

## Ledbury playwright dies

Written by Steve Glennie-Smith  
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Playwright and author Eric Pringle, who retired to Ledbury in 1999, passed away last Thursday (13th April) at the age of 81.

Eric wrote a number of TV scripts, including *The Pretenders* (1972) and *The Carnforth Practice* (1974). He was also commissioned, in 1975, to write a two-part serial entitled *The Angurth* for the popular *Doctor Who's* thirteenth season. However, that script was never broadcast - instead it was heavily modified and renamed *The Awakening*, eventually being released as a book instead, in 1992.

His play *Meeting Bea*, about the life of Beatrix Potter, was originally broadcast on Radio 4 in 1993. Eric had lived in Kendal for about 30 years before moving to Ledbury.

*Meeting Bea* was performed by Ledbury Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) in 2002.

Another of Eric's plays, *Hymus Paradisi*, about the life of composer Herbert Howells, won a Sony Award .

In 2005, Eric wrote *It's a Mystery* - a brand new script for a modern version of the centuries-old Mystery Plays, which was performed in the Parish Church at Easter that year. The music for this was written by local composer John Frith. A number of LADS members were involved, and it was my honour to be in charge of lighting and sound - some of the most demanding technical theatre I have ever undertaken.