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Operatic & Dramatic Association
and Kent Drama Association

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Newsletter

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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.

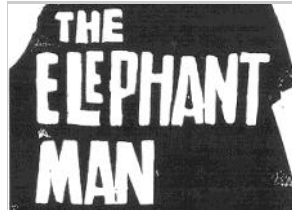
Visit www.facebook.com

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

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

Codswallop!

April 2011



AN EXPERIENCE
YOU WILL NEVER
FORGET...
SEE PAGE 4



CODS & Showtimers Merger approved

For those of you who were not able to attend the AGM last month, the biggest subject of the night was the vote to merge CODS and Showtimers, followed by James describing the impact that this would have on CODS.

You may remember that we asked members to provide their input and comments in the last Codswallop. Thank you to those who took the time to give us your views, which allowed us to gauge that there was general support, but concern about the impact that the merger could have on existing CODS activities, as well as finances.

James clearly described on the night how we are now going to review how we can best fulfil the expectations of the different CODS stakeholders, from members through to paying customers and how that will impact the way that CODS works.

He will work with a team of volunteers, who offered to be part of the shaping committee at the AGM, to see how best to organise our calendar, committee and supporting structures to cope with the merger and set us up for a long and successful future.

There will certainly be more news to follow in future Codswallops about how this team is progressing...

More AGM news

There have been a number of changes on the committee this year. We are grateful particularly to Annie for agreeing to take the lead as Chairman again and Vicky, who has agreed to replace Michelle as secretary. Thanks to the members standing down: Michelle, our long-suffering secretary, Angela, Charlotte, Derek and Glyn. In case you have not heard, these are the names in the frames:

President:	George Hudson
Chairman:	Annie Chesters
Vice Chairman:	Andrew White
Secretary:	Vicky King
Treasurer:	John Tapper
Business Manager:	Maurice Wilkins
Social Secretary:	Marian Cumberland
Other committee members:	James Hanaway, Sarah Hutchings, Dennis Russell, Alison Withey-Harrison.

A couple of slots are being left open to enable flexibility around the re-organisation.

Watch this space!

There will be a pantomime in Cranbrook in 2011 (oh yes, there will!)

Not satisfied with the challenge of CODS chairmanship, Annie has also offered to direct the first pantomime after the Showtimers merger with CODS.

Although not confirmed yet, it is likely that it will be 'Alice in Wonderland' - but don't hold us to that if it changes....

Annie would like to remind us all of the challenge that this will be for all involved and asks for your continued to support to make this whole venture a success.



These Boots were made for walking—the return of the White/Cumberland Experience

On Sunday 13th March, just before 10 a.m., a dozen members of the Society and friends were seen gathering in the Jockey Lane Car Park, Cranbrook, to take part in a Sponsored Walk to help raise funds for the MS Society, our chosen charity for 'Cowardy Custard'. Those present were:

Andy, Annie and Max Chesters, Marilyn Coleman, Marian Cumberland, Sarah, Dave and Aurelia Davis, Brenda Driscoll, Lisa and Aaron Ferris, Tom Hayward, Sarah Hutchings, Mo Jenkins, Lydia Levett, Ruth, Patrick and Keir Roberts and Andrew White.

To ensure that we did not lose pace, we were joined by four rather lovely dogs, namely Dexter and Roxy c/o the Roberts, Oscar c/o Lydia and Henry Weiner c/o the Davis'.



Shortly after 10 a.m. we were off, with maps, compasses and GPS technology in hand, and were soon emerging from the outskirts of Cranbrook and heading down the High Weald Landscape Trail towards Benenden. The promised rain was staying away and whereas there was little sun, the cloud was fairly light, giving us plentiful opportunities to enjoy the local countryside. After a few fields, tight stiles, slippery mud slopes and wooded areas, one dog leash was uncoupled and we were treated to a display of amazing athletic sprints by Roxy, who ran faster than a speeding

bullet. "Amazing", I said, to which Ruth responded "Wait till she really starts running!"



A few miles later, we crossed through the playing fields of the historic Benenden Girls School and shortly after 12 noon, we stopped for essential refreshments outside the Bull, where we were joined by Joanne Hill, who had kept herself available all morning to come out, collect anyone who felt the need to drop out and deliver them back to Cranbrook. Not that such a service was needed, our team was in fine spirit and after a few drinks and nibbles, we were donning our gear and ready to re-start the walk.



Back into Benenden village we walked, before heading south, then west to Netter's Hall Farm and then north all the way. The Swattenden Centre came into sight, as did the Windmill and we were nearly home. At this point, the soft drizzle started and we lost Andy, Ruth and Keir! Fortunately, with the aid of mobile phones, we were able to find them (or did they find us?) and

we staggered back into the Car Park just after 3:30pm, having completed a walk of 9.5 miles. There were a couple of memorable highlights: Andy and Lisa slipped over in the mud and Brenda lost both shoes in separate muddy patches. Fortunately no injuries were sustained and everyone had a great time.



After the boots came off, we estimated that we had raised sponsorship in the region of £850. However, as a result of further voluntary donations, including £100 from Andy's employers, Novae Syndicates at Lloyds, we will have raised in excess of £1,000. We hope to announce the precise amount raised in the next edition of Codswallop.

So thanks to all those who participated in the walk, and everyone who contributed to the sponsorship raised for MS Society. We had a great time organising and taking part in the walk, and hope to arrange a similar event in a year's time.

Marian Cumberland and Andrew White



Annie

CODS' AUTUMN MUSICAL
26th – 29th Oct



Alison would like to remind everyone about the arrangements for Annie. For those who missed the last Codswallop, details of the help night and auditions are below. We've also included a cast list to help those who don't know the show.

INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 28th April 7.30pm Performing Arts Centre (Adults and children) TBC

HELP NIGHT

Monday 9th May 7.30pm Queen's Hall (Adults Only)

AUDITIONS

Sunday 15th May Queen's Hall, Children 10.30am ; Adults 1.30pm

She would also like dog photos for a 'Search for Sandy' competition. She'd like to do a display of dogs for a stall and doggy auditions at the Cranbrook Fun Day 5th June. Also, if anyone has a tractor with trailer or something we could decorate for a proper float (safe enough to put children on) she'd like to hear from you!

Character	Approx Age/Voice	Character description
Annie	11 Mezzo	Belter- charming tough cookie
Molly	6	Littlest orphan
Pepper	12	Toughest orphan
Kate	7	Next to littlest orphan
Duffy	13	Biggest orphan
Tessie	10	Cry baby orphan
July	13	Quietest orphan
Orphan chorus	various	Orphans will develop own name and characters
Miss Hannigan	40+ Mezzo	Mean old drunken principle of orphanage
Rooster Hannigan	30+ Baritone	Miss Hannigan's no good brother (need to be able to move a little)
Lily	20 + Soprano	Roosters floozy girlfriend (needs to move)
Warbucks	50-60 Baritone	Warm hearted, stiff collared
Grace	25+	Beautiful secretary to Warbucks
Pres. Roosevelt	Baritone	The President who has a new deal
Drake	Baritone	Warbucks' English butler
Bundles		Laundry man helps Annie escape
Dog catchers		
Lt Ward		NYC policeman
Mrs Pugh		Warbucks cook
Cecille & Annette		French maids
Star to be	16 +	Aspiring actress
Bert Healey		Radio personality
3 Boylan Sisters	16+	Radio singers
Chorus		Hooverilles/New Yorkers/Servants (Various very small speaking parts/solo lines in Hooverille scene- women 1-4, men 1-4, apple seller, Sophie); usherette, 'kid' in NYC, Announcer, Sound Effects man, Wacky (dummy)
Howe & Cabinet members: Ickes, Perkins, Hull, Morganthau		Very small speaking parts
Sandy the dog		Furry, 4 legs, needs to like children, run and woof



By the time you read this we will be close to the opening of The Elephant Man. As always, there is an enormous amount of time and effort that has gone into getting the show on the road.

So please help your society, cast and crew by selling as many tickets as you possibly can!

Rehearsals continue apace, scenery is built, props and costumes are being organised and the cast are working wonders in characterisation and performance.

The play does contain some brief partial nudity and references that these days are not politically correct (but political correctness didn't exist in the 1890's), so Parental Guidance should be exercised for the under eighteens.

Thanks to everyone involved, here's to a roaring success.

JACK

A Quick Word from Maurice

Thank you once again to everybody who helped with the clear up after Cowardy Custard. As you know I couldn't be there as we had to take Katie back to Bicester so I have no idea who turned up, but I am told there was a good turn out and the jobs were sorted out in good time. When I looked in the school on Monday morning everything was back in place and looking spick and span, so thank you everybody, whoever you are.

And a plea from Dennis

From 9 members helping to paint or construct our sets at Flushinghurst a few years ago we now have a maximum of 5 people per week whose average age is nearer to 80 than 70!

It should be clear to the Society the truth in what so many people have been saying for some time that we are facing a real crisis in producing sets for our shows.

Derek Moore, who took over as Set Designer from Dennis five years ago is taking a break and Dennis has offered to come out of "retirement" for the Autumn Musical.

PREPARATION OF THE SET FOR "ANNIE" WILL COMMENCE ON THURSDAY 21st APRIL AND EVERY THURSDAY AFTER THIS and a warm welcome awaits members who are able to lend a hand for any length of time between 9.30am and 1.00pm.

Please give this commitment serious thought. If you have any questions please contact Dennis on 712283