

New Chairman for Trust

After polling the highest number of votes in the last Trust election for Council members Gerry Mansell has resigned following his recent move away from the Suburb.

Eddie Caplin, who came second in the election has been appointed Chairman and Colin Gregory has been co-opted to fill

the vacancy created.

Both Eddie Caplin and Colin Gregory have been active RA Council members and Colin has said he will continue to serve on both bodies following the example of Elizabeth Layton who for many years was on both RA and Trust Councils.

RW

New Minister for Free Church

Following the sad death of the Rev. Peter Barraclough in December 1992, the members of the Free Church have been without a Minister for over a year. However, they have worked hard to maintain the life and activities of the Church. They invited a series of visiting Ministers to conduct the services, giving them the opportunity to hear from preachers from a wide range of denominations and backgrounds.

After careful and lengthy consideration of the type of Minister they were looking for, the Elders considered a number of suggestions put to them by the Baptist Union and United Reformed Church, and finally an invitation went to the Rev.

Anthony Spring, MA, to be the new Minister. The Church is delighted that he has accepted.

The Rev. Anthony Spring is a URC Minister, who has held pastorates in West Bromwich, Camberley and Southampton. After gaining a Chemistry Degree at Exeter University, he studied Divinity at New College, London; and he has just completed an MA in Theology and Education at King's College, London. His wife, Helen, teaches religious studies, and his son and daughter are both students at university.

The Induction Service will be held at the Free Church on Saturday, 26th February, 1994, at 3 p.m. Everyone will be welcome. JH



Pictorial History of the Parish of Hendon

The pace of change in our immediate surroundings brought about by first the underground and subsequently the motor car, is brought home by a new book by Stewart Gillies and Pamela Taylor of Barnet's Archives and Local Studies Centre.

"Hendon, Childs Hill, Golders Green and Mill Hill" is a pictorial history of the manor and parish of Hendon.

Its 166 photographs and illustrations show how parts of the borough familiar to us now looked very different early in the century or indeed as recently as the 1960s.

It is hard to believe now that opposition to the introduction of 'The Electric Light Scheme' should have been a local election issue in 1902 or even that Willifield Way/Asmunds Hill, the site of the Suburb's new 'roundabout', could be photographed without a single car in evidence.

A delightful browse through times past which will doubtless bring back memories for some of our older readers.

"Hendon, Childs Hill, Golders Green and Mill Hill" is published by Phillimore at £11.95.

RW

Allotment Prize

At the Autumn Harvest Home supper allotment holders and their guests enjoyed superb food, and a convivial evening in Fellowship House.

It was the occasion of the annual presentation of the Phyllis Young Memorial trophy for the best Suburb allotment which was this year won by Evelyn Thomas of Willifield Way with Chris Page as runner up.

The trophy was presented by John Brown who had chaired the judging panel and who until recently was head of the Arts and Crafts department at the Institute.

RW

International Society success

The International Society's second meeting, in November, was a sell out as more people than expected turned up to hear stimulating talks from Chaim Bermont, journalist, broadcaster and Suburb resident, who spoke about the background to the recent Palestinian/Israeli accord and Gerry Mansell, former Deputy Director General of the BBC, on the role of the BBC World Service.

On January 27 the HGS International Society meets again to hear Judge Sanders talk on Common Market - Common Law?

If you would like to join call Azim Husain 458 6729 or Yuki Norikoshi 455 7619.

RW

James Webster 1916-93

With the sudden tragic death of James Webster in November, the Garden Suburb has lost one of its most stalwart and forthright characters.

A heating engineer by profession, he lived in Corringway for 21 years and ran his own business in Finchley for some 40 years. His war service was in the Royal Corps of Signals and some flavour of his military background remained with him.

But it was his intense involvement in the life of the Suburb which really marked him out. Such was his energy that many of his friends were surprised to find that he was 77 years old.

He served on the Council of the Residents Association for some years and continued to be closely involved with the social side of the Association, including the annual fete. His presence added sparkle to many occasions.

The various schemes for the development of the Mendels

Garage site in Corringway found him helping his fellow residents by circulating information and co-ordinating responses to the official bodies involved. Nothing was too much trouble.

He was always ready to help out residents with their personal problems, particularly in areas of his expertise - and they were numerous! Only a week before he died he provided a neighbour with a valve for his central heating system!

He had been happily married to his wife Audrey for 52 years and he leaves three children and nine grandchildren. She has received many kind letters from residents who held him in high regard and has given me permission to quote part of one of these: "James was a truly good friend to me, humorous, bad tempered, kind and youthful - I loved his pent-up energy and active mind". That, says Audrey, was the man she knew and loved. FLT

LETTERS

Fosse Cottage
46 Church Street
Fontmell Magna
Dorset SP7 0NY

12th November 1994

Dear Mr Wakefield

I feel a deep sense of anguish, indeed outrage, that the Institute Council has seen fit to betray the memory of Dame Henrietta by instituting legal action to evict her School from its rightful home!

Even more so with your report in the last edition of the News that such unilateral action is to be financed by selling the 'family silver', long kept in trust for the common good of the Charity.

The William Ratcliffe painting of Willifield Way to which Fay Naylor refers, is certainly one of the finest examples of the work of an artist of the internationally renowned Camden Town Group. I well recall William Ratcliffe's brother discussing with me the most appropriate way of ensuring that it should be treasured and remain on view in perpetuity in the Suburb that William so revered and whose family of female offspring were (ironically enough!) educated at the Henrietta Barnett School. Originally he had in mind presenting it to the latter but, after discussion with the

Headmistress, it was agreed in writing, that it should be accepted by the Institute and hung in what was then both the Principal's and Clerk to the School Governors' Room. It remained there until my successor some twenty years later decided to loan it to the Tate Gallery to ensure its safety. Today, I am told such a masterpiece would probably fetch £30/£40,000 at auction. Surely it would be a travesty to consider such a sale without prior consultation with the Ratcliffe family who gave it to the Institute as a registered Charity, a constituent part of which is the School!

Similarly, the proposed sale of 'property' (the Canon Barnett Homesteads?) and 'antique furniture' which is presumably that given to the Institute by the Executors of the Dame's will for the common use of the Charity on her death in 1936.

I pray with all my heart that even at this late stage, common sense and moral probity may prevail, so that the magnificent Lutyens building of the Institute may remain the ancestral home of the two bodies whose unity is their strength; divided both will surely fail.

Yours sincerely,
John Enderby
Principal of the Institute
and Clerk to the School Governors
1954-1984

17 Asmunds Hill
NW11 6ES

23 rd November '93

Editor,

A short piece in the last number of Suburb News stated that the Institute founded the Henrietta Barnett School. This is in fact not correct and whatever our views of the situation between the Institute and the School at the present time we should have

the facts correct.

There are two papers in the Suburb Archives one which states that Mrs Barnett founded the School; the other which states that it grew out of a smaller school which was already held in the Institute premises. The Institute as such had no part in the founding of the school. It merely provided the premises in which the School was held which continued ever since 1909.

Yours,
Kathleen M. Slack

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