

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:

Chriss Andrews, Vicky Tinkler &
Joe Jones

Members' News

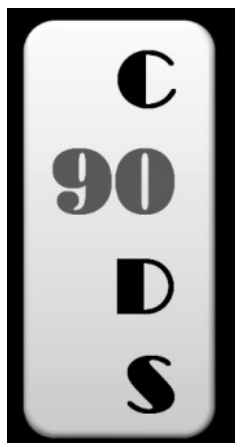
Congratulations to:

- Sarah Calcutt and Dave Davis on the birth of their daughter Aurelia.
- Kat Coy (née Beeken) on her marriage to Justin (see picture and thanks on page 3)

Codswallop!

February 2010

Get your tickets for the Quiz on 27th February



Yes—the first event of our 90th Anniversary year is almost on us.

We'd like to see you and as many friends possible at what will be a fun evening.

It would be nice to get the year off to a good start, so please support the society and spread the word.

Please contact Marian before the 22nd so we can confirm it is going to be worthwhile.

Quiz

Saturday 27th February
7.30pm
Vestry Hall

£7 per person
to include Ploughmans

Bring your own drinks

Come as a table of 6
or ready to join up on the night

Please see Marian Cumberland for tickets
01580 715580

For all the 90th events, see our 2010 calendar on Page 2

The AGM is coming—some things to think about

It can't be a year already, I am thinking as I write about the AGM. This year has been a busy one and we will have a lot to reflect on.

One thing to think about is how to keep our society going as long-serving members doing key jobs gradually want to have a well-earned rest.

For example, Maurice, who last year gave notice that he would be standing down as business manager this year, has had second thoughts, but we still need someone local

and available during the day to shadow him and learn what he does, so they can replace him eventually. Clem Danin is standing down as orchestra secretary after "Kiss Me Kate", so we need to replace him as well.

So if you think you may be able to step up to the roles either put yourself forward for the committee or see me about volunteering for any specific role. The nomination form for the committee is on the back page of this edition of Codswallop.

Couple of additional items—Doreen Beardsmore has taken on the unenviable task of sorting out our Archives, since they moved out of the old huts—if you have any material you think would be suitable, please contact her or the committee.

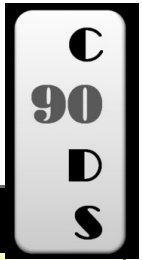
Finally, if you want to set up any social networking for CODS (Facebook etc.) you need to talk to the committee first, as we need to check it is all OK.

See you at the AGM!

Glyn

Our 90th Anniversary year—your guide to all the events in 2010

Several of you have suggested that we publish our calendar in a format that you can stick on your fridge/noticeboard or somewhere else obvious, so you can be sure not to miss all that is going on. Well here it is!



Date	Event	Where, Time	Details
February 27th	Quiz Night	Vestry Hall, Canbrook 7:30 pm	£7 per person, including ploughmans Tables of 6 or link up on the night. Bring your own drinks, nibbles <i>and cutlery</i> Contact Marian on 01580 715580
March 16th	AGM	Cranbrook School Lecture Theatre 7:30pm for 8:00pm	
April 8th-10th	"Strictly Not Shakespeare"	Queen's Hall Theatre 7:30pm	Tickets £10 In advance from Maurice or from Phillips Mans' Shop from March
September 11th	Barn Dance	Marquee on Sissinghurst playing field 7:30pm	We will need at least 8 physically able helpers to erect and dismantle the marquee on the day. All offers welcome Price tbc depending on food choice
October 27th-30th	"Kiss me Kate"	Queen's Hall Theatre 7:30pm	Directed by Annie Chesters Auditions in May
November 13th	Gala Dinner	Cranbrook School Dining Hall	Menu and ticket price TBC closer to the event. To include Gala menu brochure

Deja vue? Wardrobe, Crane Chambers et al - the low down from Maurice Wilkins

A huge, huge thank you to everybody who turned up on Sunday 7th Feb to transfer the costumes from Crane Chambers to Flishinghurst. It could never have happened without your help

For some of our newer members it might seem a little puzzling as to why we have been involved in the apparent charade of moving costumes first of all *into* Crane Chambers and then *out* again so soon, so here is a little clarification as to why it has all happened.

For many years we have had a costume store in wooden huts at the back of School House. These were bought second hand many years ago by CODS who were then given permission by Cranbrook School to site them at the rear of their border's block. In the last few years these huts have been falling further and further into decay, they were now crammed full and bursting at the seams and it was necessary to find alternative accommodation. Also, the School had decided it now wanted to make use of the ground. A great deal of effort (and with no little cost) went into finding alternative premises, but all to no avail.

The School then decided to build a mezzanine floor above the scenery dock in Queens Hall and offered it to us as a costume store. Although the final construction was not as per the original plan, nonetheless, we thought all our dreams had come true. Unfortunately, grateful as we were, the space now offered was only one third of our existing space. Rita and Marilyn spent hours sorting as much as possible and we moved as much as we could into what we now know as the Gray Room, but the excess had to remain in the huts. Having done the deal with the mezzanine floor, the School then gave us notice to quit the site behind School House.

Crane Chambers had been empty for a couple of years and, frustrated at not being able to rent it commercially, the landlord kindly offered it to us at a timely moment as a temporary solution rather than have it continue to stand empty. This was an opportunity too good to be missed and so last October we transferred everything that was left in the huts into Crane Chambers. Rita and Marilyn were delighted with the new conditions and we expected to have this accommo-

dation for at least the year of the contract. Unfortunately, almost no sooner had we signed on the dotted line than along comes two prospective commercial tenants, the second of whom decided he would like it and so we duly received our notice to quit. With nowhere else to go and the option of move it or lose it we once more transferred everything into far from ideal storage conditions at Flishinghurst, where we make and paint all our sets and scenery. During this period Rita and Marilyn spent many more hours drastically reducing the stock, selling it off, either as rag or to other willing buyers. Our future at Flishinghurst, however, remains to be seen.

There is talk of the School building more mezzanine floors and, who knows, we may be offered more room, but this is all very much pie in the sky for the moment, so we dream on.

So, once again, thank you so much for everybody who has helped in the comings and goings, moving to or from Crane Chambers and the Gray Room, but at least you now know why we had to do it!

It's Shakespeare, Jim, but not as we know it....

For those of you not directly involved in "Not Strictly Shakespeare" (and maybe for some that are!), it may be a bit of mystery what the whole thing is about.

Some of you may be thinking, 'it's Shakespeare, so I probably will not like it' or 'it's not a real play' or 'it's going to be too serious'. If those thoughts have occurred to you, read on and we hope we can change your mind.

So what is it exactly? And why the strange title?

As this production replaces both the play and February show, we set out to provide a showcase for all the talent in the society and include as many people as we could. Although the starting point was a comedy revue developed by the Royal Shakespeare Company, we quickly realised that it did not offer the breadth of material to be attractive to either a broader audience or our potential cast. So, we have added a significant amount of additional items, some of which have been written or adapted by our directors specially for this production.

To start with there are a number of sketches and comedy songs written by Fry & Laurie, Victoria Wood, Dillie Keane, Maureen Lipman and Noel Coward, amongst others. These are interwoven with short extracts from or adaptations of Shakespeare plays as diverse as "Julius Caesar", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "King Lear" and "The Tempest". There are also additional musical and dance numbers from Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein, John Rutter, Cole Porter and Duke Ellington including "West Side Story", "The Boys from Syracuse" and a preview of some bits of "Kiss Me Kate".

We hope that the result is a stimulating, sometimes funny, sometimes thought-provoking voyage of discovery through the many ways that the bard's works have influenced both the theatre and popular culture.

Last, but by no means least, we wanted to maintain the charity theme of the February concerts, so we aim to raise large amounts of money for Demelza—a cause close to the hearts of a number of our members—and hopefully for the society as well.

So, now you know what it is all about, what can you do? Most importantly talk about and publicise this production to as many people as possible and make sure they know that they will enjoy it. And, of course, sell huge numbers of tickets! Demelza and CODS will be hugely grateful for your efforts.

Thanks from all involved in the production and especially from the 'Shakey directors', Andy and Annie Chesters, Angela Woodcock, Jo Reader, Peggy Latter and Glyn Roberts. Please have a word with us if you want to know anything more.

Thank you to everyone who attended our wedding on the 16th January. It was lovely to see you there.

We had a fantastic day

Love Kat and Justin



Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society presents

NOT STRICTLY Shakespeare

**CODS 90TH ANNIVERSARY
SPRING PRODUCTION**

Incorporating "The Shakespeare Revue", devised by Christopher Luscombe & Malcolm McKee, by arrangement with Nick Hern books.

**QUEEN'S HALL THEATRE,
CRANBROOK**

APRIL 8th, 9th, 10th

7.30PM

TICKETS FROM PHILIP'S MANS SHOP,
HIGH STREET, CRANBROOK

*A light-hearted
celebration of the work of the
Bard, including singing,
dancing, frivolity, and
sketches.*

*Going dotty
for Demelza!*

Demelza

Sponsored by Peter Jones, Registered Opticians

**With the AGM notice on the
back page, there is not much
space left...**

**Any questions about what
you have read?
Please contact:**



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

CRANBROOK OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held in the Lecture Theatre, Cranbrook School

Tuesday 16th March 2009 at 8.00pm (Lecture Theatre open from 7.30pm)

An Agenda will be available on the evening, along with Accounts and Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2009, plus Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 25th March 2009. Any Full Member who is unable to attend is welcome to contact the Honorary Secretary after the AGM for a copy of these documents. Please let the Honorary Secretary have your apologies if you are unable to attend. Junior Members are welcome to attend, but cannot vote or be elected onto the Committee.

In accordance with the Society's Constitution, nominations for election to the Executive Committee must be made by members of the Society in writing and must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting, therefore, if you wish to do so, please submit the form below
by

Tuesday 2nd March 2010.

NOMINATIONS for new EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Offices to be filled: President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, Social Secretary, Show Selection Chairman, 5 Committee Members

Name of Nominee: _____

Office: _____

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Signature of Nominee: _____

Please return to Michelle Sandys, Flat 4, Crane House, Northgrove Road, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 4AL by Tuesday 2nd March 2010.