



DIARY

KEN LUDWIG'S THE GAME'S AFOOT

30 Nov - 5 Dec

HANSARD

by Simon Woods

25 - 30 January

ELECTRIC ROSARY

by Tim Foley

15 - 20 March

UNDER MILK WOOD

by Dylan Thomas

17 - 22 May

Congratulations to the recent winners in the 100 Club draw, made at the AGM -

Ruth Hemp won £100;
Meerha Mohindra, Gerald
McEwan, Wendy Williams,
Fred Donnan, Kate
Hewison, and (after a
redraw) Irene Bramwell
each won £50.

Hangmen

by Martin McDonagh

Monday 12 - Saturday 17 October

You might want to think twice before declaring that a play about the last public hangmen in England is 'drop dead hilarious' or 'perfectly executed', But that's a pretty good description of Martin McDonagh's blackly comic writing.

Green Room audiences will be familiar with his Beauty Queen of Leenane trilogy performed over six years in our perfectly formed, intimate acting space. However Hangmen takes us far from Galway to the snug, nicotine stained bar of an Oldham pub where Harry, the last hangman in England, is mine host.

The year is 1965 and, on the very day when hanging was abolished, a collection of hard drinking locals are drawn there by this 'celebrity' dealer in death. Harry glowers over a beer pump as if it were his old lever to the trap door. The women of course, Harry's wife and teenage daughter, are behind the bar.

Into this northern smutty cosiness comes a 'vaguely sinister' stranger - a SOUTHERNER on a grisly mission. A switchback ride ensues - expect to be laughing and horrified in turn or maybe in the same moment.

So let us take you back to the sixties, a different era, a different culture where 'swinging' acquires a new meaning. It's a flawless comedy treat,

Our cast includes:-

Jay Wise-Martin, James Avery, Dominic Keefe, Alexandra Hulston, Victoria Johnson, Dave Ambler, Simon Caporn, Ian Fensome, Fred Donnan, Tim Strang and Dave Midgley

Mike Rogerson



BOX OFFICE

Booking for **Hangmen** 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 September**.

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 September (01625 540 933).

Please note, there will be both a **matinee** and an **evening** performance of the play on Saturday 17 October.

LTG News

This year marks the eightieth anniversary of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain. The Guild now has well over 100 member theatres across the UK. All own or control their own premises and membership brings valuable benefits including networking, shared expertise and access to regular events. Each year one national and three regional conferences take place. This year's Northern Regional Conference will take place at the Ilkley Playhouse Theatre from 6 - 8 November.

It's a great opportunity to meet others from all over the region who are passionate about high quality amateur theatre. There will be workshops, a play from the host theatre, food, drink and good company.

This year marks my thirtieth as the Green Room representative. I can honestly say that I have made friends from all over the country and had a good nose round many fascinating theatres!

I PLAN TO MAKE 2026 MY FINAL YEAR AS YOUR REP. MIGHT YOU LIKE TO TAKE OVER?

The duties are not onerous and I believe that I have helped GR widen its horizons and enabled it to benefit substantially from the vast store of know how and help available.

Norma and I plan to go to Ilkley (not necessarily for the whole weekend) and would love it if some of you could join us. You might just get bitten by the bug!

More details later. In the meantime just get in touch.

Mike Rogerson

Play & Stage report

Hello everyone

As we settle in to the new season, I'd like to start by thanking those members who are stepping down from the Committee for their contribution over the last year – so thank you Clare and Matt. I'd also like to welcome two new members to the team, Fred Donnan and Simon Caporn – we're delighted you're on board.

Our 2026-27 season offers an exciting and diverse mix of plays with five brilliant, creative directors; we hope that you will find it an enjoyable and rewarding selection. The season kicks off with **Hangmen** by Martin McDonagh. Rehearsals are already underway and Mike Rogerson is back in the director's chair for this dark comedy. We hope to see you there.

The new Committee is already working hard to plan the best possible season for 2027-28 (yes, already!) and secure the necessary permissions. There is a very long 'shortlist' we are currently considering so thank you very much to everyone who contacted us with suggestions, however well known or obscure they might be. Obviously we can't select all of them this year, but rest assured all are being considered. And if you come up with any more ideas, please do get in touch.

We're always looking for volunteers to join the fun behind the scenes, whatever your experience. If you fancy getting involved in any of our productions or learning some new skills behind the scenes, then we'd love to hear from you – just drop us a line.

I do hope you enjoy the coming season and look forward to seeing you down at the theatre soon. Thank you for your continued support.

Victoria Johnson / pscc@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk

SUMMER PICNIC

It was fabulous to see so many members having fun at the inaugural Green Room Summer Picnic on 16 August. A great time was had by everyone as we took the opportunity to eat, drink and be merry in the sun whilst catching up with friends and joining in silly summer

games – with varying degrees of competitiveness! Congratulations to our quiz winners Team Coghlan, who triumphed in a very hard fought battle!

Thank you to those of you who bought raffle tickets and we are grateful to all our members and friends in the Wilmslow community who donated great prizes - we raised a brilliant £200 towards future Green Room social events. A massive thank you also goes to John and Belinda for so generously volunteering to host us in their beautiful garden and to those who helped organise. Whether you popped in for half an hour or stayed all afternoon, it was lovely to see you and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did - here's to next time!



Chairman's report

The summer break is here and preparation is well under way for the new season which starts in October with **Hangmen**. Don't miss it!

The sunshine we have had over the past few weeks has been as strong as the production of 3Women. I really hope you got the chance to watch it as there were excellent performances from everyone involved. I attended the final dress rehearsal along with our Patron, Sue Johnston and there was no questioning that Sue was thoroughly impressed. Sue spent time after the production congratulating all involved and she stayed to chat and share a glass of bubbly with everyone. The audiences certainly had a blast and from what I saw and heard from them, they loved it. Congratulations to Matt and the whole team for a fab production.



We look ahead to a well balanced season, so thanks must go to the work of Victoria and the Play and Stage committee for their time and efforts. I hope you will find the programme varied enough to ensure another successful season at the Green Room.

We have a few ambitions for the coming season such as creating a new Youth section, revamping our membership offering and also refocusing on the social side of the theatre. To help us do this we really do need members to raise their hands and work in a few teams to bring this together. We need you to provide ideas on what you want from your membership, how we can serve the local community and how we can help young people experience theatre. Please get in touch with me if you feel you can work in a team to help us provide a quality membership offering. Please email chairman@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk

We are looking at other ways to improve our productions and audience satisfaction, such as updating sound/backstage and lights. We have already purchased some new lights and are reviewing the sound/backstage offerings. Thanks to John, Mark and Bruce for their input in these areas.

The extension work has restarted and a new roof for the workshop is next on the agenda which will help in making the extension water tight. A quick mention and congratulations to our Sheila Hine Award winner Ian Kennedy for helping find the solution.

Thanks to all those that were able to attend the AGM which may have caught some out as it was so early. Charlie Cook has made swift progress with the accounting and that has meant we could hold the AGM promptly. We have looked to change the accounting year by bringing it forward with the idea being that the new committees have more run-in time to the new season.



A collaboration with three schools saw around 200 children watch Oliver Twist at the Green Room in June. It was a successful venture giving many of them their first and hopefully not their last taste of theatre. We hope to repeat this experience for more children in 2027.

I look forward to seeing you all at our 26/27 productions and again thank you for your support over the past season and your renewed involvement as we move forward!

Enjoy the sun and remember that we do try to bring a few rays of sunshine into every visit you make to the Green Room!

Take care, Paul

Karen O'Connell-Franklin - St. Anne's Fulshaw PTA Chair - commented that:

Paul Lewis and the Team couldn't have been more helpful and it showed in how smoothly multiple performances ran, despite it being the first time running this type of initiative for all parties, coupled with the extreme heat. The Theatre is such a lovely venue and several people mentioned how impressed they were. The children at all of the schools clearly (and audibly!) had a fantastic time. A great experience all around!

A LINK WITH THE PAST

Recently Charlie Cook and myself met **Judith Barker**, who with her husband Thomas were members of the WGRS (as it was then), joining in 1963. Thomas stage-managed at least 10 productions in the 1960's and Judith worked backstage. The meeting was for Judith to hand over a considerable number of scripts that Thomas had kept, some of which had the names of the cast next to the parts they played. Hopefully this may fill in some of the blanks in our archives.

As is the case for everyone else who comes in for the first time, our tour of the theatre amazed Judith. She is now hoping to come to one of our productions.

David Reynolds

AGM

Over 30 people came to this year's AGM, on Monday 3 August, at which we remembered those who have died recently: Peter de la Wyche, John Wallace and social member Anne Macdonald. Paul summarised the highlights in the season, including school visits, trips out to the RSC and Shakespeare North, and the Omaze donation to the theatre of £12,500. Work on the rear extension can now resume, and various other initiatives, including a Youth section, are planned or in place. He urged members to volunteer to get more involved in the busy work of running the Society.

Charlie Cook, Treasurer, presented the accounts for last season (with copies available to see on request), showing a healthy bank balance and attendances at plays of over 90% of capacity. Ticket revenue is the Theatre's main income; as many 'bums on seats' is the goal.

3Women

As Paul has said, our audiences enjoyed the fun and the seriousness of this play.

Our reviewer and adjudicator varied in their opinions about the production, with some criticisms from GMDF. Nevertheless he felt that there was a clear understanding of the 'generational conflict', and some moments of 'genuine emotional truth'. He and our NODA reviewer were impressed with the hotel suite setting. NODA felt there was 'exceptional attention to detail' throughout the production, which showed a 'full understanding of the rhythm of the play'. The sometimes prickly, but always affectionate relationship between the three women was well portrayed by the three actors, and Max (as the room service waiter) brought winning charm to his role. Overall the reviewer judged the 'production [to be] a triumph. Thoughtfully directed, beautifully acted, and meticulously staged'.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership, you will find your individual renewal form(s) included in this mailing for return in the green pre-addressed envelope together with any cheques. Or, you can pay by bank transfer, the bank details being on the membership form, but the form itself still needs to be sent as requested to ensure your membership is active.

Please check all your details on the form, including the interests in which you wish to be involved, and **make any changes which are appropriate**, particularly new interests. If you feel there are some interests you are now not able to help with, please cross out the 'E' or 'N'. If ALL your details remain the same, all you need to do is specify your subscription and sign and date the form.

We are always looking for front of house help, so if you are a **social member**, please consider offering your services for any of the front of house or non-production activities.

A **full member's** season's subscription is still £38 **for those over 35**, reduced to **£33** if you pay before the end of October. Why not pay now and save yourself £5? The social membership subscription is **£18**. Full members **under the age of 35** should check the information on the form, as their subscription for the current season depends on when they joined the Green Room.

Lastly, why not join the society's 100 Club – you never know you may be lucky and win a prize in one of the two season's draws! We had a bumper £400 in prize money for the last draw – let's see if we can beat that next time.

Ian McBride, Membership Secretary

membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk

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**.

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