

# Neighbourhood's do-gooder

## REVIEW: Neighbourhood Watch, Workington Playgoers

*NEIGHBOURHOOD Watch* represents the best and the worst of society, in my eyes.

How lovely is it to see willing volunteers work for their community? Yet things can get out of hand and we all know that power can make even the best of people a little bit dizzy.

Martin Massie (Stewart Grant) is the perfect example. A right-thinking member of society with the best interest of his neighbours at heart, turns into a quite nasty little dictator without even knowing he's doing it.

When he sets up the Neighbour-

hood Watch with his sister Hilda (Kelly Davis) for the lovely little Bluebell Hill estate, he thinks he is behaving as a good Christian.

Until, of course, the whole committee turns the place into a fortress. Anyone familiar with community groups, committees and sometimes even local authorities, knows there is always that one person or group that thinks they can change the world overnight. What turns it into a comedy, such as this play, is when the person or group thinks they have the authority to do whatever they wish.

Here we see the docile Hilda targeting Amy Jenner (Becky Wilson) for being a little bit over the top, with her nonchalant behaviour around men and her love for a sip of whiskey.

Little does she know that she will later have to hide Amy's misdemeanour to save her own family's reputation.

This is a play that's funny all along, with over-dramatic reactions of outraged women going hand in hand with pure gossip evil. *Workington Playgoers* really brought this play to life.

It happens in every neighbourhood – okay, maybe here it's a little bit exaggerated – but I'm sure you'll enjoy the artistic representation.

*Neighbourhood Watch* is on at the Theatre Royal in Workington until tomorrow, at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £11, concessions £10, and can be booked at [www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk](http://www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk)

**FEDERICA BEDENDO**