

Another message from the past



An insider look at this year's Proms

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The autumn 2017 issue of Suburb News (SN132, page 5, Message in a bottle) reported on discovery of an unofficial capsule in an old bottle concealed in the St

Jude's weathercock. We can now follow up on this story with the news that conservators working on the restoration of the spire and weathervane have discovered

the 'time capsule' placed in the spire in 1913 at its dedication.

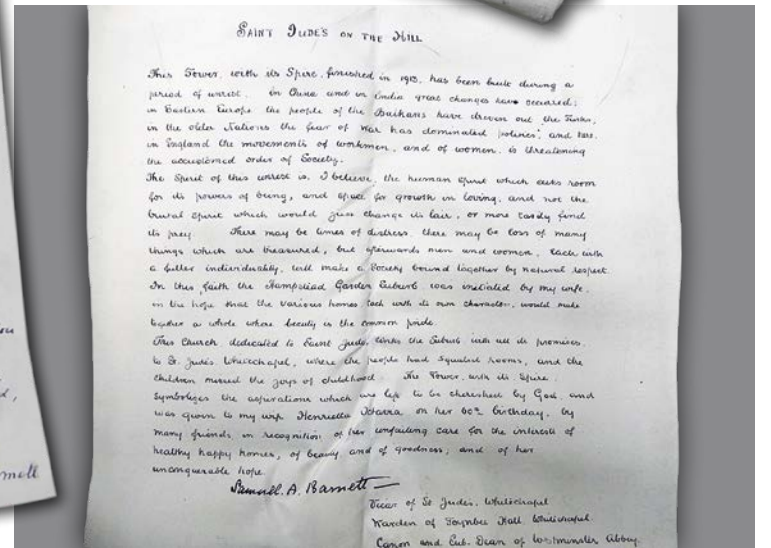
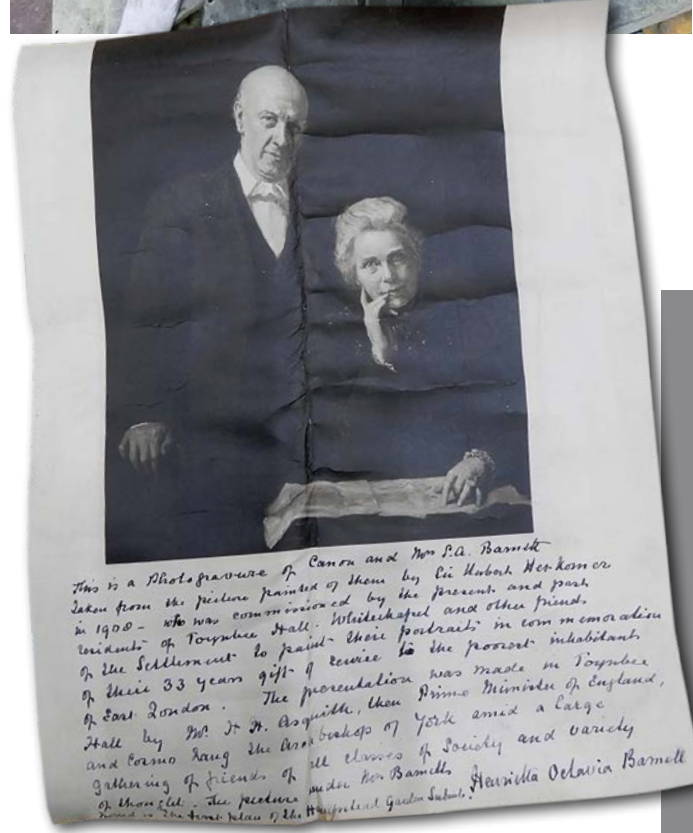
We knew of its existence from Henrietta Barnett's The Story of the Growth of the Hampstead Garden Suburb 1907-1928, which describes it as "a hermetically sealed copper cylinder", and records that "with prayer and thanksgiving" by the first vicar, the Reverend Basil Bouchier, it was placed in the pummel of the spire.

The capsule contains a message ("engrossed on vellum") from Canon Samuel Barnett on the state of the world in 1913 ("the

last thing that Canon Barnett wrote"), and a "photogravure" of a portrait of the Barnetts by Hubert Herkomer (1849-1914) from Toynbee Hall. There was no record of Henrietta's accompanying text until the discovery of the capsule.

The conservation team also found on the removal of lead from the orb a number of signatures on the timber, which are presumably those of the plumber and lead workers.

We hope, after conservation, to add a contemporary note and, again with prayer and thanksgiving, to restore the capsule to the restored spire.



Mrs Shaw Herself in the Library

The Garden Suburb Community Library was, once again, full to capacity for a very special evening in April. 'Mrs Shaw Herself' was a delightful hour-long theatrical event which gave a fascinating insight into the life of Charlotte Payne-Townshend – a remarkable woman, born into great wealth, a political activist, Suffragette, passionate about alleviating poverty and promoting women's education, who chose to seek out causes which would benefit from her fortune.

Drawn into the company of the Fabians, she met George Bernard Shaw, and although her 40-year marriage to him was

unconventional, it was in many ways a success as her fortune gave him domestic comfort, stability and the freedom to explore fully his creative ideas.

Written and performed by actress Alexis Leighton and Helen Tierney who provided music on Celtic harp, 'Mrs Shaw Herself' is drawn entirely from Charlotte's own writings and letters, as well as those of George Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries, and it aims to bring Charlotte out from behind her husband's shadow. This very original piece of theatre certainly captivated the library audience.



SN134 Wordsearch answers and winner

The answers to the Shakespearian characters in the last issue's Wordsearch were as follows: Banquo, Cordelia, Desdemona, Falstaff, Horatio, Juliet, Lysander, Macbeth, Malvolio, Mercutio,

Oberon, Ophelia, Perdita, Petruchio, Polonius, Portia, Prospero, Puck, Shylock, Titania and Yorick. Yvonne Oliver from Brim Hill is the winner of a £20 book token: congratulations!

We urgently require a volunteer to take on the role of Wordsearch editor. There are free Wordsearch generators to be found online (just use your usual search engine to find them)

which would make life easier for anyone who would like to take over the role. Anyone who is interested please get in touch with the Suburb News Editor at rapublications@hgs.org.uk.



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