

# CODSWALLOP!

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Bi-Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2018

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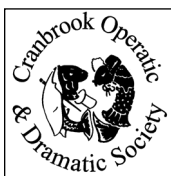
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**“SERGEANT SARAH BROWN (SIPPING HER DRINK): DOESN'T BACARDI HAVE ALCOHOL IN IT?  
SKY MASTERSON: ONLY ENOUGH TO ACT AS A PRESERVATIVE  
SERGEANT SARAH BROWN: YOU KNOW, THIS WOULD BE A WONDERFUL WAY TO GET CHILDREN TO DRINK MILK!” – GUYS & DOLLS**

# NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Greetings from your Chairman,

I am sitting on our veranda overlooking the pool as I write this column. 42°C in the shade and 50°C in the direct sun is a little hot for us as we experience the Portuguese heat wave, but the tall gin and tonic by my side is helping me to endure.



With the Summer holidays upon us and no CODS performances until the very end of October, all seems a little quiet. Look a little closer however, and there is a lot going on.

On 11th August (this Saturday) we are having a Flushinghurst tidy up day (well; 10:00 to 13:00) and it would be great if you could come along to help turn a chore into a CODS social event. This will help to prepare us for our forthcoming productions... and we will likely finish off at The Peacock public house for refreshment.

Flushinghurst is in need of some essential maintenance and building works, which we intend to commission for completion over the Summer.

Annie Hatcher is pushing forward with rehearsals for Guys and Dolls. The show runs from 25th – 27th October and you are in for a treat with a wonderful and well-known show delivered to perfection by a great cast who evidently enjoy every scene. Let Annie know if you would like to be prompt for the show. Please buy your tickets soon and encourage friends and relatives to come along and support live theatre in Cranbrook. There will be a BSL interpreter signing for the deaf community at the Thursday evening performance and a matinee show on the Saturday afternoon.  
[www.cranbrookods.org.uk/tickets](http://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/tickets)

Do make a note in your diary to come along and see Cinderella à la Jack Davidson this Christmas. Jack is co-directing with Sharon Pickles and I can say, without fear of contradiction, that you will never have seen a show quite like this. A traditional panto, local flavours, not-quite-so-familiar characters (and some that are definitely very different). You should not miss this unique mixture of talents, comedy, audience participation and right-out buffoonery.

For next year's Spring play, Jo Reader is directing an award-winning adaptation by Helen Edmundson of Leo Tolstoy's novel, Anna Karenina. Introducing the pitch for the play, Jo said that her vision is to deliver something that is emotional, moving, thought-provoking and that communicates with the audience through movement, images and tableaux. I am confident that Jo will fulfil all her aims and more.

I wish you all a wonderful Summer.

Cheers

Guy - [CODS.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.chairman@gmail.com)

# GUYS AND DOLLS

Here is a little taster (have a look on the back page too) of the October Musical 'Guys and Dolls' - you can't hear how wonderful this lot are, but you can see them!

Please buy your tickets as soon as you like - four performances available: on Thursday 25th (BSL signed), Friday 26th and Saturday 27th - at 2.30 and 7.30.

Go to the website: <https://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/tickets>



# GUYS AND DOLLS

**Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic  
Society proudly  
presents:**



# **GUYS AND DOLLS**

**A  
Musical Fable  
of Broadway, Based on a  
Story and Characters of Damon Runyon**

**Music & Lyrics by FRANK LOESSER - Book by JO SWERLING & ABE BURROWS**

**25 - 27 October 2018**

**Queen's Hall Theatre,  
Cranbrook**

**Tickets: [cods.ticketsource.co.uk](http://cods.ticketsource.co.uk)**

**The George, Fancy Pants Emporium  
or tel: 01580 713887**

**Sponsored by Hartley Dyke Farm Shop,  
Peter Jones (Opticians) and Waterloo House Tearooms**



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe).

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe. [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

# ANNA KARENINA

**Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina by Helen Edmundson**  
**Directed by Jo Reader**

**Information Evening (with Russian refreshments) –**  
Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Queen's Hall Theatre, 7.30pm.

**Auditions –** Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Performing Arts  
Centre, 7.30pm.

Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Queen's Hall Theatre, 7.30pm  
- additional audition for those who can't attend on 8<sup>th</sup>  
November.

**Rehearsals start -** Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 in the  
Performing Arts Centre.

**Performance dates -** 7.30pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

For more information contact Jo Reader -  
[jreader67@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jreader67@hotmail.co.uk)

## TWENTY-TWENTY VISION – CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARY

In 2020 we will be celebrating 100 years since the very first CODS production. With such a special anniversary approaching we would like to plan something really exciting; a year of celebrations that will appeal to every member of our society to include a range of different events and productions.

A Centenary Subcommittee has been set up and we would welcome input from our members. This could be by joining the subcommittee and becoming fully involved with the planning of the entire year; by pitching to direct a production or just by emailing us any ideas and suggestions.

Below are our initial ideas; nothing is decided, agreed or planned. Please let us know your thoughts so that we can plan a year that will be truly memorable and will reflect the desires of the membership.

### **Ideas**

We need a good name for our Centenary.

An ideal time for a rebrand. Change of Logo (at last). Change of society name?

Community bunting/quilt/banner – Each member is given a piece of fabric, such as a triangle of bunting, to create their own design. All pieces are then joined together. We could then use it at events and each new member could add their triangle when they join.

Souvenir Brochure.

Display – History of CODS.

T-shirt with new logo.

February – Codspiece Cabaret – A Gala Dinner. A chance for members to perform a song or sketch/monologue/duologue of their choice – rehearsed and directed much in the same way as our old February concert. Queen's Hall floor cleared. Round tables. Food and drink. Could include anecdotes of years gone by, Curlys through the ages and a history of CODS done in the style of The Reduced Shakespeare Company.

## TWENTY-TWENTY VISION – CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARY

Spring Play – A Bunch of Amateurs by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman. A comedy about a fading Hollywood action hero who arrives in England to play King Lear at Stratford – only to find that he has inadvertently agreed to perform with a small amateur society. This play is described as a ‘love-letter to amateur dramatics’ and is written by a local celebrity. **OR** we chose something written in the 1920’s – Coward, Wodehouse, Bernard Shaw etc. **OR** any other suggestion.

Summer Production – Open Air Shakespeare – A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Music and magic. Could include an Elizabethan Banquet or picnic. **OR** any other suggestion.

Autumn Musical – 1920’s theme - Thoroughly Modern Millie **OR** any other suggestion.

Christmas – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – seasonal and spectacular. **OR** Bugsy Malone. **OR** any other suggestion.

The Great Gatsby/Flapper themed Members’ Evening.

Music Hall Evening.

Festival of Music and Drama.

Big Shorts. 1920’s Shorts. Centenary Shorts. Surreal Shorts.

Host KDA awards.

Apply for Andrew Lloyd-Webber funding.

Please let us know what you think and if you have any ideas that could contribute to a really exciting and celebratory year.

Jo Reader – [jreader67@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jreader67@hotmail.co.uk)

Annie Hatcher – [annie.hatch33@gmail.com](mailto:annie.hatch33@gmail.com)

Alison Withey-Harrison – [awh@thompsons.co.uk](mailto:awh@thompsons.co.uk)

Sharon Pickles – [domesticgoddess76@hotmail.com](mailto:domesticgoddess76@hotmail.com)



# CINDERELLA

**Hi everyone. We have a wonderful cast for our 2018 pantomime, Cinderella! Hurrah!!**

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Cinderella               | Chloe Swann            |
| Prince Charming          | Phoebe Harris          |
| Dandini                  | Rachel Croft-Golding   |
| Buttons                  | Jack Davidson          |
| Verruca (Ugly Sister)    | Vicky King             |
| Gorgonzola (Ugly Sister) | Wendy Thomas           |
| Fairy Godmother          | Annie Hatcher          |
| Baroness Hardup          | Alison Withey-Harrison |
| Baron Hardup             | Peter Ashby            |
| Fairy Godfather          | Mark Cheeseman         |
| Heads                    | Michaela Tick          |
| Tails                    | Sarah Hutchings        |
| King Harry               | Geoff King             |
| Queen Meghan             | Val King               |
| Fairy Nuff               | Caitlin Mathieson      |
| Tinker                   | Jacob Santer           |
| Comedy Tree              | Phil Mummery           |

## **Ensemble Cast**


Cedar Thomas-Davies, Evelyn Kite, Juniper Thomas-Davies, Keeley Bolton, Ellie Stainton, Florrie Totterdell, Rosie Barker, Tom Luck, Imogen Barker, Erica Loy, Ryan Marriott, Kiera Ashton, Ellie Pattenden, Eva Wilson, Gracie Beard

# CINDERELLA

Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society Pantomime 2018

# Cinderella

*by Jack Davidson*



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December

Sponsored by Peter Jones (Opticians), Hartley Dyke Farmshop,

## A SIGN OF THE TIMES?

Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society (CODS) has become the first local amateur theatre group to provide a British Sign Language (BSL) live interpreter for one performance of each of its shows. What's it all about? We asked Jo Levett, CODS Executive Committee member, to explain.

**CW: Why do we need a signing interpreter? Do we have many deaf people coming to see CODS shows?**

JL: Firstly, under the Equality Act 2010 service providers have a duty to make 'reasonable adjustments' so that people with disabilities are able to access services, so it's actually something that should be happening everywhere. People with hearing impairments are not usually able to access shows, as they can't hear what's being said by the actors. We want to welcome BSL users to our shows so that they can enjoy them just as much as a hearing audience. We're hoping this is just the start of opening up local amateur theatre to people with a significant hearing loss.

**CW: Isn't it distracting for hearing people in the audience to have a signer up on stage?**

JL: In our experience, absolutely not! Our first signed show was 'The Real Inspector Hound' in April this year. Anyone who came along to the Thursday performance was treated to a signed performance by Laura Goulden, a very experienced performance interpreter. Laura stood at the edge of the stage and her performance was amazing. As well as using fast, precise BSL signing, Laura's animated facial expressions, rather than being distracting, actually enhanced the performance for hearing as well as deaf audience members. In fact several hearing audience members contacted me to say how impressed they were with Laura's performance and how much it added to their enjoyment of the evening. If hearing people are really worried about being distracted there is a message on Ticketsource so that they can book tickets on the other side of the auditorium or choose to attend a performance which does not include BSL signing.

**CW: How do the signing interpreters keep up? Surely they can't sign everything? What about the songs?**

JL: We only use interpreters who are well-qualified and have experience of exactly this kind of work. Many of them carry out this kind of work for professional West End performances. Although they are skilled in simultaneous interpreting (very

## A SIGN OF THE TIMES?

useful for pantos!) they have the script well in advance and carry out lots of background work so that they get to know the lines. They also come to rehearsals beforehand so that they get an idea of the tone of voice used, and get familiar with how the cast are portraying the characters. They really do their homework. They have all the song lyrics beforehand and practise signing along to the music, so deaf audience members get a sense of the rhythm and feel of the songs.

If you're interested, why not come along to our next signed performance, to see for yourself?

### **CW: I might just do that. When is your next BSL signed performance?**

JL: We're currently rehearsing hard for our autumn musical, 'Guys and Dolls', which is on 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October, with the BSL signed performance on the first night – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Then at Christmas we have our panto, 'Cinderella' which is on 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> December, with the BSL signed performance on the 28<sup>th</sup> December, and next spring we will be performing our spring play 'Anna Karenina', again including BSL interpreting. All the information is on our website: <https://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/>, or our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cranbrookods/>.

Can I also just mention a special offer for BSL users? We can offer them discounted tickets for the BSL signed performances.

For information just contact me at [jolevettslt@gmail.com](mailto:jolevettslt@gmail.com).



# NOTICES

## CODSWALLOP SCHEDULE

We release the newsletter bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. All articles need to be submitted by the third Friday of the month before publication keeping them concise (under two pages). Any article received after this will go into the next issue.



Registered Charity No 1105153  
Affiliated to the National  
Operatic & Dramatic Association  
and Kent Drama Association

## RULES AND CONSTITUTION

A copy of the society's Rules and Constitution is available in a members only, password protected, area on our website,. Please contact Hatch ([CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com)) for the password and go to the following link to view these -

<https://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/members-only>

## TICKETSOURCE

CODS now charge NO booking fee when you buy tickets for our shows and events online. That means the price for tickets remains the same whether you buy them online or from one of our box office partners.

## FLISHINGHURST TIDY SATURDAY ELEVENTH AUGUST FROM TEN A.M (THIS SATURDAY)

Please come along to Flishinghurst on Saturday the 11th August and help us do some tidying! We need to clear away some things from outside the huts but mainly I'd like to tidy and organise the furniture store. Come for a little while or stay for the whole time. I'm going to be there from 10 am and hope to finish by 1pm. Any hardy souls who last until then may get a drink at the Peacock! Bring gloves and wear grubby clothes. See you there!

Hatch - [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com) tel - 01580 388716

## SHOWS AND DIRECTORS FOR TWENTY-NINETEEN AND TWENTY-TWENTY

The show recommendation committee and Centenary Committee are inviting directors for; pantomime 2019, spring concert 2020, play 2020 and musical 2020. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find details of some of the ideas we've had so far for the Centenary. If you are interested in directing a show for CODS then please do contact them via the Honorary Secretary - [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com). Our 100 year anniversary is 2020! A year to celebrate.

## NOTICES

### CODS PHOTOS, PROGRAMMES AND POSTERS ACROSS THE YEARS

You may have noticed our wonderful (even if I say so myself) new website. If not, go to [cranbrookods.org.uk](http://cranbrookods.org.uk) to have a look. As part of the update I will gradually add back in all the content that Stephen Kent built up including photos, programme excerpts and posters from a lot of our shows. However, and naturally, the further back we go the less of this sort of material we have. If you have any old programmes, or photos, or posters please could we have them to scan and add to the archive on the website? They will be returned to you.

Last week I received a lovely message from Clinton Johnson who grew up in Biddenden until the early 1990's. His Mum was a member of Biddenden Entertainment Society and then Biddenden Amateur Dramatics Society. During the 1960's and 70's. His message goes on to say;

*'She attended a number of CODS productions for which she kept the programmes. Sadly she passed away 25 years ago now and still today I am trying to keep/pass on/ dispose of a lot of the things she collected. Including a good number of theatre production programmes.*

*Having "carried" them this far I am very loathed just to put them out for re-cycling, so I Googled your organisation and lo and behold found under your "Past Productions" page a request for any old photos & programmes from past performances. This is how I came to be emailing you today. I have programmes for 9 productions from November 1965 to 1978, with a duplicate for "The White Sheep of the Family" in your 54th Season.*

*I hope receiving them would be of interest to you and your colleagues & I look forward to hearing from you.'*

Clinton is going to deliver them to me some time very soon. I will get them onto the website as soon as possibly after that and let you all know that they are there.

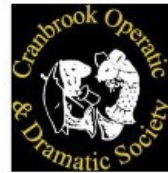
If you or any of your friends and family have any programmes or photos from our shows, mainly from before 2000, please get in touch. [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com)

### CRANBROOK ARMISTICE CENTENARY REMEMBRANCE DAY

CODS has been asked to be involved in the Cranbrook Armistice Centenary Remembrance Day. Please get in touch if you would be interested in reading, playing, singing or performing in any way via [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com).

# TW LOTTO

Here's a great opportunity to support your society **and** get the chance to win £25,000! Buy a tickets for the TW Lotto for just £1 each and CODS receive 50p from every ticket sold! There are cash prizes and extra tickets to be won each week! So go on what are you waiting for? Click on the image and buy your lucky ticket today!



**Happy 2018**

Put your **New Year promises** into actions! Sign up to support local causes in **YOUR community**

- Support local causes that could change lives forever
- Sign-up for only £1 a week and be part of something great
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket (and a further 10p goes to other good causes in the area)
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting - visit:  
[www.twlotto.co.uk](http://www.twlotto.co.uk)  
Search for:  
**Operatic Dramatic**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older \* Terms and Conditions apply - See website

# OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

## President

Bernard Beardsmore

## Vice Presidents

Pam Baker, Jeremy Cartwright, Dinah Chamberlin,  
Peter Gray, Alan Hodge, George Hudson,  
Peggy Latter, Bill Marshall, Alan Pickett, Dennis Russell,  
John Tapper, Maurice Wilkins, Ian Wookey  
Marian Cumberland, Rita Wilkins

## Executive Committee

Chairman

Guy Fillmore

Vice Chairman

Annie Hatcher

Hon. Secretary

Lee Hatcher

Board Secretary

Jo Levett

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

Business Manager

Matt Barker

Social Secretary

Jackie Barker

Show Selection Chairperson

Angela Woodcock

Committee Members

Jo Reader, Maurice Wilkins,  
Sharon Pickles, Alison Withey-Harrison

Contact details for the committee are  
available via :-

Website - [cranbrookods.org.uk/committee](http://cranbrookods.org.uk/committee)

Email - [CODS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CODS.secretary@gmail.com)

Telephone - 01580 388716

## Officials of the Society

Hall Manager

Maurice Wilkins

Orchestral Secretary

Ruth Roberts

Librarian

Bill Marshall

Wardrobe Mistress

Rita Wilkins

Properties Master

Lee Hatcher

Front of House Manager

John Tapper

Newsletter and Programme Editor

Lee Hatcher

Hon. Auditors

Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams



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# THE BACK PAGE

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your CODSWALLOP Editor Lee Hatcher:  
tel: 01580 388716  
or email: [cods.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cods.newsletter@gmail.com)  
If you have any news, views, or ideas as to what YOU want to see in CODSWALLOP, let me know!



Guys and Dolls is shaping up to be a wonderful show, I'm so proud of all the work that the cast has put in and so pleased with how things backstage are coming together. We do still need a prompt to start attending rehearsals as soon as possible and be there for the entirety of the show week. Please get in touch if you can help on [annie.hatch33@gmail.com](mailto:annie.hatch33@gmail.com). Meanwhile here's a picture of some of my lovely cast! Annie x



**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:  
FRIDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2018**