

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:

Anne Stimson, Matt Barker,
Rod Cheesman & Jez Druce

Members' News

Congratulations to:

Emma and Rupert Hancock
on the birth of their son Piers
Giuseppe Bryce.

Alison and Robin Withey-
Harrison on the birth of their
son, Ralph.

Rachel Croft-Golding who
was married in the summer

Codswallop!

October 2009

Sometimes something too good to be true really is!

How many times have we all looked back at some offer we thought was 'That's too good to be true' and realised that we have been suckered yet again.

Well, when Michelle received an e-mail from a property agent offering to pay us to take up tenancy of the old travel agents' offices above the Alldays Store in Cranbrook High Street, we were very wary that this was indeed one of those offers and we decided to ignore it.

When we were approached for a second time, we set our property guru Andrew White on the case. After a bit of digging he could not find the catch. So we took the plunge, as we realised that this space, even if we had it only temporarily, would allow Rita and Marilyn the chance to finish off sorting the costumes that were still left in the huts even after we had filled up the Gray Room.

Once we had received the necessary paperwork, we started planning the tricky logistics of transferring cos-

tumes from the huts to the new offices.

On September 26th we opened up the offices and, with a fleet of cars, started ferrying load after load of costumes and rails between the huts and the offices. We surprised some Saturday shoppers who thought they could use the car-park as it was suddenly filled with bustling chains of sheets filled with costumes (what a clever idea, Rita!).

After 3 hours of hard labour, the huts were empty and the smaller rooms in the offices were almost full. A mammoth effort—fortunately in good weather.

The following letter from Rita highlights what this space means for us:

A huge thank you to everybody who gave up their Saturday morning to achieve the massive undertaking of transferring the remaining wardrobe from the old huts behind School House into our temporary home in Crane Chambers on Saturday 26th Sep-

tember. There is no way Rita and Marilyn could have done the job on their own as those who helped out on the day now realise. When you see how crowded the Gray Room is already it is amazing how many costumes had to be ferried across and it is difficult to see where they will all go in the long run. Rita and Marilyn will continue to sort out and reduce the wardrobe as much as they can. Anybody who has a free couple hours will be welcome to join them and they will be found in the Gray Room pretty well every Monday morning 10 o'clock onwards. You can always confirm arrangements with a phone call to Rita 01580 713887.



(More photos of the move)

Notes from the Chair

What a year so far....

As you can see from this edition of Codswallop, we have lots going on at the moment and still more to come.

But first to immediate concerns—My Fair Lady needs your help:

- If you are able to help Front of House (particularly if you are a man) please contact Louise Dixon on 765373.

- If anyone can lend us a throne-like chair for the ball-

room scene, please contact either myself or Annie Chesters pronto...

- On the subject of properties, Ian Wookey would like to locate the epée from our pair that has been borrowed, but not returned. We would like to use them in Professor Higgins study. It would be a real pity if this valuable item could not be located.

And it doesn't end here—we're already well advanced in looking towards next year.

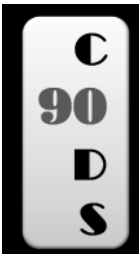
Lots of plans and we need lots of people to help achieve them.

Many of you probably don't appreciate how much some of our longer-serving members do behind the scenes. I would like to thank those of you (and you know who you are) who just make things happen. We couldn't do it without you...

If you think you can help us at all, please talk to me....

Take care, Glyn

Our 90th Anniversary programme is starting to take shape



As 2010 gets ever closer, so does our 90th Anniversary and things are starting to take shape

We have planned a number of varied and stimulating events that will carry on throughout the year, culminating in an Anniversary

event after the Autumn show.

So you can start blocking out your diaries early, these are the dates that we have sorted out so far.

February 27th; Quiz Night in the Vestry Hall compered by our very own Jack Dale and will include food at the interval.

April 7th-10th; 'A Shakespeare Revue' in Queen's Hall (see right)

Weekend of 12th/13th June; Anniversary Walk and barbeque

August Bank Holiday Sunday; Barn Dance in Sissinghurst. Marian has managed to secure free marquee hire during the Bank Holiday weekend, as it coincides with their fete—and has also found the 'Sussex Pistols' to do the calling; it will be a great night.

October Half Term; 'Kiss Me Kate'

Saturday 17th November; combined 'Kiss Me Kate' after-show and Anniversary Dinner. We are also intending to organise a commemorative membership photograph and brochure.

If you have any other ideas, or would like to offer to help organise these events, please contact one of the committee.

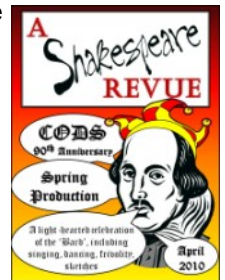
Shakespeare Revue—April 2010

Don't be put off by the title—it is a show with Shakespeare as a theme, including lots of sketches, songs, even a jazz dance number...but also serious pieces and extracts from the bard's best.

We hope to get as many members on stage during this production and make it a real celebration together.

Read-through will be towards the end of November.

For more details talk to 'the team': Andy and Annie Chesters, Jo Reader, Angela Woodcock, Peggy Latter and Glyn Roberts



My Fair Lady update...from Annie

Well, it's been a challenge!

I thought it essential to stay faithful to the script and to the score of My Fair Lady, thereby making life rather difficult for myself, my cast and my crew! The

show is **huge** – **huge** characters with marvellous G.B. Shaw dialogue,

huge songs for both principals and

chorus, **huge** dance numbers,

huge amounts of costume (including some very quick changes) and **huge**

sets, many of which need to be totally changed several times and all of which

require **huge** numbers of props.

The show started with about a dozen cast members dropping out – including most of the alto and tenor sections and two of the principals. I don't think it was anything personal, they all had very good reasons for doing so!

We then had various illnesses, ranging from 'flu through mumps and sick bugs to broken limbs!

I think that the first rehearsal with full attendance was last week.....

...but despite all these problems and all the others associated with a musical production, I am delighted and excited to be able to tell you all that this is going to be a fantastic show, with excellent acting, great singing, amazing dancing and fantastic characterisation.

My principals, chorus members and crew have all worked incredibly hard and thrown themselves wholeheartedly into making this a production of which CODS can be proud. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all very sincerely for all their dedication and support – I think it safe to say that they didn't know what they were letting themselves in for!

The show is going to be **luverly**, if you haven't bought your tickets yet, please do so soon. We will see you there!

Annie xxx

Calling all directors... again... is there anybody there?



Yes—it's the same again, but more urgent now. We really need to find some new budding directors—particularly those willing to take on a musical — as several of our regular team are moving on soon.

We really need to decide soon who can step up to the challenge of directing our 2010 Autumn Musical, "Kiss Me, Kate".

For those who would like a more gentle

"When I grow up, I still want to be a director"
Stephen Spielberg

introduction, the Shakespeare Revue will offer you the opportunity to try directing a short performance piece.

We have a great back-stage team and a sympathetic ear on our committee.

To discuss this further, or to offer your services, please speak to a Committee Member, or contact Michelle Sandys on 01580 752802.

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...

Wadhurst Dramatic Club invite you to come along and chuckle out loud to two hilarious one-act comedies set in the village of Little Grimley, where the Local Amateur Dramatic Society is devising strategies to overcome their declining audiences and competition from a rival drama club. These two plays by David Tristram come complete with a hot meal in the interval - a fantastic night out!

The details:

Last Tango in Little Grimley & The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley

When: Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th October at 7.45pm (doors and bar open from 7.15pm)

Where: At the Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst

Tickets: £10 (WDC members £9) to include a hot meal in the interval

Available from Monday 5th October at Carillon Cottage in Wadhurst High Street (next to the Post Office) (open Mon-Sat 9.30am-12.30pm and Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri 2-4pm).



If you can find a night that you are not at 'My Fair Lady', you could always support TODS, who are presenting "Farce & Furious" comprising The Real Inspector Hound (Tom Stoppard) and Black Comedy (Peter Shaffer)

At Tenterden Town Hall (7.30pm on 28/29/30/31 October)

Box Office Travelux

There's more!

An opportunity to support one of our own (if you're not rehearsing for MFL of course!)

Damian Elliott and his comedy partner Daniel Kendall are performing at the Sinden Theatre in Tenterden on Friday October 23rd

A Night of Laughter and full of fun. Comedy variety show with song, Dance, Mime, live music and much much more, including special guests that you might recognise. Tickets Available from Whistlestop Cafe, Tenterden - 01580 765450



Here's something for our younger members....

The Chichester Festival Theatre are offering FREE (yes, absolutely FREE) tickets to some of the best theatre around for anyone aged between 14 & 25.

Check it out at: www.anightlessordinary.org.uk or www.cft.org.uk/u26

Thanks to Sarah Hutchings for spotting this great opportunity

Thanks to you :



Ruth Roberts would like to thank everyone from CODS who sponsored her for the Great Forest Run in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care in September. She completed the 10km in just over an hour, raising more than £250 for this worthy cause and has just about recovered now.

Please note that not all items on this page are endorsed by CODS or its Executive Committee, but are included in good faith as submitted. If you believe that any are not suitable or misleading, please contact us and we will avoid future communications from the organisations concerned

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

Look out for our new society e-mail
address coming soon!

We'd like to use this space to
keep you up-to-date with
photos of our productions and
other society events.
If you have any that you think
we could use, please send
them to us

Crane Chambers move photos—thanks Charlotte

