



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

YATE AND SODBURY DISTRICT BRANCH THEATRE GROUP NEWSLETTER

September 2026 to March 2027

Committee:	Jane Climpson	(01454 228672)	janeclimpson@btinternet.com
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PROCEDURE

The descriptions of the theatre trips on offer are enclosed, plus a booking form with a copy for you to retain. Please complete the form and **return it by the date requested** if you want to book. **(No booking via email)**

ONCE REQUESTED ON THIS FORM YOU ARE THEN COMMITTED TO PAY FOR THE TICKETS.

No money is to be sent at this stage.

If tickets and transport are available, you will receive details of coach pick up times and an invoice.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR INVOICE, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE AMOUNT OWING IS SENT BY THE DATE REQUESTED! MOST THEATRES NOW REQUIRE EARLY PAYMENT.

No post dated cheques please.

TICKETS

If you find that you cannot use tickets that you have purchased, then you may sell your ticket **to another member of our U3A**, but please let us know their name for our records. Tickets will be issued on the coach.

If you wish to sit with friends, please make one person responsible for requesting the number of tickets for the group. We are unable to seat people together unless their booking is on one form.

If you have mobility difficulties and would prefer an aisle seat, if available, please indicate this on the form.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MONEY IS NON-REFUNDABLE ONCE THE TICKETS ARE BOOKED.

TRANSPORT

Pick up points are **outside** Chipping Sodbury car park, Wickwar Road; the bus lanes by Tesco in Yate; Yate Windows (bus stop on Station Road opposite Cranleigh Court)

For Bristol trips only, we will also pick up at Coalpit Heath, opposite St Saviour's church and outside the Horseshoe pub Downend.

Coach times and pick up points will be given when the invoice is sent.

It is vitally important that you are on time for the coach, as the coach will not wait after the stated time.

PLEASE NOTE DATES AND TIMES IN YOUR DIARY!

If travelling a distance to a theatre, such as Cheltenham or Cardiff, we aim to arrive in time to have lunch before the show. You may choose to take a packed lunch or to buy a meal at the theatre or one of the local cafes and restaurants.

CAR PARKING

U3A theatre group members have permission to park at 'The Ridings' sports club, **on theatre visit days, weekdays only.**

IF YOU RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY POST

As you know the cost of postage is increasing. We will of course continue to send newsletters by post to any members who need one. But there are people on the 'postal' list who have not booked for some time, and perhaps no longer need a newsletter. **If you would still to receive a postal newsletter, please could you confirm this on the booking form where indicated, or, if you are not making a booking this time, but would like to continue with the postal newsletter, could you please let Jane Climpson know by telephone or email as indicated on the form.**

THEATRE LIST – September 2026 to March 2027

Mill at Sonning

“The Mirror Crack’d”

Saturday 12th September at 2.15 pm.

(PREVIOUS PROGRAMME, BOOKINGS CLOSED)

Everyman – Cheltenham

“Present Laughter”

Wednesday 30th September at 2.00 pm

Following her highly acclaimed performance in “The Merchant of Venice 1936” Tracy-Ann Oberman stars as Geri Essendine in this new production of Noel Coward’s celebrated and hilarious portrayal of the temptations and pitfalls of theatrical celebrity.

Geri Essendine is a hugely successful actress (who has been 39 for the best part of a decade). Her personality, wit and charm have earned her a legion of devoted fans, young and old, and a coterie of friends, acquaintances and hangers-on. Just as she is about to depart for a tour of Africa, Geri finds herself besieged by a bevy of would-be lovers, not to mention her long-suffering secretary, estranged husband and an obsessed young playwright. Will she ever disentangle herself from their tightening clutches and incessant demands? And deep down, does she really want to...?

Director Lindsay Posner, (Noises Off, A View From the Bridge, The Deep Blue Sea)

In Cheltenham, the coach has to drop us at the Bus station, about 7 minutes walk from the theatre.

Festival Theatre Malvern

“Anastasia File

Wednesday 14th October at 2.30 pm

July 1918. Tsar Nicholas II and his family are brutally executed by the Bolsheviks in Ekaterinburg. Two years later in Berlin, a woman is pulled from a canal after a failed attempt to take her own life and is placed in an institutional facility. As Doctors and police puzzle over her identity, she slowly begins to reveal details about her past that bring about the suspicion that she may in fact be the Grand Duchess Anastasia, the heir to the Romanov fortune. Inspired by the true story of Anne Manahan, whose thirty-year battle for recognition as the last surviving Romanov was one of the most popular historical mysteries of the twentieth century. Memory, fact and fiction intertwine in this thrilling and moving drama that will keep you guessing long after the curtain falls.

Jenny Seagrove (Judge John Deed) reprises her critically acclaimed performance in Royce Ryton’s The Anastasia File, as part of The Theatre Royal Windsor Season on tour.

Bristol Beacon

“BBC Young Musician Final” Thursday 15th October at 7.00 pm

The long-running and much-loved biennial competition has been celebrating up-and-coming musical talents from across the UK for five decades, launching the careers of international stars such as cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, saxophonist Jess Gillam, pianist Benjamin Grosvenor, and violinist Nicola Benedetti. From over 260 initial entries, three finalists will each perform a full concerto with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and at the end of the evening one will be named BBC Young Musician 2026.

Everyman – Cheltenham

“Dracula”

Thursday 12th November at 2.00 pm

The time is 1897. Mankind is on the cusp of vast technological change, scientific mastery and media innovation. But poised between traditional beliefs, the threat of the unknown and the shock of the new world, an altogether darker fear is emerging. As a new shadow looms large over England, a small group of young men and women, led by Professor Van Helsing, are plunged into an epic struggle for survival. Stretching from London, through provincial England, to the mountainous wastes of Transylvania, Bram Stoker’s timeless gothic thriller embodies the struggle to break taboos, resist temptation and stop the unknown outside becoming the enemy within.

Adapted by Nick Lane, this brilliant theatrical treatment of Bram Stoker’s adventure blends Victorian Gothic with the contemporary, showcasing Blackeyed Theatre’s trademark ensemble performance style and featuring a haunting soundscape, powerful performances and innovative design.

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Tobacco Factory**“Christmas Carol”****Wednesday 9th December at 7.00 pm**

Step into Dickensian Bristol on Christmas Eve. Frost on the cobbles. Bells in the cold air. A city poised on the longest night. Music cuts through the chill. Stories flare from the darkness. Past, present and future collide. Expect the moments you love, re-forged with laughter, live music and theatrical magic – all unfolding in the unique, in-the-round intimacy of Tobacco Factory Theatres.

Haunting, joyful, and urgent, this thrilling new adaptation by Carl Grose, directed by Heidi Vaughan, is unleashed through the watchful eyes of Jacob Marley and his unruly band of spirits. It promises to be utterly mischievous, menacing and full of festive fire.

This is A Christmas Carol for now: a fierce, heart-lifting reminder that even in the longest night, light can be found.

St Georges Bristol**“Christmas Spectacular”****Friday 18th December at 7.30 pm**

Bristol Ensemble and Exultate Singers perform their annual feast of beautiful Christmas music, combining light-hearted joyfulness with atmospheric and moving carols and orchestral music, under the direction of David Ogden and Roger Huckle.

Bristol Beacon**“New Year Viennese Gala”****Sunday 3rd January at 3.00 pm**

Join the **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Tom Fetherstonhaugh** and **Soprano Claudia Boyle** for an afternoon of swirling majesty and joyous music to spin you into 2027!

Continue the festive celebrations and let the uplifting sounds of this traditional Viennese Gala take you into the New Year with a flourish. Waltzes, polkas and marches from Johann Strauss II, his family and contemporaries fill this sparkling matinee, transporting you from your seat in the concert hall to the traditional gala halls of Vienna. The programme includes Strauss greats the *Fledermaus Overture*, *Thunder and Lightning Polka*, *Radetzky March* and, of course, *The Blue Danube*

Bath Theatre Royal**“Tale of Two Cities”****Saturday 23rd January at 2.30 pm**

In 1770s Paris, revolution is stirring. Sydney Carton is a brilliant yet cynical barrister from England. Charles Darnay is the rebel child of French aristocrats. When they both fall for charming émigré Lucie Manette, a chain of events is set in motion which will endanger everyone. As the Reign of Terror rages on the streets of Paris, for some, love is a lifeline; for others, a sentence to the guillotine.

Adapted by Terence Rattigan (*The Winslow Boy*, *The Deep Blue Sea*) and John Gielgud, based on one of the best-selling novels of all time, this epic story of love, sacrifice and redemption asks: is there any price too great to pay for love?

A Marlowe Theatre production, directed by Michael Fentiman (*Amélie*, RSC's *Titus Andronicus*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Loot*).

THEATRE BOOKING FORM **September 2026 to January 2027****MEMBER'S COPY**

Please keep the form below as your record of the booking, and return the form overleaf to order your tickets.

NAME AND MEMBERSHIP NUMBER OF EACH PERSON INCLUDED IN THE BOOKING

<i>Name of Theatre</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Performance Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Cost of Ticket, Coach & Driver</i>	<i>No. of Tickets</i>
Mill at Sonning	Saturday September 12 th	2.15	The Mirror Crack'd	FULLY BOOKED ON PREVIOUS PROGRAMME	
Everyman Cheltenham	Wednesday September 30 th	2.00	Present Laughter	£62	
Festival Theatre Malvern	Wednesday October 14 th	2.30	Anastasia File	£52	
Bristol Beacon	Thursday October 15 th	7.00	Young Musician Final	£63	
Everyman Cheltenham	Thursday November 12 th	2.00	Dracula	£55	
Tobacco Factory Bristol	Wednesday December 9 th	7.00	Christmas Carol	£44	
St Georges Bristol	Friday December 18 th	7.30	Christmas Spectacular	£43	
Bristol Beacon	Sunday January 3 rd	3.00	New Year Gala Concert	£54	
Theatre Royal Bath	Saturday January 23 rd	2.30	Tale of Two Cities	£58	

*Please return booking forms as quickly as possible and before July 31st
Tickets will be allocated strictly on a first come first served basis.*

***PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR U3A INSURANCE NOW STATES THAT ONLY MEMBERS OF OUR U3A MAY ATTEND THEATRE TRIPS. OF COURSE ANYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO JOIN OUR U3A FOR £10.
ITS GOOD VALUE EVEN IF THEY ONLY WANT TO ATTEND A THEATRE TRIP OR TWO.***

Please return to Mrs J. Climpson (U3A), Inglewood Cottage, Wotton Road, Iron Acton, BRISTOL, BS37 9UZ
By July 31st

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PLEASE TICK HERE IF YOU RECEIVED A HARD COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER BY POST AND WILL STILL NEED A POSTAL COPY IN FUTURE.

IF YOU DO NOT DO SO, WE WILL MOVE YOU TO THE EMAIL LIST.

IF YOU WILL NOT BE BOOKING THIS TIME, BUT WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OF FUTURE NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE LET JANE CLIMPSON KNOW:

Tel 01454 228672 (and leave a message if no answer) or email: janeclimpson@btinternet.com