

**Garden Suburb Community Library** is reopening! At long last we have been given permission to reopen the library and we will open our doors to all our loyal readers on Tuesday 7 September at 10am. We will continue to run our click and collect scheme for those readers who are still shielding. Full details will be announced in due course in our newsletter, social media and at [gardensuburblibrary.org.uk](http://gardensuburblibrary.org.uk).



Photos: Marc Hull

## Remembering the Tea House Kindergarten

ISABELLE FICKER

I read with interest Margaret Harris's article on the Tea House (Issue 126); however, no mention was made of the Henrietta Barnett Junior School's Kindergarten that made its home there in the early 1960s. I wonder how many residents remember Mrs. Burchell and Hettywog?

At the top of Northway, away from the main Junior School building, the Tea House was a world of its own, ideally suited to small children. The cloakroom was on the left of the main room and, on arrival, children would hang up their coats and change into their indoor shoes. Each had a shoebag with their name sewn on. I still have mine: I cannot believe my feet were ever that small!

The main room doubled as classroom and play area in wet weather. Each morning we would be greeted by a big, beautiful rabbit that had been drawn on the blackboard in coloured chalks by Mrs. Burchell. Her name was Hettywog and in one of her paws she held a big bunch of coloured balloons. Sometimes the balloons had words in; sometimes they were just coloured which meant that we were going to get a story.

The school day ran from 9am to 12.30pm. We sat at low blue tables to work and paint with half an hour's break at 10.30am. For break we were given a quarter pint of milk and were allowed to choose a Smartie from a big glass jar. If we had been good, we were allowed to choose a red one. After that we ran out into the front garden and usually made a dash for the drainpipe by the hedge to see if we could find Squid.

Who was Squid? I hear you say. Well, Squid was Hettywog's mysterious friend who lived down the drainpipe. Hettywog and Squid had lots of adventures and we would be told all about them at the end of the morning before going home time. We were then sworn to secrecy – adults were not allowed to know about Hettywog and Squid. Maybe that's why there was no mention of them in the article. Oh dear...!

It was a sad day when the kindergarten moved and even sadder when Henrietta Barnett Junior School was closed down. It was a delightful school and the Suburb has not been the same since.



The cast of *The Count of Monte Cristo* in Little Wood (Photo: Owain Rose)

## Garden Suburb Theatre update

COLIN GREGORY

Like all arts organisations the Garden Suburb Theatre has had a year like no other. Having substituted two one act plays with a cast of two for a full length play with a cast of ten, the new production had to be cancelled twice because of lockdown. After nearly a year of Covid safe rehearsals indoors and out, Brian Friel's 'The Yalta Game' and 'Afterplay', both based on works by Anton Chekhov, were successfully performed at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in

Highgate. This was followed by an energetic and imaginative production in Little Wood of 'The Count of Monte Cristo' adapted and directed by Owain Rose, co-directed by Mary Musker. A second production in the Wood, of Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night', directed by Teresa Poland followed at the end of August.

Looking forward, GST's next show will be 'A Matter Of Life and Death' adapted by Tom Morris and Emma Rice from the 1946 Powell and Pressburger film of the same name. This will run at Upstairs at

the Gatehouse, 25-28 November. Auditions will be on 13 September, details on the GST website and Facebook. Next year the group is hoping to stage a family Pantomime in February, Noel Coward's 'The Vortex' in April and another family show next summer in the Wood.

There's plenty of opportunity to audition, including for junior members, and to get involved front, back and off stage. The group is also planning a full programme of social events for members, most of which take place in the Free Church Hall.

## SUBURB NEWS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

*Bring me Sunshine*

Would you like to see your summer photograph published in Suburb News?

All you need to do is take a great photograph based on the theme '**Sunshine**' and submit it to [hgsra.uk/photocompetition](http://hgsra.uk/photocompetition).

Only one colour photograph per resident is allowed, taken between 1st June and 19th September this year. It must be submitted in jpg format and be no more than 10 megabytes in size.

For the full competition rules and further information just visit [hgsra.uk/photocompetition](http://hgsra.uk/photocompetition).

Competition closing soon! Make sure you submit your Sunshine shot by 20 Sept!

Winning photographs will be published in the December 2021 edition of Suburb News.