

# Barn Theatre News



Summer & Autumn Season

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## JUNE IS THE TOPS



June, Paul and Jill outside June's 'second home'  
Picture by Kevin Black

As part of TOPS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, their AGM on 19 July offered an extra special social occasion to their members and also enabled them to show their gratitude to June Brown for the commitment she has shown to the Society, particularly over the past 50 years during which time she has served on the Committee, 16 years of these as Chairman. June has also been a staunch supporter of the Barn Theatre for a great many years and is one of their Trustees.

June first appeared as a jewel in the junior chorus of the Student Players production of *Aladdin* in 1950. Since then she has not only been very active on stage and in a directorial role of plays and pantos, but has also taken great care to promote the interests of the younger members of the Society. Over the past 6 years she has directed the young players in four full length plays, the most recent being *Huckleberry Finn* in March of this year. To mark her substantial contribution over the years, a surprise presentation was made to June after the close of usual AGM business. Jill Perry, one of TOPS oldest members, thanked June for her long association and presented to her a specially engraved watch, and Paul Atterbury, one of our youngest members, presented a bouquet. June also reached another milestone during the month with a landmark birthday which she celebrated with her Committee at a reception at Haxted Mill.

## A COOLER BARN PLANNED

For a number of years now the theatre has been very busy through the summer months, something you will be surprised to hear is a fairly recent phenomenon. In years past the theatre was closed all summer as there was no call for space and instead the time was used for completion of maintenance work, at a leisurely pace!

Since completion of Barn 2000 the trustees have been considering the next major project for the theatre and with the continuing popularity of the summer youth productions and outstanding summer weather of recent years, air conditioning has been high on the list of priorities.

Finally the decision has been taken to formally announce that "AIR CONDITIONING TO THE AUDITORIUM"



will be the next major project to be undertaken. The trustees will be consulting with specialist engineers to ascertain the most cost effective means of providing a system that can be installed into the auditorium without destroying the aesthetics, which we all value so very much.

Whilst we have some reserves of cash we will need to start fund-

raising if we are to achieve our aim in a reasonable time and we should like to think that a system could be up and running for summer 2008. The events here at the theatre later this year, *'This is My Song'*, *'ABBA UK'* and *'Christmas Cracker'* will all be dedicated to this appeal to be known as 'BARNCOOL' and hopefully with the support of all our users we will soon be able to firm up our proposals.

From the information we already have we are expecting to need to raise an additional £50,000 minimum but after Barn 2000 that's chicken feed!!!!!!

## SOUTHERN COUNTIES DRAMA FESTIVAL 2007

Following the relaunch of this one act drama festival under the Barn banner we are pleased to report that at the present moment we have indications that up to 17 entries may be forthcoming for the festival planned for next February. It is reassuring to see enthusiasm for the festival and our initiative.

Mike Tilbury GODA, who is well known on the festival circuit, is to be the adjudicator for the festival week which will include both junior and adult entries.

Application forms will be sent out around September to all groups who have expressed an interest and we are delighted to hear that the Oxted Players are proposing to enter with both a junior and adult entry.

Enquiries about the festival can be made of Martin Patrick, Caro Rowley or Bruce Reed and the dedicated enquiry line and email address for the festival is [SC.DF@btinternet.com](mailto:SC.DF@btinternet.com)