

SPRING CLEAN AT THE TRUST

There are changes afoot in the New Hampstead Garden Trust office. After many months, an Estate Manager, Chris Kellerman, has at last been appointed, and a new Trust Architect, Wilfred Court, now works alongside Chris. Their aim is to transform the Trust into an asset to the Suburb and its residents, to make it a benevolent institution relevant to the needs of the Community, looked to automatically for advice, and no longer seen, as it has been in the past, as an obstructive body with 'divine right'.

Their starting point has been an objective assessment of the office administration. The filing system will be overhauled and replaced by a house-by-house system that will allow immediate access when any enquiry is raised. There will be a faster turnaround of planning applications; and the personal visit will replace endless correspondence so that all matters can be dealt with swiftly and pleasantly, including nipping infringements in the bud.

Chris should be known to many on the Suburb. He has lived here (in Hampstead Way) since 1972 and has been active in the R.A. for the last 8 years, most recently as a member of the Executive Committee. His wife, Julia, is on the Publications Committee.

As an Executive Committee member, Chris was involved in the 1982 Working Party Report on the Trust; he saw the Trust job of Estate Manager as a challenge which offered a chance to implement the necessary changes outlined by the Report. His training and experience — in economics and corporate planning — stands him in good stead. He sees the aims of his job as communication, efficiency and tighter budgetary control; he works closely alongside Wilfred, adjusting to the archi-

tect's input so that the balance of their combined jobs (previously attempted by one person alone) will be efficiently optimized. Necessary man hours are being monitored — when efficiency has been achieved Chris is prepared to find himself required less! The first Trust budget is in hand; cost effectiveness is one of Chris's priorities, and he also intends to seek other sources of income for the Trust so that it can support itself better and not, for example, rely on other funds to subsidize leaseholders.

Wilfred shares Chris's aims and is a firm believer in the powers of direct contact and reason. A large part of his job as Trust Architect will be taken up with 'house visits' and his approach is already leading to a far quicker turnaround of applications and enquiries. Wilfred travels from Kingcliffe in Northamptonshire and spends three days in the office, devoting the other two to his private architectural practice in Peterborough. Years of commuting between Kingcliffe and Peterborough makes the 1½ hour journey down the A1 to the Suburb a mere doddle for him — he stays for two nights in the Suburb and then returns to his family and his activities

as Parish Councillor.

Working on the Suburb attracted him for many reasons; his architectural training at Cambridge included lectures by Pevsner and others who designed very much in the Suburb style. He has an additional contact with this style via his wife who was born in Letchworth Garden City where Parker and Unwin also worked and he has always had a strong interest in people and the reaction of people to buildings. A long career abroad included a spell in International Voluntary Service and architectural practice in West Pakistan, Ghana and Nigeria where he was involved in, amongst other things, the development of University campuses. In 1968 he began work in Peterborough running the office of a large firm of architects and subsequently he set up his own firm. Much of his work has been with listed buildings and in conservation areas like the Suburb, and his architectural, communications and managerial experiences are all to be used in his job as Trust Architect.

As a sympathetic and objective outsider, Wilfred is invaluable to the Trust. Working in tandem with Chris, very much a Suburb 'insider', they are injecting new blood into the system, clearing a chronic backlog, and getting out and about on the streets of the Suburb on a regular rota basis. Wilfred only has praise for the standard of layout and design in the Suburb — as well as the residents — and Chris looks forward to a more community-minded Suburb. Both hope the Trust will play its part in keeping these unique qualities of the Suburb and enhancing them. EE



LEAD POLLUTION ANXIETY ABATED

As residents will have read in the R.A.'s Annual Report, Suburb allotment holders were given a nasty jolt last year by a study published by the Campaign for Lead Free Air.

This suggested that 22 per cent of the land in outer London was not suitable for the growing of vegetables by reason of soil and air pollution by lead. The Allotments Committee tried to find out from the author of the study if any of his data had been obtained from samples taken from sites in or near the Suburb. There was no reply. We also asked the Local Author-

ity what action they were taking in regard to their allotment sites. So far, nothing concrete has emerged from that quarter.

Reassurance is now to hand in an article entitled "Southwark Allotment Survey" in the latest issue of the GLC's London Environmental Bulletin. Southwark Environmental Health Services have analysed soil and plant samples from 13 sites in

that Borough. Some plants were just shaken before analysis. Others were carefully washed after the outer leaves had been discarded to simulate domestic preparation for consumption. The survey concluded that "although soil within 4km. of London Bridge contains elevated levels of lead, foodstuffs grown thereon are safe to eat if carefully prepared. Soils in the south of Southwark (i.e. beyond the 4km mark) appear to be satisfactory for the growing of crops". DM

Dramatic Society stages three Summer Productions

Firstly in May the challenging questions that any production of T.S. Eliot's "The Cocktail" poses to an audience. Secondly and much less seriously, what did happen to the rats from Hamelin Town in Browning's famous poem? Celebrate this "Year of the Rat" by discovering the answer in our production in June of "The Pied Piper of

Hamelin" by Peter Jerson.

Finally, in July, how better can we say goodbye to John Enderby, who has helped us so much over the years — a good friend indeed — than present "A Gala Evening" with a cast of thousands including many faces from the past.

See "What's On" on the back page for details. JW

LOCK UP YOUR GARDEN SHED

Many residents on the Suburb, like other areas throughout the country, have had their houses broken into by burglars. Whatever the scale of the damage and the value of the goods stolen, it is a horrible experience and the many open spaces makes the Suburb specially vulnerable. A householder has made a useful suggestion which we pass on to our readers.

Garden sheds, tool cupboards and garages contain many items which could help the would-be intruder — ladders to reach upper windows, tools to break through double glazing, etc. Fix a padlock or some other strong lock on the door and make sure that it is fastened at night and during the day when no one is in the house.

COMPETITION WINNER

In our last issue we printed pictures of architectural features round the Suburb and asked readers to identify them. A difficult task for most but no problem for Mrs. Hope Roper of Hampstead Way who sent the only all correct postcard into the editor within a day or two of distribution. Mrs. Hope Roper wins the book token.

WILL THE FACT THAT IT CAME FROM H.R. OWEN MAKE IT ANY MORE ITALIAN?

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See "What's On" on the back page for details. JW

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