

Splendour in the Wood!

If you did not go to see the Shaw and the Pageant in the open air theatre in Little Wood you will have missed the best and most heart-warming event

the Suburb has experienced for a long time. 'The Stars', a pageant by Cyril and Enid Kelsey, is real community theatre and wonderfully staged by Colin

Gregory, assisted by Anna Crawley, John Woolf, Val Gregory and many others. The time and commitment that went to produce this marvellous entertainment is, in itself, stunning. It was glorious to look at with beautiful, glittering costumes. Interesting dances and processions, of the years, the planets and the signs of the Zodiac were performed by adults and what looked like hundreds of children of all ages. The plot is simple: the rescue of Man by Earth and the Stars. The European (Rusty Ashman) says civilisation is at an end and is not reassured by the inventor (Andrew Craze). They turn to Mother Earth for help. Man's meddling in space makes some of the Universe disinclined to help. But all is well at the end.

The pageant was preceded by Shaw's 'In Good King Charles's Golden Days' which was an excellent choice, since it is a lively and amusing discussion between King Charles II, Isaac Newton; the painter, Godfrey

Kneller, and George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, on such subjects as the age of the earth, astronomy, the theories of Galileo and the curved or straight line. Charles also has a lively conversation with his brother, James, on kingship. Adding their comments are the King's lovers; Nell Gwynn, Barbara Villiers and Louise de Kéroualle.

The play, again directed by Colin Gregory, was extremely well acted by all the cast. Outstanding were Paula Morris (Ms Basham, Newton's house-keeper), Eugene Smith (Newton), Sarah Connell (Nell Gwynn), David Brown (James Duke of York) and Andy Farrer, whose intelligent and amused King Charles is firmly in the play's centre. Again the costumes were excellent and the handsome set, which served both plays, was designed by Frances Musker.

The Garden Suburb Theatre deserves all our thanks for a marvellous evening.

LEONIE STEPHEN



(Above) The cast of the pageant and play by the Garden Suburb Theatre, which was sponsored by the Residents Association and the Trust, in triumphal procession through the Suburb.

(Below) Colin Gregory (left), producer.



(Above) A reception at the home of Val Gregory to welcome sponsors and friends from the Suburb turned into a celebration of the prizes won by the GST this year. See page 4.

(Below left) In Good King Charles's Golden Days in Little Wood.



A Suburb visit to Brentham Garden Suburb included a tour and talk by Clive Hicks and a lavish tea laid on by members of the Brentham Society. Here l-r Rosemary Goldstein, Alfred Lester, Jocelyne Wakefield, Anne Saunders and her husband, Clive Hicks, Roz Archer, Leonie Stephen and Jeremy Clyne represented the Residents Association and the Archives Trust.

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