

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



Volume 25 Issue 1 February 2020



**The Gift, Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> 2019, breaks all records for fundraising at Barn Theatre since 1924. £15,500.00 raised for George and the Giant Pledge, in just one day.**

Brainchild of Rebecca Farrell and Vicky Huggins and with a Barn Production Team led by Angie Muscio and 150 local children from the best dance and theatre schools around, this was a day never to be forgotten. Amazing support from local traders and firms enabled a 40 page programme, the likes of which have never been seen before at the Barn and the two performances were sold out weeks before, with a long waiting list for seats on the day. Volunteers from the Friends of the Barn and all participating performing groups worked tirelessly in the weeks and days before show day and the result was a wonderful spectacle of the best young talent in the area, cheered and clapped by an audience stunned by the amazing enthusiasm of all the young people who had come together to raise money for George and the Giant Pledge on that day. The icing on the cake was the amazing total of monies raised from the day, a total of £15,500, all for the The Royal Marsden Children's Cancer Charity

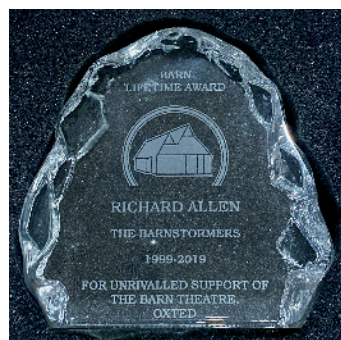


Connie Farrell with Bruce Reed, Chairman of the Barn presenting a cheque for £15,500 to James and Vicky Woodall of George and the Giant Pledge

**The Barn was treated to a truly memorable evening's entertainment on Sunday 8th December, when Barnstormers from past and present gathered together at the theatre to perform a spectacular compilation show celebrating their 20th anniversary.**



The show featured a mix of musical numbers from many of their Barn and Minack shows, as well as several current West End productions. The common thread being the performers, all of whom have appeared in The Barnstormers'



ambitious and acclaimed productions over the last 20 years. The standard was exceptionally high, with stand-out performances of songs from shows such as Jesus Christ Superstar, Sunset Boulevard, Little Shop of Horrors, Les Misérables, Parade, Hamilton, Nunsense, Waitress, Scarlet Pimpernel, and many many more. Rarely has there been such an array of talent on show on the Barn stage all at one time.

'Encore!' was produced by Paul Robinson, with staging and direction by Fiona Steel, and musical direction by Colin Warnock, who also scored all the music for the excellent nine piece band. The evening was masterfully MC'd by Paul Longhurst and Fran Newitt returned to recreate some of her previous show choreography. The Barn and The Barnstormers would like to thank all of them and indeed the Barn's talented technical team, for countless hours of hard work putting together this wonderful production. It should be noted that it is a testament to the crew and techies that they were able to pull this show together in just one afternoon!

The evening was capped off with a surprise presentation by Bruce Reed, Chairman of the Barn, to The Barnstormers' founder member, Richard Allen, of the very first 'Barn Lifetime Award' for "unrivalled support of the Barn Theatre, Oxted". Over the years, Richard and The Barnstormers have raised over £60,000 for the theatre and we are delighted to report that a further £1,300 was added to that sum with the profits from this sell-out one night show. Bruce Reed took the opportunity to thank Richard, on behalf of all the Trustees, for everything he has done for the theatre over the last 20 years and said he very much looked forward to working with The Barnstormers over the next 20 years too! As a footnote, whilst the profit was £1,300, Mark Wakeford reports that the Barn had an income of over £2,900 from the show, a great result.



We welcomed in the new decade with another amazing pantomime, *Treasure Island*, by Ben Crocker. Chris Bassett directed with Andy Rapps as MD and Cathy Blundell as Choreographer. The excellent cast was led by Clive MacTavish (*Dame*), Shannen Knutsen (*Jim*), Fern Simmons (*Jenny*), Bob Wilson (*Long John Silver*) and Alex Campbell (*Squire*). Malcolm Le Croisette and his team were in charge of set building and stage presentation with John Chinnock (sound) and Richard Grogan (lighting). Mike McKenzie and Karren Durrell worked hard on the costumes and the overall effect was amazing.



Our audiences eagerly donated to the retiring bucket collection and raffle, raising in excess of £1400 for St. Catherine's Hospice, in memory of Ray Dunster who died there in November. Ray had always been ready to help set build, crew, take rehearsal photos and with his wife Angela ran props, worked front of house and generally supported the Society and the Theatre over 10 years before his illness took hold.

We still have a few spaces on our February half term Youth Workshop (16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February) when actor, director and playwright, David Rowan, returns to the Barn to work with two age groups (up to Year 6 and then Year 7 and above). Each group spends 3 days in all in the Theatre and perform their play on the Friday afternoon. The cost is £50 per child. For more details please contact Pat at [secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk). Some of our Young Players will be on stage again on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March performing in *Wendy and Peter Pan*. Fern Simmons directs this radical retelling by Ella Hickson of J.M. Barrie's classic story, with comedy, magic and excitement. *Wendy* is centre stage and goes off to *Neverland* with *Peter Pan* for an awfully big adventure. *Wendy*, played by Chloe Brazier has to contend with a fractious fairy called *Tink*, give the *Lost Boys* a run for their money and confront *Captain Hook* and his pirate crew. Tickets are £10 (£9 for students) and available on [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01883 724852.

In April/early May we are holding auditions for the 10 character parts for the Agatha Christie classic, *And Then There Were None*, which will be performed 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October. Please check our website at [www.oxtedplayers.co.uk](http://www.oxtedplayers.co.uk) for further details and contact us if you are interested in getting involved.

To end our current season, our spring production (12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May) is *The 39 Steps*, a very exciting and fast moving adaptation by Patrick Barlow of the classic novel by John Buchan but unlike the original, this version is hilarious. This Multi Olivier Award winning comedy, is a mix of a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel and a dash of Monty Python. The show hurtles a notorious fugitive and a spellbound blonde from a London music hall north by northwest to Scotland's most remote highlands. Will they save Britain from a den of devious spies? Phil Fry is directing and Jonathan Tull, Amy Prosser, Sophie MacTavish and Chris Bassett between themselves play all the characters! Tickets available on line now or on 01883 724852.



## SOUTHERN COUNTIES DRAMA FESTIVAL

**24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> February  
at 7pm each evening**

**Festival Adjudicator  
Keith Phillips G.o.D.A**

The Southern Counties Drama Festival is a first round of the All-England Theatre Festival



Fifteen entries, the maximum we can accommodate, are now in for the 69<sup>th</sup>. Southern Counties Drama Festival, formerly the Betchworth Festival, part of the All-England Theatre Festival. This is the only competitive one act drama festival in the country and teams vie for the jackpot cash prize of £500 and the opportunity to travel Britain to other rounds if successful as winners of this first round, here at the Barn.

VERLINGUE

PROUD TO SPONSOR SCDF



# Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm

The Barn has recently become part of Dementia Friendly Oxted. As part of this process we are endeavouring to ensure that as many of our Barn people are "Dementia Aware" and enrolled as a "Dementia Friend", enabling those with dementia to have a relaxed and enjoyable visit to the Barn and volunteers to deal appropriately with those who might otherwise find going out and visiting our theatre a challenge. The process will require as many Barn people (in particular our Front of House volunteers) to attend a session at the theatre where they will be asked to watch four short videos totalling approximately 15 minutes. We will also ask you to complete a registration card which will be forwarded to the Dementia Co-ordinator at Surrey County Council and you will also be given a "Dementia Friends" Badge which we hope you will wear when you are on duty at the Barn. We would be grateful if you could let us know if you would like to attend by emailing [fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk](mailto:fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk) so we can ensure we have sufficient registration cards. Immediately following the video presentation there will be a meeting for our Front of House Managers along with any of our other regular volunteers who wish to be brought up to date with some of the changes that have taken place to our working practices over the last few months.



## Next Show - Jack the Ripper 1st - 4th April 2020 TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Our next show is a musical based on the events of the historic East End murders of 1888, set within two interlinking plots; the dark streets of London and the vaudevilian atmosphere of the Victorian Music Hall. There are some fabulous songs and a strong cast, directed by Ian Caldecourt, with Philippa Lucas as Musical Director and Beth Hinton as Choreographer. Cast as follows:

Marie Kelly / Music Hall Soubrette	Jenny Roe
Lizzie Stride / Queen Victoria	Emma Denny
Annie Chapman	Sophie Grace
Polly Anne Nicholls	Eve Bellhouse
Montague Druitt	Steve Bedford
Chairman	Richard Allen
Daniel Mendoza	Bob Wilson
Dinky Nine-Eights	Mike Tomlin
Bluenose Stack	Sam Blackman-Gibson
Slop Wallace	Rick Morris
Lady Overcoat	Carol Moss
Police Sergeant Coles	Colin White

Ensemble Ernie McGirr, Sarah Crossman, Liz Stott, Hetty Duck, Amanda Robinson, Gareth Thomas, Nicky Roberts, Richard Seagroatt, Laura Chapman, Imogen Bridges, Sarah Coldwell, Debbie Featherstone, Catherine Elliott, Sean Eldridge

### Pirates of Penzance, November 2019



### Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who participated in the November 2019 fundraising and social marathon! We had a wonderful salsa night, a fun improv night, a crazy, hectic, merry weekend putting on Pirates and an OJOS social! Thank you to all who helped, supported and participated in all the events. These events raised sufficient funds to cover most of the hire costs of the Barn Theatre that were committed to for the November 2019 show, which was postponed at the EGM in September 2019.

### Tandridge Lottery

We are pleased to announce that we are now part of the Tandridge Lottery. Tandridge Together Lottery is a weekly online lottery created to support local causes in the Tandridge district. Tickets are only £1 per week, with 60% going to local good causes and prizes up to £25,000! To support your local society please visit [www.tandridgelottery.co.uk/support/oxted-operatic-society](http://www.tandridgelottery.co.uk/support/oxted-operatic-society).

### Farewell to Fiona

After many years at the Barn Theatre, performing and directing with different societies, our most recent Chairman, Fiona Steel, has decided to move to pastures new and has relocated to Sunderland. We wish her all the best for the future and thank her for all the work she has put into the Committee and the Society over the years, you will be missed!

### Life Membership Award

In recognition of long term support of Oxted Operatic Society, the committee has decided to award Life Membership to Jill Perry, a founding member of the society when she was just 16 years old. Jill has been a regular supporter of all our shows, and will be celebrating her 90th birthday this year. Thank you for your support Jill.

### Upcoming Events for Members and Friends

We have many upcoming events planned for 2020:

Quiz Night

Improvisation Night with Gordon Drayson

Carradine's Cockney SingAlong - 6th June 2020

Acting Workshop with Paul Longhurst

### STOP PRESS

At the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> January Joanna Silcox was voted in as Chair of the society and members voted to change the name of the society to OXTED MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY, to reflect more precisely the current repertoire.

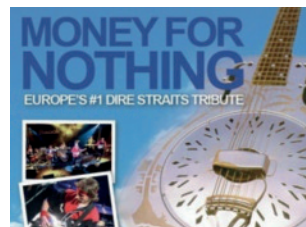
If you wish to be added to our mailing list to ensure you hear first hand, the dates and locations for the above events or to become a member please email [membership@oxtedoperatic.co.uk](mailto:membership@oxtedoperatic.co.uk).

Join us for "One night in Dublin" and be magically transported to "Murphy's Pub", where the house band, The Wild Murphy's, will be performing great Irish songs by the likes of The Pogues, The Fureys, The Dubliners, The Saw Doctors and many more.



Midi and his award winning seven piece band are widely regarded as one of the best Irish bands in the UK, having played thousands of shows since starting back in 2005. The Wild Murphy's have played all over the UK and Ireland as well as Spain, Greece, Dubai, Germany and came third out of 38 bands competing for title of 'international Irish band of the year' back in 2010 in Las Vegas, while in 2018 they scooped the title of "Best Irish act (UK)" in the LUX global entertainment awards.

You'll not be able to help yourself singing along to fantastic Irish classics such as 'Galway Girl', 'Tell Me Ma', 'Dirty Old Town', 'The Irish Rover', 'Brown Eyed Girl', 'Seven Drunken Nights', 'Sally MacLennane', 'When You Were Sweet Sixteen', 'Whiskey In The Jar', 'The Irish Rover' and 'Molly Malone' to name just a few. This celebration of Irish music is gaining great reviews and is not to be missed. **Tickets [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)**



### "Undoubtedly the best Dire Straits tribute in Europe"

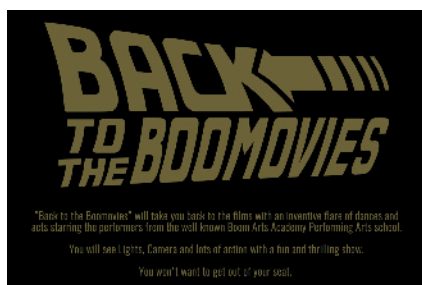
Money for Nothing was formed in 2000 as a tribute to one of the world's premier rock bands – Dire Straits. The abundant energy and the excellence and musicality of their performance makes Money For Nothing a "must see" for any rock enthusiast or Dire Straits fan. Fronting the band is the brilliant guitarist and Mark Knopfler sound-alike Aled Williams. Behind him the line-up features top-class and experienced musicians that make this band a worthy tribute to Dire Straits. Aled and all the band have studied Dire Straits in great depth to re-create their tribute to be as close as possible to the real thing.

**Book now for December 12<sup>th</sup> [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)**

If you are looking for space on the Barn stage in 2020, 2021 or 2022 do please book as early as possible. For six months of this year we have no space left at all at weekends which are always the most popular times and there is very little during the remaining months. Telephone now 01959 561811

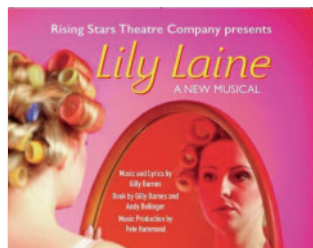


From Dixieland to Swing, *The New Foxtrot Serenaders* return to the Barn Theatre on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.45pm** with *THE GIANTS OF JAZZ*, featuring the music of Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Fats Waller and many more. Tickets £16 from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or from the Box Office 01959 561811.



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 1.00pm and 7.00pm.**

Boom Arts Academy return to the Barn for a magical day of dance and music. Tickets £10 & £15 from 01959 561811 or [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



Lily Laine a new musical by Gilly Barnes and Andy Bellinger performed by the Rising Stars Theatre Company

A haunting story of love, betrayal and laughter, set against the backdrop of a West End musical in desperate trouble.

An original musical by Gilly Barnes and Andy Bellinger telling the story of Lily Laine, a former West End actress whose career came to a tragic end before it really started and her journey to rebuild her life after being betrayed by a dazed and confused drummer. Taken under the wing of her long-suffering best friend, she is forced to break out of her protective bubble and rebuild her life with the help of her other-worldly twin sister and the cast and crew of a troubled West End production that lurches from one disaster to another, with often hilarious results. The show must go on, but will it be alright on the night for Lily?

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm each evening and 2.30pm on the Saturday

Tickets [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01959 561811

### To all our readers

If you no longer wish to receive this Barn Theatre News and the show information pack in paper then please do let us know at [publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk](mailto:publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk).

Electronic copies are available on our web site at [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/btn.html](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/btn.html)

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 18<sup>th</sup> October

## FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



Another busy winter season for the theatre saw FOBs provide front of house volunteers for a total of 30 events since the last edition of Barn Theatre News, so a massive "thank you" to the dedicated band of helpers who kindly gave their time to us. Particular thanks go to those who helped cover the 150 duties that needed to be filled for the ten performances of the TOPs Panto, some carrying out multiple duties during the nine-day run. Our grateful thanks to you all.

It has been pleasing to see that the recent additions to our front of house offering, namely the new spirits and tubs of ice cream, are being well received and we are grateful to the audience members who have been kind enough to give us such positive feedback. We always welcome comments from our patrons, whether good or bad, so if you have any suggestions on how we can improve things please don't hesitate to contact me or any other member of the committee.

The FOBs Annual General Meeting will this year be held on the evening of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm. An official notification, along with membership renewal reminders, will be sent out shortly to all FOBs members, but do please make a note of the date in your diaries. If you are not currently a member and would like to support the theatre by becoming one please either pick up an application form from the foyer or email me at [fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk](mailto:fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

Paul Robinson  
FOBs Chairman



## Spud 'n' Bubbles 2020 saw the New Year start at the Barn in grand style

61 people sat down in the bar and foyer on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January to enjoy a baked potato and chilli lunch with mini pavlova to follow and a glass or two of bubbles to welcome in the New Year to the Barn. Always a popular and convivial event, masterminded annually by Caro, the lunch raised £500 for the Barn funds.

## AN INFORMAL PLAY READING EVENING

will be held in the Barn Bar on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020, at 7.30 pm. All are welcome so do please come along.

Play Reading Evenings were held regularly in the past and it is hoped that this social event can be revived.

We plan to start with two One Act plays; anyone can read and parts can be changed at any time. Play suggestions, recommendations and requests are welcome for future dates.

Tickets are £5 to include tea or coffee and the bar will be open throughout the evening.

Please contact Muriel Lister for further details or to register your interest. [murielrlist@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:murielrlist@hotmail.co.uk) or 07950 200445