

A Gold for 28 years

Caroline Smith, chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb branch of the RNLI, received a Gold Badge from the President, the Duke of Kent, at the Annual Awards ceremony held at the Barbican on the 22nd May. This award is for 28 years of dedicated service to the Institution.

Acknowledgement should also be made to the Hampstead

Garden Suburb Committee who work actively and with great support at all the fund-raising events. If any *Suburb News* readers are able to help in any capacity, but especially with Flag Week, it would be much appreciated.

Please telephone Caroline Smith on 8455 1472, if you are able to help.

HGS Theatre Club

Yet again we have a sparkling programme ahead to cheer us up as the summer wanes thanks to our very own showbiz mole.

For the first time we are trying out a matinee in August, to Wyndham's Theatre to see Pirandello's *Absolutely! (Perhaps)*, a new production by Franco Zeffirelli, starring Joan Plowright, and in September, before the days grow too short, we have arranged an all day outing to the Watermill in Newbury. This is as good as a holiday – lovely peaceful country setting with resident ducks, a good lunch, a

jolly play and a delicious cream tea afterwards.

October seems a long way away but we have already booked for *His girl Friday* at the National, with Zoe Wannamaker and Alex Jennings. This play started life as *The Front Page*, described as 'Perhaps the greatest of all American comedies.'

Newcomers are welcome and RA members wishing to join the club should contact Charlotte Mohr on 8458 2584. The club sub is £8 pa and Charlotte will pass on requests to join the R.A. (Min. £6).

RUTH CASS

Lecture on the Shakers

A slide lecture on the Shakers in America entitled *More than a Chair and an Oval Box* will be given by Michael Rowley at Fellowship House on 23 September

2003 at 8pm. Michael will be outlining the history and religion of the Shakers, as well as showing some very pretty slides of their artifacts and buildings.

Mayor opens Oxfam shop

Cllr Melvin Cohen joined Denise Lamintini in reopening the refurbished shop in which Mrs Lamintini has worked as a volunteer since it started 32 years ago. The mayor was greeted by outgoing manager Andrew Morris and his replacement Frances Haynes who introduced the volunteers. Frances, who lives in Heathcroft and has recently

retired as Senior Nurse Manager from the Royal Free says, "The Oxfam shop is very much part of the local community and needs volunteers."

It would be ideal for young people who want work experience with a charity helping to raise money to overcome poverty and suffering." If you're interested then please ring 8455 3830.

News from Fellowship

At the time of writing, Fellowship is mourning one of its most popular and long-standing members, Ethel Whitehead, who died in June. She did a great deal for Fellowship in a quiet, unobtrusive way. Ethel was one of the finest people I have ever known. It was a real privilege to be a friend of hers.

Fellowship continues to flourish; we recently had a 'Thank You' party for our volunteers – nearly 100 of them. They all work so hard on Fellowship's behalf and are so conscientious that, occasionally, we like to tell them how much we appreciate their efforts.

You may recall that in my last Annual Report I mentioned that we might soon have to spend some of our capital on maintenance. I should have kept my mouth shut! We decided to have a new kitchen (ours really has not got the equipment and facilities that people expect to find in a kitchen these days). This required preliminary electrical work to be done, but when the electrician examined Fellowship House he said all our wiring was in a parlous state, so we are having to be completely re-wired. All this work will make a considerable dent in our finances.

EILEEN WHELAN

Help yourselves - the only way forward

An important partnership has been forged between the HGS Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch, a vital move in heightening their profiles among Suburb residents making them more aware of the part they play in protecting themselves, their families and their property from increasing crime.

At a time when Barnet Police are suffering a man-power shortage – 17 fewer officers than were allocated by the Metropolitan Police and recently they lost 10 vehicles for relocation to other boroughs – Neighbourhood Watch has never had a more important role to play.

With break-ins, aggravated burglary and keyhole burglaries on the increase and no bobbies on the beat, some residents are employing private security companies. Neighbourhood Watch strongly believes that if the majority of people became more community spirited in supporting its aims we could see a great reduction in crime and at no cost to individuals.

Long gone is the idea of Neighbourhood Watch being made up of a group of elderly curtain twitchers, although these days that wouldn't be such a bad thing. Your Neighbourhood Watch is well-organised and is there to protect you and your property but we can only do that with your co-operation and support.

The day-to-day work of Neighbourhood Watch is done by a steering committee all having busy lives and the youngest member is 27 who holds down a stressful job, enjoys a great social life but still finds time to serve his community – he sees it as important. It is the job of the committee, who meet once a month, to gain financial

sponsorship for our twice yearly Community Action newsletter which reaches every home on the Suburb providing information on local crime and how to counteract it and latest police trends/policy.

We raise additional money to pay for our day-to-day running and organise Neighbourhood Watch events to maintain our profile among Suburb residents.

Additionally, we give up-to-the-minute information on crime and regular crime statistics to more than 60 Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators scattered about the Suburb who, supported by their street wardens, waste no time in getting this vital information out to their members. We have regular liaison with the police mainly through our Home Beat Officer who sadly has now gone on to greater things in another borough and will not be replaced for the foreseeable future. We also represent your interests on various outside committees in the Borough including Barnet Boroughwatch our umbrella group.

When you decided to move to the Suburb you did so because it is a desirable area in which to live where people looked out for each other. By you taking in a more responsible attitude about your home security and reporting anything suspicious to the police the Suburb can remain a 'special place'.

Neighbourhood Watch is free and it's there for you – providing you are prepared to be involved. We need more active co-ordinators and street wardens to help us fight crime in the area. For your own good and that of your families get involved by phoning David Fulton on 020 8455 0337.

KAYE MORGAN

Tribute to Ethel Whitehead

90 year old Ethel Whitehead will be much missed on the Suburb. She died on Thursday morning, June 5th 2003 at Eastside House.

Ethel was born on 27th May 1913 in the house on the Suburb where she lived all of her 90 years. A red peony was planted in the garden in the year of her birth and it has bloomed every year since, always coming out on her birthday.

Ethel worked for the Ministry of Health but took early retirement to care for her mother. She went to Childs Way School and she was in the 'mixed infants' – she then went to Hendon School walking each way as well as coming home for lunch.

She was a Suburb Brownie, Guide, Ranger Guide Lieutenant, Tawny Owl and, subsequently, a Brown Owl and still met people who referred to her as Brown Owl! On one occasion, Ethel went to play bowls with her father on the public green. Even though she had all the correct equipment and dress code, she was not allowed to play because she was a woman.

It got into the papers and she changed history – the rules were revised to allow women on the public bowls greens.

Walking had been one of her favourite past-times – visiting

the country, especially looking at ancient churches. Ethel had belonged to a Madrigal group and loved the theatre and classical music.

Ethel was very involved with suburb activities, especially Fellowship House, club entertaining and play readings, other special events and helping to organise the chiropody rotas. She edited the Fellowship Newsletter for many years. Ethel was a well-known figure doing her shopping every day in Temple Fortune – taking her time as she stopped to talk to so many friends.

There will be no funeral as Ethel donated her body to medical research. It is also her wish that there is no memorial service.

Ethel was well loved by everyone she came in contact with. For the last year she had been in Eastside House Residential Home where the care and attention to her needs was the best one could wish for – she was happy there.

Ethel will be sadly missed but remembered forever in the Suburb as the loving, caring, smiling lady we all cherished. It has been a privilege to have known her.



Free concert

Further arrangements have now been made for a free concert by the Free Church at 7.30pm on 4 October. Two organists will be playing: our former Director of Music Ken Dougall who did so much to start the refurbishment process rolling, and our present Director of Music Christopher Matthews (see above) who helped to see the process through. We hope to welcome many friends living nearby, and also those

who have had close links with the church in the past. So please, put the date in your diaries now.

Following this concert we plan to make immediate further use of the refurbished organ by offering lunch-time concerts on the last Friday of each month starting at the end of October. Further information about the programme will be available in September.

TONY SPRING
MINISTER OF THE FREE CHURCH

London Open House

This exciting annual weekend takes place again this year on 20 and 21 September. It is London's biggest architectural event, giving Londoners and visitors alike the chance to visit over five hundred buildings across the capital – many of them normally closed to the public. As part of this event, St Jude's, the Free Church and the Friends Meeting House will be open. In St Jude's there will be a display by English Heritage which will be of interest to all those who live on the Suburb, and especially to those whose houses are listed.

On the Saturday afternoon there will be a craft fair; and on the Sunday there will be stalls by the Lutyens Society, the

Suburb Gallery and the Suburb Archives. A short talk by local architect Ivor Hall on a related subject will be given in St Jude's during Sunday afternoon.

Also on Sunday there are guided walks around the Artisans' Quarter led by Michael Rowley, Stephen Brookhouse and Chris Kellerman. These walks are particularly interesting and Suburb residents may find that their knowledge of this 'aesthetically the most satisfactory of all twentieth century garden suburbs' is not as great as they previously thought!

Full details of all events and opening times can be found in the diary section at the end of *Suburb News*.

CAROL KEMP

Homeless close to home

I wonder whether you happen to have one of the following items (or more!) going spare? They are needed by Homeless Action in Barnet and I am collecting them.

- Clothes (especially men's), including shoes, underwear, nightwear and socks
- Umbrellas, raincoats and plastic sheets
- Blankets, bed-linen, duvets, sleeping bags, towels and toiletries
- China, cutlery, kitchenware and cushions, etc. for those about to be housed
- Camping gear
- Books, indoor games, videos, etc. for the Day Centre

Homeless Action is a day-centre at Woodhouse Road, North Finchley that provides cheap meals, a shower, clothes washing and such caring services as counselling and medical attention. Help is also given in finding jobs.

In this area, the majority of homeless people (several hundred) are middle-aged men; a few are younger asylum seekers; many have physical or psychological disabilities. Some sleep on the streets, in squats or even in abandoned cars.

Any help you can give them would be warmly appreciated. Please ring me on 8731 7887.

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