

SUBURB NEWS

Issue 35 THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Winter '92

R.A. REPORT

1991 has been an extremely eventful and varied year for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association. It has included the upheaval wrought by **British Gas**, the introduction of the privatised wheeled bin collections, and closed with the announcement that the **Henlys Corner Scheme** is planned to begin in two years' time. It is estimated to take three years to complete, no final cost in millions being yet decided, but undoubtedly the Residents Association will be deeply involved in all the problems that this decision will create.

One of the most productive happenings this year has been the closer co-operation between the **RA and the London Borough of Barnet**. The **Trees and Open Spaces Committee** has been able to meet and discuss fully the whole issue and future of trees on the Suburb, and representatives of the RA and the HGS Trust will be meeting the LBB in January for further discussions on matters of mutual concern. A successful objection by local residents against planning permission to extend **Wellgarth Road Youth Hostel** was supported by the RA, but there may be an appeal.

There is still great concern about future plans for renewal of **Bus Passes** for Senior Citizens. These are not yet completed, but Councillor Frank Davis has been our contact with the LBB.

The **Public Meeting on Traffic Calming** was successfully arranged jointly by the RA and HGS Trust.

Peter Loyd has been very active in liaising between residents and representatives of **St Jude's Church**, dealing with the future of the church in relation to its use for music recordings.

One of the most pleasant evenings every year is the **Harvest Home Party** given by the **Allotments Committee**, and an extremely successful **Craft Fair** gave proceeds to the North London Hospice.

The RA gave a contribution to the Phoenix Trust in memory of **Mrs Brigid Grafton Green**, who is sadly missed.

The **HGS Institute** not only occupies the main centre on the Suburb, but is a very active and renowned educational centre, and the Principal, Mrs Fay Naylor, in a talk to the RA Council, outlined facts and figures that cover the problems and future plans of the Institute in these changing times.

There may be some readers of this Suburb News who appreciate how lucky we are to enjoy our environment, and who could contribute some support to the Residents Association - finance is always welcome, but becoming an RA Membership Representative or joining the RA Council gives us the personal support the RA depends on. Come and help us!

From the Council of the Residents Association, best wishes for the New Year.

SdeP

Wellgarth v the YHA

Residents of Wellgarth Road have been up in arms over plans by the Youth Hostel to build staff flats and extend the building which would cover much of the existing garden grounds.

Barnet's Planning Committee recommended the plans submitted in 1990 but they were subsequently turned down by the Council on grounds of over intensification of land use in a quiet road otherwise comprising detached residential homes. This was following objections from surrounding residents. "The Wellgarth Youth Hostel is the largest in London and their intention clearly is," says Fiona Jakobi who lives next door, "to utilise the building as a conference centre.

"They advertise it as having ample free parking space when it has virtually none. That will cause even more noise and parking problems than exist now with coaches constantly unloading with engines running at all hours."



Part of the planning application objected to was for a parking space between the hostel and number 6 Wellgarth Road.

The Youth Hostel has appealed to the DoE against Barnet's decision which has caused the residents to club together to employ a planning consultant who has made written representation to the DoE.

A liquor licence has also been applied for and will be heard by Barnet magistrates in February, despite local objections and representation against it by the RA.

A decision is expected from the DoE in a month's time.

Residents say they expect the Trust to take action if the scheme is approved but have so far been unable to get any assurance from the Trust Council that they will in fact fight the application. RJW

NAUTILUS SUNK

At long last the disturbing operations of the Nautilus Fitness Club in the Market Place have been terminated and a welcome peace has returned to the area.

The end was somewhat dramatic with the landlord being forced to bring in bailiffs to evict the captain of this unpopular enterprise and to take over the premises. The irrepressible owner however staged a defiant counter attack by forcing the door lock and re-entering the premises. Eventually intervention by the law caused the "captain" to abandon ship with a noble cry "I'll be back".

The premises are now under new ownership and the shop unit is undergoing complete refurbishment. It is therefore to be hoped that once again there will be a retail trader operating in the building. However a new Health Club is shortly due to open on the first floor above the shop premises and it is understood that



Christine Cunnold dons her sheep's head ready for St Jude's nativity play.

the owner of this club, Mr Hammond, has promised Barnet Planning Department that the restricted opening hours will be adhered to. But local residents will, no doubt, be keeping watchful eye on the hours of operation since any activities after 8 pm or on Sundays will breach the planning restrictions. Hence at the present time it is very much a question of "Watch this Space" for the residents of Ossulton Way, Maurice Walk and Market Place. NS

ST JUDE'S RECORDING THREAT

Barnet's planning enforcement order to stop the use of St Jude's for classical recording, reported in our last issue, has been the subject of intense discussion and much behind the scenes work by Peter Loyd, RA Vice Chairman, who was asked by the RA Executive Committee to seek and, if possible bring about, a solution.

He has since contacted residents in South Square, Heathgate and Southway as well as members of St Jude's and the Trust and has formulated and discussed with them proposals to overcome the extra traffic and parking problems which result from some of the recording sessions and have caused some residents to complain to Barnet.

An interim report included some ideas for: warning musicians etc, when more than 25 or so cars that can be accommodated in the church car park are expected; not to park

around the church; the lawns to east and west of the car park to be developed as environmentally planned parking areas; unloading of equipment not to take place between 10.00 pm and 9.30 am and large vans would not be left by the church but removed until they are needed for reloading; use of portakabins would not be permitted.

Residents generally welcomed these proposals and made further constructive suggestions. These resulted in a second report from Peter Loyd which in conclusion says: "There is clearly a strong

desire amongst most local residents and individuals in St Jude's to cooperate constructively with each other and with all the other bodies concerned including the Borough of Barnet. It is very much hoped that this new mood will be appreciated by others and will contribute positively to the achievement of decisions to bring this whole matter to a satisfactory conclusion."

Meanwhile St Jude's has appealed against the enforcement order and hopes that it will be rescinded. "It will be a tragedy if it is not," said church warden Raymond Lowe. "Without this income St Jude's will rapidly fall into serious disrepair and I don't think anyone on the Suburb wants to see that happen."

RW

East and west lawn car parking, one resident's proposal. "Very unlikely" says Peter Loyd.



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