

# THE THUNDERER

A.K.A. The Inmates Gazette

November 2007 St Pancras Almshouses Number 14

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**The Edna Brown Cinema Club** had a really grand opening night on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Some teething problems had been expected and our Chief Projectionist, Michael Horne, and his loyal Assistant fought against time to assemble the complicated equipment. As the seconds ticked by and turned into minutes and the scheduled 7 PM opening time came closer and closer and disaster loomed, an EMERGENCY phone call was made to Merrick.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, Merrick made the decision to race through the darkening dusk to come to our aid to help us avoid, what seemed at the time, the impending fiasco.

Finally, at the veritable 11<sup>th</sup> hour the complex technical problem was solved and Merrick's Emergency House call was aborted.

**PHEW !!!**

It was a close encounter with catastrophe and, in the end, a really grand evening ensued that was enjoyed by all and we expect that the few empty seats will be filled for successive shows.

THERE ARE NO RESERVED SEATS however. It is strictly FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

Our thanks to the late Edna Brown whose very generous legacy has enabled us to form this Cinema Club.

Nest Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November we will show **The Leopard** in which our very own Fred Grubb, Flat 9B participated. This is a grand story of the Risorgimento, the fight for the unification of Italy led by Garibaldi which led to the decline of the Italian Aristocracy and the rise of the Mafia. **THIS FILM IS IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES** and, because of its length, will be shown 1/2 on Saturday and 1/2 on Sunday at the same time.

The action takes place in Sicily between 1860 and 1862. Giuseppe Garibaldi and his red-shirted volunteers have landed on the North coast and are marching eastward and there is a threat of revolutionary change.

The film was released in 1963 in Super Technirama format and the opening scenes of prayers in the Palace of Don Fabrizio, Prince of Salina (Burt Lancaster) must be seen to be believed.

This DVD features the complete and uncut release version of the film with fully restored picture and sound.

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November **Great Expectations** will be shown .

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November, **Pygmalion** with Leslie Howard and Wendy Hillier. It has been reported that GEORGE BERNARD SHAW insisted that Wendy play the role.

On 24<sup>th</sup> November we shall see the Musical, **My Fair Lady** which is adapted from Pygmalion and which has a brilliant performance by Rex Harrison who shows how one can play a singing role without being able to sing. The story, of a person raised from the gutter, so to speak, has been around for at least 1,200 years and is popular in every language and every culture.

We hope that you will all come and enjoy yourselves.

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**While we are on the subject of Edna Brown**, some of her bequest will help to build a greenhouse and it has been suggested that Residents might like to contribute to a Garden Fund to enable us to buy seedlings and plants and growing paraphernalia to further beautify our surroundings.

### **WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS IDEA?**

Please let us know.

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### **And they ask why I like retirement:-**

Q. Why don't retirees mind being called SENIORS?

A. The term comes with a 10% discount.

Q. Among retirees what is considered Formal Attire?

A. Tied shoelaces.

Q. What do retirees call a long lunch?

A. Normal.

Q. Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but he misses the people he used to work with?

A. He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

Q. What do you do the whole week?

A. Monday through Friday , NOTHING.....Saturday and Sunday I rest.

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### **A REQUEST TO RESIDENTS.**

Jean Stone, one of our Trustees showed a copy of The Thunderer to Anne-Marie Scragg, a writer friend who in turn wrote to the Editor with the following request:-

She asked me to ask our readers each to write a piece entitled "The Important Things in My Life".

She would then consider incorporating them in a book that she is writing.

I shall expect a flood of contributions so please act quickly.

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### **THIS MUST BE THE BEST MOTHER IN LAW JOKE EVER!**

A married couple was in a terrible accident where the man's face was severely burned. The Doctor told the husband that they couldn't graft any skin from his body because he was too skinny.

So the wife offered to donate some of her own skin.

However, the only skin on her body that the doctor felt was suitable would have to come from her buttocks.

The husband and wife agreed that they would tell no one about where the skin came from, and they requested that the doctor also honour their secret. After all, this was a very delicate matter.

After the surgery was completed, everyone was astounded at the man's new face.

He looked more handsome than he ever had before! All his friends and relatives just went on and on about his youthful beauty!

One day, he was alone with his wife, and he was overcome with emotion at her sacrifice.

He said, "Dear, I just want to thank you for everything you did for me. How can I possibly repay you?"

"Darling," she replied, "I get all the thanks I need every time I see your mother kiss you on the cheek."

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## **THIS POEM WON THIS YEAR'S LITERARY REVIEW GRAND POETRY PRIZE.**

It was written by Jane Mann who had written in her youth but took a break of several decades to raise three children and five grandchildren.

The poem deals with a subject with which most of us are familiar- whether to stay in our old home or move to some form of sheltered accommodation.

After you have read this poem, if you wish to make any comments please send them in to one of the editors for publication (with your permission of course.)

### **STAYING ON**

“You need to move from here. You cannot stay  
Another winter in this damp alone.  
There’s rising damp,” they frown with fresh dismay.

The kindly faces of concern she’s known  
And grown to dread-the voices that she fears  
Will tear her from her living walls of stone,

Will take away the past where still she hears  
His voice that echoes from the weathered beams,  
His steps that falter down the steepening years.

“It won’t be all the trauma that it seems  
To move”, they say. “You’ll soon adapt in time  
And you’ll have all the mod cons and safety schemes.”

She thinks back to their warnings then of crime,  
Their claim her house is too remote and old  
With hazards to her health from grime and slime.

Yet close on eighty years she’s kept a hold  
On life in spite of burglars, germs, the strain  
Of joints, of jagged flagstones, damp and cold.

She cannot now give up what may remain-  
The swallows that return each year to weave  
Beneath her eaves, the fox that comes for grain,

The willow curving round her need to grieve.

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## **IN THE BEGINNING,**

There was no Bible: the Jewish scriptures and the New Testament were oral testimonies passed on by story tellers with good memories until the Romans burned Jerusalem, exiled its inhabitants and destroyed The Temple in 70 AD and forced the survivors to turn to the written word-and we have been arguing ever since about what does it ACTUALLY mean!

In case any of our readers are a little foggy on biblical history, there follows an overview of the Bible as compiled from students essays and sent to the Thunderer by an American reader of The Thunderer's Online Edition (which explains all the American references.)

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be about a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues

included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His top ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbour's bottom (the Bible uses a bad word for bottom that I'm not supposed to say. But my Dad uses it sometimes when he talks about the President).

Oh yeah, I just thought of one more: Humour they father and they mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?"). It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.")

During his life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many Leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to heaven but will be back at the end of the aluminium. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

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