

## FOBS

A big thank you to all our members who supported the Barn Theatre tea tent in any way at this year's Oxted Carnival – many of you made cakes and/or enjoyed a visit to the tent during the afternoon. Congratulations to Caro for organising a splendid effort which raised over £1,000 for the Theatre.

We are now well into the 'summer season' of predominately Youth shows but you still have time to catch a performance of "Oklahoma" by Kenley Holiday Workshop this month. Over the years we have enjoyed high quality entertainment from this talented group and I urge regular supporters as well as newcomers to the Theatre to make sure that they buy tickets.

Surrey Opera is visiting us in September with a production of Benjamin Britten's "Albert Herring". A production such as this widens the range of shows on offer at your local Theatre. It is sure to be well staged and sung so make a note to come along. Pippa will soon be recruiting Front of House volunteers for the four performances and will be delighted to have a good response please.

Our own Players are treating us to an Agatha Christie in October. The very high standard of the Players' recent productions combined with the popularity of this writer should see tickets selling fast, so don't leave it too late to buy yours! I expect that David Rose will be in touch with volunteers for the Front of House team soon.

It will be good to welcome the Scouts back to the Barn at the end of October as it is some years since their last visit.

November sees the Operatic Society take over the Theatre for its production of "Return to the Forbidden Planet". We understand that this show has quite a 'cult following' so we hope to add new audience members to our existing supporters.

Your committee decided that the low numbers at last September's BBQ indicated that this event added nothing to the normal Sunday Club so we are not offering one this year. Let us know if you miss it and we'll think again for 2012!

Sheila Bennett

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## The Oxted Players

We ended our 2010/2011 season on a high with the very widely praised *The Importance of Being Earnest* directed by Chris Hepher. Lance Milton for NODA commented: "Everything about the Oxted Players exudes exacting standards and attention to detail.... Once again I have no criticism to offer as I found the whole show to be utterly entertaining, full of pace and contrast and very well presented". Tony Flook for Words & Music felt that this was a production which Oscar Wilde himself would have enjoyed. The cast, Chris Hepher and his team and all who played a part in this production must be congratulated for their excellent work.

We were also very pleased to learn from NODA that our Autumn 2010 production, *The Happiest Days of Your Life* directed by Guy Hudson had been awarded an NODA Accolade of Excellence. Having been presented with the award at NODA's Southern Area AGM in July this will be proudly displayed in the Green Room at the Theatre.

During the summer holidays, 40 of our Young Players will be participating in our week long Summer Workshop with David Rowan. At the end of the week they will be performing *Just William* adapted by David from the Richmal Crompton stories on 27 August 2011 to an audience of family and friends.

Our Chairman, June Brown, her team and the cast will be busily preparing for our Autumn production of *The Unexpected Guest* 19-22 October 2011 at 7.45pm with a matinee at 2.30pm on the Saturday. Written by the queen of murder/mystery plays, Agatha Christie, the action starts on a dark foggy night. A shot rings out and a stranger, Michael Starkwedder, comes in through the French windows to find a woman holding a gun and a dead man in a wheelchair. The dead man, Richard Warwick, turns out to have been a thoroughly unpleasant person. Between lying, making life miserable for his wife and shooting the neighbourhood cats, he had also managed to run over a child. However, that was in the past and the child's father is now dead so that he could have no connection with Warwick's death – or could he? Red herrings abound as Starkwedder sets about helping the obviously guilty wife save herself from the crime she's ready to admit to – but is she telling the truth? Chris Bassett and Ghislaine Bowden play Starkwedder and Laura Warwick with support from Cameron Arbuckle, Steve Bedford, Guy Hudson, Hilary Moore, Jonathan Tull, Alan Webber and Tricia Whyte. We have introduced the matinee so as to provide an opportunity for our younger members and those who do not like venturing out on dark evenings to come along and enjoy an afternoon's outing to the Theatre. Tickets are available from 01883 724852 and at [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk).

Moving onto our January pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, (13 to 22 January 2012), Chris Bassett (Director), Fran Newitt (Choreographer) and Jamie Cordell (Musical Director) are again at the helm and have their production team in place. There will be a read-through at Hurst Green Community Centre on Sunday 4 September at 2.00 pm and this will be followed on the same afternoon by auditions for the junior chorus and dancers. Please note that this is a change from the previously published arrangements. Auditions for principals and chorus members will remain as planned for the following Sunday, 11 September from 1.00 pm. Anyone wishing to audition must be a fully paid up member and should contact our Membership Secretary, Elinor, on [membership@oxtedplayers.co.uk](mailto:membership@oxtedplayers.co.uk) (01883 716566) if they are in any doubt as to whether they are eligible to audition.

For the 2012 Southern Counties Drama Festival we will be entering an adult and junior one-act play as usual. The Youth Entry will be directed by Flo O'Mahony. With our May production (16 to 19 May 2012) we will be returning to Shakespeare which will be the very popular *A Midsummer Nights Dream* directed by Martin Patrick. Martin will be holding auditions for this in late October/early November. Anyone who is not currently a member who would like to know more about this production and audition details should please contact Pat Brown on [pebrown007@btinternet.com](mailto:pebrown007@btinternet.com) to register their interest.

Looking ahead, our Autumn 2012 play will be *LIFE x 3* by Yasmin Reza. We are also very pleased to announce that our Society has secured a licence to perform the very popular *Calendar Girls* in May 2013 when, amongst other things, our props team will be looking for large balls of wool and buns!! Watch this space!

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## New Barn Director

We are delighted to announce that Peter Wiginton of the Glow Theatre Group has been invited to join the board of the Oxted and Limpsfield Barn Theatre Company Ltd as a director. Peter is a fairly recent convert to the Barn but brings with him a good business acumen, tremendous enthusiasm for the Barn and will to help at all times. His experience as a talented vocalist and working with children alongside his partner Jackie gives another dimension to the varied skills of board members.