



Unsung heros

Our picture shows Jessica Jaffa, seated, who suffers from the rare disabling condition Rett Syndrome, her mother Lorna Jaffa and Yvonne Oliver on the Rett Syndrome Association UK stand at the recent Craft Fair.

In 1990 Lorna Jaffa became Chairman of the charity which provides support for parents and carers whose daughters have the condition.

Lorna and Ronnie Jaffa are grateful for the fact that Peter and Yvonne Oliver have become

trustees and say "they have been fantastic in the way they have thrown themselves into fund-raising since the day they met Jessica in 1991 outside the Tea House after a Suburb Walk. Peter and Yvonne made the Rett Syndrome Association one of the beneficiaries of money raised by the Craft Fair, which then they were running at the time, and since then have helped to make substantial amounts for the charity in other ways."

Richard Wakefield

SCF Annual Fair

The Barnet & Finchley branch of Save the Children Fund held their very successful Annual Fair in Fellowship House on Saturday 9 November. The organisers, Gail Petersen and Jen Wright, would like to thank all those who supported the event by attending or by donations. SCF cards,

seasonal gifts, bric-à-brac, plants, books and children's toys were particularly popular, as were cakes and the ploughman's lunches. The branch looks forward to next year's event in November 1997 - watch this space!

Jen Wright

Late start for recycling scheme

Other boroughs have had door to door recycling schemes for years, and now Barnet is following suit. Early this year a trial area of 15,000 households will have waste paper collected by TeamBarnet Refuse. This will be extended in April to cover the whole borough. Also in April a trial area of households will have recyclables such as glass containers, paper, cans and plastic bottles collected. Residents will be issued with reusable boxes for recyclable waste.

Community News.

The Blue Peter Great Bring & Buy Sale for Leprosy

When several Suburb children discovered that they had all sent off for the Blue Peter Leprosy Sale Pack they decided to combine resources. The result was the great Bring & Buy Sale at the Free Church Hall. The Suburb Sale, held on 20th December, was one of many hundreds which took place up and down the country.

The instigators, Gemma and Anna Woorall, Natasha Radjabi, Alice Kershberg, Richard Orme and Robin Birch, had massive help from parents and friends on the day. There were a variety of stalls - books, cakes, plants, bric-à-brac, toys, and a Christmas stall. Teas, cakes and hot mince pies were available.

Added attractions included 'buskers' playing sponsored Christmas carols (Lisa, Lucy, Natasha and Katie) and hair beading (Mrs. Ng and Louise). The total raised was £461.20p, a magnificent effort.

The money will bring not just a cure, but will also save patients from the heartbreak of rejection. There are more than two million people suffering from leprosy world-wide and an estimated four million others who have disabilities as a result of the disease.

The average cost of curing leprosy is £21 per patient.

John Birch

Suburb Mums step into Action

Hampstead Garden Suburb mums stepped into action to take part in an aerobics Stepathon in aid of the Children's Leukaemia Trust and the Pavilion Children's Centre Playgroup. The Stepathon took place in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, in conjunction with the Pavilion Summer Festival. Twenty Playgroup mums were sponsored to step continuously for one hour. Proceeds from the Stepathon and the Pavilion Festival raffle totalled a donation of £2,300 for the Children's Leukaemia Ward at the Royal Free Hospital.

The Pavilion - a parent/toddler playgroup - is a registered charity run by a group of volunteers. Based in the cricket pavilion in Lyttelton playing fields, the 1996 annual fundraising Festival raised almost £5,000 for the upkeep of the Centre.

Laura Barnett, Pavilion Committee
Tel: 0181 458 8925



Jill Murphy poses with children at Annemount at last summer's fete

No bad spells for Jill Murphy

Jill Murphy, a resident of Hampstead Garden Suburb, is a popular children's author. Her best-known books are the four volumes of "The Worst Witch" series, featuring Mildred Hubble, a pupil at Miss Cackle's academy for witches. On a freezing December day, we went to meet her.

Written when she was eighteen, "The Worst Witch" includes characters based upon real people: Jill got the inspiration for Mildred Hubble from herself. "Everything I did went wrong," she comments, reflecting on her days at a convent school; Mildred's fate is similar.

She sent "The Worst Witch" to several publishers all of whom rejected it, claiming that it would not be liked by children. Five years later, after attending Chelsea Arts School and travelling to Ghana, Jill was still determined to be published, "I just knew I shouldn't give up on it." Returning to England, she was introduced to a small publishing firm, Allison and Busby, who printed five thousand copies of her book. It was a bestseller and today, twenty-four years later, it still is.

"The Worst Witch" received extremely good reviews, including Leon Garfield's in *The Spectator*, calling it "the real

thing".

Jill describes herself as "a sort of child prodigy", inheriting her writing talents from her mother, a librarian, and her drawing skills from her father. She was encouraged to write from a young age and began putting books together, with a stapler, when she was six. Jill was also influenced by the magic of C.S. Lewis's "Chronicles of Narnia" and now describes him as "an absolute genius".

Jill still writes all her ideas in exercise books and does not have a word-processor, partly because she is concerned with the way in which computers and calculators can make people, especially children, lazy.

She has also written many picture books for younger children, including "Peace At Last"; "Whatever Next?"; "Five Minutes Peace", winner of The Best Book for Babies Award, and "The Last Noonoo". She got many of her ideas for her books

when she was "tiny", but "Peace At Last" was originally a story she told a boy she was a nanny for, following a noisy incident in the house.

Jill illustrates all her books herself and describes drawing as "like breathing". However, she prefers the writing because illustrations are "hard work", as they are so time-consuming. "I like [the books] to be really good," she comments and is working on a few ideas at the moment. A look at the colour illustrations in her picture books shows the care which has gone into them. If peace is needed, illustrators are allowed to work at the offices of her present publishers, Walker books.

Jill does most of her writing at her home in Hampstead Garden Suburb, moving here in 1990 after living in Cornwall. She likes the Suburb because it is "as countrified as you can get in London".
Lucy Handley and Louise Edwards

Refit for Pavilion

Local sportsmen and the Pavilion Children's Centre will be glad to know that LB Barnet says that work will start in the Spring on replacement heating and hot water systems. The shower area will be expanded with non-slip floor and wall tiles.

Community News.

Superb programme for the fifth Proms at St Jude's

Barry Millington of *BBC Music Magazine* and *Times* music reviewer, who lives in Denman Drive, has with his committee, put together a really first class programme for this summer's Proms.

They start on June 24 with the Covent Garden Chamber orchestra, conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes, in an ambitious programme of music by Erich Korngold, Ethel Smyth and Percy Grainger.

Robert Max will be the soloist in Korngold's Cello Concerto. The baritone David Wilson-Johnson will be taking part in the Grainger folk song settings with the Joyful Company of Singers. Humphrey Burton will open the proceedings and conduct Ethel Smyth's Overture to *The Wreckers*.

The following evening will see an attractive programme of Italian baroque music for soprano trumpet and continuo with Deborah Calland, trumpet.

Thursday night's concert will be by the leading international ensemble the Chilingirian Quartet.

On Friday June 27 the internationally acclaimed soprano Jill

Gomez and pianist Julian Drake will give a recital including cabaret songs by Britten, Weill, Gershwin and Cole Porter.

Benjamin Britten's opera *Noye's Fludde* will round off the programme on Saturday 28. A large cast and orchestra will be drawn from local schools and the Youth Music Centre led by professional soloists and under the direction of Areta Breeze. Emanuel Hurwitz, who played in the first performance under Benjamin Britten, will also be taking part.

'Friends of the Proms' For a donation of £25 you can become a Friend of the Proms at St Jude's, your name will appear in the Proms programme and you will be entitled to two complimentary tickets to a concert of your choice during the festival. Send cheques to Music Aid, 55 Denman Drive South, NW11. Jocelyn Selson

FLUTE, RECORDER, PIANO
GENERAL MUSIC LESSONS
on the Suburb

Professional, enthusiastic teacher; graduate of Royal Academy of Music
All ages & abilities welcome.
Easy parking, or can visit.
Free consultation lesson
Rebecca Austen-Brown
0181 905 5425

BROOKLAND BUILDING SERVICES

Would like to announce the introduction of a **HANDYMAN**

service to take care of all those odd jobs for which you were never quite certain whom to call.

This will operate in addition to our normal activities, which are now confined solely to the Suburb, so for prompt attention to all your building and decorating requirements, repair and maintenance problems and those really annoying but unavoidable little jobs, just call

Philip Michaelides

on
458 5833

HGS Trust Listed

Expert Travel Ltd

782 Finchley Road, London NW11 7TH
Tel: 0181 458 9166 • Fax: 0181 458 6315

20th Anniversary
of your local travel agent
FREE BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE
with every holiday - minimum cost £500 (on production of this advertisement)

CLUB MED SPECIALISTS
EILAT • FLORIDA • FAR EAST • AUSTRALIA • HONG KONG
ABTA 28190 Open Saturday/Sunday morning IATA 9123151

Telephone 0181-458 4422

W.M. GLENDINNING LIMITED

Building Contractors & Decorators

FOUNDED IN LONDON IN 1904
SEVENTY YEARS BUILDING ON
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

66-70 GRANVILLE ROAD, CHILDS HILL. NW2 2LA.