

SUBURB CENTENARY

Katie Davies

CHARLES Clarke, Noel Edmonds and Elizabeth Taylor are not three names usually heard in the same sentence – let alone expected to attend the same event.

But they could all be watching a play, hearing a lecture on architecture or trying their hand at the tombola together to mark the centenary of Hampstead Garden Suburb next year.

The stars are just three of the 40 well-known personalities who are being approached to become patrons of the area to mark its 100th year.

All of those approached have a link to the Suburb – either through school or from living there.

David Littaur, chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association's events committee, said: "The centenary is a very big event and 100 years is terribly important. I think anyone who has any connection with the Suburb would want to be associated with it as it is a once in a lifetime event."

"Henrietta Barnett did a wonderful thing by setting up the suburb. It attracts creative people as it looks lovely and has lots of green spaces. The architecture is great and it is in close proximity to London even though it is like being in the country."

The hitlist of the great and good spans the history of the area and charts the changing social mix of the now exclusive ward.

Poorer artists appear alongside some of the first well-known names in the suburb and modern additions include wealthy TV personalities such as Jonathan Ross and Richard and Judy.

Mr Littaur said: "Henrietta Barnett had the idea to set up houses for artisans in the suburb when she first established it.

Stars lined up for a Suburb spectacular

100th birthday party to celebrate Henrietta Barnett's brainchild



"The houses are beautiful still but I don't think artisans could afford them now."

Despite the changing social structure residents say the centenary is a time for all to come together.

David Lewis, chairman of the Residents Association, said: "Hampstead Garden Suburb has changed in many ways since the original co-operative housing scheme to build homes for all classes was introduced 99 years

ago. However I am pleased to see that the artisans of today – for example website designers and sales executives – are now taking the place of the skilled workmen and clerks of yesteryear."

The Suburb centenary falls on May 2, 2007. Events will take place throughout the year including a fete, a royal visit, a series of history and architectural talks as well as plays and exhibitions.

katie.davies@hamhigh.co.uk

FACTFILE

- ❑ Hampstead Garden Suburb was founded in May 1907 by Dame Henrietta Barnett who also started Henrietta Barnett School in 1911.
- ❑ It was designed by architects Raymond Unwin and Sir Edwin Lutyens and later expanded.
- ❑ The aim was to provide the industrial classes the opportunity to rent a cottage with a garden within a 2d (1p) fare of Central London and the rent ranged from 6s (30p) to 15s (75p) a week.
- ❑ Larger sites around the Heath were let to wealthy people thus subsidising the rents of the smaller houses.
- ❑ Dame Henrietta died at her home, Heath End House in Spaniards Road, in 1936 – 12 years after becoming Dame.
- ❑ The average house price in the Suburb for the last year has been around £900,000.

Victory for protesters fighting antennae

BARNET Council has waged war on phone masts after refusing permission for two and forcing another to withdraw.

An application for three antennae on Holy Trinity Church near the Suburb and another in East Finchley were refused last Thursday.

And phone company Orange has withdrawn its plans for a mast on Ossulton Way in the Suburb in the face of a 700 signature petition.

Councillor for Hampstead Garden Suburb John Marshall sits on the planning committee. He cannot hear meetings for Vodafone masts as he is a shareholder in the company – but is opposed to masts in residential areas.

He said: "Over the years we have tried to work within government guidelines to benefit residents but they are very strict so it means we can't use health issues as a reason for refusal."

"We occasionally lose them on appeal but the council has been very positive in reacting to residents' concerns."

Avril Hollings opposed the Holy Trinity Church mast because it is close to Brooklands School in the Suburb where she sends her children.

She said: "I am relieved – it is brilliant news. I am really delighted. It vindicates the actions of so many hundreds of people who signed petitions and wrote letters. It is so encouraging that democracy works and local people get a hearing and are responded to in Barnet."

SIGNED photos of Kylie Minogue, Wayne Rooney and John Travolta are going under the hammer to raise money for the Post Adoption Centre in Kentish Town.

The appeal to raise £325,000 so the charity can buy the lease on its premises in Torriano Mews is being spearheaded by Channel 4 News anchorman and Torriano resident Jon Snow.

He said: "Post Adoption

Rooney goes under hammer

Centre (PAC) is a highly innovative organisation and has been a leader in its field since its inception. Many adoptive families come to PAC on the verge of breaking point. Without their help many of these placements would have broken down and the children returned to the care system."

The auction will be held at the Institute of Directors in Pall Mall on Wednesday night. The following day PAC will celebrate its 20th anniversary with an international conference at the same venue. Speakers will include Professor David Brodzinsky from Rutgers University, New Jersey.

PAC runs a daily telephone helpline providing advice, support and information to anyone involved in adoption. Its number is 0870 777 2197 (national rate) or 020-7284 0555 (local calls).

To find out more go to www.postadoptioncentre.org.uk.

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