



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

Matt Clark, a new Junior  
member

### Old Members

Anyone remember Jenna  
Constable? See page 3 for  
news about what she is doing  
now

### Did you know we are on Facebook?



For all you computer minded  
people, CODS has its very  
own group page on Face-  
book with lots of information,  
news and photographs.

Visit [www.facebook.com](http://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!

February 2011



**Elephant & Custard—mmm...Tasty!**  
**Have you ordered yours?**  
**See Page 2 for the full menu**



## CODS and Showtimers Merger proposal

Many of us enjoyed another very  
successful and professionally produced  
Pantomime from the Showtimers in  
December 2010. Showtimers has been  
running for 23 years and raised over 50k  
for local charities and has become  
somewhat of an institution for Cranbrook  
at Christmas time.

CODS were approached by the  
Showtimers committee at the beginning of  
the year with the sad news that they are  
no longer able to continue as a group.  
They asked if we, CODS, were willing to  
consider a 'merger' so that the pantomime  
could continue to be a central feature of  
the live, amateur theatre that Cranbrook  
provides for the local community.

CODS committee have seen this as a  
positive move.

Meetings have taken place between the  
two groups as well as discussions within  
CODS committee and we are pleased to  
announce that a mutual decision was  
made between the two groups that a  
merger would be a positive direction to  
follow. At the CODS committee meeting  
on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011, representatives of  
the Showtimers and CODS committees  
agreed that a merger proposal should be  
to be made at our AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> March  
2011, recognising that we would not want  
such a significant change to take place  
without giving our membership the  
opportunity to express their opinions and  
provide the committee with the necessary  
mandate to proceed.

We, i.e. CODS Committee, realise that  
with this undertaking, should the merger  
proposal be approved, a review of our

present annual programme diary will need  
to take place in order to accommodate all  
of our activities. A variety of options will  
need to be considered and explored, as  
well as assessing whether the way we are  
organised is still fit for purpose. James  
Hanaway will be leading a sub-committee  
to do this over the next few months.

With this in mind and also to ensure that  
the AGM focuses on a simple vote by  
members on whether a merger should go  
forward, we are asking you to contact us  
before the AGM with any views,  
suggestions and comments that you may  
have. This will help us inform any review  
that takes place and also allow the  
opportunity to try and answer any  
questions you may have.

Contact either James ([jameshanaway@hotmail.com](mailto:jameshanaway@hotmail.com),  
714326) or Glyn ([ghroberts@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ghroberts@tiscali.co.uk), 893863)  
before 6<sup>th</sup> March so that the committee can collate  
and discuss your comments before the AGM.



### Proposal for AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> March

*The Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic  
Society Executive Committee  
proposes that the society accepts the  
offer to merge with 'Showtimers'*

*Do you agree?*

## Our upcoming productions

Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society presents

# Cowardy Custard


In entertainment devised by Geraldine, Marion Strickland and Frank Tovey

Featuring the words and music of **Noël Coward**

Queen's Hall, Cranbrook  
25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
7.30pm

Box Office:  
Phillips Man's Shop  
High Street  
Cranbrook  
Or Tel: 01580 73887

In aid of the MS Society  
Sponsored by Peter Jones  
Rehearsed Openings  
Tickets £5.00



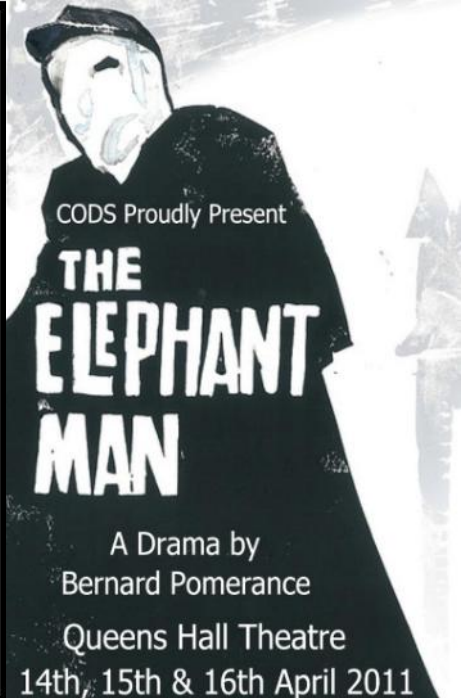
Dear CODS Members,

Just a reminder to come and support our February Concert in aid of The MS Society.

As per usual, much hard work and commitment has been put into this show, both onstage and around, and the cast need to be commended for learning 50 many songs and 50 many words!

Look forward to seeing you there — please bring a friend too!

Sarah



CODS Proudly Present

# THE ELEPHANT MAN

A Drama by Bernard Pomerance

Queens Hall Theatre  
14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011

# Annie

CODS' AUTUMN MUSICAL  
26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Oct

*Alison Withey-Harrison, our Director for the October musical has written the following taster—more details to follow in the next Codswallop.....*

I'm really excited to announce that the CODS October musical for 2011 will be 'Annie'. This is the first time CODS has ever produced this heart warming, wonderful show. It is full of great numbers such as 'Tomorrow', 'Hard Knock Life', 'Maybe', 'Easy Street' and other big Chorus numbers which you may not know.

Some of you may be thinking 'Annie' - that's a children show isn't it?

Well think again! Yes there are rather a lot of 'Little Girls' in the show, but there are many other parts for adults and teenagers too (as well as a furry friend). The show is also very different from the film and requires a huge cast—more details in the next Codswallop.

I just love 'Annie' - it gives you a warm fuzzy feeling of hope and happiness! It's also set at Christmas time- my favourite time of year!

### Synopsis:

Annie is a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents, who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and finds a new family and home in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

**If you are at all interested then please do come along to the Information Evening.**

**I hope to see you there!**

### INFORMATION EVENING

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Performing Arts Centre (Adults and children) TBC**

### HELP NIGHT

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm Queen's Hall (Adults Only) TBC**

### AUDITIONS

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May Queen's Hall, Children 10.30am ; Adults 1.30pm TBC**





## News and Views

**Coward Custard**  
After Show Dinner

**Raffles** Friday 4th March  
7.30pm for 8.00pm

To reserve your seat contact  
Marion on  
01580 715580

### And now the end is near... A final thin word from this chair...

In my last contribution at the helm of the good ship CODS, I'd like not to reminisce, but to look forward and thanks to James Hanaway for helping me focus my thoughts...

The success of CODS will always be a function of how well it serves its members' best interests, but it can only do so if its members let us know what those interests are.

Whatever the outcome of the proposal to merge, it is certain that for CODS to carry on producing fantastic performances we need to see more members taking on active roles – not just performing but set building and design, marketing, directing, lighting, sound, costume design, becoming a committee member... the list goes on. Let's be clear as well that there are no 'sacred cows', so anyone with energy and commitment is welcome to try their hand and learn new skills by shadowing or assisting people in any role. So if any of the list of activities above interests you or you'd like to try something new, please do get in touch. Don't be tempted to think that 'so-and-so always does that' as they probably won't always be able to.

Thanks for all you help and support over the last 2 years.

### Charity Walk – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Further to the brief article in the last issue of Codswallop, we are pleased to announce the details of our forthcoming Charity Walk, in aid of the MS Society ( England and Wales ). .

The meeting point will be within the public car park next to the Library in Carriers Road, Cranbrook on the morning of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011. We will be looking to leave at 10 a.m. sharp.

From here we will follow the High Weald Landscape Trail down to Benenden, which is just under 5 miles away. We will be aiming to get to there by 12 noon, for an essential short detour to the Bull for liquid refreshments for 30 – 45 minutes only. The Bull is extremely popular for lunches, so please can all those attending bring their own food as we will not have time nor room to eat at the pub—anyone not walking might also want to join us there.

After refreshments, we will carry on with other local footpaths to loop up to Cranbrook town centre which is just over 4 miles distance. We will be looking to get back to the car park circa. 3.15 p.m, having completed a total distance of just over 9 miles !

The walk itself is scenic and interesting; there are some wooded areas and some muddy patches, so please be prepared and wear appropriate clothing and footwear wherever possible. We do not recommend jeans as these can become very cold once they get wet, and there is always the risk of rain.

Friends and families are all welcome. Dogs are also welcome, provided they are kept on a lead at all times.

In the event of anyone having to "drop out" during our walk, our route has several stopping points on a road at which a car could collect you. It would be very helpful if someone who lives locally could be on "standby" to come out and collect anyone who may feel the need to "drop out". Free drink at the Bull for anyone who wishes to "standby" !

Sponsorship forms are available from either of us, and we are aiming to raise another commendable sum for charity, hopefully in excess of the £600 we raised two years ago. If you are joining the walk but not being sponsored, we would hope that you would sponsor at least one of the walkers who will be raising money for our chosen Charity.

We look forward to seeing you on 13<sup>th</sup> March, and an article about our walk will follow in the next issue of Codswallop.

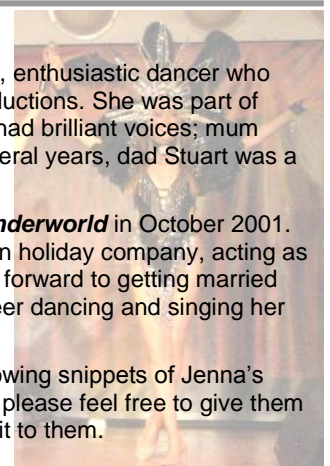
Marian Cumberland ( 01580 715580 ) and Andrew White ( 01424 718328 )

### Jenna Constable

Many of our members will remember Jenna as a young, enthusiastic dancer who performed with us for several years in many of our productions. She was part of almost a dynasty; her aunt Lynne and sister Tara both had brilliant voices; mum Gillian looked after our ticket sales and publicity for several years, dad Stuart was a patron and granddad Doug was our Hall Manager.

Jenna last performed with CODS in *Orpheus in the Underworld* in October 2001. She is now the Entertainments Manager of a well known holiday company, acting as compere, singer and dancer. Now aged 27 and looking forward to getting married next year, she is enjoying a moderately successful career dancing and singing her way around the world.

Maurice and Rita have received a DVD from Gillian showing snippets of Jenna's recent performances. If anybody would like to borrow it please feel free to give them a ring (01580 713887) and they will be pleased to loan it to them.



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
CRANBROOK OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

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To be held in the Lecture Theatre, Cranbrook School  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 8.00pm (Lecture Theatre open from 7.30pm)

**AGENDA**

**Apologies for absence**

**Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (held 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010)**

**Matters arising**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Chairman's Report**

**Election of President, Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members**

**Election of Officers and Executive Committee**

**Election of Independent Examiner**

**Fix membership subscriptions for the year 2011/12**

**Any other business – to include:**

Possible merger with Showtimers

Possible restructure of Executive Committee

Getting our Members more involved!

Any Full Member who is unable to attend is welcome to contact the Honorary Secretary after the AGM for a copy of the Minutes & Accounts. 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.**

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**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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.*