



Plenty of pictures of early residents

## Early residents from the HGS Archive

Just before the end of the halcyon Edwardian afternoon we essayed the adventure of living in a garden city. Town planning has passed into the blood stream of the nation now, but then it was an ideal and our garden city was one of its early materializations.

The images of Walter Crane, the voice of Robert Blatchford in 'Merrie England', the echoes of William Morris' 'News From Nowhere' still hung in the air. Utopia was only round the corner and here, surely, we were seeing the first bricks laid.

And, since a garden city was a crazy, crankish, freakish idea, so crazy, crankish, freakish people first inhabited it. Rationalists and vegetarians, suffragettes, Fabians, Theosophists. Men who wore their hair long, girls who wore it short (when a crowning glory was a necessity of fashion), girls who coiled heavy plaits over their

ears and wore liberty dresses like the chorus of rapturous maidens in Patience. Or they wore sandals and jibbabs and ethical smiles.

Houses had changed too. They affected an austere and cottage character. Inside, Nottingham lace curtains, plush, ball fringe, floral walls and garden carpets were taboo. Our floors were covered with coconut or straw matting, and cotton curtains came in plain or sprigged or striped.

Furniture aimed at the solid and oaken in devotion to William Morris, who said that if it was comfort you wanted you could go to bed. Walls were distempered. One newcomer had explained to her charwoman in the more lush and exotic clime of Balham that in the new house the walls would not be papered or even plastered, but merely whitewashed. "Oh, I see," commented the char, "like

the slaughter-houses!" (From The Times 5 July 1957)

The Archive has numerous photographs press cuttings, letters, and all sorts of other material.

We welcome contributions and visitors on Tuesday and some Saturday mornings. Please contact us on 8458 3688 or 8455 2915 (please telephone 8455 8813 for Saturdays).

MICKY WATKINS

## A word of caution to Suburb residents – beware tree cowboys

During the last recession out of work builders were often to be found touting for tree work throughout the Suburb and in the current financial climate this may well happen again. A chance offer from a workman who comes to the door offering to remove a dead branch from the old cherry tree in your front garden may seem like a good deal. He may offer to remove that conifer you have never liked while he's about it.

The price may be well below that quoted by one of the tree surgeons on the Trust's list but there will be a reason for that. For one thing he may not be qualified to use a chainsaw, and then he will probably not have proper insurance in which case there is no protection for you as the owner of the tree.

Another thing you need to consider is approval. Because the Suburb is a conservation area Barnet requires six weeks notice before any pruning work can begin; this includes work to dead trees, and it is best to check if they will require an application to prune a fruit tree. If there is a Tree Preservation Order on your tree or group of trees Barnet may refuse your application. There is a maximum fine of £20,000 per tree for not obtaining local

authority consent. This is payable by the owner of the tree. A reputable tree surgeon will apply to the local authority for you.

Under the Scheme of Management tree owners must also seek consent from the Trust. The Trust's tree consultant will make site visits to advise you on how a tree should be pruned. He can also suggest replacement planting where a tree has died. This service carries no charge.

Some so-called tree surgeons advertise with flyers. Be wary of a company with no address and no headline. If in doubt contact the Trust for a list of reputable tree surgeons who have all done a great deal of work on the Suburb and not only abide by the rules

but will do a good job on your tree. Because once a tree has been poorly hacked about by someone without the proper training, there's not a lot you can do.

Be wary of any company that advertises with flyers or by knocking on your door. This applies to double glazing companies and men with mysterious trucks full of asphalt who happen to notice your front drive needs resurfacing. Changes to the exterior of your property need the consent of the Trust, and from Barnet.

A quick cheap fix may end up very expensive – in more ways than one.

GEORGINA MALCOLM

## London International Orchestra Buskaid gala

What a privilege it was to hear the London International Orchestra at their best, performing opera favourites with star singers in aid of a very deserving cause in the Free Church on 29 March.

This fine local orchestra, founded by South Africans Solly Aronowsky and Sarah Aaronson, is now approaching its Silver Jubilee. Its grand opera concert, conducted by Paul Wynne Griffiths, was appropriately given in support of a South African charity, Buskaid. This charity was founded in 1992 by British viola player Rosemary Nalden, in response to a BBC radio interview highlighting the difficulties of a group of young string players in the South African township of Soweto.

Rosemary enlisted the support of 120 professional musicians who took part in a simultaneous 'busk' at 16 British railway stations. In two hours they raised £6,000 for the young township musicians. Funding now comes from corporate sponsorship, individual donations and CD sales.

The LIO performed music from the classical repertoire, but the evening was given a distinctly South African flavour: by the address of welcome by

Mrs Lindiwe Mabuza, the South African High Commissioner, who grew up in Soweto; by the quadrilingual South African anthem at the end; but above all by the two stunning young South African soloists.

When Pumeza Matshikiza started to sing Dove sono from Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, we knew at once that there was no ordinary soprano. We had a similar experience when bass-baritone Vuyani Mlinde performed O Isis und Osiris from The Magic Flute. Then the two singers joined forces for the famous duet Là ci darem la mano from Don Giovanni.

We were to hear several more pieces sung by Pumeza and Vuyani, all of them to an impeccably high standard. My particular favourites were Dvořák's Song to the Moon from Rusalka and Ol' Man River from Show Boat.

The orchestra started off the evening with a spirited rendering of Rossini's Semiramide overture and ended with Tchaikovsky's Polonaise from Eugene Onegin. The other pieces included a dramatic performance of Camille Saint-Saëns' Bacchanale from Samson and Dalila.

JENNIFER RADICE

## Wordsearch winner

Congratulations to Mr Fishburn of South Square for the winning entry. A commercial lawyer before retirement, he and his wife have lived on the Suburb since 1958.

They are keen supporters of the Proms and sing in the Barnet Choral Society.

One of their three daughters still lives here on the Suburb.

## WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 names of famous explorers of FOUR or more letters; and an extra one highlighted to start you off (don't include it in your total!). Words 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 21st August. The sender of the first correct (or nearly correct) entry will win a £20 voucher from Joseph's Bookstore.

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DIANA WOODFIELD

The wordsearch prize is sponsored by

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## AUTUMN WORDSEARCH ANSWER

The 20 natural phenomena were: Avalanche, Cloud, Drought, Duststorm, Earthquake, Eddy, Eruption, Flood, Frost, Hurricane, Lightning, Meteorite, Mist, Thunder, Tide, Tornado, Tsunami, Wave, Whirlpool, Wind.

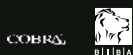
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