

Jenni Wright's work for the SCF lives on

A Save the Children (SCF) education project in Northern India will benefit from donations raised in memory of Jenni Wright, a well-loved Suburb resident. Following Jenni's death last December her family and wide circle of friends generously donated over £2,000 in her memory to SCF.

Jenni felt deeply that every support should be given to disadvantaged children who, through no fault of their own, have been dealt a 'raw deal'. Jenni worked in a therapeutic setting with a group of young primary school children with behavioural and emotional problems. She was also involved in a wide range of causes and initiatives and was always willing to help in fund raising and school activities. She was a committed and enthusiastic member of the local branch of SCF and worked hard on the annual local fair with valuable support and encouragement from her husband Steve. He will be continuing her interest as president of the branch.

The education project in Tilonia, a rural area of Rajasthan, is a new initiative supported for



one year by a grant from the UK Department for International Development. Seventeen night schools have been established. They are organised to provide school opportunities for children who work during the day shepherding and in the fields. Their work makes a vital contribution to the meagre family income. The aim of the

SCF project is to give these children literacy, numeracy and vocational skills. It is anticipated that the idea of night schools will spread to other states across India.

In view of Jenni's passionate belief that girls should have the

same educational opportunities as boys, the local branch of the SCF has decided to use the donations to support a group of girls attending night classes. For further information contact Gail Peterson on 0181 458 4721.

FHA Coup for 25th

Although old age has caught up with the organisers and the Family Holiday Association fete is no more, the fete's most popular attraction 'Dinner for Two' is going to be on sale at their October auction (see What's On).

No fete, but Pat and Joan Laurance appear to be as active and innovative as ever. The FHA's Autumn Fair (see What's On) with

three mediums in attendance is bound to be of appeal.

Their major coup has been the agreement of their patron Prunella Scales to celebrate the Charity's 25th anniversary with a charity performance of an 'Evening with Queen Victoria' at Wigmore Hall on 13 January. Anybody who would like to reserve tickets (£10 - £25) should contact the Laurances on 455 1777.

John Watkins

John Watkins had an insatiable intellectual appetite, not only for philosophy but for any discipline which throws light on the nature of the world and our place in it. As Professor of Philosophy at the London School of Economics from 1950 to 1989, he wrote widely, producing scores of articles and three major books.

Among the topics he tackled were rational decision theory, the role of metaphysics in science, scepticism, the mind and (most recently) freedom. Loyal, old fashioned and conservative - by temperament and political persuasion - he acted for many years as bulldog to the celebrated sceptic Karl Popper.

John William Nevill Watkins, who enjoyed a lifelong passion for boats, began a career in the Navy. Born in Woking, he was educated at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and went into wartime service in destroyers in 1941, aged 17. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1944 for torpedoing a German destroyer off the French coast. When the war ended he resigned from the Navy to study politics at the LSE. A first in political science won him a Henry Fund Fellowship to Yale where he graduated MA in 1950.

He returned to LSE to teach in the department of government, but, through attending Karl Popper's lectures on logic and philosophy of science, he became captivated by critical rationalism - the idea that knowledge grows through a combination of bold, creative guesses, which go wildly beyond the available evidence, and rigorous criticism. He transferred to Popper's department in 1958 and seven years later published *Hobbes's System of Ideas*, where

he demonstrated the connection between Hobbes's philosophical ideas and his politics.

Popper was the leader of a small but enthusiastic band of renegades who rejected the often tedious ordinary language of philosophy then dominating the English philosophical scene. They were fighting other battles as well. On one front, they crossed with the heirs of logical positivism, whom they accused of distorting the nature of science; on another they took on the emerging radical fringe of philosophy of science, whom they accused of irrationalism.

These early years under Popper's influence gave Watkins a robust independence from the mainstream. In his last work he warns us not to be cowed by 'Philosophical Correctness' - intellectual fashions that become oppressive orthodoxies.

Watkins had a reverence for reason and its magnificent creations - particularly modern theoretical science, a compelling defence of which is found in his book *Science and Scepticism* (1986).

In his retirement Watkins concentrated on the nature and possibility of freedom. How could human beings evolve from primordial slime possessing a valuable capacity for freedom of thought and action? Watkins parting gift, *Human Freedom after Darwin*, is the distillation of fifty years of sustained thinking and reading. Near the end he deftly draws philosophical lessons from a saying which is rather beautiful, but now sadly apposite: "When a man dies a world goes out of existence."

He married Micky Roe in 1952. They had one son and three daughters. John Watkins, DSC, died on 26 July aged 74.

Ione Burley

Ione, who died in August aged 97, was born in Folkstone where her father was a bank manager, and often spoke of her early years there. She came from a loving family background and together with her younger sister, Yvonne, spent many of her childhood holidays with her various aunts and young cousins.

There were trips to Paris to visit two aunts, Amy and Win. These two aunts had previously run a school in Sidcup, Kent before teaching at a school in Montmartre. Possibly Ione inherited her love of teaching from them. Her sister Yvonne certainly learnt her love of the French language from them.

Ione decided to train as a teacher, and the bank where her father worked contributed towards this training. She attended Gypsy Hill teachers Training College and trained as a primary school teacher. Ione spent the war years on the Gold Coast of Ghana where she lived in a convent. She loved Ghana and this work and made many friends there. However, she decided to return to London to carry on her work of teaching and to be with her mother.

Ione was appointed Headmistress of the Infant School in Hampstead Garden Suburb, and became a familiar figure and friend for several generations of parents and children. She was always willing to listen to any problems and to solve them to the best of her ability. There was always an open door at her little cottage just next to the school. Her family remember her running around from there in a

Morris Minor 1000, which she learnt to drive at a very late age.

She joined the St John Ambulance Brigade in Leicester in September 1928, moving to the Hove Division in 1930. When she came to London she joined the Hampstead Garden Suburb Division in 1933, later transferring to the Hampstead Division where she was instrumental in forming and later becoming Superintendent of the Nursing Cadets. Following the wartime break in service when she went to Ghana Ione resumed her Brigade work being promoted to Area Staff Officer in 1955. She retired from the active list in 1973 and was made President of the Edgware Cadets. She was awarded her Service Medal in 1948 and later gained a gold bar. She was made a Serving Sister of the Order on 22 February 1956 and an Officer in 1994.

Besides the St. John Ione also gave her time as a voluntary worker at various London hospitals; UCH (where she worked for over 25 years) and the Middlesex where she used to help the elderly to get dressed whilst she was over 80 herself! She was also a voluntary worker at St Paul's cathedral where she worked at the bookstall for many years.

She travelled extensively to Australia. When she was well over 90 she ventured unaccompanied to Ghana, Canada and Holland to see her family and friends.

Ione was a stalwart worshipper at St Jude's and a very generous contributor to every aspect of its life.

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