

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS

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### *Play Acting*

Plans are well underway for next year's Southern Counties Drama Festival. This is the first round of the All-England Theatre Festival of One Act Plays.

The Festival will be held at the Barn from 22 - 27 February 2010 and is open to all amateur groups both adult and junior. The Barn Theatre has been responsible for organising this Festival for the past 3 years and they are delighted that the Festival has been enjoying a new lease of life. There has been some great drama, with regular competitors St Paul's Drama Group going all the way and winning the final two years ago.

We are always keen to hear from new groups who would like to take part and details can be obtained from the Festival Secretary: 55a High Street, Westerham, Kent TN16 1RA Telephone: 01959 561811 or you can e-mail [sc.df@btinternet.com](mailto:sc.df@btinternet.com)

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### *Pull out all the Stops*

Jeremy Lloyd will be pulling out all the stops during his organ recital at St Paul's Cathedral on 27 September at 16:45 following the choral evensong service at 15:15. We understand there are a couple of places on the coach organised by The Oxted Players which leaves Oxted at 15:15. Give Pippa Bridges a ring on 01883 712459

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### *Promenade at St Peters*

Another date for your social calendars is Saturday 14th November at 7.30 pm when The Oxted Players are sponsoring a Barn Dance at St. Peter's Hall, Limpsfield in aid of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Charity. This is being organised by Ann Lovell. There will be a supper included in the ticket price of £10.00. Barn Dances are great fun and places can now be reserved on 01883 724852.

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### *Carnival Atmosphere*

This year the Barn Theatre unveiled its new, bigger and better Tea Tent at the Oxted Carnival on Master Park on 4th July. In honour of the occasion Caro had produced even bigger and better cakes from her bakery in Bletchingley and once again barn supporters rose to the yearly challenge to 'bake for the Barn' resulting in a conveyor belt of cling film-wrapped cakes to sell throughout the afternoon.

Muriel had got to grips with the new hot water urn and was able to produce a constant flow of hot water for the tea pots that even Earl Grey would have been proud of.

Helped by good weather, brilliant organisation and a professional pitch, there was a brisk trade throughout the day, which resulted in the takings breaking all records. We took in excess of £1100, which was a fantastic result; thanks to all those who helped: it was a great team effort.

### *JIMMY ROGERS*

One of the Barn Theatre's most well-known and loved stage characters died on 23d May this year at the age of 93. This was, of course, Jimmy Rogers.

Jimmy was a founder member of the then Student Players in 1946, together with his first wife Dorothy, and for the next 57 years he appeared regularly in every type of production both for the Oxted Players and the Operatic Society.

He was a consummate performer who had the audience in the palm of his hand (and in fits of laughter) immediately he came on stage. His professionalism extended to much "ad libbing" which often confused those playing opposite him who worked strictly to the set lines, but delighted the audience.

Sadly Jimmy and Dorothy divorced but in 1979 Jimmy was fortunate to meet and then in 1982 marry Christine Tinkler. They went on to play opposite each other in "Mack and Mabel" in 1983. They were to remain opposite each other for the next 27 years either acting or cooking meat and six or seven veg for family and friends at "Follies Hatch", their home in Hurst Green.

In 2003 they moved to Devon, where Chrissie's church was now based, and to be near Chrissie's sister Maureen (who also appeared in various shows at the Barn) and her family. Jimmy became a born-again Christian and continued to delight a new audience with his acting and cooking skills as well as his radiant personality.

Whilst Jimmy was away from Oxted now for six and a half years he will never be forgotten by both players and audience who knew him at the theatre. At the funeral it was evident from the many tributes that he had made a huge impact on his new friends in Devon. He continued to drive until two weeks before his death. Blue balloons decorated the hearse to celebrate his love of life and to mark his lifelong support of Chelsea Football Club!

Our sympathies and love go to Chrissie and to Jimmy's family in Brighton.

Terry Rolph  
*President of the Oxted Operatic Society*

