



The photo here and the one below, which both include Colin, were taken 43 years apart: (Above) 'The Birds' by Aristophanes was staged by GST in Big Wood in 1979 and it was the first GST production that Colin (playing The Goldfinch – fifth from the right with a brown chest and a red face) was in.

Garden Suburb Theatre's exciting 2022-2023 Season



James and the Giant Peach (l-r) Sam Newgrosh, Colin Gregory and Zab Hoy (Photo: Mary Musker)

COLIN GREGORY & STEVEN ROWE

From its earliest beginnings back in 1908 and via various incarnations including the Theoric Committee, Play and Pageant Union, Speedwell Players and Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society, Garden Suburb Theatre has very deep roots indeed... and with at least one production each year being performed at the Open Air Theatre in Little Wood, GST continues to build on its distinguished heritage by putting huge amounts of effort into producing five, highly professional, community-based, shows each year. Our auditions take place in the Free Church Hall and the Free Church (in which we also hold our fortnightly social events) and we rehearse each production (thrice-weekly!) in the

Free Church Hall. Our extensive props and costumes are all stored on the Suburb and we are indebted to both The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and to Fellowship House for their support.

A registered charity, our mission is to educate the public in the dramatic arts and our programme of pieces is chosen as much for their dramatic interest as box office draw. We also pride ourselves on our range with something for everyone! Our 2022/23 season starts with 'The Game's Afoot' (breathtaking mystery and high hilarity in equal parts are non-stop in this glittering whodunit by Ken Ludwig) from 6-9 October followed by Calendar Girls (the play not the musical) by Tim Firth from 24-27 November – both of which will be performed at the 'Upstairs at The

Gatehouse' theatre in Highgate. February sees our Children's Show, 'Robin Hood and the Brotherhood of Justice' (which has been specially written for us) followed in April by our production of 'The Misanthrope' by Moliere in a modern verse version by Martin Crimp. Finally, our June 2023 production – in our spiritual home in Little Wood – will be 'Macbeth'.

Tickets for our Gatehouse productions can be purchased via upstairsatthegatehouse.com and becoming a Friend of GST at £35 per annum is an absolute bargain because it includes a ticket to see all of our superbly produced and directed shows (and you might even want to help backstage – it's great fun!). More information on this and on our other categories of membership including Active (for those wanting to perform) Family, Children's Show Only and Concession can be found at www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk or by contacting our Membership Secretary at membership@garden-suburbtheatre.org.uk.

Pulp Fiction

ELIZABETH STURM

What do you think of when you see a piece of paper? As a local hand papermaker using plants sown and grown in my garden and allotment, I consider paper as divine; a connection to the earth and the richness of what we are provided with. It captures a breathing, living form into something that will have perpetuity. Working organically with natural and sustainable materials and colour, holding a respect for the plants, their individuality and unique characteristics, is a constant reminder that nature is not expendable. Our wonderful green Suburb environment, with allotments aplenty, is to be cherished.

The plants are harvested, broken down in the elements outdoors, cooked and pulped either by hand or in a beater to create a fibre pulp from which both sheets and art works are made. The colour palette is derived from plants cultivated for natural dyes such as weld, woad, hollyhocks, dahlias, rhododendrons and safflower.

The process requires patience (seed to useable fibre can take in excess of 18 months) but the magic of what happens makes the wait worthwhile. As the vibrancy in the plant diminishes at the end of its season, it undergoes a process transforming it to reveal the unique characteristic of each fibre and where it may lead me. I believe there is no such thing as waste; vegetable skin and peel or worn cotton/linen clothing is transformed into sheets of paper for printing, drawing or painting or unique paper commissioned for special occasions.

I love to be surrounded by nature, to watch the garden unfold with each season's new possibilities, accompanied by the rich symphony of bird song as I work.

I have lived in Hampstead Garden Suburb since 1997. I am a member of International Association of Papermakers and have studied paper making in Japan, Nepal and Israel.

Lizzie Sturm will be exhibiting her art at Fellowship House, 1-30 September 2022 and can be contacted at pulpdepiction@gmail.com or via her website pulpdepiction.com.



(Above) Pyrenees Sunset (Above, right) 'Stacked' Plant Fibres (Photos: Lizzie Sturm)

Lovers & Brothers by Diana Brahams

ELEANOR LEVY

This book is described by the author as a 'bittersweet love story' and so indeed it is. Manny and Eva Geller, observant Jews, and their largely adult family of four sons and two daughters, are at the core of this novel.

The narrative follows the ups and downs of the children's lives, as they often struggle with the conservative demands of their parents, each one seeking their own way through to fulfillment. The eldest son Reuben, works with his difficult and demanding father in the failing family business, next comes Jacob, an accountant, both personable and dutiful. Their third son David, estranged from Manny has chosen the acceptable exit route of a life in Israel, whilst Benny the youngest boy, newly post Barmitzvah, gets away with what he can. The Geller daughters and Reuben's wife, Leah, equally have their own issues.

The novel invites the question as to how much this book can appeal to non-Jewish readers.

Those conversant with traditional Jewish norms will of course be at an advantage. However, the issues are very well explained, and I feel that this book will have a wide appeal. Family life and tensions are universal.

Equally pertinent are queries regarding the mostly unquestioning conformity of the Gellers, in an age when individuality and experiment with differing life styles are a modern way of life for many. These facets of the 21st century do indeed provide a challenge to the older Gellers and it is Manny's determined grip on his family, which provides the story with many of its tensions.

Equally, those of us based in the Hampstead Garden Suburb, need only wander around Bridge Lane or Brent Street in Hendon, to become aware of the numbers of young orthodox Jewish families who quite obviously maintain a traditional way of life.

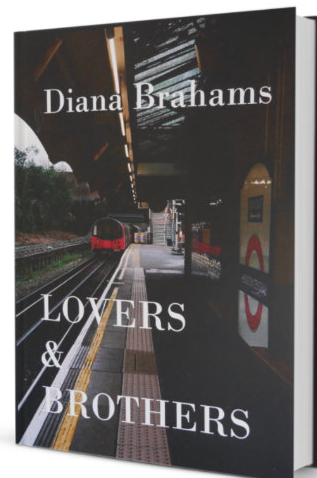
The central protagonist is Jacob, and it is his drama that gives the narrative its 'bitter sweet' flavour.

The book is an irresistible page turner, driven by fast moving

events, and Diana's excellent use of dialogue.

The joy and pain, which permeates the life of Jacob, Nancy (his girlfriend) and their families lived with me long after I had finished the novel. I even found myself missing their company!

Diana Brahams has lived in the suburb for over half a century and was a founder member of HGS Art. *Lovers and Brothers* is Diana's second novel.



Welcome to St Jude's
Every Sunday at 10.30am. All welcome.



SAINT JUDE-ON-THE-HILL
THE PARISH CHURCH OF HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB
www.stjudeonthehill.com