

ORCHARD HOUSING SOCIETY

The Society is a non-profit making society, the aims of which are to provide good accommodation at a fair rent, and a secure tenancy, to elderly residents of the Suburb who are fit enough to look after themselves but are in need of sheltered housing; and to enable Suburb residents to have elderly parents near at hand to be cared for.

The Orchard was rebuilt in 1970 as the original buildings (built 1907/09) had fallen into disrepair. The present two-story buildings stand in their own grounds at the corner of Hampstead Way and Asmunds Hill and provide self-contained flats for 47 single tenants and 12 couples. Single flats consist of a bed-sitting room and kitchen and bathroom — double flats have one extra room. Three Wardens are on the premises to look after the day to day running of the Orchard and to see to the welfare of the tenants, but tenants must be able to look after themselves and there are no nursing facilities provided. The Society is currently considering improving the

amenities by installing a lift in each block.

Residents of the Suburb — or their parents — who feel that they may need sheltered accommodation when they have reached retirement age, should write to the Secretary of the Orchard Society for a form of application to be put on the waiting list. Once this has been returned completed, the applicant will be visited by two members of the Committee of Management who will assess their needs.

When a flat becomes available, those who have been on the waiting list longest and anyone whose need is particularly urgent will be asked if they want it. The overriding criterion in allocating

a flat is the applicant's need for sheltered housing irrespective of means and whether he or she has a house to sell. It may be necessary for the Committee to approach several applicants before one is found who is in a position to accept the tenancy at the inevitable short notice. Since it is uneconomic to leave a flat empty, a double flat may be offered to a single person, but only if no couple wishes to take it.

The London Borough of Barnet have the right to nominate tenants for nine flats, and at their discretion, residents of areas outside the Suburb, who are not normally eligible for flats in the Orchard, may be allocated one.

The current weekly charge is £41.36 for the single and £57.96 for the double flats. These amounts include rent, rates and charges for services, heating and hot water and may increase from time to time. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary.

AL

WARDENS PARTY

Wardens get together several times during the year, for one reason or another. But a high spot is held regularly in the Spring.

On 17th May this year there was a big party for Chief Wardens and their Wardens, plus other RA leaders. The serious purpose was to effect the change-over from the postal collection of subscriptions to the personal approach by Wardens, who then report back to the Chief Warden for their area. However, it was also a lively and interesting get-together.

The Free Church Hall looked more like the Banqueting Suite at Grosvenor House Hotel (with a little stretch of the imagination!), separate tables for each Ward set out with refreshments and, by way of entertainment, a sketch showing the best (and worst) ways of doing a Warden's job. The effort that goes into these mini-dramas is much appreciated.

MH

LETTERS

29th April 1989

Dear Sir,

It is all very well for those who righteously deplore the dumping of black sacks on grass verges of the Suburb to exclaim how easy it is for residents to take their garden refuse to local recycling centres, but they forget those of us who are not fortunate enough to run a car. A black sack of garden refuse would probably not be very welcome on a 143 bus and is too unwieldy a burden for a bicycle. I understand that we are allowed to include a certain proportion of garden refuse in our normal domestic collection and rationing my garden refuse to weekly collections is what I have to do.

But why not make it easier to be a good citizen? The council could be asked to arrange one or two special collections of garden refuse at suitable times in the gardening calendar, thus removing the temptation to illegally dump refuse. Surely this is a service that we should all be happy to pay for. (Perhaps in these supposedly environmentally-conscious days such special collections could also be an opportunity to collect other kinds of recyclable refuse such as paper and glass).

I would be grateful for the comments of other residents.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. Cameron
30 Neale Close
London N2 0LF

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my regret at the 'No Dogs Allowed' sign that has recently been posted at the children's play area in Northway Gardens.

As both a dog owner and parent of young children, I am obviously disappointed that the current 'dog paranoia' perpetuated by the media, has extended to the Suburb, formerly a very 'doggy' area.

As a responsible pet owner, my dog has always been on the lead, tied to the benches, and like all the other dogs I have ever seen in the play area, has never been the cause of any problem. To the contrary, many local children with no pets of their own have derived great pleasure from stroking a gentle and friendly animal that they may not otherwise have had the chance to meet.

No doubt the 'No Dogs Allowed' sign will never be removed now that it is there, and I fear that more and more areas will become 'no go' areas for dogs.

How sad that children and dogs, the most natural of all combinations, may now be prevented from mixing and playing together.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs L. Loeb
55 Oakwood Road
London NW11

20th April 1989

Dear Sir,

I refer to Peter Loyd's article in the last issue of Suburb News in which he emphasised the efficacy of marking one's property under the Neighbourhood Watch scheme as the biggest deterrent against burglary.

The facts cannot be disputed: in 60 cases of burglary or attempted burglary not one house had a M.P. sticker.

I have been walking around the Suburb looking for these M.P. stickers; it is beyond my comprehension why so many householders fail to take advantage of a simple way of securing their property. I feel (perish the thought) that a spate of unpleasant burglaries scattered throughout the Suburb would be the only way to bestir people to mark property! Or would even this change a natural complacency that 'it won't happen to me.'

Yours faithfully,
Lorna Lake
41 Erskine Hill

Dear Editor,

On arriving home on Sunday 16th April I was pleased to find the Suburb News had been delivered but very disconcerted to find that it was protruding from the letterbox.

On settling down with a cup of tea to read the News, that I always enjoy, I was even more amazed as I came to the Neighbourhood Watch article and the paragraph about 'Letters and Parcels' and 'the vital need always to put mail right through letter boxes'.

Would you please pass on my comments of worry while at the same time please pass on my thanks to all those involved in the publication and delivery of such an excellent local Newspaper.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Hylda M Rodford
6 Crosby Court
Greenhalgh Walk
Hampstead Garden Suburb
London N2 0DL
Tel: 01-209 1745

Volunteer deliverers, please note. Ed.

Dear Sir,

I draw your attention to your article on saving the Suburb skyline in last month's Suburb News. You say that the advent of cable television will remove the threat of unsightly satellite dishes, the same way we no longer have those unsightly telegraph poles and overhanging telephone wires to mar the beauty of our tree-lined streets.

I find it hard to believe that whoever took the photo of the offending dish failed to notice the telegraph poles situated every few yards and ugly overhanging wires directly opposite the same house (photos enclosed). It seems that not all our streets are free of telegraph poles, not every wire is as yet underground.

I do however agree that everything should be done to keep the Suburb to a certain standard, and I am sure that if cable television was to be made available people with offending dishes would be willing to remove them. It would also seem an appropriate time to ensure that all offending wires above ground disappeared along with the poles, which unbeknown to your reporter still exist.

Yours faithfully
Mrs. Jane Jason
Mid-Oaks
19 Ingram Avenue
London NW11



Thanks to the Spectator.

'Television is destroying the art of conservation.'

A BETTER DEAL ON HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE

Living in the Suburb has its advantages

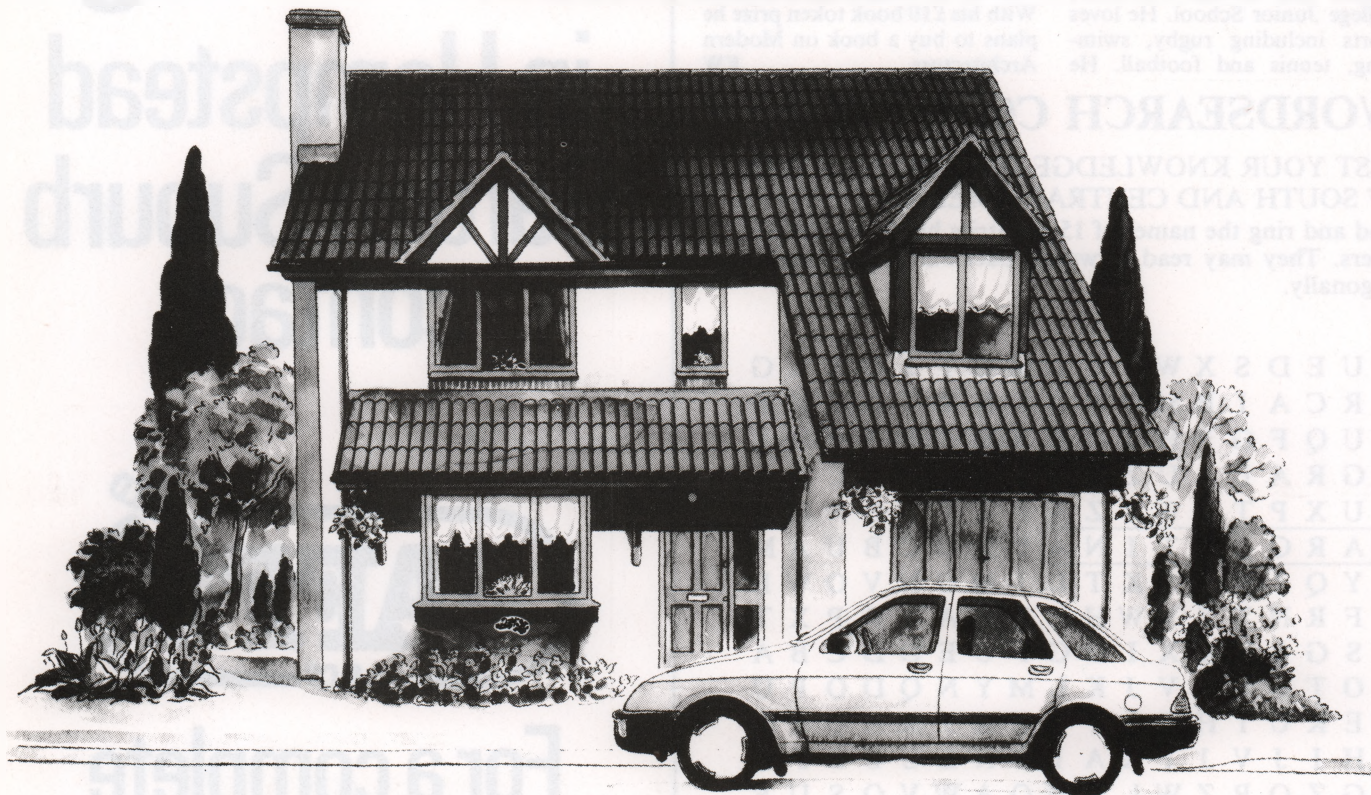
You can now claim a special reduction on normal home contents insurance rates. That's because the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Ltd has negotiated a special deal with Sun Alliance, one of Britain's largest insurance companies.

Sun Alliance home contents insurance offers an exceptional range of benefits including:

- 24-hour domestic emergency call-out service. Immediate expert help is on hand for crisis like burst water pipes.
- Replacement of locks on external doors or safes where they have been damaged or keys lost.
- 24-hour access to a legal advice helpline.
- Free helpcard listing essential emergency numbers.

And that's not all; you can spread payment of the annual premium over 12 monthly instalments.

Apply for home contents insurance as a Suburb resident and you'll receive all this *plus* a substantial discount!



For further details, please contact:

Tina Sullivan
Sun Alliance UK
1 Bartholomew Lane
London EC2N 2AB
Phone 01-588 2345 ext. 1809

