

A missed opportunity

It was in a happy mood of expectation that I made my way to the Institute on a dreary October evening. Having read that this latest offering was to be chosen and performed by the youngest members of The Garden Suburb Theatre, I was expecting something interesting and lively. I came away bemused, wanting to ask several questions. Who chose this absolutely appallingly boring play and why, if it was chosen for them, did the young people submit? Was it the adults? They were certainly involved in direction, stage management and scenic design - so was this what they thought suitable for their younger members?

The piece in question was billed as a comedy by Rick Abbott, called "Play On", and turned out to be about an amateur theatre group rehearsing and then performing a play entitled "Murder Most Foul". The cast struggled hard to make it amusing but they were fighting a losing battle. The second act was almost a repeat of the first. What made it so sad was that there was quite a lot of talent up there on the stage. Especially notable were Miriam Honeyball (the ASM), Carolyn Pike (the producer) and Matthew Barger (Billy). Nick Falk and Liz Boulter did their best portraying an elderly couple and Polly Edwards tried to make the awful authoress, Phyllis, bearable.

It was an opportunity sadly missed - let's draw a veil over it and give them another chance soon.

LS

Book club group

I am a teenager interested in forming an informal group for people under 18 who are interested in books, writing and debates. It would be a chance for people to share their favourite authors with other people, to have poetry readings (either poems written by the group or from established poets), participate in debates, discover writers you didn't know about and if possible listen to writers or other speakers.

Anybody interested should phone Debbie Susman at 081 455 1813.

Passing Time

*We moved into the Suburb
About twenty years ago
We thought it was the place for us
Because we liked it so.
The lovely parks, the Heath nearby
And pretty gardens to please the eye
The Market Place had a village feel
And the friendly shops had great appeal.
But time has changed this special place
Where you could park in any space.
The Market Place is split in two
To cross the roads - who dares - would you?
The rents are high, the shops can't pay,
The Market Place will be gone one day.
The Suburb has changed with passing time.
There are places now, not so sublime.
A pretty place was made for all
Where one could sit and just recall.
The vandals came and wrecked the fence;
What could be done in self defence?
The Council men came down to look
And wrote some notes in a dog-eared book.
They um'd and ah'd - and thought it best
To do away with all the rest.
So now there's nothing there at all
Perhaps they could erect a wall!
The Council say that money's tight
And things can't always be put right.
To all the people living here
That statement brings a little fear.
We have to fight and have our say
To keep the passing time at bay.*

Barbara Bliss



Polly Edwards, Joseph, and Hannah Davidson, Mary

St Jude's nativity play



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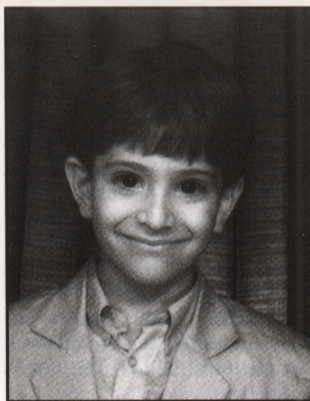
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There being no winner of the Autumn Wordsearch, see page 1, we take the opportunity of printing the photograph of Jonathan Lis who won the previous puzzle prize. His picture having been unaccountably replaced with part of another showing our esteemed Council Leader!

Jonathan is Suburb born and bred. He is at St Anthony's in Hampstead, enjoys sports especially football, cricket, swimming, tennis and bowling. He listens to a variety of music and plays the piano. Another interest is drama which was stimulated in the main by work at his previous school, Brooklands.



WORDSEARCH

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF EUROPEAN
SKI-RESORTS

Find and ring the names of fourteen well-known ski-resorts hidden in the box of letters. They may read forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally.

E I L E B I R E M G F T E S A
B A U C Q P O N T H T D T C B
I C E R V I N I A A I M J A K
O E F D T S R S M R O U L N M
M S V P R N M R Q R V K N A U
L T K E J L E G I P O I V T X
Q A H G R Z F T E X W T I N W
V N U S T B Z A Y E Z Z Y O U
A T W X B K I Z J D H B A M O
Z O T Y C N R E Q C B U A S E
E N I D E W V P R S U H O N I
F K G G X C O U R C H E V A L
H J N I M O U T L Y Z L A R B
G E E N N K D A V O S G F C D
W L S M E N I A L F K H J E C

If you are under fifteen on 20th March 1993, you may list the answers on a postcard with your name, age, address and telephone number and post to: 35 Wildwood Road. The first correct entry drawn on the closing date, 20th March 1993 will receive a £10 Book Token. To help you on your way, we have given you the first answer. Happy Hunting!

EGW

Winter in Bigwood Road

*Cold sweeps along the road,
Climbing houses brick by brick,
Window by window.
Street lamps shed their glow.
The morning is dark.
The day puts on a grey face!*

*People are beginning to light fires.
Houses are getting warmer as
Winter passes day by day,
Night by night.
The trees are bare and the school is stark.
No flowers to bring joy!*

*Pupils hurry on their way,
Without stopping to greet friends.
No neighbours to be seen.
Bigwood Road is hibernating.
Life is busy inside not out.
Oh please roll on the spring!*

Hugh Watkins

Cinders in February

The Garden Suburb Theatre's popular February slot is filled this year by "Cinders", written by Terry Rogers, who wrote and directed last year's successful "Touchstone".

The show is directed by Linda Zeff and promises to be a traditional pantomime with all the familiar Cinderella characters, including two rather cuddly ugly sisters named Salmonella and Listeria and a wacky Fairy Godmother.

"Cinders" will be entertainment for all the family and tickets will sell quickly, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Many people will have heard of James Goldman's "The Lion in Winter" from the film starring Katharine Hepburn and Peter

O'Toole. Now the Garden Suburb Theatre is bringing it to the Institute stage as its spring collection, directed by Wendy Kinder.

The play is an historical drama, gathering together the characters of Henry II of England and his family at his castle in Chinon to celebrate the Christmas of 1183.

Included are Henry's wife, Eleanor, who is imprisoned in her home for the rest of the year, his mistress, Alais, a French princess, and his three sons, all of whom are vying to be successor to the throne of England. The passions and emotions of these people are intense in this exciting play and make for very powerful drama.

Please see "What's On" for dates and times.

DL

Fitness Walking

Walk This Way: says Fitness Instructor Terry Clarke as she paces her group over the Heath and around Kenwood on Saturday morning.

Fitness Walking is walking that maintains a fast enough pace of sufficient duration to produce beneficial cardiovascular changes in the body. In simple terms, you have to walk fast enough and long enough to make it work. Apart from the cardiovascular

benefit, walking firms up the whole body, concentrating on the buttocks and legs. Adding arm movements also conditions the upper body. Walking strengthens the bones, helping to fight bone loss due to osteoporosis and it can also reduce stress, re-charge your batteries and energise your body!

If you would like to join a walking group, contact Terry Clarke on 081 455 9997.

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