

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:
James Perkins

Members' News

Apologies to:

Alison and Robin for mis-spelling their son's name in the last Codswallop. He is Raife Ptolemy Clancy Withey-Harrison.

Congratulations to:

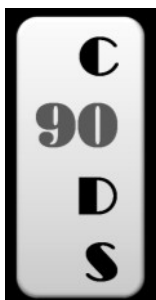
- Peter Gray; the Gray room was eventually officially opened during 'My Fair Lady'. The commemorative plaque is now in place
- All the CODS boys who were successful at the Cranbrook Arts Festival:
 - ⇒ Ollie Levett won our own cup!
 - ⇒ Max Chesters won medals for verse speaking & singing
 - ⇒ Patrick and Keir Roberts won medals for trumpet and cello respectively

Hope we haven't missed anyone!

Codswallop!

December 2009

Get your diaries booked for our 90th events



Is it really almost 2010? Well it is, so I hope you are all ready to start filling in your pristine new diaries with the dates of our 90th events.

The first is the **QUIZ NIGHT** on **27th February** in the **Vestry Hall**. The quiz-master is our own Jack Dale. A ploughmans will be

provided, but you will need to bring everything else (including cutlery, otherwise we will need to hire it and that means less for our coffers). Get all your friends along to make it a fun evening. Tickets £6 from Marian Cumberland (01580 715580).

The summer event will be a **BARN DANCE** in **Sissinghurst** on **12th September—please note the date change from the October Codswallop**. We will need 8 strong people to

help erect and dismantle the marquee on the day so we can get it free. Again, please confirm to Marian if you can help. We have callers arranged, so all we need now is good weather and a good crowd

The **Anniversary Gala Dinner** will be held in mid-November; we are still confirming date and venue, so watch this space.

Thanks to Marian for getting all these events on the road.

Shakespeare revue update

The Shakespeare revue (or maybe 'It's Shakespeare, Jim, but not as we know it!') is now well and truly off the ground.

After a fraught but eventually successful audition evening (thanks to all for their patience) we now have a great cast and a really diverse set of material to perform.

Rehearsals will start for real on the 4th January 2010, with the larger numbers (mainly music and dance) on Mondays in Queen's Hall. The individual and smaller group numbers will be rehearsed on Thursdays in the Performing Arts centre, but more detail will be available in the new year. Production dates are

confirmed as 8th-10th April. We will be using a completely different staging concept, so it will be a really dynamic and different production. If you would still like to be in the main numbers, please let any of the production team know, as we can probably still squeeze you in.

Some words from the Chair

There's so much going on at the moment with 'Shakey' and all the 90th events to organise.

We still have a few other things to think about.

Firstly, we still have our logo quest to resolve.

We have been asking ourselves whether our long-serving logo is still representative of the society that we are now? It is certainly very recognisable, but is becoming increasingly difficult

to use in the modern, multi-media age.

We need something that can be used more electronically, on letterheads, the website, publicity and other communications.

Do you think you can come up with something that fits the bill? If you can, the committee would love to see it.

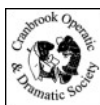
We also have to think about our productions for 2011, as that will arrive sooner than we think. We already have some ideas for the February

show, but would appreciate any others that you might want to produce.

If that's not enough, we have a number of stalwart members stepping down or retiring from key roles behind the scenes, some after many years of loyal service. We need other people to step into those large shoes—more about that later.

That just leaves me wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2010!

Glyn



Thanks from the Director of My Fair Lady

Thank you to all involved in 'My Fair Lady'. It was such a happy and successful show all round and we even seem to have made a profit of about £500.

Annie

NODA Review of My Fair Lady

Wonderful scoring and Shaw's beautiful Pygmalion adaptation created one of the most popular musicals ever. A 'squashed cabbage leaf' flower seller is taken out of Covent Garden as a bet between Professor Higgins and Colonel Pickering for Higgins to transform her into a lady. Does he?

Front of House: Warmly greeted by Front of House Manager, Marian Cumberland assisted by her helpful team of evening suited gentlemen and ladies in sashes selling programmes. There was a raffle and a very interesting photographic display of previous shows.

Musical Direction: With the advantage of a pit the fourteen piece orchestra were put through their paces by Conductor Bryan Gipps and performed well.

The Programme: A commendable quality gloss coloured cover packed with information and advertisements including a 'Royal' letter from the Countess of Wessex who had been a dancer for the CODS in the 1980 production of My Fair Lady. Another interesting aspect was the inclusion of sponsorship pages from the President and the Vice-Presidents. Unfortunately there appears to be no NODA logo in the programme.

Scenery/Set: A good team result. Quite difficult and complicated for both crew and players alike. Effective use of projection, although it was a pity this technique hadn't been used in the

opening Covent Garden scene. Higgins's study was well designed and furnished; however the settee looked a little out of place. Wimpole Street front door and the pub were cleverly built either side of the stage giving use to the extension. Ascot and conservatory scenes simple but effective.

Make Up: Natural. A little more attention to hair grooming is suggested. Mrs. Higgins's wig gave the elegance she required.

Costumes: Overall very good indeed. Ascot black and whites eye catching whilst Eliza's hat was a masterpiece. Her ball gown and cloak with perfect hairdo gave a regal look and together with good carriage looked enchanting. The street urchins were a touch too clean. The servants perfectly dressed. Disappointed with Mrs. Pearce costumes particularly as two dresses were unfastened at the back! Cockney chorus good.

Properties: A lot of work here with some good detail.

Choreography: Nice toe tapping dancing.

Lighting/Sound: Congratulations to the young man on the sound board. Lighting and effects were adequate.

Stage Crew: Quiet, well staged managed with some big difficult

changes. A couple of blips with curtain closures were overcome.

The Production: A huge task taken on here and the director and assistant pulled it off. The first half did lack pace and was rather too long. The principals moved around the sets well. Act 2 was livelier when the dancers came into their own. At times the chorus seemed nervous to use the front and extension sides of the stage making the main stage area a little overcrowded. Nice touches with the King's appearance and the policeman patrolling Wimpole Street making use of the side entrances.

James Hanaway (Professor Higgins) played a solid roll with a polished **Mike Caridia** (Colonel Pickering). **Charlotte Fillmore** (Eliza) transformed from cockney to lady well. Other leading parts **Madeleine Jordan** (Mrs. Pearce) **Jeremy Druce** (Freddy) **Jenny Caridia** (Mrs Higgins) and **Keith Hedley** (Doolittle) all worked hard and well together. The servants harmonized well and the lively chorus were in good song. Very encouraging seeing prospective young talent. An overall buzz came from the audience enjoying this major undertaking, and I thank you for inviting me to this my first CODS production.

ANNE LAWSON

Regional Representative

NODA South East, District 3

Some words from Maurice about the My Fair Lady Sunday clear-out

My Thanks Once More

Sunday dawned very wet so once again a huge thanks to all those who turned up for the clear out on such a filthy morning. While the girls concentrated on the dressing rooms and auditorium the muscle power went into removing the set and filling in the orchestra pit. It was nice to see our new man Jez getting stuck in and receiving a rude shock in the process by seeing just how much effort goes in to putting on a show. And I can't forget the muscle power provided by Annie

and Jane proving that you wouldn't want to get on the wrong side of them when punches are being thrown! [*Ed: rather you than me saying that!*] Unfortunately, there was a little bit of hanging about as we reached the stage when we couldn't do anything until either costumes or the set had been removed, but this didn't last too long and I consoled myself by making coffee, not that I could do much else with a groin strain and a torn shoulder tendon!

A very special thanks goes to Gavin and Ivor who provided all the transportation

for the scenery and set each making 3 separate trips to Flishinghurst and back in that awful weather. Unfortunately, the garage where we used to hire a lorry from no longer provides this service so we were dependant on Gavin and Ivor otherwise the set might never have reached the theatre!

However it would be wrong to take these good people for granted and rely on them for every show, so if anybody knows where we can beg, steal, borrow or even hire locally a suitable lorry we'd be very interested.

What's on....

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

Please support our other local dramatic groups if you can...

Puss in Boots

Cranbrook Showtimers 2009 Pantomime
Tickets from Lambert and Foster
Adults £10, Children £5

Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook

27th December 5:30pm
28th December 2:30pm
29th & 30th December 7:30pm
31st December 2:30pm

If you have any donations for the Tombola, please contact Debbie Knight. *Thanks!*



The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby Parts 1 and 2
By Charles Dickens, Adapted by David Edgar
Directed by Christopher Lacey
Tuesday 15 to Wednesday 23 December and
Friday 1 to Saturday 9 January
Adults £12, Members, under-18s and groups £7
Tickets for both parts, booked together: Adults £22
Members, under-18s and groups £12

Tenterden Operatic & Dramatic Society presents
The Railway Children

By E Nesbit, Adapted by Dave Simpson
Directed by Iris Scandrett
Thursday 28th, Friday 29th January 2010 at 7.30pm
Saturday 30th at 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Tenterden Town Hall.
Tickets £8 & £9, available from Travelux in Tenterden
See some of our members in this production as well:
James Hammond, Tina Gallagher, Jack Dale and Geoff King

Other shows coming up in Kent in the next few months:

A Dreamland Sideshow Christmas
Performed by: The Tom Thumb Players
Venue: Tom Thumb Theatre - Margate
Dates: 10.12.2009 - 30.12.2009

Caught In The Net
Performed by: Hayes Players
Venue: Hayes Village Hall - Hayes
Dates: 18.02.2010 - 20.02.2010

Lets Do It
Performed by: Chandeliers Drama Group
Venue: Hazlitt Theatre - Maidstone
Dates: 24.02.2010 - 27.02.2010

Disney's Beauty and the Beast
Performed by: Three Towns Theatre Company
Venue: The Brook Theatre - Chatham
Dates: 10.03.2010 - 13.03.2010

A special invitation from Kat Beeken

Church Wedding Invitation

Dear All
You are invited to attend the church wedding service of
Kathryn Beeken
to
Justin Coy

St. Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook
16th January 2010
2.00pm

After the ceremony hot drinks and biscuits will be available at the
back of the church whilst the photo's take place inside.

Will be lovley to see you all there.

