

# Traffic calming

For over 20 years the RA and the Trust have worked on schemes to slow down traffic and discourage 'rat running' in all parts of the Suburb. In 1991 we held a public meeting chaired by John Marshall MP when it was decided to proceed with the planning of traffic calming.

This was not to involve altering the route of any road but would have meant the creation of carefully designed features to make it impossible for any vehicle to travel at over 20 miles per hour. The use of basic traffic humps would not be widely used, as there are many other means of traffic calming that are both effective, more comfortable for passengers and in harmony with the architecture and ambiance of a conservation area.

Last year the London Borough of Barnet accepted our proposals for an overall scheme on the basis that as it could be afforded

only gradually we would start at the edges and work in by installing suitable entry treatments beginning with Hampstead Way, Ossulton Way and Willifield Way this year. In four or five years all of the roads leading into the Suburb would have been dealt with, leaving us free to carefully select individual places for traffic calming inside our boundary.

Unfortunately this agreement has been broken due to funds being diverted for use elsewhere and we are now faced with the threat of local traffic calming being carried out which in most cases will cause worse problems on other roads.

The RA believes that to implement an overall plan is the only fair way to proceed, and we will continue to pursue this course on behalf of all the residents on the Suburb.

David Rapson

# BROOKLAND FETE



Brookland School Fete was a field day for pupils, parents and friends . . .



. . . Sponsored by Litchfields the fete provided all the old favorites and some new ideas too



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# HGS Institute bucks trend

The Institute has bucked the national trend in adult education by virtually maintaining its enrolments and fee income for 1994/95 at last year's levels. National figures compiled by the Educational Centres Association show an average reduction across the country of 18 per cent, which has been attributed largely to the continuing effects of the recession. The size of the drop has attracted the attention of the national press, which is usually indifferent to events in the adult education world.

## New areas

As well as offering perennial favourites which rarely, if ever, fail to attract students in large numbers - Art, Sculpture and Yoga being three typical examples - Institute staff are always looking to develop new areas of study which they hope will meet local needs. In recent years there has been an increase in the range of courses which lead to qualifications, and the results achieved by Institute students, most of whom are only attending one class per week in their chosen subject, have been excellent - in summer 1994, the pass rate was 91% per cent in GCSE and 92% at A Level. All those who sat Italian GCSE attained the new A★ grade, except one who had to be content with a mere A grade.

## Exam courses

Despite these results, the Institute has had something of an image problem where examination courses are concerned - people have tended not to expect to find them at the Institute and have travelled to colleges like Barnet or Hendon instead. At last, however, the message about what the Institute can offer to those seeking qualifications seems to be getting through, with a number of full courses in subjects such as Economics A Level, City and Guilds Photography and the Royal Horticultural Society General Examination. There must also be an increasing desire for people to take to the water, given the massive enrolment this year for the Royal Yachting Association's Day Skipper and Yachtmaster Offshore courses!

Acquiring marketable skills is a priority for many of those who take up places on the Word Processing, Database, Spreadsheet and Desk Top Publishing courses are also in demand from private individuals and business clients who wish to learn in the comfort of their own homes and offices.

## Fresh ideas

The growth of the examination programme has not been achieved at the expense of the rest of the Institute's curriculum, where a crop of fresh ideas is always to be found among the hardy perennials. The Autumn term has seen local residents Ian Davidson (TV Comedy Writing) and Chris Gregory (Saturday Painting and Drawing course) involved as teachers; jazz musician Julian Costello is running a Saxophone class; and Rosanne McLean is combining her traditional Lacemaking talents with her new love of computing in a series of pioneering courses which she calls "Lace by Design".

The long-term fate of the Institute may still be unclear, for well publicised reasons: but in the nature and quality of its work it has its sights firmly set on the future.

Richard Bradbury

# The HGS Synagogue The First 60 Years

In 1930 there was no Synagogue and no Jewish Community in Hampstead Garden Suburb and many of the now well-known roads such as Kingsley Way and Norrice Lea were just open fields. The Community started in 1932 when a handful of dedicated men living on the Suburb decided to hold services for the High Holydays of the New Year and Yom Kippur. These first services took place in a room at the Henrietta Barnett School, part of the HGS Institute, and from that time regular Sabbath morning services were held with around 30 congregants. The man appointed to conduct the services was Issac Cohen, a postgraduate student at London University. His salary was 23 shillings a week, and for this sum he also had to conduct the Sunday Hebrew Class with children from 4 to 14 years of age. The Suburb was picturesque and unique in its conception; it provided a perfect atmosphere which attracted a steady stream of new residents who were happy to escape from crowded areas to enjoy the tranquility of a Garden Suburb.

In 1934 a site was acquired in Norrice Lea, which was still an unmade road, and a single-storey building was erected to accommodate 150 worshippers where regular Synagogue services were held.

The Rev Dr Isaac Levy OBE TD was appointed as the first Minister at Norrice Lea in 1936, and in fact he combined the duties of Secretary, Cantor and Headmaster of the newly formed Sunday Hebrew classes. Most of his congregation were young newly-wed couples full of hope for the future despite the dark clouds which were already gathering over Europe. The Rev Levy's ministry came to a close in 1939 after he became Chaplain to the Forces - as did his successor, the Rev Harry Bornstein, who sadly lost his life on active service overseas. It was at this time that many of the younger members joined HM Forces and some did not return from active service. Some residents were evacuated, but

## "The Community started in 1932 when a handful of dedicated men . . ."

others who remained were involved in various 'Home Service' activities - there was a Synagogue Women's Voluntary Service group which supplied necessary articles for hospitals, etc. and for people made homeless during the Blitz on London. There was also a Care Committee for refuge children who had been rescued from Nazi Germany.

It was in 1939 that a new single-storey Synagogue had been erected and the existing building became the Communal Hall. In September 1940 the Hall received a direct hit from a high explosive bomb which severely damaged the old building and caused flooding in the new Synagogue just before the New Year Festival, but the usual services still took place despite the very difficult wartime conditions.

In 1946 the Rabbi Dr Myer S. Lew was appointed Minister. He served the Community for many years, which were characterised by a period of growth and harmony, and later he was appointed as a Dayan (Judge) of the Court of the Chief Rabbi.

The immediate post-war years saw the arrival of a number of Jewish families and the congregation, disrupted during the war, began slow to become the homogenous Community that it is today.



Rabbi Edward Jackson

It was in the 1950s that plans began to take shape for a new building, and a new Synagogue with a ladies' gallery was opened and consecrated in February 1958, followed some years later by the erection of the Max Weinbaum Hall adjoining it, which is well known to Suburb residents these days as the local Polling Station. It was named after a man who had been a Warden in the early years of the Synagogue.

Following Dayan Lew's retirement, Rabbi Isaac Berstein was the Minister until 1979. We very much regret to report his untimely demise at the age of 54 at the end of August this year.

The present Minister is the Irish-born Rabbi Edward Jackson, who had previously served at three other London congregations, and who has been the Rabbi of the Community for almost 15 years. Over these years the Synagogue has become a thriving and active Community with great emphasis placed on education and learning, not only for children and youth but also for our adult members. Rabbi Jackson, with his outgoing personality, has made himself available to all sections of the community. He also carries out many duties in the wider community including hospital visitations, is one of the Chaplains to the North London Hospice, is a Chaplain to Pentonville Prison, and was the former Chairman of the Jewish Marriage Council.

In recent times many young families have joined the Synagogue, and we have therefore appointed a full-time Youth Leader whose duties include arranging lectures, seminars, sports, etc. There have also been two trips to Jewish communities in Europe by youth groups, one to Prague and the last one to Poland which included the experience of Auschwitz.

We are delighted to be celebrating our Diamond Anniversary this year and look forward to many challenges of the coming years with confidence.

Shirley Klieman

## Corringham Tennis Club

Corringham Tennis Club is something of a Suburb secret. It is enclosed by Heath Close, Hampstead Way, Corringham Road and Corring Way and is reached by a path between 3 and 5 Corring Way.

We don't have regular coaching, formal tournaments, a clubhouse or groundsman, but it is a community facility much enjoyed by those living on this periphery of the Suburb for its informality and the occasional Club afternoon.

Family membership, for any number in one family, is popular and costs £100 per annum, but we also have couples (£75 per annum), singles (£50 per annum), and students (£25 per annum).

Court booking is often unnecessary; members have a key and can generally play when they wish. There is no extra charge for visitors playing with members.

If you would like to join, subscriptions received now will cover membership for 1995 as well. Contact the Secretary, Jenny Manson, 73 Corringham Road NW11, telephone: 455 6379, or the Treasurer, Susan Lester, 9 Corring Way, NW11, telephone: 458 4547. A key to the court is available on receipt of a cheque made payable to Corringham Tennis Club.

Susan Lester

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