

# New Nativity play

The first recorded Nativity pageant was in 1223. In a small Italian church St Francis set up a crèche and pageant. The pageant was complete with live animals, straw and a real baby.

Almost a thousand years later in St Jude-on-the-Hill we celebrated the birth of Christ with our own Nativity play. Unfortunately there were no live animals nor a real baby, but there was a cast of twenty ranging in age and a rock opera CD for music.

*The Late Wise Man* is a play about the fourth wise man, Artaban, who is never included in any biblical testaments because he was late to the birth! Artaban was spectacularly performed by Lucy Roberts who readily shouted her lines across the church. Her three other wise men, Megan Price, Lucy Blunden and William Armstrong also gave fantastic performances.

Because the biblical Nativity is so rich in dramatic events, there were two palace scenes (Herod's and The King of Persia's) which were brilliantly aided by Jonathon McKinley and two dancing girls: Molly Price and Alexandra Levin who also doubled as angels. In Herod's palace Henry Walker who played Herod was accompanied by a young Jack Price who on request screamed "You silly fat fool" and caused much laughter among the cast and audience. David Gregson played the King of Persia with an astonishing nose and Henry made a brilliant Herod.

The shepherds with their sheep, tents and flocks of sheep needing care and guidance were played by Andrew, Jessica, Amber, Clare and Naomi, who with very little practice performed superbly. Daniel Conaway and Olivia Walker as a

Leader and Innkeeper acted their parts immaculately.

Of course no Nativity would be possible without Mary and Joseph, who, in our production, were played by Jenny Armstrong and Nicolas McKinley. Although both children seemed to be mortified at the idea of being married and constantly abandoned one another until the last conceivable moment, in the end they did themselves proud.

The word angel means 'messenger'. Biblical angels not only bring tidings but also act as

would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all those who made the play possible: Jill Ambrose and Linda Ayers for helping with the rehearsals, Alan Rafferty for the lighting, our organist Ollie Rundell who did a fantastic job, Sandy Pukite-Ippolito who spent an immense amount of time making the costumes. And finally to the cast; it has over the last three years been a real experience. Thank you for all your time and effort especially on those cold Sunday mornings.

ANASTASIA WALKER



rescuers, guardians, guides and stern admonishers, and in our play the angels certainly did just that. Charlotte, Molly, Alex, Aurelja, Isabelle, Beans, Georgia and Amelia were brilliant. The older children looked after the younger ones and apart from one moment when it looked as if some of the angels' wings were about to be set alight, they too were fantastic.

Although the play was a huge amount of work I am genuinely not a little sad that this was my last year of directing and participating. On behalf of Emma Gregson and myself I

... amazing angel costumes



Isabelle Levin



Naomi Maxwell was a shepherd



Alexandra Levin and Jenny Armstrong



Lucy Roberts bugs a cherub



Anastasia Walker comforts a fallen angel Aurelija Ippolito

## Oak seedlings in Big Wood

Despite grey November skies the rain held off long enough for Friends of Suburb Woods to have a successful morning planting oak seedlings in Big Wood. Enthusiastic residents brought along sturdy young oaks; nine were collected from a front garden in Erskine Hill and a further five were dug up from the Community Tree Nursery.

We were pleased to welcome some of the 8th Golders Green Scouts with their leaders. Everyone took great care to plant the oaks

in natural glades within the shrub layer, making sure there were good gaps in the oak canopy above, to allow sufficient light to reach the woodland floor.

By the end of the morning over 27 new oaks had been planted. This brings the total number of surviving oak seedlings to over 41. After all the hard work everyone was revived by delicious chocolate biscuits handed round by Georgina Malcolm.

SUSAN OSBORN

## Wordsearch Winner

The winner of the last wordsearch is Angela Hewer who has lived in Ludlow Way since 1985. She works for the national children's charity Life Education Centres,

and looks forward to spending her book token on recommended reading for proof-readers, an activity with which she is engaged both at work and privately.

### WORDSEARCH

#### SHAKESPEAREAN CHARACTERS

In the box below are concealed twenty names of characters in plays by Shakespeare. The names may be read forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards or diagonally. HAMLET has been ringed to start you off. Can you find 19 more?

Entries should be listed on a postcard or a sheet of paper. They should be sent to 'Wordsearch', 117 Hampstead Way, London NW11 7JN, and should give the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The closing date for entries is 17 March. The sender of the first correct (or nearest correct) entry drawn after the closing date will receive a book token for £20.

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

ROSALEEN COX

### WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The Languages, not necessarily European, in the box of the last wordsearch were: Bengali, Danish, Dutch, English, Flemish, French, Gaelic, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Latin, Japanese, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish.

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