

Times Past

Laurence Sherrard's request for memories of Market Place resulted in several letters but the joint winners of tea at Sherrards have to be sisters whose parents had the teashop fifty years ago! Mary Hutterer remembered them. Mavis still lives in Golders Green, and prompted the winning letter.

Tea For The Memory
My father had taken me into 'Fourways' for a delicious

continental meal served, if I remember correctly, at small tables by a waitress. At the time my parents, siblings and I were living in the same house in Kingsley Way to which I subsequently moved back with my husband and children, and where we now still live. Mavis, whose parents did the cooking, and I have remained close friends ever since meeting as young schoolgirls during the early post-war years in this corner shop-cum-restaurant.

Yours,
Mary Hutterer

Sir,

My sister rang me and said, "You've got a good memory, what do you remember about Fourways?" Memories of fifty years ago are not crystal clear but some are clearer than others, so we put our heads together and these are the things we remember.

Our parents, Betty and Theo Wender, came to "Fourways", as the corner shop in the Market Place was called, in about 1945 from a tea and cake shop in Mill Hill. Mother did all the baking and cooking and was always up to her elbows in flour. Father did 'front of house', selling cakes and serving tea. Later they employed a young man called Tony to help with the baking, and subsequently he became the proprietor of the

"Bay Tree" tea shop in Temple Fortune. My sister and I also helped in the shop occasionally but we were teenagers then and busy doing other things.

We lived at 66 Southway until 1951 and we think that "Fourways" became "Sherrards" in that year when our parents sold it to Mr Sherrard.

By the way, I still have a recipe of my mother's for "Fourways Chocolate Cake", which was delicious in spite of the fact that food rationing was still in force as late as 1951.

We hope that you (and maybe your readers) will find this of some interest.

Yours,
Sylvia Leader and
Mavis Mach (née Wender)

Hampstead Heath Information Centre

An attractive Hampstead Heath Information Centre has been established by the Corporation of London at the Parliament Hill Lido, Parliament Hill Fields, Gordon House Road NW5 2QJ (tel 0171-482 7073). It is open to the public from Wednesday to Sunday (that is to say it is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays) from 11 am to 12.30 pm and from 1 pm to 4 pm. There are good displays and leaflets about the history of the Heath, including the Extension, and its character, geology and wildlife. The Centre is staffed by David Bentley, an ecologist who used to work for English Nature and wears his learning lightly, and by Will Turner, who has a detailed knowledge of the Heath based on fifteen years' experience. School parties and other groups of every kind will be welcome on Mondays and Tuesdays; they should of course make an appointment in advance.

Colin Gregory/Spencer Hudson

Radio Times

By the Waters of Babylon is a series of nine short programmes about the hidden sacred life of London in the 1990s to be presented by the Vicar of St Jude's on Radio 3 each Friday afternoon from 5th January to 1st March at 4.20 to 4.30 pm.

The series will explore the theme of national exile against the background of the musical and liturgical traditions of Christian worship within nine communities and will include visits to Italian, Armenian, Hungarian, Greek, Polish, Ethiopian, Coptic, Ukrainian and Russian churches in London.



Times past 2 Where are they now?

Can anyone identify these past pupils of Annemount taken at the school in 1951. Hazel Smith, who sent the picture, is third from the left in the front row.

Face the Music

A delighted audience in the presence of the Deputy Lady Mayoress was treated to a galaxy of favourite songs from the musicals when the Company of Friends entertained with their new show "Face the Music" on a Saturday evening at St Albans Hall, Golders Green. The function, organised by members of the North West Support Group centred at Fellowship House, will benefit the North London Hospice to the "tune" of £1,200.

Gillian Newman

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The Suburb Arms?

As Henrietta Barnett celebrated founding Hampstead Garden Suburb with a cup of tea at the Royal Oak in May, 1907, it is a pretty safe bet she wasn't wondering whether to include a pub. There would be winding roads, hedges and trees, churches and community centres, a green and pleasant land.

But no pub. Instead of squandering their time and their money on booze, the residents of the Suburb were to be provided with more noble pastimes.

There were allotments and bowling, country walks and billiards. Up at the Institute there would be the kind of spiritual sustenance that doesn't come out of a bottle: lectures, plays, discussions and debates. It would be "a centre where intellectual people of all standards of cultivation and of all classes of society could meet in potential friendship," said the residents committee that ran the Institute.

Pubs, on the other hand, were trouble. Mrs Barnett's time in the parish of St Jude in Whitechapel had shown her the full horror of drink: money that should have been used to feed children was squandered on beer by men who returned home to beat their wives.

Such was the Suburb. Model villages and garden cities were the high-water mark for Victorian philanthropy. They were a way of checking the misery inflicted by the Industrial Revolution. The idea was: build an ideal settlement, and it will mould ideal people.

In these more cynical times, that idea seems far-fetched. On the other hand, Henrietta's energy and principles have produced a very pleasant place to live.

And of course there are pubs on the fringes: the Bull and Bush, Bald-Faced Stag, Spaniards and Oak all pre-date the Suburb. Fine pubs all. But they force people on the Suburb to look outwards for

their entertainment. To foster community spirit, people should be able to look inwards. To have a Local that brings people together, rather than scattering them to the Suburb's fringes.

I feel this especially when returning after a long time away. After months in Romania and Bosnia, it would be nice to come back to the Suburb, walk into the pub, order a beer and catch up on Suburb life.

Of course I could do this over a cup of tea, but it's not quite the same thing. The Suburb needs a place for all those who after a hard day's toil want something stronger than a cup of tea and a lecture on Eskimo Art. A place where you can sit at the bar and know that the person sitting next to you is probably a neighbour.

Help is at hand. The millennium and the centenary are both approaching. There is much debate on what to do to mark the occasion. Money is probably available. A community centre is suggested. So why not include a pub?

One good reason is that pubs create problems. Contemplate a pub in the heart of the Suburb and visions of drunken teenage hooligans waking the neighbours skate across the mind. Central Square may be a quiet place, but maybe that's better than it being a noisy place every closing time.

And surely the whole point of the Suburb was that such vices should be purged?

Well, maybe. But the fact remains that after more than a century of experiments with social change, the pub remains at the centre of Britain's sagging community life. Imagine TV soap operas without the Queen Vic or the Rover's Return. Imagine a village without a pub. In fact, some would say that if you imagine a village without a pub, you get Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Chris Stephen

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