

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS

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### *The Ritz lights up the Barn*

What has the Ritz Hotel have in common with The Barn Theatre? Besides plush seating, ambiance and a rich diversity of clientele, we could be poles apart. The one thing we do have in common is that we are both improving our carbon footprint.

The Barn by its very nature of its business cannot help but consume lots (and lots!) of electricity. One light source which is becoming more popular in domesticated locations are LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes). A typical 60w filament lamp can now be replaced with a 6w LED lamp.

So, what has the Ritz got to do with the Barn? Well, the Ritz's chandeliers have been fitted with LED lamps just like ours in the Barn. Of course, we do not have quite the number of chandeliers the Ritz Hotel has but we have benefited from the research that was put in at the Ritz to find a suitable lamp for the Barn.

The Barn Trustees agreed that we should replace all 30 chandelier lamps and all 43 ceiling down-lighters (GU10) behind the Bar, in the Bar Area and Foyer with LED lamps. This will save much time and effort in constant replacements, not least of which the Health and Safety implications of using stepladders.

It is well known that changing lamps from filament to LED is not a cheap option. A chandelier lamp costs £20 each, but for the estimated usage in the Barn, the lamps are expected to last about 18 years from which we hope to save in excess of £50,000 in electricity.

Thanks must go to Karen Jackson, often seen wearing a Bar Support apron, who introduced the Barn to the idea of fitting these new lamps. The lamps were supplied by Beronworth Energy Systems Limited of Redhill. Further investigations into converting more lamps to LED will be considered in the future.

### *More Than a DRIP*

Final plans for the Dressing Room Improvement Project, fondly known as DRIP, have now been approved by the Barn Trustees and are now with the architects for preparation of the submission for planning consent from Tandridge District Council.

The revised plans provide much more than just new backstage toilet facilities and now include a complete redesign of the dressing rooms and backstage areas.

Plans will be on show at the forthcoming Barn AGM at 8pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June and all are welcome to come along to that meeting and to tell us your hopes and expectations for the Barn.

The total cost of these alterations and additions is estimated at close to £250,000.00 which is a far greater amount than we thought when discussing simply adding a new toilet block. It is proposed that the works are staged as we did so successfully for the Barn 2000 extension. Phase one would be to get the new toilet block in position,

phase two would see those toilets fitted out and brought into action. Phase three would be the final alterations to the existing dressing rooms and provision of air conditioning to those new areas we will have created.

Fundraising will be ongoing throughout these works and I would ask for your support for the following shows and events all contributing to the DRIP funds.

Meanwhile we have received some very generous donations towards DRIP from Starmakerz Theatre School, Janie Harris School of Dance and Tandridge Heights Care Home. More recently the Friends of the Barn presented the theatre with a very generous cheque for £8,500 and young Thomas Muscio baked a special cake and raffled it at the May Sunday Club raising almost £50.

Thank you to all of those people and if you would like to make a donation please do download a Gift Aid form from the Barn website.

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### *Edinburgh Festival Preview*

#### **'Bent' by Martin Sherman**

Table9 Productions is showcasing their entry to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival at the Barn Theatre 7.45pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

'Bent' is a play which examines the highs and lows of human dignity under extreme duress in the circumstances which follow the Night of the Long Knives at the beginning of WWII in Germany.

Directed by Chris Bassett, the cast is Peter Calver (Max), Danniell Horton (Rudy) Anthony Eglinton (Horst), Steve Bedford (Greta/Officer), Mark Mear (Wolf/Corporal), Bruce Christie (Uncle Freddie) and Paul Crispin (Gestapo/Prisoner).

'Bent' is an undeniably powerful post war theatre classic and not to be missed. Tickets are on sale on the website:-

([www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)) or by calling 07748 336665.

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### *'Love Story' is in Good Company*

'Love Story' is a melodic and sympathetic musical adaptation of the book by Erich Segal which inspired the famous film in 1970. It is an exquisitely beautiful, romantic and tragic story of two people who meet and fall in love.

Howard Goodall's soaring score and Stephen Clark's touching lyrics perfectly complement the humour and warmth of the script. Good Company are now regulars at The Barn, with critically acclaimed productions of 'A Man of No Importance' and 'The Drowsy Chaperone'.

This production will raise much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Any profits will go to help people living with cancer.

## FOBS

Your re-elected committee thank you for your continuing support and look forward to working alongside many of you in our Front of House role during the coming year. We were pleased to welcome 46 members to the AGM on a very cold Monday evening in March and we thank the 36 members who sent in their apologies for absence. Hilary Moore has been added to our numbers and will be warmly welcomed. Alan Jackson was confirmed as Vice-Chairman with a view to taking over as Chairman in 2014.

It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome Bruce to the meeting and to hand over a cheque for £8,500 which your generous volunteering had raised. A huge fund-raising effort is underway to pay for the extensive improvements planned for the backstage area but the continued upkeep of the Theatre also makes demands upon the 'purse' so the money raised by our Front of House efforts is vital.

A most successful Southern Counties Drama festival kept many volunteers busy at the end of February and Pippa will be looking for a similar number of helpers when we support the Barnstormers with their preview performances of "Parade" on the old tennis courts of The Larks – previously Laverock School – at the end of July. This is a challenging venture aimed at giving our local supporters a chance to see the production before it travels to the Minack Theatre in Cornwall for a week at the beginning of August. It also provides an opportunity for performers and crew to experience mounting the production in the open air and in a space similar to that which they will find on the Minack stage. This promises to be a fine production and you are urged to find time both to volunteer to help and to watch over the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> July.

Before that please think CAKES – yes, by the time that you read this it will be almost 'that time of year' again! Caro will be rounding us up to support The Barn Theatre Tea Tent at the Oxted Carnival on 6<sup>th</sup> July by donating cakes / helping in the tent/ buying teas – so do make a note in your diaries now. This is a great chance to put the Theatre in the heart of Oxted as well as to raise upwards of £1,000.

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## Glow reaches new "Heights"

This year Glow Theatre Group entered two plays into the Southern Counties Drama Festival at The Barn Theatre. 'A Human Write' by Amy Sutton is a fascinating ensemble play which uses mime and rhyme to get inside the mind of a struggling writer, while 'The Heights' by Lisa McGee, is about a freakish female loner confined to her bedroom by illness, watching street life from her bedroom window and weaving stories about what she sees. The cluster of rebellious suburban teens in the street below her window are gradually drawn into Lillie's blurred reality.



Against tough competition from the other entries, the Glow Theatre Group teams won:

- Festival Winners for 'The Heights'
- Runners Up for 'A Human Write'
- Best Youth Production for 'The Heights'
- Best Stage Presentation for 'The Heights'
- Adjudicators Award for Bethan Frisby for her directing of 'A Human Write'
- Best Director for Jackie Driscoll for 'The Heights'
- Best Young Actress to Rebecca Bridson for her great work in 'The Heights'

Glow is so proud of their teams and their massive achievement at SCDF. All of these were well deserved and hard earned wins!

'The Heights' progressed to the All-England Theatre Festival Divisional Final, which was held on Sunday 21 April in Maidenhead where they were placed a commendable second. Meanwhile, Glow are back to work on their next musical production, 'The Wizard Of Oz', which will be on stage at The Barn from 2 - 5 July, and which features the whole Glow group in their end of year spectacular. Tickets for the show are available online: [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk).

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## Barnstormers PARADE

Rehearsals are now well on their way for The Barnstormers much anticipated production of the multi-award winning musical 'Parade', touring to the Minack Theatre in August this year. An exceptionally talented and experienced cast of around 60 performers are currently being put through their paces recreating this powerful true life story and getting to grips with the wonderful score, with its rousing and soaring music.

This is a tragic but inspiring story about love overcoming adversity in the Deep South of America in 1913. A husband and wife search for justice in a prejudiced and politically motivated world and in doing so they finally find each other. This is powerful and moving musical that will stay with you for a long time to come.

The Barnstormers will be donating all of their profits from this production to the Barn Theatre's 'DRIP' fund and we would love to see as many Barn supporters and regulars as possible at the three local preview performances being staged in the open-air on the tennis courts of 'The Larks' (next door to the Barn) on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> (1.00pm & 5.00pm) & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> (2.30pm) July. The chance to see this superb piece of theatre, whilst enjoying a picnic and a glass of wine on a lovely summer's day is not to be missed, and we would encourage you all to book your tickets now.

Tickets for these Previews are now on sale via the Barn Theatre website [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) (credit/debit card bookings) or by telephone on 01959 561811. Please note these will be open-air performances and no seating will be provided. Members of the audience are invited to bring their own deck chairs, rugs, picnics etc. For further details, please visit [www.thebarnstormers.co.uk](http://www.thebarnstormers.co.uk).

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## Sunday Club 11th August

As you can see the Barnstormers production of 'Parade' takes place at the Minack in the first week in August so many people who would usually be at Sunday Club will be away. With thanks to Kenley Holiday Workshop who will be rehearsing 'Grease' in the theatre, we have changed the date to Sunday 11th August. This gives a chance for those returning from the Minack to catch up with those who missed the 'Parade' in Cornwall.



## The Oxted Players

### 'Calendar Girls' – we have lift off!! 15 to 18 May 2013

Excitement is building as our long awaited production of 'Calendar Girls' hits the Barn stage on Wednesday 15 May 2013 at 7.45 pm. This is the hilarious yet poignant tale based on true events of a group of WI ladies in Yorkshire resolving to raise funds for a new settee in the visitors room of the local hospital following the death of one of their husbands. Rather than produce a calendar of local views as they had done year after year in the past, they opt to be daring and pose nude but, in the words of the late Kenny Everett, everything is done "in the best possible taste" ..



The Calendar Girls

We have a brilliant cast who have gelled really well together. Our six "Calendar Girls" are played by Catherine Wyncoll (*Celia*), Fiona Steel (*Cora*), Chrissie White (*Annie*), Sharron Cox (*Chris*), Amanda Stronge (*Ruth*) and Deirdre Walker (*Jessie*). Supporting them are Dena Watts, Tricia Whyte, Jackie Barrett, Tony Goddard, Alan Webber, Clive MacTavish and Jonathan Tull, and also June Brown, Sheila Branson, Betty Jeal and Catherine Webber.

There has been great hilarity at rehearsals and the cast are now looking forward to the run. A 2014 calendar depicting the cast and technicians will be on sale and the profits will be donated to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

Tickets are selling very well and we would remind everyone that there is also a Saturday matinee performance at 2.30 pm. For card bookings, please book on line at [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or contact the Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852.

### Young Oxted Players

Our Young Players have been very active over the past three months, many having attended a Workshop in February when they rehearsed and performed short plays under the direction of David Rowan. There is now great demand for places in our August Workshop which runs from 18 to 24 August at the Theatre, the theme for which is "pirates".

In addition, ten of our older Young Players gave very creditable performances in Florence O'Mahony's play, 'The Herd', in the Southern Counties Drama Festival. The 'Best Youth Actor' award went to Nick Gilbert for his portrayal of Simon. The Young Oxted Players were then invited to perform the play again in the Theatre at the end of April when they played to a full house and a very appreciative audience. Our congratulations and thanks go to Flo and her young cast for their dedication and commitment over the past six months in bringing this powerful yet entertaining drama to the Barn stage.

### Autumn Production

We had planned to perform 'Rebecca' for our Autumn production but the rights have been withdrawn due to a professional tour, so our October play will now be 'Outside Edge' (16 to 19 October 2013) which is a very popular comedy by Richard Harris. 'Outside Edge' is about an eventful Saturday afternoon in the lives of five men and four women. Peter Reed is to direct and there are auditions on Thursday 9 May 2013 in the Theatre. We are looking a cast of five men and four women. If you require more information, please contact Pat Brown at [secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk) or 07768525778. You will need to be a member of the Society to audition.

Pat Brown

### Memories on the Orient Express

One of June Brown's retirement presents on stepping down as Chairman of The Oxted Players was a Golden Ticket to travel on the famous Orient Express with husband Michael. They chose to travel in style around the Kent countryside on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March which also happened to be their wedding anniversary. We asked June whether it was murder or memories on the Orient Express? Here June gives us an account of their day:

We began the day by catching the train from Hurst Green to Victoria. After registering we enjoyed a cup of coffee while waiting for the Orient Express to arrive – which it did, on the dot, and we took our places in the carriage assigned to us for the journey. Our carriage was named "Gwen" (the most recent addition to the British Pullman and an original carriage on the famous Brighton Belle). Built in 1932 by the Metropolitan Camel Carriage & Wagon Co. Ltd it had a sumptuous interior with plush carpets, velvet upholstery, marquetry panels, frosted glass lampshades and brass fittings in gold and blue. This carriage enjoyed particular fame in 1948 when used with her sister car Mona to convey HM Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) to Brighton.



All Aboard

After being taken out of service "Gwen" was preserved as a dining room at the Horseless Carriage in Chingford Hatch Essex and later took up residence as an attraction at the Colne Valley Rail-

way, Essex. Happily her days on the track weren't over, and she was painstakingly restored in 1988 before joining the British Pullman, complete with signature pearwood shell motif on walnut, 11 years later. "Gwen" was certainly a very elegant carriage.

Our journey began with a glass of champagne, before commencing our lunch which lasted all of the five hours we were on board. The food was superb, all washed down with fine wine. As we rolled through the Kent countryside the sun was out with blue skies, white fluffy clouds overhead. Our route ended in Canterbury before moving on to Ramsgate and Whitstable where we stopped for 15 minutes to sample the famous Whitstable Oysters plus, of course, champagne, whilst being entertained by a four-piece Jazz Band on the platform. We continued our journey enjoying dessert and coffee before arriving back at Victoria.

It was certainly a day which Michael and I will remember; enjoying beautiful scenery, good food, fine wine and excellent service, in elegant surroundings of an age gone by. All very much appreciated.

June Brown

# Oxted Operatic Society

## Committee Update and AGM

Stranger things have happened, but it is uncanny that since several members of the Committee adopted the role of a nun for 'The Sound of Music' our prayers were answered and we have found a new Treasurer for the Society, Richard Seagroatt. In welcoming Richard onboard I would also like to thank Janette White for her sterling work over the past few years keeping a tight rein on the Society finances as Treasurer. In addition I would like to welcome back Dena Watts, who has been co-opted on to the Committee replacing Nicky Roberts, who has departed to distant lands for a while. The full list of Committee Members is as follows:

Chairman: Teresa Reed (01883 625731)

Secretary: Sam Beams (0208 6686386)

Treasurer: Richard Seagroatt (07791 537261)

Executive Committee: Louise Fahey, Stephanie Hornett, Geoff Martin, Nicky Roberts, Dena Watts

Of course this will probably all change in July when we have the Society AGM, which is to be held at the Barn Theatre on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

## The Sound Of Music (April 2013)

As I write this, we are now in post-show blues for 'The Sound of Music'. What a fantastic week we all had at the Barn. After doing so well with ticket sales for 'Chess' we had our doubts about whether 'The Sound of Music' would appeal. We need not have worried, as unofficial figures put sales for the six performances topping 90% which will keep the new Treasurer happy. Not only that, but with such a positive reaction from everyone, fingers crossed many will return for 'Oliver!'.

A huge vote of thanks go not only to our fantastic production team of Peter Reed (Director), Sue Rowlinson (Musical Director) and Nicky Roberts (Choreographer), but to everyone who helped in the success of this show in any way. It has certainly maintained the high quality standard we endeavour to achieve with all productions. In an extract from his NODA review, Lance Milton wrote:

*"Peter Reed should be very pleased with the fruits of his labours as the entire cast gave just the right light performance requisite of the style of the Rodgers and Hammerstein show. Principals were all strong and gave diverse performances, Jane Gautrey as Maria, Paul Bowles [Captain Von Trapp], Ian Brown [Max], Lorin Lafave [Baroness Schraeder] and the fab nuns ensemble - Emma Denny [Berthe], Louise Fahey [Margaretta], Carol Moss [Spohia] and Sam Grant [Mother Abbess] were all equal to their parts and sang the score beautifully. However, as is often the case, it was the Von Trapp children who stole the show for me. We saw the Thursday night team of Teddy Stevenson [Friedrich], Rhianon Bullen [Louisa], Benjamin Eldridge [Kurt], Katie Bartholemew [Brigitta], Sophie Moss [Marta] and Olivia Foster [Gretl] and they were delightful especially in the harmony ensembles they sing together. However, the stand out performance of the night was given by 16 year old Oxted Sixth Form student Bessie Ephgrave as Liesl, who really demonstrated the benefits of her Guildhall classical singing training to great effect. Her acting performance was equally compelling both in the touching scenes she shares with Maria and with Rolf [George Cooper]."*

## Oliver! (19 - 23 November 2013)

Our second production of the year is another classic family favourite, Lionel Bart's 'Oliver!' which must surely be one of the most well-loved musicals of all time. Based on the Dickens novel Oliver Twist, the story tells of the trials and tribulations of a Victorian workhouse

orphan who is sold as an undertaker's apprentice, escapes to the clutches of Fagin's gang of pick-pockets and eventually finds the care and love of his true family. 'Oliver!' is guaranteed to engage audiences both young and old with its pathos and drama, while delighting everyone with its outstanding musical numbers. *Food, Glorious Food, I'd Do Anything, Where is Love?, Consider Yourself, As Long As He Needs Me, Who Will Buy* and *Reviewing the Situation* are musical theatre classics. This Winner of three Tony Awards has seen several very successful revivals in London, and has only just been re-released for amateur performance.

With Jane Maisey (Director), Martin Collard (Musical Director), and Andrea Atkinson (Choreographer) I am sure this will be another great success, and again requires a number of children in the production. Initial preparations are already underway, so please note the following dates:

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Adult Sing-Through

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June – AUDITIONS (Children / Adults)

For further information about auditions or getting involved with this production, please contact Dena Watts (Production Secretary) on 01883 723084 or 07793 900028 or email: secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk.

For further information regarding any of our productions or events please contact Samantha Grant (0208 668 6386) or email: secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk)

**Teresa Reed (Chairman)**

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## Elvis is back in the building

Elvis has just returned from his tour of Australia and rehearsals are well under way for his forthcoming performance at the Barn theatre to raise funds for the dressing room improvements project (affectionately called DRIP) which will include new toilets and backstage facilities. With a repertoire that includes *Don't be Cruel, Always on my Mind, Can't Help Falling in Love, I Need your Love Tonight, Jail House Rock, Little Sister, All Shook Up, It's Now or Never, Treat me Nice* and all the best known hits of Elvis. Together with Delilah, *It's Not Unusual, Release Me, What's New Pussycat* and more from Tom you are promised a night of great music and one to remember. Paul Weaver, who will be playing Elvis and Tom Jones, will be joined by the Elite Dance Troupes of Starmakerz Theatre School, whose pupil Josie Barton recently walked away with first prize for the Rotary Oxted Got Talent Competition. Book your tickets, only £11.00, now from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01959 561811.

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## Tea and Cakes Time

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July is the annual Oxted Carnival and as usual the Barn stalwarts will be out on the field early erecting the tea tents ready for the afternoon crush of visitors. Always a fun day, getting some fresh air and working in daylight rather than a dark theatre, it is the opportunity for the theatre to support the community as we hope they will support us. Many of you will receive the annual phone call from Caro in the weeks before – please do your best to supply the stall with your usual delicious home made cakes.