

## Lloyds For London



We were delighted to hear that Jeremy Lloyd, who regularly plays in the orchestra pit at the Barn Theatre, has won a top music prize. Jeremy was competing at the Croydon Music Festival on 19<sup>th</sup> April where his Organ Recital took top honours and he was awarded first

place by the adjudicator, Simon Preston. Together with the trophy, Jeremy will now have the opportunity to play a recital at St. Pauls Cathedral - probably next year (coach tickets will be on sale shortly!).

## Instant Sunshine

The Friends of Oxted Health Centre offer you a dose of – no, not a “spoonful of sugar” - but *Instant Sunshine*.

As part of their fund-raising efforts, the committee has managed to arrange a visit to the Barn Theatre from this unique musical comedy team for one evening only on **Saturday 20 June**. This group of former doctors – *how appropriate* – takes a wry look at everyday events through their own original, humorous songs. They have performed around the world, at the Edinburgh Festival, in London’s West End, at the Albert hall, the Old Vic and regularly on BBC Radio, including “Stop the Week”. Now you, the good people of Oxted and District, have the chance to catch up with them in our very own Barn Theatre – which the Directors are kindly donating for the evening. A large part of the cost has been covered by a generous grant from Tandridge District Council, so that all the proceeds will be donated to the Health Centre for such ‘extras’ as the continuing availability of the ultra-scanner and other items which will benefit all who use the Centre.

Buy your tickets now in order to avoid disappointment. They are available by calling 01959 561811 before 1 June, after which any remaining will be available from Ibbett Mosely, Station Road East, Oxted Tel: 01883 712241.

## Return Letters

### My Darling Clemmie

I’m so very proud of you. As you know you were an outstanding success with those good people of Oxted when you crossed the border from Westerham back in March. You will be pleased to know that they fell in love with you and have invited you back later this year to talk and take tea with them again as so many people were unable to get tickets to see you. We will be Chartwell for the whole of November, so, with your permission, my cat, I have told them that you will be with them on Thursday 26 November.

There will be a dedicated telephone number to ring to order tickets from 1<sup>st</sup> July. The number is 01883 715186.

Pug

## Theatre Terms

Stage Right, Stage Left. Two simple directions actors pretend not to understand in order to drive directors crazy. “No, no, dear, your OTHER stage right!”

## [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

The Barn Theatre has an extremely comprehensive website on which there is a considerable amount of (up to date!) information. It gets thirty to fifty hits a day and we have had requests from around the world to use items we have posted, or asking for information on the theatre or a production.

### *But do you use it? Probably not!*

There is a comprehensive calendar with details of where tickets can be purchased, loads of history about the theatre and photos showing the early beginnings and where we are now, a slide show charting the progress of Barn 2000 and links to other appropriate websites. For resident and hiring societies, you can post information about forthcoming shows with cast lists and photos etc., ask for help in finding actors/actresses or technicians or advertise costumes or props for sale or hire.

Resident societies, regular hirers and the Friends of the Barn have their own page so you can find out about them before joining and there are also contact details for a number of other societies together with important information for hirers.

I have collected many memories and photos from people who have been at the theatre over the years but would love to receive more to ensure as much as possible is recorded for posterity.

If you have anything you think we might be interested in please contact Caro Rowley on [publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk](mailto:publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or via the theatre office.

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## Doubled up with laughter

For the last few weeks I have been sorting through a large number of theatrical programmes dating back to the late 40’s that came my way. Reading through them opened a wonderful window on what was being shown at theatres around the country in those bygone days. Variety shows were very much the spice of life; long summer seasons by the sea followed by a three month panto season being the staple diet of many performers.

The show’s headline acts were often supported by ‘the double act’. These acts were the backbone of Variety and Music Hall for more than 50 years. Some of the double acts even managed to climb the show business ladder and later became headline acts in their own right. Names like Flanagan and Allen, Naughton and Gold, Jewel and Warris, Arthur Lucan and Kitty McShane in the thirties and forties, through to Mike and Bernie Winters, Hope and Keen, Little and Large, Cannon and Ball in later years and arguably the greatest double act of all, Morecambe and Wise.

Those of us who have been involved in pantomime know how important a good double act is to the success of the production. For example there are always two robbers in *Babes in the Wood*, two brokers men in *Cinderella*, two Chinese Policemen in *Aladdin*, [which I will be directing this year at Chequer Mead, - unashamed plug!] and Bosun and Mate in *Dick Whittington*, which The Oxted Players are staging in January 2010.

Double Acts today are a rarity in the professional pantomime. Instead to get ‘bums on seats’ we are subjected to the fading soap star, past it sports-person, cringing reality TV celebs so that instead of doubling up with laughter, we now double up in pain.