

# The Revd Tony Spring retires

The resolution passed at the March meeting of the Residents Association acknowledged the loss felt by the Suburb at Tony's retirement on 4 July, thirty years to the day of his first ordination into the ministry. He was well respected by his colleagues within the United Reformed Church, who bade him adieu with a fulsome address at his last District meeting. These tributes reflect the value of the contribution made by Tony not

only to the wider church, but also to the suburb community as a whole. It has been said of him that he spread good will wherever he went, a glowing tribute to the generosity of his personality – never too busy to give a helping hand to whoever was in need, be it a recently bereaved widow having difficulty with paper work, an elderly person clearing attics before moving to fresh accommodation, or anyone who

needed a listening ear. He showed great attention to detail in preparing couples for marriage, or families for the baptism or dedication of a child, and many of these helped in this way counted themselves as friends long after the ceremony had taken place. His wife Helen brought many skills ranging from inspired decoration of the church for weddings and other festive occasions, to leading groups to

discover the archaeological treasures in the British museum, as well as working full-time as a Parliamentary Assistant.

After ten years of Tony's ministry, Free Church goers will feel bereft at his going. His particular skill in presenting the children's address at the outset of the service included a gentle

(although sometimes uproarious) humour and understanding of stories and questions that would appeal to both young and old. This is not to decry the more serious content of his sermons: indeed he gave something of himself to each service he prepared. He was punctilious in contacting each member of the

congregation within walking distance, making a point of delivering his Christmas cards by hand. So each felt some sense of a personal relationship with him, a warm testament indeed to his kindness and friendliness to all.

We wish Tony and Helen every happiness in their retirement.

SALLY ABBOTT



The Residents Association events committee organised a day out to Letchworth, the world's first garden city that predates the Suburb by ten years. We were entertained by the City Corporation and were envious of their facilities, including the magnificent arts and crafts Spirella building and the museum. Seen here, some of the party entering the Letchworth museum.

## Can the Suburb produce the UK's future tennis stars?



The Lawn Tennis Association is sponsoring Lyndall Newton-Early, Farm Walk Tennis Club's newly appointed coach, to run an exciting new scheme, 'Mini Tennis'. 'Mini Tennis' is a three-stage programme designed to introduce 4 to 11 year-olds to tennis by teaching them to become all-round players. On completing each stage, the children will receive a personalised certificate and special keyring.

Lyndall, who is a personal trainer as well as a fully licensed LTA coach, comes from Melbourne, Australia where she represented her region playing in Victoria's elite squads. She has coached at the Wimbledon Kids Zone and in September she will be introducing the Suburb's schools and youth groups to the 'Mini Tennis' Courses at Farm Walk club.

For more information, please contact Lyndall on 07769 970455 or Jane Brafman, the membership secretary at Farm Walk Tennis Club on 8455 8743.

## Garden Suburb Governors sample a taste of school life

Governors were invited for their annual visit to the Infant and Junior Schools. They popped in and out of classes, assemblies and sampled school lunch.

In the Junior School, the day coincided with a special Healthy Living programme. House captains used interactive white boards to present a Healthy Lifestyle assembly. Later in the day children tasted different fruits, kindly provided by Waitrose, and completed a range of activities following the fruit sampling.

Children experienced a range of healthy lifestyle sessions including fitness games, poetry

writing, music sessions and healthy eating awareness. The governors commented on the

vibrant, happy and purposeful atmosphere in both schools.

KATHY BRODBECK



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ON THE NET

Visit the Residents Association web site, and join the E-mail discussion list, at [www.hgs.org.uk](http://www.hgs.org.uk)

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