

SUBURB NEWS

Issue 38

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Winter '93

INSTITUTE CHAIRMAN OUSTED

Following dissatisfaction with the apparent slow progress of legal moves to establish whether the Institute can claim rent for the use of its buildings from Henrietta Barnett School to offset its weakening financial position a vote of no confidence in Chairman Michael Max was carried by 64 votes to 30 with 15 abstentions at the Institute Society's AGM on November 24.

The AGM followed a recent increase in society membership from 250 to 350. New members are believed to be largely Institute staff.

It also followed the resignation in September of Douglas Blausten, Vice Chairman since March 1990 who had been instrumental in pointing out that the Institute's problems were partly the result of its having to pay for outside accommodation whilst receiving nothing from the school for the use of its buildings. This view had led to fears that the school may be forced out and to claims by the school's supporters that it was because of the school that funding by education authorities and others in the past provided the Institute buildings in the first place and that it was school parents who gave most of the money that was raised by appeal, £236,900, for rebuilding in 1986.

The Institute suffered a further

net deficit of £99,533 last year following a drop of 26% in EFL enrolments since 1990/1 to some extent offset by an increase in adult class enrolments of 25%. Michael Max points out that the drop in EFL students combined with limited class numbers in hired accommodation make for a disproportionate drop in profitability.

A major cause of the Institute problems however is lack of funding by Barnet. Had the real value of the 1976 grant of £63,000 been maintained, says Michael Max, the current grant would have been £236,000, and if funding was provided on the same formula as two local colleges, on student numbers, the grant would be £810,000.

Asked to comment Michael Max said "It is my belief that we should not willingly upset two successful organisations that have been a beacon of successful dual use facilities. Nowhere else in the

country has there been such successful dual use, this in my opinion is due to the professionalism of the principal and headmistress and their staffs.

But over the years there has been a persistent refusal on the part of the school to recognise the consequences to the Institute of the shortage of teaching accommodation and a failure to understand that contributions to repairs and decorations did not provide an income to the Institute and was not even compensation for the use of space by the school.

In 1986, faced with the urgent need for refurbishment and the provision of a new fire escape the school participated in a successful appeal. The school has failed since then to recognise that in practical terms it is the only major constituent that grows money towards the new building and that without a major local contribution initiated by the school there can be no real expectation of achieving major funding from outside donors.

The national curriculum creates a need for more school teaching areas, particularly for design and technology at present in

temporary buildings planning permission for which expires in July 1995.

The school has applied for central funding for the accommodation requirements. Barnet gave priority to the application and it now appears that the DFE has authorised the school to go ahead with its planning".

Michael Max has been a dedicated Chairman of the Institute Council since 1980 and is clearly disappointed to have been voted out of office. "No one should remain in any job for too long but I would have preferred to go at a time of my own choosing" he said. Asked whether he would consider standing again he thought it unlikely but "I remain available to give advice if I am asked".

RJW

Trust Elections

Pia Duran was elected to the Trust Council, by 250 votes to 180, in October in a contest with David Bogush who has served on the Council for three years. Pia who is Chairman of the National Mencap Education Committee lives in Northway.

The Trust is now looking for a candidate who will be coopted to fill the vacancy left by Hugh Hamilton who resigned just before last September's stormy AGM. The coopted member will then stand for election next September following which, in view of Gerry Mansell's declared intention not to stay on as Chairman for more than a year, it is hoped that a replacement will be found.

RJW

RA REPORT

Each RA Council meeting, held on the first Tuesday of every month in the Community Room, Bigwood House, has had an invited guest giving a talk about their work and interests, and in September Mr Canneaux, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath for the Corporation of London, told us about his wide variety of work covering recreational and ecological interests.

Our representative, David Rapson, attends regular meetings of the Federation of Residents Associations of the London Borough of Barnet (FORAB). At the September meeting some of the items discussed included concessionary travel, toilets, parcels left on doorsteps, and correct information on pillar boxes regarding collections - all of which are of concern to our residents.

RA Council members had the privilege of attending an Architectural Walk in September, conducted by an architect member of the HGS Trust Council, John Senter. What a fascinating place the Suburb is when you have the opportunity to share architectural knowledge and expertise! It is hoped this can be repeated for other residents. In the meantime, essential reading is the new book (now available from the Trust Office) on Hampstead Garden Suburb by Mervyn Miller and Stuart Gray.

The RA was happy to hear that the LBB intends to appoint a Recycling Officer, and there are plans for extending the recycling of glass.

An aluminium foil box is available in the Community

Room, Bigwood House, which helps donations to charity.

A most successful evening was organised by Peter Loyd in November, at which Alan Woods from the Tidy Britain Group gave an informative talk. It highlighted how important it is for residents not only to join our Litter Free Zoning campaign, but to notice and report to the Customer Complaints Unit, (446 5237 - 446 5219), when the Suburb standards drop! Delightful food and wine ended the evening, which was hosted by the HGS Trust and the RA.

The RA will find it hard to replace J.A. Angus who is resigning after many years of looking after Memorial Seats on the Suburb. It has meant a great deal of care and perseverance in these days of vandalism, and we extend our warm thanks.

S.F. Bailey represented the RA at a Seminar on 20mph Zones organised by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. The Department of Transport accept that inappropriate speed is a major cause of accidents, and are in favour of 20mph in certain residential areas.

The Assistant Director of Education for LBB, Stephen Taylor-Brooke, came to the December RA Council meeting to talk about present difficulties concerning the Henrietta Barnett School and the HGS Institute. It helped to clarify the situation and was followed by a useful debate. The HGS RA is concerned that neither of these two centres of educational excellence is sacrificed for short-term economic considerations.

S de P

Success in the Suburb

At a time when the prophets were talking gloom and doom, we have been quietly selling homes. A lot of homes. Quite an achievement when set against current market conditions.

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HGS Weekend 22 & 23 May 1993

A preliminary meeting to launch this weekend was held on 25 November. Twenty-five Suburb organisations have already committed themselves to participating in what we hope will be a really bumper event.

Mark the dates in your Diary now, and watch for the notices which will be posted around the Suburb. There will be something for everybody, young and old, highbrow and lowbrow, and we hope that all residents will take part to make this a real community effort.

Offers of help may be made to Chris Kellerman at the Trust Office (455 1066) or Joyce Morrison (458 1677).

RA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Residents Association will take place on 29th March 1993 at 8 p.m. in Bigwood Hall, Bigwood Road, NW11.

Any motions for inclusion on the agenda must be received by first post on 15th February 1993.

Nominations for the posts of officers and members of Council must be submitted, in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder, and have the Nominee's consent. These must be received by 19th March 1993.

Notice of motions and nominations should be sent to the Assistant Secretary, Mrs R. Goldstein, 1a Church Mount, N2 0RW



Members of St Jude's choir assembled beneath Sir Edwin Lutyens' memorial in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral on 24th October. They took part in the annual Festival of the Royal Schools of Church Music, (London area), where Louise Edwards (centre of picture) was presented with her Bishop's Award.

Honours

Congratulations to Dr Edwin Fairley of the Temple Fortune Health Centre who was awarded an MBE and to Roger Corley of Middleway, a CBE in the New Years honours list.

Thanks

Caroline Smith, Chairman of the RNL's Suburb branch asks us to say thankyou to all stallholders and those who attended the Bring and Buy at Fellowship House on November 7 who will be pleased to know that £822 was raised for Lifeboats.

... and apologies

Amongst the, even more than usual, errors in the last issue, for which we apologise, there were several in the Wordsearch making it impossible to complete. Look out for the Spring issue when Elizabeth Watkins will respond to requests for a Senior Citizens puzzle.