

New World for Old

*It was December when we left our native Vienna;
Just six years old, I'd never been abroad before.
My mother wept as she took leave of friends and neighbours
- I think she knew she'd never see them any more.*

*Those were the nightmare days of Hitler's Austria,
Of sudden disappearances and constant fear,
Of knocks on doors at night, and queues for visas
To any country that might take us, far or near.*

*Youngest of five, I was the much-spoilt baby
And wasn't told that we were now an alien race.
I watched my brother and my sisters packing
And put my own loved doll and toys into my case.*

*My father came to meet us at the boat train,
I didn't know him any more and hid my face.
My parents, after ten month's separation,
Stood on the platform wordless, in a long embrace.*

*The twelve of us, my brother, sisters, cousins
And aunt and uncle, found a place to stay;
We children went to school and learnt some English:
Good morning! Thank you. What a lovely day!*

*But soon we went to boarding schools in Essex
(I cried a lot, and wet my knickers once or twice...)
We suffered pangs of homesickness and hunger
And got the chickenpox - and some of us caught lice.*

*When war broke out they told us in Assembly;
While anxious teachers listened to the news,
A girl, who'd heard it from her father, told us:
'It's all the fault of Hitler and the Jews!'*

*A house was bought in Hampstead Garden Suburb.
We packed and came to London on the train,
And oh! the bliss of being all together -
A family, in our own home again.*

Mary Huttner

Wine tasting for RNLI

Penny Drinkwater, a member of the Circle of Wine-Writers, hosted a Wine Tasting/Quiz evening on 23 June at St Edward's Church Hall, Hoop Lane. £552.39 was raised for the RNLI at this very entertaining and informative evening.

Many thanks from the Committee to all who bought tickets and enjoyed this event.

Caroline Smith

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The Greeks come to Little Wood

John Gassner, in *Masters of the Drama*, says that Aristophanic comedy bears an affinity to burlesque and to topical musical revues, particularly when the latter turn to political or social satire. Colin Gregory, whose witty and inventive production played in Little Wood this July, appears to have seen *Wealth*, by Aristophanes, in this light. The play, given in a brand-new translation by Kenneth McLeish, is a mere fragment and needed a certain amount of padding to bring it to an acceptable length. As the title suggests, the theme is money and what it can bring, and the padding came in the form of musical numbers sung by soloists and the chorus. So we had "Money, Money, Money", "Money makes the World go Round", "I'm an Old-fashioned Girl" and "Hey, Big Spender", to name some, all put over with great enthusiasm and set to the dance routines of Val Gregory.

The fact that all the cast wore

masks appeared to have a liberating effect on the actors appeared to have a liberating effect on the actors, dancers and singers. The masks, designed by Jessica Miller, were often amusing as in the case of *Wealth* who, having had his failing sight restored, wore the most amazing pair of glasses. Lou Kochane had a good time as *Wealth*, appearing first as a poor blind old man before being restored to health by *Chremylos* (Mick Orme). Mark Overall was outstanding as the wily *Karion*, servant to *Chremylos*. Mick Ash gave much amusement as the *Old Women* and *Nik Green's* camp *Hermes* added to the fun. The best moment, however, came with the arrival of *Poverty*, a Margaret Thatcher take-off played with relish by Paula Morris; one longed to see her again! Some of the political jokes were nicely timed, and it all added up to an original and pleasant al fresco entertainment. **Léonie Stephen**

Suddenly Last Summer

Mrs Venables, the main character of *Suddenly Last Summer*, is typical of Tennessee Williams' women - the faded belle for whom the best part of her life is past.

The play shows her engaged in the destruction of her niece, who represents vitality and youth, and whom she blames for the death of her son. In this powerful and emotional play, however, the older woman is herself not entirely blameless. Shockingly, the method of destruction which Mrs Venables chooses was one of which Williams had personal experience as he had seen it used within his own family.

Michael Orme, who is directing *Suddenly Last Summer* for the Garden Suburb Theatre in December, comments on the atmosphere of the play and the economy of the writing - the action takes not much more than an hour and is played without an interval.

This will be an opportunity to see one of Williams' less frequently produced plays. He is particularly well known for the classics *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Please see *What's On* for details of dates and tickets.

Debbie Lane

Theatre Club outings

Plays by two outstanding American authors have been booked for November and December visits by the HGS Theatre Club.

On 15 November the Theatre Club will be at The National Theatre for a production of Tennessee Williams' play *Sweet Bird of Youth* starring Claire Higgins as the faded film-star with Richard Pascoe and Robert Knepper.

A new play by Edward Albee, *Three Tall Women*, will be the 14 December outing to Wyndhams Theatre. The play stars Maggie Smith.

One of the HGS Theatre Club activists, Veronica Shaw, who is a designer and maker of jewellery, has had a piece chosen for a major Crafts Council Touring Exhibition, "Whats Is Jewellery", running from 24 November to 22 January at 44a Pentonville Road, London N1. Veronica's piece is an engagement ring of 18 carat yellow and white gold and diamond.

HGS Theatre Club committee members often get a private preview of Veronica's latest creations at committee meetings, which are usually held at her home. **Phyllis Oberman**

£10,000 for Hospice

Harriet Copperman, founder and head of the Home Care Team of the North London Hospice, and former pupil of the Henrietta Barnett School, felt very much at home when addressing the AGM of the North West Support Group Committee at Fellowship House, their venue in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Mrs Copperman explained the infinite care taken to meet the medical and physical needs and to satisfy the spiritual requirements of the seriously and terminally ill patients in their care. Mr Gerald Cane, the Group Treasurer, presented a cheque for £10,000 to be utilised by the Home Care Team, which is celebrating ten years of service.

Deputy Madam Mayor Pam Colman was presented with cheques from pupils of the Hendon Prep School, the proceeds for the Hospice from their summer fund-raising event.

John Marshall MP promised to pass to the Health Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, requests for more funding for hospices when it was learned that only 20% of the running costs are provided by the NHS.

G Newman



Mr Gerald Cane presenting the cheque for £10,000 to Harriet Copperman



Peter Fisher

Kerem School remembers David Carson

In December 1993 David Carson, who lived in both Maurice Walk and Norrice Lea, died suddenly at the age of 36. David was in fact a distributor of this Newspaper in Norrice Lea. David's untimely death left his family and many friends, both on the Suburb and outside, in a state of shock. After the feelings of shock and sorrow, there emerged the idea that his life should be commemorated in a suitable way. As David's three sons had all been pupils at Kerem School situated at Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue in Norrice Lea, and he himself had been a great supporter of the school, it was felt that a fitting tribute to David's life would be to link his name permanently to the school by completely refurbishing it in his memory.

Mrs Goulden, headmistress of Kerem School, explains: "It was considered very fitting to have a memorial to him and particularly one which teemed with life seven days a week."

After receiving enthusiastic support from David's widow, Janis, the task of raising the necessary funds commenced.

Donations were collected subsequently, including a generous contribution from the local synagogue, owners of the school building.

Local building firm Denham Design & Build was awarded the £100,000 contract and quickly set about its designs for modernising the relatively small school which houses 150 pupils aged between four and eleven.

The designs were completed this June and the building work began immediately. This involved first of all stripping the

entire school of all fixtures and fittings - down to the skirting boards - followed by complete overhaul of eight classrooms, a staff room, the two kitchens and the construction of a triple functioning assembly hall/gym/dining room. At the same time the whole school had to be totally refurbished with new blackboards, cupboards, desks, tables and chairs.

Although the deadline of 1 September - in time for the Jewish holidays and the start of the new term - represented a considerable challenge for the builders, they just made it by managing to finish at 10.30 pm on the night before.

On 9 October the school was officially re-dedicated to the memory of David Carson by Lady Amelie Jakobovits, wife of the ex-Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, at a ceremony attended by several hundred people at the school. The ceremony was attended by Janis Carson and her sons, who now have a tangible and permanent reminder of David's life, his attachment to the community and the affection and esteem in which he was held.

The new look school has been a complete success, and school chairman Julian Taylor couldn't be happier: "Everyone is even more delighted with the school than we could have hoped for; not just the staff and parents of the pupils but, since Kerem School is very much a community school used for Sunday school, children's services, lectures and all sorts of other local activities, a large number of other people as well."

Howard Goulden/
Barbara Hadley



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