Lloyds For London

We were delighted to hear that Jeremy Lloyd, who regularly plays in the orchestra pit at the Barn Theatre, has won a top music prize. Jeremy was competing at the Croydon Music Festival on 19th April where his Organ Recital took top honours and he was awarded first place by the adjudicator, Simon Preston. Together with the trophy, Jeremy will now have the opportunity to play a recital at St. Paul’s Cathedral - probably next year (coach tickets will be on sale shortly!).

www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

The Barn Theatre has an extremely comprehensive website on which there is a considerable amount of (up to date!) information. It gets thirty to fifty hits a day and we have had requests from around the world to use items we have posted, or asking for information on the theatre or a production.

But do you use it? Probably not!

There is a comprehensive calendar with details of where tickets can be purchased, loads of history about the theatre and photos showing the early beginnings and where we are now, a slide show charting the progress of Barn 2000 and links to other appropriate websites. For resident and hiring societies, you can post information about forthcoming shows with cast lists and photos etc., ask for help in finding actors/actresses or technicians or advertise costumes or props for sale or hire.

Resident societies, regular hirers and the Friends of the Barn have their own page so you can find out about them before joining and there are also contact details for a number of other societies together with important information for hirers.

I have collected many memories and photos from people who have been at the theatre over the years but would love to receive more to ensure as much as possible is recorded for posterity.

If you have anything you think we might be interested in please contact Caro Rowley on publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk or via the theatre office.

Doubled up with laughter

For the last few weeks I have been sorting though a large number of theatrical programmes dating back to the late 40’s that came my way. Reading through them opened a wonderful window on what was being shown at theatres around the country in those bygone days. Variet shows were very much the spice of life; long summer seasons being the staple diet of many performers.

The show’s headline acts were often supported by ‘the double act’. These acts were the backbone of Variety and Music Hall for more than 50 years. Some of the double acts even managed to climb the show business ladder and later became headline acts in their own right. Names like Flanagan and Allen, Naughton and Gold, Jewel and Warris, Arthur Lucan and Kitty McShane in the thirties and forties, through to Mike and Bernie Winters, Hope and Keen, Little and Large, Cannon and Ball in later years and arguably the greatest double act of all, Morecambe and Wise.

Those of us who have been involved in pantomime know how important a good double act is to the success of the production. For example there are always two robbers in Cinderella, two Chinese Policemen in Aladdin, two brothers in Babes in the Wood; two brokers men in Double Acts today are a rarity in the professional pantomime. Instead to get ‘bums on seats’ we are subjected to the fading soap star, past it sports-person, cringing reality TV celebs so that instead of doubling up with laughter, we now double up in pain.