

Buoy band movie will strike a chord in Harting

A film about a group of Cornish fisherman who netted a major record deal will be shown in South Harting next Thursday.

Fisherman's Friends is based on the Port Isaac group who breached the top ten with an album of traditional sea shanties.

The 2019 biographical comedy-drama is headed by Daniel Mays, James Purefoy and Tuppence Middleton with support from David Hayman, Noel Clarke, Dave Johns, Maggie Steed, Sam Swainsbury and Christian Brassington.

Mays plays a London music executive who is pranked by his boss on a stag weekend in Cornwall to sign a group of shanty-singing fishermen.

The 'fish out of water' initially struggles to gain their respect but finds himself re-evaluating his life after getting increasingly drawn into the fishing community. The film will be shown from 7.30pm in South Harting village hall. Tickets are £6 on the door.



Journey to Narnia had audience spellbound

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Petersfield Youth Theatre, Festival Hall

What can you say about the Petersfield Youth Theatre that hasn't been said before? We're running out of superlatives after watching this seasonal treat.

Taking the audience to a spellbound world where it's "always winter, never Christmas" was a sensible choice for a late December production.

For starters it features a sleigh-riding Father Christmas and plenty of melting snow, although the latter was more to do with broken spells than climate change.

The play about four evacuee siblings who find a world inside a wardrobe featured an impressive set, with a background curtain of white coats mimicking the transition from Scottish country house to Narnia.

The wardrobe rose from a trap door in the centre while the stage was flanked by a gently-rising curve that seemed to be built on The Petersfield Bookshop's backstock. It also meant Santa's sleigh and the White Witch's



Ossian Watt-Smith, Stella Hopkins, Max Cropley, Rowena le Poer Trench

carriage could be brought from the Festival Hall sidelines to the heart of the action.

The Pevensie children – Peter (Ossian Watt-Smith), Susan (Rowena le Poer Trench), Edmund (Max Cropley) and Lucy (Stella Hopkins) – were delightful and each showed different traits. Watt-Smith and le Poer Trench grew in stature as the fight for Narnia intensified, there was a lovely innocence about Hopkins and Cropley played the humility

and Katie Richmond opted for Bristolian as Mr and Mrs Beaver. Nothing wrong with the acting, though, and Raeburn's accent perfectly fitted the mournful ditty, *Always Winter Now*.

Aslan was a technical triumph, with Benjamin Greening and Joseph Price working the moving parts inside its 6ft frame. Freddie Besly was its voice, and spoke with the authority befitting the king of the (snow-covered) jungle.

John Galbraith and Imogen Evans did a decent job of mimicking the Scottish accent as hosts Professor Kirk and Mrs Macready, respectively, with the former coming over especially warm and kindly. Seb Little also offered comedy as the witch's sidekick, Grumpskin, who could have been straight out of *Shrek*.

It's testament to the quality of this production that it made me want to watch the 1988 BBC mini-series of the same name, as it introduced me to the story.

I'm sure this PYT marvel will get younger audience members also reaching for the book, if they haven't discovered it already.

Review by Paul Ferguson

Spread the word about hit musical

PRAISE be as a multi-award winning musical penned by the creators of *South Park* is finally coming to Hampshire.

The latter day Saints are the talk of the town in Southampton as *The Book of Mormon* is coming to The Mayflower.

The Broadway and West End smash was labelled "the best musical of the century" by Ben Brantley of the *New York Times* and has won multiple Olivier, Tony and Grammy awards.

Tickets are now available with the curtain rising on the record-breaking musical on Wednesday, May 27.

The musical is the brainchild of satirical cartoonists Trey Parker and Matt Stone and *Avenue Q* co-creator Robert Lopez, who also wrote the songs in *Frozen*.

The play – dubbed 'God's favourite musical' by its creators



– is about two Mormon boys sent on a mission to a place far away from their Salt Lake City Home.

They struggle to convert their trip to rural Uganda into success, finding villagers are more concerned with issues like famine, AIDS and oppression.

Book of Mormon has won more than 30 international awards since its March 2011 premiere and every one of its 2,794 performances to date at the Prince of Wales Theatre in London has been a sell out.

The show features music and

lyrics from the trio while Casey Nicholaw is both the director and choreographer.

Tickets for *The Book of Mormon* are now available from the Mayflower Theatre box office on 023 8071 1811 or www.mayflower.org.uk

The show runs from May 27 to June 13.

For more details about the musical visit www.thebookofmormonmusical.com

The Mayflower will also welcome another West End hit musical in October as *Sunny Afternoon* is returning to the city venue.

The show about The Kinks and the highs and lows of the iconic 60s band is packed full of gems like *Waterloo Sunset*, *Lola*, *Days and You Really Got Me*.

Catch it from October 27 to 31. Tickets are now available.

Fairytale career for debut writer



Self-publisher Keith A. Pearson has shifted over 130,000 books

If you've made a new year's resolution to write a novel, then take a leaf out of Keith A. Pearson's book.

The 48-year-old from Heath End, near Farnham, had no aspiration to become an author when he started writing his first book in early 2016.

The digital marketing expert didn't expect much when he published *The 86 Fix* online, as he didn't have a plot or any formal writing qualifications.

But he's living proof you can make it big without getting a deal, as he's now a best-selling author with eight titles under his belt.

"I had been threatening to write a book for a number of years and I thought best give it a go," said Mr Pearson on the beginnings of his debut time-travelling novel.

"With special naivety I had no idea how to write a book and did no research, but managed to write one in six months.

"I sent it off to a few publishers and unfortunately I didn't get much back – most didn't even reply. So I put it up on Amazon and didn't think anything of it.

"Yet I looked back a while later and I discovered people were buying it. I can still remember the very first review, five days after the book was released, and they gave it five stars.

"After I had about 20 to 25 that really gave me the confidence to think about writing a follow-up. I've sold 137,000 books at the last count and I sold my business in October."

Pearson – whose latest book *Tuned Out* was released last year – has urged would-be writers not to dismiss self-

publishing having rejected several "dreadful" deals from publishers.

There's plenty of good advice to think ahead and have an original story that's commercially viable.

Writers fall into plotters and pantsers, with the latter being someone without a plot who "writes by the seat of the pants".

"I did this the first time but it was an awful experience as I kept going up blind alleys," said Pearson, recalling the origins of his debut.

"For the second book I plotted and I do that with every book. It's definitely better to take stock.

"So many times I've come up with a plot I thought would be a great idea and it turned out there's a movie about that. It's coming up with a unique idea that works but also one that's commercial.

"I think if you don't then it's a dangerous precedent."

He added: "There is also this widespread belief that you're not a proper author if you self-published and you've got to have a deal, and that validation is what authors want.

"But it certainly wasn't the case for me and I don't feel I'm not a proper author because I haven't got a deal with a publisher.

"I've been offered six or seven deals but I've turned them all down. Most have been dreadful and they've made no sense at all.

"The wheel turns so slowly in that world but I can write a book in less than three months. I'm in charge of my own destiny."

For more details visit www.keithapearson.co.uk