



Chris Parry was presented with a Freda Bolton watercolour of the Orchard, on his retirement from the Orchard committee. Seen here Vikki Chalmers, Chris and Wendy Parry and Chairman John Boulter. Residents and committee enjoy the late summer garden party in the Orchard grounds.



## The Lady's not for burning

Pity the poor actors in this year's play in Little Wood. All those hours rehearsing, all those lines to learn (in verse too), and then the worst July for some time. Although I do remember being almost washed away 2 years ago.

Christopher Fry's plays were very popular in the 50's, but times have changed and his work is rarely performed now. So it was good to see Hampstead Garden Suburb Theatre tackle 'The Lady's not for Burning', first performed in 1948 with the excellent Alec Clunes as the soldier, a role later taken by John Gielgud who has said that it was a favourite part.

The wood is not an ideal venue for a verse play. There are

too many distractions. Traffic, planes and birds all work together to drown the words. Fry's poetic phrases were often lost, though on the whole, the actors managed pretty well.

Hebble Tyson, the Mayor of Cool Clary, has his peace disturbed by the arrival of Thomas Mendip, a discharged soldier, demanding to be hanged. Close on his heels arrives Jemet, fleeing from the townsfolk who accuse her of being a witch. There is also a sub-plot involving the Mayor's sister, Margaret Devize and her two sons, Nicholas and Humphrey and her ward, Alison Eliot.

The play's male roles were very well taken by Andrew Farrer (Thomas Mendip), who had a

real feel for the verse; Tim Solomons and Mark Overall as the two brothers and Bernard Smith as the Mayor. There was also a delightful cameo by Andrew Craze as the chaplain.

Diana Bromley made a formidable Margaret trying to get Alison, charmingly portrayed by Emma Solomons, to marry her son, Humphrey.

Sarah Overall has appeared in a number of plays to great effect but the role of Jennet eluded her. There was no sense that anyone could have taken her for a witch as there was no mystery in her portrayal.

Two newcomers, Calvin Moore and Ken Carter made their mark as the Mayor's clerk, Richard and Skippy, the supposed corpse.

The direction by Colin Gregory and John Colmans was nicely paced and used this awkward space well.

LÉONIE STEPHEN

## Suburb artist wins with husband's portrait

Congratulations to Judy Bermant from Hill Rise, who was a finalist in the International Jewish Artist of the Year Awards for 2004. Judy has had several shows at the Garden Suburb Gallery.

Monica Winner, another Suburb artist who shows at the Garden Suburb Gallery, had her work selected for the exhibition of entries from all over the world at the Tram Studios in September.

The Awards raise funds for the cancer research programme at the Hebrew University and the promotion of contemporary Jewish art by the Ben Uri Gallery. This year they attracted entries from 200 artists in 15 countries.

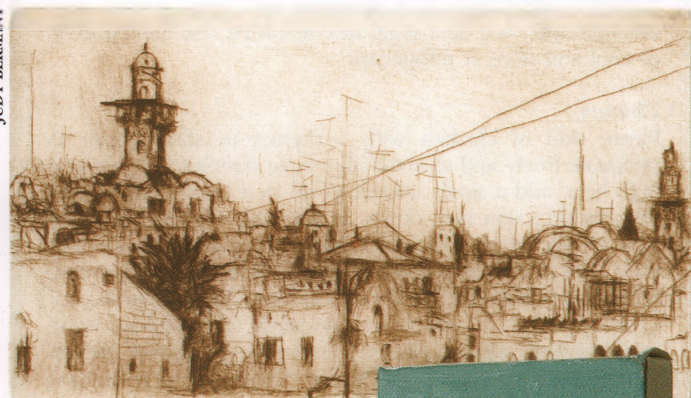
Chairperson Miriam Kelaty said, "My late dear friend Maurice Doueck was the inspiration for this landmark event. He had a wonderful joie de vivre and loved life music and art. Tragically though, aged just 57, he passed away from cancer." Maurice Doueck lived in Erskine Hill. His widow Susie Doueck told *Suburb News* "We were always looking for new talent, going to degree shows and finding new artists. Maurice nurtured and helped fund some with studio facilities. He felt that creativity, commerce and funding should work together and that is what these awards do, last years funded a

new fellowship at the university and I believe we have done even better in 2004."

RICHARD WAKEFIELD



## New gallery shows



JUDY BERMANT

The Garden Suburb Gallery is a focal point for the Residents Association and a showcase for artists who live on the Suburb or who paint the Suburb. The current exhibition shows the work of Ellen Gilbert whose work includes watercolours of her favourite scenes from the Suburb and the Heath as well as other landscapes and a series of dramatic and colourful abstracts. "People seem to like them," says Ellen, "and I'm delighted if they brighten up Suburb homes."

Showing alongside is the work of Sheila Seepersaud Jones whose 'painting on ceramics' are just as colourful and Helen Cohen whose delicate bowls and handsome vases go well as Christmas presents.

Later in the Autumn 'Small is beautiful' is an exhibition of work from several of our artists working on a smaller scale. "So no excuses about not having room to hang any more pictures," says Gallery manager Gerlinde Crossley.



MONICA WINNER

### Always available

There is always much more to choose from in the Gallery than what is hanging on the walls. Some two dozen artists are represented. We have a selection of work by Judy Bermant, wonderful etchings of scenes of Jerusalem among them.



All the botanical etchings of the late Chloe Gear are being catalogued and will be the subject of a memorial exhibition in the Spring. There are Suburb scenes and other subjects from Freda Bolton, Jenny Dunn, Ellen Gilbert, Peter Hume, Mari l'Anson, Barbara Jackson, Sheila King, Malcolm Sowerby, John Spiby, Carol Steyn, Shizue Takahashi, Shirley Talerman and Annie Walker.

### Cards for Christmas

Two card designs, Ellen Gilbert's 'Coming home' and Annie Walker's 'Winter evening' are ready now at £5 for ten.

### Suburbilia

Gifts for anyone who wants to learn about our Suburb include books, maps, including original framed early ones, and historical ephemera such as a 1957 Town and Country Planning magazine devoted entirely to the Suburb at £10 or early RA annual reports at £7.50 - not many of either left.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD



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