

AUGUST 2018

newsletter

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sewellbarn

THEATRE

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We hope you're having a lovely summer, and enjoying the fine weather. The theatre is 'dark' as we write, but we're working hard to prepare for our exciting new season for 2018/19. **We have a few important messages about upcoming dates**, so we're writing to you in advance of our next newsletter, which will be with you in late September.

Annual Clear-Up Weekend

The playground area around the theatre is being re-tarmacked during August, which will be of great benefit to ourselves and to all other users of the property. Unfortunately, this limits our access to the site and building during works, and therefore **our clear-up weekend (previously planned for this coming weekend, 11-12 August) has now been postponed to 1-2 September**. This involves mainly disposing of unwanted timber from the scenery dock, cleaning and tidying, and repainting in various areas. If you're able to wield a paintbrush or move items around, your help would be very much appreciated! (We also could use a bit of muscle to help get the old photocopier downstairs ready for disposal...) Work will take place **between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm on Saturday 1 September and Sunday 2 September**. If you can come along, even for just a couple of hours, it will help enormously. **Please email Andrew Evans** on ozevans@strumpshaw.net if you're able to contribute some time.

Auditions

We're delighted that the first two shows of the new season (**Handbagged** and **Not About Heroes**) are fully cast and ready to start work. Our next auditions take place at the end of August: **These Shining Lives**, directed by Jess Hutchings, is a superb show with excellent roles, especially for young women. Full details can be found on our website.

Please note that due to the tarmacking work mentioned above, it may not be possible to use the theatre for these auditions, depending on the progress of the contractors. If you are interested in auditioning please get in touch with Jess on jess.hutchings@outlook.com or **07432 418888** to confirm the venue nearer the time.

RIP Mike Beavis

Many of our friends will have been saddened recently to hear of the passing of Mike Beavis, long-time supporter and a valued and skilled technician at our theatre, after a long period of ill-health. His daughter, Miche (previously our Joint Artistic Director), has now sent us details of his funeral arrangements, together with an online memorial for stories, photographs, and donations to the **United Norwich Kidney Patients Association** in Mike's memory.

"Dad died on 17th July 2018 at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital aged 83 years. The service to celebrate Dad's life will take place at Greenacres Colney, Watton Road, Norwich, NR4 7TY on **Wednesday 8th August** at 11am. (This will be followed by a short committal at St Faith's Crematorium, but this is for close family only – it was dad's wish for friends to celebrate his life at Colney). We are happy for bright colours to be worn. There will be close family flowers only. Charitable donations will benefit the United Norwich Kidney Patient Association. A tribute site has been created – <https://michael-beavis.muchloved.com/> – where people can view donation details, photos and memories can be placed and it can be used to share the funeral details. The funeral director will collect donations at Greenacres Colney and they can also be sent directly to Kevin Cobbold Funeral Services, 109 Cromer Road, Norwich NR6 6XW."

Tributes to Mike will be included in our next Newsletter.

For sale

Included with the recent purchase of the iMac for lighting and sound control but surplus to requirements: **Unused high end Apple Mouse 2** with charging lead included. Apple price £79.... offers around £60 suggested. Get in touch via technical@sewellbarn.org, and leave your bid.

On the move

Selwyn (Committee Secretary) and **Cassie** (Joint Artistic Director) **Tillett** have for the past four years been living out on the east coast at Winterton-on-Sea. With effect from the end of August, they're delighted to be moving much nearer to the Barn (about half a mile away!), as Selwyn takes up his new job (on 23 September) as Interim Minister at St Mary Magdalene Church in Silver Road – a venue familiar to many Barn regulars, as it was for many years one of our outside rehearsal venues! The Vicarage is at 10 Crome Road, NR3, and the Tilletts' personal contact details will otherwise remain the same.

Membership renewals and Gift Aid

Just a reminder that **membership fees for Friends of the Sewell Barn are now due**. It's an excellent way to support our work at the Sewell Barn, and we very much appreciate it. It costs £10 for a year, £15 for a couple at the same address, or £50 per person for lifetime membership. The Friends are entitled to voting rights at our AGM in the autumn, giving you an active say in the running of your theatre, and receive a free drink on the first night each show.

We are also including, for the first time, the ability to make your membership (as well as any other donations, although not ticket purchases) tax efficient through **Gift Aid**: if you are a tax payer, the Sewell Barn can claim standard rate tax over and above your payment, at no additional cost to you. We can also backdate these claims by up to four years, so members have the opportunity to make a welcome contribution to our funds with very little effort! If this applies to you, please complete and return the form as indicated. Your forms were sent (either electronically or in paper form) with our July newsletter.

Please note that our free drinks on the first night of each run will be available to paid-up members only, on production of a valid membership card. If you are an annual member you'll get a new card when you renew; if you're a life member, but have mislaid your card, please email membership@sewellbarn.org or write to Jill Fuller at 20 Blofield Road, Brundall, Norwich NR13 5NN to request a replacement.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to another wonderful season!



A celebration of the 2017/18 season! Clockwise from top left: **Romeo & Juliet** (May), **The Killing of Sister George** (February/March), **Blood and Ice** (January), **A Month of Sundays** (June), **Dinner** (April), **Lark Rise to Candleford** (October), **Accidental Death of an Anarchist** (November/December), **Tomfoolery** (July). **Photography:** Barry Parsons, Sean Owen & Andrew Evans.