

# Christmas Natter and Noggin

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas starts at the Barn with our traditional 'Noggin and Natter' to which you are all warmly welcomed. It is your chance to see friends and family in the convivial surroundings of the Barn and to enjoy the hospitality of the FOBs and Trustees. Carolyn is already planning those delicious plates of nibbles and you need to arrive early if you wish to partake. No need to book, just turn up and enjoy.

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## The Oxted Players

The old saying "the show must go on" certainly applied to our Autumn production *The Happiest Days of Your Life*. On the first night, crew and cast had to resort to buckets and mops to battle against a water leak which had begun before curtain up behind the set. The cause turned out to be a hole in a water pipe. Perhaps an omen for this could have been the large Red Admiral butterfly which made its bid for stardom throughout the dress rehearsal keeping the cast on their toes in its persistence to steal the limelight! We are also grateful to Mandie Arbuckle who stepped into the principal role of *Miss Evelyn Whitchurch* at short notice when Jo Silcox had to withdraw unexpectedly. However, despite the hiccups, the play was a great success. In his review, Lance Milton, the new regional NODA representative, by said "A wet and windy night in October was transformed into a laugh-a-minute escape from it all..... every cast member had contrast and character which was unique and interesting but still did not overpower". He went on to say that the whole cast were "utterly enchanting with comic timing you just cannot rehearse". He gave particular praise to the two young players in the cast, India Castle-Gibb and Jake Willis, "who established themselves wonderfully stepping up to the performance standards of the mature cast with panache." Our thanks must go to Guy Hudson, his production team and the cast for their sterling work on this production.

We are now well and truly into panto mode with Fran Newitt, Chris Bassett and Ieuan Rees in charge of *Cinderella*. The traditional tale of the downtrodden Cinders (Flo O'Mahony) and the quest of Prince Charming (Vicki Stanbury) to find his princess will be played out to family audiences over ten performances from 7-9 and 12-15 January 2011. The villains in this panto are the Ugly Sisters, very aptly named Cholera (Jon Tull) and Rubella (Clive MacTavish) and their wicked mother Baroness Bankrupp (Janette White). The goodies are Buttons (Peter Calver) and Fairy Godmother (Cat Longhurst) with added support from Baron Bankrupp (Chris Muscio) and Dandini (Mark Mear). With lively dance routines and popular songs to add to the mix you will be assured of a first class show. Tickets are selling fast so don't delay - contact our Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852 or go on line to [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk). Anyone who would like to help Front of House on the show run is urged to contact our Front of House Coordinator, Dave Rose on [david.rose43@uwclub.net](mailto:david.rose43@uwclub.net) or 01342 892968. Dave has the enormous task of filling ten slots per evening for the ten performances and will therefore welcome offers of help.

As usual, we will be entering two plays into the 2011 Southern Counties Drama Festival. Although details of our youth entry are still being finalised, our adult play, directed by Tricia Whyte is *Mantrap* by Paul Reakes. Petty larceny, manslaughter, bogus policemen and a devilishly elaborate form of blackmail are all ingredients in this taut thriller with a cast of five (three men and two women). A reading will take place on Monday 8 November in the Green Room at The Barn

followed by auditions on Friday 12 November, again at The Barn, courtesy of the OOS. Anyone interested should contact Tricia on 01883 370204 or [triciawhyte@myguide.net](mailto:triciawhyte@myguide.net) but you will need to be paid up member to audition.

Our spring play (18-21 May) will be *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. This production will be directed by Chris Hepher and we are sure there will be a lot of interest. A read through will take place on Wednesday 1 December in the Little Barn at 8.00 pm followed by auditions on Sunday 5 December at 5.30 pm. Anyone who is not currently a member and who will not therefore have received the synopsis and character details but who is interested in learning more can contact Chris on [cih@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:cih@tinyworld.co.uk).

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## Happy Birthday Jill

Jill Perry, who has been associated with The Barn Theatre and The Oxted Players for over 60 years, celebrated her 80th birthday by coming to see *The Happiest Days of Your Life*. Jill played the role of Principal - Miss Evelyn Whitchurch back in 1991 when it was last performed by the Players. This was only one of a number of fine



### Jill having her cake and eating it

performances that Jill has played over the 60 plus years that she has been associated with the society. Jill has been a loyal and long serving member of the Oxted Players as well as The Barn Theatre. It was therefore with great pleasure that she joined us on this very special occasion. After the performance Jill was joined by members of the cast, family & friends in the Green Room where she was presented with flowers by Chairman June Brown, "Happy Birthday" was sung and cake distributed. She stated "This has been one of the happiest days of my life and there was nowhere else that I would rather be".

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## Are You Wanting to Book the Barn?

Believe it or not, the theatre booking diary for 2015 is now open for bookings. The years 2011, 12, 13 and 14 are already looking healthy and in May 2014 the Barn will celebrate a special occasion, its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Book now don't leave it too late. Telephone 01959 561811