

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



Volume 22 Issue 1 February 2018

## A SURPRISE FOR ALL AS WORKS START ON PHASE THREE OF DRIP

Having deliberated hard and unable to find a space in the busy theatre booking diary big enough to enable meaningful works to proceed in the foreseeable future, Bruce received a phone call on 22<sup>nd</sup> December cancelling a show, due to be staged in early February. Bingo! With an empty ten days in late January and now this extra seven days, planning what could be achieved in those 17 days started immediately. A myriad of phone calls and emails bought forth a team of Barn volunteers, contractors who were willing to come away from existing jobs and suppliers who could deliver all the materials quickly. Works to the centre and west dressing rooms started on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January with demolition of walls and clearing out of the areas, filling three large skips in 36 hours. The new walls started going up on the Tuesday, the air-conditioning installation started the same day and as we go to press the works are proceeding apace and on target. With a short break whilst the Merry Opera team are in the theatre, works will recommence on 4<sup>th</sup> February to clear and refit the kitchen ready to reopen for the TOPs workshop on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Decorations and other finishing will be fitted in over the following weeks. Without the help and goodwill of so many this would not have been possible to achieve and our grateful thanks go to all those who came to our aid so enthusiastically. Now we must find a slot to finish the works to the east dressing room later this



Creation of the through corridor between dressing rooms

## Holly Jolly Barn Christmas

came to the theatre on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December and we certainly all enjoyed a very jolly time! This production was a joint fundraiser between our local schools, Downs Way and St. Mary's and the theatre. The monies used will benefit the schools by providing music workshops and a PA system to support outdoor performances, and the theatre by helping to finance the ongoing backstage improvements. The total profit from the two performances was £6,030.45, this being equally split between the schools and theatre. We were also delighted to receive a whopping £850 through bucket donations.

It was a privilege for our production team to work with the dedicated and talented staff of both the schools. The pupils were very fortunate to have the opportunity to perform and their hard work really paid off. We hope they all enjoyed the day as much as we all did.



## RED BUCKET CHAMPIONS

Louisa Gautrey and Tom Muscio, hosts of Holly Jolly Barn Christmas successfully reclaimed the Red Bucket award with a stunning collection of £850 over the two performances of this show. The evening collection amounted to £510, an all time record.

Congratulations and thanks to them both and thank you to all the customers who were so generous. I hear that Tom and Louisa are now employed selling fridges to Eskimos and doing well!

## 'BEST LITTLE BAND IN THE SOUTH EAST' CELEBRATE 21 YEARS OF FUNDRAISING CONCERTS AT THE BARN

The New Foxtrot Serenaders return to the Barn Theatre for their 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary concert *Thanks for the Memory!* on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.45 pm. The band performed their first concert at the Barn in 1997 in aid of Barn 2000 and have returned every year since, raising vast sums of money for further projects and improvements to the theatre. Each concert has been wonderfully themed, with music from the 'jazz hot' 1920s right through to the 1940s. For this year's anniversary concert, the New Foxtrot Serenaders will be performing a selection of some of their favourite music they have performed over the last 21 years. Tickets £16 by telephone from 01959 561811 or for online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



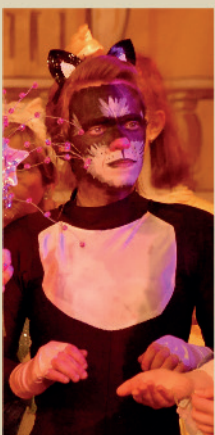
We have just finished an amazing panto run of *Puss in Boots* directed by Chris Bassett, with Jamie Cordell as Musical Director and Kerry Brackpool as Choreographer, and it was enjoyed by audiences of all ages. By the end of 10 performances the cast, crew and support staff were naturally exhausted, some having had to battle the usual winter bugs but everyone was thrilled when, at the curtain of the final performance they received a standing ovation. Our grateful thanks go to all those who were involved in any way, whether it was on stage, in the wings, backstage or front of house – we couldn't have done it without you!

We are now in our busiest part of the year, preparing for three productions. On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February we will be presenting *Nine* by Jane Shepard during the Southern Counties Drama Festival at the Barn. Directed by Ghislaine Bowden who successfully directed our award winning 2016 entry *Lions and Donkeys*, Croia Reilly and Amy Prosser portray two women held in a life-threatening situation. Playing mind games to keep one another alive, they are incarcerated in a cell like room where their only currency is words and balance of power is everything when a single word becomes the hanging point between life and death. There is very strong language in this play but it is not out of context.

In the meantime, our Young Players will be rehearsing for their March production of *Dracula – The Final Countdown?* a comedy by Geoff Bamber. Solicitor *Jonathan Harker* finds himself despatched to Transylvania to sort out a property deal for a mysterious *Dr. Acula*. On arrival, *Harker* realises that that he has been the victim of a misprint, but it is too late, so charmed by his welcome, he fails to realise that he has become something of a prisoner particularly at risk from the dishonourable intentions of the *Brides of Dracula*. Although he manages to escape back to England, his fiancée finds herself in the company of a mysterious foreign gentleman – little does she know what is at stake...! Our cast includes Sam Oxlade, Joel Wall, Alex MacTavish, Rebecca Wilkes, Anna Rastelli, Louis Spanton, Luke Grizzell, Jonah Rumsey, Grace Rumsey, Jessica Bartholomew, Eleanor Vinall, Zoe Morgan and Francesca Wright supported by a lively chorus. Performances are 16 and 17 March at 7.30 pm and a matinee at 2.30 pm on the Saturday. Tickets are £9 and available on [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01883 724852.

Our May play (16 to 19 May) is the hilarious farce *There Goes the Bride*, by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. When harassed advertising executive *Timothy Westerby* hits his head on the morning of his daughter's society wedding, he awakes to find himself in the company of *Polly Perkins*, a 1920's Flapper girl straight out of his current advertising campaign. It soon becomes all too clear that no one else can see or hear her, and when another bump on the head transports *Timothy* back to 1926 and the Savoy Hotel, the wedding preparations disintegrate into chaos as friends and family attempt to head him back to reality and his daughter down the aisle before the newly arrived "in laws" abandon the wedding. As well as introducing new member Amy Prosser who plays *Polly*, we welcome back on stage Peter Calver as *Timothy*, ably supported by Kay Sandford-Beal, Bob Wilson, Becky Wilkes, Phil Fry, Dena Watts and Guy Hudson.

Looking forward to October, our autumn play is the classic comedy *Hobsons Choice*, by Harold Brighouse. The youngest daughters of curmudgeonly bootmaker Hobson are anxious to marry and have eligible suitors but must wait until eldest daughter, practical-minded Maggie is promised in marriage. Maggie, however has other plans which include freedom from her father's tyranny, a business and a husband of her own. Her choice: Hobson's shy apprentice Will Mossop. We require a large cast of 7 male and 5 female and Elizabeth Callow is directing. There is a read through in late February with auditions in March so please contact us on [secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk) for more detailed information.





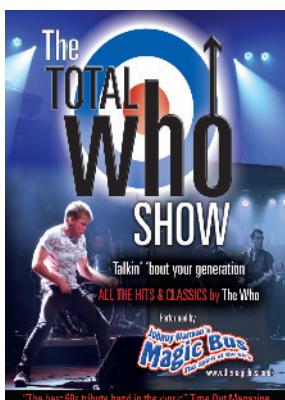
SAVE THE DATE!  
OXTED OPERATIC SOCIETY  
AGM  
Tues 27<sup>th</sup> February,  
8pm  
THE BARN THEATRE



Minack year is finally here and preparations for The Barnstormers production of 'Sweeney Todd' in July and August continue apace. The first initial music rehearsal took place in January, and by all reports was a great success, with the cast happy to get their teeth into the challenging Sondheim score. Several more initial music rehearsals are planned over the next couple of months, before main rehearsals commence in April.

Tickets are now on sale for the local Oxted Previews of 'Sweeney Todd' to be presented in the open air on the all-weather courts of Oxted School next door to the Barn. There will be three local previews on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July (3.00pm) and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July (1.30pm & 5.30pm). As with earlier Oxted previews, no seating will be provided, and audience members are invited to bring their own deck chairs, rugs, picnics etc. Access to the venue will be via the rear entrance to Oxted School, off Park Road, which in turn is off Bluehouse Lane. Extensive car parking is available on site close to the all-weather courts. The Barnstormers would be delighted to welcome as many Barn friends and supporters to these previews as possible, and tickets costing £10 can be booked by calling 01959 561811 or for online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk).

'Sweeney Todd' is a tale of obsession and revenge set in Victorian London. This dark and unsettling musical thriller sees a barber return home after years in exile seeking vengeance on the corrupt judge who ruined his life. Described as Sondheim's most perfect score, the music is lush, operatic and full of beauty, pitch-black comedy and stunning terror. The Barnstormers will be pulling out all the stops for this, their sixth Minack tour, and you can be assured of a spectacular and memorable production of this acclaimed musical masterpiece. For more details, please go to [www.thebarnstormers.co.uk](http://www.thebarnstormers.co.uk).



**SUNDAY 22nd APRIL**  
**7.45pm**

Get ready for two hours of all the hits and classics including Won't Get Fooled Again, My Generation, Pinball Wizard, Amazing Journey, Sparks, Who Are You, Substitute, 5.15, Squeeze Box, Behind Blue Eyes, The Seeker, I Can See For Miles and Love Reign O'er Me.

Well, Christmas is over, the baubles are off the tree, the decorations are down, and the lights stored away awaiting another time in ten months when once more we will go through the routine of finding the dud bulb! Resolutions have been made and already broken, and we can now look forward to 2018. But before we do let's look back on our seventieth anniversary year.

What a spanker of a year it has been! Four fantastic productions! We started with a brilliant *Fiddler on the Roof*, a stupendous *West Side Story*, a tonsil tingling *Old Time Music Hall Spectacular* and finished with the most ambitious *Our House*, a lot of this happening whilst D.R.I.P. Phase One and Two were taking place. Our membership has swollen to over 180, including more than 100 adult playing members!

This year will prove a little less hectic. As you are probably aware this is a Minack year and as such we do not have an OJOS production. This is a very sad situation as we are always anxious to involve our junior members. This led to some soul-searching debate after which the Committee agreed that our Autumn production should be one in which as many younger players as possible could be cast. *The Wizard of Oz* was chosen for the second of this year's productions to be Directed by Chris Bassett (Director of this year's panto) and Choreographed by Catherine Blundell, following her huge success with *Our House*.

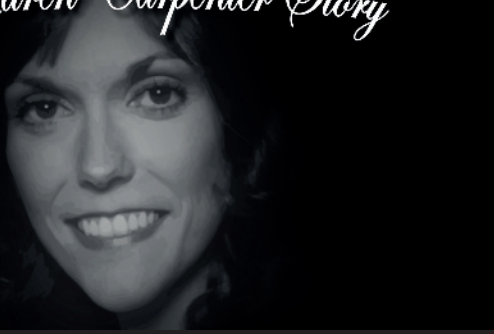
Our first 2018 show, *Made in Dagenham*, is already cast and under rehearsal. The true story of the women of the Ford Dagenham factory's fight for equal pay in 1968, it has some really haunting as well as uplifting numbers and a lot of very clever wit. The director, Nigel Kemp, has seen fit to clean-up a lot of the original broad language but has not lost any of the fun that the audience will derive from this very well written musical piece. Philippa Lucas, who was the Musical Director for *West Side Story* joins us again in this role.

A long-standing member of the Operatic sadly passed away having lost her final fight with cancer just before Christmas. Deirdre Walker is fondly remembered by many, and in more recent years for playing Major Cartwright in *Guys & Dolls* (2004), *Forty Fabulous Years* (2005) and as Jessie in *Calendar Girls* (2013) for TOPS. A 'game old bird' (her words) definitely springs to mind. She died aged 83. A representative of OOS attended her memorial service which included Climb Ev'ry Mountain (*Sound of Music*) and You'll Never Walk Alone (*Carousel*), and passed on our best wishes to her family.

David Morgan

# YESTERDAY ONCE MORE

## The Karen Carpenter Story



*The Karen Carpenter Story* reveals the poignant truth behind a timeless musical partnership that took the world by storm. Featuring many classic and much loved Carpenters songs, this is the story of Karen's extraordinary achievements, her desperation to be loved, and her long, unsuccessful battle with anorexia.

Accomplished musicians Rebecca Robinson and Mark Heller bring Karen's music back to life in this memorable and moving show.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7.45pm

Tickets £14 from 01959 561811 or online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

### STAND UP COMEDY AT THE BARN SUNDAY 10 JUNE AT 7.45PM



*Some of the biggest names in comedy and music have appeared at the Barn Theatre over the years and House of Stand Up are keeping that tradition very much alive, presenting their very own brand of live comedy on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at this wonderful venue. With five top*

*comedians performing on the night, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.*

*Whether you like observational comedy, one liners or musical comedians, there will be a line-up of comics you will absolutely love. All the acts perform on the London Comedy Circuit and appear regularly at top clubs like The Comedy Store and Up The Creek and many are mainstays of the current television comedy scene.*

*As Groucho Marx once said, "Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?" So book your tickets now and start counting down the days to this great night of comedy entertainment.*

*Tickets 01959 561811 or for online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)*

### FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



A very Happy New Year to all our members. I hope most of you managed to escape the various bugs going around at Xmas and since.



Regular visitors to the Barn will have noticed Helen Burnside who has become the latest member of the FOBs committee. She and her husband moved into the area about 18 months ago. She is an event manager in the finance industry and has a background in arts & drama. She told us that she was very pleased to discover the Barn theatre and to become involved. Helen has taken on the role of FOBs Secretary and hopes that you will support her nomination for a permanent place on the committee at the AGM.

Following last November's committee meeting it was decided that the dress code for ladies should be changed to all black (no, we're not joining a rugby team!). The men look so smart and professional in DJs - indeed this is often commented on by visitors - and requiring white and black for the ladies can result in a vary varied outcome. We are hoping that this will give the ladies more of a uniform dress code. Reminders about the new dress code are going out with the FOH rotas.

As mentioned in the last Barn News, one look at the Barn calender shows that it is going to be a busy year for FOBs' volunteers. Rather than wait for Karen to contact you, if you know for which shows you are available send her an email [karen.jackson1958@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.jackson1958@btinternet.com) (or phone 01342 894669) stating a duty preference if you have one. Karen has been worried lately that a lot of her emails are going into the recipient's spam and are being missed. You emailing her may solve the problem.

Finally, the FOBs AGM will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at the Barn. I hope that you will be able to attend and I look forward to seeing you.

Alan Jackson, Chairman

### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! NAUGHTY BUT NICE!!!

The infamous Olde Tyme Music Hall Troup WICKHAM'S WANDERING OLDETYME STAGERS will be returning to the Barn on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 for another Spectacular Nostalgic Music Hall ... Strictly Music Hall.... Naughty But NICE! ....

Over the past 20 years, they have raised over £100,000 for various charities, presenting music halls across the South East of England! Their chairman, Mr Kevin Gauntlett, promises a captivating collection of consummate crime, carefully contrived to captivate the connoisseur and confuse the castigator!

Tickets for this trip down memory lane can be booked at the theatre's own box office 01959 561811 or online for cards [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

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

Copy should be sent to [barntheatre@btinternet.com](mailto:barntheatre@btinternet.com)  
Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018