

SUBURB NEWS

Issue 29 THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Summer '90

NAUTILUS TAKES A BATTERING

Once again the Nautilus Fitness Club in Market Place has lost its appeal against enforcement notices served by Barnet Council. The Inspector has firmly ruled that use of the upper floors of the premises as flats must be discontinued and that the ugly external staircase erected at the rear (without planning permission) must be removed. This should relieve the area and the police of a major source of trouble since this accommodation has been used as a hostel for a large number of individuals of very doubtful backgrounds.

At the same time, the Inspector has rejected another planning application by the Nautilus to continue unauthorised use of the ground floor as a gymnasium. Assuming these decisions are complied with - and this cannot be certain judging from previous occurrences - Nautilus cannot yet be considered extinct, since there is still planning permission for use of the first floor of the premises. Indeed the owner has been recently reported to have stated that he will now move his operation onto the first floor. If this happens however, he will need to comply with the restrictions previously imposed in respect of opening times. These are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to

Friday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and to be closed on Sundays and public holidays. No doubt any contravention of these times will not go unobserved and local residents will be keeping a watchful eye on future activities.

Finally it can be reported that the offensive Nautilus advertising vehicles are close to extinction since the company is to be prosecuted for obstructing the public highway and for breach of advertising consent. The court hearing of six separate summonses has been fixed for September 25th and already many of the hideous vehicles have been taken to the scrap yard where they truly belong.

NS



Amazing what came out of Bigwood during RA clean-up.

Environment Week got off to a good start with a highly successful and well-attended Litter Free Zone Campaign reception at the Institute Hall. The Mayor, Dot Benson, and M.P. John Marshall were among two hundred guests. The fine weather helped to make the outdoor events even more enjoyable. Especially so was Michael Holton's walk on the first Saturday, "The Old suburb from the Ice-age to the present day". On the following afternoon Stuart Gray could be seen leading his band through his H.G.S. Town Trail.

The environmental theme produced some lively discussion when Bernard King, from the London Borough of Barnet, and Mrs Young, from Friends of the Earth, put their points of view to an attentive audience. Mr King had some interesting things to say about the mechanics of recycling and what Barnet was planning to do. Another lively evening with good audience participation was given by Stuart Gray, Kit Ikin and Mervyn Miller talking on the suburb's architecture and history.

Councillor Roy Schutz, and

some fifty suburb residents, helped clear up Big Wood and were amazed at what they found. Some of the rubbish had obviously been there for some time. They filled four skips with, among other things lawn mowers, a water tank, a car door, old bicycles and a TV ariel. Everyone expressed the hope that in future rubbish would be taken to the dump and not into the wood. Barnet Council provided a driver, truck, black bags and skip.

The week finished with a fine flourish with a delightful children's Madhatter's tea party in

the afternoon and a performance by Patchwork, presenting "The English Image" in the evening. The former was a very jolly affair with British Telecom's, Lisa Short, giving prizes for the best hats. Golders Green Police brought along a traffic car which aroused a good deal of excitement.

Mollie Cattle's selection and production gave a great pleasure with poems, prose and songs from Shakespeare through to Dickens, Kipling, Auden, Frayn and Flanders and Swann. LS

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DIRECTORY COMPILER

After 17 years Ted Hoblyn has decided to retire as compiler, editor and production manager of the RA's Suburb Directory.

The Publications Committee is looking for a volunteer to take on the job. Ideally someone with, or with access to, a word processor to simplify recording changes to the listings and supplying copy or discs to the printers.

The next one is due out in May so there's no rush to get it done but we do need to know soon who is to be responsible.

Please phone Neville Silver on 455 0494.

BOTTLE TROUBLE

One could be forgiven for wondering what is the point in all the RA's efforts with Litter Free Zones, clearing up during Environment Week and other initiatives when Barnet is so clearly falling down on the job.

Re-cycling seems to be taken less seriously by Barnet than it is by other boroughs. We have no local paper collection point, and the bottle banks we do have are emptied too infrequently, with the result that one of the gateways to the Suburb is all too often strewn with litter and dangerous broken glass.



Mayor elect, and Suburb resident, Roy Schutz has his bicycle marked at the Security Fair in June.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR RA SUBSCRIPTION YET?

After I made an impassioned appeal for more money for the RA this year, the Post Office let us down by having a postal strike just when everyone wanted to send back to us their "Freepost" envelopes containing their subscriptions and donations!

Some residents went to great lengths to discover where they should deliver the envelopes (quite a few came plopping through my letter-box; some went to our office in the Free Church Hall). Many thanks to all of you for taking this extra trouble. But if you were one of those who put the appeal on one side, intending to do it when the strike was over but never quite getting round to it, please either send back your Freepost envelope now or give generously to your Membership Representative when they call on you. Eileen Whelan

