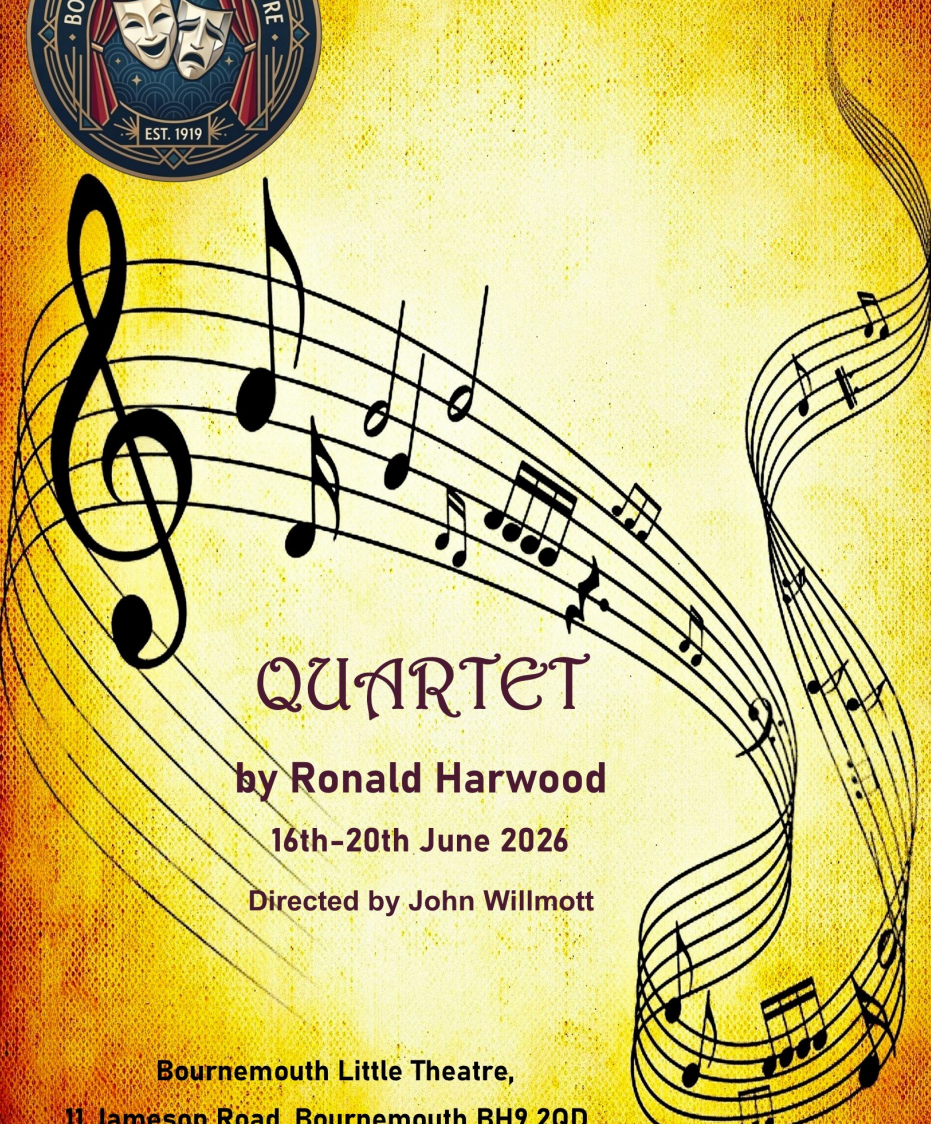


**NEWSLETTER**  
**2025-2026 Season**  
**May 2026**  
**Issue 1721**

Member: Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain  
[www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk)

11 Jameson Road, Bournemouth BH9 2QD



**QUARTET**  
by Ronald Harwood  
16th-20th June 2026  
Directed by John Willmott

Bournemouth Little Theatre,  
11 Jameson Road, Bournemouth BH9 2QD

Tickets: [bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk) click "buy tickets"  
or click the QR code >

This amateur production of 'Quartet' is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)



**CONTENTS**

	Page
Committee Corner .....	2
Box Office Details .....	2
 <b><u>NEXT PRODUCTION:</u></b>	
<b>'QUARTET' by</b>	
Ronald Harwood .....	3
CAST .....	3
 <b><u>COMING SOON:</u></b>	
Details of our 2026-2027 programme .....	4&5
 <b><u>'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH'</u></b>	
<b>By Alan Ayckbourn</b>	
Review .....	6
Photos .....	7
<b><u>KILLJOY</u></b> audition notice.....	8
Social evening .....	9
CAN Volunteers' Fair .....	9
Contact Details .....	10

# COMMITTEE CORNER

Dear Members and Patrons,

'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH', by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Lindsay Jones in April was both a sell-out and great fun. Reviews and photos are pages 6 & 7.

We are now preparing to stage 'QUARTET' By Ronald Harwood mid-June 2026 directed by John Willmott. See Page 3. If you haven't bought your tickets yet...you know what to do. The auditorium and bar are air-conditioned and gluten free ice creams will be on sale at the interval - so even if this marvellously hot weather continues, you can have a cool evening at BLT!

We are delighted to announce our exciting programme for next season (2026-2027). It is themed "Director's choice" - you can guess why! It is a complete mix of comedies, thrillers, pathos, and if you are lucky...maybe even ghosts! Details on pages 4 and 5. Please note tickets go on sale 16th June 2026.

Read through and auditions for Killroy are next weekend see Page 8 for details. Come along to the read through if you would like to be involved or get to know us better.

We held a rare (but we hope soon to be regular) social night mid May. It was lovely to see so many join us, 'welcome' to those who are new to BLTC and 'hello' to those we haven't seen for while.

See you at BLT soon!

BLTC Committee

## ADVANCE TICKET BOOKINGS

Our mailing address for all ticket bookings is:

BLT Box Office, 54 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, BH5 2EG

Tickets £14.00 Members £12.00

- ◆ **BOOK ONLINE** at [www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk) (*booking fees apply*) OR **SCAN THE QR CODE**->
- ◆ **WRITE** enclosing cheque (payable to BLTC) and SAE to BLTC Box Office (*address above*)



Tickets will be issued on receipt of a completed booking form, cheque and SAE. Where an SAE is not enclosed, tickets will be retained to be collected at the theatre on the night of the performance.

It is really easy to book online and, of course, so convenient. Whenever you decide you want to book tickets for a show—whatever the day and whatever the time—you can go ahead.

But—and there's always a but, isn't there? - it is also, sadly, easy to make mistakes.

By making your booking too quickly, it is easy to book on the wrong day—or even to book for the wrong show! So.....a word to the wise...

CHECK, CHECK AND CHECK AGAIN at every stage of your booking that it exactly fits your requirements, as our booking agent does not make changes and refunds are only given if booking protection is taken out with TicketSource, and the reason for cancellation is covered by their insurance.

**Please be aware that member discount on tickets is only available to fully paid up members, for their own ticket or that of another fully paid up member.**

Of course, if you are not entirely happy with the on-line process you can always use the postal option detailed above in the second bullet point.

**A FINAL PLEA: If you have booked tickets and know that you, or one of your party, will not be able to attend, please let the Box Office know as soon as possible. Thank you**

# NEXT PRODUCTION: QUARTET by Ronald Harwood

## John Willmott - Director

John has been involved with local theatre for over 50 years, having acted and directed with CHADS in the seventies and co-founded Roundabout Theatre, a touring Company, in the Eighties.

John has directed a wide range of plays—the most recent at BLT being the very successful 'Relatively Speaking' by Alan Ayckbourn in September 2022, He has been coaxed out of the lighting box, where he is often to be found, by this excellent play.

With rehearsals well underway and the Creative Team working on the set, we are all looking forward to staging and seeing a fun packed play to end the season.



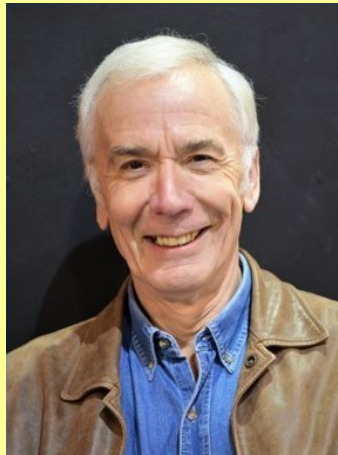
## CAST:

Carole Allen: CECILY BOND

Bob Rankin - REGINALD PAGET

Peter Watson - WILFRED BOND

Caroline Burr - JEAN HORTON



## ABOUT THE PLAY:

Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred reside in a home for retired opera singers in Kent, England. Each year, on the tenth of October, there is a concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. She still acts like a diva and refuses to sing.

But the show must go on in this funny and poignant play by the author of *Another Time*, *The Dresser* and *Interpreter's* that premiered at the Albery Theatre, London in September 1999.

# 2026-2027 SEASON "DIRECTOR'S CHOICE"



BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE presents

## KILLJOY

Written by Douglas McFerran Directed by Barry Gray

8th - 12th September 2026

BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE UNFORGETTABLE PRODUCTIONS SINCE 1919

11 Jameson Road, Bournemouth, BH9 2QD Tickets: bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

## **KILLJOY** by Douglas McFerran, directed by Barry Gray

Max Bentley was once an Oscar-winning Hollywood heavyweight. Now, he's the face of the TV detective series *Killjoy* - and even that is slipping through his fingers. With plummeting ratings, a cancelled contract, and a mountain of debt from the taxman, Max is staring down the barrel of financial ruin.

What begins as a desperate bid for survival quickly spirals into a farcical series of murderous events, complete with plot twists, sharp one-liners, and the baffling arrival of a Detective Inspector dressed as a Morris Dancer!

'Killjoy' is a witty, fast-paced romp that keeps the audience guessing until the final curtain.



BEST NEW COMEDY 2019 OLIVIER AWARDS

## HOME, I'M DARLING

BY LAURA WADE

DIRECTED BY TIM FEARON

27-31 OCTOBER 7:45PM

TICKETS: BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE.CO.UK 11 JAMESON ROAD BH9 2QD

This amateur production of HOME, I'M DARLING is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French, Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

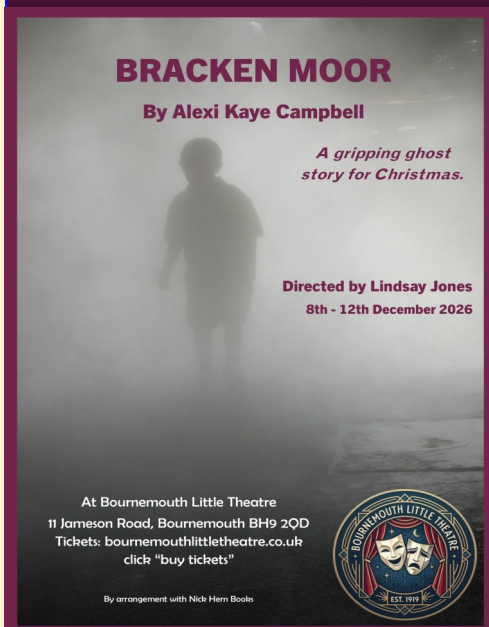
## **HOME I'M DARLING** by Laura Wade, directed by Tim Fearon

'Home, I'm Darling', won the Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in 2019.

A sharp, funny and thought-provoking play, it looks at modern relationships through the lens of nostalgia.

At its centre is Judy, a woman who has chosen to live as if it were the 1950s—complete with vintage dresses, a spotless home, and a devoted role as housewife—while the world outside continues in the twenty-first century.

As Judy and her husband Johnny attempt to live out their retro dream, cracks begin to appear, exposing the gap between fantasy and reality.



## BRACKEN MOOR

By Alexi Kaye Campbell

A gripping ghost story for Christmas.

Directed by Lindsay Jones

8th - 12th December 2026

At Bournemouth Little Theatre  
11 Jameson Road, Bournemouth BH9 2QD  
Tickets: bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk  
click "buy tickets"

By arrangement with Nicki Herr Books

## **BRACKEN MOOR** by Alexi Kaye Campbell, directed by Lindsay Jones

'Bracken Moor' is a boldly theatrical tale of grief and denial, set against the economic crisis of the 1930's.

After years apart, two families come together to rediscover their lost friendship. Instead, they conjure up the spirit of a buried tragedy.

A gripping and spine-tingling tale of the supernatural.

'Somewhere between *An Inspector Calls* and *The Woman in Black*... I jumped out of my seat' *The Times*

'There are echoes of *The Weir*... commendably bold' *Evening Standard*

'A superior kind of ghost story... intellectually as well as emotionally haunting' *The Stage*

# 2026-2027 SEASON "DIRECTOR'S CHOICE"

## 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD by Helen Hauff, directed by Peter Watson

This wonderful show is a dramatization of business letters between a young struggling writer in New York and an antiquarian bookstore in London. In a sense, these are also love letters. They are about the love of good literature and show a story of long-distance kindness.

The play takes place over a twenty year period, beginning in 1949 when Helene Hanff first writes to Marks & Co. the delightfully dusty suppliers of so many treasured volumes over the years to whose staff Helene has shown her gratitude through her many letters and "care packages" at a time when England was still recovering from the effects of the Second World War.

## THE REVLON GIRL by Neil Anthony Docking, directed by Caroline Burr

Set in a Welsh mining town, during the 1960's, where a group of bereaved mothers meet weekly above a local hotel to talk, cry and even laugh without feeling guilty.

At one of their previous meetings, the women looked at each other and admitted how much they felt they'd let themselves go.

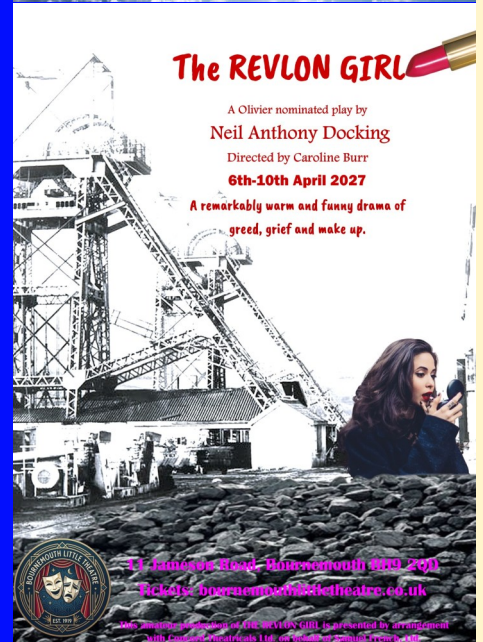
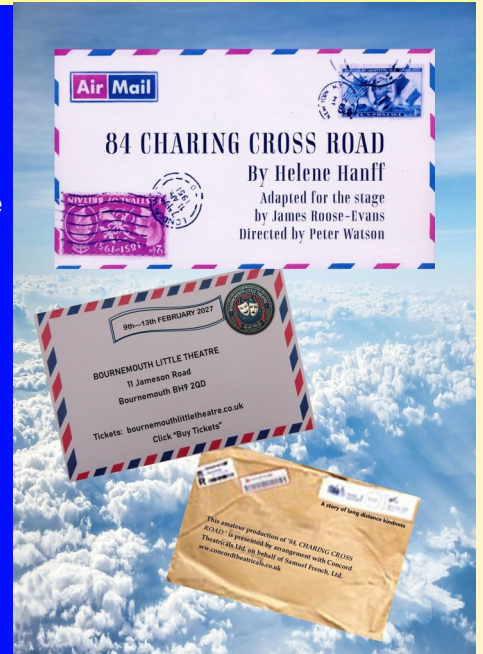
Although afraid that people will think them frivolous, they've secretly arranged for a representative from Revlon to come and give them a talk on beauty tips with moving and often hilarious results.

## NOISES OFF by Michael Frayne, directed by Don Cherrett

Called "the funniest farce ever written, 'Noises Off' presents a manic menagerie of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called *Nothing's On*.

Slamming doors, on and offstage intrigue, and an errant herring all figure in the plot of this hilarious, high-energy comedy.

Mixing mockery and homage, Frayne heaps a hilarious melée of stock characters and situations into his side-splitting play-within-a-play.



## REVIEWS— ‘NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH’

By Marilyn Barber, Dorset View Magazine

Although written by Alan Ayckbourn in 2011, the company have put in an allusion to a certain red tie-wearing American president in what I can only describe as a brilliant production.

Another play in the theatre’s ‘Dying with Laughter’ series, it tells the story of a brother Martin and his sister Hilda who in all innocence set up a Neighbourhood Watch group following some petty crime from a nearby estate.

However, the group goes out of control and becomes an authoritarian force controlling the lives of the people they are supposed to protect. Think the erection of stocks and other means of subjugation.

There is plenty of humour, more than a touch of sadness and outstanding performances from the eight-strong cast. Barry Gray is simply superb as the apparently straight-laced Martin with comedic timing, teaming so well with Hilda (Amanda Hyatt) whose facial expression tells a thousand words.

Chas Davenport, who has appeared with many local groups over the past 30 years, encapsulates the former security guard Ron with bluster and huge spoonfuls of humour.

Nicola King is the gossipy neighbour who skilfully interjects in every conversation.

The part of next-door neighbour Magda requires Marianne Chabin to be in a constant state of distress and this she perfects as the music teacher with a chilling secret.

Her husband Luther gives Topher Lynn the chance to be both sinister and unpleasant in equal measure.

I’m sure that when Emma Seymour was cast as the over-the-top flirtatious Amy she must have decided to run with it, as she gives it her all with her playful teasing, head tilting and artful strutting.

Lindsay Jones not only has to put in a well-rounded performance as unemployed engineer Gareth, he had to take the reins as director when his predecessor had to drop out for health reasons.

I don’t know whether there are any tickets left, as such is the reputation of this company that they sell out very quickly, but do try to secure one. It runs until this Saturday .

by Emma Joseph, Bournemouth Daily Echo

TUCKED away, at the top of a narrow, unassuming staircase, in a side street in Winton, lies one of the town’s best-kept secrets. Despite being in existence since 1919, and calling its Jameson Road base home since 1975, you could be forgiven for not realising that Bournemouth Little Theatre Club stages a series of plays throughout the year. Upon reaching the top of that staircase, a small corridor leads to a bustling bar and coffee station for pre-show and interval drinks and ice creams, while a surprisingly comfy 95-seat auditorium can be found round the corner.

Both regular members, who receive discounted tickets, and newbies such as myself, made up the full capacity audience for the club’s current production, Alan Ayckbourn’s Neighbourhood Watch, a comedy which is part of the organisation’s 2026 Dying with Laughter series.

Billed as a black comedy, the play, which first premiered in 2011, follows the antics of brother and sister Hilda and Martin Massie who, after moving to a new home, innocently set up a neighbourhood watch group after experiencing petty crime from a nearby estate.

Things quickly get out of hand and the residents of Bluebill Hill soon find themselves ruled by an authoritarian force, living with identity cards, eight-foot security gates and even stocks.

The beauty here is in the mundanity of the conversation, the awkwardness between new neighbours, the oh-so-British reliance on cups of tea.

Despite the eventual absurdity of the group, the story is wonderfully relatable.

It’s a long play, but the cast were word perfect, and utterly believable in their varied roles, with brilliant comic timing. Set entirely in Martin and Hilda’s living room, the set is simple, but clever.

I loved the subtle changes as the group gathers power, such as the appearance of Donald Trump pictures on the wall.

Darkly funny, with some poignant moments, the evening was thoroughly entertaining.

# 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH' Photo's





## AUDITION NOTICE

# KILLJOY

by

**Douglas McFerran**

**To be directed by Barry Gray**

**Read-through – Friday 29th May 2026 at 7:30pm**

**Auditions – Sunday, 31st May 2026 from 7:30pm**

**OPEN to ALL**

**PERFORMANCES: 8th – 12th September 2026, 7:45pm**

**Genre:** Comedy Thriller

**Setting:** The study in a substantial gothic mansion located in Oxfordshire.

### The Story...

Max Bentley was once an Oscar-winning Hollywood heavyweight. Now, he's the face of the TV detective series *Killjoy*—and even that is slipping through his fingers. With plummeting ratings, a cancelled contract, and a mountain of debt from the taxman, Max is staring down the barrel of financial ruin.

Enter **Rosie Reed**, an ambitious and seductive young journalist who wants to pen Max's biography. While Max's "hippie" wife, **Hermione**, suspects Rosie is just the latest in a long line of mistresses, Rosie actually has a plan to save Max's career.

Standing in their way is **Joy Pendleton**, a ruthless TV executive determined to axe Max in the most humiliating fashion possible. What begins as a desperate bid for survival quickly spirals into a farcical series of murderous events, complete with plot twists, sharp one-liners, and the baffling arrival of a **Detective Inspector dressed as a Morris Dancer**.

### Character Breakdown

- **Max Bentley:** Supercilious, arrogant, and resentful. A man desperate to maintain his dignity while his world crumbles. Aged 50-60.
- **Hermione Bentley:** Max's cannabis-smoking, "hippie" wife. Loyal but blissfully unaware of their impending bankruptcy. Aged 35-45.
- **Rosie Reed:** Young, sharp, and seductive. A journalist with a hidden agenda and a knack for manipulation. Aged 20-40.
- **Joy Pendleton:** An attractive, high-powered, and cold-blooded television executive. Aged 25-35.
- **DI Vivian:** A police inspector whose investigation is complicated by his local hobby—and his eccentric attire. Aged 25-35 (could also be female).

**At BOURNEMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE**

**11 Jameson Rd, Bournemouth BH9 2QD**



**If you are interested in getting involved as crew—helping backstage, costumes, props, set-building, lighting sound etc, come along to the read through so you know what the play is about and you can see how you would like to be involved.**

## OPEN EVENING/SOCIAL

We held an open evening/club social on 13th May, a little unsure who would come along....we shouldn't have worried—there were around forty people joined some part of the evening comprising our regulars, people who used to come along before life got in the way; some who have never been in the theatre building before; and some who meant to come and see what we are about, but hadn't got round to it. Most attendees want to get more involved in our activities, which is great.

We had a lovely evening with many requests to make this social time a regular event so here is date for your diary - 8th July 2026 (we are going for the second Wednesday in the month, unless embroiled in a production). Watch out for mail-shots, FB /Instagram posts or look on the website (events page).

All are welcome, we hope to see you at BLT soon.

Below is a photo of some of the attendees—the hard-liners who managed to stay until the end!!!



John Willmott and Caroline Burr attended the CAN Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, 29th April, running a BLTC stall. This has resulted in several volunteers expressing an interest in being involved with our activities. Thankyou John and Caroline for representing us at this event, and welcome to the new volunteers- we look forward to seeing you at BLT soon.

# Get Involved Get Involved Get Involved



Each season, Bournemouth Little Theatre brings six main productions and up to two Studio productions to the stage. Each production requires a Director and cast. In addition to this are the unsung heroes, who toil away (lark about) behind the scenes to make these productions possible. We are all unpaid volunteers at Bournemouth Little Theatre and if you have any occasional spare time and would like to get involved with a production, you would be very welcome- come along to the advertised production meetings to see how you could be involved or to Set Build/ Set Painting days, back-stage or give other support.



## CONTACT DETAILS:

### Your Committee Members:

Gwen Jones ( <i>Treasurer /Memberships/Newsletter/ Venue Hire</i> )	07825 064731
Lindsay Jones ( <i>Play Selection Committees/Photographer</i> )	01202 083504
Mo Hamill ( <i>Properties and Costumes Co-ordinator</i> )	07585 504500
Adam Stoddart ( <i>Studio Play Selection Committee, Rota organiser</i> ).....	07749 409634
Tim Fearon ( <i>Play Selection Committees/ Website co-ordinator</i> ) .....	07973 198811
Caroline Burr ( <i>Main Play Selection Committee</i> ).....	07905 650952
Adele Smyth ( <i>Properties and Costumes</i> ).....	07883 095884

### Not on the Committee:

Alastair Griffith ( <i>Lighting Design</i> ).....	07400 014135
Andrew Whyatt ( <i>Main Play Selection Committee</i> )	
Chris Huggill ( <i>Bar Stocks Manager</i> ) .....	07443 626484
Sue Hyder ( <i>Box Office</i> )	

Bournemouth Little Theatre Club  
11 Jameson Road  
Bournemouth BH9 2QD  
[www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk)

Email:  
[bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com](mailto:bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com)

Facebook:  
<http://facebook.com/BLittleTheatre>

Co Reg No: 02699332  
Charity Ref: 1019571