

# Not resting on her laurels

Congratulations to Dorothy White who was made an OBE in the New Year's honours list. She will be well known to many on the Suburb for her untiring work for numerous voluntary and charitable bodies.

Dorothy White retired from the Civil Service to take up the Chairmanship of the Family Planning Association which ill health eventually forced her to give up.

Since then she has chaired the Barnet Voluntary Service Council, the CHC's elderly care group and the Barnet Care Attendance scheme.

Typically Dorothy says "all this publicity over the OBE is a lot of fuss about nothing, I haven't really done very much. I'd much rather talk about what's happening now than about the past."

Currently she is Vice President of the VSC and active in all forms of liaison between Borough and voluntary groups. In particular, as a trustee of the



Barnet Community Trust, she is anxious that we should recognise that large amounts of money "something like £2 million will be needed" to provide income as the new community plan allows for needs to be established from the top rather than with voluntary groups' activities working their way up. This means that organisations will no longer be eligible for council grant.

Dorothy White is also working to establish the National Association of the Relatives of Elderly People in Nursing and Residential Care Homes. This is something similar to the organisation being worked on by the late Neville Croft, Suburb News '87 and '88. "It is not quite the same thing but we did discuss it just before he died."

The benefits of the Association would be:

i. An Association would bring together relatives - who will already have a considerable interest in residential care

provision - to form a knowledgeable group able to play a valuable part in the consideration of residential care issues and in maintaining and improving residential care standards.

ii. It would be in particular hope to reach a mutual understanding with Home Owners or Managers of what is involved in providing good residential care, and would work with them to assess and develop the ways in which relatives themselves could make a more active contribution to the care of residents.

iii. It would offer advice, counsel, and mediation services to relatives who can often feel isolated and have difficulty in handling their own problems when a relative is in residential care, and similarly assist relatives in resolving problems over the care of that resident.

The Association is to be launched in February and Dorothy White would be pleased to hear from residents who have any views or ideas to contribute. 455 1401 RJW

# BRIGID GRAFTON GREEN

Amongst the many tributes paid to Brigid Grafton Green in the local press and the Suburb News, following her death last September, one was noticeably absent, namely a tribute to her as Suburb Archivist. This absence must be put right for it was Brigid who was primarily responsible from August 1973 for building up, putting into and keeping in order the mass of material that came from numerous sources, the old Trust, architects' offices, past and present Suburb residents. Over the years, using this material and with her expertise, accuracy and never failing memory, she wrote a Suburb History, contributed articles for the press, arranged exhibitions, answered queries, welcomed and informed students from home and overseas. She was never at a loss, never too busy to advise and help, never

impatient and always a guide and support to her fellow Trustees when the HGS Archives Trust was formed in 1979.

It is said that nobody is indispensable, but Brigid came very close to being so. Had it not been for her foresight in the suggestion that Mr Harry Cobb, at that time Archivist to the House of Lords and long time resident of the Suburb, be invited to become a Trustee, it is possible that a yawning gap would have faced the Trustees. Instead it became possible to invite Harry to become Archivist and welcome him as such from January 1st 1992. The Trustees now look forward to the next stage in the life of the Suburb Archives, deeply grateful for all that Brigid did and in confidence that Harry will carry her work on with the same efficiency and dedication as she showed. KS

# Residents welcome

When Fay Naylor addressed the RA Council in October she told us about the new café facility in Bigwood House and said she hoped residents would make full use of it.

Tea, coffee, sandwiches, home made cakes, salads, jacket potatoes and home made soup are available from 5.00 pm - 9.00 pm.

Entry is via the front entrance of Bigwood House or via the newly lit path beside the main Institute building on Central Square.

# ELECTRICAL WIZARD

Do you have electrical appliances that you don't feel you can dispose of but no longer work? David St George of 8, Asmunds Hill has a way with such things and will be pleased to get them going for you. Or perhaps you've found an Art Deco valve radio; provided most of the innards are still there he'll get it receiving again. Vacuum cleaners, transistors, black and white televisions, tape recorders, toasters, whatever, ring David St George on 455 0540.

# ALAN PAGE

Many of us feel that a great warmth went out of our lives with the death of Alan Page just before Christmas. After a short illness in the autumn, he had recovered and was beginning to pull back into some of his activities with much of his accustomed zest. His passing therefore came as a shock to family and friends; but for him it was peaceful, in his sleep, at home. Alan was brought up on the Suburb, and he and Moya lived for the last thirty years in a house with family associations in Oakwood Road. His profession as a Quantity Surveyor was practised for most of his working life in the LCC and its successor the GLC; but he made his expertise freely and widely available to good causes and individuals in need. The life and fellowship of the Free Church meant a great deal to him, and he served it as both an Elder and a Deacon. For many years he was the Church's Property Steward.

In recent years he became Chairman of the Orchard Housing Society and gave himself unstintingly to its demands. All of us involved in the organisations to which he belonged would naturally turn to him for help and advice, because he was both approachable and wise. His utter reliability and careful attention to detail never made him fussy. He was always genial and cheerful, as well as deeply thoughtful. Gardening was a favourite hobby, as was making and repairing things. His family life was a happy and close-knit one. Not many grandpas travel to Japan simply to give a hand with the children on the plane. Being Alan, once he got to Japan, he felt he must fulfil a life-time's wish by going into China for a brief trip. He recounted all this with great relish when he returned home. We remember him with love and affection as a modern Mr Great-Heart. PB

# Marie Goossens Laurence

Few of us live long enough to enjoy the company of twenty-one great grandchildren. Mrs Marie Laurence had twenty-one and was loved by them all.

Born Marie Goossens in that famous family of musicians, she quickly made her name as a professional harpist. She married Frederick Laurence, manager of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, in 1926. He died in 1942.

Marie performed professionally until the late 1980s and was made Fellow at the Royal College of Music in 1981. She was awarded the OBE in 1983. Her many connections with Hampstead Garden Suburb included playing the harp in Little Oak Wood for open air performances. Then, when Abbeyfield House was opened, she became the third

resident to live there while workmen were still busy converting other parts of that building. Still teaching the harp at pupils' houses, she also found time to learn calligraphy at The Institute and acquired great skill. In 1989 she gave a talk at Fellowship House.

AT the end of January in 1990, she suffered a slight stroke and needed nursing care. After one and a half happy years in a Surrey Nursing Home she had a further illness and had to be transferred to Dorking General Hospital where she was making a remarkable recovery. Then she had another stroke and died on 18th December 1991. Mrs Marie Laurence was buried in Dorking Cemetery after a Requiem Mass at St Joseph's Church, Dorking, on the 30th December 1991. HES

# JOHN BELL

John Bell who died in October was a distinguished architect involved amongst other things with the new building and restoration at Kew Gardens, work on the Tate Gallery, National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery. He also worked on the restoration and adaptation of the Houses of Parliament.

These works and many others remain as a memorial to a fine architect but to his friends and

neighbours his memorial must be the character and personality of the man himself. He will long be remembered for his tireless work as Chairman of the Heathcroft Residents Association.

John Bell loved walking on the Heath and a bench to his memory is being purchased to place on the Heath facing Heathcroft.

He is survived by his wife Jarka, a son and two daughters by a previous marriage.

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