

"Lettice and Lovage"

Lettice Douffet, a middle-aged lady from good theatrical stock, is first seen guiding a group of bored visitors round a rather dull house.

Since her motto in life is to "Enliven, Enlarge and Enlighten", she does just that by enlarging and enlivening the history of Fustian House. Her tales of Queen Bess tripping over her own gown and hurtling into the arms of Sir Walter Raleigh get back to her employer, Lotte Shoen, who demands her attendance in her office. Such flights into the imagination will not do and Lettice is sacked.

Lotte Schoen, stricken by conscience, visits Lettice in her flat and eventually falls under her spell with some unusual consequences.

Diana Bromley gives a lovely, richly textured performance as

Lettice, "the enemy of the mere", and Jan Pleshette makes a good foil as the staid Lotte, who learns to unbend and take to playacting.

There is a nice cameo from Michael Arton as Mr Bardolph, come to investigate a crime, and the crowd of visitors were amusingly different. A great deal of the conversation between the two ladies is about the ugliness of today's architecture, life in general and the good old days, and the director wisely used the later version when Peter Shaffer made his play less bitter and disgruntled.

The play was well directed by Debbie Lane in an excellent and adaptable set by Jane Rogers. It was a very entertaining evening.

Léonie Stephen

Archive wants

As the centenary of the founding of the Suburb in 1907 fast approaches the Hampstead Garden Suburb Archive Trust is looking to expand its collection of documents, pictures and other items.

The Archive Trust, which was founded in 1979, and is housed in the Institute, owns an extensive collection of material on the history and architecture of the

Suburb. Much of the collection in now deposited with the London Metropolitan Archives (formerly the Greater London Record Office) where it will be professionally conserved but still available for exhibition and reproduction. The Trust itself remains active and invites anyone who has anything of historical interest to contact the Honorary Archivist, Mr Harry Cobb (458 3688).

Draw winners

Dawn Orr, Mrs Leadercramer, Talya Singer, Brenda Sydor, Stephen Licht and Mr Stedman were the winners of the Gallery Christmas draw.

Antiques Roadshow

May 12 is the date for the RNLI event 'One Man Roadshow' by David Battie of the BBC programme. St Edmunds Church Hall, Hoop Lane, 7.30. Caroline Smith has tickets. 455 1472

WORDSEARCH WINNER

Congratulations to Margaret Cox of Erskine Hill who won the autumn wordsearch on European Cheeses. Margaret is interested in food, cooking and eating out, and coupled with a year long spell in France, she found the wordsearch easy. She loved crossword puzzles as a child and with more leisure time in retirement, has taken them up again, completing the Observer 'Everyman' each week, but as she says, never winning a thing until now. Margaret also likes to read, visit art galleries and garden. In addition she is doing an art course and travels when ever she can in Europe, Scotland and the US. Margaret was born in the West Midlands and moved to London after reading English, French and Philosophy at Birmingham University and a stint on a Birmingham newspaper as a journalist. She spent many happy

years as a feature writer and editor on a group of company magazines. She continued in her field working at the Central Office of Information and as Editor and Press Officer for professional institutions. Margaret moved to the Suburb twenty six years ago to a house built in 1912 that had been owned by Mary Sheepshanks, suffragette daughter of a Bishop of London and Principle of Morley College, who had encouraged the young Virginia Woolf to lecture in literature and composition at the College. In those days there were sheep at the bottom of Erskine Hill and Mary Sheepshanks complained that all her friends descended on her on Sundays for the sake of the country air. With her £20 book token, Margaret will buy 'A History of Western Architecture' by David Watkins.

Elizabeth Watkins

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THE VISIT

Colin Gregory certainly likes to live dangerously! First he gives us an almost unknown play by Aristophanes, "Wealth", in Little Wood in 1994, and now this autumn a play by the Swiss, Frederick Durrenmatt, which has a huge cast and a challenging theme. We all know the size of the stage in the Institute Hall and that the director and players have only about three days' rehearsal there. To get actors in the right place at the right time; lighting and music cues on the dot is a daunting task at the best of times and Colin Gregory, his assistant, Margrit Pike, David Lane and Philip Shaw are to be congratulated that it all ran so smoothly. The Musker family also deserve praise for an excellently designed production which allowed the numerous scenes to flow smoothly from one to the other.

This adaptation of "The Visit" by Maurice Valency, was first seen in London when it opened the new Royalty Theatre in June 1960 with the famous American stage couple, the Lunts, in a production by Peter Brook. It has been revived at various times, sometimes called "The Visit of the Old Lady". It is about a visit - a return to her town of Claire Zachanassian, who as a young woman left the town in disgrace and is now a multi-millionaire. The townsfolk gather joyously at the railway station hoping that she will bestow on them some of her wealth. This she is prepared

to do but for a dreadful price. They must give her the body of Anton Schill, the man who betrayed her in her youth. They are aghast, but what can they do? Claire has seen to it that she has bought up all the industries round about and there is no chance of trade. Slowly Anton sees his friends and neighbours buying goods and putting themselves in debt so that, in the end, their greed has left them no choice and they kill him. The coffin which leaves with Claire is no longer empty. Liz Amiel made an interesting Claire though she was not able to express her consuming lust for revenge and her power vocally. The town's much loved Anton Schill, whose terror of death slowly turns into acceptance, was strongly taken by Andy Wilson. Among a large and admirable cast one must mention Lynn Radnedge (Burgomaster), Helen Hastings (the Teacher) and Simon Ramsey (the Pastor) as being especially good.

The Director used a lot of music in his production which was at times rather intrusive and caused his actors difficulties. However, it was always in mood and he interestingly used the works of a fellow Swiss, Frank Martin (1890-1974).

This was an exciting play imaginatively directed and performed by a cast who were utterly absorbed.

Léonie Stephen

Open or Secret

At the Trust AGM held in September one resident suggested that correspondence involving alterations to Suburb properties should be open to public inspection. When the Trust receives an application for alterations the adjoining owners are notified and given an opportunity to comment on the plans. The replies received by the Trust are confidential and cannot be seen by the applicant or anyone else. In contrast letters written to Barnet commenting on

alterations are in the public domain and can be read by the applicant and their professional advisors.

The Trust believes that residents are more likely to comment on alterations to neighbouring properties if their letters remain private.

If you have any views on the subject please write to the Trust Manager at 867 Finchley Road, NW11 6AB.

C M Kellerman

WORDSEARCH

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH SEASIDE RESORTS

Find and ring the names of 15 English resort towns. The names are hidden in the box of letters and may read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally.

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

If you are a senior citizen, you may list the answers on a postcard with your name, address and telephone number and post to: 35 Wildwood Road. The first correct entry drawn on the closing date, 5th March 1997, will receive a £20 Book Token. To help you on your way, we have given you the first answer. Happy Hunting!

Elizabeth Watkins

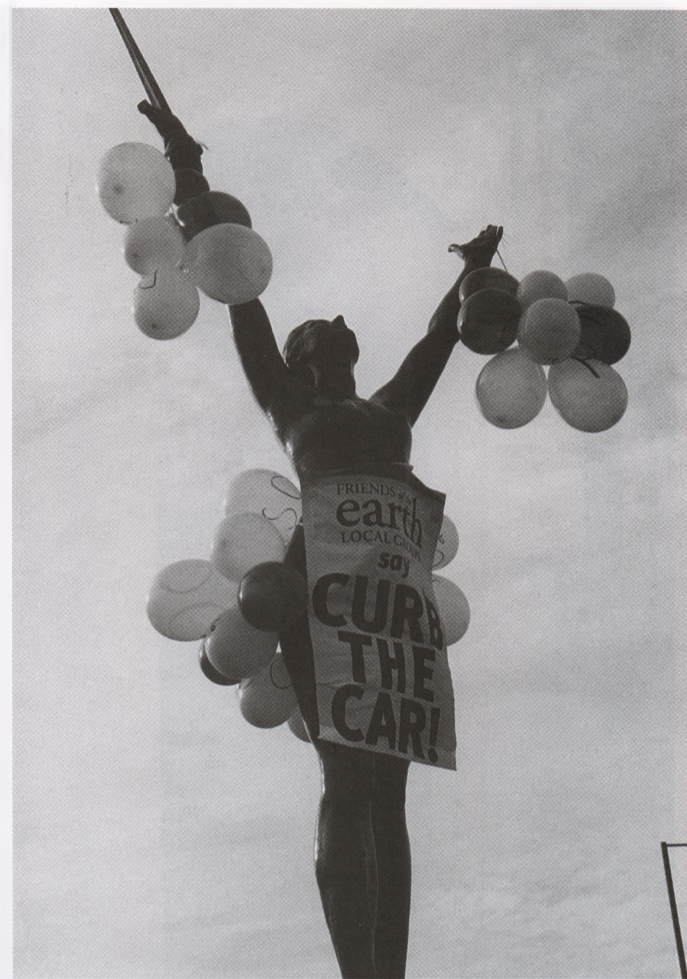
WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

Autumn 1996 competition on European Cheeses

The names of the fifteen cheeses hidden in the box were:

Bel Paese	Cheshire	Gouda	Pont L'Evêque
Brie	Edam	Gruyere	Reblochon
Camembert	Feta	Mozzarella	Stilton
Cheddar	Gorgonzola	Parmesan	

Elizabeth Watkins



David Rapson clambered all over the Naked Lady to festoon her with balloons

Friends of the Earth mounted a very noticeable demonstration at Henly's Corner to spread their message about curbing the car.



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