

The Barnett's Day

St Jude's was packed on June 17 when the Rt. Revd John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney, gave the address at the first *Celebration of the Commemoration of Samuel and Henrietta Barnett*.

The choirs of St Jude's (Director: Andrew McCrea) and the Free Church (Director: Ken Dougall) with Alyth Choral Society (Director: Vivian Bellos) sang a variety of pieces including Psalm 122 in Hebrew and English versions. Rahman

Jilani and Sandip Chakravorty from Toynbee Asian Studies Department performed Mystical Songs from the Bangladeshi tradition. Sir Sigmund Sternberg talked about the work of the Three Faiths Forum of which he is founder and convenor. There were exhibitions in the church from the Suburb Archives, Toynbee Hall and the Jewish Museum. The collection raised just over £450 for the work of Toynbee Hall.

ALAN WALKER

Charley's Aunt in Little Wood

"I am Charley's aunt from Brazil, where the nuts come from." Probably one of the most famous sentences in British theatre. Colin Gregory's inventive production, in the theatre in Little Wood, of Brandon Thomas's jolly play looks good from the moment two charming dancers, Louisa and Debbie Day, open the proceedings.

We are in commemoration week, Oxford, 1982, and Jack Chesney (Tony Singh) and Charley Wykeham (Lyndon Radnedge) are hoping to meet the girls they are in love with. They need a chaperone but Charley's Aunt wires to say that she will be delayed. Lord Faucourt Babberley (David Brown) is prevailed upon to pretend to be the aunt, Donna Lucia, and by doing so starts a whole series of misconceptions. The young undergraduates are

well contrasted and their ladies, Elizabeth Travis and Sandi Singh, as Kitty and Amy, suitably demure. Rusty Ashman makes a dashing Sir Francis Chesney while Lorraine Finnerty as the real Donna Lucia graciously smoothes the ruffled feelings. David Brown gets a lot of humour out of the predicament of a man pretending to be a woman.

Newcomer Bernard Smith makes his mark with a knowing and dignified portrayal of Brasset, a college scout.

The very attractive set was designed by Colin Gregory and Marilyn Greene and the girls' dances which open each act are by Emma Solomons.

My only quibble is the music. Dialogue in the open air causes the actors enough problems without them having to contend with music while they speak.

LEONIE STEPHEN

'We were astonished to be honoured with life membership of the RA this year', say the unassuming Neals. 'The most interesting thing about us is our house!' Of which they are rightly proud. They regularly let groups of architecture students - from as far apart as Sweden and Japan - visit it, and it was recently used as the background to a reading of *Winnie the Pooh* by Alan Bennett for TV. True, it is not the only admirable Baillie Scott house on the Suburb (featuring in an exhibition about the architect currently touring Britain) but it is perhaps unique in that no feature of the 'arts and crafts' interior has been altered since it was built in Meadway in 1910. In 1924 Tim Neal was born in it and he has lived there continuously ever since (his university and wartime RAF days excepted), bringing Jean to it as his wife in 1960, a couple of years after his mother's death.

This careful preservation of the unaltered house is entirely in character for both of them, as they lead unobtrusive lives in which constancy and dependability rather than restless change have been principles throughout.

Both were up at Cambridge at the same time (although they did not meet until later): he reading modern languages, she English literature. Tim became a teacher - first in London and then for the rest of his working life in Chorleywood (teaching rowing as well as French and German). Jean went into publishing (after brief periods in



other fields, including the Enigma code-breaking project at Bletchley), editing legal books for Butterworths - she still does indexing for them, freelance, today.

For decades both have taken an active part in Suburb affairs - and, as with their professional work, whenever they took on a commitment they stayed with it. For a quarter-century, Jean has served the Fellowship House Club devotedly - at first, doing such unglamorous but essential tasks as serving teas and driving elderly members to and from meetings; currently, she organizes the Friday afternoon sessions when a dozen or more members gather to listen to a programme of recorded music. And for just as long she hosted, organised and cooked for annual fund-raising lunches on behalf of Oxfam, her home thronged with people enjoying the food and buying from stalls of books, cakes, etc - over the years, she raised £16,000. But

with the passage of time, she has at last had to give this up, together with the big Oxfam book fairs which she helped to run annually in Hampstead, raising some £6,000 a year.

'These days', she says, 'there just aren't enough volunteers to help me.' (Is it that younger people no longer have the time? Or, in these monetarist days, has the notion of giving help without reward not been handed down the generations?)

Tim, meantime, served the Suburb in other ways. For over 20 years he acted regularly in the Play and Pageant Union which developed into today's Garden Suburb Theatre; and it is his voice, along with Donald Sinden's, that provides the commentary on a 1975 video about the Suburb and its architecture, copies of which can still be bought or borrowed from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. For some 20 years he was on the Council of the

Residents Association, serving on its conservation and trees committees, running the extensive network of local representatives for every street, and, like Jean, involving himself in events for the over-60s at Fellowship House: he still does occasional slide-lectures or play-readings there.

The Neals are a model of local public service, largely carried out behind-scenes; with few residents really aware how much quiet work is done on their behalf, year in year out. A hard act to follow!

And in what spare time is left? They go birdwatching together, here and abroad (sometimes leading walks on the Heath for members of the London Wildlife Trust, or helping with surveys in Big Wood or Turners Wood, or campaigning for conservation at the Welsh Harp). And they go train-watching too - one of Tim's enthusiasms from the age of six - even riding on the footplates of steam engines, penetrating the mysteries of Brunel's tunnel under the Thames to Rotherhithe, or steaming up 'the Met', Betjeman-style.

ELIZABETH GUNDREY

Tree party

There's a new medlar tree in Northway Gardens. It was planted because the Residents Association wanted to say a big thank you to Janette Harris for her many years of selfless service to the RA and to the Suburb.

On a sunny May morning, with a good number of friends and neighbours looking on, Janette planted the tree of her choice and everyone went on to a lively party at the home of Friends of Northway Gardens Chairman Sally Lewis and her husband David.

This should have been a picture story. When a camera is stolen it is easily replaced. Not so the pictures of a happy occasion hidden inside. Sorry Janette.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

Wordsearch answers

The names hidden in the box were: Arosa, Avoriaz, Cortina, Courchevel, Glenshee, Gstaad, Isola, Klosters, Mayrhofen, Meribel, Pontresina, Saas Fee, St Anton, Tignes, Villars, Wengen.

There were no entries for the competition this quarter as there were printing errors in the box of letters. The errors affected the words Glenshee and Wengen.

Message to wordsearchers

After twenty-five happy years living on the Suburb, my family and I are moving to Hampstead. Sheila McMichael, a keen word-searcher and previous winner, has agreed to continue testing your brains each edition, starting this quarter! I have enjoyed planning each wordsearch in the past years and have been

pleased and surprised by your level of interest. But most of all, thank you to past winners for the fine cups of tea and cake which I received when I visited to interview them. I enjoyed hearing about your long and interesting lives, much of which had to be left out of the profile.

Best wishes

ELIZABETH WATKINS

WORDSEARCH

Find and ring the names of 17 post-war (1946 onwards) winners of THE LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP AT WIMBLEDON.

To start you off, the 1946 winner was BETZ (ringed). Can you find sixteen more. The names are hidden in the box of letters and may read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally.

NB. Several ladies won under both their maiden and married names. Only their maiden names are included in this Wordsearch.

B L K W O R O C L A O K S E D
V E R T S T U N B M C E D P I
A B T O B U R W E G J A K N O
D R I Z O W L E M U W H A V R
W O L E R P C F V D B V N C E
Q U O J N T A W G E O F T S M
N G I B E R Z O H L J P U R I
O H T I G S O K I V E S K A T
S E D O R L N T C R M B I S R
B S N S A P A J H A S U N T O
I H L G N R O I N B Q R G I M
G R O E V N U Y L L O N N O C
O N B A T S P U G F W S I D O
G A N X C I B M A R T I N E Z
T S I Y R F O L N H T I M S A

Senior citizens may list their answers on a postcard. Entries should be sent to 2 North Square NW11 7AA and should give a name, address and telephone number. The closing date is 25th September. The first correct entry drawn after the closing date will receive a £20 book token.

SHEILA McMICHAEL

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