

# LocalLife

## Stage show has been a treat for youngsters and sponsors

With laughter, songs and shouts of "he's behind you", pantomime season has been in full swing.

Sleeping Beauty has been a success at the Norwich Theatre Royal and the show's sponsors, Almary Green Independent Financial Advisers, have been delighted at how it has helped to educate local children.

Carl Lamb, managing director at Almary Green, said he thinks pantomimes are a great educational tool to introduce children to the joys of live entertainment.

He said: "If you take children to the theatre at an early age they become hooked. We've always taken our family to the pantomime. Family shows like Sleeping Beauty give children an exposure to live entertainment and it helps them appreciate the arts.

"As well as the theatre being a safe environment, it is also a family environment with parents and children sharing their experiences."

The show is written and directed by Richard Gauntlett, and features Emmerdale and Dancing on Ice star Hayley Tamaddon as Sleeping Beauty, Hollyoaks actor Kevin Sacre as

the Prince, and Bad Girls' Helen Fraser as the Wicked Queen. Children are also allowed on stage during the show as they get the chance to play musical instruments and audience sing-along songs.

Almary Green decided to sponsor this year's pantomime to help mark the company's 10th anniversary.

Mr Lamb said: "We are very pleased to be associated with the pantomime and everything it stands for in providing light entertainment for the community in Norfolk and beyond."

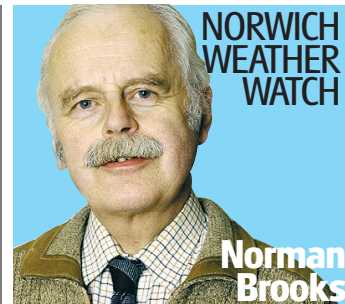
Peter Wilson, chief executive of Norwich Theatre Royal, added: "The Theatre Royal is delighted with the partnership with Almary Green."

→ **The show will be performed at Norwich Theatre Royal until January, with tickets ranging from £5 to £19. To book, call 01603 630 000 or visit [www.theatroyalnorwich.co.uk](http://www.theatroyalnorwich.co.uk)**  
→ **Is your business helping to educate children in Norwich? Contact Local Life editor Richard Wood on 01603 772423 or email [richard.wood@archant.co.uk](mailto:richard.wood@archant.co.uk)**

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**A classic yarn:** Almary Green managing director Carl Lamb and Theatre Royal chief executive Peter Wilson with the spinning wheel used in Sleeping Beauty.



Both the temperature and rainfall of December 2011 were close to normal, but the contrast with December 2010 – whose average temperature was 5.5c lower – was extreme. The month was changeable, with slight snow on three days, five air frosts and 12 ground frosts. There was a total absence of northerly and easterly winds.

Many climatologists and long-range forecasters concluded after the winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 that the naturally occurring North Atlantic oscillation had 'flipped' from its warm north European winter mode – with high pressure to the south and low to the north feeding very mild oceanic westerlies deep into Europe – to its cold winter counterpart.

The cold scenario is a reversal, with high pressure dominant to the north and low to the south causing winds to frequently blow from the north and east, as they did during the winter of 2009/10, and late November and December 2010.

As at the end of December 2011 we have experienced a reversal to the warm winter scenario, however it would be unwise to assume that real winter has been postponed, the classic winter of 1947 delayed its arrival until January 20! This very mild early winter has affected all of Europe, extending as far east as Moscow.

As so often in history, the weather has played an important – sometimes crucial role – in defining the outcome of events that have had a bearing on the destiny, not only of their time, but the subsequent future of nations. With Moscow in mind, it is intriguing to surmise how the history of Europe could have changed if the early Russian winters in 1812 and 1941 had been as benign as in 2011. Napoleon's Grande Armée would not have suffered the ignominy of its great retreat had not Russia's ally, 'General Winter', not decimated the invading army with intense cold.

In 1941 Hitler, ignoring all the advice of professional meteorologists, preferring to heed the ramblings of backwoodsman, was so confident that the early Russian winter was no longer to be feared, that he launched Operation Barbarossa (the invasion of Russia) with no preparation for winter warfare. Even by Russian standards the early winter of 1941 was exceptional. Initially the cold in mid-November aided the German advance over the newly frozen terrain, but by the end of the month the temperature plunged to below zero Fahrenheit and even the Volga froze, four weeks earlier than normal. In December the cold intensified even further, freezing fuel for the German armour and transport, and crucially, the lubricant used in the weaponry. However, the privations suffered by the troops, ill-fed and bereft of adequate clothing, spelt the end of the long succession of Hitler's Blitzkrieg victories.

**Statistics for December 2011:**  
→ **Rainfall total: 54.5mms**  
→ **Wettest day: 76mms (30th)**  
→ **Days with rain: 20**  
→ **Coldest day: 3.0 (18th)**  
→ **Mildest day: 13.9 (26th)**  
→ **Average temperature: 5.5**



## A chilly start to the new year

Sixteen brave souls welcomed the new year in the chilly waters of the River Yare on New Year's Day as has become traditional at Bawburgh.

There was also a good gathering of "watchers" and £255 was raised for East Anglia's Children's

Hospices. The pictures show some of the dippers, who included Nick and Silas Calton, Tracie Draeger, Miles Goodman, Lila and Pete Hallam, Georgina Heatley, Rupert Hipwell, Adam Lewis, Betty Martins, Sandy Munro and Max, Eleanor, Sophie and Ian Williams.

