

Book by JULIAN FELLOWES - Music by GEORGE STILES- Lyrics by ANTHONY DREWE

Based on the book by KENNETH GRAHAME

Original Production Produced by JAMIE HENDRY



PLAYHOUSE . 2023 .

INTRODUCING



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President's Speech

Welcome to WODS' production of "The Wind In The Willows"

This is a relatively new musical, staged for the first time only 7 years ago. Yes the world premier took place in Plymouth in 2016. Believe it or not, the original book of the same title was written in 1908 by Kenneth Grahame and has become a favourite read for many of us over the years. The work of creating the musical version began in 2011, the process being led by Jullian Fellowes, a consummate actor, novelist, director and award winning script writer, he is probably more well known these days for writing the "Downton Abbey" scripts.

The Wind In The Willows has such marvellous animal characters, Mole, Ratty, Badger, and of course, Mr Toad who gets into all sorts of scrapes, helped along the way with some really catchy and fun songs.

Our Director, Aaron has again been putting our cast through their paces and as always, he and his assistant Abi have put 110% into bringing this production to the Weston stage. Thank you both!

Thanks to our Musical Director, Jack and to our Choreographers, Abi, Shania and Steff. What a production team! It's a real joy to have some of our youngsters of Spectrum joining us on stage for "The Wind In The Willows". They are a very talented group of kids and it's so good to be nurturing such enthusiasm and ability. The company is indebted to the group of adults (some of whom are ex-Spectrumite's themselves) for the time and energy they have put into their roles with Spectrum.

WODS has always been a family and friendly group. In our fortunate years from 1972, whole families were members, my own being amongst them.

This is something which has continued over the years. A dear friend, Bryon Charlesworth a gentle giant of a man - recently passed away. He, his wife Shirley and a few of their family, were very involved during those early years on stage, backstage, taking lead roles. (Bryon had a lyrical baritone voice, he was a brilliant Tevye.) He was a marvellous leader of WODS, as our Chairman for many years, followed by a few more years service as our President. Bryon was a life member of WODS and although, during recent years, he wasn't as involved with us as he used to be (due to his health) he was a real servant to WODS. RIP, Bryon and God Bless.

My thoughts are with all Bryon's family.

Coming back to the present day, my wish is that you have an enjoyable time, watching "The Wind In The Willows" and I look forward to seeing you again, supporting WODS at future shows.

Keep well and God Bless

Tony Lay
(President)

Director's Speech

Aaron would like to welcome you to The Playhouse, the first time back since WODS performed Guys and Dolls in 2019.

The story of The Wind In The Willows is one that encapsulates the true meaning of friendship. This heart warming musical celebrates the transformative power of friendship, the beauty of nature, and the resilience of the human (or rather, animal) spirit. It reminds us to embrace adventure, cherish our connections with others, and find joy in the simplest of pleasures.

Theatre should be accessible to everyone and this musical allows this to be possible. Aaron is really pleased that this show is a complete collaboration between WODS and Spectrum, which hasn't been done before. It is great to offer lots of experiences to the children and they have made all of the Spectrum team proud!

He would like to thank his right hand man/woman/list maker and best friend Abi Morris, for her commitment and dedication not only to the show but to their friendship. It has also been a pleasure to work with a brand new production team and feels they have all been a crucial element to making the show a success.

Aaron hopes you enjoy our production of The Wind In The Willows and hopes to see you at a future production.

Aaron Pengelly
(Director)

The Story

The Wind In The Willows is a captivating tale that starts in the season of Spring with Mole happy to be out of hibernation and who meets Rat on the river bank. After they share a picnic together an enduring friendship is born. He meets Mrs Otter looking for her daughter Portia and they both tell Mole about the wild woods and the wise Badger who lives in the middle.

Mr Toad is obsessed with current fads only to abandon them abruptly. Mole and Rat visit Mr Toad and he invites them to join him on the open road in his new craze a horse – drawn caravan after giving up boating. When this ends up in disaster he becomes infatuated with motor cars. With Toad out of control, Mole insists Rat and himself head to the wild woods to find Badger. He goes alone and encounters Chief Weasel and his wild wooders, he escapes after Rat has a change of heart and they head off to find Badger for his help.

Chief Weasel is plotting to steal Toad Hall and Portia ends up being kidnapped. The friends try their best to stop Mr Toad but he manages to trick them and gets himself into big trouble this time. With Toad locked away the Weasels get what they wanted. Toad is desperate to escape and goes on an almighty journey to get his hall back. Badger works out a plan to take back the hall and Mole shows his bravery when tricking the stoats.

The friends are successful in their rescue mission. The story concludes back in Spring where Mr Toad holds a party to mark his return but has he changed his ways after all?

RATTY



TOAD



MOLE



Act 1

Spring

Messing About in a Boat

Speed is of the Essence

One Swallow Does Not a Summer Make

The Open Road

The Hedgehog's Nightmare

The Amazing Mr Toad

The Wild Wooders

Autumn

A Friend is Still a Friend

Toad's Escape

As if in a Dream

Act 2

We're Taking Over the Hall

To Be a Woman

A Place to Come Back To

The Wassailing Mice

The Greatest Great Escape

Hush!

The Fight

Finale

The Cast

Mr Toad

Played by Kevin Wheeler

This is Kevin's second production with WODS, returning after having the most amazing time being part of "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert", in 2018.

He is thrilled to be playing the part of Mr Toad which has allowed him a release to display his inner "outrageousness"....!!!

Mr Toad is Kevin's second leading role after playing Lawrence Jamieson in the Muses TP production of Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (McMillan Theatre, Bridgwater) in 2017 (a role he was to reprise for WODS in 2020, before COVID closed the production).

Kevin is no stranger to The Playhouse Theatre, having previously appeared here in many productions.

Kevin is also proud (and exhausted), having made all of the costumes for his character.

His performance is sponsored by his three ageing Jack Russell Terrorists, Harry-bear, Scrappy-monster & Scooby-screwloose.



Ratty

Played by Neil Stephenson

'Wind in the Willows is Neil's third production with WODS and second time performing with Spectrum. He has enjoyed performing with many old faces from WODS, as well as welcoming some new ones to the company.

Neil's previous performances have included Tom Collins in Rent, Jim Fenner in Bad Girls, Javert and Marius from Les Misérables, Judas from Godspell, and a variety of panto appearances across the country. Neil is looking forward to their first performance in The Playhouse Theatre and looking forward to more performances in the future.

Mole

Played by Joe Liminton

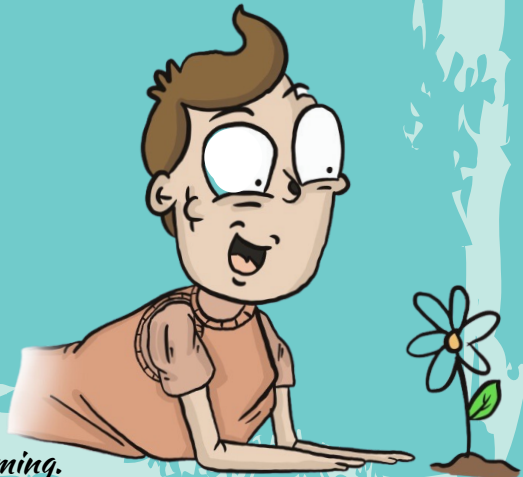
This is Joe's first show with WODS and he has had great fun.

Joe has loved musicals his whole life and has enjoyed rehearsing for this show.

He has made lots of friends during the process as well which is a bonus!

Joe studied theatre at college but since lockdown he has not done much performing.

He is excited to be at The Playhouse Theatre for his next performance.



Badger

Played by Dylan Cheasley

Dylan started singing aged 11 but gave it up in favour of rugby. Fast forward 30 years when he got involved with a charity concert for St Peter's Hospice at the Bristol Hippodrome and he was hooked. Throw 7 years of classical vocal training into the mix and a modicum of effort and a whole new world opened up for this local BT engineer, ranging from Carmina Burana & Verdi's Requiem with The Welsh National Opera Community Choir to Abbanazer (Aladdin), Fagin (Oliver) to playing the Demon Barber in Sweeney Todd with Weston Operatic Society & Peron (Evita, WODS). Dylan has had 5 Rose Bowl nominations, a Best Supporting Actor Award for Dr Neville Craven (Secret Garden) & a "Best Actor in a Musical Award" playing the part of Tateh in Ragtime (his favourite part to date).

Dylan has been involved with amateur groups for several years and is delighted to be playing the part of Badger with WODS.



Mrs Otter

Played by Laura Curtis

This is Laura's third show with WODS and her second go at a lead role! In November, Laura played the comedic Julie J in Bad Girls The Musical. She has loved taking on the challenge of the iconic Mrs Otter and has thoroughly enjoyed working with our junior section this time, especially her twin girls who star in tonight's show!

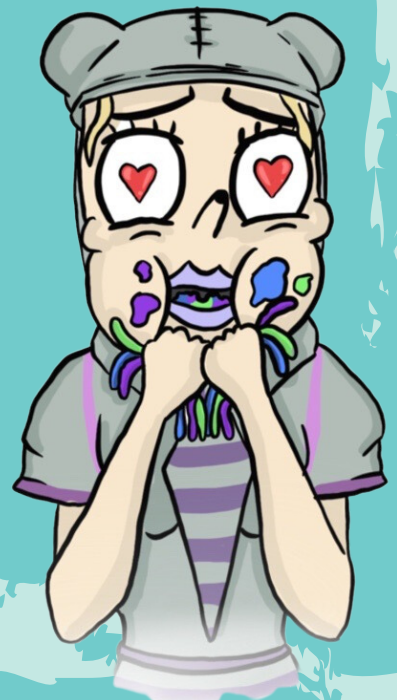
Portia

Played by Shannon Kingston

Shannon has been a committed Spectrumite since she was just 8 years old, making her debut in 'Sister Act' as a gun-toting octogenarian nun.

She has previously performed with WODS at The Playhouse Theatre in their One Day Only show but 'The Wind In The Willows' is truly extra special for Shannon where she will be channelling her inner Otter as the playful Portia opening the show with the glorious song Spring!

She has thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this exciting collaboration!



Chief Weasel

Played by Kieren Medcraft

This will be Kieren's second show with WODS after playing Benny in 'RENT'. He recently played Gomez Adams in Nailsea musicals production of 'The Addams Family'. Kieren has enjoyed many parts during his time in North Somerset but Chief Weasel has brought about an entirely new challenge, and is loving it!

Kieren can't wait to take to The Playhouse boards with his WODS family and hopes you enjoy the show!



Cheryl Stoa

Played by Natasha Newsam -Mabey

In 2015 Natasha had played the role of Motormouth Maybelle twice (in Bath and in Bridgwater), when she was asked to play it again for WODS. She accepted, thinking "I'll just do the show and then be on my way", but they were such a friendly and welcoming group that she found herself returning for Priscilla (2018) and Evita (2019)! And most recently taking on the role of Nikki Wade in Bad Girls (2022) And now is playing the part of Cheryl Stoa. Natasha has played a variety of roles, and also has been the MD for WODS during their production of RENT in (2022) Thanks to everyone for their support. Enjoy the Show!

Lesser Weasel

Played by Carys Cooper

Carys started dancing at 2.5 years old and danced at national level in Ballroom, Classical sequence & Latin coming 3rd in the UK in 2019. She loves all genres from street to sequence. She joined Spectrum in September 2022 and is very excited to be part of such a fantastic show and to be back on The Playhouse stage.



Featured Ensemble

Horse - Gemma Pearson

Swallows- Gesine Gill, Alysha Anderson, Katey Elizabeth

Children Swallows- Alice Pengelly, Olivia Grierson, Clemence Smith

School Field Mice- Ruby Hawkins, Sophie Mesham

*Hedgehog Family- Alison Boreham, Warren Ingham-Barrow,
Milly Curtis, Thea Watts*

Magistrate and Guard- Harry Upton

Stoat 1 and 2- Beth, El Young

Gaelors Daughter- Gesine Gill

Barge Woman- Fay Pearce

Mrs Clerk- Cath Back

Car Driver- H Baker

Engine Driver- Warren Ingham- Barrow

Rabbit Butlers- Fox Sillick, H Baker, Dee Tudor

*Policemen- Tracey Wood, Katey Elizabeth, Clemence Smith,
Milly Curtis, Jessica Rendle, Harry Upton*

Company (Goodies)

*Cassie Collins, Ella Loud,
Emmie Tudor, Helen Brand,
Jessica Rees, Lou Fryer,
Megan Young, Tracy Wood,
Vaughn Rees, Jean Bennett*

Company (Baddies)

*Abbie Parsons, Carrie Curtis, Grace Curtis,
Helen Robbins, Imogen Buck, Jess Stock,
Lucy Sneeze, Shania Clarke,
Sydney Smith*

WODS Family





Friends are just family chosen by you...

Creative Team

Aaron Pengelly (Director)

Aaron has been teaching Performing Arts for over 10 years since graduating university. Aaron has been involved in many WODS productions, each show comes with it's own sets of challenges and this one has certainly had it's fair share. Aaron is looking forward to taking some time away from WODS so he can explore different avenues within his company Per4mance Theatre.



Abi Morris (Choreographer and Production Assistant)

After directing RENT and Bad Girls last year, Abi is this time taking on the role of Choreography and Production Assistant. She has been dancing and teaching dance for a long time and this has been a great show to get stuck into. It has been great to work alongside Steff and Shania coming up with lots of great numbers. Abi being a Spectrum leader has loved the collaboration between Spectrum and WODS. Abi has been reunited with her partner in crime Aaron once again for this production and has loved their many calls! Enjoy the show and the many adventures of Mr Toad!

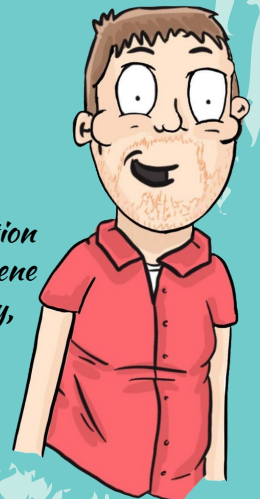


Jack Millier (WODS Musical Director)

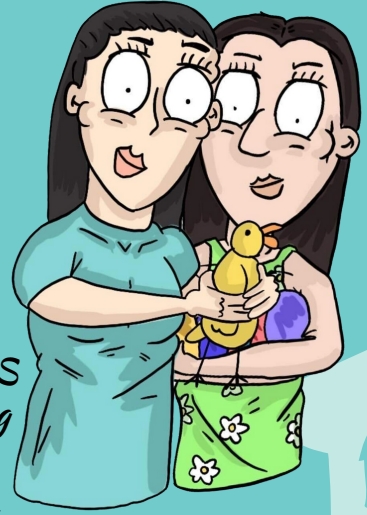
Jack is a conductor, composer and orchestrator from Somerset, who is currently a BMus Composition student at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He is very active in the musical theatre scene in Somerset as an MD and arranger, and regularly conducts pit bands in theatres across the county, along with 1:1 and small group tutoring in music theory, composition and arranging.

He is also the founder and conductor of RWCMD's 'Repertoire Pit Orchestra', who meet weekly and play through MT rep, giving keen players and singers a chance to experience wider repertoire and get accustomed to the scores and styles they might face in professional pit work.

Following his degree at RWCMD, he hopes to continue to grow as an MD and conductor across the MT, brass band, and orchestral world, through either a postgraduate degree or freelance work. He has loved being part of The Wind In The Willows Production Team.



Shania Clarke and Stephanie Reeves (Choreographers)



Steff and Shania both joined WODS in 2019, strangely at the same audition. Since then, they have both been in all of WODS shows, including principal roles in their recent production, Bad Girls. This is their first time choreographing with WODS and it's been enjoyable, yet challenging. They have both loved dancing and performing from a young age, which is what encouraged them to jump at this opportunity. They have enjoyed working alongside Aaron, Abi and the rest of the production team. We hope you enjoy the show.

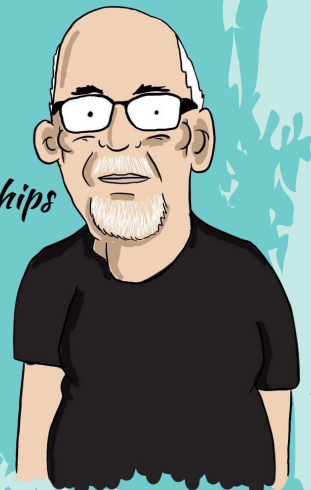
Kirsty Slater and Katey Elizabeth (Spectrum Musical Directors)



Kate and Kirsty are both members of the Spectrum team as well as society members of WODS. Between them, they have performed in a vast variety of shows over the years as well as directed and MD'd many a Spectrum performance. Kate and Kirsty have enjoyed teaming up to work with the children on this fabulous show, learning a whole new score and testing out their piano skills. They would like to thank their partners, Jeff and Pete for their ongoing support, Aaron and Abi for all their hard work with Spectrum and WODS. Break a leg Spectrumites!

Mike Fackrell (Assistant Musical Director)

After a long and varied career as music director, band leader and pianist on cruise ships and hotels worldwide, Mike joined WODS as rehearsal pianist for their 2015 production of 'Hairspray' and has been involved in almost every show since. Mike is thrilled to be a part of the talented 'The Wind In The Willows' family.



Creatives

Aaron Pengelly - Director

Abi Morris - Choreographer and Production Assistant

Jack Millier - Musical Director

Shania Clarke and Stephanie Reeves - Choreographers

Kirsty Slater and Katey Elizabeth - Spectrum Musical Director's

Mike Fackrall - Assistant Musical Director

Alex Scott - Production Manager

Tim Moore - Stage Manager

Koby Taylor - Deputy Stage Manager

Graeme Renson (Ultra Light and Sound)- Sound

Alex Scott - Lighting Design

James Scott, Sam Bond, Pete Tilke - Stage Crew

Dan Kirkwood, Colin Tyler - Follow Spots

Lois Bennett - Sound Assistant

Scenery Solutions & Scenic Projects - Scenery

Aaron Pengelly - Costumes

Abbie Parsons - Ears and Tails

Kevin Wheeler - Toad's Costumes

Aaron Pengelly, - Props

Aaron Pengelly, Abi Morris, - Programme

Abi Morris, Harry Upton - Marketing and Publicity Art Work

White Shades Media and Laura Curtis - Publicity Promotion Video and Photos

The Band

Conductor - Jack Millier

Reed 1 - Steve Hacking

Reed 2 - Dan Davis

Trumpet - Alex Linton

Trombone - Jon Hopes

Horn - Matthew Smith

Keys 1 - Andy Allpass

Keys 2 - Mike Fackrell

Guitar - Luke Bartlett

Bass - Jeremy Morgan

Percussion/Drums- Ethan Bonner

Dep: Reed 1/2 - Laura Wilson

Dep: Trumpet - Paul Denegri

Life Members

Jean Bennett
Ray Bond
Joan Edwards
Bob Gibbons
Sheila Hansen
Tony Lay
Vera Lees
Greta Plank
Trish Roberts
Joesphine Ruston
Maureen Thomas
Les & Linda Walters
Yvonne Lewis
Heather Gadd
Carrie Curtis
Mark Bennett

The Committee

President: Tony Lay
Vice President: Gerry Parker
Vice President: Pete Magor
Vice President: Dave Clothier
Vice President: Pete Tilke
Chairman/Spectrum Liaison: Aaron Pengelly
Vice Chair: Fay Pearce
Treasurer: Cassie Riney
Webmaster: James Scott
Secretary: Tracey Helmore
Marketing/Spectrum Liason : Abi Morris
Content Creator: Harry Upton
Publicity/Fundraising: Chloe McCallum
Members Secretary: Laura Curtis
Social Secretary: Neil Stephenson
Production Liaison/Welfare: Carrie Curtis
Technical: Alex Scott
Health and Safety Officer: Warren Ingham - Barrow

Members sadly passed, but never forgotten

Russell Scott
Ann Bond
Lesley Brown
Bryon Charlesworth

Dates For Your Diary

New Member Auditions -
Wednesday 21st June at 7.30
Summer Fayre Saturday 19th
August at Worlebury School
12-4

Special Welcome's

NODA
SFD- This Production has been
entered into the SFD David Beech
Competition
The Mayor

Thank You's

The Front of House Team, The Lamb, Fay Pearce, All the chaperones,
The parents of Spectrum, Nottingham Printing Company, Rob Curtis

Sponsorships

Tracy Wood - Knight Brother's Travel

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Laura Curtis - White Shade Media

Lou Fryer - Worle Autos

Fox Silick - Keron and Kevin Hurlstone, Ivan and Bev Obrey,

Sarah and Neil Silick

Alysha Anderson - Alex Anderson

Gemma Pearson - Samson Bradshaw

Fay Pearce - SpeedFlow Products Limited

Dylan Cheasley - Kim Cheasley

Shania Clarke - Bez and Martin Clarke

Alison Boreham - Jon Reeves and Sarah Thompson

Stephanie Reeves - Adam Lewis

Jean Bennett - Mark Bennett

Abbie Parsons - ThirteenTen Talent

Imogen Buck - Liz Lawton

Katey Elizabeth - Jeff Jeffery

Ella Loud - Western Motorhomes

Kevin Wheeler - Harry, Scrappy & Scooby Wheeler

Abi Morris - Aaron Pengelly

Aaron Pengelly - Abi Morris

Neil Stephenson - A Squared

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their kind donations and support.

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ADVENTURE

TOAD

FRIENDS

WOODS

CAR

MOLE

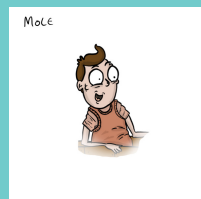
RAT

BADGER

WEASEL

PRISON

OTTER

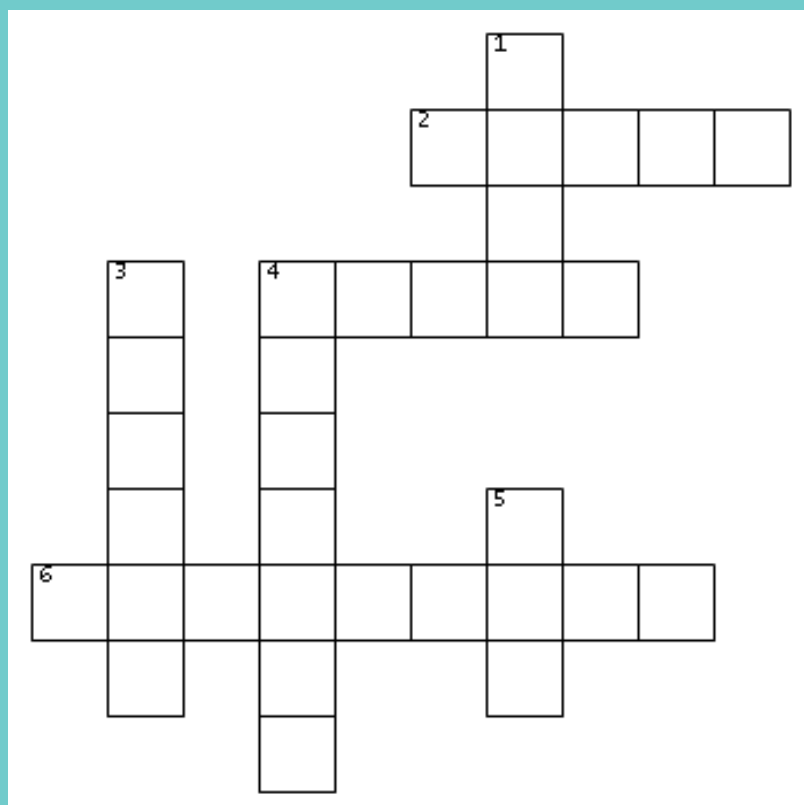


ACROSS

2. What does Toad dress up as to escape prison?
4. The Badger lives in the wild.....
6. Where does Mole meet Ratty?

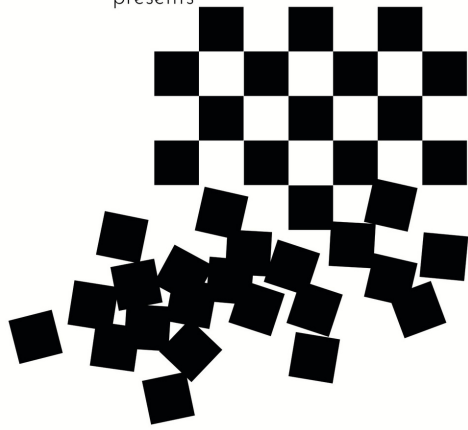
DOWN

1. Where does Toad live?
3. Who is Mrs Otter's Daughter?
4. Who steals Toad Hall?
5. Toad gets sentenced to prison because he steals a?



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WODS SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA



● WORLEBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

● SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST

● 12-4PM

FOLLOW US TO FIND OUT MORE...



The End...

*THIS STORY MAY HAVE
ENDED, BUT THE
ADVENTURES ARE FAR
FAR FROM OVER...*

*FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS
TO FIND OUT WHAT
WODS GETS UP TO NEXT*



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