

FALLODEN WAY CONTINUES

and effort on a lost cause - is one with a ready appeal for the overstretched or irresolute. It has in fact been thoroughly disproved in the Suburb, though at great cost to its representative bodies and individuals. But sadly it still carries weight for those without the will to take on such an intimidating and entrenched organisation as the Department.

The second is more worrying. It is a feeling one detects occasionally at RA Council meetings that Fallodden Way is somehow "not quite the Suburb": that the deterioration in conditions on Fallodden Way disqualifies it from membership. Perhaps there is even an element of guilt lurking behind this attitude, guilt that the Suburb authorities, for all their expenditure at public inquiries, have only been able to frustrate the more OPEN efforts of the Department, not reverse the results of their more creeping and clandestine activities.

But that is no reason to ignore Fallodden Way and deny its residents the benefits being sought for others. Because a stoutly defended Fallodden Way has long been essential to the unity of the Suburb. If the DTP is ever allowed to succeed in its aims for Fallodden Way, that part of the Suburb to the north will be so thoroughly cut off as to become effectively part of East Finchley.

Few suburb residents would wish this and few would wish to stand in the way of a comprehensive Suburb-wide traffic-calming exercise which would benefit many while inconveniencing only the selfish and thoughtless. But one thing

stands in the way of this desirable goal. That is the Trunk Road status imposed on Fallodden Way by the old Ministry of Transport. Many residents remember it being designated A1 as recently as 1953 and know that the designation can be removed by the same simple penstroke that imposed it. And that should be done, for there is no good reason for Trunk Roads to persist within the North Circular Road. The Highways Acts define Trunk Roads as catering for "LONG DISTANCE THROUGH TRAFFIC" and it is universally accepted that the place for such traffic is on orbital routes, not heading for congested city centres on residential streets like Fallodden Way.

This might appear at odds with the absurd "Red Routes" policy being justified by the DTP at the moment with such a farrago of selective and misleading statistics, but all the arguments of logic and environmental good sense support us. It was the wish of our last MP Peter Thomas that Fallodden Way be detrunked and a matter of regret that he was unable to achieve it before his retirement. With the support of his successor John Marshall, and an active campaign by Suburb bodies, Fallodden Way could return to the original role of local distributor road to which its entirely residential character entitles it.

Then we might all be able to enjoy, more fully, life in a Conservation Area which the 1967 Act enjoins the authorities to "preserve and enhance".

TR

CABLE TV CONTINUES

circuitry that serves 80 to 120 subscribers. It was explained that this could not be buried in the pavement like a telephone junction box, because easy access is necessary and the equipment is very sensitive to damp; below ground boxes have been tried and failed in America.

Two members of the RA Council had been shown the installation in Chelsea; they reported that the cabinets were not as prominent as expected and that their visual impact had seemed minimal in the urban context. Videotron has been given the blessing of the Trust, which sees cable as a means of ridding the Suburb of many TV aerials and the few satellite dishes that have appeared. We were also told that company representatives had met two Borough Councillors for the Suburb, who had been content. However the views of the RA Council were more cautious. Concern was expressed that the hedges might die back where boxes are placed close to them; that there may be clashes between boxes and street name signs; and that some people would not take kindly to a box outside their house; the Videotron representative was not clear what would happen in this event. It was generally agreed that the RA Conservation and Amenities Committee should approach the Borough planners and the Conservation Area Advisory Council to ensure that there was proper consultation with residents; it was suggested that detailed plans of the proposals, including siting of boxes, should be on view in the local libraries.

Videotron will offer three packages. The Economy pack at £10.16 per month (1991-92 prices) will provide the existing four programmes plus eleven others; the Value Pack at £13.23 per month will provide this plus ten further channels, including children's, the well known US news channel CNN and several European channels; the Premium Pack at £17.32 will include all these plus Sky Movies. These prices give the service to one TV set in the household; other sets can be covered for an extra £6.07 per month. Some residents may not consider the service particularly cheap, especially as it does not remove the need to buy a TV licence. It will be interesting to see the level of take-up in the Suburb.

One substantial bonus for many people will be the improvement in reception, which can make some of the existing channels virtually unviewable in some areas of the Suburb at certain seasons. However TV programmes are just the beginning of the story: in the future Videotron expect to be able to offer a telephone service in competition with BT, access to national databases, electronic mail (remember how the Duke of Edinburgh's private mailbox was hacked!), video games (help!), parental control over channels, security monitoring (whither Neighbourhood Watch?), interactive TV, including teleshopping (but who will deliver) and more. He (or she) who wishes to keep up with the electronic Jones's will have no choice but to subscribe, and many with more modest requirements will probably find it worth while. But one RA Council member was appalled at the concept of yet more TV in the Suburb, distracting us from being social animals, while another suggested the company should issue us all with square spectacles. So perhaps we should say two cheers for the time being, while we see how it develops.

PRGT

FHA FETE SUCCESS



Pat and Joan Laurance with 'celebrity elephant'.



Above: Ruth Benfield, Eileen Whelan, David Rapson and Rosemary Goldstein at the plant stall.

Below right: Thirsty work.

IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBERED?

We have had complaints about illegible, concealed, or in a few cases plain non-existent house numbers. This is a serious problem because it not only leads to difficulties for ordinary people but, more important, can cause delays when any of the emergency services are trying to find a particular house.

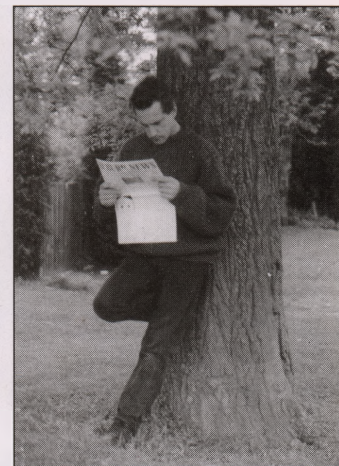
The office of the Controller of Engineering Services for the Borough of Barnet has confirmed with the RA in writing that there is a legal obligation for every property owner to ensure that the proper number or name is clearly and legibly displayed in an appropriate position on the property. Moreover, the Borough Council, under powers passed to it after the abolition of the GLC, can prosecute owner for not doing it. This seems a bit cumbersome, and it would add to the cost of local government, too - and none of us want that.

So please - will you have a good, critical look at your own number and imagine a stranger trying to locate the house. Is the number in black lettering against black or very dark woodwork? Or a white one on white woodwork? Or is it nestling behind the honeysuckle at the front door? Or fixed proudly to the gate-post in front of which the hedge has been allowed to grow? Or even, well, just fallen off and been lost? And if it is none of these things, is it in a position where it can be seen from the road or footpath by someone without special knowledge, a periscope, or x-ray eyes?

If it turns out your house number is completely legible and perfectly placed, you need not have read all this. But if not, then you should have done.

SFB

The Family Holiday association Fete on the Square drew the crowds and lots of money for deprived families despite weather that was not as kind as usual.



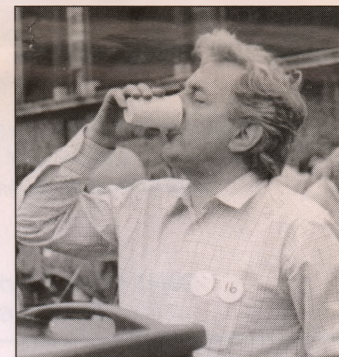
Absorbing reading.



Philip Goldstein tries his skill.



Antonio Chan looks suspicious.

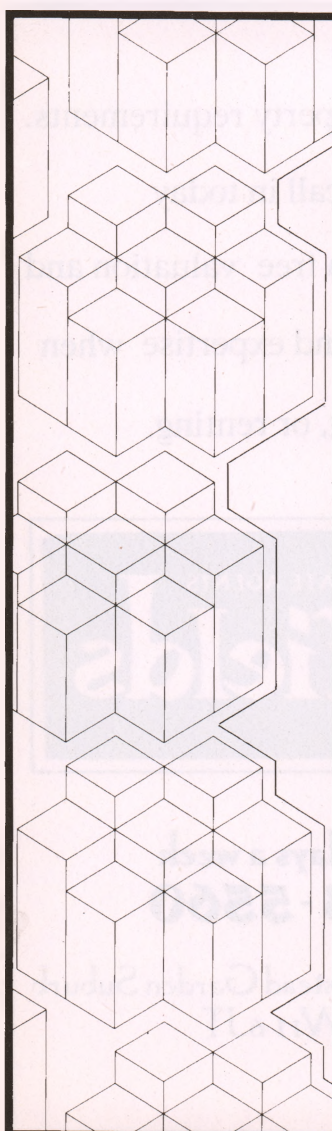


REFUSE COLLECTION

Bank Holiday refuse collection:

Monday August 26	No collection
Tuesday August 27	Monday's collection
Wednesday August 28	Tuesday's collection
Thursday August 29	Wednesday's collection
Friday August 30	Thursday's collection
Saturday August 31	Friday's collection

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