

# Barn Theatre News



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## Pass The Rolls Please

Well known for hosting the best in arts and drama, the Barn Theatre hosted a luncheon for owners of some of the best cars in the world on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Members of the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club stopped off for lunch there, prior to an afternoon visit to delightful Titsey Place. There were over 17 cars, a mixture of Rolls Royce and Bentley dating from 1932 through to present models including Barn Theatre's Bruce Reed's little run around Bentley. The car park presented a magnificent display of the best pre and post war motor engineering.



## Final Curtain.

The Barn Theatre have lost three stalwart members: Vic Silcox, Pat Rolph and Des Groves.

Vic suffered a heart attack on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2002. Pat passed away at Guy's Hospital on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003 after a recurrence of the cancer that she had fought so bravely over the past years. Des had a coronary thrombosis on Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2003.

Between our three dear friends they covered over one hundred and fifty years of theatre at the Barn – in fact Des and Vic were members of the original Oxted Evening Institute which became The Student Players (now the Oxted Players), and Oxted Operatic Society.

Vic was a Gilbert and Sullivan enthusiast and sang many fine baritone roles. He was president of Oxted Operatic for many years and always provided them with pearls of wisdom at his Presidential Addresses, particularly when the Society was going through difficult times! When the membership had been falling he noted that a number of weddings had taken place during the past season. "Well," he said, "There's quite a simple answer to your problem. I can only extol you to go forth and multiply and then put on a number of musical shows with children. That's always good for the box-office."

Pat Rolph was a pillar of strength to Oxted Operatic Society, not only was she a great singer and dancer, she played leading roles in many productions over the years. Pat was

Honorary Secretary of OOS for nine years, Social Secretary for fifteen years and then a successful Chairman for three years. Latterly she took a leading role in organising, with husband Terry, the very successful OOS Costume Store, as well as masterminding the move to new premises in Tandridge.

Pat managed costumes for countless shows with an eagle eye for detail. Woe betide you if you wore the wrong tie or arrived on stage in full evening dress without your white gloves properly buttoned. But she always had a sparkle in her eye and an encouraging word for newcomers to the stage.

A show at the Barn, whether it was a musical, play or pantomime, wasn't a show without Des Groves in it. In over fifty pantomimes and musicals he only missed two - and that was through illness. In fact his family very nearly had to strap him into bed to stop him turning up at the dressing room.

Des of the "noble brow" was the Society's librarian. When he wasn't organising our scripts and scores, and our rehearsal rooms at St Peter's Hall, he would be distributing posters around Oxted. He was rehearsing for Cabaret when he had the thrombosis. Nothing else would have stopped him appearing.

Pat, Des and Vic will be sadly missed, but I am sure that all three of them will be looking down with a critical eye to make sure that future Oxted Operatic shows meets with their approval.

David Clubb, - Oxted Operatic Chairman