



This summer's crowded calendar continued with a fair, sponsored by Goldschmidt and Howland, at the Garden Suburb School. Fun and food from the cuisines of the world were the order of the day and pupils and parents alike enjoyed a Suburb walk.

A new hospice for children

The Shooting Star Trust Children's Hospice Appeal has launched a call for new supporters in the North West London area and in particular Highgate, Hampstead, Golders Green, Finchley and Hendon.

There is currently no children's hospice in London but the Shooting Star Trust has recently purchased land near Hampton Court and received planning permission to build a children's hospice which will serve the western half of London, including all of north west London. There are over 1,000 families in the charity's area who have a son or daughter who is terminally ill and who have to cope with little or no support.

Patron of the Shooting Star Trust, ITN newsreader and broadcaster, Sir Trevor McDonald said, "Children's hospices are a very important development of the hospice movement, helping children who are terminally ill and their families to cope during a very stressful time."

"It's hard to imagine what it must be like to be a parent when doctors have just given you a diagnosis telling you your child is dying. Or when the treatment that was giving you hope has been abandoned. Having to look after a terminally ill child

puts an enormous strain on family life. Families feel isolated and afraid for what the future will hold. That's when a Children's hospice can make such a difference.

"There is no statutory government funding for children's hospices. All the money has to come from charitable fund-raising. So please join me and help the Shooting Star Trust. Together we can make a real difference."

Mrs Lilian Slowe of Corringway, has agreed to co-ordinate a local group and would be pleased to hear from anyone in north west London who is willing to offer her help. Her telephone and fax number is 020 8731 8280 or email: slower@compuserve.com

Lilian said, "The support the charity is already receiving from many organisations and individuals is tremendous but it needs to be more widely known that the Shooting Star Children's Hospice will also serve north west London families. We are looking for individuals who will help to form a local supporters group and for organisations or businesses who will 'adopt' the Shooting Star Trust as their nominated charity and help with fund-raising. To date we have raised over £1.8 million towards an appeal target of £6.5 million."

Death of a Salesman

"Isn't that remarkable!" A quote that Willy Loman utters when faced with a sudden realisation and this was a truly "remarkable" production from director Robert Jayes. From the very start, it overcame the difficulties of the fluctuation in time between 1942 and 1928, being told partly through the mind and partly through the memory of Willy Loman. These shifts were always convincing and flowed naturally into one another. The set, designed by Jo Eggleton and David Rance, helped to accomplish this, with its suggestive setting of part of a house, so that when the time shifts to the past the characters can ignore the walls. It also gave just the right feeling of "the way they boxes us in here..." The use of music to portray the shift in time was very effective and contributed greatly to the atmosphere.

The four main characters were beautifully portrayed with the actors in character from the moment they stepped onto the stage to the moment the curtain fell. The play was well paced with the emotional build up at the end so strong that there was hardly a dry eye in the house.

Andy Sutcliffe gave a strong performance as Happy, living in his world of illusions, a product of his father's upbringing. He managed to put across the sadness of his lonely life, always looking for recognition from his father but finding rejection which results in him, in turn, rejecting his father.

Mark Overall contrasted the young carefree Biff with the tragedy of Biff, the man who

accepts all his father's values and when he finds out that his father was a fake becomes lost as he has no values of his own. He also conveyed hope at the end that Biff might find a way to make a life for himself.

Sonia Woolf gave a moving performance as the loving wife who is ferociously protective of her husband but who contributes to his illusions about himself and finally demands that "attention, attention must be paid to this man."

The society has an actor of the highest calibre in Andy Wilson who gave a monumental performance as Willy Loman and put across the pathos of his situation with such conviction that the audience could not fail to be moved by the 'Death of a Salesman', a common man defeated by a society which chews him up and spits him out, a man who has been taken over by the American dream which has let him down so that he has had to create a world of illusion to disguise the fact that he is a failure.

The American accents were all maintained throughout. The serious, heavy scenes in the present contrasted with the joyous quality of the scenes in the past. Ben, Charley, Bernard and the other smaller cameos were all strong, supporting characters who contributed greatly to the power of the production.

The costumes and props were all admirable, scene changes were slick and minimal so as not to interfere with the build up and the lighting added to the overall atmosphere. The bar was bustling and a good evening was had by all.

FIONA COOTE

Do you enjoy drums?

If so you might have a room, garage or garden shed to let to what Suburb News is assured is a polite, well mannered young

resident, a keen solo drummer who is looking for somewhere to rent where he can practice. Please ring 8455 4524.

Puzzle and Guzzle

The Family Holiday Association is holding another of its popular Puzzle and Guzzle evenings to raise funds for holidays for needy families. Jigsaw enthusiasts

are invited to compete in a double jigsaw competition at 7.15 on October 2 at Fellowship House.

Tickets are £16 per couple. Phone 8455 1777 or 8455 4395.

Brookland Art Show

On October 13 and 14 there is an exhibition by local artists this time selling their work in aid of the Brookland schools. 11am - 5pm.

Phone 8444 6040 for information or see the Residents Association's What's On leaflet for October events, out in September.

September at the Gallery

Starting on September 14 is an exhibition of watercolours largely of Suburb subjects by Shizue Takahashi. Shizue, who studied at St Martin's, has painted the Suburb since she brought her children to school here. Shizue's fascination

with the, to Japanese eyes, subdued Suburb light and the green of the trees makes for delightfully translucent pictures of our familiar surroundings.

The Gallery is at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way.



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