloyd Webber

Wind In The Willows - NODA Review

The logo for NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) features the word "noda" in a lowercase, cursive, teal-colored font.

Professional support
for amateur theatre

illusion of babbling water. Both the exterior and interior of Toad Hall were well depicted as was the dungeon. Hours must have been spent on producing the set and the little rowing boat, caravan, car, splendid little train which puffed out steam, all making for such an enchanting vision.

COSTUMES/MAKE UP: Oh, so many to mention, which undoubtedly required a huge amount of time and effort from Sharon Pickles and Kathy Gibbs, together with numerous props items collected by Annie Chesters. The overall spectacle was first class, colourful and certainly imaginative. The principals particularly well costumed. Ratty the charmer, perfect in blazer and flannels with nautical headgear, pipe and specs, Mole in her snood and mitts, specs, nightlight and little painted snout, Badger looked distinguished, though worn – a Sherlock Holmes look, pocket hankie and curly pipe – excellent black/white makeup. Toad appeared the well-to-do Edwardian gent with green face – good finishing touches like wellies, and I loved the driving attire with goggles. Great fun in the washer woman's garb! Goth weasels, stoats and ferrets looked menacing – torches in the auditorium working well. Rabbits with floppy ears, ducks with quacking bills, and those hedgehog prickles just terrific, furry squirrels, otters, ferrets and a red coated fox. People characters looked authentic – very good judicial scene. Well done ladies and to Penny Tobin and Debbie Knight for their make-up expertise.

SOUND/LIGHTING: Really good results from both the design and operation side here. Script and lyrics came over well and there was plenty of very good lighting together with special effects, including snow.

THE PRODUCTION: Alison was both visionary and interesting in her stage direction with this witty but thought provoking script. Never was there a static moment, with the cast beautifully balanced and focused, everyone back and front of stage giving their all. A huge task successfully executed aided by Sharon Pickles, Ruth Roberts and Rachel Croft-Golding. Good characterisation from the four principals, Vicky Bray as Mole with very little rehearsal time, Simon Tomlinson was the relaxed Ratty, Robin Harrison gave a very big, strong Toad, with Keith Hedley a thoughtful, steady Mr Badger. What can I say about Albert – a horse with a Wolverhampton accent and those facial expressions and the effectiveness of his coconut shells! Wonderful performance from Chairman James Hanaway. Steve Saunders as The Chief Weasel was menacing together with his cheeky sidekick Keir Roberts as Weasel Norman, well supported by the gang. The genteel animals were charming and all The Wide World characters were well portrayed.

CODS, thank you for your kind invitation to such a delightful production. Arthur Rochester was present to give an adjudication for the KDA Full Length Play Festival of 2015 and gave a most favourable resume. A précis will appear on the NODA website shortly.

Anne Lawson
Regional Representative
NODA South East District 3

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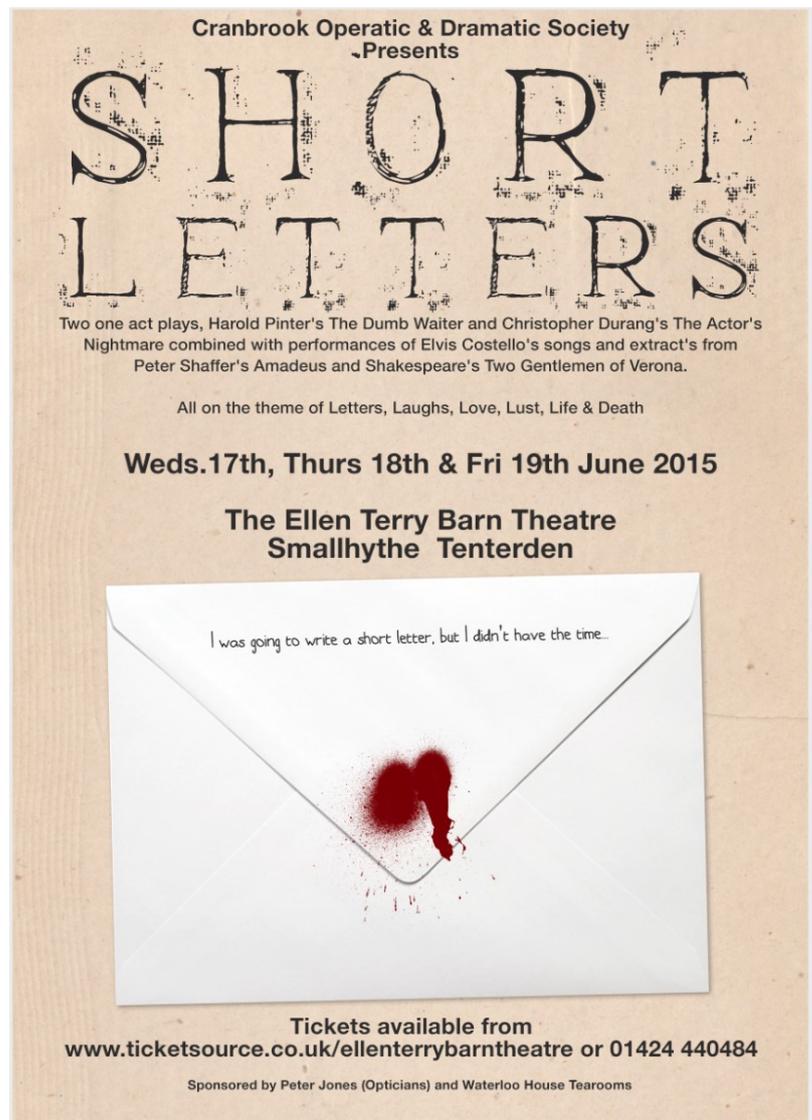
Patron: The Lord Lloyd Webber

Short Letters

Since I have the time...

We are excited to present the CODS production of Short Letters, with kind permission of Peter Mould to be performed at the Ellen Terry Barn Theatre in June.

This will be a series of one Act Plays and short performances collected together on the theme of letters, laughter, life. love and death.



They are:

The Dumb Waiter, Harold Pinter

Elvis Costello & The Brodsky Quartet's "I almost had a Weakness" & "This Offer is Unrepeatable"

Amadeus (an extract), Peter Schaffer

Two Gentlemen of Verona (an extract), William Shakespeare

An Actor's Nightmare, Christopher Durang

Do come along and watch... it will be great!

Details on the poster... Cheers James H

Short Letters

1. The Dumb Waiter – Harold Pinter

CAST: Gus – James Hanaway, Ben – Leon Chambers

Directed by: Louisa Nelson-Chambers

2. "I Almost Had a Weakness" – Elvis Costello and The Brodsky Quartet – Song

CAST: Spinster – Jo Levett

Musical Direction: Ruth Roberts, Voice Coach: Annie Chesters

3. Salieri Monologue – An extract from Peter Schaffer's Amadeus

CAST: Constanze – Lisa Ferris, Salieri – Fraser Johnston

Choir – Jo Levett, Alison Withey-Harrison, Jo Reader, Glyn Roberts, Alan Hodge, John Tapper. Soprano – Annie Chesters

Directed by: Rachel Croft-Golding

Musical Direction: Ruth Roberts, Voice Coach: Annie Chesters

4. Julia's Monologue from Two Gentleman of Verona – William Shakespeare

CAST: Julia – Alison Withey-Harrison, Lucetta – Jo Reader

Directed by: Louisa Nelson-Chambers

5. "This Offer Is Unrepeatable" – Elvis Costello and The Brodsky Quartet - Song

CAST: James Hanaway

Musical Direction: Ruth Roberts, Voice Coach: Annie Chesters

6. The Actor's Nightmare - Christopher Durang

George – James Hanaway, Meg – Lisa Ferris,
Sarah – Jo Reader, Ellen – Alison Withey- Harrison,
Henry – Glyn Roberts

Directed by: Rachel Croft-Golding



Notices

Jeremy Stockwell

Our Patron, Jeremy Stockwell has kindly offered to run an Acting Masterclass for up to 16 CODS Members and then also to perform his current one man show "Playtime" after this and open to all members. This is a great opportunity to learn from a RADA professional lecturer and experienced performer. See Jeremy's site here <http://www.jeremystockwell.co.uk/> for more details.

There will be a small charge for participants and the date is yet to be fixed, depending on the interest from members in taking part, so if you are interested please email me before 10th May. Thanks, James jameshanaway@hotmail.com

Show Selection

So we have a fantastic selection of shows coming up in 2015, Short Letters in June at The Ellen Terry Barn Theatre, The Producers in October and Sleeping Beauty as our Pantomime over Christmas...

But we need some more ideas, directors and crew to take us into 2016... in particular if anyone has something they would like to see, or have always wanted to direct for our 2016 Spring Play, Summer Show or Christmas Show? Please get in touch with the Show Selection Committee Chair Angela Woodcock on angelacowling1@gmail.com by May 5th. Thanks all.

Notices

Cranbrook In Bloom

Cranbrook In Bloom would like to thank you and everyone involved in CODS for the generous donation to our 'In Bloom' funds.

We have a great group of volunteers who enjoy keeping the town looking special and the appreciation shown by so many, makes 'The Blooming' campaign worthwhile.

CODS play a large part within the Cranbrook community and beyond and we are very grateful that you chose to support us by donating so much of the proceeds from the pantomime to benefit the town through the work we are involved in.

The pantomime was very funny and enjoyed by so many people of all ages. Cranbrook is very fortunate to have such a professional group of volunteers producing these great pantomimes every year.

Please thank all your members and everyone who helps CODS, we really appreciate your contribution.

Kind Regards and thanks,

Linda & Maureen - Chairman & Secretary, Cranbrook In Bloom.

CODSWALLOP

We aim to release the newsletter bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December shortly after the Committee meeting (2nd Tuesday of that month). All articles to be submitted by the Friday following the meeting please.

The Producers

Cast List

MAX - James Hanaway

LEO - Will Stewart

ULLA - Ruby Russell

ROGER - Keith Hedley

CARMEN - Geoff King

FRANZ LEIBKIN - Jez Druce

HOLD ME TOUCH ME - Wendy Thomas

JUDGE - Roy Barclay

MARKS - Matt Barker

USHERETTES - Chloe Swan, Angela Woodcock,
Charlotte Maughan Jones, Freya Dawes

SERGEANT - John Roberts

STORMTROPPER - Charlie Barnett

JASON - Charlie Barnett

SHIRLEY- Vix King

ENSEMBLE - Val King, Wendy Thomas, Vix King,
Chloe Swan, Freya Dawes, Natalie Cheese,
Wendy Thomas, Roy Barclay, John Roberts, Matt Barker,

The Producers

Jane Watkins, Sarah Hutchings , Liv Rowe,
Andy Fairweather, Alana Hawkins, Samantha King,
Becky James, Sharon Pickles

DIRECTOR - Jack Davidson

MUSICAL DIRECTOR - Andrew Witham

CHOREOGRAPHER - Rachel Croft-Golding

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Laura Carey

We still need men and ladies for the ensemble.

Please contact Jack on 07863 132920



The Back Page

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your Codswallop Editor Lee Hatcher: tel: 07539 460571 or email: leedavehatcher@gmail.com

If you have any news, views, or ideas as to what YOU want to see in Codswallop, let me know!

You can order a DVD of over 600 photographs from our 'The Wind in the Willows' production for just £7.00 (£7.50 if postage required) by contacting Guy Fillmore at guyfillmore@hotmail.com - all proceeds to CODS. This is just a small sample!



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