

Barn Theatre News



Volume 7 Issue 4 November 2003

Bruce: a Beacon for the Barn

The Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust is a new charitable initiative which is raising the profile of philanthropy in the UK, and recognises individuals who are an inspiration to others in the way that they give, be it time, money or expertise.

Bruce was highly commended after being nominated for the prestigious Beacon Prize 2003, for his philanthropic endeavours, leadership and achievements at the Barn Theatre, Oxted where he is Chairman of the Trustees.

"In an almost impossibly difficult process, with many hundreds of outstanding nominations, Bruce's achievements stood out as exceptional" commented Emily Stonor, Chief Executive of Beacon. "We congratulate all our highly commended candidates – reaching the final shortlist is a considerable mark of recognition of your achievement."

"We have been overwhelmed with nominations in this, our inaugural year. It has really shown us that people in the UK really do believe that charitable achievements should be celebrated just as much as achievements in other fields."

Congratulations to Bruce on this well deserved recognition. It is through Bruce's enthusiasm, leadership, commitment, and attention to detail that we now enjoy the much improved facilities at the Barn Theatre. Editor

Floored but not carpeted!

Sadly after many phone calls, letters and finally the threat of litigation we have still not received the carpet for the new extension so kindly donated by the Oxted Players at their AGM in July. To achieve the carpet we wanted in our own design at a price we could afford we have had to use a hitherto unknown carpet supplier and what should have been a straightforward transaction has frankly become a nightmare. Hopefully matters will be resolved soon and the carpet laid. To have achieved so much and finally fallen over one of the last hurdles is very disappointing but we will not be beaten – watch that space!

Barn 2000 Lottery for 2004

The Barn Lottery will be running again in 2004, its seventh year. Enclosed you will find a letter explaining how the lottery works; it's the same as all the previous years, and an entry form. Please complete the entry form & return to Phil Littleford as soon as possible. If you pay by standing order there's no need to return an entry form. Please do encourage family & friends to join, the more entries we have the higher the values of the prizes - first prize has always been above £45 a month!

Full House

The theatre is getting busier and busier with bookings already in place for as far ahead as 2006 and beyond. If you or someone you know is interested in booking a space please do so as early as possible. For 2004 there are no Saturdays available until later in June and very few weekday spaces either. Good news for us but frustrating for those who don't usually think to plan that far in advance. All enquiries to Bruce please.

Was it you that had to walk home?

Dave Watkins recently found a bunch of keys in the scenery studio that someone out there must be missing. The bunch contains a car ignition key, a number of padlock keys and a specialist security key of a type not seen very often. They could have been there for a long time as they were found sandwiched between 2 washing up bowls with the painting pans. Enquiries to Bruce on 01959 561811.



Pat Rolph Remembered

Terry Rolph has donated 4 wrought iron and glazed panels for the bar, in memory of his dear wife Pat. Designed and installed by Bruce, with ironwork made locally by Simon Larkin, logo decoration by keen thespian Paul Bowles and etched glass by Limes Glass. The panels (shown left) create a focal point along the main wall of the new bar whilst supporting the wide oak shelf used for interval drinks etc. Thank you Terry.

Curtain call for Des

Following the sudden death earlier this year of Desmond Groves, our Barn 2000 appeal fund received a tremendous boost from Jean and the family who donated all contributions towards works on the new extension. Whilst works have been continuing we have used old curtains borrowed from other places around the theatre to dress the bar area and reduce noise transmission into the auditorium but we have now ordered some really splendid new velvet curtains with heavy linings and these will be dedicated in memory of dear Desmond. Thank you Jean, Pat and David.

A Seat for Fred

We are shortly expecting delivery of chairs and tables for the new bar, generously donated by Nan Flaherty in memory of her late husband Fred. Not too many as we don't wish to restrict the room but enough to give our patrons somewhere to sit in the bar. For many years Fred was an extremely active member of the back stage team and many of the flats used for scenery today were made by him and his colleagues. Thank you Nan.