



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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### Hot News

- We are planning a CODS e mail address, in order that people can get in touch with us quickly and efficiently. It will also be possible to order tickets online!
- The Shakespeare Revue is taking shape—there is still time for you to have your say. If you have a favourite snippet that you would like to see included please contact Andy Chesters: 01580 211749, or chesters853@btinternet.com (see page 2).
- Anyone got a phonograph?

# Codswallop!

August 2009

## KDA Full Length Play Awards Evening Review

The morning of Saturday June 13th dawned bright and clear. A sigh of relief could be heard across the Weald as the team of CODS members, who had been working hard to prepare for the KDA Awards evening, swung into action to put the final touches to the Queen's Hall. The foyer had been transformed into a stylish welcoming space, with ceiling drapes and subtle lighting. Photos and publicity from the 22 societies had been mounted and carefully arranged on the display boards; there was even a luxury raffle!

As the evening started, the guests were welcomed by the amazing buffet, prepared by Cranbrook School's Chef, Graeme, that seemed to never end and was complimented frequently. The evening warmed up and it was



Stage and lighting fit for the Oscars



Doreen Beardsmore  
Lifetime Achievement Award

time for the main event—the awards themselves. The 180 guests moved into the auditorium to be met by a spectacular stage presentation and lighting show.

CODS was hopeful to win several of the categories in which we had been nominated for 'Alarms and Excursions':

- Initiative in Stage Presentation
- Best Actor and Actress in Cameo Roles (Mark Cheeseman and Val Whiting)
- Best Wardrobe
- Best Technical Achievement

In the end, we only got one, Mark for Best Cameo Actor—bad luck to the others, we was robbed....

However, the highlight of the evening was definitely the standing ovation received by Doreen for her Lifetime Achievement award—brought a tear to many an eye.

Congratulations to the winners, in particular Masquerade—we should see what they have that we don't....

Thanks to all who made the evening such a success, particularly to the creative and the technical teams who ensured that we entertained the other societies as they probably have never been before—we have set the bar high for those who follow!



Mark Cheeseman  
Best Actor in a Cameo Role

## Codswallop is changing...for the better?

Emma has taken a well-earned break from editing the newsletter while she handles more urgent family matters.

We have taken the opportunity to experiment a bit with the format of the newsletter and this is our first attempt—we hope you like the changes, but please tell us if

you have any better ideas.

One important innovation is introducing an electronic version, as well as the printed one. We hope as many of you as possible will agree to receive this new version by e-mail only and help us to reduce cost and environmental impact.

If we haven't got an up-to-date e-mail address for you, please can you send it to Michelle : michelle-sandys@yahoo.com

You will probably get the electronic version quicker than the printed version, so there is an additional reason to sign-up!

## We're 90 Next Year—and we need your help to celebrate

Next year, 2010, CODS will be celebrating our 90th year! Your Committee has been wracking our collective brains to come up with ideas for events to mark this auspicious occasion, but we would very much like to hear from you, our Membership, as to whether the ideas we have had appeal to you, or whether you have some ideas of your own!

So far, this is the list:

- Quiz Night
- Membership Photograph
- Olde Time Music Hall
- Anniversary Dinner or Medieval Banquet

- Anniversary Brochure
- Family Day/BBQ
- Anniversary Walk (90 people walking 1km each?).

If you have any other ideas or wish to express your support for anything already listed here, please contact a Committee Member, or Michelle Sandys on 01580 752802.

We hope it will be a very special year and that as many Members as possible will support the events to mark this occasion. We plan to invite ex-Members to join us, so if you know anyone who would be interested, mention it to them too! The more the merrier.

We look forward to hearing from you.



**We also need ideas about a theme and a logo**

**We will be looking to update our main society logo as well**

## My Fair Lady Update...from Annie

My Fair Lady has been a hugely ambitious and expensive, undertaking.

The show is not simply a light-hearted musical, but is an adaptation of a complex and classic piece of English literature.

We therefore have many characters involved who require excellent acting as well as the ability to sing and dance!

My cast have risen to the challenge and are working hard to produce an exciting and worthwhile production which will live up to the high standards we have come to expect of a CODS musical.

We have already run the show a couple of times so that the cast might get some idea as to how it all hangs together before the summer break.

I am expecting all books to be down at the first rehearsal in September and we can then stop waiting for the thing to evolve and start to polish the show.

I am hoping for full attendance at all rehearsals after the break and I think we can look forward to a great show.

Ian and Mo (our hardworking props dept) are searching for a phonograph (or something similar), and some Edwardian bric-a-brac — including a coffee pot. Can you help?

As I am sure you would expect, there have already been various trials and tribulations to deal with — mostly in the form of many drop-outs. We all lead such busy lives today and deciding to be involved in a show such as this one is a big decision requiring an awful lot of commitment—I am trying to find a new Freddy as this goes to press!!

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all my cast and crew for their unstinting support, and to all those of you reading this who are not involved, please book your tickets through Maurice (713887) as soon as you can and drag along hundreds of bums to go on the seats. The show runs 27-31 Oct .2009.

## Calling all directors....

Have you always wanted to try your hand at directing? Now is your chance!

The Shakespeare Revue, which is to be produced next April in place of our February concert and Spring play, will be a mix of song, dance, drama and comedy sketches, giving many of you the opportunity to try directing a short performance piece.

We are also looking for someone to step up to the challenge of directing our 2010 Autumn Musical, "Kiss Me, Kate".

To discuss this further, or to offer your

**"When I grow up, I still want to be a director"**  
*Stephen Spielberg*

services, please speak to a Committee Member, or contact Michelle Sandys on 01580 752802.



**Do you think you have got what it takes?**

## What's on....

If you have anything you'd like to appear on this page in future, please contact us!

## Acting Workshops This Summer

### Paul Doust's Acting Classes (Medway Adult Learning Service)

12 x 2hr Classes. Thursdays – 4pm to 6pm.

First class: Thurs 17th September, 2009.

Venue: The Rochester Centre, Eastgate, Rochester, Kent ME1 1EW (just off Rochester High Street).

For details/costs go to:

[www.medway.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.medway.gov.uk/adultlearning)

THEN download 2009/10 directory

THEN got to page 35 of the directory (the course info is under the 'Drama' heading).

Details of how to enrol are on pages 42 & 43 of the directory.

Paul thinks it is possible that 16/19 yr olds (along with those who are 60+) can get some sort of reduced-rate on the costs of these classes. Rochester, however, has not been entirely clear with Paul about this (you should check with Medway Adult Learning, direct).

### BIG NOTE:

There are an absolute maximum of 18 PLACES on this course.

If you are even remotely interested in Paul's classes then do be certain to get in touch with Medway Adult Learning ASAP!

Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society presents

# My Fair Lady

Music by FREDERICK LOEWE Books & Lyrics by ALAN JAY LERNER

28th – 31st  
October 2009  
7.30pm  
Queen's Hall,  
Cranbrook

By arrangement with Midoscope and Stage Musicals Limited of New York

Sponsored by Peter Jones Registered Opticians, and [www.cranbrook.org](http://www.cranbrook.org)

### My Fair Lady

Box Office opens

Saturday 26th September 2009

Phillips Man's Shop, High Street, Cranbrook

The Friends of St George's  
Church  
Benenden



A CONCERT OF SACRED  
AND SECULAR MUSIC BY  
COLLEGIUM REGALE

MEN'S VOICES FROM THE CHOIR OF  
KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE



7.30 PM ON SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

TICKETS £10

Tickets may be ordered by telephoning 01580 240973  
or completing the form at the back of the church.

# The Back Page

Any questions about what you have read?

Please contact:

Michelle: 01580 752802,  
michellesandys@yahoo.co.uk  
or  
Glyn: 01580 893863,  
ghroberts@tiscali.co.uk

Look out for our new society e-mail address coming soon!

We'd like to use this space to keep you up-to-date with photos of our productions and other society events. If you have any that you think we could use, please send them to us

Here are a few to start off with....if you're not in them, you know what to do!

## 'A Step in Time'



## 'Alarms and Excursions'

