

## HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS AT THE PAVILION CHILDREN'S CENTRE

During the last Christmas holidays the Lyttleton Pavilion Children's Centre played host to children rather older than its now familiar playgroup toddlers. From January the 3rd to the 6th schoolchildren ranging from 5 to 11 years old came to take part in specially organized creative workshops. From the turnout, and the evident enjoyment of all involved, the sessions, morning and afternoon, proved a resounding success.

The idea of the Workshops was Lira Winston's, herself the mother of two school-age children, as well as of toddler Benjamin who is no stranger to the playgroup. Lira's plan was enthusiastically supported by the Centre organizers Sue Hughes and Nicki Landau whose aim has always been to make the Centre a focus for children of all ages.

Sue Morris and David Abse, artists experienced in running ILEA child workshops, were employed; Sarah Heatham came as a helper through the Barnet Volunteer Bureau and Charlotte Wager who helps with the playgroup proved just as helpful with the older children. Mothers provided indispensable additional help. Materials were bought and donated. A stack of cardboard egg cartons was gratefully received for the 'junk modelling' session — and many of them became parts of fantastic motor-cars and space machines.

Toilet paper rolls were transformed into snakes, and many an empty cereal box found its way into an imaginative creation!

Besides junk modelling, there were pottery, collage and puppet-making — which included making

puppet theatres and giving performances of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *The Three Little Pigs* with the home-made puppets. Participants were charged £1 an hour to cover the cost of artists materials and refreshments — and this was generally considered excellent value for money when compared with other Christmas holiday entertainments!

Having viewed the 'experiment' with some apprehension, Lira was delighted that the response was better than she had dared hope: every session was fully subscribed with about 20 children attending, most of them from Child's Way and Brooklands Schools, they all got on well with each other and the results produced were very impressive.

After this success there will be another workshop during the Easter holidays, from the 24th to the 27th April (inclusive) with morning and afternoon sessions.

For information, contact Lira 455 7475.

There are also plans for future Workshops, and Lira would welcome any ideas for these. EE

## GARDENS IN APRIL MAY AND JUNE

If you are going to relax in a beautiful garden in summer, and feed off the fruits of the land, now is the time to plant, feed and spray.

**Flowers.** Sow hardy annuals in the open ground — and do remember to label the area. Sow half hardy annuals under glass. Plant gladioli corms, dahlia tubers, chrysanthus and sweetpeas. In May remember to water seedlings and new trees and shrubs if necessary. Sow biennials (wall flowers, delphiniums, lupins, sweet william) for 1985. Harden off half hardy annuals and plant out at end of May. In June plant out tender bedding plants. "Stop" chrysanthus and dahlias to encourage bushy plants. Stake tall plants growing early. Dead head all flowers to promote new flowers.



**Pruning.** In April ensure that all plants producing flowers on current season's growth are cut back (*Buddleia Davidii*). Prune early spring flowering shrubs (*Forsythia*). Trim winter flowering heathers.

**Roses.** Check roses for greenfly and make early use of systemic insecticide. Remove suckers appearing from mid May onwards. Use systemic fungicide regularly to control mildew, black spot

and rust. After first blooming in June give roses a good foliar feed or rose fertiliser.

**Lawns.** Complete sowing of new lawns in April. Continue aerating and scarifying established lawns. Apply selective weedkillers if necessary. Mow to keep pace with faster growth.

**Fruit.** To produce good and abundant fruit crops plants need nourishment and spraying. Feed all fruit with nitrogen and potash, mulch with manure or well rotted compost, and never allow plants to suffer from lack of water. Different fruits need regular, individual attention for pest and fungus control. Spray apples and pears in April at green bud stage with systemic fungicide and insecticide. In May weed strawberry beds, lay slug bait and mulch with straw. In June, check fruit cage nets and cover any individual bushes. Thin gooseberries, apples and

pears after June drop. Remember to spray apples and pears with malathion in late June to prevent codling moth. NEVER spray when trees are in bloom. Bees and other useful insects may be killed.

**Vegetables.** Vegetable quality and quantity can easily be improved by enriching and improving the soil. Over the next few months sow a constant succession of salad crops. April is the last opportunity to plant onion sets. Sow carrots, peas, spinach and turnips. Sow winter harvest crops — beetroot, broccolli, sprouts, savoy, leeks and kale. Plant main crop potatoes. Earth up early potatoes. April is the month for sowing annual herbs. Sow outdoor tomato seeds in frame or cold greenhouse. In May sow frost susceptible vegetables — French and runner beans, marrows, courgettes and sweetcorn. At the end of the month harden off plants raised under glass. Prepare ground for planting out. In June fill every space available — by planting out tomatoes, French and runner beans, marrows, celery, leeks, brassicas. Hoe regularly to deter weed growth. Give occasional foliar feeds now — and you'll have delicious meals later! *Clayfingers*



### FIRST NOVEL BY SUBURB BARRISTER

Last month saw the publication of a new novel, *The Godlovers*, written by Kingsley Way resident, Diana Brahm.

This is not Diana's first appearance in print, as many in the legal and medical professions will be aware. She is the legal correspondent to the medical journal *The Lancet*, editor of *The Medico-Legal Journal*, contributor to the *Weekly Estates Times* and has herself written numerous articles in the medico-legal field. She has also written (although not published) a previous novel based on her experiences while training at the Bar.

Diana married solicitor, Malcolm Brahm, in 1964, began reading for the Bar soon after the birth of their first child, and qualified as a barrister when their third child was only two. She was inspired to write her first novel as a result of her experiences of the quaint and anachronistic customs of the Bar.

Although this novel was very nearly accepted by a publisher, it was not in the end published, and Diana decided to tackle another novel with a more 'meaty' story. The idea for just such a story came to her during her years of practice as a barrister: she came into contact with many orthodox Jews whose way of life fascinated her, and she saw the makings of a serious and sensitive novel in this way of life and in the intricacies of

Jewish Law that lie behind it.

*The Godlovers* depicts the tensions and problems of an orthodox Jewish family living in post-War London, and in particular the conflicts of love, duty and faith that confront Jacob Gottlieb when he falls in love with a girl from a background far less orthodox than his own. It was shortlisted for the Bodley Head Triple Award last year and described as a story written with 'warmth and perception'.

As far as Diana is concerned, her careers as novelist and legal journalist are not in competition. She took a year off to write *The Godlovers* and found the experience lonely and isolated, distancing her from her family into the world of characters who existed only in her own imagination.

Quite the reverse is true of her professional writing and editing which keep her in touch with the pressing legal and medical concerns of our society today and the vital discussions that surround them. Having broadcast on medico-legal matters, been requested by *Encyclopaedia Britannica* to contribute to their *Medical and Health Annual*, and recently written for *Which's You* and the *Law*, Diana dismisses the lure of writing another novel.

But, should *The Godlovers* prove the success it could well be, who would blame her if she changed her mind? EE

*The Godlovers* is published by the Alvenscott Press, Oxford at £8.95

### ANY UNWANTED PIANOS?

Have you an upright piano that doesn't get exercised these days? If so, the Pavilion Children's Centre would love to hear from you because they are keen to open the Centre, for at least one afternoon a week, for a period of music movement and drama for children aged 3-5. As they put it, their need is "for a good upright piano, preferably donated".

Nicki Landau (455 8256).

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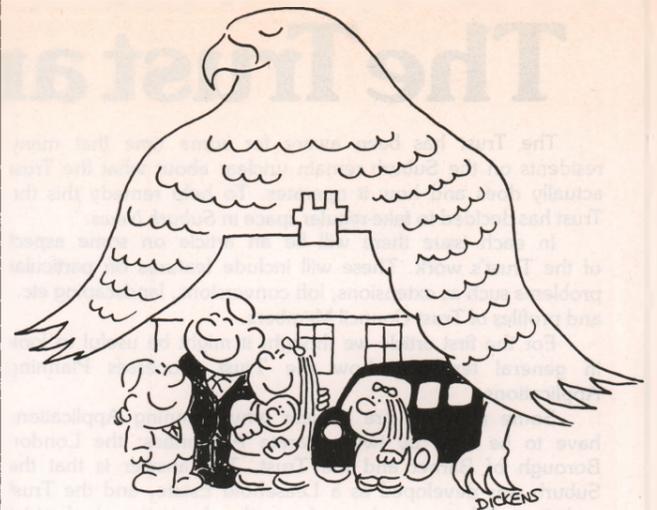
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