

Reprint

ALL ABOARD FOR CHILLS AND THRILLS

Thundering down the rack, whistle screaming through the chilled dead of night, 'The Ghost Train' is heading for Downham.

On board are ghosts, phantoms of a terrible train crash long ago...and you thought Halloween was over!

Next week will see the curtain rise on yet another rollicking good yarn from Downham's Stage Two theatre group, this time a spooky tale from the pen of Arnold Ridley, best known as Private Godfrey in 'Dad's Army'.

Ridley sets his 1920's 'one dark and stormy night' tale in an isolated Cornish railway station. Here we find not only six unlucky stranded passengers, but a local superstition that speaks of a terrible death to anyone setting eyes on a legendary phantom train said to come screaming and bellowing through this remote station.

The disparate group comprising newlyweds, a couple on the cusp of separation, a self-obsessed dandy and parrot accompanied by one rather eccentric spinster are trapped... and there is an ominous chill in the air. Was that the haunting echo of a bell? And, in the distance, is that the faint whistle of a train?

Director Fran Osborne takes the darker, more intense thrills and chills route in contrast to the 1941 film version played for laughs by Arthur Askey. She cranks-up the tension beautifully, skilfully keeping the cast of 11 on their toes within the confines of their possibly final waiting room.

These eerie goings-on at Downham Village Hall run from November 20th to 23rd, with performances at 7.30pm and tickets at £6 still available from Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre (Tel. 01200 425566 or on 01200 423301).

The Assheton Arms in Downham (Tel 01200 4412270 is also running a dinner and a theatre ticket special for just £20.