

All the fun of the Square!

The Garden Suburb Festival opened with a swing as a trio of roving jazz musicians entertained early arrivals on Central Square. The Festival, organised by the RA Events committee, aimed to bring together local organisations and groups to celebrate a sense of community and the diversity of interests on the Suburb in the Millennium year.

From early in the morning, the exhibitors had set up their stalls in Central Square in front of the Institute. Traffic was banned for the day between Northway and Southway and pedestrians enjoyed their unaccustomed freedom to stroll about.

The RA Trees and Open Spaces stall provided pamphlets

on places of interest in Hampstead and surrounding areas and information on walks and events borough-wide. The RA Gallery had a selection of books and works of art currently available in the Gallery.

Fellowship House and Abbeyfield were represented, together with the Northwest Hospice Support Group. The Feng Shui Partnership added a touch of magic and mystery to the scene.

In addition to these locally based groups, The National Trust and English Heritage stalls recruited new members and encouraged residents to visit historic and beautiful homes and gardens. Oxfam and Traidcraft took advantage of the opportunity to

fundraise and sell their wares to an appreciative audience.

In the Free Church Hall, the RA Archive Photographic Exhibition 'Life on the Suburb 2000' showed a selection of photographs submitted to the Photo Competition. Remember that you can still enter photographs for this competition, which aims to show how life was lived in the Year 2000 (details of how to enter from the Gallery).

The Horticultural Society staged a magnificent display, including scrapbooks of past glories which made interesting reading for today's residents. The Townswomen's Guild treated us to a delicious selection of home-made cakes and preserves which helped raise a welcome donation to the Macmillan Nurses Fund.

The Festival had been planned to coincide with the Institute's Open Day and we were encouraged to share in their many delightful exhibitions and displays. The photographic exhibition was distinguished by a most professional presentation and music and dancing displays entertained visitors throughout the day. The wine-tasting proved very popular with the grown-ups and the children happily emerged from face-painting sessions as pussycats and lions. There was indeed something for everyone.

As noon approached, the excitement grew as a bright red fire-engine clanged its way onto the Square and parked outside the Institute. Four Finchley fire-fighters had sacrificed a precious afternoon to entertain the children. Toddlers climbed into the cab and, under the careful supervision of a uniformed fireman, learnt the drill.

Later, the local police entered into the spirit of festivity and arrived in a Panda car for the children to explore. Helmet masks emblazoned with the slogan "Have fun, take care" were issued to the youngsters by their local beat policeman.

At mid-day, the sound of children's voices mingled with the wind-chimes from the Feng Shui Partnership as David Joiner directed the Youth Music Centre Choir in a programme of Folk Songs from Around the World. The children were delighted as a large audience gathered to hear a collection of songs from many different cultures.

Delicious refreshments were available throughout the day in the Institute and Bigwood House. As three o'clock approached, the crowds thinned, some to watch the Wimbledon women's tennis final, some to Little Wood to watch a performance of the Garden Suburb Theatre who staged Act 1 of 'In Good King Charles's Golden Days' by G. B. Shaw, followed by 'The Stars', a revival of the 1933 Pageant in Little Wood written by Cyril and Enid Kelsey, who lived on the Suburb in the inter-war years. With its stunning costumes and cast ranging from 7 to 70 year-old, the GST successfully recreated an old tradition.

So, in spite of the weather which threatened showers and the occasional drizzle to dampen spirits, the Suburb Festival 2000 provided a fun day for Hampstead Garden Suburb. And remember, if you have any good photographs, we'd like to see them!

ANNE CRAWLEY



Youth Music Centre entertained on the Square

Abbeyfield Open House



Inaugurating the Norma Blausten seats at Abbeyfield, seated Cyril Blausten and Norma Milner. Standing Peggy Turner, Rev Ralph Baldry, Mary Ambrose, Kay Bradley, Mike Milner, Douglas Blausten, Bertie Turrall, Dr Rudi Vis MP, Cllr John Marshall and Richard Blausten.

About 60 people visited Abbeyfield in Homesfield, Erskine Hill on Thursday, 22 June, for a very enjoyable 'Open House' Coffee Morning. Among them were Dr Rudi Vis MP and Councillor John Marshall, who both take a keen interest in Abbeyfield and are strong supporters of the work it does in providing care and very sheltered housing for 12 old people.

The occasion provided an opportunity for Cyril Blausten to dedicate two garden chairs purchased with donations in memory of his wife, Norma, who died earlier this year.

She had been a founding member of Abbeyfield in the Suburb in the 1970s, and deeply involved with the purchase of the property in Homesfield and its conversion from its origins as a children's home. She became Chairman of the Society for a period in the 1980s until ill health forced her to retire, but she remained a staunch friend and a constant source of encouragement until her death. Her sons Richard and Douglas were also present.

Abbeyfield in the Suburb is one of nearly 600 Societies managing over 900 houses

throughout the UK which provide accommodation for 8,500 older people and involve some 15,000 volunteers.

The date for this event was chosen to coincide with Abbeyfield Week, during which Societies all over the country

arranged celebrations, garden parties etc to give people the chance to find out what help they can get for themselves or their older relatives or friends. Another 'Open House' will be held on Saturday 16 September. Look for details in What's On.



Our local Oxfam organiser Richenda Barbour sells to RA Vice Chairman David Rapson seen here with Jane Rapson and Camilla Raab.



July 8 was the day the new Harry Potter came out



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