

Here's mud in your eye!

A trip to the theatre is never complete without that frantic struggle in the interval to get served at the bar. Barn regulars will have noticed, though, how much easier it is now to wet your whistle with completion of the new bar in the extension, manned by our hard working teams of volunteers.

What may not have been so obvious is that we have now changed the licensing arrangements for the sale of drinks. Previously, we could only operate a cash bar linked to a theatrical performance (unless some complicated arrangements were made), but with the benefit of the new licence we have now obtained, the bar can be opened on almost any occasion, whether it be after rehearsals, during set building or for a function for which either the whole theatre or just the extension has been hired. So, when you're thinking about booking somewhere for that family party, sales conference, corporate AGM or wedding reception, look no further than Bluehouse Lane. During Jack and the Beanstalk, a young couple did actually walk in and ask whether they could look round with a view to booking for their nuptial celebrations!

We're not seeking to set up in competition with The Bull or The Oxted Inn – indeed we've deliberately not sought a licence which would let us serve a drink to just anyone walking in off the street, but if there's any sort of function going on, or any activity remotely related to a production, spend your drinking money in the Barn and help us to improve your theatre even more.

Another Night at the Races

Following the success of the Race night in November 2002, the same hard-working team gathered on Saturday 1st November 2003 for a "REPEAT PERFORMANCE". Not only were they gluttons for punishment but they were joined by over 100 keen punters who were intent on a win.

Seven races were run with the traditional break for Fish & Chips and Ice Cream supper. All of which was washed down with a fair amount of liquid from the bar!

If the decibels of the cheering was a reflection of enjoyment – then a very good evening was had by all, but more importantly BARN 2000 is £2,000 better off.

Very many thanks to all the helpers, sponsors and guests on the night.

'Into the Woods'

The Barnstormers

26th April to 1st May 2004

"Once upon a time in a far-off kingdom lived a young maiden, a sad young lad and a childless baker with his wife . . ." So begins the hit musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine that whisks the audience away to a fairy-tale land of witches, wolves and giants. This musical spectacular is being brought to the Barn stage for the very first time by 'The Barnstormers' who are once again donating all the profits of their production to our 'Barn 2000' appeal.

'Into the Woods' brings to musical life Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Ridinghood and many other well-known Grimm's fairy-tale characters. Interwoven with these classic tales is the story of a Baker and his wife, whose longing for a child is thwarted by a mischievous Witch living next door. Wishes are fulfilled, old curses reversed and many lessons learned as these colourful characters journey through the woods in the hope of living 'happy ever after'.

James Lapine's clever and witty book and Stephen Sondheim's unforgettable music and lyrics combine to create a unique piece of theatre that has thrilled audiences on both sides of the Atlantic since its premiere in 1987, winning 3 Tony Awards including Best Book and Best Score.

The production team is headed up by Richard Allen (Producer) who is very pleased to welcome on board the considerable talent and experience of Paul Longhurst (Director) and Jonathan Butcher (Musical Director). Production design is in the wonderfully creative hands of Jill 'Wiggy' Wilson and so we can expect to be treated to lavish sets and colourful costumes. Richard Allen tells us that, after a very successful casting process, rehearsals are going well and he can promise us "a feast for the eyes and ears, which with its delightful mix of classic fairy-tales is sure to appeal to audiences of all ages."

Tickets (priced £8 - £10) are available now from the Churchill Gallery in Westerham by calling 01959-561811. There are six evening performances from Monday 26th April to Saturday 1st May. Book your tickets early and be sure not to miss out on this unique theatrical experience and at the same time support The Barnstormers continued efforts to raise funds for your theatre. For further details of this production please visit:-

www.thebarnstormers.org.

The Barnstormers are still looking for more 'Individual Sponsors' for their programme and anyone interested in sponsoring this production and having their names printed in the programme should contact John Sturgeon on 01342-892130.

Following the performances at the Barn, the production moves to the prestigious Minack Theatre in Porthcurno, Cornwall for the week from Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June. For more information visit:- www.minack.com.

Linden Homes South East support the Community

Following the problems with the carpet ordered for the new bar and foyer area, which have still to be resolved; Linden Homes South East, the Caterham based housing developer came to our aid in late November and very generously laid a temporary carpet in the bar area. The carpet certainly doesn't look temporary, rather opulent in fact and it enables us to deal with the problem contractor in our own time without the pressure of a bare floor scree staring up at us.

We were absolutely delighted and overwhelmed at the generous gesture from Linden Homes who chose the Barn to launch The Deanery, their new imaginative housing scheme of thirty three 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes on the old Oxted Hospital site and we wish them well with this very attractive and well thought out development. Linden Homes philosophy is to make a contribution in areas where they live and work and they should be justifiably proud of their achievements.

I am sorry that the Oxted Players who sponsored the original carpet have had to wait so long for their carpet to be in place but hopefully matters will be resolved soon.

Recent Lottery Winners:

November 2003

First Mrs B Millar Second Mr J Burns
Third Mr MC Sutton

December 2003

First Miss AM Godin Second Dr HF MacDonald
Third Mr AW Young