

Màiri Howie



At the start of a fitting tribute from her family the haunting notes of a Gaelic song greeted the many friends who had come to say farewell to Màiri, Lady Howie of Troon who died in March shortly before her 77th birthday.

Màiri was born in Troon as was her husband Will. They didn't meet however until they were at Glasgow University. Intensely Scottish, and old Labour, Màiri loved all things Scottish but had lived on the Suburb since 1954 to be near London and Westminster. Lord Howie was MP for Luton, was a member of Harold Wilson's government and now sits in the House of Lords.

For more than 20 years she taught English at the Institute and greatly enjoyed the company of young people. As we heard at her memorial service she was a much loved mother to their four children. In 1990, when the all male eight member New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust was about to appoint another man, Màiri was persuaded by Jean Henderson, herself one of the saviours of the Suburb in the sixties and a founder member of

the New Trust, to stand for the vacancy. Nominated by Jean Henderson and Peter White, Màiri won the election with 223 votes to 183. Jean Henderson said she was, "surprised and delighted," at the result. "Lady Howie will be a new broom and there should be a woman on the council."

An Arts and Crafts enthusiast, especially the work of fellow Scot Rennie Mackintosh, Mairi brought an educated approach to the work and enjoyed her time on the council. On her retirement at the end of the statutory six years she said, "It has taught me what everyone on the Suburb should know, that the Trust works diligently for the conservation of the area and that decisions are made with the utmost probity."

Màiri enjoyed all the Suburb social gatherings, mad about books she was always to be seen looking for bargains on bookstalls. A keen gardener she supported the Horticultural Society and its shows and, as a music lover, had been friend of the Proms at St Jude's. She will be much missed by many on the Suburb.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

Need financial help?

The Grants Committee is an independent body which advises the Trust Council on applications for grants and donations to Suburb organisations and individuals in need. They help parents from the two Suburb schools with payments for holiday visits and have supported the Garden Suburb School with the supply of musical instruments.

They also support the Proms at St Jude's and have helped with the 'Greening of the Suburb'.

There are three committee meetings each year – the next being on 14 July.

Any requests for financial help should be sent to the Grants Committee, HGS Trust, 862 Finchley Road, NW11 6AB.

LEONIE STEPHEN, CHAIRMAN

A new gourmet society?

Do you enjoy good food and fine wines? Do you like to cook and enjoy eating out?

If the idea of forming a 'Gourmet Society' to get together

with like-minded people who love good food in a relaxed atmosphere appeals to you, please telephone Elisabeth on 020 8905 5502.

Lifeboats award

It sometimes seems as if every day is a different flag day. Lifeboat collections though must have been one of the first. Lifelong Suburb resident Ann Donohoe's work in organising the HGS branch of the RNLI's Lifeboat Week has

been recognised by the award of the Institution's bronze medal. Chairman Caroline Smith tells *Suburb News* that, "Ann and her marvellous helpers have collected £22,000 over the past ten years. Many congratulations to Ann."

RA AGM

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outside their homes want to see a CPZ others do not. We are not doing it to raise revenue."

The local government ombudsman is still considering the RA's complaint against Barnet over the Temple Fortune 'improvements'. She welcomed Barnet's upgrading of Lyttelton Playing fields and Northway Gardens as a Premier Park. "The Trees and Open Spaces committee has seen a five-year plan which we approve."

Elections

Thanks were recorded to council members who have resigned or retired during the year. David Rapson who in nearly 20 years had chaired committees and been vice chairman for four years, "I never met anyone who worked harder for the RA as David" she said. The chairman thanked Siddiek Meer and Peter Warland for all their work for the association and the Suburb.

She was pleased to welcome Gary Shaw, co-opted council member and Andrew Botterill to council.

Their election was duly proposed and seconded as were the statutory one third of council members retiring by rotation.

Officers nominated by council and elected were David B Lewis of Wildwood Rise, chairman. David Lewis of Northway, vice chairman. John Boulter, hon treasurer and Richard Wakefield, hon secretary.

Life members

Hon Life membership of the RA is for recognition of long service to the Suburb. Jean Barraclough said she was pleased to announce that the RA Council had nominated two life members this year – Tony

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

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HGS Theatre Club still going strong

This is a half-term report, inspired by our most recent outing to see 'Don Carlos' at the Gielgud Theatre. It is a truly memorable work by the classic German playwright, Frederick Schiller. The cast were superb, especially Derek Jacobi as Philip of Spain and Richard Coyle as his son, Don Carlos.

It is a tragic love story, set in the time of the religious conflicts of the 16th Century and, interestingly for us, written from a European point of view. In the background are the horrible events in the Netherlands and the defeat of the Spanish Armada. The play gives one a feeling of

living in the rigid stifling Spanish court of those days and of deep gratitude that one isn't.

Because we booked very early as we always try to do, we were fortunate in being able to secure best stall seats at a greatly reduced price. Recently we have seen our usual variety of enjoyable plays – 'Blithe Spirit' with Penelope Keith at the Savoy and 'Losing Louis' with Alison Steadman at the Hampstead Theatre, which was great fun. The Club is in good heart and flourishing!

Note: Membership secretary is Elaine Grays, 8458 8018.

RUTH CASS

Flushed with success

Earlier this month, Brookland Junior School was delighted to open a newly refurbished girls' toilet block.

Pupils bought up the issue of the toilets in their School Council meeting chaired by Assistant Headmaster, Andrew Craze. Many pupils throughout the school felt the toilets were an unpleasant environment, especially the girls in the upper school. The school council consequently voted to refurbish the toilets.

Katie Kraiss, Head of Year 5, took on the task of budgeting and organising the refurbishment. Professional mural designer and Brookland School parent, Tracey Cottingham was on hand to lend her expertise.

By the end of the Autumn term, builders had fitted new doors and Tracey had transformed the girls' toilet block from drab and utilitarian to bright, funky and pleasant.

In order to keep the new facilities in good order, Mrs Kraiss created The Toilet Patrol (TPP), a group of monitors to ensure the toilets remain in good order.

Andrew Craze commented, "It may seem trivial but school toilets have become an important national issue. Many pupils avoid going to the toilet, and subsequently drinking, because they find the environment unpleasant, which has obvious health consequences. As soon as the School Council bought this issue to our attention, the school made the toilets a priority. It is a wonderful example of how an effective School Council can make a difference."

Tracey Cottingham's design is a contemporary take on a retro-70s look and consists of brightly coloured stripes and blocks of contemporary colours. She can be contacted at Homage on 0208 8883 3892.



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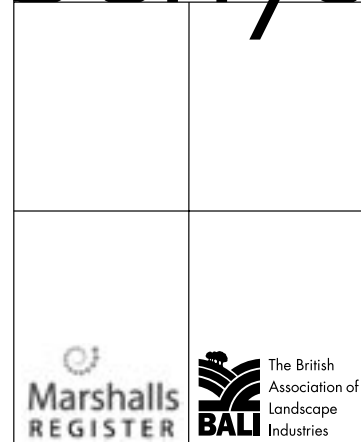
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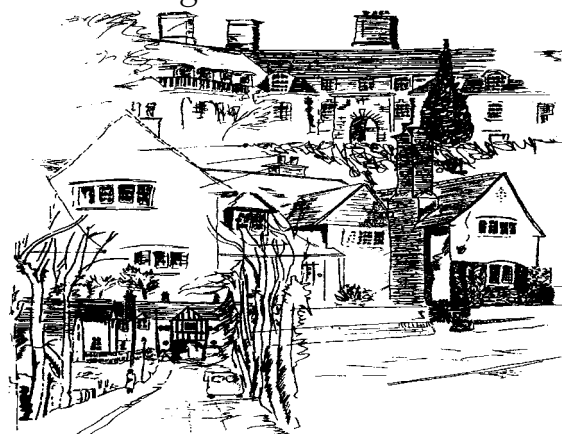
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