

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 21 Issue 4 November 2017

OUR VERY OWN HERO



Our Chairman and Theatre Manager Bruce Reed was recently presented with an award at the 'Tandridge District Local Heroes Awards', celebrating the work of volunteers in the area and the positive difference they can make in local communities.

There were six awards judged by a panel of representatives from the East Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group,

Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council and Tandridge Voluntary Service Council.

Bruce was awarded The Lifetime Award in recognition of his leadership of the Barn Theatre, for the past 31 years as Chairman.

Bruce leads by example, supporting and driving the Trustees and other volunteers and encouraging inclusive community involvement in all aspects of the theatre.

Bruce has led a programme of expansion and refurbishment from the early 1980's when Death Watch beetle was eradicated and the roof completely reroofed, to the more recent projects of Barn 2000 (bar, stage wings and dressing room), Barn Cool (air-conditioning) as well as numerous less obvious improvements to sound, lighting and the ongoing maintenance of an old building. As many of you will be aware Phase Two of DRIP has recently been completed.

Bruce was due to receive his award from MP Sam Gyimah but unfortunately Sam was delayed, so received it from Martin Fisher, Leader of Tandridge District Council and ironically the Treasurer of the Barn Theatre.

Spud n' Bubbles



For what has now become a Barn tradition, for the first Sunday Club of the New Year. On 7th January we are again having a simple baked potato lunch with a meat or veggie option and a glass of 'bubbles' or a soft drink.

'Spud n' Bubbles' will cost £8.00 (all profits to the theatre) and if possible please order and pay in advance. 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 (carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com) with orders as soon as possible (last e-mail orders 5th Jan) 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 5th January or expect to be asked for the money as last year we had some 'no-shows'!

DRIP PHASE TWO COMPLETE AND OPENED WITH A FLUSH!

Sunday 1st October was a special day in the life of our theatre when June Brown, recently retired Trustee and President of the Oxted Players opened the new toilet block at the rear of the theatre with a "First Flush". Many supporters were present and cheered June on as the doors were opened for visitors to inspect the new facilities.

Phase Three of DRIP will now continue as time in the theatre permits during a very busy 2018. Fundraising continues and your help with this is still needed if we are to complete the works in a timely manner please.



It was a great honour to be invited to open and have the 'first flush' of the new facilities now completed at the rear of the theatre. The aim over many years was to remove the toilets from the dressing rooms. This goes back to when I was first involved with productions and one could never flush during a performance due to the noise they made, things have certainly moved on from then.

The theatre has seen a lot of transformation over the years. This has been bought about by the dedication of Directors/Trustees past and present

who love the Barn, which became a second home to many. Our present Barn Chairman Bruce Reed is the one to be congratulated for his foresight and vision and who has steered and dedicated so much time and energy along with his Board and who have already completed Phase Two of the bigger project.

Our theatre is unique, run and managed by a team of volunteers. Everyone who comes into contact with it falls under its spell, it lives & breathes life.

The theatre now has another full year ahead to look forward to, let us embrace it.

Thank you Bruce & Trustees for these excellent new facilities and I so enjoyed being part of the grand opening.

June Brown



A VIEW FROM A CHILLIER CHAIR

The recent production of *The Ghost Train* directed by David Morgan proved a great success with excellent ticket sales and enthusiastic appreciative audiences. The play, written by Arnold Ridley of Dad's Army fame, in 1923, has stood the test of time and is regularly performed by drama groups.



Although not advertised as a comedy, there were instantly chuckles and laughter from the audiences throughout the run as they realised the humour of the writing and acting. We thank our excellent cast, director and production team and also the hard working Front of House teams who kept our audiences suitably refreshed.

Puss in Boots, our pantomime (12 to 20 January), is now in rehearsal with a cast of 40. Chris Bassett directs with Jamie Cordell as Musical Director and Kerry Brackpool as Choreographer. The hero is *Jack* the youngest of three sons of the miller who has died leaving his mill and riches to the two older boys but *Jack* only inherits a cat. But with the help of the *Good Fairy* the cat receives a magical pair of boots and sets about changing his master's fortunes. This traditional panto is colourful, lively and definitely not to be missed. Tickets at £10 adults and £9 children are on sale now at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk for card payments and 01883 724852 for cheque and cash payments or ticket enquiries.



Our proposed entry for the Southern Counties Drama Festival in February is *Nine* by Jane Shepard to be directed by Ghislaine Bowden. This is a dark and disturbing forty-minute one act play that is about two women held in a life-threatening situation and the mind games they play to keep one another alive. Held in a room and chained apart, their only currency is words and balance of power is everything when a single word becomes the hanging point between life and death. We are looking for two female actors with great acting ability. There is some strong language, but overall it is funny, sad, uncomfortable and at times disturbing. If interested, please contact secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk.

Our Youth production on 16 and 17 March is *Dracula – The Final Countdown?* by Geoff Bamber. Chris Bassett is again at the helm as Director and auditions took place last month with rehearsals beginning at the end of January. This play is a humorous adaptation of Bram Stoker's scary tale written for younger actors. We have a very enthusiastic cast of young actors and the show will appeal to audiences of all ages. Tickets are £9 available on the Barn website or through our Ticket Secretary as above.

Our young members also have the opportunity of working in the Theatre with David Rowan (actor/director/writer) during the February half term break (12 to 16 February) when plays for two age groups will be rehearsed during the week and then performed on the Friday afternoon. Further details can be found on our website at www.oxtedplayers.co.uk or contact secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk.

We also run a week long workshop in August with David at the helm.

We return to comedy again with our spring offering (16 to 19 May) *There Goes the Bride* by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. There is a read through on 7 November followed by auditions on 13 and 14 November. All welcome to the read through but you would need to become a member to audition. Please contact us on secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk or 07768 525778 for further details.

As the summer turns to autumn, and we start to think of stocking our cupboards with hot chocolate, soup, and all types of comfort food, let's take the opportunity of looking back on our summer achievements and warm ourselves with the glow of self-satisfaction.

One of the most thrilling and rewarding experiences of an old man's life was the junior production of *West Side Story* in which I participated as one of the three adults in the cast. If you were not there then you missed a fabulous treat. Very rarely are we permitted to see the youth of our Society performing with such exuberance, such excitement, such talent! All I can say is that I have witnessed one of the best pieces of musical drama, adult or junior, in the amateur theatre to date. What a great shame that it might be Carly Thompson's swan song, what a wonderful piece to go out on, Carly!

And then, along comes an *Old Time Music Hall Spectacular*. I have to admit that the germ of this idea was probably mine (I had been bugging the Committee to let me do it for eighteen months!), but the true inspiration came when I asked the very talented Jane Maisey and Cathy Blundell to spearhead the production team. My God! Did they deliver! I have never known the Barn Theatre audience rock with laughter and song as joyously as they did during those two performances.

Fear not, we hope to improve on this reaction in the near future, which brings me very neatly to "future productions", did you notice the segue? Our final production for our 60th Anniversary year is *Our House*, a modern musical with lyrics and music by Madness, rehearsals for which are already underway.

Then next year we start with *Made in Dagenham*, the story of the Ford factory workers striking for parity, followed by, *The Wizard of Oz*, an adult members' show but with lots of opportunities for our junior members. This is an ambitious programme which can only happen with the support and assistance of our members. I hope you all find something to participate in both on-stage and off.

David Morgan – Chairman

Our House (22 – 25 November 2017)

With music and lyrics by the 1980's pop group, Madness, we are proud to present this Olivier Award-winning, West End smash hit musical from the writer of *Calendar Girls*!

The show is fully cast, rehearsals have commenced and the production team of Ian Brown, Director, Brian Steel, MD, Cathy Blundell, Choreographer, and Stephen Fanis, Production Executive, is working hard.

Tickets are now available for purchase and can be bought online via the Barn Theatre website (<http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/calendar.html>) or purchased from our Ticket Secretary, Jackie Huke 01883 331400.

Made in Dagenham (18 – 21 April 2018)

Next year we go even further back in time to 1960s. Inspired by a true story and based on the hit movie, *Made in Dagenham* is the uplifting new British musical comedy about friendship, love and the importance of fighting for what is right. With 14 named roles and ensemble, we believe members will love taking part in this show. We are pleased to welcome back Nigel Kemp as Director and Philippa Lucas as MD. Auditions will take place in December.



The theatre was buzzing with excitement on the evening of Saturday 30 September when nearly 100 people gathered for the Launch Night of next year's Barnstormers production of Sweeney Todd. Producer Richard Allen and Director Paul Longhurst gave a presentation in the auditorium on their vision for the show and gave an insight into what is involved in taking a major production on tour to the world-famous Minack Theatre. Richard was able to reveal a model of the set design for the production which had been meticulously created by designer Tara Usher and the cogs could be seen whirring in heads of those tasked with making the design a reality!

Principal auditions were held on Sunday 15 October with ensemble auditions following a few days later.



The production team was impressed by the incredibly high standard of the auditions and they were faced with some extremely hard decisions. The casting process still continues as there are some principal roles that are as yet unfilled but it is hoped that a full cast list can be announced

in the next edition of Barn Theatre News.

There will be some preliminary music rehearsals early in the new year, with the main rehearsal period commencing in April. After months of planning, the production team is really excited to have finally launched the show and updates on how the production is progressing will be available on both the Barnstormers website www.thebarnstormers.co.uk and in future editions of BTN.



Red bucket total eclipsed again

Our retirement bucket collections have almost become competitive with totals regularly increasing. The recent A-Z of Musical Theatre topped all previous totals collecting £404 for a single performance. Well done to the bucketeers and thank you to all who gave so generously.

Les Miserables, Jungle Book and BRIT School awards for Glow!

Glow Theatre Group is in the thick of rehearsals for their two Autumn productions, with the juniors presenting Disney's Jungle Book Kids in November, while the seniors are bringing the much loved Les Miserables to spectacular life in December. This specially adapted version of the show is slightly shorter than the West End production but otherwise retains all the beauty and emotion of the

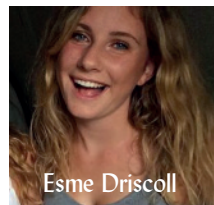


original, including all the famous music and songs and taking the audience through the moments of desperation and joy in this much loved story of courage, love, revolution and redemption.

Many of the actors in this production are award winners in their own right, having recently claimed a number of accolades and awards at the Southern Counties Drama

Festival, and their performances in rehearsal are already creating a storm of emotion in the rehearsal rooms. In addition, Glow's very own Esme Driscoll is working on the technical side of the show. Esme is a regular at The Barn and is currently studying Technical Theatre Arts at The BRIT School, where she was recently awarded the title of Student of the Year in Technical Theatre. Everyone at Glow is very proud of her!

Tickets for both Glow productions are now available at www.barntheatreoxtd.co.uk or through 07813 916105.



Esme Driscoll

I have always loved theatre and have been given so many chances to get involved, both on and off stage through Glow Theatre Group, KHW and the Barn. I started when I was 7 at Glow Theatre Group, where I was able to learn about all the different aspects of theatre, not just performing.

Ever since I got my first (pink!) impact screw driver I loved helping with the set build and fit up for shows, and I especially loved the get out where I got to dismantle the beautiful sets we had created. The Barn's team have always been open to me helping and with the promise of tea and cakes throughout the work, it is a fun thing to be a part of! In the more recent years I have found my passion in stage management and especially cueing the show, or to use the technical name, being the DSM (Deputy Stage Manager). Through my time at the Barn I fell in love with technical theatre, and although I do make the odd appearance on stage (with Glow Theatre Group in the Southern Counties Drama Festivals) I always manage to be a part of the backstage crew too, be it creating audio visual for the performance, follow spotting or flying in the cloths! For the past year and a half I have been studying Technical Theatre Arts at The BRIT School of Performing Arts, in Croydon. To study my hobby full time and to then turn my hobby into a job is a real privilege. The course includes lighting, sound, set design and construction, costume and of course stage management, which I have specialised in. Stage management is often overlooked in amateur theatres, however in professional theatre it is seen as one of the most important parts of any show. It has been great to get professional training and then come back to the Barn and put it to use on the shows!

I never imagined I would be on a course I love so much and be able to create a career out of my favourite thing, so I would like to say thanks to Glow and the Barn team...I could not have done it without you!

Esme Driscoll



Talkin' 'bout your generation!

Love The Who? Love live music? Then catch the Total Who Show by Johnny Warman's Magic Bus – featuring musicians who have performed with Roger Daltrey, Pete Townshend, and John Entwistle from The Who.

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.

"The greatest sixties band on the planet." Time Out magazine
"Songs to delight the diehard fans and casual observers... played stunningly." The Herald
"If you want to see an electric performance by a band that loves music and loves what they do, go and see the Total Who Show by Johnny Warman's Magic Bus." Ridge Radio

SUNDAY 22 APRIL AT 7.45PM

Tickets 01959 561811

or online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

SOUTHERN COUNTIES DRAMA FESTIVAL 2018

Acknowledged as the premier one act festival of the AETF Eastern Area, the Southern Counties Drama Festival has been an important part of local amateur dramatics in Surrey and Kent for 66 years. Traditionally the venue of the Festival had moved around with different groups hosting the event each year. As time moved on, the standards of technical facilities were found lacking in some of these venues, which were in the main church halls, hurriedly converted for theatre use on the morning of the technical rehearsals. In 1989 the Festival moved to the Barn Theatre, was a great success and since that time the Barn has become the resident home to the Southern Counties Drama Festival.

Entries are currently being accepted for the 2018 festival that will run from 19 -24 February.

It is always an exciting and varied week of drama for spectators and entrants alike and new teams are warmly welcomed from both youth and adult groups. Entry forms are available upon request to 01959 561811 or by email from scdfatbarn@btinternet.com

The festival adjudicator for 2018 is Jennifer Scott-Reid from the Guild of Drama Adjudicators and a professional Management Consultant. It is Jennifer's first time with SCDF at the Barn and we are looking forward to her adjudications'.

The continuing sponsorship provided by the ICB Group is warmly welcomed and enables SCDF to continue their support for the winning teams in future years.

FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



The many recent varied performances at the Barn have ensured that the Front Of House volunteers have been kept very busy.

We have been fortunate in having a number of new volunteers and I wish to thank all these for their support whether it be as an usher, a programme seller, serving ice cream or sweets and in some cases being involved with the duties on the bar which mean a later evening. Karen has been pro-active in encouraging new persons to assist as one of the 15 volunteers that we usually need for each performance. Next year we shall have more performances to staff and so if you are interested in volunteering then please contact Karen on 01342 894669 or come to the social gathering, Sunday Club, on the first Sunday in each month from 12 - 2pm

Alan Jackson, Chairman

The Marriage of Figaro for one night only



Saturday 3rd February at 7.45pm

Life, liberty and the pursuit of love in the jazz clubs of the 1960s is driving everyone crazy. Figaro loves Susanna, Cherubino loves the Countess, and the Countess loves the Count. The Count is intent on chasing Susanna and on preventing Figaro from marrying her. Outsmarted not only by a cunning disguise, but also by the arrival of a couple of long-lost parents and by Figaro's and Susanna's ingenuity, the Count slowly realises that everyone else

is running rings round him.....

Another production by Merry Opera of a classic favourite. *"The Merry Opera Company has a nice line in these slightly offbeat touring shows, performing them with charm, energy and wit"* – Opera Now 2014

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 24th March 2018 for one Spectacular Nostalgic Music Hall ... Strictly Music Hall.... Naughty But NICE!

WWOS are a good old fashioned theatrical troupe presenting good old traditional Music Hall entertainment with audience participation, sing-alongs (Songsheets will be provided and *MUST be used!*) and all the usual merriment, mayhem & myth.

Over the past 20 years, they have raised over £100,000.00 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 theatres own box office 01959 561811 or online for cards 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

Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 19th January 2018