

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 29 Issue 1 February 2024



**2024, OUR CENTENARY YEAR,
100 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITIES OF OXTED, LIMPSFIELD
AND SURROUNDING TOWNS AND VILLAGERS**

The pre Christmas show, **CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS** raised an **ASTOUNDING TOTAL OF £13,768** over two performances.

The Oak Centre for Children and Young People at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Young Lives vs Cancer will each receive £5,062.91 and the Barn Theatre will receive £3,644.22 to support the necessary ongoing improvement and maintenance required.





Our 2023 Christmas show at the Barn Theatre, A Celebration of Christmas, on Saturday 16th December performed to two packed houses and was enjoyed by audience, cast and production team alike. I am so privileged that so many of our Barn family participated in bringing this production to the stage, despite some very testing personal situations for several of the team during the lead up to the show. This is truly testimony to the amazing people who so generously gave their time and talent.

Our cast comprised of several local performing arts schools, St Francis School in Caterham and alumni from The Orpheus Centre. We were also joined by two of Abi's uncles and her cousin who wrote and performed a tribute to Abi.

Abi Dean, resident of Oxted, girlfriend of my son Thomas and loved by all our family, was the inspiration behind how we decided to share the funds raised from this production. Abi sadly passed away in September of last year following a battle with a rare and aggressive form of eye cancer. The Oak Centre for Children and Young People at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Young Lives vs Cancer will each receive £5,062.91 and the Barn Theatre will receive £3,644.22 to support the



necessary ongoing improvement and maintenance required. As well as the production itself, which was hugely supported financially by local businesses and individuals, the community of Oxted came together in the weeks leading up to the show, raising money specifically for the Royal Marsden and Young Lives vs Cancer. There are too many businesses and individuals to thank but amongst these are the Little Peapod Day Nursery who raised over £3,000, Hammonds Wine Bar who created a fabulous cocktail in memory of Abi which raised over £550, the Dean family who raised over £800 in their Halloween night and various sponsored events,

Oxted School who hosted a Christmas jumper day raising over £550 and Rebecca Littleford who ran her first ever half marathon and raised over £2,500.



We will never forget Abi and all she brought to the lives of those who loved her but what we collectively achieved, will, we hope, go towards supporting those children and young people who require treatment at the Royal Marsden and support the tremendous work of Young Lives vs Cancer.

Thank you to all those who supported us – be it in bringing the show to the stage, supporting Paul Robinson and his team front of house, performing in the show, or coming to watch it.



Angie Muscio



All photos by Kate York





Oxted Sounds Friday 28th March is an evening to celebrate the musical talents of the students of Oxted Sixth Form, whilst raising money for the amazing charity Clockwork. The event will involve a blend of solo, duet, group and full band performances covering a wide array of genres. Not only that, Oxted School is teaming up with the incredible Idol Hands who will be the backing band for performers as well as treating the audience with some special guest appearances! The roster of talent doesn't stop there as there will even be appearances from Oxted School staff, old and new.

Idol Hands not only play a vital role in the local music scene, tutoring hundreds of Oxted students in a variety of different instruments, but they play just as a significant role in supporting young adults' well-being. As founders of Clockwork, they provide counsel to young adults through a dedicated team of professionals who in turn, make a huge impact on the well-being within our community.

The New Aquarian Opera Company are delighted to be back at The Barn Theatre so soon as part of the centenary celebrations on the 8th June. For one night only, come and celebrate "The Last Night of the Proms" with our wonderful singers and orchestra! There will be all the usual, well loved favourites, so don't forget your flags and be prepared to join in.

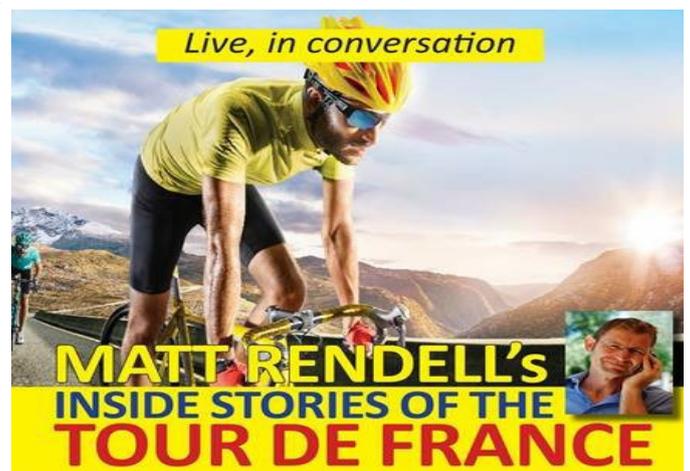
As it is also the centenary of the passing of Puccini, the first half of the evening will be a semi-staged production of his wonderfully funny, one act comic opera love story, Gianni Schicchi. The action takes place in Buoso Donati's bedroom immediately after his death, where his greedy relatives realise he's left all his money to a monastery and plot with Gianni Schicchi to posthumously revise the will. This is Puccini's only comedy and contains some sublime music including probably the most famous soprano aria of all time "O mio babbino caro". We are using the English translation by Amanda Holden, whose wonderful version of The Marriage of Figaro we performed last year.

The New Aquarian Opera Company will return to the Barn Theatre in November, with a brand new production of one of the most popular operas of all time, **Puccini's La Boheme**. If you would like information on joining our chorus, please contact Melanie@aquarianopera.com for more details.



Matt Rendell's Inside Stories of the Tour de France Thursday 27th March, 7.30pm

ITV Tour de France commentator Matt Rendell shares revealing and entertaining stories from his 25 years' behind the velvet rope at the greatest (annual) show in sport. Matt's live shows, in conversation with former Pro Cycling writer Duncan Steer, delight audiences with a magically unpredictable mix of deep knowledge, hilarious/bizarre personal stories and radical ideas about the future of the sport. Matt will recall his dealings with cycling's big names from Eddy Merckx to Bradley Wiggins, Mark Cavendish to Chris Froome – and reveal how his hard-hitting books about the cycling cultures of Italy and Colombia led to his receiving death threats. Alongside his seven cycling books and contributions to print and broadcast media, Matt has worked for several teams; lived in Italy, Spain, France, Latvia and Colombia; written a book about learning salsa; and has past lives as a university lecturer and jazz double-bassist. This is a night for Tour de France fans old and new – and for anyone who enjoys hearing a genuinely independent take on the world, from one of life's true mavericks. There will be a chance to ask your own questions.



Acknowledged as the biggest One Act Drama Festival for youth and adult groups in the UK. SCDF 2024 has 19 performances over the week, each receiving a professional adjudication by Bob Tomson at the end of each evening. The Barn SCDF technical team will prepare the theatre on Friday 16th ready for a weekend of 19 Technical Rehearsals starting on Saturday through to later on Sunday afternoon.

Tickets on sale from 29th January www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Different this year is the appearance of one of local Glow Theatre's junior teams performing a taster session on Sunday 18th evening at 7pm. More relaxed than the usual competitive air of Festival, with no formal adjudication we are looking forward to their surely entertaining performance.

NFS productions present, Swinging The 60s!

The New Foxtrot Serenaders return to The Barn Theatre on Friday 14th June as part of the Barn 100 celebration with their latest show, 'Swinging The 60's' a foot-tapping cavalcade of hits from the swinging sixties that go with a swing! From Bobby Darin to Nat King Cole and The Beatles to Louis Armstrong and Kenny Ball its swing all the way from 'The Hottest Little Big band In The South'! Now in our 27th year at the Barn Theatre, book early to avoid disappointment.

Friday 14th June at 7.30pm
Tickets www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



This year's FOBS Annual General Meeting will be held on the evening of **Tuesday 27 February at 7.30pm.** Do please come along to hear what we achieved in 2023 and to air your views.

The committee recently decided that we would no longer be charging an annual subscription to be a member of FOBS, so this meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact me at the following email address to find out more: fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Further improvements to the theatre bar were made back in November when we replaced the existing small chillers with three new larger ones, capable of holding almost double the amount of stock. To accommodate these, the height of the bar needed to be raised, and enormous thanks go to Martin Beatty and Malcolm Le Croisette for making the necessary alterations. These have resulted in a greatly improved working area for those serving behind the bar and, in turn, an improvement to how quickly we can serve our customers.



In November we took the decision to trial a new ice cream supplier at the theatre, and Simply Ice Cream Ltd was chosen. Whilst they offer an amazing range of over 30 different flavours, we will be keeping to a core of four or five of the most popular ones, with others being added on a rotating basis. They have already proved extremely popular, with nearly 700 tubs being

sold during the 10-performance run of panto.

Now that the alterations to the foyer have been successfully completed, we have taken the opportunity to relocate the sweet counter to the Box Office. This now means that there is a single place to go to buy tickets, programmes, sweets and ice creams. The new selection of sweets on offer has now been in place for just over a year, and continues to be popular. If you have any suggestions for alternatives, do please let us know.

Paul Robinson – Chairman of FOBS

OXTED PRAM RACE 2023



The Barn has always supported the OPR by providing the starter, Dave Nicholls and other officials such as Barn Trustee Phillip Littleford

The top photo is of Phil being presented with a cheque for £1000 from the Pram Race organisers



oxted musical theatre company



Tumble out of bed and stumble to the kitchen, pour yourself a cup of ambition and make sure you don't miss Oxted Musical Theatre Company's hilarious production of Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 the musical. Follow the lives of Violet, Doralee and Judy as three office ladies working for Mr Hart Jr, a dominating and equally lecherous man. Through foot stomping song and dance, you will laugh, cry and for some, reminisce about the good and bad ole days of 1970s office work and quite possibly relate to the various characters. We will all know a Mr Hart in the past or even today!. With kidnap, affairs, drama and passion this is one not to be missed.

The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received. Copy should be sent to www.barntheatre@btinternet.com
Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 19th April 2024