

Garden Suburb Gallery

If you need further proof that Hampstead Garden Suburb is its own microcosmic world, visit the summer show at the Garden Suburb Gallery. All is peaceful, calm and orderly; the sun always shines, the leaves blow around in just the right aesthetic way, the telephone boxes are still red and there isn't a scrap of litter. Then that is part of the quirky charm of the place, which is reflected in both the gallery and the fairytale scenes in most of the pictures. The tiny brick gallery may look like a posh kiosk, but was in fact built in 1906 as a summer house for a garden and lake that never materialised.

They make it their policy to exhibit local artists, and just about all of the works in this show are of Suburb scenes, and are for sale. A mixture of watercolours, etchings, the odd oil or two and some pottery, the standard ranges from simple and naive to deftly done. Shizue Takahashi has a nice way with watercolour and trees. While taking her children to Meadway playgroup she became aware of the gentle light, the landscape and trees, something that the Suburb has in abundance. She has a light touch, which depicts the light coming through the trees in

her image of the Free Church in North Square very well. Meanwhile Ellen Gilbert also depicts the trees and architecture. Her simple - almost child-like in some cases - scenes of Sunday morning car-washing (do people still wash their cars themselves?) need a little work on the technical side, but are nicely unpretentious. She fares better in her splashy flower pictures. As does Chloe Hilary Gear, whose polished and decorative flower etchings are attractive.

I don't think you are ever going to see anything too radical here; the things I liked best were some austere, modern-looking pots getting dusty on a high shelf. Still, if the modern world was to intrude too much then the artists might have to start putting rubbish and speed bumps in the pictures, and that would spoil the illusion. If you have a morning or afternoon to spare they are looking for volunteers to staff the gallery.

Please call into the gallery at 16 Arcade House, Hampstead Way, NW11, if interested. Ring 8455 7410 check opening hours to visit the exhibition which runs to the end of August.

HELEN SMITHSON

This article first appeared in the Hampstead & Highgate Express.



The Youth Music Centre won joint first prize in the prestigious North London Music festival in May. First prizes were also won by the YMC Training String Orchestra and the YMC String Orchestra. Parents of prospective pupils can visit on www.youthmusiccentre.org.uk or phone Jane Barrett 8343 1940.

Letters to the editor

47 Holne Chase, N2

Sir

I was stimulated by the letter from Joan Randall (Spring 2000 issue) to check the hedges in this road of about 50 houses. In my view there are some 10 hedges that overlap the pavement significantly and need to be cut back. A separate problem is that there are two houses where I could see no identifying numbers at all, and several where the number is difficult to make out from the road. Who, if anyone, is responsible for checking that such citizens' duties are carried out? Residents, please take up your own responsibilities.

Yours
Denis Baron

139 Hampstead Way

Sir

I just wanted to let you know how much my family and I enjoyed the excellent music on offer during the Proms.

How wonderful to hear artistes of international renown playing less than five minutes from our doorstep.

However, I feel very sad that there were so many empty seats and that people missed the opportunity to experience such marvellous music.

I would urge everyone to take note of next year's Prom week and support the great efforts made by the artistes, as well as the organisers.

Yours
Jula Westman

Loot

Even today Joe Orton has the power to shock. Jokes about the dead and dead bodies handled like a sack of potatoes do not go down well with everyone. The marvellous thing about Orton's plays is the glorious use of language. Also he does not write naturalistically but must be directed and acted with absolute realism. This seriousness is exactly what the producer, John Colemans, achieved. The first act was admittedly rather slow but the second livened up with the arrival of the dubious Truscott, beautifully played by Colin Gregory, who fully understands that comedy is a serious matter.

The complicated plot has to do with McLeavy, whose wife's dead body lies in its coffin before being dumped in the wardrobe so as to make room

for stolen money. His son Hal, with his friend Dennis, have stolen the money and are investigated by Truscott. Malcolm Stern (McLeavy) and Eugene Smith and Mark Overall as son, Hal and Dennis were uncomprehending and villainous. Caroline Phillipps was their glamorous accomplice.

This production was entered in the Barnet Borough Arts Committee Drama Festival and won best actor for Colin Gregory and best production to John Colemans.

LÉONIE STEPHEN

Footnote. The Garden Suburb Theatre won four trophies this year. 'Death and the Maiden' won Liz Amiel the trophy for best actress in the Isle of Man Amateur Drama Festival Awards, while director Ribekow-Evans claimed the runners-up honours. See page 7.

WORDSEARCH

BRITISH POETS WRITING BEFORE 1930

Back to memories of your schooldays with this latest WORDSEARCH! In the box below are concealed the names of nineteen British poets. Their names may read forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards, or diagonally. BYRON has been ringed to start you off. Can you find the names of 18 more? All of them were writing before 1930; many long before that.

Entries should be listed on a postcard or a sheet of paper. They should be sent to 'Wordsearch', 2 North Square, London NW11 7AA, and should give the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The closing date for entries is September 16. The sender of the first correct (or nearest correct) entry drawn after the closing date will receive a book token for £20.

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

SHEILA McMICHAEL

WORDSEARCH WINNER

The winner of the last Wordsearch on British birds was Mrs Alison Heady of Corringham Road, who will receive a book token for £20.

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The British birds included in the box of the last Wordsearch were: robin, wren, jay, chaffinch, treecreeper, goldcrest, wagtail, dipper, curlew, heron, kestrel, nuthatch, starling, buzzard, lapwing, puffin, grouse, coot, skylark/lark and crow.

PRIORITIES

You're ageing, and despite expensive creams
New wrinkles keep on coming.
No longer do you want the lover of your youthful dreams
- It's now too late. You crave a mate
Who loves you even when your nose is running.

New men don't figure in your fantasies,
You've lost your youthful zest.
Because your body might now fail to please
You're seriously depressed.

Not only is your body going to pot
But you have problems in co-ordinating;
These days your memory is not so hot
- You can't remember what you just forgot -
And there are other parts deteriorating.

Your speed, when walking, isn't what it used to be -
You seem to have to stop an awful lot,
Aware of aches and pains in back and knee -
And if you were a horse they'd have you shot.

Though you forget Today, the past draws nearer,
And so, before the final heavenward climb,
As you find youth and childhood getting clearer,
Go write your memoirs, while you still have time.

MARY BRAININ HUTTRER



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