**THE SNOW QUEEN**

**Lane End Village Hall**

Lane End Players brought the pantomime season to a lively end with their interpretation of the Snow Queen. Written and well directed by Ceri Nicholson it made use of topical themes and gave us a feisty Lexi Jackman as Gerda proving there are strong parts for women. Her best friend Kay was well played by Lauren Cubitt. The comedy was provided by the nimble Rob Watkins and Lisa artnett as Ben and erry Harnett as the ‘cool’ Ben and Jerry and Leeroy King made a bouncy Shorty the only tall dwarf. Alison Hartnett was magnificent as The Evil Snow Queen and Tom Everitt was a great Dame Lily with Nigel Bacon amusing as the love interest, they gave us a most enjoyable duet. The chorus were cleverly used throughout the show. The sets as always were effective and scene changes slick and the addition of a snow machine made the story more realistic. A beautifully designed clock which told the seasons housed some very funny puppets under their talented puppeteer Ellen Burnett. The choice of music was excellent with some of the original words replaced to suit the occasion. A live band under musical director Mike Watson added greatly to the performance. Such is the popularity of the Lane End pantomimes that tickets are hard to come by and it must be very gratifying for the cast to play to full houses at every performance. I particularly enjoyed the scene with the Banditos admirably led by Kath Gill as Fernanda with the audience invited to sing along which they did with gusto. Lighting and sound were impressive as were the special effects.

All in all this was another great achievement for the group who always offer great value. I Iook forward to their next production