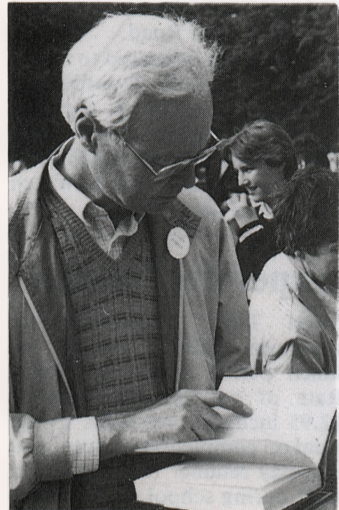


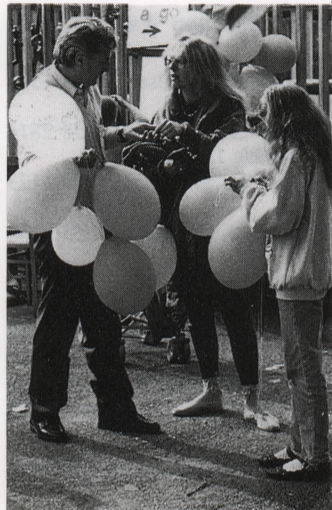
# HILL CLOSE FETE



Michael Palin opened the fete



Simon Abbott at the bookstall.



David Rapson, balloon seller



Pat Laurance gets them going.

Once again the FHA fete broke all previous records with takings in the afternoon of £7,100 (another 30 families off on their first holiday) and have expressed their sincere thanks for the wonderful support.

Few would dispute that the event now in its twelfth year has become one of the major dates in the suburb calendar — alas, in its present form this year's may prove to be the last unless some suburb residents might be prepared to become involved.

Regular attenders will be aware of the amount and variety of goods on sale all of which start from the home of Joan and Pat Laurance where it has been stocked and priced over the previous three to four months. The work and storage involved has become too much unless it can be shared. The Laurances are seeking three or four people who would be prepared to be responsible for a stall from the word go. i.e. Help acquire goods, stock them at home and arrive with them duly priced on the day.

The FHA plan a 'Save the Fete' meeting on Tuesday 16th August, if you feel you might help please contact the Laurances at 455 1777.

## HENLY'S CORNER

The Henlys Corner Public Inquiry continues to spiral to ever lower depths of bias and dishonesty. As Department of Transport witnesses trot out their formulae responses to objectors' cross-examination, the Inspector, Sir Peter Buchanan, sits uncritical of the most blatant evasions and deceptions. Though courteous and generally unruffled, it is clear that he regards the Department's position as highly privileged; their predictions, however outrageous, are unchallengeable; their errors forgivable — and forgettable; their many deceptions acceptable and beyond criticism. Objectors, on the other hand, are expected to substantiate every claim, back up every historical reference and 'double-prove' every statistic. The odds stacked so heavily against objectors at such inquiries are seen at this particular one, before this particular inspector, as well high insurmountable.

The case for adequate information on which to base their case, put so ably for the HGS Residents' Association by Dr. John Adams and Ronnie Jaffa, and the challenge to the undeniable double-counting of benefits claimed by the department, were brushed aside by the Inspector. He had no desire for the information himself and suggested that the RA make as strong a case as they could without it. Clearly it was more important to Sir Peter to avoid exposing the Department's misdeeds than to ensure that he, as Inspector, received the most complete case from an objecting organisation.

Information is essential in proceedings such as these. The Department of Transport has the fullest access to any information it requires; it also has the power, through a compliant and biased inspector, to block the access of objectors to the information they require to make their case.

The disadvantages put before objectors by the Inspector in his conduct of the Inquiry have had two particularly unfortunate consequences. Of the principal objecting associations, the Finchley Society and the HGS Lorry Route Joint Action Committee have both been compelled to withdraw from the proceedings.

The Finchley Society was allocated a time to cross-examine Department supporters when it was well known to the Inspector that their main witness, Vice President Bill Tyler, was engaged professionally elsewhere at another planning inquiry. Although the fault — whether accidental or deliberate — lay clearly with the Inspector, he refused to remedy it and obliged the Finchley Society to withdraw. This was a grievous loss for objectors: the Society has great experience of inquiries, having appeared with distinction at all the Archway and East Finchley as well as the Falloden Way Tidal Flow Inquiries.

The Lorry Route Joint Action Committee found itself in similarly difficult circumstances. They were to be represented by the Chairman, Terry Rand, who has fulfilled this role for them at all the Suburb and Archway inquiries since the six-lane Falloden Way scheme of 1969. The LRJAC's case was the widest-ranging and most comprehensive of any and was expected to take, with witnesses, well into a second week. Due to personal circumstances about which the Inspector had been fully notified, Terry Rand was not able to present the case during daytime sessions. As the Inspector had given an assurance early on that 'in exceptional circumstances' objectors would be allowed to present their cases during specially convened evening sessions, these were applied for on the LRJAC's behalf.

The response was a series of standard letters merely demanding to know on which DAYS the case would be presented. Long letters of explanation produced only the same standard cyclostyled responses, culminating in a final ultimatum: Give the dates of DAYTIME sessions you require or you will be programmed in on DAYS convenient to the Department. If you fail to appear at that time you will be deemed to have forfeited your right of appearance. In the circumstances there was no alternative to withdrawing — 'in sadness and disillusion' — as the JAC's formal letter of withdrawal put it.

Two fundamental aspects of the public inquiry system need to be borne in mind when consider-

## WHAT'S ON

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pavilion Children's Centre will open for the autumn term on Tuesday September 6 at its temporary home at East Finchley library. It provides play facilities from Tuesday to Friday from 10am until 12 noon. Each session costs 70p and booking is not necessary. Mothers, nannies grannies and au pairs with children under three are welcome. A paid play leader is in charge of the group. The children enjoy painting and craft activities, toys, singing and stories at the playgroup upstairs at the library.

For more information, ring Deborah Hofman on 455 1573 or Louise Bromley on 883 4690.

### AUGUST

- 5 HGS Institute. Office closed until 5 September.
- 9 League of Jewish Women. Meeting on Welfare.

### SEPTEMBER

- HGS Free Church. Exchange visit with members of similar church in Paris. Details from Mr. Richard, 2 Leaside Crescent, NW11.
- 3 HGS Free Church. Drop-in Coffee Morning. Free Church Hall, Northway. 10am-12 noon.
- 5 HGS Institute. Office re-opens for enrolments. 9am-1pm, 2-4.45pm Mon-Fri.
- 5 HGS Townswomen's Guild, St. Jude's Church Rooms. 2-4pm. Ms. P. Fletcher. 'My life in the law'.
- 10 United Nations Association Golders Green and HGS Branch. Bring & Buy Coffee Morning. 10am-12.30pm at 6 Chatham Close. Admission 50p for benefit of UNA (this branch and refugees).
- 13-15 HGS Institute. E.F.L. Enrolment. Tea House. 458 8176 for details.
- 14 HGS Institute. Office re-opens for evening enrolments. 6-8.30pm. Monday-Thursday.
- 15 HGS Institute. Foreign Languages Advisory Session. Tea House. 7.30-9pm.
- 17 HGS Institute. Foreign Languages Advisory Session. Tea House. 10am-12 noon.
- 17 HGS Horticultural Society Flower Show, Free Church Hall, 3-6pm. Produce stall, teas.
- 19 HGS Institute. E.F.L. Term begins.
- 25 HGS Free Church. Harvest Festival Services in Free Church. 11am and 6.30pm.
- 26 HGS Institute. Term begins for all other courses.
- 27 National Council of Women of G.B. Hampstead & HGS Branch. St. Albans Small Hall, West Heath Drive. 2.15pm. Dr. S. Grasse. 'AG.P.'s Life'.
- 29 HGS Floral Arrangement Club. Club AGM followed by talk by Ms. G. Webb.

### OCTOBER

- 1 HGS Free Church. Drop-in Coffee Morning. 10am-12 noon. Church Hall, Northway. 2.15pm Jumble Sale. Free Church Hall.
- 3 HGS Townswomen's Guild. St. Jude's Church Rooms. 2-4pm. Ms. N. Wilson. 'Travels in Australia and New Zealand'.
- 8 HGS Free Church. Youth Concert. Free Church. 6pm.
- 11 National Council of Women of G.B. Hampstead and HGS Branch. Report on N.C.W. Consumer Affairs Committee. 10.30am at 60 Rotherwick Road.
- 20, 21 HGS Dramatic Society. 'Engaged' by W. S. Gilbert. Institute Theatre, Central Square.
- 25 National Council of Women of G.B. Report on N.C.W. Annual Conference. 2.15pm. St. Albans Small Hall, West Heath Drive, NW11.
- 27 HGS Floral Arrangement Club. Demonstration.

### NOVEMBER

- 5 Save the Children Annual Fair at the Tea House, Northway. 10am-12.30pm. Christmas cards, gifts, handicrafts, jewellery, plants. Admission free.
- 19 HGS Christmas Craft Fair. 10am-5pm. Free Church Hall.

**DEADLINE for Autumn issue September 24 for publication October 15. Items for What's On Column to Rosemary Goldstein, 1a Church Mount, N2. Contributions and letters to the editor R.J. Wakefield, 26 Hampstead Way, NW11.**

ing this present fiasco: the functions of the Inquiry itself and the function of its Department-appointed Inspector.

The function of the Public Inquiry is to enable the Department's scheme to be challenged by members of the public and their views/counter-proposals to be considered and conveyed to the Secretary of State so that he can weigh up all aspects of and attitudes to the proposals.

The function of the Inspector is to make arrangements to hear these views and counter-proposals together with the Department's case. Members of the Inspectors' panel with much greater experience and distinction than Sir Peter have made it clear at other inquiries that they see a duty to help out the huge imbalance of resources that exists between the Department and ordinary objectors. They seek to achieve this, in the interests of more just decision-making, by ordering adequate information for objectors, evening sessions to enable the

public to attend and present their cases without crippling loss of earnings and other measures designed to ensure they base their recommendations on the best range of views available.

Sir Peter rejects this role for himself, aiming instead for what he terms a 'successful' inquiry. Success in this context, by his definition, has little to do with the public being able to attend, put their cases, follow the proceedings; success has nothing to do with a constructive exchange of views, the discovery of hidden costs or inflated benefits, the proposal of better alternatives; success is judged solely by his being able to declare the Inquiry completed. No matter how many objectors have been excluded, members of the public kept in the dark, evidence unrepresented, Ministry witnesses unchallenged; so long as the injustice can be brazened out to the END! — that is SUCCESS! May God — or the High Court — help us. TR

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