



One of the first users of the new Post Office at 8 Ashbourne Parade, Temple Fortune was RA Council Member Camilla Raab seen here receiving flowers from John Marshall.

## LIGHT NUISANCE

High powered security lights fixed to houses on the Suburb are now a common feature and whilst this is thought to be an effective way of discouraging night prowlers, it can and has provoked some ill feeling from neighbours and motorists. The Residents Association have therefore suggested that those residents who have fitted these lights to

their properties should check that they are directed downwards and do not shine into their neighbours' properties or dazzle motorists.

Security lights should be connected to an infra red sensor, adjusted to be activated only by an intruder inside the property boundary, and should not remain on for more than a minute or couple of minutes at most.

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## Market Place Decline

The only shopping area wholly within the Suburb is rapidly deteriorating into a seedy high street catering for late night hang-about.

Several premises are now open well past their legally permitted hours attracting hordes of undesirable visitors who deposit their litter on the pavements or in the gardens of the surrounding houses, park their cars on pavements or across driveways of residential roads and commit gross acts of vandalism – hardly a weekend now passes without a shop window, bus shelter or bench seat being vandalised.

Perhaps the main offender is the Video Shop which operates a video games club at the rear of its premises. This attracts the younger element who hang about in large noisy groups outside the shop. The police are frequently called to deal with disturbances both inside and outside the premises. An enforcement notice has been served on the owners by Barnet but further action cannot yet be taken until the outcome of an appeal has been considered.

There is the Chinese Take-Away – "Lots of Rice" at No 45 opposite. Although Barnet turned

down the planning application for a change of use from "shop" to "food and drink", an appeal inspector granted the change of use subject to – somewhat naively – restricted opening times requiring no trade after 7pm and on Sundays. Needless to say these restrictions were blatantly ignored from the first day of trading and "Lots of Rice" are dispensed, together with discarded rubbish on the pavements and vile smells from the rear ventilators till 11pm every night seven days a week. Although an enforcement has now been served, no action can be

taken until the matter has been considered by an appeals' inspector at some future date.

The Charleston Wine Bar officially operates till 11pm but customers have been observed imbibing well after midnight. On summer evenings the drinking take place outside on the public pavement creating much noise and disturbance to nearby residents.

Yet another offending party is the new Hammond Health Club which took over from the notorious Nautilus Fitness Club earlier this year. Although the new owner promised to comply with the previously laid down restricted times of use of 8am to 8pm with no opening on Sundays, these times are being disregarded and the premises are frequently in use considerably later (and also on Sundays). Barnet's enforcement officers are now investigating the matter but from past experience another long legal battle can be expected.

## IS YOUR NUMBER UP?

There is a serious problem of house numbering on the Suburb and in many roads it is becoming very difficult for strangers and visitors to find a particular house. Most houses are so badly numbered that the actual numbers can only be seen in daylight and when really close to the front door. Other houses have a number on a garden gate that has been painted over and some houses have no number displayed at all. No doubt some householders may feel that this gives them a degree of individuality or they may believe that this isolates them from the common herd! But it can cause problems for people in cars trying to locate a house especially during the hours of darkness.

For the emergency services the problem is potentially far more grave: the Police could be trying to get to the scene of a crime, the Fire Brigade may be trying to locate a house with an internal fire that has not yet broken out externally and an Ambulance crew could be trying to find the house where somebody needs to be rushed to hospital.

The Police have asked the RA

and the Trust to get residents to take this problem more seriously. We have managed to find a supplier of enamelled house number plates (15cm x 10cm), very similar to the original design used on Suburb houses. They consist of white numbers on an attractive blue background and can easily be fixed on wood or brickwork. They are available from stock at a price of £9 including package and postage from:

METRA PRODUCTS,  
83 Welsford Road  
Norwich  
NR4 6QD  
Tel: 0603 52016

For some houses a larger plate would be more appropriate and individual sizes can be made to order. Please ring Mr Rosson of Metra Products for details.

Both the RA and the Trust very much hope that the great majority of Suburb householders will order these house number plates and display them prominently on the wall of each house where they can be most easily seen from the road – either in place of or in addition to any existing numbering system.

PL CK

## LITTLE OAK WOOD PLAY

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde and directed by Richard Kinder will be performed in Little Oak Wood, Oakwood Road, NW11 on 3, 8, 9 & 10 July at 7.30pm and 4&11 July at 7.30pm.

In this production of Wilde's classic and best known comedy director Richard Kinder will be making the most of the outdoor setting. The whole play will take place in the open-air with the traditional drawing room scene transferred to a garden patio.

Richard has been influenced in his ideas for the production by the illustrations of Aubrey Beardsley which will be featured in the poster for the show. The flamboyance of the period will be brought out in the costumes, especially some elaborate hats!

DL

## Pleasure From Leisure

Why not use your leisure in a rewarding way, and take up the opportunity of joining a W.E.A. class in your area.

The Golders Green branch offer a variety of classes on topics such as Freud: Theatre: What's In the News: Art: Literature: Creative Writing etc: from September 21st.

All are welcome to attend.

Details can be obtained from the brochure (courses in Barnet) available in the local libraries.

Further information from Secretary, Freda Michaelson, 452 8850.

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## Alan Page

Alan Page who died in December had been a member of The Orchard Committee since 1983 and was Chairman for the last five years. He was a familiar figure in The Orchard, overseeing the gardens or chatting to the residents; he was always genial and kind and never too busy to help or give advice. His main concern was for the welfare and happiness of the residents and to this end he worked devotedly. The shrubs and flower beds which are a pleasure to visitors and residents alike bear witness to this.

Alan had always felt that lifts would be of considerable benefit to the residents. His unstinting efforts over several years led to a grant from the Housing Corporation for the installation of two lifts, this year. Alan knew that the application had been approved in December, but sadly, he did not live to see his dream fulfilled.

He was held in the highest regard by all who knew him and remembered with much affection. He will be greatly missed. **KT**

**HAMPSTEAD GARDEN  
SUBURB'S  
NUMBER**

**1**

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