

PRESENTATION TO FORMER M.P.



Former Member of Parliament Peter Thomas, who retired at the last General Election as the representative for Hendon South constituency, and now sits in the House of Lords as Lord Thomas of Gyward, was given a special 'thank you' presentation by sixty leading members of the Garden Suburb branch of Hendon South Conservative Association, who had worked with him in the Suburb during his seventeen years service.

Miss Frances Mainwaring, president of the Garden Suburb Conservatives, presented Lord Thomas with a number of books together with an inscription which read: "... from the Garden Suburb Ward Branch, Hendon South

Conservatives, for his outstanding and devoted service to his constituents, with affection and respect."

The presentation was made at the home of Garden Suburb Ward Chairman Mrs. Norma Blausten, who welcomed the presence of not only Lord Thomas, but also his daughter Claire and his former secretary in the House of Commons, Miss Mary Lucas.

Lord Thomas, who was MP for Hendon South from 1970-1987, commented how much he had enjoyed working with such a varied constituency and how interesting he had found the Suburb. He said he would "continue to have a very special interest in the Suburb." NB

INSTITUTE SUCCESS STORY

Some years ago a Greek girl called Maria Alexiou came to the Institute to study English as a Foreign Language. At the end of her first year we discovered that her aim in coming to learn English was to become fluent enough to go to Art School in the UK. She had very little money but considerable talent and energy. She worked as an au-pair in various families who gave her free time to study art. The Institute Principal was so impressed by her efforts that he appealed to the Institute to give her an annual scholarship which helped pay her fees at Camberwell School of Art and Crafts.

Last June she gained their Higher Diploma in Painting and Drawing with one of the highest grades.

To her great delight she also gained a Jointer Internship at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC. There she has a scholarship to study in the Conservation Department of the National Museum of American History and the Conservation Analytical Laboratory of the Smithsonian Institution.

The first thing Maria did when she heard of her award was to come and tell us the news and thank the Institute for the help and support it had given her. JRB

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INTERNATIONAL CAROLS

A highlight of the year in the Dept of teaching English to Overseas Students at HGS Institute is the Christmas Service held each December in The Free Church. This is the only opportunity we get for staff and students to meet under one roof, and between three and four hundred people gather in the Free Church to hear carols, songs, poems and prayers in many languages.

This year was the eleventh International Service and one of the best. Among our overseas students there are frequently some professional musicians and this year we were fortunate to have a singer from Indonesia and a violinist from Japan. Both gave splendid and uplifting performances. However, the amateur performers from some of the 65 countries who send students to the Institute were equally inspiring. There were choirs from China, Japan and Spain, groups singing in French & German, a trio from the Faroe Islands, 2 singers from Iceland and a splendid candlelight procession of

Swedish students singing 'Santa Lucia'. A Danish student read the story of 'The Wise Men', a class gave a dramatic reading from Dickens 'A Christmas Carol', one of the teachers led in prayer and a staff choir showed us that the English too can sing. The students were welcomed to the church by the minister, Peter Baraclough, and after the service were entertained to coffee by the members.

The atmosphere and excitement of this service is something quite special and for once no one minds when clapping breaks out spontaneously in a church service. JRB

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HORTICULTURAL WINNERS

HGS Horticultural Society held its 73rd AGM on 24 November at Fellowship House. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs Joan Rees Phillips, reported on a successful year despite difficult weather. The four Winter Lectures had been well-attended and the three summer shows much enjoyed by the many exhibitors and visitors.

Silver cups and medals were presented by the Show Secretary, Mr Len Potiphar, who was singled out for praise for his hard work throughout the year, to: 1. Ken Murrell (Championship Vase, Wildwood Cup, 30th Anniversary Cup); 2. Jack Prevett (John Wiseman Floral Bowl, Codmore Beaker, Sweet Pea Cup, Delphinium Cup); 3. Walter Mathews (Maurice Brewer Memorial Cup); 4. Jimmy Dyson (Alice Dennant Memorial Cup, Gladiolus Cup); 5. Edith Brown (Merriman Fruit Cup, Marshall Roberts Cup); 6. Rosemary Gaskell-Taylor (Cutbush Cup, Ladies' Bowl, Dudman Challenge Cup); 7. Joan Rees Phillips (Morrison Plate); 8. Hilda Squires (Bryce Hardman Trophy); 9. Joanna Seres (Winifred

Price Cup Age 5-8); 10. Louise Edwards (Tony Holton Award Age 9-11 and Jack Rumbold Cup Age 9-15).

The RHS Banksian Medal went to Mike Gilbert, the Royal National Rose Society's Medal to Walter Mathews and the London Garden Society's Medal to Jack Prevett. Plans for 1988 were unveiled, starting with Winter Lectures at Fellowship House (8.30pm) — see Suburb Diary. A Plant Sale, always a successful event, would take place at Fellowship House on the morning of Saturday 14 May.

There was a lively debate as to whether the early August Show should be dropped experimentally as so many younger members were on holiday at that time of year, but the meeting decided in no uncertain terms that this would be a retrograde step in an active society.

New members and helpers for show days were always welcome at any time of year — ring 883-5953 for details. MH

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