

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS

Volume 14 issue 4 November 2010



### *You Certainly did Help our Heroes*

In February when I publicly announced the concert, SPIRIT OF THE BRAVE, I asked that we try our best to raise £5000 in one evening. I recall there being a gasp at the very idea that this might be possible. If it was to be achieved it would be the most money ever raised at a one night event at the Barn since doors opened in 1924.

From a small but seriously committed organizing committee came enthusiasm, intent and endurance. From you, we saw unparalleled support and as we went to print we know we have raised at least £10,700 for the Help for Heroes charity. A stunning amount that will make a worthwhile difference to what that charity can achieve for our wounded servicemen and women or "the blokes" as they are all known.

We welcomed the Reverend David Weightman, Mrs Sara Goad JP, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, together with our new MP, Sam Gyimah plus various representatives of the armed forces to the Barn that evening, many for their first visit. We were superbly entertained by the Croydon Male Voice Choir and the Surrey Guards Ensemble which culminated in some roof lifting community singing including a rendition of the National Anthem which I suspect the Queen may have heard at Buck House.

The Grand Draw with a £500 cash first prize was won by a Bletchingley resident and a total of 3300 tickets were sold, at a pound each, which made the tumble drum rather crowded when the winning tickets were drawn.

One of those special evenings at the Barn and thank you to all who gave their support in any and every way.

### *Miracle at the Minack*

As we move into November and with the cold grip of autumn well and truly upon us, The Barnstormers production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at the Minack Theatre, Cornwall back in the relative warmth of May/June seems all that longer ago. In the past maybe, but clearly not forgotten, as following the end of the Minack summer season in September we received word that 'Jesus Christ Superstar' had been awarded the prestigious Minack Trophy for the best production of 2010. It has to be said that it is unusual for an early season production to win the Minack Trophy but those of us who witnessed this production are not really surprised. We would have been more surprised if it hadn't won. Stunning, both artistically and visually, it is hard to forget even this long after the production has ended. With the Minack Theatre regularly featuring amateur theatrical talent of the very highest standard, this award is a huge honour for both the Barn and The Barnstormers and our warmest congratulations go out to everybody involved with this truly spectacular production. All of you who came and supported 'Jesus Christ Superstar' will know that this award is very well deserved and the Barn can be immensely proud of this tremendous achievement.

Not only did 'Jesus Christ Superstar' prove an artistic success, but we're also pleased to report that, due to sell out shows throughout the week at the Minack, the Barnstormers were able to turn a profit on this production and they have generously donated £6,000 towards the Barn Theatre's development fund. This significant sum will no doubt be tucked away ready for the Barn's next exciting capital project. To mount an epic production such as JCS and to be able to donate a substantial sum to the Barn funds is nothing short of a miracle and our grateful thanks go to Richard Allen and his whole team. We look forward to seeing the trophy on display at the barn.

### *Busy Time At The Barn*

With some nifty rescheduling at the theatre we were able to make the most of a couple of cancelled show weeks over the last couple of months. We actually need some breaks in our busy timetable occasionally to complete planned maintenance and works of renewal and improvement. The end of the school summer holidays saw the Little Barn having a facelift and in particular the new lighting and sanding and sealing of the pine parquet flooring for the first time in over 40 years. What a difference this has made to the appearance which is much brighter and lighter. October half term week saw the installation of new gas central heating boilers to the theatre which we hope will bring an end to the erratic experiences of last winter and lower gas bills for the future too. All of the stage lanterns and electrical circuits were tested and certified in good order by professional contractors and a new fangled DMX data cabling installation was completed to the auditorium. For those to whom this doesn't mean anything (like me) it will enable 'moving lights' such as you see on Strictly Dancing or the X Factor to be incorporated into our stage lighting rig and operated from our new computer based lighting board. This is a significant step up in technology available here at the Barn and we look forward to seeing the exciting lighting plots that will now be enabled for our larger shows.

During the period from September to end of December we are expecting expenditure of over £18,000. The cost of the boiler installation alone was just under £9000. The whole of this £18,000 will come from our cash reserves so no need for those little red buckets to come out again quite yet.

Last chance to get your tickets for The Oxted Players'  
*CHARITY BARN DANCE*  
Saturday 13 November 2010 at 7.00 pm in aid of the  
CHILDREN'S HEART FEDERATION  
At St. Peter's Hall, Limpsfield  
Tickets £10 to include fish and chip supper  
Contact Pat Brown on 021342 893217 or  
pebrown007@btinternet.com