

# BACK STAGE

## DIARY DATES

**3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER:**

**For King & Country'**

Songs, readings & a narration with stories of the day. Commemorating the end of WW1. Matinee - served with English Tea & Cakes  
Evening with Bangers & Mash. More details inside newsletter:

**24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER TODS QUIZ**

A fun evening at the Town Hall. Includes Fish & Chip supper. Start getting your team of six organised.

**8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT**  
With "Tenterden Big Wrap"  
See inside for details

**21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY - FOLLIES**  
Sinden Theatre  
Tenterden

Is there a play or show that you would like to see TODS do? Perhaps you would like to have a go at directing? Contact Heather Barnes via the secretary.

### CONTACT TODS AT:

**Secretary:** [contact@tods.me.uk](mailto:contact@tods.me.uk)  
**Website:** [website@tods.me.uk](http://website@tods.me.uk)  
**Newsletter:** [newsletter@tods.me.uk](mailto:newsletter@tods.me.uk)  
**Social Media:** [social@tods.me.uk](mailto:social@tods.me.uk)

### FOLLOW TODS AT:

**Website:** [www.tods.me.uk](http://www.tods.me.uk)  
**Instagram:** [@tenterden\\_drama](https://www.instagram.com/@tenterden_drama)  
**Facebook Page:** [@TenterdenDrama](https://www.facebook.com/@TenterdenDrama)  
**Facebook Group:** [@TenterdenODS](https://www.facebook.com/@TenterdenODS)  
**Twitter:** [@TenterdenDrama](https://www.twitter.com/@TenterdenDrama)

Call us on 01580 241966 or write to The Secretary, TODS, Holly Cottage, Orchard Court, The Street, Benenden, Kent. TN17 4DE

# TODS



**TENTERDEN  
OPERATIC AND  
DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

## NEWSLETTER

EDITION 1808

## FRONT OF HOUSE

## WELCOME

A note from our Chairman.

We are now into August and still sweltering in the hottest few months we have had for years. It may be that we will leave the store 'tidy up' until September when it will be a little cooler!! Watch this space!

You will have seen in last month's newsletter following the AGM the names of the committee members for this year. We have since had a further re-shuffle, allocating responsibilities more evenly and appropriately. These are shown in more detail elsewhere in this month's newsletter, and hopefully will help you in contacting the appropriate person if you have any queries.

We are also in the process of setting up a new website – contact details are also shown in the newsletter. Once this is up and running John Sewell is going to develop TODS archive with all the material we have from past productions, which hopefully will prove most interesting.

Our recent production of 'Haywire' performed in May, was again very successful and clearly much enjoyed, judging by the audience feedback. Huge thanks go to Vernon Reeve for directing such a fun production and to all the cast, backstage crew, set builders and painters, props, costumes, Front of House and everyone who so generously gives of their time and support to make the production the success it was. Thank you to everyone. As mentioned in the last newsletter this was also TODS entry for the KDA Festival and I would like to add my congratulations to Jane Barton, Angela Patrick and Fiona Murch for achieving Runners up in the Best Wardrobe category and Rebecca Sharp who had a special mention for Best Debut in a Full length Play category for her role as Liz. As a society we also hosted the Awards evening at Benenden, and again many thanks to all those who gave their time and energy to making it such a successful evening.

So to the future – Vernon Reeve has held auditions for November's one-day production 'For King and Country' and is working on putting the programme together. Lynne Andrews, Gillian Davis and other members of the committee are working on providing the tea and supper for each performance

February's production of 'Follies' directed by Louisa Nelson Chambers held two successful auditions and has now been cast and rehearsals are under way. At the moment they are having some difficulties in acquiring a pianist so if anyone is able to help please contact Fiona Murch on the society email address. Many thanks.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and hope to see you at the next production.

Best wishes  
Sally Klemen

# ACT ONE

## SNIPPETS

TODS are collaborating with a local charity "Tenterden Big Wrap" a local charity that raises money to provide disadvantaged families in and around Tenterden with Christmas presents for their children. Details are yet to be confirmed, but we hope to perform a Christmas-themed murder mystery, with the performers fully acting their characters and various audience members being assigned cameo roles for sound effects or one-liners. The planned date is December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall. Auditions will be held so watch this space for details.

### Young Peter O'Toole

As a young aspiring actor Peter O'Toole was overjoyed to have landed a bit part as a Georgian peasant in a Chekhov play. Although the script simply called for him to come on stage, announce, "Dr. Ostroff, the horses are ready," and exit, the ambitious O'Toole conceived of the peasant as a boy of steel, the future Stalin. He perfected Stalin's minor limp, made himself up to look like him, and carefully rehearsed the line, imbuing it with a subtle nuance of proletarian resentment... On opening night, the excited audience was duly intrigued by the entry of the angry peasant - who, turning to Dr. Ostroff, suddenly announced: "Dr. Horsey, the Ostroffs are ready."

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Your membership fees for the year 2018/2019 are now due. The committee are pleased to confirm there has been no increase in cost, it remains at £15.00. You can pay by bank transfer to:  
**TODS**  
Sort Code: 30-90-28  
A/C No. 01730399

*MY FAIR LADY: In its Broadway revival, when Cathleen Nesbitt was playing Rex Harrison's mother on her 90th birthday (Harrison himself was 70), she came on to such an ovation she just bowed gracefully & went straight off again, thinking play was over.*

It's generally acknowledged in the theatre world that the more free booze available to the critics, the more glowing their reviews. The late Beryl Bainbridge once became so 'refreshed' at the interval that, after a crafty fag outside the theatre, she went into the wrong theatre and saw the second half of an entirely different play. She enthused in her column that the production was marvellous and experimental...

# ACT TWO

## FOR KING & COUNTRY

### Tickets Now On Sale



Tickets are now on sale for our WW1 centenary variety show!

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, for one day only, TODS will be performing For King and Country – a fabulous vintage afternoon/evening to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. For King and Country is TODS' autumn variety show consisting of a collection of wartime songs, anecdotes, poems, facts, and play excerpts from and about the wartime era, uniquely put together by TODS.

Indulge in a decadent vintage afternoon tea of cakes and sandwiches alongside the matinee, or a classic British dinner of bangers and mash alongside the evening performance. There will be a bar available in the evening.

Think floral bunting, vintage teacups and delectable homemade food from our Social Secretary Lynne Andrews and her brilliant team of helpers. Then add unique performances from old and new TODS members alike – all within a beautifully vintage-themed tea/dinner show!

For King and Country will run on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, in Tenterden Town Hall, under the direction of Vernon Reeve. 10 tables of eight will be available for each performance, with tickets on sale now at £15 each or £120 for a full table of 8. Call Julia Jessett now on **01580 763683** to secure your seat or table!

# INTERVAL

## COMMERCIALS



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 & ABIE 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



Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Pantomime 2018

# Cinderella

by Jack Donaghy



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December



# FOLLIES

**21st - 23rd FEBRUARY 2019**

**Directed by Louisa Nelson Chambers**

# DRESS CIRCLE

## THIS IS THEIR LIFE

### This month \_ Ian Klemen

I first saw the light of day on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1940 at a nursing home in Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. Mum had the good sense to shift out of London for the event, but we eventually returned and like so many of my present 'certain age' have lasting memories of bombed out building sites as playgrounds. We came to Cranbrook in the mid 1940's. Dad, a Slovenian, was part of the mini entourage linked to what was left of the Yugoslav royal family who took refuge in England after the war. When they left the area we stayed and with the help of many good friends settled and made our home there.

Sally and I met in Manchester in the mid 1960's. Her account of our first meeting is less romantic than I would have wished and includes my being sprawled over a beer barrel! Never the less we married in her hometown of Newton Abbot in Devon on July 29<sup>th</sup> 1967. In September 1975 we came to Oaks Road, Tenterden intending to stay a year or two and have now clocked up 43 years in a comfortable and happy home where both Katy and Peter were born.

Abelard and Heloise was the first TODS production we saw in October 1976, it was marvellous. Peter Mould had played Abelard and we got to know him well through Sally's friendship with his wife Jean and their work together at Kent Social Services. When Peter suggested a small part in his production of 'The Fire Raisers' at the Town Hall in 1977 I jumped at the chance. As it happens the play was not quite the success we had hoped for but it has left me with one of my favourite TODS anecdotes. Alan Pugh and I were cast as a duo of Heavenly Policemen in appropriate uniforms and fancy wings!! We had worked hard on our roles and as we stepped nervously forward to speak were met with the cry 'Aye aye it's the Flying Squad'!! Who else but Bruce Whiles, our fondest critic.! Over the following years there have been so many scintillating roles and hilarious moments. The Pantos were hard work but made us money and were well received; I enjoyed playing Mr. Toad and later the pushy bully boy in 'Blue Remembered Hills' The part I really struggled with was Othello – perhaps not strictly TODS but cast with a lot of TODS members down at The Barn Theatre with Tony Weare. I can remember quite clearly Michael Patrick playing one of the courtiers nodding encouragingly as my eyes glazed over and I mumbled incoherently.

Our daughter Katy often helped with my line learning and would sit by Sally in the audience speaking them to herself when I was on stage. Sally has been hugely supportive over the years and has graduated from Caller to Stage Manager to present Chair of TODS committee. With her help and experience of the TODS behind me I have ventured into other roles both at Smallhythe and The Stables Theatre, Hastings. Perhaps most importantly the years of amateur theatre have brought with them precious memories and friendships, and one particular lesson – don't ever try to prompt! – leave that to Julia Jessett or Olive Neal.

It's not all been theatre. While I could still bend a leg or run a pace or two I've loved hockey at Biddenden and cricket at Benenden. As a family we travelled many miles over the years to Slovenia to my dad's home, to Hungary to my mum's home, to Hong Kong and Paris when Katy was away working and many times to Devon and now Scotland to see Pete and his family. Our earlier journeys were often completed in our first shared car, a red MGB (wire wheels, tonneau and a hand worked Kenlo fan – very swish.) until a front wheel fell off in front of The Vine pub in the High Street. Perhaps in the near future Sally and I will recapture some of those Eastern European adventures.

Favourite food – chocolate!! And I have been known to creep down at night to the kitchen cupboard for a chunk of Lindt dark hazelnut chocolate!

Finally thanks as a family to TODS and friends for their kindnesses and support over the years.

I would like to suggest Brian Fagg as our next biographer.

# STAGE RIGHT

## Your Committee



**Sally Klemen**



**Fiona Murch**



**Angela Patrick**



**Michael Patrick**



**Vernon Reeve**



**Heather Barnes**



**Lynne Andrews**



**Peter Huxley**



**Susanne Buckley**

# STAGE LEFT

## Your Committee

### **Sally Klemen**

**Chairman.** Responsible for pulling it all together, and ultimately responsible for all the wonderful things TODS get right.

### **Fiona Murch.**

**Vice Chairman & Membership and Booking Secretary** Responsible for collecting membership subscriptions and show fees, handling membership enquiries; booking venues for rehearsals, productions and social events.

### **Angela Patrick.**

**Secretary** Responsible for all correspondence, responding to public enquiries; producing agendas; taking and circulating minutes; arranging licences for productions; proof reading newsletters and programmes. Printing and distributing newsletters to non-email members;

### **Michael Patrick.**

**Treasurer.** Responsible for issuing invoices, paying invoices, issuing cheques and managing bank accounts. Producing monthly reports and annual accounts for auditing.

### **Vernon Reeve.**

**Librarian:** Responsible for cataloguing scripts; ordering scripts for productions, distributing them and collecting payment.

### **Heather Barnes.**

**Show Selection, Budgeting and Production Team Coordinator:** Responsible for arranging choice of productions, allotting and managing budgets and coordinating production team.

### **Lynne Andrews.**

**Social & Business Secretary:** Responsible for arranging social events with appointed team of volunteers; fund raising; procuring sponsorship.

### **Peter Huxley.**

**Technical Coordinator:** Responsible for set design, set build and ordering materials; store inventory.

### **Susanne Buckley.**

**Publicity Coordinator:** Responsible for setting up of Publicity Team that will manage online & physical advertising for TODS. Responsible for redesigning and upkeep of TODS website, and ongoing social media presence/advertising.