

Romanian Appeal

The Suburb's response to April's appeal for clothes, bedding, etc. to go to Romania, where there are almost no social services, was tremendous; and there is much gratitude to all who contributed. There were even five computers, among the other items received.

As in previous years, a convoy of several trucks will soon cross Europe bearing everything from hundreds of babies' bottles to lavatories and baths. Their destinations include orphanages, a hospice, old people's homes and a muscular dystrophy centre.

The goods will be followed by a team of two dozen volunteers, organised by the joint efforts of the Metropolitan Police and Rotary, who will plumb, bricklay, paint and carpenter for several weeks in June.

Volunteers are wanted – and sponsors for the volunteers' hotel accommodation and meals if they cannot pay their own expenses (£400 each). Any offers from the Suburb would be warmly welcomed by organiser Paul Manning (01992 422106).

ELIZABETH COCKBURN

Sit back and enjoy the garden

(continued from back page)

per person or £17.50 with lunch. This is a really splendid garden and will be a lovely day out (phone me for details 8455 0455).

The plant sale at Fellowship House is Saturday May 19 and as well as a good mix of bedding and herbaceous there will also be beautiful hanging baskets to purchase. Our gardening doctor has a plant sale in his garden at 32 Wordsworth Walk on Friday May 25 at 6 pm in aid of the North London Hospice and on Saturday May 26 there are four Suburb gardens open to the public starting with a tour led by our resident guide Arthur leaving the picture gallery at 10.30 in the morning and ending the tour with a visit to our local garden centre and substantial discounts arranged by Matt the manager. The cost of the tour is £6 payable at the start. Keep up with staking, feeding, spraying and all the stuff I tell you to do every year and I am putting my money where my mouth is as one of the gardens on Arthur's tour is mine!

In June you can prune

forsythia and flowering currants, otherwise they get too large, and plant out summer bedding – we shouldn't have frosts now but it is always advisable to have a length of fleece for emergencies. I am sticking with plum and purple colours this year and heliotrope will be at the top of my list with trailing rhodochiton. The trouble with me is once in a garden centre I become like a child in a sweet shop and I want it all!

Even though it has been terribly wet, July and August can be so very dry and we think of watering. A seep hose is a good solution and if you have a chum watering your garden when you are away it is so much easier for them just to turn on the tap instead of trying to remember which plants need that little bit of extra care. My son only notices when they wilt!

Don't forget to sit back and enjoy your garden and hopefully some of you might enjoy mine with me.

Good Gardening

DIANE BERGER

Remembering the Holocaust in Germany...

For some people the Holocaust is history, but my family still feels its repercussions. My mother and father were both refugees from Hitler's Germany, though they met and married in London and my sister and I were born and brought up in England. My late parents lost many relatives in concentration camps, and like many Jewish families, the survivors, their children and their children's children are scattered far and wide throughout the world.

My mother's younger brother, Fritz Friedlaender, died in Mauthausen Concentration Camp in Austria aged 21. He had been taken from an agricultural training camp in Holland, where his parents thought he would be safe from the Nazis. I always regretted the fact that I had lost the chance to know the shadowy young uncle, whose handsome face sat staring into the middle distance on my mother's dressing table.

So when, out of the blue, I received an invitation a few weeks ago to attend the dedication of a new memorial in Germany on Europe's Holocaust Memorial Day, I felt I should accept it to represent my family.

Following a long campaign by a group of residents, the council of the small mediaeval

town of Stade in Lower Saxony decided to erect two simple stone pillars commemorating their 35 'neighbours' who had died simply because they were of the wrong race or faith, in this case Jews, half- or baptised Jews and gypsies (Sinti). One stone was to list their names and the other the camps in which they had perished between 1939 and 1945. My mother's brother, and my grandfather's brother, Josua Friedlaender, were among those to be commemorated, and the town council had traced and invited as many relatives as they could find to attend the dedication ceremony on 28 January 2001.

The day before the ceremony, my husband David and I flew to Hamburg with the Curtis family from London, who had lost their Heidemann grandparents, and whose mother, like mine, had left Stade for London at the age of 17. We were met by the town archivist, who had made a detailed study of the small but stable Jewish community that had existed in Stade for several centuries.

The next morning the archivist showed us various sites with connections to our families. We saw the small red synagogue building from which my grandfather and his father before him had led the



Marjorie Harris points out the name of her uncle Fritz Friedlaender on the new memorial stones in Stade.

Jewish community until April 1939. In the afternoon we arrived at a crowded town hall, signed an ornate visitors' book and were led to the front of the hall, where we waited with very mixed feelings and some trepidation for the proceedings to begin. Various civic dignitaries made official speeches, interspersed with stark modern music and songs. By contrast, my Israeli cousin described the amazing story of her father's flight from Germany, via work and imprisonment in Russia, to Israel, and a 'Sinto' gypsy recalled movingly how, as a child, he had watched his whole family walk one by one into the gas chambers.

From the handsome, XVIIIth century surroundings of the town hall, the assembled company then walked out to gather round the stark, simple stone pillars in a half-circle as darkness fell. Five school-girls read aloud the name, age, place and date of death of each of the 35 innocent citizens of their town. As name followed name in those young voices, the simplicity and stark nature of this ceremony reduced most of us to tears, but then that's what we were there for.

At last our loved ones, whom the Holocaust had deprived us of ever knowing, had a place of their own in Stade, where they would always be remembered.

MARJORIE HARRIS

... and at St Jude's

Christians and Jews from the Suburb and beyond gathered at St Jude's in Central Square early on Sunday 28 January to mark the first national Holocaust Memorial Day with an act of worship broadcast live on BBC Radio 4.

The service was led by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Revd Richard Harries, Chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews who spoke of his childhood experience of seeing newsreel film of the liberation of Belsen concentration

camp. He described the Holocaust as an "archetype, a macabre icon for other mass exterminations of the last century, which began with the tragic genocide of one and a half million Armenians during the First World War", and offered prayers for them and all victims, "to the one God, the God of Jews, Christians and of Moslems".

Also taking part in the event were Sister Margaret Shepherd, Director of the Council of Christians and Jews, and Father Alan Walker,

the Vicar of St Jude's and Chairman of the Hendon and Golders Green Branch of the Council.

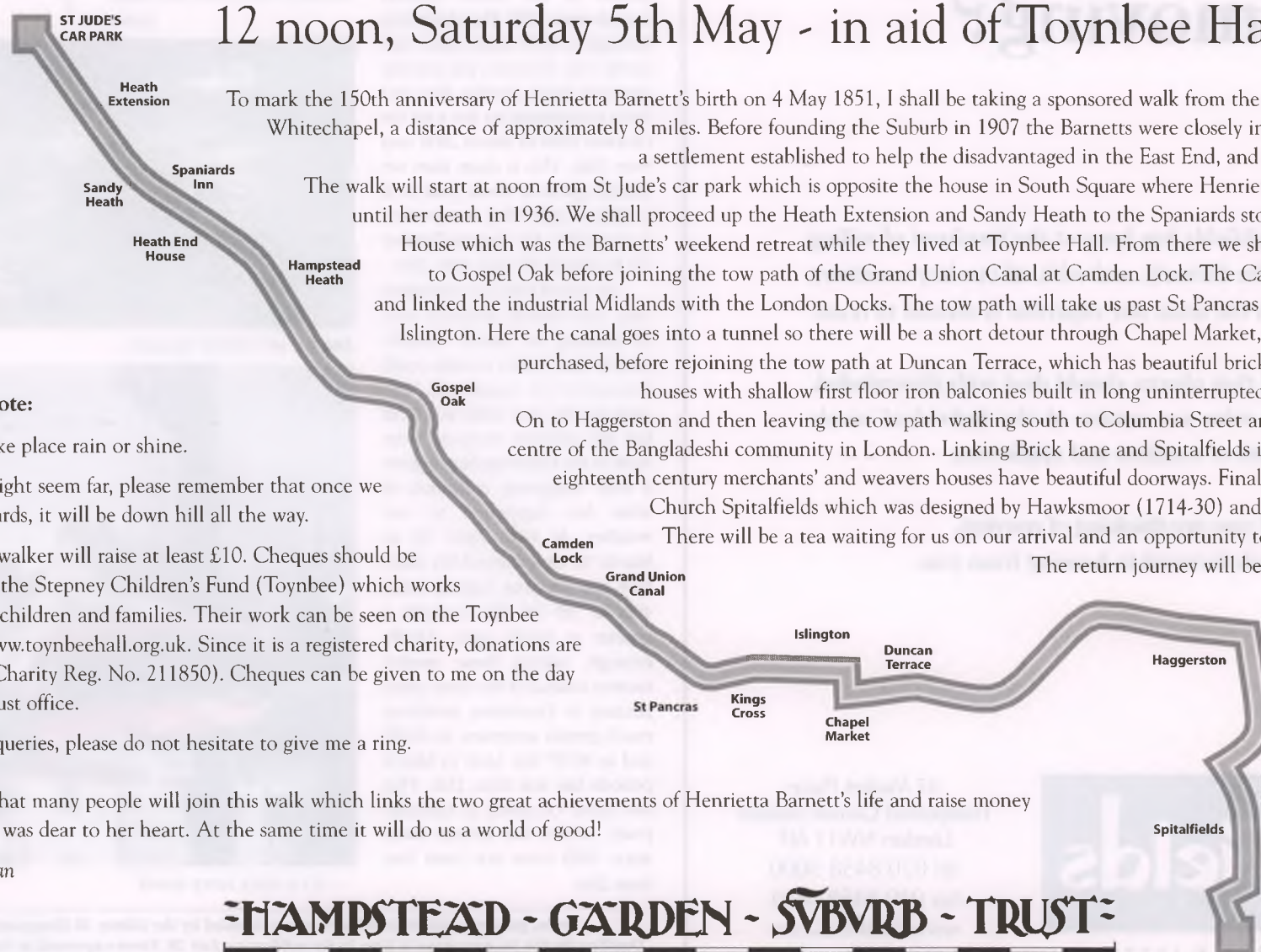
Suburb resident Rabbi Tony Bayfield, Chief Executive of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain led an Act of Remembrance, lighting seven candles, six for the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust, and one for all the other millions throughout world history, particularly in the last century. The voice of the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, was also heard in a pre-recorded discussion with Sister Margaret from the

Imperial War Museum Holocaust Exhibition. Music, which included settings to texts common to both Christians and Jews as well as a haunting melody from the Warsaw Ghetto, came from the Bochmann String Quartet, and the Zemel Choir, under the direction of Viv Bellos, with soloist Jeremy Cohen.

The service ended with the choir singing a setting of a poem by Hanna Sennesh, "O Lord my God I pray that these things never end, the sand and the sea, the rush of the waters, the crash of the heavens, the prayer of man".

Henrietta Barnett Day - Sponsored Walk

12 noon, Saturday 5th May - in aid of Toynbee Hall



Other points to note:

- The walk will take place rain or shine.
- While 8 miles might seem far, please remember that once we get to the Spaniards, it will be down hill all the way.
- Hopefully every walker will raise at least £10. Cheques should be made payable to the Stepney Children's Fund (Toynbee) which works specifically with children and families. Their work can be seen on the Toynbee Hall web site: www.toynbeehall.org.uk. Since it is a registered charity, donations are tax deductible (Charity Reg. No. 211850). Cheques can be given to me on the day or sent to the Trust office.
- If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to give me a ring.

I very much hope that many people will join this walk which links the two great achievements of Henrietta Barnett's life and raise money for a project which was dear to her heart. At the same time it will do us a world of good!

Christopher Kellerman

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

The New Hampstead Garden Trust Ltd. 862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB. Telephone: 020 8455 1066 & 020 8458 8085