

# Neighbourhood Watch Marks and Spencer

## The Best and the Worst of Neighbourhood Watch

If only everyone in the Suburb could be a responsible citizen who cared about their own and their neighbour's security, what a difference it could make to the well-being and happiness of us all. Here are two examples of what happened recently.

### The Responsible Neighbour

One weekday afternoon a woman looked out of her window and saw two youths breaking into a car in the road opposite. She immediately dialled 999 and GAVE AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION of the youths. The police arrived within a very short time to find the youths, who by then had left the scene of the crime. But because of the accurate description which they had, they were able to arrest the youths a couple of hundred yards down the road carrying the radio which they had removed from the car.

This is an excellent example of a Neighbourhood Watch member working in partnership with the police and demonstrates how we all need to be alert at all times and ready to report anything suspicious with speed and accuracy.

### The Irresponsible Neighbour

But here is a story of a different kind! An elderly woman, who lives on her own, returned to her house one Saturday at noon to find the strobe light on her burglar alarm, which had a 20 minute cut-out, flashing. She thought at first that she must have made some mistake when setting the alarm before she went out but, on opening her front door, she soon realised that the house had been thoroughly gone over by burglars. They had got in by forcing a locked window at the back of the house and had systematically ransacked every room in the house in spite of her alarm ringing continuously.



Further enquires revealed that her neighbours next door had returned while her alarm was still ringing. But because, so they said, it was not immediately obvious to them precisely from where the alarm was ringing, they went into their house and switched on the television in order to drown the noise of the alarm.

If only they had done what amounts to no more than their simple civic duty and dialled 999, the burglars would almost certainly have been caught in the act and one elderly woman might have been spared some of the misery of having her house turned upside down and family mementoes and other valuables taken from her. **PL**

### Burglar Alarms

Quite apart from the fact that it is now an offence punishable by a fine of up to £5,000 to have an alarm without a 20 minute cut-out device, there are few more effective ways of driving your neighbours berserk than having to put up with an alarm that just goes on and on ringing. If your alarm has not been adjusted so that the bell cuts out after 20 minutes, do contact your alarm company now to get them to call and sort it out.

### Scare Tactics

In order to obtain business a few, so called, security companies are sending out somewhat frightening letters suggesting that crime is soaring to an uncontrollable level and that the only counter is to make use of their services which vary from personal bodyguards to vigilante patrols. If you receive such a letter, you should pass it to the police.

However, if you genuinely require some additional security service, perhaps for a private function or on some other special occasion, the Crime Prevention Officer (PC Peter Davis - tel. 733 5570) will almost certainly be able to recommend a reputable organisation to meet your needs!

We live in the most healthy area for eating in the United Kingdom, according to Marks and Spencer. We buy more fresh fruit and vegetables in the Temple Fortune shop than in any other part of the country. However, we also buy a large number of ready-made dinners, which hints at either laziness or busyness.

The Marks and Spencer's store tries to match its customers' needs exactly. We like salmon fillets the most, followed by smoked salmon, chicken, fish and nectarines. It is a contrast to the same store in Wembley, where chicken legs top the list.

There are three deliveries every day. The stock is not held for long in storage, but is put straight onto the shelves, which means that the shop does not have an overnight army of shelf-fillers like other stores. Neither does it use its refrigerated rooms any more, for which staff needed

special clothes and boots. M & S offered these free to Sir Ranulph Fiennes, but he declined them as being too warm.

Every refrigerated shelf has a "plastic chicken" on it. This is a white plastic box which monitors the temperature and can give a read out. It is given this name because it must keep the food at the same temperature as the insides of a chicken: 0-5° C. The food is carefully kept at this temperature in a "cold chain" from the very moment it is picked or slaughtered, until we purchase it and leave it in our car boot for a couple of hours.

Andrew Denby, the Unit Manager, follows our buying habits precisely. He began planning the sales and staffing levels for this Christmas last January. They normally have 14,000 customers a week, but expect six times the normal custom in the three days before Christmas. For Jewish New Year

he planned down to every last lettuce and cucumber. For example, he specially ordered in £2,500 worth of 14 varieties of apple alone.

The other aim of this control is to minimise wastage. In date stock is sold to staff at half price. After that it is passed on to two nunneries, who hand it out to the homeless. There is, regrettably, a lot of waste after Christmas, and the Manager would like to hear from any charity who can use the food then.

Apart from food and household goods, the other part that needs handling is us, the customers. We are a complaining lot. Some people ring the head office if they have had to wait in a queue behind one other person. The staff are philosophical about us, though. If we ask for a special line, they will get it. If we need our goods carried, they will do it. If we need our car parked, they will park it for us. They know that it is often the fussiest who spend the most. **JN**

## Douglas Bryan retires

Douglas Bryan who has run the Art Gallery in Hampstead Way for the past fourteen years retired at the end of September. The gallery is to be taken over by Vincent and Carole Hamilton of Hamilton Fine Arts who are friends of Mr Bryan and have lived on the Suburb for several years. Mr Hamilton is a member of the prestigious British Antique Dealers Association and has been involved in antiques since his student days. Until recently he had an Art Gallery in Kensington. He is also a well known exhibitor at many of the major London Antiques Fairs.

Hamilton Fine Arts will be opening in Hampstead Way in November and will be offering for sale a wide range of quality antiques including paintings, watercolours, bronzes, small period furniture, jewellery, silver and objets d'art. **VH**

## Suburb launches International Group

An International Society which aims to bring together international and UK residents living On Hampstead Garden Suburb held its first open meeting on 7 October 1993 at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, at 8.00 pm.

Speakers included Suburb residents Azim Husain, a former Indian Ambassador, and Mrs Yuki Norikoshi, who works for an international firm of lawyers in London. Chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association, Eileen Whelan, explained the role of the Residents Association and its relevance to the Suburb's international community.

Suburb residents interested in attending meetings and joining the new International Society should contact Mr Azim Husain, 081 458 6729 or Mrs Yuki Norikoshi 081 455 7619. **PP**

## Trust Director RIBA Vice Chairman

Dr Mervyn Miller, Vice Chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, has been appointed RIBA Vice Chairman for Education. The nomination, by the incoming President, Dr Frank Duffy, was confirmed by RIBA Council at their meeting on 14 July. The appointment is for two years. Dr Miller has been involved in architectural education, particularly Continuing Professional Development, for some years, as part of his wide-ranging consultancy activities. The essential relevance of Education and Professionalism were two key points emphasised in Dr Duffy's inaugural address. The current government proposals to deregulate the architectural profession will bring increased awareness of rounded education and the fostering of design skills as prerequisites for the training of architects for the twenty-first century.

To the Members of

## THE NEW HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB TRUST LIMITED

Notice pursuant to Article 30(6) of the Company's Articles of Association

Following the election to fill three vacancies on the Trust Council we hereby declare that:

- (a) the number of valid voting papers received was 674;
- (b) the number of voting papers rejected was 45;
- (c) The total number of votes cast was 1,785;
- (d) the number of votes cast for each candidate was:

EDWARD CAPLIN	382
MARIE HOWIE	370
STEVEN LICHT	272
MERVYN MANDELL	292
GERARD MANSELL	469

- (e) the following have been duly elected as Elected Members of Council:

GERARD MANSELL  
EDWARD CAPLIN  
MARIE HOWIE



Aerial colour photographs of the area around Central Square are available from the Trust Office. The price is £1 each.



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GRIFFIN STONE, MOSCROP & CO

**HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST**

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