

# Free Church 90th

When Hampstead Garden Suburb was being planned, Henrietta Barnett envisaged Central Square as the site for the "Worship Houses". Moreover she writes, "the Free Church should have as prominent a site as the Established Church." Thanks to her inspiration the two churches face each other in friendship across the square and the Suburb sky-line is dominated by the spire and the dome.

At first the members of both churches gathered in a workmen's wooden hut on the Suburb and were only separated in May 1909 when the first vicar was called. It had been decided that several denominations would unite in one Free Church membership and the first committee of management combined Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Methodists. Moreover women formed part of the church management from the first and from 1919 there were two women elders. The Free Church dates its foundation from Friday 18 February 1910 when the Church Covenant was signed by 56 people and the first church meeting was held on 3 March.

The building of a worship centre began immediately with plans drawn up by Edwin Lutyens to erect a building of "Free Renaissance design".

On 16 March 1911 the foundation stones were laid and on 25 March a number of the children laid bricks inscribed with their initials, which can still be seen in the walls of the church. The children have always had a central position in the Free Church, indeed the Sunday School predates the Church, having started in the Tea House in October 1908. The Sunday School, now called Junior Church, celebrates its 92nd anniversary this year on 21 May (having moved the date forward over the years to a more clement month).

At the service on Sunday 20 February to mark the 90th anniversary of the church, the young people of Junior Church reminded the congregation that it was the religious teaching of the newly arrived children of the Suburb that preceded the formation of the church. In the service they enacted the laying of the initialled bricks and it is



Rev Tony Spring with the anniversary cake made by Free Church Elder Catherine Cheng.

good to still have in our church membership one of those children who laid a brick in 1911 - Mrs Molly Trapp.



Molly Trapp who laid a foundation brick in 1911 with Eleanor Hughes.

The service on Sunday 20 February was led by Revd Tony Burnham, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, and after the service everyone went to the Free Church Hall for a celebratory lunch. The high spot of this was the large birthday cake, baked by Kathleen Cheng, one of the elders of the church. The cake was ceremonially cut by the minister, Revd Tony Spring, and, like a wedding cake, was eaten not only by those present but also sent out to members who were unable to attend.

JEAN BARRACLOUGH

# The Wind and the Willows

The Garden Suburb Theatre's production of Alan Bennett's adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's "The Wind in the Willows" was rather disappointing. The set took up too much space and the stage looked very cluttered for once with people bumping into one another. The action was slow and almost everyone shouted - not a good idea in this ghastly hall. The whole production was bland with no momentum and at times, as in the Court scene, just dreary. With such wonderful

characters to portray, where was the imagination and vitality? The exceptions were the Wild Wooders, led by Tim Solomons and Mark Overall, who had a snarling ferocity and things really picked up when they were about. Toad is such a wonderful part but needs an actor who can really enjoy himself and let go. Jeremy Thompson had a brave try. Eugene Smith was suitably timid as Mole. Andrew Craze made a very debonair Rat and Albert, the horse, was amusingly played

by Bernard Smith, who obviously enjoyed the jokes.

The various animal groups used very conventional movements to portray themselves. The Field-mice were the jolliest.

Considering the limitations of the stage, the set pieces such as the boat, caravan and car were well presented. The producer was Linda Zeff assisted by Julia Day and Liz Travers. An ambitious venture that was overcome by the limited resources.

LÉONIE STEPHEN

## New Head for Henrietta Barnett School

The governing body of the Henrietta Barnett School is delighted to announce that it has successfully concluded the search for a new Headteacher in succession to Mrs de Swiet who retired at the end of 1999.

The new Headteacher will be Ms Jacquelyn Pain. Ms Pain will join us from Northwood College, an independent, multi-cultural school for girls aged 3 to 18, where she has been Deputy Headteacher since 1996.

Ms Pain taught from 1981 to 1983 at Tiffin Girls' Grammar School, from 1983 to 1984 at Old Palace School, Croydon, as head of Religious Studies, and from

1984 to 1996 at James Allen's Girls' School, successively as head of Religious Studies, head of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Senior Teacher (Staff Administrator). Between 1992 to 1994 she was also a part-time PGCE tutor or at the Institute of Education.

Educated at the School of St Helen and St Katherine, Abingdon, after a gap year working at the UKAEA, she obtained a BA in theology and an MA in a church history at St David's College, Lampeter.

Ms Pain will take up the post at the beginning of the new School year.

## London Garden Squares Day

English Heritage have asked us to say that building upon the very successful London Garden Squares Day of last June, as a result of many requests to do so, the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust are again organising and sponsoring London Gardens Square Day on Sunday 4 June 2000 from 10am to 5pm.

We hope to encourage as many as possible of London's garden squares to open on this one day a year, to help raise public support for them in their work to maintain and reinstate them and to emphasise their importance in an increasingly stressed urban scene.

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## CHALLENGE

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## WORDSEARCH

BRITISH BIRDS

In the box below are concealed the names of 20 British birds. The words may read forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards, or diagonally. ROBIN has been ringed to start you off. Can you find 19 more? Some are big birds, some are small ...

Entries should be listed on a postcard or a sheet of paper. They should be sent to 'Wordsearch', 2 North Square, London NW11 7AA, and should give the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The closing date for entries is June 17. The sender of the first correct (or nearest correct) entry drawn after the closing date will receive a book token for £20.

W H A L Q U W O A R D J F O Y  
H U P A U S N P B A O M I C K  
C R O W E L R U C K R C L Q R  
N L I M N O Z F T X F R U B A  
I E S T E Z I F A H E R O N L  
F R O B A T L I S P A I V A Y  
F T N R R I N N E A S T A R K  
A S D X A M J E S T O O C P S  
H E U T S E R C D L O G W H N  
C K G R I C C A Y S N P R E B  
Y A J Y E L K G N I I E S T O  
W S T E V F M S W O B U S I N  
R I R B R E P P I D O Q U M R  
E T O D E L A O B R R O L X E  
N S T A R L I N G T S M A B S

SHEILA McMICHAEL

## WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The human infectious diseases included in the box in the last Wordsearch were: measles, mumps, rubella, typhoid, diphtheria, smallpox, cholera, tuberculosis, meningitis, thrush, shingles, hepatitis, leprosy, dysentery, anthrax, AIDS, influenza and plague. AIDS came up twice but is of course one disease! Inhabitants of the Suburb are obviously health-conscious, as this puzzle drew a good response.

## Little Green cycle lanes

How often have you heard Barnet's short cycle lanes that appear to go nowhere being ridiculed? Well, at a recent Hampstead Garden Suburb LA 21 Partnership meeting Andrew Cunningham, Barnet traffic engineer, had an opportunity to put the record straight during a discussion on encouraging cycling on the Suburb. "These tracks" he said "are designed not so much as cycle tracks but to separate bicycles from cars at danger points for cyclists such as the approach to a junction or roundabout."

## Wordsearch winner

The winner of the last Wordsearch on human infectious diseases was Mrs Christa Kingsley of Brunner Close.

Born in Germany, Mrs Kingsley trained there as a paediatric nurse. In 1949 at the age of 21 she came to the UK as an au pair to a family in Dumfries in Scotland, but the following year moved to a post in Hendon as a nanny. She subsequently married and had a daughter, then retrained as a freelance translator and became a member of the Institute of Linguists. He has lived on the Suburb in Bunner Close since 1985.

Mrs Kingsley has been a keen skier since the age of eight and proposes to continue on the slopes for as long as she is able.

She now devotes a lot of effort to her painting and drawing, and is a regular visitor to the exhibitions at the Royal Academy, the National Gallery and the British Museum. Recently she has taken up drawing with pastels and has attended classes in this at the Institute. She also listens to a lot of classical music.

She delights in her five-year-old granddaughter Sophie who lives in York, where her mother, after attending the university there, worked for some time with the handicapped, and is now employed part-time by two doctors while she also studies to become a translator like her mother.

Mrs Kingsley proposes to spend her token on an art book on pastel drawing.

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