

INTRODUCING LÉONIE STEPHEN

Léonie moved into Hampstead Garden Suburb with her parents, Robert and Lilian Metcalfe, her brothers Peter and Bryan and her very young sister Elizabeth, in the summer of 1943. She was just starting her second year at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and was delighted to find that a family called Flanders lived opposite at no. 9 Heath Close. Thus started a long friendship with the late Michael Flanders. Léonie had previously lived in Ealing and it was while she was at Notting Hill and Ealing High School that she made up her mind to be an actress. The school had a yearly Shakespeare competition which the young Peggy Ashcroft came to judge, and Léonie's class won. Foolishly, perhaps, her

parents agreed to let her leave school if she could get a scholarship to RADA. Having successfully achieved this, she remained in the theatre for some eight years until in the autumn of 1952 she joined the small staff of a monthly magazine called *Theatre World*. She remained there as assistant editor until the end of 1961. In 1958 she married an architect, James Stephen. They had two children, Christopher, who is a freelance journalist at present in Bosnia, and Vanessa, working at present in Edinburgh as a landscape architect. Léonie continued to work as a freelance theatre critic until 1989, and some of you may know that she writes the reviews in this paper. What some of you may not know

is that in 1950 she played opposite the 'Man from Uncle', namely David McCullum, in a play called *Festival Time* at the Institute Theatre with the local amateur group then called the Speedwell Players.

Having lived for some years in Pimlico, she returned to the Suburb in 1959 and has lived here ever since, moving to Willifield Way in 1969. Feeling the need to do something besides writing about the theatre, she became a volunteer at the Hendon Citizens Advice Bureau in 1978, becoming a joint Manager of Bell Lane three years later and retiring from that post in September last year.

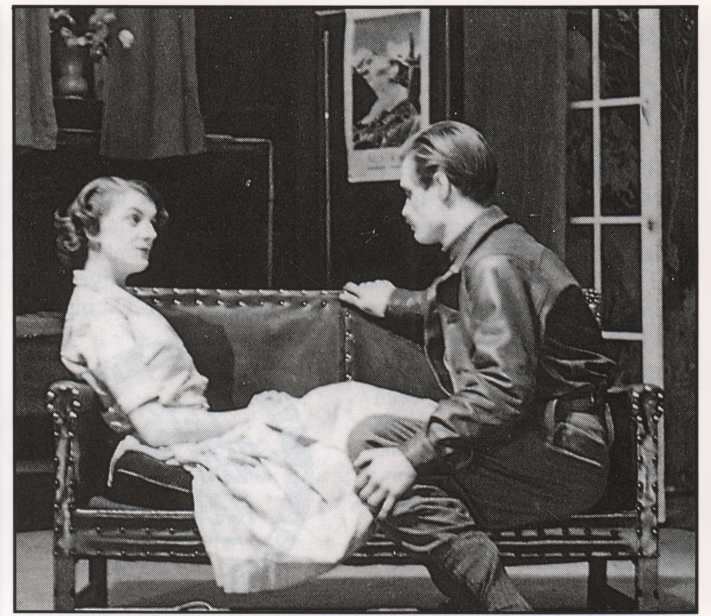
Léonie has been a member of the RA for some four years and

has been chairman of the Trees and Open Spaces Committee for three years. It was a role she very much enjoyed, in spite of the frustrations in trying to get the right tree planted in the right place.

She says that she is looking forward to her future role as Chairman of the Residents Association but is very conscious of the fact that in replacing Eileen Whelan she is following a really excellent and committed Chairman.

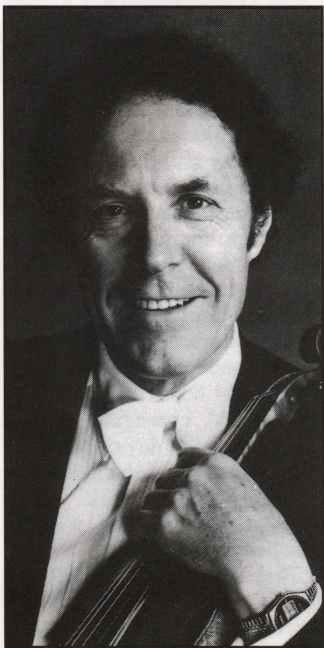
Léonie is also conscious of the urgent need for new younger members for the RA Council. "We have some dedicated workers but we need some new blood" she said.

Richard J. Wakefield



Festival Time 1956, Léonie plays opposite David McCullum

Musical OBE



Erich Gruenberg, one of Britain's most distinguished violinists, was awarded the OBE for services to music in the New Year's honours list.

He has performed on the Suburb at Henrietta Barnett School concerts and at last year's St Jude's Proms, but spends considerable time touring and playing all over the world. His most recent local performance was at the International Society's fourth meeting at Fellowship House on 29 March, where what was advertised as a talk turned into a recital of music on Eastern themes.

Azim Husain, in thanking Mr Gruenberg profusely for his generosity, said, 'One can hear people play or hear them give lectures, but rarely both.'

The Gruenbergs have lived in Northway since 1967.

Richard J. Wakefield

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WHAT'S ON

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RA Council Meeting. First Tuesday of every month, except August 8.00 pm. All residents welcome. Contact Secretary for venue: Sylvia de Peyer 455 3873.

HGS Free Church, Central Square. Sunday Services 11 am and 6.30 pm. Junior Church 11 am. Creche for babies.

HGS Townswomen's Guild meets first Monday in each month (excluding Bank Holidays). 2.00 pm. St Jude's Church Rooms. Contact: Mrs M. Argue 455 5073

HGS Playgroup. Free Church Hall, Northway. 3-5 year olds. Mon-Fri. 9.30-12.30 pm. Contact Cornelia Schraa 458-7998.

Suburb Bridge Club, Partnership Rubber. The Tea House, Northway. Every Tuesday, 7.30 pm. Enquiries to Hon. Sec., Mrs Claude Gough 081 444 8774.

The Pavilion Children's Centre, Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2. Mother/Carer & Toddler Playgroup for 0 to under 4's. Mon-Fri 9.30-10.45 am & 11-12.15 pm. Contact Simone Ross 883 1285 or Lisa Kagan 444 6769. Mothers with under 4's Tuesdays 1.45-3.00.

Hendon & HGS Camera Club. Every Friday. New Venue: Temple Fortune Club, 122 Bridge Lane, NW11. 7.30-10.00 pm. Practical sessions, visiting lecturers, competitions. Everyone welcome. Contact Jack Wicks 205 6053 or Andrew Rix 458 6860.

Golders Green Library. Children's Storytime, every Wednesday for under 5's. 2 pm. Six O'clock Club, every Thursday, for children of any age. 6 pm. Saturday Club 11 am. Contact 458-2168.

HGS Scrabble Club Saturdays 23 April and 14, 28 May. Fellowship House, Willifield Way. 2-5.00 pm. £1.50 per session. Contact A. Lawson 458 3827.

123 Parent & Toddler Group. Creative Play for 2-4 year olds: painting, printing, collage, model making. The Parlour, Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green, NW11. Tuesdays 2 - 3.30 pm. Also: Toddlers Playtime Tue, Wed, Thur. 9.30 am-12.00 pm. For further details 458 5410.

Fellowship House Club, for residents over 60. Fellowship House, Willifield Green. Mon-Fri. Keep Fit, Old Time Dancing, Handicrafts, Scrabble, Bridge, Classical Music, Singing. Tuesday afternoons films, slides, talks, play readings. Contact Florence Chamberlain 455-1491 or Jean Dyson 455-8193

APRIL

23 Golders Green Rotary Roadshow - Antique Valuation. Bigwood Hall, Bigwood Road. 2-5 pm. £2. £1.50 per valuation, max 2 pieces. Proceeds to North London Hospice, and Action Research..

28 Golders Green Library. Coffee morning. Speaker to be arranged. Contact 458-2168.

28,29, Garden Suburb Theatre. "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. The Institute, Central Square. 8 pm.

30 Guided Visit to Letchworth Garden City. Contact: Eileen Whelan, 101 Willifield Way, NW11 6YH: enclosing s.a.e.

MAY

7 The Harwington Scheme. Spring Open Day & Plant Sale. Grounds of Furnival House, Cholmley Park, Highgate Village. 10-2 pm.

7 Henrietta Barnett School. Jumble Sale. Free Church Hall, Northway. 2-4 pm.

7 Free Church. Drop-In Coffee Morning. Everyone welcome. Free Church Hall, Northway. 10.30 am.

9 HGS Townswomen's Guild. Talk by Mr G Roots, Curator of Church Farmhouse Museum. St Jude's Church Rooms. 2.00 pm..

10-14 Manor House Hospital Operatic Society. "La Belle Héliène" by Offenbach. The Institute, Central Square. 7.30 pm £6.50-£9.00, depending on which day. Box Office 958-4545.

13 Organ Recital. Roger Judd. St Jude's. 7.30 pm.

14 Abbeyfield House. Coffee & Home-made biscuits. All welcome. Abbeyfield House, Holmesfield, Erskine Hill, NW11. 10.30-12.00 pm.

14 Free Church. Plant & Cake Sale. Free Church Hall, Northway. 2 pm.

14&15 HGS Institute. Bridge Weekend. Tea House, Northway.

14&15 HGS Institute. "Improve Your Memory". Short Course. Thomas More Centre, East End Road.

15 Free Church. Junior Church Festival. Free Church, Central Square. 11 am and 6.30 pm.

15 Pavilion Children's Centre. Summer Festival. The Pavilion, Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2. 2-5.30 pm.

21 Family Holiday Association. Fete on the Square. To be opened by Gwen Taylor. Central Square. 2 pm.

21 HGS Horticultural Society. Plant Sale. Fellowship House, Willifield Way. 10.00 am.

21 Garden Suburb Theatre. "Little Acorns". Fund Raising Gala for Oak Wood Project. The Institute, Central Square. 7.30 pm. £10. Frieda Stewart. 455-6669

24 National Council of Women, HGS Branch. Annual Business Meeting. St Albans Small Hall, West Heath Drive, NW11. 2

24 HGS Theatre Club. Visit to "A Month in the Country". Albery Theatre. pm. Contact R Gumb 455-6490 or C Mohr 458-2584.

JUNE

4 Free Church. Drop-in Coffee Morning: everyone welcome. Free Church Hall, Northway. 10.30 am.

6 HGS Townswomen's Guild. Talk: "Our Superstitions and their Origins" by Mrs M Crowther. St Jude's Church Rooms. 2 pm.

6 HGS Institute. New Prospectus available. Central Square.

10 Organ Recital. David Graham. St Jude's. 7.30 pm.

11 HGS Playgroup Summer Fete. Stalls, Games, Children's Fancy Dress, Buffet. Free Church Hall, Northway. 12-4 pm.

13 HGS Institute. Enrolment for existing students. Central Square.

18 Garden Suburb School. Summer Fair. Childs Way. 12 noon.

20 HGS Institute. Enrolment for new students. Central Square.

22 HGS Theatre Club. Visit to "Beau Stratagem". Richmond Theatre. pm. Contact R Gumb 455-6490 or C Mohr 458-2584.

23 Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Tutored Wine-Tasting & Quiz. St Edward's Church Hall, Hoop Lane. 7.30 pm. Tickets: C Smith 455-1472.

25 HGS Institute. Open Day and Concert. The Institute, Central Square.

25 Hampstead & District Scots Association. Summer Dance. Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, NW11. 7.30-11 pm. Kafoozalum Country Dance Band, and Pipe Major Bryan Bredin.

25 Youth Music Centre. Summer Term Concert. Bigwood House, Bigwood Road. 2.30 pm.

28 National Council of Women, HGS Branch. AGM. 2 pm. Phone 455-1664.

JULY

1 Organ Recital. Andrew McCrea. St Jude's. 7.30 pm.

1-9 The Proms at St Jude's. See Publicity page 4.

2 Free Church. Drop-In Coffee Morning. Everyone welcome. Free Church Hall, Northway. 10.30 am.

2 HGS Horticultural Society. Flower Show. Free Church Hall, Northway. 3 pm.

4 HGS Townswomen's Guild. Talk by Mary Digby, Children's Play Specialist at Barts. Hospital. St Jude's Church Rooms. 2 pm.

4 HGS Institute. Summer Term ends.

5 HGS Institute. Summer Short Course programme begins. Central Square.

8, 9 Garden Suburb Theatre. "Wealth" by Aristophanes.

13, 14, Little Oak Wood Open Air Theatre, Addison Way, NW11. 7.30 pm. On 9th & 16th at 3 pm. also. £3.50 & £2.50. No advance booking. Enquiries 455-6669.

15, 16 HGS Institute. EFL Summer School begins. Central Square.

24 National Council of Women, HGS Branch. Garden Meeting. 43 Hill Top, NW11. 2.30 pm.

25 HGS Institute. Junior Holiday Courses begin. Central Square.

27 North London Hospice, NW Support Group. AGM. Fellowship House Willifield Way. 8 pm.

DEADLINE for the Summer Issue June 11 for publication on July 23. Items for What's On Column to Jackie Norman, 8 Constable Close, NW11 6TY. Contributions and letters to the editor, Richard J Wakefield, 26 Hampstead Way, NW11 7JL.

Views expressed in Suburb News are those of the authors and not necessarily of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.

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