

A play for young people

Babe, the Sheep Pig by David Wood, adapted from the book by Dick King-Smith, is a very slight play but, under John Woolf's deft production made for charming entertainment.

The sheep, chickens and puppies were very well observed by the young cast and the animal heads were great. There was a truly magnificent strutting cockerel and an even more impressive turkey.

These lovely animal heads were created by Jo and David Rance. Mary Musker made a

lovable Babe and Elizabeth Travis as Fly, the sheepdog who teaches Babe her skills was motherly in a doggy way.

The set was good, though the scene changes slowed the action down. There were really good and atmospheric lighting effects by David and Debbie Lane. Emma Solomon's choreography was attractive, especially the Morris Dance. The musical arrangements by Eddy Turner also added to the enjoyment.

LÉONIE STEPHEN

Arts and crafts at St Jude's

Saturday 1st May is the first of St Jude's Art and Craft fairs for this year. It will feature a number of local based artists and crafts people displaying their goods for sale within the splendid setting of the church. The doors open at 11am until 3pm with a 50 pence entrance fee. The stalls on offer include: ladies clothing, jewellery,

cards, sculptures, babywear and Traidcraft. Refreshments will be available as will the opportunity to purchase home made cakes. The next fair is planned for the 3rd July and would welcome enquiries for stalls.

Robert Zdero says, "We hope to build these fairs and make them regular community events."

Frogs galore!

Readers of early *Suburb News* will remember Sheila Crown's frog collection in her house in Spaniards Close. Her collection grew to such an extent that it now occupies a specially converted granary in Wiltshire where Sheila is having her second biennial open day on Sunday 9 May. "The

day will start at eleven and you will be free to wander amongst my collection and meet and chat to fellow frogophiles. No entry charge, plenty of parking. Do come and join me on this National Frog Day," says Sheila. Baydon House, Baydon, Marlborough, Wilts. www.FrogsGalore.com

Bigwood from my window

*On winter mornings like today
The low sun shines golden on the oaks
Revealing all the twisted shapes of branches,
The roughness of bark on solid trunks.
Green algae marking the switchbacked
Highways for squirrels chasing.
In winter too,
The view is deep into the wood
And through the lace of branches
There is sky.
Twigs, branches, trunks today are still
Catkins from the wood-edge hazels
Hang stiff down.
In gales
The movement and the noise is awesome;
A wild and stormy sea
Of great branches heaving
And loud roaring waves of sound.*

*But today it is a frozen treescape,
Sentinel pigeons sit
Where a tawny owl once basked,
A woodpecker suddenly seen
In black and white and red,
Another squirrel scrabbling through.
Raucous jays, a pair, with textured, jewelled plumage.
A sudden rush of great and blue tits feeding.*

*Bigwood oaks are long-lived solid oaks,
taprooted firmly into earth.
But, I see signs
Snapped off, white-ended, wind-pruned branches
Stagnant tops to trees, squirrel grazed,
Dead branches.
Are there too many dead branches?
Is this a prescient warning
Of an ending for Bigwood
With all its dependent living cycle?*

*On other winter mornings
What will I see from my study window?*

Wendy Portman



A note from our tree specialist: Sudden oak death (Phytophthora ramorum) has only affected nine trees in this country so far and has been found mostly in rhododendrons. It does kill American Oaks but will probably not affect the English Oak. It could kill beech, yew and chestnut which might be a disaster in this country as a whole but would not affect the Suburb too much.

Bigwood is mostly English Oak, Ash, Hawthorn and Hazel. The Corporation of London say the situation on the heath is being monitored but as far as I know the heath oaks suffer from nothing more dangerous than 'summer branch drop' which can affect any number of brittle trees and just means the tree drops a branch for no apparent reason. In the summer usually.

GEORGINA MALCOLM



Orchard flat to rent

Downstairs single flat for someone over 60 with Suburb connections wanting to live independently in a sheltered environment. Current rent including services, £69.55 per week.

For further information, apply to:

Jill Purdie, 020 8458 5042 or Sally Lewis, 020 8458 3663

Declutter your home!

Unused gadgets at the back of kitchen drawers. Belts, bags and beads you've given up wearing. Videos and CDs you'll never play again. The numerous ornaments, holiday souvenirs and unwanted presents that clutter your rooms.

The vases, dishes and bric-a-brac which make cupboards congested. Too many books! Too many clothes! Outgrown toys?

The North London Hospice wants them all. Its numerous shops

depend upon such things to make money for its vital work of caring for people with terminal illnesses - no fees charged.

You can leave things with Elizabeth Cockburn, 30 Southway (off Central Square) any morning this month; or at the Hospice shop in Golders Green Road - there is parking at the back. Alternatively you can drop things off at the Hospice itself, 47 Woodside Avenue, Finchley.

Life boats award

RNLI have awarded Pat Milner their Silver Medal for her dedication and commitment to her voluntary position as Souvenir Secretary. Caroline Smith tells us, "Pat joined the Hampstead Garden Suburb committee in May 1990 and became Souvenir Secretary,

which she remains, three years later. For all our fund-raising events over the years she has selected RNLI souvenirs to suit each occasion. Everyone is delighted with her award."

See *What's On* for details of the RNLI quiz evening on 13 May.



HOME SHOPPING

020 7431 8686
www.knightfrank.com

80 Heath Street
London NW3 1DN
hampstead@knightfrank.com

Knight Frank



Heart & Sole
Fitness

NEED A KICK START?

Want to lose a few pounds, tone and shape up?

Or just feel better about yourself?

Call for a FREE consultation

PERSONALISED TRAINING PROGRAMMES
NUTRITION AND WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
SPORTS CONDITIONING

Fitness at a time and a place to suit you

JODY HAMMOND
Personal Trainer

10a Ashbourne Avenue, Temple Fortune, London NW11 0DR
Tel: 020 8455 6971. Mobile: 07801 624039
Email: jody@heartandsolefitness.co.uk

For everything BMW



- New & Approved Used Cars
- Servicing and repairs
- MOTs
- Parts and accessories
- BMW Lifestyle
- Finance

Scotthall Temple Fortune

1089 Finchley Road, London NW11 0PU

020 8457 7300

View over 200 Approved Used BMWs at
www.scotthallbmw.co.uk