HARBOUR LANE PUZZLES

The Village Casebook (working title)

CASE FILE No. 101

The Purloined Pavlova

The Startled Badger, Upper Dithering

CONFIDENTIAL

The Pudding Club's annual dinner at the Startled Badger ended early when its president was found slumped beside the trifle. The pavlova was missing too. Somebody was alone with him.

Difficulty: Medium · 6×6 plan · 10 clues

In this file

1. Suspect sheet
2. Floor plan
3. Clues and your accusation
4. Sealed solution: fold, tape, and don’t peek

Every case has exactly one answer and can be solved without guessing. Checked by computer.

1. Suspect sheet

The victim: **Mr Rupert Meringue**, pudding-club president. Our Sleuth (name to come) has rounded up everyone who was there.

	Suspect	Your notes
P	**Miss Primrose** Infant teacher. Gold stars and iron rules.	
D	**Mrs Dimbleby** Flower-arranging champion. Snips with menace.	
K	**Mr Kipling-Hale** Parish council chairman. Loves a sub-committee.	
F	**Lady Fothergill** Owns half the village and mentions it.	
M	**Mrs Mudge** Cleans for everyone. Hears everything.	
V	**Mr Rupert Meringue** The victim	

2. Floor plan

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Snug	Beer Garden		Public Bar	Saloon	
2						
3						
4			Kitchen			
5			Cellar			
6						

The rules. Everyone, Mr Meringue included, stood on a different row *and* a different column. Furniture marked as “can’t stand here” fills its square. The killer is the **only** suspect who was in the same room as Mr Meringue. Pencil each person’s letter into the squares.

- piano (can’t stand here)
- clock (can’t stand here)
- plant (can’t stand here)
- tea table (can’t stand here)
- armchair (can stand here)
- bench (can stand here)

3. The clues

- ☐ **1.** Mrs Dimbleby was in the same row as a piano.
- ☐ **2.** Mrs Dimbleby never set foot in the Public Bar.
- ☐ **3.** Mrs Mudge spent the whole time in the Cellar.
- ☐ **4.** Mr Kipling-Hale was in the same column as a clock.
- ☐ **5.** Mr Kipling-Hale was in the same row as an armchair.
- ☐ **6.** Miss Primrose was in the same column as a piano.
- ☐ **7.** Mr Meringue was in a row above Lady Fothergill.
- ☐ **8.** Mrs Mudge was somewhere to the left of Mrs Dimbleby.
- ☐ **9.** Mrs Dimbleby was in a row above Mr Meringue.
- ☐ **10.** Lady Fothergill was somewhere to the left of Mr Kipling-Hale.

I accuse .....
of being alone with Mr Meringue in the .....

Detective's notes

SEALED SOLUTION

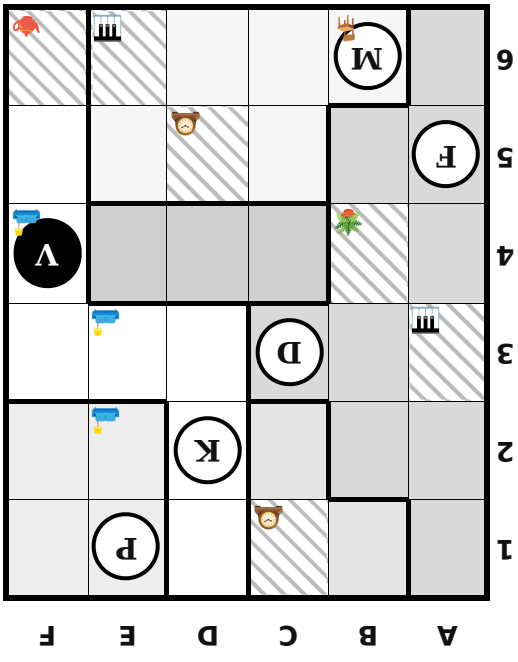
Don’t open until you’ve made your accusation.

To seal it: fold the bottom half of this page up along the dashed line, then tape the edges shut.

✂ ▭ tape here ▭

fold here

Case closed: it was Mr Kipling-Hale.



1. Mrs Dimbleby must be at C3 (clues 1, 2, 8 and 9).
2. Mrs Mudge must be at B6 (clues 3 and 8).
3. Lady Fothergill must be at A5 (clues 7 and 10).
4. Mr Meringue must be at F4 (clues 7 and 9).
5. Mr Kipling-Hale must be at D2 (clues 4 and 5).
6. Miss Primrose must be at E1 (clue 6).
7. Only Mr Kipling-Hale shared the Public Bar with Mr Meringue.