

All change but colour and fun still remain

Robin Hood and His Merry Men
Hethersett Panto

The writer may have changed but the essence of Hethersett's annual pantomime has stayed the same – colour and fun.

Last year saw Duncan Pigg bow out after writing 40 village pantos and the mantle has now passed to long serving cast member Lloyd Parfitt. Little has changed, however. The songs may be slightly more up to date but Robin Hood and His Merry Men trod the tried and trusted path of village mayhem.

One of the panto's great strengths is the cast's ability to ad lib and inter-act with the audience and again Barry Foster as "the evil" Sheriff of Nottingham was in his element with some fine put down lines. The audience are as much a part of this show as the cast and certainly gave as good as they got.

The panto is now in its 41st year and some of the jokes in the latest production seem to be even older, but that didn't detract from an evening of raucous frivolity – the perfect antidote to some of the bad weather we have been suffering.

The Hethersett pantomime group certainly warm the cockles of the coldest heart and there were plenty of topical asides and jokes in a script that gave plenty of scope for the talents of Rachel Woodier as Robin Hood, Lloyd Parfitt himself as Little John, Steve Bussey as Friar Tuck and a cast that just oozed fun.

As always one of the highlights was the by-play between the Sheriff and Neville Greenhalgh as the garish dame Dolly Dimple.

Review



PANTO FUN: A scene from Hethersett pantomime Robin Hood and His Merry Men.

Their rendition of Sex Bomb only just kept the musical content on the right side of respectability. Pantomime story and plot was largely an irrelevance but the cast managed to keep the lid on a wandering storyline.

There is also a serious side to the pantomime which over the years has raised over £65,000 for various organisations and charities. The 2009 panto raised £5,700 which included a bucket collection of £2,100 for the Priscilla Bacon Lodge Support Group. This year the proceeds of a collection at the end of the show will go to the Advanced Paramedic

Response Unit, a Norwich based charity which sends extended skilled paramedics to support ambulance crews in attending extremely ill or badly injured patients.

Robin Hood and his Merry Men continues at Hethersett Village Hall with shows tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow at 7.45 p.m and on Saturday with a matinee at 2.30 p.m and the final evening performance at 7.45 p.m.

Meanwhile Duncan Pigg has certainly not been lost to the art of pantomime, taking on the new role of group chairman.

Peter Steward

COMMUNITY NEWS

RICKINGHALL

Women's Institute —The first meeting of the new year was well attended, coinciding as it did with a thaw of early January snow.

Official business looked back; reports on a most enjoyable carol service at St Mary's in Bury St Edmunds and a trip to a wonderful pantomime organised by Maureen Costello, and looked forward to future plans for 2010. There will be a group meeting in April. The reporters were Maureen Hayward, Julie Curr and Jane Dorling. Maureen Hayward thanked everyone for donations to the Children's Hospice.

The speaker Anne Topham gave an informative talk and demonstration on the work of the British Red Cross. As well as first aid and training the Red Cross offers therapeutic care, international tracing, ambulance and fire emergency support, home from hospital support, skin camouflage and medical equipment loans. Youth, back to school and community courses cover everything from ABC and 999 to internet safety. A demonstration showed how to check for breathing, recognise

and respond to stroke and how to cope with a fall or bleeding. Gillian Ghyll offered thanks. Refreshments and raffle followed. The quiz was won by Jane Dorling.

WYMONDHAM

Heritage Society — The society kicks off its new season on Thursday, January 28 with a talk on "Woad in the 21st century." The speaker will be Ian Howard, who runs Woad Barn at Beetley and grows the plant, as well as selling textiles dyed with it. Many fascinating talks have been lined up for the year with subjects ranging from a week in the life of "The Mercury" to "Ketteringham Hall" and "The Boileau Family." Members receive free periodic editions of the society's newsletter, which contains features of local interest, while occasional visits to places of interest are arranged. Membership includes free entry to the Wyomndham Heritage Museum. New members are welcome and may join by contacting Geoff Head on 01953 602457, or at a meeting. The annual subscription is £10 for single membership and £16 for family.

Farm Machinery Club — Twenty-five members met at Wyomndham Town Football Club for a presentation on Massey Ferguson Rotary Combines by Steve Kittle and Howard Warnes of Randell NFM Ltd, Attleborough. With the aid of computer-aided slides Steve gave an insight into the three new combines which are now built in Italy at Brigander which is the Laverda combine factory. Steve explained how the new Massey Ferguson Delta range of rotary combines have several unique features including Hy-Pecforma system which is a conventional combine up to the drum. The straw walkers are replaced with twin rotors mounted longitudinally. Powered by an unusual seven cylinder engine, 450 hp. All models incorporate Cutterhaes fitted with MF-patented power flow system of intake. Club chairman David Garrod presided and proposed the vote of thanks. Next month's meeting is on Monday, February 8 at 7.30pm at the football ground again and is again a presentation on game keeping by Mark Howard. New and former members most welcome.

TV &
DVD
AUDIO

ADCOCKS

DOMESTIC
APPLIANCES

SALE

Save **£530** on this SONY full HD Package



FREE 5 YEAR TV
GUARANTEE

SONY KDL37W5810
37" 1080P full HD
● Built in Freesat ●
Tuner for subscription
free HD viewing
100 HZ Motion flow

+



freesat

SONY BDP S560 Hi
Spec Blu-ray DVD
Player. Internet WiFi
connection for BD
Live and Update
Functions

+

FREE Stand Alphason black glass
Usual Rackage Price **£1529.99**
NOW ONLY £999.99

INCLUDING FREE DELIVERY AND CONNECTION*
*SATELLITE INSTALLATION REQUIRED FOR FREESAT



SAVE
£300

SONY
KDL40S5500 40"
1080P FULL HD DIGITAL
FREEVIEW LCD TV inc FREE 5
YEAR GUARANTEE

Usual Price **£899.99**
NOW ONLY £599.99*

(*collect from store price)



SAVE
£250

SONY
KDL37S5500 37"
1080P FULL HD DIGITAL
FREEVIEW LCD TV inc FREE
5 YEAR GUARANTEE

Usual Price **£799.99**
NOW ONLY £549.99*

(*collect from store price)

+ GREAT DEALS ON NEARLY ALL SONY & PANASONIC TVS

32 - 34 High Street Watton

Tel: 01953 881248

email: sales@adcocks.co.uk