

# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



■ **COWPLAIN:** Young actors tread the boards in pantomime

## Don't panic, it's Peter..

GENEROUS children from a local drama group gave up their half-term holiday to raise money in memory of their friend Hannah Westbrook.



by **Celia Salter**  
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Written and produced by Sue Stokes, who runs the drama group, the Youngstars performed the pantomime *Peter's Pan-ic* over three nights and a matinee on Saturday at Cowplain Social Club.

Based loosely on *Peter Pan* with characters from fairy tales, it followed Peter's search for the fairy dust which enables him to fly.

Meanwhile, Captain Hook and his sidekick, Roger the Cabin Boy, hatch a plan to steal people's possessions, including Cinderella's shoe, Bo-peep's sheep, Puss's boots and even Alice's white rabbit.

It was a wonderful mixture of acting, singing, dancing and comedy routines from a few adults and a lot of children

between the ages of five and 15. There were excellent performances from Dale Wilson (Dame Tinker), Daisy Stokes (Peter Pan), and Richard Hebbourne (Captain Hook) and Nicky Newton (Roger), who worked really well together.

The main characters were well supported by the Belles, the Lost Boys, mermaids, Indians, the crocodile and even Sponge Bob Squarepants.

Talented dancers from the Classique School of Dance performed to a variety of music including *Morning has Broken*, *House of Fun*, *Macarena* and *Summer Loving*.

The adult tap dancers added another dimension to the dancing skills.

Like all good pantomimes, there was audience participation, and six unsuspecting men were encouraged up on to the stage to perform the can-can with the cast.

The whole performance was full of energy, entertainment and comedy for all the family.

Sue Stokes thanked everyone from the cast to the backstage crew for making the show a success.

Over the four performances, £2,000 was raised for Hannah's Holiday Home, where children undergoing gruelling treatments or in recovery can enjoy a free holiday with their families.

This was made possible through the efforts of Hannah's mum, Pam Westbrook, and her committee who bought the home in the New Forest, and the money raised by the Youngstars will go towards paying for and maintaining the home.



The cast of *Peter's Pan-ic*, a pantomime performed by the Youngstars at Cowplain Social Club

PICTURE: CELIA SALTER.

### The News reader offer voucher one

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Prices per family, per break 'from'	Spring breaks		Easter school holidays
	14/03-20/03, 18/04-01/05	24/03-17/04	
	3 or 4 nights from		3 or 4 nights from
Yorkshire & Lincolnshire	£69	£109	£109
Norfolk	£59*	£109	£109
South East England	£69	£109	£109
Dorset	£69	£139	£139
Devon, Cornwall & Somerset	£59*	£129	£129
Wales	£59*	£109	£109
Blackpool & The Lakes	£69	£109	£109
Scotland & Northumberland	£59*	£119	£119

†Easter bank holiday weekend from just £255 for the whole family!

## Divorce course will return

■ **EMSWORTH:** A practical seven-week course called Recovering from Divorce and Separation held its last session at Emsworth Baptist Church Hall on Monday, February 18, writes *Frances Sweeney*.

Male and female participants praised the course for its positive approach and help.

Among those who spoke of their experience was painter and decorator Glenn Bowley, who said, 'I was encouraged by my sister, Tracy, who had seen the course advertised to go along. I was very low on the first evening in January, mentally and physically, had lost weight and was unsure of what lay ahead. Everyone has been so kind to me, very supportive. It has been a fantastic course that I would recommend. I have made friends and will miss coming here.'

Mary Alston, who participated in a pilot course, run in May 2007, had among others, joined the

group on their last evening. She said: 'The course gives positive practical help about the situation you are in and makes you feel that you are not the only one.'

The four course leaders – Sheila Lawrence, Pat Hales, Lesley Valerio and Alan Rutter – said there was mutual support between them all and that there was a bonding within the group who also formed a team and took part in a Curry Quiz Night on Saturday, February 16, at the Baptist Church.

Sheila Lawrence thanked everyone for coming and praised the behind-the-scenes 'brilliant' cooks who supplied and prepared pre-session suppers for the leaders and course members. She said: 'The course is all about hope and renewal of life and a journey to build a platform for the future. I am excited about its success for you. Please tell your friends and neighbours that we plan to run another course in September.'

## Wood walk is inspirational

■ **EMSWORTH:** Spring is on its way and the Friends of Hollybank Woods have a programme of walks to enjoy. The first one is on Sunday, April 20.

One of the young members, Mary Jane Stuttard, nine, was inspired to write a poem that has been incorporated into the *Friends Newsletter*:

*In the woods, Hedgehogs hide, Deer hunt for berries, And foxes scamper  
 In the woods, Berries ripen, Nuts grow, And fruit falls  
 In the woods, Primroses bloom, Bluebells open their petals, And violets scent the air  
 In the woods, Plants grow tall, Animals live happily, Which they will forever more.*

Do you like reading about community news? Do you think you have a local story to tell? If so, get in touch with your Neighbourhood News correspondent.

Whether it's a forthcoming event, a fund-raising venture, a local achiever or an issue troubling members of your community, your correspondent is waiting to hear from you.

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