

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Walking along our Suburb roads during late December, one could not but notice that in many front windows, just after dusk, there appeared candelabra with small lights.

These were the Hannukah candles lit in Jewish homes to mark the festival called by the same name, and which commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the idolatrous Greeks who had desecrated the second Temple, and also the miracle in which the unpolluted ritual oil, of which only one day's supply remained, lasted for eight days until fresh pure oil could become available.

The festival lasts eight days and is marked in many ways. The most important is that of the candles. A special candelabrum holds eight candles, and a space for an additional one called a shamash which is used to light the others. The candles are lit at dusk each evening. On the first night apart from the shamash, one candle is lit. On each successive night an additional candle is lit until on the eighth and last night all are lit. The Hanukkah lights should be displayed on the left side of an open front door and they symbolise a spirit of freedom and confidence in the miraculous works of G-d which

all should see. Today such a position is rarely practical and instead the candles are placed in a front room near the window so that they can be easily seen.

The festival is further marked by eating special foods (doughnuts in Israel), and also by celebrating in the form of parties especially for children and with the exchange of presents. It is this last practice together with its proximity with Xmas, that has led to much confusion, and a belief that it is in some way a substitute Xmas for Jewish people. This is not so; its origins go back to times before the Christian Era. Its timing is based on the Jewish Lunar movable calendar (which is not dissimilar to the method for calculating the dates of Easter). Hanukkah therefore falls any time from early December until the end of that month, but as it covers a total of eight days, quite frequently, as happened this year, it included the period of Xmas.

Nevertheless occurring at the time when the days are at their shortest, the ideas that the festival of Hanukkah offer and are symbolised by the lights, bring to the minds of so many, hope for a bright and better future just at the very time of year when feelings such as these are most needed.

TRAFFIC MATTERS

Henly's Corner

The Inspector has completed his report and the Department of Transport say that a decision, based on their summary, will be made by the Ministers soon.

"Red Routes" (Priority Route Network)

The Government have stated that it regards traffic restraint as "very much a policy of last resort" (Traffic in London discussion document issued by the Department of Transport, December 1989) and is, therefore, proposing to create over 300 miles of urban clearway "red routes", together with increased penalties for illegal parking. The A1 from South Mimms into central London is to be included in the scheme and we are concerned that upgrading this road will increase the volume of traffic along Fallooden Way and make it more difficult to resist pressure to "improve" this road.

Golders Green Road/Brent Street

The Department of Transport propose to separate these roads from the North Circular (A406). We are concerned that this will increase rat running throughout the area as Henly's Corner will be the nearest point for access to the NCR. DJR

Suburb Charities Update

Last year Suburb Charities sent out an appeal for donations with the Winter edition of Suburb News. I would like to thank all those who responded so generously and encouraged the Council to look at an interesting long term project which we hope you will be willing to support.

You may not have heard of the Barnet Care Attendant Scheme which is designed to provide help for people who are caring for relatives or friends in their own home who, because of their disability, need 24-hour attention. The sort of age range of those in need of care varies from the young, who may have a severe mental handicap or severe physical disability, to elderly people suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimers Disease or Parkinsons Disease, for example.

Usually a member of the family starts to "care"; often giving up a job in order to do so. Eventually their whole lives become involved in this. They find that they can never get out because they are "on duty" day in and day out, and often through the night, too.

Trained Care Attendants assume this caring role so that the carer can get out for a break. Without this support, many carers of disabled people are likely to break down or become ill under the strain. The Barnet Care Attendant Scheme has limited funds to deal with those in need throughout the Borough and tries to provide one 2 to 4 hour visit from an

Attendant each week.

There are already a number of people living on the Suburb who are carers who need additional help. So the Council of Suburb Charities has set aside £1,000 to enable carers to have more breaks or to provide some facility which would help them to cope better.

We have had detailed discussion with the professional organisers of the Scheme, who will contact Suburb Charities when they have identified someone living on the Suburb with a particular need. They will confirm that the service which we "buy" is in addition to what they would normally provide and that requests for help will only be made on behalf of those who do not have sufficient funds to obtain the additional help which they need.

Depending on the amounts we receive in response to this appeal we may be able to devote even more of our resources to this ongoing work.

We are also interested to hear of any other individuals or organisations on the Suburb who need our help. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

There is a form on the insert included with this edition of Suburb News, but if you have mislaid it, please send your donation to me, John Freeborn, Chairman, Suburb Charities, 862 Finchley Road, NW11 6AB.

Cheques should be made payable to Suburb Charities but if you would be willing to enter into a 4 year Covenant you can give us more since we are a Registered Charity.

It does not cost you any more than you were prepared to give but we can recover tax paid on the money in due course.

If you are interested, please let me know and I will send you the simple form to be filled in. There is a box to tick on the insert form to save you writing a letter.

Please don't delay. Send in your donation while it is in your mind.

John Freeborn,
Chairman, Suburb Charities.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

The local Golders Green branch is greatly looking forward to hearing guest speaker, Dr. Mayer Hillman on 23rd January. Dr. Hillman is a founder member of the Friends of the Earth and of the Conservation Society. As the author of numerous books on conservation he is eminently qualified to address us - he has been a Senior Fellow at the Policy Studies Institute - the leading independent research institute undertaking studies of economic, industrial and social policy in the UK. He is in charge of the Institute's Research programme on "Environment and Quality of Life." His talk, en-

titled "Wealth Creation in an Ecologically Orientated Society" is both interesting and stimulating, and we look forward to welcoming you, particularly newcomers concerned about conservation. The February Lecture will be on the London Wildlife Trust - learning what we can do individually to support their work. In March Barnet Borough's Bernard King will give a fascinating, revealing and amusing talk entitled "Talking Rubbish, What a Waste". (For details see "What's On"), for further information phone Peter Kyte 458-5415, Jean Brazier 455 2859.

LILLIANE NEWMAN

The death, with shattering suddenness, of Lilliane Newman on 22nd November deprived the Suburb of one of its most colourful characters and Willifield Way of one of its most loved neighbours.

Lilliane, a Swiss, came to England in 1955 to be au pair with a Suburb family. She met and married Gordon and spent the rest of her life here. She loved Britain and in embracing her new country she was more withering than the Britons themselves when standards fell below what she believed ought to be British.

Lilliane was larger than life: large physically, large in heart and large in mind. She had a tremendous joie de vivre. She had a great zest for life. She was a talented raconteur, narrating her stories in a way that commanded attention and enlivened and enlightened her listeners. Her accent heightened the effect, because she often used it to laugh at herself and make others laugh with her.

She had what the staid suburb would describe as a

volatile personality. She reacted strongly to issues large and small, memorably dramatising her indignation so that her opinion registered securely.

She was a giver, not a taker. She was the neighbour who never said No, whether it be feeding the cats, minding the house, sitting with the children. Her large heart was a golden heart.

Abbeyfield House will miss her. She was indefatigable in her work for the elderly residents - as chauffeur, as locum cook, as fund raiser, as friend.

The Suburb Conservatives will miss her. Always modestly refusing to accept office, she did the work of half a dozen office holders. For her neighbours, a bright light went out, leaving a dusk that will take years to disperse.

With her husband Gordon, her daughter Frances, her son Mark, we can only grieve during this time of temporary separation, and thank God for her.

ET

MARCUS KING

Marcus King's death in October left a large gap, not only in the Suburb, where he was a dedicated and tireless worker for so many useful and beneficial causes, but also in Crayford, Kent, where he had a business as a Surveyor and Estate Agent. He was respected by all for his wise counselling and dignity.

He was born in Canada and chose to live in this country, and we all benefited by this.

He was very orthodox and active in the Hampstead Garden Synagogue. He was a leading member of the Council of Christians & Jews, and also an active Freemason.

Among his many other activities he was for a long period a Special Constable. As a tireless Hospital Visitor he spent many hours giving comfort and confi-

dence to so many patients in hospital. He also gave much of his time and efforts as an RA warden, and as a council member.

He had an interest in local and national politics and was on the local Conservative Committee that originally selected Margaret Thatcher as the Parliamentary Candidate for Finchley.

The Prime Minister, on his death, sent a most moving personal letter of condolence to his widow Cyd.

It was a privilege to have known him as a friend and he will be sadly missed and mourned not only by his wife and family but by all his many friends, acquaintances and business associates. He was a complete humanitarian in every sense of the word. AS

A PLACE IN TIME

"A PLACE IN TIME" London Borough of Barnet up to c.1560

If you are interested in the history of your local borough this book will answer many of your queries. Produced by Hendon and District Archaeological Society it sets out to give a framework of life in the borough from Prehistoric times up to the Battle of Barnet in 1471. A difficult task especially when information is sparse in many periods, but it is a good read and based on archaeological digs and written documents.

Did you know that an Old Stone Age handaxe was found in Mill Hill, that the most interesting Middle Stone Age dig in London took place on West Heath where HADAS members worked part-time for a decade discovering worked stone tools and flakes dated to c.7000 BC, and that Brockley Hill to the north west of the borough produced a vast amount of 1st and 2nd century pottery from kilns alongside the new Roman road - Watling Street running north from London? Even more exciting was the discovery of a Saxon spiral pin, and Saxon pottery in a boundary or drainage ditch at the Church End site at Hendon, as Saxon finds are rare in the

borough. On the same site, later medieval ware - the 13th and 14th century Herts grey ware was found, documents added to archaeological finds proving that life in Hendon probably went on from Roman times. By the time the Doomsday Book was written - only the Manor of Hendon is mentioned, but then ecclesiastical evidence from court rolls and annual accounts of manors in the borough build up a picture of the manors held - Hendon by Westminster Abbey, Barnet by St Albans Abbey, Finchley by the Bishop of Ely. Gradually the individual gained his freedom from the manorial system - the Peasants' Revolt was particularly strong in this area. Apart from the damage caused by the fighting they were not much moved by the Battle of Barnet (part of the Wars of the Roses). However, we do have good documentary evidence for this event and this concludes the book. "A Place in Time" is available through Barnet Libraries or from Alan Lawson, 68 Oakwood Road NW11, W. H. Smith, Temple Fortune, Journaux in Market Place, price £4.50.

EH

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