

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 23 Issue 2 May 2019

The Barn is back on the road to beating cancer

Early in the nineties, Martin Fisher and Bruce Reed, with others, reincarnated the Barn Players and supported by the whole Barn community raised the magnificent sum of £32,000 for cancer research charities with various fundraising shows here at the Barn and at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall.

Since that time various users of the theatre have also donated to related cancer charities from shows.

This December, on Saturday 14th, the Barn Theatre proudly presents, **'A Gift'** – a spectacular show featuring local performing arts schools, coming together for matinee and evening performances for **George and the Giant Pledge**, a fundraising initiative for The Royal Marsden children's cancer unit.

The show has two goals:

1. The young talented and gifted artists will entertain the audience with a stunning collection of dance, musical theatre and drama.
2. The artists and audience will be raising money for George and the Giant Pledge.

The Barn Theatre has generously donated the premises for the show and offered to gift all the raffle and ticket proceeds raised from the show to the charity.

George and the Giant Pledge is a fundraising initiative for The Royal Marsden children's cancer unit. The charity was established in January 2017 by the Woodall family, local to Oxted, when George Woodall, aged 4, was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer.

Too many of us have been affected by cancer – either a family member or friend. We have all seen the effects of the gruelling treatment regimen that patients endure from chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy and more. To see a child going through it is harrowing. Within days of George's diagnosis, to embark on the fundraising schedule that the Woodall family threw themselves into is frankly remarkable, the Barn Theatre is immensely proud to be supporting George and the Giant Pledge.

A huge number of people have supported the charity's goal to hit the target of £1 million in many creative ways – from sponsorship of sporting challenges, black tie balls, discos and parties, raffle sales, supermarket and cinema events, cape and t-shirt sales....and now,

'A Gift'

Their dedicated support of The Royal Marsden earned the family:

- o Outstanding Commitment to Fundraising award at the Just Giving Awards in November 2017.
- o Recognition from the Prime Minister with a Points of Light award in December 2017.
- o Winner of ITV London's Fundraiser of the Year, October 2018.
- o Regional finalists in the Pride of Britain awards, 2018.



A Gift will be an inspiring performance with an underlying theme of strength, determination and positivity, using music to achieve the message – some of the song choices having a particular emotional connection for the Woodall family.

'Some days I need the music, some days I need the lyrics.'

If you can support the fundraising team by way of raffle prizes or advertising your business in the programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch, we thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity in supporting such a worthy cause. Telephone 01959 561811 and leave your details and we will get back to you.

100% of the money George & the Giant Pledge raises goes to the children's team at The Royal Marsden Hospital to help fund much needed research into children's cancer as well as to help The Royal Marsden team continue the outstanding work they are doing for children and families affected by cancer.

Thank you
Rebecca Farrell



Tandridge Heights are delighted to support 'A Gift'



The Oxted Players have a real treat in store for their audiences with their May production of *Pride & Prejudice* (15 to 18 May with Saturday matinee). Directed by Peter Reed and with a simple but effective set, colourful costumes and ballroom scenes cleverly choreographed by Nicky Roberts, the cast of 26 are performing this much loved Jane Austen classic adapted for the stage by Gary Andrews. Beckie Wilkes plays *Elizabeth Bennet* supported by Lizzie Mills, Phoebe Sleeman, Lily Brown and Katie Bartholomew as her sisters and Sophie MacTavish and Richard Peachey as their parents. Added to the mix are Sean Eldridge (*Mr. D'Arcy*), Danniell Horton (*Mr. Wickham*), Peter Calver (*Mr. Bingley*), Steve Jones (*Mr. Collins*), Catherine Elliott (*Caroline Bingley*), Joanna Silcox (*Lady Catherine*), Carol Moss and Mike Tomlin (*Mr. & Mrs. Gardiner*), Philippa Lucas (*Charlotte Lucas*), Ian Caldecourt (*Colonel Fitzwilliam*), Jackie Barrett (*Mrs. Reynolds*), Beth Mesher (*Georgiana D'Arcy*) and an enthusiastic ensemble. Tickets are £10 (£8 students) from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk (card payments only) or 01883 724852 for cheque/cash payments and enquiries.

Our Autumn production (16 to 19 October) will be the comedy, *The Safari Party* by Tim Firth (co-writer of *Calendar Girls*). *Three households have agreed to hold a "safari party" – a dinner party where each course is served in a different house and the participants move from one to another. The dinner party is a disaster. Misunderstandings and conflicts mount from location to location until this black comedy culminates in violent destruction, both of apparently valuable objects and of the pretensions and secrets that the characters carry with them.*

A read through has already been held but there are auditions on Thursday 23rd May 2019 at 7.30 pm and an additional date to be set during the following week. Full details of the play and characters can be found on our website at www.oxtedplayers.co.uk or please contact director, Peter Shore, on petershore01@gmail.com 07712 315406. We are particularly keen to hear from young actors for the roles of brothers *Daniel* and *Alan* (playing ages mid 20s/30s) and for *Bridget* (early 20s), the rebellious daughter of the older couple *Lol* and *Esther*.

Congratulations to Fern Simmons on her successful direction and presentation of *I'm Spilling My Heart Out Here* by Stacey Gregg in which her ten young actors, Anna, Sophie, Gemma, Anna Sophia, Angharad, Rob, Sam, Joey, Alex and Evan gave brilliant performances over two performances in March.

Finally, at the NODA AGM in Guildford, Alan Webber, director of *There Goes the Bride*, accepted NODA Accolades of Excellence awarded to the Society for that show and also for *Puss in Boots* and we congratulate all those involved.

Unbelievable sights - indescribable feelings

Saturday 9th February saw the pupils of St. Marys School take to the Barn stage to showcase their many talents in their *Shining Shimmering Splendid* production. Both the Barn and school teams enjoyed a marvellous day and we all felt very blessed to have had



the opportunity to work with such a strong and talented team of like-minded people. How lucky we all were to be able to give so much to so many children and families, and to have had such fun in the process.

We were delighted to take into the school a cheque for £2,970 which the school will be spending to further enable their pupils to enjoy even more opportunities in dance, music and drama. We at the Barn were thrilled to be the beneficiaries of a new piano which Mrs Lewis bought for the theatre with the proceeds of the blue bucket collection. We certainly have good friends indeed in the St Marys team and look forward to welcoming them back to the theatre next year.

Southern Counties Drama Festival 2019

Paul Hyde, Host for the SCDF, introduced us to our Adjudicator for the week, Nick Wilkes who was making his first appearance at the Barn as Festival Adjudicator.

With 11 entries, all of an extremely high standard and a mixed genre, competition through the week was stiff. Competing teams benefited from salient feedback from the adjudicator who also took time to informally chat with Directors and actors after the shows, which was greatly appreciated.

The trophies, presented by Patron, Nick Owen and Sponsor Maia Olesen of ICB group, were warmly received by winners in each category and the overall winner of the ICB Festival Winners Award, Glow Theatre Group with their production of *Hamlet*, abridged by Julia Ascott also took away a cash prize of £500.

Best Adult Actor - Adam Dryer (Joseph) in "Jesus My Boy" by John Dowie performed by Tiger Productions

Best Adult Actress - Natalie Smith (Susanna Hall) in "My Second Best Bed" by Barry Syder performed by Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society which also won the award for Best Adult Production

Adjudicator's Award "Last Tango in Little Grimley" by David Tristram performed by Oast Theatre

Martin Patrick Award for Best Director - Julia Ascott of Glow Theatre Group

ICB FESTIVAL WINNERS AWARD, Best Young Actress – Molly Cook (Danny), Best Young Actor – Jack Palmer (Phil), Best Stage Presentation, Best Youth Production were all won by Glow Theatre Group

As winner of the Southern Counties Drama Festival, Glow Theatre Group will go on to perform at the All-England Theatre Festival Eastern Semi Final which will take place at Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 1AT on 1st June 2019



Well, the ermine has been packed away and the last fairy wing folded and so we say goodbye to our latest production, Iolanthe. We had a lovely week in FairyLand with many glowing compliments from our audiences. But all good things must come to an end and it's onwards and upwards to the rest of the year for OOS.



Our Junior society, the OJOS, takes the lead with our next adventure with their production of 'Curtain Up! OJOS Does Broadway' which promises to be a celebration of all your favourite musical theatre song and dance moments. Under the expert team of Melanie Vinall, Philippa Lucas and Kerry Brackpool, there will be lots to do for all our Junior members. Auditions will be held on Sunday 28th April with performances on 17-20th July. More information can be had by contacting our Secretary, Amanda Robinson at secretaryoxtedoperatic@gmail.com

Following close on the heels of our Juniors, we have a return to the Barn Theatre of our much celebrated Old Time Musical Hall. Once again lead by Jane Maisey who is busy writing the script, this promises to be an evening of mayhem and malarkey with a big wedge of fun. Rumour has it that there is a seaside theme so come and have fun beside the seaside, beside the sea! Audition dates will be announced very shortly and dates for performances are 28-31st August.

Which only leaves our November show, Scrooge to tell you about. Written by Leslie Bricusse it tells the tale of A Christmas Carol set to a beautiful musical score. We are in the process of looking for a Production Team for this show, so if you would like to be considered for the positions of Director, Musical Directors or Choreographer for this production, now is a good time to let us know. Please register your expressions of interest to either myself at chairmanoxtedoperatic@gmail.com or with Amanda Robinson at secretaryoxtedoperatic@gmail.com

With 2-4 productions a year, we are always on the look-out for talented Directors, Musical Directors and Choreographers and would welcome anyone with an interest in these areas to get in touch with any of our Committee members.

All the best for a happy Spring

Fiona Steel

Chair of Oxted Operatic Society



FILTHY FRIENDS here at the Barn as part of their European tour.

Thursday 24th May at 7pm

For thirty-one years, Peter Buck was the guitarist of alternative rock giants R.E.M., winner of multiple Grammy and Brit Awards, and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees. Corin Tucker, meanwhile, is the co-founder of indie rock icons Sleater-Kinney, one of the most influential US bands of the past twenty-five years. With R.E.M. disbanding in 2011, and Sleater-Kinney taking some time out, these two residents of Portland, Oregon found the time to work on some songs together, which in turn led to a band – Filthy Friends. The band's second album, 'Emerald Valley', is released on May 3rd, and follows in the footsteps of their well-received debut 'Invitation'



(2017). Stalwarts of the US indie rock scene Scott McCaughey, Kurt Bloch and Linda Pitmon join Tucker and Buck to form a force to be reckoned with. The band is embarking on a short European tour in support of 'Emerald Valley' and will play their first ever UK show in Oxted, as part of The Oxted Sessions.

Tickets are priced at £20 in advance, £25 on the door, and are available through the Barn website – barntheatreoxted.co.uk.

The Oxted Sessions are a series of cultural events, new for 2019, designed to bring a range of exciting and high-quality cultural events to venues across Oxted. For more information, search for 'The Oxted Sessions' on Facebook or Twitter, or email d.damesick@gmail.com.

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY
 ★ ★ FEATURING ★ ★
JAKE AND ELWOOD

BLUES BROTHERS
little brother
 Ladies and Gentlemen, Jake and Elwood Blues
 The Blues Brothers!
 Friday 24th May 2019!
 Tickets available now www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

An Evening with Alan Titchmarsh, hosted by Sir Richard Stilgoe

Orpheus



An evening with Alan Titchmarsh

Join Sir Richard Stilgoe as he steps on stage with best-selling novelist, television personality and one of the UK's top gardening experts, Alan Titchmarsh.

Alan was the presenter of *Gardeners' World*, the hugely popular *Ground Force* and *The Alan Titchmarsh Show*. He writes regularly in *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine*, *Country Life* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, is a Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society and patron or president of over 50 charities.

You'll take part in a Q&A, enjoy a complimentary drink (post event reception) and meet Alan after his on-stage interview.

Please note: Doors open at 7.00pm and the event will start promptly at 7.30pm. If you or your party have accessibility requirements, please book Row A.

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.

Electronic copies are available on our web site at 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

Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 19th July

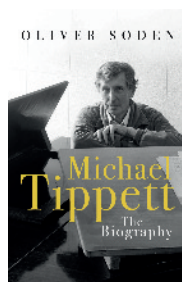
FRIENDS
OF THE
BARN THEATRE



At their Annual General Meeting held on Monday 11th March FOBs elected Paul Robinson to take over from Alan Jackson as their new Chairman. Alan had decided the time was right for him to stand down from the role he has held for the last five years, and was thanked by the meeting for all he has done for FOBs during that time. Since the AGM Janet and Jeff Magnay have also decided to step down from their roles on the Committee, and grateful thanks are due to them both for the contribution they have made to FOBs over their many years of service. The Committee now comprises Helen Clarke (Vice-Chair), Sarah Bryant (Secretary), Alan Webber (Treasurer), Dave Nicholls (Membership Secretary), Teresa Chinnock, John Clarke, Karen Jackson, Angie Muscio and David Sutton. On taking up his new role Paul said, "I am delighted to have been given this opportunity, and am greatly looking forward to building on the work done by Alan and the Committee over the last few years. FOBs plays such an essential part in the Barn's success, and I am hoping that by bringing a few new ideas to the table and making a few small changes we can help the theatre to become an even greater success." If you would like to find out more about volunteering as a member of FOBs, or if you have any suggestions on how to improve the Front of House experience for audience members at the Barn please contact Paul by emailing fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Tea and Cakes Time Isn't Happening This Year

Usually, the first Saturday in July is the annual Oxted Carnival and the Barn stalwarts are out on the field early erecting the tea tents ready for the afternoon crush of visitors. Unfortunately, this year for a variety of reasons, the Carnival has had to be cancelled. This means that nobody will be getting their annual phone call from Caro asking people to bake a cake. Both the Barn community and the wider Oxted one has always supported us and Carnival has, for us, been a good fund-raiser, as well as, we hope, making more people aware of the theatre and all the events we host. We do hope that this time next year we will be telling you the date of the Carnival and asking for your support again.



Michael Tippett new biography

The author Oliver Soden has recently published a new biography of the famous composer Michael Tippett and this is available from the Amazon website.

The very first public performance of works by Tippett was here at the Barn Theatre in 1930 and his reputation grew from that performance. He lived locally here in Oxted. Teaching french at Hazelwood School and conducting a concert and operatic society, he earned just enough to enable him to spend long periods at composition.

The book has been *Book of the Week* on Radio 4 all this week and is Amazon's number-one bestseller in music books; it even made the Evening Standard bestseller list for all non-fiction books. So it's attracting quite a wide audience.