

Mill House
3 Hill Top
London NW11 6EH

Dear Editor,

I was alarmed and upset to read that the Residents' Association has blocked plans for a bottle/paper bank at Brookland Rise.

The RA was ineffective when it came to preventing wheelie bins because Barnet had already made their mind up; now when Barnet plan something positive it is blocked.

Obviously we do not want or need massive recycling locations with rows of 'banks' but neighbourhoods (say 2/3 roads) need at least one paper and one bottle bank. People would walk to these banks and no added congestion would be caused.

Your plan for a long term recycling policy will miss the boat, as Barnet very nearly did. You need to take action now and allow paper and bottle banks into the suburb.

Possible locations which come to my mind include: Brookland Rise, Vivians Way, Rowan Walk, Kingsley Way/Emmett Close, North Square, Willfield Way and Ossulton Way.

I do hope that you will consider the points in my letter and whilst your unnecessary and prolonged long term policy is being decided, perhaps residents should be told that recycling facilities are available at East Finchley, Coppets Centre and Temple Fortune.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard Benn

The Studio
16 North Square
NW11 7AD

Sir,

I write in great sadness in the knowledge that the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust has decided to cut down 2 one hundred and forty year old oak trees, which have preservation orders on them, in order to build a house for their own profitable purposes in North Square, where the electrical sub-station is, which is a conservation area.

This piece of land in North Square was purchased from Ashdale Properties for around £70,000 in a deal with other plots. How peculiar that Ashdale would NEVER have been able to build a house on that plot as it would never have been able to get permission to cut down those magnificent trees from either the Trust of Barnet. Is there one set of rules for the Suburb Trust and one for the residents?

As entrusters of conservation in Hampstead Garden Suburb, surely this goes against everything they profess to believe in. How can we, as residents, go along with these atrocities which are being done by the Trust when we came to live in this area because of its woods and heathland and beautiful greenery and wildlife around us. What I believed to be the last straw was when the shrubbery and overgrowth was removed from the 'great wall' on

the Heath extension to show what an 'architecturally' fine wall it is. It is, in fact, just plain and ugly, especially compared to the way it was a few months ago with little nests and birds and squirrels happy in their homes, the national wildlife.

If other people feel as strongly as I do please contact me with a view to taking this matter to the Department of the Environment.

Yours

Kim Einhorn

Dear Sir,

Reward for Litter Collectors

2 of Peter Lloyd's Litter Collectors report that keeping the Suburb clean is not all "rubbish". Each has found a £5 note.

Is this money scattered by "The Friends of the Suburb Litter Collectors"?

Yours

JOHN M. DAVIS

Members Room
Town Hall Hendon
London NW4 4BG

Dear Readers,

MOBILE LIBRARY FINCHLEY OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL

Many thanks to the people who wrote or telephoned me to add their support to keeping the mobile library and the Finchley open air swimming-pool open.

I am delighted to report that both are to continue. Please accept my apologies for not replying to you all individually: I received over 300 letters!

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Veronica SOSKIN

3 Maurice Walk
Hampstead Garden Suburb
London NW11 6JX

(081) 455-3892

Feb 6 1991

Dear Editor,

I have often wanted to write to you to find out why INITIALS ONLY are put at the end of some of the interesting articles in the 'Suburb News'; why not put the name of the people contributing?

For instance, in this last edition of the News, Winter '91, I read the article on Stuart Gray... not realising that he was the author of "Edwardian Architecture", the book we use all the time in the Royal Academy library where I do research work!

I phoned Mr Gray and I asked if he would sign our unsigned edition of his book... which he has just kindly done. We had much to talk about, as I too attended the Royal Academy Schools (of Painting) - much later, I hasten to add, than Stuart Gray!

So... it was the "Suburb News" that brought me into contact with this charming, knowledgeable gentleman... but who is VH that wrote the article?

I think it would make for a less formal, and more neighbourly feeling if FULL NAMES were used in 'Suburb News' articles, don't you agree?

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

(Mrs Edna S. Weiss)

P.S.

Stuart Gray won Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals while at the R.A. School of Architecture. I photocopied the entries in the R.A. records of his prizes and sent them to him...

ABBEY FIELD

For the next few months Abbeyfield will be in a state of chaos as the work of upgrading the building goes ahead. As a result most of the rooms will have an en-suite toilet, an extra bathroom will have been installed, and the two sides of the house will be linked by a passage at the first-floor level. The biggest part of the work has been renovating the Annexe in the grounds which shares the Grade 2 Preservation Order of the rest of the building. This Annexe was originally one of Henrietta Barnett's welfare projects providing a laundry to employ the less well-off women on the Suburb. During the time of the St. Catherine's Childrens Home it was their Games' Room and because of its major structural deterioration causing it to be condemned, was one of the reasons for their moving away. Fortunately the settlement "settled" and an engineer's report made it clear that it could be safely and reasonably economically restored and soon it will be two rooms and a bathroom linked by a covered way to the main house.

All this work will be expensive but fortunately our reserves built up by generous legacies can cover the cost. However some of our residents who have nobly suffered the noise and confusion of the renovations have subscribed to the project and other residents on the Suburb have wanted to share in the scheme so that more of our capital can be kept in reserve. We are grateful for this and all other support that we receive directly or through the Friends of Abbeyfield both at the financial level or with practical help in keeping the House going happily and well.

RB

LETTERS

RENA GABBAY

Rena was a pupil at Henrietta Barnett School from September 1985 until her death on 10th December 1990, just two weeks before her 16th birthday. She had suffered all her life from a rare liver condition, Wilson's Disease which remained undetected until the summer of 1990 when she became seriously ill.

Rena received a liver transplant at King's College Hospital. At first she seemed to be recovering; she was able to come off the life support system, sit in a chair and talk to visiting friends. All through her final months she showed enormous courage. Sadly, the improvement in her condition did not last.

Rena, whose family is Jewish, was buried in Israel. However, her friends in her class at school were keen to commemorate her

life in England. They held a moving memorial service for her at the end of the Autumn Term, during which they asked for contributions for a tree to be planted in Rena's memory. The collection raised more than was needed, so £300 is being donated to King's College Hospital Liver Research Unit.

On the advice of the Suburb tree specialist, Antony George, a tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) has been chosen for a site within the school grounds. This tree will live for over 100 years and once established will produce masses of white flowers and heart-shaped leaves.

It was planted by Rena's mother, Mrs Shula Gabbay, in the presence of other members of her family and the staff and pupils of Henrietta Barnett School, on 21st March.

JILL RUTLAND

Jill Rutland, who died last November, will be long remembered in the Garden Suburb for the flair and enthusiasm which she brought to the campaign against the Lorry Route through all its early ramifications; and most of all, perhaps, for her organisation, as secretary of the Joint Action Committee, of the Suburb's opposition through what she afterwards described as "the fourteen ruinously expensive days of the 1969 public Inquiry" held at the Institute. That Inquiry resulted, two years later, in the shame-faced scrapping of the Lorry Route scheme by the then Environment Secretary, against the recommendation of his Inspector - a measure of success.

To Jill's efforts must be credited, in large part, the arrival of 1,700 individual letters of objection on the Minister of Transport's doormat in the week before the Inquiry, as well as a petition carrying 4,400 signatures; and, on the eve of events, the total immobilisation of Northwest London traffic by an 8-mile jam, when residents staged a sit-down straight across Market Place, putting the Suburb on the front pages of the press and into the headlines of the TV news programmes.

Jill was an unexpected spearhead to protest: tall, slim and elegant, with a pre-WWII record in quite a different field - as a top model in London's couture houses. It wouldn't have been surprising to see her glide down a catwalk, but it was an eye-opener to watch her tell a government Inspector where he got off. Perhaps the key to her commitment to the Suburb's affairs lay with her husband Ernest, who she married at the

beginning of the war. He was a man of strong social conscience, who had worked in his younger days at Toynbee Hall, where he imbibed the principles laid down by Henrietta and Samuel Barnett: exactly the proper background for fighting a good fight in the Suburb. He represented the Residents Association on the Institute Council and became the first Chairman of the Institute Society.

In the early 1970s the Rutlands retired to Swanage and immediately - and unsurprisingly - became involved in local affairs. This time a railway (the branch line from Swanage to Wareham), not a road, engaged their attention. The line had been closed, and the locals were determined it should be re-opened. One of Jill's last visits, at the age of 84, was back to Swanage to celebrate a stride forward in the railway campaign and to open a "Rutland" room - a ceremony in which she rightly took much pride.

Ernest had died in 1975, and Jill returned to her roots - to Wallasey, where she had been born, the youngest in a family of five. It was in the north that her modelling career had started, at the Bon Marche in Liverpool; and from those early days, too, came her great skill as a needlewoman. She ended her days - most suitably for one who had worked so hard for the environment - in a residential home which was a 'listed' building. Friends and colleagues in the Suburb will be sad at the news of her passing and will remember with pleasure and warmth her special combination of grace and gusto.

BGG

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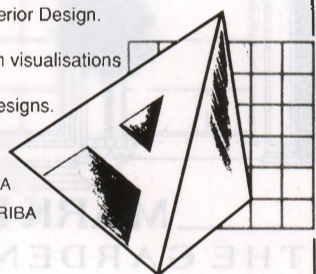
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