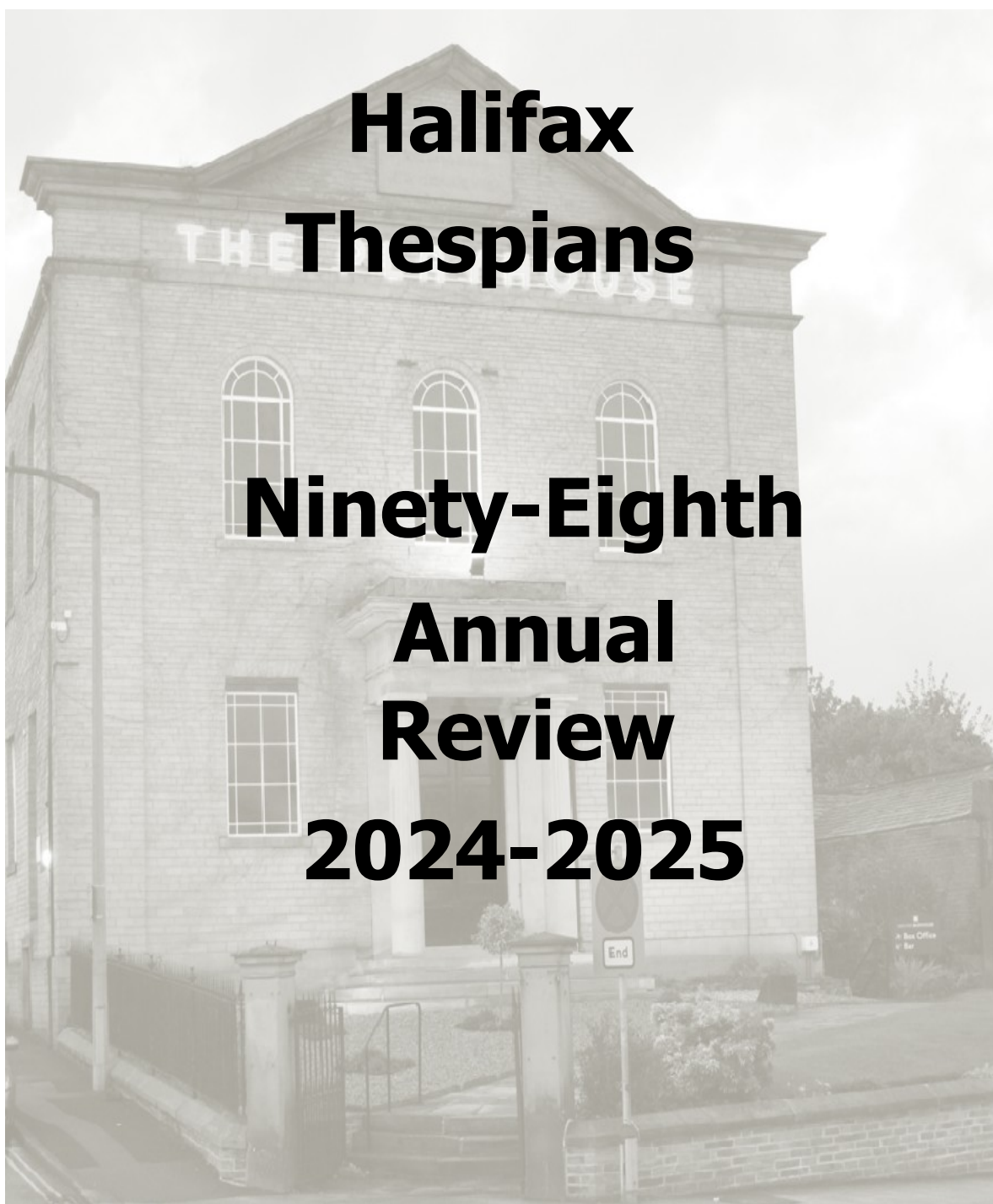




**HALIFAX  
PLAYHOUSE**

**Halifax  
Thespians**

**Ninety-Eighth  
Annual  
Review  
2024-2025**



## **HALIFAX THESPIANS**

A company limited by guarantee

Registration number 5010701

Registered charity number 1103913 VAT No. 333 5885 40



### **Registered Office**

The Halifax Playhouse

King Cross Street, Halifax HX1 2SH Tel: 01422 365998

[www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk](http://www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk)

A Member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain

## **ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-2025**

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## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

### *Dear Member*

#### **Reflections on My First Year as Chair**

This has been my first year as Chair, and I admit I have mixed feelings about my performance. I am still finding my footing in the role and have made mistakes along the way. I genuinely hope you can forgive any shortcomings I've had during this time.

#### **The Year in Review: 2024/2025**

The past year has been incredibly busy for both our society and the Theatre. At times, we've been stretched very thin as we tried to find enough members to handle the many tasks necessary to keep the society and our beautiful theatre vibrant.

#### **Member Involvement and Support**

Despite these challenges, it has been encouraging to see new members step up—not only on stage but also behind the scenes in less visible roles. There has also been a slight increase in existing members volunteering for important jobs such as set building, front of house, and work at the bar.

#### **Celebrating Success**

We are proud to remain an award-winning society. Our production of *Blackadder Goes Forth* earned six awards at the Wharfedale Festival of Theatre. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved in that show.

#### **New Initiatives**

This August, we launched *Second Wave*, a new section of our society designed to offer additional opportunities and development for members across a range of production-related activities. I encourage everyone to support this initiative and make the most of what it has to offer.

#### **Remembering Valued Members**

The last twelve months saw the passing of Kevin Brennan, Geoff Green, Ernie Grice, Peter Thurman, Nigel Town, and Lois Swales.

Kevin was a regular performer on stage from the 1970s to the 1990s, chaired the casting committee, and appeared in productions for HAOS as well as other local amateur societies.

Geoff was known as a comic actor who participated in many Thespian productions and worked backstage, typically managing sound. He served on the publicity committee and led the Halifax Film Club, which operated at the Playhouse for several years.

Ernie was a member for several years and managed props with Stella Underhill until they both relocated to the South Coast after retirement.

Peter previously served as Chairman and Stage Director, contributing to multiple areas at the Playhouse including acting, directing, set building, maintenance, and sound design.

Nigel acted, directed, and was a bar committee member. He helped launch and organise the Playhouse open mics, and designed many posters for Thespian productions.

Lois was a dedicated audience member who rarely missed seeing a production.

Their contributions and impact on the Playhouse are remembered, and their absence is deeply felt.

## **Ongoing Challenges**

As usual, our departments have struggled to fill the essential roles required for both our productions and those of our hirers, including cast, directors, backstage crew, front of house, and bar staff. Unfortunately, we had to cancel one production (The Duke in the Cupboard) and came alarmingly close to cancelling others due to a lack of member support. If you have indicated areas of interest on your membership form, I urge you to volunteer and get involved. Without your participation, the show cannot go on.

## **Gratitude**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who has volunteered in any capacity, some even at very short notice. Your dedication has kept live theatre at the Playhouse alive and thriving, and you should be proud of your contributions.

## **Governance and Opportunities**

The tenure for all Officers of the Society and Department Heads is twelve months (from AGM to AGM), while Board Directors serve for three years. Any member is eligible for these roles. Details on how to nominate yourself or another member can be found in the Democracy document you received with the AGM materials.

You do not have to wait for the current officeholder to retire or stand down to put yourself forward as an Officer, Board Member, or Department Head. If you feel you can help the Society continue and progress into the future, please consider nominating yourself.

## **Final Thanks**

My sincere thanks go to everyone who has supported and contributed to the life of our society and the Playhouse over the past twelve months. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

*Best wishes*

Ged Marescaux  
Chair & Stage Director

## OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

The following are the Officers, Directors and Management Team members during 2024-2025:

Officers:	Polly Bryan	President
	Gerard Marescaux	Chairman
	Alexis Holland	Secretary
	Ian Henderson	Treasurer

Directors:	Keith Royston
	Chris Baldock
	Polly Bryan
	Ian Henderson
	Chris Horn
	Kirsty O'Brien
	Paul Wadsworth
	Jeanette Kendall
	Amy Neill
	Alexis Holland
	Gerard Marescaux
	Ian Byfield
	Julie Johnston (co-opted by the Board during the year)
	Rhys Hammond-Booth (co-opted by the Board during the year)
	Prav Makh (co-opted by the Board during the year)
	Sharon Old (co-opted by the Board during the year)

Management:	Gerard Marescaux	Stage Director
	Julie Johnston	Business Manager / Little Theatre Guild Rep / Casting Chair
	Chris Baldock	Publicity Manager
	Polly Bryan	Hospitality Manager
	Nick Starwind	Buildings Manager
	Ian Byfield	Bar Chairman
	Sharon Old	Health & Safety Officer / Play Selection Chair

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Stage Director**

**Ged Marescaux**

#### **Overview of the Year**

This year has been exceptionally busy for the Stage Department. We managed eight in-house productions, each requiring extensive coordination for set construction, lighting, sound, props, wardrobe, stage management, and crew involvement. In addition to our own shows, we supported both longstanding and new hirers, ensuring their needs were met.

#### **Operations and Maintenance**

Maintaining and repairing the stage, lighting, and sound equipment demanded ongoing attention and dedication throughout the year.

#### **Gratitude to Volunteers**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered, in any role and sometimes at very short notice. Your involvement has been vital in keeping live theatre thriving at the Playhouse, and you have every reason to be proud of your contributions.

#### **Achievements and Recognition**

Our collective efforts were recognized at the Wharfedale Drama Festival, where we received the Chairman's Special Award for the final moments of "Blackadder Goes Forth." The judges noted, "The final moments when the ensemble finally went 'over the top' was outstanding." This recognition would not have been possible without the commitment of the entire team.

Importantly, every show presented in the last twelve months demonstrated a high standard worthy of festival nominations, and each should be celebrated for their quality and creativity.

#### **Growing Participation Backstage**

It is encouraging that the backstage team has grown, with both new and longstanding members participating in set building, lighting, and sound. Our group is expanding, but we always welcome more members to help bring our productions to life for our audiences.

#### **The Importance of Teamwork**

Plays could not happen without the people who handle set construction, sound, lighting, stage management, crew, props, wardrobe, and prompting. Each role is essential to every production's success.

#### **Leadership and Involvement**

My role as Stage Director is for a term of twelve months, concluding at the end of the AGM, at which point the Board appoints Heads of Department. Any member can put their name forward for these positions and does not need to wait for the current holder to step down. If

you are interested in being more involved backstage but not in a leadership position, please let me know, and I will pass your interest on to whoever the Board appoints as Stage Director.

### **Final Thanks**

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported and assisted the society in any backstage capacity. Your work is deeply valued.

## **Business Manager, LTG Representative & Casting Chair**

### **Julie Johnston**

It gets harder every year to write my report – why? Because I repeat every year that we struggle to increase our audience figures. The Play Selection committee do their best to select plays which they believe will attract audiences, and those who come do enjoy the productions, sadly they just don't seem to bring in bigger audiences.

Even some of our hirers have been forced to cancel due to low ticket sales and part of that problem is the seeming reluctance to book in advance; this happens quite often, and then disappointed patrons say, "oh but I was going to pay on the door". There is a movement encouraging people to book in advance; I hope people take heed.

It is thanks to the appeal of our theatre (and the closure again of Square Chapel) which is now probably the most affordable in Halifax that we have a programme all year round which includes every type of entertainment.

It was great to welcome Mikron Theatre to our theatre, having tried for years to persuade them; they loved performing here and are booked for more visits this year.

Our hires grow in number all the time and such is the extent of the demand for bookings that trying to find a full week for one hire I had to venture into 2027!

I hope next year I can have a rosier picture to report.

## **LTG**

The LTG this year introduced "relationship meetings" whereby small groups of member theatres met for an afternoon with the attendance of an LTG Committee member on hand to field questions. The first of these was at Durham Little Theatre and as one of the subjects up for discussion was social media I encouraged Sharon Old to come with me. She enjoyed the experience and even offered to take my place at the National Conference in June as it fell during my honeymoon. It is nice to have someone who can attend conference when I am unable as it is expected that we send "someone".

LTG are providing online Zoom sessions to support safeguarding, and I have included Lex Holland as our Safeguarding Officer in these communications.



## **Casting Chair**

Well, it's been a rocky start! The previous Artistic Director resigned in October and then followed 6 months in limbo while the decisions were made first to split the role and then to elect people to take on the roles of Play Selection Director and Casting Director. Finally in March I was elected and tasked with casting plays with such a tight lead time that casting the plays was extremely difficult. In one instance, *The Duke in the Cupboard*, 23 members were approached but due to involvement in musicals or other plays in the area were not available and we were sadly forced to postpone the production until 2026. The following plays had more success although still faced with people being cast only for them to back out for varying reasons; commitment is, sadly, a diminishing quality.

My committee has given wholehearted commitment to casting the upcoming plays and we are now in the position of only having 2 plays for this year still to cast, the ones for December and next March. The plan going forward is that we hope to cast our plays well in advance and so hopefully reduce the issues faced earlier this year.

## **Health & Safety Manager & Play Selection Chair**

### **Sharon Old**

The year has been busy, and I have tried hard to ensure both our buildings are up to a good H&S standard.

A full audit was conducted earlier in the year, alongside the Stage Director, this has been left with a Buildings Manager in the absence of an Estates Manager, and things are under way to ensure compliance.

A training refresh will be undertaken by all staff to ensure we are meeting employment law, as soon as possible.

A sort and refresh of Carlton has also been under way to make things a bit safer and more user friendly. This has taken longer than expected but will be complete by the end of August.

I hope that I am able to continue in this role moving forward.

## **Play Selection Chair**

There has been a very short amount of time, since my appointment as Chair Play Selection, as there had been a gap between our AD resigning, another appointed AD declining the role, and then, the role splitting into two, as myself as PS and Julie Johnston as Chair Casting.

Starting in May, with only a few months to get it together, the key focus for me was to ensure that my committee could select the remaining plays for 2026 in time, to run alongside two inherited plays that were already on the programme.

We have successfully done so, changing the format of selection slightly to maximise the use of our time. The Board have now passed the plays moving forward.

Additionally, I have set up a focus group, open to all members, which means non-committee members can have some input, can suggest things for my committee to read, offer insight and experience to help this committee put on plays in the future that are appealing and that are what our members and general public want to see. Moving forward, the focus group will be involved in discussions about the 2027 centenary year and what we read as a committee. These are non-voting members, as part of a consultation; the decisions on the season's selections still lies solely with the Play Selection Committee, and ultimately the Board of Directors.

During the summer months, we have had some casting issues as a society, due in no small part to the gap with no AD or replacement, creating a delay in the casting process, and we had to postpone *Duke in the Cupboard* as we could not cast the play in time for adequate rehearsal. This has gone back into the programme for next year, alongside *Crown Matrimonial*, which was rejected for 2025 by the Board of Directors, in favour of it being a main stage production in 2026.

In place of *Duke in the Cupboard*, I organised two events for members: a social with quiz and karaoke, successfully hosted by returning member Chad Bunney. We then had a *Murder in the Studio* Agatha Christie double bill, a rehearsed reading directed by Marian Feather; another social event with supper from Ayubowan Restaurant. This was a well-received and well attended event and was in the format of two short radio plays helpfully suggested by Ian Byfield - *Yellow Iris* and *Butter From A Lordly Dish*.

I have also since May, met with the Committee Chair of Friends of People's Park, with view to us performing at their festival in August as a starting point for future outreach engagement. I arranged a Shakespeare in the Park event for August 3rd, which has been given to Ian Byfield and Polly Bryan to "direct" and facilitate with members that took part in Ged Marescaux's "Evening with The Bard" under his Artistic Direction last year.

Finally, with the focus group previously mentioned, and my committee, I have used the new writing submissions we already had accrued over the past year and invited the general public to submit pieces for consideration for a New Writing Festival for 2026. This has now been shortlisted, and I will be arranging a date with Julie Johnston as Business Manager, for summer 2026 for the festival to take place. Voting will be by audience members, and the winning submission will take part in our centenary programme.

Two of the submissions given impressed the focus group, myself and my committee so much that they are to be part of the 2026 programme in the two Studio Bar slots.

It is worth noting that future New Writing will be passed to Second Wave for consideration, but this event was already underway prior to their official formation, and I will take it to its completion given my investment in it.

I hope that I am given a full season as Chair Play Selection, to enable me to demonstrate my worth in the role and to take the theatre into its centenary year. If I am elected in September again, I will do my utmost to select entertaining plays that fill our seats, with a strong, unbiased and skilled committee.

## Publicity

### Chris Baldock

The 2024-25 season has been yet another busy one, working on and publicising well over 40 shows and events. This involves working with our hirers from initial booking through to their performance date as well as on all our inhouse plays and events.

It was with sadness that we heard the news of the passing of Nigel Town, who had been the team's principal poster designer. Sharon Old has taken over that role and in liaison with play directors has tried to include the artwork that Nigel had been working on.

Several team members have stood down during the year including Jeanne O'Rourke (Heritage Open Day), Polly Kelland (Online diaries), Jeanette Kendall (Banners), Amy Jagger and Julie Baldock (Secretary). We thank them for their input, in some cases over many years. With the new membership year, we have had number of new members getting involved. We are pleased to welcome Andrew Naylor, Prav Makh, Carol Oswin and Alistair Cheetham to the team.

We continue to work with Culturedale (which may get extended by 6 months past its original April 2025 end date), Visit Calderdale and the Halifax Heritage Festival Group in promoting our shows and inviting the public to our Heritage Open Day. Our Heritage Open Day is on Sunday 14 September and will be featured in the Halifax Festival newspaper along with nationally, via the English Heritage Open Days scheme.

You will find us featured in the Halifax Tourist map and on the display board at Halifax Train Station. A wide variety of online diaries are updated with all the Playhouse shows.

Members have been sent the Car Sticker designed by Ian Byfield and we ask that you put it on display. Please contact Ian if you need another copy.

We have started charging hirers for the promotion on our Foyer TV screen. Our local musical theatre company hirers benefit from advertising on our garden V Board. In most cases we design the A0 poster for them based on their artwork.

Several non-committee members work purely in the background. Our thanks to photographers Chris Freeman and Dave (RedShed9); Richard Taylor programme designer and Carol Longbottom Press officer.

Social media has continued to be an important tool to promote shows, through our Social Media Manager Sharon Old. The Board have approved our social media Policy and the etiquette and principles for our new Whatsapp Communities tool. Whatsapp Communities enables us to create tailored sub-groups for each team and for each show as well as for disseminating general information and chat.

Whilst we are moving towards more information being distributed by email and other electronic means, we still provide paper versions where it's more convenient for our members.

Martyn Stead has been ensuring our website is up to date with the myriad of shows, events and news items. Please contact [martyn@halifaxplayhouse.org.uk](mailto:martyn@halifaxplayhouse.org.uk) if you spot any typos or have a query.

Looking ahead, we are aiming to provide more video content for our social media outlets, both promoting our plays and our Theatre.

## **Finances**

### **Ian Henderson**

To be distributed at the AGM.

## **Hospitality**

### **Polly Bryan**

Another busy year has rolled around. Let me begin by thanking Mike Bellinie and Mel Murray for their tireless commitment to running the rotas for Front of House Managers and the Kiosk respectively. I managed at last to lighten Mel's load, she has up till recently operated the coffee rota, by purchasing a hot drinks vending machine. We used it for the first time during the run of Ghost Train. It proved to be very popular despite the price increase! We can now offer a choice of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate.

I have also replaced the cupboard in the Kiosk with a more suitable one. The original was irreparably damaged during a break-in nearly two years ago; its replacement proved unsuitable (the doors got in the way), so we now have a better more fit for purpose cupboard with wrap around doors.

A big thank you to everyone who runs the Kiosk or manages Front of house during our shows, you are all superstars!

By the time of the AGM, the foyer and stairs will have been recarpeted.

## **Bar Chairman**

### **Ian Byfield**

With a vast majority of the bar refurbishment completed by the 2024 AGM, this year has seen a continuation of the project, notably the fitting of new laminate flooring, the replacement of the stage curtains, and the provision of new carpet on the stage, steps and landing.

Also, the bar entry wall has been tanked to alleviate ingress – during which process an old window was uncovered halfway up the wall, essentially underground. No current member was able to explain this – but Phyllis Bentley's history of Halifax Thespians does mention the fact that when we bought the building it "had a basement with windows". Speculation is that

the level of the ground outside was raised to provide a better entry into that part of the building, during the conversion in the late 1940s.

On the “other” side of the bar we had our highest ever turnover, and profit margins also increased. Card sales still represent more than 70% of sales overall, and we will continue to offer cash or card sales for most events. The vast majority of our stock is now delivered, but some favourites not on our preferred wholesaler’s menu have still to be picked up from an alternative supplier.

In response to a demand for more no-alcohol products, now have Erdinger zero, Peroni zero and Guinness zero. We have added a superior lemonade as a mixer, and our cider range includes Thatcher’s Gold and two versions of Kopparberg fruit ciders.

A small number of members have joined the regular bar staff, and others have “tried their hand” occasionally. More bar staff would be welcomed to this enjoyable task, without needing to make massive regular commitments to serve. Full training and continuing support are always given.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to a very successful year in the Studio Bar.

## **Buildings Manager**

**Nick Starwind**

To be distributed at the AGM.

## PRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### **THE BENCH**

Playwright	Keir McAllister
Director	Damian Shalks
Dates	Tuesday 27th to Saturday 31st August 2024
Licence	Josef Weinberger Limited

### **CAST**

Sandy	Keith Royston
Joe	Sinaan Khan

### **CREW**

Stage Manager	Alistair Cheetham
Set Designer	Damian Shalks
Set Builders	Gerard Marescaux
	Sharon Old
Lighting Designer	Gerard Marescaux
Lighting Operator	Sharon Old
Sound Designer	Sharon Old
Sound Operator	Sharon Old
Properties Coordinator	Janet Clegg
Properties Assistants	Sue Illingworth
	Sharon Old
Prompters	Margaret Robinson
	Alan Troake
Poster Designer	Nigel Town
Cast Photographer	Chris Freeman
Programme Designer	Richard Taylor
Publicity Manager	Chris Baldock

## **MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS**

Playwright	Ron Hutchinson
Director	Stephen Tetlow
Dates	Tuesday 24th to Saturday 28th September 2024
Licence	Concord Theatricals

### **CAST**

David O Selznick	Sam Brunelle
Victor Fleming	Michael McSkeane
Ben Hecht	Nick Turner
Miss Poppenguhl	Anna Tiffany

### **CREW**

Stage Manager	Jeanette Kendall
Set Designer	Stephen Tetlow
Set Builders and Painters	The A-Team
Lighting Designers	Gerard Marescaux
	Stephen Tetlow
Lighting Operator	Michael West
Sound Designer	Keith Royston
Sound Operator	Keith Royston
Properties Coordinator	Janet Clegg
Properties Assistant	Sue Illingworth
Wardrobe Team	Norma Bateman
	Cathy Page
Prompters	Lex Holland
	Margaret Robinson
Poster Designer	Stephen Tetlow
Photographer	Chris Freeman
Programme Designer	Richard Taylor
Publicity Manager	Chris Baldock

## **THE WAY OLD FRIENDS DO**

Playwright	Ian Hallard
Director	Sharon Old
Dates	Tuesday 22nd to Saturday 26th October 2024
Licence	Nick Hern Books

### **CAST**

Peter	Alistair Cheetham
Edward	Gerard Marescaux
Jodie	Ella-Rose Muff
Sally	Narinder Uppal
Mrs Campbell	Polly Bryan
Christian	Christopher Paul Greenwood
Nan	Marian Feather
DJ	Carole J Greenwood

### **CREW**

Stage Manager	Sharon Old
Set Designers	Sharon Old
	Cast
Set Builder	Christopher Greenwood
Set Dresser	Sharon Old
Lighting Designer	Gerard Marescaux
Lighting Operator	Jeanette Kendall
Sound Designer and Operator	Sharon Old
Properties Team	Sharon Old
	Cast
	Crew
Wardrobe Team	Cathy Page
	Sharon Old
	Cast
Disco Angels	Alexis Holland
	Janet Muff
Poster Designer	Sharon Old
Original Music Composer	Martin Welsh
Photographer	Redshed9
Programme Designer	Richard Taylor
Publicity Manager	Chris Baldock

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Thank you to Ian Byfield for providing instruments.



## **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**

Playwright	Kenneth Grahame
Director	Nick Starwind
Dates	Wednesday 11th to Sunday 15th December 2024
Licence	Nick Hern Books

### **CAST**

Toad	Fiona Taylor
Ratty	Kate Shackleton
Mole	Xander Brightside
Badger	Richard Ward
Chief Weasel, Horse, Hedgehogs	Nick Starwind
Rabbit, Clark, Engine Driver,	
Wild Wooder	Andrew Naylor
Otter, Jailer's Daughter	Cait Jennings
Washerwoman, Bargee,	
Wild Wooder	Louise Langford
Person One, Judge, Guard,	
Wild Wooder	Stephen Kell
Person Two	Marian Feather

### **CREW**

Stage Manager	Jeanette Kendall
Set Designers	Leighton Hirst Nick Starwind
Set Builders and Painters	Carl Baldwin Roy Greenwood Leighton Hirst Chris Horn Stephen Kell Daniel Millikin Graham Rowntree Nick Starwind
Lighting Designers	Karl Eaton Nick Starwind
Lighting Operators	Karl Eaton Michael West
Sound Designer	Nick Starwind
Sound Operators	Maurice Claypole Nick Turner
Properties Coordinator	Janet Clegg
Properties Assistants	Kathryn Beverley Helen Forsyth Carole J Greenwood The Cast
Wardrobe Team	Norma Bateman Cathy Page
Furniture Manager	Paul Wadsworth
Prompters	Georgia Mitchell

Poster Designer  
Photographers

Programme Designer  
Publicity Manager

Margaret Robinson  
Nick Starwind  
Chris Freeman  
Nick Starwind  
Richard Taylor  
Chris Baldock

## **BLACKADDER GOES FORTH**

Writers	Ben Elton and Richard Curtis
Adapter	Alistair Cheetham
Director	Alistair Cheetham
Dates	Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd March 2025

### **CAST**

Captain Edmund Blackadder	Chad Bunney
Private S. Baldrick	Sinaan Khan
Lt. The Hon. George Colthurst	
St Barleigh	Patrick Foster
Captain Kevin Darling	Alan Cunnington
General Sir Anthony Cecil	
Hogmanay Melchett	Andrew Ingham
Squadron Commander, the Lord	
Flashheart	Xander Bryan
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig	Richard Ward
Driver 'Bob' Parkhurst	Claire Atkins
Baron von Richthoven	Michael McSkeane
Corporal Perkins	Richard Ward
Corporal Jones	Rob Billson
Private Fraser	Louise Langford
Private Robinson	Prav Makh
Private Tipperwick	Bousso Ndiaye

### **CREW**

Stage Manager	Jeanette Kendall
Set Designer	Alistair Cheetham
Set Builders and Painters	Roy Greenwood
	Tony Habergham
	Rhys Hammond-Booth
	Chris Horn
	Stephen Kell
	Prav Makh
	Gerard Marescaux
	Amy Neill
	Sharon Old
	Graham Rowntree
	Nick Starwind
Lighting Designer	Gerard Marescaux
Lighting Operator	Gerard Marescaux
Sound Designer	Alistair Cheetham
Sound Operator	Sharon Old
Properties Coordinator	Janet Clegg
Properties Assistants	Tony Habergham
	Sharon Old
Wardrobe Coordinator	Sharon Old
Furniture Manager	Alistair Cheetham
Poster Designer	Alistair Cheetham

Photographer  
Programme Designer  
Publicity Manager

Redshed9  
Richard Taylor  
Chris Baldock

**MAGGIE MAY**

Playwright

Director

Dates

Licence

Frances Poet

Jeanette Kendall

Tuesday 22nd to Saturday 26th April 2025

Concord Theatricals

**CAST**

Maggie Morris (May)

Gordon Morris

Michael Morris

Claire

Jo Stark

Rebecca Ford

Roy Greenwood

Chris Greenwood

Claire Atkinson

Kate Shackleton

**CREW**

Stage Manager

Set Designer

Set Builders

Lighting Designer

Lighting Operator

Lighting Rigger

Sound Designer

Sound Operator

Properties Coordinator

Properties Team

Furniture Coordinator

Wardrobe Team

Poster Designers

Photographer

Programme Designer

Publicity Manager

Jeanette Kendall

Jeanette Kendall

Janet Clegg

Jeanette Kendall

Jeanette Kendall

Jeanette Kendall

Gerard Marescaux

Keith Royston

Keith Royston

Janet Clegg

Tony Habbergham

Atticus Old

Paul Greenwood

Norma Bateman

The Cast

Jeanette Kendall

Sharon Old

RedShed9

Richard Taylor

Chris Baldock

## **THE GHOST TRAIN**

Playwright	Arnold Ridley
Director	Ian Byfield
Dates	Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th May 2025
Licence	Concord Theatricals

### **CAST (in order of appearance)**

Saul Hodgkin	Leighton Hirst
Elsie Winthrop	Heather Garside
Richard Winthrop	Tom McFadden
Charles Murdock	Sam Longman
Peggy Murdock	Emma Johnson
Miss Bourne	Gilly Walker
Teddie Deakin	Prav Makh
Julia Price	Polly Bryan
John Sterling	Mark McKeever

### **CREW**

Stage Manager	Gerard Marescaux
Set Designer	Leighton Hirst
Set Builders	Roy Greenwood
	Tony Habergam
	Leighton Hirst
	Chris Horn
	Emma Johnson
	Stevie Johnson
	Steve Kell
	Prav Makh
	Gerard Marescaux
	Samuel Longman
	Graham Rowntree
Lighting Designer	Karl Eaton
Lighting Operator	Karl Eaton
Lighting Rigger	Gerard Marescaux
Sound Designer	Xander Bryan
Sound Operator	Andrew Naylor
Properties Coordinator	Janet Clegg
Properties Team	Tony Habergam
	Leighton Hirst
	Sharon Old
Wardrobe Team	Norma Bateman
	Cathy Page
Prompter	Gerard Marescaux
Poster Designers	Ian Byfield
	Sharon Old
	Nigel Town
Photographer	RedShed9
Programme Designer	Richard Taylor
Publicity Manager	Chris Baldock

Incidental and curtain music composed / arranged by Ian Byfield.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Great Western Railway locomotive picture Andrew P M Wright.

**HALIFAX THESPIANS 2025**

<b>President</b>	<b>Polly Bryan</b>	<b>Presidents</b>	<b>Chairmen</b>
<b>Life Vice Presidents</b>			
Mrs O. Bedford	Mr Eric Pratt	Clifford Ramsden (1927-28)	L. J. Hines (1927)
Mrs Anne Brook	Mrs Marion Reynolds	Frank Lee (1929-34)	James W. Sutcliffe (1928-34)
Mr John Brook	Mrs Janet Rhodes	James W. Sutcliffe (1935-44)	Phillip Starke-Jones (1935-38)
Mr David Gilchrist	Mrs Pauline Robinson	Phyllis Bentley (1945-49)	and again (1943-49)
Mrs Patricia Knight	Mrs Jean Stopford	and again (1955-5)	Phyllis Bentley (1939-42)
Mrs Margot Lawson	Mr Phillip Waldron	Phillip Starke-Jones (1950-54)	F.C.C. Clark (1950-63)
Mrs Jeanne O'Rourke		Geoffrey Hyman (1966-75)	Percy Marks (1964-74)
		John Brook (1975-83)	John Brook and
<b>Officers</b>		Marion Reynolds (1983-2001)	John Robinson (1974)
Chairman: Ged Marescaux		Janet Rhodes (2001-06)	John Robinson (1975-79)
Treasurer: Ian Henderson		Jeanne O'Rourke (2007-2016)	Douglas Turner (1980-02)
Secretary: Alexis Holland		Leighton Hirst (2016-2020)	Peter Thurman (2002-2010)
		Alan Stockdill (2020-2024)	Phillip Waldron (2010-13)
		Polly Bryan (2024-	Peter Thurman (2013-2016)
			Keith Royston (2016-2024)
			Ged Marescaux (2024-
<b>Directors</b>		<b>Secretaries</b>	
Chris Baldock		Arthur Coe (1927)	
Jeanette Kendall		Frank Holloway (1931-32)	
Ian Byfield		Douglas Robinson (1932-36)	<b>Treasurers</b>
Amy Neill		Barbara Starke-Jones (1937-38)	E. S. Latchmore (1927-35)
Paul Wadsworth		Louis Emmerson (1939-46)	B. L. Sutcliffe (1936)
Polly Bryan		Tom Green (1947-48)	H. T. Lea (1937-38)
Chris Horn		Leslie F. T. Hull (1949-50)	John Clay (1940-54)
Kirsty O'Brien		Victor Doodson (1951)	Frank S. Bentley (1955-56)
		Flo Moseley (1952-65)	T. V. Laycock (1956-63)
<b>Officials 2024-2025</b>		Stanley Williams (1965-83)	F. M. Wilson (1964-68)
Business Manager:	Julie Johnston	Mary Armitage (1983-92)	C. Haigh (1968-71)
Buildings Manager:	Nick Starwind	Judith Priestley (1992-2005)	L. J. O'Keefe (1972)
Stage Director:	Ged Marescaux	Andrew Stopford (2006-11)	Margaret Wakefield (1973-79)
Play Selection Chair:	Sharon Old	Ian Byfield (2011-15)	David Gilchrist (1980-95)
Casting Chair:	Julie Johnston	Jean Stopford (2015-2017)	Jean Stopford (1995-2010)
Hospitality Manager:	Polly Bryan	Guy Liddell (2017-2020)	Martin Straw (2010 - 2017)
Little Theatre Guild Rep:	Julie Johnston	Cait Jennings (2020-2021)	Ian Henderson (2017 -
Health & Safety Officer:	Sharon Old	Jeanette Kendall (2021-24)	
Publicity Manager:	Chris Baldock		
Bar Manager:	Ian Byfield		