

SUBURB NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association WINTER '86

INSTITUTE FUND NEW PLANS

Many residents who were taken aback at the involvement of a professional fund-raiser in the Institute Appeal — and angered by his attitude — will be happy to learn that a new approach, far more in keeping with the community spirit of the Suburb, is being adopted.

The Appeal Committee under Chairman Gerald Fogel has dispensed with the fundraiser's services and subsequently set up an Events Committee, chaired by Claude Colman, which is currently organizing a programme of local events to raise outstanding funds. The Appeal Committee is not forthcoming on the large fee paid to the fundraiser.

The appeal for £500,000 is needed to subsidize a figure around £2 million which is to be provided by the DES. It is hoped that at the end of the period of years necessary for restoration work on the Institute the current named total of £2½ million will

not have to be increased too much! About £230,000 has already been collected (and is safely invested and earning interest) and Phase I—including the fire escape and damp problems — is well under way. £1,000 was recently raised by Institute students with the encouragement of the Principal, Josephine White. The Appeal Committee suggests that it will take a further 2 to 3 years before the full voluntary contribution of £500,000 is raised. Meanwhile we can anticipate some interesting Suburb events. More about these when the Events Committee have planned their programme. EC

H2 DELAYED IN SUBURB

The RA Traffic Committee reports that the new, longer, H2 buses are being seriously delayed because they often cannot turn corners during their Suburb run owing to inconsiderate parking by residents.

Problem areas are not only the obvious ones but include corners where cars are parked too near junctions. Will residents please consider that they may be keeping people waiting by parking so that buses cannot get round.

The RA is taking up the new ruling about no standing passengers on the H2 service.

THE BATTLE OF WATERLOW COURT

The residents of Waterlow Court recently celebrated the end of a three-year struggle for survival. Waterlow Court, a 1909 listed building by M.H. Baillie Scott, nestling in several acres of tranquil lawns and gardens at the end of Heath Close, was designed as a community for single business ladies. This idea was eventually abandoned and in 1954 a new owner started to sell off the rented flats on 99-year leases as they fell vacant.

Unfortunately the leases were badly drawn up; some had no maintenance or service charges, some had fixed charges and some had the normal variable provisions. The result was that there was a considerable shortfall in income to meet maintenance expenses, and when the block was sold again the new owner, after selling off the two remaining rented flats, washed his hands of the building.

A residents' association was set up and legal proceedings were instituted against the landlord while the leaseholders got to work looking after emergency repairs, tending the gardens and cleaning the public areas. The bursting and collapse of the water-main system was something they could not cope with, and Barnet's chief environmental health officer stepped in to arrange for new pipes to be laid. The council also took legal action against the owner to try and recover the cost of the work.

After a series of complex moves the residents acquired the superior lease to their landlord and sued him for forfeiture. The case was settled out of court and a 1,992-year lease on the block is now owned by a residents' co-operative — Waterlow Court Residents Association Limited. Ashdale Land and Property, which has a 2,000-year lease, and the freeholder, the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, have offered to surrender their interests if Waterlow Court pay the legal costs. So it appears that the final step is about to be taken in an action which will bring a building facing dereliction into the freehold ownership of its own residents. GL



Nerina Queralto as archangel Gabriel in the nativity play at St Judes. See p.4

FALLODEN WAY THREAT

This issue of Suburb News has been delayed by the urgent need to tell residents of the latest developments in the continuing saga of Fallodden Way.

The past fortnight has seen a flurry of activity on the part of the RA, the Lorry Route Joint Action Committee and the Trust as a result of the Ministry of Transport's plans for implementing the 'Yellow' tidal flow scheme and their announce-

ment of a public inquiry to commence on March 11.

A Fallodden Way Fighting Fund has been formed as a trust. Lord Soper and Barnet's Deputy Mayor Clement Halfon have agreed to act as trustees. It is vital that as many residents as possible demonstrate their concern and the strength of local opposition to the Ministry's scheme.

Please come first to a public

meeting at the Free Church Hall on February 18 at 8 pm and also attend the Ministry's pre-inquiry meeting at East Finchley Methodist Church on February 20 at 10 am.

In this issue you will find a full explanation of what is happening together with an appeal for money for the Fallodden Way Fighting Fund. Please take it out NOW and send your donation.



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GONE TODAY —



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you're after —
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selling and renting
property properly —
and with a smile

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