

## **Ashwren Players**

Ashwren Players was resurrected 10 years ago and has staged pantomimes every February since, timed to allow children to take part during their school half term.

Whilst it originally comprised members from Wreningham and Ashwellthorpe, it has, in recent years absorbed players from the disbanded Mulbarton Players, Tacolneston and Bunwell.

The most recent show was Treasure Island written and directed by Bob McClenning and performed to 3 good houses in February 2012 with an additional free show in the form of a final run through.

30 local people (adults and children) performed in the show together with 15 front of house staff and back stage crew supplemented by a volunteer support team. It featured a desert island and cannibals, a pirate ship complete with a crew of pirates and even featured someone having to walk the plank and a custard pie fight.

For the first time our publicity included personal appearances on Radio Norfolk by Long John Silver himself and Squire Trelawney which proved very successful.

A raffle at each performance raised a total of £240 which was made up to £500 from the profits of approx £900 and donations of £250 each will be made at an upcoming social event to two local charities – East Coast Truckers and Star Throwers .

The next planned show will be the pantomime in 2013 which, again, is being written for us specifically by Derek Gibbons, the father of one of our performers and is likely to be Dick Whittington.

We would very much like to swell our numbers – especially with more children and young adults as performers. We are also in need of a choreographer and musical director. Help is always needed with set building, stage crew, scenery painting, publicity, chaperoning and costume making.

We are also on the lookout for storage facilities for our numerous boxes of costumes which are currently housed above Russells Chip Shop in Mulbarton. This would need to be somewhere dry and freely accessible as it would then be possible to offer a costume rental service thus maximising their usage whilst recouping some of the expenses incurred in their creation.

Val Keel

Chairman Ashwren Players

March 2012