



Staging a local drama group

By Diana Cormack

Coming into contact with Heath Ledger whatever the circumstance might fulfil the fantasy of some, but the car park of Homebase, New Southgate, at 4am would not readily spring to mind as the perfect setting. However, for local actress Carolyn Pickles it was all in a day's work and happened recently during the filming of Terry Gilliam's future presentation *The Imaginarium of Dr Parnassus*.

As well as acting in films Carolyn, of Bedford Road, has a wealth of experience in radio, television and the live theatre. In television she is often remembered for her starring role in *The Bluebell Girls* and for series such as *From May to December*, *The Bill*, *Coronation Street* and *Emmerdale*. She has appeared in programmes such as *Midsomer Murders* and *Doctors* as well as comedies. She does a mean Camilla Parker Bowles and was in *Ali G Indahouse*, which gave Carolyn some street cred with her two daughters.



Carolyn Pickles. Photo by Diana Cormack

Sharing her skills

It probably helped, too, in another role Carolyn has taken on, that of teaching drama to young people. Previously she has worked on a one-to-one basis with those hoping to go to drama school, building their confidence and audition skills, which includes choosing the right piece for the audition. Lately, she has been holding drama workshops in nearby secondary schools and has decided to extend this idea. Carolyn is planning to form a local drama group which will work on voice, movement, improvisation and script and will teach theatre and television acting techniques. Aimed at age 14 upwards, it should start on Monday 14 January from 6.30 to 8.00 pm. For full details email cpdrama@hotmail.co.uk

"I find it really stimulating and energising working with young people," Carolyn told *THE ARCHER*. No doubt the youngsters will feel the same about working with her.

Restaurant thrives on word of mouth

By John Lawrence

A new restaurant has been open for five months and has been earning a loyal following purely through word of mouth. Owner Mohi Syed is relying on the good reports of his customers to build up a steady trade.

Indian Rasoi is situated on Fortis Green halfway between East Finchley and Muswell Hill, close to the Alexandra pub and opposite the refurbished Clissold Arms,

When *THE ARCHER* visited on a Tuesday evening, the restaurant was pleasantly busy. Trade throughout the rest of the week is strong, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays.

The name of the restaurant means Indian kitchen and Mohi offers simple traditional recipes from all parts of India. There are mild and hot dishes to suit different palates and the menu is a distinct departure from the normal 'curry house' fare.

Mohi said: "Because of where we are, we don't have passing trade but rather we're a destination restaurant. People come and enjoy the ambience then tell



Mohi Syed outside his Fortis Green restaurant. Photo by John Lawrence

their friends. I haven't needed to do much marketing yet because customers have been spreading the word."

Three chefs, one from north India, one from Goa and one from the south, serve lunch from 12 - 3pm and evening meals from 6 - 11pm. There is a wide selection of vegetarian and seafood dishes as well as

some interesting meat recipes, with fresh ingredients all sourced locally.

Mohi already runs a restaurant in Richmond, south west London. He decided on Fortis Green for his new business after a friend told him the area was badly under-served for eating-places. Now the future looks bright for Indian Rasoi.

Football with a twist

A new football training programme that mixes skill and fun game activities with dance music to promote creativity and self-expression has taken off in our area.

The Ministry of Football programme ran last term at Fortismere School in Muswell Hill on Sunday afternoons. The players have learned many new skills with a ball, as well as gaining a better understanding of how to work with others.

Head Coach and inventor of Ministry of Football Mark Carter said: "We want to move away from the epidemic of traditional coaching, which in many cases is really just adults telling kids what to do."

He explained that the emphasis in Ministry of Football sessions is on children finding their own solutions to problems and, in doing so, building their own self-confidence.

Rishul Karia, a seven-year-old pupil at Coldfall Primary School, has attended the programme and said: "I love going to football on Sundays. It's fantastic. I like learning new skills: passing better, dribbling, shooting. And it's great fun."

Even parents are getting involved so this year a parents' programme is starting up to help grown-ups have fun expressing themselves with a ball and being creative. There will be Parents & Kids classes, with the two groups coached separately in the same session.

To book a free trial session at Ministry of Football, call Mark on 07772 716876. For more details, visit www.ministry-of-football.com.

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