

FOBS

We began the quarter by assisting the Barn Directors to wine and dine members of the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club and if anyone expected a lot of plummy voices they would have been wrong. They were a very pleasant and broad spectrum of society, who really appreciated their reception and surroundings.

These functions help to widen our customer base. People come from far and wide, pick up handbills and our fame spreads: "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow", or something.

We shall end the quarter with another novel get-together. Anthony and Sandra Goddard met at the Barn, so it is fitting to use it to have an informal party to celebrate, in their own words "Our 10th Wedding Anniversary and 100 years between us" – what a lovely idea.

The said bar is now fully equipped and we are getting used to the luxury of more space, improved availability and a storage of stock and glasses and –oh joy, oh glee – a glass washing machine! The new all singing all dancing bar had its real baptism when we fronted for the Old Tyme Music Hall, and it worked well. Fine tuning is now in progress together with retraining of bar volunteers. We have also given all a wash down: "my dear, these builders raise so much dust."

We have had a fairly quiet summer so far, fronting for the Barn Bande on 31st May was a pleasure; it is always lovely to hear beautiful music while you work. Some members have helped out with other shows and baked cakes for the Carnival.

Our next big Front of House duty will be for the annual show by Kenley Holiday Workshop, always a delight. This year it is "Carousel" from 14th-16th August. This will be followed by Aquarian Opera presenting "A Night of Opera Favourites" from 18th-20th September and again our volunteers will be called out. Sandwiched between the shows is the Barn Quiz and supper on Saturday 6th September.

Word is reaching us that there is a lot more work for us as we move into Autumn and the run up to Christmas, so all those with a minute to spare, step forward, your theatre needs you.

We are still giving money away like a sailor on leave. Our latest donation was £4000, a general contribution for the extension.

Finally a thank you to all our members and in particular those who have volunteered for duties – keep coming.

Dave Watkins

Award for Cabaret.

David Club, Chairman of Oxted Operatic, took a phone call from Reg Humby NODA representative for the Southern Area a couple of weeks ago. Reg was delighted to tell David that the Society's production of 'Cabaret' earlier in the year had been awarded the top prize of 'Best Musical' by NODA. Congratulation to Oxted Operatic and to all those involved with this award winning production.

Starlight Opera - Cosi Fan Tutte

From November 26th there is a week of opera at the Barn - the Starlight Opera production of Mozart's comic opera Cosi Fan Tutte, a tale of tangled affections.

Starlight Opera are newcomers to the Barn. They are a new small professional opera company who aim to present the finest voices and the smartest acting, singing opera in English in small theatres with good acoustics and room for an orchestra (apparently the Barn fits the bill!). The production is sung in English, to a new translation by Joe St.Johanser, who also directs. Joe has endeavoured to provide a faithful translation of the Lorenzo Da Ponte libretto - jokes and all. He recently heard of someone who had heard a Mozart comic opera at La Fenice in Venice and was amazed to hear the Italian audience in gales of laughter - well of course - it's supposed to be funny! The show is double cast with very fine singers - some of whom you may hear a lot more of as they move on to the bigger houses.

On the other hand Starlight Opera believe there is no point (other than making pots of money) in singing actors playing huge houses where the lift of an eyebrow can't be seen from the other side of the stage - let alone the back row of the stalls - and where no one hears the words. On the other hand opera with orchestra is expensive - the ticket price of £10 is a bargain. Box office 01959 561811 till 2nd November thereafter from Ibbett Mosely.

Francis Griffin conducts, costume and set design is by Jane Wyatt, the producer for Starlight Opera is Jackie Shearer

Missing Props

Anyone with information on the present whereabouts of the Operatic's 10 pewter tankards, last used as props for "Showtime" in July 2002, please contact John Bennett on 01883-715145 or john@bgr42.fsnet.co.uk.

From My Kitchen Window

When I look out and see all the enthusiastic people working at the Theatre I think to myself: I want to be one of them! I am quite a keen gardener, and twice a year I am very-almost-not-completely-but-incredibly-nearly tempted to maybe go and spend possibly a few minutes offering to ... well, not, of course I never really intend to help with the gardening, don't be silly. But they are a jolly lot, all those keen, able gardeners. I can tell just by looking, so why join in? (I must say that the guy who cuts the grass is rather cute although getting on a bit!)

Then there are all those little groups lately, who have been standing outside the Theatre in deep discussion, probably about the new extension. I could join in. I know ALL about it. When the players run around in their costumes it tugs at my heart-strings. Please dress me up and put me on the stage, Mrs Worthington. I could do that. OK, so I can't act. What else ...? I can sing. How about that? Well, may be not. Too close to home – and what will the neighbours say!

But never fear, I'll think of something. Something that involves no hard work, no responsibility and no expense. Ideas anybody?

Mette Breminer at No 74

Lottery Winners

May 2003 First Mrs J Sturgeon, Second Mrs S Guttman,
Third Mrs J Brown. - June 2003 First Mr M Lecroissette,
Second Mrs H Lloyd, Third Ms C Rowley.
July 2003 First Mrs A Scott, Second Mr & Mrs S Routledge,
Third Mr A Herbert