

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 19 Issue 2 May 2015

Friends of the Barn, donate another £10,000 to DRIP

Another very busy and successful year at the Barn was the theme of Alan Jackson, Chairman of Friend's of the Barn, at their AGM in March and Don Mear, the outgoing treasurer, was delighted to present Bruce, the Theatre Chairman with a cheque for £10,000 as a further contribution to the DRIP fund.

Bruce duly thanked all the FOB's for their continuing support of the Barn and encouraged the harnessing of more theatre supporters to increase the numbers available to assist with Front of House duties for the ever increasing number of shows.

To become a Friend of the Barn or to find out more about them, contact the membership secretary Jean Groves on 01883 712130, or collect an application form directly from the theatre where they are prominently displayed.

THE FRIENDLY FACES OF FOBS A look at some of those unsung heroes of the Barn Front Of House team

THREE YEARS ON.....



Alan Jackson,
FOBs Chairman

Karen and I moved to Oxted in 2009 to support Karen's elderly parents. We had always enjoyed attending the theatre - both professional and amateur - and we quickly discovered the Barn. We joined FOBS and read in the newsletter that volunteers were needed for Front of House duties. On most occasions I found myself behind the bar but also carried out all the other duties at some time. After about 18 months I was trained for Front of

House Manager.

I was voted onto the FOBs committee in 2012 and in 2013 became Deputy Chairman with a view to becoming Chairman in 2014 on Sheila Bennett's retirement.

I have been most impressed with the high standard which the various performances attain and also the standard of service provided by the many volunteers who give up their time. At various times there seem to be a lot of matters to attend to. However, as is often the case, one can get back so much more than one puts in and this is certainly true in my case. I have made some good friends and derive so much pleasure from working at the Barn as well as attending the performances and social events. It is always rewarding when everything runs smoothly and members of the audience comment accordingly.

SIX YEARS ON



Don Mear

I was very pleased to take on the role of Treasurer of FOBs, which enabled me to have some involvement with my first love, the theatre.

I always wanted to have a career in the theatre but the lure of a real job as an accountant became more important to me. As compensation, Julie and I have managed to see many hundreds of West End shows, witness my collection of theatre programmes. I, as an accountant, had dealt with numbers, not cash, and the task of counting and then preparing floats, with the help of the extremely patient staff at NatWest was very challenging! I have made some real friendships with the FOBs committee, under the excellent Chairmanship of Sheila Bennett, and more recently Alan Jackson, and will miss the committee meetings (not the cash counting).

SIXTY YEARS ON!.....



Pippa Bridges

Older BARN members may remember my parents Leonard and Betty Bridges. My mother was heavily involved with OOS from 1954 onwards and I would be dragged to the theatre, sat in the back row of the stalls and told "NOT TO MOVE!" Had I moved far? Not really. I had just joined the Barn Family.

By 1968, I joined the Panto chorus and despite living in West London did a couple of years as principal boy, which included

June Brown trying to turn me into a TILLER GIRL!

For the next 25 years I indulged my love of theatre in an amateur capacity by performing & directing at *The Bob Hope Theatre* in Eltham, *The Kenneth More* in Ilford and even doing some high kicks over water at *The Pavillion*, Worthing.

In 1990 I was recruited by the Director of the V&A to be the first General Manager of *The Theatre Museum* in Convent Garden where I ran their fringe studio theatre and had the added thrill of working with the professionals!

I returned to Oxted and the BARN in 1998 and served 12 years on the TOPS committee, subsequently joining the FOBS committee in 2004. Working happily with Sheila Bennett, the FOBS new Chairman, I tried to see what contribution I could make to the running of what had now evolved, under Bruce's leadership, into a hugely successful enterprise. Sheila allowed me to take on the task of FOH Staffing. After 12 years I have now left the Committee and in addition to continuing the FOH staffing I am thrilled to take on the Front of House liaison with our outside hirers.

You'll still find me sitting in the back row of the stallsdoing just what my mother told me to do sixty years ago.

I REALLY HAVEN'T MOVED AT ALL.

Tea and Cake Time Comes Round Again Saturday 4th July

The annual **Oxted Carnival** will take place on Saturday 4th July and as usual the Barn stalwarts will be out on the field early, erecting the tea tents ready for the afternoon crush of visitors. Always a fun day, getting some fresh air and working in daylight rather than a dark theatre it is the opportunity for the theatre to support the community as we hope they will support



us. Many of you will receive the annual phone call from Caro in the weeks before – please do your best to supply the stall with your usual delicious home made cakes and do come along and partake of a cup of tea or coffee and piece of cake whilst enjoying the carnival atmosphere.

SCHOOLFEST SATURDAY JUNE 13TH AT 2.30 & 7.30

We are delighted that local schools have agreed to stage another special spectacular show, **Schoolfest**, to raise funds for dressing room improvements.



Participating schools include St Mary's Junior School, Downs Way School, Holland Junior School, Oxted School, Lingfield Notre Dame School and St. Francis Catholic Primary School. There will be two performances, at 2.30 and 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £12.00 each are available from 01959 561811 or online for credit and debit card bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.

All proceeds will once again going to our DRIP fund which we hope will benefit many of the young performers in the years to come. Don't miss this very special showcase by talented young performers and do book early, as seats are limited.

THE SOUND OF MUSICALS SATURDAY 6TH JUNE AT 7.30PM

Amick Productions bring some wonderful music and a very talented cast on their first visit to us in June. An evening not to be missed by lovers of good music.

Prepare to be dazzled by this musical-packed evening, where



you will be taken on a journey from the West End to Broadway and back, spanning the classics to modern day musical theatre. Featuring some of the most popular and well-known songwriters, including Rodgers & Hammerstein, Elton John and Andrew Lloyd Webber and shows such as Les Misérables, Wicked and Guys & Dolls.

The talented cast are **Mike Christie** (The X-Factor & vocal group G4), **Sam Board** (Mamma Mia, Palace Theatre, London's West End) and **Jemma Harris** (The Ripper, New Players Theatre, Charing Cross). Don't miss out on this fantastic show suitable for all ages. Tickets 01959 561811 or go online for credit card and debit card bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.



The Barn Theatre Premier of We Will Rock You!

For the first time ever, the renowned rock musical **We Will Rock You** comes to the Barn stage, bringing together the combined uber-talents of Queen and Ben Elton. **Glow Theatre Group** are performing the musical in July, and rehearsals are already underway for this rocker of a show. Coming directly from their award winning performances in the **Southern Counties Drama Festival**, the show is providing the cast with a very different and very exciting challenge....and is introducing the music of the famous rock band to a whole new generation! First created as a tribute to the amazing Freddie Mercury, the show takes you into the future, to a world where music has been banned and total globalisation has been achieved. It's a safe, happy Ga-Ga place to live....unless you're a rebel. Unless you want to rock. Unless you are a Bohemian searching for your Rhapsody! The cast will be rocking the Barn from **1st to 4th July** with songs such as Bohemian Rhapsody, We Are The Champions, Killer Queen, Under Pressure, Crazy Little Thing Called Love and Another One Bites The Dust. Order your tickets now by telephoning 07813 916105 or go online for credit and debit card bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

QUO-INCIDENCE Saturday December 5th



The Barn welcomes this authentic tribute to Status Quo for the first time on **Saturday 5th December** and expect a sell out performance. All proceeds to the DRIP fund.

Order your tickets now by telephoning 01959 561811 or go online for credit and debit card bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



DAZZLE!

In February we entered two plays into the **Southern Counties Drama Festival**. Our adults performed the comedy "Aunt Matilda Comes For Christmas Dinner" directed by Catherine Webber with Jackie Barrett, Sally Bosman and Steve Jones. Our Young Players entry was a very topical play "Safe" directed by June Brown and Libby Bliss with Rebecca Wilkes, Megan Saunders, Archan Mohile, Barnaby Stott, Teddy Stevenson and Natasha Rose. Both teams fared very well against stiff competition and received well deserved praise from the Adjudicator with special mentions for acting and stage presentation. One act festival plays often mean only one performance but are still as challenging as a full length play for all concerned so our thanks to our Directors, casts and production teams for their hard work and commitment.

Our spring production is "**Boeing Boeing**" by **Marc Camoletti (13th to 16th May)**. This classic 1960's farce was performed by the Student Players at the Barn in 1972 where the cast included "Barn Matriarchs" Jill Perry and Joyce Newitt as two of the air hostesses with June Brown on props. Set in the Paris flat of architect Bernard, his hitherto smooth management of the visits by his three air hostess fiancées is disrupted by the introduction of the new Boeing airliner which changes their flying schedules.



Ann Lovell, Catherine Wyncoll, Peter Calver, Dena Watts, David Fanthorpe and Rhian Lally are our very vibrant and talented cast and Tricia Whyte directs. Please don't miss this hilarious production.

Tickets 01883 724852 or go online for credit card and debit card bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.

Looking ahead, our young members will be having a fun week in the theatre in August with David Rowan's workshop. Our Autumn production (14th to 17th October) is the Victorian comedy "**Lord Arthur Savile's Crime**" by Constance Cox based on a short story by Oscar Wilde. **Please email secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk if you would like to know more.**

In 2016 we intend celebrating our 70th anniversary in style with a very full programme of events beginning with our panto "Mother Goose", our Young Players' production in March, Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile" in May and a traditional "Macbeth" in October. **THE OXTED PLAYERS**

Dressing Room Improvement Project
Fundraising for DRIP continues apace and those little red buckets have already raised over £3,500 in loose change from retirement collections.

Our July OJOS production is the exciting new musical "Dazzle". Following a great turnout for the initial meet and greet, then workshop style auditions, we now have a very talented cast in place with principals as follows: Poppy: Anna Rastelli, Murgatroyd Megarich: Daniel Coldron, Flossie: Izzy Boorman, Sarkky: Maria Kelly, Skimpy: Ben Eldridge, Auntie Waltztein: Fern Simmons, Squeamish: Joel Wall, Clackett: Beth Mesher, Monkeychunks: Philip Langham, Mary-go round: Sophie Moss, Spooky: Jonah Rumsey, Louis Spanton: Dan Brown, Beak Worthy: Ellie D'Elessandro, Fail safe: Grace Rumsey.

We are delighted to be showcasing this musical by local writer Andrew Buckley of East Grinstead. Dazzle has been performed all over the world including Shanghai, South Africa, Canada and Australia but has yet to appear in the West End. Let's hope that is the next destination!

42ND STREET

Our November Production is 42nd Street, with performances from 17th to 21st November and rehearsals commencing at the beginning of September. We welcome our production team of Paul Robinson (Director), Andy Payne (MD) and Fran Newitt (Choreographer).

42nd Street tells the story of famed Director Julian Marsh's attempts to stage a musical extravaganza at the height of the Great Depression. With well-known songs such as "I Only Have Eyes For You", "We're In The Money", "Lullaby on Broadway" and of course, "42nd Street" among many others. This is a musical that will get every audience member's feet tapping along with the cast throughout the performance!

The initial meet and greet will be on Tuesday 19th May, 7.30pm to 9.30pm and auditions will be 2nd June for Principals and 4th June for Ensemble from 7.30pm to 10pm, all to be held at Hurst Green Community Centre, 4 Oak Close, Hurst Green, Oxted RH8 0BA

FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



The recent AGM saw the retirement of our treasurer, Don Mear. Don had looked after the finances for the past six years and whilst I am sorry to lose his services, I think that he deserves a well-earned break. Alan Webber has taken over the duties of Treasurer and I look forward to working with him in this important role. The committee also lost the services of Pippa Bridges but she is continuing to find volunteers for the Front of House duties. We all thank her for the hard work which Pippa has put in over many years and particularly for her many constructive comments in our meetings. Dave Nichols has joined the committee and we look forward to his contribution. If you are interested in assisting with any of the activities then please let us know. Our Sunday Club gathering (first Sunday in each month) is a great opportunity to socialise and to find out how you could help continue the excellent service which the theatre provides to hirers when they bring a show to Oxted. Alan Jackson

Southern Counties Drama Festival 2015



Christina Betts collected the Festival Winners award for Alternate Shadows



Cast of Glow Theatre Group with their award for Best Youth Production

An excellent week of festival drama unfolded at the Barn in late February with some close competition for the winning slots by the 15 teams performing. Jan Palmer Sayer, the adjudicator, was extremely complimentary as to the standard of the presentations and thoroughly enjoyed the whole "thriving" festival.



'War Room' by Alternate Shadows

Winners of the Festival and Best Adult Production were Alternate Shadows with their play "War Room", an original play written by Chris Brake, who played the part of Chancellor.

Winners of the Best Youth Production were Glow Theatre Group with their production of "DNA" by Dennis Kelly.



'DNA' by Glow Theatre Group

ALL ENGLAND THEATRE FESTIVAL EASTERN AREA FINAL

Excitement is building for the Eastern Area Final here at the Barn as winners from earlier rounds gather for the event that takes the winners straight to the English Final of the AETF.



Jill Colby, well known to Barn Festival audiences, is the adjudicator and there are two sessions, afternoon and evening.

The afternoon session commences at 2.30pm with performances by winners from the Maidenhead and Waltham Forest Festivals and the evening performance at 7.30pm will see winners representing the Southern Counties and Elmbridge Festivals, followed by the final adjudication and presentation of the awards.

Tickets £8 per session or £14 for both.
Telephone 01959 561811
or online for credit and debit card bookings
www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Barn Theatre Annual General Meeting

All are invited to the Barn AGM at 8pm on Wednesday 10th June in the theatre. Shareholders will receive their formal notice of invitation later this month and all other supporters are welcome as guests.

Dennis Newitt



Dennis, patriarch of one of the largest and longstanding extended "Barn families" and himself a Barn stalwart both on stage and backstage, sadly died earlier this year. The funeral was attended by many of his Barn friends and Cathy Longhurst, one of his daughters has sent me the following extract from the eulogy which I am delighted to publish here:-

"We have been overwhelmed by the heartfelt messages we have received from everyone. The sentiments that have been repeated again and again were that he was a wonderful, gentle, happy, smiling man who liked to tell his stories and was always up for a chat. He is still remembered by our friends as being so very patient, sitting outside rehearsal halls and parties waiting for us to finally emerge! One old family friend said he was genuinely interested in what you were doing and when asked, offered sensible advice. There are some to this day who still remember his wisdom and guidance. Dad would be humbled by the quiet effect he made on people's lives and I can just see him now smiling and waving at us all."

The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received.
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Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 17th July