

IONA BURLEY Honoured

At 93 Miss Iona Burley cycles at the Royal Free Hospital as part of their investigation into the "active elderly". On meeting her, one can see why: she sits very upright in her chair as she recounts stories of her travels to Canada, Australia and Russia. She has just visited Ghana again, at the age of 90.

Miss Burley was Head of Childs Way School on the Suburb for eighteen years. This June she was invested as Officer Sister of The Most Venerable Order of St Johns of the Hospital of Jerusalem, at a ceremony at St John's Clerkenwell, as recognition of her St John voluntary work. It is this work that has enabled her to travel the world.

Miss Burley began as a teacher in a poor Leicester school before the Second World War. She achieved a St John's First Aid Certificate in her spare time, because the families she taught needed rudimentary care. This was the start of a long connection with medicine.

She progressed to being a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) in an RAF hospital. She then worked in a Paddington school teaching bargee children, and had to arrange jumble sales in order to clothe them.

When war was declared she was sent to a new infant class in Dollis Hill. The nervous Head put her in charge of shelters and gas masks, saying, "You know what to do." Miss Burley became expert at persuading children to "pretend to be a little piggy" and put on their gas masks, and went round other schools teaching them the technique.

Miss Burley had always held a fascination for Africa. When a chance came, she waited for six months for a ship from Liverpool. It was the last ship out to West Africa. Passing through Gibraltar she was alarmed to see that they were alone without escort, as being unimportant for the war effort. However, they were then escorted by two small corvettes until they reached Sierra Leone safely.

She spent the rest of the war in



Mampong, near Kumasi in northern Ghana, teaching girls First Aid, and putting the knowledge into practice in the market places. VE Day was celebrated in a chief's palace. Very sadly Miss Burley had to leave Ghana because malaria gave her rheumatism.

She has many friends from those days. Once, in Ghana, she had to travel with a sick two-year-old boy on her lap to the town hospital, stopping at streams on the way to sponge him with cool water. He recovered, became a vicar, and Miss Burley was godmother to his first child. She visits them frequently for family events such as weddings. Many Ghanaians come and stay with her in England. She is known as "The English Auntie".

Back in England, Miss Burley continued her St John's work during all her teaching career. She assisted at many Trooping of the Colour ceremonies and at King George VI's funeral. At the funeral they ran out of stretchers for the crowd, so she commandeered a workman's wheelbarrow, and laid planks across it: she has taught herself to improvise. At Queen Elizabeth's coronation she was on duty from 3 am. She has been in attendance at many major events, and lectured all over.

Miss Burley continued to teach in a Hendon school. She applied for a Headship. At the interview

for two potential posts she was asked "Which school would you like?" She nearly fell off her chair, and said "Which one do you think I'm best for?" Thus began her time as Head of Childs Way School.

The infants school had received a bomb hit during the war, so all the infants and juniors were crowded into one main building and Nissen huts in the playground, with mushrooms growing through the floor. When the infants school moved to its present site, Miss Burley cajoled the workmen into building the school her way. She achieved the row of french windows by persuading the Fire Department to insist to the Education Department that they were vital as fire exits.

Thirty nations were represented in Childs Way School: many from Embassy families in Bishops Avenue, and there were no racial problems whatsoever. One-third of the children were Jewish. The English Jews paid for the children of Auschwitz at the school.

As Miss Burley goes around the Suburb today she recognises many adults that she has taught. When she climbs onto the H2 bus asking "Can anybody give an old lady a hand?", it is often an ex-pupil or mum who comes to her aid. From her home in Asmunds Place one can hear the Childs Way School children in the playground at breaktimes.

Miss Burley still works in town: she has a job, filing, in University College Hospital once a week. She is President of the Cadets, Mill Hill and Edgware Division, and she comments on St John's strange rule that they are not allowed to wear the uniform after the age of seventy: as if they were no longer useful. She has worked for a further twenty-three years so far.

I asked her for her secret recipe. "It depends on one's mental outlook," she said. "Some people give up and let themselves become housebound." I left her preparing to dig in some new begonias in her garden.

Jackie Norman

Suburb Cookery

It's Monday morning and the children have gone to school - time to think of new recipes and plan a busy week ahead. Tuesday and it's time to shop and prepare for a hectic day on Wednesday when men and women come to practise their culinary skills - the theme being cooking for dinner parties. Much fun is had observing and preparing delicious food such as parsley & horseradish profiteroles, monkfish in tarragon sauce, chocolate and raspberry terrine in palate.

Well, what about the children? When the holidays arrive, it's their turn to demonstrate their skills - all hands on now making pizzas, savoury tarts, biscuit baskets, ice cream and lots more.

If you would like further information, don't hesitate to phone Gill Roberts on 458 2608.

Freilich, the cantor of the synagogue.

The concert was arranged by the North West Support Group of the North London Hospice and raised £3,800 for equipment for the Hospice Day Centre.

Gillian Newman

The Lord Wilson of Rievaulx 1916-1995

In the death of Harold Wilson the Free Church has lost one of its oldest members. Appointed President of the Board of Trade in 1947 and in the Cabinet at the age of 31 he and his wife Mary came to live on the Suburb, and were received into membership on transfer.

Their houses in Southway became their first real family home. Sons Robin and Giles grew up here and went to UCS, sometimes being driven to school by their father on his way to work. The family quietly took an active part in the life of the Church. In 1964 they moved to 10 Downing Street but Harold and Mary remained in membership and in touch, particularly with Peter Barraclough who was Minister from 1961-1993. In 1970 Harold took part in the service to mark the Free Church's 60th anniversary. The family had a holiday home in St Mary's, Isles of Scilly. There on 6 June the funeral took place at a retreat which had given him regular sanctuary from public life for more than 40 years. A service of thanksgiving for his life and work was held in Westminster Abbey on 12 July.

Michael Holton



In the Manse garden, 1970

HGS Theatre Club

As the Theatre Club enters its sixth year plans are under way for 1995/96. We are hoping to widen our scope to introduce visits to ballet and operetta.

Membership fees for the coming year are now due so we hope members will rejoin so that they can be included in the new programme mailings.

The next evening theatre visit will be in September, and will be booked as soon as theatres decide on their programmes.

1812 and all that

Kenwood Lakeside concerts, Fireworks over water; Trousers marked by grass stains, Coffee spilt by daughter. - Do we enjoy the music Or do we just feel we oughta?

Mary Hutterer

LETTERS

The Institute
Hampstead Garden Suburb

6 July 1995

Editor,

RELATIONSHIP between THE INSTITUTE and the RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

I refer to your editorial in the last edition of Suburb News in which you state on the subject of the Institute/Henrietta Barnett School dispute that many residents "feel strongly that the Institute's handling of the affair could have been better conducted".

I wonder to whom you have been speaking. Overwhelmingly, the feedback to me from residents is to place the blame squarely on the shoulders of the Department of Education and the London Borough of Barnet who could have settled the dispute years

66 Oakwood Road
London NW11 6RN

23 May 1995

Sir,

I thought that Suburb residents might be interested to know that Bigwood contains a remarkably large number of Wild Service Trees. I believe it is quite unusual for them to occur naturally in large numbers.

A friend and I counted 88, but thinking we might have made a mistake asked a consultant, who has written on Woodlands, and used to work for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to come down and verify our findings. Together we made another systematic search and this time found 108!

50 Middleway
London NW11 6SG

7 July 1995

Sir,

May I voice concern about a form of pollution which seems to be on the increase in the suburb. I refer to the noise created by petrol-motor hedge clippers. The machines are high revving and poorly silenced resulting in a very considerable noise level. The unacceptable became the intolerable when a gardening contractor had two of these machines at work in a neighbour's front garden simultaneously. It was of interest that the operatives were wearing protective ear muffs!

I asked them why they did not use more acceptable electric clippers and the reply was that

ago had the political will existed to do so.

You state that the RA is wholly supportive of the Institute and its work and I would like to believe that. In fact, some of your members have demonstrated bitter and vociferous hostility to the Institute and have repeatedly indulged in defamatory remarks about its directors and employees.

We do, however have some friends and supporters on the Residents' Association Council and can only hope that eventually they will influence and control the hostile elements so that with the Institute and the Residents' Association Council working together creatively for the benefit of the Suburb residents, thousands of whom gain great pleasure and satisfaction from coming to the Institute.

Yours
Fay Naylor
Principal & Chief Executive

The findings have prompted the London Ecology Unit to upgrade Bigwood to a Borough I site - a category that makes it one of the most important sites in Barnet.

The Wild Service Tree likes dappled shade and the conditions that prevail in Bigwood are obviously to its liking, a high oak canopy with a varied and well-developed understorey. There are Wild Service of all ages from tiny suckers to 5 or so very old specimens. It is a most beautiful tree at all stages and at every season. We are indeed lucky to have such a lovely and unusual wood.

Yours,
Susan Osborn

these were less efficient. This is absolute rubbish as electric clippers will tackle a good country hedge without any trouble. Most of the suburb hedges could be cut with motorised nail clippers!

Whether the hedge cutters in question are in breach of noise regulations is a moot point but if enough suburb residents are of a similar mind then the remedy is at hand. Nearly all of these offending instruments are used by contractors rather than private home owners. A word that the work will be given to the more considerate contractors would soon end the nuisance.

By the time this appears in the News the cutting season will nearly be over but we can be ready for next year.

Yours,
Dr. J H Highman

News from HBS

The Open Days at The Henrietta Barnett School in the Autumn Term will be on Thursday October 12 and Tuesday October 17. Details of entrance procedures can be obtained from the school either in person or by sending a stamped addressed envelope large enough to take an A4 size brochure. The closing date for the receipt of application forms for entry to Y7 in 1996 is Friday December 1.

P R HARTLEY

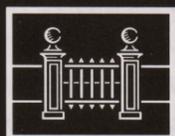
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