

LETTERS

Dear Editor,
Through your columns we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped over the past three years to campaign for the preservation of Lucas Crescent.

We would also like to thank the 398 residents who signed the petition to Barnet Borough Council; also the Suburb News for its fair reporting and comments thereby ensuring the issue was debated locally. Our thanks also go to the Council of the Residents Association for their unflinching support in campaigning to keep the Suburb a conservation area.

However, it is very disturbing to note that because of the mishandling, by the Trust, of the application for a parking area at 27 Willifield Way, the Trust Council made deals with the applicants, totally ignoring the legitimate objections expressed strongly by local residents.

Yours very sincerely, for and on behalf of the Action Committee
Sidney Briskin
29 Willifield Way
LONDON NW11 7XU
Angela Smith
41 Willifield Way
LONDON NW11 7XU

Dear Sir,
On reading the article 'Not So Shy' in the Spring issue of 'Suburb News' I feel it necessary to correct two inaccuracies regarding the last ice age.

Firstly the last ice advance of the last ice age (Devensian, 10,000 years before present) never reached Henly's Corner. Instead it was Anglian ice (approximately 250-350 years B.P.) that spread down and across the country, that once terminated at Henly's Corner.

Secondly, the Arctic Ice Cap is not known to have been involved in either the Anglian or Devensian glaciations. Britain was subject to ice influxes across the North Sea from Scandinavia and beyond.
Yours faithfully
Philippa Lowe
61, Eskine Hill
NW11

Dear Sir,
In his article about the Oakwood Road soap opera your contributor AL asks why it should be enjoying such a long run. The answer is that someone is always left holding the baby and it is their efforts to relinquish it which give the saga its momentum.

I attended the first auction of the site in question on the 15th May 1979 and passed a note to the auctioneer drawing attention to the fact that the (by then) lapsed outline planning permission has been granted before the Suburb had been designated a conservation area. To his credit, the auctioneer read the note out, adding his own view that any purchase of the site had to be regarded as highly speculative. The bidding nevertheless reached £15,400 but later the purchaser repudiated the contract. At a subsequent auction the site realised £11,000 only; the vendor then claimed the balance of £4,400 from the first purchaser, who in turn claimed that he had been misled. The case (South Western General Property Company Limited v Marton) was heard by Mr. Justice Croom-Johnson in the Queen's Bench Division and judgement was given in favour of the defendant mainly on the grounds that reference was made in the auctioneers' catalogue to "Long Leasehold Building Land". I have a copy of a lengthy report of the case which appeared in the Estates Gazette of the 25th September 1982.

After another unsuccessful attempt to obtain planning permission the new owner put the site up for auction in 1986 and it went for £18,800. It was auctioned yet again last March and went for £22,500. As your footnote reports, the Trust had sent the auctioneers a letter (by recorded delivery) setting out the site's history and emphasising the extreme unlikelihood of planning permission ever being given, but this letter was not read to the assembled bidders. It was however seen later by the final bidder and it would appear that he then stopped his cheque.

What next? With this richly-talented and ever-changing cast there seems little fear of this production ever folding, even though its plot is somewhat repetitive.
Yours faithfully,
Michael Pickering
38, Oakwood Road,
LONDON NW11 6RL

TRUST DEBTORS

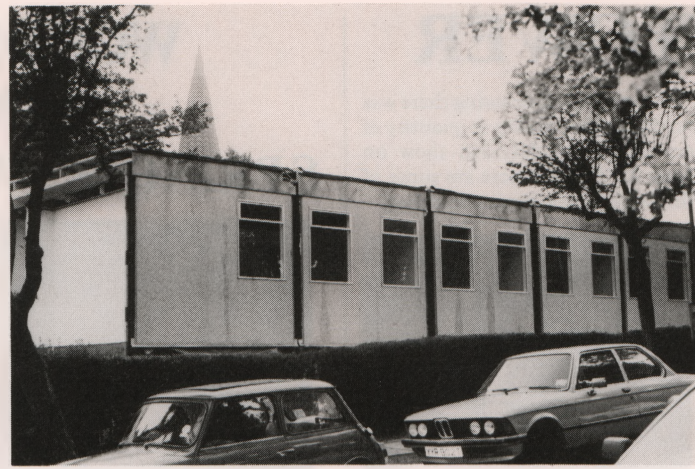
Over the last three years the Trust have reduced management charge debtors from £34,000 to £12,000. Once the management charge arrears are in excess of £50 the freeholder receives a letter from the Trust's solicitors. Fortunately at this point most residents pay their debt but there is a small minority who wait until they receive a County Court summons before sending their cheque. So far the Trust has only used the bailiffs on one occasion to obtain settlement. However there is one case that is being actively resisted.

Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Newman of Twyn Trees, 33 Holne Chase are being sued by the Trust for £70.92 which is the amount of management charges outstanding since the freehold was acquired by Mrs. Gillian Newman in March 1984. There has been considerable correspondence between the solicitors acting for the Newmans and for the Trust. On the 1st June the case came before the Willesdon County Court and the Trust received judgement. The Newmans were not represented at this hearing and they have now asked for the judgement to be set aside on the grounds that Mrs. Newman is not the freeholder. Under Clause 10 of Scheme of Management disposing owners are supposed to notify the Trust in writing of any changes in ownership. The Trust have never received any such notification. The date for the new hearing before the Registrar of the Willesdon County Court is the 13th August. The Trust are always very helpful in sorting out management charge queries and therefore this type of case involves the Trust in a great deal of unnecessary expense.

As a postscript, Mr. & Mrs. Newman's house was recently on the market through Selmans for over £½ million. CK

INGRAM AVE

The long-running saga over 38 Ingram Ave appears to be drawing to a conclusion. Over two years ago the house was completely destroyed by a fire following an electrical fault in the upstairs sauna. The Nigerian owner was hoping to build a larger house on this plot and following Barnet's refusal the owner went to appeal. The Department of the Environment upheld Barnet's decision. The plot has now been sold to a developer by Glentree Estates for over £800,000 and they are proposing to build a house very similar to the one which was burnt down. Work should start in the Autumn once Trust and Barnet's approval has been obtained.



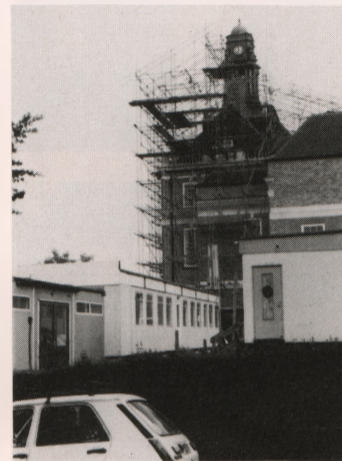
Many residents have complained, but this phase should be finished by January?

INSTITUTE NEWS

By now many people will have seen the Institute encased in its cage of scaffolding, as Phase Two of the refurbishment programme gets under way. This time the work will be concentrated on the central section, and readers of the 'Suburb News' may be interested to hear about some of the most significant improvements, which it is hoped will benefit all users of the Institute and the Henrietta Barnet School.

High, one might say, on the list of priorities, are a new roof, and a number of new window frames, for decades of exposure to the elements has taken its toll; and local residents who have been heard to mourn the fact that time stands still on the Institute clock, will be delighted to learn that, if all goes according to plan, the hands will be moving again before long. Internally, apart from the refurbishment of several classrooms, steps are being taken to upgrade the reception area on the ground floor to provide an environment that is welcoming yet businesslike, and makes more effective use of the limited available space. The ideal design would be

something like Doctor Who's Tardis - bigger on the inside than on the outside - but unfortunately the



JUMBLE

"Pre-Election Jumble Sale, No Old Politicians!", the poster rather cheekily proclaimed for 6th June at the Free Church. Of course, nobody really thought that any old politicians would be presented as jumble. It was not suggesting, either, that no old politicians could attend the Jumble Sale.

Whether politicians have ever purchased their wares at the Free Church Jumble Sale cannot be verified, but as the Suburb has provided a Prime Minister in living memory, there is a chance that somebody has been gardening in his old shirt or trousers, although upon reflection, I recall that they always looked like that.

Prior to the Thatcher Dynasty, the Suburb used to house a disproportionate number of Labour M.P.s, and who is to say that to appease their Socialist Consciences for living in a Tory Stronghold and sending their children to the nearby Public Schools, they did not put on their cloth caps and pop into the Jumble Sale to help make ends meet. MPT

A French student from Le Vezinet requires a room on the suburb while studying at the London Business School between end of September 1987 and Mid-February 1988. Prepared to pay rent or else will provide French lessons and/or baby sitting.
If interested please contact Ulrich Perichon, 46 Avenue Alfred de Musset, 78 Le Vezinet, Tel 010 3313 952 4064.

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