

FOBS **Silver Anniversary**

On 10 December it will be exactly 25 years since the public inaugural meeting was held which resulted in the formation of the Friends of the Barn Society. It sprang from an initiative by John Sturgeon called 'Buy a Tile' to fund the necessary repairs to the Barn Theatre roof. There followed discussions between Terry Rolph, John Sturgeon, Bruce Reed and others and it was agreed that much else needed to be done if the Theatre was to survive and prosper.

A committee was chosen and the first meeting was held on 5 January 1982 with the following:-

Chair:	T Rolph
Hon Sec:	M Scrivens
Hon Treasurer:	T Pengelly
Hon Appeals Sec:	J Sturgeon
Hon Legal Adv:	P John
Vice Chair:	C Kattau, E Rose, R Harvey

Dr Eileen Joyce and Sir David Burnett had already agreed to become Trustees. Jillian Wilson later joined and designed a Society logo and they were on their way to a quarter of a century of organising and staffing of fund-raising events. With the increased use of the Theatre by outside Societies and dance schools etc there is now less need for the Fobs to arrange events but they still have to be largely staffed by us at Front of House. Of that, more later

Over the years there have of course been changes. John Sturgeon stayed on Committee until January 2001. Terry Rolph remained in the Chair until handing over to Heather Lloyd in 2000 and is now our President, a strong central thread. Hon Secretaries have included Sheila Bennett (twice), Janice Wright, Janette White, Heather Lloyd and now, Bridget Carey. Eric Morgan was a long-serving Treasurer after Thomas Pengelly, to be succeeded by Peter Hoskins and now, Brian White. Some other long servers include Joyce Newitt, Membership Secretary, Ted Rose and Jillian (Wiggy) Wilson. Janet Magnay has now been with us for eight years with Simon and Sharon Dawes not far behind.

The writer confesses to joining in 1985 as the then Student Players rep and the late Jack Wettern was the Barn Theatre rep. In those days there was a lot of physical work with we oldies piling up rows of the heavy seats to enable auctions, dances, and other functions to take place. We often went to the County School, dismantled their grand piano and trolleyed it to the Barn, with the return journey on Sunday! Health and Safety watchdogs would be horrified now!

The said seats, ex-cinema, eventually had to be replaced and it was then that Terry initiated the scheme which invited people to buy a replacement and have a plate mounted to commemorate a loved one. There is now only one seat left and 'The Last Seat' will be auctioned or raffled during the Christmas Cracker on Saturday 9 December.

We remember those we have lost as time takes its toll, amongst them Doreen Roose who, despite illness, carried out the work of the Membership Secretary. She is now succeeded by Jean Groves.

This very worth-while work has to go on and I make no apologies for nagging you again. This time we NEED people to volunteer for Front of House duties, already

looking forward to staffing for the southern Counties Drama Festival in February which we hope will be a full week. So – PLEASE get on that phone to Pippa Bridges, our Front of House co-ordinator and volunteer. 01883 712459 or e-mail: judith.bridges@btinternet.com
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ConChord Big Band

Formed eleven years ago "ConChord" is a 22 piece band playing music from the 20's 30's 40' and 50's and has become a highly entertaining showband with a wide repertoire covering swing, jazz, pops, blues, movie and stage music.

Saturday 3rd February 2007 sees the return of the band to the Barn for a special one night charity concert in aid of East Surrey Scouting Centenary International Jamboree Fund.

This group of talented musicians and singers have delighted audiences throughout the country with their high standards ensuring that they are constantly in demand and we are fortunate to have them fit this charity concert into their schedule. This is an evening not to be missed. See a preview and listen on www.chonchordbigband.com.

Early booking is advised at 01883 714611 Tickets £10

Even More Volts and Amps

The planned new electricity supply has finally been installed in the theatre and is live! Work will progress over the next few weeks to modify the existing electrical installation and divide our power requirements between the new and old supplies to suit. The main benefit will be the ability to consider new projects with heavy power requirements with confidence, rather than as previously, trepidation. Thanks to Frank Boonham for planning, arranging and supervising the provision of this new supply and the subsequent replanning of our installation.

From my Kitchen Window

I love children! I can eat any number in one go.

Well, truthfully, I'm not actually sure I like other people's children very much. In that I'm probably completely alone (at least in admitting it!). However, I am quite happy to see children go to the theatre. It's good for them. It's a positive experience, one which should be encouraged.

However, one year we had a summer of Shakespeare for Kidz performing in the Theatre. It was a hot summer, the sort you want to spend lounging in the shade in the garden. It was also the sort where people faint of heat exhaustion. Therefore Shakespeare was played from open doors: every day with all the doors wide open. Morning, afternoon and night children were bussed in (from all over the South of England as far as we could tell) for performances of an abridged version of Romeo and Juliet with songs and music. The noise was unbearable. For the first time ever, we could actually hear the performances, the applause and the shrieks from the children when we were sitting inside our house - with the windows shut - and we literally couldn't sit in the garden throughout the month of July because of the noise which grew more annoying as the month went by.

BUT it was one of only two occasions when we have had cause to complain about the goings on at the Theatre, and in 20 years as a neighbour, that's not too bad. After all, I lived to tell the tale.

Mette Breminer at No 74