

# *Oxted Operatic Society*

## AGM

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July saw the Society's AGM at the Barn, with the following members elected for the forthcoming year:

Chairman - Peter Reed (01883 625731)

Secretary - Dena Watts (01883 723084)

Treasurer - Janette White.

Executive Committee - Trevor Constable, Katherine Jones, Debbie Pitt, Teresa Reed, Nicky Roberts, Bob Wilson

I was pleased to be able to reflect on another very positive year for the Society, with grateful thanks to the hard work of the Committee. Financially things could have been better, but our productions have received great praise and have been very happy events. Our membership, now in excess of 200, continues to thrive, and in addition to our main productions there is the added bonus of a revitalized social life which we plan to expand on next year.

Thanks to Martin Patrick, Dena Watts and Moreen Forster, our audiences are now able to book tickets on-line, though of course tickets are still available by phone/post if preferred.

The necessity for the recent increase in ticket prices was explained in some detail to the membership. In simple terms, with ever increasing production costs, the level of excellence the Society has established with its productions would quite simply not have been sustainable at the previous prices, especially if we wish to entertain our ambitious future plans.

Of the Society's productions this year, *Jekyll & Hyde* and *Gigi*, had both received very positive feedback from audience and press alike, and whilst the attendance for *Jekyll & Hyde* was rather disappointing, it was a pleasure to announce that the production was awarded the NODA South East District 8 - Musical Accolade of Excellence 2010/11.

Two NODA Awards in two years! We must be doing something right!

## Disco Inferno (OJOS)

With the curtain only just down on our 2<sup>nd</sup> production at the Barn this year it is too early to report on 'What the Papers Say' for *Disco Inferno*. However, standing FOH all week, it was most rewarding to hear the positive feedback from audiences on another excellent production by our juniors. My grateful thanks to all those that helped in bringing this production together; it was certainly a huge effort. Whilst audience support was strong from family and friends, it was a pity that more of our regulars and main membership stayed away – they missed something very special. Hopefully *everyone* will turn out in support for the next OJOS production in July 2012.

## Return to the Forbidden Planet

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sat 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (7:45pm)

If the recent turn and quality of auditions is anything to go by, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* is going to be something truly out of this world. A superb cast includes James Klech (Tempest), Steve Butler (Prospero), Laura Brand (Miranda), Peter Calver (Ariel) and Dena Watts (Gloria) – all very eager to get into rehearsals and greet our audiences at the Barn in November. How can I sell it to you? Simply, a must see for *everyone*! A Sci-Fi classic, brought to you by *Peter Reed, Graham Wright* and *Beth Bryant*, featuring musical favourites from the 50s and 60s and loosely based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Tickets available NOW! - 01883 723084 and on-line at [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

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# *Britten's Albert Herring at the Barn*

Rehearsals for Surrey Opera's production of Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* are just around the corner and it is shaping up to be a very exciting piece. We have a great company of very talented people and are all very much looking forward to getting into the rehearsal room to bring this beautiful piece to life.

This comic opera is delightfully witty and inventive. It will be a treat to watch, with a number of wonderfully colourful characters creating a community of rural townspeople desperate to uphold the standards of tradition and respectability that are quickly being forgotten. Loxford village need a May Queen for their festival, but with the purity of all of the village girls in question, they have to turn to a May King. But will this be acceptable, will he accept, and will *he* be accepted by the village as a result? Or will he merely become a laughing stock?

I am really looking forward to directing a very talented team of professional singers and working closely with Jonathan Butcher, respected conductor and Artistic Director of Surrey Opera. This will be my first production for Surrey Opera and I'm very much looking forward to working with a company with an outstanding reputation for quality and originality.

Come and watch our new production of *Albert Herring* to the Barn in September, with performances on Tues 20<sup>th</sup>, Wed 21<sup>st</sup>, Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sat 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. I do hope you can join us.

Tickets can be booked through the Surrey Opera Box Office on 0208 657 7909 or online at [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

Joe Austin

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## *Share in the Barn's Success*

Back in 1923 when the idea of building the Barn Theatre was first proposed it was financed by the sale of shares in the company to local people. £4000 was needed and this was achieved within weeks of the prospectus being issued. A dividend was promised in the prospectus but this was never to be. Subsequently the share capital was increased to £9000. In 1997 at a special EGM the shareholders voted to forgo all their rights to future dividends and profit and to allow the limited company to become a registered charity. No longer at risk the charity has flourished and you are the beneficiaries of those generous shareholders. However, the company still exists and the actual trading name of the theatre is "The Oxted and Limpsfield Barn Theatre Company Ltd", a limited company but with charitable status.

Each year we hold an AGM to which you are all invited but only shareholders receive a formal notice of this meeting and a set of the annual accounts and only they can vote on resolutions put before the AGM.

Shares are still for sale and they come with a share certificate which many people hold dear as a sentimental connection with the beloved Barn Theatre. The cost is £10 for 10 shares and they are sold in blocks of ten after that. Purchase applications are still approved by the board despite there being no monetary value or hope of dividend or profit from these shareholdings. There is no age limit for purchasers. The certificates make excellent gifts and also look very nice framed.

If you are interested please telephone the office on 01959 561811 for an application form, or email Bruce at [bruce.reed@btinternet.com](mailto:bruce.reed@btinternet.com)