



Sheila McMichael attending a History of 20th Century Medicine seminar.

## Lady Sheila McMichael 1920 - 2000

Sheila McMichael who died suddenly from pneumonia on 31 July will be much missed by her Suburb neighbours, a wide circle of friends and the Residents Association. Her enthusiasm for the Garden Suburb Gallery kept her doing her stint as a volunteer shopkeeper from the time the RA opened its Gallery in 1995; she was one of the original RA Litter Team and had been the brains behind the popular Wordsearch in Suburb News for the last three years. Beyond the Suburb, Sheila had a distinguished medical career.

Her daughter Judy who lives in Hampstead Way wrote for the *BMJ*: Former Principal Medical Officer Medical Research Council Headquarters, London 1964 - 80 (b. 1920; q. London 1943 FRCP). After qualifying from UCH and house jobs, she joined the pioneering cardiac catheterisation team of McMichael and Sharpey-Schafer at Hammersmith. In 1947 she became research assistant to Professor Sir Charles Lovatt-Evans at University College London, and in 1949-55 worked as Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Cardiology, National Heart Hospital.

After a period at home with her young children, Sheila joined the headquarters office staff at the Medical Research Council in 1964. She progressed to the rank of Principal Medical Officer and head of the division predominantly responsible for clinical research.

On retirement in 1980 she had two relaxing years before her husband had a devastating stroke and her life became that of a persistent and devoted carer. After his death in 1993 she travelled extensively and pursued her musical interests. Sheila considered herself a classical Yorkshirewoman; hardworking, conscientious and at times blunt

speaking. She was an enthusiastic gardener and loved music, both playing and listening.

She married in 1949 Peter Sharpey-Schafer (who died in 1963) and in 1965 John McMichael. She leaves two daughters by Sharpey-Schafer (one a doctor) and five grandchildren.

JUDY SHARPEY-SCHAFER

### SHEILA McMICHAEL - AN APPRECIATION

Sheila was a friend and next door neighbour for 20 years.

She took a huge interest in the Suburb, always ready with thought-provoking and valuable advice, anecdotes and information drawn from her 50 years in the house in North Square as well as from her professional background. Never afraid of rolling up her sleeves, she was to the end our energetic 'Litter Warden', regularly to be seen roaming the Square on a tidying mission.

She rightly prided herself as a member of 'the old school' of gardening, scorned employment of the modern leaf-blower-wielding contractor and possessing a mine of horticultural information. Her garden was beautiful with an original and eclectic collection of plants.

A highly cultured woman, she possessed a seemingly endless encyclopedic knowledge and was an accomplished pianist too. She travelled widely: several visits were made over recent years to places along the old 'silk route'.

Sheila was a great neighbour, interested in our children, concerned about security matters and always ready with a dry witticism. New Year's Day will not be the same for her circle of friends without the traditional lunchtime drinks at Number 2. She was inimitable - a 'one-off'.

ANDREW BOTTERILL

## Norman Roy Wheatley 1918 - 2000

Norman Roy Wheatley FRICS, known to his family as Roy and to his friends as Norman, collapsed in his garden in Hampstead Way on 28 July and died later in the Royal Free Hospital. Norman was born in 1918 and brought up in North London. During his distinguished career as a chartered surveyor, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and served for 30 years as Secretary of the Standard Method of Measurement Committee - the joint body of the RICS and the building industry.

Norman married his wife, Joyce, in 1950 at St Albans church, Golders Green, and they moved to the Suburb in 1961 with their daughter, Margaret. It was Margaret, exhibiting that year in the children's classes of the Flower Show at the age of six, who persuaded her father to join the HGS Horticultural Society. This was the beginning of a nearly 40-year connection with the society, with Norman joining the committee in 1967, becoming Treasurer in 1969 and holding the chairmanship from 1983 until his death. He loved growing things from seed and won many prizes throughout the years at the society shows, especially for his roses and sweet peas. An especially poignant sight for his friends and relatives at his funeral in August was to see his coffin covered in the sweet peas he had grown himself.

Apart from the Horticulture Society, Norman had many other interests, some connected with his

profession, some with the Suburb and some which spanned all aspects of his life. A true gentleman, his unassuming care for others was expressed through his chairmanship of the St Giles Christian Mission in Islington, which had been established by his grandfather. He served on the Hertfordshire Buildings Preservation Trust, and, as Honorary Surveyor, advised the committee of the local Abbeyfield House in Erskine Hill.

Norman gave generously of his time and professional skills in assisting St Albans church members to maintain the fabric of their building, in which he worshipped for over 50 years. Through his chairmanship of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, which advises Barnet on planning applications, he was able to demonstrate his concern for the preservation of the Suburb.

True to form, only a few weeks before his death, Norman apologised to the Horticultural Society committee for being unable to help to man the exhibition they were mounting in the Free Church Hall for the Suburb Millennium Weekend, because he had another engagement. Only the best of excuses would have taken precedence over the society's activities - Norman and Joyce were to celebrate their golden wedding at a party with their family and friends, including their two grandchildren, Thomas and Alex, in whom Norman took such great pride and pleasure.

MARJORIE HARRIS



Norman Wheatley with Joyce and their grandsons.

## Sing along for all with the three choirs

On a Saturday 18 November the Alyth Choral Society, St Jude's and the Free Church Choir will combine forces to lead a performance of specially selected excerpts from Parts I and II of Handel's greatest choral work 'Messiah'. All singers are invited to take part in this the penultimate concert in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Millennium Music programme. There will be a rehearsal for all singers on the afternoon of 18 November at 3pm, with the concert itself starting at 7.30pm in the Free Church, Central Square. An orchestra is being formed for the concert and the performance will be conducted by Ken Dougall, Director of Music at the Free Church. Ken is keen to have as large a choir as

possible to make this a special event and singers of all abilities will be very welcome. Those who would prefer to listen rather than sing are encouraged to come along; as for any concert an audience is just as important as the performers. The concert is free for the audience and a retiring collection will be taken for the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund.

The Free Church Choir are opening their weekly practices to anyone who would like to practise the 'Messiah' choruses and those interested are welcome to turn up at the Free Church any Thursday evening at 8.45pm (entering by the back door of the Church). Further details can be obtained by telephoning 8731 6755 or 01582 794975.



Mollie Cattle in the garden at the Orchard.

## Mollie Cattle 1908 - 2000

A large congregation assembled at Golders Green Crematorium on 25 July for Mollie's funeral. At the service, conducted by Reverend Ralph Baldry, he said he was sure all had their own memories of her life, and so following the words on the service sheet of a 'few thoughts about Mollie', his own contribution would be short.

Mollie, as she was known by all since she renounced her real forenames of Maeve Ormsby, was the middle sibling of her family. Her brother, the eldest, was educated at Highgate School and Cambridge, which was thus following the tradition of boys being given the better education while girls had to make the best of lesser schooling. Mollie and her sister did that very well. She had a good intellect and built up a knowledge and love of poetry and the theatre, and almost worshipped people like John Gielgud and Judi Dench. This interest was shown in her links with the Suburb Dramatic Societies and her own productions of the groups of 'Come into the parlour' and 'Patchwork', for all of which she was the Wardrobe Mistress and Chief Sewer. The Fellowship Club House enjoyed many of her group entertainments and play readings. Her audience will never forget her role in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and her magnificent

presentation of the two words 'a hand-bag'.

However, this leaves out her early life at Tottenham, then an outer London little compact town. When she was old enough to drive, Mollie chauffeured her GP father on his rounds and night-time call-outs. At 18 she became engaged to Teddy, and they married when she was 22. Her parents and others thought their marriage was too early, but Mollie and Teddy thought that the wait was too long. After a short time at Highgate, in 1935 they moved to Ossulton Way and started their family. When the war began they moved to Hitchen and she worked with the WVS (as it was before it became 'Royal', Women's Royal Voluntary Service).

After the war they returned to Ossulton Way and then, roughly per decade, toured the Suburb; Erskine Hill, Brookland Rise, Clarendon Court, where they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary, and after Teddy's death Molly retired to The Orchard. Teddy had retired at 60, so they had a wonderful free time together, and even though Teddy had a special hobby of racing cars, Mollie shared it.

So much could be said of her, which can be summed up in her character of Energy, Enthusiasm Affection and Loving Kindness. She therefore is admired and missed by so many people.

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