



**DIARY**  
Green Room  
Centenary Season



**THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT**  
Philip Goulding  
12 - 17 May 2025

**CONTENTS**

- p2 Next season - details of all productions planned for 2025-6
- p3 Chairman's report
- p4 Bombshells reviewed and photos
- p4 Social evening - AV presentation

**THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT**

by Philip Goulding  
12 - 17 May 2025

**The Titfield Thunderbolt** is a play based on a true story, about a small community who, with the threat of the closure of their branch railway line, take on the might of The British Railways.

Having decided to run the line themselves, they must convince the Railway Authorities they are competent to do so. They must also compete against a planned bus service.

Well, just like British Rail nothing goes to plan, but with faith, determination, and the help of the actual Titfield Thunderbolt, fingers crossed, they will not be derailed in their effort to succeed.

The large cast has many faces you will recognise, Victoria Johnson, Charlie Cook, Peter De La Wyche, David Reynolds, Paul Lewis, John Jones, Jean Rogers. We welcome back Clare Lewis and we welcome new members, Max Walker, Julian Jones, Maddy Prescott and of course the Titfield Thunderbolt herself !

*Sonia Dykstra*



**BOX OFFICE**

Booking for **The Titfield Thunderbolt** is available online, at any time, via The Green Room website, or direct through Ticketsource.

The Saturday morning Box Office will open for personal callers between 11 am and 12 noon from **19 April**.

You can also send in postal bookings to The Green Room – 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5JH, with an SAE if you need tickets posting to you, and cheques made out to 'Wilmslow Green Room Society'.

The answerphone will open on Monday 14 April (01625 540933).

Please note, there will be both a **matinee** and an **evening** performance of **The Titfield Thunderbolt** on Saturday 17 May.

## PLAY AND STAGE REPORT

### Stop Press! Season 2025 – 2026 - Updated programme details

**Dancing at Lughnasa** by Brian Friel  
13 – 18 October 2025  
directed by Victor Hassan

It's harvest time in County Donegal, 1936. Outside the village of Ballybeg, five sisters battle poverty as they fight each other, love each other, dance, yearn and survive while they combine to raise seven-year-old Michael and care for their brother, 'Uncle' Jack, all against the background of the Festival of Lughnasa.

**Dick Barton Special Agent** by Phil Willmott  
1 - 6 December 2025  
directed by Celia Bonner

Yes, it's a case for the intrepid hero of the 1940s radio show, but not the one we originally chose. Instead, Dick Barton finds his arch-enemy Marta Heartburn re-incarnated as an ancient Egyptian Queen when he takes from her a sapphire pendant which carries a curse. Fun and excitement – and a Mummy.

**A Bench in the Shade** by Ron Clark  
26 – 31 January 2026  
directed by Dave Midgley

Former sweethearts Annie and Paul now live in the same retirement home, but their quiet life is upset both by the news that the retirement home is to be sold and by the arrival of a dashing Italian actor, Roberto.

**The Business of Murder** by Richard Harris  
16 – 21 March 2026  
directed by Charlie Cook

A rather dour man called Stone asks a Police Superintendent to his flat to help deal with a problem, and invites Dee, a television playwright, there to discuss a script. Full of twists and turns as we learn more about the real relationship between the characters.

**84 Charing Cross Road**  
by Helene Hanff and James Roose-Evans  
18 - 23 May 2026  
Directed by John Chidgey

A delightful dramatisation of the true story of the letters exchanged between Helene Hanff, a struggling writer in New York and Frank Doel of Marks & Co. an antiquarian book store in London. Over a 20-year period from 1949 to 1969, Frank sends Helene many old and fascinating volumes, and she in return sends 'care packages' to the staff of Marks & Co. A play of love of books and people.

### Auditions

By the time you read this we will have held the auditions for the plays for the season and hope to have cast them and where possible appointed the backstage crews as well, but if you would like to be involved in any way, do let us know by emailing

[pscc@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk](mailto:pscc@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk)

We can always use extra pairs of hands and are looking for new contributors to set design, lighting and sound.

*Celia Bonner*

## Little Theatre Guild

North West  
Relationship Meeting  
Sunday 23 March  
at Stockport Garrick



A small group of us recently went to one of a series of regional meetings organised by LTG across the country. Around 30 other representatives were there from the North West. Nick Morley, the National Chairman introduced a number of issues for discussion.

For instance, one topic was the move to paperless and cashless operations. Some theatres have continued since Covid-lockdowns to avoid all cash payments, whether for tickets or drinks and refreshments or for programmes. Similarly, some theatres have done away with nearly all printed materials, in favour of social media publicity and digital display screens in their public areas or outdoors. This may not be what the Green Room chooses - but we are always keen to hear from you, our members, to know what you think.

Other matters included the intricacies of licences for the use of music in productions, with royalties due to composers and performers as much as playwrights. Another issue is the need to broaden the experience and age range in management groups - an essential truth to ensure diverse voices are heard and have influence on how societies develop.

Members were reminded of the invaluable help that LTG can offer via its Grey Papers on several topics such as risk assessments and H&S issues; and the safe and protective involvement of children or vulnerable adults in productions and activities.

Finally we were advised of insurance issues to protect our trustees and ourselves against cyber or terrorist attacks - salutary guidance since events last year in Southport.

As an independent theatre owning our own premises, the Wilmslow Green Room is just one around 130 members of this valuable national organisation. *Denise Soussi*

## CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Well I have now given up drinking cocoa before going to bed! **The Murder Room** provided an entertaining evening out, with an amazing pace in the conversations and interactions between the actors - it reminded me why I don't truly want to have to learn all those lines, remember them and reproduce them at that kind of speed! Congratulations to the set building team on overcoming some tricky demands with secret passages from seats, an unstable painting and of course, dodgy electrics. Well done Charlie and team for a fun night out.

It was fantastic news that **The Murder Room** sold out, even though on some evenings not everyone who had bought a ticket managed to get to the theatre. Our audience figures are now consistently over 90% which is brilliant. It also means you should definitely book early for **The Titfield Thunderbolt** which will be our last play of the Centenary season. This classic Ealing comedy will test our set building team (again), as well as stage management and costume departments, even before director Sonia Dykstra and her actors get at it.

The building work at the rear of the theatre has taken a massive step forward and the framework is now quite clear to see. We hope we can continue to make progress as we look to overcome some hiccups and to get our heads together to find the best way to proceed.

As we enter the final quarter of our year, I'd like to ask that anyone who is interested in becoming more involved in the running of the theatre to chat with me about how you could help. For example, Mark Jephcott who has been our treasurer for the past five years is standing down, so maybe that's a role that would suit your skills and interests? There are lots of other ways to get involved, so please get in touch.

Our season for 2025/26 has been agreed (as you will see in this newsletter) and by the time you get this mailing, the casting process will be underway. We had an open evening for people to meet the directors and learn a bit more about the plays, and yet again, it was fabulous to see our membership turn out in force, expressing interest in acting and backstage roles, as well as being able to welcome non-members who we hope will join us.

We were sad to hear recently of the passing of Peter Janes, who played his part in many productions and in many guises. I'm sure you will join me in sending our condolences to June and her family. We hope to see her smiling face and hear her infectious laugh at a performance of **The Titfield Thunderbolt**.



Peter Janes played the part of an unfortunate passer-by in the Green Room's production of **Funny Money** in 2008

See you at the Green Room soon,  
Paul

[chairman@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk](mailto:chairman@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk)

### Membership report

Welcome to several new full members who have applied recently to join the Green Room: Julian Jones, Madeleine Prescott, VL Southern and John Westbrook. Margarita Vickers joined as a social member.

*Ian McBride*

[membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk)

## Social Evening Thursday 27 March

### Adrian Battersby showing some of his award-winning Audio Visual presentations

#### IF by Adrian Battersby

Adrian Battersby is a producer of audio-visual productions who has won various awards, including some at international festivals.

Audio visual productions, if you have not come across them, use not video but still photographs, with an accompanying soundtrack. Adrian was looking for actors for a dramatic script he was producing last year and was pointed toward the Green Room. (He was also told about another drama group but when he met them decided the Green Room actors were definitely the right ones to ask – though, diplomatically, he did not tell us who the other group were). John Chidgey helped him select suitable actors for the roles he required, and Ewan Henderson, Tracy Burns, Belinda Coghlan, Jess Trimble and David Reynolds recorded their parts at the Green Room with Adrian.



**IF** cleverly imagines a disaster scenario that could happen if predictions proved wrong. Recently Adrian came to the Green Room and showed not just **IF** but some of his other productions. One that particularly impressed was **Chasing the Ice**, about finding ice caves in Iceland.

Adrian takes beautiful photographs and takes great care over the soundtracks. He may well return to the Green Room when he needs actors again and we would be delighted to see him.

*Celia Bonner*



### Adjudications and Reviews for Bombshells

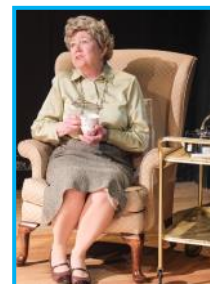
**Bombshells** is comprised of six monologues, with each actor revealing much about their stories and lives.

The GMDF adjudicator summarised his comments, pinpointing:

- Strong across-the-board characterisation and performances with some outstanding acting.
- Superlative pace of delivery.
- Strong understanding of how to deliver dialogue.
- Good directorial flair.

He praised the theatre for its 'pool of very talented female actors' who produced 'an entertaining, high-quality and thoroughly worthwhile production.'

NODA commented on the use of six actors, whereas the play sometimes uses one only, but praised 'the clear understanding of the playwright's artistic intentions by the whole cast'.



### Do you have any items for the newsletter, or comments to make about it?

If so, please send any feedback or articles for publication to: [newsletter@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk), or post to the theatre, 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5JH.

The newsletter is edited by Chris Hills for the Wilmslow Green Room - registered Charity Number **1153665**. The next edition will be published in August / September 2025