

Special screening at Women's centre

Brighton Women's Centre through the support of Sandpiper Books is hosting a very special screening of **WHALERIDER** at Duke of York's Picturehouse on Thursday 11th June 2009 at 6.30pm. **WHALERIDER**, the award winning film is set on the beautiful East coast of New Zealand and tells the inspirational story of a young girl who dared to confront the past, change the present and determine the future.

Tickets are available through the Duke of York's box office. Telephone 0871 704 2056 or online booking www.picturehouses.co.uk. Standard pricing and concessions apply and all proceeds will go to Brighton Women's Centre to aid funding for the continuance of vital services to vulnerable women in the Brighton and Hove area.

As a bonus ticket holders will be entitled to a further 10% discount on the already reduced prices at Sandpiper Books. Simply bring your **WHALERIDER** ticket stub to their shop 34 Kensington Gardens, Brighton.

For further information on this event or Brighton Women's Centre services please contact Lisa by telephoning 01273 698036 or by emailing info@womenscentre.org.uk

This fundraising event is being sponsored by Sandpiper Books an established independent bookshop, trading for over 20 years in Kensington Gardens, Brighton. Up to 80% off publishers' prices on quality remainder and publishers' overstocks sourced worldwide, specialising in the visual and performing arts, contemporary design and history.

Everything in the garden Corrina Slow

Water torture

Who knows what weather summer holds in store for us but it goes without saying that gardens will need to be watered. Learning how to water will save you time and help keep your plants in good health. There is more to it than pointing the hose at a plant but it's not rocket science!

The ideal time of day for watering is first thing in the morning, coming in a close second is the end of the day when the sun is off the garden. Watering in the morning means plants will have a good source of water to get them through the heat of the day.

Water applied in the heat will quickly evaporate and may scorch plant leaves. However if plants are beginning to wilt in the heat you should water them straight away no matter the time of day and place a screen to shade the plant whilst it recovers.

When watering give priority to those plants in pots or baskets, as they have no access to water stored in the ground. Water well any plants you've recently planted, moisture lovers and all seedlings. Last to get a turn on the hose are established shrubs and perennials in flower beds, these should have deep roots enabling them to reach underground water. Watering should be thorough and when needed – little and often is no good as this merely wets the soil surface and encourages plants to grow shallow roots incapable of tapping into deep water stores. If the soil is very dry water can run off the surface (especially in pots and baskets). If this is the case water each plant a little to dampen the surface then return to the first plant and give it a good soak – the

water should seep into the soil the second time around. To save time and to ensure you really soak the soil of thirsty plants you can use a plastic bottle as a slow release water funnel. Cut off the base of the bottle and remove the cap, push the top of the bottle into the soil next to the plant and fill with water. This is also a good method for 'focus watering' where you have a particularly drought sensitive plant in a bed of plants that need less water.

In many ways the key to minimising watering problems is preparation. Follow these simple rules to avoid hosepipe-ban-based anxiety:

Choose plants that are suited to the environment (don't put a plant that loves the damp in a sunny border!)

Before planting, dig in organic matter into the planting hole to improve water retention.

Use water retaining granules in pots and baskets. Soak plants in a bucket of water before you plant them and water them in.

Mulch or top dress your beds to keep moisture in. Keep on top of weeding as weeds use water too.

Let your lawn grow a bit longer in times of drought and it will remain greener for longer.



Summer roving and roaming

Roger Wheeler – *The roaming pen...*

I promised further investigation into some of our new boutique hotels so to New Steine we go. Virtually every house in New Steine is a 'hotel' this small square, in the heart of Kemp Town has undergone real makeover in the last ten years, from an area of very sleazy B&Bs to today with some very stylish boutique hotels.

I wouldn't like to recommend any of these hotels in particular, they all offer great comfort and reasonable value for money, never pay the published rate though just ask for the best deal they can offer. They all have websites so you can see what's on offer. So if you have friends or relatives asking you to suggest a hotel here's a few suggestions

The Square, 4 New Steine is quite original, they call themselves a hotel and bar and the bar on the ground floor is very bright and colourful, the 'feature' picture framed by pink neon is just a little startling. Modern art is everywhere, not to everyone's taste but you aren't staying there for the art. Their nine rooms are very tasteful and some have the usual, free standing baths in the room, fun? possibly, with one leap you can be out of bed and into the bath. The star attraction is the basement suite which is very surprising, a beautiful self catering apartment, favoured, I am told, by some famous people who

prefer to come to Brighton but remain anonymous. There is a great sunken lounge area, bedroom, huge bathroom and very modern kitchen, if you really don't want to venture out and explore the wonders of Kemp Town. The television is, of course, vast as is the sound system.

Sea Spray. This very smart little hotel at 25 New Steine is run by Karen and Tanya, who fell in love with Brighton ten years ago and bought a hotel, now that's love.. They have 15 rooms with a blend of modern and traditional furnishings, all rooms have a mini bar, flat screen TV's and the penthouse has a whirlpool bath. Very unusually they offer breakfast in bed, and unique as far as I can tell they operate a dinner package in partnership with the Kemp Town Brasserie demonstrating their support for local businesses. Their prices are very realistic with a mid-week dinner B&B package of just £89.00. These girls seem to have got their product just about right, I like them!

The Hotel Pelirocco, this unique hotel has been in Regency Square for nine years and I'm not sure what to think.. All I can say is that it made me smile. The décor in the bar is outrageous, all pink leather and the rooms are all themed around decadence. They have a tie up with 'She Said' the erotic boutique in the Lanes. There are even 'menus' listing the products

that are available to ensure your stay is relaxing. One of the rooms is a few shades of red short of an orgy. The lower ground floor 'Playroom' has to be seen to be believed. A very large round bed draped in red satin with mirrored ceiling, a huge wet room, a lounge area with large settees and armchairs with the piece de resistance, a pole for, yes, pole dancing and they will bring a pole dancer in if you wish. And it is fully booked for most of the year.

The Pelirocco is what Brighton is all about, very slightly seedy, very sexy, a bit naughty and a tad dated but there is nothing wrong with that.

Take it easy, it's going to be a hot summer!