

The Worthy Players
present



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

19th, 20th, 26th & 27th April 2024

www.theworthyplayers.co.uk

Message from our Chairperson, Martin Pettigrew

A very warm, if wet, Spring welcome to the Worthy Players' first production of 2024, 'Neighbourhood Watch' written by Alan Ayckbourn.

This production has been cleverly directed by an experienced team of Worthy regulars, Peter Wooldridge and Clare Nicholas.



Peter and Clare have taken a darker-edged script and ensured it holds the audience's attention throughout the performances, delivered by an excellent cast of older and, pleased to say, new members too.

Therefore it's a big thank you to Peter and Clare for stepping in to direct this time and to our wider production team and crew for producing a superb set, lighting and special effects to complement our actors on stage performances.

After our lively 50th Anniversary last year and the various group events surrounding it, 2024 feels like a bump back down to earth; however you will be pleased to hear that a new Pantomime production is planned for December and the members have a busy summer ahead replacing our existing costume shed which your continued support helps to fund, so your regular attendance at our shows is invaluable.

As we have said many times in the past, the Worthy Players, as a voluntary and inclusive group, are always welcoming to new members, so if you feel you can personally make a contribution to all that we do, please contact us via our website www.theworthyplayers.co.uk.

Finally, thank you once again for coming along this evening and we will see you again later in the year for Pantomime 2024.

Martin E Pettigrew

Neighbourhood Watch

The Cast of Characters

Hilda Massie	Kirsty Turner
Martin Massie	Mike Heseldin
Dorothy Doggett	Janine Blackmore
Rod Trusser	Nick Kearns
Luther Bradley	Matthew Meehan
Gareth Janner	Tim Ellwood
Amy Janner	Liz Finbow
Magda Bradley	Lydia Stead

The time is the present.
The scene throughout is Martin and Hilda's
sitting room in their house at number three,
The Bluebell Hill Development

Prologue

Act 1 Scene 1 Late summer afternoon, about tea-time

Scene 2 A few days later

Scene 3 Two weeks later

INTERVAL (20 minutes - Bar open & Raffle)

Act 2 Scene 1 A day or two later. Committee meeting

Scene 2 Later that day

Scene 3 A few days later

WARNING! Some flashing lights and please note, below...
The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or video recordings or streams of the production is strictly prohibited, and is an offence under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Our Cast of Characters



Kirsty Turner - Hilda Massie

Ooh an edgy one this time! Year 14 with the Worthy Players and always a ball.

Enjoy the show & hope you like my wallpaper!

Mike Heseldin - Martin Massie

Mike has been a member of the Worthy Players for nigh on 30 years and is pleased to be taking on one of his more challenging roles of late (though many may say he is often challenged!)



Nick Kearns - Rod Trusser

Nick's had a variety of parts since joining the Players in 1993 but this is proving to be one of the more demanding and enjoyable.

Fingers crossed you enjoy it as much as he does!

Janine Blackmore - Dorothy Doggett

How adaptable we actors are asked to be! Last year, Janine was playing Betty, Frank Spencer's supportive wife. This year Dorothy Doggett is the neighbour who keeps us up-to-date with the lowdown on other residents in Bluebell Hill.





Tim Ellwood - Gareth Janner

More than 15 years after his last Ayckbourn, Tim is back in a play by one of his favourite playwrights playing a typical Ayckbourn character - the inadequate man. And having previously played Tom in all three of the Norman Conquests he knows a bit about playing those types of chap. Did I hear someone shout "no acting involved then"?

Liz Finbow - Amy Janner

What a super first play to be acting in here at Worthy Players and what a lovely, friendly, supportive team to act with! Rehearsals have been fun and "Amy" has been a dream to play.



Lydia Stead - Magda Bradley

New to the Worthy Players, I'm excited to be on stage next to some brilliant people. I'm loving the experience and enjoying getting involved!

Matthew Meehan - Luther Bradley

Matthew is an actor, writer and director who has performed all over the UK in plays ranging from Abigail's Party to Oedipus and Antigone. His other interests include Poe, Lovecraft and Motorcycles.



The Play's Co-Directors



Peter Wooldridge

This is the third time that Peter and Clare have directed together, so let's hope it's third time lucky!



Clare Nicholas

“The last time we directed together was in 2017 with two French farces, and this time we have gone for something completely different. Looking for this year's spring play was a long process and, although we liked Neighbourhood Watch, and it is an Ayckbourn, it is a little darker than most of the recent plays we have performed.

However, once rehearsals were under way, the cast were able to bring out the characterisations and comedy brilliantly so we had no doubts that we had chosen well.

We have three new actors and they, along with our longer-standing members have been superb throughout. We must also thank David Woolford for set design and leading the set build, Richard Aldous for his fantastic poster, running the box office and setting up sound and lights, Dave Alderson for gnomes and sourcing the sofa as well as operating lights, Mary Blaxland for her debut on sound, Barbara Kearns for stage management, Sheila Alderson for prompt, David Collis for reading in for most parts during rehearsals (even convincingly for the female parts!) and Martin Pettigrew for Front of House Manager.

Finally a big thank you to all who took part in set build and front of house”.

Production Team - Behind the scenes

Co-Directors

Front-of-House Manager

Bar Manager

Set Designer

Technical Director

Stage Manager

Web and poster design

Prompt

Publicity

Costume assistance

Programme

Sound & Lighting Setup

Sound Operation

Lighting Operation

Peter Wooldridge

& Clare Nicholas

Martin Pettigrew

Nick Kearns

David Woolford

Richard Aldous

Barbara Kearns

Richard Aldous

Sheila Alderson

Mary Blaxland

Sheila Alderson

Dave Alderson

Richard Aldous

Mary Blaxland

Dave Alderson



David Woolford



Richard Aldous



Barbara Kearns

Set Construction Days and Props



Mary Blaxland



Sheila and Dave Alderson



Treive Nicholas



David Collis



Bridget Adebisi



Peter Wooldridge

David Woolford, Martin Pettigrew, Richard Aldous, Nick Kearns Lin Egerton, Dave Alderson, Treive Nicholas, Mike Heseldin, Clare Nicholas, Kirsty Turner Bridget Adebisi, David Collis, Liz Finbow, Matthew Meehan, Peter Wooldridge, Tim Ellwood, Julie Pettigrew & Barbara Kearns.



Martin and Julie Pettigrew



Our Helpers on performance nights - Front of House:

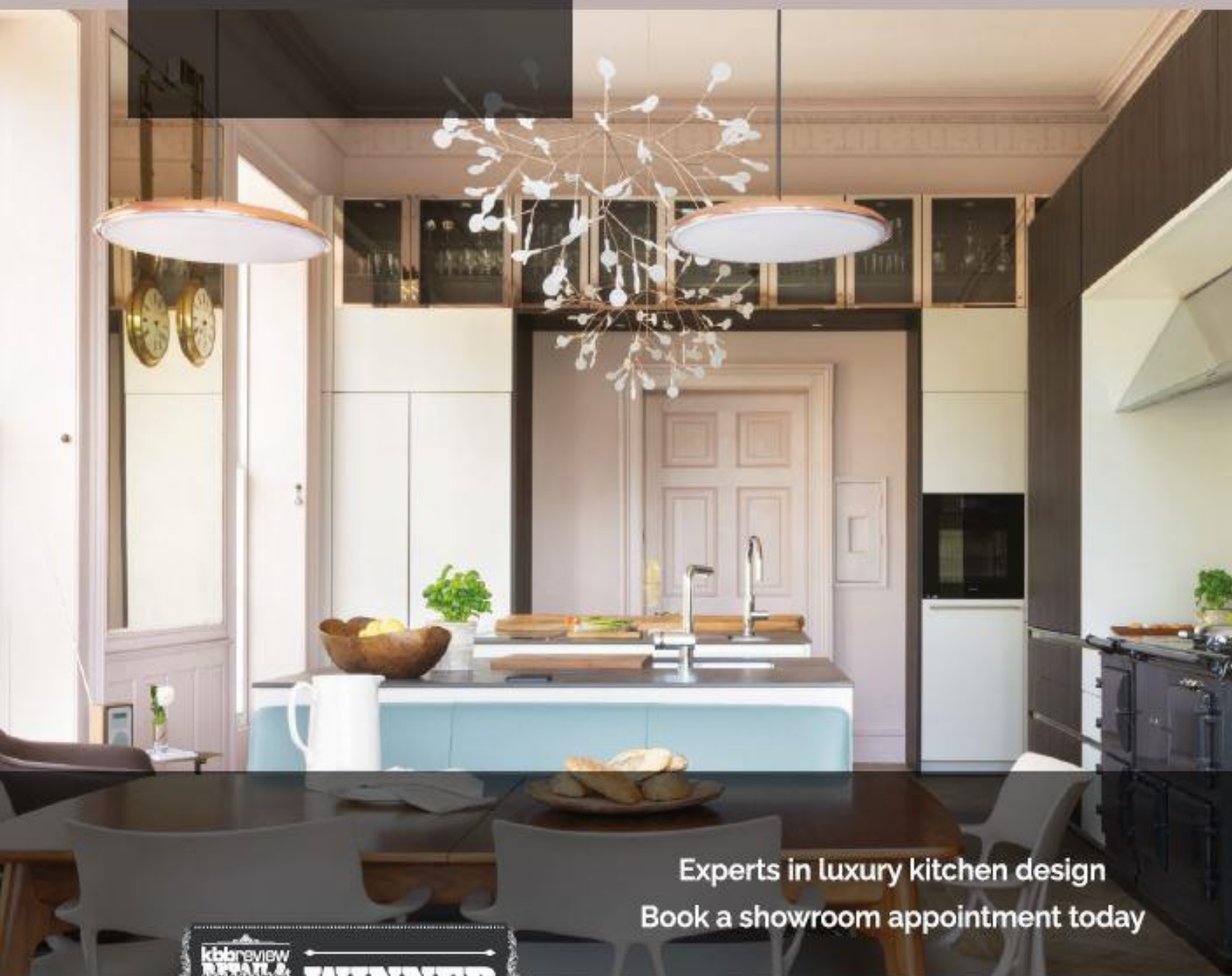
Huge thanks to all our Front-of-House Team led by Martin Pettigrew - in no special order: Peter McLoughlin, Martin & Julie Pettigrew, Naomi & Peter Wooldridge, Gina Bird, David Collis, Clare & Treive Nicholas, Alison & David Woolford, Ali Griffiths, Sarah & Will Kesterson and any others who are recruited at the last minute! With ushering, raffle and bar sales, they all help to make your evening that much more enjoyable.

And thanks, as always, to ADH Printing for ever-responsive and professional service in the printing of this programme and, too, to Winchester Theatre Arts for adjusting dance rehearsals to accommodate our performance schedule.



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