



DIARY

Reading nights -

7.30 at theatre

for **THE HANGMEN**
on Tuesday 24 February
and **KEN LUDWIG'S
THE GAME'S AFOOT**

on Tuesday 24 March

Auditions -

7.30 at theatre

for **THE HANGMEN**
on Tuesday 3 March
and for
**KEN LUDWIG'S
THE GAME'S AFOOT**

on Thursday 9 April

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84 CHARING CROSS ROAD

by Helene Hanff and
James Roose-Evans

18 - 23 May 2026

ACTING CLASSES

Survey

We recently sent out a survey to you all to gauge what level of interest there might be, and to help us design and plan for possible acting classes.

Please make sure you complete and return your copy now, to help us move forward with this idea.

THE BUSINESS OF MURDER

16 - 21 March 2026

By Richard Harris

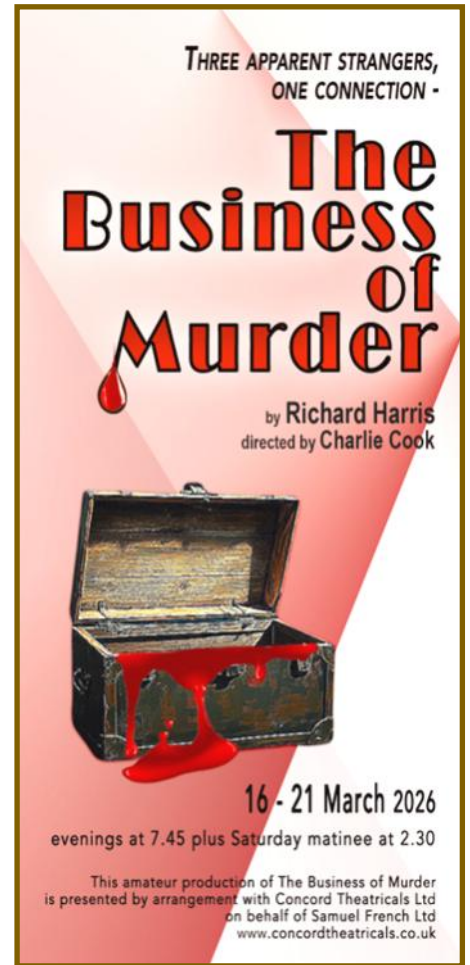
Directed by Charlie Cook

Two people – Dee, a successful but edgy television writer, and Hallett, a cynical CID detective - are separately given a plausible reason to visit the flat of the humourless and seemingly very ordinary Mr Stone.

But why are they really here and who is he?

This thrilling mystery from Richard Harris (The Avengers, The Sweeney, Shoestring) will have you guessing up to the final moments.

The players will be familiar to most of you - Alex Johnson, Hugh Everett, and Ewan Henderson.



Charlie Cook

BOX OFFICE

Booking for **The Business of Murder** 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 **21 February**.

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 16 February (01625 540 933).

Please note, there will be both a **matinee** and an **evening** performance of the play on Saturday 21 March.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Those who came along to see **A Bench in the Shade** will agree that we saw three great performances, providing us with plenty of smiles, laughs and food for thought! Congratulations to Cherrill, Andy and Richard for their hard work in bringing this play to life. Director Dave Midgley obviously managed to create a lovely evening's entertainment for us all. Special mention to the set building team in creating a magnificent set and it was probably just as well they didn't have to create it outside, otherwise it would have been 'a bench under water'!



Congratulations to Mike Rogerson who has been appointed an Honorary Associate of the Little Theatre Guild (LTG) after almost a lifetime of service for several theatres. Mike has been the Green Room's LTG representative for 30 years - a fabulous servant to the theatre. In all, Mike has spent a total of 50 years as an LTG rep, having previously represented Southport, Stockport and Chads, and he has now decided it is time to step aside and let someone else enjoy meeting other theatre reps and learning what's happening around the UK. Talking to Mike, his enjoyment in carrying out the role is clear, and he says it will be a great experience for the person who takes up the reins from him. If you would be interested, please speak with me; Mike is also happy to talk through how he approached the role.

I have started the process of building up information on running a youth group for our theatre, and have also begun looking for someone who would lead the group. I truly believe we have an opportunity to provide a great outlet for young people to learn about teamwork, build self confidence, and develop acting and technical skills such as lighting and sound. It will be an exciting time for everyone involved, but also hard work, and commitment will be required.

As you may have seen, we received many NODA nominations and we came away with an award for teamwork. The Titfield Thunderbolt was nominated and won Best Staging of a Play. I am thrilled that the set building team, wardrobe, lights and sound and everyone else involved have been recognised. I obviously can't let it pass to again thank John and Belinda Coughlan for the creation of the Thunderbolt herself.

As we start the new year, I have plenty of hope that we can look forward to enjoying the plays ahead both for this season and next. It's always exciting when a new season is announced and my thanks go to the Play and Stage committee for their work in selecting a great offering. Keep a look out for readings and auditions for next season's plays and come along to listen or take part. Please remember that we are also seeking backstage crew for each of the plays, so if treading the boards isn't your thing, come along and find out how you could get involved in one of the many vital roles behind the scenes.

Thanks for your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing you at our next production, **The Business of Murder**.

Paul Lewis

Membership report

We are very pleased to welcome, as a full member for the Green Room, **Trisha Hart**. Trisha has already helped out on the bar during our recent production.

If you have any queries, please contact me, Ian McBride:
email - membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk

PLAY AND STAGE REPORT

Next Season and Dates for Your Diary

Firstly, well done to everyone involved in **A Bench in the Shade**. I hope you all enjoyed it as I did and we certainly had some lovely comments from the audiences.

Thinking ahead, we are delighted to announce our 2026/27 season and hope that you're as excited about it as we are. If you missed the news earlier, the plays are:

- **The Hangmen** by Martin McDonagh, 12—17 October 2026, directed by Mike Rogerson
- **Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot** 30 November—5 December 2026, directed by Sonia Dykstra
- **Hansard** by Simon Woods, 25—30 January 2027, director Duncan Battman
- **Electric Rosary** by Tim Foley, 15—20 March 2027, directed by Helen Bingle
- **Under Milk Wood** by Dylan Thomas, 17—22 May 2027, directed by Clare Lewis

We're also pleased to confirm reading night and audition dates for the first two productions. We are trying a new approach this year. For each play there will be an informal, social reading night open to anyone to come down and find out a little more, read (or listen to!) sections of the play, have a drink and a chat. It doesn't matter if you would like to be involved in some way, or are simply curious and fancy an evening out. Just come along, we'd love to see you. Auditions will follow on a subsequent evening. So get these **dates in your diary**:

- **The Hangmen** – reading **Tuesday 24 February** 7.30pm
- auditions **Tuesday 3 March**, 7.30pm for 8pm
- **Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot** – reading **Tuesday 24 March** 7.30pm
- auditions **Thursday 9 April** 7.30pm

Dates for the other plays will be announced soon. You can find Director's notes and audition information for Hangmen on our website. Click link - [Audition](#). Information for the other plays will follow in the coming weeks.

If you've never been involved before but are thinking of giving it a go – then do it! It doesn't matter what your level of experience or skills, just come down to a reading night and find out a bit more. There are some great acting roles to audition for this season, as well as backstage roles too – why not have a go?

As always, drop us a line at pscc@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk if you have any questions. Otherwise, keep your eyes open for announcements about future dates and we look forward to seeing you on 24 February.

Victoria Johnson

DICK BARTON AND THE CURSE OF THE PHARAOH'S TOMB

Our production back in December was visited by both NODA and GMDF, with praise from both.

The NODA reviewer wrote that 'from the opening moments, the cast lean wholeheartedly into the heightened, tongue-in-cheek style that defines the show', with a 'wonderfully assured central performance' by Tom Broughton in the title role. He was ably supported by Colin Rice as Swanker (with his 'dry wit and impeccable timing') and Max Walker as Jock, who maintained an impressive Scottish accent, and Hugh Everett as Snowy. The whole cast balanced the energy of the piece alongside its period charm and flavour.

The GMDF Adjudicator commented on the obvious fun that the cast and crew had bringing this show to the stage, and providing 'an evening full of laughter and disbelief'. 'The comic characterisations were all good and certainly enhanced the whole production, and the space of the playing area was used to great effect'.



Little Theatre Guild News

To celebrate the LTG 's 80th Anniversary a national conference is being held at the Crescent Theatre, Brindley Place, Birmingham from 15th to 17th May.

This will be a very prestigious occasion held in a fascinating theatre in the heart of Birmingham's canal district. It's a great opportunity to meet and mix with delegates from fellow Little Theatres nationwide

Although the conference runs over two nights it is perfectly possible to arrive on the Saturday and catch most of the events.

This a note from the LTG national secretary giving details for the weekend programme,

Delegates should arrive on **Friday 15 May** with registration open from 18:30. A social supper will be served at 20:00 followed by entertainment from Crescent Youth Theatre.

On **Saturday 16 May** breakfast rolls will be served at The Crescent from 08:00 and registration will reopen. After the more formal welcome, delegates can select 2 out of 4 workshops.

Throughout the day, LTG will hold its first *Youth Theatre Festival* and delegates can select to see some of these short 20 min shows or attend the events in the programme.

After lunch, delegates can attend 'In Conversation' with Graham Liverton, NODA's Immediate Past President which will be followed by the Keynote by Joshua McTaggart, CEO of the Theatres Trust.

There will be an option at 18:00 to watch *Little Wars* in the Ron Barber Studio to be followed by the Gala Dinner on the stage of the Main House.

Breakfast will be available again on **Sunday 17 May** from 09:00 and the LTG AGM will be held at 10:00 to be followed by the final session at 11:30 'In Conversation with an Actor'. We very much hope that this will be led by the LTG Patron Jessica Swale.

We really hope the early sight of our programme will encourage you to attend this Anniversary Conference. There are several reasonably priced hotels in and around Brindley Place; further details will follow. Bookings will open in early February.

If you are interested and want to know more get in touch.

Mike Rogerson



Alderley Edge Festival of Music, Speech and Drama 2026 - Monday 20 - Saturday 25 April

School and adult entries are welcome - with choirs and instrumental pieces, speech and drama sections etc - all culminating in a grand Finale performance on the Saturday night in the Festival Hall.

Please note that there is a new category this year, for any age entrant(s) - an Instrumental **Jazz** Solo (or Duet or Ensemble) class.

Entries are requested by 20 February.

The full syllabus is available on-line to view on www.alderleyedgefestival.com
If you would like to receive a free hard copy a free hard copy, then please go to the Order Syllabus/Programme option in Play and Perform [Alderley Edge Festival 2026](http://www.alderleyedgefestival.com)

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, 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 April 2026