



Another successful Craft Fair. An amazing variety of arts and crafts were on show again at the HGS Institute's Craft Fair in November. Ceramics were particularly well represented as were other crafts the Institute has been encouraging such as silk painting and stained glass. The Family Holiday Association and the Institute's Pre-Foundation Course were this year's charitable beneficiaries.

(Above) Peter Hale, left and Bob Rothero, the Institute's head of arts and creative studies, right seem to be appreciating a joke from Rudi Vis MP who toured all the stalls.

"We want to stay on the Suburb..."

"We want to stay on the Suburb and remain very much part of it," said Institute Chairman Malcolm Davis as he told Institute Society members of the latest moves to find accommodation for the Institute on or near the Suburb. The NHS site of the Neuro Centre next to East Finchley station is one possibility but the site would be too expensive for the Institute to both buy and develop. "Barnet's planning brief requires developers to meet the needs of the Institute," he said, "but we

don't know who is going to buy it." The St Jude's Church Rooms are another possibility and the Institute has said it would provide for other community facilities in a new building. The Trust is the freeholder here and other education bodies are interested. Malcolm Davis said, "The Trust have the power to steer ownership of the site. I hope they help us." The Institute Society AGM attracts few members and there was a plea from the floor for greater

involvement by members of the Society. "We vote for Council members knowing little about them and without any background notes." Malcolm Davis said most members had been on council for some considerable time and were well known although new nominations would be welcome as would new Society members. Marjorie Harris supported the chairman but said she would put the idea of more information being provided to the Institute Council.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

Big Fun Walk

The Millennium Big Fun Walk in aid of the North London Hospice will take place on Sunday 11 March 2001.

The first Big Fun Walk was in 1996 and the total funds raised exceeded £13,000. Each year the supporters of the North London Hospice have helped to increase this total and the 2000 Walk raised over £85,000.

This event is very much a family occasion - all age groups and abilities are welcome to join us, and complimentary refreshments

for registered walkers (donated by corporate sponsors) and full first-aid cover are provided along the way. The route of the 7½ mile walk from East Finchley tube station to Westminster passes through Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood, Parliament Hill, Primrose Hill, Regents Park, Hyde Park, Green Park and St James' Park. Celebrities greet the walkers at Storey's Gate in Westminster where coffee and doughnuts are served. In 2000, entertainment was provided by a steel band.

All funds raised are in aid of the North London Hospice which provides in-patient care for 25 people, together with a Home Care team covering a wide area in London. The Hospice is a centre of excellence in medical expertise, has a caring and comfortable atmosphere and is the only multi-faith Hospice in the country. For many of us it is hard to imagine the pain and stress of a relative or friend suffering a terminal illness. Those who have been part of the patient care provided by the Hospice have experienced the professionalism, empathy, loving kindness and understanding given to patients and their families by members of its exceptional staff.

As much support as possible is needed from the whole community, as more than £2 million is required each year to maintain this essential service, and at least 80% of this must come from fundraising.

The North West Support Group of the North London Hospice is planning a publicity campaign covering London and the Home Counties, and recent advertisements in the *Evening Standard's* 'Metro' magazine have drawn enthusiastic response from its readers.

For further information and registration forms, please contact Vivienne on 020 8202 5586 or Anne on 020 8458 8232.



Christmas at HGS Pre-school

Children at Hampstead Garden Suburb (HGS) Pre-school enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus at their end of term party. He arrived in time to hear a loud rendition of some festive favourites and, of course, he had presents for all.

A raffle was held to raise funds for the Pre-school, with prizes donated by local organisations and businesses. Particular thanks are due to the Residents Association, Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, Hotblack, Dixon & Co, Starbucks, Hendon RAF Museum and Fenwicks.

Following recent closures, previously reported in the Suburb News, HGS Pre-school is now the only multi-cultural organisation

in the Suburb that offers care and education to pre-school children.

The Pre-school is a registered charity and is affiliated to the Pre-school Learning Alliance whose philosophy is that children learn through play. This is reflected in the lightly structured activities offered. These cover key areas of learning, including physical, social, emotional, technical and creative development. Children are encouraged to move towards independence, in preparation for starting school.

The Pre-school aims to provide affordable education and care to local children, which is reflected in the relatively modest fees. As

a charity, the Pre-school is non-profit making and the fees cover wages and running costs. There is a regular cycle of fundraising activities which aims to provide the resources to continually replace and improve play equipment, books and toys. The continued support of local residents is key to maintaining this important local resource.

If you would like further information about the Pre-school and the educational programme it provides, please contact Sam Hobbs on 0345 995412.

If you are able to make a donation to the Pre-school or can offer other support, please contact Janet Delves on 8201 9440.

Greening the Suburb

In 1994, English Heritage produced a report on the Townscape Management of Hampstead Garden Suburb. The report highlighted the need to ensure conservation of existing townscape features important to the Suburb, and to rectify some of the past errors.

The Trust and the Residents Association supported English Heritage last year in financing the removal of unsightly motorway style chevrons from the Heath Extension, the replacement of miscellaneous concrete bollards with oak posts and restoration of grass verges in some suitable locations.

A further grant from English Heritage and contributions from the Trust and RA will allow additional restoration of grass verges to start in February. The work included in this programme is expected to include completion of the grass verges in Meadway, and re-instatement of grass verges in Meadway Close, Heathgate (Meadway - South Square) Erskine Hill (North Square - Asmunds Hill), Asmunds Hill and Temple Fortune Hill.

Tree planting in the Suburb is also a major contribution to the Greening of the Suburb. The Trees and Open Spaces Committee will continue their excellent work in organising additional tree planting in a programme jointly funded by Residents Association, the Trust and LBB.

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Edward Coke - 1628

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