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Present

NATURAL CAUSES

A dark comedy by
Eric Chappell



**Bletchingley Village Hall
19th, 20th, 21st May 2011**

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NATURAL CAUSES

A dark comedy by

Eric Chappell

Cast in order of appearance

Vincent	Clive Greig
Walter Bryce	Robert Miller
Angie	Kate Gledhill
Celia Bryce	Emma Davey
Withers	Dave Wastell

The action takes place in Walter Bryce's study in late
spring

Act I

Scene 1	Morning
Scene 2	Midday

Act II

Scene 1	Mid afternoon
Scene 2	Evening

Production team

Director	Felicity Lund
Stage Manager	Jeremy Lund
Lighting & Sound	Steve Morse & Rodney Bain
Set construction:	
Jeremy Lund, Cyril Mighall, Craig Phelan, Sean Phelan, Peter Shore.	
Props and Box Office	Karen Miller
Front of House Manager	Susan Power
Bar Manager	Frank Power
Programme advertising	Joanna Scott

Clive Greig (Vincent) This is Clive's first appearance with Bletchingley Players and he is looking forward to reprising the role of Vincent which he played originally six years ago with the Archway Theatre. He only took up amateur dramatics in his mid-forties with St Mark's Players in Reigate and joined the Archway in 2004. He has also directed on a couple of occasions and very much enjoyed the experience.

Robert Miller (Walter Bryce) Robert has appeared in several productions for the Players. He was Gerald the cad in *An Inspector Calls*, a rather camp hotel receptionist in UK amateur premiere of *The Graduate*, a very lost German in *Alarms and Excursions* and a progressively drunken butler in *Dinner for One*. He is now enjoying playing the hapless Walter in *Natural Causes*.

Angie (Kate Gledhill) This is Kate's maiden performance with The Players but her second part as the 'other woman'. Kate started her perform as a church chorister in Felbridge at the age of eleven. Twenty six years later she was asked by the directors to audition for a principal role in a musical and this was where she discovered her new passion for am-dram! She has also performed with The Ashurstwood Village Players and The Musical History Company.

Emma Davey (Celia Bryce) Emma trained at Mountview Theatre School and has worked on a variety of stage, TV and film productions – her favourite roles include Eliza in *Pygmalion*, Anna in *The King and I* and Beverley in *Abigail's Party*. Most recent productions have been Robin aged 4 and Antonia who is almost 1 – both of whom show definite signs of Mum's dramatic tendencies! Emma is looking forward to getting back on stage with The Players.

Dave Wastell (Withers) This is the third play Dave has done with the Players and he is beginning to feel part of the family. He says he has tried hard to get into the character of the rather dotty councillor whom he thinks no-one would want prying into their affairs. He thinks Withers would actually make you give up the will to live rather than save you. There is also a "first" for Dave in this play – he gets to hold hands with both female and male members of the cast. What can we say ...?

Our raffle proceeds for this production



Each production we donate the raffle proceeds to charity. This time we are pleased to support The Fountain Centre at St Luke's Hospital, which is the nearest hospital to Bletchingley for the specialist treatment of cancer patients. The Fountain Centre is a charity working in partnership with the hospital, and complements the medical treatment with care, support and therapy, such as massage, reflexology, aromatherapy and many others. Please help us to support their valuable work.

Our next production

Bletchingley Players will stage their next production on 13th, 14th and 15th October 2011. Currently we are looking at number of plays including "Plaza Suite" by Neil Simon, but we will make an announcement as soon as this is confirmed. Please check the Parish Magazine, local Press and village website: www.bletchingley.org.uk

Interested in joining us?

We are always pleased to welcome new members in any capacity. For further details about the society please contact Felicity Lund on 01883 743276.

To go on our mailing list to receive information about future productions, please email the Secretary at bplayers@btinternet.com with your name and contact details.



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Bletchingley Players Spring Production update



Bletchingley Players' Spring production was *Natural Causes*, a highly original black comedy by Eric Chappell .

Vincent has an unusual occupation: his discovery of an odourless, tasteless, all-natural poison which causes a painless suicide has turned him into a professional suicide merchant. When he is contracted by Walter Bryce, he arrives at the Bryces' country house and mistakenly assumes that his product was intended for Walter's consumption. It becomes clear that Walter's wife, Celia, is the client – or is she? Why are all her suicide letters typed and unsigned? A counsellor agrees to make a house call on the Bryces but, after talking to Vincent, even his faith in this “wonderful world” is shaken. There are several thwarted attempts to poison various characters resulting in multiple poisonings of a rubber plant, and numerous twists in the plot.

Clive Grieg, in his first production with the Players, reprised the role of Vincent which he had first played several years ago. Clive stepped into the part when the original actor was forced to drop out. His facial expressions were particularly good and captured the character well. Robert Miller gave a convincing portrayal of Walter, while Dave Wastell played the part of the counsellor well.

Newcomer Kate Gledhill proved a welcome addition to the cast, playing the part of Walter's mistress while Emma Davey gave an excellent performance as Celia.

The play was directed by Felicity Lund. The Players' next production will take place from 13th to 15th October.

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Found in section: [Village News](#)



present

NATURAL CAUSES

A black comedy
by
Eric Chappell
(author of "Rising Damp")



19th, 20th, 21st May 2011

8 pm Bletchingley Village Hall

Tickets £13 (£11 for senior citizens)

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