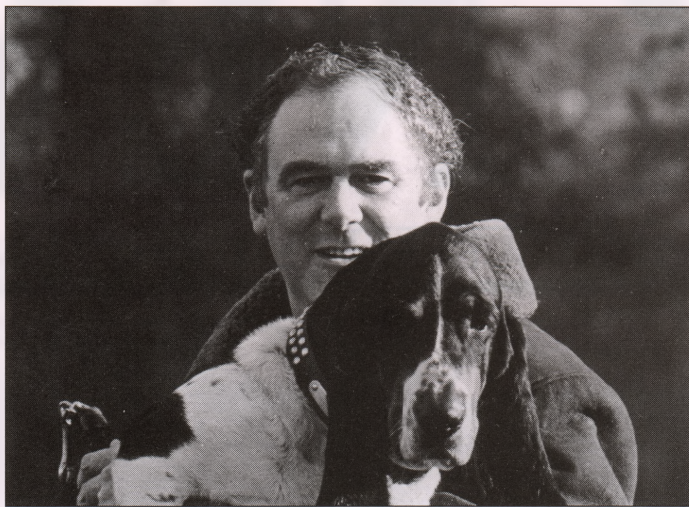


GERALD PRIESTLAND

Gerald Priestland, who died on 20th June, was one of that select and talented band of BBC foreign correspondents who were reporting back from far-flung places in the Fifties and Sixties and whose memorable voices, heard regularly in programmes like Radio Newsreel and From Our Own Correspondent, became as familiar and well-loved to an older generation as those of the best known TV presenters of today. In what can now be seen as the golden age of foreign reporting on radio, he served for 16 years in many of the main news centres of the world - Washington (twice), Paris, Beirut and New Delhi - covering some of the most dramatic news stories of the time, in a style which in the opinion of a former colleague 'could make his dispatches approximate the best of Alastair Cooke'.

But a younger generation - the older generation too, for that matter - will remember him best for his contributions to the BBC's - and Channel Four's - broadcasts on religious themes. He became a Quaker in the early Seventies and shortly afterwards



was appointed BBC Religious Affairs correspondent. This gave him an outlet, in a Saturday spot called 'Yours faithfully', which proved the start of a second career which continued long after he had formally retired from the BBC. It brought him a new reputation - and a new vocation - as a wise, witty, compassionate and friendly figure willing to share his innermost thoughts, doubts and anxieties on matters of the spirit

with a vast audience, and thus to be of help and comfort to many, if not always to the hierarchy of the churches, about which he could be outspokenly critical.

The product of a classical education, he had a remarkably well stocked mind but was a master of the light touch and the self-deprecatory aside. He wrote at least eight books - some like 'Priestland's Progress' based on series of broadcast talks, others auto-biographical like 'Something understood' - and frequently contributed book reviews to the Ham and High. His base in London for many years was the family home in Meadway Gate, but later he and his wife Sylvia, a noted artist and print maker, moved round the corner to Temple Fortune Lane. Sylvia herself was brought up on the Suburb, and all four of their children went to Childs Way School. Two later went on to Henrietta Barnett School. An active member of the local Society of Friends, he was also a lover of good wine, good company and good conversation. Many will recall his tall figure striding across the Heath Extension with his basset hound Humphrey - almost as long, one felt, as Gerry was tall. As The Independent's obituarist concluded, he was in every sense a good man.

GM

ANN RAND

Ann Rand died on the 29th May this year. Born Ann Jeffrey, 16th November 1940 in Giffnock, Glasgow, she trained as a teacher at Jordanhill College. Extremely athletic, she was both a champion hurdler and badminton player as anyone who played against her can testify. She came to teach at Brookland Junior School in 1963 and lodged with Hannah Perlsee at 1a Oakwood Road, just as Terry Rand was moving into the adjoining house, 90 Falloen Way. At Brooklands she soon became very popular, with children and staff alike. My daughters were pupils there and soon told me of the new teacher, Miss Jeffrey who was "great" and "lots of fun".

Two years later, Ann married "her boy next door" and moved round the corner maintaining for many years a close and affectionate friendship with her neighbour Hannah.

After her marriage Ann went to work in a "special needs" teaching post at Drayton Park School in Islington. Here she taught groups of children for whom English was a second language. Her sympathy for the children, and understanding of the problems they faced, was profound, and they loved her as well as learned from her. Drayton Park may well be the only London school to have turned out African, Caribbean, Asian, Greek and Turkish youngsters who to this day speak English with a faint Glasgow accent! In the years that followed, long after she had left the school, many would visit her, bringing their fiancés, spouses and children for her approval. It was through Ann's persuasion that I went to teach at Drayton Park and remained there for seventeen years, so I owe a personal debt to Ann, and can attest to the respect and affection she inspired among other staff. The friendships she formed with her colleagues were deep and lasting, born of admiration for her commitment and generosity, her sharp and irreverent wit and her always original thinking. These qualities



combined to make her a uniquely attractive personality.

It was while working at Drayton Park that she learned how difficult it was for young working mothers to find good quality child care. So, with a group of volunteers, she formed a co-operative and opened a low-cost playgroup in a Baptist church in Upper Holloway. Twenty years on, the playgroup is still flourishing, run by staff that Ann helped to train, and funded for the past fifteen years by the local authority.

Her two children, Anna and Ivan, were adopted in 1973 and 1976 and they attended the playgroup until they were old enough to enroll at the Garden Suburb School in Childs Way.

In the early eighties the challenge of teaching children with special needs once again led her to split her career between the playgroup and an innovative new post in Hackney, and it was from this work that ill-health eventually forced her to resign.

She fought the cruelty of

cancer with the same combination of courage, determination and good humour that had so distinguished her work in education. And in the course of her fight she won a host of new admirers among the staff of the hospitals, treatment centres and hospices that claimed so much of her last five years.

Ann's long illness and death is a loss to education, and to us all. Her ability to communicate with children without inhibition on either side made her a truly "special" teacher. And in the weeks before her death, she welcomed her many visitors as she had always done, her beautiful dark eyes alive with concern for others.

It is no wonder that at her funeral the chapel overflowed with neighbours and colleagues, doctors and nurses, and many she had taught as children at all stages of her career - all joined on that day in honouring one whose devotion and influence had enhanced so many lives.

RP

Telephone 081-458 4422



W.M. GLENDINNING LIMITED

Building Contractors & Decorators

FOUNDED IN LONDON IN 1904
SEVENTY YEARS BUILDING ON
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

**66-70 GRANVILLE ROAD,
CHILDS HILL, NW2 2LA.**

GORDON HUDSON 455 4755
10 MARKET PLACE
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB NW11

**HAMPSTEAD GARDEN
SUBURB'S
NUMBER**

1

AGENTS FOR

— BUYING — SELLING —

— RENTING —

— FREE VALUATIONS —

ALSO AT
Hemel Hempstead 0462 50268
King's Langley 0497 78222
Watford 0494 00023 39111
Bushey Heath 01 950 2200
North Watford 02 21112
Aylesbury 0297 63666

OPEN
7 DAYS
A WEEK

GORDON HUDSON

LYNN EDWARDS

Lynn Edwards, M.A., M.Chir., F.R.C.S., Consultant Urologist at Westminster and St Stephen's Hospitals, Honorary Consultant at St. Luke's died age 52 on 25th June. Those formal words alone will give some idea of the loss to his chosen profession, in which he was respected and admired beyond the shores of his country. It is typical of his humour and modesty that he referred to himself as 'just a plumber'. His attitude to patients (he would have objected to my calling them 'his' patients) was that it was they who had the right, with all possible information given, to make decisions about themselves: by virtue of becoming a patient, one surrendered neither one's dignity nor one's responsibility for one's own destiny. It was one of the ways in which he reflected daily the values of that Christ who was the sustainer and guide of his life.

His loyalty to things Welsh remained with him always. He received frequent requests, which he never refused, to come and preach, in Welsh, at one or other London chapel. Typically, he was able immediately to establish a link with any 'London' Welshman you happened to mention. He loved Welsh culture, was present at many National Eisteddfodau, and was proud when at one he was nominated an Honorary Bard. There was in him, however, none of that insularity which can mar the outlook of those who defend

a minority culture against the pressures of this modern world.

A Welsh upbringing encouraged in him a talent for music, which showed in his work with the Choirs at St. Jude's where, in emergency, he could turn his hand to playing the organ too. In many ways he became identified with the life and worship of St. Jude's. He took a major part in producing an excellent Gazette. Most of all, he loved to share his faith with the children and young people, at the Fellowship, in discussion groups, in the famous week-ends away, in training for Confirmation. His own great desire was to take orders and enter the Nonstipendiary Ministry. Sadly, time was not granted, but on 10th September, 1989, in a ceremony moving for him and for all, he was commissioned as Reader. His ministry was short but unforgettable, not least for his pastoral care and his preaching. He had the ability to go to the heart of things. Not long before he died I was discussing with him, as his fellow Reader, a pastoral problem. In four pointed words he threw on it a new and decisive light. Then, as always, he used unstintingly and untiringly the talents given him, in the service of his God and of his neighbour. 'A dyweddod ei Arglwydd wrtho, "Da, was da a ffyddlon ... dos i mewn i lawenydd dy Arglwydd", (Mt 25.21).

GCB

BRILL ■ OWEN
CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

For a sensitive
and sympathetic approach
to architecture and interior design
we offer a full or partial service
to suit your requirements

NICHOLAS BRILL M.Sc. DIP. ARCH. RIBA MBIM
ASSISTANT TRUST ARCHITECT 1987-88

5 DRYDEN STREET • COVENT GARDEN
LONDON WC2E 9NW • TELEPHONE 01-829 8436
FAX 01-240 5600

**TRAVEL CENTRE
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN
SUBURB**

*Our experienced staff will
help with all
travel arrangements.*

**8 MARKET PLACE,
NW11
01-209 0444**

