

Hadas finds

THE TUDOR VILLAGE OF WHETSTONE - REDISCOVERED
One of the most interesting projects recently undertaken by HADAS has been the work on No. 1264 High Road, Whetstone (opposite Barnet House). In the past the Society has done several 'digs' in this area and were aware that there were still a great many interesting finds to be 'unearthed'.

Although the property (1264) didn't look particularly attractive from the outside, they discovered behind the 'shop front', a house of massive timber frame construction with 4 rooms and a central staircase. A door led onto a courtyard with a large garden area. An earlier discovery of smoke staining in the front and rear of the building was perhaps evidence of a Tudor 'twin hall' design. In the garden there were signs of another house.

Recently the Society was invited to go back and complete the project, as the property was now empty. The first surprise was to discover a complete 6 roomed Georgian house, quite separate from the other two and probably added onto the Tudor part in the stage of construction; it also had a large well built cellar.

Ownership, tenancy, wills and other references dating back several hundred years were traced (and translated), confirming the general, archeological and construction evidence of, and indicating early Tudor dating of a number of houses and a considerable Tudor village at Whetstone.

There is also a reference to 'Le Westone' in one document dated 1392, possibly an earlier name still to be followed up as there is more to do on this area. The name 'Le Westone' is possibly of Norman origin.

The earliest of these documents are from the St Paul's Cathedral Court Rolls (Guildhall Library). This research was undertaken by John Heathfield of HADAS.

AL & VJ

FUN WITH FOOD

The Gourmet Society is such a good idea. Local people who enjoy good food and company meeting in each others' houses and having a jolly good time. Functions are arranged by Mary Whiting, who does a wonderful job of organising the Society, under the auspices of the RA, of course. I have enjoyed everything I have been to and have made a dinner party myself, as well as producing a dish as part of my contribution to events from time to time. You don't have to be a demon cook to be a member - although obviously the food is the essence of the club! We go to restaurants recommended by members, cookery demonstrations, wine-tastings, as well as making food ourselves. The main thing about being a member is that we do love our food! Hope to see you soon.

JE

ABBNEYFIELD HELP

Abbneyfield House, Housefield, Erskine Hill, NW11 requires a resident deputy cook/housekeeper to care for 13 elderly active residents. Furnished flat suitable only for single person.

Applications detailing experience and qualifications to Mrs Britton, 48 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11 7UE.

"WAIT UNTIL DARK" and "THE WINSLOW BOY"

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society made a brave attempt at putting life into Frederick Knott's "Wait until Dark". It made quite a good film some years ago with Audrey Hepburn, as the blind heroine, but then one can do things on screen with good lighting and atmospheric music which cannot be done on a small stage with poor equipment.

The story itself is pretty far fetched. Sam Henderson leaves his wife Susy with a doll a mysterious woman has given him. She is then visited by three sinister men who pretend to be the police and since she is blind she cannot see that they are obviously looking for something. Sandra Alsleben made one believe in Susy's blindness and conveyed the growing realisation that something was wrong and dangerous. Michael Sabine-Bacon was silkily evil as the drug dealer anxious to get the haul inside the doll and Mark Overall and Stephen Roots were effective as his henchmen, Mike and Croker. Gloria, the next door neighbour's child, was well portrayed by Zoë Bard.

The production was by Ashley Collins and although one can admire the handling of the scene where darkness aids Susy, a play like this must have more pace, variation of mood and tension.

This same lack of pace and variation pervaded the first two acts of "The Winslow Boy" as well. It may have seemed more bearable because Terence Rattigan is a far superior playwright to Frederick Knott and his characters have interesting things to say, but the plodding slowness was there. After the interval things improved greatly - perhaps it was the arrival of Sir Robert Morton, played with great assurance and presence by Roger Rose, that did the trick. Apart from Roger Rose there was some fine acting from Katherine Anstey as Catherine, Ronnie



Winslow's splendid sister, and from Margaret Johnson, as the faithful family retainer. Ronnie, the young cadet expelled from Naval College for supposedly stealing a five shilling postal order, was played by Daniel Ison whom some of you may remember as Oliver some two years ago. Lou Kochane gave a clearly spoken and forceful performance as the boy's father but also added to the lack of pace in the early scenes.

"The Winslow Boy" was the first production of the newly formed Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society and made a fitting choice for their



25th Anniversary. Colin Gregory directed with an excellent feeling for the period before the first world war, and the times in which this version of a true incident were set were also well

reflected by the setting designed by David Lane and by the costumes in the very capable hands of Frances Musker, Diana Darrer, Helen Rance and Jeanne Solomons. LS

HGS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

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