

# CODSWALLOP!

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Bi-Monthly Newsletter

## MARCH 2016

Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society presents:

# CARDS ON THE TABLE

Dramatised by Leslie Darbon from the original novel by

*Agatha Christie*

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April

Queen's Hall

Theatre

Tickets:

Ubersports

The George Hotel

01580 713887 or from

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

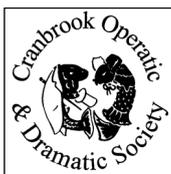
**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

# CONTENTS

<u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM MARCH 2016</u>	3 - 5
<u>NOTICES</u>	6
<u>OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY</u>	7
<u>SILLY SHORTS</u>	8 - 11
<u>THE BACK PAGE</u>	



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CODS WEBSITE  
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**“OH, MY DEAR FRIEND, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO GIVE ONESELF AWAY – UNLESS ONE NEVER OPENS ONE'S MOUTH! SPEECH IS THE DEADLIEST OF REVEALERS.” – AGATHA CHRISTIE, CARDS ON THE TABLE**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM MARCH 2016

The 2015/16 season for CODS, although being another deficit year in terms of the accounts has seen the society support and produce a series of successful shows. All of which would not be possible without the continued support of the President, Vice-Presidents, Committee, Officers and members. In



particular I would like to thank all those people who work tirelessly behind the scenes of the productions be it building sets at Flishinghurst, looking after Front of House, shifting scenery or sewing costumes and applying makeup, the show wouldn't go on without these sometimes un-sung heroes. A special vote of thanks also goes out to Cranbrook School, Terry Davies, David Beeken and the other school staff who make it possible for us to use such a fantastic theatre. Other local societies rarely have the opportunity to put on productions in such a professional space so we're always grateful for the special relationship that we have with Cranbrook School.

The season kicked off with an award winning production of Alan Bennett's adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows*. Directed by Alison Withy-Harrison, the show was a huge success, popular with audiences and the KDA adjudicator alike! Coming second in the Best Play in the KDA Festival, there were also awards for Best New Festival Director and runner up in the Best Overall Director for Ali, Best Actor in a supporting role for James Hanaway as Albert the Horse, Runner up awards for Best Actor (Robin Harrison as Toad), Stage Presentation, technical Achievement, Wardrobe, Lighting and Sound, as well as winning the Adjudicator's Special Award for imaginative stage make-up!

Awards aside, this was a show that, despite its own Dramas (including broken bones!) along the way, was fabulously entertaining, colourful and full of character, a fantastic way to start the year.

Our next production saw the summer concept of "Shorts" move to the Ellen Terry Barn Theatre in Smallhythe with *Short Letters*. Once again bringing together edited performances of songs and extracts from plays, this time we also had two one act plays – *The Dumb Waiter* and *The Actor's Nightmare* to

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM MARCH 2016

start and end the themes of love, loss, life and death told through the travelling of a letter. The production as always relied on a minimal set and relatively simple costumes but gave performers a chance to stretch their artistic muscles and where else would you find a choir singing Mozart with a String Quartet accompanied by the final words uttered from an actor standing in a bin, dressed in a bin liner! The show was well received by those who came to see it and it was only a shame that more didn't come, but that aside it was a great success.

*The Producers* came next and couldn't have been more different! Loud, large, raucous and filled with everything from a spectacular dance routine with old ladies on zimmer frames to the campest Hitler role played by a Director ever seen (on and off stage!!). This full-on show was not for the faint hearted but it wowed its audiences and saw the use of some innovative stage settings, with the Orchestra at the back of the stage and a fabulous wardrobe throughout. Again, despite some low audience figures at the beginning of the run, the Director Jack Davidson and his team should be rightly proud of having put on a wonderfully vibrant and successful show.

The last production of the year was the charity pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*. I stepped in along with Rachel Croft-Golding to take over the Direction at short notice and we faced many challenges both technically and with the short rehearsal time. However with a good cast that worked hard and gave lots of energy to the show and with some creative solutions, we ended up with a fun-filled, modern pantomime that really gave the audiences the right sort of Christmas family entertainment that they were looking for. Not only did the show give everyone who saw it a good laugh but it also gave a good sum of cash to two deserving causes. Demelza Hospice Care for Children and Camara both received £1200 to help in their work with children here in Kent and in Africa. Another great success to end the year.

Outside of the productions, the society has maintained a



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM MARCH 2016

healthy membership base, attracting new members through the various shows and through some new activities such as the well-attended Dance workshops kindly put on by Lisa Ferris, Charlotte and James Maughan-Jones and Jack Davidson. To those who have left the society we say thank you for all your help and dedication over the years and to those who have left us to take on their own Awfully Big Adventure in the ether we say a sad but fond farewell.

Looking forward, we have an exciting programme for 2016/2017 with Agatha Christie's *Cards on the Table* on show soon, *Silly Shorts* around Cranbrook in June, Pinter's *Betrayal* in September and a Christmas show still up for grabs! We hope that this year will be just as successful artistically and more so financially. We can all help in making this happen by spreading the word to friends and family about the entertainment that is on offer and really getting behind the shows in a positive way from the beginning. Tell them and they will come!

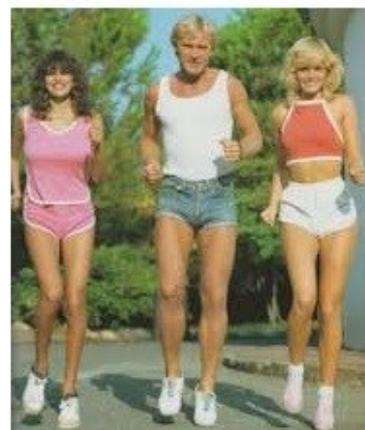
Finally I would like to say huge thank yous to John Tapper, who is stepping down as Treasurer; his keen eye and guardianship of CODS funds have been a great service to the society over a number of years. Many, many thanks also to Bill Marshall who is stepping down from his position as President. Bill's experience and wise head will be missed at committee. Thank you John and Bill for all your help and support. In their places we welcome Glyn Roberts to the Committee as Treasurer and congratulate Bernard Beardsmore on his election to CODS President.

(All the details of Committee member and Officer elections and other details from the AGM can be found in the meeting minutes which are attached to this newsletter)

Best wishes, James Hanaway - Chair CODS

[jameshanaway@hotmail.com](mailto:jameshanaway@hotmail.com)

### **Silly Shorts**



**Music, Sketches,  
Plays & Silliness  
in venues around  
Cranbrook**

**24th and 25th June**

## NOTICES

### CODSWALLOP!

We aim to release the newsletter bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November, shortly after the Committee Meeting (on the 2nd Friday of the month, in CODSWALLOP months). All articles to be submitted by the Friday following the meeting, keeping them concise (under two pages) with contact for, or links to, further information if required.

We are continually looking to improve CODSWALLOP! Any thoughts on what we could do would be gratefully received. Please contact Lee on [leedavehatcher@gmail.com](mailto:leedavehatcher@gmail.com) . Thank you.

### THURSDAY EVENING WORKSHOPS

We have been running informal, drop-in workshops in the PAC alongside rehearsals for the forthcoming show. To date we have had dance workshops, run by Lisa and also specialist 'Lindy Hop' workshops, run by Charlotte. These have been great fun and well attended. It is a great way to keep in touch with members even if you are not in the next production, as well as learning a new skill or improving an old one.

We would like to know whether there are any members out there who have a particular skill and are willing to run a workshop or two to teach society members, also if there are any skills which members would like to learn at a Thursday evening workshop/course. Please get in touch with a member of the committee to let them know, or come along on a Thursday evening to join in.

# 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

## **Executive Committee**

Chairman

James Hanaway

Vice Chairman

Guy Fillmore

Hon. Secretary

Jackie Barker

Board Secretary

Victoria King

Treasurer

Glyn Roberts

Social Secretary

Marian Cumberland

Business Manager

Matt Barker

Show Selection Chairman

Angela Woodcock

Committee Members

Maurice Wilkins, Rachel Croft-Golding  
Annie Chesters, Alison Withey-Harrison

## **Officials of the Society**

Hall Manager

Maurice Wilkins

Make-up Advisor

Debbie Knight

Publicity Officers

Matt Barker, Ruth Saunders

Orchestral Secretary

Ruth Roberts

Librarian

Bill Marshall

Wardrobe Mistresses

Rita Wilkins

Properties Master

Lee Hatcher

Front of House Manager

Marian Cumberland

Chaperone Co-ordinator

Jackie Barker

Newsletter Editor

Lee Hatcher

Preview Audience Secretary

Marian Cumberland

Sponsors Secretary

Marian Cumberland

Programme Editor

Lee Hatcher

Hon. Auditors

Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams

## **Patrons of the Society**

Alison Parsons, Biddy Danin, Clem Danin, Lee Hatcher

# SILLY SHORTS

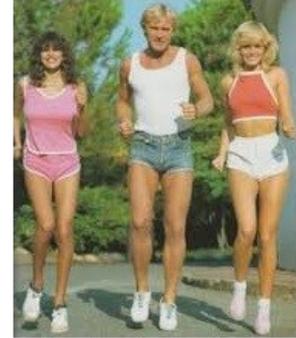
## Auditions

Silly Shorts is a return to the original Shorts format, with six short shows taking place in six different venues across Cranbrook.

This year the theme is Silly! So all the shows are absurd, funny and a little bit off-the-wall.

See below for a precis of each short performance and the parts and characters up for audition. Note there are some changes from the previous pieces advertised.

## Silly Shorts



Music, Sketches,  
Plays & Silliness  
in venues around  
Cranbrook

24th and 25th June

There will be an information night on **Thursday 14th April** and the main auditions on **Thursday 21st April** (venues to be advised nearer the date via Facebook), with rehearsals starting from **Monday 25th April**. I hope as many of you as possible can make both of these nights, but let me know if you cannot and we can send on information and arrange a separate audition. Thanks everyone.

## Performances

### The Accident

A play within a play with no props or set (that being close to the point).

Synopsis:

A small theatre company is preparing for opening night of their friend's original play when an accident prevents the truck carrying costumes and props from arriving. Determined to salvage the production, the actors stage the play using other actors and their stagehands as scenery...

Cast:

Dennis, (M) director of the play (plays part of the set)

Mark, (M) laid back sound man (plays the part of the mother)

## SILLY SHORTS

Aiden, (M) Serious actor (Plays the part of Richard)

Pam, (F) female actress who loves to improvise (Plays the part of Pam)

Julie, (F) flamboyant actress (Plays the part of the Psychic)

Brian, (M) part of the set

Tim, (M) part of the set

Director, (M/F) the Director who discovers them

See the script here -

<http://www.lazybeescripts.co.uk/Scripts/script.aspx?iSS=1598>

### Questions

A short play, with a minimal set.

Synopsis:

Edward is getting annoyed with the nurse who is giving him his home visit check-up. She's asking all sorts of silly questions when he knows that he's perfectly fine. But not everything is as Edward remembers it.

Cast:

Edward Fowler (M) - Elderly Patient

Nurse (F) - Younger Emma Goddard

Newsreader - (M/F) Offstage or recorded

See the script here

<http://www.lazybeescripts.co.uk/Scripts/script.aspx?iSS=2103>

# SILLY SHORTS

## Fish and other animals

Compilation of Silly sketches & short comedy set pieces taking place around town

Synopsis:

Main sketch will be Monty Python's "The Fish Licence" sketch, others will be short animal related jokes played out by characters

Cast:

Fish Licence

Mr/Mrs Praline – (M/F) customer requesting a licence for his pet fish, Eric

Post office worker – (M/F) jobsworth who denies Mr/Mrs Praline's licence

'Half a bee' choir – two singers

Other sketches:

A Chicken, An Egg, Four Swans, Two Guards, Two Fish slappers, Swedish Chemist and Customer (All can be doubled up with Fish Licence actors plus two others)

## When shall we three meet again? (Original title When the Hurley Burley's done)

Different take on the classical Shakespearian scene...

Synopsis:

Three very familiar hags are gathered in a local pub!, but a certain Thane is running late. The ladies discuss their options and possible plans, before finally getting down to the business of the night.

Cast:

Isadora – a witch

Arabella – a witch

Maud – a witch

Macbeth - a tardy vane (offstage voice)

# SILLY SHORTS

## Dearly Beloved

A mash up of songs lead by an alternative choir leader!

Synopsis:

Daddy leads the congregation in a series of irreverent but jumping songs that have no real meaning but sound awesome!

Cast:

Daddy – preacher and lead singer

Choir – daddy's flock providing harmonies and individual highlights to the songs

Band – rock band behind the singers

The last show will be an improvised Bus Conductor sketch on a vintage bus travelling around Cranbrook which will be pre-cast.

We will also need three Guides to show the audiences around the venues. These roles are crucial to the performance and can be developed into silly characters by the folks in the role they just need to be someone people would follow, for example:

**BRIAN: He's not a guide he's just a very naughty boy!**



**Guidey McGuide Face!**



[Return to Front Page](#)

# THE BACK PAGE

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your Codswallop Editor Lee Hatcher: tel: 07539 460571

or email: [leedavehatcher@gmail.com](mailto:leedavehatcher@gmail.com)

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



## CARDS ON THE TABLE

Superintendent Battle

Mrs Ariadne Oliver

Dr. Roberts

Ann Meredith

Mrs Lorrimer

Major Despard

Rhoda Dawes

Shaitana

Miss Burgess

Sergeant O'Connor

Doris

Mary

Director

Assistant Director

Stage Manager

Properties

Costumes

Prompt

Andy Fairweather

Becky James

Vicky King

Annie Chesters

Matt Barker

Vicky King

Max Chesters

Sharon Pickles

Michaela Tick

Charlie Barnett

Sharon Pickles

David Baker

Samantha King

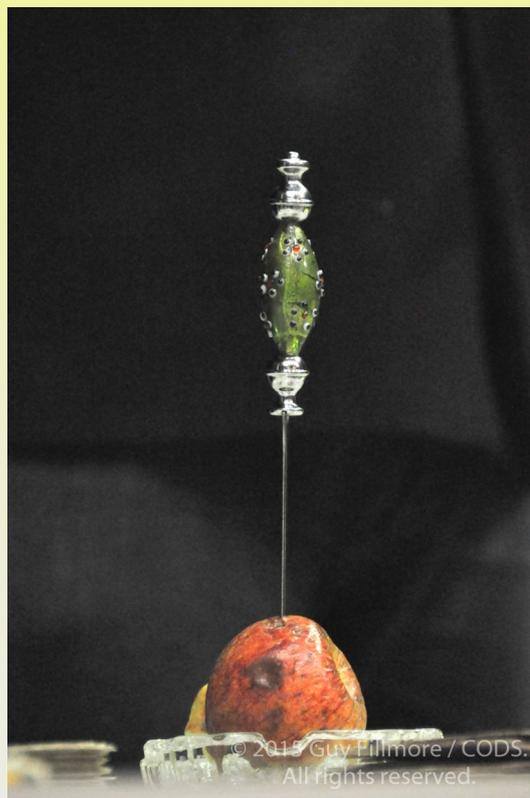
Sarah Davis

Jez Druce

Rachel Croft Golding

Peter Ashby

Debbie Knight



**Here's to the cast and crew of Cards on the Table. Break a leg!**

**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:  
FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2016**