

Barn Theatre News



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Quiet Time - There is no such thing!

I hate quiet times in our theatre but on the other hand I enjoy the opportunities they currently bring for us to carry on with the works of improvement and extension that has changed for the better the place we all love so much during the last two years. Summer each year is always a busy time for the trustees and other helpers as we close the theatre and continue with works of maintenance and redecoration, but this year it gave us the opportunity to begin the task of completing the extension and repairing and redecorating the remainder of the building fabric that had suffered terribly through the major building works. This is the type of work that continues every year but this year we were fortunate to have the funds, support and enthusiasm to make a real difference to the new extension. With the aid of substantial donations from the Oxted Operatic Society, The Friends of the Barn, The Groves family in memory of Des and others too we were able to complete the task of fitting out the new bar and bar store, the installation of the false roof covering to the slopes by Wiggy, the ceramic and vinyl flooring, all this in the early weeks of the summer. Soon to be followed very rapidly by the donation of the "Millennium Mirror" by Janet Magnay in memory of her brother, the completion of the magnificent mural on the north wall by Peter Ramage depicting the history of the theatre through the years, completion of the hidden pipe work for the air conditioning, commissioning of the toilet for the disabled and extension of the public address system with additional amplifiers and speakers by Mike Sutton and Paul Knight. The progress was quite astounding and whilst this was going on the foyer and auditorium were redecorated in part, the entire stage was resurfaced and many works of minor maintenance completed. Enough is enough I thought, so much accomplished in a few weeks, be grateful but patient, perhaps by the end of the year we might be able to consider thinking about the new carpeting to the foyer and bar area.

How was I to know that the committee of the Oxted Players had other ideas! I was delighted to attend the Players AGM at the beginning of July as I have done now regularly for 25 years to hear the members elect to provide the monies for all the new carpet, and remaining floor finishes. A huge boost, which will make a tremendous difference and hopefully this work, will be complete before the main autumn season commences in September. The new carpet which will extend through into the existing foyer is being specially woven to incorporate the Barn logo and is being purchased direct from the manufacturers, hence we can afford it! There will be a new "WELCOME" door mat in coordinating colours also containing the logo - all very exciting.

The support we have received during this last year has been phenomenal and our "Vision" is almost complete after 5 not so long years, not quite but almost. We have received many compliments on our achievements and rightfully so but we cannot relax on fundraising until the fitting out is totally finished. We still need you to support our activities on stage and off. The most recent fundraiser was "Stepping Out" the Richard Harris play especially performed by members of the Oxted Operatic Society for Barn 2000 which was a great success. Bruce Reed.

Kenley Holiday Workshop

Mark Stanford and Sarah Gimblett head the cast as Billy Bigelow and Julie Jordan in arguably Rodgers and Hammerstein's greatest Musical,



Sarah Gimblett and Mark Stanford

'Carousel'. This will be the last Workshop for Mark and Sarah, who both begin University in September. Also leaving to go to University is Jonathan Karani who is playing Mr Snow.

Kenley Holiday Workshop will be presenting 'Carousel' at the Barn Theatre, Oxted from August 14th to 16th evenings at 7:30 with a 2:30 performance on Saturday.

This talented group of youngsters have built up a tremendous following since staging their shows at the Barn Theatre, winning critical acclaim for their polished performances, and 'Carousel' promises to be another outstanding production.

'Carousel' is packed with memorable songs including 'You'll Never Walk Alone', 'June Is Busting Out All Over', 'If I loved you' and 'When I Marry Mr Snow', as well as exuberant dance numbers. Come and enjoy an evening of raw emotion.

Tickets can be ordered from Kenley Holiday Workshop Box Office on 020 8660 4400 and then from Monday 12th August from Ibbett Mosely on 01883 712241.

Barn Quiz Supper

Come down to the Barn Theatre on Saturday 6 September to enjoy a quiz evening with a ploughman's supper (including a pud!!). Doors will open at 7pm with the first question at 7.30pm to teams of 4 or 8 - don't worry if you can't make a team up, we'll help with that on the evening. There will be a broad range of questions including general knowledge, sport, theatre, TV, film and music plus some special Barn-themed ones and of course there will be some "prizes". The bar will be open all evening serving a variety of drinks in our wonderful new facilities so please come and join us for what will be an enjoyable social event, and fund-raiser for Barn 2000. Tickets are £8 and can be bought from 01883 722088.