



YPC

The Young People's Committee.

Summer 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter.

YPC visit to the Pantomime - December 2022



Organising last year's (2021) Christmas event was a pantomime in itself for the Young Peoples' Committee. Due to the spectre of the seemingly everlasting covid 19 pandemic it was a case of "It's on", "Oh no it's not", "It's on", "Oh no It's not" up to the day we were told the cast at the Lowry had succumbed to the virus and the performance we had booked for was cancelled. After two years of not being able to hold a Christmas event it was a great relief that our 2022 Christmas event went ahead without any major setbacks. The 2022 event was a trip to Manchester Opera House to see a performance of "The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan" followed by a festive meal and party at the Balcony Suite, Manchester Hall.

weather over the Christmas holiday, Thursday 29th December was a bright sunny cold day with a strong northwest breeze. That's exactly how Ray Evans felt, cheerful but cold and getting colder, when I met him at the entrance to the Opera House, check board and pen at the ready to greet our guests when they arrived. How did he persuade me that I should take his place outside?



I hope his hands are warm now!

Inside, Karen and the rest of the team were busy distributing the tickets, giving directions to the seats and taking phone calls asking where the nearest affordable car parks were.



After all the guests had arrived it was time for the committee members to take their seats, sit down, and enjoy the show.

The cast of “The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan” is led by Jason Manford as Captain Hook and Ben Nickless as Mr Smee. The storyline is based more on the film “Hook” than the original book. Wendy has been brought back to Neverland by Tink (she has lost the “erbelle”) to help find Peter who has lost his magic powers.

The pantomime was hilarious, Jason Manford and Ben Nickless are reminiscent of Morecambe and Wise. Jason Manford can’t be evil, at one point in the performance he had to remind the audience that they were supposed to boo him.



The “Acromaniacs” as the Lost Boys add energy to the show especially in the scene where the Lost Boys are in training for the upcoming battle with Hook. The version of The Twelve Days of Christmas by Hook, Smee, Peter, Wendy and Tink had everybody rolling in the aisles. They couldn’t have scripted everything that happened in the routine.

The showstopper is the crocodile. It is enormous, frightening, more so if you are sat in the stalls with its head above you.

Who would have thought that the pixie dust located at the mermaid pool had the restorative power to bring back Peter’s magical power and help him lead the Lost Boys to victory over Captain Hook and the Pirates.

One reviewer summed up the experience far better than I could:

“There’s something about seeing a panto in a historic theatre like the Opera House where it somehow ‘belongs’ and this production fits in perfectly, traditional in its extravagance as well as its naughtiness, full of contemporary references and topical jokes, but also generosity and love. Most of all though, *The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan* is totally ridiculous – in the best possible way.”

All of the guests, and the committee members thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime. It was the main topic of conversation as the group walked through Spinningfields to Manchester Halls for some refreshment and dinner.

There was a warm welcome for all of the guests at Manchester Hall and we were ushered to the Balcony Suite for dinner a karaoke and disco, presented by Paulski. After taking our seats dinner, soup, festive meal and chocolate yule log was served by David

Dunleavey and his excellent staff. Thanks David.



Before dinner was served quiz sheets, created by Karen and Paul Doran, based upon Christmas facts and songs were distributed. The quizzes created much discussion and differing answers during the meal.

Despite the cold, some guests couldn't resist going out onto the balcony to watch the passers-by on Bridge Street.



The answers to the Christmas songs quiz were given in a unique way by one of our guests, Charlotte, who sang the answers so beautifully. She took singing for your supper to a new level. Thanks Charlotte.



As with all good things the evening had to come to an end. After the selection boxes had been given to the younger guests it was time for farewells. Everybody enjoyed the whole day's experience.



TLC helping Paul the DJ

Thanks are to Karen for organising the tickets, liaising with our guests and Manchester Hall, Paul the DJ, Gary O'Neill for booking the DJ and Manchester Halls, Paul Doran / Karen for the quizzes, Ray Evans for braving the cold, Malcolm Roe ensuring all were accommodated and David Dunleavy and the staff at Manchester Halls.

RETURN TO CHILL FACTOR

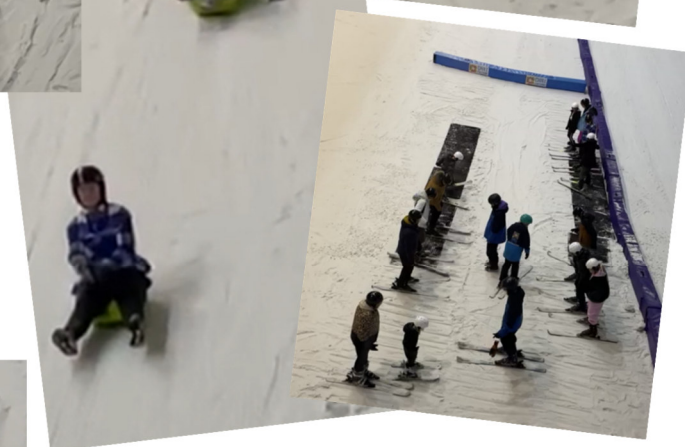
Your next assignment is to meet at Wetherspoons' "Castle in the Air", Trafford Park. Music to the ears of Ray, Paul and Roger more attuned to greeting and meeting the Young Peoples' Group in a windswept, rainy open air environment. Why the "Castle in the Air"? Besides being warm and dry, it's the most convenient place to meet for lunch before our latest adventure, a snow experience and introduction to skiing at the Chill Factor, adjacent to Wetherspoons. Our first task was to find a group of tables to accommodate twenty four Young People and parents for lunch and test out the Wetherspoons "app". The Young People were all on time. Was it the excitement of the snow experience and skiing to follow or a parental desire for an early lunch in Wetherspoons. The Castle in The Air is a child friendly venue and the "app" takes table service to a new level. Ray and Paul were soon busy taking everybody's food and drinks orders. Roger, as usual, was doing the important task, meeting and greeting the arrivals and reviewing the itinerary with them. The drinks appeared soon after the order was placed on the "app" and the food service began shortly after.



After lunch it was a short walk to the reception desk at the Chill Factor. Our facilitator for the snow experience, Rachel, made sure that everybody going onto the snow slopes was wearing the correct safety equipment and had adequate clothing for the cold. It was -4C in the Chill Factor. An hour of fun sledding and playing in the snow soon passed and it was time for a break and a change of equipment ready for the skiing lesson.



During the one hour introduction to skiing our willing students learnt how to travel downhill, negotiate obstacles and more importantly stop. Almost all did. The Young People did, however some parents struggled.



At the end of the lesson having returned the boots, skis and safety equipment the Young People all wanted to do it again. Before leaving all were given an Easter Egg from the ELMC and some for siblings who had not been able to join us on the day. After the goodbyes and expressing a desire to do it all again it was time to leave for home.



The highlights of the day were the sheer joy shown by our youngest member, age 4, at being on the snow and mastering skiing all with the biggest smile and infectious laugh. The smile of the young lady who overcame her fears and her mobility issues in a lesson with John, from Disability Skiing UK.

Everybody who was able to be with us on the day said it had been an outstanding success.

Our thanks go to all of the staff at Wetherspoons for the prompt service, the Chill Factore instructors, Karen for making the bookings and processing the invitations and Ray and Paul for their time and help on the day.

TREE TOP TREK

Our May half-term outing this year actually took place on the first of June and was the Tree Top Trek. This was formally known as the zip wire challenge but was too easy to say (try saying tree top trek 10 times quickly). As it was a lovely day the first challenge was to find a spot in the car park, this being achieved we assembled in the shade of a convenient tree.



TLC taking all the necessary precautions against sunburn, that's actually factor 50 on his face!

The intrepid few who braved the clement weather donned their safety harnesses and paid close attention to the briefing before climbing up to the start of the course.

That is of course a V for victory sign and gives an indication of how confident we were of finishing the course.



The trek consists of obstacles, which have to be negotiated, with varying degrees of complexity and physical strain (I chose to interpret this look as 'what have you persuaded me to do' rather than homicidal intent)



The obstacles are interspersed with opportunities to throw yourself into the air suspended above the ground by a piece of string! However we all reached the end in one piece except one committee member

who had to retire half way. (It was Paul)

Afterwards we enjoyed a well earned meal and a refreshing drink at the Heaton Park Beefeater a fitting end to a very enjoyable day.

A special thanks to Karen, Roger and the committee for the arrangements and for managing the day.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach

A tanner (2.5p) for the first to spot the Tower. A worthless challenge as our coach travelled into Blackpool on the 1st August.

The YPC trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach had set off from Middleton Masonic Hall with pick-ups at Hewlett Court and Darwen Services on the way. At Middleton the weather was overcast but dry with similar conditions at Hewlett Court. Everybody had been on time, and we were making

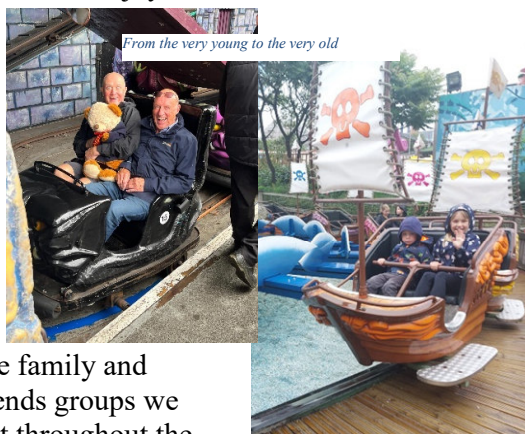
good progress towards Darwen Services. As the coach began the ascent of the Grane Road the clouds closed in, the wind grew in strength and the rain began to fall. Doubt there will be a hosepipe ban in the Western Area this summer.

As the coach drove into Blackpool the mist and light rain persisted but began to brighten up, slightly, when we had parked up in the Pleasure Beach car park. Most of our guests were feeling optimistic as they shunned the offer of a waterproof cape before alighting from the coach. It's Blackpool Pleasure, we are going to get wet



anyway. Tickets checked, reminders to be back at the coach for 4pm, the entrance turnstile gate negotiated and it's off into a

wonder world of pleasure rides ranging from the sedate Blackpool Express to the dizzy heights of the Big One. There are rides to suit all ages and the most ardent adrenalin junkies. It's still only 10.15am. Five hours and forty-five minutes of rides to be enjoyed. Where first?



The family and friends groups we met throughout the day were certainly enjoying the Pleasure Beach rides and attractions, despite the weather. Poor weather conditions can be an advantage as the queues are much smaller and it is possible to enjoy more of the rides.

What's the time? Almost four o'clock. Time to head for the coach. Everybody on-board? Not quite, waiting for a committee member who had tried to catch one last ride "The Flying Machines".



After a drive along the promenade we arrived at Seniors restaurant in Thornton for a restorative plate of fish and chips, other choices were available, followed by a dessert. The main conversation over dinner was the rides that the group had been on and how they had enjoyed a damp, cold summer's day and why had the sun come out when we had driven into Thornton. A bit late in the day, but gave the younger ones an opportunity to burn off any remaining energy on the playground next to the restaurant.

Dinner, dessert, drinks and playtime over it's time to re-board the coach for the drive home to Darwen, Hewlett Court and Middleton.

Lots of thanks are due for organising a successful day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Firstly to Karen for managing the invites, purchasing the tickets, collating the menu choices and identifying the family groups for the servers at Seniors. Swans Travel and Paul our driver on the day, and the YPC committee members on the day for aiding the smooth running of the day.





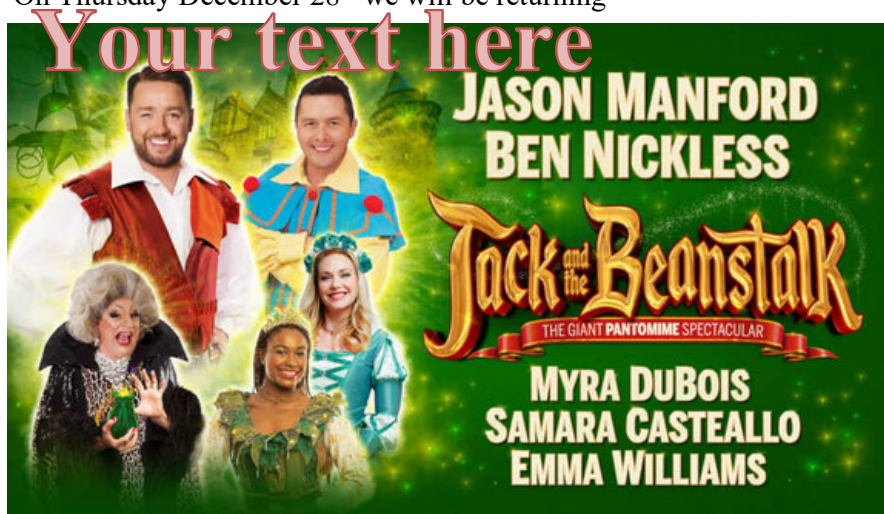
Next on 25th May 2025 will be a

Upcoming Events

Christmas 2023

After the success of last years Christmas pantomime we have decided to break with tradition and go back again this year. (I know at first glance that sentence doesn't make sense, but traditionally we go to the theatre every other year)

On Thursday December 28th we will be returning



to the Opera House to see Jason Manford this time as Jack in Jack and the Beanstalk, again assisted by Ben Nickless

Afterwards we will be having our Christmas dinner at the Manchester Halls Bridge Street. This promises to be a fun and entertaining day we all hope to see you there.

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Two exciting events the YPC will be running to help the East Lancashire 2026 Festival are well into the planning stage.

The first is **"IT'S A KNOCKOUT"** which will be held at Hewlett Court on Sunday June 16th 2024. You may know this is Father's Day, and while we can't promise that you can knockout your Dad there will be special activities to determine the



Dad of the Day



So start thinking about who will be in your team, and what you will be called. Teams will consist of 8 members age 12+ more details to follow.

Soap Box Derby

If you have seen this on TV and always wanted to take part start planning now! More details to follow soon.



Can you do better?

And Finally

You may have read about the Zip wire challenge that took place in May and raised over £24000 for the Festival. What you may not know is that our own Julie Ward and Malcom Roe took part in flying over a Welsh quarry at 100 Mph. Our congratulations go to them for their bravery in completing the challenge and thank them for the funds they raised.

