

'Benefactors' at the Gatehouse

It is a very long time since I was so disappointed by a production of the Garden Suburb Theatre as I was at the first night of Roger Rose's production of Michael Frayn's 'Benefactors'. I have to confess that I do not admire this 33 year-old play as much as, looking at the programme notes, the producer, Roger Rose does.

It is set at the time when high-rise flats were all the rage. There was much opposition to the governments policy and this is part of the theme David Kitzinger (Tim Solomons), an architect, is full of enthusiasm for the project he is designing. His neighbour, Colin Molyneux (Rusty Ashman) opposes him all he can. So far so good. But then we have this odd

plot of Sheila Molyneux leaving her husband and coming, with her children, to live with David and his wife, Jane (Ashley Collins). Why David and Jane put up with this situation is not really explained or perhaps I just lost interest.

The production was painfully slow. Tim Solomons had difficulty with his lines and often pauses were so long that one wondered whether the actors had missed their entrance cues. Both Ashley Collins and Jane Sexton were excellent and Tim Solomons presented an idealistic architect from time to time. Rusty Ashman did what he could with the odd Colin. Sadly not one of the drama group's best

LÉONIE STEPHEN

The Sound of the Suburb

For one day, atmospheric lighting, delicious food and the awesome rock band Sound of the Suburb transformed the hall at Brookland Junior School into The Music Café.

The fund-raising event, held on 3 February, was organised by Music Co-ordinator and Assistant Head Teacher, Tania Lloyd and the PA of Brookland Junior School.

Ms Lloyd plays keyboard and piano in the band which also stars gifted parents of Brookland Junior children. Marie-Hélène Cohen and Rafael Landicho sing vocals; Martin Ross, Chris Belingieri and Steve Phillips play guitar and Mike Solomon sets the rhythm on drums and percussion.

The Music Café audience were stunned by the band's performance and demonstrated their appreciation with rapturous applause and calls for an encore.

Tania Lloyd, the creative force behind Sound of the Suburb, said, "The evening was a huge success!

The dedication and commitment of the parents was overwhelming and exceeded my expectations; I would like to thank all of the band-members for their energy and time. The PA was also fantastic in organising the event and a special thanks must go to them for their hard work. Finally, our SEN Co-ordinator Katie Kraiss was a dynamic compère and really set the scene for the evening."

Playing classics such as Brown Eyed Girl by Van Morrison, Dani California by The Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Importance of Being Idle by Oasis and Angels by Robbie Williams, the band drew a large audience of teachers and parents. The event raised several hundred pounds for the PA fund, to be spent on additional resources for the school.

This unique event in the school calendar was generously supported by Les Aldrich Music Shop in Muswell Hill.

Sunshine comes to Brookland Junior School

The last week of the Spring term brought sunshine to Brookland Junior School. Perhaps it was something to do with Year Three's Caribbean Day and Year Four's Ancient Greek Day.

On Tuesday 25 March Year Three dressed in the brightest and sunniest colours, spent a day on Caribbean themed activities that supported their Geography unit on St Lucia. They made colourful and tropical fruit salads using Caribbean fruits, a (non-alcoholic) pina colada, painted coral reef scenes, researched Caribbean countries and presented these in a 'conference', and even danced the limbo to Caribbean 'soca' music!

Helen Barnes, Geography Coordinator said, "The children really got into the Caribbean spirit with dancing and food making and clearly enjoyed

researching Caribbean countries. It was a fun day for everyone."

The following day, pupils from Year Four came dressed as assorted characters from Greek history and mythology to complete their History unit on the Ancient Greeks. Using Greek masks made for topic homework, they performed short dramatic interpretations of famous myths including Pandora's Box and King Midas. They also learnt the Greek alphabet and demonstrated the extent of their learning with a multiple choice quiz.

History Co-ordinator, Jane Pendry said, "The children put in a great deal of effort to making theatrical masks in the Greek style. They thoroughly enjoyed dramatising the Greek stories and writing their names in Greek lettering. It was a memorable end to an exciting history unit."



The Wizard of Oz

The dark days of February were enlivened by The Garden Suburb Theatre's delightful production of 'The Wizard of Oz'. This was Emma Solomons' directorial debut and she can be very proud of what she achieved. It was a production full of humour, fun and wonderful magic effects, especially the final balloon flight away from Oz.

Again, one marvels at what can be done on so small a stage with all those Munchkins, citizens and soldiers dancing to Emma Solomons' lively choreography and not falling off.

Dorothy was delightfully played by Jennie Eggleton and her companions on the Yellow Brick Road – the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Lion were brilliantly

portrayed by Tim Solomons, Mark Overall and Jon Musker.

The Wicked Witch of the West was played by Jo Eggleton-Rance, who had a wonderfully evil cackle. By contrast, Miriam Clark's Sorceress of the North was all sweetness and charm in pink.

Praise must be given to the set designer, David Rance; the sound by Michael Berg; the special effects video by Jacob Haddad and the costumes by Frances Musker and her team. The band, Jemima Lane flute, Raphael Hogarth violin, Chiaki Sugahara clarinet and Varna Parkhouse cello, under the direction of Stephen Lanigan-O'Keefe were also a delight.

LÉONIE STEPHEN

Two-thirds of residents want CPZ disbanded

A review of the Temple Fortune CPZ carried out by Barnet Council last summer discovered that around two-thirds of Hampstead Garden Suburb residents who replied want the parking controls removed.

Although a majority of Suburb residents has always opposed the CPZ, Temple Grove is the only Suburb road that will leave the Zone following the review. No other significant changes will be made although Barnet Council is proposing the creation of passing places to assist the flow of traffic in Temple Fortune Hill and Asmunds Hill as these roads have become heavily parked over the past year by vehicles displaced from roads within the CPZ.

Gary Shaw, Chairman of the RA Roads & Traffic Committee said, "Passing places may help the flow of traffic, but they will of course mean the loss of more parking space and residents are not happy about that. The situation

might be eased if the short stretch of Hampstead Way inside the CPZ was taken out. It doesn't seem to have much resident support so we are hoping Barnet Council might be willing to consider this as a long-term solution to all the problems in this area."

Commenting on other traffic issues affecting the Suburb, Gary Shaw said, "The Committee was concerned to hear about two nasty accidents at the Meadway/Wildwood Road/Thornton Way junction. We have asked Barnet Council to consider replacing the Give Way signs at the junction with Stop signs to help prevent a recurrence. We are pleased to have had a rapid response from Council officers indicating that they would recommend such a proposal. I know they are as concerned about this junction as we are, so we are hoping the change may be implemented soon."

GARY SHAW

Front door (*front door*) *n.* the main entrance to a house. Lay at someone's door: to lay blame or responsibility on someone. Sp in *Hampstead Garden Suburb* – responsibility of all to keep our front doors in style. If not, it could be an in+fringe+ment

When is a door not the right door? When it jars.

In the past some front doors have been replaced with unsuitable patterns (1 and 3) resulting in inconsistency of design.

In the original designs doors might be of different types, but a group of houses would be consistent in style (2 and 4).

A demand for security sometimes leads to a desire to change. In fact original doors are generally robust (5 and 6).

Mass produced doors are almost always unsuitable particularly those with a semi circular fanlight.

Any alterations to houses on the Suburb must be approved by the Trust and Barnet.

Householders who carry out unauthorised alterations can, and are, legally obliged to undo the work, to rectify the 'infringement'.



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