

# Mary Butler 1898 - 2000

Mary Butler, resident of Willifield Way for over forty years, died in April just a few short weeks before her 102nd birthday.

She had been housebound for only a couple of years and latterly bedridden, but never lost her wonderful wit, sense of humour and kindness.

She had no bitterness for what had been in part a rather lonely life – particularly without children of her own – but a great love for humanity and continual interest in the world about her.

Until her mid-nineties she did all her own shopping locally, with her trolley basket, and was known in Temple Fortune as 'The Little Duchess', well dressed and sprightly, with a smile for everyone – and always wearing a smart hat. Having been a milliner in her young days, as well as a variety of other occupations, she never felt properly dressed without one and deplored their demise. Even during her many dog-walking years in the woods, summer and winter, a stylish hat covered her white curls.



A great animal lover, she collected a few thousand pounds in coppers over the years for

'Guide Dogs for the Blind', her favoured charity, and many local moggies were always certain of a welcome and tit-bits in her kitchen – as long as they left her birds alone.

She became a 'star' on TV in 1993 with BBC2's programme 'The Nineties'. The episode featuring Mary won a most prestigious American award, 'The Peabody'. The young producer, Kate Broome, who had become – and remained – a firm friend and admirer of Mary during the making of the film, was flown to New York to receive the accolade. Mary was thrilled and could hardly believe that a film about her life had caused such interest the other side of the world. Even two of her poems, read by her, too, were used as background 'voice-over' to the action of the film. Mary was really an actress manquée and for many years she devised and gave entertaining programmes for various blind peoples' clubs, with her verse and prose readings. Mary had a very literary mind and wrote enchanting stories throughout her long life.

JACQUELINE MORRIS

# Peggy Sales 1917-1999



Peggy Sales in Bomber Command

Margaret Vera (Peggy) Sales was born in Portsmouth during the first World War. Her mother had been evacuated there from Dover which was the family's real home and where Peggy went to school and grew up. Sadly Peggy's father died when she was only six leaving her mother to bring her and her

sister Mary up in difficult circumstances.

Although scholarly and an outstanding pupil Peggy had to leave school at 14 to help her mother. She worked at first in a ladies' clothes shop in Dover and then Canterbury, but was fortunate in having the looks that led to her developing a career as a model, and she moved to London in pursuit of this. But she kept up her interests and studies at evening class in Canterbury, where she met Tom who was to become her husband, and at Morley College in London.

Tom and Peggy shared a political outlook and concern and were both (worried) by the Government's attitude towards

the developments in Europe, in particular the regimes of Franco and Hitler. And this was something they knew about first hand for with Peggy's sister now living in Brussels they would on their visits travel into Germany walking, staying in youth hostels and experiencing the Nazi regime at first hand. They made special point of entering Jewish-owned shops ignoring the storm troopers stationed outside to deter customers.

And the Nazis noticed Peggy. On one occasion in Trier in 1938 a staff car, a large Mercedes-Benz, stopped and its occupant, a general no less, gave her a note requesting – ordering – a meeting that night. Needless to say she did not keep the appointment. The general could hardly have known that this was someone who had taken part in anti-fascist demonstrations in London against Mosley's Black Shirts, and who would shortly be a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

After the war, and Tom's return from military service and entry into Barclays Bank, they settled first in Canterbury, and then moved to London, living in Golders Green and then moving to the Suburb in 1964. Their two children Richard and Elizabeth grew up in these parts.

Peggy now trained as a teacher and studied and took a particular interest in child development. She taught at the Suburb School in Child's Way and later became deputy head in Hendon.

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# A.W. Cleeve Barr 1910 - 2000

**(Director of the Suburb film 1975)**

A.W. Cleeve Barr, who died on May 30, was a distinguished architect, who at one time worked with Charles Holden on the Senate House of London University and later on the design of Hertfordshire schools and then for the old L.C.C. In 1959 he became chief architect for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. After being chief architect and Director for the National Building Agency he ran a film-making unit for them in 1975.

As Hampstead Garden Suburb's contribution to European Architectural Heritage Year, he and David Percy, chairman of Finchley Cine Society, set about making a film on all aspects of our Suburb. I was delighted when he asked me to do much of the commentary for this film. For those who have not seen it, the film covered the whole history of the Suburb from Henrietta Barnett's beginnings through the period of the great upset, when commercial interests tried to take over the area and the New Suburb Trust eventually came into being, up to the then (1975) present day.

There were interviews with religious leaders, the Chairman of the Trust and many other residents.

Much of the film was concerned with the architecture and scenery, but the activities of organisations such as Fellowship House, the great Churches and the Synagogue were also featured. There were scenes on the Heath Extension, Fallosen Way and the campaign against the proposed lorry route, a few shots outside the Suburb such as the Old Bull and Bush and the garish shop fronts in Golders Green Road.

One might think from this film that we had glorious weather in 1975, but in fact it was very rainy, and shooting had to take place whenever the

sun broke through. Another problem was aircraft noise, and many an outside shot had to have several "takes" because of an intruding aeroplane at the last moment.

It was great fun working with Cleeve Barr, who was the patient and helpful director. Much of the film-making was new to me such as "Noddies", when after each interview the interviewer has to be filmed nodding, so that inserts of this can be used where a cut in the interviewee's talk is needed. Also the recording of "voice overs" made later, when all the filming has been finished. Some of this was done in our garden after midnight, which must have puzzled some of the neighbours. There were also some aerial shots and a helicopter had to be hired, which again was dogged by bad weather. One day Cleeve was filming at the Henrietta Barnett Memorial on Central Square and, as I was away at the time, he asked a passer-by to put on the leather jacket I wore in the film and rest his hand on the memorial in order to give the impression that I was standing there talking.

In order to get a contrasting voice for some of the "voice overs" Cleeve wanted to have a distinguished personality and was lucky to get Donald Sinden, who of course is a Suburb resident, to do this in his inimitable and amusing style.

Nowadays, if one mentions the film, people tend to think you mean the BBC Omnibus film, which certainly did not give anything like such an all round picture of our community as this film did, made with such care by Cleeve Barr, who has died at the age of 89.

T. NEAL



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