



Jean’s party

It was a joyous Suburb occasion when the family and her wide circle of friends gathered to celebrate Jean Dyson’s 90th birthday in the Friends Meeting House. One of the Suburb’s most active residents, Jean was born in Asmunds Hill and moved to a new house in Hutchings Walk when she married Jimmy Dyson in 1937. She lives there still doing as much as she can to tend the enormous garden which had been Jimmy’s pride and joy. Their unspoilt thirties house was used as a location for one of ITV’s Agatha Christie Hercule Poirot episodes. As a past amateur dramatics star and Suburb tennis champion, past chairman of the governors of Henrietta Barnett School, ex-chairman of HGS Fellowship and a life member of the RA, Jean had many memories to share with us as she opened a mountain of cards and accepted the affection of well wishers.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

New Trust Manager starts in March

Jane Blackburn enjoyed an early introduction to Suburb life when Mervyn Mandell sang her praises at the Trust Christmas luncheon. “Jane is eminently qualified to take over as our new manager,” he said, “she comes to us in March after working out her notice at the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford.” Before going to Stratford-upon-Avon she had been working on the redevelopment of the Royal Opera House, leading up to it’s successful reopening in 1999. She is qualified as an

architect and has had a varied career in housing and property management, working in several places which are very special to those who live and work in them. She told *Suburb News*, “I am looking forward to meeting everyone involved in the life of the Suburb. I will be available at the Trust office and invite residents to get in touch.” Jane, married with two (almost) grown up children, enjoys gardening and walking in her spare time. She has lived in North London for 25 years.



Memorial building award

Nominations are invited from householders, architects, designers or builders for the annual Alexander Stuart Grey Memorial award given to recognise and encourage building schemes or house improvements that are judged to enhance the Suburb. Awards will be made for both major projects and for quite

small ones such as replacing inappropriate doors or gates with designs that fit the style of the house. Awards will be made at the Residents Association AGM in March.

Please send plans and details in the first instance to The Editor, *Suburb News*, 26 Hampstead Way, NW11 7JL.

RA Honours

Nominations are invited for RA Life Memberships for people who have made exceptional contributions to Suburb life over a long period. It could be a specific service or something of benefit to the Suburb generally. Nominations please, in confidence, to RA Chairman, 16 Southwood Court, NW11 6SR.



New dog free childrens’ play area on the Heath Extension

Running the Heath

Winter may not be the time when many of us think of outdoor swimming, but the Corporation of London, who manage Hampstead Heath, have been made aware recently of how many people do care deeply about the open air ponds. The Corporation took over the Heath in 1989 after the abolition of the Greater London Council.

Suburb residents and indeed the population of London as a whole have benefited greatly from the way the Corporation has run the Heath over the last 15 years. Views differ over specific aspects of management. Is it becoming to “parkified”? Is there too much long grass? But the Corporation have genuinely tried to involve local people in the running of the Heath. This is not only through a Consultative Committee, which includes local and sporting interests (on which Colin Gregory represents the RA), but also through consultation exercises on management plans and on sensitive issues like cycling. Mary Tudor said you would find ‘Calais’ lying in her heart: Christine Cohen, the previous Chairman of the Management

Committee, remarked that ‘consult’ would be engraved on hers.

People value the Heath as an area of nature in the city. It may look natural, but it requires skilful management to keep it that way; left to its own devices it would turn into impenetrable scrub. The Corporation have worked closely over the years with ecologists and have taken advice from experts on ancient trees, birds, fish and even spiders. Since taking over they have spent over £50 million on the Heath, far more than any ordinary local authority could afford.

The cost of running the Heath is not met from council tax. There is a trust fund, now worth about £20 million, which came with the Heath. In the current financial year, this will contribute about £680,000. Most of the money for running the Heath comes from a private fund known as City’s Cash, which was built up from bequests and gifts to the City over the centuries. In the current year the Corporation will spend over £5.5 million on the Heath, nearly 10% of the total income of the fund.

As you may have read in the press, the Heath is facing a financial crisis. Income from the fund has fallen, along with interest rates and commercial rents, while costs have increased. A cap placed on budgets by

financial managers has produced a deficit of about £330,000 per annum. The Corporation’s attempts to close this gap have threatened not only the swimming facilities, as has been widely reported, but other valuable facilities such as the education service and the information centre. The RA has urged the Corporation to give the Heath managers more leeway in order to find a solution. Charging for facilities currently provided free, including open air swimming and use of the car parks, is one option; another is fund raising: something that the Royal Parks and parks such as Central Park in New York are already doing. Discussions are continuing on ways to resolve the crisis, in which the RA is actively involved.

The RA remains involved in the day to day management of the Heath, focusing particularly on the Heath Extension. We were very pleased when the Corporation recently renewed the play equipment at the top end of the Extension to provide an attractive local alternative to the facilities at Golders Hill Park. Projects like this can make a difference to people’s lives. The RA welcomes other suggestions and comments on the running of the Heath – please write to Colin Gregory with your views (address in the Yellow Directory).

Scotthall
Temple Fortune


The Ultimate
Driving Machine

For everything BMW



- New & Approved Used Cars
- Servicing and repairs
- MOTs
- Parts and accessories
- BMW Lifestyle
- Finance

Scotthall Temple Fortune

1089 Finchley Road, London NW11 0PU

020 8457 7300

View over 200 Approved Used BMWs at
www.scotthallbmw.co.uk

SUMMER WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The 20 natural wonders were: Amazon, Ayers Rock, Dead Sea, Everest, Falls of Tisisat, Fjords, Giant’s Causeway, Great Barrier Reef, High Force, Matterhorn, Needles, Niagara Falls, Nile, Peny Ghent, Rift Valley, Sahara, Stromboli, Table Mountain, Twelve Pins, Vesuvius. Apologies for the printer’s error in Rift Valley. I made allowance.

WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 names of FOUR or more letters, of articles of clothing, and an extra one to start you off. Names may be read in all directions, straight or diagonally. Entries should be listed on paper or a postcard and sent to Diana Woodfield, 5 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HA with your name, address and phone number. The closing date is 18 March. The sender of the first correct (or nearly correct) entry will win a £20 voucher from Joseph’s Bookstore.

A	S	X	L	P	U	T	M	V	A	E	Q	E	N	S
B	W	T	N	I	B	O	U	K	S	W	P	I	Y	R
C	E	R	E	G	R	T	H	N	T	A	V	A	R	C
U	A	F	E	R	E	N	A	G	I	D	R	A	C	N
P	T	O	V	L	E	U	S	T	E	C	E	P	U	B
C	E	Z	B	I	C	A	M	I	S	O	L	E	M	A
T	R	U	V	D	H	L	Y	G	O	J	W	E	M	T
I	O	M	K	E	E	R	H	A	H	X	O	N	E	R
D	B	T	I	U	S	R	E	L	I	O	B	I	R	I
F	Y	E	Z	A	K	T	M	O	L	V	A	S	B	H
R	I	N	O	A	S	R	E	D	N	E	P	S	U	S
H	P	N	R	S	E	V	X	M	O	R	P	T	N	G
I	R	O	T	A	O	C	T	S	I	A	W	R	D	A
L	N	B	Q	U	T	I	W	N	T	L	Y	E	S	C
A	N	I	M	H	S	A	P	S	I	L	N	B	U	O

DIANA WOODFIELD

The wordsearch prize is sponsored by

JOSEPH’S BOOKSTORE

Monthly events: jewish studies, scientific and jazz evenings plus authors at Joseph’s Bookstore and Cafe Also.
E-mail to join mail list - info@josephsbookstore.com
1257 Finchley Road, Temple Fortune - 8731 7575



HOME SHOPPING

020 7431 8686
www.knightfrank.com

80 Heath Street
London NW3 1DN
hampstead@knightfrank.com

**Knight Frank**