

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



Volume 28 Issue 4 November 2023

## THANK YOU FOBS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK



On Sunday 24th September the FOBS Committee hosted an Afternoon Tea to say thank you to those volunteers who have kindly put themselves forward for a Front of House duty during the last 12 months. Guests were treated to a glass of prosecco on arrival, followed by an amazing spread which had been beautifully prepared and presented by Helen Clark. Enormous thanks go to Helen and her band of trusty assistants, John Clark, Nikki Boorman and Teresa Chinnock. It was an extremely enjoyable afternoon, and is one which we hope will become an annual event.



Paul Robinson

## Glow Theatre Group reaches the West End as Charlotte takes a role in Matilda!

Here at Glow Theatre Group we delight in celebrating the successes of our theatre students. With 15 years of experience in training and nurturing young theatricals, both as creatives and as on stage performers, it is a joy to see so many of our Glow young people, who started their theatre journey here in our lovely Barn Theatre, spreading their wings and achieving success further afield in a variety of professional arenas.

Latest in line to extend into the industry is our lovely Charlotte Mellington. Charlotte is currently performing as Lavender in the West End production of Matilda the Musical in London's West End. Charlotte played the role of Lavender in our own production of Matilda at The Barn in 2021, so we are especially delighted that she won this particular role in the professional production too. Charlotte is a super performer and I know that she is having a fabulous time treading such impressive boards. We send congratulations and wish her much fun and happiness in her run! Charlotte is appearing in Matilda at the Cambridge Theatre in London. The Barn Theatre gateway to success strikes again!

**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL





## Who the Really Happy Company Are and How They Came To Be

My association with the theatre is small compared to many, it only began when my eldest child was eight and so began many years of performing for her and my other two children, in numerous Oxted Players and Operatic productions, as well as with dance schools and Kenley Holiday Workshop. In 2012 the Dressing Room Improvement Project was launched – DRIP and I had the idea, along with Dave and Libby Nichols, of bringing an Elvis tribute show with dancers to the Barn stage and a children’s compilation show called Let Us Entertain You. I tentatively approached the Theatre chairman Bruce Reed and was amazed when he agreed to support me. My friend and neighbour Phil Littleford agreed to stage manage the shows and Caro and John did their technical best with lighting and sound, supported by Sue Marr on follow spot and husband Pete in the wings. I had the pleasure of the artistic direction of the wonderful Martin Patrick and both shows were hugely successful. The Barn turned 90 in 2013 and Bruce asked Martin and I to bring two shows to the stage as part of the celebrations, but devastatingly Martin died. However, Sarah Morrison stepped up to support, Natasha Palmer came along and somewhere along the way we called ourselves the Really Happy Company. Since 2013 we have raised almost £90,000 which has benefited the Barn, local schools and other charities. I am proud to be able to do what we do with such amazing and generous people. Angie Muscio

### A Celebration of Christmas Is An RHC Production

The Barn Theatre Oxted, and all involved in the ‘Celebration of Christmas’ show are working harder than ever to raise vital funds for two charities: Young Lives vs Cancer and The Royal Marsden Children’s Unit following the devastating news that Abi, the inspiration for the show passed away in September. Abi, just 18yrs of age from Oxted, died the very weekend that many an Oxted teen embarked on their new scenery at various Universities and colleges.

We are more driven than before to raise funds for the many other families, sadly in similar distressing times. To hear more about Abi’s story and the Barn Theatre show, listen to the interview with Andrea Oxlade on Ridge Radio [www.ridgeradio.co.uk](http://www.ridgeradio.co.uk). The combined forces of Young Lives vs Cancer and the Royal Marsden provide support for young patients and their families from all angles:

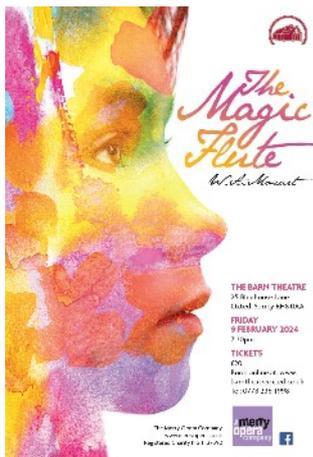
- Young Lives vs Cancer: emotional support for all the family, financial advice, logistical support, a navigation tool in the new clinical world families have entered.
- The Royal Marsden: the powerhouse of cancer research and drug development, the centre of excellence for treatment.

The Barn Theatre invites you to join us in any way you can in supporting families nationwide, just like Abi’s.

Tickets [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) **ALL SOLD OUT.**

Register to join waiting list and receive information on ticket returns 01959561811 or [barntheatre@btinternet.com](mailto:barntheatre@btinternet.com).

To advertise in the program email Rebecca Farrell for details: [Bexnsteve.farrell@icloud.com](mailto:Bexnsteve.farrell@icloud.com)



## The incomparable and ever-inventive Merry Opera

meanders on its Merry Way across England with two upcoming tours: In November and December, the 16th revival of its staged production of Handel's Messiah, with just 12 singers surrounding the audience in churches can be found from East Anglia to Hampshire,

and then from February to April a tour of **Mozart's Magic Flute lands here with us on February 9th at 7.30pm**, before wending its way through the wind, rain and sunshine of the English countryside from Gloucestershire to Norfolk by way of London and the Home Counties.

For more details take a look at [www.merryopera.co.uk](http://www.merryopera.co.uk)



### Mark Wakeford, 30<sup>th</sup> May 1958 - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023



The sudden death of Mark, at home recently, leaves a big hole in the lives of those who knew him. He first trod the boards at the Barn when he was a ballet dancer aged four and he was obviously touched by his first appearance, continuing to be active at the theatre right to the end of his life. He played roles for the Oxted Players, Oxted Operatic Society, OMTS, and the Barnstormers both here in Oxted and also at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall, one of his favourite venues. His Minack experiences led to further appearances there with Barnes and Richmond Operatic Society. He was a previous Director of the Oxted and Limpsfield Barn Theatre Company Ltd, a frequent FOH volunteer and Treasurer, ASM and Timekeeper for the Southern Counties Drama Festival. He was a good all rounder always willing to help and a tremendous friend to so many. Mark, we will miss you.

**The BARN THEATRE Oxted**  
**Centenary FESTIVAL**

# Centenary GALA DINNER

Coltsford Mill Oxted, RH8 9DG **Tuesday 21st May 2024 from 7.15pm**

**£65.00 per person**  
 Welcome drink of Prosecco on arrival  
 Three course meal followed by tea, coffee and hand made chocolates  
 Half bottle of wine per person

**An Audience with Henry VIII after dinner**

Tickets via the website: [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

## CENTENARY GALA DINNER TICKET INFORMATION

Individual tickets, tables of eight or tables of ten

Tickets can be reserved on [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) with a deposit of £10 per person or payment of full price.

We appreciate that the ticket price is a significant cost, and to ease the burden we will be more than happy to accept payment by instalments over the next 6 months if you wish, with the final balance to be paid by May 1st 2024.

All enquiries to Paul Robinson, [fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk](mailto:fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk) with regard to instalment payments.



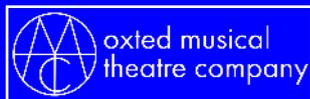
Are You Brave Enough to join us on a full blown ghost hunt at the Barn Theatre on 26th January?

This location had never been investigated before 2022 and it has countless reports of strange and unexplained happenings going on inside it. People are very fearful of working in the building alone due to hearing footsteps and voices late at night.

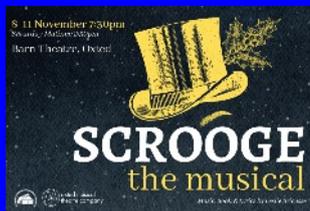
Performers from a previous age have also been seen at different times and there is a very strong feeling of being watched in there. People have also felt nudged when walking on the stage.

We will be conducting a full blown ghost hunt to find out what goes on after dark - are you brave enough to join us there? Over 18's only please

Tickets [www.ghosthunterstours.co.uk/](http://www.ghosthunterstours.co.uk/)



"I don't know what to do!" cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath. Well we know what you should do, come and see Scrooge! Oxted Musical Theatre Company brings this classic tale to the Barn Theatre in November. This wonderful timeless tale of a man who goes from miserable and miserly to happy and charitable warms the hearts of young and old alike and I bet you all have that family member you call Scrooge at this time of year! It may be a little early for all things Christmas but this production, directed by the wonderful David Morgan with Musical Director Robert Randall and Choreographer Kerry Payne will have you laughing, crying and is just the thing to enjoy now the cold dark nights are fast approaching and will be sure to get you all in the Christmas Spirit. One for all the family to enjoy, hurry you really don't want to miss this amazing production.



8th - 11th November

Laura Chapman

THE ALTER  
**EAGLES**  
 NO FINER TRIBUTE  
**November 24th at 7.45pm**

**THE UNRAVELLING WILBURYS**  
 Playing The Songs of  
**THE TRAVELING WILBURYS**  
 HARRISON \* PETTY \* LYNNE \* DYLAN \* ORBISON  
**Sunday December 10th at 7.30pm**

## Chaperone Training at the Barn

On the 24th January members of the Surrey Child Protection Unit from Woking will visit the Barn Theatre to offer an evening of training to those wishing to qualify as chaperones, saving time and cost of travel. See [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) for tickets.



Glow Theatre Group is in the thick of rehearsals for their next shows, coming to the Barn in November and December! We have set ourselves a challenge: three fabulous shows within two weeks! The epic Les Miserables (School Edition), ALL SOLD OUT, the classic Guys and Dolls JR and the wonderfully whimsical Seussical JR – and all delivered with the renowned Glow Theatre Group energy and pizzazz! Looking forward to welcoming you to the performances!



## The Arrival of the Glow Worms!

On top of this, Glow Theatre Group is delighted to announce the arrival of the Glow Worms! Our new Saturday morning

classes are specially designed for the youngest actors, aged 5 – 7. Boys and girls will love these sessions, created to build self-confidence and skill, self-expression and communication, and to nurture a love of performing! Call 07813 916105 now for more info on this exciting new opportunity for young actors!



In November, New Aquarian Opera Company bring their first Grand Opera to the Barn Stage since the 2019 relaunch, with a fully staged production of Mozart's, *The Marriage of Figaro*.

This will be in English with an extraordinarily funny translation by Amanda Holden (not the BGT one) and we have an amazing cast of soloists, some of whom have performed with ENO, Irish National Opera and Glyndebourne. This will be a fully staged production of four acts with a six piece Chamber Ensemble led by our musical director Guy Middlemiss. The show is three hours long, meaning we have to start at 7pm with two intervals to finish by 10:30 and tickets are £20.

The saga started in 1786 Vienna, when Mozart took a great risk by composing an opera from Beaumarchais' incendiary, banned play about servants outwitting their masters that literally changed the world of music forever. *The Marriage of Figaro* is a sublime operatic masterpiece of comedy, lust, deception, intrigue and love that remains the world's most favourite over 200 years later.

The story all takes place on Figaro and Susanna's wedding day; Figaro loves Susanna, the Countess still loves the Count, Cherubino loves all the ladies and as for the Count, love is not the word for how he feels about Susanna! As the Count schemes to get his wicked way, his Countess and the household plot to frustrate him with their own twists of fate and agendas. Mozart's unparalleled music sees the flaws of humanity laid bare, with a triumphant ending that is truly joyous.



## Spud n' Bubbles 2024 Centenary Year

For what has now become a Barn tradition, for the first Sunday Club of the New Year, on 7<sup>th</sup> January we are again having a simple baked potato lunch with a meat or veggie option and a glass of 'bubbles' or a soft drink.



'Spud n' Bubbles' will cost £10.00 (all proceeds to the theatre) and if possible please order and pay upfront. I can collect the money any time I am at the theatre or please make contact if you haven't seen me. I shall serve at 1.00pm and everyone who has ordered and paid for their meal by 12.45pm will be guaranteed a spud but after that the surplus will be available to

anyone who turns up on the day and pays. Please e-mail me ([carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com](mailto:carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com)) with orders as soon as possible (last e-mail orders 5<sup>th</sup> Jan) as I intend to restrict numbers to 50, on a first come, first served basis. Also, if you need to cancel please do so by 5<sup>th</sup> January or expect to be asked for the money as last year we had some 'no-shows'!

## Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Conclusion of the NODA review by Kay Rowan, South East Regional Councillor, NODA.

"The entire production was a triumph, characterised by a very high standard of singing, dancing and acting. The achievements of the ensemble within a limited rehearsal period are praiseworthy. Their focussed acting and confident singing united to craft a remarkable evening's entertainment for audiences young and old. Heartfelt congratulations extend to all involved with the Kenley Holiday Workshop for this exceptional production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*"



Photo: Founder and Principal of Kenley Holiday Workshop, Sally Dallosso enjoys a ride in magnificent Gen 11.



## WEAR YOUR LOGO WITH PRIDE

In keeping with our new image for the centenary of the theatre next year, we have new logos which will be used on clothing to identify helpers and workers. One will be for the theatre and the other for the Friends of the Barn and we will be having shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and gilets with these logos embroidered on them. Items will be black for uniformity and the cost will be very reasonable so please get in touch with Caro Rowley on [carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com](mailto:carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com) to discuss or place an order



Acknowledged as the biggest One Act Drama Festival for youth and adult groups in the UK. Entry forms are now available for the 2024 Festival. Telephone 01959 561811 for a copy, apply at [scdfatbarn@btinternet.com](mailto:scdfatbarn@btinternet.com)

or download at [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/scdf.html](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/scdf.html)

The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received.

Copy should be sent to [www.barntheatre@btinternet.com](mailto:www.barntheatre@btinternet.com) Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Comedy Nights for November and January. Always great fun with excellent comics from the London circuit and suitable for all over 16 years of age

