

A SUBURB ARCHIVIST

OBITUARY

Ann Saunders MBE 1930-2019



Ann Saunders, a distinguished historian who lived for many years on the Suburb, died on 13th February this year. She had a great love and deep knowledge of London, the city of her birth.

She was a Trustee of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Archives Trust, and as Chairman rather reluctantly oversaw the transfer of the bulk of its collection away from the Suburb to the safekeeping of the London Metropolitan Archives in Clerkenwell, after a period of uncertainty about its future, and compiled a comprehensive Handlist to the collection.

Ann's father George Cox-Johnson came from a Dorset farming family. Two of his brothers became Anglican clergymen while George went into teaching and became headmaster of Cosway Street School in St Marylebone before changing career and becoming managing director of the Portman Building Society.

He married Joan Loreille, a music hall artist who had become a teacher, and they lived at first in St John's Wood, where Ann was born, and then in Hendon. Joan was a worshipper at St Jude's Church and had a great affection for the first vicar, the Reverend Basil Bouchier.

Ann was sent to Henrietta Barnett School at the age of four and remained there until she was sixteen when she moved to Queens' College in Harley Street for the sixth form. She did not enjoy her time at Henrietta Barnett.

The family came to live on the Suburb just before the Second World War and resided at several addresses. Her father died in 1941 from a heart attack following his successful disabling of an

incendiary bomb, which had fallen in their garden. With her husband Bruce Saunders, and children Matthew and Katherine, Ann finally settled in a house on Meadway Gate in 1980.

Ann studied history at University College London, where she was a pupil of Ernst Gombrich, and subsequently gained a PhD at Leicester for a thesis on the history of The Regent's Park. Her first job was at the City of York Art Gallery and she then returned to London to become Deputy Librarian at Lambeth Palace from 1952 to 1955. After this, she worked briefly as an Assistant Keeper at the British Museum, before moving to be local history librarian at St. Marylebone. Later she worked as a sub-editor for the British Journal of the Archaeology Association and lectured in history at Richmond College and for the London programme of the University of Connecticut.

As the Newsletter of the Society of Antiquaries records, she was known in the scholarly world as "a tireless historian of London and an editor of exceptional assiduity", whose "astonishingly productive career encompassed the writing of more than a dozen books on London", and whose "longevity as an editor of learned journals must have very few equals, and hardly any peers."

Ann was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in May 1975, and became a member of its Council. She was an Hon. Fellow of University College, London and a Governor of Bedford College. From 1975 she was Honorary Editor for the London Topographical Society, overseeing the publication of nearly 60 books, maps and other items. Her many publications on the capital city include The Art and Architecture of London: An Illustrated Guide; Saint Paul's: The Story of the Cathedral; Tudor London: A Map and a View; and the first edition of London County Council Bomb Damage Maps 1939-45.

She was a captivating speaker at Gresham College and many other institutions. Locally she lectured regularly to the Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS), of which she was President between 1998 and 2001. She also served as President of the Camden History Society and the St Marylebone Society.

As Mike Pitts FSA and Adrian James FSA wrote in their obituary for the London Topographical Society, "she spoke with captivating authority and a regal presence." Don Cooper, Chairman of HADAS, writes that "it was a joy to listen to her." Her lectures at Gresham College (illustrated with what she called lantern slides) on the subjects of London early in James I's reign (2004) and Napoleonic war monuments in St Paul's Cathedral (2005) can be seen online in Gresham College video recordings.

She listed among her recreations in 'Who's Who' not only "studying London" but also "embroidery, cooking" and "visiting churches". Her interest in costume led to her being Hon Editor of the Costume Society for over 20 years between 1967 and 2008. She was a Liveryman of the Horners' Company and was awarded an MBE in the 2002 New Year honours.

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Archives Trust

exists to preserve the history and culture of the Suburb

Website: www.suburbarchives.com · Contact: 020 8455 8813 or 8455 2877 · Email: suburbarchives@gmail.com

Combat Stress Concert



Music loving Suburb residents have an opportunity to listen to some fine music and contribute to a worthwhile cause. There is a fundraising concert to look forward to in the autumn, which will take place at the Free Church, North Square, on Saturday 5 October.

There will be an evening of music and song to commemorate the centenary of the forces' mental health charity Combat Stress. Included will be songs from the North London Military

Wives Choir's latest album, 'Remember', and a variety of music from military marches to stage and screen favourites with the Royal Naval Volunteer Band - Northwood HQ.

The concert starts at 7.30pm, with special guest Martin Bell. Tickets cost £15 or £13 concessions (over 65 and under 16). To book, you can call Combat Stress on 07710 098667, or just e-mail hgscombatstress@gmail.com.

Cash and cheques only, payable to 'Combat Stress'.



Repaircare London Ltd

Window Repair & Decorating Specialists

Suburb trust approved list

We love turning old, tired looking properties back to their former glory with the correct repair methods and the correct application of paint.

For the past 20 years we have operated in and around the North London Hampstead / Highgate area.

We would welcome the opportunity to earn your trust and deliver you the best service in window renovation, with the highest standards in decoration. Repaircare London have worked on many neglected properties, visit our website to see our work.



Before



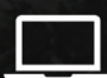
After



We offer over 35 years experience of decorating internally and externally from large mansion blocks, colleges to domestic houses within Highgate, Hampstead and Hampstead Garden Suburb. We believe that we are the best in the business at what we do. Take a look at our external repair and redecoration procedures or if you want a free quote, visit our website.

"In this day and age, it's hard to find a company you can trust. Repaircare London Ltd was recommended to me by a friend, and now I know why - the quality of service I received was outstanding. Keep up the good work!"

Get in touch with Paul, for a free quote or for any questions you may have.



repaircarelondon.com



07904582816 / 01604 459625



Repaircare London Ltd