

## Theatre Review

# Babes in the Wychwoods

Mandyrae Large directed a very ambitious and amusing performance of the pantomime originally written by Graham Barraclough, and augmented with local lines by John Drew. The entire Wychwood



Players team pulled out all the stops to create imaginative and beautiful sets, wonderful costumes, inventive dances, memorable songs, silly jokes, and an overall stupendous performance.

### Quite a Feat

Coordination of the enormous cast, many set changes, musical numbers, was a feat only Mandy could have pulled off. The size constraints of the back stage area must have provided considerable problems for space with massive trees, assorted bedroom furniture (very clever), castle walls and the Dame's school room. There were 13 scene changes in all. Rose Hartley proved that a Panto Dame doesn't have to be a man to be funny and over the top. Mark Jessey was an entertaining and believable Sheriff of Lyneham, even with his sprained ankle!

New to the Wychwood Players stage, was Ruari Scott as Robin Hood, who comported himself with confidence and a surprisingly good singing voice. His Scottish dances proved that osteopaths keep themselves in top shape!

### A Hartley or Two!

There was, by the way, a Hartley or two to appeal to all generations. The lovely Maid Marion with flaxen plaits was Rachel Hartley. Her father-in-law, Rose's husband, Richard was as inept a herald as one could wish for, and young Richard and Tom Hartley, Rachel's lads, provided the many grandmas in the audience with the perfect "Ohhhhhh!" factor.

Debut performances from Elliot Rillie as Billy, and other members of the children's chorus were well received, and add to the swelling numbers of budding performers in the Wychwoods. Once again the Wychwood Players succeeded in impressing us all with their team spirit, and professional level amateur dramatics.

**Trudy Yates and Peggy Walmsley**

## Thanks to Heather and *Beauty Spot*

Heather is taking a well-earned break from her column. We would like to thank her for her sterling efforts, always filing her reports on time, despite running a family, a business, a home and now a puppy! We hope to welcome her back before too long.