

# BARN THEATRE

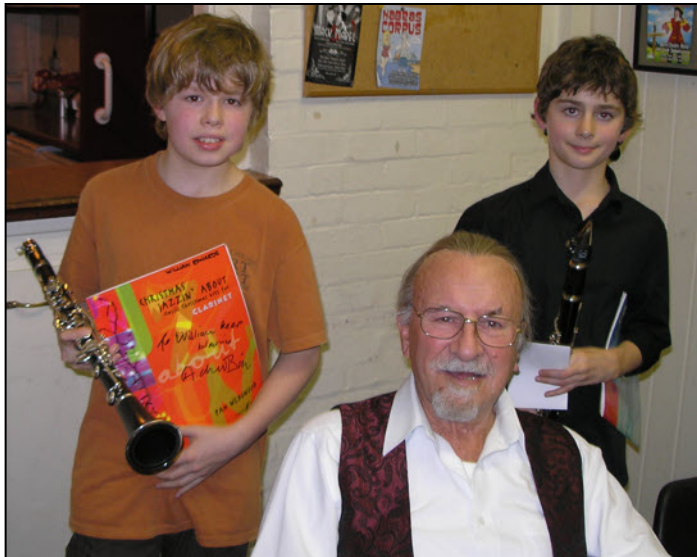
## NEWS

Volume 14 issue 1 February 2010



### *A Stranger No More*

A full house was treated to the delights of Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band back in early December – a rare treat and an evening that was truly enjoyable for all. A dedicated professional Acker thrilled his audience by being on stage for almost the whole evening and his jokes are still being retold weeks after. Even during the well earned interval he welcomed guests to his dressing room for photo



opportunities including William Edwards and Luc Hagon, seen here swapping notes with the great man. At the end of the show there was a queue stretching through the auditorium and across the stage for him to personalise music CD's purchased on the evening. As he left the Barn at midnight to make his way back to Somerset he was heard to say to Bruce 'I have had a lovely evening, thank you for your hospitality and I do hope you will ask me back'. Not bad for an octogenarian.

### *Token Support from Waitrose*

The new Waitrose store in Oxted supports local causes and the Barn has been nominated as one of the three causes they will support during February. So please, do what you can, shop at Waitrose and support the Barn. After the checkout there is a bin of green tokens. The final donation is judged by weight of tokens in each labelled box so all you have to do is pick up a token and place in the box at the entrance labelled Barn Theatre. The more tokens we get in our box then the greater the donation we will receive from Waitrose.

### *Southern Counties Drama Festival*

The Southern Counties Drama Festival makes its annual visit to the Barn Theatre from Tuesday 23 February to Saturday 27 February. Once again this popular Festival of One Act Plays will be playing host to a number of local groups, including Woldingham Players, Merstham Amateur Dramatic Society, Sevenoaks Players, Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club and the barn theatre's resident group The Oxted Players. Each play will receive a public adjudication from Arthur Rochester, a member of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators. He will also select a winner and runner up who go forward to compete in the All-England Festival of One Act Plays.

Festival week is always a relaxed and enjoyable occasion with platform entertainment in the bar area from 7.00pm before the first play at 7.30pm. So why not come along and support these groups for a good evening of Drama.

### *Jewel grows up to be a to Diamond*

On 23 January 2010 The Oxted Players celebrated 60 years of pantomime at The Barn and welcomed both past and present pantomimers. As a child, their Chairman, June Brown, had appeared in the very first panto *Aladdin* in 1950 as a *Jewel of the Cave* and was reunited with her fellow performers, Heather Lawrance, Janet Marchant, Jill Tucker and Rosemary Bearman. The evening began with June being "piped" on stage by bagpipes played by Jon Tull and continued with songs performed by the cast of their recent *Dick Whittington*, David Jupp and a duet by Romilly and Lydie Whiteley. There were amusing anecdotes delivered by past members, Dave Tanswell, Judy Ashman and Robbie Robinson which added to the nostalgia of the event. How better to end the entertainment than with an audience participation number when original and current pantomimers joined *Dame Sarah* (Peter Calver) and *Idle Jack* (Sophie Mactavish) on stage to perform *Do Wa Diddy Diddy*. For her 60 year involvement with the Theatre, June was presented by Bruce Reed with a framed certificate which will hang in the Green Room at the Theatre.



Sally Norris June and Sally Guttman