

Help! Where are you?

Is your road nameplate easily visible? The Roads and Traffic Committee are aware that some nameplates are broken or have even vanished, and that some names are illegible. Some roads need a nameplate at a corner or a junction and have never had one there, especially where the same road seems to change its name along the way.

In some places a hedge needs to be kept trimmed so that the road name is visible, and we ask residents to be careful about this, especially in the spring and summer. The emergency services and the police need to be able to

locate road names quickly, day or night – and so do your friends!

For complaints or requests concerning road name plates, please write to Mr Joshi, Directorate of Technical Services, LB Barnet, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone N20 0EJ.

So – the ambulance and fire

services, the police – and your friends – can now find your road but can they locate your house without difficulty, day or night? This is especially important, of course, for the first and last houses on both sides of a road, and at major intersections. We should all have a clear house number on the house itself and/or the front gate. Please do not forget to replace numbers after your house or gate has been repainted. **CJR**

THE FHA FETE ON THE SQUARE
FAMILY HOLIDAY ASSOCIATION
(National Association for Holiday Grants for Deprived Families)

THE FHA FETE ON THE SQUARE
The Little Fete With The Big Reputation

SATURDAY 19 MAY
Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11
(under cover if wet)

GRAND CELEBRITY OPENING
2pm

BBC NEWSROUND'S
ROGER FINN

* SIDESHOWS * MAGIC SHOW *
* FACE-PAINTING * PUNCH & JUDY *
* AFTERNOON TEAS *
* TODDLERS' PUPPET SHOW *
* DANCING DISPLAY *

* HANDICRAFTS * BOOKS * RECORDS *
* CHILDREN'S WEAR * TOYS * PLANTS *
* HOMEMADE SWEETS * FOODSTUFFS * STATIONERY *
* BRIC-A-BRAC * JEWELLERY *

Contributions welcome (not jumble or adult clothes). For more information please telephone 01 363 4056



Surely everyone knows by now that bags and boxes not in wheeled bins will not be collected!

GAS BOILERS AND FLUES

In recent years there has been a large increase in the number of unsightly boiler flues. These often rise above the gutter level and are in bright stainless steel. Unfortunately as a result of the Gas Safety Regulations (1984) there are many flues on the Suburb which are technically illegal. Whereas in the past installations discharged from a small asbestos-cement flue positioned on a side elevation, where it was comparatively unobtrusive, the requirement now is for the flue to be extended to above eaves level.

This problem does not arise with "balanced flue type boilers", since they do not require a conventional flue. Where they are set at low level the outlet must be surrounded by a grille so that people cannot burn themselves on the hot outlet. Generally, balanced flue boilers give a neat installation but there are limits to their size. The maximum size is around 120,000 BTLU, which is inadequate for larger houses. One solution is to use two

boilers in tandem, with one providing hot water only and the other used for heating. Where the space is available it is worth considering using two boilers because they are much more efficient when used to near capacity.

However, when using a conventional boiler it is important that the flue does not spoil the architectural appearance of the building. The best solution is to place the new gas flue within an existing chimney. Except for a small cowl at the top it is quite invisible. In cases where this proves impractical it is important to site the flue in an unobtrusive place so that it does not disfigure the house. The flue pipe should be painted black and with a simple terminal.

Before ordering a new boiler Suburb residents should make inquiries about the flue requirements, and whenever possible opt for a balanced flue or a conventional flue using an existing chimney. **CK**

A PROBLEM SOLVED?

by David Baker RIBA

The building industry is a flexible and responsive mechanism, but our practice has recently encountered an area where the industry does not seem capable of providing what is needed.

The problem is the replacement of timber elements in the external envelope of buildings – primarily, windows, doors and gates. These important features of buildings are subject to the full effects of the weather, and unless well maintained, generally fail long before the walls in which they are fitted.

Many home owners are now faced with the problem of replacing these units, and the industry has duly responded, but with a range of synthetic factory-made units fabricated generally from plastic or aluminium. Although seeking to resemble original patterns, the technical limitations of these materials means that there are invariably unacceptable aesthetic consequences.

The owner of a period property who wishes to respect the original style is faced with the considerable task of finding a joinery workshop prepared to visit site and take accurate details, and then fabricate, prime, glaze and deliver the unit. The joiner will then normally require a builder to remove the existing window or door, fit the

replacement and make good to any areas affected by the work.

The situation becomes even more involved if the property is listed or subject to landlord's approval, as is the case in Hampstead Garden Suburb where approval paperwork will have to be drafted.

It is little wonder that many give up, or that those who try often find that things go wrong in one way or another.

After investigating the existing possibilities, my practice came to the conclusion that it was only by combining our own training as architects with the skills and experience of a window replacement company with a positive attitude to authenticity and quality that a solution could be found to this problem.

We have duly formed The Traditional Window and Door Company Ltd, as a joint venture with Home Comfort Installations Ltd, a joinery manufacturer/installer, and are testing the viability of the service by launching it in Hampstead Garden Suburb and Brentham Garden Village. If the service proves popular, we hope to announce it to a wider public and make it available to other Conservation Areas.

Please contact us at 109d Regents Park Road, Primrose Hill, NW1 – Tel: 081 722 7220

HEATH DRAINING

You may have noticed works taking place on the Heath Extension in recent months. Large piles of earth have appeared at the bottom end, next to Hampstead Way. Heavy machines have been observed digging their way across the playing-fields in stately progress. What, you may have wondered, is going on? Well, as the notices helpfully put up by the City of London Corporation explain, all this is part of a scheme for the drainage of the Heath Extension.

The City took over responsibility for managing the Heath last year, and the drainage of Parliament Hill Fields and the Heath Extension was one of the first tasks they decided to tackle. The work on the Heath Extension is being carried out by Anglian Sportsturf Limited at a cost of £185,000. The scheme involves laying drains under the sports pitches and cutting channels into the surface filled with sand (which will be hidden by turf within a few months). These measures will enable the sports pitches to be used for longer each season and will help to prevent surface water running off the Heath and causing problems for residents.

A further measure is the construction of a "bund" or low earth bank, adjacent to Hampstead Way near the entrance to Wild Hatch. The bund will be about three feet high and will help to contain excess water during wet spells. This has been requested by Thames Water and by the London Borough of Barnet who want to prevent

more water flowing off the Heath than the highways drains can handle. The pond halfway along the footpath between Hampstead Way and the Wildwood Road roundabout may be enlarged if necessary to act as an additional catchment area. The bund itself will be seeded with wild flowers to help it to blend in with the surrounding Heath.

The work has unfortunately taken longer than expected because of the very wet weather at the beginning of this year, but started again in March and should be completed shortly.

For those interested in exploring the Heath, a detailed map is available, price 50p, from the Park Office in Golders Hill Park (follow the road behind the café but watch out for vehicles in the staff yard!). A free Hampstead Heath Diary is also available including details of events on the Heath and information about local organisations. The RA has a say in how the Heath is run as it is represented on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. This Committee, made up of representatives from various local, environmental and recreational groups, advises the City on the management of the Heath. The RA's representative is Colin Gregory, who will be happy to hear from anyone concerned about any aspect of the management of the Heath. **CG**

ASHTONS

Residential Sales · Lettings · Management

**FOR ALL YOUR
PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS
CONTACT US NOW,
WITHOUT OBLIGATION,
FOR A PROFESSIONAL
AND PERSONAL SERVICE**

816 Finchley Road, Temple Fortune
London NW11 6XL
Telephone: 081-458 3288
Fax: 081-458 3429

BRILL & OWEN
CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

For a sensitive
and sympathetic approach
to architecture and interior design
we offer a full or partial service
to suit your requirements

NICHOLAS BRILL M.SC. DIP. ARCH. RIBA MBIM
ASSISTANT TRUST ARCHITECT 1987-88

5 DRYDEN STREET · COVENT GARDEN
LONDON WC2E 9NW · TELEPHONE 01-829 8436
FAX 01-240 5600

**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.

Ellis & Co

14 The Market Place
Hampstead Garden Suburb
LONDON NW11 6JJ.
Tel: 01-458 8448