

NOT QUITE HARRODS

YOU could be forgiven for thinking that the queues outside the Free Church Hall are the first day of the sales at "the" famous Store. The punters are seeking bargains, just the same, but are waiting for the Jumble Sale to open. The queues start forming about an hour before the 2.15 opening and sometimes, if they are lucky, the early birds get a seat provided. The first few minutes are not quite a stampede, but certainly a canter as skilled eyes seek out the bargains. Many of the faces are familiar as they seldom miss a sale, and helpers and customers are on nodding terms, rather like an exclusive club. After the initial rush people browse through the copious piles to make sure no stone is unturned.

The last Jumble Sale was held on Cup Final Day and despite this distraction there was a good turnout with about £250.00 being raised. A noticeable reduction of customers occurred at about 3 o'clock which confirmed other interests for some. Clashing with Hill Close fete or the Cup Final seems almost inevitable.

Although the Jumble Sale might suggest bric-a-brac, in a prosperous area such as ours most of the articles are in good order, and new and nearly new articles common. Televisions come in from time to time, and we are awaiting our first colour set. In a literate environment needless to say, there are many books. A few years ago a pair of Edwardian undergarments came in (not what you're thinking), were

spotted as probably interesting and sold at Philip's Auction in London for £70/80.

As well as many local faces there are regular customers from surrounding areas, and a sprinkling of Dealers taking their chances with everyone else.

We have three Jumble Sales each year, during February, Mid-May and early October, and the income provides a useful boost to Church Funds and Missions. The helpers are a hard-working band, and seldom miss a sale. If you would like your Ming Vases or Colour Television sets collected, please telephone Mike Tomlin at 455-6676.

The next Jumble Sale is on 6th October.



Memorable Cocktail Party

It was a saddening sight to see such a meagre audience at the Saturday night performance of T.S. Eliot's "The Cocktail Party". Perhaps they had flocked earlier in the week or were they, unused as we are nowadays to poetic drama, frightened away at the thought of a play in verse! It is a pity that they did not avail themselves of the opportunity to see one of the great plays of the 1940s when theatregoers took Christopher Fry and T.S. Eliot in their stride.

Written some ten years after "The Family Reunion" the play marks a change in Eliot's style; gone is the need for a chorus, the evocation of the supernatural has also been disposed of; and there is only one runic chant. The philosophy of sin and salvation are the same but Eliot employs richer and more varied characterisations than pre-

viously and places his theme in an acidulous comedy of manners. A story of an upper-class marriage seemingly irreparably damaged and then repaired through the mystical agency of guardian angels in mufti — that is glib society friends in ordinary life who prove to be supernatural guardians. They bring Edward and Lavinia Chamberlayne and his mistress, Celia, to a spiritual guide presented by Eliot as a psychiatrist. The latter, Sir Henry Harcourt-Reilly, reconciles the couple and sends Celia off to a self-sacrificing life among the natives in Africa and a martyr's death, for which he knew her to be qualified by the hunger of her spirit.

The play suffers dramatically mainly from the absence of its most interesting character in the third act and from the transference of her story to reportage.

Also there is very little in the characterisation of Celia in the first act to prepare us for the marvellous scene between her and Sir Robert in Act 2. This makes the task of the actress playing Celia more difficult and one must congratulate Miriam Clark on her portrayal. She managed from the beginning to invest Celia with an inner tension which set her apart from the others. Altogether it was a very well cast production with everyone contributing to make this a memorable occasion. Michael Sabine-Bacon (Edward), Liz Amiel (Lavinia) and Colin Gregory as the mysterious Sir Henry could hardly have been bettered. The two "guardians" Julia and Alexander were amusingly played by Anne Critchley and Joseph Russel, though the moment of revelation in Act 2 could have been more dramatically handled. But that may have been due to the fact that the director, Bill Critchley, slightly lost courage when confronted with the play's mystic quality. LS

POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Son et Lumiere at St Judes

A celebration unique in the Garden Suburb will be held in St Jude-on-the-Hill at 8pm on 20 September 1984.

In honour of the two giants of English architecture and music, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Edward Elgar, a 'Son et Lumiere' presentation will highlight the interior features of the great Lutyens church and show a slide film of related works. A recorded narrative will feature professional actors, including the Suburb's own resident, the much loved Cyril Luckham, and the episodes will be linked by Elgar's music played on the

organ by Peter Lea Cox accompanied by a professional ensemble.

The script-writer is Nancy Goodchild of the Floorboards Theatre Company, who is working in close association with Stuart Gray, architect/historian, resident in Temple Fortune Hill well known for his conducted walks in the Suburb; Brigid Grafton Green, Suburb Archivist and Dawn Orr of the Trust.

The inspiration for this celebration comes from Alfred Lester, Chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Design Study Group, whose book on

the Care and Appreciation of the Suburb's Architectural Heritage (1977) continues in its second printing a best-seller of the Suburb publications.

Lutyens' church of St. Jude-on-the-Hill has been chosen as a prime example of the work of the greatest architect, in North West London, of the period 1834-1984 for special celebration during the year. As it also happens to be a commemorative year for Elgar, the 50th anniversary of his death in 1934, Alfred Lester's musical interests led him to think of a combined tribute to the work of the two masters.

And so we have in the Suburb something quite new to look forward to, we are accustomed to a rich diet of local music and drama in this favoured place, but in September we shall have a veritable feast of entertainment and a serious salute to splendour in design and sound.

The piece de résistance, the 'summa cum laude' of the show, will be the new artistic dimension — the 'lumiere'. Remember the glorious floodlighting for the Royal Jubilee in 1977? Try to imagine the spectacle of spotlights inside illuminating the familiar details of our parish church and highlighting special features to illustrate the narrative, interspersed with Elgar's triumphant cadences.

This performance is for ONE NIGHT ONLY in this special year. The organizers are seeking sponsorship from the local business community so that proceeds from ticket sales can be given to the current appeal for roofing restoration work at the church.

Fill in the application form for tickets now and return it as soon as possible.

To: A Lester, 5 Reynolds Close, NW11 7EA

Please send me _____ tickets at £4.50 each for St. Judes Son et Lumiere on September 20 1984 at 8 pm.

I enclose cheque payable to St. Judes Son et Lumiere for £_____

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SUNSHINE CORNER - A START

Work has started on the restoration of Sunshine Corner. In order to reduce costs direct labour is being used and the work is being supervised by the Trust Architect, Wilfred Court. The seats along the East Wall are being replaced. In addition the seats flanking the footpath leading up to Heathgate are being replaced.

The Trust are also planning

to clear the flowerbeds and start a programme of replanting and landscaping. Of all the open spaces looked after by the Trust, Sunshine Corner is the most important and according to the Trust Manager, Christopher Kellerman, it should be a showpiece and a credit to the Suburb. In a few years the Trust are hoping to start work on rebuilding the seats along the west wall.

New Residents?

The RA is holding a party for new residents to get to know one another on October 20. New residents should receive invitations from the RA. Any new residents not listed by wardens and therefore not invited by mid October are asked to get in touch with Alan Lawson on 458 3827.

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