

INT. SWAN HOTEL FUNCTION ROOM - EVENING

The applause continues over a sign reading 'N.W.A - 7pm'. TOM WEAVER introduces ANGEL to a large group of Village folk, including JOYCE COOPER and the PORTERS. FRANK is also present, as is a snoring BERNARD. WEAVER introduces the BOOKISH CYCLIST glimpsed that morning.

WEAVER

This is Amanda Paver, headmistress of Sandford Primary. And Simon Skinner I believe you've met.

SIMON SKINNER

Oh we're already firm friends.

SIMON SKINNER beams at ANGEL, who is a little unnerved. A middle aged woman fusses over a [U+FB02]oral display reading 'WELCOME SERGEANT'.

WEAVER

And this is Leslie Tiller, our local [U+FB02]oral wiz. Her horticultural contributions have helped put Sandford on the map. She prepared this especially for you.

JOYCE COOPER

She's ever so good.

WEAVER

James Reaper, who owns Brannigan Farm.

WEAVER introduces the tall, ruddy, farmer from the bar.

REAPER

I hear you're quite the marksman. Perhaps you might like to join us for a shoot one day.

ANGEL

I haven't held a firearm for over two years Mr. Reaper and I'm more than happy to keep it that way.

REAPER

You will be popular with the local birds.

A ripple of polite laughter as the group gather round and sit at a large circular table. SKINNER stares at ANGEL, grinning.

REV. SHOOTER  
 Hello Nicholas. Reverend Shooter.  
 May I say how pleased we are to  
 have an Angel at our table.  
 (more laughter)  
 Actually I was hoping you might  
 read a homily at Sunday Service.

ANGEL  
 To be honest Reverend, that might  
 be a little hypocritical of me.

REV. SHOOTER  
 Oh, are we an atheist?

ANGEL  
 No, I'm open to the concept of  
 religion, I'm just not entirely  
 convinced.

REV. SHOOTER  
 You're agnostic?

DR. HATCHER  
 I think I have a cream for that.

More laughter. WEAVER nods to a tweedy, bearded doctor.

WEAVER  
 And this is Robin Hatcher our  
 resident sawbones.

DR. HATCHER  
 Hopefully we won't see too much of  
 each other over the coming months.

DR. HATCHER smiles at ANGEL. More laughter.

WEAVER  
 All that remains to say is, welcome  
 to the weekly meeting of the  
 Neighbourhood Watch Alliance.

READER  
 We're basically a group of  
 volunteers who strive to keep the  
 village just so.

SHOOTER  
 We're the community that cares.

ANGEL

Well, it's good to know we have the support of the community.

HATCHER

Well, not the whole community.

SKINNER

We don't let any old riff raff in.

A huge laugh. JOYCE COOPER brings the meeting to order.

JOYCE COOPER

Now, quick announcement before we begin. Janet Barker has just given birth to twins. Congratulations to her, we'll be keeping a keen eye on them as they grow up. Tom?

WEAVER

Thanks Joyce. To business then.

WEAVER affects a deadly earnest tone of voice.

WEAVER (cont'd)

I'm sure many of you will have noticed the return of a blight on our streets, one which is all the more disturbing as the 'Village Of The Year' contest looms. I speak of course of the extremely irritating Living Statue.

An image of the LIVING STATUE on an overhead projector. There are mumbles of "irritating". ANGEL stifles a yawn. FRANK smiles and pats him on the back.

INT. SWAN HOTEL ROOM - EVENING - MONTAGE

ANGEL listens to the radio and waters his POT PLANT.

RADIO 4 ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Newly released Home Office statistics show crime in the capital soaring...

Later: A dejected ANGEL is on the phone. We hear the recorded voice of the MET SERGEANT, from the first scene.

SERGEANT (V.O.)

I'm out of the office at present. If it's an emergency, call 9-9-9...

Later: ANGEL lies awake on his bed. His [U+FB02]oral tribute appears almost funereal against the wall.

ANGEL (V.O.)  
 Police work is as much about preventing crime as it is about fighting crime. Most importantly it is about procedural correctness...

ANGEL  
 -in the execution of unquestionable moral authority. Any questions?

We see ANGEL is talking to a group of young school kids. DANNY sits cross legged with them. He puts his hand up.

DANNY  
 Is it true if you shot a man in a particular spot on the head, you can make it blow up?

Later: ANGEL and DANNY talk to headmistress AMANDA PAVER. A wiry young reporter approaches with a camera.

TIM MESSENGER  
 Hi, Tim Messenger. Quick snap for the Sandford Citizen?

Later: ANGEL poses awkwardly with the schoolkids.

TIM MESSENGER (cont'd)  
 How about if you put the teacher in handcuffs?

ANGEL  
 I'm not sure that gives off the right signals.

TIM MESSENGER  
 Give the little blond kid your hat?

ANGEL looks at a sweet BLOND HAired BOY next to him.

ANGEL  
 I'd rather not.

TIM MESSENGER  
 Wave your hitting stick about?

ANGEL  
 No.