



rise to the now celebrated episode of Coral Browne and Guy Burgess's suit. Most of the company visited Burgess but Cyril did not; he was not willing to have any dealings with a traitor. He spoke most entertainingly, however, about the tour and of Coral Browne's exceptional mastery of the old English art of getting one's way in Foreign parts by speaking English louder, and louder and louder. He was an excellent raconteur and could keep an audience happy for hours with his extremely funny theatrical reminiscences; many charities benefited from this. He and his wife Violet, (known to everyone as Twin, because she is one) also presented a series of anthologies, researched by Twin and her twin sister, on such varied subjects as Dame Henrietta Barnett, Trees and Cyril's beloved Anthony Trollope. They performed these in various local venues, but especially at Fellowship House where they frequently entertained the members on Tuesday afternoons and gave great pleasure. They also took them further afield, to National Trust houses, schools, societies, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. On one occasion the performance was to take place in the gardens of Mompesson House in Salisbury, and the National Trust had omitted to make

contingent arrangements, should it rain. It rained, a steady downpour, and though Cyril and Twin were able to do their reading under cover of a sort the audience, numbering about a hundred, was less fortunate, but they all stayed, apparently very happily, while the rain beat down on their umbrellas.

I should like to quote from Michael Billington's excellent obituary in The Guardian: "He exuded (in his performances) qualities of sense, sanity and charitable goodness that presumably came from within the man himself". They did indeed. Cyril's goodness and loving-kindness had a luminous quality that no one could miss. You left his presence wanting to be a better person. He always made you feel that you were the one person he had been longing to meet to make his day perfect, and what made this so heart-warming was that he meant it. He loved his friends and was greatly loved in return. Tim and I think ourselves very lucky to have been numbered (with countless others) among them.

Cyril met Twin in repertory in the 1930s. They were soon married and enjoyed a perfect relationship for nearly 50 years. I have never met a better matched pair. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her. JN

## ABBEYFIELD

At the time of writing we are glad to report that all the rooms at Abbeyfield are full. There was a period last year when we were short of staff and short of residents. Nevertheless, though at present there are no vacancies, do not assume that will be the case if you hear of someone who would profit from the sort of accommodation we offer.

Our residents each furnish their own bed-sitting room and look after themselves as in their own home, but they have two meals a day provided and the ingredients for breakfast and other snacks.

They have the double benefits of living their own life and of sharing the community life of the house.

The Friends of Abbeyfield which was founded to help raise funds and to provide extra amenities for the residents, has this year arranged a wine and cheese evening and three coffee mornings so as to give wider publicity to Abbeyfield. The At Homes proposed for June have had to be postponed since extensive repair work to the roof

and the top floors has been arranged with the generous help of a Housing Corporation grant. We are sorry for the residents whilst the work is in progress, but they will rejoice to know that they will have a firm roof over their heads.

Later in the year when this work and some downstairs decoration has been done the Friends hope to organise the postponed At Homes.

Soon after the Suburb News is published we will be having the Annual General meeting of our Abbeyfield on April 27th at 8pm followed by the Friends AGM at the Society of Friends Meeting House in North Square.

These meetings will give Suburb Residents the opportunity of learning more about the work. In addition we are appealing for those interested in the work to stand for election for the Friends of Abbeyfield Committee who have this last year had no chairman and other gaps on their committee.

Ralph Baldry  
Chairman Executive Committee  
455/6926

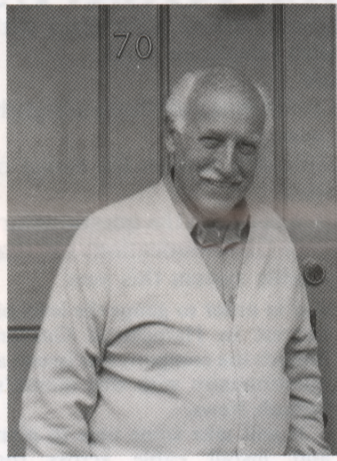
## CYRIL LUCKHAM SUBURB ACTOR

Cyril Luckham, who had lived in Hampstead Way for the last 19 years and died on 7th February at the age of 81, was President of our Society for a short period in the 1970s. He resigned, with some regret, because he felt he could not give the time and commitment he wished to give to everything he undertook. He was a man of total integrity who liked to do things thoroughly and as well as he was able. He never gave a bad performance in his life.

His acting career was a long one, dating from 1935; after a long stint in repertory he came to the West End in the late 1940s and in the next 20 years gave many fine performances on the London stage, in for example, The Love of Four Colonels and The Family

Reunion. He also appeared in many films, but he is perhaps best remembered for his television appearances, which were numerous; everyone who saw The Forsyte Saga remembers with affection and admiration his portrayal of Sir Lawrence Mont (Bart), but that was just one among many, uniformly and reliably excellent.

Some of his finest stage performances were at Stratford in the late 1950s, where he played many parts including Gonzalo in The Tempest and a wonderful Feste in Peter Hall's Twelfth Night. Tim and I saw him there, in 1958, as a first-rate Polonius to Michael Redgrave's Hamlet in the production which subsequently went to Russia and gave



Top left Cyril Luckham plays Sir Lawrence Mont (bart) in the Forsyte Saga. Left Cyril at home in Hampstead Way.

## FUTURE RA ACTIVITIES -AND YOU

The Wardens and Membership Committee thank all those residents who have returned the green questionnaire enclosed in The Chairman's Envelope.

A terrific response which we acknowledge here. As the chosen activities are sorted and analysed we shall answer all those people who have offered their help or ideas.

Initially the most popular idea will be taken up, if that is seen to be successful, then it is fair to assume that one success will be followed by others. From the answers we have received, a Theatre Club will be the one to start the ball rolling. Already three enthusiastic supporters of the Theatre Club have offered their help and are now engaged in setting it up.

Visiting academic couple and son seek accommodation for June. Quite prepared to look after plants and pets and will care for your home as you would wish.

Wife impeccable housekeeper, husband and son well behaved, non smokers. Call Lee or Annabel Paterson on 338 3777 or 748 6737 before May 1st.

## HENLY'S CORNER

from P.I.

an estimated figure of £49 million, the tenders came in at £70 million and the contract has just been placed at £60.5 million on a reduced specification. What the final cost will be no-one knows!

The Residents Association's case was brilliantly summed up by our barrister Mr R Jaffa on 31st January when over 300 people attended a two-hour evening session, only the second that the Inspector allowed during the entire inquiry. The Department of Transport made a totally biased closing statement in front of a dozen people on the afternoon of 6th February. The Inspector hopes to send his report to The Secretaries of State for Transport and The Environment in six months to a year for them to make their decision. DR

## John Hall

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