

FOBS

First, an important date for your diaries - We have our **Annual General Meeting** booked to take place in the Theatre – by kind permission of Oxted Operatic Society which will have taken up residence in the Theatre in order to start building the set for 'Godspell' on:

Monday 2nd April

Official notices will be sent out at the end of February but do put the date in your diaries now please. Most members of your present committee are willing to stand for re-election but we have all served for several years now and are beginning to think that it is time to urge you to nominate others who you feel would have something to contribute or, have yourself nominated if you would like to become a more active member.

We have enjoyed two occasions since the last Newsletter with splendid 'nibbles' provided by Caro for which we thank her – the Christmas Sunday Club closely followed by the New Year Sunday Club complete with 'bubbles' in addition to the now traditional jacket spuds.

Sunday Clubs throughout the year have been well attended and provide a pleasant opportunity to socialise rather than engage in our normal activities of set-building; rehearsing; cleaning; repair work; etc., although a certain amount of 'talking shop' is overheard and proves useful. There's always one person around wielding a clipboard and looking to complete Front of House teams for the performances which are scheduled to take place. It is clearly recognised that the Theatre could not function without Front of House teams and the Friends, Players and Operatic Society are sincerely grateful to all the volunteers on our shared list – if you are not on the list and might be interested to help do speak to our co-ordinator, Pippa Bridges who will be pleased to tell you more. The Barn Calendar for 2012 is filling up fast so expect to be called for Front of House duties all our valued volunteers!

We have been acutely aware for some time of the difficulties of 'juggling' programmes/raffle tickets and those *antique* yellow saucers for the money, so your committee, in consultation with the Directors, has purchased some money bags(to be worn round the waist) in the hope that this will help. Do give them a try and let us know (politely please!) what you think.

Here's wishing us all a most successful and enjoyable 2012 – what a year it should be with the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic Games – and do not forget the FOBS' AGM!

Sheila Bennett

Strollin' Stagers Music Hall

For those not familiar with Croydon Stagers, we are an amateur theatrical group based in Croydon. We usually perform one large scale musical each year at the Ashcroft Theatre, Fairfield Halls, Croydon. However, in 2010, a few of our members were offered ensemble parts in the Barnstomers' award-winning 2010 production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar',

and they impressed enough to recruit a few Oxted people for lead and ensemble roles in our recent productions of 'All Shook Up' and 'The Wedding Singer'. We continue to strive for the highest standards of production and performance, and we've recently been recognized with a regional NODA award nomination for best female lead performance (Corin Miller in 'All Shook Up').



Music Hall at Stanley Halls

Stagers' tradition of quality entertainment is over 100 years strong. The society was founded in 1908, and the last 36 years have included an Old Time Music Hall at the Stanley Halls in South Norwood. In recent years we have taken our Music Hall out on the road; our blend of music and comedy brought West Wickham audiences to their feet last summer, and we look forward to sharing our programme with Oxted audiences at the Barn Theatre in April. As the Chairman might say, it will be "an evening of escapism, extravagance and excellence presented for your delight and delectation by the Strollin' Stagers. Enjoy a cavalcade of comedy, song, dance and melodrama in the convivial company of Croydon Stagers. Sing along to your favourite old and war-time melodies with local multi-talented artistes... or maybe just hiss and boo your heart out!"

We would be delighted if you could join us at the Barn Theatre on Sunday 22nd April at 7.00pm for an evening filled with laughter, music, nostalgia, and a step back in time. Tickets are available online through the Barn website, or please call 07547 481815 for tickets or additional information.

Colin McGinnis

John Brown

John sadly passed away on Sunday 22nd January after a long illness. John was Sarah Gillender's father, and brother of Michael Brown.

John was a past member and committee member of The Oxted Players taking major roles in both panto and plays in the early days of the Society as well as performing for the Oxted Operatic Society before moving to the South Coast. He is survived by his daughter Sarah and two granddaughters Rachel & Megan, plus two step-sons Paul & Neil.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday 7th February 12pm at Woodvale Crematorium, Lewes Road, Brighton BN2 3QB