



Congratulations to Beans Balawi, 13, now in his last year in head chorister position at Westminster Abbey Choir School on winning a full scholarship to Charterhouse. Seen here (right) as the Queen talks to choristers at the Commonwealth Day service at the Abbey



The Horticultural Society's grandees pose for Suburb News as their annual Spring plant sale gets under way with hundreds of bedding plants for Suburb gardens.

## New Council members at RA Annual General Meeting

Taking her first annual general meeting RA chairman Janet Elliott welcomed guests, life members and our Barnet councillors to the association's 98th.

The report and accounts, showing a surplus for the year of £1,180 and subscription income increased, were approved. It was noted that the amount collected by the RA for Fellowship increased to £11,548.

New council members duly elected were Louise Felder, who lives in Church Mount and four who were co-opted during the year Bridget Cox, Heathcroft; Tony Ghilchik, Morland Close; Geoffrey Spyer, Temple Fortune Lane and Rev Dr Ian Tutton, Central Square. (Jonathan Seres, Raeburn Close, has been co-opted to Council since the Annual General Meeting.)

### TO LAMINATE OR NOT TO LAMINATE?

It is not often that members propose motions but this year there was one, heavily defeated, from the Horticultural Society who argued that on ecological recycling and cost grounds the RA should accept unlaminated posters on its notice boards and adapt them so that lamination was not necessary. It was pointed

out by Simon Abbott, who is in charge of the popular notice boards, that it would cost a huge amount to make them waterproof and that unlaminated posters quickly became unsightly.

### LIFE MEMBERS

The meeting moved on to appoint Norma and Mike Milner as honorary life members. This award, not made every year, is to acknowledge residents who

have over a long period made an exceptional contribution to life on the Suburb. It is a stipulation that they must have retired from whatever it is that is being recognised. Norma retired after 20 years as Chairman of Abbeyfield's house committee before Christmas. Abbeyfield House in Homesfield, Erskine Hill, provides supported sheltered housing for 11 older people. Her husband Mike has not strictly retired as he continues as Deputy Chairman of Abbeyfield International which provides support to the Abbeyfield Societies in 12 countries outside the UK.

### GARDEN WINS

This year's Alexander Stuart Gray Award presented annually by the RA for works by residents which are worthy of recognition went this year to a small garden at the Midholm home of Mr and Mrs David Prax.

They win a certificate and a £50 voucher to be spent at the Garden Suburb Gallery.

### NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

As is customary at AGMs members expressed disappointment that the time taken over the ordinary business of the meeting, especially the notice board motion, had left little time for discussion of other important issues.

Briefly covered were the loss of the Institute; "taking the heart out of the Suburb," said Hugh Hamilton to applause. Ann Foster said yellow lines were needed in Addison Way to allow cars out of Coleridge Walk. Jane Blackburn responded to comments about 24 Ingram Avenue from Ann Fenton, Raphael Papadopoulos and others. Jonathan Seres asked who was held responsible when verges and paving stones were broken up by skips.

Fellowship chairman John Hewson thanked the RA for collecting a record amount for the charity.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD



Suburb News wishes to thank Rudi Vis for his years as our MP, for his untiring support of Suburb events at the Proms, the Centenary and the Institute. We wish him well. At the same time congratulations and welcome to Mike Freer MP.

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