

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 29 Issue 3 November 2024

Generous Mark



Mark Wakeford died unexpectedly back in July 2023.

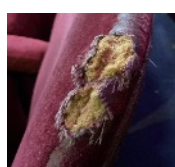
He first trod the boards aged three with the Peniston-Bird dance School and continued an active life at the Barn until his death. He was a committed supporter and would help wherever he could. By my side as ASM for Southern Counties Drama Festival, (previously the Betchworth Festival) we worked together for over 30 years knowing what was needed, without words much of the time. Mark was also Treasurer for some 20 years. He belonged to all the resident Societies and was foremost in the Barnstormers where he was a sponsor and Treasurer too. The recent performance by the Barnstormers in *A Night of 100 Years* was dedicated to Mark in a beautifully written programme page by Richard Allen.

On holiday and on my birthday earlier in October, I was informed by the solicitor dealing with Mark's estate that he had made a bequest of £100,000 to the theatre. This is the largest bequest the theatre has received in our 100 years and comes at a time when the Trustees are looking to large expenditure on various projects.

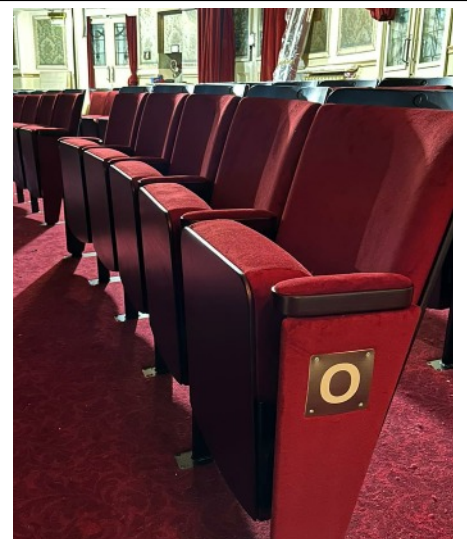
The Barn Theatre community will be forever grateful to our good friend Mark and he will be sorely missed by many.

New seating on the horizon

The Trustees are currently discussing the replacement of the existing theatre seating and the theatre will be closed during the late summer 2025 to enable the installation.



The present seating was installed in 1991 and has done us very well but despite continuous repair and replacement of parts we now consider the structure of some seats not to be as good as it should be. The illustration above speaks for itself and that on the right is one of the seats we are considering, together with a change to red carpeting to match the bar. More later but you will be able to sponsor the new seats.



Ghost Hunt At The Barn

8.00pm on Friday 24th January
until 01:30 on 25th January.

Are you brave enough to join us on a full
blown ghost hunt

The Barn Theatre has countless reports of strange and unexplained happenings going on inside it. Some people are fearful of working in the building alone, due to hearing footsteps and voices late at night. Performers from a previous time have also been seen at different times and there is a very strong feeling of being watched in there. People have also felt nudged when walking on the stage. We will be conducting a full blown ghost hunt to find out what goes on after dark - are you brave enough to join us there? Over 18's only please

<https://www.ghosthundertours.co.uk/event-info/ghost-hunt-at-the-barn-theatre-oxted/ticket-form>

Tickets are **not for sale** through the usual Barn Theatre box office

Spud 'n' Bubbles 2025

For what has now become a Barn tradition, for the first **Sunday Club** of the New Year, on 5th 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 £11.00 (all proceeds to the theatre) and if possible please order and pay up-front. I can collect the money any time I am at the theatre or please 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 the surplus will be available to anyone who turns up on the day and pays. Please e-mail me on carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com with orders as soon as possible (last e-mail orders by 2nd January) 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 2nd January or expect to be asked for the money as last year we had some 'no-shows'!

SOUTHERN COUNTIES DRAMA FESTIVAL

24th February
-1st March

at 7pm each evening
Matinee: Saturday 1st March
at 12.30pm

The Southern Counties Drama Festival for youth and adult groups in the UK is acknowledged as the flagship of the All England Theatre Festival for One Act plays. Entry forms are now available for the 2025 Festival.

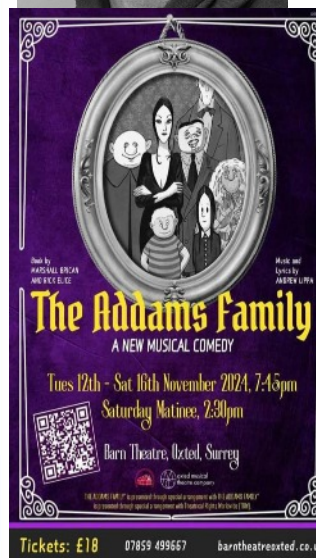
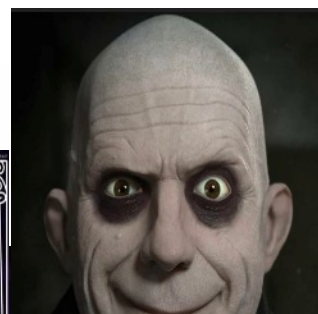
Telephone 01959 561811 for a copy, apply at scdfatbarn@btinternet.com or www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/scdf.html



**PAUL HYDE IS SHAVING
HIS HEAD!**

TO PLAY FESTER IN
THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL
HERE AT THE BARN THEATRE

AND TO RAISE MONEY FOR
GREAT ORMOND STREET



PLEASE SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GO
TO HIS JUSTGIVING PAGE.
THANK YOU!

Christmas is coming, why not treat your family and friends?

Buy a Barn Theatre Gift Card that can be exchanged for tickets, drinks, sweets, ice creams etc. Use it like a debit card when at the Barn, Contact Paul Robinson at fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk

How about Barn Polo shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies, jackets, gilets etc or a Barn 100 pen, Contact Caro Rowley at Carolyn.Rowley@btinternet.com



We're delighted to announce the recent arrival of some new additions to our bar offering. We now stock Peroni and Peroni 0.0%, Casillero del Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon, and Gordon's Alcohol-Free Gin.



As mentioned in the previous edition, we now offer **Barn Theatre Gift Cards** which can be used to purchase tickets, sweets and ice creams at the box office, and drinks and snacks at the bar. With Christmas now only a few weeks away, a Gift Card would make an ideal present for anyone who is a regular visitor to the Barn. To purchase a Gift Card please contact me at fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Paul Robinson



Jesus Christ Superstar comes to The Barn Theatre!

The multi-award winning Glow Theatre Group are thrilled to be bringing this iconic musical to the Barn Stage this December. This musical has continued to wow audiences since its first performance in 1971, when it took the world by storm. Uncovering the story of the last weeks of Jesus' life through the eyes of

Judas Iscariot, this rock opera is a powerful and moving retelling of this series of extraordinary events. With book by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd-Webber, this youth production is a creative and original depiction of the show. New and innovative choreography has been designed by Julia Gent, and director Jackie Driscoll has created an event not to be missed.



Amy Johnson. New to the Barn and not to be missed. Book now www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



Born in the year the Wright Brothers made their first flight and into an age where the romantic heights of flying captured her heart, Amy Johnson became the second woman in the world to qualify as a ground engineer and then, in 1930, the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

Amy lived her life for adventure and the future of aviation. In January 1941, at just 37 years old, Amy was killed while serving her country on a routine flight for the Air Transport Auxiliary. In her short time this 'lone girl flier' achieved so much while faced with challenges of all kinds.

We meet Amy in a world of memories, desires, wishes and ambitions. As we find out about her life we start to see how the pieces fit and the tools Amy used to bring her dreams to reality....



Following their June production of Gianni Schicchi and The Last Night of the Proms, performed as part of the Barn Theatre's Centenary celebrations, New Aquarian Opera return to the Barn in November with a fully staged production of Puccini's La Bohème with a chamber orchestra and sung in English. This story of love at first sight ending in tragic heartbreak, is the opera that inspired the musicals Rent and Moulin Rouge, and is a great choice if you've never been to the opera before.

Aquarian Opera are very fortunate to have an amazing cast of young professional singers in the lead roles for La Bohème.



They aim to provide a platform for professional young singers to train and perform principal roles, which is vital for their future careers. Such is their reputation that singers travel far and wide to sing with them. For The Marriage of Figaro last year, one singer travelled from Ireland to perform, this time the furthest is from Cardiff! Aquarian also bring onboard individuals wanting theatre experience and their set has been designed by 18-year-old Henry Anderson who has just started at Nottingham University studying set design.



Aquarian's chorus is made up of local people, some seasoned stage performers and some with no previous stage experience, and they are always happy to hear from people interested in joining, provided they can sing in tune! Unlike the principal singers who are expected to turn up knowing their music, the amateur chorus are treated much more gently in rehearsals, with the music taught line by line, so although useful, the ability to read music is not required. A lot of fun is had at rehearsals and a lot of cake is eaten in the breaks!

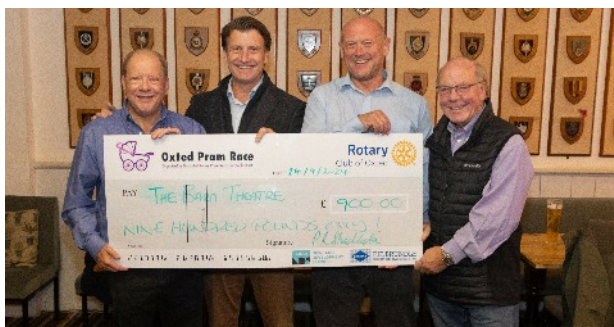
Above all, as a charity promoting great opera, the experience for everyone, especially the audience must be enjoyable and enriching.

Aquarian believe that Opera is for everyone.

Aquarian Opera perform Puccini's tragic masterpiece,
La Bohème from 21st to 23rd November 2024 at 7:30pm

Tickets £25

Booking at www.barntheatreoxtd.co.uk



The Oxted Pram Race team presented Bruce and Phil with a cheque for £900 from the proceeds of this years race around Oxted. Always a great day, we are fortunate in having volunteers from the theatre who help every year enabling this very generous donation.

If you fancy helping next year, please speak to Phil and join the fun.

The Barn Theatre News is created by Bruce Reed who is always willing to include your contribution at Barntheatre@btinternet.com
Copy for the next edition should be received by Friday 17th January



When I have put up our Remembrance Soldiers in recent years, I have always felt that we were not acknowledging with due reverence the loss of so many who have died in wars and conflicts. So, this year I decided to do something more fitting. With thanks to Simon Larkin the blacksmith, my wife and especially the Johnsdales Knit & Natter Ladies who interrupted their current project to knit the poppies at the feet of the soldiers. In the next week we hope to add a further 500 poppies.

Phil Littleford