

We are going up in the world *Hooray for Hollywood!*

The last big element of the Barn 2000 project has been put in hand and it is hoped that the new wheelchair lift will be installed during a quiet time in the theatre early next February. This will enable the disabled in wheelchairs to have access to the stage from the dressing rooms and is another step by the Barn Trustees to ensure that the facilities are improved, where possible in this old building, to give equal opportunities to all. The bulk of the monies for this installation have been provided by the Oxted Players and we are extremely grateful to their committee and membership for this donation and for their continuing support of all we do. Following completion it is hoped that Richard Stilgoe, one of our Barn 2000 patrons, will be able bring some of the apprentices from the Orpheus Centre in Godstone to entertain us.

During the last few years we have gradually implemented a programme of improvements which include:-

- installing a hearing aid loop (courtesy of the Oxted Players),
- changing the external steps to the front entrance into easy rise ramps,
- providing dedicated spaces in the car park for disabled patrons cars,
- offering our 'What's On' in large print upon request,
- installing a wheelchair friendly toilet in the new bar area,
- providing all newly installed taps to sinks and basins with levers,
- providing permanent places in the auditorium for wheelchairs,
- making sure that wheelchairs can circulate throughout the ground floor without impediment.

But rest assured we have not finished! There is still much to do and we constantly reassess what is necessary and what we are able to achieve. It is an ongoing process and suggestions are always welcome.

'A Christmas Cracker' Saturday 11th December 7.30pm

What is full of surprises just like a cracker? The annual Christmas show at the Barn Theatre, Oxted of course. Close your eyes and imagine if you will, a canopy of Christmas decorations and festive lights with a huge Christmas tree and presents, the smell of freshly cooked mince pies and the aroma of mulled wine wafting around as you are entertained with music and carols. But why dream when you too can enjoy a magical evening such as this at the Barn by simply ordering your tickets.

This years concert concentrates as usual on the traditional Christmas music, carols and readings with contributions from Kenley Holiday Workshop, The Candlelight Carollers from Caterham Preparatory School, the boys and girls from St Mary's School Oxted, some very dainty dancing Morris Men complete with bells and regulars from the Barn resident groups.

Order your tickets now, before it is too late. At £9.00 each they are available from the Box Office, 15a High Street, Westerham, TN16 1RA, either by telephone (01959 561811), post or personal collection. After the 21st November tickets will be available from Ibbett Mosely (01883 712241), Oxted. The best seats go very quickly so order early.

Christmas Classical CD

With the release of their own first commercial CD The Barn Sinfonietta of Oxted has scored a first for The Barn Theatre as well!

A majority of the tracks were recorded live during concerts given in The Barn Theatre in the Sinfonietta's first two seasons. Included are Beethoven's ever popular Symphony No. 2 and Frank Bridge's beautiful Suite for Strings. Also on the CD is lovely music by Parry, Honegger and Hovhanness - 77 minutes in all.

Priced at just £12, this CD is available just in time for Christmas from various locations in Oxted including Station Shoe Repair, The Fox and Hounds Pub, The Barn Theatre on concert evenings or directly from The Barn Sinfonietta on 01883 712264. Why not have a bit of Oxted history or send it to friends and relatives?

Johan Michael Katz

The New Foxtrot Serenaders are returning to the Barn Theatre on Friday 11th March 2005 at 7.45pm for an evening celebrating the Hollywood musicals of the 30s and 40s. Remember Busby Berkeley, Fred and Ginger, Gene Kelly dancing to the music of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Hoagy Carmichael and Irving Berlin? Well come along and you can enjoy music from the glamorous movie era and hear for yourself the fantastic music from this authentic British dance band.

Tickets £9, to book telephone 01959 561811 (available on this number until 23rd February 2004) and thereafter from Ibbett Mosely 01883 712241

One Man And His Piano Live at The Barn Theatre, Oxted on Saturday 4th December 2004 at 8.00pm

Spend an evening in the company of Terry Saunders and discover a strange new world where no subject is too obscure to be set to music - from plastic surgery to the underground network. Watch him grapple with the vagaries of music software and demonstrate some prodigious - and pointless - feats of memory. Listen to the song he wrote in response to a bet and the poem which finds the missing link between romantic love and financial services. Marvel at the Song Without Vowels and Give A Wry Smile at the anti-love song for those who want to break off a relationship. It's light cabaret, Jim - but not as we know it.

"Absolutely hilarious" - Guardian "I'm so proud of him" - Parent

Tickets £10 - call Derek Sawers on 01342 832710

Condolences

Many of you will know Peter Ramage who is the mastermind behind the Barn Mural. Joanne Thirsk, Peter's partner, soul mate and painting assistant died on Saturday 30th October, very suddenly, from a brain haemorrhage. Like Peter, Jo was a consummate musician and apart from travelling the world together to play in concerts she soon joined Peter at the Barn and ably assisted him with many of the fine backcloths he has produced for our productions. Our condolences go to Peter and Jo's family who came over from the USA to attend the funeral.

Best Wishes

John Sturgeon who for many years was the Appeals Secretary for the FOBs, is seriously ill in the East Surrey Hospital following heart surgery. He has developed breathing difficulties and is not very well at all. Our thoughts are with Laura and the family and we wish John a speedy recovery.