



Three brothers: One of the photos that will be on show at the Offshoot Gallery

Story of the pandemic on the faces of our children

By David Melsome

A startling new exhibition of photographs running this month at the Offshoot Gallery in East Finchley is exploring how the coronavirus pandemic has changed life for our children.

A year ago, photographer Bex Day lived with a friend and her two-year-old daughter, who had begun experiencing delays in speech development due to a lack of social interaction. This inspired Day to document how Covid-19 was having an impact on children during the formative ages from four to 13.

Children of Covid is full of haunting images that merge realism with surrealism taken in locations chosen in part by the young subjects themselves.

The exhibition is currently shortlisted for the British Journal of Photography's Por-

trait of Humanity Prize, Wolf Suschitzky Prize and the Royal Photographic Society's International Photography Exhibition 163.

See it for yourself at the Offshoot Gallery in the High Road, N2, from Friday 9 July to Sunday 25 July.

Workshops and discussion

On Saturday 10 July and Sunday 11 July there will be workshops for children aged eight to 11 on how to draw from photographs, running from 11am to 1pm.

On Wednesday 14 July from 6pm to 8pm there is a free panel discussion hosted by Jane O'Rourke from Mind in Mind and on Saturday 24 July and Sunday 25 July from 10am to 12pm there are workshops on art and wellbeing for children and young people. Find details on the exhibition, panel and workshops at www.minaraven.com

One-act plays after Chekhov

Garden Suburb Theatre's first post-lockdown live theatre production this month will be two one-act plays by Brian Friel featuring four characters from the works of Anton Chekhov.

The Yalta Game is based on Chekhov's short story *The Lady with the Dog* about a married man and a young married woman who meet on holiday in Yalta and have a brief affair that transforms their lives.

In *Afterplay*, Uncle Vanya's niece Sonya and the three sisters' brother Andrey meet by chance in a run-down Moscow café in the early 1920s and begin to uncover long hidden truths.

Both plays are at Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6. Tickets are £14 or £12 concession. *The Yalta Game* is on 6, 8 and 10 July at 7.30pm. *Afterplay* is on 7 and 9 July at 7.30pm, and 11 July at 4 pm. Find out more at www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com

Vicki is definitely an author to watch

By Daphne Chamberlain

"Definitely an author to watch": that was one of many appreciative reviews for local author Vicki Bradley's first book *Before I Say I Do*, and now her second one is out. Unlike many second books, it doesn't disappoint. *Your Life or Mine* is another absorbing psychological drama built round Detective Constable Alana Loxton.

Loxton is still working in Walworth CID, but enjoys a reunion with four women friends who worked with her on the homicide squad that caught a serial killer. One of them insists on buying more drinks for them all, to celebrate her "last bit of freedom".

Those casual words prove tragically true. One by one, all four of Loxton's friends disappear, and she knows she will be next. The significance of the book's title is revealed at the end.

Spot the clues

Vicki is herself a DC with the Met police, and a bonus of her books is the insight into police procedure. Her writing is subtle. Once you've finished the book, look through it again. I guarantee you will find clues you may not have noticed at first. That's part of the skill with which she manages quite a small cast of characters.

This is obviously a book that deals with violence, but also with compassion. Alana Loxton has always been known for being "good with murder", which is why she hated her earlier demotion from the homicide squad. But investigating what has happened to good friends has shaken her. At the end of the book she says she needs "some time away from murder".

Her fans will hope that it's not too long before we meet Alana again. Her creator has also been dealing with other



Second novel: Vicki Bradley

things, such as giving birth to a little boy earlier this year. Congratulations on both achievements, Vicki!

Your Life or Mine, by Vicki Bradley, is published by Simon Schuster. (ISBN 978-1-4711-8526-7)

Art trail at the palace

The Artists Walks 2021 Art Trail is running at Alexandra Palace until the end of September.

It's a family-friendly route around the outside of the palace and grounds showing off lots of beautiful and fascinating works by local artists along the way. All works are on show outside, going some way to helping the artists who have been unable to display their work in galleries.



On show: Amelie's art work

Academy artist

Amelie C, a student in year 10 at the Archer Academy, has had a piece of work chosen from 33,000 submissions for the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show online, the second year running that her art has been selected. The exhibition will be available to view online from 13 July and some artworks will be on display at the Royal Academy itself from 13 July to 8 August. Find out more at <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

**All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley
Church of England**

You are welcome to join us for:

**Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
Weekday masses as advertised on the website.
Face masks must be worn for the time being.**

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information, contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on 020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabouting@gmail.com or check out our website:

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>