

PROMPTER

Workington Playgoers - Bringing Amateur Theatre to Cumbria for 87 Years

Editor of the Prompter
November 2022
Jenni Rushton

December Events in the Theatre Royal

Blackadder the Third

**Tuesday 6th -
Saturday 10th
December
7.30pm Start**

**Mrs Miggins Christmas
Hamper Raffle. £2 a ticket
Full of Christmas Goodies**

Ghost Stories for Christmas

**Friday 16th December
7.30pm Start**

**Mulled Wine and a
Homemade Mince Pie
included in the ticket**

Christmas Coffee Morning

**Saturday 17th
10.00am - 12 Noon**



For our Christmas show, James Last and Morgan Sweeney have adapted three of the funniest episodes from the much-loved TV series.

In 'Sense and Senility', the Prince employs two aging actors to advise him on public speaking.

In 'Nob and Nobility', Blackadder gets entangled in the French Revolution and scoffs at the heroic Scarlet Pimpernel.

And in 'Duel and Duality', Blackadder finds himself having to fight the Duke of Wellington, with some help from his mad Scottish cousin MacAdder.
www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk/blackadder-the-third/

Mrs Miggins bosses the poor kitchen maids as she makes her pies in the well appointed kitchen



The Prince enjoys the fare of Wordsworth House in the Dining Room



**Blackadder tries to work out how much the trip is costing .
Baldrick is of no help what so ever!**



Prince Regent and his Entourage visit Wordsworth House in Cumberland

This September Jenni, our Publicity and Marketing Director, thought it would be great fun for members of the the cast of *Blackadder Three* to visit a Georgian property for an early photo shoot. As she lives in Cockermouth, and was volunteer for a short time, she asked at Wordsworth House and Gardens if we would be welcome. Zoe Gilbert (*Visitor Experience and Operations Manager Wordsworth House and Garden*) and Rachel Painter were very enthusiastic about the whole idea and thought it would be great fun too! Chris Lewis agreed to take the photographs.

With Helen Earle, our Wardrobe Manger on board they discussed how they would dress the cast members. Helen had started to plan the costumes for the production but as it was only September she wasn't in a position to fully dress them. Jenni volunteered to contact the Kirkgate Centre and The Theatre By The Lake as she knew these places had Georgian costumes. Like Wordsworth House they were enthusiastic to help.

Karen Thompson, the director of *Blackadder Three* suggested we use the four principal members of cast. Blackadder played by Craig Norendal, Baldrick, reprised by, Andy Greenwood, Prince Regent played by Marc Baille and Mrs Miggins played by Alison Shutt.

The Prince and Blackadder enjoy a game of cards in the Drawing Room



Mrs Miggins serenades them on the harpsichord



Baldrick enjoys the company of the maids in the kitchen



Blackadder puts his feet up after the Prince goes to bed



Jenni spent two enjoyable afternoons with Win and Dave Cornwall from the from the Kirkgate Centre, looking through their extensive collection of Georgian Fair costumes.

Another morning Helen and her spent time with Gemma Reeve Wardrobe Supervisor from the Theatre By The Lake, looking through their collection of Georgian costumes. In this extensive Wardrobe Department Helen and Jenni were like kids in a sweet shop! "We didn't know where to look!" Jenni said. They were delighted with Gemma's suggestions and soon found what they were looking for.

With the help of these generous people, Helen and Jenni managed to dress the four of them. Neither organisation wanted hire fees from Playgoers and were prepared to let us keep the costumes on loan until after the production in December.

Jenni visited Wordsworth House a couple of times to look for suitable photo opportunities. The only place they were asked not to take photos was in John Wordsworth Office. While she was there the house and garden staff were very exuberant about the whole idea and before she knew it she had four volunteers to be maids and a gardener. "I had initially thought it would make for more interesting photographs with more people," said Jenni. Wordsworth House had costumes the maids could use and the Kirkgate Centre provided mop caps, aprons and fichus.

Helen and Jenni had the cast for one night only, at the theatre, to dress them. Bob Pritchard (Past Organiser of the Georgian Fair) gave Helen his Georgian Costume and it suited the character of Blackadder beautifully. Helen put together Baldrick's costume from Playgoers' wardrobe. Marc (Prince Regent) and Alison (Mrs Miggins) looked resplendent in their respective clothes. They were ready for the shoot the next evening!

Wordsworth House staff were so helpful and cooperative and gave up space for the actors to change. Everybody enjoyed getting dressed. It was the most pleasant photo shoot and Jenni has included some of the photographs for you to enjoy.

"An exceptional, exciting collaboration between Wordsworth House and Gardens, the Kirkgate Centre , Theatre By the Lake and Workington Playgoers," said Jenni

Look out soon for more photographs of the Prince Regent's visit to Cumberland on Wordsworth House's and Playgoers' Facebook pages!

\$

Cast of *Blackadder Three*

Sense and Senility

Craig Norendal - Blackadder
Andy Greenwood - Baldrick
Marc Baillie - Prince Regent
Alison Shutt - Mrs Miggins
Thom Robb - Mossop
Owen Evans - Keanrick
Matt Poynton - Guard
Ivan Middleton - Anarchist

Nob and Nobility

Craig Norendal - Blackadder
Andy Greenwood - Baldrick
Marc Baillie - Prince Regent
Alison Shutt - Mrs Miggins
Thom Robb - Smedley/
Guillotine
Owen Evans - Topper/
FrouFrou
Matt Poynton - Frenchman
Ivan Middleton - Footman
Stewart Grant - Ambassador

Duel and Duality

Craig Norendal - Blackadder
Andy Greenwood - Baldrick
Marc Baillie - Prince Regent
Alison Shutt - Mrs Miggins
Owen Evans - McAdder
Matt Poynton - George III
Ivan Middleton - Servant
Stewart Grant - Wellington



***Blackadder Three* Photoshoot
at Wordsworth House and Gardens
Photographs - Chris Lewis**

WELCOME to new and returning members!
They have joined the cast or stage crew of

Blackadder Three

Owen Evans - actor
Ivan Middleton - actor
Luke Norendal - stage crew
Matt Poynton - actor
Thom Robb - actor
Daniel Ruanaidh - stage crew
Karen Thompson - Directing for the first
time for Playgoers

**Friday 16th
December**

7.30pm



**The Cast
telling Ghost Stories**



**Becky Wilson
Director**



Tony Parker



Jenni Rushton

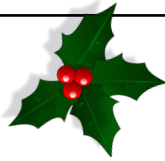


Geoffrey Hall

**Jane Dickens, *The Lady*, from
Lakeland Hauntings will entertain
us with her Fireside Tales**



**Jane, her parents Ann and Ron, her two
sisters Jill and Alison were all members of
Workington Playgoers and made an
enormous contribution to the Club's
success and excellent reputation**



**Anne Bowmer our Chair is inviting
all members of Playgoers to buy a
ticket and attend the production of
Ghost Stories for Christmas**

**Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a
mince pie in each others company**

**Wish each other a Merry Christmas
and a**

Happy and Prosperous New Year!



**MEMBERS
NIGHT
10TH
NOVEMBER
A READING
TO CAST**

**MURDER ON THE
NILE
MARCH**

Wednesday 8th -
Saturday 11th

Director to be
Announced

**MEMBERS
NIGHT
TBA
A READING
TO CAST**

**OFFICE SUITE
JUNE**

Wednesday 8th -
Saturday 11th

Director to be
Announced

MURDER ON THE NILE

**Cast - all big parts
unless otherwise stated.**

Steward - Male. Age not specified. Described as 'Nubian' (Arabic). Not many lines but lots of entrances and exits.

Miss ffoliot ffoulkes - 60ish - snobbish & bad tempered.

Christina Grant - niece of the above. Sensible

Louise - Female, French Maid. Age not specified. Young.

Smith - youngish man - described as 'dirty looking' whose voice belies his appearance.

Dr Bessner - middle aged -foreign

Kay Mostyn - beautiful young woman

Simon Mostyn - husband of the above

Canon Pennefather - the 'Poirot' character. Big part. Described as middle aged cleric - large and imposing.

Jacqueline de Severac - youngish woman, previously Simon's girlfriend! Described as cool, composed and looks quietly amused by life.

McNaught/Bead Sellers - Male, small parts

OFFICE SUITE

Cast - all big parts

Green Forms

Doris Rutter - unmarried lady. Looks after her aged mother

Doreen Bidmead - married lady

Mr. Frank Lomax - office messenger, has only one arm

Boswell - another messenger, non speaking

Ms Dorothy Binns - only her voice is heard

A Visit from Miss Prothero

Mr. Dodsworth - a man in his sixties, retired

Miss Prothero - a woman, middle aged

**MEMBERS
NIGHT
TBA
A READING
TO CAST**

**FOUR
WEDDINGS AND
AN ELVIS
SEPTEMBER**
Wednesday 6th -
Saturday 9th

Director to be
Announced

**MEMBERS
NIGHT
TBA
A READING
TO CAST**

**LAST OF THE
SUMMER WINE
DECEMBER**
Wednesday 6th -
Saturday 10th

Director to be
Announced

**FOUR WEDDINGS AND
AN ELVIS**

Cast - Sandy is a big part. The others are fairly equal.
Set in a Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas

The Payback

Bev- the angry bride
Stan - the angry groom
Sandy - the wedding chapel owner

The Comeback

Vanessa - the bride, a fading actress
Bryce - the groom, a fading actor
Lou - the minister, 70s
Sandy

The Real Thing

Fiona - the bride, tough ex con
Marvin - the groom, gentle postal worker
Fist - scary friend
Sandy

The Epilogue

All characters from the previous scenes will appear in this scene. The exception is **Stan** His character will not appear , but the actor who played him will appear as the **Producer** in the scene. **Ken** will also make a brief appearance.

**LAST OF THE SUMMER
WINE**

Set in Yorkshire in Compo's living room. Needs high energy performances running at a quick pace, enabling the cast to milk the many gags, one-liners and innuendos written by Roy Clarke

Clegg - Old man, gentle, sardonic, anxiety-ridden

Foggy - Old man, been in the army

Compo - Old man, larger than life

Nora Batty - Old woman, battle-axe

Constance - Nora's niece, youngish

Gifford Bewmont - special constable, Constance's fiancée, youngish

Constance and Gifford have been engaged for 14 years

Flash - the incursion of a comedy archetype in the shape of a rain-coated flasher who is attempting to publicise his patented device for obtaining inside leg measurements

MEMBERSHIP Subscription for 2023



At the AGM this year there was a proposal to increase our membership subscription to £30 - it was unanimously carried. Subs. have been £20 for many years and after a short discussion it was decided to ask members, next May 31st, for the increase. Some members actually gave Gilda an extra £10 on the night and several more have paid the extra since.

If you pay by Standing Order it would be helpful if you could fill in a new one for next year. Some members have filled in Gift Aid Declaration Forms too. Filling in one of these gives the theatre much needed revenue.

For Standing Order and Gift Aid Declaration Forms see page 9.

Ticket Prices 2023

Council has made the difficult decision to increase the price of our tickets and no longer offer concession tickets. All tickets will be £14.

This decision has not been made lightly but has been necessary due to the rise in energy, insurance and the escalating maintenance costs of keeping open to the public this beautiful Victorian theatre.

There will be a chance to buy a Season Ticket - four productions for £48.
Group Bookings of 10 will receive 1 free ticket.

If you enjoy rehearsing and performing in our theatre, Council is asking every member to sell as many tickets as they can for all events at the Theatre Royal.

New Kind of Events at the Theatre Royal

Council would like to hear from members about the kinds of shows, other than our own productions, they would like to see performed in the Theatre Royal!

What kind of events would you be happy to buy a ticket for?

Open Mic Nights? Poetry Evenings?
Music Events?



Gift Aid Declaration

Workington Playgoers' Registered Charity No 1138473

I (FULL NAME) _____

Address _____

want the Workington Playgoers Club to treat all donations I have made in the past and all future donations I make from the date of declaration (until I notify you otherwise) as Gift Aid Donations.

Signature _____

Date **1st. June 2022**

NOTES

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying Workington Playgoers Club.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
3. If your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration. (see note 1)
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate, you can claim further tax relief in your self-assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please ask the charity treasurer or ask your local Tax Office for leaflet IR65.
6. Please notify the club if you change your address.

Return to:- **Treasurer Gilda Wells, Theatre Royal, Washington Street, Workington CA14 3AW**

finance@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk



Standing Order Mandate

N.B. PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR BANK

To _____ Bank plc _____ Branch

Please pay for credit to the account in the name of

Workington Playgoers

At the Bank of:- **HSBC plc Workington**

Sort Code:- **40 - 47-20**

Account No:- **51443755**

The sum of £30 for full membership
on **1st. June 2023** and annually thereafter.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

A/c No _____

Please cancel any previous Standing Order in favour of A/c 51443755

N.B. PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR BANK

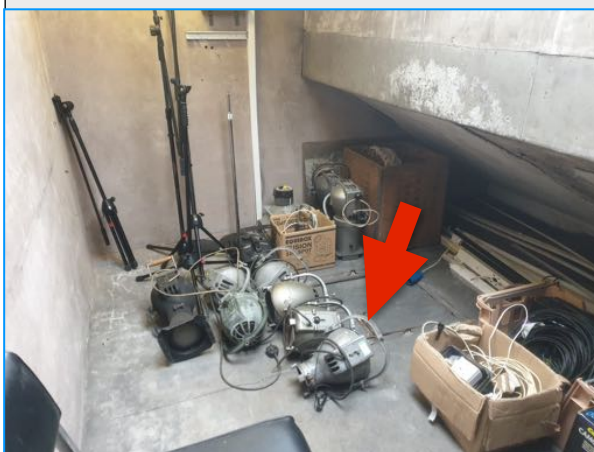
Anne, Gilda and Jenni have started the job of clearing out the original Lighting & Sound Box, to make way for a space to keep the scripts, the Archive and the Accounts. Don't know where it is? It is above the present Lighting and Sound Box. Stand on the stage and look up to towards the Lighting and Sound Box and keep on going up!



The present Lighting and Sound Box, when Jenni first joined in 1977, used to be where Playgoers kept their 'Wardrobe' - all of it! "It was all kept in several wicker baskets!" explained Jenni. This remained the 'wardrobe dept' until the properties in Wilson Street were bought and became part of the Theatre Royal.

It has been a store for old lights etc. for years. Now its time to make it a pleasant place to work.

We wondered if anyone had a piece of carpet that would fit in this space? Please get in touch if you have.



Above are photographs of another smaller room off the original Lighting & Sound Box. In this room there is a trap door that opens up to show a ladder, which goes straight down to the landing beside the doors to the Circle. Jenni remembers climbing up and down this ladder many times when she sat in the box with the Stockdales. Ken and Hazel Stockdale were long standing members of Playgoers. Ken, was Stage Director for years and he built some incredible beautiful, complicated sets over the years. Many of his sets were applauded as the curtain rose!

Jenni Rushton

“I would stand in the Wings terrified...”

Derek Jacobi has announced his retirement from the stage, revealing he is no longer "comfortable" in theatre and that he will focus on film and TV.

The actor, 83, last appeared on stage in a West End production of Romeo and Juliet, directed by Kenneth Branagh, in which he played Mercutio. He said he would now be focusing on film and television.

Speaking to the Guardian, Jacobi said: “Towards the end, I would stand in the wings, terrified – really frightened of going on. And that had been my life, you know. I suddenly got nervous. I wasn’t in control. And I thought: ‘No. I can’t do my best like that’, and an audience would pick up on it immediately.”

He added: “I’ve got a feeling I won’t be on stage again. It’s not stage fright exactly. But I’m not comfortable like I used to be. And it’s far easier to do TV and films. They throw money at you for very little and you get to do it until you do it right.”

He described it as "regretful" that he would not be on stage again.

"I do miss it. Whatever ‘it’ was, it has faded," he said.

Source The Guardian

What might they/we say about our productions?

5 – A Brilliant Show

This is a production that we would recommend to anyone who visits our site. Outstanding value for money.

4 – A Great Show

There is no doubt in our minds that you would enjoy this production. It’s not quite perfect but we could easily recommend this to our readers and be sure that you would have a great night in the theatre. Great value for money.

3 – A Good Show

Worth seeing purely because it’s live theatre. If a show falls anywhere within or above this rating you can be assured of a great night in the theatre. Lives up to expectations.

2 – A Below Average Production

Not as good as it should be. There are some interesting moments but it’s not quite up to scratch. Not great value for money.

1 – A Poor Production

Not something that we’d recommend. Could do better is an understatement.

0 – Don’t Bother

There are far better shows out there and you shouldn’t waste your time on this one. You’ve been warned.

HISTORICAL NOTE

On one or two occasions in the past we have issued 6 star ratings for productions we found to be exceptional. These ratings are no longer being issued.

Source: British Theatre.com

Golden Jubilee Club

Our Golden Jubilee Draw has been paying out cash prizes since 1985 .

There are only 365 numbers available. With a small lottery of only 365 numbers, there’s a very high chance of winning, so join this year.

Remember, you have to be in to win!

For only £12 a year, you could win prizes worth up to £1000!

There are 35+ numbers available for 2023
Visit www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk/golden-jubilee-fund-2/ for more details.

Dates for Yours Diary 2023



January 2023

Coffee Morning on Saturday 28th
Members Night TBA
**Billy Walker with Live Band 7th
**Private Film Event 8th

February 2023

Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th
Members Night TBA

March 2023

*Murder on the Nile
by Agatha Christie
Wednesday 8th - Saturday 11th
Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th
Members Night TBA

April 2023

Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th
Members Night TBA
**McDougalls Magic Castle 14th

May 2023

Coffee Morning on Saturday 27th
Members Night TBA

June 2023

*Office Suite
by Alan Bennett
Wednesday 8th - Saturday 11th
Coffee Morning on Saturday 28th
Members Night TBA

*Workington Playgoers
Production
** Theatre Royal Hire

Dates for Yours Diary 2023



July 2023

Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th
Members Night TBA
**Stagecoach Summer Project
28th

August 2023

Coffee Morning on Saturday 26th
Members Night TBA

September 2023

*Four Weddings and an Elvis
by Nancy Frick
Wednesday 6th - Saturday 9th
Coffee Morning on Saturday 30th
Members Night TBA

October 2023

Coffee Morning on Saturday 28th
Members Night TBA
**McDougalls Space Adventure 21st

November 2023

Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th
Members Night TBA

December 2023

*Last of the Summer Wine
by Roy Clarke
Wednesday 6th - Saturday 10th
Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th
Members Night TBA

* Workington Playgoers
Production
** Theatre Royal Hire