

Abbeyfield marks United Nation's Year of Older Persons

1999 has been designated the United Nations Year of Older Persons and governments around the world are being asked to focus attention on the future welfare of their ageing populations. One of the four main issues around which activities are being planned by the UN Secretariat is Promoting Independence, with particular emphasis on health, social and safety issues.

This is an area which is at the very heart of the Abbeyfield ethos of providing a supportive environment in which older people can maintain or rediscover their independence

with the support of staff, other residents and volunteers.

Following the success of last year, Abbeyfield is repeating its Abbeyfield Week throughout the UK in June and, at the same time, making its contribution to the UN Year. In the Suburb, Abbeyfield House in Homesfield, Erskine Hill will have an Open House Coffee Morning from 10.30 to noon on Tuesday, 22nd June. Anyone interested in seeing the house and meeting residents, staff and volunteers will be welcome.

Further information: Michael Milner 458 1110.

Anyone for tennis?

In a pretty setting hidden behind Corringway is Corringham Tennis Club. There is one shale court and a shed with deck chairs - and a tiny patch of grass for spectators. Apart from a fairly steep rent paid to Freshwater, the members' subs pay for a caretaker from April to November. In season it is rare

not to be able to get a game and you can have a quick 20 minute knock anytime. Visitors are free, if accompanied by a member.

The club needs a few new members to ensure that we keep this precious bit of Suburb life going. Enquiries please to Mike and Jenny Manson, 455 6379.

Volunteers needed

Last year the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund successfully raised £14,000 for work in the East End. This year the DHB Fund will be taking part in a more limited range of events to make possible further support for Toynbee Hall and also to provide educational opportunities



on the Suburb for those in poverty. If you can spare some time to help with these events, so enabling us to achieve these worthwhile aims, please contact me at 1 Hill Close, Hampstead Way, NW11 7JP, or call me on 455 6537. Thanks.

SIMON ABBOTT

Horticultural Society celebrates 90 years on the Suburb



This year sees the Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's 90th anniversary and we shall celebrate with cake-cutting ceremonies at our shows in July and September.

In addition, at the September show there will be a display of memorabilia from the Suburb archives.

At the moment the Society puts on two shows a year, bringing a real breath of the country to the Free Church Hall in July and September. The autumn and winter lectures, and the very popular May Plant Sale, are held at Fellowship House.

But...will there be a Flower Show to mark the millennium year?

Sadly, the answer will be no, unless residents come forward to help run the Horticultural Society in the future. In order to continue we need your help. There are innumerable small jobs connected with our activities, ranging from collecting entry fees at the door, making cakes for the teas and helping to serve them, or just giving a hand to clear up after the shows at 6.00pm - all essential but not too arduous. Four of the Society's present Officers have served a total of some 65 years between them and now wish to take a well-earned retirement after 1999, including the present Secretary. Although an interest in growing things, flower arranging or domestic economy (cooking, preserving, etc) would make the work more enjoyable, gardening expertise is not necessary. But some secretarial skills would be useful. We are also looking for a new Membership Secretary, which involves some record-keeping of those who pay an

annual subscription, but no collecting is required, since this is done by volunteers.

Six to eight new committee members are also needed, to bring in fresh ideas and to help with numerous jobs such as photocopying, putting up posters, suggesting topics for future lectures, writing to potential speakers and doing the cards on entry nights, etc.

Exhibitors needed

Above all, this is the Garden Suburb. There must be thousands of roses growing in Suburb gardens. In the week of the shows, look very carefully at yours, or your other flowers. Most likely there will be at least two or three blooms of entry standard. And many of you make jam and cook, or grow vegetables. Why not show off? Just ensure that you enter for the July show by Tuesday, 29 June, and for the September show by Wednesday 15 September; both entry nights will be held at Fellowship House between 7 and 8pm. Alternatively post or deliver entries to the Show Secretary at 103 Hampstead Way, NW11 7LR. The Plant Sale takes place at 10.00am on Saturday 22 May at Fellowship House. The Flower Shows will be held from 3.00 to 5.30pm at the Free Church Hall on 3 July and 18 September.

Please help to keep the Society going beyond the Millennium by filling in the slip below and returning it to our Chairman, Norman Wheatley.



Peter Sibley, Barnets new Contracts Manager, joined Cllr John Marshall, Trust Manager Chris Kellerman and RA Chairman Richard Wakefield for an early morning inspection and to see for himself some of the things residents have been complaining about in the way the Borough is maintaining our verges, hedges and open spaces for which his department is responsible.

Looking decidedly healthy

The HGS Theatre Club went out in 1998 on a musical high note when we went to see the revival of 'West Side Story'. A great production!

We then followed in January with the Royal National Theatre's 'The Forest' by Alexander Ostrovsky, starring Frances de la Tour.

In February we were over-booked for Michael Frayn's award winning play 'Copenhagen' with Sara Kestelman, David Burke and Mathew Marsh. In fact the tickets were completely sold out in two days! A truly marvellous evening.

Our Spring line-up is looking decidedly healthy with 'The Memory of Water', starring Alison Steadman, Samantha Bond & Julia Sawhla, completely sold

out for Wednesday 17 March. 'Gross Indecency - The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde' with Michael Pennington, Leslie Phillips & Clive Francis is on Monday 19 April.

David Hare's 'Plenty' with Cate Blanchett, the Australian star who was such a tremendous hit in the film 'Elizabeth' is booked for Thursday 13 May.

As you can see we have a very busy and interesting schedule ahead.

Lastly we would like to extend our grateful thanks to all our members who give such enthusiastic support to our small but very active committee.

Membership Secretaries; Ruth Gumb - 455 6490, Charlotte Mohr - 458 2584.

Telephone 0181 458 4422



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- I would like to join the HGS Horticultural Society. I enclose £1 (minimum). Please send me a Handbook
- Please tell me more about the Society and how to exhibit
- I am willing to join the committee
- I would like to keep the Society going by:
- () helping on entry nights; () setting up before and clearing up after shows;
- () helping with the Plant Sale; () providing secretarial assistance;
- () baking cakes for teas; () helping with teas at the Flower Shows in July and/or September; () other _____

(Please tick as appropriate)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Please return to Norman Wheatley, Chairman, HGS Horticultural Society,
177 Hampstead Way, London NW11 0181-455 2820. Thank you!

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