



## Writer finds life, love and loss begin at 40

Jessica Holt talks to East Finchley playwright Paul Kalburgi about his latest work *We'll Always Have Paris*

Having reviewed *Almost the Birthday Party* by Paul Kalburgi for *The Archer* I was keen to meet him again and speak about *We'll Always Have Paris*, another of his plays to be performed at The Bear Theatre in Kennington, easily reachable on the Northern line, from 15 September to 3 October.

The title taken from the 1942 film *Casablanca* is said by Humphrey Bogart to Ingrid Bergman when they must separate forever and reflects the major theme of Paul's play: the loss of a loved one and how to survive it.

I asked Paul what led him to write plays. He told me: "I started with the notion of becoming an actor, but I always felt uncomfortable and nervous on stage."

His inspiration to write rather than act or direct came when he first saw Victoria Wood on TV. He was drawn to her comedy and felt a strong connection with her as a fellow northerner. When he realised she wrote her own material he recognised his future path.

Paul talks enthusiastically about his experiences in Dallas, Texas, where he made docudramas for TV and had two of his plays produced. He moved to New Zealand where he developed his playwriting course for aspiring playwrights. However, he came to recognise the best place to have an impact and have a chance to see his plays performed was in London and its Fringe theatre scene. Paul talks about his writing process

as at times "just listening to everyday dialogue, writing it down and hoping it will come together". But with this play which is purely fiction he says: "I hit 40 and the catchphrase 'life begins at 40' made me think about life and what if the wheels came off."

In *We'll Always Have Paris* cinema usherette Ginny finds love in her forties and then it is taken away. Paul talks about the questions raised in the play "How long can you grieve? How long before you move on? How long can people put up with your grief story?" He describes his play as a "romcom with a broken heart".



Love and loss: Playwright Paul Kalburgi



Flying colours: The Long Lane Pasture volunteer team with their Green Flag award. Photo courtesy Donald Lyven

## Pasture green flagged for 15 years

Volunteers at Long Lane Pasture have celebrated receiving a Green Flag Community Award for the 15th year in a row. The Green Flag Award scheme itself is celebrating its 30th year of judging and awarding well-kept green spaces across the UK and internationally.

Donald Lyven, chair of the Pasture committee said: "We are grateful to have an enthusiastic band of eager volunteers who turn out each Saturday between 10am and noon to keep the Pasture looking

well-maintained and litter free. We have already seen 20 species of butterfly this year, due to the hot weather, and many bird species have successfully raised their young."

The Pasture is a two-acre nature reserve, opposite Finchley fire station in Long Lane, N3, that opens every day from 9am to dusk during spring, summer and early autumn.

## Young nature lovers make a bee-line to create new artwork in the Wood

The Cherry Tree Wood Nature Club meeting on Sunday 2 August was centred on mosaic making. A dozen children focused on the mosaics attached to the wall of the toilet block. Then they coloured a drawing based on one of the mosaic tiles. The results looked remarkably like the originals with their bright colours and clear outlines.

Next the children made their own mosaic of a giant bee. They did this by sticking scrunched up tissue paper onto a picture of a bee, surrounded by sky, clouds and colourful flowers.

At the end of the session, the organiser, Debora Singer, from Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, told them how impressed she was that they had worked so well as a team to make the mosaic, just like the bees work together.

The next Nature Club at Cherry Tree Wood is on Sunday 6 September at 2pm and will



Bold patterns: Artwork based on the mosaic tiles in Cherry Tree Wood

focus on clouds. Children under eight are welcome to this free

activity, but must bring a grown-up with them.

## Snaps in time

A time capsule capturing life in Haringey today for future generations is set to be buried beneath the grounds of the restored Civic Centre and residents are being asked to decide what goes inside.

Everyone in Haringey is invited to submit a photograph of a place, person, event, object or moment that represents what they love about the borough. The time capsule will be sealed later this year to be reopened in

50 years in 2076.

Residents wishing to take part should submit their photograph by 16 October. To find out more visit <https://haringeyciviccentre.commonplace.is/> and follow the time capsule link.

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