

HELPING HANDS

Most new residents are quickly impressed by the friendliness expressed in so many ways where Henrietta Barnett's conception of the Community is continued. One of the vehicles of this caring community life is the fellowship which was founded early in the life of the suburb, even though its actual constitution dates only from 1958, to help those who "by reason of their age, infirmity, disablement, poverty and social and economic circumstances have need of assistance". The assistance is given through the Committee which is made up of representatives of all religious, educational and social groups on the suburb, including the Residents Association. So anyone living in our midst can be helped through the many helpers known to, and linked to, the Fellowship. In days gone by much help was mainly for the poor in the financial sense, but now "need" is not restricted to financial categories. If anyone is known to have a problem the Fellowship would like to hear about it. They don't promise that every need will be met, but they do promise that every effort will be made.

The problems dealt with to quote from their annual report: "visiting, shopping, collecting pensions, gardening and other humanitarian service". Where money is needed to pay for other

than voluntary service the Fellowship are grateful to the Residents Association for money collected with the RA annual subscription.

Perhaps the best known part of the Fellowship work is that done for Fellowship House. Before the war this was a Community Club for all ages on the suburb, but when it was rebuilt on a smaller scale it was established as a Club House for the senior citizens on the Suburb. A wide range of activities take place every day of the week but the main meeting is on Tuesday afternoons where a high standard of entertainment is provided. In many places where such clubs exist there is often a very mediocre programme offered, but here in Fellowship House there is consistently such a worth while and varied pattern that each week the Club House is full. The other activities include Handicraft, Keep Fit, Music, Old Time Dancing, Whist, Croquet, or just the opportunity to drink tea or coffee with other members.

Anyone wanting further information about the Fellowship and its caring work, or of the Fellowship Club House and its social work should apply to the secretaries concerned: The Fellowship: Mrs Sue White, 2 Meadway NW11. 455 8804. The Fellowship House: Mrs Jean Dyson, 2 Hutchings Walk. 455 8193. RB

PREPARING FOR SPRING IN THE SUBURB GARDEN

With icy winds blowing and the ground frozen under the snow, gardeners have that rare, guiltless, satisfaction of knowing that they *can't* actually work the soil. But it is a very good time to get the lawnmower out, clean it and have it serviced and sharpened before the annual spring rush. Have a good look at all the tools, repairing and sharpening where necessary. Weather permitting, do make the most of every opportunity to finish off jobs left undone in the autumn — cutting out dead perennial foliage, weeding the flower beds and cleaning out the hedgerows. Try to avoid walking on wet lawns thus compacting the soil.

Move dahlia tubers and chrysanth stools into the warmth to encourage early shoots for cuttings. Geranium seeds sown now, germinated in the airing cupboard and grown in the windowill will flower in June and save you pounds as plant prices rise.

In the fruit garden, complete annual pruning, remembering that on fruit

trees, winter pruning promotes active growth, while summer pruning creates good shapes and controls size. Do study a good gardening book and plan a fruit spraying programme, starting with mid winter tar oil wash. The minimal spraying effort is rewarded with increased disease and pest free fruit. Mid winter is the time to divide overgrown clumps of rhubarb. Put unwanted crowns in a black plastic bag in a warm area and enjoy early forced rhubarb. Cabbage and cauliflower seeds planted now and put out in April will provide welcome, cheap, early vegetables. Sow broad beans and early peas in pots, and for those partial to spring or pickled onions, get the shallots in as soon as possible.

Late February Plant out sweet peas in well prepared, nourished soil. Sow gladioli corms on a sandy base at two-weekly intervals for continuous summer flowering. Complete planting herbaceous perennials. Start

pruning H.T. and Floribunda roses. The purpose of rose pruning is to direct the plants energies to a limited number of selected shoots to produce high class blooms. Remove all dead a diseased wood, leaving branches evenly spaced for maximum light and air. Most vigorously growing roses require least pruning, and floribundas need less close pruning than H.T.s. On climbing roses, cut back the side branches (which bore last years flowers) to two buds. Remember that ramblers are pruned in the autumn, not spring.

Apply Sulphate of Potash to all fruit trees and bushes at the rate of 1oz to the square yard to provide an abundant supply of good fruit. Try to create a good tilth for vegetable seeds, but avoid walking on seed beds — compacted soil prevents root penetration and expansion. Purchase potato seeds and onion setts, and start potato growth on windowills.

Early March Renovate the lawn. Rake vigorously, apply moss killer where

necessary, apply a proprietary lawn feeder. Prepare soil in bare patches and sow seed when possible. Mulch rhododendrons and azaleas with all available peat to help conserve moisture in later months. Complete lifting and dividing of herbaceous perennials not done in the autumn. Mulch all fruit trees and bushes and start Spring spray programme. This is also the time to plant and divide Herbs. Plant out broad beans and peas. Make an early sowing of Cos lettuce, Boltardy beets, turnips, parsnips, cabbage, cauliflower and early potatoes.

It is thought provoking that the earliest and most prolific flowering gardens are those where the gardener has made full use of every opportunity provided by good weather during the winter!

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HGS BROWNIES

We gather that, as a result of the appeal in Suburb News July issue that the Hampstead Garden Suburb Brownies have a new Brown Owl. Since half term Kathy Kunold, who lives off Brim Hill, herself the mother of 4 year old Anemarie has been leading the Brownies at the St. Jude's Church Rooms.

On December 12 the Brownies well, Arabella Bears, Sonia Burke, Victoria Moss, Charlotte Harrison, Rachel Orme, Aarti Wadhvari, Christiana Tsants, Michaelides, Karen Kriteaman, Alys Edwards, Ruth Wilson, Sarah Page, Nerana Quaratto, Annalisa Moore, and a group of younger sisters played angels.

Taking part were Sarah Lara Paloumadin, Emma Rod-



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