

Camilla Raab 1922-2004



My enquiries about Camilla among people who have known her for almost all the thirty years or so she lived in Hogarth Hill confirmed that she was a very private person. None of us are able to fill in much of her seemingly eventful life before she came to the Suburb. Her cousin, who wrote the elegant notice for the Guardian, was able to tell me a little I didn't know. Camilla let drop in conversation that she had travelled widely, perhaps visiting the many cousins round the

world who had been the result of Camilla's mother being the tenth of twelve children.

She had worked at Melbourne University Press. Is that where she met and married Felix Raab? They returned to England and lived in Oxford where Felix read for a Ph.D under Hugh Trevor Roper. His 1962 thesis was published in 1964, to much acclaim, as *The English Face of Machiavelli*. He had died in a climbing accident in Italy in 1962 but his thesis earned him a posthumous Ph.D. His parents donated his library to

Melbourne University. A history prize is still awarded annually in his name.

Camilla talked about a time in South Africa and some sort of involvement in the fight against apartheid. They were in Hungary in 1956. One wonders whether Camilla, as a communist, was disillusioned by the Russians or telling the Hungarians to toe the line. Her political views were shared by Alan Lawson with whom she sat on the RA's publications committee from 1981. This was the start of more than twenty years of dedicated service to the Residents Association which saw her variously as secretary to Roads & Traffic, bringing her professional expertise to Publications, and an active member of Council where her often forcefully expressed common sense made welcome contributions to our debates. Until recently Camilla was still on two committees and the RA representative on five other organisations including Fellowship. She had long been an active member of HADAS.

Camilla was a proof reader. She worked for many years for the publisher Routledge Kegan Paul but became a freelance when they were taken over and absorbed into one of the larger groups. In her living room, which I now gather few were privileged to see, every surface was covered with paper to considerable depth. There were always several books on the go but she found time for *Suburb News*. She loved language and would get very angry with "sloppy writing" as she called many of the contributions. Galley proofs were returned covered with

proof corrector's heiroglyphics that would somehow make sense of muddled thinking. It must run in the family as I find I cannot do better than to end with her cousin's notice. Camilla would have enjoyed the typo'.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD.

RAAB. Camilla Juliet, 20.5.22 to 11.6.04.

Thirty years a respected resident in Hampstead Gardens Suburb and until recently an active member of the Fellowship, died suddenly at Barnet Hospital. Her independent spirit will be missed by friends everywhere, especially in the Suburb and Fellowship, and by Adderley cousins Maeva (Eire), Peter and Joyce (England) and Alisa (Australia). She gave her body for medical research and wished for no funeral service. In time her ashes will receive woodland burial. In life she restored typo's, corrected errors of fact and rephrased unfortunate ambiguities. Now she is gone, whenever you find new ones, remember her with pleasure.

PETER ALDERSON



Cancerkin appeal

Cancerkin needs your donations for the Autumn Fair at Hampstead Heath Youth Hostel at 11am-4pm on Saturday 4 September.

Cancerkin, a charity based at the Royal Free Hospital, helps women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and their families. The charity's philosophy is to 'treat the patient, not just the Cancer.' It offers a range of support groups, yoga classes and complementary therapies, aromatherapy, reflexology and reiki for free.

Cancerkin receives no NHS or other statutory funding and depends entirely on voluntary support. Karen Gold, fundraising officer at Cancerkin, is very enthusiastic about using the Youth Hostel in Wellgarth Road for the event. She says, "The Hostel is an ideal location in the Suburb, it has wonderful gardens. They feel very peaceful, more like a retreat. We hope that the summer fair will not just raise much needed funds but will also raise the awareness of the Cancerkin charity. Most people nowadays know someone, friend, family or colleague, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Beverley Robinson the Hostel Manager and Jean Marshan an

elder from St Andrews Church in West Hampstead are both very pleased to help host and organise this event for Cancerkin. "It will benefit many people in the future and help to highlight, not only the charity but breast cancer in general." We already have some great prizes pledged for the 'Human Auction' an example is 'an electrician for a day', another is 'a builder for a day'. We hope to get many more. We look forward to lots of fun and games and good support from the local community.

How can you help? We need volunteers to bake cakes and other homemade produce, run raffles and cover the bric-a-brac tables. Do you have unwanted items of clothing (nearly new), plants or small household items, even exercise equipment that we could sell or raffle off. Would you like to run a stall? We welcome arts and craft people and others who may wish to sell their goods, by buying a stall space for a small fee.

Contact Bev Robinson at the hostel (8458 9054) for details or email bevrob@yha.org.uk. For more information on Cancerkin, ring 7830 2310 or contact www.cancerkin.org.uk.

Who will take David's place

David Fulton retires as Chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb's Neighbourhood Watch in the autumn and we are looking for someone to take over this important role. Could it be you?

David took over from Peter Lloyd just over four years ago when a steering committee was set up to run the Watch. He is retiring to spend more time on his increasing charitable commitments.

HGS Neighbourhood Watch steering committee has about six meetings a year and two larger

meetings - one for the residents, the other for the coordinators.

If you feel you would like to put something back into your community by taking over from David, please contact him (020 8455 0337) or Derek Chandler (020 8455 3822).

We are also looking for people to join our steering committee. Anyone interested in helping to make the Suburb a safer place to live, please ring one of the above mentioned telephone numbers.

KAYE MORGAN

Margery Neave

We are sorry to report the death, at the age of 93, of Margery Neave, a long-time resident on the Suburb who recently moved to Brixton to be nearer to her daughter and grandsons.

Born in Ealing in 1911, Margery lost her father at the age of eight and she and her brother went to a boarding school near Watford. Holidays in Wales with her mother's relations gave her a feeling of attachment to Wales.

Married during the war, she and her husband, Eric lived in two locations on the Suburb before moving to Wildwood Road. Eric was a solicitor and they both took an active part in the political and cultural life of the Suburb. This was before the days of the Salk vaccine and he tragically died of poliomyelitis at the age of 52, leaving Margery to bring up their two children. Sadly, Martin, the elder of the two, developed a serious illness and died a few years ago.

Many will remember her, first as a teacher and subsequently, for seven years, as Head of the EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Department at the Garden Suburb Institute. She had a gift for making

lasting relationships with her students and had real friends in many countries. She continued teaching English with a small group of mature students living locally who became her devoted friends. She was teaching until the last week of her life - supremely a gifted and dedicated teacher of English. With this group as kernel, she organised visits to the National Theatre at frequent intervals during the season, an activity from which many of her friends benefited.

But it would be wrong to remember Margery only as a teacher. In spite of the many hard knocks she had received in her life, she remained the eternal optimist, full of enthusiasm. Her garden in Wildwood Road was an unconventional inspiration. When she moved to Brixton she was limited to a balcony but this quickly became a home for birds and a repository for unusual plants. Blessed with a robust constitution, physical and mental, she had a great capacity for friendship. She had time for everyone and it is as a great friend that we shall mourn her.

ALISON AND AUSTIN HEADY

Student's car smashed by hit and run driver

Charlotte Hamilton, a first year veterinary student, was rather proud of her first car, a nippy little Cinquecento. It cost a fortune to insure, as cover for being involved in an incident with an uninsured driver was included. At 2am on July 7, parked outside Charlotte's parents' house in Northway, it was hit at what the police said

must have been 70-80mph. The car was shunted several yards and ended up on the pavement a complete write off.

Needless to say insurance won't pay out without someone to prosecute. Perhaps some traffic calming in Northway might be the answer.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

YOUTH MUSIC CENTRE ENROLMENT MORNING for 2004/5

10.30 - 12.30am Saturday 4th September at the Tea House, Northway, NW11

Orchestras and ensembles

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Musicianship for 2 years olds and above

The Youth Music Centre Children's Choir

For details, contact Jane Barnett, 8343 1940

Email: mail@youthmusiccentre.org.uk

Website: www.youthmusiccentre.org.uk

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Hours of business: Mon-Thurs 9.30-6.30pm Fri 9.30-1pm Sun 10-1pm

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Caring for the Suburb for 20 years