

The Magic Fruit

It's not often that a village can lay claim to have produced it's own pantomime based upon it's own legend but The Magic Fruit was just that(?). This play had all the ingredients of a knock-about Christmas pantomime; corny humour, lots of over-acting and a bit of drama. Perhaps the play was a bit wordy in places but the energy of the actors kept things going.

The story was about a little princess that would not smile because her prince had gone away. Rumour was that the Magic Fruit would give the power to the holder to make anybody smile. This lead to a pursuit by both the goodies and the baddies to find the Magic Fruit in the Garden of Eternal Happiness (or was it the Rotherfield churchyard?).

Floozie Wong (Richard Comben), Chop Suey (Lynn Lunn) and Chow Mein (Ros Williams) provided exceptional entertainment as the dame and two Chinese waiters respectively. And can they sing?? Well, no actually. Very brave performances too from two juniors (Jess Youlton and Laura Webster) who thought that they had auditioned for dancing parts only to take on two major roles as the Princess and her personal hand-maiden.

The whole production was incredibly slick but the Players do have problems with large audiences who cannot see the stage easily from the back of the hall.