



Brownies Celebrate 60 years

March 9 was the 60th anniversary of the Hampstead Garden Suburb St Jude's Brownie pack. It was a very exciting occasion for the girls because some of the Brown Owls from earlier years participated in the celebrations. The meeting started in the usual fashion with the Brownie song and ring. Afterwards, Jeffrey Britton conducted a service of thanksgiving and led everyone in a very special prayer:

As the sun spreads its light,
As the day fades into night,
Help me keep my promise true
And the law each day for you.
Help me do my best I ask,
Working hard at every task.
Showing others that I care
This is my Brownie prayer.

The cake ceremony followed.
Sixty candles were placed on the

huge cake baked by Brown Owl. As the Brownies put their candles on the cake they called out the name of other countries where Brownies live, thus showing that they all belong to a large family of Guides and Brownies worldwide. The church rooms echoed with greeting of Happy Birthday! The cake was delicious, and the games that followed were great fun.

A-MC

RA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Jean Dyson

Jean Dyson has seen many changes in the Hampstead Garden Suburb, since she has lived here all her life. Her parents came to live at 8 Asmuns Hill in 1907 and seven years later little Jean Barnard was born. She has only moved once and that was to 2 Hutchings Walk after her marriage to Jimmy Dyson in 1937.

She and her sister were both educated at Henrietta Barnett School and she well remembers Queen Mary opening the Queen Mary Hall and Dame Henrietta visiting the school. She says that she was struck by her impressive appearance.

After school she went to Mrs Hoster's Secretarial College. In 1927 an event occurred that was to change her life. Jimmy Dyson moved into digs at 8 Asmuns Place. They eventually met as members of the Play and Pageant Union where she is particularly remembered for her performance in "The Kingdom of God". She retired after playing Mrs Higgins in Shaw's "Pygmalion". Some thirty years previously the Drama League had invited the PPU to take this play to three different schools in Denmark and on this occasion Jean was the wardrobe mistress while Jimmy went along as stage manager.

Jean joined the Society of Friends during the war and is now assistant clerk. She returned to Henrietta Barnett School as secretary under Miss Mac-Lauchlan from 1960-67, became a Governor during the early seventies and was Chairman of Governors until she retired in 1990.

She has been chairman of Fellowship House Club for many years where among the numerous daily activities the twice monthly Old Time Dancing afternoons are much enjoyed.

LS

Jimmy Dyson

Unlike his wife, Jean, Jimmy Dyson started life outside the Suburb. He was born in Loughborough in 1907 and came to London in 1923 to take up employment in a bank in east London. His family came to Finchley and Jimmy moved into digs at 8 Asmuns Place in 1927.

He is a birthright Quaker and soon joined the Friends Tennis Club which originally played on a grass area in front of the church and later moved to where Bigwood House now stands. When the school was built they were offered the land at Farm Walk for a peppercorn rent. He was founder member of the Farm Walk Tennis Club and played there until he was sixty. His other sporting activities include golf and he is also a Life Member of the Hampstead Golf Club.

Unlike his wife he was not an acting member of the Play and Pageant Union but joined as a stage hand and stage manager. He eventually became their chairman.

During the war he joined the RAF in 1941 and went with the Royal Air Force Regiment to Belgium, Holland and Germany. He reached the rank of Squadron Leader and was wounded while on the road by a German fighter in 1945.

On returning to civilian life he joined the Horticultural Society and having progressed from secretary and chairman is now their President.

During the last fifteen years he has handled the accounts of The Orchard and is a Trustee of the Henrietta Barnett Bequest.

He and his wife, Jean, have always been keen tennis players but it was on the golf course that he had his greatest triumphs - he achieved a hole in one five times.

LS

Barbara Anderson

Barbara Wilkinson was born in Islington and went to Dame Alice Owen's School for Girls. The family moved into the Suburb in 1928 to a newly built house in Brunner Close from where you could see "the East End Road and absolutely nothing but fields and open ground in between".

After finishing her education at Henrietta Barnett School she went to London University where she studied modern languages.

After her marriage to Noel Anderson in 1943 they went to live first in Hogarth Hill and then in 1952, in Midholm, which is still her home today.

Barbara Anderson has always enjoyed badminton and had played for her University. She and her husband played together frequently at the HGS Club. She says with some pride that she played with Jimmy Dyson when their joint ages equalled 100 and won every match.

Apart from the Badminton Club she was a member of the HGS Sports and Social Club, then centred in a building in the Lyttelton Playing Fields. She joined the Residents Association Council in 1966 becoming first its secretary from 1971-72, and then its chairman from 1973-74. In 1975 she was elected to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and feeling that she could not serve on both, resigned from the RA. She was chairman of the Trust for four years from 1978. While she was on the RA she joined the Conservation and Amenities Committee, created by Kit Ikin, and then called FACELIFT. She did not like the name and succeeded in changing it. It is now known as CONSAM.

She has for many years been associated with Henrietta Barnett School as Governor for the Junior and Senior schools. She is indeed still a Governor of the latter.

She was chairman of the committee which finally established our Abbeyfield and served ten years.

LS

Is it in to be on?

At a recent local bridge event I overheard one player ask another where she lived; the reply came straightaway: 'Oh, I live on the Suburb.' 'Which suburb is that?' said her questioner, reasonably enough, only to get the indignant response, leavened with a soupçon of pity, 'Good gracious, I don't live in a suburb!' This set me thinking why those of us who live 'on the Suburb' use the preposition 'on' in this unusual sense. The Oxford English Dictionary is of little help; it has 29 groups of meanings for 'on' as a preposition, but none of them seems precisely to embrace our usage. One might grammatically say 'I live on Princes Street', 'or Highgate Hill', 'on the Ark Royal' or 'on the coast'. In a different sense one might say one lived 'on the town' or 'on the streets!' Yet we would normally say we live 'in Hampstead', 'in town', 'in Letchworth' (but do its residents say they live 'on the garden city'?).

Some years ago I was a character witness at Highbury Magistrates Court. I entered the witness box, gave my name, and was asked where I lived. Out of nervousness I said without thinking, 'I live on the Suburb', before going on to give my exact address. The learned stipendiary (who also lived on the Suburb) at once said to the clerk, grinning, 'Then we shan't need to ask Mr Hudson to take the oath, shall we?' I later learnt that character witnesses don't have to, but this

was not the impression most of those in the courtroom received.

So is the phrase 'on the Suburb' part of a private code, a piece of mildly snobbish and exclusive semantic preciosity whereby members of our community can recognise each other, and perhaps shut others out?

In an attempt to seek further enlightenment I asked a nonagenarian friend who built her own house 'on the Suburb' more than seventy years ago. 'Certainly not,' she said. 'Right from the start we always said that we lived on-the-Suburb. It was unique. Now, unfortunately, I live off-the-Suburb.' Speaking the three words as a single phrase, there was a hint here of the situation that in the early days the Suburb was a collection of scattered dwellings on different parts of the designated estate. So it would be natural for residents when meeting each other in the butcher's at Hendon or in the tube station to greet each other as pioneers sharing the same excitement in living, even though perhaps relatively far apart, on the surface of the same area of an experimental new community. Perhaps the archivist or other 'Suburb News' readers can throw more light on the matter?

Meanwhile, I hope we shall long continue to speak of ourselves as living 'on the Suburb' in a harmless and friendly convention, albeit a grammatical solecism.

SH

Street Name Plates

About a year and a half ago, Consam carried out a survey of the streets of Hampstead Garden Suburb in order to list the street name plates which were either missing, defaced, obscured or non-existent. As it happens, we pin-pointed only thirty-six positions where something needed to be done and the list was forwarded to the Technical Services Department of the London Borough of Barnet.

I am pleased to report that Barnet have been dealing with the problem, either by cleaning or repainting or by ordering new signs, and from the list provided by them recently, it would appear that over half the signs have been or are in the process of being put in order.

DM

Athletic Club run

The North London Athletic Club have organised a run in the Suburb, starting from Ingram Avenue at 7.30 (in the evening), on Tuesday 15th June 1993.

The run, which will be controlled by police, will be twice round a course from Ingram Avenue - Winnington Road - Norrice Lea - Linden Lea - Kingsley Way - Meadway - Hampstead Way - Wildwood Road and thence return to Ingram Avenue.

The police believe that the majority of commuter traffic will be over by then and that there should not be much disruption.

PL

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Jane Collins