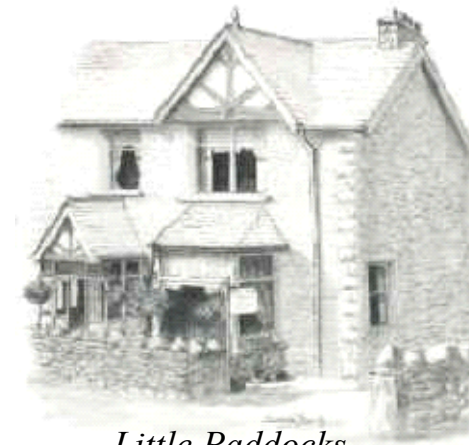




A Murder is Announced

by
Agatha Christie
adapted for the stage by Leslie Darbon



Little Paddocks

Miss Marple cracks the case!

Programme 50p

Warboys WI Hall, 29th June 2007 at 8.00 pm
Huntingdon Medway Centre, 30th June 2007 at 7.30 pm

A Murder is Announced

by Agatha Christie
adapted for the stage by Leslie Darbon

Directed by Kelly Mason, assisted by Carol Wadey
Produced by John Morgan

This play is performed under licence and with the express
permission of Samuel French Ltd

The action takes place in two drawing-rooms in an early Victorian
house in Chipping Cleghorn, which have been made into one room.

Act I

Scene 1: The morning of Friday the 13th
Scene 2: 6.10 p.m. the same day
Scene 3: The following Saturday morning

Act II

Scene 1: The following Sunday morning
Scene 2: The following Monday morning
Scene 3: 6 p.m. the same day

Time: Agatha Christie time

There will be one interval of twenty minutes.

About Huntingdon Drama Club

Since 1944 Huntingdon Drama Club has produced at least two plays a year. We operate on the principle that we're all in it to have fun and we're mercifully free of egos, tantrums and politics. We work very closely with other theatre groups, and we're always delighted to welcome new members.

There are many roles within the club, all of equal importance. We need people to work on lighting, costumes, set-building, front-of-house, properties, special effects and publicity, just as much as we need actors. If you're interested please come along and meet us. We're very friendly and we'd love to have you on board. You can find out more at our website

www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk

or by calling our Chair, Michael Black on 01480-454486.

Our autumn production will be Willis Hall's adaptation of
Charlotte Brontë's classic tale of love, passion and insanity,

Jane Eyre

directed by Michael Black
(Inspector Craddock in *A Murder is Announced*)

**Read-through: Wednesday, 11 July at 7.30 pm,
in Brampton Church Hall**

Performance dates: 15-17 November in the Commemoration
Hall

Details on our website

www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk

or phone Michael on 01480-454486.

Jeanette Brown (Letitia Blacklock)

Jeanette has acted in quite a long list of plays now, as far afield as the USA and Broughton. Her last appearance with Huntingdon Drama Club was as the batty children's writer Olive Harriet Smythe in *Move over Mrs Markham*, last November.

John Morgan (Producer)

John's association with Huntingdon Drama Club goes back 20 years. He occasionally appears on stage, but is mostly to be found at the back of the hall doing clever things with sound and lighting. After a variety of careers, John is now a computer consultant.

Kelly Mason (Director)

Kelly joined the Club in 2005, and thoroughly enjoyed having a nervous breakdown as the vicar's wife, Louise Emerson, in *Joking Apart*. Directing is a new venture for her, and she managed to keep her cool throughout rehearsals.

Louise Nicholls (Phillipa Haymes)

Louise's first-ever stage performance was in *Joking Apart* in March, when she was immobile for almost the whole of her appearance, so she's delighted to be able to move around the stage this time. Like Bob, Louise is a forensic scientist.

Lynda Norris (Julia Simmons)

This is the first time Lynda's been involved in Huntingdon Drama Club, although she's previously performed at the Edinburgh Festival and toured locally. Despite being an art teacher, and new to motherhood, she manages to make time for drama.

Michael Black (Inspector Craddock)

Michael is the Chair of Huntingdon Drama Club and both acts and directs. He last appeared in *Joking Apart* in March, and will be directing our next production, *Jane Eyre* in November.

Ronald Stevenson (Patrick Simmons)

Ronald has appeared in several plays with Huntingdon Drama Club, and directed Alan Ayckbourn's *Joking Apart* in March. He appeared in *Crazy for You* at Brampton Park Theatre last month as a stunt cowboy. It comes as a surprise to many people that Ronald is an accountant. He is also an avid mountaineer

Welcome to Huntingdon Drama Club's production of

A Murder is Announced

by Agatha Christie. First published in 1950, this adaptation for the stage, by Leslie Darbon, had its London debut in 1977. Christie's work is enjoyed by millions of people around the world, and whether it's a novel or one of the various stage and television adaptations, it seems very few can resist a good mystery, especially those featuring the much loved character Miss Marple.

A Murder is Announced has been my directorial debut and Huntingdon Drama Club's first touring production. Needless to say it has certainly been an interesting experience. I would like to thank all the cast and crew, with a special mention to John Morgan, Ann Monk, Carol Wadey and Michael Black, who have been enormously helpful in guiding me through the process of staging a production and who, if truth be told, have undertaken most of the hard work.

Finally I'd like to thank you all for coming and hope that you enjoy this evening's performance – and those of you not familiar with the plot see if you can guess “whodunnit!”

Kelly Mason

Director of *A Murder is Announced*

The cast

Julia Simmons	Lynda Norris
Letitia Blacklock	Jeanette Brown
Dora Bunner	Ann Monk
Patrick Simmons	Ronald Stevenson
Mitzi	Caroline Harbord
Miss Marple	Carol Wadey
Phillipa Haymes	Louise Nicholls
Mrs Swettenham	Jacqueline Spencer
Edmund Swettenham	Chris Rogers
Rudi Scherz	Bob Pugh
Inspector Craddock	Michael Black
Sergeant Mellors	Darren Agius

The production team

Producer	John Morgan
Sound	John Morgan
Lighting	Mel Pugsley
Properties	Richard Meredith, Ann Monk & David Groves-Hunt
Costumes	Ann Monk and Carol Wadey
Make Up	Carol Wadey, Kelly Mason and cast
Poster	John Morgan
Programme	Michael Black
Medway Centre displayAnn Monk, Carol Wadey and Kelly Mason
Photography	John Morgan

Our special thanks go to

Brampton Church, Huntingdon Town Council, SIMADS, OARS, The Card Gallery, The Black Bull, Warboys Women's Institute, Derek Adams and the Medway Centre, and Club members

Ann Monk (Dora Bunner)

Since joining Huntingdon Drama Club two years ago, Ann has acted in *From Mafeking to the Millennium*, and produced both that and *Move over Mrs Markham*. In real life she's nothing like the dopey Dora Bunner.

Bob Pugh (Rudi Scherz)

Bob is nearing his 25th anniversary with the Club, and in that time he's acted, stage managed and done a lot of other useful things – also for Shakespeare at the George and OARS. He's a forensic scientist, so a whodunnit comes naturally to him.

Carol Wadey (Miss Marple and assistant director)

After playing the scatty one in *Move over Mrs Markham*, Carol is donning the grey hair and knitting her way through this detective story. When not acting she works at Brampton Playgroup.

Caroline Harbord (Mitzi)

Having played shopping queen Mrs Markham last autumn, and the irritating Olive in *Joking Apart* in March, Caroline felt ready to go over the top in the role of Mitzi in *A Murder is Announced*. Caroline is a freelance marketer and writer.

Chris Rogers (Edmund Swettenham)

Chris is following in the footsteps of his daughter Amanda, who played birthday girl Mandy in *Joking Apart*. Although Chris has acted before, this is his first time with Huntingdon Drama Club.

Darren Agius (Sergeant Mellors)

This is Darren's acting debut, and he says he's terrified, but it must be worth it, as he comes to rehearsals from his home in Peterborough. When he isn't acting, Darren does something interesting in conservatories.

Jacqueline Spencer (Mrs Swettenham)

Jacqueline directed *Silhouette* for Huntingdon Drama Club last year, and co-directed *Joking Apart* in March. She's a regular director for Brampton Park Theatre Club, and has also acted a number of times with both clubs. As a lawyer, she loves whodunnits.