

Craft Fair back

The Suburb Craft Fair made a welcome return in November, after missing a year, raising nearly £800 for the Family Holiday Association

Organised by Margaret Bark,

seen here with Diana Redhouse who makes enamel jewellery in Brim Hill, the Craft Fair filled the Free Church Hall with colourful stalls full of tempting offers. **Richard Wakefield**



John Marshall MP helped out taking money for teas from Richard Orme, William Glendinning and Sooty



Sally Lewis and Marie Aldred catch up on family matters

Farm Walk Tennis

Brush the winter cobwebs off your tennis racquet and bring it to Farm Walk Tennis Club on Sunday 30th April for our annual Open Day.

Come along any time between 2 and 4.30 and enjoy some social play and a good tea in our attractive grounds. You can join us as a Full or Week-day Member or, if you're a bit rusty, as an Improver; and if you feel you need a bit of help, our excellent coach runs group coaching sessions as well as giving individual tuition. Esmé Kingsley on 0181 203 1731 will be happy to help with any enquiries.

We also have a very flourishing Junior Section for 8-18 year olds with 155 members. They enjoy coaching and social activities throughout the summer including tournaments and barbecues. For further information please contact Gitte Johansen on 0181 455 1800.

We play throughout the year so call and see us any Saturday or Sunday afternoon - there is usually someone at the clubhouse to answer your queries. And if you want a game, whatever your standard, we shall look forward to welcoming you on April 30th.

Gill Read

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Institute concert

On Wednesday February 8th Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute is hosting a Grand Concert by the Metropolitan Police Male Voice Choir. The choir will be performing to raise money for a small section of the Institute's programme which does not generally receive the attention it deserves: the courses for people with learning difficulties.

The Institute's work in this field is now well into its third year, and currently consists of two courses being held at the Thomas More Centre, the Institute's annexe in East Finchley, both of which come under the title of Self Advocacy Skills. One group is for people with mild/moderate learning difficulties, the other for people whose learning difficulties are classed as severe, bringing with them in some cases behavioural problems. Each course is staffed by two caring and experienced workers from The Mix, a local community arts charity with which the Institute collaborates on this programme.

One significant - possibly unique - feature of the work is that it incorporates a training element - four students are actually attending as part of a course (pioneered by The Mix) designed to train them to obtain paid or voluntary employment in the area of special needs. The broad aims of both courses are to enhance self esteem and confidence; to offer opportunities for development and self expression; to improve communication and self advocacy skills; and to introduce students to an adult education setting.

Such courses are not cheap to

run. They are necessarily labour-intensive, with relatively small numbers. They have, however, quickly established themselves as a very important facet of the Institute's offering to the community, which is only right, given its founder's much quoted 'education for all' philosophy.

In the future, the Institute hopes to be in a position to expand its special needs work, so it can make a much greater contribution to the progress and development of those who find themselves disadvantaged and frequently ignored or abused by society through no fault of their own. At the moment, though, the objective is to raise enough money to keep the present courses running to the end of the academic year in July. Charitable funds, so often the lifeblood of such work, are proving increasingly hard to obtain as more and more worthy causes compete for, seemingly, smaller and smaller pots; negotiations for financial support from bodies like local authorities or the EC can be complex and long-winded; and in the meantime there are two groups of students for whom Self Advocacy Skills represents a highlight of the week and a personal way forward, who deserve the chance to see their courses reprieved from a premature conclusion.

It is to be hoped that residents of the Suburb and their friends will show the generosity of which they are capable by attending the concert and thereby helping to ensure the continuation of this vital work. Tickets at £8.00 each (or £6.00 if four or more are purchased together) are available from the Institute office. **Richard Bradbury**

A Woman of No Importance

In 1893, some two years before writing the play for which he is most famous, Oscar Wilde wrote two clever, if contrived, comedies of ideas: "A Woman of No Importance" and "An Ideal Husband". The latter is more often performed, but the first is in many ways the more interesting play since, apart from being a social satire, it is also an assault on the double standards that make Mrs Arbuthnot a social outcast whereas Lord Illingworth, the father of her illegitimate son, goes scot free.

Unhappily, Wilde has burdened Mrs Arbuthnot with such a masochistic conscience that the actress playing her has a hard time making us care for her. Liz Amiel is to be congratulated for overcoming this obstacle and showing us warmth and beauty of this unhappy victim of conventional morality. Sadly the Lord Illingworth of Richard Kinder did not match her and consequently the fourth act confrontation did not have the impact it should have had. Nor was Derek Moir quite up to the prig Gerald, who ultimately becomes engaged to the puritanical Hester in spite of the scandal of his illegitimacy. As the

American, Hester Worsley, at sea in English Society, Jessica Miller conveyed the character's strait-laced views with charm and sincerity.

Lady Hunstanton, in whose house the play is set, was beautifully played by Sonia Woolf and she was well supported by the other three ladies: Joan Walsh (Lady Caroline), Mary Penwarden (Lady Stutfield) and Mirian Clarke as the scheming Mrs Allonby. Colin Gregory made a delightful cameo as Archdeacon Daubeny.

Val Gregory, the producer, achieved once again the clarity of diction one has come to expect of her players. The pace may have been a trifle slow but one could savour the epigrams fully. She also achieved some beautiful stage groupings as well as telling character detail. The set, by Simon Ramsey, was one of the most attractive designs to be seen on this stage and the change from conservatory to drawing room created with drapes and a dramatic picture was breath-taking. Indeed the whole production looked splendidly in period with the ladies especially in wonderful costumes.

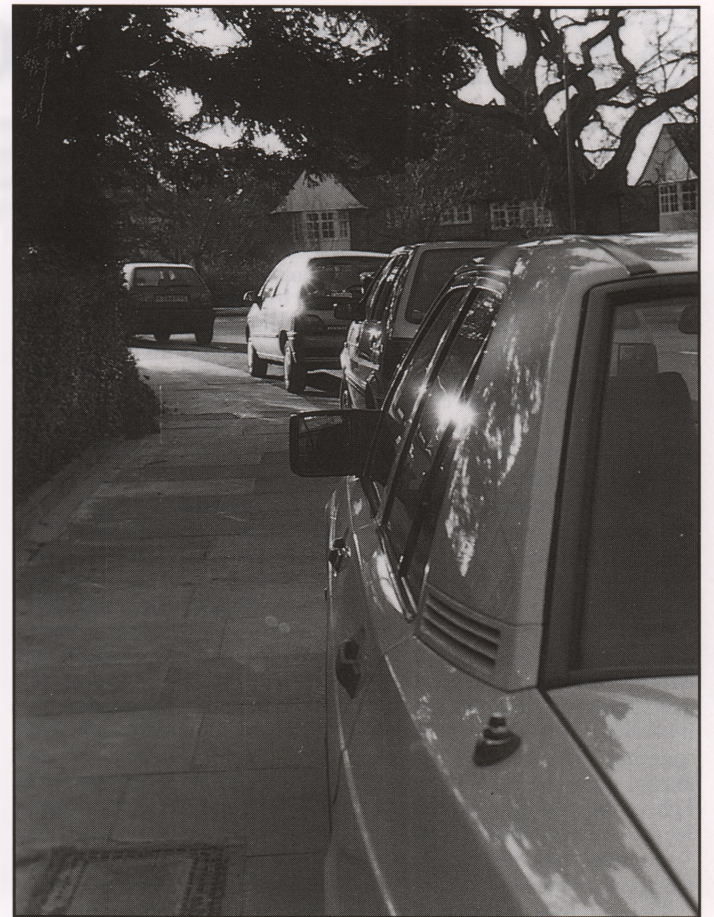
Léonie Stephen

Suburb parking

Parking on pavements is illegal. Parking thoughtlessly on corners is illegal, antisocial, dangerous and liable to prosecution by the police.

Traffic is often jammed solid round the Institute and buses are unable to turn corners because of parked cars.

The Police say that when they see cars parked in dangerous positions they will issue tickets; for example Golders Green Police told Suburb News "We would love to be able to ticket everyone who parks on the new entry to Hampstead Way but we just can't be there all the time"



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