

A LITTER FREE SUBURB

Over a third of the Suburb is now covered by Litter Free Zones – or, to be more precise, 36% of the Suburb is now kept clean by 150 volunteers who are actively involved in picking up litter on a regular, consistent basis.

At times this can be a frustrating task when, having got a stretch of road on a close really clean, along came the litter louts and more spent matches, sweet papers and fast food containers are chucked into the gutters or onto our pavements and grass verges. And not all the litter louts are visiting tradesmen, students or school children – some of their well-heeled parents think nothing of throwing their cigarette butts or pieces of paper out of their car windows. On one occasion a woman was seen to stop her car in Meadway where she got out with two unruly children and proceeded to feed them the contents of a large Macdonalds paper bag leaving behind most of the food wrapping and containers. On being questioned she explained that she did not want to feed her children at home and make a mess in her clean kitchen!

But there are also great compensations and the reward for so many of us is the knowledge

that this campaign to rid the Suburb of litter is actually working, with so many Suburb residents and visitors remarking on the clean state of so much of the Suburb and expressing their appreciation.

Litter Bins

The Litter Free Zone campaign, however, is not an end in itself but part of a much broader strategy to rid the Suburb of litter, and the next stage must be to formulate and implement a practical policy on litter bins.

At the present time, open topped litter bins appear to have been scattered indiscriminately around the Suburb and on the Heath extension with three separate bodies being responsible for them. Barnet's Cleansing Department is responsible for litter bins on pavements by the side of roads; Barnet's Parks Department for litter bins in parks and open spaces; and the City of London for litter bins on Hampstead Heath and the Heath

extension. Most of the existing bins are open at the top, the result being that however large they are, they are never large enough to contain what is dumped into them. Most of the smallest – those attached to lamp posts – are permanently overflowing and would seem to attract litter which is strewn all around them on the pavement; the various free standing litter bins are misused by people dumping black sacks of household or garden rubbish in them; and even if a skip is provided, within a short time it will be overflowing with builders waste material, old mattresses and the like.

An entirely different design of litter bin is required with a 'slot' in it to take drink cans, fast food containers and other litter but which will not accept bundles of newspapers, broken umbrellas and black sacks of rubbish. And this new litter bin has got to be of an environmentally acceptable design for the Suburb – just painting it green will almost certainly not be the answer! Consultation with Barnet

These are just some of the problems which we shall have to discuss in some depth with the London Borough of Barnet. There is not only the question of the number and cost of litter bins required and then siting, but also a commitment for the regular emptying of the bins. But all of this will also need to take place within the framework of an overall cleansing policy for the cleaning of the roads in and around the Suburb.

These discussions will be likely to take place at the same time that the Government will be introducing its Environmental Protection Bill in the next parliamentary session which will include the Government's proposals on litter and the responsibilities which will be imposed on local authorities. Support of Residents

We have no reason to believe that these meetings will not be held on a friendly, frank and constructive basis. But there is no doubt that our bargaining position in these discussions will be greatly strengthened the more we have the support and active involvement of Suburb residents.

Although almost every house on the Suburb received a hand-bill in June about Litter Free Zones there are still large parts of the Suburb still not covered. Over the last months various residents have asked for further details of what is involved in being responsible for a Litter Free Zone, but then have said they don't want to be the first in their road to take the initiative! But almost every one of the existing volunteers was the first in his or her particular stretch of road, and residents in parts of the Suburb not yet included are asked most seriously to come forward and give their support to the 150 of us already actively involved. By helping to spread Litter Free Zones throughout the Suburb you will be making a real contribution to a most worthwhile and 'down-to-earth' campaign that is already achieving significant results towards the overall objective of a litter free Suburb.

For further details contact Peter Loyd at 12 Meadway, NW11. Tel: 455 4543.

SUBURB CLUBS

A CHESS CLUB IS BORN

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB CHESS CLUB

The object of the club is to enable residents of every age and ability, to play chess in a friendly and enjoyable manner and improve their game.

Membership is open to members of the HGS Residents Association, but you may join at the same time as you join the chess club.

There will be two sections. One for children and teenagers up to 15 years of age; the other for residents of 16 years and older.

Since at the present time it is impossible to know how many will respond, we cannot be certain how each section will operate. However, it is hoped that if sufficient residents apply, both the Youth and Adult sections will:

1. Provide chess membership lists of Suburb residents, so that they can contact each other.
2. Arrange, chess ladders and competitions.
3. Arrange games between the youth and adult sections.
4. Arrange teaching and coaching.
5. Arrange teams to represent HGS in matches against other clubs.

Play will be mainly in residents' homes, in small groups or just single pairs. It is hoped to get together residents in larger groups several times a year, so that they can meet and inform the committee on how they would like their club to proceed.

The running of the youth section will take place within the scope of activities offered by the HGS Catalyst Youth Club, which are in the process of being reviewed. It will meet every Monday evening at St. Jude's Hall in Central Square.

Initially, chess will take place once a month under the supervision of Bridget Waller, who will be in attendance throughout on chess evenings and be available to teach absolute beginners. Members of the youth club must be at least 9 years old. However, those under 9 may still join the chess club and play at other children's homes.

The committee and their responsibilities are:

Mrs Rosemary Goldstein – Secretary 458-1123, 1a Church Mount, N2

Mrs Florence Chamberlain – Fellowship House, 145 Hampstead Way, NW11, contact 455-1491

Mrs Bridget Waller – Youth section 455-3845, 5 Creswick Walk, NW11
Mr Mukarram Syed – Treasurer and adults section 458-1948, 5 Neville Drive N2

The committee is able to co-opt assistance. If any resident would like to help, please contact the club's Secretary, Rosemary Goldstein. Residents willing to join should apply to the appropriate committee member.

HGS GOURMET SOCIETY OFFERS NEW HOPE FOR COLONEL MacWIMPY SUFFERERS

Is your preferred Fast Food an omelette? Do you expect walnut oil on your endive salad? Do you return from a French holiday with your car full of carefully concealed poultry and vegetables? Then you're probably a Foodie.

You Foodies were first identified as a specie by Paul Levy, a Hampstead gourmet who buys even his washing-up liquid at the Roslyn Hill Deli. You are probably in hiding all over the Suburb, but now is your chance to come out of the pantry. The HGS GOURMET SOCIETY is being formed to allow those who are interested in food to share their questions, discoveries, and even their cooking skills.

You don't have to be a Michelin-starred chef to participate. Activities will include visits to London restaurants in which members may share the gastronomic and financial advantages of carefully planned block booking. The emphasis will be on unusual, inventive and excellent cuisine rather than plush surroundings. (Those who wish to spend vast sums on champagne and caviar need no encouragement.) Patricia Cartwright of 18, Asmuns Hill, NW11 will be in charge of restaurant bookings.

Those of you who want to share your skills and/or the skills of others will be catered for (literally) by evenings at home, when members of the Gourmet Society take turns entertaining each other in small groups, from whom the treasurer will have collected the expenses in advance. Ideally, recipe sheets will be available. Comment and even constructive criticism will be welcome. Such evenings can be a real advantage for serious cooks

who may enjoy the "feedback" of fellow-enthusiasts – and without spending a lot of money!

The final ingredients of the HGS Gourmet Society are still being decided upon, so those of you who are interested may be in on the mixing, proving and baking. The first event is an:

At Home with John and Mary Whiting at 12 Hutchings Walk, NW11 serving between 12.00 and 2.00 pm

on Sunday, 10th December, 1989

The first twenty-five members are invited to this pre-Christmas party. Mary, who is a gourmet/wholefood cookery tutor, will provide home-made pâtés and mince pies, an assortment of unusual British cheeses and local breads, a glass of mulled wine – and a recipe sheet! (Please bring anything else you want to drink.) The cost will be £3.00 per person plus, of course, the membership fee. Applicants will be – to coin a phrase – first come, first served.

Annual membership in the HGS Gourmet Society will cost £5 per household in addition to membership in the Residents Association (£3 suggested minimum). Peter Phillips has kindly consented to be Acting Secretary. Further details, together with application forms for membership, may be obtained from him at 31 Asmuns Hill, NW11. tel: 455 3660. Please send a stamped addressed envelope.

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