

## Peter Barraclough 1925 - 1992

The joy of Christmas 1992 was tinged with sadness for members of the Free Church and Peter's friends throughout the Suburb. For having taken a triumphant service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, 20th December, Peter died a few hours later in his home at the Manse.

Peter first came to the Free Church in 1961, and during his thirty-one years of ministry became a well-known figure throughout the Suburb. With other local church leaders he attended the Residents Association receptions and was a regular and welcome visitor to the Henrietta Barnett School. Within the Free Church congregation he soon made a name for himself for his scholarly sermons and the care with which he prepared and delivered services, with each hymn carefully chosen in relation to the theme of worship.

Peter was a man of deep compassion and understanding, giving freely of his time and support not only to members of his congregation in time of need, but to any individual who sought his help. He had taken a course in analytical psychology during his ministry, and was able to make

use of this training in these contacts. It was only after his death that his wife Jean became aware of the variety of people he had helped from the number of heartfelt messages of sorrow and sympathy she received.

The Free Church is ecumenical in foundation, an aspect of its tradition which Peter found in sympathy with his own firmly-held views. He staunchly supported the close links between St Jude's, the Society of Friends and the Free Church, and the tradition of shared services on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, or the week devoted to prayer for Christian unity. He was also instrumental in developing a close relationship between the Free Church and a Reformed Church in Montrouge in Paris, which led to exchange visits between the two congregations.

The service to be held on Saturday 20 March at 3.00 in the Free Church will, at the request of his wife and four children and their families, provide an opportunity for his friends from far and wide to join together to remember and give thanks for Peter's life and witness.

SPA

## Local carers meet over Community Care

In view of changes nationally in Community Care from next April the Fellowship gathered together with the Abbeyfield and Orchard Committees to discuss with a representative of the Borough Community Services the scheme as it affected Barnet.

We had been given copies of the Plan to read in advance with special reference to the section concerning elderly people. It was heavy reading with much official language full of aspirations and hints about future working.

The biggest changes are to be in the method of financing the services. Basically it will mean that the old Social Security or Lower Income Support grants given in the past by the Department of Social Security will all be assessed and paid by the Borough alongside Housing Benefits. Therefore anyone with a problem will be interviewed about their needs and appropriate help given. Boroughs will be given grants from Central Funds to use for this work. It being hard to see how much is needed, the fear is that too little will be available to meet all causes. The Borough will have power to "buy" services from the private sector. For various reasons this often works out better and cheaper since for example the average cost per person in a Borough Residential Home is more than in many private ones. On the other hand the officer was questioned about the policy of employing extra Home Helps for special care from agencies at week-ends at much higher fees rather than increasing their full-time team with contracts insisting on some week-end work.

Much of the Health Service work, particularly concerning mental care, will be dealt with through the Borough.

Nationally there is clearly a major shake-up envisaged. This is partly because Welfare work like "Topsy" has "just grown" and the structure and the overlapping of departments is not only untidy but economically wasteful. The officer at our meeting courageously faced all questions with frankness and rightly said that in the early days when all were feeling their way there might be difficulties. To meet this problem a proper appeal system would be established.

Officially the Government's scheme is not just to save money, though it has been seen that national and local costs have soared and it is hoped that efficiency alongside better caring may produce economies.

Where residents know of special needs they should consult the officers of the Borough Community Services or Citizens' Advice Bureaux or even the "amateurs" who serve on our Suburb Committees. **RYB**

101 Willifield Way  
London NW11 6YH  
30th December 1992

Dear Editor  
May I, through the columns of "Suburb News", express my deep gratitude to the dozens of Suburb residents who wrote to me when my mother died?

I cannot begin to answer them all individually, but I want all friends to know how much their love and support has meant to me over the last few weeks: it is no exaggeration to say that it really became, for me, a tangible thing.

This community support is what the Suburb is all about; this is the "true" Suburb; and it is the reason why so many people find it such a worthwhile place to live.

Yours,  
Eileen Whelan



## Ivon Hitchens mural restored

As a Suburb resident and member of Golders Green Unitarians in Hoop Lane, I was doubly glad that last summer the Residents' Association contributed to the cost of restoring the splendid Ivon Hitchens mural in our church. I hope that as Golders Green Unitarians are only a few hundred yards from the Suburb boundary,

residents will find an occasion to see the mural, whose restoration, now completed, they generously helped to fund.

One of the two biblical texts incorporated into the design - "The leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations" - will, I think, appeal particularly to Suburb residents. The mural can

of course be seen at Sunday services, held at 11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., and visitors are very welcome. Other activities, which also offer an opportunity to see the mural, are listed in the "What's On" column of *Suburb News*. Again, visitors are welcome.

BRS

## Suburb Charities new projects

The members of the Council of Suburb Charities arranged to visit Toynbee Hall in Whitechapel for their meeting in July 1991. This proved to be a very interesting visit and we discovered that most of the residents in the area were from Bangladesh. At our following meeting we decided to look at ways of renewing our links with the Universities Settlement in East London which is represented on the Council. After discussing a number of ideas we decided to contact the Head Teacher of both the Garden Suburb Junior School and the Canon Barnett School to see if they would like to organise a project for one of their classes of eleven-year-olds to visit each other. Suburb Charities undertook to pay for the coach transport.

The idea was taken up enthusiastically and the reciprocal visits took place at an interval of about a fortnight during the Summer Term. A lot of useful work arose from this initiative and it gave the children from two very different backgrounds an opportunity to understand the links which exist between the Suburb and Whitechapel. The visit to Whitechapel started with a talk about Canon Barnett followed by a walk round the area. There were joint activities in the afternoon such as cookery and basketball. I am pleased to report that Adele Taylor, the Deputy Head of the

school, wrote to me to say that the visits were such a success that the two schools had decided to keep the link going.

We were able to involve Suburb Charities as this was an educational project and we were pleased to be able to provide further support to some of the children at the Suburb Junior School when they went on the School Visit to Northumbria last Easter.

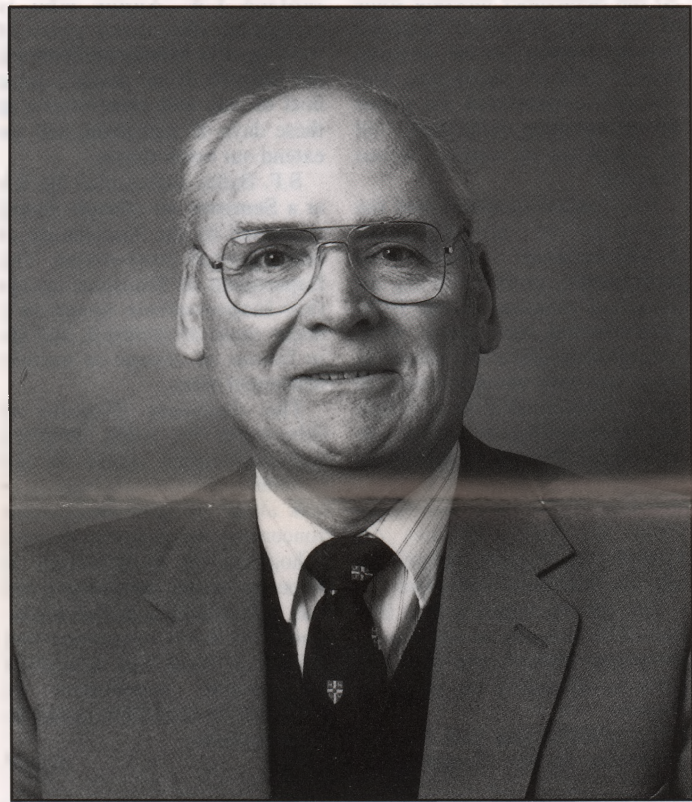
An unusual opportunity to help needy children in Brazil, by proxy, arose when we were approached by one of the young people who live on the Suburb to help her with raising the large sum of money required to pay for her trip to South America. Working with an organisation called Project Trust, which sends out many young people to work abroad for a year, we made a contribution to the total cost to make it possible for her to go. However, part of the essential preparation for the year was to find ways of raising the money which she achieved by including a stint of work in a local shop. She is now there and will be helping to teach English at an English Cultural Centre for a year. When she comes back she hopes to go on to Higher Education.

A few weeks ago I received a letter describing her experiences and activities during the first

three months. In it she wrote: "Although working at Cultura Inglesa takes up most of my day I still have time to do some social work. On Wednesday mornings I work in a creche in an area called Aeroporto 3 which is the poorest area in Franca. (Franca is a town about five hours drive from the city of Sao Paulo.) Some of the children come from homes where they don't get much love or attention. Most of these children are really sweet and affectionate and although it's tiring giving 20 children piggy backs and playing football with them I really enjoy it."

"On Mondays I'm working at a centre which is run by the church which aims to give a place for children (with working mothers) who would otherwise be hanging about on the streets with nowhere to go. The children are older and take part in activities such as needlework and typing, things which will be of some use in later life."

Suburb Charities exists to help people in need and is always willing to consider new projects. Maybe you can think of ways we can help you or someone you know. If so, please contact me through the HGS Trust Office in Finchley Road. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest confidence. **JF**



## Gordon Hudson

SURVEYORS & ESTATE AGENTS

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SPECIALISTS  
FOR OVER 45 YEARS

10 MARKET PLACE  
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB  
LONDON NW11 6JG  
TEL: 081-455 4755  
FAX: 081-455 3533

A Member of  
**Cornerstone**  
ABBEY NATIONAL Estate Agents

## DR JANE IKIN

Many people will have reason to be grateful for the life of Jane Ikin, not least of these the Residents Association.

Since her retirement, she was a persistent and meticulous Membership Representative for many years, carrying on until she died.

Before her retirement she worked as a Serilogist at the Lister Institute researching Blood Groups and studying Serums and their actions. The work took her to Middle Eastern countries and Africa collecting samples from different groups of people. The quiet scientific approach did not leave her on retirement. She loved her garden and the natural world around her.

We on the Membership Committee thank her as well as countless others. Our thoughts go to her wider family in their sad bereavement.

AL

## TRAVEL CENTRE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

Our experienced staff will  
help with all  
travel arrangements.

8 MARKET PLACE,  
NW11  
081-209 0444

