

ADVENTURES IN SHERWOOD

**Join the Merry Men and swing into
an adventure through Sherwood Forest,
where YOU are in charge of the story!**

**435 Participants took up the challenge!
To reflect our audiences in the creation process,
we staged 5 'Adventures in Sherwood':
one in an infant school, one in a primary school,
two for adults with additional needs,
and one at an Arts Centre open to everyone.**

**Participants enjoyed watching an opening scene performed by our professional
cast....but just as it got to an exciting moment, we froze the action.
People contributed their ideas to build the story,
creating characters and the world they inhabited.**

**As each scene was devised, participants volunteered to join the cast on stage and
everyone performed it together, improvising action and dialogue.
Those remaining in their seats could help make soundscape and special effects.**

**Our cast of Robin, Marion, the Sherrif and Little Jean,
were joined by a whole host of other characters,
as a rollicking, free-wheeling story
grew from the collective imagination of each group...**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Eling Infant School
And Nursery



“This was an absolutely brilliant event. We had a fab time. It was hilarious and very cleverly done. Inspirational, inclusive and a great laugh too”



“Fun and interactive for the children. Excellent performance from all the cast. Very engaging and interactive. So much laughing, brilliant”

ADVENTURES IN SHERWOOD

at Forest Arts Centre - open to all

Once upon a time, there was an old lady called Jean who lived deep in Sherwood Forest. People called her Little Jean as a joke because she was so huge! Every day she guarded the bridge by her house, to prevent the Sheriff and his soldiers from using it. The Sheriff was being unkind to all the villagers who lived in the Forest. He would take their money and valuable things, saying it was 'tax' to be used for spending on things which helped everyone, like mending the forest tracks – but actually he kept it all for himself – getting richer and richer, whilst all the villagers got poorer.

One day, a stranger tried to cross the bridge. Little Jean challenged him. They fought; the stranger had a long staff, and Little Jean had her knitting. She might have looked like a defenceless old granny, but Little Jean wrapped him up with her knitting, and threw him off the bridge! The stranger introduced himself as Robin Hood, and invited Little Jean to join his Merry Men. They lived in Sherwood Forest, taking money back from the Sheriff and giving it to the poor. She agreed straightaway, and left a note for her grand-daughter to say where she was.

Shortly afterwards, the Sheriff arrived at Little Jean's cottage. As he was snooping around, he heard someone coming. It was Little Jean's grand-daughter, Little Red Riding Hood, bringing a basket of cakes for her Granny. Sheriff quickly disguised himself as Little Jean and jumped into bed. Little Red Riding Hood wasn't fooled for long, and soon sent the Sheriff on his way – but he'd be back, next time with his soldiers!

Marion – which was her real name, rather than her childhood nickname because of her coat – found the note left by Little Jean. Spotting the Oak Leaf symbol, she realised Little Jean had gone to join Robin Hood and the Merry Men. She had to find her Granny, avoid the Sheriff, and help Robin save the people of Sherwood. She was on an adventure!

Marion set off into the woods. She didn't know the way to the camp but luckily she met a giant chicken who offered to show her the way. The chicken had been sent by Robin, so Marion hopped on its back and they went off through the forest. Suddenly, they fell into a river and were eaten by a shark! Luckily for them, the shark had toothache and spat them out. Phew!

Marion and the chicken found a trail of wool. It must have been left by Marion's grandmother, Little Jean. They followed it and found their way safely to Robin's camp.

When Marion and the chicken arrived at the camp, Robin and the Merry Men were having a Christmas party. They were all dancing the Macarena. Everyone welcomed Marion and the chicken. There was a big celebration and everyone was excited that Santa was on his way!

Little did they know however, that the Sheriff had been searching for Robin's camp in the forest. He bumped into Santa - who was on his way to meet Robin - by the river. Santa told the Sheriff the way to the camp and the Sheriff immediately fed Santa to the shark, stealing his cloak in the process. The Sheriff disguised himself as Santa and made his way to the secret camp.

Santa - who was really the Sheriff in disguise - arrived at the camp and everyone cheered. He handed out some presents: to Marion, a giant cow; to Little Jean, a cardboard box; to Robin, some cheap plastic arrows from China.

Robin felt like something was fishy. Suddenly he realised that it wasn't Santa giving out presents at all. It was the Sheriff! Everyone tied the Sheriff up with Little Jean's wool, but the Sheriff used magic to turn Marion into a wolf. The cow told Marion that Santa was playing hide-and-seek inside the shark so they set off into the forest to rescue him.

Meanwhile, the Sheriff wriggled free from the wool. He called his giant fish guards. They arrived and whacked Robin and his men with their tails and flapped them with their flippers. Then they shot them with plastic bows and arrows.

While Robin and his men were in trouble, Marion and the cow had arrived at the river. They tickled the shark and, happily, Santa popped out of the shark's mouth.

Santa jumped on his sleigh and he and his reindeers flew over Robin's camp dancing the Macarena. The fish guards couldn't help but join in! Everyone danced the Macarena together and made friends. They decided to feed the Sheriff to the shark and everyone lived....happily ever after.

A word or two to describe your experience today?



ADVENTURES IN SHERWOOD

by Eling Infant School

Once upon a time, there was an old lady called Jean who lived deep in Sherwood Forest. People called her Little Jean as a joke because she was so huge! Every day she guarded the bridge by her house, to prevent the Sheriff and his soldiers from using it. The Sheriff was being unkind to all the villagers who lived in the Forest. He would take their money and valuable things, saying it was 'tax' to be used for spending on things which helped everyone, like mending the forest tracks – but actually he kept it all for himself – getting richer and richer, whilst all the villagers got poorer.

One day, a stranger tried to cross the bridge. Little Jean challenged him. They fought; the stranger had a long staff, and Little Jean had her knitting. She might have looked like a defenceless old granny, but Little Jean wrapped him up with her knitting, and threw him off the bridge! The stranger introduced himself as Robin Hood, and invited Little Jean to join his Merry Men. They lived in Sherwood Forest, taking money back from the Sheriff and giving it to the poor. She agreed straightaway, and left a note for her granddaughter to say where she was.

Shortly afterwards, the Sheriff arrived at Little Jean's cottage. As he was snooping around, he heard someone coming. It was Little Jean's granddaughter, Little Red Riding Hood, bringing a basket of cakes for her Granny. Sheriff quickly disguised himself as Little Jean and jumped into bed. Little Red Riding Hood wasn't fooled for long, and soon sent the Sheriff on his way – but he'd be back, next time with his soldiers!

Marion – which was her real name, rather than her childhood nickname because of her coat – found the note left by Little Jean. Spotting the Oak Leaf symbol, she realised Little Jean had gone to join Robin Hood and the Merry Men. She had to find her Granny, avoid the Sheriff, and help Robin save the people of Sherwood. She was on an adventure!

Marion had found a map with the note and began to follow it to Robin's camp. On the way she met a wolf who tried to eat her up. When she ran away from the wolf, she came across a woodcutter's box with an axe inside. Marion scared the wolf with the axe until he fell into a pond. Then with her axe, she quickly chopped the wolf up and ran back to her grandma's house.

When she got home, a friendly dinosaur came by and offered to take her to Robin's camp. Marion accepted and when she got to Robin's camp, she found them getting ready to do some running races with their dinosaur friends. There were 7 dinosaurs in total: a triceratops (ridden by Robin); a pterodactyl (ridden by Little Jean); a velociraptor (ridden by a merry man); and four T. Rexs. The velociraptor won. Suddenly they heard an explosion.

Meanwhile, underground, the Sheriff was conducting a science experiment. He was trying to cause a volcano to erupt to stop the dinosaurs having too much fun. But Robin Hood and his gang of Merry Men threw rocks into the volcano, jumped on them and managed to stop the volcano erupting.

But they couldn't stop the explosion and the volcano exploded from the inside. With that, the Sheriff got swept away on a stream of lava and ended up dead on the floor of a bin.

Robin Hood and his gang of Merry Men had a party to Freed From Desire by Gala, and everyone lived....happily ever after.

THE END



"Thanks for this morning, such fun. Not laughed like that in ages. Such brilliant ideas from the audience, it was amazing to see it all come to life"

What did you enjoy most?

"Loved the traditional panto links to other traditional tales. The characters were all brilliant and I loved it when they used children to be involved and improvise"

"The dance off was the best thing we have seen – our shy children came alive!"

"Giving ideas, the songs, CHRISTMAS!, and the acting"

"Including the audience in creating a show"

"I have not laughed so much in ages"

"The interactive fun and inclusion"

"How mad it was"

"Getting involved"

"The comedy"

Star rating: 4.94
(out of 5)



ADVENTURES IN SHERWOOD

by Waterside Primary School

Once upon a time, there was an old lady called Jean who lived deep in Sherwood Forest. People called her Little Jean as a joke because she was so huge! Every day she guarded the bridge by her house, to prevent the Sheriff and his soldiers from using it. The Sheriff was being unkind to all the villagers who lived in the Forest. He would take their money and valuable things, saying it was 'tax' to be used for spending on things which helped everyone, like mending the forest tracks – but actually he kept it all for himself – getting richer and richer, whilst all the villagers got poorer.

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Shortly afterwards, the Sheriff arrived at Little Jean's cottage. As he was snooping around, he heard someone coming. It was Little Jean's granddaughter, Little Red Riding Hood, bringing a basket of cakes for her Granny. Sheriff quickly disguised himself as Little Jean and jumped into bed. Little Red Riding Hood wasn't fooled for long, and soon sent the Sheriff on his way – but he'd be back, next time with his soldiers!

Marion – which was her real name, rather than her childhood nickname because of her coat – found the note left by Little Jean. Spotting the Oak Leaf symbol, she realised Little Jean had gone to join Robin Hood and the Merry Men. She had to find her Granny, avoid the Sheriff, and help Robin save the people of Sherwood. She was on an adventure!

Marion followed a trail of glow-in-the-dark oak leaves to try and find Robin's cave. On the way, she met a sneaky Fox. It was really the Sheriff of Nottingham who'd turned himself into a Fox! The Fox offered to show Marion to Robin's cave and she accepted. Little did she know that the Fox was really showing her the way to a cave with a bear inside! The bear tried to eat Marion but she called for help and, who should appear, but 10 velociraptors! The velociraptors fought the bear and won. The bear died.

The Fox, who had been outside the cave watching from behind a tree, tried again to lead Marion to another cave. But Marion knew better this time and threw her apples at him, managing to escape. Marion found the trail of oak leaves again and followed it to Robin's cave.

When she arrived, she found Robin and his men sitting around the camp fire making s'mores. They invite Marion to join them. But the Sheriff – turned human again - had followed Marion to the cave and he now knew where Robin lived. The Sheriff got 7 guards from another cave nearby and they challenged the Merry Men to a dance battle to Barbie Girl by Aqua. The Sheriff's men won.

But what the Sheriff didn't know was that Robin was actually a superhero. Robin used his Earth power to shoot trees out of the ground, making the Sheriff bounce up and down and twerk, so much so that he flew all the way up into space and to the Moon never to bother the people of Nottingham again.

Everyone lived....happily ever after.

THE END



What do you think was the biggest benefit to your group from their experience today?

"Everyone being able to take part and contribute their own creative ideas"

"Creating the story and joining in"

"Bringing a story to life. A step into theatre"

"Story Language, oracy, drama techniques"

"Children given the opportunity to share their own ideas (oracy)"

"Interactive participation of the children, helping to finish off the story using their imagination."

"Great to see the actors performance – some children haven't experienced this before"

ADVENTURES IN SHERWOOD

By Thrive, Helix, Windward and Spiral Blue Day services

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Marion left the house to search for Robin and she found some horses outside that had been left by the Sheriff's men. She rode one of the horses along a trail to find Robin. All the horses came with her.

Suddenly, the Tardis appeared and out came Robin and 7 of his merry men. They took Marion, along with all the horses, back to the camp in the Tardis.

Meanwhile, at the Sheriff's castle, the King arrived and announced that he wanted to marry Maid Marion. So the Sheriff decided to take all of his Daleks on the train to search for Robin's camp. The king joined them. On the train, the Sheriff spotted smoke from Robin's camp fire, so they got off at the next station, Waterloo.

There they found Robin's camp. The Merry Men and the Sheriff's Daleks all had a custard pie fight. The Daleks said "Exterminate!" and shot at the Merry Men with custard pie guns, but the Merry Men fought back with a gigantic custard pie and won the fight. Hooray!

Little did they know that the Sheriff had a snake and he had begun to set it upon Robin when the snake turned on him and strangled him to death.

The King however, still wanted to marry Marion. But when he stepped forward to take her hand in marriage, he began to suffocate due to a severe custard allergy and died on the spot.

Robin and Marion got married and lived... Happily ever after.

Everyone had a big party to You're the One That I Want, (from Grease) by Olivia Newton John and John Travolta.

THE END.



"Fabulous
chaos!"

**"ABSOLUTELY
FANTASTIC
100/100"**

"Fun, co-produced, engaging"

"Epic!"

"I have not laughed so much in ages"

"Interactive
and fun"

"Hilarious,
entertaining,
inclusive"



ADVENTURES IN SHERWOOD

By The Minstead Trust

Once upon a time, there was an old lady called Jean who lived deep in Sherwood Forest. People called her Little Jean as a joke because she was so huge! Every day she guarded the bridge by her house, to prevent the Sheriff and his soldiers from using it. The Sheriff was being unkind to all the villagers who lived in the Forest. He would take their money and valuable things, saying it was 'tax' to be used for spending on things which helped everyone, like mending the forest tracks – but actually he kept it all for himself – getting richer and richer, whilst all the villagers got poorer.

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Marion set off into the woods searching for Robin's camp. A figure appeared in the forest and gave her a map. It was Robin! Now Marion could find the secret camp whenever she needed to. Robin said he'd take Marion back to the camp. No sooner had they decided to head back to the camp, but they were swallowed up by a huge net. Some of the Sheriff's guards had been hiding in the woods. They immediately arrested Robin and Marion and sentenced them to death. The guards found Robin and Marion's map and took it from them so that they could give it to the Sheriff.

The guards took Robin and Marion back to the castle where the Sheriff was waiting. The Sheriff locked Robin and Marion in the dungeon, and took their map. The Sheriff wanted to take back all of the money Robin and his gang had stolen so he took his soldiers to find the camp.

They followed the map and when they came upon Robin's camp, they fired flaming arrows at the Merry Men, setting the camp on fire. The Merry Men ran to the lake to fetch water but fell into quicksand.

Who should arrive to save them but the one-and-only Harry Potter! Harry Potter used his magic to lift the Merry Men free from the quicksand. Not only had he saved the Merry Men, but Harry Potter had also rescued Robin and Marion from the dungeon and they arrived just in time to defeat the Sheriff and his guards by shooting them with arrows.

Harry Potter then took Robin and his men into the forest and introduced them to some fairies who lived in a tree. Harry Potter and the fairies made a magic sleeping potion to give to the Sheriff. They all set off to the Sheriff's castle to find his treasure. When they got there, they had to get past a huge door so they kicked it down with their Tootsies steel toe capped boots.

Robin snuck into the castle and switched the Sheriff's wine for the sleeping potion. The Sheriff drank it and immediately fell asleep. Robin found the key and unlocked the treasure chest. Just as they were escaping with the treasure, the Sheriff woke up and called his guards to stop them. But quick as a flash, Harry Potter turned the Sheriff into a frog, never to harm anyone again.

The fairies used their magic to distribute the treasure to the poor families of Nottingham and everyone lived... Happily ever after. They all had a party to Celebrate by Cool & the Gang.

THE END

ADVENTURES IN SHERWOOD

Creative, inclusive, hilarious, epic, silly, interactive, pure distilled FUN!
THANK YOU to everyone who was a part of it!

Amidst the laughter, hidden behind the apparent craziness,
we have been learning how people think and feel about 'outlaws',
and what it means to find your 'tribe' with a cause to fight for.

All the amazing ideas, the themes that echo through the stories, and your hilarious
characters will go into the melting pot of our writers brain,
from which will emerge our touring production of Robin Hood!

Come along to see what happens to your ideas!

Cast (in order of appearance):

Little Jean - Ben Lindsey-Clark

Robin Hood - Anna Takashima

Sheriff of Nottingham - Jake Baker

Marion - Natasha Wood

All other characters played by all of YOU!

Written & directed by Ben Lindsey-Clark

Producer - Louisa Lindsey-Clark

Photo credits: Louisa Lindsey-Clark / Sam Flounders / Izzy Lindsey-Clark

Thank you to our partners: Eling Infants, Waterside Primary, Thrive and Helix Day Services,
The Minstead Trust, Hanger Farm Arts Centre, and Forest Arts Centre.

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through Arts Council England. A massive thank you to all the National Lottery players who
help keep live performance alive!



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