



## Northway Pavilion as Community Centre?

When the lease of this disused building, belonging to LB Barnet came on to the market some twelve months ago it was realised that here was an opportunity to acquire an asset which might be developed for much needed community use.

The RA and the Trust between them agreed a loan of £13,000 which could probably be recouped if plans changed or we had to dispose of the lease. A bid was accepted by Barnet and the lease is now being negotiated.

It is hoped to develop the building, the position of which, central to the whole of the Suburb, is seen as an advantage, to meet a number of Suburb needs. Unlike Letchworth Garden City we have nowhere to display the local

archive history of the Suburb. A primary use therefore could be as a small museum and heritage centre.

It is planned also to use it as a home for the Residents Association with office and space for meetings for groups and committees as well as for RA Council meetings.

Other uses have yet to be thought through but they could include a tearoom as a social focal point, a youth meeting centre, use by playgroups and others needing meeting facilities

Originally seen as the answer to the problem of where to house a CCTV control centre The Pavilion could turn out to be the beginnings of the long sought centre for community activities.

Richard Wakefield

## New vicar for St Jude's

The Rev. Alan Walker is to be the new incumbent at St Jude's. Aged 42, he has been a curate at St John's Wood but has spent most of his ministry in polytechnics as Chaplain and is now Chaplain to the University of Westminster. He will leave at the end of this term, but does not yet know when his induction to St Jude's will take place.

Asked whether a parish will be very different, he said, "Yes, it will be a pretty big change. Chaplains to the older universities are very like parish priests in that the university is a parish, but in the polytechnics where I have been working the job has been more related to welfare of individuals". Asked what plans

he had in mind, Mr Walker said, "It's a wonderful thing, the way the Church of England works, I really don't know much about St Jude's. I look forward to finding out about the parish and would not want to arrive with a lot of preconceived plans."

He says, "We will have a natural way of relating to the place that will be different because my family will give me a link with for instance, the Sunday School, because, in a sense, I am coming with my own."

Mrs Walker's name is Lucrezia, and their children are Anastasia 12, Olivia 10 and Henry nearly 9.

Richard Wakefield

## Friends of Northway Gardens

Do you visit Northway Gardens? Would you like to see the grass better mown and the rose beds better maintained? Would you like to know that there was someone directly responsible for the park? Would you like to see it return to the high standards of thirty years ago? Would you like it to be a model neighbourhood public open space to which you would be proud to take your family and visitors? If so, please consider joining the new support group, Friends of Northway Gardens.

In early September, at the suggestion of the Residents Association Trees & Open Spaces Committee and with the encouragement of the RA Council, a launch meeting was held at Fellowship House to discover if their was sufficient neighbourhood support to establish Friends of Northway Gardens as a local low-profile monitoring and pressure group, to work with Barnet Council in improving its standards of maintenance and its attractiveness generally. Mrs Léonie Stephen of the RA chaired the meeting, and the broad-spread audience included Councillor Roy Shutz, Mr Derek Norman of Barnet Council's Parks Department and Mr Charles Swynnerton of the Northway Tennis Centre. Altogether, more than sixty firm expressions of support for the proposal were received, mostly from the Oakwood Road, Denman Drive, Northway, Sutcliffe Close and Litchfield Way area which had been leafleted, although it is hoped to expand the catchment area, and especially to embrace those parents from all over the Suburb who bring their youngsters to the children's play area.

After lively discussion the meeting unanimously decided to establish Friends of Northway Gardens, and elected Mrs Sally Lewis (458 3663) as its Convenor, and Mr Alan Lawson (458 3827) and Mrs Janette Harris (455 7269) of Oakwood Road, Mrs Jill Purdie of Denman Drive (458 5042), Mr Charles Swynnerton of Northway Tennis Centre (455 3350) and Mr Chris Dickenson of Brookland Rise (455 1878) as initial members of her steering group; further volunteers will be welcomed.

The group will cover the following areas: the Fletcher Memorial Garden and the old

putting green between Kingsley Way and Northway; the park itself, including the rose garden, the planted banks of Mutton Brook, the Tennis Centre and the public tennis courts; the children's play area: and from there the grassy fields and walks either side of the stream, down to Falloden Way. It will not be concerned with Big Wood, Little Wood, Lyttelton Playing Fields or Brookside Walk Open Space.

Friends of Northway Gardens will make an inventory of the present defects and monitor their correction by Barnet Council, including the refurbishment of the flower beds and the public tennis courts. It was clear at the launch meeting that there is strong support for the return of a resident park keeper/gardener, which is perfectly possible, despite the intricacies of compulsory competitive tendering, and might well cost less than the present arrangements; the Friends seem likely to lobby hard for this. Group inspections will be organised, and an annual open meeting, perhaps with a speaker. Spencer Hudson has volunteered to help produce a simple newsheet three or four times a year. In concert with Barnet Council, the Friends will seek to tap additional funds for improvement of the amenities. Meanwhile, contacts will be established with the existing Friends of Friary Park and Friends of Avenue House Gardens.

If you would like to join Friends of Northway Gardens (there is no subscription), or if there is a shortcoming or some vandalism (if possible take photographs) that you wish to report, please contact the Convenor, Mrs Sally Lewis of 91 Northway NW11 6NY (tel 458 3663). We shall hope to report progress in future issues of *Suburb News*. S Hudson



## Saving Suburb's Heritage

Suburb Salvage is a new organisation whose aim is to preserve Hampstead Garden Suburb architectural furnishings by saving them from skips and making them available to other Suburb residents who wish to restore the original character of their property.

Karen Price and Jessica Delaney, who were both born on the Suburb, saw a need for the organisation when they realised that items from some houses were going to waste when others in the neighbourhood were desperate to obtain them.

Suburb Salvage is interested to hear from anyone disposing of any architectural furnishings such as fireplaces, doors, door knobs, windows or window

catches, bannisters, sinks, baths, taps, etc. The organisation hopes that many people will donate items when they have no further use of them, rather than dispose of them. But it is prepared to purchase larger items of Suburb significance.

All items will be available for purchase at reasonable prices and a donation of 10% of each sale will be given to the Suburb Trust.

Suburb Salvage fills two important needs, firstly to maintain the character of the interiors of Suburb houses and secondly to make it easier to track down specific items required for repair or restoration.

Contact Karen Price or Jessica Delaney on 081 455 1870 and 081 455 7057.

Telephone 081-458 4422



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## BARBARA HARRIS

Barbara Harris lived the greater part of her long life in Hampstead Garden Suburb, where she taught in both the Henrietta Barnett Schools; first as a young member of the staff and later as Second Mistress and Vth Form Mistress in the Senior School. She remembered as a young teacher being present at staff meetings with the formidable Dame Henrietta.

After her advanced teaching of history, she became for about two decades Headmistress of the Junior School of over 300 pupils, girls and boys, and was, for

several years, President of the Association of Headmistresses of Preparatory Schools.

Her influence from her love and guidance was outstanding in the education of these children, and she was greatly appreciated by her staff and many parents. Owing to her disability (a hip damaged by childhood tuberculosis), she had been restricted in her later years, but her dogged resistance to acknowledging her pain stayed with her, and she contrived to share her wisdom, wit and love with her friends.

J Brand

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