

Axmouth Childrens Theatre Report for Parish Council

Sorry I cannot attend to deliver this report personally. A lot has happened since our last report. ACT TWO put on a Cowboy Murder Mystery penned by myself (Malcolm Henty) in the Village Hall to help raise funds for the hall they also put on two performances of the children's classic tale "Anne of Green Gables". One of these was for the opening night of The Friends of the Church Christmas Trees Festival in St Michaels Church and the other was a much enjoyed visit to Colyton Tramway Station where they performed in the station cafe area. One nice feature of these shows was the involvement of youngsters in some of the backstage crew as well as in the acting roles. These included the Directing, Make up, Sound and Lighting.

As well as their stage roles the children of ACT TWO have also been getting involved in the local community, they have manned the water station at the annual Axmouth Fun Run and also acted as waiters and waitresses at the combined Mega Breakfasts in the Village Hall.

It was decided that the childrens theatre would do a Pantomime again in 2015 after lack of support in 2014, rehearsals began for this in November, It was a bit of a gamble as there was a lot of new young children wanting to do it along with a lot of new but very willing parents who filled in various vacated positions backstage. What transpired however was two excellent sell out performances of our version of "Sleeping Beauty" which we claimed to be the true story. For this show we had a cast of 15 ranging from 8 to 17.

Carrying on from this myself and my Granddaughter have just trialled a Drama Club, early indications are that this will prove successful especially with the younger members of both groups, the plus factor being that we already have four more new ones who have joined since we started a couple of weeks ago.

So what of the future, we are having a meeting next week to map out the future for the Childrens Theatre Group in Axmouth. Some items being discussed will include the possible but I feel inevitable merger of the two groups with the formation of a new committee to run the group. And also the development of the new Drama Club.

Another major factor being discussed will be the new DBS checking (these replace the old CRB checks) and the Safeguarding for working

with children documentation that we are insisting that all of those who are involved with the group undertake and get in place.

Note: [I have only yesterday received some costing's on this and even at a heavily discounted price via Safecic (formerly Safechild of whom Act Two were members) it will be around £279.00 for everybody to do the training and for two leaders to do the advanced safeguarding. So its not cheap]

So all in all things are very much on the up as far as the theatre group are concerned, We feel that we have something very special indeed with our truly children's theatre in the area and we are very proud of our casts and backstage crew.

Malcolm Henty
Writer and Director