

BARN THEATRE NEWS

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SOUTHERN COUNTIES DRAMA FESTIVAL

The Southern Counties Drama Festival in February was a resounding success for the local youth team, The Young Oxted Players, who won no fewer than 6 awards for their entry 'The Edge'. You can read more about this production on The Oxted Players page. The overall winner of the Festival were St Paul's Drama Group with their production of 'Happy Jack', beautifully staged by Sheila Carr and with a talented cast of two. The play also went on to win the quarter finals of the All England Theatre Festival of One act plays, and they now are now representing our Festival in the semi-finals, for the second year running, which are on 24 May in Maidenhead. We wish them every success and hope they can manage to go that one stage further and reach the Finals this year in June.

We've been together now for 26 years.....



.....and they said it wouldn't last!

On our way to Cornwall to marvel at the Eden Project for the first time, we stopped off to pay a surprise visit to stalwart supporters and past thespians of the Barn Theatre, Chrissy and Jimmy Rogers. Jimmy must surely be the eighth wonder of the West; despite having his fair share of illnesses in recent months Jimmy was as sprightly as when he and Chrissy inhabited their Hurst Green home. He has always been a good raconteur and at the very mention of the Barn, the memories of how the band of six started the Student Players in 1946 came spilling out. Jimmy is the sole survivor of the inaugural group and to listen to him recount those days one can only marvel at his powers of recollection. Chrissy made us very welcome and has offered an open invitation to their friends in Surrey to visit them for a Devon tea and gossip.

Congratulations to them reaching and passing an important milestone together. We had a wonderful, although too short a time, in their Company. As for the Eden Project, it has a few years to go yet before it becomes an institution. like Jimmy.

BARNCOOL

Target Achieved in Less than 18 Months

By Bruce Reed

Less than 18 months after launching the appeal for funds to install air conditioning to the main theatre auditorium we are delighted to announce that the appeal target has been reached and the generosity of our supporters and patrons means that we have an additional amount that will allow for us to incorporate other small additions to the proposals.

Apart from those little red buckets, which, once again have excelled and raised the amazing amount of £8000 the FOBs, have given donations totalling £10,000 and there have been other substantial personal donations which have ensured the success of this project.

Contractors have been appointed and the theatre will officially close from 1st June through to the 6th July for the works to be completed. This is a very tight programme for the installation but we are confident that the system will be in operation for the charity concert, Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance 3 which opens on the 10th July.

All of the major works will be contracted out but we do need your help also please, at the beginning and end. The works will be concentrated in the loft area over the auditorium and when the ceiling is opened for the air distribution grilles to put in place there will be much dust, that horrible dust only found in old lofts and which penetrates everywhere. We already have seat

covers but do not want these to be ruined so if you have any old cotton bed sheets or clean dust-sheets which you are able to donate please do bring them down to theatre next time you come and they will be used over our existing covers. We need them for early on Sunday 1st June please.

Apart from protecting the seats, all the stage lights have to be removed from the stage and auditorium, stage curtains and fittings are to be taken down and the building generally left suitable for the works to proceed from the following day when contractors arrive on site.

So any help with this will be welcome and as this Sunday is also a Sunday Club day why not come and help with preparations and then join us for a drink in the bar.

Following the major part of the works and prior to final commissioning the auditorium has to be thoroughly cleaned, re-dressed with lights and curtains etc ready for the reopening and any help over the last weekend of June and during the following week days will be gratefully received.

If you think you may be able to assist please let me know either by email at Barntheatre@btinternet.com or telephone 01959561811 or 07802302025, or simply turn up.

To all of you that have made this latest vision a reality a huge thank you from everyone at the Barn.