

Suburb jeweller in a London exhibition

Frances Newman has lived on the Suburb since the age of three and has been creative for as long as she can remember.

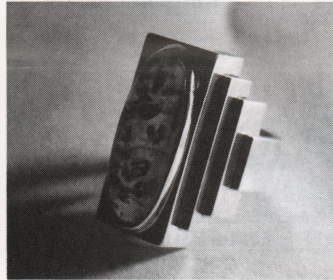
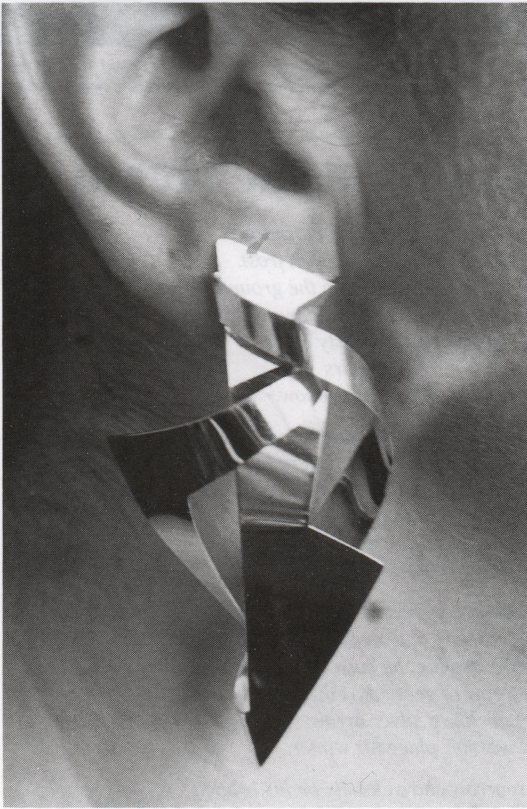
She discovered jewellery making at the age of twelve. At 17, gained invaluable experience working for Mr Baur, a goldsmith in Switzerland. Went on to train at St John Cass School of Art.

After college she set up a shop/workshop in the Portobello Green where she produced design/fashion jewellery selling worldwide through the British

Designer Shows at Olympia.

Frances has now moved into more precious jewellery, using silver and gold with colour from a variety of gems. Creating sculpted forms, some small in scale to accommodate the practicality of say, wedding rings and some large for more extravagant occasional pieces.

Frances will be taking part in a group exhibition: Omnium-gatherum 2, Lighting Gallery, 14 Warren Street, London W1 on December 4-22.



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RA Life members RALPH and DORIS BALDRY

Ralph Baldry has over time become one of those legendary figures in Suburb life, although his modesty and charm mean he would be the last person to admit to this. Indeed he initially could not understand why he was being interviewed for *Suburb News* at all, and he professed similar puzzlement at the Residents Association's decision to make him and his wife Doris life members. But they above all deserved such an accolade because in their twelve years on the Suburb they have selflessly thrown themselves into so many of the community organisations and activities, all, as Ralph Baldry says, due to his burning interest in people and their welfare.

Born and bred in East Barnet and baptised, confirmed and married in St Mary's church there, he has always had local connections. Following education at Merchant Taylors' School and St John's College, Oxford, he entered the ministry and had his first curacy in Southall. He later worked for some time as a chaplain and lecturer at the Church Army Training College, where among the first intake of pupils was a young Terry Waite. Mr Baldry tries to claim a lack of academic brilliance in himself, without much success, however: Waite remembers him in the recently published autobiography, particularly for his teaching style. His skill in communicating with others also comes across in his tales from a Church Army Training Mission at Wormwood Scrubs prison when inmates showed their acceptance of him by offering him cups of tea from their illicit brews.

He first started gravitating towards the Suburb in 1972 when he was appointed vicar at St Alban's, Golders Green. He joined the Council of Christians and Jews and the Council of Churches and was also chaplain of the Manor House Hospital. His ease in co-operating with others led to a long-standing connection with the Free Church where he has often taken over when their minister has been ill or unavailable. He also has a claim for the local record books - during one of his two interregnums at St Jude's he managed to take Communion in both Central Square churches on the same Sunday!

Following retirement in 1983, his eagerness to join in continued. He first became what was then called a Residents Association warden, which he found to be an excellent way of keeping in touch with people - although in practice the work involved little more than collecting subscriptions. Then within a few months of moving to Falloden Way, Kitty Slack appeared on the Baldry doorstep and he was asked to join the Fellowship Committee. He readily accepted and soon became its Chairman, a post he is now intending to give up after eleven very successful years. The Fellowship was an excellent way for him to continue helping others with its concern for the welfare of the Suburb's more vulnerable residents. He regards one of his main contributions as Chairman to be the establishment of a regular helpers' party, which last July managed to entertain 90 people for a well-deserved pat on the back.

For six years he was chairman of Abbeyfield Residential Home, where he typically went beyond his brief to get more involved on a more personal level with the residents. With John Enderby he co-founded the North London Hospice's North West support group and sowed the seeds of the Hospice's foundation to see it develop into the thriving organisation it is now. During all this he has managed to help out both Suburb churches as well as others in Southgate, Hampstead and Finchley and with his wife enter fully into activities of the RA and the Trust.

Chris Hamilton

New play for GST

In December the Garden Suburb Theatre will be performing the first of two productions this season to be written by one of its members, in this case Michael Sabine-Bacon, *English Conversation*.

The play is set in the 1950s and concerns a young English girl who arrives at a Dutch castle to teach the resident count English. His elderly and very unpleasant mother rules the castle, which is more or less run by a slatternly German girl who just happens to be a former prostitute. Also around are the gamekeeper and his wife. It would be an advantage to various of these people if the old Countess were to die. When she does, in suspicious circumstances, the count and the German girl accuse each other of causing her death . . . or did she do it herself?

The play is loosely based on a true story and promises an evening's entertainment with rather a good twist in the tail.

Michael Sabine-Bacon is a long-standing member of the group and has acted with them many times. He is a playwright of some experience: one of his one-act plays has won three awards, including the 1992 competition of the National Drama Association of Wales, and another play was given a rehearsed reading by the Questors of Ealing.

Please see 'What's On' for details of the dates and tickets.

Debbie Lane

HGS Theatre Club

The club swung into its winter season with a visit to *Wild Oats*, a fast and furious comedy of the late eighteenth century. This was followed in October by the new Alan Ayckbourn comedy, *Communicating Doors*.

For 22 November we are delighted to have secured forty seats at an early booking price for the highly acclaimed musical, *Mack & Mabel*. This glorious show by Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart has never been staged in London before, but the music is well known, made famous by, among others, Torvill and Dean. It is based on the silent movie director Mack Sennett's bitter-sweet love affair with the heroine of his films, Mabel Normand, and is set in 1920's Hollywood, the world of custard pies, Keystone Cops and bathing beauties.

Club members can obtain their tickets from Ruth Cass, 60 Rotherwick Road, NW11. If you have not yet joined the club, contact Ruth Gumb (455 6490) about membership.

We have not yet selected the December play, but for January 1996 we propose to book for the *Shakespearean Revue*, which comes to London fresh from success at the Edinburgh Festival.

Jean Barraclough

FLYING START FOR THE INSTITUTE

The Institute's course programme for 1995/96 was given a flying start by the tremendous demand for places. Well over a hundred of its adult courses are already full, with many others near their maximum, and the English Department's intake has increased again now that the slump in number of foreign students coming to the United Kingdom seems to have ended.

The Institute aims to foster a dynamic curriculum by including a selection of new courses each year, rather than sticking purely to the old tried and tested favourites. This policy has brought some notable failures, because it is very easy to overestimate students' enthusiasm for the unfamiliar subject; but it has also resulted in some triumphant successes. In many instances the problem is conveying the quality and value of the course powerfully enough to persuade people to try it, particularly if it is one of the more unusual offerings in the programme. A prime example is "Walk and Talk", which first appeared in the prospectus in Summer 1994. Its innovative blend of physical exercise and discussion initially failed to strike a chord with potential students, and it had to be cancelled. Persistence on the part of the teacher, supported by colleagues at the Institute, has paid off, however, and with the considerable help of an excellent article by Ruth Gorb in the Ham and High, "Walk and Talk" is now full, and additional courses are planned to satisfy the demand.

"Walk and Talk" is only one of a number of brand new or 'nearly new' courses which look

likely to establish themselves as a regular feature of the programme. Silk Painting has proved a spectacular success, as has computer-aided Lace design, which has attracted students from abroad; there are two popular Saturday morning art courses, one of which invites both children and adults to explore the delights of Mixed Media, through a blend of stained glass work, pottery and computer graphics. Jazz and Blues Guitar and Saxophone for Beginners have extended the scope of the music programme, while more than twenty students are learning the rudiments of that most exhilarating dance form, Flamenco. The expanding examination programme is also registering a healthy level of enrolments, having established its credentials with the impressive results achieved by its candidates.

The Institute's drive towards greater public awareness of its activities received a welcome boost this year with its first full entry in "Floodlight". Formerly restricted to providers in inner London, "Floodlight" has started to list adult courses offered throughout the London area, and the inclusion of the Institute's programme led to a flood of enquiries from all over the metropolis, and brought many new faces into Institute classes. Although staff are naturally delighted that the message is reaching an increasingly wide clientele, it is important to emphasise that the Institute's top priority is to serve its local community, and that this continues to be reflected in the composition of its student body as a whole.

Richard Bradbury

RA offers home to elderly computer

If you have recently changed your computer for a new multimedia package or have up-graded for Windows 95, then you may be wondering what to do with your discarded machine. But do not despair, the Residents Association offers a good home for your old 286 or 386 IBM compatible hardware and will even take over

your old dot matrix printer that will have been replaced by a new high speed laser jet. These machines will be provided with a dignified retirement in the home of the RA Secretary, with only light duties to see out the end of their days. Interested parties are asked to contact Neville Silver (455 0494).



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