

Members of the Steyning Society were recently out and about, this time visiting the Chichester Festival Theatre on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

We thoroughly enjoyed our backstage tour of the innovative 1962 building conducted with great knowledge and enthusiasm by Susan Mulkern. It has special connections to Steyning - Sir Laurence Olivier was the artistic director from 1962 to 1965. We combined this with attending the matinee performance of the BFG, Roald Dahl's popular story.

This children's imaginative tale, coming from Stratford-Upon-Avon and en route to Singapore after its run in West Sussex, was a hit for the whole audience, young or old. The clever use of talented actors, huge and mini puppet versions of the main characters kept us all on the edge of our seats gathered around the modern thrust hexagonal stage engulfed in the true magic of theatre! Having visited the wig department, costume design in the morning and experiencing the gigantic puppets of the BFG and Bloodbottler we had a hint of what was to come. Ingenious technology was demonstrated through sound, lighting and special effects and the live music and zest of all the cast gave us plenty to chat about on our return to Steyning, using either the excellent train connection or sharing lifts in cars.

And spending the day together makes one appreciate the great community spirit that the Steyning Society offers!