

# SUBURB NEWS

Issue 30 THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Autumn '90

## SURPRISE CANDIDATE WINS TRUST COUNCIL PLACE

In a surprise election, council nominees have been unopposed for years, Mairi Howie was elected by 223 votes of Trust members to Malcolm Davis' 183.

The election was caused by Gerry Mansell's coming to the end of his statutory maximum of six years as an elected member. When Council nominated Malcolm Davis the assumption was that he would take over as Chairman a job for which he had been groomed by the Trust.

The move to have a contested election was made by Jean Henderson, herself one of the founding New Trust Council Members, (see last issue) and Peter White, who were joint nominators, because they felt that members should have a choice.

Jean Henderson told Suburb News that she was "surprised and delighted" at the result. Surprised because "Lady Howie will be a new broom and there should be a woman on the Council".

The result nevertheless leaves the Trust in an awkward position as regards filling the position of Chairman, who must be an elected member, none of them

being anxious to take over; although Tony Townley has agreed to do so for the time being. The Trust needs to be chaired by someone with considerable committee experience, some knowledge of planning matters and no mean diplomat.

We have had such a Chairman in Gerry Mansell who went from Chairing the Residents Association to the Trust at a time when public confidence in the Trust was at a low ebb. His term of office has seen a dramatic turnaround in its affairs we can only hope, and the RA will provide every assistance, that the Trust will be as capably led in the future.

### The New Member

Mairi Howie, whose husband, Labour peer Will Howie, was a member of the Wilson Government, has lived on the Suburb since 1954, and her four children were educated at local schools. Lady Howie is a teacher and has for the last

twenty years taught English at the HGS Institute.

She has always been interested in the design and architecture of the Suburb period and is a long standing member of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society.

Lady Howie, having addressed Trust members at the AGM in September, before leaving immediately for a holiday in the States, returned on October 3 to find herself a Trust Council Member.

She told Suburb News "I didn't expect to be elected but hoped to pave the way for someone else in the future and I certainly don't aspire to the Chairmanship. However, I do think it odd that there are no women at present on the Council and that the general public might also have what I would call a "lay" member to represent them. I also believe that whilst respecting the ideals and traditions of the Suburb, one must nevertheless be aware that as we move towards a new century perhaps a fresh look should be taken at some of the problems of the day."



### Tribute

Eileen Whelan, RA Chairman, thanked Gerry Mansell and said that his defection from the RA to the Trust had been "their gain and our loss". She then made a presentation to him on behalf of the RA Council.

## RA REPORT

Wheeled Bins? Yes! Henlys Corner? Yes! But how many other important issues can you name that the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association as a pressure group is involved in?

In this article, and future ones, some of the actions taken by our Council and Executive Committee will be highlighted.

This year, since January, the RA Council has had some success, in co-operation with other pressure groups and the London Borough of Barnet, in curtailing some of the activities of *Nautilus*. At least there are no more unsightly adverts on top of old cars, and further steps are being taken. A comprehensive and detailed response has been made to the *LBB's Unitary Development Plan* by a member of the Executive Committee, S.F. Bailey, and the RA is attending and presenting this at the Public Inquiry.

*Traffic!* What an important and emotive problem this is for the Suburb. Through the work of the Traffic Committee, untiringly led by David Rapson, all the implications are fully considered, and solutions are sought in consultation with, for example, the London Borough of Barnet, the police, residents, the Institute, Fire and Ambulance services, and the new Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. One result has been a joint project with the Trust on a *Traffic Survey*. Watch Suburb News for further developments!

The Traffic Committee is also trying to have the *telephone booth* at the corner of Finchley Road and Willifield Way re-sited, as it obscures motorist's view when entering Finchley Road, and of pedestrians waiting to cross Finchley Road. Would you believe that this has involved dealing with seven organisations? British Telecom; LBB; Police; A.A.; R.A.C.; and Ofel. Although BT admits the site is unsatisfactory, we have had no success yet!

One small success has been the *white hatched lines* to inhibit parking on corners around Central Square.

The RA is trying to help safeguard future services at the *Finchley Road Post Office* which is due to be demoted into an agency.

The *Henrietta Barnet Memorial* has taken a long time to be repaired - but not for want of pressure from us. And there will be trees and seats for the fine *Tony Mandelson Memorial* at Willifield Green.

Finally, we showed our high profile in arranging a meeting with the then Minister of Transport, Mr. Robert Atkins and Mr. John Marshall, to present our views and strong criticisms of the proposed *Red Route* which will, among other problems, further help to divide our Suburb between north and south.

## TRUST AGM

September 12 saw the Institute Hall somewhat less than full of Trust Members who had come to hear Chairman Gerry Mansell report on this year's activity, see extract from his remarks page 7.

During questions concern was expressed that the number of members fell far short of 1,200 allowed for in the articles. It was pointed out that any Suburb resident, of more than three years standing was eligible, the Chairman hoped that more residents would join.

### Chairman Retires

Gerry Mansell explained that it had been an informal decision of the Council that elected members should not serve more than six years and that the Chairman had to be one of them (there are four other members nominated by professional bodies) as he had been Chairman now for six years he would be retiring.

The Council was nominating Malcolm Davis who fitted the Council's requirements both as a member and a Chairman.

However it was to be contested election, the first since 1983 between Lady Howie and Malcolm Davis. Both candidates then addressed meeting.

## CRAFT FAIR

The Suburb Craft Fair on Nov 10 will provide an opportunity for residents to find original presents for Christmas at the same time as donating extra monies to a charity devoted to helping children who suffer from Rett Syndrome. Refreshments will be sold in aid of the North London Hospice.

## BOTTLE BANK ROW

Brookland Rise residents are up in arms at a Barnet plan to site a bottle bank at their junction with Falloden Way and are blaming the RA for pressing the Council to increase the number of bottle banks available to Suburb residents.

The Chairman, who has been subjected to a barrage of letters and phone calls, points out that this siting is only a trial and that one letter to the RA would have

been sufficient.

This does raise a question mark over recycling collection points. Clearly it is environmentally sound to recycle. On the other hand it is clearly damaging to the environment to have collection points in residential areas especially as the emptying of bottle banks does seem to be somewhat haphazard. RW

## CONMAN ALERT

Young white male, 5ft 8ins high, slim built, short blond hair, smartly dressed, speaks effeminately.

This man is now back out of prison and actively working the Suburb again. He calls on houses saying he is from the Residents' Association collecting subscriptions, donations and other money "due". He quotes the names of other Suburb residents and your immediate neighbours, is extremely persuasive and generally succeeds

in obtaining sums of money in cash of £30 to £50 (he will not accept a cheque!).

If a man answering this description calls on you:-

1. Do NOT let him in the house;
2. Ask him to wait outside while you get the money;
3. Then immediately dial 999 and ask for the Police to come to your house in double quick time.

## RA TELEPHONE

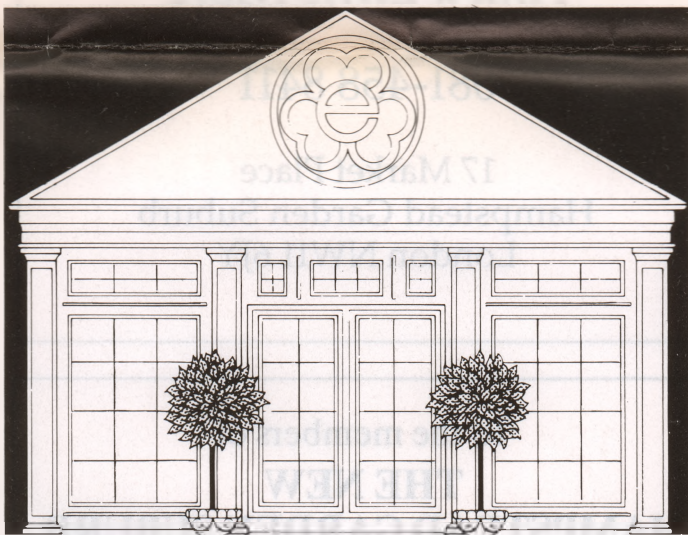
May we remind residents that there is an RA office in the Free Church Hall and that the telephone answerphone is checked regularly for calls. The

Officers would appreciate it if residents would leave messages on this rather than phoning them at home at all hours. The number is 081 905 5064. RW

## DON'T MISS THE BUS

The theatre club takes you from the Suburb to the theatre and back hassle-free. Tickets and transport are all taken care of for you. After a very successful first year of productions ranging from comedies to classics we are now reminding members old and new to send in their memberships for the coming year.

Are you aware that we are still in discussion with the LBB on the subject of *Wheeled Bins*? Some residents may not know of our successful efforts last year to obtain an agreed point of collection OFF the road, at certain properties where there are particular problems. No one should leave Wheeled Bins or other containers on the pavement.



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