

Wonderful Willow Watching!

The 2008 season at the Living Willow Theatre got off to a ground-breaking start last week, beginning with their first ever solar-powered performance! As part of the international Shakespeare 24 festival on Wednesday April 23 (Shakespeare's birthday), Mid Powys Youth Theatre represented Wales with a 45 minute version of *Romeo and Juliet*, under lighting entirely powered by solar panels that have recently been installed at the theatre. Rehearsed under very tight time restrictions due to exams and holidays, the audience wouldn't have guessed and enjoyed a racy, energetic and highly entertaining rendition of the touching tragedy.

Then on Saturday April 26, the theatre positively basked in the warmth of the spring sunshine and the joyfulness of the magical music produced by young folk band *One String Loose*. With three of the band members currently studying for GCSEs, the guys' natural, easy charm and awe-inspiring talent totally belied their youth. In no time, the audience were dancing in the aisles as the infectious and imaginative Celtic fusion tunes skipped across the Welsh hillside. With delicious organic burgers sizzling on the barbecue, draught beer on tap in the little pub, and refreshing tea brewed in the pot, the ingredients were all there for a perfect Spring afternoon's entertainment.