



Chairman's Report

As usual, the Christmas period was a busy one for our theatre and I hope you and your families were able to come to some of the productions. Our own ETA events in December - the Christmas dinner and the Studio production of *A Christmas Carol*, with festive refreshments afterwards - were very enjoyable and were well supported.

This year's pantomime was the best ever, with audiences totalling 42,487 for the 72 performances, and an income of £648,055. Over 100 different school groups came, there were "uniform performances" for the guides, scouts, brownies and beavers, the education staff gave 37 pantomime workshops to prepare primary school children for their visit, 350 free tickets were given to schools from local disadvantaged areasand the list goes on! Our hearty congratulations go to Geoffrey Rowe and his enthusiastic, hardworking Everyman team.

As you know, Geoffrey will be leaving the Everyman at the end of March after eleven successful years here. Our President's tribute to Geoffrey on behalf of the ETA is printed below.



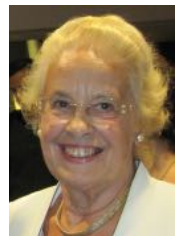
In January Robin Herford, Director of *The Woman in Black*, and member of the Everyman Theatre Board, came to talk to ETA members about the production which opened here soon afterwards and which is always so popular with Everyman audiences. Robin's enthusiastic and humorous talk was followed by wide-ranging questions from our members.

The launch of the new season's brochure will be on Saturday, March 4th (see *Dates for your Diary* overleaf) and we'll be delighted if any new members can come to meet some of the committee and other ETA members over coffee/tea. We were very disappointed that due to circumstances completely beyond our control the last brochure and ETA Newsletter, with an invitation to new members, did not arrive until after the date of the launch. There will be two Meet the Cast parties among our forthcoming events. Do feel free to come to these even if you have not booked tickets for the performances on those particular evenings. Details of the ETA AGM on Sunday, March 12th, should have reached you by now. I hope you will be able to be there and to stay for lunch.

We very much look forward to seeing you at our future events. Information about those not listed overleaf will be sent out to you by e-mail, if the Box Office has your e-mail address, and will be advertised on our website, notice board and social media.

Thank you for supporting the ETA. We currently have more than 1,500 members but would be delighted if more people could be encouraged to join us!

Janet Limb, Chairman



Geoffrey Rowe

Geoffrey Rowe retires at the end of March after eleven very successful years at the Everyman. He has achieved a great deal during his time here, for which the ETA is most grateful. He reintroduced a traditional Pantomime which has grown in popularity each year, 2016's being the most successful yet, both in terms of audience numbers and profitability. As well as providing a hugely enjoyable experience it enables much of the Everyman's vital Studio and outreach work to be programmed. Geoffrey has also increased the quality of the visiting productions. He will modestly say that he is constrained by what the producers are offering, but the fact is that he has booked increasingly excellent material which has appealed to the tastes of a wide spectrum of ETA members.



A lasting tribute to Geoffrey's skills was the marvellous restoration of the theatre, a project which was completed on time and within budget. The auditorium looks as good today as it did on the day we reopened after the restoration.

The ETA has a good friend in Geoffrey, as I can personally testify from my days as Chairman. He came to committee meetings, offering good advice and putting the ETA in touch with the Everyman staff who could help in any way. We shall miss the droll and witty reports he made on the year's events to each of our AGMs, and his helpful answers to the varied questions members asked from the floor. Given his impending retirement, it was very fitting that Geoffrey was our guest speaker at this year's Christmas dinner, when he gave a fascinating talk about Cheltenham's "other theatre".

The Association is very grateful for all that Geoffrey has put into the Everyman and for his time and help given to us, and we have enjoyed his company. Our very best wishes go to him and his wife Sue for a long and happy retirement.

Roger Nicholls, ETA President

Dates for your Diary

Friday, February 17th

Please join us in Matcham's after the first performance of *A Passionate Woman*, to meet the Director, Paul Milton, and the cast.

Meet the Cast Party

Saturday, March 4th

10.00 a.m. for 10.30 a.m.

Brochure Launch

The launch of the new season's brochure will take place in Matcham's. Tea and coffee will be served from 10.00 a.m. (N.B. earlier time than usual.) We'll be delighted if any of our new members can come to this event to meet some of our committee and ETA members.

Sunday, March 12th

11.00 a.m.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in the main auditorium (**please note change of time**) and will be followed by drinks in the Circle Bar and lunch in Matcham's. Full details should already have reached you, and we hope you will be able to attend. If you wish to have lunch, please send your application form to Margaret Edwards by March 4th. We are very sorry that due to circumstances beyond our control the stage will not be available for the lunch.

Tuesday, March 28th

2.30 p.m.

Talk on Arthur Miller & *The Crucible*

Roger Nicholls, our President, will give a talk in Matcham's about Arthur Miller and the recent production of *The Crucible*. Tea/coffee and cakes will be served. Tickets £10. Please send cheques (payable to ETA) to Margaret Edwards, 1 Verney Close, Cheltenham GL53 7DD (Tel: 01242 581187) by 22nd March.

Monday, May 8th

An opportunity to meet the cast of Ruth Rendell's *Judgement in Stone* in Matcham's after the first performance.

Meet the Cast Party

Tuesday, July 18th

Meet the cast of *Around the World in 80 Days* in Matcham's after the first performance.

Meet the Cast Party

See our e-mails, website, notice board, Facebook page and Twitter for up to date details of our events.

The Everyman's newly appointed Chief Executive

Mark Goucher has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Everyman Theatre. According to *The Stage* "Goucher will continue to run his independent production company, Mark Goucher Productions, alongside his job at the Everyman. A statement from the theatre said his appointment signalled a move towards more co-productions with venues and companies, as well as an ambition to begin plays in Cheltenham before transferring to London."

We offer our congratulations to Mark Goucher, who lives in Gloucestershire, and we look forward to meeting him. He has said that the Everyman was "the only theatre I have ever had an interest in running." His credits as a producer include *The Dresser* which we enjoyed here in September.



Catering staff at the Christmas dinner



Listening to Geoffrey, our after dinner speaker



Robin Herford talks about *The Woman in Black*

Your ETA Committee

President	Roger Nicholls	Chairman & Newsletter	Janet Limb 01242 237484 chairman@everymantheatreassociation.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Lesley Whittal 01242 263713	Secretary	Pat Redmond 01242 520749
Treasurer	Daniel Nicholas 01531 828474	Social Secretary	Margaret Edwards 01242 581187
Committee Members	Peter Green Aidan Rose (Website) Miranda Walker (Twitter & Facebook)	Membership Enquiries	Everyman Box Office 01242 572573 admin@everymantheatre.org.uk

Website: www.everymantheatreassociation.org.uk **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/everymantheatreassociation **Twitter:** @EverymanFriends
The Everyman Theatre Association is a registered charity (number 240273)