

Henrietta Barnett School Centenary Year 1912 - 2012

The first six students to attend Henrietta Barnett's Institute Kinder-garten and High School arrived for lessons at 9.15am on 17th January 1912. One hundred years on, The Henrietta Barnett School has been celebrating its Centenary year this year with a series of events for the girls, parents, old girls, former staff and the local community.

Dame Henrietta Barnett fought to ensure that women had access to educational opportunities equal to those of men. Her commitment was to provide the highest level of achievement, regardless of social, economic, cultural, religious or ethnic

background and an archive exhibition opened in the main buildings of the school at the start of the year to give a flavour of the last 100 years of her work. We were delighted that so many visitors on our Open House day managed to see the archive exhibition.

With the history of our school firmly in mind, the girls and staff have marked a number of decades with dressing up days charting the fashion and themes of the 1920s, 1960s and 1980s.

Fireworks night on November 5th was a fantastic opportunity for the school to celebrate its centenary year alongside the local

community with a spectacular free fireworks display on Central Square. The event, open to the public, which was attended by approximately 1,500 people, proved a great success with students, parents, staff and local residents and we are looking to repeat this again next year.

The official Birthday celebration took place in the spring term – our birthday tea party took on a 1920s theme, in preparation for which the girls had been taught the Charleston – a perfect accompaniment to the birthday celebrations. Our tea party culminated in the whole school gathering in the centre of the site and singing happy birthday whilst the winning cakes from the centenary themed cake competition were lit from the balcony, to the delight of the girls.

Henrietta Barnett's birthday was the May 4 and we decided to mark the day with a Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral. This was a unique opportunity for over 2,000 girls, their parents, staff, ex-staff, alumnae, and invited guests to join together in appreciation for her work and in the founding of the school. The service was traditional in nature with the singing of the school hymn, Praise My Soul, particularly moving for former pupils and staff. We were delighted to see so many members of the local community and to hear Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin deliver a moving sermon on the importance of education.

We have been grateful to all those organisations that have remained closely connected to the school, some of whom were represented at the thanksgiving service. The Old Girls Association, Hampstead Garden Suburb Theatre and in particular Toynbee



Hall, a charity founded by Henrietta Barnett and her husband, Canon Samuel Barnett, in 1884 and the beneficiary of the retiring collection at the end of the thanks giving service.

This year we also wanted to ensure that the school continued with the legacy of supporting the education of others and we think Henrietta would have been proud of our new association with the Tender Talents School in Kampala, Uganda. Through our dressing up days, our inaugural Charity walk through the London Parks and our Summer Fete we have been raising money to provide student bursaries to secure five years of education



for four students, and to build a library resource for the Tender Talents School.

We were also delighted in our Centenary Year to be able to support the Proms at St Jude's by hosting their inaugural literary weekend. It was a fantastic occasion and in addition to the Open House event provided local

residents with an opportunity to enjoy the school, the new buildings and the much improved landscape. It was a great pleasure seeing the school used in this way and to see our much-needed new accommodation being enjoyed and appreciated more widely.

OLIVER BLOND



New to CONSAM

The RA's Conservation and Amenities committee (CONSAM) has elected a new chairman following the stepping down, although remaining on the committee, of Geoffrey Spyer who has been in the chair for four years. John Sells takes over this important role at a time when there are likely to be many changes and challenges in planning which could affect the Suburb.

John Sells has lived in Asmunds Place for five years and says "My house backs onto the Asmunds Place allotment site on which I was lucky enough to get a small plot. I took over as secretary of the site for a couple of years – I'm now deputy secretary to Susanne. We're trying to continue the work of improving the appearance of the site begun by the previous secretary. Recently I've added bird-boxes and tried to establish pollinator-friendly planting on the margins of the site. I've come to care deeply for the

preservation of the character of the Suburb.

"About three years ago I replied to a Consam recruitment notice on the HGS List and in due course became a member. Until recently my duties were very modest – the circulation of the planning application notices on the HGS List. However I've now taken over as chairman and with it a broader engagement of aspects of planning and other local affairs. My other interests include travel, history and literature. I also share a season ticket at Tottenham Hotspur."

John says CONSAM is sorry to lose Judith Chaney who is volunteering to carry out the Trust's tree survey and is pleased to announce two new members, Jonathan Rowley, a qualified architect and Louise Scheuer. Jonathan was brought up on the Suburb and follows in the footsteps of his late father, Michael, who was a CONSAM member and a valued elected member of the Trust Council.

Wordsearch winner

Winner of the last Wordsearch is Mrs Robyn Sewell.

She and her husband have lived on the Suburb for 30 years. The both enjoy swimming and

walking and are keen traditional book readers.

There were several correct 'fish' answers and fishing is also hidden in the next Wordsearch!

WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 names of sports of FOUR or more letters; and an extra one highlighted to start you off (don't include it in your total!) Names 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 September 15. The sender of the first correct (or nearly correct) entry will win a £20 voucher from Joseph's Bookstore.

W C J E K G O L F A M R R H T
 I V Y L G X D A C I I O B U L
 N T E K C I R C M N S F Q N R
 D A T E U Q O R C O L H P T S
 S U A Y E K C O H W N S I I Z
 U B I R O Y P S R U N N I N G
 R N L S C V W S Q U A S H G G
 F O G L O H R E E H C J N S P
 I T I B A S E B A L L C K K W
 N N G Y Z P O R E M I P U A Q
 G I E N O X T L Y C M A L T Y
 A M S W I M M I N G B K X I D
 B D E N B W R V A S I N G N L
 C A G M X C O J H N N W V G O
 D B O U L E S R G I G H T O B

DIANA WOODFIELD

The wordsearch prize is sponsored by

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SPRING WORDSEARCH ANSWER

The fishes were: Bream, Brill, Carp, Gudgeon, Hake, Halibut, Herring, Mackerel, Mullet, Perch, Pike, Plaice, Rudd, Shad, Skate, Swordfish, Tench, Trout, Turbot, Whiting.

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