

## PAVILION CENTRE



"Playtime at the Pavilion Children's Centre for James Vicefield and Danial Rowan."



"Storytime at the Pavilion Children's Centre. Playleader Georgia Shearman (right) reads to Marc Bali, Robin Scher, James Vicefield and Oliver Ferrari."

A tentative experiment by a small group of mothers four years ago has blossomed into a youngster's play centre that regularly caters for more than 150 children every week.

The Pavilion Children's Centre in Lyttleton Playing Fields, Hampstead Garden Suburb, is now open every weekday from 10am to 12 noon with a range of activities for babes in arms to three-year-olds. Funds raised at the group's annual summer festivals have gone toward the provision of safe, modern play equipment and every session is led by a qualified play leader.

For 3-5 year olds, a programme of 45-minute afternoon sessions features Fun With Art, Fun With Dance and Musical Fun. Next term commences 27th April. For 5-12 year olds, Art Workshops are run by local artist Philippa Clayden throughout each Easter and Christmas school holiday.

Further information about the Pavilion Children's Centre from Arlene Hyman on 01-444 5372. **JV**

## ENVIRONMENT GARDENING

How can we, as gardeners in an environment conscious garden suburb, best promote the ideals of the Civic Trust, particularly during Environment Week? What about undertaking one or more of the following practical improvement projects, all of which entail little extra work individually, but if carried out by each household the overall response would be tremendous.

Think seriously about planting a tree where it is most needed. The Parks department of Barnet Council would sympathetically consider requests made to them if local businessmen or residents want to sponsor a tree, or families could pay for a tree to commemorate their loved ones through a Trees for Remembrance scheme. Environment Week as such falls outside the normal treeplanting season, but each October heralds a new batch of trees to be planted in the suburb.

Why not plant a completely new bed in a barren or vacant part of your garden? Or landscape and plant a neglected site, always remembering that the aftercare of the new patch is as important as the initial planting. This would provide a wonderful opportunity to grow traditional varieties which are no longer so popular and are in danger of disappearing. You could branch out and develop a special garden with scented flowers or aromatic foliage such as geraniums, or herbs like marjoram, thyme, salvia, etc. Such an area planted near the pavement would give passers by great pleasure.

Any scheme involving the environment must include conservation of wild life. With very little effort we could each put in

a new plant to encourage our valuable and indispensable friend the bee, while leaving untouched small areas suitable for hedgehogs, toads, frogs and "devils coach horse" beetles, all four of which are excellent handymen in killing slugs and other hostile creatures. A variety of succulent seed, fruit or berry producing plants will feed an ever increasing range of vegetarian birds; while good, well dug, fertile soil will double the number of worms and creepy crawlies to satisfy the needs of the insectivorous birds. For some of us, this special week could spark off the inspiration needed to undertake all those niggling little "I'll do that on another day" jobs, like repairing broken steps, mending damaged railings or painting fences and garden gates.

The one single event which would have most impact on the overall look of our suburb would be the effect of a tidy up by EVERYONE. It is so easy to leave the pruning until "Next year" so that bushes become overgrown and untidy. In some instances pavement space has been reduced by untamed plants encroaching on the pedestrian areas. Those of us who walk in Big Wood have been appalled at the amount of rubbish wantonly

thrown over the perimeter fence of the woods, particularly along the upper end of the Northway boundary. All of us have seen the increasing amount of rubbish lying on the pavement areas, and in some instances seeing the litter carelessly tossed into our flower beds by thoughtless passers by. How do you personally react to this seemingly never ending problem? Do you complain bitterly, moan to the council or the Residents Association about the mess made by Barnet refuse collectors and condemn all "Litter Louts" in general, or do you do something actively about the situation yourself?

It is so easy to blame the young folks as the "litter louts", but they will only be conscious of the environment if so taught from early childhood, and what better way to inculcate good habits than by creating a special children's garden. Give them a small patch in a favourable condition with well cultivated and fertile soil, which will produce rapid and encouraging results. If situated near a hard path there will be less likelihood of garden mud being tramped into the house! Pride of achievement in creating a garden of beauty and tidiness will do more to make young folks conscious of their environment than any amount of lecturing.

The pride we take in conserving our heritage is reflected in our gardens. Are you proud of your efforts?

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### FRENCHMAN BARKING UP WRONG TREE

The Jewish Welfare Board's Hampstead Garden Suburb committee had a good chuckle recently when their balloon race from the RA fete last year in aid of the Board produced amusing results.

Committee members Barry and Barbara Harris were surprised when, several months after the launch of hundreds of balloons in aid of the JWB, they received a letter with a French postmark addressed to their dog, Benson.

Further investigation revealed that one of the balloons the Harris' sent off in the race — entered in the name of Benson Harris — had landed in Lille, France. A 14-year-old Frenchman found the card and wrote off to its sender in hopes of finding a young pen pal.

But the story has a happy ending. The Harris' 14-year-old daughter Joanna is writing to the boy on Benson's behalf.

Out of the hundreds of cards returned from fallen balloons, a grand total of 26 came from the continent, including France, West Germany, Holland and Belgium. The card sent back from the winning balloon came from Johanniskreuz im Vald, West Germany — 650 miles away. **DG**

### LE VESINET

During the first weekend in May a delegation of eight people will be visiting the Suburb from Le Vesinet. The group represents a wide cross section of activities, including tennis, scouts, guides, schools, and music. The purpose of the visit is to make contact with Suburb groups and individuals who have similar interests. The French visitors will be staying with families on the Suburb.

Last Autumn four people from the Suburb visited Le Vesinet and this is the return fixture. If you would like to help entertain our guests, please call Chris Kellerman at the Trust Office (455-8085 or 455 1066).

### YOUTH MUSIC

Summer term at the Youth Music Centre begins at 9am on Saturday May 2nd. Each week YMC's 250 students will participate in a number of activities, ranging from the Beginners Orchestra for the under-eights to the String Orchestra for young musicians of higher proficiency.

The Summer Term will see the formal inception of a new orchestra at YMC. The Chamber Orchestra will meet each week from 11.30 until 12.45, playing repertoire for a chamber grouping, and giving students a chance to play solos alongside a full orchestra. All YMC's orchestras are always ready to welcome new members. After joining the Beginners Orchestra, players can progress into the Junior Orchestra, then the Senior Orchestra or the Training String Orchestra. Entry to the Chamber Orchestra follows, and then, after completion of an audition, students can participate in the YMC String Orchestra, conducted by one of Britain's leading cellists, Christopher Bunting.

YMC also offers a number of instrumental classes and groups for students to join. For the very young there is a Nursery Rhyme class, as well as Beginners' Percussion groups. Lessons are offered in instruments as diverse as the violin and the French horn, the clarinet and the flute. Many of these groups will be working towards an informal concert to take place at Bigwood House on July 4th at 3pm. Anyone seeking more information about YMC can telephone the secretary, Elizabeth Kingsley, on 907 8018. YMC meets each Saturday during term-time at Henrietta Barnett School, Bigwood House, Bigwood Road, in the Suburb. Dates for the summer term can be found in the What's On section of Suburb News.



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