

Suburb centenary celebrations get off to an enthusiastic start at...



Singers and players were invited to join the Free Church choir on May 12 for Mozart's Requiem

...the Free Church

To celebrate the centenary of Hampstead Garden Suburb, the Free Church hosted an ecumenical thanksgiving service to a large and enthusiastic congregation representing all aspects of Suburb life. The emphasis was on celebration. Barbara Honeyball, a member of St Jude's Parish Church had composed an anthem especially for the Centenary, 'A Beautiful Golden Scheme,' and it

was fitting that its first public performance should be as part of the service of thanksgiving.

In addition, the joint choir comprising members from each of the Suburb congregations gave a stirring rendition of Handel's, 'Zadok the Priest.' The congregation too was in good voice singing familiar hymns that have been precious to every generation of worshippers. We heard something

of the challenge facing us all as representatives of the three congregations, St Jude's Parish Church, the Friends Meeting House and the Free Church told of how past experience was helping to shape a vision for the future. During the service an offering was received on behalf of Christian Aid, and over £600 was given. After the service Rabbi Livingstone of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue brought greetings from his community to complete the sense of a truly united occasion.

Barbara's anthem used words of Dame Henrietta Barnett, 'This is the highest place, and as is fitting, we shall have houses for worship and learning,' echoing words found in Genesis 28, 'Surely the Lord is in this place. This is none other than the house of God. This is the gate of heaven.' For so many of us, that is exactly how it felt when sharing in this service of thanksgiving and celebration."

IAN TUTTON



...the Grand Opening Ceremony

As he opened the proceedings Sir Donald Sinden said he had been on the Suburb for 64 years. "It's a very special place, we are very privileged to live here."

Before cutting the ribbon across Asmunds Hill, Rudi Vis congratulated the RA chairman and thanked him for all the work that had gone into organising the centenary celebrations.

He thought the Ham & High Centenary supplement had been 'marvellous' and commended the RA's Souvenir Programme. "If you have three children buy three copies," he said, "it's a real memory box for them to keep." He went on, "The Suburb is an oasis in London, as Sir Donald said preserve it, enjoy it."

...Church Farmhouse Museum



At the opening of Hampstead Garden Suburb 100 Years, principal organiser Georgina Malcolm shows Henrietta's spade to the Deputy Mayor and museum curator Gerard Roots

...the HGS Synagogue

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue welcomed more than 50 specially invited guests to join with a congregation of over 900 to a celebratory service to mark the onset of the Suburb Centenary.

The emphasis was on celebration, and the welcoming Anthem 'Buruch habah' Blessed be he who comes (Psalm 18 v 26) was sung to usher in the guests led by the Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks and who included the leadership of the various Suburb organisations, the Mayor of Barnet, the chairman of the Greater London Authority, local councillors, Reverends Alan Walker and Ian Tutton, various patrons of the centenary, plus many others.

After a welcome by the Synagogue's Rabbi Reuben Livingstone, a choir from the associated Kerem School sang an anthem of peace. The Chief Rabbi

addressed the assembly and spoke of the neighbourliness and special character of the Suburb, and of his own experiences, having lived there over several years.

This was followed by a short chronological historical portrayal of the Suburb by four members of the Synagogue's youth and then by greetings given by the Mayor and by the two Christian Ministers from their communities. The ceremony was concluded with Rabbi Livingstone's expressions of hope and confidence in the future and of the Suburb's continued well being.

At the end there was a festive reception and an opportunity for everyone to view exhibitions, both of the Jewish role in the development of the Suburb and also of the many who had served in the armed services.

ALAN COHEN

...The Henrietta Barnett School

The start of the HGS Centenary Celebrations was a time of both joy and sadness at The Henrietta Barnett School.

On 26 April students, parents, staff, alumnae and local residents were treated to a magnificent performance of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas in St Jude's. Performers included students, the Henrietta Barnett Choral Society and pupils from Brooklands School, as well as the HBS Chamber Orchestra, Vocal Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. The second half of the concert included works by English composers from c.1907 – the year the Suburb was founded. In particular, Elgar's works, which marked his 150th anniversary.

It was a wonderful way to start the celebrations with so many different groups joining together to make music. But it was also tinged with sadness, as it was the last opportunity that students from HBS Year 13 will be in a School concert as students, although we hope they will come back to the HB Choral Society when they have finished university. Thanks were given, presentations made to leaving students, musical directors, choir masters and mistresses and music teachers.

If you would like to join the Choral Society for next year please contact Jo Velleman at development@hbschool.org.uk or 8209 9730.



John Marshall with HGS archivists Harry Cobb and Micky Watkins and Suburb historian Ann Saunders



...while our other councillors, Jasmin Nagbar and Andrew Harper, catch up with HGS Trust Hon President Dr Mervyn Miller

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