

Cyril Blausten 1916-2006



The death of Cyril Blausten marks another step to the closing of an era of the first offspring of those Jewish refugees who arrived on these shores at the turn of the last century seeking refuge from the persecutions spreading across mainland Europe. Their parents

sought freedom to live in peace and in return they and their children made remarkable contributions to the country of their adoption.

With his father helping to found and manage the Stamford Hill Boys Club in June 1934, he took his first step into community work. This and the other Jewish clubs were a godsend for Jewish youths in such a troubled and hostile world and Cyril Blausten threw himself into the work. He became Vice Chairman of the Stamford Hill Girls Refuge Hostel. Having been refused the right to enlist both in 1938 and again in 1940, after several appeals, he worked as an Air Raid Warden during the War until severely injured in Tottenham Court Road by a V2 bomb. He worked hard

as a youth leader. In 1943 he played a major role in the Maccabi Organisation becoming its Chairman and Vice President and built firm friendships and indeed met Norma Cinnamon whom became his loving wife.

During the pre-war period, after finishing his studies in 1933, he started his surveying career with his brother Leonard to form Cyril Leonard in 1934, building it into a major surveying practice. Two of his sons, Douglas and Simon, continue the tradition.

He found time to devote to the Jewish Board of Guardians, now Jewish Care, becoming Hon Secretary, Vice Chairman and Vice President. He was Treasurer and Secretary of the North Western Reform Synagogue, a member of the Board of Deputies and the JBG Housing Society (now the Jewish Community Housing Society).

It was not just to the Jewish community that he 'gave'. He gave

to the wider community of London.

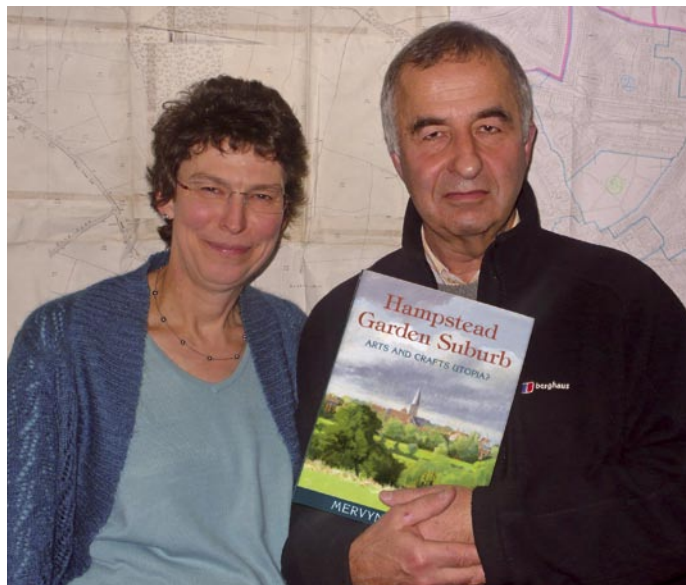
He was one of the founders, together with Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, of the New Islington and Hackney Housing Association. He sat as a JP at Highbury and Islington Magistrates Court and was a Commissioner of Taxes in Westminster. He was made an Honorary Life Member, along with his late wife Norma, of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and was a Member of the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Council for many years.

In all he did, meticulous attention to detail was applied. He showed a deep care for and kindness to people he worked for and with – a work ethic of the very highest standard.

His wife of some 56 years, Norma, died in 2000. He is survived by his four sons, Richard, Douglas, Simon and Peter and by eight grandchildren.



Mr Scott, who has lived in Ludlow Way and first joined the RA in 1984, was the lucky winner of an iPod, here presented to him by Steve Morris, chairman of the RA's membership committee. It was the prize in a draw made at a Residents Association council meeting in December. The draw was open to all members via the RA web site and was offered as an incentive to people who responded to a final mailing of households who had not joined or renewed their subscription by the end of the summer.



One of Trust manager Jane Blackburn's initiatives on taking over two years ago was to encourage the help of volunteers who give up their time and professional expertise to assist with the work of conserving the Suburb. One of these is Andrew Botteril, who has spent a year bringing the records of the estate management aspect of the Trust's work up to date, talking to people affected by neglected drains, footpaths and other areas that, after nearly 100 years, need attention. Andrew has passed the baton on to a newly appointed Estate Manager and was presented with a copy of the new Suburb book by Dr Mervyn Miller, who is Life President of the Trust.

Centenary Proms

Copies of the leaflet giving full details of the 15th season of Proms at St Jude's, with the booking form, will be widely distributed at the end of next month, as well as being available at a range of outlets. Please note the entire whole nine-day period in your

diary, or highlight the events that particularly appeal to you.

The evening concerts, all starting at 7.45 pm in St Jude's, are detailed below. There will also be free lunchtime recitals on Saturday 16 June and from Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 June.

Saturday 16 June – GALA OPENING NIGHT Haydn Chamber Orchestra. Owen Arwel Hughes (conductor), Noriko Ogawa (piano). Programme to include Beethoven's First Piano Concerto and Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony.

Sunday 17 June – HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH' Grace Davidson (soprano), Hannah Pedley (alto), Ben Johnson (tenor), Will Carslake (bass) and the Proms Festival Chorus conducted by Nic Chalmers.

Monday 18 June – SONG RECITAL Dame Felicity Lott (soprano), and Sir Thomas Allen (baritone) with Malcolm Martineau (piano).

Tuesday 19 June – JULIAN BLISS TRIO Julian Bliss (clarinet), Simon Lepper (piano) and Alexander Sitkovetsky (violin). Programme to include works by Bartók and Khachaturian

Wednesday 20 June – CELEBRITY PIANO RECITAL John Lill. Programme to be announced

Thursday 21 June – BARBICAN TRIO Robert Max (cello), Gabby Lester (violin) and James Kirby (piano). Works by Haydn, Beethoven and Dvořák.

Friday 22 June – JAZZ NIGHT Humphrey Lyttelton and his Band with possible guest artist.

Saturday 23 June – GALA OPERA EVENING London International Orchestra with Toby Purser (conductor), soloists to be announced.

Sunday 24 June – LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS South Bank Sinfonia with Simon Over (conductor), Vashti Hunter (cello) and Lynton Black (bass). Programme to include Stanford's 'Sea Songs', Elgar's Cello Concerto and traditional items

Once again, proceeds from the Proms will go to Toynbee Hall (75%) and to the North London Hospice (25%). If you are able to help by sponsoring concerts or advertising in the programme, or can recommend others who might be interested, please contact Susie Gregson (8458 1675), John Wheeler (8455 3506) or David Fulton (8455 0337).

Do consider becoming a Friend of the Proms and enjoy

priority booking and other benefits. For further information, including membership application forms, contact Thomas Radice (8455 1025; thomas@radice.clara.co.uk) or Yvonne Baker (8455 8687).

All applications for tickets must be submitted by post until the Proms Box Office opens for telephone bookings on 28 May (number to be announced). Friends' postal bookings will take priority until 14 May.

Not so new now

There may have been thunder and lightning outside the Hall but all was calm in the Free Church Hall as the eight members of the Trust Council sat braced for a storm of questions over the increased management charges that had been sent out to residents a few days before.

A lot of people turned up for the 36th, and, as it turned out, the last AGM of the 'New' Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. But they seemed to have come, not to complain but because they wanted to know more about the plans to turn the Trust's finances

round, about satellite dishes, solar panels, tramps and trees.

Chairman Mervyn Mandell thanked the staff and the volunteers, summed up the year's activities and made clear the threats to the Suburb from both overdevelopment of houses and long term decay of the Trust owned parts of the estate.

The Report and Accounts were approved, new auditors appointed and the name changed to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Ltd. After 36 years the 'New' seemed to have lost its punch.

The Orchard

The Orchard, as readers will know, provides rented sheltered housing for people over 60 who are unable to live independently. It is situated in Hampstead Way and is provided primarily for those with connections to the Suburb.

It is staffed by two full-time managers and administered by a committee of volunteers. The committee is on the look out for new members who may be

interested in joining us in this valuable work. No particular experience of working in this field is required but we are hoping to find people with time to spare and talents to give.

If you are interested and require further details, then please contact either the Chairman, John Boulter (8455 7802) or the Secretary, Joan Holton (8444 8582).

Centenary fundraising

(continued from p1)

So if you also feel the same way about the Suburb along with its community spirit and retention of beauty and have not given a donation or offered practical support, send a cheque made

out to 'HGS Centenary Appeal' and send it to Chairman RA HGS, 4 Wildwood Rise, London NW11 6SX. You can find a gift aid form at <http://centenary.hgs.org.uk>.

DAVID B LEWIS

College Farm saved

The 10 acre farm just north of Henlys Corner that was once an Express Dairy has been saved from the developers.

The College Farm Trust set up by Chris Ower, who has rented the farm since 1976, and others backed by Rudi Vis MP has managed to buy the farm from the Highways Agency which has owned it since plans to widen the North Circular meant that the farm might have been part of a land swap deal in exchange for council land needed for the road. Chris Owers told Suburb News, "It's all down

to Rudi Vis. He has been fantastic, never giving up." The MP may have been convinced by an 8,000 signature petition driven by Mr Owers to Westminster by horse and cart. Over the years there have been many campaigns to save College Farm including those headed by Spike Milligan and Esther Rantzen.

It is to be hoped that once again we will be able to take children to the farm, which has been closed since the foot and mouth epidemic, for something other than the annual trip for a christmas tree.

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THE DAME HENRIETTA BARNETT FUND

Her legacy 70 years on – 1937-2007

Dame Henrietta is well known as the founder of the Suburb, but her other less well known legacy is the charity, the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund.

The charity was created through her will and a legacy to perpetuate her lifelong work with education and poverty. The inaugural meeting was held in 1937, chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the trustees included Sir William Beveridge.

Today the charity continues her work helping people out of poverty through education

In practical terms the fund provides grants to children and young people studying at the Suburb schools and Institute to help fund courses, pay for field trips and otherwise provide support without which the student could not progress their education. It also provides vital funding for children and young adults at Toynbee Hall in the East End, and is an important link between the Suburb and Toynbee.

Sadly the work of the charity is as important and necessary today as it was in Dame Henrietta's time and the fund can make a real difference to people's lives

YOU CAN HELP

The fund's income comes entirely from Suburb residents and the limited legacy. As we enter the Suburb's centenary year you can help to produce a lasting legacy from the celebrations by helping to develop the work and build the fund for the future.

Please consider following Dame Henrietta's footsteps and including a bequest to the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund (charity no 252204) in your will.

For more information visit www.dhbf.org.uk or write to Simon Abbott, DHBF, 1 Hill Close, London NW11 7JP

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