

Harden Players Present...

# ALICE IN PANTOLAND



27th-29th March and 3rd-5th April 2025  
Harden Congregational Church | [hardenplayers.org.uk](http://hardenplayers.org.uk)

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# ALICE IN PANTOLAND

## A Word from the Director

Having been in Harden Players for the last twenty-seven years and spending all of that time on the stage, I found myself sitting in the director's chair for the first time this year. I am still not quite sure how that happened but I plan to investigate that afterwards. 😊

It has been a very interesting journey sitting on the opposite side this year and truly understanding what a director does, and I found out it is not just directing!!! I have now amassed a plethora of talents that I never knew I needed before and the time has whizzed by.

We started back in December last year with a great script written by Kathryn, followed by auditions and quickly into rehearsals. The cast, members and volunteers have thrown themselves into it as they always do, rehearsals have been filled with laughter and fun and I haven't had to get too grumpy 😊

I could not have made my directorial debut without help and if I had multiple pages in this programme, I would write about everyone. There are some key individuals who have been my rocks to cling to: Jonathan as our MD has run with the songs and choreography, Sheila as my assistant director has been a great help with her years of wisdom and creative input, Sarah has once again bossed the costumes, Lorraine, Jackie and the backstage gang have the stage sorted, and I was ably assisted by a first-time producer in Michelle as we found our way together. Finally a big thank you to Kathryn for not only writing the script but for all your input, wise words, and keeping me sane and on track. 😊

I hope you all enjoy what we have created and have a great show. If you like what you see and would like to get involved in whatever capacity suits you, then please visit the website at [www.hardenplayers.org.uk](http://www.hardenplayers.org.uk), drop us an email on [hardenplayers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hardenplayers@hotmail.co.uk) or search for Harden Players on Facebook.

**Nick Parker**  
**Director, Alice in Pantoland**





# Gallery

Visit our website for galleries of past productions: [hardenplayers.org.uk](http://hardenplayers.org.uk)







# Cast



**Kathryn Sullivan – Alice**

Kathryn first performed in panto as a child and, eighteen pantomimes later, still loves this form of theatre. From principal boy to character parts via baddies and even one principal girl, she is excited to be back in role as the eponymous Alice for *Alice in Pantoland*, especially since this show was penned by her fair hand! She would like to point out that all the lines you think land flat were added by the director.

**Vicky Foster – White Rabbit**

Vicky grew up in the Harden Players and, after twenty years, she rejoined the fold in 2018. She never likes to play the same role so she's gone from fairy godmother to evil cannibal queen; grumpy old man to a golden-egg-laying goose. This time... she's a rather unpunctual and easily distracted white rabbit.



**Kate Ainsworth – Queen of Hearts**

Kate started performing with Harden Players in pantomimes as a child. After a long break, she returned to the panto for *Treasure Island*. She played Gladys in *Hi-De-Hi*, was in the chorus in *Mother Goose*, Jo in *Shine* and then played Nursie in *Blackadder*. She is very happy to be back having fun as part of the Players again.

**Paul Addy-Armitage – King of Hearts**

This is Paul's fourth panto with Harden Players, and he is delighted to be back this year as the King of Hearts. He has been performing in musical theatre for twenty-five years, including at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, and the Victoria Theatre, Halifax. Paul loves panto and hopes you enjoy the show.



**Barrie Tempest – Knave**

Barrie has been involved with amateur dramatics for fifty years, both singing and acting, with different societies. In 2024, he made his debut performance for Harden Players as The Bishop of Bath and Wells/Redbeard Rum in *Blackadder II*. Harden Players have been such a friendly and welcoming bunch! Hopefully, we will succeed again in sending you home with a laugh and a warm feeling.

## Jane Gerdes – Duchess

Jane's first performance with Harden Players was when she was four years old. Jane has been in the chorus and played various parts before. Now, she's on a roll and enjoying her new royal part.



## Ashley Judge – Lucy Lastic/Sarah the Cook/Widow Twankey/Dame Trott/Grace

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? NO! It's Ashley Judge, appearing in his second panto with Harden Players after playing the Fairy Queen in *Mother Goose*. He clearly felt comfortable in his dress as here he is as the dame! Ashley would like to thank several people for helping him. Firstly, his father for always believing in him. Secondly, Nick Parker for choosing to direct and not being cast in the role Ashley went for. And finally his mother, Laura, for providing the inspiration behind his manly dame characterisations. He hopes you enjoy the show!

## Sarah Whistlecraft – Snow Queen/Cannibal Jane/Wicked Queen

After taking on the iconic role of Queenie in *Blackadder II*, Sarah is now excited to be playing not one but three pantomime baddies! This is her fifth appearance with the Harden Players. She has previously appeared on stage with both The Bradford Players and Keighley Musical Theatre Company. She is a founding member of the Ilkley Stage Singers Choir. She is also the current costume lead and has dedicated many an hour to this task, including a weekend making comedy underwear!



## Antony Shenton – Sheriff of Nottingham/Fleshcreep the Ogre/King Rat/Abanazer

Antony has been a member of Harden Players for many years. His recent roles have included Lord Melchett in *Blackadder* and an intoxicated captain in our previous pantomime. He is looking forward to being mean to the rest of the cast in *Alice in Pantoland*!

## Jane Fenwick – Maid Marian/Sugar Plum Fairy

Jane has been in four pantos with Harden Players now. She came to sell ice cream but had her arm twisted to get on stage. She still hasn't sold any ice cream!





### Rachael Lee – Maid Marian/Sugar Plum Fairy

Rachael has been with Harden Players since moving to the village and attending an open day five years ago. This will be her third Players panto, hot on the heels of her performances as Lady Whiteadder and Walter Raleigh in *Blackadder*. This year she takes on a job share role with Jane F, doubling as both Maid Marian and the Sugar Plum Fairy!

### Lisa Firth – Robin Hood/Hansel/Snow White

After spending several productions behind the scenes, Lisa returns to the stage for her first acting roles in three years. She played Black Dog the pirate in *Treasure Island* and Betty the yellowcoat in *Hi-de-Hi* before turning her hand to writing/directing for *Mother Goose* and *Blackadder*. She is looking forward to donning boots and tights again for this year's panto!



### Adam Butt – Papa Bear/Wishy-Washy/Puss

Adam has become a familiar face on the Harden Players stage, delighting audiences since he made his debut as the boisterous pirate Bootstrap Bob in *Treasure Island*. He's since brought to life a variety of characters from the mischievous jockey Fred Quilley in *Hi-De-Hi* to the anti-hero Darth Gander in *Mother Goose*. Adam has also taken on the rebellious lost soul Jonno in *Shine* before doubling up as part of the comedy rat duo Splat and Pratt in *Dick Whittington*. Eagle-eyed audience members may have spotted him working as a prompt for *Blackadder*.

### Mark Foster – Captain Cap'n/Joy

Mark is a stalwart of Harden Players and has played varied roles, including an Ugly Sister in *Cinderella*, Captain Alberto Bertorelli in *'Allo 'Allo* and Buttons. Now he's back on stage as Captain Cap'n and Ugly Sister Joy!



### Gemma O'Hora – Baby Bear/Daisy the Cow

Gemma joined Harden Players to do the pantomime with her son Elliot. Because it was such fun, she's now back for her third panto. This time she's clicking her bear claws and stamping her cow hooves to dance through the panto as Baby Bear and Daisy the Cow.



## Lorraine Tempest – Mama Bear

Lorraine is quite quiet, believe it or not, but you know what they say about the quiet ones! She has been involved in theatre since she was a teenager, usually playing comedy roles. After taking small stage roles for many years, she joined Harden Players to do lighting for their last production. As well as being Mama Bear, she has enjoyed her role as stage manager. It's her to thank for coordinating these great backdrops!



## Sue Crowther – Gretel

Sue first joined Harden Music Group in the late 80s, then began sewing costumes with Dorothy Dove when she transferred to Harden Players. She performed in many plays and pantos until Covid hit. She's glad to be back this year.

## Assistant Director: Sheila Shenton

Sheila has been involved with Harden Players for thirty-seven years as musical director, and this year dons the assistant director's hat. She has enjoyed helping the cast to get the very best out of their performances.



## Musical Director: Jonathan Addy-Armitage

Jonathan is an experienced musician and was our MD for both *Mother Goose* and *Dick Whittington*, our last two pantomimes. He has enjoyed turning his hand (and feet) this year to some of our choreography!



# Chorus

Lily Ainsworth, Meredith Ainsworth, Jasmine Butt, Sabrina Butt, Kiera Fearnley, Elliot O'Hora, Lucie Judge, Joe Mapstone, Gracie Pennington, Poppy Pennington, Dominic Sullivan, Loretta Thomas, Alex Whistlecraft



# Crew

**Stage managers**

**Lighting**

**Sound**

**Set building manager**

**Set construction/props**

**Backdrop design**

**Costume lead**

**Musicians**

**Publicity**

**Programme design**

**Box office**

**Chaperones**

Jackie Smith, Lorraine Tempest

John Hamilton

Mark Anslow

Ian Hales

Ian Hales, John Penrose

Heather Lumley

Sarah Whistlecraft

Jonathan Addy-Armitage, Matt Bamforth,

Joe Thomas

Michelle Mapstone, Lisa Firth

Lisa Firth

Michelle Mapstone, Harden Post Office

Michelle Mapstone, Nick Parker, Charlotte

Revill, Giles Whistlecraft

**Producer**

**Director**

**Assistant director**

**Musical director**

**Scriptwriter**

Michelle Mapstone

Nick Parker

Sheila Shenton

Jonathan Addy-Armitage

Kathryn Sullivan

**We would like to thank:**

Harden Post Office for ticket sales

Harden Congregational Church for their continued support

Bingley Amateur Operatic Society for loaning some of the costumes

Everyone who has helped with refreshments and front of house



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