

ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS

PRESENT

**It's
Never
Too
Late**

Saturday
30 September
2017

7:00pm

at the
Huxtable
Hall
St Martin's Church,
Erith Road,
Bexleyheath

with a
Fish
and Chip
Supper

**A MURDER
MYSTERY EVENING**

written by Claire Jones,
directed and produced by
Daryl O'Sullivan & Marion Biram

PROGRAMME

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!



Good evening, and welcome to our 80th production; we hope you enjoy the evening as much as we have. Although some of our long-standing members have performed with the group at the Danson Festival in the early 2000s, this production has given a refreshingly different experience to our new members who have not performed 'away from home' before: last night, we performed at The Stables at Charlton House, as there was much interest in giving their regular clients a different type of event.

This is the fourth time we have performed a murder mystery by Claire Jones – 'Barbecues R Murder', 'Murder At The New Vicarage' and 'Murder Backstage' also gave our regular audience members a chance to enjoy a meal with a play. Once again, be on the lookout for the movement of key props and subtle lines of dialogue that can help you find the culprit. Our production of 'It's Never Too Late' will be a little different from the previous plays, as we will be performing among the audience, and there will be a chance to ask the suspects some questions – a more immersive and engaging performance for all.

While the play is simple enough to rehearse, no production is plain-sailing. Sadly, two cast members had to stand down: we thank Lisa and Paul for helping to get the production moving, and especially thank Lindsey for taking on 'Cissie', and Mark, who stepped into the role of 'Mike' just a couple of weeks ago – learning so many lines so quickly shows real asset to the group. It does highlight that we really could do with some more members (on both sides of the curtain), so please do get in touch if you would like to join us for future productions. We'd also like to welcome Lucie to her first production, and also welcome Martin, Sue and Sue back to the stage for their first appearances on stage for a few years.

We hope that you enjoy your evening, and look forward to seeing you at our next production. We are back on the road next Saturday, performing this play at Christ Church Bexleyheath – do recommend us to your friends, or maybe you could come for seconds!

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



RAPUNZEL

A PANTOMIME

by Limelight Scripts

Directed and Produced by

Lindsey Clayton and Sue Adams

26-27 January 2018

2-3 February 2018

Readings and auditions will take place shortly. Check our Facebook page for details.

THE PLAY

At a reunion of the Sutton County High School, what could possibly go wrong? When old school friends meet again after several decades, long-forgotten passions and jealousies surface. Who dated who? Who got the most detentions? Who gossiped about who? And why would you murder someone in a public place?

Act One – ‘The Ex-Pupils Gather’

Short Interval – last chance to order food

Act Two – ‘At The Table’

Starter and Main Course

Act Three – ‘After The Meal’

There will be a chance to question the suspects at the end of this act

Dessert

Make your decision – *whodunnit?*

Act Four – ‘Later That Evening’

Announcement of Winners

MENU

Main

Cod and Chips

Fried Chicken and Chips

Vegetarian Country Bake

Please make your selection using the order form on your table

Dessert

Apple Crumble

with Custard or Cream

Tea and Coffee

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE

As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance. Tickets will be on sale before the performance and during the intervals. The draw will take place during final act, and the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the performance.



more
than words

More Than Words is a Kent-based charity, formed just three years ago. Working around the county, the charity provides support and Makaton signing workshops for children with communication difficulties, and those who care for them.



THE CAST



MARK FOULDS as *Mike Macdonald*

Before joining us, Mark had appeared onstage with the Alexandra Players, and had played percussion at a range of venues. He first appeared with us as Peter 'Venture Man' Graham in our last production, *I'll Get My Man*, proving himself as a skilled actor. We are most grateful to him for stepping into this role at the last minute, and look forward to seeing the talents he has to offer in our upcoming pantomime.

RICHARD PERCIVAL as *Stan Sanderson*

Richard has portrayed over forty different characters on stage in our productions, including a number of well-known characters such as Bluebeard, the Tinman, Sherlock Holmes and Tinkerbell. He has committed murder a number of times in the past (on stage, of course!), including *Murder Backstage* and *And Then There Were None* (when he murdered eight people) will he be the guilty one yet again – you decide!



STEVE MORLEY as *Tim Timpson*

Steve first appeared on stage in *The Roses Of Eyam* at just 13 years old; since then, he has appeared in over thirty productions, with backstage roles in others; panto baddies and Stage Manager are his favourite roles. He has also directed three plays, most enjoying the staging and developing special effects featured in the period productions *Jekyll And Hyde*, *The Ghost Train* and *Hound Of The Baskervilles*.

MARTIN STONE as *Brett Ballard*

We are pleased to welcome Martin back to the stage for his first main role for a few years. Joining us as the panto dame in 1996, he has appeared in a wide range of plays. Martin has been known to break boundaries and try something new, directing our first musical plays, writing the short plays performed at the Danson Festival, and is the only member to have written a play performed on our stage, *Pride And Joy*.



JULIE EXELL as Moira Macdonald

Julie has been with us since our 1994 production of *Aladdin*, and has since appeared in 38 plays and pantomimes; memorable characters include Ratty, Robin Hood, the March Hare, and other musical roles. Julie takes a leading role in organising costumes for the plays and pantomimes, ensuring we all look brilliant – sometimes this is done while appearing on stage – this shows how much hard work she puts into the group.



ABBIE WATKINS as Billie Macdonald

Abbie first appeared with the junior chorus of *Bluebeard* in 2005, and has since appeared in a number leading roles, including Alice (*in Wonderland*), Princess Penelope (*Lady Lollipop*, our production for young players), Princess Aurora (*Sleeping Beauty '15*) – and who could forget the pantomime snail in *The Three Musketeers*? Will she be the innocent young girl in this production, or will we see another side of her?



LINDSEY CLAYTON as Cissie Sanderson

Once again, we are most grateful to Lindsey, for stepping in to a role just a short time before the production (last time, as the butler in *Hound Of The Baskervilles*). Lindsey has appeared in every production since joining the group last year, throwing herself into every part with enthusiasm. However, you probably won't be seeing her in the next pantomime, as she tries her hand at directing a show for the first time.



SUE REID as Geraldine Grant

Sue is a long-standing supporter of the group, first appearing in *Virtue Triumphant*, our fourth production, back in 1992. Although this is her first on-stage appearance since *Over My Dead Body* (2010), she enjoys watching our plays as much as being part of them. Memorable roles include Gertrude, the golden goose, in *Mother Goose '99*, and Evonne, the inebriated vicar's wife in *Out Of Focus*.



RAE CALNAN as Barbara Ballard

Since joining in 1995, Rae has appeared in over thirty productions (not always in speaking roles – Dick Whittington's cat and Nobby the Panda could not talk!); she is also our makeup artist. She has a particular interest in murder mysteries, having directed *The Murder Room* and *And Then There Were None*. Rae has appeared in all of our murder evenings, yet has never been the murderer – perhaps she'll be the guilty one today?





SUE ADAMS as Inspector Allaway

A founder member of the group, Sue directed our first ever play (*See How They Run '91*). She has appeared on stage occasionally over the years, but has directed and produced more often than playing a role. Having had a break from 'active service' and continued to support our productions, Sue returned earlier this year, firstly as panto prompt, then as producer; this is her first appearance on stage since *Out Of Focus* in 2007.

LUCIE BACHE as DC Potts

We would like to welcome Lucie to her first production with us. Lucie joined the group just a few months ago, looking for a new adventure, and has taken on the role of the detective, questioning the suspects – while this may seem to be a small part, only appearing at the end, there's an awful lot of lines to learn!



Prompt VAL COATES

Properties and Costumes THE PLAYERS

**Sound and Lighting DAVID BATCHELOR
CHRIS SUGGITT**

Box Office RICHARD PERCIVAL

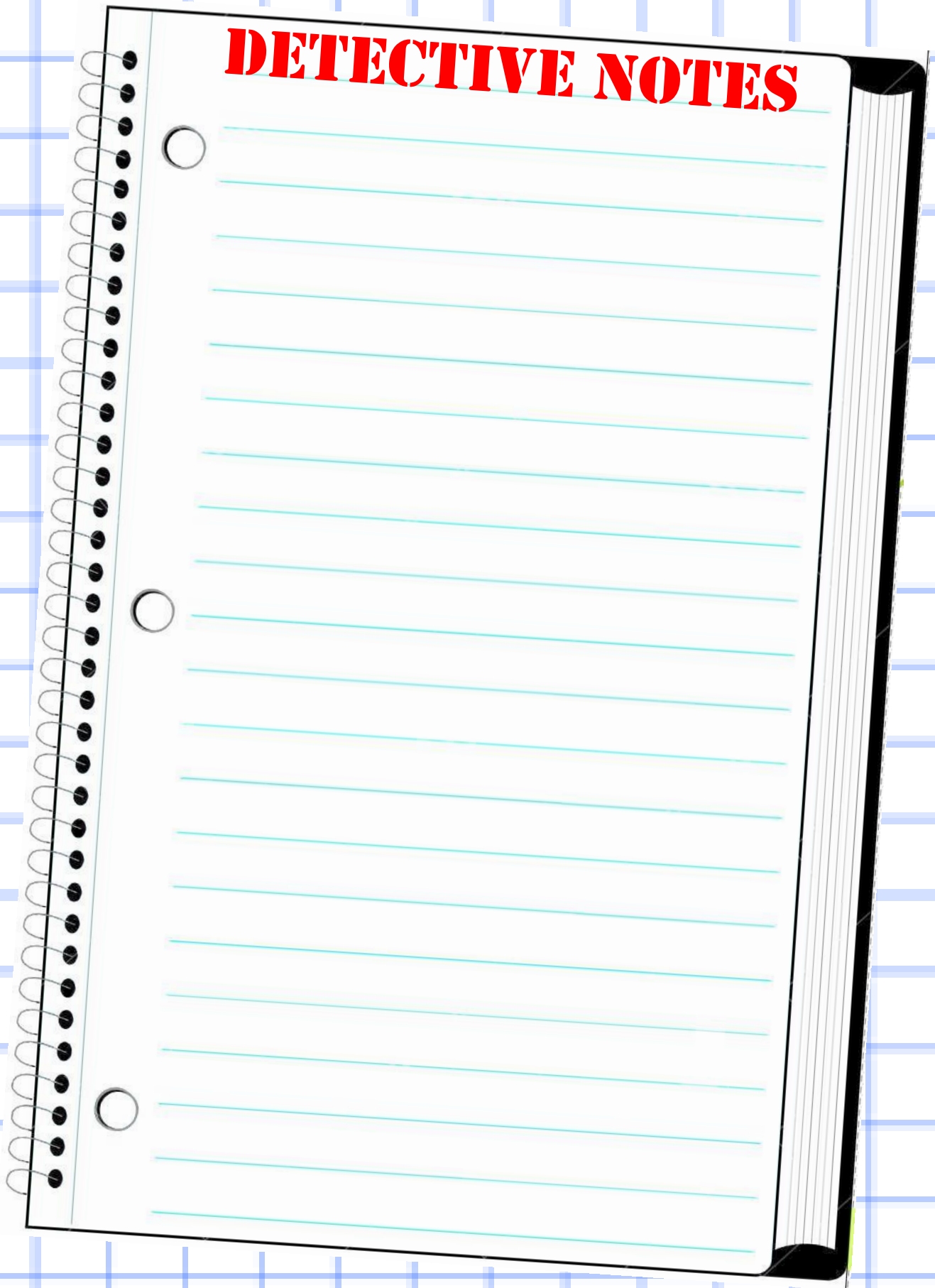
Poster and Programme STEVE MORLEY

**Catering provided by MAUREEN RIDGEWAY et al
www.fishandchipskent.co.uk**

Dessert by LISA SCUTT

**We would like to express a special 'thank you'
to everyone who has helped with serving the food,
and with Front of House duties.**

DETECTIVE NOTES



Like us on
Facebook

VISIT US ONLINE...

www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk

or find us on Facebook

OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS



1991

**Sleeping Beauty
See How They Run!**

1992

**Snow White And The Seven Dwarves
Virtue Triumphant**

1993

**Cinderella
Continental Quilt
Surprise Package**

1994

**Aladdin
Laugh! I Nearly Went To Miami
Post Horn Gallop**

1995

**Babes In The Wood
Keeping Down With The Joneses
Play On!**

1996

**Dick Whittington
When We Are Married
The Roses Of Eyam**

1997

**Jack And The Beanstalk
Pardon Me! Prime Minister
Murder In Company**

1998

**Puss In Boots
Pull The Other One
Blithe Spirit**

1999

**Mother Goose
Bedroom Farce
Pride And Joy
Last Tango In Barnehurst**

2000

**Peter Pan
See How They Run!
My Friend Miss Flint**

2001

**Treasure Island
Shock Tactics
Outside Edge**

2002

**Cinderella
The Murder Room
Running Riot**

2003

**King Arthur
Party Piece
No Time For Fig Leaves**

2004

**The Sleeping Beauty
Kindly Keep It Covered
The End Of The Pier Show**

2005

**Bluebeard
A Murder Is Announced**

2006

**Aladdin
How The Other Half Loves
Noah's Animals**

2007

**The Three Musketeers
Murder Weekend
Out Of Focus**

2008

**Little Red Riding Hood
Murder In Play
Toad Of Toad Hall**

2009

**Jack And The Beanstalk
The Day God Died
Barbecues 'R' Murder
Lady Lollipop
Jekyll And Hyde**

2010

**Dick Whittington
And Then There Were None
Over My Dead Body**

2011

**Snow White
Alice In Wonderland
Murder At The New Vicarage**

2012

**Cinderella
Panic Stations**

2013

**Robin Hood
Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals
The Ghost Train**

2014

**Mother Goose
Henry The Tudor Dude
Murder Backstage**

2015

**Sleeping Beauty
The Wizard Of Oz
See How They Run!**

2016

**Aladdin
Key For Two
Hound Of The Baskervilles**

2017

**Beauty And The Beast
I'll Get My Man**