

EXPERIMENTAL SUPPER

Alexanders of Limpsfield are experimenting with a pre-theatre supper to coincide with the first night of the TOPs play on 16th May. One of our keen Barn Theatre regular supporters has already organised a party of 14 to partake – and, of course, to support TOPs play following the meal. A few OOS & FOBS members are also going along; if you are interested in joining them please call John or Sheila Bennett (01883-715145).

A light supper will be served from 5.45pm to allow plenty of time to get to the Theatre for a 7.45pm curtain – and even to order those interval drinks!

A one course supper (excluding drinks) will be offered @ £11 and two course @ £15. Why not try out the excellent dishes on offer at the refurbished Old Lodge, and support The Oxted Players on their first night?

SUCCESS FOR THE RE-LAUNCHED SOUTHERN COUNTIES DRAMA FESTIVAL

It is always pleasant to be associated with success and the Barn can be justifiably proud of the results of the festival, back at the Barn after a year's absence and under new leadership. The whole Barn community was involved in ensuring the festival went well and credit is due to all who helped, be it in the weeks and months before or during the week itself. The theatre was buzzing with enthusiasm for the event and this transmitted to the teams and their supporters to ensure a thoroughly good week of festival with some splendid performances excellently adjudicated by Mike Tilbury.

From the home teams, the Young Oxted Players entry was a clear winner for the junior section and sat quite high in the overall marking for the entire festival.

Subsequently the YOPs and winners of the adult section, St Pauls Drama Group have been invited to take part in the 34th British All Winners Festival at Llandrindod Wells during the latter part of July and the TOPs adult entry has been invited to compete in the 2007 Leatherhead Drama Festival during the 3rd week of May. We take this opportunity to wish these teams all the best in these other festivals.

Plans are already well in hand for the SCDF 2008 when Colin Dolley will be the adjudicator and we are hoping for an even bigger and better list of entries than hitherto. If you are interested in sponsoring the festival, advertising in the programme or helping in any way please let us know at SC.DF @btinternet.com.

QUEEN IS FILLING THE HOUSE

With over 7 months still to go there are now only 70 tickets left unsold for the evening of 1st December when the number one Queen tribute band, **RHAPSODY** visit the Barn. The evening is obviously going to sell out well in advance so order your tickets now from 01959 561811. Later in the year we expect the only place to buy them will be on Ebay!

BETTY BRISTOW

A great friend of the Barn

We are very sad to announce the sudden death on Sunday April 29th of Betty Bristow.

Betty collapsed in St Mary's Church, Bletchingley, during the morning service and despite mammoth efforts she did not regain consciousness.

Betty was a great supporter and friend of the Barn and perhaps best known as secretary of the Betchworth Festival (now Southern Counties Drama Festival) for over 15 years. A great support to all the teams, always offering a friendly smile and words of encouragement. Betty was also the Divisional secretary during the time the second round was at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon.

Betty came from Liverpool. As a young woman in World War II she married Alan Bristow whose family owned the post office and general store in the centre of Bletchingley. Alan, with Betty's help continued to run the store until his death in the early 80's and after that Betty worked tirelessly as a volunteer at the Cancer Clinic at East Surrey Hospital. Apart from helping and supporting Alan in the store, Betty also had a full time teaching career and was actively involved with Bletchingley Amateur Dramatic Society too. During the years between 1950 and 1980 Betty was to be found directing, acting and helping in so many ways, the society which she loved to be part of. As part of her total commitment to the community she was also secretary of the local WI for very many years.

She will be sadly missed.

Betty's funeral will be at St Mary's Church, Bletchingley on Wednesday 9th May at 11.00am. Please ring the office or Bruce on 07802 302025 for further information. Knowing Betty's popularity and devotion to amateur theatre one thing is certain, there will be standing room only in a guaranteed full house.

BARN AGM

Wednesday 6th June at 8pm is the date of the Barn AGM, to which all are welcome. The corporate nature of the Barn as a limited Company but also a charity allows all interested parties to come along and join the meeting. A convivial event and an opportunity to discuss plans and ideas, either during the meeting or in the bar afterwards.

More Theatrical Terms

Bedroom Farce - Any play which requires various states of undress on stage and whose set sports a lot of doors. The lukewarm reviews, all of which feature the phrase "typical community theatre fare" in the opening paragraph, are followed paradoxically by a frantic attempt to schedule more performances to accommodate the overflow crowds

Message Play - Any play that a director describes as "worthwhile," "a challenge to actors and audience alike," or "designed to make the audience think." Critics will be impressed by both the daring material and the roomy accommodations, since they're likely to have the house all to themselves