

CODSWALLOP!

CELEBRATING CODS 100TH YEAR!

FEBRUARY 2020

SING ONE
HUNDRED

ARABIAN
NIGHTS

AGM

KIPPS THE
NEW HALF A
SIXPENCE
MUSICAL

NOTICES

WANTED!

CODS

Canbrook Operatic
& Dramatic Society
1920 – 2020



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CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

CONTACT LEE HATCHER, PENNY TOBIN, GUY FILLMORE

EMAIL: CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM



CODS WEBSITE

CONTACT LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Birthday Boys and Girls,

As this is the first newsletter of our Centenary year, I think I am entitled to say:

Happy Birthday to Us!



Our 100th year has begun with a highly successful **birthday meal** at the London Beach Hotel which we subsidised for those attending and which will produce a valuable boost to our coffers as well as being a lovely afternoon for older and newer members to get together and meet old friends.

The **exhibition of the CODS' Century** had its first outing and members seemed to enjoy finding pictures of themselves treading the boards in years gone by.

We are gearing up to **SING 100 - our Spring concert on March 14th** and we hope to see you all there from 2.30pm at this big event at St. Dunstan's Church, which will celebrate 100 years of CODS' music. There is still time to get involved - come along to the Queen's Hall on Monday 10th February at 7.30pm, or get in touch with Alison on awh@thompsons.co.uk.

Arabian Nights is cast and you can find details later in Codswallop - please support this from 28th - 30th May. Jo has a wonderful vision and a fantastic script which promises a spectacular and colourful show full of puppetry and Eastern promise.

Another date for your diaries: the help night and auditions for the wonderful '**Kipps - The New Half a Sixpence Musical**' will take place on Thursday June 4th (information and help night) and Monday June 8th (auditions). The show is based on the old Half a Sixpence story, but has been updated with new music added and the rather dull ending has been changed to a big ensemble finish - all jolly good fun and a fitting show for our centenary year.

The 2020 Christmas Panto will be **Camelot - The story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table**, directed by James Hanaway and Mark Jeffrey and further details will be available at a later date - watch this space!

On other matters, the **CODS AGM** will take place in the Cranbrook School Lecture Theatre on March 24th and we hope to see you all there to have your say. We need new members of the committee, particularly anyone with expertise in publicity/promotion or who would be willing to take the minutes of meetings, though neither of these things are compulsory for anyone wishing to stand. You will find details later in CW and these will also be sent out by email.

Pitches for 2021 will also be considered shortly. The Spring play will be considered at the end of this week with the musical and the panto being looked at at a subsequent committee meeting. Please get in touch: cods.secretary@gmail.com with your propositions.

It's all very busy and exciting this year and we want to continue for another 100 years, so get involved if you possibly can and we can ensure a secure and equally successful second century for CODS.

Annie x

TREASURE ISLAND - NODA REVIEW



Be inspired by amateur theatre

CODS

**A NODA Script by Toby Bradford & Tina Webster
Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
Director: Annie Hatcher
Musical Director: Ruth Roberts
Sunday 29th December 2019**

With family stalwarts – Lee in his varying roles and Annie at the helm of the nautical adventures aboard the Hispaniola the cast sailed away from the Admiral Benbow Inn with Blind Pew's treasure map to discover Captain Flint's buried treasure. Of course, on board we have an assortment of goodies and baddies. After the ship runs aground the motley crew are washed up on an island of sunshine, palm trees, Robinson Crusoe and his Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Girls and of course the hidden treasure. All with the aid of one Fairy Godmother and her 'mobile' magic wand in perfected rhyme and the sprinkling of fairy dust and the help of the children and adults present. Good overcame evil and all had a good time.

The Roberts were in control of the live band, set at one side of the stage, with musical numbers – a very good selection of jolly seafaring ditties, of romance, singalong - a modern and nostalgic mix.

The young, ensemble cast, worked hard together and obviously enjoyed themselves. Captain Corker'un was played by Evelyn Kite who literally let her hair down! In tunic and hose, high leather boots Sarah Hutchings was avid adventure book reader Jim Hawkins, who fell for Squire Trelawny's daughter Felicity, delightfully performed by Lucinda Hurt taking her first principal role. Landlady of the Admiral Benbow Inn was Ma Hawkins, with Andy Clarke sporting some dubious wigs and frocks, a great sailor's suit in dame tradition. Mark Cheeseman as Long John Silver had his feet on the ground, was agreeably bad and we enjoyed much booing. Billy Brass and Nicky Knuckles (Michaela Adam and Julie Aitken) played a pair of comedy pirates who turned to good and encouraged much shouting of 'Shiver Me Timbers'. Fairy Godmother – Charlotte Fillmore drew her tinkling telephone aerial with aplomb, rhyming her tale, adding a number we know well – when a fairy reaches a certain age! She encouraged the children to come up on stage, introduce themselves and then made sure they had a little treat. One young man told us some 'Knock Knock' jokes with much confidence and we sang 'Happy Birthday' to a Dad in the audience.

Eva Wilson added much colour with her portrayal of Polly the Parrot as she perched on her stool. Max Chesters, who is currently studying Drama and attends Cranbrook School gave a 'top notch' performance as Robinson Crusoe both in speech and lyric.

Costumes were in house, prepared by Rita Wilkins and related to the period. Some interesting lighting effects including strobe were devised – Annie was on follow spot with Owen Ling taking overall charge during this production, much to his delight, with Penny Tobin once again efficiently on the sound desk, managing mikes and heading makeup.

Scenery was well constructed and adapted by the team, in particular, centrally set were two beautifully lit palm trees with rocks hiding the treasure chest. With pirates, treasure, The Hispaniola to keep shipshape, the Inn, a desert island there was plenty for Props Master, Lee, to be responsible for!

TREASURE ISLAND - NODA REVIEW

Young pirates enjoyed the action and together with hornpipes, ghosts and skeletons, corny jokes, good overcoming evil all ended happily.

A Very Happy New Year to all involved – to those on stage, in the wings, up aloft, and those behind the scenes to complete the production.

Anne Lawson
Regional Representative
NODA SE
District 3

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH

Tel 01733 374790 **Fax** 01733 237 286 **Email** info@noda.org.uk **Web** www.noda.org.uk

Twitter @NODAtweets **Facebook** NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation

Registered CIO charity number 1171216 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address.

Patrons: The Lord Lloyd Webber and Connie Fisher



TREASURE ISLAND - FROM THE CAST

Returning to CODS - Julie Aitken - Nicky Knuckles

The last show I was in with CODS was The Elephant Man in 2011. After a few shows with TODS and Marden, and a couple of difficult years with illness, I was nervous about joining CODS again for Treasure Island.

I needn't have worried. It was wonderful meeting old friends and making new, great fun playing a ridiculously silly character in such a hugely enjoyable show, with such a committed, fun group. I felt like I was amongst family.

Thank you all so much for welcoming me back.

My first CODs production - Andy Clarke - Ma Hawkins

I say "my first" because I'm sure I'll be back for more!

I must admit, I really needed a panto in my life and so when Annie contacted me to say she was still looking for a Dame, I jumped at the chance of a last minute audition, despite little (actually no) preparation!

From the minute I walked into the first rehearsal, I was made to feel very welcome by everyone. The rehearsals were all very relaxed and informal and everyone enjoyed themselves.

The cast was an amazing mixture of lovely people, right across the age spectrum, and everyone seemed to get on very well right from the start. It was lovely to work with so many younger cast members who all worked so hard to put on the show.

We also had amazing help from a whole load of people behind the scenes; chaperones, costumes, tech and stage crew who all contributed greatly to the atmosphere.

The week of the show was fantastic and, somehow, we managed to pull it together to put on a very entertaining, funny and memorable show with much great feedback received.

It was great to be part of this amazing panto family and I look forward to more in the future.

SING ONE HUNDRED



CRANBROOK OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Centenary Community Concert

A Century of Songs from Scratch!

Saturday March 14 @ 2.30

St. Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook

Rehearsals *: 10th, 17th 20th February – all 7.30pm (not everyone will be needed for all of these)

Main final rehearsals & performance at St Dunstan's Church:

Friday 13th March 7.30pm

Saturday 14th March 10.30am. (bring a pencil & lunch) followed by:

Performance: St Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook 2.30pm

I would like this to be a real community event for all members, past present and future- please spread the word. The concert will also include a 'sing-a-long' element for the audience. Soloists will be expected to already know their solo's in advance as time is limited. John Williams will be providing piano accompaniment and percussion.

*If you can't make some of the rehearsals but still want to sing- please get in touch- we'd still love you to be involved.

If you have any funny or interesting memories of CODS which can be read out as part of the concert please e-mail them to me at: Alternatively, e mail: awh@thompsons.co.uk

Help us celebrate our Centenary !

CODS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2020 AGM for CODS is on Tuesday 24th March at 7.30pm.

The meeting will be in the Lecture Theatre, Cranbrook School. You will find this building across the courtyard from the top of the slope outside the Queen's Hall backstage entrance.

We are pleased to invite you to attend the meeting, to hear about CODS over the last year, its plans for 2020-21, to vote for your executive committee membership and to take the opportunity to contribute to the future of your society. Please think about joining the committee at the AGM, details on how to do this will accompany the formal notification.

The formal notification and meeting agenda will be sent out in the next few weeks, and these and minutes from the 2018/19 AGM will also be available upon request from cods.secretary@gmail.com.

Drinks and snacks will be provided from 7:30pm.

NOTICES

FLISHINGHURST HELP

CODS relies on a few long standing members to build the scenery for all of our shows, at all times of year, in all kinds of weather. They work really hard and are all past retirement age. They need much more help and we need other people to learn how to build sets for us. They currently work on Fridays but with enough help they could also work on other days. Can you help?

Without these chaps our scenery wouldn't exist, or it would be very expensive!

Let us know if you can help and when you can help. CODS.secretary@gmail.com

CHARLES SHARP

Many members will remember Charles Sharp, who worked on scenery for many years, and who has recently passed away. His funeral is at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on February 18th at 2.30pm

CODS NEEDS AN ARCHIVIST

We would love someone to take over the organisation of CODS' archives. We have 100 years of information, most of which has already been filed in plastic boxes. Posters and photographs of shows from the past few years however are waiting to be added, and we need someone who can continue to keep our records up to date. If you are interested in helping with this please get in touch. It would be lovely to have a society member getting involved.

Contact: cods.secretary@gmail.com

WANTED

WANTED at the AGM

A new committee member who will also be 'board secretary' who mainly takes minutes at committee meetings and sends them out to committee members.

WANTED at the AGM

A new committee member who will also be 'publicity manager' dealing with social media, newspaper/ magazine advertising and other events. If you are interested you would not necessarily need to be on the society's committee.

WANTED:

Pitches for our shows in 2021

We need directors to put forward their propositions for all three productions next year – Spring Play (we will discuss these on Friday 14th Feb), the Autumn Musical and the Christmas Panto

FIRST AID FOR CODS

You may or may not be aware that, as well as being a CODS member, I am also a qualified and accredited First Aid trainer, delivering and certificating a large range of nationally recognised Ofqual regulated awards, that satisfy the requirements of the regulatory body for First Aid, ie The Health and Safety Executive.

I am passionate about giving everybody the opportunity to learn how to save a life in an emergency situation, by offering courses at a greatly reduced price (St Johns and The Red Cross charge over £100 per person for the same syllabus).

I am now booking from April onwards. All courses are held on a Saturday, and includes the cost of accredited certification, a first aid book to take away, and all course resources.

For CODs members, and their families and friends, I am able to offer the following:-

FAA Level 3 Award in Emergency Paediatric First Aid (RQF) – one day course
- £50 per person

FAA Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (RQF) – one day course -
£50 per person

FAA Level 2 Award in Basic Life Support and Safe Use of AED (RQF) – this course is a 4 hour course that is very practical and will enable you to use an AED competently with confidence - £30 per person

There are a range of other accredited courses that the teachers amongst you, may be interested in for 'teacher training days' etc.

If you are interested, in the first instance please email me, Angela Wright, on acwr@live.com to register your interest. Please also let CODS know you are interested via CODS.secretary@gmail.com and they will be able to subsidise the costs.

Angela Wright

CODS CENTENARY LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first Centenary event, the lunch at London Beach on Sunday 2nd February. It was a highly successful and well attended event, raising money for the society as well as giving us all a chance to catch up with friends. It was lovely to see several longer standing members who helped open and celebrate our centenary year in style!

Part of the profits from Treasure Island are being donated to charity, with £500 to Hospice in the Weald, £250 to F.U.M and £250 to Hypo Hounds; Scooby and his owner Sophie accepted a cheque for £250 on behalf of the charity from Annie;



All the money that members paid towards food as well as any money that CODS paid for the meal will be paid to CODS by London Beach. Thank you again everyone!



ARABIAN NIGHTS

Arabian Nights

CAST LIST

Phoebe Harris – Shahrazad/Talking Bird/Youngest Sister

Simon Tomlinson – King Shahrayar/Ghoul/King

Liberty Frazier – Dinarzad/Ali's Wife/Tailor's Wife/Friend
/Sorceress/Parizade

Peter Ashby – Vizier/Baba Mustapha/Steward/Uncle
/Haroun/Vizier 2

Matthew Sims – Ali Baba/Doctor/Es-Sindibad/King/Sidi 1
/Steward/Dervish

Jo Levett – Kasim's Wife/Doctor's Wife/Merchant Puppet
1/Aunt/Mother/Customer 2/Second Sister

James Harper – Slave/Kasim/Ali's Son/Tailor/Merchant
Puppet 3/Abu Hassan/Sidi 2/Prince Bahman

Emma Hancock – Queen/Marjanah/Chief of Police/Foe
/Amina/Woman/Head Cook

Max Chesters – Captain/Merchant/Es-Sindibad the Porter
/Fakir/Baker/Prince Perviz

Charlotte Fillmore – Thief/King/Merchant Puppet 2/Marriage
Broker/Customer 1/Elder Sister

Sarah Hutchings – Thief/Bride/Maid/Page/Bride/Steward's
Wife

Mark Jeffery – Headsman/Druggist/Hangman/Preacher

Lili Hancock – Thief/Passer-by x2/Watchman/Wedding
Guest/Dog/Snake/Bird/Stone

Aurelia Davis – Thief/Passer-by x2/Girl/Wedding
Guest/Dog/Snake/Bird/Stone

Evie Williams – Thief/Little Beggar/Wedding Guest/Passer-
by/Dog/Snake/Bird/Stone

KIPPS - THE NEW HALF A SIXPENCE MUSICAL



We are one of the first societies to get the rights to this show and the new version has been altered to make it more fun and to remove the rather dull part that you might remember from the end of the film version with Tommy Steele!

Stiles and Drew (composers of the new Mary Poppins and of Honk) have updated the music and added new songs.

There are many roles for young and old - 12 principals and an ensemble, and great music, including 'If the Rain's Got to Fall' and 'Flash Bang Wallop'.

Kipps is a feel good, happy and funny musical, based in this area with mentions of Folkestone, Marden etc.

Please Keep these dates free;

Thursday June 4th - Information and help night - Performing Arts Centre

Monday June 8th - Auditions - Queens Hall

Perusal script

<http://www.mtishows.co.uk/kipps-the-new-half-a-sixpence-musical>

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President

Bernard Beardsmore

Vice Presidents

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

Executive Committee

Chairman

Annie Hatcher

Vice Chairman

Guy Fillmore

Hon. Secretary

Lee Hatcher

Board Secretary

Alison Withey-Harrison

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

Social Secretary

Jane Hurt

Committee Members

Maurice Wilkins, Bryan Hurt,
Karen Kember, Penny Tobin

Contact details for the committee are
available via :-

Website - cranbrookods.org.uk/committee

Email - CODS.secretary@gmail.com

Telephone - 01580 388716

Officials of the Society

Hall Manager

Maurice Wilkins

Orchestral Secretary

Ruth Roberts

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

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

If you have any news, views, or ideas as to what YOU
want to see in CODSWALLOP, let me know!



SING 100

To help celebrate our Centenary there will be a
concert in St Dunstons church, Cranbrook at 2.30pm
on 14th March.

The Concert will include songs from shows that have
been performed by CODS since 1920, with solos,
duets, ensemble numbers and lots of chances for the
audience to join in!

If you would like to take part please get in touch
(details elsewhere in the newsletter)

If you can't take part please come along & support us.
Entrance is free. We will be raising money at the
concert for CODS and for St Dunstons.

SEE YOU THERE! - HATCH

**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:
FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2020**