

Fellowship memorial rose garden

On Tuesday 8 December, some 30 hardy folk gathered in the rain on the edge of the croquet lawn at Fellowship House. There, the Rev. Ralph Baldry - former

Fellowship Chairman - blessed a new bed of commemorative rose bushes planted in memory of Daisy Stonhold, Elsie Densham, Ken Reaks, Jean Henderson and

Muriel Grainger, all of whom had died recently.

All had contributed greatly to the Fellowship, both by their efforts during their lives, and through their bequests. May the roses flourish and bloom in their memory. The variety of their activities was enormous - from being the first female QC, to keeping the electrical fittings in Fellowship House operational.

Eileen Whelan and Jean Dyson, Chairman of the committee and of Fellowship House, respectively, dug the bushes in, using Dame Henrietta Barnett's spade.

Then all returned to Fellowship House for tea and the afternoon's activities, which on that day was "Suburb Tales and Tall Stories", with an attendance of some 60 Suburb Seniors. Monday to Friday afternoons sees a wide variety of social activities for Seniors.

JOHN DAVIS

Supper for ex-HB girls

The Henrietta Barnett School Association (formerly the Old Girls' Association) is holding a supper party on Monday 22nd March 1999 in the main school hall. This event is held annually for anyone who attended the school. In particular it is a special reunion for all those who left the school 10 and 20 years ago.

If you are interested, please telephone 0181-446 3344.

Call for singers

Following their much acclaimed production of the rarely performed 'The Gypsy Princess', the Manor Opera are putting on a new production of 'The Gondoliers' by Gilbert and Sullivan at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, 11-15 May, 1999.

Manor House Hospital Operatic Society has been relaunched as the Manor Opera due to the planned closure of the hospital and wants singers and dancers for this exciting comic operetta.

It is a delightful piece which sparkles in an apparently effortless manner. The story is one of those "I mixed those children up" plots beloved of opera librettists.

Come along and join us. No previous singing experience is necessary. As well as one major production a year, the opera group also produce an Autumn Concert and has a wide range of social activities.

For more information ring David Epstein on 0181-346 3244.

Young oaks for Bigwood

Sunday 13th December was amazingly mild, in marked contrast to the previous arctic weekend, which was lucky for the Big Wood Management Group which had asked residents to bring oak seedlings for planting in the two glades on this day. Residents turned up with quantities of seedlings in Waitrose carrier bags, had them delivered by proxy, or arranged for large bags of tree and earth to be collected from their front doorsteps. In fact, although early visitors to the planting may have come away with the impression that not enough oaks would materialize, by the end of the day local volunteers were struggling to find enough room to plant them all. Sadly some had to be turned away because they had been brought from France; to be eligible the oaks had to come from Barnet, preferably from the Suburb. Each seedling is protected by a planting tube; squirrels are notorious for nipping off the tops of oak seedlings.

While the planting was going on, a group from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers was getting to grips with coppicing a strip in compartment 3. For those of you not accustomed to pouring over the Management Plan, this means the part of Big Wood between the Oakwood Road and Thornton Way entrances. This compartment will be coppiced in three sections but not all the way to the paths. A strip of woodland will be left untouched around the edges so



Sally Lewis and her grandchildren Thomas and Olivia with the young oak they had just planted.

that, as far as possible, the coppicing will not be too obtrusive.

As soon as enough coppicing material was available, volunteers began building dead hedging around the Oakwood Road glade. This involves hammering in uprights and then weaving hazel, elder and hawthorn, cut in compartment 3, between the uprights. This fence of local materials not only helps prevent people, and sometimes dogs, wandering through the glade, but it provides an excellent habitat for wildlife. The dead hedging built last year between Denman Drive and Temple Fortune Hill has been colonised by some very

interesting fungi, and wood mice have been seen scurrying for the shelter it provides. Small birds like wrens can benefit from dead hedging as a nesting habitat, as can invertebrates, many of which favour decaying wood as the ideal environment. These animals may not sound the most exciting sort of wildlife, but woodland birds such as treecreepers, robins, wrens and blackbirds thrive on a diet of invertebrates.

Further dead hedging is scheduled for the end of January, and at the end of February there is a workday in Little Wood, to remove exotic species.

GEORGINA MALCOLM



Eileen Whelan and Jean Dyson almost singing in the rain!



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For further information contact:
Community Director, Lynette Chazen
on 0181 455 6763

Big Fun Walk

The approach of Spring finds the 1999 arrangements for the Sponsored BIG FUN WALK in aid of the Hospice well in hand.

Last year 400 Walkers participated and £48,000 was raised, this year the local Hospice Committee are hoping

for even more Walkers and more funds. There a free refreshments en route. The Walk from East Finchley station forecourt to Storey's Gate, Westminster through the London Springtime Parks will take place on Sunday 21st March. Check-in from 9.30am.

Contact Gillian Newman on 455 5432 or Anne Samworth on 905 5249.

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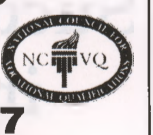
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Soft lights, sweet music

The church spire was gently washed with light on the night of St Jude's advent eve parish supper. Lines of flickering candles guided diners across the square. In the church rooms, transformed in silver and blue, young members of the congregation served hors d'oeuvres and explained how we were to change tables during the meal so that everyone had a chance to talk to everyone else.

A short warm-up act from David St George was followed by the entertainment - promised in the silver and blue menu cards - from Peter Kingsley and pianist Tom Hodge who, so obviously, enjoyed themselves and delighted the audience with Gershwin songs and other favourites, ending with a spirited rendering of 'These foolish things'.

Rev Alan Walker thanked the organisers and helpers who had provided such a perfect evening.

Life's been fun

Who hasn't dreamt of writing it all down, of putting down one's life story for posterity if only for the family. Very few ever manage it but one Suburb resident, Patrick Laurance, has succeeded. But then he has a wider family to support and one suspects that, like most things that Pat and Joan have undertaken, it was really for the sake of the Family Holiday Association, to whom profits on the sales of the book will go. Pat's autobiography is really a series of delightful and often hilarious short stories covering every aspect of an eventful life, a good read. Life's been Fun. Patrick Laurance. £4.50 at the Garden Suburb Gallery.

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