

## Dramatic Society stages 'The Servant'

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society staged a production of Robin Maugham's 'The Servant' between December 6 and 8 at the Institute Theatre, off Central Square.

Directed by Liz Amiel, the play focused on a young bachelor, Tony, who comes into some money and, wanting an easy life, hires a butler. The butler, Barrett, is accomplished at his job, but after seeing to the running of the house, he begins to take over his master's life, to the exclusion of anyone else.

The rather detached air of some of the characters was sometimes at odds with the script. Jav Punwar, playing Tony, was convincing as a man who wants nothing more than a life of ease, but less so as someone supposed to have uncontrollable cravings for the young girls Barrett brings into his life.

The two girls, Vera and Mabel, played with appropriate sultry verve by Suzy Shavin and Michelle Waddleton, are introduced at different times into Tony's life by the scheming Barrett to wean him off his fiancée and put him further into the grasp of his butler.

Detachment also marred both Bill Musker's portrayal of

Tony's close friend, Richard, and that of his fiancée, Sally, played by Caroline Wright. They could both look thoughtfully concerned when things were looking bad, but neither had a real cutting edge.

Michael Sabine-Bacon was more at home as Barrett, playing him as a real old school Butler, rigid and reserved. He was inscrutable, you never know what he is up to. He wanted to control his master's life, a neat enough paradox, but the motive was never clear. He is not after money, or an easy life, or an escape from his status as the butler. Perhaps it is power.

The script keeps one guessing but in the end leaves things a mystery. The butler never comes clean to the audience about why he has contrived to turn the servant-master relationship on its head.

It was at times confusing, perhaps too many bits and pieces are crammed into the action by the author. We watch, fascinated perhaps, as the Butler becomes the Master, but are left wondering why.

Christopher Steven

## INDIA ON THE SUBURB

Kusoom Vadgama came to Britain in 1953 to study. She settled on the Suburb soon afterwards where she still lives and practises as an ophthalmic optician. Her family had strong cultural connections with England: her father had come to study here in 1921, and his children had followed his example. But she was distressed to discover that most other people, including immigrants from India who had come in the 1950s and 1960s, were totally ignorant of any history of Indians in England before the mid-20th century.

Miss Vadgama began investigating this history herself and discovered some fascinating facts. For example, the first Indian sat in Parliament in 1892 and there have been two more since; in 1919 the first Indian sat in the Lords; there were large contingents of Indians resident in this country fighting in both World Wars; and there are 900 words in the OED that are Indian!

Following the anti-immigration furore of the 1960s Kusoom Vadgama came to feel more and more strongly that people should be aware of the role Indians had played in this



country for generations. She evolved the idea for a book that would begin to set the record straight by revealing some of the noble and worthy figures who had influenced and enriched British life during the years 1852-1947.

'India in Britain' was published last November (Robert Royce, £10.95) and provides a unique pictorial record of this contribution. Divided into sections including 'Sports', 'World Wars', 'Indian nobility' and 'Gandhi's visit', it brings together over 200 contemporary

photographs, newspaper articles and commentaries. The striking cover has a photograph of Queen Victoria who was never without an Indian escort and always used Indian servants. The book has two exceptional forewords, by Prince Charles, who endorses the 'princely activities of Indians in this country', and by Mrs Gandhi, who sadly did not see the finished book before her assassination.

Kusoom Vadgama considers her book to be just the tip of an iceberg and hopes it will stimulate others to research further into this much-neglected history. The popular image of the Raj as the only relationship between Britain and the Indian people has to be corrected.

With her book behind her, she is now channelling her spare energies into commemorating Indian history in this country. She is currently organising a plaque in memory of the first Indian MP at Westminster and a statue of the legendary cricketer Ranji.

Thoroughly committed to the British way of life, Kusoom Vadgama would live nowhere but England — and, more particularly, Hampstead Garden Suburb. EE

## FROM BUENOS AIRES TO THE SUBURB

Author and journalist Andrew Graham-Yooll has lived on the Suburb since 1981. Born the son of Anglo-Scottish immigrants to Argentina, he was educated there and became a journalist and news editor of the *Buenos Aires Herald*. His job brought him into contact with guerrillas and he was forced to flee the country and its military government in 1976. He has written books and poetry in Spanish and English, including the critically acclaimed *Portrait of an Exile* (Junction Books, 1981) which provides a vivid first-hand description of the political chaos in Argentina during the 1970s, as well as a perceptive account of his first experiences of England and a new way of life.

He continues to be fascinated by the history of the British in Argentina and maintains a dominating interest in the Third World and its problems. Following seven years with the *Guardian*, Andrew Graham-Yooll last year became deputy editor of a new magazine, *South*, in which Third World journalists write about the Third World. They are people who voice strong views about their governments and may be forced to leave their homelands, as he was.

The Suburb style of life is in strong contrast to the pace, impetuosity and dangers of his recent life in Argentina, and together with his architect wife and children, Andrew Graham-Yooll relishes the peaceful calm, comfort, community spirit and elegance in which they have chosen to make their future. EE

### WATERLOW COURT REPORT

'The lower of the two small photographs of Waterlow Court in the October issue was incorrectly captioned. It should have read 'Caroline Brock, Paul Boyce, Andrew Mason, James Tobin, and a guest'. Mr Geoffrey Lee, who was included in the original picture was unfortunately omitted.

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

The Free Church Hall was once again the scene of the Christmas Craft Fair on November 17. Over 1,000 residents found plenty of present buying inspiration among the thirty odd stalls.

Stallholders, all resident or connected with the Suburb, included Diana Myer with her dark brown ovenware pots; Diana Redhouse who makes enamelware and jewellery in Brim Hill and at the Camden Institute; Carol Honeywell sold soft toys and Christmassy robins, toadstools and mice. Some of the most sophisticated ceramics were made by Doreen Arenstein who has studied at the Institute; Beryl Porter-Rae, who has studied at the Institute; Beryl Porter-Rae, who is well known for her wedding cakes, had produced an impressive array of Christmas cakes; Corrina Huberman from Meadow Court was selling her calligraphic style drawings in the form of cards and very frameable illustrations from her forthcoming book series 'The clown who lost his stars'. Helen Cohen, Heathgate, sold a lot of her very popular pottery. Mice were in vogue as evidenced by Rose and Charlotte Howard's stall where mouse brooches, glove puppets and teddy bears sold well.

Patricia Parrish had made some very pretty cushions decorated with hand made lace; ribbon and matting trim was used by Sue Witty for her most original picture frame mounts.

Mollie Cattle had again produced masses of carefully worked artefacts described by Teddy Cattle as 'Random, not classical, patchwork'. Keeping up with the demand for her work keeps Mollie occupied most days, that is when she is not creating costumes for the HGS Dramatic Society, including the Dragon for this year's pantomime.

Jane L'Angellier had done wonderful things with paper, ribbon and dried flowers; Nik

Woolf makes 'ethnic' jewellery from ancient stones collected from Afghanistan, India and Camden Lock! plus beeswax candles that also sell in Heals.

One stall where 'sold' stickers went up very quickly was that of Christine Barrow and Angela Sivetidis who live in Addison Way and Temple Fortune Hill. They make room settings and market stalls complete with Lilliput people's furniture, food and pictures on the walls, plus a range of teddy bear miniatures.

Several people were selling children's clothes including Annie Walker whose stall of dresses, beautifully made by Mrs Nicholas, drew many admirers.

Unusual colour combinations in chunky wool jackets were used by Harriet Sogbadjor whose knotwear is often used to illustrate magazine articles and patterns; Lizzy Houghton had a

range of dresses using Liberty fabrics. The Fair is organised by Sue Pearl, an RA Council member, and Veronica Shaw. Veronica, from Ruskin Close, was selling her exquisite silver, enamel and titanium jewellery and the Pearl family were busy selling gingerbread men. Other stalls included the Residents Association publications manned by Alan Lawson and Rufus Harris while Tim and Jean Neale and Richenda and Philip Barbour looked after the Oxfam stall.

Joan and Pat Laurance had one for the FHA which also benefitted from the entrance money.

The Catalyst Youth Club did the catering and used a more up to date craft in the form of a computerised cash register with a visual display unit to add up the bills. RJW

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