

One woman's search for Henrietta

I owe a great debt to Dame Henrietta Barnett for an excellent education at her school before the War and now, in my old age, care in her sheltered housing accommodation at the Orchard. As a result, I felt that I would like to make a pilgrimage to her grave to pay my respects but, on asking all the Suburb people I met, where Dame Henrietta was buried, to my surprise, no one knew.

I learnt that there was a Barnett memorial plaque in Westminster Abbey. I went to see this. The plaque is situated above the door leading to the organ loft, an area normally out of bounds to the public, but a helpful Abbey Marshal escorted me through the barriers to see it.

The entry for Dame Henrietta in the Abbey guidebook reads 'Described by Asquith as 'the unofficial custodian of the children of the state'; she campaigned to improve the education of London's children and instigated the building of the HGS'.

The entry in the guidebook for Canon Samuel states that he was buried at Brampton. I asked the Marshall if he knew where Brampton was and he said that he didn't but that if I went to the library, someone there would probably be able to help me.

The library is accessed through a door with an intercom in the cloisters. I felt like a child entering some exciting secret place. A flight of stone steps leads to a large lofty reading room. Tucked away in a far corner is a small wooden spiral staircase leading to a door in the top of the wall. This opens onto a light little 'eyrie' where the staff work.

I was assisted by Miss Christine Reynolds, Assistant Keeper of the Muniments. In a flash she produced several books. Dame Henrietta's biography of her husband, *Canon Barnett, His Life, Work and Friends* proved to be two large volumes of 400 pages each. All I could find there was a letter from

Canon Barnett saying, "I wish my body to be cremated."

Miss Reynolds also produced a bound volume of all editions of the Westminster Abbey guidebook going back to the 1920's. Early editions made no mention of Canon Barnett being buried at Brampton. This information suddenly appeared in much later editions. Miss Reynolds said this was most unusual. She looked up Brampton in an atlas and found all the places named Brampton are in the north of England, with which the Barnetts had absolutely no connection. She, therefore, assumed that references in the guidebook to Brampton must be incorrect.

The sculptor of the Abbey memorial plaque to the Barnetts was a Sir G Frampton and Miss Reynolds wondered if somehow that had got changed to Brampton.

Miss Reynolds suggested that I look up the Barnett obituaries at the National Newspaper Library in Colindale and asked me to let her know if I found anything out so that future editions of the Abbey Guide could be corrected.

At Colindale, *The Times* for Wednesday 18 June 1913 reads '7th June at Hove after much suffering Samuel Augustus Barnett, aged 67. Sub Dean of Westminster Abbey and President of Toynbee Hall, Whitechapel. By his own wish friends are asked not to send flowers. Funeral arrangements will be announced later'.

From *The Times* for Thursday 11 June 1936, we read, 'BARNETT on June 10th 1936 at 1 South Square, NW11 Dame Henrietta Octavia Weston Barnett aged 85. Founder of the Hampstead Garden Suburb, co-founder with her husband the late Canon Samuel Augustus Barnett, of Toynbee Hall, Whitechapel'.

Meanwhile, someone had told me that Dame Henrietta was buried in the Church of England cemetery in Hove but contact with

Henrietta's grave



Brighton Cemetery authorities revealed no trace of this.

I was just about to visit the Suburb Archives Office at Bigwood House when, at an Abbeyfield coffee morning, I was introduced to Mickey Watkins who works with the archives. She told me that Dame Henrietta and her husband were buried in the churchyard of St Helen's Church, Hangleton on the South Downs behind Hove.

Why Hangleton? Well, when Henrietta was a child her family rented a house in Brighton every year where they spent the winters. Henrietta fell in love with the South Downs from that age. Apparently Henrietta was a great believer in the efficacy of fresh air in promoting good health so, when her husband fell ill at their London home, she took him down to Hove in the hope that the sea air would do him good. However, he did not

respond and died at Hove and was buried at Hangleton on Henrietta's beloved South Downs. Hangleton is now virtually a suburb of Hove having been engulfed by housing developments.

Mrs Watkins had invited me to visit the Suburb Archive office in Bigwood House located in a 'dungeon' reminiscent of an air-raid shelter. Most of the archives are now housed within the London Metropolitan Archives, off Farringdon Road for safe keeping. Mrs Watkins traced that both the Barnetts were cremated and their ashes interred in caskets at Hangleton. Also, that the Barnetts owned the house at 45 Wish Road, Hove, which carries a plaque commemorating Dame Henrietta. So my goal is almost achieved; I hope to visit Hangleton shortly. Would anyone like to join me in a visit to tidy up Henrietta's grave?

BETTY LAW

The Barnett home in Hove



Hampstead Rugby

The club has started the season very well in the London League Division Three Northwest. To date (at the end of September) they have played three matches winning two and drawing one - points for 94 and 40 against. They are a fast, aggressive, high-scoring side who are prepared to attack from any part of the field.

Hampstead is one of the oldest clubs in the country and puts out five XV's - the only North London club to do so.

The remaining home league fixtures this year, played on the Heath Extension, are Saturdays 9 October v Fullarians, 23 October v Old Verulamians, 13 November v Barnet, 4 December v Ruislip and 18 December v Haringey. Kick-off times change with the season. Please turn up to support our

local club - you will be surprised at the skill and speed of play and you will be very welcome.

Arrangements are being made for a women's section at the club. Competition is very keen and the England team have done very well in the international events such as the World Cup. To date, France, New Zealand and the USA provide the strongest competition. Already Hampstead have eleven players in training and are hoping to be able to put out a full XV soon. Prospective members will be very welcome. Matches will be played on the Heath Extension on Sunday afternoons.

For information regarding all aspects of the club, please contact the secretary, Mark Spilsbury on 8347 7170 or 07967 154173.

TOM SALES

Old photos and old girls

Every year we set up a small exhibition in the School library from our archives, for our 'old girls' to see when they come to their annual Reunion Dinner.

Since there has been so much interest in the photos and other items we have been given showing Central Square and the School in the early 1930's, we

will be using them for the next exhibition and cordially invite local residents to come and see the exhibition too.

It will be held in the School Library on the first floor of the main building from 6-7.15pm on Monday 14 March 2005. You may like to put the date in your diary. JO VELLEMAN

Books wanted

Toynbee Hall (established by the Barnetts before Henrietta Barnett founded the Suburb) remains a beacon of enlightenment in the East End. Its small library is now being enlarged and it is appealing for books on the following subjects: History; Biographies (of politicians, philosophers, etc); Social

affairs, voluntary organisations, etc; Reference books. Other books are wanted for local charity sales, but please bag up separately.

If you have any spare books, do please leave them with Elizabeth Cockburn, 30 Southway (off Central Square) any morning this month.

From Britney to Beethoven - learning the piano can be fun...

... as well as providing a thorough technical and musical foundation. This will include: learning to read and write music, principles of rhythm and time, technique, ear-training, musicianship, sight reading and improvisation. ALL STANDARDS · ALL MUSIC STYLES · PARENT/CHILD LESSONS

Piano Teacher ISM/EPTA (UK) registered



Tim Stein GBSM, ABSM, DIP. MUS
Tel: 020 8922 6113
Email: t.stein@talk21.com



CENTRAL HOTEL

35 Hoop Lane, Finchley Road, Golders Green
London NW11 8BS

Tel: 020 8458 5636
Fax: 020 8455 4792



Telephone 020 8458 4422



W.M. GLENDINNING LIMITED

Building Contractors & Decorators

FOUNDED IN LONDON IN 1904
EIGHTY YEARS BUILDING ON
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

66-70 GRANVILLE ROAD
CHILDS HILL NW2 2LA

BRILL ■ OWEN

CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

For a sensitive and sympathetic approach to Architecture and Interior design we offer a full or partial service to suit your requirements.

NICHOLAS BRILL M.SC. DIP. ARCH. RIBA MBIM
ASSISTANT TRUST ARCHITECT 1987-88

GROVE HOUSE • 2B LICHFIELD GROVE
FINCHLEY CENTRAL • LONDON N3 2JP
TELEPHONE: 020 8349 0037 • FAX: 020 8349 0092
EMAIL: architects@brillowen.co.uk • WEB: www.brillowen.co.uk