

HGSRA

Annual General Meeting

Eileen Whelan, RA Chairman, opened the proceedings of the Residents Association's 82nd Annual General Meeting with a welcome to nearly 200 members and particularly to Honorary Life members.

The Annual Report includes details of the activities during 1992 of the RA committees, the Chairman of each gave the meeting an update on their activities.

Colin Cawood, allotments, said they had a good response to a publicity drive for new gardeners, most of the allotments were taken up. There are about 100 allotment holders now on 11 Suburb sites. He made a plea to householders overlooking allotments to report any instances of vandalism.

David Morrison, Consam, had little to add but said that his committee was concerned about the changing character of Market Place and reported that local residents' fears about Sunday use of the Institute had not materialised as it was being used very little.

Norma Blausten, asked what Consam was doing about decorative brick and tilework being over painted. David Morrison said that it was a matter of education, articles had been in Suburb News and new residents were advised in Trust literature. **Stuart Gray** said "Half the houses in Hogarth Hill have been splashed over with white paint". **Sally Murrell**, Membership, reported that subs were coming in well and thanked members who have put stamps on reply paid envelopes. She was looking forward to the May gathering when 15 ward organisers and 150 representatives would be getting together to

collect materials for distribution and making their collection rounds. Two new Ward organisers are needed. Thanks were due to **Alan Lawson** for arranging all the printing.

Ralph Baldry, thanked **Sally Murrell** and her committee for collecting for the Fellowship.

Neville Silver, Publications, said more distributors for Suburb News would be helpful as would assistance with the sale of advertising.

Eileen Whelan, asked for a special vote of thanks to **Peter Ayers** for the delightful sketches he has produced for this year's Annual Report and to yours truly for another year's Suburb News.

David Rapson, Roads and Traffic, enlarged on the ideas of easing congestion around the Institute and School, it was likely that a one way section of Northway would help. He also reported on Chris Dickenson's efforts to alleviate increased traffic attendant on the increased enrolment anticipated at Brooklands School.

Eileen Whelan, Thanked **Bill Bailey** who is giving up as Secretary of the Traffic Committee "We owe much to people like Bill, David Rapson, Terry Rand and others who have over many years been responsible for protecting us from road schemes. "Falloden Way would have tidal flow lights now if it had not been for their efforts", she said.

Stuart Gray, wanted to acknowledge the assistance of the RA and the Trust over Wellgarth Road's problems with the YHA.

Leomie Stephen, Trees and Open Spaces, reported that there had been fruitful meetings with

Barnet over Bigwood coppicing and street trees. Asked why no sapling oaks were being planted she said they apparently don't grow!

Mary Ambrose urged the Committee in its love of trees not to forget the houses that could be damaged by planting of too large species too near them.

John Boulter, Treasurer, reported that RA finances were a little stronger and that he was pleased to announce that sufficient had now been collected for the RA to furnish a room at the North London Hospice thanks to a topping up donation from Fellowship.

Peter Loyd, Litter Free Zone, Neighbourhood Watch and RA Vice Chairman thanked litter collectors who cover 43% of the Suburb and reported on a publicity drive for Neighbourhood Watch. Most of the Suburb is covered and, apart from vehicle crime, it helps keep crime down to half what it is elsewhere. He unveiled new posters and asked residents to use car stickers.

Joyce Morrison outlined plans for the Suburb Weekend May 22 and 23.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Retiring and up for re-election, council members were elected as were several new members **Daphne Price**, **Nina Deacon**, **Eva Jacobs**, **Douglas Thomas** and **David Bogush**.

Thanks were expressed to **Patrick Gaskell Taylor** who is retiring from Council and to **Peter Blackstaffe** for once again auditing the accounts.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Janet Harris accepted an Honorary Life Membership having served as an RA Council member for more than 20 years and held a number of posts including, at different times, Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Chairman. Janet who is now a Ward Organiser said that she and her husband had come to the Suburb in 1958, they both enjoyed working for the RA and the Suburb was lucky to have such an association.

Dr Mervyn Miller had been associated with the Suburb since 1975 and been on the Trust Council since 1979, he said "I don't know whether this honour is for long service or good conduct" and "it was meeting, early on, people like **Tony Mandleson**, **Stuart Gray** and **Brigid Grafton Green** that led me to appreciate the delights of Hampstead Garden Suburb".

New Environment Committee

Peter Loyd announcing the new committee said that it may seem strange that the RA had not had one before. It would concern itself with all environmental matters and be proactive.

The Eruv

David Harris proposed withdrawing his motion on the subject of the Eruv as it had been overtaken by events when Barnet turned down the planning application. "However" he asked "if there is an appeal would the RA give us, the residents, a chance to put our views forward".

Alan Jacobs supported him saying it was an issue of great concern to residents.

Norma Blausten reminded the meeting that if there is an appeal any objector can register as such.

Jenny Manson said that as a disinterested party herself she had been disappointed by Barnet's decision which seemed to be against minority rights.

In closing the meeting **Eileen Whelan** said that many had asked why **Anne** and **Alan Lawson** had not been made Life Members "It is not for want of trying" she said "but they have always refused the honour". However "whilst speaking to Anne on the subject I overheard Alan saying he would rather have a bottle of Scotch!". She then presented **Alan Lawson** with one. "As a small measure of thanks for all you have done for

IS YOUR HOUSE ON THE LIST?

After a five-year campaign the Trust has at last persuaded English Heritage to carry out a major survey of the Suburb to see whether additional properties should be listed. The Statutory List within Barnet consists of 369 entries, or 733 separate addresses if all the flats and groups of houses are included. Just over 100 of those entries are on the Suburb. Besides houses and flats, such as Waterlow Court, Arcade House and Temple Fortune House, there are two walls included, the Great Wall and the one outside Lucas Square in Hampstead Way, as well as the Henrietta Barnett Memorial.

Within Barnet the only two Grade I Listed Buildings are both on the Suburb, St Jude's and the Free Church. The next highest category is Grade II*, of which there are 52 buildings, and of those 40 are on the Suburb. These are located around Central Square. The remainder are listed Grade II.

Most of the Suburb listings were done in 1965 with some additions in the early 1970s. This listing was always considered to be incomplete and the Shankland Cox Report, which was commissioned by the Trust in 1971, drew attention to many omissions and inconsistencies. In the late 1970's a re-survey of the Borough was undertaken by the Greater London Council's Historic Buildings Division on

behalf of the Secretary of State. Since the whole of the Suburb has been designated an Outstanding Conservation Area it was considered unnecessary to list any more individual buildings, and the area was therefore excluded from the study.

The Trust has argued that the Suburb had never been properly surveyed and it was important to bring the list up to date. The problem with the existing list is that, while some houses are included, others of equal architectural merit are missing. In some cases the houses were even designed by the same architect. There are also problems with the existing descriptions. It was difficult to persuade English Heritage to undertake this review, but eventually through the good offices of our MP, John Marshall, the Secretary of State for the Environment agreed. There is considerable pressure on the limited resources of English Heritage, and to make their job easier the Trust volunteered to undertake a preliminary survey and prepare a list of recommendations.

This work was done by Dr Mervyn Miller, who is the Royal Town Planning Institute member of the Trust Council. There are nearly 300 additional properties recommended for inclusion and in each case Mervyn was required to provide a detailed description and photograph. He also went through

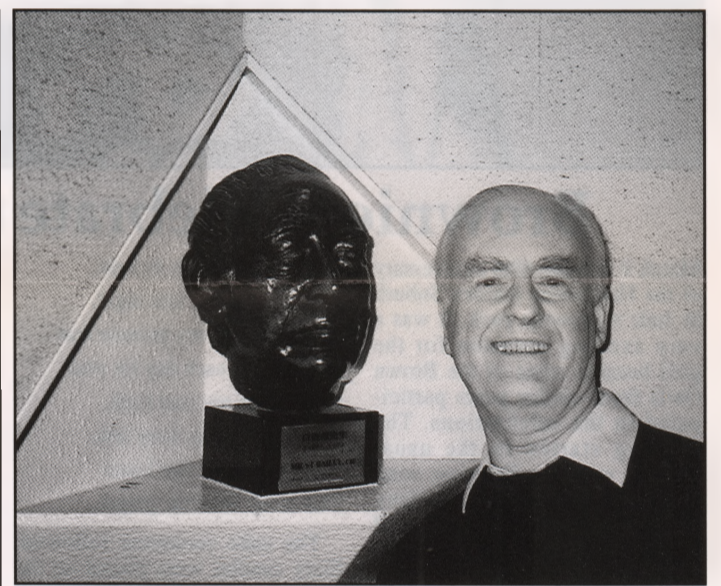
the existing list to correct the mistakes and inaccuracies. Having taken this report on board, Dr Chris Miele of English Heritage has begun his fieldwork on the Suburb, and he hopes to complete the study within two months. This will then be reviewed and a list of recommendations for listing will be sent to Barnet for their comments. The final list will then be presented to the Department of the Environment. Once they have been approved, the owners of buildings added to the Statutory List will be notified by Barnet Council on behalf of the Secretary of State. The whole process should be completed within one year.

When a property has been listed, the approval of English Heritage is required for both internal and external alterations which would effect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest. This is not to say that all applications will be refused, but they must be sympathetic in their design, scale and materials. As far as the owners are concerned, besides the prestige of living in a listed building there also a number of financial advantages. Grants or loans are available from the HBMC and local authorities to help with repairs and maintenance, and alterations which are carried out with Listed Building consent are not subject to VAT.

CK

Gerry Mansell - Painter

Not many Suburb residents are aware that Gerry Mansell, the current chairman of the Trust, is also a painter. He studied painting at the Chelsea School of Art for four years after leaving the army in 1946, but his artistic activities went on the back burner after he joined the BBC in 1951. He took up his brushes again a few years ago, travelling regularly to France every year in search of subjects and in the winter painting still lifes and flower pieces. He has now brought together two dozen of his works which will be shown at the Square Gallery, Pond Square, Highgate, from 4 to 16 May. The Private View will take place from 6 to 8.30 pm on Tuesday 4 May, and Suburb residents are cordially invited to attend. Although Gerry exhibited in a number of group shows in his student days at Chelsea, this will be his first one-man show. He says he awaits the occasion with trepidation.



There was no mention of a Bill Bailey bust in last issue's story of Bill's part in the building of the Hong Kong Arts Centre. However Peter Loyd found it whilst there on a visit in February

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SPACE TO GROW!

There are two small allotments available at our sunny site adjacent to Brooklands School.

Now is the time to start your summer salads, sow your autumn veg. and plant your strawberry patch.

If you are interested, please contact **Ken Murrell** on **081-458 1401**

the RA".

Ralph Baldry moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman. The meeting then moved on to drinks, organised by James and Audrey Webster, after a relatively untroubled AGM, by recent Suburb standards, with the Chairman still serenely in office.

RW