

SUBURB NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association AUTUMN '87



Joan and Pat Laurance with Linda Laurance.

FHA CHAIRS RETIRE

Avenue House, East End Road was the scene of a well attended party to mark the retirement of Joan and Pat Laurance, co-chairmen of what many regard as the Suburb's own charity, the Family Holiday Association.

Since Joan Laurance had the idea of raising money to send families,

who could not afford a holiday, to the seaside, some 4,000 families who desperately needed a break have been helped by the FHA.

Much of the money raised has been as a result of the annual Hill Close Fetes regularly attended by many Suburb residents.



A fox photographed in his garden in Ludlow Way by Mr Pepper.

GOOD RESULT FOR TRUST

It is perhaps a tribute to the way affairs are now handled by the Chairman, Council and staff of the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust that the Annual General Meeting on September 16 should have been so much less a highly charged event than have those of recent years.

FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENT

After introducing the Council, welcoming new member John Senter, as the RIBA appointee, and paying tribute to Ian Hodgson, Gerry Mansell was able to report a continuing improvement in the Trust's financial performance, with the leasehold deficit down from £26,485 to only £795; a management charge to freeholders at £23 lower than it was four years ago and management charge debtors down from £34,024 to £12,101.

He was heartened by the fact that 40% of leaseholders have made voluntary contributions bringing in another £3,500.

CONSENT APPLICATIONS

A small increase in applications for planning consents to 352 provided a record £48,835 in fees which, he said, are now being more realistically costed.

DISSENT

There was one cloud, however, that burst after the formal business was over when a number of members tackled the Council over its handling of the applications for a garage and/or parking space at 27 Willifield Way, now the subject of an appeal to the Secretary of State following the Trust's approval and Barnet's refusal of a compromise parking space application.

It is the view of the Action Committee of local residents, supported by the RA, that no consents should have been given in this case.

The Chairman pointed out, however, that the Trust had acted on legal advice and that whilst they are bound to do all they can to protect the Suburb environment, they are also bound not to withhold consent unreasonably.

Asked why, when it was clear that the Council had seriously misjudged the case, they could not admit it, the Chairman replied that legal opinion was that they could not change their position for the appeal.

Feelings were strongly expressed on both sides with Mervyn Miller reminding the meeting forcefully that Council members, voluntarily and for the good of the Suburb, spent many hours every month tackling the problems arising largely of of planning applications.

Some members felt that others had gone too far in their criticism of the Trust, including some who have written, not for publication, to the Suburb News. **RJ**

GARDEN CENTRE

The Garden Centre at Temple Fortune Hill, which has been closed all summer, has now been taken by landscapers Mark Enright who will be hoping for a better summer next year when they re-open as a garden centre in March.



Corringway — a charming corner of the Suburb.

CORRINGWAY GARAGE SITE SAGA

The flats, originally designed for use by chauffeurs, over the garages in Corringway, have been sold at auction by Freshwater for £1,350,000 to Metropolitan Estates who hope to develop the site with Berkley Estates.

The Mendels garage site had long been a source of complaints by the neighbours. When the business ceased more than two years ago, it was thought that there was a great opportunity to improve the amenity of what should be a charming corner of the suburb.

Berkley Estates bought the garage and put forward imaginative plans that would have blended well with the cottage and houses around (Suburb News, Spring 85). However, they foundered on the fact that Freshwater owned the west side of the square. The two companies could not agree, but finally Freshwater put up their part of the site for auction.

Not long before the auction Berkley was understood to have sold the garage to BM Motors, a prospect that horrified residents, and very temporary looking notices appeared on the garage site (see pic.). What effect this would be likely to have on the price obtained by Freshwater for the flats was a subject of some speculation. **RW**

RA ACCOUNTS HELP

Are there any accountants/bookkeepers or figure-minded residents (perhaps retired) who would be prepared to help the Residents Association with its day-to-day accounting as from March 1988? If so, please contact Tony Mandelson, Chairman, 458 2763.



Signs on the garage.

NEW MOVEMENT TO PROTECT ELDERLY IN CARE

Dr. Donovan, well known for his long time concern for the needs of the elderly in care, is sponsoring a new movement to create a Carers-Residents group in which relatives or friends of the elderly in care will play a similar role vis a vis staff and management as do parents in Parent-Teacher associations.

The benefits in both cases are that as these organisations are internal they can deal with the day-to-day problems. External support groups, whether voluntary or investigative, are limited in what they can do. At best they reveal the situation in homes only after long weeks, or even months of avoidable suffering. Even in the best run homes there are the problems of the seldom visited, the new arrivals and the mentally confused. These could be included in the new group's activities should they wish.

'Friends of Abbeyfield' has pointed the way here. But this is a house-movement. What is needed is an umbrella movement which can be extended to cover every caring home in the country. It would be an assur-

ance of caring standards. Hopefully, in the end, even the most reluctant managements, out of pure economic self-interest, would be forced to follow suit.

At the moment there is no organisation that is tackling the problem from this angle.

The first step is to discover what amount of public support for such a movement exists, and then to form a working committee — preferably from within, or adjacent to, the Suburb.

Dr. Donovan says "I think it is an excellent idea. It's a new approach to the problem. We need to change our attitude to old people in care throughout the country, this may be one way of doing it. In the first place we need local support and it can grow from there, after all the Marriage Guidance movement was started on the Suburb."

If any reader is interested in principle, or even requires more information, or would like to take an active part, would they please communicate, as soon as possible, with Neville Croft, 19 Westholm, London NW11 6LH. Tel: 455 0815.

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