

# SUBURB NEWS

Issue 42 THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Winter '94

## RA nominee resigns from Institute Council

The AGM of the Institute Society took place on 18th November. Compared to the packed meeting of a year ago, only about 60 attended this time. Those present witnessed a number of innovations. In contrast to the long-established practice of the Society no minutes of the previous year's meeting were produced. Those present also witnessed a new ceremony: the swearing of an oath of fealty to the Institute Council. This ceremony was the suggestion of Mr Michael Max, who last year was also the central figure in a more customary drama at AGMs, his own deposition as Chairman. Some members of the Council, though willing to state that they supported the Institute's policy at present, felt unable to swear unquestioning support for the future. These included Mr R. Dinkin, a nominee of the Residents Association, and Mr M. Lassman, a newly co-opted member of the Council. Both Mr Dinkin as a recent RA nominee and Mrs L. Stephen as a recent Fellowship nominee were due to be re-nominated at the AGM by their respective nominating bodies. Most unexpectedly (and

seemingly in direct contradiction of the newly revised Articles) they, and Mr Kellerman, also a RA nominee, found themselves up for election. Though the numbers actually participating in the voting by show of hands was in the region of the twenties, it proved too difficult to count those in favour of Mr Dinkin. At the third count it was decided to collect the already issued voting-slips, but Mr Dinkin resigned before these could be counted. Mr D. Blausten who last year resigned as vice-chairman spoke with passion about the need to make a big noise about the Institute and to hit Suburb residents' pockets hard to raise the substantial funds necessary to make the Institute a cultural centre for future generations. The Annual Accounts were accepted without question. These showed that the Institute's deficit was still increasing rapidly. CB

The RA has written to the Institute acting chairman, Malcolm Davis querying the constitutional validity of the AGM proceedings and about the proposed sale of the Ratcliffe painting. See letters on page 2.



St Jude's Church was packed at Christmas for the annual miracle of a beautifully produced nativity play by the Sunday school supported by the junior choir

## Suburb regrets eruv

The overwhelming feeling evident among Suburb residents has been one of regret and sorrow that such a divisive issue as the eruv should ever have arisen.

Many Jewish residents, although not in sympathy with the idea of an eruv, will not say so publicly, as eruv objectors have found when asking neighbours to sign their petition. Many non-Jewish residents are afraid of being accused of anti-semitism if they are openly critical.

The Residents Association Council decided not to take a view, some say faked the issue, because it could be too divisive and later defeated a proposal for a referendum among residents by a narrow majority.

Barnet turned down the planning application which included poles and wires along Wildwood Road. The United Synagogue eruv committee appealed and the inquiry heard from many distinguished Suburb residents and took the story into the national press. The *Jewish Chronicle* managed a pun 'Barnet Jews are poles apart'. RW

## RA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Residents Association will take place on 28th March 1994 at 8 p.m. in Bigwood Hall, Bigwood Road, NW11.

Any motions for inclusion on the agenda must be received by first post on 11th February 1994.

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 14th March 1994.

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

## Spring Outings

### Tour of the Palace of Westminster

Our M.P., John Marshall, has suggested that - following the successful visit to the House of Commons last July - residents might like a full tour of the Palace of Westminster. These tours take place in the mornings, and last approximately one and a half hours.

The date suggested is **Wednesday, 9 March**, and - if we can get a large enough party - we can travel by coach as on the last occasion.

### Visit to Letchworth Garden City

Dr Mervyn Miller has long been promising us a conducted tour of Letchworth Garden City. The visit will be hosted by the Letchworth Garden City Society and will be led by Dr Miller. The visit will include a guided tour around the first Garden City, with visits to the

Heritage Museum (built as the Parker and Unwin offices in 1907), the Friends Meeting House, and some of the most characteristic Arts and Crafts houses. Tea will be provided by the Letchworth Garden City Society at The Settlement, a charming Parker and Unwin building from 1907, originally the "Skittles Inn", a unique experimental "pub with no beer".

The date is **Saturday, 30 April**. The Society say they can accommodate up to 40 visitors, so if enough residents are interested in going, we can have a coach. It will be necessary for us to leave the Suburb at 9.30 am in order to arrive at Letchworth by 10.30.

To reserve places on either or both these events, please write to Eileen Whelan, 101 Willifield Way, London NW11 6YH, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope.

## RA Report

Do you think our environment is becoming more noisy? When Alan Watts, Head of **Environment Services** at the London Borough of Barnet, came to speak to the RA Council in October, he informed us that complaints received by LB Barnet, mainly about domestic noise, increase every year, and amounted to 1,200 this year. We are fortunate on the Suburb in not being subject to these problems, and those that do exist are usually preventable, such as barking dogs, loud radios in the summer, and late-night garden parties! Mr Watts's talk was very informative about all the wider issues he has to cover.

The newly launched **International Society** illustrates how varied and interesting our residents are. At the next meeting on Thursday 27 January at Fellowship House the speaker will be Judge Sanders, a circuit judge living on the Suburb, who will speak on "Common Market - Common Law?"

At the **joint meeting with LB Barnet and the RA** in October it was agreed to improve the Northway public tennis courts, and among a range of subjects, hedges and trees, cleansing of twittens, repair to the Henrietta Barnett Memorial light were all discussed.

Discussions took place about the future of the **Suburb Weekend**, and the general consensus was that it should be held biennially.

The **RA and HGS Trust** continue to have regular meetings to discuss matters of common interest on the maintenance and future of the Suburb. Edward Caplin has now been appointed Chairman of the HGS Trust, and Colin Gregory, a member of the RA Council, has been co-opted to the Trust Council.

In November, Philip Davies from **English Heritage**, the Regional Planner for 21 London boroughs, gave a talk to RA Council that covered many subjects vital to the Suburb as a conservation area and he has agreed to assist the RA on these matters.

Visitors from the **Lutyens Society**, on a tour organised by Mervyn Miller in October, were welcomed to a delicious tea laid on at Fellowship House by Rosie Loyd for the RA.

The Residents Association was deeply saddened at the death of **James Webster**, whose unflinching involvement and support will be much missed. With his wife Audrey, James had undertaken the hospitality at our meetings for many years.

One of our officers who works unceasingly and successfully for our community is **Peter Loyd**, who was awarded a regional special mention in the Queen Mother's Birthday Awards for his work with the Tidy Britain Group, and was one of the main speakers at the recent Neighbourhood Watch Conference. Residents can be reassured that Peter is not in favour of vigilante groups!

S de P

## From Cottages to Castles

### We are at home in the Suburb

A home is a very special place, particularly so in the Suburb. It is filled with a lifetime of experiences.

A safe haven, a welcoming friend.

Alas, eventually even homes need to be sold or let. We feel it is incumbent on the agent handling the transaction that they not only have an intimate knowledge of the area, but recognise that a home is much more than bricks and mortar.

Glentree is such an agent. For many years we have been handling Suburb properties and we are at home with everything from "cottages to castles".

A further benefit to the Suburb's residents is our extensive contacts with potential buyers outside the immediate area.

At some time in the future, without obligation, we would be pleased to give you advice on your property.

You will be talking to us in the knowledge that we too are at home in the Suburb.



GLENTREE  
ESTATES

698 Finchley Road, London NW11 7NE  
Sales: 081-458 7311 Lettings: 081-209 1144



Early strollers on Hampstead Heath extension were surprised on a crisp Sunday morning last November to see a group of local doctors accompanying MP John Marshall and other energetic walkers. They were no longer concerned about the health of their MP when it was explained that he and the gallant team were fulfilling their North West Support sponsorship as they raised £4,000 to benefit the North London Hospice.