

Travel on test

Murder mystery weekends

Whodunnit? **Yours** features writers Sheena Correa and Michelle Nightingale went to solve a murder at Horwood House in Buckinghamshire!



Why choose a murder mystery weekend?

Because it will be unlike anything you've ever done before and it's a great way to meet different people of all ages.

What was the location like?

Horwood House is a beautiful manor house set in attractive grounds – the ideal setting for a spine-tingling weekend.

What did you get up to?

Games galore and much head-scratching as we attempted to decipher clues and evidence. You can join in as much or as little as you like, but it's quite addictive once you start! If you don't manage to pinpoint the culprit, don't worry. We met lots of regulars who still found our host Joy's plots very tricky to solve.



What type of person would like this weekend?

Anybody who loves solving puzzles and keeping their mind active. The weekend is only open to people aged over 16 but we were amazed at the wide age-range of the other guests. Go with an open mind and a willingness to join in and you're bound to have a really great time.

Top tip
Study all the evidence provided in the Police Incident Room because some of the clues are subtle but vital

What was the food like?

Tasty and plentiful. Buffet-style breakfasts catered for everyone, with healthy options if you are watching your waistline. There was also a delicious cooked lunch and a three-course dinner included. All that crime solving sharpened our appetites so we even managed to squeeze in a delicious cream tea on the Saturday! If you wanted any alcoholic drinks, these were extra.

Were there any downsides to the sleuthing experience?

None that we discovered. We agreed that neither of us has laughed quite so much in years!

✿ We'd love to hear about your travels. Send your holiday review, 300 words with pictures (send one with you in it), with your name, age and address to: Sheena Correa at the **Yours** address on page 3 or email sheena.correa@bauermedia.co.uk with 'Readers' Travels' in the subject line. We pay £50 for each story we publish.

FACT FILE

The concept: Joy Swift invented murder mystery weekends in 1981 and was awarded an MBE for the boost her idea gave to tourism.

The plot: The Circus of Dragons is Joy's 111th plot and runs until August at Horwood House. After that, there will be a new mystery to celebrate the 30th anniversary of these weekends.

Price: From £250 full board (including a welcome cocktail reception, two nights' dinner and two nights' B&B, Saturday lunch and afternoon tea) plus all entertainment and an evening do on the Saturday. The murder is solved at noon on the Sunday.

Interesting fact: Joy takes part in most of the events herself.

Where else do they take place? Joy Swift's Original Murder Weekends are held exclusively at Principle Hayley Hotels across the country including Cheshire, Surrey, Northamptonshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

Find out more: Call 0151 924 1124 or visit www.murder.co.uk You can try out your crime-solving skills online at www.murdermysteryinvestigations.com