

# HGS Theatre

## 'Suddenly' cancelled

For those who wondered what happened to the Garden Suburb Theatre's December production of Tennessee Williams' play *Suddenly Last Summer*, which was mentioned in the last *Suburb News* - we were sadly forced to cancel the show as a licence was refused only four weeks before the performance dates. We would like to apologise for any disappointment and inconvenience caused.

### Family Panto

Looking to the future, however, a full programme lies ahead for the rest of the season. The family show in February will be *Aladdin*, a pantomime with lots of audience participation, fun and romance.

This is the traditional *Aladdin*, complete with Widow Twankey, Chinese laundry, a couple of genies and various animals. Book, music and lyrics are by David Wood, a

well-known writer and producer of plays for children, though this show is definitely suitable for adults too!

In April comes a double bill from one of the funniest contemporary dramatists around, Tom Stoppard.

In *The Real Inspector Hound* a murder has been committed at Muldoon Manor, a lonely house on the moors. However, not only is the identity of the murderer unknown, but no-one is even sure whose the body is. Inspector Hound is dispatched to deal with the situation, but with his arrival comes further mystery...

The theme of confusion continues in *After Magritte*, for in this play the beleaguered Inspector and his sidekick cannot even determine what crime has been committed...

All in all, a hilarious evening out.

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

Debbie Lane



Jean Barraclough unveiled a memorial to her husband Peter who was Minister at the Free Church for 32 years until his death in 1993. Seen here Rev Tony Spring; John Marshall MP; Jean Barraclough and her daughter Jenny

## Allotment winner

Some 70 allotment holders and guests of the RA Allotment Committee enjoyed a Harvest Supper at Fellowship House, the occasion of the presentation of the Phyllis Young Memorial Trophy this year won by Pamela Hall for her Erskine Hill plot. Rev Tony Spring, minister of the Free Church, had chaired the judging panel which had toured all the, nearly 100, plots in the search for the best kept said "I would have awarded a prize to every entrant but then my expertise not so much in growing vegetables as in eating them"

Richard Wakefield

## HGS Floral Arrangement Club

No, you don't have to be a flower arranger to come to this enjoyable evening. Just relax and watch a professional flower arranger demonstrate this art once a month in the evening at Fellowship House.

You may even win one of the arrangements in the raffle. More information from Sandra Handley, 0181 455 3707.

## Recycling

Is everyone aware that there are both bottle banks and paper banks on Finchley Road near the Texaco service

## Would you be interested in being trained as a Neighbourhood Tree Warden?

The new Arboricultural Officer at Barnet Council, Rod Jones, whose responsibilities include the Suburb's trees, is enthusiastically planning to set up a pilot neighbourhood Tree Warden scheme within Hampstead Garden Suburb, in liaison with the RA. Volunteer residents would receive proper training, and each would then be allocated a number of street trees or an area of trees on one of our open spaces maintained by the Borough Council, or perhaps some of both. They would be the eyes and ears of the Council in relation to these trees and their

health, and as to any damage done to them, whether wilful or inadvertent. In addition they might be involved in some simple maintenance tasks in relation to tree ties, tree stakes, hand-weeding round the base of trees, watering, and spotting brown tail moths!

If you might be interested in participating in this project, please in the first instance contact the chairman of the Residents Association Trees & Open Spaces Committee, Spencer Hudson, 5 Southwood Court, Bigwood Road, NW11 6SR, tel 458 1288.

## Litter Free Zone

A new Environment Committee has been set up by the Residents Association and I have been elected its Chairman. The Committee will endeavour to deal with those environmental issues not already covered by one of the existing Standing Committees of the RA.

One of the first things the Committee hopes to do is to revitalise the Litter Free Zone campaign inaugurated so splendidly by Peter Loyd in 1989. If you were/are a 'litter-picker-up' in any part of the Suburb, or are prepared to become one, please contact me as soon as possible on 458 2889.

Eileen Whelan

## Suburb supports Blue Peter appeal

Blue Peter, working with the charity Water Aid, urged its viewers to hold their own Bring and Buy Sales, to help villages in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to dig wells for fresh water.

Thus with great determination, on the afternoon of Saturday 17 December, young and old alike from the Free Church, and other willing helpers, set about raising funds. From toys to cakes; from

books to plants; from bric-a-brac to homemade marmalade; from a silent auction to computer games competitions; from ingenious water coin-dropping games to guessing the names of twin dolls; from knocking down tin can games to puzzling button-counting on an apron - in fact anything to raise a fantastic total of £388.

Rosemary Birch

## Would a water meter pay?

If you do not already have a water meter and if your home is occupied by one or two persons, you could save yourself a considerable sum of money each year by investing in the installation of a water meter.

As you may know, your water charges are generally based on the old rateable value of your property. Currently your water charges will consist of a standing charge of £47 plus the rateable value x 48p regardless of the amount of water you use. However if you have a water meter you will be currently charged a standing charge of £74 plus 91.13p x the number of cubic metres of water used.

A one-person household, on average will use between 40 and 80 cu. metres per year and a two-person household between 70 and 150 cu. metres a year. A user at the lower end of the range could be one who uses a shower rather than a bath and does not use a washing machine or dishwasher, whereas a high user might take daily baths and use both of these machines.

An illustration of typical annual costs for a metered supply are shown in the table below:

In addition to the above annual costs, water meter users have to pay for the installation of the meter which would be carried out by the water company. This will vary, depending on the work involved, but a typical cost would be about £100 + VAT.

Residents are recommended to compare the figures below with their current annual bill and if they think that they might benefit from the installation of a meter, they should contact Three Valleys Water (Tel: 0707 277 111) who will send them a information pack which will provide further information together with what to do.

If you are successful in saving money as a result of reading this article, and are not already a member of the Residents Association, then perhaps you will consider joining - we shall be pleased to accept your membership fee.

Neville Silver

No of people in household	High User	Average User	Low User
1	£147	£129	£110
2	£211	£175	£138
3	£266	£211	£165

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