



THURSDAY 21 JUNE

Unveiling of a Blue Plaque in memory of Prime Minister Harold Wilson at 12 Southway at 10.45am.

'We lived happily in the Suburb from 1948 to 1964. Both our sons (Robin and Giles) attended the Henrietta Barnett Junior School, first with Miss Ironside as headmistress and later Miss Harris. The boys both went on to University College School in Hampstead.

We all attended the Free Church; the Rev. Frank Ballard was the minister (he christened Giles in the Crypt Chapel at the House of Commons). He was followed at the Free Church by the Rev. Stanley Andrews. Both boys were in the Free Church Cubs, Robin in the Scouts, and later in the choir.

We established a regular daily programme – in the morning Harold took the boys to school in Hampstead by car, and then went on to the House of Commons. The boys returned by train, walking up Hoop Lane (rather gloomy in the winter!). There were several Members of Parliament living in the Suburb – Gordon Walker and his family, also Fred Willey and Will Howie, who still lives there.

The Suburb is a healthy and beautiful place in which to bring up children. I particularly remember the cherry blossom in Heathgate, and walks on the Heath Extension and in the Big Wood. As a family we would walk across the Heath to fairs in the Heath proper, early in the morning, returning for lunch in the garden at home, before the crowds came surging up from Central London.

Most of our shopping was done in Market Place, and in those days, the pavements were very wide, easy to accommodate prams and tricycles – before the road was widened. We lived at No 10 Southway before moving to No 12 after five years. I still visit the Suburb from time to time, and in spite of changes (many more cars) it still remains a place of beauty and tranquillity.

