

FOBS

Thank you to all members who managed to make it to the AGM on 2nd April. It was an evening of mixed emotions as we had to record the recent loss of several good 'Friends' - David Beer, Trevor Constable and John Sturgeon. A few days after the meeting we also lost Dave Watkins, who had been a hard working member of the FOBs' committee for many years. On a brighter note, our Treasurer was able to hand over a cheque for £8,000 to Bruce as a result of our continuing efforts Front of House. Bruce thanked all the volunteers and, once again, emphasised that the Theatre could not run without them.

Sharon and Simon Dawes resigned from the committee because they hope to move nearer to their family in Cornwall. The remainder of the committee were re-elected and were joined by Katherine Saunders, Alan Jackson and Jeff Magnay.

We have a busy summer season coming up. The Eastern Area semi-final of the All England Theatre Festival is to be held at the Barn for the first time and we do hope that you will support these visiting companies. The Oxted Players are busy preparing "A Midsummer Night's Dream". We can also look forward to shows from talented local Youth Groups - OJOs (Oxted Operatic Society Juniors); Glow Theatre; Starmakerz Theatre School; Kenley Holiday Workshop and, on a first visit, the Edenbridge School of Dance. This will give us all plenty of opportunity to help our Theatre by buying tickets and/or volunteering to work on the Front of House Teams.

Do keep coming along to the Sunday Club on the first Sunday of each month – *but note that the June Sunday Club is moving to the second Sunday* in order not to clash with Her Majesty's Jubilee celebration weekend. If you missed Caro's 'sausage in a bun' treat on April 1st rumour has it that she might be offering another one later in the year. I'm sure that Friends will show their appreciation by responding generously to her request for cakes to be sold in the tea tent at the Oxted Carnival – my how the year flies by!

Sheila Bennett

PARADE

Minack Theatre August 2013

The Barnstormers are delighted to announce that they will be returning to the world famous open-air Minack Theatre, Cornwall next year with the powerful Tony Award winning musical 'Parade'. This dramatic and poignant musical by Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry will be staged at the Minack Theatre from Monday 5th to Friday 9th August 2013. There are also due to be local performances at the Barn prior to the Minack tour - dates to be confirmed.

'Parade' is the tragic, true life story of a man wrongly accused of murder, brought to emotional and theatrical life by ac-

claimed playwright Alfred Uhry ("Driving Miss Daisy") and Jason Robert Brown ("Songs For A New World", "Last Five Years").

In 1913, Leo Frank, a Brooklyn-born Jew living in Atlanta, Georgia, is put on trial for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan, a factory worker under his employ - the murder having taken place during the Confederate Memorial Day Parade (hence the title of the piece). Already guilty in the eyes of everyone around him, the sensationalist press, a politically motivated prosecution team and a janitor's false testimony seal Leo's fate. In fact the only person who eventually steps forward in his defence is his wife, Lucille, who finds the strength and love to become his greatest champion.

This show has a powerful and gripping storyline and some truly wonderful music drawing on influences from Sondheim to rhythm and blues and gospel. In dramatizing the story, Prince and Uhry have emphasized the evolving relationship between Leo and his wife Lucille, with their relationship shifting from cold to warm. The poignancy of the couple, who fall in love in the midst of adversity, is the core of the work, and it makes the tragic outcome - the miscarriage of justice - even more disturbing.

'Parade' was first produced on Broadway in 1998. This production directed by the great Harold Prince won Tony Awards for best book and best score and six Drama Desk Awards. The Barnstormers are licensed to perform a reworked version of the show first presented at the Donmar Theatre in London in 2007 and they will once again be looking for a large cast and backstage team to do this production justice down at the Minack.

The highly talented production team is headed up by Paul Longhurst (Director), Ian Skipper (Musical Director) and Fran Newitt (Choreographer) and production and set design is once again in the wonderfully creative hands of Jill 'Wigs' Wilson. As with every Minack tour, the Barn's directors and trustees will form the backbone of the technical team and of course bring with them a wealth of experience.

The Barnstormers always hold fully open auditions for their productions, and are very keen to hear from anyone (aged 16 and over) interested in auditioning for 'Parade':-

There will be a 'LAUNCH NIGHT' on Saturday 29th September 2012 (7.30pm) at the Barn Theatre, where the entire production team will be on hand to tell you about 'Parade' and the planned Minack tour, and, if you needed any more encouragement, the first drink will be on The Barnstormers!

PRINCIPAL ROLE AUDITIONS are scheduled for Sunday 14th October 2012 (all day) at the Barn Theatre and ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS will be held on Sunday 21st October 2012 (all day) at the Orpheus Centre in Godstone.

Please visit www.thebarnstormers.co.uk for loads more information about the show or check out their Facebook group "Parade at the Minack Theatre – August 2013". Contact Richard Allen on richard@thebarnstormers.co.uk / 07979 650901 to register your interest in auditioning or helping backstage/front of house during the Minack tour.