

## BAL DE LA ROSE

Bigwood Hall was transformed on June 9 into the scene of a glittering dinner dance, a Bal de la Rose, in aid of the St. Jude's roof fund. At £10 a ticket the dinner was very good value for the 97 residents who attended the Bal which was organised by Jill and Jim Ambrose of Temple Fortune Lane with the assistance of a committee comprising Pamela Dear and Joe White who were responsible for the food; Linda and Peter Ayres who did the Posters, publicity and the decor that really made the hall very different from the familiar scene of AGMs.

Christine Freeborn ran a generous tombola — every ticket a winner! Flowers were very professionally arranged by Anne Lowe and Diana Woodfield, the table decorations

all made from roses donated from Suburb gardens.

perhaps the stars of the evening were the teenage waiters and waitresses who tirelessly kept the diners supplied with food and drink. They were Zizzy White, Delia Lawton-Browne, Louise Birch,

Elspeth Price, Rosaline Lowe, Sophie Lloyd, Juliette Star, Kate McCarthy, Dominic Dear, Robert Ayers, Ian Hamilton, Jim Milner, Jonathan Porteus, Jonathan Roose, Stephen Webb, David Plant, David Kingsley and Edward Ambrose. RJW



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## ABBEYFIELD AGM

At the A.G.M. of Abbeyfield H.G.S. held on 26th April the retiring Chairman, Mrs Barbara Anderson was presented with a book token and plant as a token of appreciation for the important contribution she had made to the society.

In making the presentation the newly elected Chairman, Mrs. Norma Blausten, said that Mrs. Anderson had won the affection and friendship of all who had worked with her. She also paid tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Jobson who also retired from

the Committee and said that Ruby Jobson had been an inspiration to those who formed the Society to provide the Abbeyfield Home in the Suburb.

She reported that the home was running well and that it was a bright and happy place in which residents seemed contented and cheerful. Thanks to the hard work of the House Committee and the efforts made by the Friends of Abbeyfield who had provided so much to make the home such a comfortable and pleasant place.

## PIPETRACK TO BE CLEARED

One of the major mains bringing water on to the Suburb runs from Golders Green Station to the Heath Extension. The pipetrack at one time provided a convenient short cut from the Station to Corringham Road and Hampstead Way. Responsibility for its upkeep is shared between the Trust, the Water Board and the Crematorium. The first stretch, which runs behind Rotherwick Road, is looked after by the Trust. However, in recent years it has become badly overgrown and has been used as a dumping ground for builders' rubble.

Resident backing on to the pipetrack have long complained about this eyesore. In a few weeks their problem will be solved with help from the Community Services, who are clearing the ground and removing all the rubbish. Once more it will become a pleasant green meadow with trees and shrubs.

CK

## BARNET DO THEIR BIT

With RA pressure behind it, the Pavilion Children's Centre is in the process of receiving a face-lift from Barnet. In addition to a regular annual coat of paint, requests for new flooring have been answered with carpet tiles in the playroom and new lino in the kitchen, and a move towards making the balcony safe for use has begun. A path now leads from the pavilion to the nearby playground, and a gate will soon be placed at the entrance point. The playground itself has been renovated: the swings and slide have been replaced and a new area for under-5s has been introduced with exciting new 'exploration' equipment. The 'new' playground will be opened by the Deputy Mayor of Barnet at the Festival on July 8. EE

## STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS: Suburb residents have utilised the FREEPOST more than they did in 1983, there has been 41% increase.

## TAKING STOCK OF THE GARDEN

Living in a garden suburb conjures up pictures of elegant lawns, neatly trimmed hedges while patios and flower beds unfold a continuous blaze of colour. How does your garden measure up? — is it untidy, overcrowded and rather dull or is it perhaps patchy with unexpected scraggy clumps of colour? Now is the time to really take stock in order to create your dream garden next year.

1) Take some photographs and make notes of what has already flowered and what is flowering now.

2) Look carefully at suburb gardens and note particularly which plants grow happily and well on our awful clay soil in small "town gardens".

3) Seriously consider your garden in relation to North, South, East and West and the amount of sun or shade beds receive. A magnificent flowering shrub in your neighbour's garden, grown in the ideal place will never produce the same glory grown in your garden given the wrong aspect. Study the ideal conditions of any plant which shows poor growth and be prepared to move it at the right time.

4) The cost of restocking a garden can be very high.

Now is the ideal time to propagate shrubs from cuttings and gardeners love to share plants. Cut ½ ripe stems of current year's growth below a leaf, about eight inches long and place in the outer edge of a pot containing peat/sand.

5) Old shrubs with woody growth left unpruned produce few flowers and block out the light. All those beautiful shrubs that have flowered this year should be pruned well now to encourage greater beauty next year. Roses and annuals should be dead headed regularly to promote more flowers.

6) Fifteen minutes weeding or hoeing daily to control annual weeds such as chickweed and groundsel before they flower and produce more seed, is far more effective than a full day monthly onslaught. Perennial weeds like couch grass and ground elder are extraordinarily tenacious and are best controlled with chemical weed-killers.

7) Many of our small gardens seem to have a disproportionately large amount of hedge when it comes to hedge cutting. I.C.I. have introduced "Cutlass" which really does restrict hedge growth without bad effects

and necessitates only one annual hedgecut. Make the most of your hedge by cleaning out the matted mess at the roots where pests and insects over-winter and don't forget to feed the hedge occasionally.

8) In the early autumn, rake spike and top dress lawns and be prepared to reseed bare patches and renovate edges.

9) Let your plants tell you what they need by observing the leaf conditions. Unhealthy plants soon show leafy symptoms. Curled leaves on shrubs or annuals invariably means aphids.

10) Probably the single most important thing one can do to improve a suburb garden is build a large compost heap. The clay is notorious and must be dealt with. Chemicals will feed the soil, peat will help to break down clay, but compost will enrich the soil and improve its texture at no extra cost.

You can provide instant colour in a garden by spending a fortune at a garden centre. By following the foregoing ideas you can create a beautiful "established" garden. Let's make this a REAL garden suburb.

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