

New Chairman for RA Council

Gerry Mansell, the new Chairman of the RA, has been a Suburb resident since 1959. However he confesses that it is only since he retired two and a half years ago that he has taken an interest in Suburb affairs. The demands of a busy professional life left little time for other activities. He joined the BBC European Service in 1951 and says of his 30 years with the BBC that he has had all the nicest jobs. After 14 years with the External Services at Bush House as a documentary producer and later as an Editor, he became successively Controller of Radio 4 and Director of Programmes at Broadcasting House. He returned to Bush House as Managing Director in 1972 and in his last three years with the BBC was also Deputy Director-General.

He says he can confirm the truth of the statement that you're never so busy as after retirement.

Apart from his RA involvement he has written a history of the BBC External Services to mark their 50th anniversary last year and serves on a number of committees, as well as doing regular three-month stints on a weekly BBC World Service programme. He has also started to paint again, having spent four years at Chelsea School of Art just after the war.

His wife Diana has had a longer involvement in Suburb affairs. She has been a Chief Warden for a number of years, attends sculpture classes at the Institute, and in the early seventies was responsible for the Common Bird Census in Bigwood, carried out for the British Trust for Ornithology. The three-year project established the presence in Bigwood of no fewer than 24 breeding species.

SUBURB SCHOOL HEAD RETIRES

It will be a sad end of term this month for the Garden Suburb Infant School as Sheila Galloway retires 29 years after first joining the staff.

Sixteen years as headmistress, Sheila has interviewed

many a past pupil when the time has come for their own children to go to school.

A past R.A. Council member, she will continue to live in Hutchings Walk whilst spending more time in her native Norfolk.

NEW HAMPSTEAD GARDEN

The New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Ltd. welcomes any opportunity to improve communication with residents of the Suburb — and the pages of this newspaper could furnish just such an opportunity. Misunderstanding is often based on lack of information, and the more that residents know about the Trust and how it works — and the Trust knows about residents' points of view — the less misunderstanding will exist in a relationship which should essentially be a co-operative partnership.

So in this article we set out to describe briefly the Trust's role and responsibilities, how it operates and the problems it has to face.

The old Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust was formed in 1906 to develop the Suburb according to Henrietta Barnett's ideas. The exemplary planning and architecture of our environment are results of the control exercised by this body. The present Trust was established in 1968 and, as a successor to the old Trust, its main objective is to protect this heritage for the future, that is 'to maintain and preserve the present character and amenities of the Suburb'.

Any suburb resident of three years or more can be a member of the Trust Company. The Trust Council of eight comprises four elected by the members and four of whom one is appointed by each of the Law Society, the Victorian Society, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

In 1974 a Scheme of Management was approved by the High Court whereby the Trust could control freehold properties so that freeholders would be obliged to comply with the objective of protecting the unique character and amenities of the Suburb in the same way as leaseholders

have always been obliged under the terms of their leases. As the Trust is not a conventional landlord, the management charge is necessary to cover the expenses of operating the Scheme.

The Trust's role involved the investigation of all plans to alter or extend properties, and internal alterations in the case of leaseholds, to make major alterations to gardens, to change the use of existing buildings, and to construct new buildings of any kind. The consent of the Trust is necessary in each case, and the decisions made by the Trust Council carefully balance the demands of preservation with those of change. It is a difficult task: there are inevitable changes required, often based on the requirements of modern-day living, and these must be closely controlled so that they do the least damage to the Trust's main objective.

What the Trust actually does can best be described by outlining the basic steps taken when residents decide that they would like to make alterations to their homes.

1. The Trust can give preliminary advice on the sort of

alterations that might be acceptable. A comprehensive 'Design Guide' was issued in January '83 and is being monitored in use (50p). There is also a general leaflet and one on double glazing. Both free.

2. The Trust's managing architect can meet the resident's architect or designer on site for an informal discussion of plans. Proposals that would almost certainly be rejected by the Trust can be ironed out at this stage. Both the Trust and Barnett have to approve applications, but their powers are different.

3. The resident's application together with plans and relevant fee is sent to the Trust. The managing architect studies it, notifies neighbours, and writes a report for the Trust's Property and Plans Advisory Committee.

4. The Committee considers every application individually: its visual qualities, the materials proposed, as well as factors like the impact on neighbours. In one situation neighbours might have a valid objection to a proposed alteration whereas in another situation, and the same alteration, they might not.

5. The Committee's recommendations are passed to the Trust Council for ratification. Straightforward recommendations for approval are generally ratified.

6. Where the Committee recommends a refusal the Council will study the case more carefully, and two members will usually visit the site in question themselves if they have not already done so.

If residents are not aware

of this procedure they may go ahead with an unsuitable alteration or construction. Such infringements are often committed by new Suburb residents who are unaware of the Trust's role. When building work is in progress, or completed, the Trust is usually notified by a concerned neighbour, or a vigilant warden or member of the Resident's Association Committee for Conservation and Amenities.

In the case of infringements the Trust must first check that the information received is correct. Features such as plate glass windows may be reported only to find that, alas, permission was given 10 or 15 years ago, by Suburb leaseholders, and nothing can therefore be done about them. If any infringement has taken place the owners are given ample warning of the fact so that they can take remedial action. If they ignore the request the Trust Council decide on further steps including legal action.

Since the Scheme of Management was introduced the Trust's workload has increased formidably. The office staff is limited to the managing architect, Christopher Gotch, Dawn Orr, who is in charge of landscape concerns, Jean Burtchett and Freda Fidler, and they are hard put to cope. In addition to office work, they currently receive about 100 visits per week from residents, and often act as a kind of 'CAB'. They are well aware that the Scheme is to do with people as well as preservation, and they welcome enquiries. In fact they would like to encourage these as a means of communication but need extra

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Suburb in Bloom

Nothing daunted by rain earlier in the season, the Suburb's gardeners are continuing to show the fruits of their labours at the three successful and popular HGS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Shows held during the summer at the Free Church Hall. On June 25 Mr. H. J. Nicholls swept the board in the rose classes with no less than five first prizes. Mrs. M. Glaser carried off three first prizes in the Cooking classes.

Particularly delightful were the childrens entries with first prizes going to Sarah Coote,

Elizabeth Jane Over, Sarah Wilson, Victoria Richards (2), Joanne Tomlin, Caroline Tomlin, James Page and Rosalind Lowe.

The second show, on 30 July and the third on 17 will be their 203rd and 204th shows respectively.

In 1983 the Society would like to see a lot of new faces, becoming members, entering produce, just visiting, and entering the regular childrens' competitions. Handbooks giving details of membership and events can be obtained from Mr. Guppy (455 8953).

YOUR FRIENDLY BOBBIE

We should like you to meet one of the Home Beat police officers whose job it is to patrol the Suburb. W.P.C. Paula Carter comes from Leicestershire, has been based at Golders Green Police Station for three years and couldn't be more different from the old image of the rather stolid P.C. filling in a few years on the beat before retirement.

The Home Beat officers work in eight-hour shifts, and the type of crimes they have to deal with on the Suburb include assaults, thefts (often of or from vehicles), dangerous parking or other traffic offences and from this September they will also deal with some burglaries.

W.P.C. Carter patrols on foot the area north of Hoop Lane and Meadway, bounded on the other two sides by the Finchley Road,



Addison Way, Oakwood Road and Litchfield Way. She hopes that residents will think of her as their link with the local police force. In her work of getting to know this large area she depends on the cooperation of the public in reporting any suspicious incident or behaviour, incourteous driving and parking, and in making every effort to secure property against thieves.



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