

Photographs

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Photographs @Peter Grainger (with contributions from @Tony Jeans)

Editor: Sandra Jeans

Programme

Our next big production

It is the spring of 1947. The War ended nearly two years ago and the boys and girls have been finally demobbed. The country has just been through the bad winter of 1946-47. The Village (Charlton St. Mary's) wants a celebration show in early summer so a Committee has been set up. They want to outdo the neighbouring village of Little Binding! We will be eavesdropping on the Committee as they work on the show and remember what they've been through.

"Some Sunny Day" will present songs of the period linked with 'stories' of WW2 and the 40s. Preparation has been on-going for some time with people supplying stories, photographs, offers of loans and help for a 'front of house' exhibition and anecdotes for the script. The stories include the very funny, serious accounts of men and women who lost their lives, and what people and school children did to support the war effort. There is poetry; there is prose; there are galleries of pictures which tell a story... These will be available from the Players' web site and will be in the exhibition.

The Players' extensive costume store, and other sources, will be supplying uniforms and what some of us (civilians) wore in the 40s! The audience will also be invited to dress up. The show is planned for the February half term in 2017 and will be in St. Edward's Performance Hall, Cirencester Road. Auditions will be held after Easter 2016. There will be opportunities for singers (including soloists), actors, readers, 'walk-about' parts, helping with the exhibition and stage crew.

Contact Sandra and Tony Jeans or Martyn Fry for more information.
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Don't forget to visit our website for all the latest news, photos and information!

www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.co.uk



CHARLTON KINGS COMMUNITY PLAYERS
presents
"MURDERED TO DEATH"
by Peter Gordon

ticket £8.00
BOOK OFF
7:00pm

17th, 18th & 19th Feb 2016
Sacred Hearts Hall, Moorend Road, Charlton Kings

Official Programme

For more information visit: www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com
AN AMBITIOUS PRODUCTION BY SAKS DISCOUNT WITH J&J'S SUPERMARKET LTD

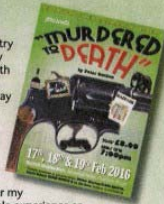
From the Director

A Country House: the owner and her niece; a butler; guests for the weekend; an amateur lady sleuth; a country policeman and an Inspector from the local constabulary combine to make a recipe for disaster. Murdered to Death has all the ingredients of an Agatha Christie whodunit. There, unfortunately comparisons end, for this is one play Agatha Christie would never have penned. This Murder Mystery Spoof, by Peter Gordon, is a witty comedy designed to have the audience in stitches, if not 'dying with laughter'.

The cast and crew have all enjoyed bringing this production to fruition with much good humour, laughter and hilarity and as Director, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone involved for making the whole experience so memorable. I do hope that you enjoy watching this comedy, as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

So sit back and enjoy. It's going to be Murder!

Andrea Wood Director



About the Author

Peter Gordon.

With over 1400 professional and amateur productions world-wide, Peter is one of the UK's most popular playwrights. To date, he has written twelve comedies, a psychological thriller and a one act comedy. Ten of these have been published and are available for performance through the play catalogue of Josef Weinberger Ltd.

The 'Inspector Pratt' trilogy - spoofs of the Agatha Christie genre of whodunnits - have been described as "deliciously wicked" and "hilarious and very clever". Collectively, 'Murdered to Death', 'Secondary Cause of Death' and 'Death by Fatal Murder' have had over one thousand professional and amateur tours/productions in the UK and overseas.

Peter was born in York, England. Now a full-time writer, his earlier career as a Chartered Civil Engineer took him as far afield as the Middle East and eventually led him to become Head of Civil Engineering at a UK university.

As a true Yorkshireman, Peter has returned to his roots, living in York with his wife, Janice. In addition to writing, he has a keen interest in music. He considers himself to be a good drummer and less-than-adequate guitarist. He is trying to keep his ukulele playing a secret from his friends!



Sincere thanks go to:

Sacred Hearts Church for the use of their hall & facilities for our performances.
St Edward's Senior School & Charlton Kings Baptist Church for rehearsal space.
St John's Players, Sue & Gary Winrow.

Please be aware that there will be several gun shots during the production.

"MURDERED TO DEATH"

The action of the play takes place in the lounge of a country manor house in the 1930's

Act One

Scene One Late afternoon, Autumn.
Scene Two The following morning



Act Two

Scene One Two hours later
Scene Two One hour later

Cast:

Mildred	Jane Kane
Dorothy	Debbie Dundas
Bunting	John Palmer
Colonel Charles Craddock	Martyn Fry
Margaret Craddock	Sue Drinkwater
Elizabeth Hartley-Trumington	Debbie Masling
Pierre Marceau	Tim Masling
Joan Maple	Jane Jones
Constable Thompkins	Tim Blakey
Inspector Pratt	Andrew Laver

Production:

Director	Andrea Wood
Producer	Debbie Masling
Stage Manager	Francesca Woods
Light & Sound	Peter Ryan
Publicity	Fiona Connor
Poster/Programme Design	Andrew Laver
Ticket Sales & Printing	Derek Palmer
Set design/Build	Andy Connor
Costumes	Debbie Masling & Cast
With special thanks to Sandra Jeans for the loan of certain items	
Properties	Caroline Sparkes
Prompt	Sara Kinane
Make-up	CKCP Ladies
First Aid	Tim Wood
Front of House	Friends of the Players

Designed by Andrew Laver



Cast picture from the programme



Andrea Wood, Director

“A Country House; the owner and her niece; a butler; guests for the weekend; an amateur lady sleuth; a country policeman and an Inspector from the local constabulary combine to make a recipe for disaster. Murdered to Death has all the ingredients of an Agatha Christie whodunit. There, unfortunately comparisons end, for this is one play Agatha Christie would never have penned. This Murder Mystery Spoof, by Peter Gordon, is a witty comedy designed to have the audience in stitches, if not ‘dying with laughter’.”



Andrew Laver as Inspector Pratt (Sergeant!)
 Tim Blakey as Constable Thompkins (Sir!)
 John Palmer as Bunting (Ma'am!)



Martyn Fry as Colonel Charles Craddock (Retired!)
 Tim Masling as Pierre Marceau



Jane Kane as Mildred (Lady of the Manor)
Debbie Dundas as Dorothy (her niece)



Jane Jones as Joan Maple (Miss!)
Debbie Masling as Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington
Sue Drinkwater as Margaret Craddock

Photo-montage



It was murder and we died laughing!

© Peter Grainger

Finale



Cast and Director, Andrea Wood, on stage for the finale on the Friday evening

The Production



The set – the lounge of a country manor house in the 1930s –
the Golden Age of the *'Detective Story'*



Set lit for a late afternoon



A blazing log fire



‘Atmospheric set’ prior to performance

Performance (Technical, Dress and Performance nights)

This assembly takes a general timeline through the story drawing from various photosets. The stage set was being assembled at the time of the Technical rehearsal. Costumes may have been reviewed during Technical and Dress rehearsals.



Mildred reminisces and makes up the fire.
She throws a elephant ornament on the fire by mistake being short-sighted.



Family retainer, Bunting, brings in a log for the fire.



The Colonel and Mrs Craddock arrive.





Mildred alone with Charles Craddock reminds him of their 'relationship'.



Pierre Marceau and Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington arrive together.





Some 'catty' comments about Dorothy's dress!



Dorothy serves the sherry.



Joan Maple arrives.





Pierre has, two years' ago in Paris, sold some original paintings to Mildred.
Dorothy exposes the paintings for what they are (fakes)



and comes to some 'arrangement'.



Charles gives his view on the provenance of the paintings.
Pierre listens at the door and knows the game may be up.



Mildred now worries about the paintings – has she been duped?
 Charles goes out leaving Joan Maple.
 Mildred goes to do some research in the dining room.



Gloved hand with gun appears around the door.
 A loud shot and 'first body' (the Lady of the Manor)!



All gathered awaiting the Inspector.



Inspector Pratt arrives.





Inspector Pratt examines the singed elephant which Mildred had previously thrown on the fire by mistake.





Inspector Pratt 'much taken' with Elizabeth.







Teacakes – but not for Thompkins!



Elizabeth urges Pierre to murder Dorothy.



Bunting gets drunk to celebrate his new found fortune.



Inspector Pratt on his knees to Dorothy thinking she is the murderer,
but she is about to become 'the second body'..



Constable Thompkins has been shot in the foot by
Inspector Pratt during a re-enactment.

Deputy Chief Constable not too pleased.



Inspector Pratt holds up his find from the dining room, the 'Art of Macrame'.



The hollow book holds the key?



Accusations fly around.



Joan Maple unravels Pierre's picture scam.
Constable Thompkins blocks the door.



Pierre and Elizabeth are revealed as in league and are arrested.
Elizabeth tries to escape.



Joan Maple solves the case.



Margaret boasts about the murders.
Bunting is unmasked as Benson (the Mess orderly) and Margaret's former lover.

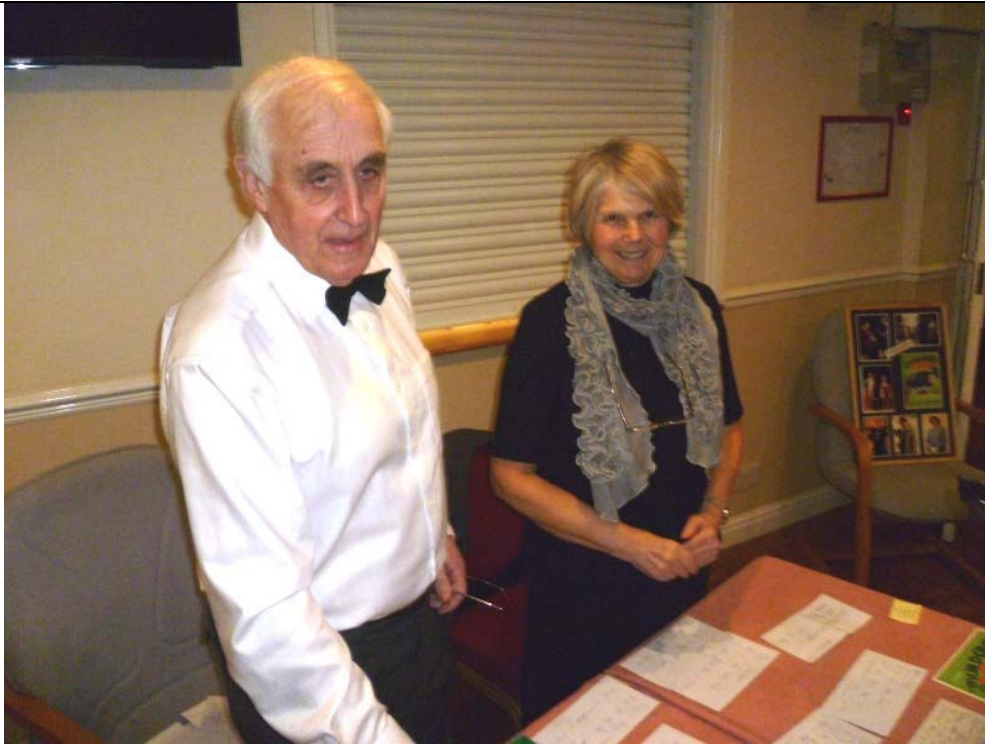


Inspector Pratt takes the gun from Bunting – exit murderers!



Inspector Pratt takes aim, and hits Constable Thompkins in the other foot!

The End



**Front of House team on the last night
Derek Palmer, Sue Vickers, Joyce Parsons**

Moments during rehearsals - *'Relaxing'* on set



