

# DAISY PULLS IT OFF

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society must have made good some of their losses with the splendid attendance at the performances of 'Daisy Pulls it Off' at the end of October. Denise Deegan's play takes a tongue-in-cheek look at a girls' boarding school circa 1927. Daisy, a scholarship girl, arrives at the rather uppity school and meets prejudice not only from some of the girls but also from the staff. However, she is not only plucky and clever but also, and more important, brilliant on the hockey field. Who cares where you came from when you save the school's honour! There is a sub-plot concerning the school's lost treasure and a lost father.

Terry Rogers, the director, got some very lively performances out of his almost entirely female cast.

Jane Gostyn made a delightful heroine - very spunky and resourceful, if a bit shrill of voice. Her chum, Trixie Martin, was also excellent. Indeed all the 'girls' played their parts well and in the right spirit. Sarah Falk looked very impressive as the austere headmistress, Miss Gibson, and Michael Sabine-Bacon made the most of the slightly sinister Mr Scoblowksi, whom Daisy is convinced is a spy.

As usual, the staging was of a high quality and the set designed by David Rance made good use of the space. Altogether a nice half-term choice. **LS**

# FLOWER ARRANGING

HGS Floral Arrangement Club meets monthly at Fellowship House, (4th and 25th April 1991). At each meeting an accredited NAFAS demonstrator (the umbrella group for Flower Arranging Societies) makes up several arrangements illustrating the evening's theme, after which the ten or so floral arrangements are raffled. This year's theme include: 'The Festive Season', 'Purely for Pleasure', 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' and 'A Floral Tapestry'. The keener practitioners come to glean ideas to improve their own skills; other members come for a thoroughly relaxing evening or 'live theatre' as lovely flowers are skilfully transformed into interesting forms. You don't have to be an expert or already an enthusiast to join: one recent new member, inadvertently arriving at Fellowship House for another meeting on a different date, out of curiosity stayed for the evening, and found it so enjoyable she has not only decided to join the Flower Club but is now bringing her sister-in-law along too! Visitors are always welcome on Club nights (fee £1.50) and this is a good way of finding out if you would like to join. For those who would like to learn the practicalities of flower arranging, informal classes are arranged from time to time. Details of future meetings are available from the club Chairman, Rosemary Gaskell-Taylor (458 9777). **RGT**



# TWINNING INITIATIVE

Le Vesinet, a garden suburb of Paris prompted our twinning some three years ago. Since then there have been some reciprocal visits on the part of the RA and Trust, a couple of tennis tournaments, a small number of exchanges and successful visits between, schools.

The RA Council has now asked for an independent committee to be set up to further exchanges of one sort and another particularly between individual families and school age children and young people. Jocelyne Wakefield would like to hear from residents who wish to take part in an informal committee and from those wishing to exchange with Le Vesinet families. She says "We have had every encouragement from Chris Kellerman of the Trust but since we lost the

driving force and enthusiasm of Tony Mandelson not a lot has happened on our side, but the Le Vesinet twinning committee are very keen to develop links between us". 455. 9132

Jonathan Blackstaffe from Brim Hill on holiday last Summer with his exchange family from Le Vesinet. Gilles Monnier visited the Suburb at Easter. Isobel Darrer, North Square went on holiday near Biarritz with the Monteleon family last Easter.



# SUBURB GAS WORKS

British Gas plans to lay a new gas main through parts of Hampstead Garden Suburb. The new main is required to ensure that gas supplies can keep pace with increasing demand.

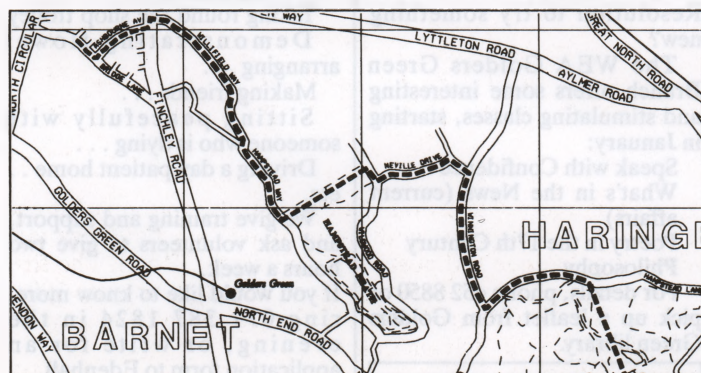
After careful consideration, a route between Temple Fortune and Gospel Oak was identified, passing through the Suburb and crossing the Heath. Consultation has taken place with local authorities, the Police, the RA, the Hampstead Garden Suburb New Trust and many other organisations representing local interests.

The new main will be 30 inches in diameter and made of welded steel. British Gas North Thames recognises that its construction will cause some disruption to the community and has pledged to take all reasonable measures to minimise inconvenience, while ensuring that construction proceeds smoothly and efficiently. British

Gas ecologists and environmental scientists have worked alongside engineers and planners to lessen the impact of this project. The first phase of the project, between Bridge Lane and the Heath extension will start in April 1991. Work on this section will take some seven months.

The London Borough of Barnet and the Police have agreed to a temporary traffic management plan with the Suburb. Some streets, or parts of streets, will need to be closed for certain periods. Proposed dates for each road closure will be published in advance. Those residents along the route who may be inconvenienced will be given notice in writing of work in their vicinity. They will also receive regular news about the project and any temporary traffic restrictions.

An information office will be established to ensure that visitors and residents are kept fully aware of the work.



# "PACK OF LIES"

The lies told in Hugh Whitmore's interesting play are the ones told by a supposedly ordinary Canadian couple, Helen and Bob, to their friends and neighbours, Bob and Barbara. Indeed their whole life is a lie. Bob and Barbara meanwhile are forced not so much to lie as to deceive when the Special Branch take over their home in order to spy on their friends.

The play is loosely based on the Kroger spy case and shows the effect of this circle of deceit on the lives of ordinary people.

When Bob and Barbara let in Mr Stewart, with his two colleagues, Thelma and Sally, they know that they are betraying their friends. How are they to cope with the frequent visits, generosity and many kindnesses of these neighbours when the watchers are behind the door? We all know that the Krogers were caught, and the author tells us that they were not the only casualties.

This complex play seemed a bit beyond the capabilities of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society for once. There was very little family feeling between Bob and Barbara and their daughter Julie, for instance, which lessened the impact of the dis-integration of family life and trust. Best were the watchers: Stewart, chillingly played by Roger Rose, and Susan Quine and Paula Morris as Thelma and Sally. Carole Dale was somewhat too loud and vulgar as Helen, and one could not believe that the shy and withdrawn Barbara of Ashley Collins would ever have welcomed her into her home as a friend.

The actors were not helped very much by the producers, Philip Grant and Wendy Kinder, who allowed the tension to flag and left characters standing about uneasily in their own home. **LS**

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKS

Burglary rates for 1990.

United Kingdom	+16%	Metropolitan Police area	+15%
Golders Green Police Division	+22%	Hampstead Garden Suburb	-10.4%

Who says Neighbourhood Watch Doesn't work?!!

# CHILDRENS CLOTHES

The HGS Children's Clothing Sale Group, which is non profit making, is limited to Suburb residents and is for their convenience to sell or buy outgrown clothing or footwear and maternity dresses.

The next sale will be held on Saturday March 9th 9.30 - 11.00

at the Free Church Hall, Northway. Entry 50p.

If you know of any new residents with a young family please do tell them about the sale.

For more information ring Lisa Vernall 455. 8801 or Brenda Franklyn 455. 2030.

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