

OXTED OPERATIC SOCIETY

Sweet Charity



Our November show has been successfully cast and we are delighted to report that there will be a lot of newer faces in the principal roles. Jane Maisey takes the title role of Charity and will be supported by Robert Stevens as Oscar, Andrew Claringbull as Vidal, James McBride as Herman, Rock Vetriano as Daddy Brubeck, Claire Crowther as Helene, Deb Skipper as Nickie and Croia Reilly as Ursula to name but a few. Congratulations to all those who were successful at the auditions. We had a fantastic turn out and we are delighted that the production team had such a wide

choice for the vast majority of the parts. We are now ready to start the rehearsals in early September and with the experienced production team of Martin Patrick, Andrea Green and Michael Burbidge, I am confident the second show of our Jubilee year will be another success for the society.

Barn Cool Fund Raiser

We are holding a Quiz Night to raise funds for the Barn Cool project on Friday 21st September. The evening will be held at the theatre from 7.30pm and is open to all. Teams of up to 6 people at a cost of £30 per team are invited to enter. All entrance money collected will be donated to the Barn as will any profit from the bar and the winning team will win 12 bottles of wine. It will be a very laid back evening with lots of socialising involved in the bar around the quiz!! If you are free and wanting to attend, please email your team's details (team name and the names of the team members) to chairman@oxtedoperatic.co.uk to register.

Other News

Our AGM last month broke two records. The first was a record attendance and the second I am sure was a record with the least number of questions ever asked!! In all seriousness, the evening went very well and is a testament of how well things are going for the society. 2008 is promising to be another very busy year with *Copacabana* in April followed by our maiden junior show which will be *Back to the 80's*. We are also able to announce that our November show will be *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* when we welcome back Robert Stevens as director. The rest of the production team is yet to be confirmed but the busy and exciting times continue for the society.

FOBS

Apart from restocking the bar following "the Scarlet Pimpernel"-when the large cast and crew nearly drank us 'dry' after the show each evening - the *summer?* has been unusually quiet for the FOBS. Our best wishes for fine weather and 'sell-out' audiences go with The Barnstormers when they take their production to The Minack Open Air Theatre in Cornwall at the end of the month. Perhaps it is fortunate that the Front of House aspect of our work has been less hectic than usual as Pippa, who is responsible for putting together our teams of volunteers, found staffing "The Scarlet Pimpernel" a real challenge because so many of our 'regulars' were involved in the production on or behind the stage!

We are looking forward to supporting our friends from the Kenley Holiday Workshop with their production of "Kiss Me Kate" and hope to see many FOBS supporting this very talented group. It was the Kenley group which asked for the bucket collection to be reinstated last August and helped the 'Barncool' Appeal to get off to a flying start. We are pleased to hear that the appeal is making excellent progress and hope, with your continued support for all productions in the Theatre, to be able to 'earn' enough through our Front of House activity to make a further useful donation at next year's AGM.

Thank you to all our loyal supporters who renewed their subscriptions this year – we have only 10 members who have not done so and this is a fantastic result for an organisation which now boasts over 300 members. It is also a tribute to Jean Groves, our membership Secretary – thank you, Jean. Jean was pleased to receive 15 applications for membership following "The Scarlet Pimpernel" and we hope that those new members will continue to enjoy our Theatre. Remember that we open the bar on the first Sunday of every month so you will always find friends there for a chat over a drink – at very reasonable prices!

Pippa has been busy updating our list of volunteers and is still collecting E-mail addresses as this makes the task of sending out rotas so much easier and cheaper. She is also delighted to hear from new volunteers so do give her a call 01883 712459 or E-mail her on Judith.bridges@btinternet.com

CARNIVAL CAPERS

This year's Oxted Carnival was held on Saturday 7th July and unbelievably (bearing in mind the weather we've been having), the sun shone. The Round Table had, as usual, done a splendid job of organising the day, which included our usual Barn Theatre tea tent and cake stall. Amateur bakers from far and wide began to descend on the Little Barn from around 9.00 am, delivering offerings ranging from a massive Black Forest gâteau (from Texas via Redhill) to Dalek-shaped gingerbread men (from Croydon).

There was a strange absence of arguments in Master Park as to where we should locate the cakes and the burners for the kettles – for once we were ready for business in plenty of time and people were sitting around with time on their hands before the parade started. The only real upset of the morning was when it was discovered that the bread roll around Phil Littleford's breakfast burger was mouldy. Unsurprisingly, he opted for a bacon roll as a replacement!

By the time the parade returned to Master Park, business was very brisk and all the volunteers were kept busy. We took the opportunity to hand out copies of "What's On" which hopefully may result in increased ticket sales for the next few shows. At the end of the day, we realised a profit of £800 – just over 1% of the total cost of BarnCool from just one day's effort.

John and Sheila Bennett kindly offered their garden for the traditional relaxing barbeque after the event.

There are some doubts about the continued organisation of the Carnival. It appears that Oxted Round Table is suffering badly from a shortage of members, so if anyone amongst our readership is eligible to join Round Table and would be prepared to help out with this essential community event, please do think about whether you would be willing to do so.

Chris Hepher.