

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS

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### *Children in the Theatre*

There is great debate at the moment in the Am Dram world about a new law being introduced that will affect anyone wanting to undertake *regulated activity* with children or vulnerable adults.

From July this year anyone planning to work with children for the first time will be required to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and must be registered by November. From then on it will be illegal to employ new people who are not ISA-registered. Sponsored by the Home Office ISA has been created to replace the scheme run by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

To register with the ISA for new helpers will cost £64 and from April 2011 all those currently working with children be it on stage or back stage, amateur or professional, will be expected to register within 5 years.

The new legislation, often referred to as the 'vetting and barring scheme', could have a major impact on amateur shows particularly dancing shows; the Barn has already experienced a couple of cancellations. Few people are likely to want to pay the fee to register and few societies will be able to afford to register their members.

Amateur theatre is in a particularly difficult position. Professional shows, particularly those in the West End, have full chaperoning arrangements in place already in a way that amateur shows cannot.

The argument is that this legislation is designed for those who are in paid employment. People in amateur theatre are there for the love of it – that's what amateur means. This is being written before the election. A new government may decide that it is not in the best interests of voluntary organisations to extend ISA to volunteer helpers.

NODA and other umbrella organisations are active in monitoring and helping to guide societies through the procedure. What ISA could do is to make many thousands of perfectly decent adults reluctant to work with children in shows. If so, it will be the children who lose out.

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### *Kenley 'Summer Holiday' Workshop*

Since first appearing at the Barn in the summer of 1996 this talented youth group have staged a different full scale musical each August and this year will be no exception when from "Kenley Holiday Workshop" the group will expand to "Kenley *Summer Holiday* Workshop". Those of a certain age will, I'm sure, remember with affection the 1960s film *Summer Holiday* which starred Cliff Richard. Now KHW bring all those wonderful songs to the barn stage where the sun will shine brightly for 4 days from 11-14 August. Hop on a red bus and head for Oxted by booking your tickets now on 01883 331400 or online at [www.kenleyholidayworkshop.co.uk](http://www.kenleyholidayworkshop.co.uk)

### *Oxted Carnival Capers*

The annual Oxted Carnival takes place this year on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The theme this year is TV Adverts and the Barn team will be supporting by hosting the tea and cakes stall once again (remember the famous TV Chimp adverts! Ed). For this to be successful we do need all those home baked cakes for the stall please. Generally you are all so generous with making cakes etc that our queues in the marquee get longer and longer each year. Many of you will receive the annual phone call from Caro in the weeks before - please do your best again this year. We assemble at Master Park at 9am to erect the marquees and are always pleased to receive help from budding, active or retired boy scouts to assist with this.

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### *Barn Theatre AGM*

The Barn AGM will be held at the theatre on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June starting at 8pm. You do not need to be a shareholder; simply come along and join the meeting to learn how your theatre has fared over

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### *All Inclusive Theatre*

The Inclusive Theatre Workshop and Performance at the Harlequin Theatre, Redhill 1st & 2nd April 2010

Five members of The Oxted Players attended this community arts project for young people aged 11 to 18, put on in association with Orbit Shed, part of the *Chicken Shed Theatre*. After a two day workshop there was a performance in the theatre attended by friends, family, general public plus many local dignitaries from Redhill & Reigate.

The members who took part were Marissa Beatty, Libby Bliss, Georgie Muscio, Jessica Muscio, Flo O'Mahony and Alex Neville and they were an absolute credit to The Oxted Players and represented the Barn Theatre exceptionally well. The support given by the Oxted Players and the Barn Theatre was much appreciated by Orbit Shed and the organisers of the workshop.

Phil Littleford

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### *Get to know the Barn*

For all of you that help Front of House, backstage or simply have a healthy interest in the place Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August is a date not to be missed. We shall be holding an open morning to bring those interested in how the Barn works up to date. Such things as, how to turn the lights on, how to lock up, turn the heating and air conditioning on. What to do in the event of fire or other emergency, simple first aid and much more. The morning starts at 10am and if you are likely to be coming along please give your name to the office by telephoning 01959 561811.