

RESIDENTS ASSOC AGM

At the start of the Annual General Meeting of the HGS Residents Association Acting Chairman Eileen Whelan said to the audience of over 100 that she believed that "conservation, and the protection of our environment, are the 'raison d'être' of both the RA and the Trust. While I believe that all the activities of the RA are worthwhile, future generations will judge us by our actions, or inaction, in maintaining Henrietta's ideals in an increasingly philistine world".

She went on to ask "How do we involve people so that they want to be of service to the Suburb? We are very lucky in the people we do have, but we can always do with more".

Peter Loyd gave the meeting a report on the success of Neighbourhood Watch and said that only some 8% of Suburb houses were now not included in the scheme. Few flats however were covered, as flat dwellers seem to consider their homes less vulnerable or that somehow it is up to someone else to do something about security.

There followed updates on the notes in the Annual Report from the Committee Chairmen.

Eileen Whelan expressed thanks to the RA and the Trust for laying on water to three allotments.

David Morrison for CONSAM dealt with a number of pressing concerns including an increase in applications for loft conversions and the fact that a number of residents had fixed satellite dishes to their houses without obtaining the necessary consents. He looked forward to the advent of cable as this would obviate the need for dishes or aerials.

Concern was voiced by John Freeborn over the Nautilus development in Market Place and by Brian Godfrey over Mutton Brook pollution.

David Rapson expressed thanks to Ronnie Jaffa, Dr Adams and all who had put so much time and effort into the Henly's Corner enquiry.

He said that the Traffic Committee was concerned about the change of contract for the H2 bus but understood that the service may actually be improved.

Janette Harris for the Social Committee outlined arrangements for Environment Week (see front page).

Peter Loyd said that no volunteers had come forward to take over the running of the Hill Close Fete from the FHA. The fete would now take place in Central Square on May 13th.

Brian Godfrey, who was thanked for his past work on Tenants and Welfare, said that tenants associations of blocks of flats had been meeting at the instigation of Mr Pearson of Temple Fortune Court.

Eileen Whelan expressed the RA's appreciation of the work done by Anne Lawson and Ron Phillips as Chairman of Wardens and Membership Secretary. Anne

Lawson reported that there had been a very encouraging response to the letter in the membership envelope distributed recently about Suburb activities. A theatre club seemed an early prospect.

Accounts

John Boulter reported an increase in expenditure, largely due to Henly's Corner, over income for the first time in many years.

Adoption of Report and Accounts was proposed by Alan Lawson and seconded by Chris Kellerman.

Peter Blackstaffe was thanked and again appointed as the Auditor.

Election

Officers:

Chairman: Eileen Whelan
Vice Chairman: Peter Loyd
Hon Secretary: Sylvia de Peyer
Hon Treasurer: John Boulter

Council members for re-election: Mrs S Murrell, P Beesley, C Gregory, E Caplin, E Howey, D Morrison, D Rapson, Ms C Raab, R Wakefield

New members: A Armstrong-Wright, S Hudson, S Bailey, N Silver, E Gaskell-Taylor, R Terry

Dr Hoblyn thanked the Chairman for the way she had carried out the onerous duties of the Chairmanship over the past year.

Wheeled bins

After the AGM, Chris Kellerman gave a very spirited account of the wheeled bins saga so far, after Patrick Gaskell-Taylor gave the result of the survey (see this issue).

He said that the scheme was opposed by all Suburb bodies, all three Councillors, our MP and as now shown by an overwhelming proportion of the residents.

Mr Kellerman also read out extracts of letters to John Marshall MP from Virginia Bottomley, Minister of the Environment which said:

"The Department does not have an appellate function for residents who are dissatisfied with the performance or particular methods employed by their authority. The answer to this kind of problem, apart from the Courts, lies with the residents who should

lobby and put pressure on their Councillors to ensure that Council carries out its duties in a way the residents wish.

"It is up to each authority to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages concerned. We would expect them to exercise their responsibilities in a reasonable manner and to listen carefully to the wishes and views of their ratepayers."

and from Barnet's own publication, Hampstead Garden Suburb Conservation Area "When an area has been designated it becomes the duty of the local planning authority and any other authority concerned to give particular consideration to the character of the Conservation Area when exercising their planning and other functions".

He said that the LBB could even now make an exception as it has in other areas. "We must fight back and don't let bully boy tactics of Barnet intimidate us and ruin our environment."

Residents were urged to write to Mr Caller and to all three councillors registering their opposition to the scheme. **RW**

FAMILY LINK SCHEME

Barnet's Family Link scheme is looking for caring people, single or married, who would look after a child with a disability in their own homes occasionally to give a break to their families.

Why is this Service needed?

Most children enjoy and benefit from staying away from home with friends. Children with a disability are no different, but often their opportunities for developing friendships in this way are limited. We are trying to give them this opportunity. You could help.

What about the Parents?

Even in the most caring of families parents enjoy a break from their children and often children with a disability can make additional demands on their families.

Short periods of respite can give parents a breathing space allowing them to continue caring.

Who are the children?

Anyone under the age of 19 who has difficulties with learning, communication or mobility, and lives at home.

What commitment is needed?

You will be asked to offer the opportunity of up to 28 days a year respite, although this maximum may not always be required.

When is help required?

This would depend on the need of each individual family but they may like the occasional weekend, evening, Saturday or Sunday afternoon to shop or go out with their other children; some families may need a break for a week or two.

Are special qualifications necessary?

No. Your personal experience is what counts. An understanding of what caring for other people's children means is necessary and this would be discussed with you before arrangements are made. Social Services will also provide you with preparation, training and support.

Is there an allowance?

Yes, An allowance of at least £24 for a 24 hour period is provided. Payments can be made for a stay of three hours or longer. A voucher system will be used.

If you would like to know more please contact:
Janet Solomons
FLIB (Family Link in Barnet)
Barnet Social Services
Park House, 16 High Road
East Finchley, LONDON N2 9PJ
Tel: 883 5562/3

OLD FRUIT VARIETIES

Do you know the variety names of the older fruit trees in your garden? A member of the Royal Horticultural Society Fruit Group heard with interest on Gardeners' Question Time about Suburb households being given fruit trees when the houses were completed. He would like to compile a complete list of our old trees in case any of them should be specially propagated to prevent extinction.

So if you have an unusual variety, please write to Marjorie Harris, HGS Horticultural Society, 48 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HG, who will pass the list on! **MH**

FELLOWSHIP THANKS

Once again the Residents Association's wardens are busy on their collecting rounds. As well as asking for members' RA subscriptions they are inviting donations for the work of The Fellowship. We are very grateful for those who thus act as our collectors and to those who give so generously to our welfare work.

Everyone should have received the Fellowship Annual Report that was delivered with the RA Report. In it you will have seen that the two sides of our work continued last year and will do so this year.

Even on the 'affluent' Suburb there are still those who need practical help in the form of gardening, visiting and even with small financial grants for special needs. As this side of the work is private and confidential obviously no details of these matters can be published, but it is right that those who give for the work should know that it goes on and is recorded in general terms in the published accounts.

The other part of our work is the more obvious, that undertaken through the Fellowship House Committee. Again our Annual Report gave a clear picture of the variety of activities that go on every day of the week at Fellowship House. Membership of the club is open to anyone on the Suburb over the age of 60. Although sometimes the main meeting on Tuesday afternoon is full to overflowing, activities on other days can easily take fresh participants.

Our committees are very grateful to the many helpers who keep such a wide range of activities going. There are those who actually organise the various sectional activities, there are teams of ladies who produce tea and coffee, there are those who provide transport. A few years ago the men decided to lay on a dinner for the lady helpers. When all helpers were counted it was found that there would be 80 guests but nevertheless a hot dinner was served to a packed hall. This year a less ambitious plan of a wine and cheese evening is proposed to say 'thankyou' at the end of the season.

Anyone wanting to know more about the Fellowship should ask any of our officers.

Ralph Baldry
Chairman Fellowship Committee
455/6926

CABLE FOR SUBURB

from P.I.

The new satellites and cable The launch of the Astra satellite earlier this year, with four Sky channels, has increased the awareness and demand for additional television choice. Later this year, the launch of the British direct-broadcast satellite owned by British Satellite Broadcasting will further increase choice.

Potential viewers of the new channels can receive the signals direct from satellite using their own reception dish. But if they want to watch both the Sky and BSB channels they would have to install either two dishes or a single, but expensive, motorised dish that can move between one satellite and the other. The single dishes will cost from £170 to £350 or so and the motorised dish about £600.

The customer who wants to watch one of the 'premium' channels — for instance the film channels — will have to buy or rent a decoder box at, say, £10 a month for each satellite and then pay a subscription fee of £9.95 a month for BSB's film channel and £12 a month for Sky's film channel and Disney Channel.

Cable's big advantage is that it can deliver channels from all existing satellites and from future satellites. West Side Cable itself buys a dish for each satellite and then sends all the channels down the same cable to the home.

The subscriber does not have to buy one or two or more individual dishes, wonder where to install them (and perhaps discover that there is no 'line of sight' to the relevant satellites). Nor is there any risk of being stuck with outmoded equipment, as happened with the unfortunate owners of Betamax video cassette recorders.



Perhaps most important of all, cable connections are achieved via an underground network, there is no need for a proliferation of dishes, the effect on the environment is minimal. Cable subscribers can also get rid of their existing television aerials because the broadcast channels are delivered over the cable system. This also ensures first-class reception for viewers, wherever they live.

West Side Cable will charge a one-off connection fee of £35. It will then charge a monthly basic rate of £7 for all the non-premium BSB and Sky channels and possibly one or two other channels. The premium channels will cost another £10-£12, depending on the particular channel. Other channels will require a small extra payment.

According to Fay Win, marketing director of West Side Cable, the 'interim' Hampstead Garden Suburb solution to be considered by West Side Cable — in the event of sufficient interest being shown by respondents to the questionnaire — would probably be a mini-cable system, involving the erection of one central dish for each of the two satellites. The dishes would be placed in an environmentally-suitable location, and the mini-system would later be integrated with the main West Side Cable network.



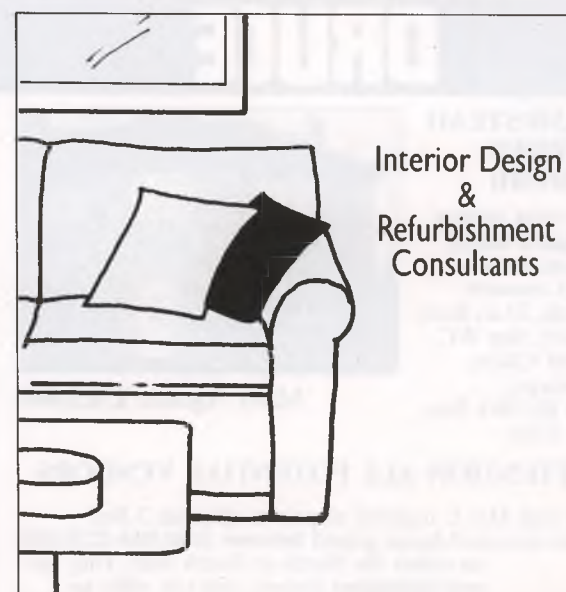
Having truly established ourselves in Hampstead Garden Suburb . .

. . . we feel that we can say we know how you like to be treated. That is why our Hampstead Garden Suburb Staff are patient and prepared to spend as much time and effort as is necessary to find your exact requirements — whether it takes one week or one year.

If you are looking for a home — come in and let us prove that we are the Property Professionals.



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Interior Design
&
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Consultants

atmosphere
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