

# OUR HISTORY.

The enquiries that come to the Garden Suburb Archives are a bit like Cleopatra — of infinite variety. In the last few months, for instance, archive users have ranged from a 10-year-old, intent on a project on 'What can you find out about your street?' (he lived in Addison Way), to the Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, equally keen on finding material for a prestigious history of Toynbee Hall, to be published in this, its centenary year. Archive clients include architects, teachers, town-planners, school and university students, surveyors, professors, journalists and broadcasters, historians and, of course, Suburb residents, who usually want to know either something specific about the house in which they themselves

live or general information about how the Suburb started and grew.

How was Waterlow Court (originally founded by Henrietta Barnett as 'flats for working ladies') run in early days? Has anything been written on the ecology of Big and Little Woods? When and what was the first pageant performed in the Suburb? How was the Suburb linked with Whitechapel? Did Elizabeth Taylor ever live here? Were any early Suburb houses designed with stables? Were there field drains in the agricultural land on which the Suburb was built and, if so, when were they installed? Was the Dame a suffragette? Which was the first open-plan house on the Suburb? The Archives can't always supply an answer, but will have a good try.

The HGS Archives are a charitable Trust, and are housed, by kindness of the Institute and the Henrietta Barnett School, in a room on the ground floor of Bigwood House. They are a repository for any material which concerns the history of the Garden Suburb or its founders, and comprises small objects (like commemorative medals and ceremonial trowels) as well as papers. The collection includes a series of maps from before the time the estate was built and going through each stage of its development; house-plans of many (though not quite all) houses, flats and public buildings in both 'old' and 'new' Suburb; photographs (of Places, people and occasions) from c. 1880s to today; minute books of many organisations; brochures, programmes and posters of various Suburb societies; press cutting books; taped reminiscences of residents; a slide collection; early

Suburb journals and magazines; and many other documents.

The main sources from which this material has come are the Residents Association, the HGS Trusts (both old and new), the Institute and long-established organisations such as the Play and Pageant Union and the Horticultural Society. Residents who move from the Suburb often donate interesting papers before leaving; so do executors of residents who have died. When an organisation like the Wellgarth Training College folds up, its papers are often deposited in the Archives, which welcome all these acquisitions with pleasure.

Anyone who would like to use the Archives, either for general study or to research a specific question, should ring the Archivist, Brigid Grafton Green (on 455 9040), to fix a convenient time for meeting at the Archive Room, which is opened by appointment. BGG

## TRUST 'TWINS' RETIRE

Freda Fidler and Jean Burtchett, steadfast Trust workers for many years, will be retiring on May 4th. Freda's husband had worked for the Trust for a record 50 years, and was Trust Secretary when he died. Freda moved in to help cope, and never looked back. Living on the Suburb, she has always been involved in Suburb affairs and plans to continue in her capacity as committee member of Abbeyfield and the House Committee of Friends of Abbeyfield.

Jean also has a long history of Suburb involvement; she went to Henrietta Barnett School and has worked as a student coun-

sellor at the Institute. Her move to the Trust 10 years ago, soon after Freda's, earned them the title of 'the twins'. Jean assisted by Freda, has been chiefly in charge of accounts, and together they have taken on many of the duties of the office — talking to residents, answering queries, and generally making the lives of many of us easier! Jane is on the Council of the Institute and will continue to be involved and interested in the Suburb.

'The twins' look back with nostalgia over their years with the Trust, and acknowledge that it has been obliged to move into a new era.

Suburb residents wish them all the best for the years to come, and heartily thank them for all the hard work on their behalf. EE

The Open Day Launch of THE MANOR HOUSE SOCIETY at The Manor House Centre for Judaism, N.3 on April 1st was something of a triumph for a number of Suburb residents.

Rabbi Tony Bayfield, Director of the Centre, which is the largest Jewish Centre in Europe, lives in Heathgate. He moved there with his wife, Linda, and their three children just eighteen months ago from N.W. Surrey where he was a congregational rabbi. The family have quickly become a focal part of the local community. Daughter Lucy has just passed the exam for Henrietta Barnett School. Linda Bayfield, a teacher at Akiva School, was responsible for organising the children's activities at the Open Day. These included performances of a specially prepared children's drama by the Cambridge Theatre Workshop

## OPEN DAY FOR NEW MANOR HOUSE SOCIETY

Company. A creche for the under fives meant that parents could enjoy the afternoon's programme in peace. This was staffed by students from the Leo Baeck Kindergarten Teacher's Course which is run by another Suburb Resident, Mrs. Lucille Sher, who lives in Meadway.

The Manor House Society is a very ambitious cultural venture which aims to bring a wide range of Jewish cultural and intellectual events of an extremely high level within easy reach of a large audience. The Steering Committee expected around 500 visitors to the Open Day, but this figure was actually nearer to 1000 with 800 people on site at any one time during the afternoon.

With so many people to cater for, Mrs. Ann Benson, who was in charge



of refreshments, certainly had her work cut out. Ann, who lives in Southway, and her band of helpers, poured literally hundreds of cups of tea. Cakes, sandwiches and quiches, provided by members of Womens' Guilds from Reform Synagogues were all eaten and thoroughly enjoyed.

Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P., yet another Suburb resident, found time in his busy schedule to wish the Manor House Society every success. In his opening speech he said that the Society created an opportunity for all members of the community to work together and share in this most exciting project.

The afternoon's events took place in the New North London Synagogue which is one of the many different organisations who use the Centre. The programme included a Welcome Fanfare and Concert from Royale Brass, a play-reading introduced by Lynne-Reid Banks, who had written an extract from the screenplay of her novel 'Defy the Wilderness' especially for the Society. The reading was performed by Lee Montague and Nicki van der Zyl. Actor Saul Reichlin, presented his One Man Show, and there was an extremely lively debate between Ian Mikardo, M.P. and Ivan Lawrence, Q.C., M.P. The subject was: 'The Natural Stance of the Jew in Politics is to the Left' which proved a landslide victory for Ian Mikardo.

There were two exhibitions in The Manor House itself. Paintings by Philip Sutton, A.R.A. who, incidentally, was at The Open Day, and the first public showing of his recently completed canvas 'Jewish Wedding'. Upstairs there were more than 30 pieces of sculpture loaned by students from The Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute Sculpture Class. Several Suburb residents exhibited their work, including Diana Mansell, the wife of our Residents' Association Chairman, Gerry Mansell.

The Coffee Shop at The Manor House is open to Manor House Society members, Monday to Thursday from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. for hot dishes, soups, sandwiches, coffee and cake. Members will also be able to book the tennis courts at the seven and half acre site.

A varied programme of events has already been drawn up by The Manor House Society for the rest of this year. Sunday, June 10, 3 p.m. — 'Judaism and the Future of Work'. A Seminar with Tom Stonier. Sunday, July 15, 7.45 p.m. — Concert with Amphion String Quartet. Tuesday, September 18 — Pre High Holy Day Debate. 'Deal your Bread to the Hungry'.

Sunday, October 21 — Art in Jewish Ritual. A unique exhibition of post-war Jewish Ritual Art. Sunday, December 9 — Judaism and Ecology with David Bellamy.

The Exhibition 'Art in Jewish Ritual' is being put together by Kathryn Salomon who lives in Guerne Drive. Kathryn is an embroiderer who has made two torah mantles and a binder for Alyth Reform Synagogue. She is currently working on a pulpit cover which will take the best part of two years to complete. Kathryn's work has been in several exhibitions of ecclesiastical embroidery, and she has always been concerned that Jewish ritual embroideries are not given the attention they deserve.

Membership of The Manor House Society includes advance information about events and discounts on tickets. Members also receive regular copies of 'Manna' which is the journal published by the Manor House Centre. Membership is either on an individual or family basis and there are student and OAP reductions. For further information about The Society or The Manor House Centre, please telephone 346 2288. New members will be made extremely welcome. SG

## LIFEBOAT DAY

Caroline Aljoe of the HGS branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution tells us that, thanks to residents who helped during the RNLI Flag Week and stood 'rattling boxes' on Flag Day, a magnificent

£878 was raised by the branch.

The RNLI has a very small, hardworking Committee on the Suburb and would welcome new members; contact Mrs. Aljoe, 455 1472.

## NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

Hampstead Garden Suburb has its own branch of the National Housewives Register. This is an organisation with 1,100 groups throughout the country.

The function of the group is to provide an opportunity for lively-minded women to participate in stimulating and wide-ranging discussion of non-domestic topics. The discussions are informal and members are encouraged to lead them.

The local branch meets in members' homes every Wednesday — alternate mornings and evenings. Recent items on the programme included a visit to the Guardian newspaper, discussion on topics such as Crime and Punishment, The Role of the Liberated Woman's man, Test

Tube Babies, Loneliness, Provocative or funny Newspaper Lippings and Entertainment in the Theatre. Guest speakers gave talks on the Work Ethics, Self Defence and the Launching of New Drugs. The self-defence talk was so successful that a large number of members went on to take a practical course.

If you are interested in joining the group, Bridget Waller, the Local Organiser — would be delighted to welcome you to a meeting. Telephone: 455 3845.

### LOST TRESTLE TABLE

The Family Holiday Association have lost a trestle table. They think it was borrowed by someone, and would very much like to have it back.

### Christmas Thanks

Just too late for our last issue, we had a message from the drivers of the H2 bus asking the News to express their thanks to all residents for their gifts over Christmas. Better late than never.

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