

THE GARDEN AFTER THE DROUGHT

The long spell of hot dry weather did wonders for the sunbats but it has left our gardens looking limp and weary. Having read and heard so many contrary comments on what to do after the drought, I phoned the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley, who were, as always, most helpful. Basically, their advice is very simple. Don't rush round with a watering can trying to feed hedges, trees and shrubs with diluted chemical fertilisers. Wait until the first real rain soaks the ground and then immediately mulch the ground with organic compost, or manure, bark chips etc to conserve the moisture in the soil. Spread the mulch thickly over the area of the entire root system. Delay pruning until January or February when plants are fully dormant. (Pruning now, when plants are in a weakened condition through lack of water, may be too sudden a shock for them to survive.) In the prevailing conditions prune more gently than usual. Clip hedges to maintain their shape, but don't cut right back until the spring. The R.H.S. recommends the use of VITAX 4Q for a spring feed. It is high in Nitrogen, has balanced nutrients and includes the necessary trace elements, all of which encourage growth of new shoots. Apply 5oz to 4sq. yards. (The root spread of a plant has roughly the same radius as the height of the plant.)

After an extended period of drought lawns need special treatment. Lawn grasses are weakened and grass roots deteriorate. Weeds and moss soon become established with the onset of autumn rains. Autumn remedial treatment plus cooler weather helps the surviving grass to recover. Rake LIGHTLY to remove debris. Spike/aerate to a depth of 4 inches then apply a proprietary AUTUMN lawn fertilizer to encourage root growth. The R.H.S. recommends that because the rain has not arrived by the end of September in sufficient quantity to penetrate the topsoil, the reseeded of bare or sparsely seeded patches should be delayed until late March or April. At the same time apply a spring lawn fertilizer. Only when the grass is growing firmly in the spring should weedkillers be used. Mindful of recent autumn and winter storms, do stake new trees and plants as soon as the ground is soft enough to hammer in the stakes. Pavement planted trees have a very small rainfall catchment area and a twice weekly bucket of water may still be in time to revive some of the very sad looking, newly planted trees in our suburb.

CLAYFINGERS

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Friends of the Earth have been encouraged by the public response to the environmental lectures at King Alfred School held during the year. Even when competition from summer sporting highlights depleted numbers attending, the lively exchanges between speaker and audience sparked off some stimulating debates.

The high calibre of guest speakers was maintained throughout the year, with some enlightening talks on many major environmental issues, from the threat of global warming to transport planning in the 1990s and the effectiveness - or otherwise - of local waste disposal and recycling policies.

The new programme of lectures starts on October 23 when local resident Professor Peter Peterson will take a hard look at the hidden dangers of water pollution in a talk on "Fresh Water Quality - is it getting worse?" The outcome of the current pilot experiment to make Sheffield more self-sufficient in recycling waste will be detailed in November by Rebecca Gwynn-Jones, FoE Recycling City National Co-ordinator. Local FoE members Sheila and John Jackson have attended a Sheffield Open Day

to study the scheme in operation and their views on which of the policies might be adopted by Barnet will no doubt contribute to the liveliness of the discussion.

All local FoE members - and new members - are welcome to come to the group's first AGM, chaired by Ken Ackerman, which will be held at King Alfred School at 7.30 pm on November 27, prior to Rebecca Gwynn-Jones' talk. The group is anxious to recruit more members to swell funds and help it to maintain a high profile of guest speakers in 1991. If you would like to join, or to take part in the activities of the Rain Forest or Recycling Working Groups, contact Jean Brazier on 455 2859. (For details of lectures, see What's on, back page, or contact Peter Kyte 458 5415, Ken Ackerman 455 2360 or Margaret Cox 458 3960).

MHC

CHESS CLUB

The H.G.S. Chess Club has been held on Saturdays, bi-monthly, at Fellowship House for a year now. There are more than 50 members, almost equally divided into adults and children and this mixture seems to work very well. The female-male ratio is not so satisfactory however, with a mere 8 to uphold the standard set by the Polgar sisters!

The next meeting at Fellowship House is on Saturday 17th November from 2.30-5pm. All Suburb residents are welcome; just bring your own chess set and board and join in.

On 17th November we have arranged to have an International Master to come and give

coaching, for anyone who is interested, and this will probably be Malcolm Pein, who is renowned for his lively, informative and extremely instructive coaching. He will coach in small groups in 1/2 hour sessions. He will teach any ability of player, although children and adults will be taught separately. If you are interested in coaching for yourself or your children, please telephone Rosemary Goldstein on 081-458 1123. An extra charge per pupil will be made to cover the cost of coaching.

Non-players can also be taught - and please contact Rosemary Goldstein about this. Next Meeting: Saturday 17th November.

Time: 2.30pm - 5pm.
Place: Fellowship House.

LOCAL UPHOLSTERY

Martin Bud, of Heathgate, has just completed upholstering his second chair at St. Augustine's Workshop.

After semi-retirement he had spare time during the day and wanted to learn a practical skill with a useful end-product. So he joined the classes held at Langdon Park Road (off Archway Road) along with other retired people, housewives, mothers and an enthusiastic group of Japanese women who were keen to learn more about English antiques and apply their nimble fingers to embroidering tapestries to enhance their growing collection of western furniture.

Armed with a basic tool kit of hammer, pliers, tape measure and scissors, (he was able to purchase any specialised tools and materials at the class) he worked on his own chair, learning the traditional craft, painstakingly removing the old layers of covers, hessian, springs and carefully separating the precious horse-hair stuffing to wash and re-use.

If you are interested in joining these friendly classes phone now to secure a place for the September term.

Tessa Hauxwell 071-485 4070 or Hilary Donaldson 081-863 3519. Evenings.

THRILLS AT FARM WALK

26 beats 140 on the way

Sunday July 15th saw the finals in oppressive heat, with a good crowd of spectators and an excellent tea.

It also showed the success of the 140 strong Junior Section, when a repeat of last year's ladies' finals enabled 16 year old Yvonne Charras to reverse last year's result by beating Debbie Warland in a 2 1/4 hour 3 set tennis marathon of high standard, thrills and long rallies. Each player tested the other and made her run.

On the way to the finals was another match which had demonstrated the tremendous age range of Farm Walk players and the potential for 60 years of playing life. The Tomlin sisters (combined age 26) beat Edith Rhodes and Hilde Davis (combined-age 140) in 3 tough sets with both pairs demonstrating

powerful shots, and good running ability.

The Men's Singles Finals was a repeat of a previous year when David Pinnick beat team captain Jonathan Harris.

In the Men's Doubles, the two singles finalists paired up to beat Reza Ahmadian and Mohammed Rahini.

The Ladies Doubles-came to an unfortunate end when after her 2 1/4 hour singles marathon, Debbie Warland had to retire due to heat exhaustion when at 1 set all against Christine Geissmar and Gillian Griffin.

Thus the mixed doubles finals with Debbie Warland and David Pinnick against veteran Claus Geissmar and his daughter Christine, had to be postponed.

For information regarding membership please telephone Esmé Kingsley 203 1731.

DESIGN SEMINARS

The Complete Interior Design Company has been working in the Suburb for five years. During this time they have been asked on many occasions to explain more about the world of interior design. They have decided that the time has come to share some of their expertise by giving one and two day seminars, each day containing four to five mini-lectures covering various aspects of this fascinating subject. The seminars are designed to appeal to everyone - whether you are simply interested in finding out more or want some inspiration to devise your own colour

schemes and the confidence to carry them through.

The tutors, Sue Pearl MCSD and Claire Sweny BA (Hons) Dip.Mem.CSD are qualified and experienced designers who have made Interior Design their chosen career.

Each two day seminar covers a broad range of subjects, each individual subject being a part of the whole; including space planning, measuring, colours, pattern and texture, lighting, window treatments, carpets, floorcoverings; and fabrics, where possible there will be practical exercises and demonstrations.

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SPEED PETITION

Following several very 'near misses' and growing concern about the increasing speed of traffic using the stretch of TFH between Hampstead and Willifield Ways, I was encouraged by neighbours Daphne Leach and Angela Diamandidou to organise a petition recently.

This was signed by over 60 residents of THF, also by residents of Willifield Way living by the junction of these two roads where collisions between vehicles, mercifully with few injuries, occur regularly.

Although many vehicles exceed the 30 mph speed limit, even speeds in excess of 20 mph constitute a real danger, this being due to the narrow straight nature of this stretch of road.

Cars parked on both sides of TFH leave only one lane for moving traffic. This encourages drivers entering at one end to motor as quickly as possible to the other, rather than pull into one of the occasional spaces between parked cars to let an oncoming vehicle pass by.

Barnet Officials have taken some sample speed readings and although a significant number of vehicles exceed the 30 mph limit, the percentage combined with the relatively 'low' accident rate does not give this road a high priority for 'traffic calming' measures.

However, regulations regarding the introduction of 20 mph speed limits and/or other traffic calming measures are under review so future changes may become possible.

This will only be achieved if all residents keep up the pressure by writing to LBB officers and Local Councillors so that appropriate action to reduce speeding traffic in this road and at the TFH and Willifield Way junction can be taken.

ARB

TRAVEL CENTRE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

Our experienced staff will help with all travel arrangements.

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