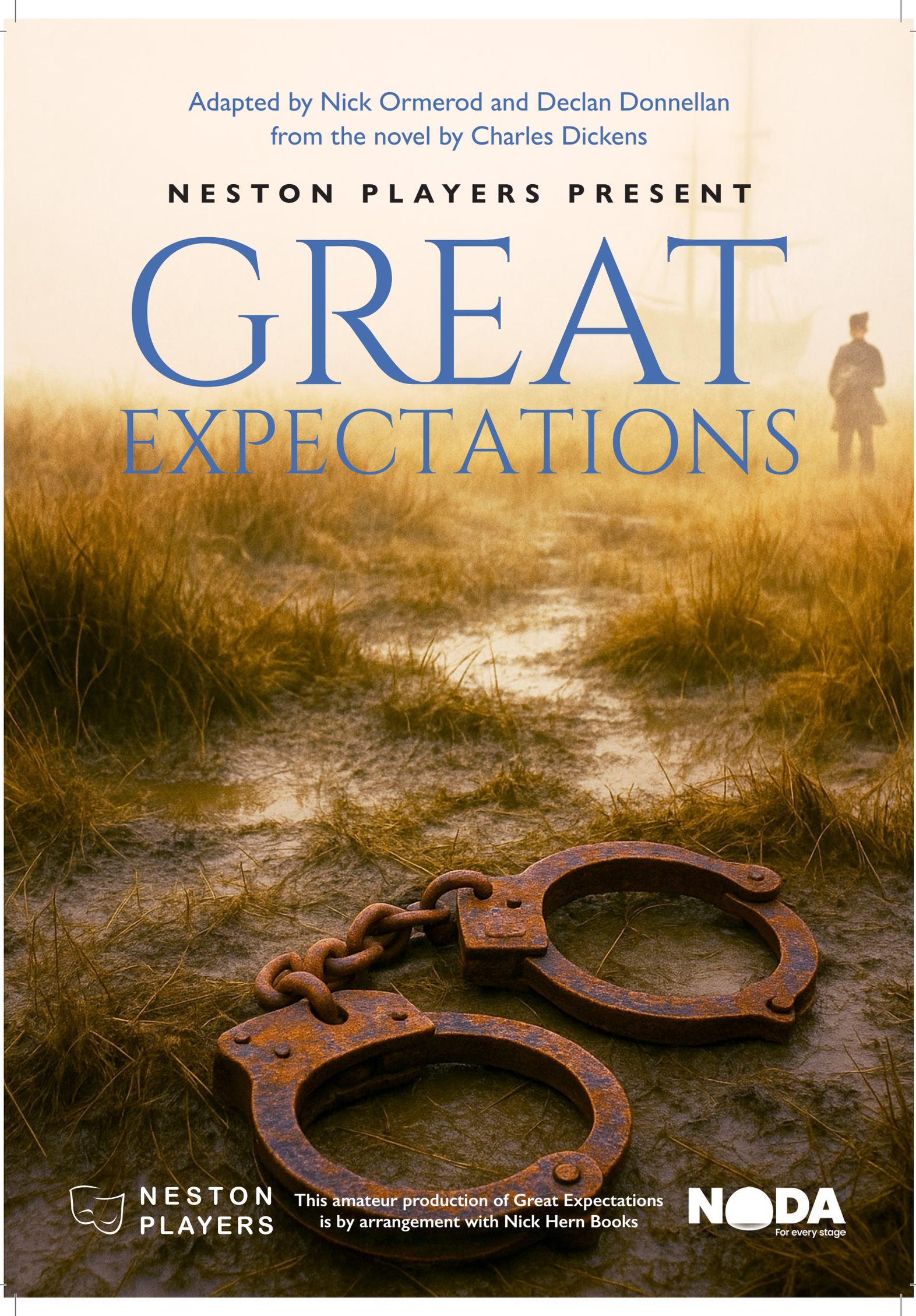
Adapted by Nick Ormerod and Declan Donnellan
from the novel by Charles Dickens

NESTON PLAYERS PRESENT

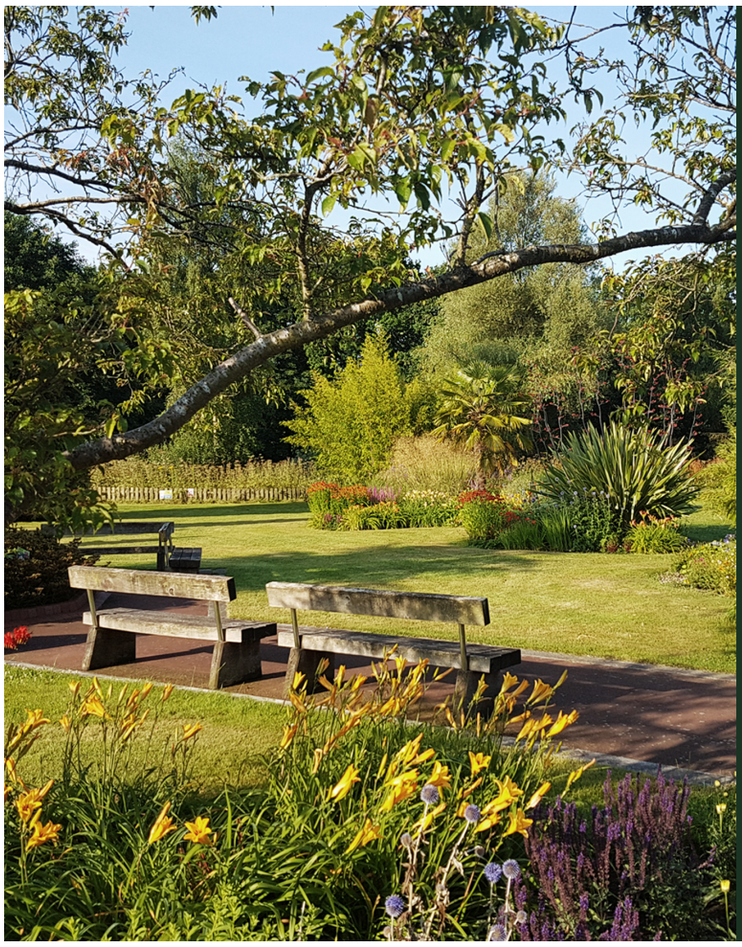
GREAT EXPECTATIONS



NESTON PLAYERS

This amateur production of Great Expectations
is by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

NODA
For every stage



BEAUTIFUL GARDENS...

start with Gordale.

Our family owned, award-winning garden and home centre has been growing since 1948, making us one of the UK's original garden centre destinations. Now set in 15 acres of beautiful landscaped grounds, Gordale is the perfect spot for some retail therapy, expert advice and outdoor relaxation, any day of the week.

Gordale

GARDEN | HOME | LEISURE

www.gordale.co.uk

Gordale. *For a greener home and garden.*

Balducci Jewellers

Classical in inspiration, timeless, a tradition of fine craftsmanship which we follow.

12 The Cross, Neston, CH64 9UB
0151 336 5235

Established in Neston for over 35 years, Balducci's is a family-run business with a wealth of expertise, priding ourselves on excellent customer service.

We design and make bespoke jewellery, to both traditional and contemporary designs, and offer the highest quality craftsmanship.

Several of our designs have been featured in Vogue magazine.We undertake all jewellery repairs and modifications, including re-sizing and re-mounting.

We also offer valuation advice, and we buy gold and silver. Come and see us for an honest appraisal.



18ct yellow and white Emerald and diamond set pendant on chain
Photo: Elizabeth Balducci

We also stock a wide range of jewellery and gift items suitable for any occasion.

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Friday - 9.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday - 9.00am - 1.00pm
Saturday - 9.00am - 5.00pm

NESTON PLAYERS

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



It's good to be back at Neston Civic Hall after a 12-month absence. Our break was unfortunate, but with the uncertainty around the condition of the roof, we weren't confident enough to commit the time and expense to perform last November.

There is, however, some very good news. Funding for the replacement roof has now been agreed with Cheshire West and Chester, which will secure the asset transfer for NCYC to formally take over the long-term operation of Neston Civic Hall. This is not only great news for our local community but a fantastic development for Neston Players, who have been performing at the venue for over 75 years.

Our last production at Neston Civic Hall was the NODA-nominated, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, celebrated for its outstanding staging and brought to life under the inspired co-direction of Ruth Cooper and Stuart Rathe. We're delighted to welcome both Ruth and Stuart back as directors of *Great Expectations*. Their creativity is innovative, collaborative and authentic, and we wish them and all the cast and crew every deserved success for the coming week.

Despite our hiatus on the stage, last October we performed our self-penned ghost walk, recreating stories from the residents of Neston about their experiences with the supernatural. Written and directed by the very talented Chrissy Owen and Jenny Clement, we took our audience on a ghostly walk around Neston and Parkgate over 4 sold-out evenings. This has now been adapted for radio and recorded by Charles Riley, with Martin Riley and Carl Howard.

We hope you enjoy tonight's performance and look forward to seeing you at our next production, here at Neston Civic Hall.

Thank you for your on-going support.
Martin Barker

TRIBUTES



Marnie Clark



Diana O'Brien

In June 2025, we said goodbye to Marnie Clark. Amateur dramatics was Marnie's way to make new friends, as she and her family moved frequently with her husband's work. She joined Neston Players in 1985, the year she moved to Neston from Kilmarnock and Dumfries, where she was a serious actor. Her first play with us was The Trojan Women by Euripides. Marnie was incredibly talented and participated in many productions over the years as a writer, actor and director. Her favourite plays were; The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, from which she knew all of the characters and The Real Inspector Hound.

She was a great supporter of the society and a positive role model and mentor to new members. She got involved in lots of 'behind the scenes' activities too, always with enthusiasm and a zest for fun. Marnie was known for her kindness, warmth and generosity. She was a special lady and a lovely friend and is greatly missed by us all.

Diana O'Brien passed away in May 2025. Di was one of the longest standing members of Neston Players and was active in numerous productions both as an actor and director. Latterly, she could be found helping with the refreshments and various back stage duties when she felt that treading the boards was no longer possible. Di was, without doubt, one of the most capable and memorable members and she is missed by all who knew her.

REHEARSAL GALLERY

CAST OF 2026





























GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Neston Players are thrilled to welcome back Ruth Cooper and Stuart Rathe, whose previous productions with us set the bar dazzlingly high. Their work has not only captivated our audiences but has also earned major recognition, including the NODA North West Best Directors Award for The Railway Children in 2022 and a NODA nomination for Best Staging for The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe in 2024. These productions weren't just successful — they were landmark moments for our company, celebrated for their imagination, craft and emotional impact. We are equally proud of Pauline Garland, whose unforgettable performance as Queen Catherine/Ma Gwynn in Nell Gwynn earned her the Best Supporting Female in a Drama award in 2024. Her achievement adds yet another highlight to what has been an extraordinary period of creativity and excellence for Neston Players.



Whether you are staging a musical, an opera, a play, a concert or a pantomime, as the UK's leading amateur theatre membership organisation, NODA is here for every show, every rehearsal, every curtain call – here for our members every step of the way.

From just starting out to centre stage; village halls to professional venues; NODA exists to celebrate, connect, support and amplify amateur theatre and theatre groups across the UK.

We provide invaluable services, expertise and resources - that help thousands of our member groups create and produce theatre, that enhances lives and benefits communities everywhere.

Whatever your passion, level of experience or stage of life, we are here to help everyone enjoy the unique benefits, opportunities and sense of community that live performance can bring.

NODA
For every stage

NODA
For every stage
noda.org.uk

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

RUTH COOPER & STUART RATHE

When we were invited back to direct at Neston Players, we knew we wanted to bring audiences something big-hearted, ambitious and truly magical. After the joy of directing The Railway Children and The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe on this stage, we were eager to push further and craft an experience that felt even more dramatic and emotionally sweeping. Great Expectations was irresistible: a classic packed with drama, romance and mystery, bursting with unforgettable characters and moments that beg for bold, imaginative theatre.

This adaptation by Nick Ormerod and Declan Donnellan, originally created for the Royal Shakespeare Company, is bold, inventive and wonderfully economical, using storytelling and ensemble performance to bring Dickens' expansive world to life. It is also demanding—requiring imagination, precision and a company willing to embrace physical, collaborative theatre. Fortunately, that is exactly the spirit we always find here at Neston.

Our approach is rooted in chorus storytelling. Rather than relying on traditional scene changes and realism, we work with the full company to create the world together—through movement, shared narration and inventive staging. Rehearsals have been active and collaborative, with the cast shaping moments and helping to build the physical language of the piece. The result, we hope, is a production that feels alive, fluid and driven by the energy of our ensemble.

What drew us to *Great Expectations* was the richness of its imagery and emotional journey: the eerie encounter with Magwitch on the marshes; the haunting stillness of Miss Havisham; the bustling chaos of London; and Pip's path from innocence and ambition to self-knowledge and compassion. At its heart, this is a story about identity, loyalty, forgiveness and what truly makes a person "great".

Bringing such a huge novel to the stage is no small task, and we have been constantly inspired by the creativity and generosity of our cast and crew. Theatre like this is a true team effort. Our thanks go to the Neston Players Committee for their continued support, and to everyone behind the scenes who makes this production possible.

DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES



Ruth Cooper and Stuart Rathe have directed together for both Neston Players and Hillbark Players and are established members of the local theatre community. Both are teachers and they bring their organisational skills, clarity of communication, and commitment to supporting performers to their work in the rehearsal room.

For Neston Players, they co-directed The Railway Children —which was awarded NODA's Best Directors (North West) in 2022 —and The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe (nominated by NODA for Best Staging). With Hillbark Players, their collaborations include Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and A Midsummer Night's Dream.
They are pleased to be directing *Great Expectations* for Neston Players and would like to thank the cast, production team and society members who have contributed their time and effort to the production.

Most of all, we hope you enjoy the story. Whether you know Dickens well or are discovering *Great Expectations* for the first time, we invite you to sit back, use your imagination and join us on Pip's extraordinary journey.

Stuart Rathe & Ruth Cooper, Directors

THE AUTHOR, THE NOVEL & THE PLAY

CHARLES DICKENS

Charles Dickens was born in 1812, in Portsmouth, the second child of John and Elizabeth Dickens. By the time Charles was 10, the family had moved several times, first to London, then to Kent, then back to London. The six years that the family spent in Kent, he later described as his happiest years. He enjoyed a carefree childhood and developed a love for reading and this is the area of the country that he chose for the beginning of 'Great Expectations'.

Dickens's childhood, however, ended abruptly and dramatically in 1824, when his father, a naval clerk who lived beyond his means, was arrested and imprisoned in a Debtors Prison.
At 12 years old, Charles was forced to leave school and to work in a Blacking Warehouse to support himself. He had to work 10-hour days, pasting labels onto pots of boot polish and earned six shillings a week, whilst his mother and his three younger siblings joined John in prison. He felt abandoned and alone, living in lodgings in poverty.



The memories of this period haunted him for the rest of his life but these harsh experiences also stimulated a lifelong interest in social injustice. It is hardly surprising that as an adult, he used his novels to criticise the social conditions of Victorian England, often highlighting child labour and the inadequacies of the education system, as well as the struggles of the poor.

About the Novel

Great Expectations was first published in December 1860 as a new serial in Dickens's weekly magazine, 'All the Year Round', in an attempt to revive its falling circulation. Fortunately, the story proved enormously popular and before long was selling at a rate of 100,000 copies a week. It ran weekly until 3 August 1861, and was then published as a first edition in three volumes in October 1861. It was reprinted many times. This was Dickens's thirteenth and penultimate completed novel, as he died in June 1870.
In 2003, it was voted 17th out of the top 200 novels chosen by survey participants in the BBC's 'The Big Read', a year-long survey to find the 'Nation's Best-loved Novel'.

About the Adaptation

This brand new dramatisation of *Great Expectations* premiered at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon in 2005. Declan Donnellan is an internationally acclaimed theatre director and he and his partner, the designer Nick Ormerod, co-founded an international theatre company in 1981, called Cheek by Jowl. Since then, they have created more than 40 productions, performing across six continents. Ormerod has designed sets and costumes for all the company's productions.

"In my view, the designer (in collaboration with the director) defines the space. The act of theatre is essentially a willing conspiracy between actor and audience - one performing feats of the imagination, the other suspending their disbelief - that begins when the house lights dim, and finishes when the cast take their final bow."
Nick Ormerod

"Theatre provides a safe frame within which we can explore dangerous extremities in the comfort of fantasy and the reassurance of a group. If every auditorium were razed to the ground, theatre would still survive, because the hunger in each of us to act and be acted to, is genetic. This intense hunger even crosses the threshold of sleep. For we direct, perform and witness performances every night - theatre cannot die before the last dream has been dreamt."
Declan Donnellan

Neston Civic Hall

The perfect venue for events, weddings, parties and special occasions!

You can support this much loved community venue in the following ways:

- Attend events at the hall - www.ncyc.charity/whats-on
- Hire the hall for your event - www.ncyc.charity/hire-nch
- Purchase an Occasion Package - www.ncyc.charity/occasion-neston
- Become a member of the Charity - www.ncyc.charity/supportus





Contact us for more information:
Paula@nestoncyc.org.uk
0151 336 7805
Scan QR code to be taken to our website





Registered Office: Neston Community Youth Centre, Burton Road, Neston, CH64 9RE
Registered Charity No 1117890
Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales No 06052346

SHOP 4 NESTON

The ONLY community shop in Neston!

All profits raised are spent in our community.

6 Liverpool Road Neston

Shop-Donate-Volunteer-
Help local good causes



Cast in order of appearance

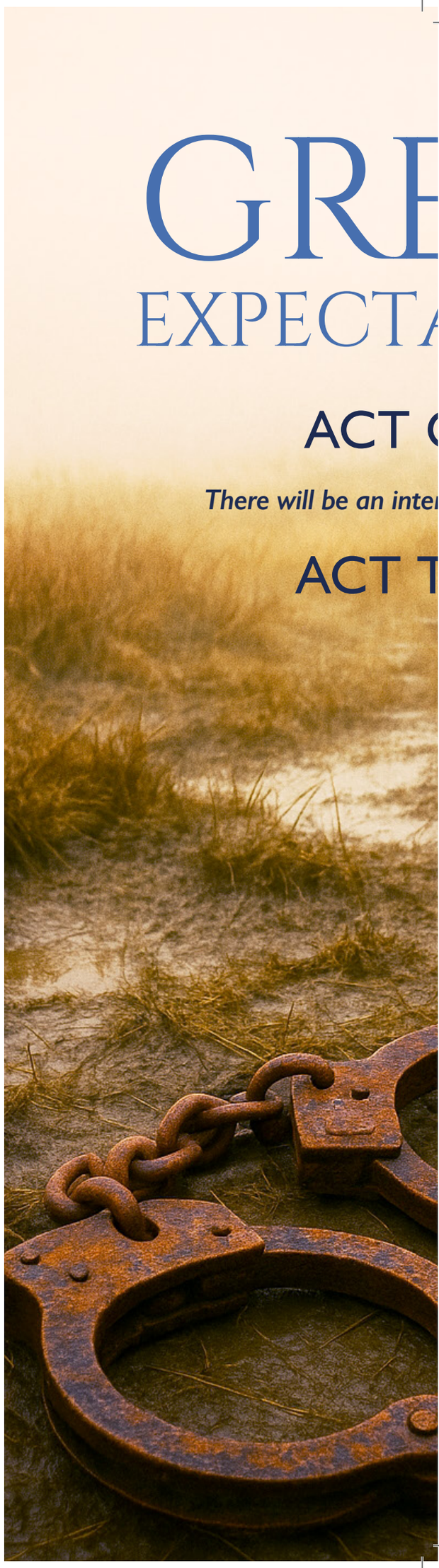
Young Pip - Peter Wynne
Pip - Adam Stubbs
Magwitch - Mark Prescott
Mrs Joe - Sarah McGinty
Joe Gargery - Charles Riley
Aunt Pumblechook - Rebecca Burke Sharples
Wopsle - Keith Hill
Compeyson - Martin Riley
Young Estella - Emily Ellinson
Estella - Louise Ellinson
Miss Havisham - Jemma Brown
Jaggers - Simon Garland
Orlick - Carl Howard
Biddy - Ticki Clark
Wemmick - Pauline Garland
Herbert Pocket - Jace Clark
Bentley Drummle - Kristopher Duffin
Startop - Peter Wynne
Molly - Leanne Hardy

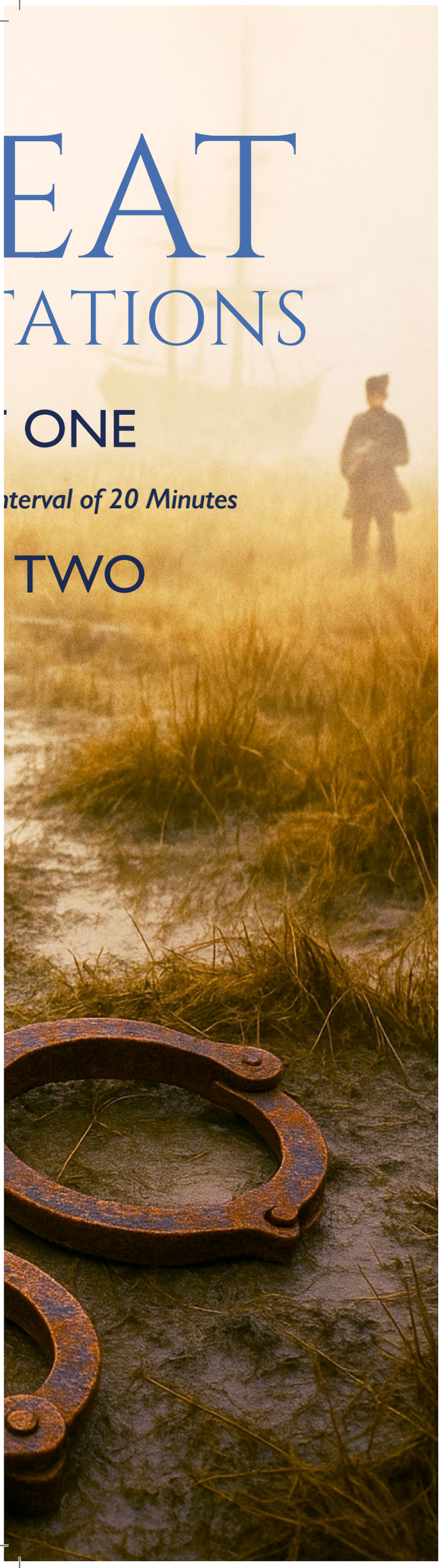
All other parts are played by the Chorus:

Pauline Garland
Leanne Hardy
Ann Fleming
Helen Hague
Lindsey Fooks
Keith Hill
Carl Howard
Martin Riley
Sarah McGinty
Rebecca Burke Sharples



Vince moved to the Wirral eight years ago and soon became involved with Neston Players. He has performed in several festival plays and later found a home at Chester Little Theatre, appearing in Quartet and The Tempest, as well as performing with Hillbark Players.
Vince was originally cast as Magwitch in this production, but has had to withdraw for health reasons. We wish him a full and speedy recovery and look forward to having him back with us in the future.





Production Team

Directors - Ruth Cooper & Stuart Rathe

Production Manager - Fleur Smith

Assisted by - Sarah McGinty & Anne Farrall

Stage Manager - Katie Jones

Costume Designer & Personal Props - Ally Sullivan

Costume Assistants - Nessa Garland & Lisa Dearnley

Makeup and Hair - Lisa Dearnley

Set Designer - Martin Barker

Sound Designer - Andrew Rymer & Michael Palmer

Lighting Design and Operation - Simon Ollman & Micah Ollman

Box Office Managers - Matthew Smith, Anne Farrall & Sarah McGinty

Assistant Box Office Manager - Martin Barker

Marketing - Fleur Smith

Programme Content - Fleur Smith & Anne Farrall

Programme Design - Rebecca Jackson Designs

Front of House Manager - Cheryl Barker

Assistant Front of House - Simon Deere

Thank You

A huge thank you to our entire production team — from our visionary directors to our brilliant costume creators and every talented person behind the scenes. This show has been a true team triumph.

We're also incredibly grateful to our programme advertisers, all fantastic local businesses whose support means so much to us. A special shout-out to our ticket outlet Shop4Neston again this year helping us sell an amazing number of tickets.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Scirard and Caroline Lancelyn-Green for the generous use of our costume store and their unwavering support. We're deeply appreciative of Neston Methodist Church and NCYC for providing rehearsal space, and to the wonderful team at Neston Civic Hall for their ongoing help and support.

And finally, thank you to The Methodist Church, Gordale Garden Centre, and Neston Civic Hall for proudly displaying our banners and helping us spread the word far and wide!



CAST





Peter Wynne

Young Pip & Startop

Peter was a keen participant in drama productions at secondary school, playing the Pied Piper in Shrek and Ritzy in Bugsy Malone. He was also a member of his local youth am dram for three years. Peter is currently studying for his BTEC Performing Arts at college. This is his first production with Neston Players. He auditioned hoping for a small role, but was delighted to be given the important role of Young Pip and also Startop.



Emily Ellinson

Young Estella

Emily sings with both the school choir and Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Training Choir. She plays cornet in the jazz band and Wirral Youth Brass. Emily has won first prize in the National IDTA Musical Theatre Awards in 2024. Last year she performed with BOST in Annie at Liverpool Empire, and most recently has performed as a soloist in concerts in Ellesmere Port and North Wales. She is excited to perform in her first full-length play.



Adam Stubbs

Pip

Adam works part time as an audiobook narrator and has been involved in am dram for years including many productions for Neston Players, such as the title role of Henry V and most recently Peter in The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. With Hillbark players he has played the title role in Hamlet, Brutus in Julius Caesar and most recently Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet. He has also directed plays, most recently Flare Path with the Woolgatherers.



Louise Ellinson

Estella

A classical singer and choral conductor by profession. Most recently Louise sang the title role in Lehár's operetta The Merry Widow in Chester. Her previous roles with Neston Players include; Romaine in Witness for the Prosecution, which earned her a district NODA Award and The White Witch in The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe. She also played Gwendoline in The Importance of Being Earnest for BDS. Louise is delighted to be playing Estella alongside her daughter Emily.



Mark Prescott

Magwitch

Mark is a regular on the North West theatre scene. His work with Hillbark Players includes Alonso in The Tempest and a 1950s rock'n'roll-inspired Nick Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream, alongside regular performances with Carlton Players. He has also appeared in a number of independent film projects. A recent highlight was performing in the first authorised amateur production of Les Misérables at the Liverpool Empire. This led to an appearance at the Albert Hall for the Royal Variety Performance.



Charles Riley

Joe Gargery

Charles has enjoyed many productions over the years and has been lucky enough to play the title roles in Macbeth, Antonio in Merchant of Venice and Julius Caesar himself. More recently he has appeared in Neston Players' productions of Goodnight Mr Tom as Mr Tom, Aslan in The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe and the Duke of Norfolk in A Man For All Seasons. He has found it a privilege to work with all these fine actors in Great Expectations and enjoy the supremely high standard of direction from Ruth and Stuart who always make their productions such great fun.



Sarah McGinty

Mrs. Joe & Chorus

Sarah has been an active member of Neston Players since 2017 and has played various roles over the years, as well as co-directing, with Cheryl Barker, the Noda Award winning Witness for The Prosecution. Having really enjoyed the whole experience of being in our last production, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, also directed by Ruth and Stuart, she is delighted to be a member of this cast and playing the role of the horrible Mrs Joe, as well as being part of the chorus.



Rebecca Burke Sharples

Aunt Pumblechook & Chorus

Rebecca has been an active member of Neston players for a number of years, both on and offstage as a committee member and backstage support for several productions including stage and prop management and has also enjoyed playing remarkably interesting roles including Mrs McKenzie in Witness for the Prosecution for which she received the NODA district award for best supporting actress; and played the wonderful Nancy in Nell Gwyn. She is delighted and honoured to be on stage again, as the extraordinary Aunt Pumblechook.



Keith Hill

Wopsle & Chorus

This is Keith's first stage production for Neston Players (after having participated in the Ghost Walk). Keith has been involved in amateur dramatics for several decades. In addition to acting, he has experience of direction, set design, construction and realisation. He has been a regular performer with Hillbark Players since 1976. His most recent appearance on stage was in The Full Monty for Bebington Dramatic Society. Keith is delighted to be part of this ambitious and challenging production of Great Expectations.



Martin Riley

Compeyson & Chorus

Martin has been acting with various Wirral companies since 2005, including Hillbark Players as Macduff in The Scottish Play in 2009 and the Duke of Athens in A Midsummer Night's Dream in 2018. He has been acting and directing for Neston Players since 2012 and was involved in their much-acclaimed WW1 Centennial Play Cycle. Great Expectations will provide him with an opportunity to play a thoroughly wicked character. His grandfather, an avid Dickens reader, would be most impressed.



Carl Howard

Orlick & Chorus

Carl is delighted to have been given the opportunity to play Orlick in this production of Great Expectations. He has performed a wide range of roles with a variety of local amateur theatre groups: HAWK, West Kirby Musical Theatre Company and Hillbark Players. This will be Carl's fourth production with Neston Players with such roles as Thomas Cromwell in a Man for All Seasons and more recently one of the narrators in The Neston Players Ghost Walks, which enjoyed great success.



Jemma Brown

Miss Havisham

Jemma studied English & Drama at University and has acted professionally in Children's Ward, Coronation Street and appeared in various TV commercials. This is Jemma's third performance with Neston Players, previous roles include; Nell Gwynn and then Susan, in The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe. She has performed with Port Sunlight Players as Miss Hannigan in Annie and with WKMTC A Christmas Carol. Jemma is now excited to be playing the wonderfully chilling role of Miss Havisham in Great Expectations.



Ticki Clark

Biddy

Ticki is really excited to be back with Neston Players being directed by Ruth and Stuart. The process with them is always creative and collaborative. Ticki was previously Mrs Beaver in the Lion, Witch & Wardrobe and Mother in The Railway Children with Neston Players. Ticki has recently appeared with Hillbark Players as Nurse in Romeo & Juliet. Some other roles have included Miss Prism (The Importance of Being Earnest, Bebington DS), Rachel (The Girl On The Train, BDS) and recently Nurse & Ralph in Shakespeare in Love (BDS).



Simon Garland

Jaggers

This is Simon's third production for Neston Players, having previously played Exeter in Henry V (2016) and Lord Arlington in Nell Gwynn (2024). He cut his teeth with Riverside Players in the 1990s and is an actor and committee member for Hillbark Players. To hear Musselshell Bay (2016) the radio play he wrote, directed and scored, go to www.soundcloud.com/theinsaneroot. He plays the drums and attempts backing vocals with covers band Garland Greenê and plays his own material at open mic evenings.



Pauline Garland

Wemmick & Lead Chorus

Audience members may not recognise Pauline from her last outing for Neston Players, The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, as she was sporting a 3ft long beard as an evil henchman. Before that it was all wigs and blacked out teeth again in two roles in Nell Gwynn, for one of which she won best supporting actress in a drama for NODA -Northwest England. Also, a regular in Hillbark Players outdoor Shakespeare productions, she was dispensing justice as Queen Escalus in last June's Romeo and Juliet, where she got to wear a nice frock!



Jace Clark

Herbert Pocket

Following a year of two back-to-back leading roles with the Woolgatherers, Jace is excited to have their first role with a new set of players! Jace is no stranger to Neston Players as they debuted in the 2024 production of Nell Gwynn as musical director and accompanist, coming from a musical theatre background. Stepping into a bright, bubbly role, Jace is ready to accompany this extremely talented cast and crew in bringing Dickens to life in this production.



Leanne Hardy

Molly & Lead Chorus

Leanne Hardy has performed in theatre, television and film, beginning life as a professional dancer at home and abroad and still insisting this counts as "proper training". Her stage adventures include Juliet, Lady Montague and the apothecary in Romeo and Juliet, plus Cleomena in The Winter's Tale and a spirit in The Tempest. She recently joined the Carlton Players, earning a NODA nomination for her glorious portrayal of Mrs Miggins in Black Adder III. Leanne is delighted to be appearing in Great Expectations with Neston Players — expectations suitably high.



Kristopher Duffin

Bentley Drummle

Kristopher was recently in Hillbark Players production of Romeo and Juliet as County Paris after taking a break from acting to complete his engineering degree. He is delighted to return to Neston Players to play Bentley Drummle in Great Expectations, after previously appearing in Henry V and Goodnight Mr Tom.



Ann Fleming

Chorus

Ann is a new member of Neston Players having joined last year to play a ghost nun in the Ghost Walk. This was an experience she really enjoyed and prompted her to audition for Great Expectations. Acting is very new to Ann and she is thoroughly enjoying learning from the many brilliant, seasoned actors both found in the cast of the Ghost walk and Great Expectations.



Helen Hague

Chorus

Helen joined Neston Players last year as a complete beginner and was very happy to hide in the shadows but then she was given the role of landlady in a Walk Through Time and loved every minute of it. She is now excited to be cast in Great Expectations but enjoying being surrounded by a great wealth of talent. Helen looks forward to being part of many future productions by Neston Players.



Lindsey Fooks

Chorus

Great Expectations is Lindsey's first role with Neston Players and she is delighted to have the opportunity to appear in the play of the book she used to teach. Lindsey enjoyed am dram as a young person down south and more recently, in Merseyside/Cheshire, she has appeared with Riverside Players, Burjesta Theatre, Hillbark Players and Unity Theatre.

GET INVOLVED

Find Us:
@neston_players

Get in Touch: www.nestonplayers.co.uk

We welcome everyone, whether you feel the pull of the spotlight or you're captivated by the backstage magic that transforms an empty stage into a world of its own. Costumes, props, lighting, sound, set-building, front-of-house, stage management and the many other crafts that make a production sing all offer a place for every kind of imagination to shine.

Amateur dramatics is a wonderfully rewarding adventure — a place where creativity sparks, friendships form, and a little theatrical enchantment turns shared effort into something unforgettable.



THE COMMITTEE 2025 - 2026

Chair: Martin Barker **Treasurer:** Sarah McGinty/Matt Smith
Secretary: Fleur Smith **Play Reading Lead:** Anne Farrall
General Members: Simon Deere, Andrew Rymer, Joanne Rymer, Ally Sullivan, Carl Howard

Wardrobe
AT THE CROSS
25A High Street, Neston

Proudly supporting **Neston Players**
and their wonderful production of
Great Expectations

We are proud to support community theatre
and the creativity that enriches our local area.
Best of luck to the cast and crew for a brilliant show.

New to Wardrobe at The Cross?
Use code WATC online or bring this programme into store
to get **10% off** your first purchase.

www.wardrobeatthecross.co.uk



Allister and Simpson
OPTICIANS

Sound & Vision:
The perfect
combination

FREE HEARING CHECKS

Book your FREE hearing health check **TODAY** at **Allister and Simpson Opticians** in **Neston**!!

Powered by
amplify
HEARING



COMPETITION TIME

As an extra bit of fun, you can enter a Prize Draw to win two tickets to our next production if you can answer the following questions from tonight's performance!



1. What game do Pip and Young Estella play?
2. What Christmas Carol is sung in the play?
3. Who was Pip's benefactor?
4. Who did Pip fall in love with?

Please email us the answers to info@nestonplayers.co.uk

On Monday 11th May one winner will be drawn at random from the correct answers and notified.

Terms & Conditions

By entering this prize draw, participants agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions. Entries must be received by the stated closing date (6pm 10.05.26); any entries submitted after this time will not be included. The draw is open to individuals aged 18 or over, except volunteers directly involved in administering the prize draw. A winner will be selected at random from all eligible entries and contacted using the details provided. If the winner cannot be reached within 7 days, the Neston Players reserves the right to select an alternative winner. No cash alternatives will be offered. By entering, participants agree that their name may be used for reasonable publicity purposes. The Neston Players accepts no responsibility for lost or incomplete entries, and its decision is final.

Directors

Is there a show waiting in the wings, ready for its grand entrance?

If a script has been calling to you from the shadows, begging for footlights, applause and a little Neston Players magic, we want to hear all about it. Whether it's a bold new vision, a beloved classic, or a story that simply refuses to stay off the stage, bring your idea to us and let's see what kind of theatrical spectacle we can create together.

Send your inspiration our way at **info@nestonplayers.co.uk** — and don't worry if you're not a member yet. *Every great production begins with someone stepping into the light.*

2025 - Parkgate and Neston Ghost Walk
2024 - The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe
Nell Gwynn
2023 - A Man For All Seasons
Witness for The Prosecution
2022 - The Railway Children
2021 - Carol Twist Hates Christmas
2020 - The Changing Room
2019 - The Flint Street Nativity
The Importance of Being Earnest
Away Game
2018- Goodnight Mr Tom
Delval Divas
2017- For King And Country
For The Love Of It
Bette And Joan



Welcome to The Blue Bicycle, a proud family-run independent coffee shop nestled in the heart of Neston. Founded with a passion for great food and warm hospitality. Our chefs craft every dish fresh to order, while the front of house team are always on hand to make you feel right at home.

What we offer:

Breakfast, Lunch & Afternoon Tea – A carefully crafted menu to suit every taste and occasion

Fresh Home Baked Cakes & Cookies – Baked in-house daily, because nothing beats homemade

Private Room for Special Occasions – Hosting a baby shower, birthday or family gathering? Let us make it truly memorable in our charming private room

Takeout Pre-Orders – Enjoy our delicious food at home or on the go by placing your order in advance

Online Shop – Order specially made treats ready for any occasion, customised to your liking by visiting our website anytime

The Blue Bicycle



10 The Cross, Neston, CH64 9UB | 0151 336 3970 | info@thebluebicycle.co.uk | www.thebluebicycle.co.uk



START **YOUR** FITNESS JOURNEY

SCAN TO SEE TIMETABLE

SCAN TO JOIN

10 DAY BEGINNER PASS £15

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

FULL GYM ACCESS
UNLIMITED BEGINNER CLASSES
FREE NUTRITION GUIDE
FRIENDLY COACHING & SUPPORT

THEZONE

WWW.ZONENESTON.CO.UK

reformer pilates HAS ARRIVED IN NESTON

NEW STUDIO OPENED JANUARY 2026

WHY REFORMER?

IMPROVE STRENGTH & POSTURE | LOW IMPACT EXERCISE
EXPERT-LED CLASSES | BUILD CORE STRENGTH & CONTROL
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME | BEGINNER CLASSES EVERY WEEK



SCAN TO BOOK YOUR FIRST CLASS:

SCAN TO WHATSAPP US

reform AT THE ZONE

WWW.REFORMTHEZONE.COM


URS RUMOURS RUM
'Rumour has it...
Neston Players are planning a show for November 2026
that everyone will be talking about!'
NESTON
PLAYERS