

Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue at 75



During the launch of *Everything in the Garden*, Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, shares a joke with Rabbi Livingstone, Hilary Halter, left, who produced the book and right, Lady Sacks

The weekend of 13 to 15 November was one of celebration at Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue where a series of events marked the community's 75th birthday.

Nearly 300 people enjoyed the party atmosphere at communal and youth dinners on Friday evening where there were addresses by Rabbi Dr Jeffrey Cohen (who started his career there as Youth Minister then Assistant Minister), current Community Director, Rabbi Anthony Knopf and distinguished rabbis who grew up in the community.

The Shabbat morning service was attended by distinguished guests, both Jewish and non-Jewish, including United Synagogue President Simon Hochhauser, Board of Deputies President Vivian Wineman and representatives from the local churches, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and Residents Association and the police. Current Rabbi, Reuven Livingstone and Immediate Past Rabbi, Edward Jackson, both spoke.

On Sunday morning, the children enjoyed activities, including participation in the national Mitzvah Day. They also

put messages and information about their way of life, together with artefacts, such as an ipod, in a time capsule to be opened on 15 November 2034. In the evening there was a reception, attended by Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks and Lady Sacks, to launch the commemorative book, *Everything in the Garden*, which charts the community's history and includes sketches of its many distinguished

members. In his address, the Chief Rabbi spoke of the community's vibrancy – as the synagogue ages, the membership grows ever more youthful and now includes over 1000 children – and its diversity, ranging as it has from the late distinguished JP and United Synagogue President George Gee to Ali G!

Contact the Synagogue Office on 020 8455 8126

Suburb character appraisal, your views are sought

Since 2005 the Trust and 59 volunteers led by Judith Cheney have been working to produce an appraisal of distinct areas within the Suburb with detailed descriptions and photographs.

Now Barnet Council, in association with the Trust, have prepared a draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal Statement, including Management Proposals and Appraisal Maps, for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Conservation Area. A revised Design Guidance document has also been produced.

A public consultation exercise is due to take place shortly to seek the views of all Suburb residents, amenity societies, residents associations and interested groups on the various documents. The information will be available to view on the Council's website although reference copies will be available in the local library at Market Place. The consultation exercise will also include an exhibition at the Trust offices on Finchley Road.

- The Character Appraisal includes a description of the historical development of the conservation area, an assessment of the characteristics which make it special and detailed information on its buildings, landscape and open spaces. The Management Proposals identify a series of initiatives which seek to address some of the issues that affect the protection of the conservation area. The Appraisal Maps visually document the area and include proposals for adding

buildings to Barnet's Schedule of Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest.

The conservation area has been sub-divided into 17 character areas and 5 additional areas of open space to ensure the characteristics of each part of the Suburb are accurately recorded. Each of these sub-areas has its own separate assessment of its key characteristics and an Appraisal Map.

- It is proposed to formally recognise the importance of many of the Suburb's buildings by making additions to the Council's Local List and to select others as positive contributors to the area's special character and appearance.
- The existing Article 4 Direction will be up-dated to accord with the most recent planning legislation and other areas will have controls introduced to ensure consistency across the conservation area.
- It is proposed to amalgamate Spaniards End conservation area, which was formerly in the borough of Camden, into the wider Hampstead Garden Suburb conservation area.
- The Hampstead Garden Suburb Design Guidance, produced jointly by Barnet Council and the Trust in 1994, is now in need of up-dating and consequently a revised draft of this document has been produced and will also be included in the consultation exercise. It now includes advice on recent development issues including renewable energy proposals, timber decking and basements.



Rabbi Livingstone shows the golden key used to open the synagogue in 1935



Young people wait to give readings from the book



Children at a fun day session

Our Country's Good

Timberlake Wertenbaker's play 'Our Country's Good' has a complicated plot made more difficult by having almost all of the actors playing two characters. Captain Arthur Phillip, in charge of a convict settlement in Australia, believes that theatre can transform lives. He instructs Ralph Clark, RM to try and put on George Farquhar's 'The Recruiting Officer'. This is a difficult task since the players (convicts) are continually being punished or about to be hanged for something they have done. Rehearsals are almost impossible. The play has around 20 short scenes and the set design by Jane Rogers was well thoughtout and helpful here.

Each scene had a short prologue from one of the cast. These were not always audible

being spoken too fast. Christian Radnedge as the idealistic Clark was good in this underwritten role and Cate Oates as the convict, Mary Brenham grew beautifully into the strong woman in the final scene.

The director, Angela Cox got some strong performances from her players. Some of the accents were difficult. Terry Rogers and Alicia Crisp produced some good lighting effects, especially the sunset.

The Garden Suburb Theatre is putting on the play 'The Recruiting Officer' in Little Wood in July 2010. So, it will be interesting to see the play chosen for the convicts to perform. A strange choice in these circumstances.

LÉONIE STEPHEN

Twelfth Night

When I saw the poster for 'Twelfth Night' showing Viola with a moustache, my heart sank. I am not against modern-dress Shakespeare if it is logical and well-spoken but this was more like a student romp and Shakespeare got lost.

There were, however, some redeeming performances. Viola, mercifully without the moustache, was nicely played by Laura Allen; gentle, perplexed and in love. Her twin, Sebastian was newcomer, Raheem Mir who gave a good account of some difficult speeches as did Ashley Gayle as Antonia and the sea captain. Ali Newell was a lively Maria and Toby Moore a touching Sir Andrew Aguecheek, though he could have made more of his resentment of the way Sir Toby was squandering his money.

The star of the show was Natalie Rowland whose Olivia had beauty and dignity and a good understanding of the verse. She was 'a good deed in a naughty world' in the production. Mark Overall was so busy being drunk and pulling cans of beer from his pockets that most of his place in the plot was lost. Edward Smith was too young for Malvolio; he certainly looked a sight in shorts and yellow socks.

The stage design by Andy Farrer worked well especially in the scene where Toby and company watch Malvolio read the letter. Mary Musker, the director in her notes on the play says it has 'profound themes' – I fear they were lost. However, some of the audience seemed to enjoy this romp.

LÉONIE STEPHEN

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