

FOBS

We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are now surviving the present monsoon; wellie makers must be doing well. Many of you came to the productions we fronted in November and December; no-one can claim there is a lack of variety at the Barn. Our volunteers were there for the classical music of the Barn Bande when they returned on 26th November and the Karen Halliday Italia Conti Dancing School on 7th December. This was followed the very next day by the Barn Christmas Reception – a bit of a rush but with all hands to the pumps it was done and all enjoyed the chance to stretch out a little in the extension. More room behind the bar too, but I missed the lady helpers squeezing past me! With the theatre so seasonably decorated it was a pleasure to be there and see so many familiar faces.

The Christmas Show, or Santa's Singalong was on 14th December: carols, seasonal stories etc not only from the Barn Societies but also from further afield, including the Caterham and Edenbridge areas. The show was sold out well in advance so our volunteers knew they were in for a busy night. The Rolph family concocted the mulled wine, to a secret recipe, dispensing it with the usual friendly banter and the mince pies went down a treat. There was a very rewarding raffle, one prize being a three-day cruise to Spain or Norway, no less. A separate raffle was held for the 4.5 litre bottle of whisky, which was in danger of becoming resi-

dent. It was originally presented by Peter John and has now departed having raised over £141.

As I write Dick Whittington has just strutted his/her stuff and we are stocking up for the three Saturdays when we front for the Barn Bande, The Rollin' Clones and Barbara O'Neill's A2 Opera Group. There is more work for idle hands, if we can find them, when the Betchworth Festival runs from 26th February to 1st March. Don't sit down because we have Janie Harris's School of Dancing from 5th – 8th March and the New Foxtrot Serenaders on 15th March. Stop for breath.

We have also been giving away some of the money that you have helped us to raise. The sum of £7000 has been donated to Barn 2000 towards the building and equipping of the new bar area in the extension. We now have a cooler, functioning, and a glass washer waiting to be installed. My poor hands rejoice!

Annual General Meeting --- will be held at the Barn Theatre on Monday 3rd March at 7.30pm. Kindly note the time. All members welcome, drinks and nibbles afterwards. At this meeting we hope to elect a new Treasurer, but we still await a volunteer to give Terry Rolph a rest.

The Front of House volunteer list is now up and running, used by all resident Societies, and is still expanding but is not closed. Hurry, hurry.
Dave Watkins

Betchworth Festival 2003

The Croydon and Tunbridge full length and one act festivals have failed over recent years but the Betchworth Festival carries on as before and local societies The Oxted Players and Woldingham Players are in rehearsal for this years battle over the last week of February here at the Barn. The GODA adjudicator this year is Colin Dolley, well respected and extremely popular on the southern festival circuit for his erudite and helpful adjudications. Backstage at the festival will see the

first change in the resident Barn technical team for 12 years with the retirement of Frank Boonham, one of the two Festival Lighting Directors' to be replaced by Brian List. Apart from this Bruce Reed as Festival Stage manager has to plan around an additional dressing room, larger wings and a loading bay on the opposite side to that which the regulars are used to. A good learning experience, which should make for an exciting week even before the plays!

Do support your local societies, Woldingham on Thursday evening and Oxted on Friday.

Christmas Started At The Barn

James Sharp of Sharp and Son Ltd skilfully led his team of enthusiastic tradesmen to complete as much of the fitting out work in the new extension as possible by the Xmas Drinks reception on December the 8th. James, with others worked 7 days a week, taking on board additional works as extra monies came in and the result was an absolutely magnificent bar and decorated Green Room with lights that worked too!

Generously hosted by The Friends of the Barn the reception was attended by over 200 guests and gave everyone the opportunity to meet friends and see and discuss the works that are ongoing in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere without the pressures of showtime in the background.

Personally this was the highlight of my year, to see the works so far advanced, guests obviously enthralled with what had been achieved against the odds and so many friends together – Christmas started for me that Sunday morning.

The Rollin' Clones -

So you didn't get the chance to buy tickets for The Rolling Stones in August? Not that surprising as they have already sold out at all the London venues. Instead, why don't you take the opportunity to see The Clones, the next best thing and appearing closer to home; some tickets are still available (£10 each from Ibbett Mosely, Oxted 01883 712241).

The Rollin' Clones, widely regarded as the UK's most original Stones tribute band, are fronted by Mark Smallman. Mark makes a brilliant Jagger: all energy, charisma and strutting his stuff across the stage. The Clones present a unique blend of good live music and stage presentation, so whether you are a hardened Stones fanatic or there to sit back and enjoy, you can be assured of good entertainment, pure theatre and dirty riffs to boot!

Tom Sangster, co-promoter, said they were pleased to obtain the services of a lighting technician for the show from