



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

Gabriel & Frankie Rastelli  
(juniors)

David Ward

### Did you know we are on Facebook?



For all you computer minded people, CODS has its very own group page on Facebook 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!

October 2010

## Kiss Me Kate

### Have you got your tickets yet?

They are on sale at Phillips Man's Shop now!

Reminder—the show runs from 27th—30th October, Queen's Hall

Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society presents:



## Doreen Beardsmore

4th January 1925 - 15th August 2010

### An appreciation, by George Hudson

After her childhood in Cranbrook Doreen returned to the town from her time at Homerton College, Cambridge and in 1948 joined the Society which immediately enjoyed her talents and enthusiasm as a singer and actress. We lost her for a few years after her marriage to Bernard and were delighted when they returned and rejoined us. Her efforts on stage, as an extremely busy and effective wardrobe mistress and at front-of-house were a model for all of us and it was a fitting "Thank you, Doreen" when in 1998 she succeeded Jack Parsons as President of the Society. This did not bring her involvement with our life to an end and we continued to enjoy her presence and contributions to all of our events. When she asked me to step in as President in 2005 it was the knowledge that I could call on her for help when I would need advice that persuaded me to say yes.



One of the most rewarding evenings enjoyed by CODS was when we staged a superb Awards Evening for Kent Drama Association. A packed Queen's Hall applauded all the many presentations to numerous amateurs but for us the most memorable moment was when Doreen was handed The Lifetime Award Certificate of the Association.

The Thanksgiving Service at a packed St Dunstan's was memorable for us all for the moving tributes and especially the singing by a choir assembled from her three local groups: The Choral Society, The Wealden Consort and of course ourselves. We were greatly moved by the beautiful solo sung by Annie and after a lifetime of Doreen's own unmatched contributions we continue to be blessed with the efforts of Bernard and Annie and Andy and Max.

**Once more - "Thank you, Doreen"**

## The Chair's back

Where has he gone, you may be asking.....

Lots going on for the rest of the year—I don't need to remind you to support 'Kiss me Kate', but please also sign up for 'Cowardy Custard' and the 'Elephant Man'. So different and great challenges for both directors and cast, so

please support Sarah and Jack—more details inside this issue.

Hope to see as many of you who can make it to our 90th Anniversary Dinner. I understand tickets are going fast!

*glyn*

## Cowardy Custard

Have you ever wondered what Mrs Worthington's daughter looked like and why Coward was quite so rude about her ambitions to go on the stage?

Why Mad dogs and English men went into the mid day sun?

Have you ever wanted to sing a Coward love song?

We are looking for singers, actors and dancers of all ages please, there is something for everyone in this show.

**Read through week commencing 15th November; auditions the following week!**

## The Elephant Man

As promised in the last newsletter, here are some details of the characters, along with the relevant dates.

Performance dates are the 14th, 15th and 16th April 2011. Rehearsals will be Monday and Thursday as normal, and we'll work around conflicts for anyone in Cowardy Custard who would like to also be in TEM. Read through will be in the Performing Arts Centre on the 8th November starting at 7:30pm with auditions on the 11th November at the PAC starting at 7:30pm.

Although the play is nowhere near as famous as the film, it has won Tony awards in the US and in a 1980 production on Broadway starred David Bowie as the man himself. The play is billed as a drama, but there is a morality tale in there, and it will give audiences much to think about.

The characters and brief descriptions are as follows:

### **John Merrick**

A large (obviously!) and very rewarding role that will involve some physical contortions to convey the impression of the deformities that Merrick suffered (no prosthetics remember). Actor's age/height etc not very relevant for a change.

### **Frederick Treves - a surgeon and teacher.**

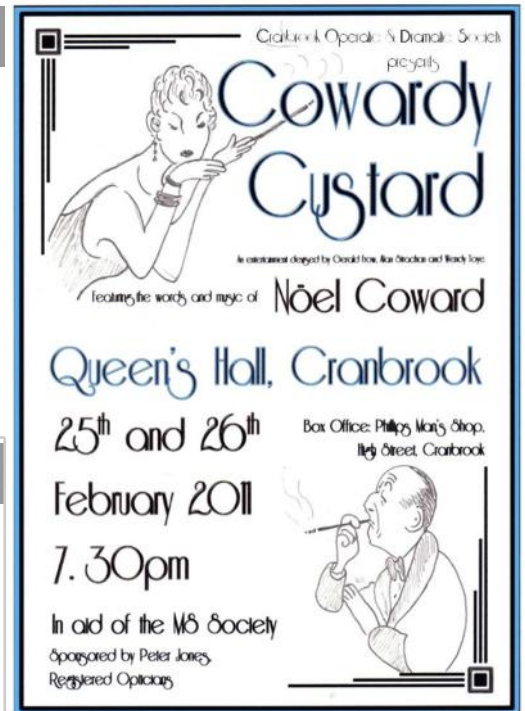
A large role. Treves is aged 31 at the time, but don't let that put off anyone younger or older from coming along. Treves rescues Merrick from the freak show life and shelters and cares for him at the London Hospital.

### **Carr Gomm - Administrator of The London Hospital.**

A medium size role. As administrator he would be expected to be aged 30+, or at last appear so.

### **Ross - Manager of The Elephant Man.**

A good, medium sized character part. Can be any age within reason. Although calling himself Merrick's manager, Ross is simply a fairground barker who happened on a suitable attraction for his show.



### **Mrs Kendal - a renowned actress of the time.**

A medium sized role. Mrs Kendal befriends Merrick and introduces him to society. She does at one point partially strip in response to Merrick having "never even seen a naked woman". This will be done in a tasteful manner so as not to shock Cranbrook - probably behind a screen and in silhouette. She can be aged anything from around 30 upwards.

Other smaller but significant roles are for ladies and gents. It would be great if we could cast all the parts separately, but we can double or treble up some or all if necessary. The ladies are 2 Pinheads (fairground oddities), A nurse, Princess Alexandra, a Duchess, and a Countess. Gents are a Belgian Policeman, a Railway Conductor, 2 Hospital porters, Pinhead's manager, a London Policeman and a Lord.

Scripts are available from me, and I hope to see lots of you at the read through and auditions - any questions ask me at KMK rehearsals, mail me at [jack.dale@ymail.com](mailto:jack.dale@ymail.com) or phone/text on 07777 681103.

Jack



## CODS Barn Dance - Saturday 11th September— the 'White Experience'

To help commemorate our Society's 90th Anniversary, a Barn Dance was held in Sissinghurst on Saturday 11th September.



I arrived at the field on Saturday morning, to find numerous members of the Society helping unload all the girders that formed the structure of the marquee. Teamwork was fast, or perhaps it was the heavy drizzle that galvanised us into working so hard? As soon as the structure had been assembled, the roofing tarpaulin's were hoisted and pulled into place ( it's amazing how these marquee's all fit together!) and before we knew it, we had a complete roof. Tea and biscuits were served, but as soon as we found our way under the roof for shelter and a cuppa, the rain stopped! No time to stop though; the straw bales arrived together with the chairs from the adjoining hall, and we spent just as long arranging all the chairs and bales as we did erecting the marquee! By 12 noon, the decorative bunting was being tied into place, as well as the overhead lighting, a few moments later all the hard

and heavy work was completed! A most satisfactory and enjoyable morning's work.

Upon arrival to the Barn Dance a few hours later, several members and friends had arrived, this soon increased and it was great to see this event being well supported. The band, Rattle The Boards, showed us lots of great dances and played plenty of fast and furious tunes to ensure that we danced the



evening away with gusto, though we did stop briefly for a rather splendid Ploughman's Supper at some point. Our Bar and Raffle helped generate funds and it was clear that everyone was having a great time.

Notwithstanding my very best intentions, I arrived back at the field on Sunday morning just to see the very last truss coming down, though I was able to



announce that coffee was being served for all the workers, together with the necessary bacon butties, the very first of which somehow made its way off the grill and into my hands. An hour or so later, all the girders and tarpaulins were back on the lorry, the hall swept clean, and we were finished.

I would like to thank all those members who helped set up and dismantle the marquee, several of whom did not actually attend the Barn Dance itself.



Particular thanks go to our ever-sterling social event organiser, Marion Cumberland, for being at the field all day on Saturday to co-ordinate all aspects of the Barn Dance, and Roy and Sally Harris, of Atlantic Big Top, Sissinghurst, for arranging delivery and use of the marquee.

# 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



**Don't miss out on our  
90th Anniversary Dinner  
November 13th at Raffles  
See Marian or contact her on 715580**

## A plea from Maurice....

### Kiss Me Kate KCC Scores

Is there anybody out there who has a KCC score for Kiss Me Kate? Anybody who attended the sing through or audition (maybe you decided not to continue and take part) and has unwittingly walked off with a copy? The KCC scores are the A4 sized cream coloured books which were given out at the sing through, but which were subsequently discovered to be different from the brown MusicScope scores so were withdrawn. Most of these were handed back, but we appear to be three short which, if not found, will have to be paid for. They are numbered 12, 26 and 35. **Please double check that you are not sitting on one of these copies and if you are please can phone Maurice (01580 713887) to let him know and return it to him as soon as possible.**

Thank you.

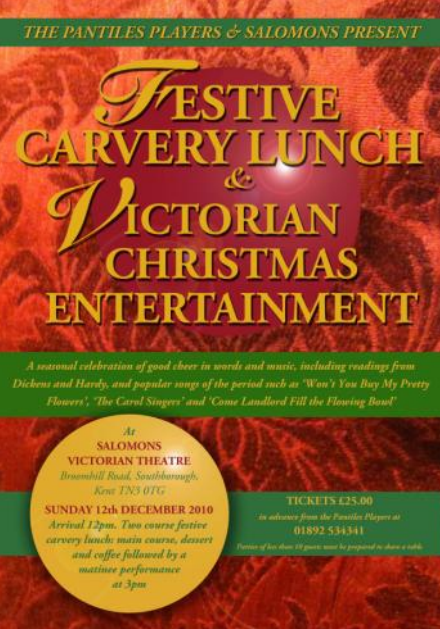
## What's On locally....

**WADHURST DRAMATIC CLUB**  
presents  
**KINDLY LEAVE THE STAGE**



A comedy with a twist by John Chapman  
**Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
21st, 22nd and 23rd October**  
at 7.45 pm Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst  
Tickets: £10 including a light meal  
available from Carillon Cottage, High Street, Wadhurst  
or online at [www.wadhurstdramaticclub.co.uk](http://www.wadhurstdramaticclub.co.uk)  
Doors and Bar open 7 pm Charity donation to 

**THE PANTILES PLAYERS & SALOMONS PRESENT**  
**FESTIVE CARVERY LUNCH & VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT**



A seasonal celebration of good cheer in words and music, including readings from Dickens and Hardy, and popular songs of the period such as 'Won't You Buy My Pretty Flowers', 'The Carol Singers' and 'Come Landlord Fill the Flowing Bowl'

At SALOMONS VICTORIAN THEATRE  
Broomhill Road, Southborough, Kent TN3 0TG  
SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER 2010  
Arrival 12pm. Two course festive carvery lunch, main course, dessert and coffee followed by a matinee performance at 3pm  
TICKETS £25.00  
In advance from the Pantiles Players at 01892 534341  
Portions of less than 10 pence must be prepared to share a table

Wed 13th - Sun 17th October  
**THE PANTILES PLAYERS**  
present  
**Blithe Spirit**  
By Noël Coward



Performances nightly 7.45 pm  
Sunday 17th: matinee only 3.00 pm  
Adults £12.00  
Senior Citizens £10.00  
Under 16s £ 8.00  
Telephone bookings: 01892 534341  
Online: [www.thepantilesplayers.co.uk](http://www.thepantilesplayers.co.uk)  
Salomons Victorian Theatre,  
Broomhill Road, Southborough, Kent, TN3 0TG

## Or if you fancy being Father Christmas...

Lapland UK are currently recruiting 'cast' for the event and wondered whether there are any budding resting actors in the CODS or elsewhere who may be interested as working as a Lapland Father Christmas during the 3 1/2 weeks of the event. It is great fun. Ideally you'll be 35 years+....

- Training days either 27th or 28th November - attendance mandatory (need to be available both of these days) and confirmed date will be advised nearer the time.
- Charity Day - 2nd December - need to be available part of the day as this is the dress rehearsal
- Shifts - 10.45-16.30 and 15.45-21.45 - FC can do half or full day shifts
- Event open 4th-24th December

£10 per hour with paid half hour break each shift

Reply to [cast@laplanduk.co.uk](mailto:cast@laplanduk.co.uk)

Thanks, **Sarah Chapman (George Hudson's daughter), Facilities Manager**