

LITTER FREE ZONES

With the active encouragement and support of a number of local residents who deplore the ever increasing quantities of litter on our pavements and roads, the Hampstead Garden Suburb 'Litter Free Zones' campaign will be officially launched at a ceremony which will take place on the morning of Saturday 22 April 1989 at 10.30 am.

Saturday 22 April is the first day of Environment Week throughout the country and has been officially designated 'National Spring Clean Day', and so could not be a more appropriate day on which to launch the campaign.

The idea of cleaning up the Suburb is not new. In previous years the Residents Association has organised a clean up during Environment Week, but within a short time passing motorists and pedestrians have jettisoned more rubbish and our pavements and roads have soon become as bad as ever. But the Litter Free Zone campaign is different, the idea being not just to clean up once — or even to keep cleaning for the whole of Environment Week — but to keep it up throughout the year.

As Peter Loyd, the organiser of the campaign, suggested in his letter to Suburb News last July, this concept will be of little interest to those who never cease complaining that someone else ought to do something about the litter — the Government, the Authorities, the Council — but who never actually do anything about it themselves! Nor will it appeal to those who believe themselves to be so important that it would be beneath their dignity actually to stoop down and pick up a bit of litter even

from outside their own houses.

Fortunately many residents take a much more positive attitude to the problem and several have already volunteered to keep an area outside their houses clean of litter on a regular basis and, it is hoped, many more will join this nucleus of people — 'Friends of the Suburb' — and take on a Litter Free Zones themselves.

A final 'briefing' meeting has been arranged for everyone who is prepared to take a positive part in the campaign, and anyone who is interested in being actively involved will be welcome to attend. The meeting will take place in Fellowship House, Willifield Green on Monday 17 April at 8.00 pm.

And then, after the launching ceremony on the morning of Saturday 22 April, which will take place at Meadway Gate at 10.30am, Peter Loyd will be visiting each of his supporters in turn to determine the precise boundaries of each Litter Free Zone and the positioning for the street signs. PL



SPRING GARDENING

The spectacular display of flowers in the Suburb during spring encourages the laziest of gardeners to activate those dormant green fingers. Do try to restrain yourself from cutting off the bulb foliage until it has died down if you want more flowers next year. Remember to feed the newly forming bulbs with a sprinkling of growmore lightly dug in round the clumps of leaves. This is a good time to feed all your emerging, established plants, to stimulate solid growth, followed by a good mulch which preserves the moisture in the soil harbouring the roots, and helps to suppress weeds. Most bulbs are planted in Autumn, but the one exception is snowdrops, which establish themselves best if moved while still in leaf soon after flowering, so now is the time to split up large clumps and replant new colonies.

While the bulb foliage is still visible it is a good idea to make

a note now of where and which bulbs should be replenished this coming autumn. As the days grow longer and warmer you can get those new evergreens into the ground, making sure that they never lack water.

Shrubs which flower on current year's growth should have been pruned already. This includes roses, *buddleia davidii*, deciduous *ceanothus*, *fuschia* and *hydrangea paniculata*. Early flowering shrubs like *forsythia*, which have flowered on last year's growth, should be pruned immediately after flowering.

Over the next four months different varieties of azaleas and rhododendrons will be flowering. If you want to increase the quantity and quality of your flowers, try to remove the spent blooms immediately so that the plants waste no energy trying to form seeds. Similarly, well established herbaceous perennials, such as

delphiniums and lupins, tend to send up too many shoots causing overcrowding. Careful removal of the weaker shoots from the centre of the plant will greatly improve the flowering. Lawns will benefit from a good raking which should remove the winter moss and prepare the grass for a dose of weed killer followed, hopefully, by a nourishing lawn feed.

As always there is a new crop of weeds bursting into leaf. The sooner and more frequently you can remove them, by hand or by hoe, the easier they will be to control. An application of moss killer (and or weedkiller) on stone paths will make them safer, especially on wet days.

Barnet Council has planted a lot of new trees in the suburb during the last six months. If we should have a dry spell do please take a jug of water and carefully pour it round the base of the young trunk. Clayfingers

LETTERS

24th February 1989

Dear Sir,
The worsening situation regarding dog mess on Willifield Green and the surrounding areas has been brought to the attention of the Garden Suburb School PTA Committee by a number of concerned parents of pupils at the school.

Notices erected around the green by the local authority state that it is unlawful for dogs to foul the area and that offending dog owners are liable to prosecution and a fine. Despite this, and displaying a conspicuous lack of civic pride at the same time, it seems that a number of residents positively encourage their dogs to foul there daily.

Apart from the inconvenience caused to both parents and teachers when the mess is brought into cars, the school and the home, contact with dog excrement is at the origin of many minor ailments and medical evidence has shown that it can even cause blindness.

We would therefore like to respectfully urge dog-owning residents to take responsible control of their pets so that Willifield Green can become the pleasant area it was intended to be.

Yours faithfully,
John Love
Chairman

1st February 1989

Dear Sir,

Dogs' Mess
Either because of my connections with Neighbourhood Watch or because of my concern about litter in the Suburb, I have been approached by various Suburb residents on the subject of dogs and the mess they make on our pavements and grass verges.

I am not sure that this really has a great deal to do with 'litter' which is more man-made than dog-made and, whilst it may be offending against some local bye-law, I am not at all keen to involve Neighbourhood Watch in this as, far from uniting neighbours, it could well have the

Poop Scoops

A big debate is going on in the letters columns of regional newspapers. The big news is dogs mess.

Everyone would agree that it is not a particularly nice subject but it is the main reason dogs are getting a bad name. So much so that local Councils are, or are considering, bringing in bye-laws with £100 fines for offenders. Beaches and parks are being made no-go areas for dogs and all because owners don't think. Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, is aiming to ban dogs altogether and from the tone of some of the letters, such a suggestion has growing support.

The solution is to clean up after your dog. Poop Scoops are available for all size of dog from some local Councils, pet shops, vets and our

29th January 1989

Dear Sir,

re: Wheelie Bins
As a latecomer on the scene I read with interest the various letters and articles in the Suburb News/Residents Association survey about the clever plot by the Council to delegate the dustman's job to the rate-payers.

A brilliant idea to introduce bigger, sturdier, more colourful or camouflaged hinged-lidded wheelie bins. Great motivation for the dustmen! The wheels will take care of the existing weighty problems by them wheeling, instead of carrying, dustbins from their present locations. So why involve residents?

Accidents, in more than one form, will then be restricted to the emptying of the hinged-lidded, bigger, sturdier wheelie bins.

As someone who was not blessed with height my one worry as a resident is, will the wheelies grow upwards or will it be a case of the middle-aged spread?

Yours faithfully
Sandie Cant
19 Carpenter House
Emmott Close
London NW11 6PX

opposite effect.

Furthermore, I don't really feel in a position even to voice an opinion in the matter as I don't own a dog and my particular part of Meadway probably suffers less from dog mess than many other parts of the Suburb.

I have, however, obtained a Press Release from the National Canine Defence League, and I am wondering whether you could publish it in the hope that it may throw some light on the subject and perhaps stimulate some constructive ideas and suggestions from dog owners and others alike.

Yours faithfully
Peter Loyd
12 Meadway
London NW11 7JS

catalogue. However, a trowel and plastic bag would do just as well. It may be embarrassing the first time but such actions will only win praise.

The problem isn't just the mess, but it can cause toxocara. Eggs from the worm will stay in the soil for years and if swallowed can lead to blindness. We all agree that this subject has been blown out of proportion but if there is the minutest chance of people being infected then all possible care should be taken to prevent it especially when prevention is easy. Vets' advice should be taken regarding worming, particularly for puppies because they are nearly all infected.

Dogs aren't the only animals to carry these worms but as members of communities it is important that dog owners do their bit to keep public places clean and pleasant to walk in.



On a suitably wet and muddy morning in March a group of Garden Suburb School parents and children and a gallant teacher, Leslie Price, met to inaugurate a 'conservation area' at the school by planting a hedge. It is hoped to attract wildlife by planting suitable varieties of shrubs and trees and to include a pond.

Dear Sir,

In 'The Case for Wheeled Bins', the Director of Technical Services draws our attention to the cardboard boxes and loose material lying around for collection causing litter in the streets.

The real offenders are the 'litter louts' who seem to be on the increase each year. On Sunday I even saw the stuffing from an old armchair which had been dumped on the edge of the Heath Extension in Hampstead Way to disintegrate and blow around.

We can all agree that the litter situation in the Suburb is aggravated by the overflow of refuse from residents' own bins. It could be that the introduction of wheeled bins will reduce this lesser part of the existing litter problem. But, in doing so, we shall have introduced a more conspicuous scar on the amenity of our neighbourhood.

Yours faithfully
Mrs V J Timberlake
29 Denman Drive North
London NW11 6RD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HGSHS

Continuing HGS Horticultural Society's 80th birthday celebrations, the new Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Mrs Dot Benson, will open the first summer show of the season at 3 pm on 24th June at the Free Church Hall, Northway. There will be special birthday prizes or a lucky draw at each of the three shows and the Society hopes to sign up at least 80 new members this year.

Membership details and show schedules can be obtained from Mrs Arkell, 30 Westholm, London NW11. Members obtain free entry to all shows and to the four winter lectures held in January, February, March and April at Fellowship House. MH



Litter behind market place now affecting Eric Fletcher Memorial gardens.



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