

Centenary Pageant a huge success



Sir Donald Sinden opens the proceedings on the first night of the centenary pageant.

The Garden Suburb Theatre's Pageant in Little Oak Wood was a truly heart-warming event. It had a wonderful community spirit and the huge cast of adults and children all seemed to be enjoying themselves. One can only wonder at the massive task Colin Gregory, with assistants Pam Walker and Judith Gubbay, took on in producing 'Dame Henrietta's Dream'. Written by Suburb resident, Ian Davidson, the play told the story of Henrietta from girlhood (Imogen Colmans) to founder of the Suburb (Sarah Folk) using music, song and dance.

poverty and drunkenness in Whitechapel with 'Come Home, Father' performed by an inebriated Ken Porter and sung by Jeremy Thompson, one reason that there are no pubs here. Other musical highlights were 'Tatters' (Tabitha Sexton) and 'Throw out the Life-line' sung by John Colmans, Geoff Pratton and Alan Witzum.

There was a lovely visual joke in the raising of St Jude's steeple and the warmongering remembered by the Telegraph boy (Alexander Baleary) reading out the names of those who lost their lives in the bombing of the Suburb.

The music used was of the period, Arthur Sullivan, Edward Elgar and Eric Coates, who lived in Willifield Way. The cast was

enormous, as was the list of all involved. They can all be proud of what they achieved and of the pleasure they gave.

LÉONIE STEPHEN



Asked if she approves of the Suburb today the Dame says, "It'll do."



No more street clutter

After two years of false starts, the London Borough of Barnet has recently agreed to move forward on a programme to remove much of the disfiguring street clutter from Hampstead Garden Suburb. The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association has voted £10,000 towards these works on the basis of matching funding from Barnet.

David B Lewis, RA Chairman, said, "Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport and Deputy Leader of the Council has asked the Barnet highways team to proceed with the detailed specification and costing of the works. We are hoping that up to 200 signs will be removed, moved, shortened or repainted.

"We are delighted that these works, originally planned to be carried out in advance of the Suburb's 2007 centenary, will now move forward.

"We are looking forward to a constructive dialogue with Barnet and speedy implementation. This initiative has the full support of Council Leader, Mike Freer and the Suburb ward councillors whose effective lobbying on our behalf has made this possible."

The Council has also agreed to the adoption of a Design Handbook for the Suburb's public realm, setting out the standards and materials to be used for signs, road markings, roads, pavements, street furniture etc within the conservation area.

"Without such a guide for future practice, the money could be wasted," added David Lewis. "Up till now council officials have positioned new signs all over the

place and have rarely considered their impact on the character of the conservation area. There is a need for education of public sector officials on this aspect of their work. I am delighted that Barnet's Chief Executive, Leo Boland and the head of its highways department have agreed to visit the Suburb early next month to learn where their officers have been going wrong in the past."

Derek Epstein, chairman of the Association's conservation committee, said, "Due to work pressures within the Council, we took on the job of drafting the handbook, drawing heavily upon work by English Heritage in 1994. The draft is now with the Council's highways and heritage officers for their joint consideration.

"The Chief Highways Officer has expressed keen interest in providing feedback and we are hoping that the design standards can be agreed and adopted soon. The effort of agreeing the handbook should be repaid many times over by avoiding the carrying out of inappropriate works that subsequently have to be removed or rectified at private and public expense."

This is a topical UK-wide issue with articles appearing recently in the Sunday Times and the Daily Telegraph under such headlines as 'Sign Crime revolt hits Councils'.

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and English Heritage are aiming for the Suburb to be recognised as an example of UK best practice in this area.

DEREK EPSTEIN



Entering Lyttelton Road



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Firework Fun

NEW YEAR'S EVE

All residents welcome to a fizzing reception in St Jude's from 10.45 pm followed by extra spectacular Centenary year fireworks on Central Square.

ORGANISED FOR THE SUBURB BY THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Still time to join

Subscriptions to the Residents Association are due each Spring but they are collected until the end of October. So if you have yet to pay yours you still have time.

The RA does a huge amount to help make the Suburb a community enjoyed by all and its work needs funding. Most importantly the more households

in membership the greater its authority when speaking to Barnet, the Trust and others. A reminder letter is on its way, please reply promptly. Or just send a cheque, suggested payment £15, but less or more if you like, to HGSRA, Freepost, NW3364, London NW11 6YT. You can also pay on-line at www.hgs.org.uk.

News, pictures, articles and letters are welcomed by the Editor, Terry Brooks. suburbnews@o2.co.uk

Deadline for the Winter issue is mid December for publication in late January. Views expressed in Suburb News are not necessarily those of the publishers, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.

Visit the Residents Association website, and join the email discussion list, at www.hgs.org.uk