

Katie Davies

A SCRIPTWRITER for comedy giants is to pen a community pageant for Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Ian Davidson, from Farm Walk, who wrote for the Two Ronnies and Barry Humphries, has now created a play as part of the Suburb's centenary celebrations this year.

And rather than having famous folk performing Dame Henrietta's Dream, Mr Davidson is holding an open audition for all residents on Friday.

The play is being put on by the Garden Suburb Theatre whose president is Sir Donald Sinden.

Mr Davidson said: "The organisers knew I was a writer and asked me to do it and that was it."

"I have lived here for years and like everyone else never wanted to leave. But I didn't know what a pageant was so I had to research it."

"It will be about Henrietta Barnett - the extraordinary woman who founded the suburb. I have been unable to resist putting some comedy in but I want to keep it full of marching and children waving banners and some great rollicking songs."

John Woolf, from the Garden Suburb Theatre, said: "There used to be regular pageants here and so the residents' association thought it would be nice to resurrect it."

"Pageants are not like plays so they tend to have a life of their own. There is a Punch and Judy show in it - lots of funny things."

"They asked us to organise it and we thought as it's for the whole suburb we would open it to all residents to take part, not just our members."

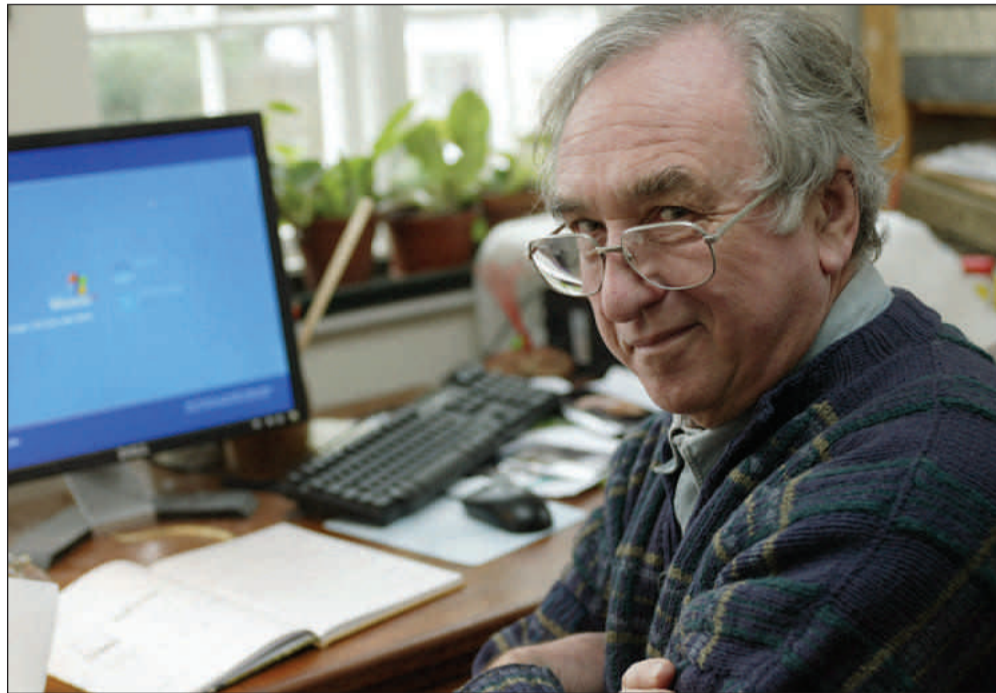
"All the local schools are getting involved sending pupils down to the auditions, Brookland School, Child's Hill School, Henrietta

And it's a good night out from him

Two Ronnies writer plans a community pageant to celebrate Hampstead Garden Suburb centenary

Comedy writer Ian Davidson says humour will feature in the community pageant.

Picture by Nigel Sutton



Barnett and King Alfred's.

"There are lots of parts for children as well as adults so we could find the next rising star."

Plans have also come together for the horticultural celebration of the centenary with the society's president Jonathan Ross vowing to help out. The society is building a commemorative flowerbed on the

corner of Willifield Green - the centre of the suburb.

It will be designed by Stephen Crisp, gardener to the US Embassy building in Regent's Park.

Chairwoman of the society Marjorie Harris said: "Even simple designs like this are very expensive to fulfill. We are thrilled to have won a lottery grant. There will be

lots of visitors to the Suburb during the celebrations. We hope they and local residents will get pleasure from the flowerbed until at least the first frosts."

The flowerbed will be in place from May 2 with school pupils from Garden Suburb infants school helping with the plants.

The pageant will be performed

in Little Wood from June 6 to 9 and auditions held on Saturday at the Free Church Hall from 2.30pm to 5.30pm for children and adults 7.30pm until 9.30pm.

For more information contact the theatre organisers on 020-8455 0682 or 020-8455 2625.

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Big Barnet cash boost

YOUTH groups in Barnet have won a £150,000 cash injection.

The Edward Harvist Charity has provided the money in grants for youth work in the area.

Groups will be able to apply for a share to Barnet Council until February 1.

Councillor Lynne Hillan said: "The extra money will be put to good use in encouraging a diverse and relevant range of youth provision that will be a world away from the stuffy, under-used clubs of the past."

"We are empowering both the young people themselves, and the voluntary sector."

Go wild for life in park

YOUNGSTERS can get out in the fresh air and learn about the environment in Highgate on Saturday.

The Young Persons Wildlife Club is holding a free event at the Waterlow Park Centre on Highgate Hill from noon to 2pm.

There will be a range of nature activities for children, between six and 11 years of age. Booking is required, call 020-7974 8817.

Call the news desk on 020-7433 6217

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