



Richard Kinder, Terry Rogers, Sir Donald Sinden, Cllr Mrs Agnes Slocombe and HRH the Duke of Gloucester inspect the Garden Suburb Theatre display on Friday 11 July 1997.

The Official Opening of the new Little Wood Theatre by HRH The Duke of Gloucester - A personal anecdote

This is a personal reminiscence by a resident who attended the ceremony:

'We mostly arrived early, half expecting to be frisked, but finding instead that we were amongst many Suburb friends. Moreover Fintan Bermingham - our very own skilled tree officer - was watching over the oaks soaring up to create a nave in the open air, and preparing for the royal tree planting. Meanwhile we had an opportunity to admire the well-established new shrubs, the slip-proof stone flags, the self-effacing romantic furniture store and - not least - the absence of mosquitoes.

Punctuality is the politeness of princes, and so it proved when the Duke of Gloucester arrived upon the nonce. Sir Donald Sinden with quadruple emphasis beautifully acted out the part of himself as the Master of Ceremonies, and how we especially warmed to him when he made a small muddle of the programme. We warmed to the Mayor, too, when she told us how Little Wood and its theatre would now be available for schools and other community organisations in addition to its primary use by The Garden Suburb Theatre. Then to our surprise the Duke asked Terry Rogers to introduce him to hoi

polloi, and even the most sceptical in the back row of the stalls were won over by His Royal Highness's palpable interest in each of us. It was all a splendid illustration of the benefits of working together, and Garden Suburb Theatre is to be congratulated on bringing the project to fruition and on organising such a felicitous and hospitable occasion to celebrate its success. It was all that a Suburb event should be!

SPENCER HUDSON



Sir Donald Sinden seems to be demonstrating a glancing stroke to leg with Dame Henrietta's spade.

Help others to help yourself?

Suburb Residents may be surprised to learn that the Residents Association has a representative on the Management Committee of Barnet Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Spencer Hudson has been involved for some time now and is also a member of the staff sub-committee which is responsible for both paid and volunteer workers.

The recent Omnibus film may have given the impression that the Suburb's problems are all to do with neighbour disputes, but even seemingly affluent areas have people who require impartial and expert help from time to time.

The Citizens Advice Bureau has been in Barnet since the last war. There are four Bureaux in the Borough located in Hendon, Grahame Park, Finchley and New Barnet. They are run by paid managers and a dwindling army of volunteers who each give two days a week. Dwindling, because those who have been there many years are retiring and it is becoming more difficult to recruit younger men and women. It says much for the fascination and challenge of the job that so many workers can boast anything from 5 to 15 years' involvement.

The commitment is the equivalent of 2 days a week for at least a year, plus attendance at monthly staff meetings and

six training sessions a year. So it is quite an undertaking.

The Citizens Advice is a unique service in that it is free, impartial, confidential and non-political. All you really need to be part of it is to like people and wish to help them solve their problems, however great or small. In doing so you will also learn about employment and family law, housing and consumer issues and many other aspects of life today. Knowledge is strength. By helping others you often help yourself.

The basic training takes about six months. Advice workers are supported by a comprehensive information system, by their Managers and their colleagues. There are opportunities to specialise in areas which hold particular interest.

The Barnet Citizen Advice Bureaux are always looking for new volunteers - they could not exist without them.

I have been involved with the Barnet C.A.B. for nearly twenty years, first as a volunteer and then as a Manager. Now retired, I work again as a volunteer with the Home Visiting Service for the Housebound Elderly, part of the Hendon Bureau, a project which is very rewarding. If you are interested in becoming a C.A.B. volunteer, Nick Auvache on 0181 205 4993 will be delighted to talk to you.

LEONIE STEPHEN

New residents

We haven't had one for a while so the Residents Association is trying a new style welcome to new residents in the form of a tea party with entertainment for

children and a chance to find out about life on the Suburb for their parents.

Free Church Hall, Northway.
3pm 16 November. 731 7887

News from Fellowship

It has been a busy and successful summer for Fellowship. Not only did we have our usual summer activities and our annual visit from the Toynbee Senior Care and Leisure Centre; we also participated in the Suburb Festival in June (managing to contribute £40 to the Children's Charities as a result of our 'free' teas). In July we had a very happy coach outing to the Royal National Rose Society's gardens at Chiswell Green and a thank you party for Fellowship 'helpers' which seemed to go with a real swing.

The croquet lawn was much patronised: John Cassels has now brought the grass up to a very high standard, and the whole aspect has been improved by the - very expensive - work we had done to the surrounding trees in the spring.

EILEEN WHELAN



Sprightly Jean Dyson helps Mrs Scribbs cut the cake at her 100th birthday celebration at Fellowship.

David Bedford Smith

David Bedford Smith who died suddenly in his eighty second year in September had lived all his life on the Suburb. He was very active in Suburb affairs and was a keen tennis player and member for many years of the farm Walk tennis Club. He and his wife Theresa reached their golden wedding anniversary five years ago. Kit Ikin writes:

David Bedford Smith was one of those who by their differing abilities fought the battle for the Suburb and placed his mark upon it.

He was one of the sixteen residents who in 1961 actually

owned shares in the HGS Trust; he was one of the ten residents who went to Court for help; he was I think the initiator of the formation of Suburb Residents Ltd; he was the Treasurer of the Protection Society.

When in 1964 the Residents Association was reconstituted under Ted Hoblyn as Chairman, David became his Deputy and took a large part in the rewriting of its new constitution.

He was a founder member of the New Trust Council and in 1970 resigned as RA Chairman because of a conflict of interest between the Trust and the RA.



Dawn Orr, who won first prize in the Garden Suburb Gallery's Christmas draw, said she was thrilled by the watercolour of her Erskine Hill home by Annie Walker, when she was presented with the picture by Gerlinde Bates (left) at the Gallery last month.

Christmas and after at the Gallery

The Judy Bermant exhibition continues into November and is followed by our Christmas show of pictures by local artists as well as many other things that make great presents - from silk scarves and ceramics to framed Suburb maps and prints. Not least the, every home should have some, Suburb porcelain mugs!

A Suburb Christmas card will

be Annie Walker's winter view of the Suburb from the heath and the revised and expanded Henrietta's Dream at £9.99 will make a splendid present.

Valentines Day

The Gallery Valentine Show will start on Jan 25 and there will be pictures, cards and ceramics with romantic and not so romantic themes for Valentines Day.

"Razzle-dazzle 'em"

Is what we hope to do when we take the H.G.S. Theatre Club members to see the much-acclaimed, Tony award winning, American musical 'Chicago' as a post Christmas treat on 8 January. A real 'All that Jazz' musical that has taken Broadway by storm. What a way to start our new year!

Always on the look out for a bargain, we were able to secure best front Dress Circle seats at a considerable reduction, (£24

including the coach) to and from Temple Fortune to the Adelphi Theatre, where normally the seats alone are £32.50!

We shall end our most successful year in October with Tennessee Williams' play 'The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore' starring Rupert Everett and then on 27 November Hugh Whitmore's new play 'A letter of resignation' starring Edward Fox - and so into 1998.



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