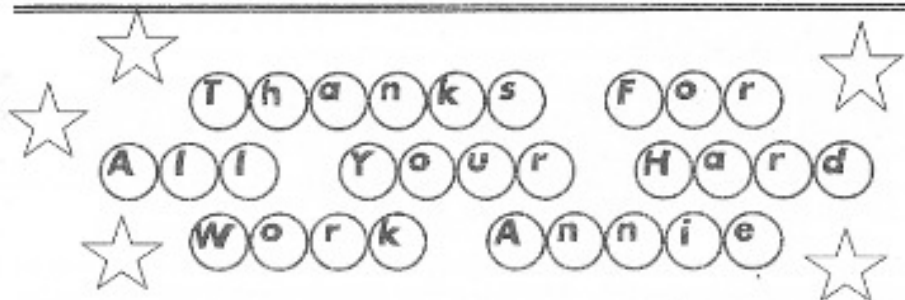




CODSWALLOP

March 2009

Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society
Registered Charity No. 1105153



★ Dates for your diary

Alarms and Excursions

Thursday, 16th April to Saturday 18th April 7.30pm
Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook.

My Fair Lady Auditions

27th – 31st October 2009 (see more info inside)

★ Who Said....

*"With any part you play, there is a certain amount
of yourself in it. There has to be, otherwise it's just not acting.
It's lying."*

(answer on the back page!)

Sponsored by Peter Jones, Opticians Mercury Direct (Sun Spot)
Paul Rogers of www.cranbrook.org

L u v v i e s M e s s a g e f r o m t h e C h a i r m a n

Dear Luvvies and Techies,

First of all, thanks to those of you who attended **AGM on March 25th**. We now have a new committee – those who have resigned – Laura, Robin and Bill, have been replaced by Andrew White, Jo Reader and Sarah Hutchings – welcome to them. The rest of the committee remains the same. You have heard my speech at the AGM, so I will therefore be brief here...

Congratulations to Angela Woodcock and her team for staging what I think must go down as the most successful Charity Concert the society has produced, ***A Step in Time***. A well constructed show, with a huge cast of characters, music which was popular with performers and audiences alike, a tiny budget which was strictly adhered to and a large profit for our charities of almost £2,000!

Andrew White and Marian Cumberland then added to these huge sums of money by organising a sponsored 10 mile walk. Those of us who participated had a thoroughly enjoyable day and Max for one would like to do another one tomorrow! Further details can be found later in the newsletter.

Alarms and Excursions is speeding towards its show week. ***Please support this very funny and complicated evening by packing the audiences to bursting for the three nights of the show.***

Looking ahead to 2010, the ***Shakespeare Revue*** is a string of sketches, songs and dances and peculiarities on a theme of the Bard. We will need a team of directors to pull this off. If you are interested in trying your hand at direction but need your hand held, or if you'd just like to direct a little something, or even if you have a Shakespeare-inspired snippet that you want to air, please get in touch on 01580 211749, or

Unfortunately we have had to shelve ***The Hot Mikado*** – it was going to be a tiny bit difficult to cast – most of the characters were Afro Caribbean and one of them played the trumpet! In place of this, in October 2010 we will continue the Shakespeare theme by staging ***Kiss Me Kate***. A great show with lots of lovely parts for men and women, wonderful music, fantastic dance numbers and heaps of chorus work – looking forward to it already!

I said I was going to be brief – sorry – too much going on.

Last of all, a huge thank you to my wonderful, supportive and hard-working committee and good luck to Glyn as he takes over the chairmanship.

It's been fun (most of the time).

Annie x



From the President

With such a busy and successful society it is difficult to make sure that I don't miss out on any of the things I want to comment on but here goes!

That we are doing so well is ultimately down to members' hard work and it's obvious that there has been a lot of that recently. The full houses at the Charity Concert "A Step in Time" were rewarded with a super show. All those involved with it can feel very proud for so many reasons: Angela's writing and production was no surprise to someone who enjoyed her highly successful celebration of the VE Day anniversary which we performed in many Wealden venues and notably in Lelystadt back in 1995. It was called "There'll always be an England" and with the present officers for this latest show we can safely say there'll always be a CODS! It was so good to think that we must have made a very good sum for our chosen charities and the recent members' sponsored walk will augment that amount. I heard that the youngest member of the cast led that walk for much of the way and our thanks go to Marion and Andy for arranging it, and all those who took part.

Now I want to mention some of the Society members at the other end of the scale. A loud rap on our front door every few months can only mean our former Chairman, leading tenor and most valuable provider of our Flishinghurst facilities - Jeremy Cartwright - is in town. It's always good to hear about his latest singing around Cornwall and he continues to be closely interested in our activities. Then we must say a very, very big "thank-you" to Bill Marshall for countless years of service in so many roles (he was a long-serving Chairman and most recently ran the Play-Selection job) Bill is retiring at the forthcoming A.G.M. and we will miss his presence on Committee but I'm sure his advice will still be sought.

It will be a great honour for the Society to host this year's K.D.A. awards presentation evening in June and it is to be hoped that our Spring play "Alarms and Excursions" will produce more winners for us to follow last year's many successes.

Finally, we have had warm praise from the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells who exceptionally attended the Concert as one of the charities is also one that he has supported in this year of office. He was so taken with "The King and I" that he joined the Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Choir and I had to admonish him during the first Act of "A Step in Time" when he failed to join in one of the songs (sola voce of course!) He has written another letter inviting us to a short celebration in the Vestry Hall at which he will thank several organisations who have shown him such a warm welcome during the visits he and his delightful wife Chris have made to Cranbrook.



Charity Walk around Cranbrook Sunday 1st March 2009

Following the successful Step In Time concert in February, thirteen members of the Society assembled in the Co Op car park to take part in the Charity Walk and help raise further money towards the two chosen Charities namely The Alzheimer's Society and 1.2.1 Youth Befriending. These members were: Annie and Max Chester, Marilyn Coleman, Marian Cumberland, Jack and Stella Dale, Sarah Hutchings, Gavin Hogben, Jo Lydia, Ollie and Rose Levett and Andrew White.

After a few miles we were greeted by David Jackson as we walked past his house. Shortly after this, and energetic pace was set by Max, Lydia and Rosie and we all did our best to try and keep up with them (or was it the fact that the pub was opening that encouraged us to walk a little quicker?) Upon arrival at the Bull Inn at Sissinghurst, we were joined by Dinah Chamberlain, Andy Chesters, Nicola and Jon Hogben and Charlotte Filimore for a splendid lunch, during which we received further financial donations from the barman and one of the customers. A few miles later, we had all completed our 10 mile charity walk.

We estimate that we have raised approximately £500 to be equally divided between the two charities and the final amount will be report in the next edition of Codswallop. Congratulations, well done and many thanks for all our participants.

If you were unable to sponsor any of the participants, it is not too late for you to make a donation and if you should wish to do this, please feel free to contact either of us, we look forward to hearing from you.

A social walk is being arranged for September, likely to be somewhere on the Kent/Sussex border. We are also planning to hold a second charity walk in a years time for a local charity or two (any suggestions)? Further details of these two events will be publicised nearer the time.

In concluding this article, we would like to thank Gavin for helping us devise an i route for our charity walk and also Dinah for keeping herself interesting to come out and retrieve anyone who may have felt the need to stop (we were too busy enjoying ourselves to consider stopping, even for refreshments).

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

★ A Big Thankyou - A Step In Time

Hi Everyone,

I would like to say a very big thank you to all members concerned with *A Step in Time*. I have heard nothing but praise for the show and that is due to the wonderful cast and the many people working hard behind the scenes to make a trip to the Queen's Hall Theatre an enjoyable experience. A comment made to me ..'it was lovely to go home feeling happy and humming the tunes'

I am delighted to report that through our efforts we are able to donate £2000 to the Mayor's charities, the west Kent Branch of the Alzheimer's Society and 121 Youth Befriending. This has surpassed my expectations! We also managed to generate money in a 10 mile sponsored walk. Some of the youngest members of the cast walked the entire route - well done! Thank you Andrew and Marian for organising the event.

We made front page news in the Courier, with a lovely picture of some of the children at the dress rehearsal. I managed to grab a spot on Radio Kent with Pat Marsh further publicising the show.

Lastly I would like to thank you for my lovely present which is a cream, ceramic, three tiered cake stand. It is very pretty and will be used alot - especially for anything coated in chocolate. I shall look forward to seeing you all again soon. Please support Alarms and Excursions which is riotously funny.

Keep dancing!

Angela

CODS Autumn Musical 2009

My Fair Lady Auditions

27th – 31st October 2009

Book and Lyrics by Alan J. Lerner

Music by Frederick Loewe.

Sing through and help night – Thursday 30th April

Auditions – Thursday 7th May

(both at Cranbrook School)

My Fair Lady has become a
legend in theatre history!

Please come along to the sing-through and auditions.

There are plenty of 'lovely' character parts large and
small, singing and speaking and a large chorus
playing cockneys, race-goers and toffs at the Embassy
Ball.



Other News

Jeremy Cartwright & Doreen Hulm

Many CODS members will recall Jeremy and Doreen in leading roles in past shows.

Jeremy is returning to Cranbrook for one of his regular visits and is giving a short concert together with Doreen Hulm (Soprano) and accompanied by Mary Barnes (Piano). The concert will be in St Dunstan's Church Cranbrook on Wednesday 27th May at 1pm and admission is free with a collection in aid of Church repairs.

Buffet lunch is available for a small charge at 12.30pm.

This lunchtime concert is one of a regular series promoted by The Friends of St Dunstan's.

All CODS are warmly invited.