



I.B.M. British Ring No. 25
88th Convention
19-20 September 2026
Buxton Opera House &
Pavilion Arts Centre



Souvenir Programme £10

Hello and welcome to beautiful Buxton for our 88th Convention.

Magic is a wonderful community to be part of, and I am so honoured and thrilled to be able to give this Presidential welcome on behalf of all our members of The I.B.M. British Ring No 25. So welcome one and all. Whether this is your first time or you have attended many times before, I hope I have the opportunity to speak with each of you during the weekend, and that you enjoy your time here in Buxton.

Our thoughts are with those who cannot join us on this occasion due to health or personal reasons, and I hope our presence on social media helps to bring our Convention a little closer to them so they can still feel part of The British Ring family.

We are delighted our International President, Jason Michaels, has joined us from America to experience the magic and friendship within The British Ring.

Thank you to all my wonderful magical friends and my fabulous family who have supported me during my Presidential year. It has been an honour to serve The British Ring, and I have been left with the most amazing memories to cherish for ever.

To Mandy, our President Elect, I wish you joy during your year. With your enthusiasm and unique style, you will ensure The I.B.M. British Ring is well represented and promoted over the coming year as we look towards our centenary in 2028.

Alan and I wish you all a magical Buxton Convention!

Moira Fletcher
I.B.M. British Ring President 2025-2026





**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS**
Through its official publication *The Linking Ring* it links the world

Welcome, my friends,

I am honoured to join you at The British Ring Convention. The International Brotherhood of Magicians has always been about more than tricks. It is about connecting each of us as we explore the art of magic and share the experience of amazement with the world.

As we come together, I encourage you to learn from one another, push your craft forward, and celebrate the art that unites us. Magic is a universal language, and it thrives through us.

Wishing you an inspiring and unforgettable convention.

Warm regards,

Jason Michaels
International President, I.B.M.
2026-2027



Mobile Phones

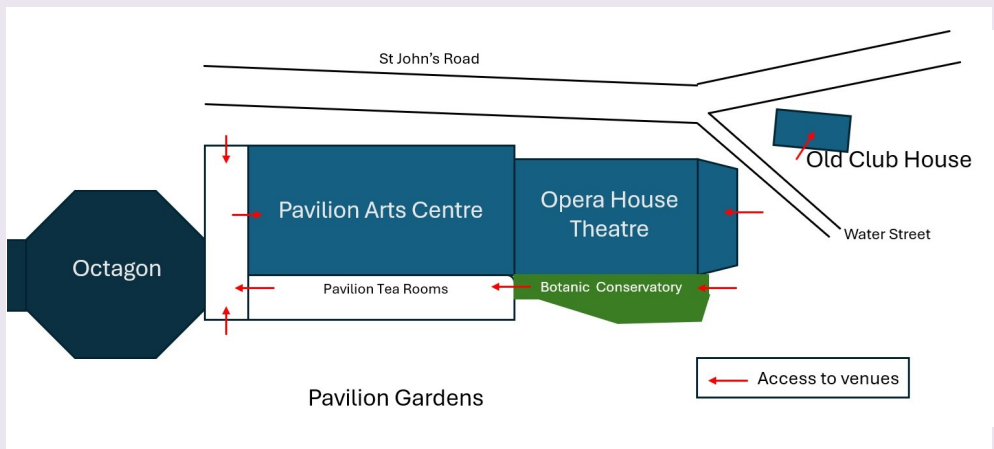
Mobile phones may not be used for any method of photography or recording during any programmed event. Please ensure your mobile phone is switched off or switched to silent.

Policy on all types of Photography

You are welcome to take photographs in the open areas and post them on social media, but please ask the subject's permission first. Please tag The British Ring and share using #britishringbuxton26. The British Ring's official still and video photographers are the only persons authorised to photograph performances, lectures, or demonstrations at any venue and then only with the permission of the artiste and The British Ring Council.

Stewarding/Delegate Safety

We would respectfully ask that all delegates comply with reasonable requests by both our own volunteer stewards and the venue staff. All requests are made with safety in mind, and we are obliged to comply with all Health and Safety issues. Therefore, if asked to clear any areas, please do so immediately when requested. We need to ensure areas are cleared before we can progress onto the next event and therefore your prompt attention when requested would be appreciated.



All British Ring Members are invited
to take part in the
ALI BONGO MICRO MARATHON

Friday 18 September, 8pm
The Old Club House

To enter please see Rick Tynan



**LATE NIGHT
EVENT**

Saturday 19 September, 10.45pm
John Kimmons
The Old Club House



Saturday 19 September

9.15am	Registration Desk and	Pavilion Arts
9.45am	Official Convention Opening	Pavilion Arts Centre
10am Lecture	John Kimmons: Crossing Over	Pavilion Arts Centre
11.30am	Stage Competition	Opera House
1.45pm Lecture	Jason Michaels: Professional Routines and a Grain of Salt	Pavilion Arts Centre
3.15pm Lecture	James Ward: Inspired By Chris	Pavilion Arts Centre
4.30pm Lecture	Andrew O'Connor: In Conversation Jeffery Atkins Memorial Lecture	Pavilion Arts Centre
6pm	Dealers and Registration Desk Close	Pavilion Arts Centre
7.30pm Show	Gala Show	Opera House
10.45pm	Late Night Event	The Old Club House

The British Ring Stage Competition

Organised and Introduced by Oliver Tabor
Alphabetical Order of Competitors

Danny Lee Grew (Clacton On Sea)

Jay Gatling (Conwy)

Oliver Bell (Colwyn Bay)

The Imagination of Chris Taylor and Louise (Ulverston)

Vicky Butterfly (Rochford)

AWARDS

1st Place - BRITISH RING TROPHY plus £500

2nd Place - THEO SPEAKER CUP plus £250

3rd Place - ALASTAIR WAND plus £100

THE BRITISH RING SHIELD plus £500 may also be
awarded to a deserving first place act

Any competitor may also be awarded:

CONVENTIONEERS' TROPHY plus £100 for Originality

DITTIA SHIELD plus £100 for Manipulation

TOM HARRIS CUP plus £100 for Comedy

Chair of Judges: Philip Partridge

Judges: Andrew Van Buren, Alex Jesson and
Michael Carr

Timekeeper: Robert Moss

Assistant Timekeeper: Lawrence Addison

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS BRITISH RING NO. 25 PRESENTS



AN EVENING OF MAGIC



**AN INTERNATIONAL SPECTACULAR OF ILLUSION,
MAGIC & COMEDY FOR ALL AGES**



BUXTON
**Opera
House**

Sat 19 Sep, 7:30pm
buxtonoperahouse.org.uk
01298 72190

Sunday 20 September

9am	Registration Desk and Dealers Open	Pavilion Arts Centre
9.30am Talk	History Of Mystery	Pavilion Arts Centre
9.30am Workshop	Youth Workshop	Venue will be advised
11am Lecture	Nikolai Striebel: What To Do With An Idea	Pavilion Arts Centre
1pm	Registration Desk Closes	Pavilion Arts Centre
1.30pm Show	Youth Show	Pavilion Arts Centre
3pm Lecture	Alex Jesson: Illusion Techniques for Close-Up & Stage Magic	Pavilion Arts Centre
4.30pm	Dealers Close	Pavilion Arts Centre
4.30pm Show	Chris Wardle Tribute Show	Pavilion Arts Centre
5.45pm	Awards & Installation of New President	Pavilion Arts Centre
8pm Show	Fritz with a Z	Pavilion Arts Centre

YOUTH SHOW!



EMMA WILLIAMS

Emma has been involved in performing her whole life and loves being on stage, especially at her family business, The Magic Bar Live. Emma loves developing her skills and bringing her own personality and style to every performance.

HARRY WILLIAMS

Harry enjoys performing alongside his sister Emma - sometimes! He especially loves magic with an element of danger and excitement.

LENA POOLE

A passionate card magician with over a year's experience in The Young Magician's Club at The Magic Circle, Lena is excited to perform at a magic convention for the first time.

RYLAND & THEA PETTY

'Magic and Mischief' are Ryland and Thea, the current holders of The Young Magician's Club Comedy Award. Ryland reached the semi-finals of both Britain and America's Got Talent and has also appeared on Blue Peter. Together Ryland and Thea are resident performers at House Of Secrets in Blackpool and regularly perform together around the world.



Chris Wardle Tribute Show

Hosted by
Geoffrey Durham

With: Richard Cadell and Sooty,
James Ward, JezO, Alan Maskell,
Rick Tynan, Philip Partridge





FROM AMSTERDAM
A RARE COMBINATION OF COMEDY, MAGIC
& IMPROVISATION!

FRITZ WITHAZ



BUXTON
**Opera
House**

Sun 20 Sep, 8:00pm
Pavilion Arts Centre
buxtonoperahouse.org.uk
01298 72190

Convention Artistes

Alan Maskell:

Sunday: Chris Wardle Tribute Show, 4.30pm

Alan met Chris at the Cambridge Pentacle Club and both found that, despite differing styles, their approach to magic was very similar. They attended conventions together and travelled their two-handed lecture to many UK magic clubs, which gave them plenty of time to talk magic and classic Dr Who. Although both eventually moved away from Cambridge, they regularly spoke on the phone and Alan received occasional packages in the post with Chris's latest ideas.

Alan feels that although it is a privilege to be able to perform in this tribute to his great magical friend, he misses Chris's magic and friendship terribly.



Andrew O'Connor:

Saturday: Jeffery Atkins Memorial Lecture, 4.30pm

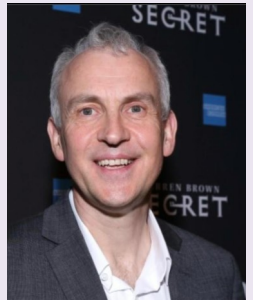
Andrew began his career as a magician/stand-up comedian and actor in theatre and television. In 1997 he retired from performing to concentrate on writing, producing and directing.

Co-founder of Objective Productions, which he ran from 1996–2015, key credits include Peep Show, Derren Brown shows, The Real Hustle, The Cube and Fresh Meat.

Through his company VAUDEVILLE he produces Grace for ITV (now on series 7) and the forthcoming Incognito for Channel 4.

Andrew has created/produced many TV magic shows including: Monkey Magic, Dirty Tricks, The Quick Trick Show, Extreme Magic Extreme Danger, The Next Great Magician and Secrets Of Magic - a show that caused him to be thrown out of The Magic Circle.

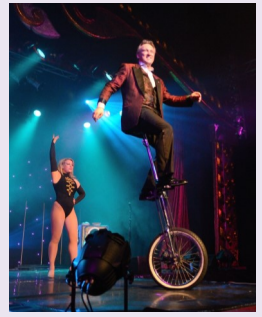
Andrew has also collaborated with: Pat Page, Ali Bongo, James Steinmeyer, Paul Kieve and Andy Nyman and he played a key role in the early TV careers of Jonathan Goodwin, Pete Firman, and Barry And Stuart.



Andrew Van Buren and Allyson:

Saturday: An Evening of Magic, 7.30pm

Andrew was born into a magical show business family. His parents Van Buren & Greta invented, built and performed illusions around the world. Andrew developed his own career and act of unicycle, trick cycling and juggling, which he combined with the family magic and illusions. At twelve he employed his first assistant who drove him to shows and helped with his act, initially starting in working-men's clubs before moving into theatre, cruises and television. Andrew also became recognised as one of the world's top plate spinner experts.

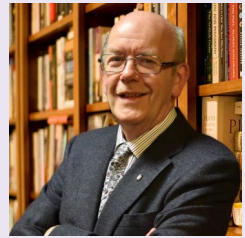


Andrew's partner Allyson is a trained dancer, make-up artist and 'box-jumper', with historic family links to the Buffalo Bill Wild West Shows.

Brian Lead:

Sunday: History Of Mystery, 9.30am

Once again, Brian Lead will be introducing the popular History of Mystery slot, established by Eddie Dawes well over half a century ago and still going strong. He will be presenting Nortman Snodgrass – a ventriloquial figure which first saw the light of day at the beginning of the Great War, along with lady ventriloquist Josephine Langley.



Fritz with a Z:

Sunday: One-man Show, 8pm

A leading figure in the Dutch magic scene, Fritz is one of the busiest working magicians in the Netherlands and the producer of the monthly Amsterdam Magic Show. He is the President of the Amsterdam Magic Society, the only English-speaking magic society in the Netherlands.



Fritz presents a reverse autobiography told through comedy, magic, and improv. The audience travels backwards through his life – from polished comedy magic to childhood wonder – watching him slowly 'unbecome' a magician in a theatrical, funny, and surprising variety show.

Geoffrey Durham

Sunday: Chris Wardle Tribute Show, 4.30pm

Geoffrey Durham retired from a thirty-two-year career as a professional magician in 2006. During that time he appeared in around seven hundred TV programmes and thousands of cabaret and theatre shows. In 2002 he received The Magic Circle's Maskelyne Award for services to British magic. His book *Professional Secrets: A life in magic* was published in 2008.



Chris Wardle Tribute Show: “Chris Wardle was a uniquely talented magician with an astounding facility for magical invention. And just as important, he was a thoughtful, modest and generous friend to countless numbers of us all over the world. His death at such a cruelly young age came as a massive shock to me, so I am honoured to take part in The I.B.M. British Ring tribute to him in Buxton this year.”

James Ward

Saturday: Lecture, 3.15pm

Sunday: Chris Wardle Tribute Show, 4.30pm

James Ward has written for many magazines over the years, among them *Abra*, *The Magician*, *Secrets* and *The Magic Circular*. He has also authored and edited several magic books, some with his great friend, the late Chris Wardle, with whom he co-wrote the Key Ring's long-running 'Collaborative Conjuring' column.



He has performed on radio and TV and lectured around the country and as far away as India. A member of The Magic Circle and The British Ring, he has won the Cecil Lyle Award, the Hoffmann Memorial Award and, with the late Chris Wardle, The I.B.M. British Ring 'Eddie Dawes Award'.

Inspired by Chris

In his lecture James will comprise new effects inspired by a selection of material from Chris's many books, some of which James was involved in as Chris's editor. And, it being for Chris, there will be one reference to chocolate. (And possibly two ...)

Jason Michaels

Saturday: Lecture, 1.45pm

Saturday: An Evening of Magic, 7.30pm



Jason Michaels is a professional magician, keynote speaker, and author who blends world-class sleight of hand with powerful storytelling. Born with Tourette Syndrome, Jason shares a deeply personal journey of resilience, turning adversity into an unforgettable performance experience. Jason's unique style combines humour, emotional depth, and masterful magic, leaving audiences both amazed and moved. Whether on stage or in intimate settings, he delivers a message that is as meaningful as it is impossible to forget.

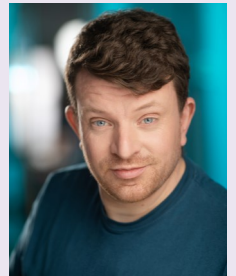
Professional Routines and a Grain of Salt

In this lecture you will find professional magic routines that are directly out of Jason's working repertoire. Magic that has entertained audiences all around the world. Many routines are suitable in both stand-up and close-up settings. Additionally, Jason shares real-world lessons on how to connect with audiences and significantly increase the impact your magic makes.

JezO

Sunday: Chris Wardle Tribute Show, 4.30pm

JezO has toured the UK with his hugely popular children's production, JezO's Magic and Laughter Show, bringing giggles and gasps to theatres nationwide. He has also entertained audiences aboard ships and has been lead comic in professional pantomimes across the UK for the past 14 years.



Away from the stage, JezO is President of The Cambridge Pentacle Magic Club and a proud member of the prestigious Magic Circle. He regularly lectures at magic clubs across the country on a subject he's incredibly passionate about: ENTERTAINMENT!

Chris Wardle Tribute Show: "Chris Wardle was famous for many things, but the one thing I loved about Chris was he loved a 'multiple out.' Well, I've taken this on board and trust me we are going for it. Love you Chris always. Enjoy the show!"

John Kimmons

Saturday: Lecture, 10am

Saturday: An Evening of Magic, 7.30pm

Saturday: Late Night Event, 10.45pm



John Kimmons (Kimmo) started performing magic at 15 as a children's entertainer and quickly built a reputation for his unique mix of comedy and magic. He won the Children's Entertainer World Championships in 2008, along with the Ken Dodd Award for Comedy at the Blackpool Opera House. John now performs and lectures worldwide. His TV credits include *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, *The Slammer*, and *Crackerjack*. He is also the organiser of the world-famous Trix Convention for family entertainers.

Crossing Over with John Kimmons

How do you create a children's show that keeps the kids entertained without leaving the adults checking their phones? Drawing on years of experience, John explores the art of creating family entertainment with genuine crossover appeal.

Matricks Illusion

Saturday: An Evening of Magic, 7.30pm

Sunday: Lecture, 3pm

Matricks is a powerhouse in the world of illusion, delivering mesmerising performances at top events and venues worldwide. Their presence on prestigious stages like the West End's 'Wonderville' and The O2 and Wembley Arena in London is a testament to their undeniable talent.



With appearances on numerous hit TV shows and events like Britain's Got Talent, ITV's Big Bash and Disney Plus and alongside internet influencers like The Sidemen & Mr Beast, Matricks has been seen by 300+ million people worldwide.

Alex Jesson: Illusion Techniques for Close-Up and Stage Magic

A practical look at how ideas from the world of illusion can be used to strengthen magic in both close-up and stage settings.

Michael Carr

Saturday: An Evening of Magic, 7.30pm

Michael Carr is known for blending classic magic and modern mentalism with a playful sense of humour, entertaining audiences across the country for over 25 years. A Gold Star Member of The Inner Magic Circle, he was awarded The I.B.M. British Ring 'Tom Harris Cup for Comedy' in 2025, recognising his ability to keep audiences smiling... and occasionally questioning their life choices!

He is currently touring the UK in his fourth season as host of the magical spectacular 'Illusion Impossible'.



Nikolai Striebel

Saturday: An Evening of Magic, 7.30pm

Sunday: Lecture, 11am

Nikolai Striebel has gained international recognition for his poetic style and modern approach to magic.

He has been named European Champion, and most recently, Vice World Champion of General Magic. Even the legendary duo Penn & Teller were fooled by him on their hit US show Fool Us.

A single sheet of paper becomes a flying object. It folds itself as if by magic, glides through the air and appears to cross the line between reality and the impossible. With his award-winning Paperplane Act, Nikolai Striebel tells a quiet, almost fairytale-like story: one of lightness, wonder, and the beauty hidden in small moments.



What To Do With An Idea?

In this lecture, the FISM-Winner opens up his creative process: ideas that worked, ideas that didn't, effects that were discarded, and the decisions and experiments that eventually shaped the final performance. Not as a formula for creating an act, but simply as an insight into his own playful way of working. And it won't be all theory: Nikolai will also perform and explain several pieces from his repertoire, sharing methods, ideas, and details along the way. A lecture about creating, experimenting, discarding, refining and turning a magic trick into a performance.

Philip Partridge

Sunday: Chris Wardle Tribute Show, 4.30pm

Philip Partridge, a past President of the British Ring, is celebrating thirty years in show business, performing comedy cabaret, close up magic, and children's entertainment.



Chris Wardle Tribute Show: Philip had long admired Chris's writings and first saw him perform at a British Ring Picnic, where the two quickly became firm friends. Philip now ends his monthly British Ring Welfare column with the words 'Be More Chris', just as he once closed his Presidential column with 'Choose to be Kind'. Chris was the kindest person Philip had ever met, and Philip strives every day to live up to his example.

Richard Cadell and Sooty

Saturday: An Evening of Magic, 7.30pm

Sunday: Chris Wardle Tribute Show, 4.30pm

Richard has presented The Sooty Show on stage and television for over 25 years. He is also an award winning illusionist having performed all over the world. Richard is an established pantomime star and this year will be playing lead comic and directing Christopher Biggins and Alexandra Burke in *Sleeping Beauty* at the Milton Keynes Theatre.



Chris Wardle Tribute Show: Richard is most honoured to be performing as a tribute to his friend Chris Wardle who was a great Sooty fan. The routine Richard is performing today was created specifically for Sooty by Chris. Richard hopes it works perfectly – if it doesn't, it's Sooty's fault of course!

Rick Tynan

Sunday: Chris Wardle Tribute Show, 4.30pm

Currently the Executive Treasure of The British Ring and Production Editor of the Key Ring. Rick inherited his love of Magic from his parents and grandparents, who were professional magical entertainers all their working lives. However, like Chris, he earned his living as an educator in schools with Magic as a constant companion.

Chris Wardle Tribute Show: Rick and his wife Carol first met Chris and David in person at Richard Cadell's Presidential Dinner where they shared a table and a fair amount of wine. They got on so well and knew they had just met great new friends. Rick and Chris were often in touch about his new publications and effects, and, with James Ward, his column Collaborative Conjuring was a constant source of inspiration.



Roy Field

Sunday: History Of Mystery, 9.30am

Bewildering Buxton – Magical Conventions in a Spa Town

British Ring historian Roy Field will detail the ways in which magicians have 'bewildered Buxton' over the years, dealing among other things with some of the hair-raising outdoor stunts used to publicise conventions. Roy has unearthed from the records many aspects unique to Buxton, adding to his previous research new material from our more recent visits.



Dealers Hall

Equity

Equity, the union for Magicians.
Public liability, Accident and Backstage Insurance
Legal assistance for work

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EQUITY

Hocus Pocus Magic



The UK's top magic specialist, catering to your performance needs
in: stage magic, coin magic, card tricks, clothing and much more.

www.hocuspocusmagic.com

Magick Words

Established in Sheffield in 1977, they have recently
closed their bricks-and-mortar shop after 50 years.
They continue to create books, scripts and associated
props for magicians and magickal storytellers under
the Magick Words imprint.

www.magick2go.com



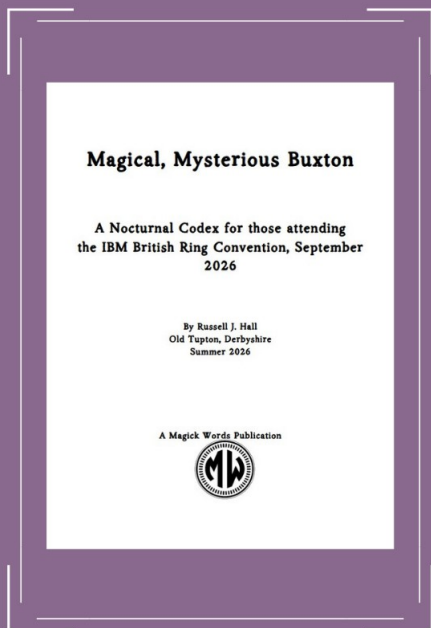
Tricked Magic

In addition to selling magic kits, props and
tricks, Tricked Magic also stock a variety of
unique items including posters, mugs,
coasters and key rings featuring original
artwork by Alex Jesson.

www.trickedmagic.com



FREE GIFT



Each delegate will receive a free eBook
courtesy of Magick Words

MagicWeek.co.uk

**News ♦ What's On ♦ TV Magic
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Every Saturday since 1st July 2000**

Convention Organising Team Lead	Moira Fletcher	
Convention Organising Team	Adam Black Alan Maskell Barry Nowland Cameron Gibson Carol Tynan Graham Colvan Ian Black	Jemma Tynan Mandy Fletcher Oliver Tabor Rena Fletcher Rick Tynan Wayne Trice
Registration Desk	Carol Tynan	Rena Fletcher
Publicity & Social Media	Cameron Gibson Jemma Tynan	Mandy Fletcher
Chief Steward	Alan Maskell	
Dealers Exhibition	James Hobart	Philip Partridge
Stage Director	Graham Colvan	
Stage Crew	Adam Black Barry Nowland Cameron Gibson	Ian Black Mandy Fletcher
Stage Competition	Oliver Tabor	Wayne Trice
Timekeeper	Robert Moss	
Assistant Timekeeper	Lawrence Addison	
Ali Bongo Micro Marathon	Rick Tynan	
History of Mystery	Brian Lead	
Youth Show	Mandy Fletcher	
Chris Wardle Tribute Show	Moira Fletcher	
Official Photographer	Jemma Tynan	
Official Video Projection	Bob Hamilton	
Souvenir Programme	Jemma Tynan	

Appreciation

The President, Officers and Organisers express their gratitude to all who have supported this our 88th Convention.

- ◇ The President of The International Brotherhood of Magicians, Jason Michaels
- ◇ Luke Bayirli, Producing and Artistic Programming Officer, Buxton Opera House
- ◇ Rhianna Taylor-Birch, Marketing and Communications Assistant, Buxton Opera House
- ◇ Buxton Opera House Marketing Team
- ◇ Barry Hope, Head of Production, Buxton Opera House
- ◇ Buxton Opera House Theatre Tech Crew, Staff and Volunteers
- ◇ Pavilion Arts Centre Theatre Tech Crew, Staff and Volunteers
- ◇ Megan Russell, General Manager, The Old Club House
- ◇ All the Artistes and Lecturers
- ◇ Richard Cadell
- ◇ Graham Colvan for Stage Management
- ◇ Ian Black for Pavilion Arts Centre Tech Management
- ◇ All Stage Crew
- ◇ The Stewards
- ◇ The Judges and Timekeepers
- ◇ Alastair Weir, Lucy Baines and Oskari Niemi for additional general assistance

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2027 EVENTS

PRESIDENT'S DINNER

**SATURDAY 17 APRIL
VILLAGE HOTEL,
GLASGOW**



PICNIC

**SUNDAY 30 MAY
MAGIC BAR LIVE,
LLANDUDNO**

ANNUAL CONVENTION

**18–19 SEPTEMBER
EASTBOURNE**

LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MAGIC: 1928 – 2028

THANK YOU for attending our
88th Annual Convention
We hope you had a MAGICAL time!



**Members of The I.B.M. British Ring
No.25 enjoy our conventions
at a reduced rate
If you are not a Member...**

JOIN TODAY!

**Visit our website for further
information and to find out about
the many benefits of being a
British Ring Member**

WWW.BRITISHRING.ORG.UK