

Players embark on great adventure



Becki Dixon discovers why Peter Pan is not the only one flying high this Christmas

THE Shinfield Players Christmas pantomime will be filled with extra magic this year as the group has just secured a new lease on its community-run theatre.

The theatre group proved they could stand up to the big boys when they set up a petition to prevent the Met Office forcing them to close their small theatre on Whitley Wood Lane when they leave Reading for new premises.

To celebrate, Shinfield Players will be whisking you away on a magical journey to Never Never Land to meet the little boy who never grew up.

With a cast of 35, which includes members of the junior youth group, producer Joff Hamilton has stuck to the traditional Peter Pan story. However, the panto element is provided by the friendly pirate Smee and the Red Indian Squaw Laughing Water.

Leading the cast for a production full of fun and frivolity is 15-year-old Louise Collis as Peter Pan - and yes, Louise does get to fly.

After almost three months of rehearsals, Joff is convinced his cast is more than prepared for the opening night.

He says: "Although the script kind of requires it, I thought it'd be nice this year to get as many children involved as possible.

"It's a traditional family show, under two hours in length.

"The news that we are able to stay here is fantastic and it has given the theatre and the people in it a real lift."

Join the Shinfield players for the mystical journey to Never Never Land and join Peter and Wendy on their adventures when the curtain rises on January 4. Performances also take place on January 5, 6, 11-13, 18&19. For tickets contact the box office on 0118 926 7135.