

# CODSWALLOP

Newsletter of the Crediton Operatic and Dramatic Society

March 2015

## DUST OFF YOUR STETSON AND MOSEY OVER TO OKLAHOMA!

Tickets on sale now! Available from Olivia James Design, or via the CODS website



*Benjamin Edgecombe as Curly*



*Cathy Lamb as Aunt Eller*



*Nicola Wilkes as Laurie*

Rehearsals are frantic. Costumes are arriving. We're just days away from the Get In. Must be time to tell your friends and neighbours that tickets are now on sale. Don't delay, they're going fast, as you would expect with an old Rodgers & Hammerstein favourite such as this. For our ace Director, Emily Killeen, the end is in sight, "We've worked extremely hard for the last 4 months to bring our audiences a delightfully delicious interpretation of this old classic, and I think we're nearing that goal," she said. Emily has great praise for all the cast and crew, "The last weeks before opening night are always the Director's hairiest. Wondering if lines will ever be learnt and the right meaning portrayed. Yet every time, the cast always surpass my expectations!"

This is already feeling like a special show for CODS. No less so as this is our 50th Year! So pull on your boots, saddle up your horse, get your posse together, and come and join us for a rollicking good show. Yeee-ha!

### **Praise for Blitz at the NODA Awards**

As you may know, CODS received a nomination for an award for technical achievement in relation to last year's production of Blitz. Anton and Angela Heal recently attended the awards presentation evening at Bristol and although CODS didn't come away with the award on this occasion, it was gratifying to receive NODA recognition by being nominated. Congratulations to all of those who were involved in technical matters to do with the production.

As a matter of interest, the show that won the top

award for the evening was Witches of Eastwick, staged by a Bristol society. Indeed, it was reported that productions of this show did very well at the presentation evening and it seems to be a very popular choice at the present time. Members will also be pleased to learn that our Choreographer for our own production of Witches in 2016, Rachel Worsley, won the top award of the evening for choreography - Outstanding Choreographer of the South West Region. Many congratulations to Rachel, we look forward to working with her again next year.

### **Also In This Issue**

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Absolutely no Sudoku



*Phil and Benjamin have a minor disagreement*

### **Choral - it's nearly that time again!**

The sub-committee have been working hard putting together an excellent selection of choral numbers to match our theme for 2015, Body and Soul. There are 16 choral items and you'll have to put your thinking caps on to guess which ones have been chosen from the many possibilities.

An additional 8 items will supplement the programme, performed by soloists, duets or small groups. Additional song suggestions should be emailed to Mike at: [canning817@btinternet.com](mailto:canning817@btinternet.com) before 30th April, in time for the sub-committee to prepare the audition list for review in late May/early June. Choral offers a relaxed and enjoyable approach to group singing, with a pleasingly high standard of performance achieved in the resulting concerts. It's a chance to sing with a group, learning from the more experienced voices around you. Individual performers are never pushed into the limelight, but you certainly may opt to have some shone on you. If you've always wanted to have a go, please come along on a Wednesday evening and give it a try, there really is no pressure. New faces have joined us every year and most stay on, so it can't be that bad!

#### **Incorporation**

The Committee are pleased to announce that, in accordance with the wishes of the society, CODS became incorporated as a Private Company Limited by Guarantee on 10 March 2015, and is registered at Companies House with the registration number 09480011.

### **CODS at Crediton Farmers Market**

On Saturday 7th March, CODS made an appearance at Crediton Farmers Market, to promote and inform

people about what happens behind the scenes at our shows and hopefully to attract some new helpers and members. In addition to the backstage stuff, any opportunity to plug *Oklahoma!* was unashamedly grabbed!

The CODS stand for the event, housed in a gazebo kindly loaned by the market organisers, featured plenty of backstage/technical kit. Props from past shows, a selection of lights and control boards, items of costume, and a display of set design artwork. Bringing all this to life were a lively selection of CODS stalwarts, all with plenty of experience of the behind-the-scenes activities that underpin every show.

The reaction from the public across the three hours of the market was positive. One hundred flyers specially prepared for the event were distributed and many enquiries were received, both about show tickets and getting involved with the Society. A Crediton Courier reporter was at the market, we were interviewed at length and a really good write-up appeared in the 13th March edition.



*Cathie, Bobby, Dean and Jo enjoy the sunshine*

To round off a good event, the Farmers Market organising committee offered us an open invitation to return again, as they felt we added new interest to the day.

Our thanks to everybody who visited the stand – we hope to see you soon. Thanks also to the Farmers Market Committee and to all CODS members who worked hard to make this a very successful event.

### **50th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Dance**

**Saturday 16th May at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum. 7pm for 7.30pm**

Dancing to Changes. Dress formal.

Tickets are now on sale for this special celebration of the achievements of the Society over the last 50 years. Members, Friends, past members and Friends, and anyone who has supported CODS and would like to

join us is very welcome to do so. Why not get up a table of friends? Tables at the Waie can be arranged in 6's, 10's or 12's

Tickets are £25 per person and we'll be running a coach from Crediton, if required.

To book tickets (and transport), please email or telephone Mike Canning on 01363 775492, or [canning817@btinternet.com](mailto:canning817@btinternet.com)

Come and join us on a very special night for CODS.



*Dream Ballet - Pianist's eye view. Hard work for all!*

### Facebook - A Q-Branch 'How to' Guide

Hopefully you'll already know that, CODS has an active Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/codscrediton](http://www.facebook.com/codscrediton)) which we do our best to fill with news, info and, just occasionally, some fun. The page is publicly accessible, meaning that it is available to view without a Facebook account.

For those of you who do use Facebook, interaction with the page is a way you can play a positive role in promoting the Society, ultimately helping to put more bums on seats come show time. If you are unsure how to go about this, read on for a quick Q-Branch guide.

Firstly, please "Like" the page, click the button on the photo at the top. To get updates when we post new stuff, select "Get Notifications" and also "Follow" us. Each post on the page offers three options; "Like", "Comment" and "Share". "Like" and "Comment" pretty much do what they say on the tin and we heartily encourage you to do both, with the one proviso that comments should be kept reasonably clean, the page is public, remember?!

The "Share" option is where things get interesting. This is where you can really help spread the word about CODS. Hitting "Share" copies the post to your own Timeline, where all your friends will see it and hopefully tell their friends and so on. A few "Shares" can make the difference between a few dozen people seeing a post and thousands seeing it – powerful marketing, eh?

So, please Like us and Share us - tell the world about CODS!

*Editor's note:* We're also ramping up our Twitter usage. For those of you that do, please follow us @CODSWeb. Again this is another easy way we can all promote the Society, especially with news items, such as tickets going on sale.

### Drama - October 2015

The committee has met and chosen Alan Ayckbourn's 'A Chorus of Disapproval' as this year's play. A Director will be appointed at a later date.

The production timetable is as follows. First Reading 27th April. Second Reading 11th May. Auditions 18th May. Initial plot rehearsals will then follow. Cast members will then be expected to learn the play in their own time, prior to full rehearsals commencing late summer.

If you wish to be involved, keep an eye out for more information at Choral rehearsals, via email, website or Facebook. Please remember that we need production team staff as well as actors. Without you the show cannot go on!

If you wish to get involved in any aspect of the offstage work, we would be very happy to hear from you.



*Phil as Mr Grumpy. Sorry, that should be Jud Fry*

# CODS Caption Competition

Tickle our ribs with a comedy caption for this perfectly innocent photo.  
Print this page and bring it along to an Oklahoma show,  
we'll display all entries and award a prize for the funniest one of the night.



Caption: — — — — —  
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Name: — — — — —