

SUCCESSFUL SUBURB ENVIRONMENT WEEK



Launching Litter Free Zones Councillor Dot Benson fixes a sticker to a Meadway Gate lamp post assisted by Peter Loyd and John Marshall MP.



A MUSICAL TREAT

The concert given by Robert Max and his Garden String Ensemble during the Suburb Week was an immediate success. From the very opening one could tell we were about to hear a very professional performance.

Robert Max quite surpassed himself as a conductor. The string programme was well chosen and extremely well performed.

And now the interval, after which the 'conductor' emerged,

cello in hand, like a giant refreshed, eager to get his fingers on those strings, to give us a most lively and extremely musical performance of Haydn's Cello Concerto, which he not only played but conducted.

Well done, Robert, we wish you well and look forward to hearing you again before long.

Marie Goossens-Laurence
OBE FRCS

HGS Residents Association appointed a special sub-committee to organise a series of events for Environment Week. This consisted of Janette Harris, Ernest Howey, Anne Lawson, Sally Murrell and Jane Rapson, and they took as their theme 'Our Past — Their Future'.

Saturday 22nd April saw the launching of the Litter Free Zones Campaign, introduced by John Marshall, MP, and performed by Councillor Mrs D Benson (Mayor Elect) at Meadway Gate, NW11, at 10.30 am. The Litter Free Zones Campaign was master-minded by Peter Loyd as a separate exercise. The launch was well attended, many residents wearing the new T-shirts designed for the campaign. Afterwards a short reception to inaugurate Environment Week was held in the Green Room in HGS Institute.

That evening there was a concert in the Free Church Hall, arranged by Sylvia de Peyer and given by the Garden String Ensemble — leader Mariane Olyver, conductor/soloist Robert Max. All the players were young people, and the programme included the Haydn Cello Concerto in C and works by Handel, Couperin, Holst and Elgar. The concert was enthusiastically received by an audience of about a hundred residents, who were unanimous in their praise of the orchestra.

By kind permission of HGS Institute, the RA was allowed use of the Tea House on the two weekends covered by Environment Week. Tea was served during the Saturday, Sunday and Monday afternoons, and an interesting display of arts and crafts from local schools and from the Institute attracted a steady stream of visitors.

Two Suburb Town Trail Walks were arranged — on the first Sunday afternoon Stuart Gray led a party of about 20 people through the Suburb, starting from Arcade House, Finchley Road. On the second Sunday

afternoon Chris Kellerman led a larger party from Wyldes. Both parties stopped at the Tea House for refreshments halfway through the walk.

Other events throughout the week were an illustrated talk by Eunice Kossoff on the history of the Arts and Crafts movement from William Morris to Henrietta Barnett. She talked about the life of William Morris, the beginning of the Arts and Crafts movement, the creation of the garden city of Letchworth, leading to the formation of Hampstead Garden Suburb by Henrietta Barnett. The installation of a microphone by Michael Colomb for this talk was very much appreciated. Stephen Kemp of Friends of the Earth gave a talk on the environment, taking the place of David O'Mahoney, who was unable to be present. He showed slides of the effect on the environment by what was happening in the world today (e.g. destruction of the rain forests) and suggested certain measures to deal with the problems. The Horticultural Society mounted a display to coincide with this lecture. Both talks were attended by 65-75 residents.

The final event of Environment Week was a presentation by Mollie Cattle of 'Patchwork' (a branch of the Dramatic Society) — 'Times Remembered' — a programme of song and verse, which was thoroughly enjoyed by an audience of about 70 people in the Tea House.

The general conclusion was that it had been a successful week and hopefully had heightened the awareness of residents to the environment and the current problems. JH



PATCHWORK ENTERTAINS

On Monday evening, 1st May, in a packed Tea House, the 'Patchwork' group gave a most enjoyable Concert entitled 'Times Remembered'.

The group, headed by Molly Cattle, included Edward Cattle, Sarah Falk, Nora Packer, Miriam Clark, Hugh Eliot, Martin Hamlin, Phil Grant and Tom Morrell (Pianist).

Intermingling with such songs as 'We'll Gather Lilacs', 'These Foolish Things', 'London Pride' and Flanders and Swann's 'Transport of Delight', in which

the audience participated enthusiastically, were poems and prose to remind us of times past. These ranged from Kipling's 'The River's Tale', Dylan Thomas' 'August Bank Holiday', Joyce Grenfell's 'Time' and 'Boat Train' to works which took us back to memories of the Second World War, such as Noel Coward's 'Lie in the Dark and Listen'.

The programme ended with the group singing 'End of a Perfect Day', which seemed a particularly fitting end to the Suburb's Environment Week. AH

DARING CHOICE PAYS OFF

A play of Steven Berkoff to be performed by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society!! It couldn't possibly be true? Indeed it was and a very good job they made of it too. They may have played to almost empty houses but the young people were there, as well as a few of the more adventurous Wrinklies.

For those who do not know, Berkoff writes plays that don't mince words; his subject is the society of today and his style is the pithy language of the streets interspersed with quotations from Shakespeare. West, the play in question, was written in 1979, and uses this style to good effect. It is the story of two gangs, Stamford Hill and the Hoxton Boys and of the leader Mike, who when the going gets tough finds himself alone, deserted by the toughs he thought he could rely on. Behind Mike are his uncomprehending parents, who finally disown him and his badly used girlfriend. In spite of its theme the play is not naturalistic but gives one the feeling of a Greek drama; the young men of the gangs are no more characterised than a Greek chorus and comment in unison or individually on the action.

The director, Marion Greenwood, was very expert with her

casting and Jav Punwar, John Musker, Richard Kinder and Peter Cohen as the members of both gangs were really tough and handled the difficult choruses well, although at times one could have done with a bit more clarity. Malcolm Willey and Val Gregory were good as Mike's genteel parents while Helen Burnett as Sylv, his girlfriend, brought out the pathos of a girl who is forever waiting at the end of a telephone.

The performance that made the play was Philip Grant's Mike. Looking extraordinarily like the young Berkoff he made one almost like this rebel shaking his fist at society and chafing against the boredom and frustration of his existence.

The set by Diana Bumpus was in keeping with the mood. It was good to see the Society tackling something new and presenting it with such vigour. LS

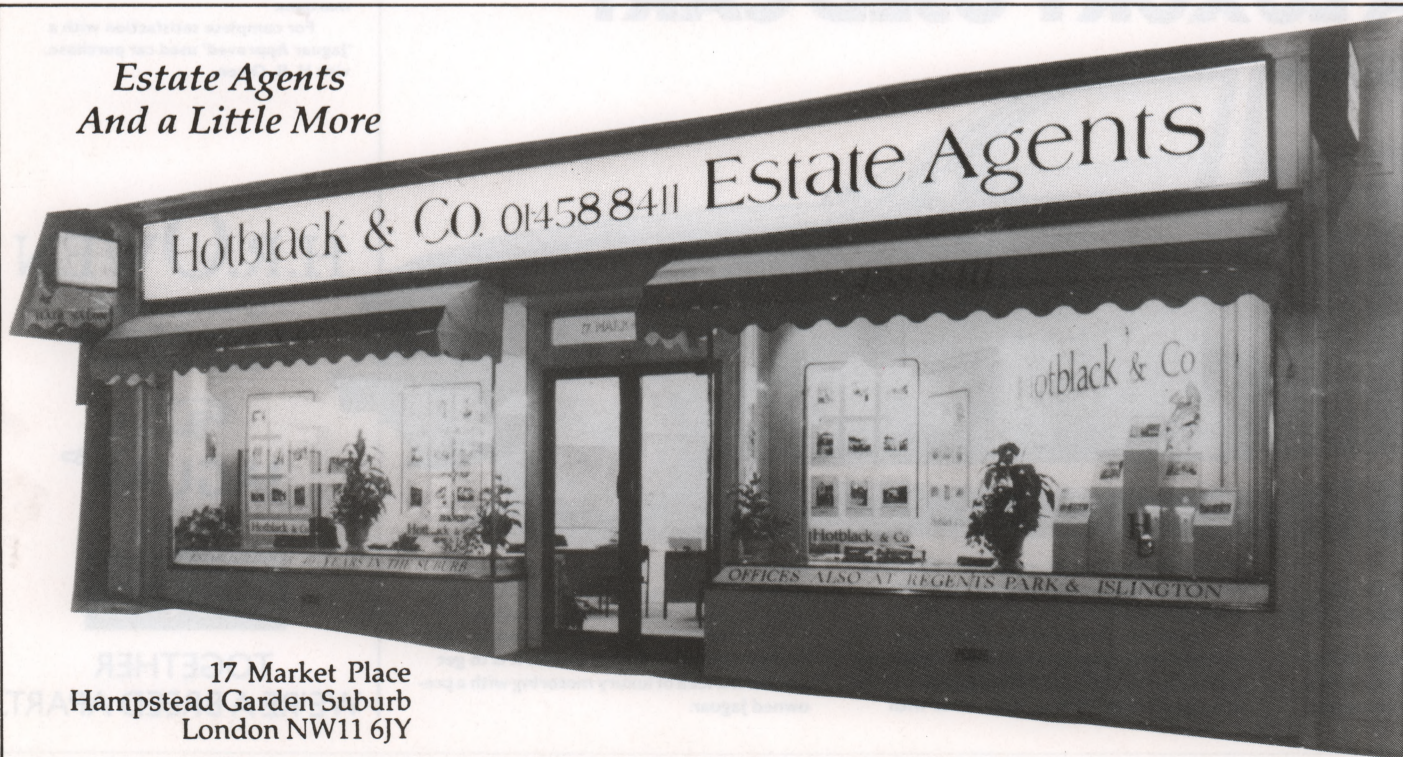
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RA Environment Week Committee Anne Lawson, Jane Rapson, Janette Harris, Ernest Howey and Sally Murrell.

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