

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



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### Merry Opera returns to The Barn Theatre

How to balance originality with tradition? Merry Opera tries to tackle this with its opera revue *Eat, Drink, Love!* which it is bringing to the Barn Theatre on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Merry Opera has been here before with *Troy Boy*, *Offenbach's la belle Helène* in 2011, *The Barber of Seville* in 2015 and last spring with *La bohème*.



I asked the producer, Matthew Quirk, why an opera revue rather than a well-known favourite? Surely it's a bit of a risk to do a show that people won't recognise?

*It's always a risk, but as our Trustees say: "We cannot be a tribute band playing old favourites to a diminishing audience. We have to widen the audience for opera and give everyone a good night out".*

The director of this show, John Ramster, directed the *Barber of Seville* for us and wrote and directed our previous revue, *Kiss me, Figaro!*, which ran in London for three weeks before touring the south, so we have some experience to draw on.

As for this production: *Eat, Drink, Love!* is a musical celebration of human appetites – for drink, for food and even for each other, spiced with a dash of Merry Opera sauciness. With favourite operatic pieces, lesser known gems and deliciously delightful 1920's cabaret songs, we bring musical (and other) jokes to

connoisseurs while helping newbies discover the beauty of classical music and live performance.

Buried among the lust, jealousy, comedy, murder and other manias found in the plots of opera there are many moments when food and drink take centre stage. As John Ramster says: 'If music be the food of love, play on, and if music be the love of food then play on as well!' We hope the audience will go home afterwards feeling warm and satisfied. Tickets: £15 by phone 01959 561 811 or online for card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



### Little Barn

Years of hard use have meant that the grass area outside the Little Barn began to resemble an off road driving area, despite frequent renewal of the turf. Now with artificial grass we have a super surface for the nursery kids and other youngsters to enjoy. A big investment but a worthwhile expense.

### Barn Supports Oxted Pram Race

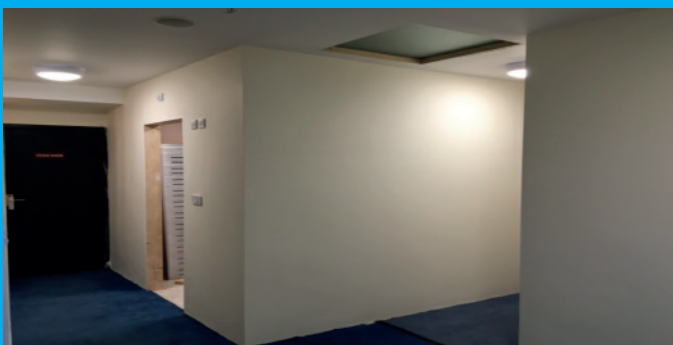
The Barn is very fortunate to be one of the local beneficiaries of proceeds from the annual Oxted Pram Race administered by the Oxted Rotary. We are delighted that a number of our members are involved prior to and on the day



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. This year Phil Littleford, one of our Trustees was presented with a very generous cheque for £400 for the DRIP fund.

### DRIP

The success of Phase One, coming in on budget, has enabled us to use some of our contingency fund to carry on with the works and move forward. All walls are now plastered and the entrance lobby and corridor decorated and all the lighting, internally and externally, is functioning so the place looks bright clean and tidy with some temporary second hand carpet to keep the dust down. We would like to think that perhaps by Christmas we will have the heating operational in all of this area.



## 30 Years at the Helm



Earlier in June, at the conclusion of this year's AGM, I was presented with with National Theatre tokens for a theatre and backstage tour plus a fine dining cruise on the Thames to celebrate my 30 years as Chairman of the Barn Theatre.

Somewhat overwhelmed, I was unable to say thank you properly to the many who contributed to these fine gifts and so now I have that opportunity to say a proper thank you to all. I was delighted that

I was able to share these two experiences with Caro and on a fine August evening we enjoyed a trip down the Thames with champagne and fine wines accompanying a very fine dinner and being waited on by some lovely staff. Then in September we thoroughly enjoyed a



backstage tour of the National Theatre, visiting all the backstage areas of the various theatres in the complex. This was a very comprehensive tour and our affection for the National Theatre and all it achieves was certainly enhanced. We stayed to watch a

fine performance of The Plough and the Stars but had to resort to looking at the subtitles due to the very strong Irish accents of the cast. So, a very big thank you to you all from us both and we look forward to telling you more when we next see you at the Barn.

Bruce & Caro

## Oldtime Music Hall Group back at the Barn

Wickham's Wandering Oldtime Stagers will be returning to one of their favourite haunts, the Barn Theatre Oxted, to present for your Delight And Delectation, Strictly Music Hall , Traditional Old Time Music Hall ... at its Very Best!

So, brush off your big hats, shawls, boaters & tails and exercise those vocal chords for what promises to be a night of Good Old Fashioned Fun and Nostalgia!! (Song sheets will be provided at no extra cost!)

The date is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017. *Kevin Gauntlett, the company's Worthy Chairman (The 5 stone miracle man) promises a comprehensive collection of consummate crime, carefully contrived to captivate the connoisseur and confuse the critics!*



WWOS have been travelling the Southeast of England for over 20 years, in which time they have raised over £100,000 for various charities ....

Book now to witness the company presenting their own mix of traditional Music Hall Mayhem at the popular Oxted Hall Of Varieties!

Book Now to avoid missing this treat!! 01959 561811 or for online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

## Sunday Clubs

Hopefully most people now get the eNews or notifications of events via our Facebook page but just a reminder for everyone about Sunday Club which is held on the first Sunday of every month.

The bar is open from noon – 2.00pm and nibbles are served, so if you are new to the theatre, why not come along to find out more about what happens there or if you are an 'old hand', come to meet friends or network. We all work very hard, so this is a chance to relax and enjoy somewhere that means so much to so many. The next Sunday Club is our Christmas Noggin and Natter on December 4<sup>th</sup>. A very special event every year and we hope to see you there!



## Spud'n' Bubbles Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January

For what has now become a Barn tradition, for the first Sunday Club of the New Year, we are again having a simple baked potato lunch with a meat or veggie option which will also include a glass of 'bubbles' or a soft drink. 'Spud n' Bubbles' will cost £7.50 and if possible please order and pay before the event. I can collect the money any time I am at the theatre or make contact if you haven't seen me. I shall serve at 1.00pm and everyone who has ordered and paid for their meal by 12.45pm will be guaranteed a spud but after that they will be available to anyone who turns up on the day and pays.



Please e-mail me at [carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com](mailto:carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com) with orders as soon as possible (last e-mail orders 30<sup>th</sup> December) as I intend to restrict numbers to 50, on a first come, first served basis. Also, if you need to cancel please do so by 30<sup>th</sup> December or expect to be asked for the money as last year we had some 'no-shows'!

## Jay Aston from Bucks Fizz returns to the Barn. Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm



With an evening of Musical Entertainment from Jay and Dave.

Jay will be singing songs chosen from her three critically acclaimed Solo Albums, accompanied by the band "Truth is", featuring Dave Colquhoun, guitarist songwriter. The format will be

a dual show interacting between songs to create a diverse musical platform. Jay Aston a current and original member of 80's iconic Eurovision winning band Bucks Fizz. Dave Colquhoun has played Guitar for legends such as Rick Wakeman, Procol Harum and Ian Brown amongst others. New original music is becoming harder to find in theatres and although seasoned professionals of the music industry this concert is very much a different experience.

Tickets £19, online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or by phone 01959 561811. A concert not to be missed.

## FREE FIRST AID COURSES AT THE BARN

**First Aid** courses for all our volunteers are being held on Thursdays 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February from 7pm - 10pm each evening at the Barn, courtesy of the Worker's Educational Association. Each evening will provide a basic understanding of first aid and how to approach a casualty safely. Places are limited but can be booked by telephoning 08003281060 or online [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) quoting course code C3740694. There is no charge for attending these evenings. These courses will provide excellent hands on training for our Front of House volunteers and all those involved backstage during a production. We urge you all to book now and reserve your place.



We have had a very busy 3 months starting with our August Youth Workshop overseen by David Rowan when 41 children performed *A Rockin' Midsummer Night's Dream*. This was followed by the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance held jointly with Oxted Operatic and then our exciting production of *Macbeth*. This production directed by Janette White was a fitting tribute to William Shakespeare to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Clive MacTavish and Laura Brand as Lord and Lady Macbeth were supported by an excellent cast and production team. The NODA review is awaited but the following are just two of the many compliments received from audience members during the run: "You guys were utterly spell binding last night. I've not seen a more impressive performance than that of the cast of Macbeth. Well done to everyone and thank you so much – it was excellent!"; "Fantastic play from an amateur group .... in my opinion nothing amateur about it at all ....amazing!! Oxted Players should be so proud of their achievements."



Preparations for our January traditional family pantomime *Once Upon A Time* by Paul Barron and Sarah Dyson directed by Carly Thompson are well underway. The daughter of Cinderella is about to marry the son of Snow White, banishing evil from Pantoland forever or so the ancient prophecy says. The baddie, Evelyn, who is the head of the NITWITS, spirits Princess Lottie from the palace to the edge of Pantoland. In true panto style the Prince embarks on a rescue mission. Peter Calver and Laura Brand return this year as Dame and Principal Boy and Fern Simmons is the Princess supported by a talented cast with choreography from Kerry Brackpool and lively musical direction from Jamie Cordell. Tickets for the ten performances 13 to 21 January are on sale now. Phone 01883 724852 for cheque payments or go on line at [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) to pay by card (booking fee applies). Tickets are selling quickly so don't delay.

We are entering two plays in the February 2017 Southern Counties Drama Festival. Our adult entry is *The Twelve-Pound Look* by J.M. Barrie to be directed by Peter Shore (2 male, 2 female). Our youth entry where we are looking to cast 11 teenagers, is *Bully Dancers* by Frank Gibbons to be directed by David Rose assisted by Phil Clarke. For further information please email us at [secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk).

Our May 2017 play will be *The Foreigner*, a farce by Larry Shue to be directed by Tricia Whyte. This is a fast-paced comedy with thought-provoking dark undertones. It is set in the deep South of America and focuses on a small rural community in modern times. The read through has already taken place but auditions to cast the 5 men and 2 women are being held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November in the Little Barn. If you want to know more or would like to audition, please email Tricia at [triciawhyte43@gmail.com](mailto:triciawhyte43@gmail.com) or [secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk).

**The New Foxtrot Serenaders**, "the hottest little big band in the South East", return to the Barn Theatre on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.45 pm with "*Swing, Swing Swing!*"

a celebration of the big band swing music from the 1930s and 40s. Songs from the swing era were made popular by big band leaders such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw and Harry James and through Great American Songbook vocalists Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, Dean Martin, Judy Garland, Nat King Cole and Ella Fitzgerald.

Tickets £16, available from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or telephone 01959 561811.

## JINGLE BARN ROCK

Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

The excitement is palpable at St Mary's and Downs Way schools as we gear up for our Christmas extravaganza - Jingle Barn Rock! Over the past



The cast of Jingle Barn Rock

few years we have been lucky enough to have been invited to take part in many events at the Barn Theatre - and our children and parents have loved it. This time we have the theatre all to ourselves, supported by the wonderful Barn team, which means that even more of our children will have an opportunity to perform.



At both schools we feel passionately that our role is to encourage a life-long love of learning, and to give our children the broadest possible experiences

and opportunities during their time with us. Many of the children will never have performed in large groups before – let alone on a professional stage. Many of them who have signed up have no idea what they have let themselves in for – and that is what this is all about: stepping outside our comfort zones, working together and experiencing something spectacular. From learning songs and steps to pulling off a performance; from the lights to the costumes; from that nervous wait in the wings to the thrill of the applause – every step of the way helps build memories that we hope will last a lifetime.

We are so grateful to Angie and Bruce and the team for giving us this opportunity. It's going to be quite a night!

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. The delightful duo of Sean and Jessica return by special request as your hosts for the evening. Just a few tickets are left and available online from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or by telephone from 01959 561811.



This Autumn saw the Society in joint celebration of our Seventieth Anniversary with our sister society TOPs with a super Dinner Dance at Bletchingly Golf Club. What a bash that turned out to be. I think that my co-host Peter would agree that there was not one table that we visited where we did not know the guests who were sitting there. For myself I cannot wait for the seventy-fifth when I hope these two great societies can celebrate again.



Our Autumn Production is *SISTER ACT* featuring original music by Alan Menken. The story is of an American lounge singer who has been put under protective custody in a San Francisco convent and has to pretend

to be a nun when a mob boss puts her on his hit list. With dazzling dance routines and songs inspired by Motown, Soul and Disco, *SISTER ACT* must be the funniest and funkier musical around. This will be a great night's entertainment so if you haven't already done so, order your tickets now either at [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or through our ticket secretary, Jackie Huke on 01883 331400.

*Our Spring 2017 production will be Fiddler on the Roof, 25-29 April 2017. This well loved musical is always a firm favourite, with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and music by Jerry Bock with a score bursting with such well known numbers as Tradition, Matchmaker, If I were a Rich Man, Sunrise Sunset and Do you Love Me.*

The 'Meet & Greet' for *Fiddler On The Roof* is scheduled for Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7:45pm at St Peters Hall, when you will get a chance to sing through the songs and talk to the production team of Paul Robinson (Director), Beth Hinton (Choreographer) and Robert Randall (Musical Director). *Provisional* Audition dates for your diaries are Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Dec & Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Dec at St Peter's Hall at 7:45pm. For further information regarding *Fiddler On The Roof*, please contact Teresa Reed, at [secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk) or ring 01883 625731.

Finally, I must end with a huge plea to help your Society. Sadly this year as a Committee, we are losing three stalwart members who are standing down after numerous years of dedicated service – our Secretary Teresa Reed, Treasurer Janette White and Geoff Martin our Publicity and Props Manager. So a call goes out from me to ask if anyone can step up to the mark and assist. Please get in touch and let Teresa Reed know asap. I should like to add that the work done by these servants of Oxted Operatic Society has led to the Society being healthier and stronger than ever before; they have helped to take us into our seventieth year a better and more active group than ever.

David Morgan  
Chairman

## Chaperone Training at the Barn

Here at the Barn we take the care of children seriously and know that you do too. We recognise however, that the increasing cost of registering to become licensed as a chaperone with Surrey County Council, together with the hassle factor of travelling to Redhill or Woking for two evenings can be off putting to people. The current price of training at these two venues is £40 per person.



Therefore, we have negotiated with Surrey County Council for them to provide a bespoke course here at the Barn over a single evening from 6pm – 10pm for a minimum of 15 applicants and a max of 35. Applicants must be resident in Surrey.

The cost of this training is very expensive but if we can get at least 30 delegates to come along we can reduce the price to £30 per person and include a coffee and biscuits too. Sadly, if we cannot encourage that number, the price will need to increase to cover our costs.

SCC have also been good enough to allow people to renew their licenses during this evening on a strictly timetabled basis but arrangements will need to be made direct with SCC in advance of the day by telephoning 01483 518464.

The date we have pencilled in is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March and in order to be sure that this is worthwhile for us to proceed, we are asking for your response no later than Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Once we have formalised the course, instructions will be issued to you as to what information is required and when.

Places can be reserved on the Barn website using <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/153280> but this incurs a booking fee, which can be avoided by booking by telephone 01959 561811 between 9.30am and 1pm each weekday and paying by cheque, in advance only.

## SUNDAY 11TH 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. Book now 01959 561811 or online for card bookings [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.  
[barntheatre@btinternet.com](mailto:barntheatre@btinternet.com)  
Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January