

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



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### Jill's memories of 70 years at the Barn and membership of the Oxted Operatic Society and The Oxted Players.

As I approached my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday I left school and took up a post in the Bank of England. At this time we were all settling down to peace after six years of war. Fortunately, within our village of Oxted we had a husband and wife team of Norah and Frank Sowerby who were determined to make possible the re-opening of the Barn Theatre after use by the Canadian forces during the war. To this end, Norah and Frank started both The Oxted Operatic Society followed by the Student Players (from January 2000 known as the Oxted Players).



Jill with Peter Calver and Jonathan Tull of the Oxted Players

Music had always been my first love so I joined the Oxted Operatic Society at their first meeting held at the County School followed quickly by joining the Student Players. Little did I think that I would be privileged to join in the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of both societies. Having started with one straight play, the Student Players rapidly expanded to three major productions each year, including the annual pantomime which continues to play to full houses each January.

The Betchworth Festival came into being, when many local societies voiced an interest in competing against other drama groups. Over the years The Oxted Players have had their fair share of glory both for the acting, production and stage presentation of their productions. After a decline in entries the festival has been recently re-vitalised by the late Martin Patrick under the name of The Southern Counties Drama Festival in which The Oxted Players junior and adult sections continue to achieve success and of which I am proud to be a patron with celebrity TV presenter Nicholas Owen.

I've had great pleasure from being involved in so many productions over the years, whether on stage, backstage or front-of-house. Now 70 years on I enjoy watching all productions and spend my time with my wonderful memories of the many parts I have been privileged to play.

*Jill Perry, previously Styles nee Tucker*

### DRIP Phase One, Completed on Time and on Budget

We are delighted to report that except for some outstanding handrails in manufacture presently, by the time we go to press all works to Phase One will have been completed. As the photos show, the integration of the old with new is outstanding, thanks to our excellent contractor SM Atkins Ltd. All very exciting as we plan our way into Phase Two for which we are still raising funds.





## 30 Years at the Helm

The summer of 2016 is another special milestone for our Chairman and Manager, Bruce Reed. Incredibly, this year is Bruce's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the current DRIP building works is typical of much of what Bruce has achieved over the years. At the time of writing the builders have just left, marking the end

of Phase One of the project, leaving us with a weather-proof, secure shell. Next, driven on by the irrepressible Bruce we are fund-raising to complete Phases Two and Three. At the end of this year's AGM Bruce was thanked by fellow Director Phil Littleford on behalf of the other Director Trustees and the resident societies who benefit so much from Bruce's leadership. The Barn Directors, FOBS, Oxted Operatic Society, The Oxted Players and Glow Theatre Group joined forces to present Bruce with National Theatre tokens for a theatre and backstage tour plus a fine dining cruise on the Thames. Bruce, we all hope you enjoy your day out with Caro and thanks again.

## Barn Supports Oxted Pram Race



The Barn is one of the local beneficiaries of proceeds from the annual Pram Race administered by the Oxted Rotary. We are delighted that a number of our members are involved in the

organisation prior to and on the day to show our support for this fun and enjoyable event that is so popular in the town, starting at Master Park and finishing up in the pubs of Old Oxted

## Summerfest 2016, a Delightful Day

Summerfest welcomed a host of young performers to the Barn stage on June 18<sup>th</sup> – a super mixture of familiar faces to the theatre as well as some new groups who we so enjoyed hosting. We were treated to an energetic showcase of music, dance and song. Not only was this a great performing opportunity for young people but also a great chance for young people to be involved behind the scenes with lighting and sound as well as helping out before the show. Our two young show hosts also did great job of presenting the performance. An excellent profit of nearly £2,400 was raised, the majority of which will go to the DRIP fund but we also chose to make a donation to both Holland and Downs Way schools. A huge thank you to everyone who performed, came to see the show or gave their time in any way.

## AT THE SIGN OF THE FALCON



Join us on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October as we explore the fascinating story of one of Britain's finest 20<sup>th</sup> century silversmith and jewellery designers with an international reputation – Henry George Murphy. Sadly, precious few had heard his name until recently. Then John Benjamin and Paul Atterbury came across his beautiful and stunning designs – jewellery inspired by nature, architecture and the

vibrancy of the Jazz Age. His famous circular modernist coffee service, now in the V&A, won a gold medal at the Milan International Exhibition in 1933. His 'Falcon Studio' in London was where the highest standards of craftsmanship and design with a contemporary flavour, were developed.

Presented by Limpsfield Decorative Fine Arts Society, John Benjamin, of Antiques Roadshow fame, will uncover the Harry Murphy detective story at 2.30pm and 8pm.

Tickets to this illustrated lecture are free to LDFAS members and must be booked prior to the event at [Marketing@LimpsfieldARts.org](mailto:Marketing@LimpsfieldARts.org) For non members, tickets are available on 01959 561811 or [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



## THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO COLDPLAY HERE AT THE BARN FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER

Prince Harry booked supergroup rock band Coldplay to headline his recent concert at Kensington Palace raising money to fight HIV/Aids. Prince Harry joined the group on stage to lead the audience with their hit Up & Up at the end of the evening.

Whilst we can't promise you Prince Harry we can delight you with music from Coolplay, renowned as the ultimate tribute to Coldplay in the UK. No travel to London is required and tickets are cheaper at £15 each.

Book your tickets now 01959 561811  
online bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



Our 2015/16 season ended on a high with Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Nile* which kept its large audiences in suspense throughout. Jon Fox of NODA comprehensively praised the production and its set saying "..... director, June Brown, faithfully reflected the period setting and depth in this well chosen, well cast play, using the various and wildly differing characters in effective and tension building style June has enhanced the already high reputation rightly enjoyed by the fastidious, dedicated and deeply talented Oxted Players. This was a highly enjoyable and in large part a professional production ..... Well done Oxted Players!



On the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, our autumn production is *Shakespeare's Macbeth*. Janette White directs this traditional version of *The Scottish Play* with an experienced talented cast including Clive MacTavish, Richard Allen, Sophie MacTavish, Jane Kortlandt, Carol Moss, Sean Eldridge, Alan Webber, Alex Campbell and David Morgan with new members Lee Challis and Gareth Crossman. We also welcome Charlotte Morris, Teddy Stevenson, Joel Wall, George Gills, Rebecca Wilkes, Connie Price, Elena Vinall and Evan Moynihan in the younger roles. Tickets are £10 adults, £8 students. from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) (booking fee applies) or 01883 724852 if paying by cheque.

Our January 2017 pantomime is entitled *Once Upon a Time*, a traditional panto with many familiar characters such as *Snow White*, *Cinderella*, *Dwarves*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Captain Hook* among many and we promise a very lively, entertaining show. There is a read through at St. Peter's Hall, Limpsfield on Sunday 4 September at 2.00pm and information about the panto and cast is available on our website at [www.oxtedplayers.co.uk](http://www.oxtedplayers.co.uk). Auditions will follow on Sunday 11 September from 11.00am. You will need to become a member to audition but are welcome to come to the read through before joining. *Pat Brown, The Oxted Players*

**BOOK NOW**  
**Joint 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of**  
**OOS and TOPs on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**September at Bletchingley Golf Club.**  
**Tickest £30 each from Pat Brown.**  
**[pebrown007@btinternet.com](mailto:pebrown007@btinternet.com)**

**URBAN 8 dance blast**  
 for 12-17 year olds  
 30 August - 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 10am -3pm

Come and try our new four day dance course. Experience commercial/street, urban/hip-hop dance, lifts and moves. Led by experienced dance tutor Fran Mangiacasale, whose credits include choreographer at the Fabulous Beast Dance Company and English National Opera, plus special invited guest tutors. No previous dance experience is required.

The cost for the four day course is £20 with a performance on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 3.30pm. **Please book at Tandridge Leisure Centre 01883 716717**, bring a drink, lunch, loose comfortable clothing with thick socks and get ready to have a fabulous time. For more information and questions [arts@tandridge.co.uk](mailto:arts@tandridge.co.uk)

**JINGLE BARN ROCK comes to the Barn**  
**Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm and 7.30pm**

The Really Happy Company are delighted to be returning to the Barn with a Christmas show for the whole family again. This will be a fundraising show with proceeds being split between the participating schools and the DRIP fund Tickets go on sale on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October and will be available online from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk). or by telephone from 01959 561811

**COMEDY NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER**

Come and be entertained by upcoming comedians Ahir Shah, Ed Gamble and Gareth Richards at this special evening here at the Barn. All very experienced stand ups with Ed recently selling out a 300 seat theatre for a solo show. Consistently high ratings for all three and if the evening proves popular it will become a regular event. Tickets 01959 561811 or [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



Well the weather has been pretty dreary through June and July and the Society really needed something to cheer it up. The first event was of course the "King and I" reunion dinner at The Ghurkha Kitchen which proved very successful and after "42nd Street" it would seem a precedent has been set.

CASTING for our Autumn production of "Sister Act" was no easy task as the amount of interest that was shown at both the Meet and Greet, and the read through, was incredible. So many turned up that it was tantamount to having an audience. Congratulations to all who were successfully cast and commiserations to those that weren't. Unfortunately the stage at the Barn is not so large as to be able to stage Busby Berkley sized casts.

We are looking forward to this production as the music is so different to the revival musicals of late. It is a musical that every age of audience will be able to appreciate. The dates to put in your diary are 23rd - 26th November 2016 at 7.45pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Following on from this show we will be auditioning for our Spring offering "Fiddler On The Roof". The beautiful, though sombre story of an impoverished milk man and his family, their struggle with the Russian Authorities and his daughters struggle with the "Matchmaker". Although a story with a poignant ending, its hauntingly memorable tunes and the occasional comedy make this a must see show. So watch this space!

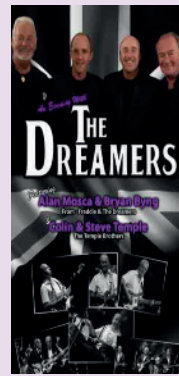
Social Secretary Stephanie Hornet Johnson has been busy organising social events and by the time you read this we should have had a successful "Quiz Night" at the British Legion, Oxted. I would urge you to get in touch with Stephanie if you have any ideas for future events as we are after all a family society and socialising is all part and parcel of what we stand for. Please note when our Social Secretary sends out a flyer advertising any of these events, could you ensure you respond back to her, rather than Hon. Secretary Teresa Reed. Don't forget to book for the 70th joint celebration dinner, ticket details on page 3.

Happy reading.

David Morgan, Chairman

## Carnival day,

can throw up many challenges, there is however one challenge over which we don't have any control, the British weather! This year was fine all morning and as soon as things started to get busy the heavens opened and it poured. Unfortunately, this did mean that we didn't see the volume of people we have come to expect so we only cleared just under £700, the lowest for ten years. This was then made up to £750 by a very generous donation and all this money will be put towards the DRIP fund. Thank you to all those who helped on the field or provided produce for sale on the day. I suspect we were still one of the most successful stalls on the park. Caro



Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
at 7.45pm

Formerly 'Freddie and The Dreamers', The Dreamers remain one of the best known named bands on the sixties music circuit. Two original members... Alan Mosca and Bryan Byng are joined by The Temple Brothers, Steve and Colin who have toured extensively with their Everly Brothers tribute show and Midnight Dynamos rock and roll band. The band perform the hits of Freddie and The Dreamers and the most popular songs of the fifties and sixties together with those best loved numbers of the Everly Brothers.

FRIENDS  
OF THE  
BARN THEATRE



I was honoured to be appointed to the FOBS committee at the last AGM. I may be unknown to a number of readers since my Front of House role tends to be that of Bar Support, which means I spend most of my Barn time behind the scenes in the kitchen (bit like being at home really !!).

Coming from a civil service background, I am no stranger to committees and have quickly found myself a niche as Volunteer co-ordinator. I am the keeper of the Front of House (FOH) Volunteer list which contains OOPs, TOPs and FOBs volunteers and therefore regularly liaise with Dave Nichols (membership) and Pippa Bridges (performance staffing). Over the course of the next few months, a number of you will hear from me as I go through the list confirming details and doing a skills audit.

Something that horrifies me is that with the Barn catchment area having a population of thousands, the number of FOBs members is only 279. We desperately need more members, especially those who are willing to volunteer for FOH duties.

With this in mind and, with a view to bringing newcomers to Oxted into the Barn, I have arranged with Robert Leech Estate Agents that a voucher for a year's free FOBs membership for two is included in their welcome hamper.

As soon as Dave receives a voucher I will be in contact with the new members encouraging them to visit Sunday club and partake in Barn activities. For strangers to the area, it is a wonderful way to make friends and feel a part of the community.

I will always be pleased to hear of any ideas you may have to encourage new members. As Bruce said at the Barn AGM, the more FOH volunteers we can recruit, the more performances the Barn can host - as 'The Jewel in Oxted's crown', that has to be a good thing, doesn't it?

Karen Jackson

Karen.jackson1958@btinternet.com

The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received.

barntheatre@btinternet.com

Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October