



**Night at the Opera:** A full house on Sunday, March 24, at the Free Church, as the London International Orchestra played a wonderful selection of extracts from some of the best known operas, supported by three soloists from Hampstead Garden Opera. The whole evening raised much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

## Suburb life through picture postcards

The latest exciting collection to hit the HGS Virtual Museum is the extensive Raymond Lowe Collection of picture postcards. These cards tell the story of the Suburb's development from its very beginnings, and also trace the history of one particular extended family of early residents and their neighbours and friends.

Raymond was an avid collector, who, over many years, enjoyed searching through boxes and boxes at postcard fairs for Suburb scenes, "as rare as hens' teeth". He then mounted and annotated them in several large albums, the contents of which have now been painstakingly scanned into the Virtual Museum. Other local people augmented his collection by giving him any Suburb cards that they owned or found. As with the museum's First World War Collection, Raymond's postcards also depict the repercussions of

big world events and little local ones on the lives and people of Hampstead Garden Suburb from 1907 onwards.

We know of at least two more Suburb postcard collections waiting to join this one in the museum. The Virtual Museum seeks to preserve any unique memorabilia or artefacts relating to Suburb people, activities and history that Suburb families may still have at home, by scanning and digitising them without families losing ownership.

You can find the Raymond Lowe Collection in the 'Collections' section and explore the rest of the museum at [hgsheritage.org.uk](http://hgsheritage.org.uk). And if you have anything you would like to share yourself while retaining ownership, or if you would like to help with inputting information, please get in touch with me – [info@hgsheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@hgsheritage.org.uk), 8455 6507.

MARJORIE HARRIS

## RA and Barnet in joint tree initiative

Lyttelton Playing Fields is one of the green lungs of the Suburb, less well known than the Heath Extension or Central Square, but a much used open space. The playing fields are named after

the Liberal politician and first chairman of the HGS Trust, Alfred Lyttelton, who was one of the great sportsmen of his generation, and the first to represent England at both football and cricket.

The playing fields were added to the Suburb in its second phase of development after World War I. A few mature oaks survive, as well as remnant of a hedgerow (see

SN134, back page) that once marked the boundary to the Bishop of London's medieval Hornsey Park. The small area of woodland by Mutton Brook is known as Watery Wood and is shown on Rocque's map of 1754.

In 2000 a Millennium Wood was planted as part of a scheme promoted by the Woodland Trust. The area is well known to users of the children's playground, outdoor gym and tennis courts, all provided by Barnet Council, and Keren's Nursery School and the Gaya Cafe in the pavilion.

The Residents Association has been working with Barnet Council to plant some additional trees in the playing fields and the photographs illustrate a group of cherries, hawthorns and a silver birch planted last month. More trees will be planted next season in the playing fields and the Residents Association is very pleased at Barnet Council's commitment to maintaining the Suburb's trees in the playing fields and elsewhere.

COLIN GREGORY



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*Views expressed in Suburb News are not necessarily those of the publishers the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.*

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The RA website is [www.hgsra.uk](http://www.hgsra.uk)