

# BARN THEATRE NEWS



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## WE ARE MEDIEVAL AND THAT'S OFFICIAL!

With the first tree felled during the reign of King Edward III and the original sawmill barn erected during the reign of Henry VI the barn timbers are indeed from a period of antiquity and rich history.

The summary of the recently commissioned dendrochronological survey says the following about the Barn timber structure:-

'The Barn Theatre is an impressive six bay aisled barn. It was transported in 1923 from Limpsfield, where it was located near the sawmill. It is much altered but twelve great arcade posts remain. The arcade plates, tiebeams, arch braces and roof timbers are replacements. Mid rails and a number of struts look to be old but may not be original.

A painting of the interior as it was in Limpsfield shows two very long arch braces in two of the trusses and no midrails. Four of the central posts are slightly heavier and have mortise evidence for the long arch braces shown in the painting. The possibility that these four posts and the other eight are from different buildings, or different parts or phases of a building cannot be discounted. All the posts have large jowls. There are arch braces in the arcades, replacing similar original. The roof is hipped and of queen strut construction, but is a replacement. Of the eleven samples taken from the Barn Theatre, four are dated to form a 72 year chronology spanning AD 1362 to AD 1433. One post felled in the spring of AD 1433 is consistent with the felling dates ranges of three other posts dated and suggests that construction of the original Sawmill Barn is likely to have occurred in AD 1434, or soon after. The four slightly different posts did not date, but are most probably coeval. The timbers were probably sourced locally.

With thanks to Dr Andy Moir author of the report, a copy of which can be borrowed from Bruce upon request.

## Small is Beautiful

One of the most successful theatres currently in London is the Menier Chocolate Factory in Southwark, a short walk from London Bridge Station. This 200 seat theatre has produced hit after hit in recent years. It has built up a solid audience base and has realistically priced tickets. It receives no public subsidy and on performance days is supported by a team of volunteer stewards. Obviously the Menier Management have looked at the Barn Theatre in Oxted, a 244 seat theatre, a short walk from Oxted Station. It too has a core audience, has realistically priced tickets and produces high standard entertainment. It too is run by volunteers. The Barn is the cream to the Menier's Chocolate.

## Simon & Garfunkel Tribute

*Saturday 13 June 7.30pm*

The harmonies of Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel remain one of the more cherished sounds of the sixties and seventies. Their music has stood the test of time and is firmly established as a vital and fondly remembered part of our musical history.



Accompanied by a talented five-piece band, John and Allen Hylton, as "Homeward Bound", bring to the stage the music and the memories of those times. Re-creating "Simon & Garfunkel – Live In Concert", such songs as "The Boxer", "Mrs Robinson", "Bridge over Troubled Water" and many, many more (including some of Paul Simon's solo masterpieces), are all faithfully performed in a two-hour show packed with charm, nostalgia, and excellent entertainment.

The evening is sure to be very popular so please order your tickets early.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW FROM  
THE BOX OFFICE ON 01959 561811

## Carnival Capers

Saturday 4th July will be a red, white and blue day; not only is it American Independence Day but it is also the date for this year's Oxted Carnival. Once again the Barn will be there in force to supply the masses with refreshments. As usual, Carolyn will be manning the phone during the next month or so to persuade you to bake a cake or two and if you are able to help on the day this too would be much appreciated. Caro and her team will be starting work in the Little Barn at 9.30am, sorting and pricing cakes. Please can you bring your cakes to the Little Barn from 10am. The rest of the carnival team will assemble in the car park to load chairs, tables, marquees and all the paraphernalia needed to make the day a success. The event is a good opportunity for the Barn to show that it supports the community whilst fundraising for the Barn, and, depending on the weather, the day produces between £600 and £800 for the funds. Do come and join the fun, there is always plenty to do. Enquiries to Caro or Bruce on 01883 741820.