

## Book early to visit Never Never Land

THE classic take of the boy who never grew up is featuring in pantomime this Christmas.

Peter Pan is being staged at the Pavilion Theatre in Worthing and some of the stars were out on the beach for its official launch.

Theatre-goers of all ages should prepare to cheer and boo as Peter, Wendy and Tinkerbell battle to save Neverland from the pirates, led by the villainous Captain Hook.

This year's show features CITV presenter Chris Till as Peter Pan, Paul Hammond as Captain Hook, Nathalie Pyle as Wendy and Joanne Buckland as Nana the dog.

Neighbours star Patrick Harvey, who plays Connor in the Australian soap, is also appearing as a pirate called Starkey.

The pantomime runs from December 13 to January 7 and tickets are already selling fast.

Organisers are urging people to book as early as possible.

There is a ten per cent discount for bookings made before the end of October.

For more details, call the box office on 01903 206206.

PICTURE: TERRY APPLIN



SHIVER ME TIMBERS: Paul Hammond joins fellow actors on the beach at Worthing to warm up as menacing Captain Hook



NANNY: Melvyn Hayes

## Star has no time for wannabes

PANTO star Melvyn Hayes has hit out at wannabe stars seeking overnight celebrity on reality TV shows.

Melvyn, who is appearing in Sleeping Beauty at Worthing's Connaught Theatre this Christmas, said it was "rather sad".

He said many youngsters no longer wanted to attend drama school and serve an apprenticeship, instead, they sought instant fame through shows such as The X Factor.

Melvyn, who starred in It Ain't Half Hot Mum, is appearing as Nanny Nellie in the panto which runs from December 6 to January 7.

He made his first appearance at the Connaught in 1953, playing Philip Gautier in Nurse Cavell, starring the famous Worthing actress Nancy Price.

The Pavilion Theatre, in Worthing, is staging Peter Pan this Christmas.

Peter Bailey, Worthing Borough Council's theatres' manager, said tickets were selling very well for this year's shows.

With more than two months to go before curtain up, about 15,000 seats had been booked or reserved. Last year's pantos were attended by 43,000 people, evenly split between the Connaught and the Pavilion.

Mr Bailey said: "Sales are very much mirroring last year. It's exceptional considering there are two shows in town."

## Prisoner found dead

A 31-YEAR-OLD inmate at Ford Prison was found dead on Saturday morning.

Staff discovered the body at 11.35am in a dormitory block.

A spokeswoman for Her Majesty's Prison Service said she was unable to confirm the cause of death.

Ford is an open prison on the bank of the River Arun, near Littlehampton.

## Husband tells of idyllic life with son who survived accident

# Professor pays tribute to wife killed in crash

by KATYA MIRA

A DEVASTATED professor has paid tribute to the "tremendous spirit" of his wife who died in a car crash.

Martin Spinelli said he had an idyllic marriage with fellow university lecturer Sasha and did not know how he and his young son would put the "pieces of our lives" back together.

He spoke of his relief at the recovery of four-year-old Lio, who was in the car and spent two weeks in a coma.

Sasha Spinelli, 40, died after her Nissan Micra was involved in a collision with a lorry on the coast-bound carriageway of the M2 between Sittingbourne and Faversham, Kent, on September 7.

She was commuting to her job at the University of Kent in Canterbury from the family's home at The Course, Lewes, when the tragedy happened. Their son Lio was taken to the intensive care unit at King's College Hospital, London, in a critical condition.



SPIRIT: Sasha Spinelli

Mr Spinelli said Lio had defied the odds and doctors' expectations by coming out of his coma. He is still in hospital but has recovered enough to feed himself, play with Lego and say 'Pappa'.

Mr Spinelli said of his wife: "She is irreplaceable. We will be trying to put together the pieces of our lives for a very long time. There is a huge gap where her tremendous spirit was. We had an idyllic marriage and an idyllic life living in

Lewes. She was a fantastic and doting mother.

"She was also an incredibly ambitious person. A person who rarely slept and had far too many projects on the go, sadly many of which she left behind.

"She was very prominent on the Brighton salsa dancing scene. She was also writing two academic books and her first children's book which will now never see the light of day."

Mr Spinelli, originally from New Jersey in America, was preparing to go to a conference in Sunderland when police arrived to tell him the news.

The couple had last year moved back to the area where they first fell in love 14 years ago, after years living on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mr Spinelli had got a job lecturing in media studies at the University of Sussex, Brighton, where they had met at a charity cricket match as students.

He said: "I was the bowler and she was the wicketkeeper and I knew immediately I saw her that she was the one. She was

seeing someone else at the time though, so it took her a little longer."

Under her professional name of Dr Sasha Roberts, Mrs Spinelli worked in the School of English at the University of Kent for nine years, specialising in early modern literature and Shakespeare.

As well as her husband and Lio, she leaves behind parents Nigel and Penny Roberts, brother David and his wife and two children in Italy.

Her funeral will take place at 1.30pm on Saturday, in St Pancras Church, Lewes, where the couple married seven years ago. Her family asked for donations to the Sasha Roberts Scholarship fund to help students in early modern literature.

● A Belgian man appeared at Mid Kent Magistrates' Court earlier this week charged in connection with the crash. Yvan Vandermeulen, 54, was remanded in custody charged with causing death by dangerous driving. He is due appear at Maidstone Crown Court on November 27.

katya.mira@theargus.co.uk

## Water wise gardens

A CONFERENCE on water-efficient garden design has been held in Sussex by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Among speakers at the event in Durrington, Worthing, were Peter Holman, chairman of South And South-East Britain In Bloom.

Delegates took a guided tour of a waterwise garden on Worthing seafront, which has been planted with local plants such as

sea lavender, sea kale, sea campion and tamarisk and is irrigated solely by rainfall.

Maya Albert, the Society's horticultural adviser, said: "One of the major climate change issues facing gardeners is how to garden effectively during summer drought and also tackle winter flooding.

"This conference shed light on these questions, and gave gardeners some tips."

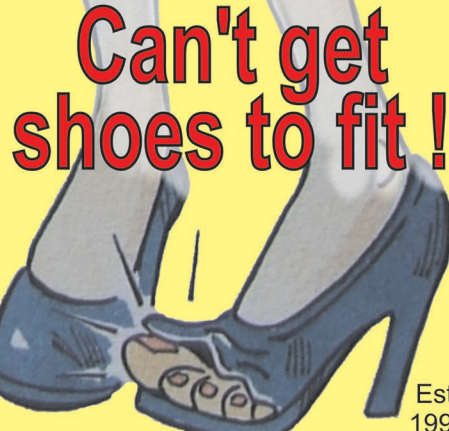
Then see us at our one day event on: Saturday October 7th. At: Thistle Hotel Brighton, Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS. Starts 11.00am & ends 1.30pm. [www.medissashoes.com](http://www.medissashoes.com)

The UK's largest stockist of:

AA & B (Narrow) 4½ to 11½ & Ladies large sizes 9 to 12½ in all widths AA,B,C,D,E,EE.

Ring for mail order cat. 0113 2530369

We do not sell wide fits under size 9! Medissa Shoes, 115 Queen St; MORLEY, Leeds. LS27 8HE.



a1198229

Est. 1991