

PROMPTER

Workington Playgoers - Bringing Amateur Theatre to Cumbria for 87 Years

Editors of the Prompter
September 2022 are
Anne Bowmer and
Jenni Rushton

SEPTEMBER 2022 EVENTS IN THE THEATRE ROYAL

.....
**AGM 2022 was
on Tuesday 6th
September 2022
7.30pm in the
Theatre Royal**
.....

**Rules for Living
13th - 17th
September 2022
Book your
tickets and also
sell them to
friends & family**
.....

Message from our Chair woman Anne Bowmer



Firstly, I would like to thank all members, for their ongoing support. It is because of your efforts that we are able to continue using the theatre as our home. Playgoers have been performing plays in the theatre since 1935, a heritage to be proud of. In 1960, with a membership of 400 Playgoers' bought the theatre outright and have successfully run the theatre ever since.

We are in the midst of unprecedented times, with economical and geopolitical uncertainty, resulting in cost increases that, like you, have had an impact on our theatre. Increases in insurances, energy, and maintenance whilst audiences have reduced, present an enormous challenge ahead. To address this challenge, I believe we need to do two things, **Increase our Audiences and Reduce Costs**

We had a really positive discussion with members at the AGM, thank you to all who attended, we shared ideas and options.

Increase audiences

2023 Season's plays are well known (More details later in the Prompter) and are aimed at attracting bigger audiences. Our audience participation averages at less than 25% of our maximum capacity for our own productions. In order to pay for the yearly running costs of the theatre we would need to increase this to 90% every night, for every show.

Message continued

We are able to bring in welcome income through hiring the theatre to other organisations but this does require support from our members. Thank you to everyone who gives their time freely to support these events.

What can you do to help? Tell everyone you know about our productions. Share the Facebook posts and encourage your friends and family to come along. Pick up a poster and ask if it can be displayed somewhere you see posters displayed. If you can spare time to help out on front of house during our productions please do.

Reduce Costs

Many running costs are fixed but there are some steps we can all take to reduce them. Please remember to switch the lights off. Every show needs an agreed budget. It is quite expensive to hire costumes and we don't want to buy props if we can borrow them from somewhere. We are delighted that Sarah Delorme is going to take over as props manager so in the future will Directors please consult Sarah for props for your productions. We still have Golden Jubilee numbers available please take one, and tell your family and friends.

A decision has been made to reduce the number of nights we put on the productions next season. We are dropping from 5 to 4 nights. This will save on licensing costs, heating and lighting and help us focus on marketing for maximum audiences for the 4 nights.

Membership costs

A unanimous vote to increase membership fees was carried at the AGM. The membership fee has remained constant, at £20 for several years. It was agreed that the membership cost will increase to £30 per year from 1st June 2023. Anyone who would like to contribute an additional £10 for this year would be most welcome. The majority of people attending the AGM gave an additional £10 there and then. This is most generous.

Your elected members remain unchanged but we have not filled the post of Secretary, so please, if anyone can commit to this post then get in touch.

Other key roles are listed below, if you are interested in any of these roles then email playgoersworkington@gmail.com.



Anne would be very happy for someone to take over as Membership Secretary and the sending out of the Mailchimp E Blasts.



Jenni would be interested in hearing from anyone who would be like to be responsible for editing The Prompter.



Sarah would be extremely happy to hear from members who would like to be part of the Props Committee which she now leads.

Role (Council)	Name	Role	Name
Chairwoman	Anne Bowmer	Assistant Treasurer	Judith Teasdale
Company Secretary	Geoffrey Hall	Company Auditor	Saint & Co
Treasurer	Gilda Wells	Membership Secretary	Anne Bowmer
Secretary	Vacant	Props Manager	Sarah Delorme
Productions Director	Jane Douglas	Wardrobe Manager	Helen Earl
Publicity & Marketing Director	Jenni Rushton	Maintenance Manager	Tony Magorrian
Technical Director	Scott Ashton	Front of House Manager	Pam Hayes
LTG Representative	Tony Parker	Licensed Bar Managers	Geoffrey Hall & Pam Hayes
President	Pat Brinicombe	Bar Stock	Anne Bowmer
Facebook	Jenni Rushton	Box Office Set up	Anne Bowmer
Instagram	Becky Wilson	Web page	Jenni Rushton
Mailchimp	Anne Bowmer	Film Group Director	Morgan Sweeney
Prompter Editor	Jenni Rushton		

Phone call - All members will be receiving a phone call from myself or Gilda to relay key updates and find out if you are receiving communications about the theatre. It would be useful to understand if you want to act next season and if there are any other areas of interest for you.

Until then please support our next production *Rules for Living* see you there!

Calling All Actors in the club



Cast so far

Blackadder-Craig Norendal



Prince-Marc Baillie



Baldrick -Andy Greenwood



Mrs Miggins-Alison Shutt



Duke of Wellington - Stewart Grant



Anarchist already taken I'm afraid! - new member Ivan Middleton

Director Karen Thompson



We still have some very interesting parts to cast in our Christmas production of Blackadder 3.

6th - 10th December 2022

There is an opportunity to double up parts so you have the chance to wear two great costumes!!

The Thespians

(Can be male or female)

KEANRICK & MOSSOP

Blackadder's fearsome Scottish cousin MacADDER

An extremely irritating friend of Blackadder

LORD TOPPER

KING GEORGE III

Please email me asap if you would like to be part of this fun production or would like more information

**info@ theatre-royal-workington.co.uk
Jane Douglas, Productions Director**

This is an amateur production based on the original BBC television series

There was a BLACKADDER 3 Pre production Photoshoot, organised by Publicity, at WORDSWORTH HOUSE on Thursday 8th September. Several costumes were kindly loaned to us by Theatre by The Lake and The Kirkgate Theatre.

Several members of the staff of Wordsworth House joined in and we had a great night!

Look out for the photos on Social Media when we start the Blackadder Publicity Campaign at the end of the month.

Cast of Rules for Living
This is an amateur production by arrangement
with Nick Hern Books

Coffee Morning
Saturday 27th
September 2022
10.00am - 12 Noon

Evening of
Mediumship with
Debra Chalmers
and Chris Drew
Thursday 29th
September 2022
7.30pm start

Little Theatre
Guild Northern
Conference
Carlisle
Friday 14th -
Sunday 16th
October 2022
Tony Parker has
sent out the details
on Mailchimp

Blackadder 3
Tuesday 6th -
Saturday 10th
December 2022
7.30pm start



Anne Bowmer/Carrie



Karl Sanderson/Matthew



Craig Norendal/Adam



Becky Wilson/Sheena



Cara de Mello/Emma



Morgan Sweeney/Francis



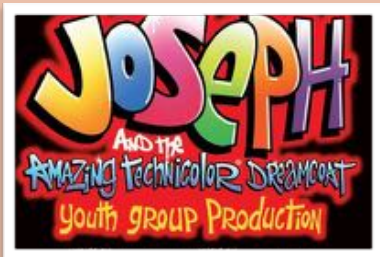
Alison Shutt/Edith



Let Bedlam begin!



HIRES



Stagecoach (Cockermouth) held their summer Workshop (Joseph) in the Theatre Royal on 29th July. Hires bring in much needed revenue.

Another welcome hire



Thursday 15th December 2022

The Creatives

Set DesignTony Parker & James Last
 Set Construction.....Tony Magorrian & Stage Crew
 Stage Managers.....Scott Ashton, Sarah Delorme, Jane Douglas & James Last
 Lighting.....Scott Ashton
 Sound.....James Last
 Wardrobe.....The Cast
 Prompt.....Member of Cast

Have you bought your ticket yet? Tell your friends & family



**Thursday 29 Sept, 7:30pm – 9:00pm
 An Evening of Mediumship**



Debra Chalmers



Chris Drew

MEMBERS NIGHTS

Members Play Reading Night 18th August



Here members are reading **MURDER ON THE NILE & PACK OF LIES.**

Members Nights

Tuesday 27th September 2022

The Production Committee, Jane Douglas, James Last and Scott Ashton will be talking about the

2023 SEASON

“Please come along and get involved so we can make next season a great success!” - Jane Douglas

Thursday 27th October 2022

Tuesday 29th November 2022

Future Members Nights

Anne doesn't envisage every member's night will be a play reading night. In the past we have had **POETRY READING** evenings - Members have brought in their favourite poetry to share with others.

Members have organised **REHEARSED READINGS** - Rehearsed readings were very popular years ago. New acting members were asked to participate in these, before given a part in a main stage production.

We have had **QUIZZES** - Not always with a theatre theme.

Organised **VISITS TO THEATRES**

Organised **VISITS TO RESTAURANTS**

In the dim and distant past we even had a members' night at the local swimming baths with a bar meal to follow!

Agatha Christie's

MURDER ON THE NILE

Wednesday 8th - Saturday 11th MARCH 2023

A three-act murder mystery set onboard a river cruiser, adapted from Christie's *Death on the Nile*.

Simon Mostyn has recently married Kay Ridgeway, a rich woman, having thrown over his former lover Jacqueline. The couple are on their honeymoon and are at present on a paddle steamer on the Nile.

With them is Canon Pennefather, Kay's guardian, and Jacqueline, who has been dogging their footsteps all through the honeymoon.

Also on the boat are a rich, ill tempered old woman with her niece and companion, a rather direct young man, a German who nurses a grudge against Kay's father and Kay's maid.

During the voyage Jacqueline works herself into a state of hysteria and shoots at Simon, wounding him in the knee. A few moments later Kay is found shot in her bunk. By the time the boat reaches its destination, Canon Pennefather has laid bare an audacious conspiracy and has made sure the criminals shall not go free.

OFFICE SUITE by Alan Bennett
Wednesday 7th - Saturday 10th JUNE 2023

OFFICE SUITE: TWO ONE ACT PLAYS

Green Forms: Doris and Doreen are comfortably installed in an obscure department of a large organisation. On a normal day they keep busy by flirting with nice Mr. Tidmarsh in Appointments or pursuing their feud over a plug with Mr. Cunliffe in Personnel. This is not a normal day.

A Visit from Miss Prothero: Mr. Dodsworth has recently retired. Sitting at home, he is contemplating his life and achievements with quiet satisfaction. There is a sharp ring at the door. His former secretary has come to ruin it all. Ironic wit and compassion mark this touchingly real story.

Both plays offer a wry snapshot of office life in 1970s Britain, a time when computers were yet to make an impact but the ambitious were being sent on courses to Newport Pagnell to learn all about them.

And really, has that much changed? We might spend more time on Teams or Zoom now, but the tedium and pettiness of being a small cog in a corporate machine lives on, as does the nonsensical jargon of office life that peppers the script!

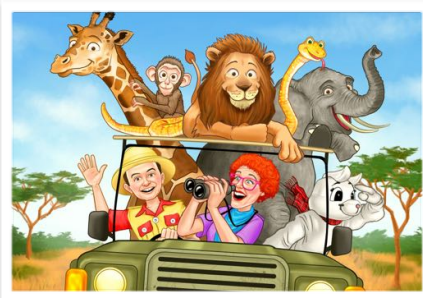
FOUR WEDDINGS AND AN ELVIS
by Nancy Frick
Wednesday 7th - Saturday 9th
SEPTEMBER 2023

Sandy, the four-times-married-three-times-divorced owner of a wedding chapel in Las Vegas, has certainly seen her fair share of matrimonyes! In the hilarious Four Weddings and an Elvis, we witness four of her funniest: Bev and Stan, who are getting married--by the King himself--as revenge on their exes; Vanessa and Bryce, two arrogant ageing stars who are tying the knot as a publicity ploy, and are vexed by an ageing Elvis who doesn't know who they are; and Martin and Fiona, a gentle postal-worker and a tough ex-con trying to get married before the police arrive! However, the final wedding is the funniest all: Sandy's fifth and final wedding which reveals a hilarious twist!

With simple scenic requirements and memorable characters, Four Weddings and an Elvis is a comedic treat certain to please audiences!

LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE
by Roy Clarke
Wednesday 6th - Saturday 9th DECEMBER 2023

In this new stage adaptation of the timeless television series, Foggy, Clegg and Compo are reunited for one last adventure. Foggy has designs on winning the affections of Constance, Nora Batty's niece and the long-suffering fiancée of the hapless Gifford Bewmont. With the help of Clegg, Foggy invites the ladies around for an evening's entertainment but the duo are unaware that a mysterious flasher is stalking the local community. Gifford has pledged to apprehend the flasher and has mounted all-night patrols in the village. While awaiting the arrival of the ladies, Foggy is dismayed when Compo turns up unannounced and who proceeds to wreak havoc on Foggy's careful preparations as Gifford's efforts to capture the flasher lead to mistaken identities and even more chaos. When the flasher is eventually unmasked it turns out his intentions are benign but not before our heroes are nearly undone by the enveloping madness.



**MCDUGALLS
SAFARI ADVENTURE
hired our theatre on
14th August**

Dear Theatre Royal Team

A huge huge THANK YOU! to the whole team for a successful and wonderful Sunday. The works from the run up to the show, technical elements from Scott and the kindness of all the front of house were above and beyond.

We have had so many reviews from general public saying how much they enjoyed the weekend . And how the Theatre was wonderful. - we loved bringing Wonderland to the quaint and historical venue.

Kindest,

Ashley Luke Lloyd



Friday 28th October 2022

“Woohoo - we’re having a party! It’s the party of the year!”

Everyone’s favourite children’s theatre company, *The McDougalls*, return with a sensational singalong show for all the family.

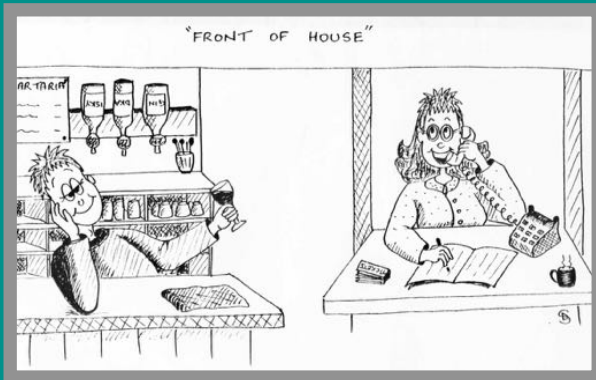
Come and celebrate with Max and Auntie Aggie (the stars of the show) as they get ready to throw the biggest and best party ever - and you’re invited to join the fun!

And....if you have a birthday coming up, there’s even the chance for a ‘shout out’ as The McDougalls lead the crowd in a rousing rendition of *Happy Birthday!*

So put your glad rags on and come dressed in your snazziest party outfit!

“Amarissa and I enjoyed the McDougalls on Saturday. They said they were coming back in October so she wasn't for going home. She just wanted to sit in the theatre till they came back. She was also very excited that she was allowed to shout and sing and do the actions. A success I think”. Liz Chapman (Member)

Several members just want to act but there are lots of other members beavering away, working hard to make sure the production goes on. Several theatres in the Little Theatre Guild, on joining their organisation, expect their acting members, to sign up to help at least one of the other plays - backstage or front of house. What do you think about that?

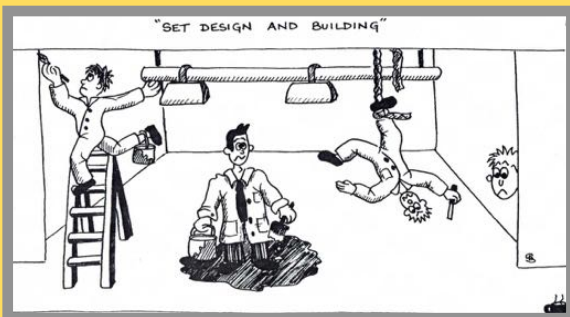


Pam Hayes is always looking for members to take on roles FRONT OF HOUSE. Playgoers have had to accept more hires in order to bring in MUCH NEEDED REVENUE. This means Pam has to find even more members to man FOH. Please volunteer for this job. It's fun meeting the public!



Helen is responsible for all things related to WARDROBE.

It isn't all about making costumes there's washing, ironing, mending and being on call during a production to help the cast too. If you'd like to join Wardrobe speak Helen and find out what needs doing for the next production.



Tony Magorrian (also our Maintenance Manager) NEEDS more members to work with the STAGE CREW when a set needs building for a production or the stage needs preparing for a hire.

We can no longer leave it all to Tony!

The crew usually meet on Tuesdays and Thursday 7.30pm in the theatre & some afternoons.

Please remember if you are in a production to take all your personal possessions away and leave the dressing rooms tidy! It is not Helen's job to tidy up after a cast or clean the dressing room!!!!!!

Wonderful, amusing cartoons by Sarah Delorme



Prompting can be great fun as you can see in this photograph I discovered from the 1968 play *The Whole Truth!*

Bett Line was a legend in her own lifetime. She prompted many, many plays and was extremely reliable.

Bett was also Membership Secretary for years. Woe-betide any member who didn't pay their subs on time - 31st May. None of this paying only if you were asked to be in a play!

In this photo the cast were either making her laugh or someone was distracting her backstage. Prompters must never allow themselves to be distracted!

If you think you could do this job contact the director. Don't wait to be asked!

1968 *The Whole Truth* L/R Sylvia Bevan, Tony Singleton and Barbara Hunter

