

Independence for elderly

Secure and comfortable accommodation for up to 15 elderly people is provided in Abbeyfield House, in Homesfield, off Erskine Hill. The Abbeyfield HGS Society, an organisation of local residents, acquired the house and had it converted, equipped and furnished with the aid of a Government grant and charitable donations, and is responsible for its management.

Residents each have a bed-sitting room which they furnish and look after themselves. Every room has a wash-basin, a small refrigerator and cooking facilities for breakfast and tea. A resident salaried housekeeper and her assistant do the household shopping, cook lunch and supper and serve them in a communal dining room, and generally care for the residents' well-being. There is also a communal sitting room.

Residents are mainly from the Suburb or nearby but some with a close link with the Suburb (a relative living here for example) come from outside. Nursing is not provided so, although there are no strict age limits, residents must be active and adaptable enough to cope with everyday physical demands and to fit in with the communal household. The house has to be financially self-supporting with residents



all paying their own way. The inclusive weekly charge is such, however, that someone whose only income is the State retirement pension should be able to live there with the help of supplementary benefit.

Application for a place at the house, now or in the future, should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, The Abbeyfield HGS Society, 862 Finchley Road, London NW11 6AB.

The Friends of Abbeyfield HGS raise funds to enhance the amenities of the house and give practical help where needed. They welcome new members. You can join by sending a donation of any amount to Friends of Abbeyfield HGS, FREEPOST, 862 Finchley Road, London NW11 OYP. No stamp is required. HS

Birds on the Suburb

The long hot summer is over at last and the recent swirling winds have destroyed many of this season's deserted birds' nests, no longer of any use. The 1983 fledgelings have either succumbed to the Suburb cats, or learned to be quick off the lawn and avoid the long grass. Evolution in action!

Evolution is shown also by the changing species of bird living here. Amazing numbers of magpies, 'one for sorrow, two for joy...' fourteen for? - jays and crows, bullfinches, nuthatches and spotted flycatchers, all of which were quite uncommon thirty years ago.

The early autumn migration is now well underway and almost any bird might appear. The flycatchers on Central Square are preparing to leave and the willow warblers in Bigwood have already moved on. Now is the time to watch out for birds of passage south from the Hertfordshire woods, particularly the more attractive warblers and redstarts which are recolonising at last. A highlight this time last year was a woodcock which flew up

Erskine Hill as we stumbled home from 'drinks' on North Square.



This year's highlight bird-wise for us was a family of tree creepers who nested on the house. The cat watched the maturing chicks from each available window with much licking of lips and twitching of tail. Luckily we were on hand when the fledgelings tried to fly for the first time and after a whole day devoted to keeping the cat off, the chicks got the knack and disappeared into the woods.

The Suburb is a great bird sanctuary, though not free from predators. V. Gregory is hoping to make a register of birds seen, and would be pleased to hear from you on 455 9060. CG



P.C. Phillip Schneider on the beat.

Home beat on the Suburb

Crime prevention is a cause close to the hearts of the police and the public alike, and Suburb residents may already be aware that a new initiative in this field has been launched on their doorsteps.

The new programme of London's Metropolitan Police under Sir Kenneth Newman involves increased community policing by home beat officers and the introduction wherever possible of so called 'neighbourhood watch' scheme. This follows the very successful operation of such a programme in the United States and in various parts of the United Kingdom. In Bristol and the West Midlands, for example, it has led to a 38% drop in the crime rate.

Since the end of August our friendly bobbies on the Suburb have, as a result, quadrupled in number, and all parts of the Suburb are now being patrolled more frequently and effectively. Their greater presence is aimed not only at combatting burglary and hooliganism, but also at keeping a watchful eye on needy members of the community - for example helping the elderly who live alone and giving them advice on the social services they might use.

Their job will be easier and more efficient if they can build up a relationship with the residents who live on their beats. If you haven't yet met your own home beat officers, you are warmly invited to 'phone (200 2555) and arrange a meeting - when you might be shown round the Station, told how it all works and see some of those behind-the-scenes as well! Sgt John Butler controls the Suburb's home beat scheme. He's a strong advocate of community-oriented policing and is very proud of his team at Golders Green. Not only are they highly trained, but

they are also specially selected for home beat duties. They have to keep abreast of current issues of community interest and get to know the different groups that make up the Suburb population. Their backgrounds range from trained carpenter to illustrator, their interests, from sports to learning Hebrew.

The next step in the Suburb's fight against crime would be the introduction of a neighbourhood watch scheme. This essentially requires no more than obvious common sense and community awareness on the part of residents but can only be introduced with their agreement. Chief Superintendent Wass of Golders Green will discuss the possibility in detail at a meeting arranged with the RA on November 15 in the Institute Hall.

Meanwhile, our homebeats have requested a simple measure that will help them in their task: the police have no authority to enter private premises, and should they receive an emergency call concerning risk or damage to your property in your absence they could only gain access with the authority of your keyholder. Yellow cards are being distributed for this information, and the police would be grateful for your co-operation. EE

Editor's note: In case I am not the only resident who had always assumed that there was a Police Station somewhere in Golders Green; the Golders Green station is the one in Temple Fortune!

Oxfam Success

What is ephemera was asked by many? ... This being on sale at the Collectors Market held at the end of July in a local Church Hall. Also on sale besides Oxfam's

packs of stamps, coins & postcards were excellent specimens of well-laundered linens, lace, 50s gear, bric-a-brac, selected books, prints and music etc. The total raised on this occasion being approximately £2700 to be used for a specific project in Ethiopia. ER

Book reviews

London: 200 years of a city and its people

by Felix & Peter Jackson
Macmillan Papermac, 1983, £9.95
This is a republication, in paperback, of a fascinating pictorial history of London from its prehistoric beginnings to the modern day. It offers a completely new vision of London, telling us little known incidents of its history and topography, and basing the text around nearly 1,000 illustrations, many of which have never appeared before. The Suburb features in 'London Moves Outwards' and an aerial view shows Central Square in the early part of the century and the main surrounding area including Willifield Way, Bigwood, Market Place, Meadway, Temple Fortune Hill and Erskine Hill. EE

A Guide to the Architecture of London
by Edward Jones and Christopher Woodward. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1983, hardback £12.95, paperback £8.50.

This book documents about 900 buildings, streets or areas of architectural interest in Greater London including the suburbs. Most entries are illustrated by black and white photographs, each with a lively commentary, often critical.

The Suburb is well represented. Its design is related to the Garden City ideal and specific descriptions include houses and flats in Waterlow Court, Meadway, Hampstead Way and Erskine Hill.

"For the essence of the Suburb," the reader is told to "walk up Erskine Hill, across Central Square and along Heathgate, apparently a cul-de-sac. Go to the end, where, leaving the town behind, you are in the country. No, it is Hampstead Heath - but what an illusion!" SG

Trust Publications

The Trust is pursuing its policy of helping residents to understand how to maintain the quality of the Suburb and to avoid difficulties if they are considering alterations to their properties. The leaflet enclosed with this number of "Suburb New" outlines the do's and don'ts and the need for consulting the Trust in all cases.

The Trust has also prepared a much fuller publication called "Design Guidelines" which is available on request (price 50p). This is particularly suitable for architects and others advising residents about alterations, and is designed to outline the Trust policies more fully. The Trust has also produced a third leaflet on double-glazing which is described below.

Double-glazing

After careful investigation and assessing some experimental types of windows, the Trust has been unable to find any replacement windows with double-glazing which are satisfactory. The original windows were most carefully designed and any alterations in style, including different kinds of glazing bars, can be entirely out of keeping to the house itself and its neighbours.

In the present state of technology, all Suburb householders who wish to double glaze their windows are advised to install secondary windows inside the original windows. Contrary to what most salesman say, these secondary windows are usually cheaper and provide better heat and noise insulation than the windows currently available with the two panes built in together. The separate inner glazing has also the enormous advantage of leaving the original, carefully designed window intact.

A full explanation of the reasons for this and other advice is provided in a Trust leaflet called "Double-glazing", which is available free from the Trust Office. EL

PUZZLE & GUZZLE

The claim of the F.H.A. to be original fund raisers would appear

to be substantiated by their latest venture, a Puzzle and Guzzle, see 'What's On'. After guzzling, 45 couples will compete to see who first can finish identical Jig Saw puzzles, donated by Waddingtons.



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