

Report from The Mudford Players for the Parish Council 15.5.19

The Mudford Players are happy to report that the group has been able to follow the success of our 2018 production of 'Aladdin' with an even more entertaining performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', which was performed over three evenings and a matinee at the end of January.

All the performers and everyone involved backstage on costumes, scenery, stage management, props, make-up, lighting and so on worked incredibly hard and put in lots of time and effort in the months leading up to the panto to pull together a really great show. We were pleased to welcome back Brenda Sherring as our musical director, which also meant a return to a three-piece band providing not only accompaniment for the songs but also most of our sound effects.

We were particularly thrilled that most of the children, who got involved last year not only returned but brought along some of their friends. Both their commitment and the standard of their performances were most impressive. Furthermore, we have the benefit of a really talented and enthusiastic group of adults, who not only worked together extremely well but also had a lot of fun along the way!

Of course, we had our difficulties; the closure of the village stores meant we had to make different arrangement for ticket sales, which we decided to manage ourselves, completely selling out for three out of the four performances. There were a few more empty seats than anticipated on the first night because of the dire forecast for heavy snow. Thankfully, all the performers and crew were able to make it and the show went on to an intrepid and highly appreciative audience. The snow came after the final curtain and the thaw was well under way by the time of the next performance.

As ever, the group is grateful for the close relations we enjoy with the Village Hall Committee, who provide invaluable support throughout the rehearsal period and look after refreshments on the nights. We are, also, grateful to Philip Muscutt and Ken Sherring for publicity posters and tickets, to Lionel Mumford for taking the photographs and to Jacqueline Clough for storing much of our equipment. There are also a host of other people, who help in a variety of different ways, including looking after front of house during performances ...and there are the long-suffering partners, parents and children of the participants who have to put up with a somewhat disrupted family life throughout most of the Autumn and Winter.

The group has a properly formulated constitution, with an elected committee and office holders with clear responsibilities, which are taken extremely seriously. Our continuing ability to provide regular entertainment for the local community very much depends on the support we receive from the local community. We are a very friendly group, who want to put on great shows and have fun in the process. We are keen for more local people to join us as active members, with those backstage being just as important as those on stage.

Finally, we wish to pay tribute to Ed Breaden, a hugely talented Baron, Wicked Woodsman, King Rat, Giant's Voice and very dear friend, who died on 9th April. We will never forget him, especially for the determination with which he voiced the Giant in 'Jack & the Beanstalk' so wonderfully and with such good humour despite enduring unbearable pain.

We, also, wish Gill Mumford, our excellent set designer and scenery painter, a full and speedy recovery from a sudden and very serious illness.

Jo Dalton-Leggett (Chair)