THE WORTHY PLAYERS
AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

JUBILEE HALL KINGS WORTHY
14th 15th 21st & 22nd August 2015
7-30 pm
‘Murder by The Book’
By Duncan Greenwood & Robert King

A word from the directors

Clare Nicholas

Peter Wooldridge

Peter - Back in the spring of 2010 I took to the stage for the first time in my life appearing in the Worthy Players production of ‘Allo ‘Allo. I had never previously thought of doing something like that. 5 years on I find myself in a similar position as for the first time in my life I am directing a play. Whether my first appearance as a director is also my last will, I guess, be in the hands of you, the audience. If your response to this production is favourable then maybe I will be inspired to direct again. The opposite is, of course, unthinkable. Luckily I have not been alone in my directorial debut as I have been more than ably supported by my co-director Clare, whose input has been invaluable, and who equally has never directed before. My thanks must go to the cast for their patience, support and co-operation and to all the others who have helped with set building, front of house, lighting, costumes props and stage management etc. I must also thank our prompt, Alison Woolford, who has not only been prompting but has also read in for people on holiday, which is one of the problems of doing a summer play. Also our Chairman, Nick Kearns and Doug Mackie have kindly stepped in to read in for various parts at various points in time. Finally, a big thank you to all of
you who have come along to watch. Hopefully, you will not be disappointed with what you are about to see.

Clare - I have been a part of the Worthy Players for more than ten years now and always kept clear of the thought of directing. It wasn’t until Peter, a fellow directing novice, suggested clubbing together to direct a play as the group were short of directors. Suddenly, the thought of directing for the first time didn’t seem quite so daunting when you’re not in it alone. Full credit to Peter for finding a fantastic play, and between us, we hope that we have put together a well cast and well directed play that you will thoroughly enjoy. I know I speak for both of us when I say I have enjoyed my first stint as a director, and may even consider doing it again! Thanks to everyone who has been involved and supported us along the way, we are very grateful.

Directors — Clare Nicholas and Peter Wooldridge

Gaffer and best boy – David Woolford

Set construction — Members of the group

Stage Management — Treive Nicholas

Costume and Wardrobe — Shirley Lovell and Alison Woolford

Lighting and Sound — Richard Aldous

Prompt — Alison Woolford

Box Office — Janine Blackmore and Richard Aldous

Programme, Posters and Fliers — David & Alison Woolford

Front of House Manager — Nick Kearns

Bar Manager — Barbara Kearns
The setting for ‘Murder by the Book’

The action takes place in the drawing room of Selwyn Piper’s flat.

The Action of ‘Murder by the Book’

Act 1

Early evening on a bright autumn day

There will be an interval of 20 minutes after Act 1 during which the bar will be open and coffee and biscuits will also be on sale from the kitchen. Why not order your drinks beforehand? The Raffle will be drawn during the interval.

Act 2, Scene 1 and scene 2

The action continues -

Welcome and thanks to all our patrons

Thank you to all of you, our patrons, for coming to see our play.

Thanks also to all the following for their assistance – Wessex Windows for providing overflow car parking; The Worthys Community Website and to The Parish Magazine for help with publicity; ADH Printing, Kings Worthy for printing our programme; The Jubilee Hall Committee and Secretary for their help in accommodating our needs; The Theatre Art School for their help in moving Friday night classes; And last but not least, all those other members of the group and friends not yet mentioned for helping out backstage or front of house.

For more information about the Worthy Players, please visit our website at www.theworthyplayers.co.uk
The Cast of ‘Murder by the Book’

Christine Scott  
Janine Blackmore

Janine has been a member of The Worthy Players for more years than she cares to think about. This marks the first time in a while that she has taken on a larger part, rather than her usual cameo appearance.

Imogen Piper  
Kirsty Turner

Another show, another hard done-by wife to play! Or is she? At least she is slightly more glamorous than Mrs Lovett! Kirsty has been with the very Worthy Players for 5 years now and looking forward to many more….

Peter Fletcher  
Michael Heseldin

Has been a member of the Worthy Players for almost 21 years – last seen as Widow Twanky in the pantomime in December. In a change of pace, this time he is playing a know-it-all smart-****!

Selwyn Piper  
David Woolford

This is David’s largest role in recent years. David’s latest credits include: - Compere in ‘Worthys Got Talent’ 2013, Producing Aladdin 2014, co-starring with Eric in the TV programme South Today, playing ‘The Sherriff’ in The Mayor’s music hall’ and Rueben in ‘The Militants’

John Douglas  
Tim Ellwood

This is Tim’s fourth show with the Worthy Players and he’s enjoying every minute of it. After playing Sweeney Todd in the last show he is now looking forward to playing someone who is not as mad as a bicycle (or is he?). You can make up your own mind.


Our pantomime this year will be Robin Hood.

Performance Dates: 4th/5th and 11th/12th December.
Murder by the Book is a Nero Wolfe detective novel by Rex Stout published in 1951 by the Viking Press, and collected in the omnibus volume Royal Flush (1965). Inspector Cramer takes the unprecedented step of approaching Nero Wolfe for his help on a stalled murder investigation. Leonard Dykes, a clerk for a small law partnership, has been found dead in the East River with no leads other than a list of names in his pocket. While initially unable to help, a month later Wolfe is approached by the father. News of the murder travelled fast ("This is really too horrid! Queen Victoria wrote in her diary) and set off panic among the well-to-do: that an inoffensive, elderly widower could be murdered in bed seemed evidence of an "unfortunate spirit of insubordination" in a London destabilised by immigrants, criminal gangs and an increasingly vocal working class. While police searched for the culprit, contemporary authors came under fire for writing "Newgate novels" that glamorised crime and violence, with one novelist, William Harrison Ainsworth, singled out. But Jack Sheppard was a novel he’d read. And several other criminals brought to trial for petty offences claimed that reading the book, or seeing the play, had corrupted them.