

## VERONICA'S ROOM

Never trust a play in which the characters are called The Woman, The Man, The Girl and The Young Man. It's up to no good, nothing is what it seems, and nasty things are likely to happen. In Ira Levin's play some of the happenings are very nasty indeed and I think that I have to say at this point that I disliked it immensely mainly because it is not well written, largely unbelievable and unpleasant in its implications. The characters, apart from the hapless Susan (The Girl), are not well defined and the reasons for their monstrous behaviour left largely unexplained particularly in the case of The Young Man. I understand that there were cuts made in the text to do which him which if left in would have helped to explain his motives.

Susan and her new friend Larry, are brought to a house near Boston and into what turns out to be Veronica's room by a quaint elderly Irish couple. They spin a story and persuade Susan to dress up in Veronica's clothes so that an elderly charge living in the house can die in peace. Veronica looked just like Susan, they cry and only a little play acting is needed. Unfortunately Susan agrees and finds herself a prisoner in a room with barred windows and locked doors. The old couple return as smart looking Bostonians and proceed to torment "Veronica". Help

seems to be at hand in the shape of Larry, but lo and behold he has turned into the couples' son and has even more dreadful designs on her. The play ends with the disposal of a body the suggested search for another "Veronica".

It is good to see the Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society tackle something different but I find it hard to understand what drew John Woolf to this particular play. However, it did give Fiona Riem an opportunity to show that her talents encompass more than pretty young things and princesses. Susan starts as a young woman, happy in a new relationship, excited and intrigued by the role she is about to play, and progresses through slight unease to real terror and death. She handled this long part with great skill building up the emotion bit by bit to an anguished climax. It is not an easy part. A much easier role is that of Larry played by David Kidd with a surly charm which lulled one into thinking that rescue was surely at hand. Sonia Woolf and Michael Sabine-Bacon as the mad couple could have made great distinction between the pretend and the real and a little more madness might have made the plot more probable. The atmosphere was not helped by, for once, a rather poor set in quite a horrid colour. **LS**

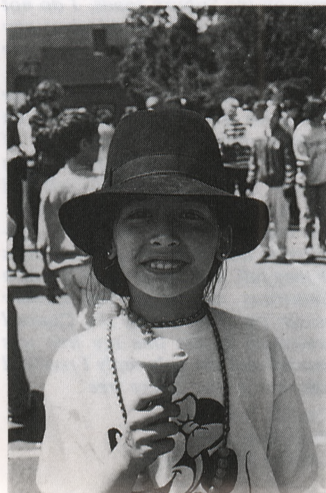
## GARDEN SUBURB SCHOOL



Lorna Jaffa, no clown when it comes to organising!



Barbara Honeyball browses. See St Judes magazine for profile!



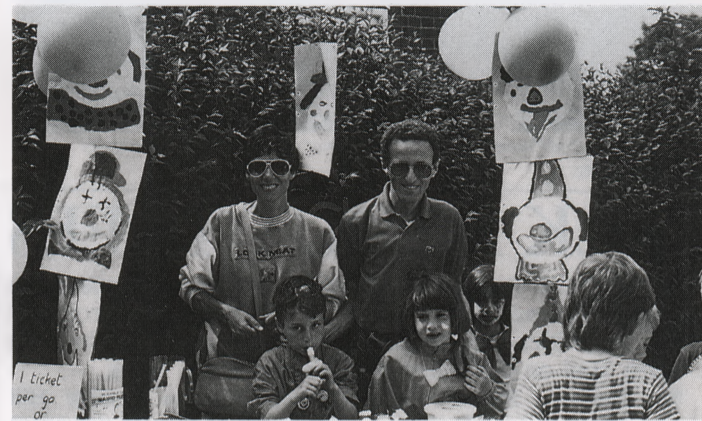
Patricia King.

Organised by Lorna Jaffa and John Love the PTA Fair was lucky with the weather and raised over £6,000.

Clowns and carnival were the theme this year and many parents entered into the spirit with colourful clown costumes and make up.

There was plenty for everyone to do, buy, eat and drink and sideshows and stalls all over the playground and the school field from the international food, Isobel 'Excell' and the ever popular Japanese stall, Mrs Kusano to toys, Dilys Thomas, cakes, Peggy Sussman and Sonia Rom and the Tombola run by Maureen Adinolfi who roped in lots of relations to help.

Thanks are due to parents and local traders who supplied all the goodies for sale or auction, not least to all the *Suburb News* readers who responded to the editor's appeal for books, there were enough to fill the Gaskell-Taylor Volvo estate to the roof! **RW**



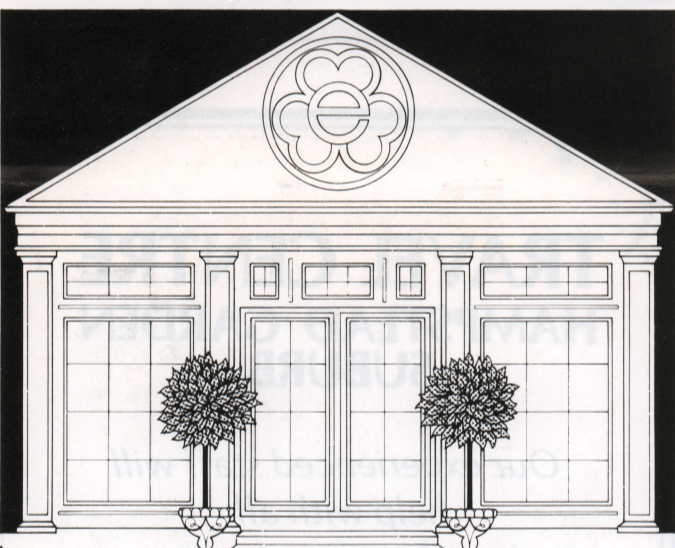
The Aitken family business!



Jocelyne Wakefield and Dany



Sarah and Sandra Handley



**MARK ENRIGHT**  
THE GARDEN SPECIALISTS

invite you to their  
Garden Centre  
at Temple Fortune  
this summer for  
quality plants and sundries,  
helpful advice  
and an extra bonus of  
**10% off**  
all trees and shrubs  
on production of  
this advertisement



788A Finchley Road, NW11  
Tel: 01 209 1533

GARDEN DESIGN · CONSTRUCTION · MAINTENANCE

## SUMMER GARDENING

The suburb gardens being ablaze with colour from roses, shrubs and annuals it is worth spending a few minutes each day dead-heading. The aim of the plants is to produce seeds, and all energy is channelled into seed making as soon as the flowers die, whereas dead-heading encourages new flower growth, thus prolonging the flowering period. (Don't forget the Azaleas and Rhododendrons, many of which are already trying to form next year's flower buds.)

In similar vein there are many shrubs which bloom on wood grown during the previous year. This group includes such shrubs as Deutzia, Weigelia, Kerria, Cytisus (Broom), Kolwitzia and Philadelphus. These should be pruned immediately after flowering to give as much time as possible for the shoots which will carry next year's flowers to grow. One notable exception. If you are picking Lavender flowers for drying, pick them before they are fully expanded as they later tend to drop off the plants.

Hydrangeas will be at their best during the next four months, and the query often arises concerning the wide difference in colour found in adjacent gardens. The answer is found in the soil types. Acid soil produces blue flowers, alkaline soil accounts for pink flowers. The choice of variety is important, but it is the presence of the compound of aluminium sulphate in the soil which, in some plants, brings out the blue colour. This applies to both mopheads and lacecap varieties. Most garden shops sell blueing powder with easy-to-follow instructions. If you haven't enough space for a normal sized hydrangea, there is a beautiful dwarf variety with clusters of small pink/cream flowers called *Hydrangea involucrata hortensis*.

For those who suffer from hands stained with tomatoes etc. help is at hand. Garden Rewards

of 104 Brandbridge Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent have come up with A.V.B. Barrier Cream. Produced to help the Channel Island tomato growers, it not only prevents staining, it eliminates the risk of transmitting virus infections from one plant to another.

Now is a good time to look at the variety of clematis flowering on the suburb. The earlier flowering tetraploid montana varieties will flower on north facing walls, and are left to continue growing from year to year. Two of the loveliest are Montana Rubens with purple tinged leaves and soft rosy red flowers, and Montana Tetrarose with bronze foliage and lilac flowers. Many of the latter, large-flowered clematis hybrids are in full flower now. The wide variety of growth, colour, and flowering time make careful selection essential. The right choice will enliven a dull corner or cover an ugly spot.

For those of you fighting the annual battle against the invasive Bindweed, try the easy solution — dip the growing tips into a solution of lawn weedkiller such as Verdane 2 or Supertox, which travels to the roots and kills the plant. Treat any regrowths in the same way until destroyed. The ideal time for treatment is spring, but anything done now will help to weaken and exhaust the weed.

CLAYFINGERS

**W.M.  
GLENDINNING  
LTD**

**BUILDERS AND DECORATORS**

FOUNDED IN LONDON IN 1904  
SIXTY FIVE YEARS BUILDING ON  
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

STATION HOUSE,  
915 FINCHLEY ROAD,  
NW11 7PE.

Telephone:  
01-458 4422

OFFICES AND WORKS:  
70 GRANVILLE ROAD,  
NW2 2LA.