

BUSINESS EYE

We can all learn a lot from a classic panto!

WRITTEN BY

ALEX PRATT

Founder of Serious Readers in Berton and chairman of Bucks Business First



www.bucksherald.co.uk
@Bucks_Herald

This week's gibberish dressed up as a veneer of wisdom comes to you from deepest Devon where I have travelled to experience the nearly world-famous biennial Kingston village pantomime.

As with all deliberately disruptive experiences, the combination of panto, a close community and the plentiful supply of alcohol offered up several life-lessons for distillation by an open mind.

The script for Robin Hood was downloaded from the in-

ternet and rehearsals for the three individual, somewhat unique February performances began way back in November. For the Saturday final finale, the assembled audience had travelled from as far afield as Geneva and Modbury and the cast were drawn from all corners of the Kingdom of Kingston.

Dame Fred, the builder, carried the wider performance with a high-pitch vocal momentum that had the audience in stitches. He quite literally nearly brought the house down when he tripped and fell off the stage, grabbing the set for support.

The whole performance was classic panto. We enjoyed everything from an improvised Sherwood Forest Haka and two wonderful village idiots, to the entire show being paused after the announcement that a parked Vauxhall needed to be moved to allow

the farm milk tanker to get past the village hall. Brilliant.

So, what was there to learn from our trip to Devon? Other than the fact that unfettered second home ownership can decimate the spirit of communities by hollowing them out, we learned there is such joy and sense of achievement available to those prepared to work together as a team. Striving to entertain ourselves, it seems, is, in the end, just as worthwhile if not more so, than competing to win in the global rat race.

Secondly, being prepared to lampoon yourself and not take your raging ego at all seriously is the only reliable road to sustainable fulfilment.

And finally, there is little point in worrying about what has already gone spectacularly wrong during the production - including your life and business - because IT'S BEHIND YOU!