

# RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LOOKS FORWARD AT AGM

Taking her first AGM as RA Chairman, Léonie Stephen welcomed guests Cllr Roy Shutz and Honorary Life Members of the Association. In an address intended to "look forward rather than back over the past year" she announced a number of measures designed to make the RA Council more accountable to members and said "with 2500 member households I am determined to make sure that we know what you expect of us".

Measures include a 20 minute question time for members during RA Council meetings and a research programme that would give the Council answers on a wide range of subjects that will "form the basis of an agenda for action over the next two or three years". She continued "I consider that one of the most important objectives of the RA should be to promote neighbourliness on the Suburb. We will be asking, in our research, whether you would welcome such events as a Childrens' Christmas Party, an annual supper at the AGM or other social events. Some have been discontinued she went on "because volunteers are perhaps deterred by the work involved, so the Council has agreed, in principle, that professional help should be sought where necessary".

She asked anyone who would like to join a new Social Committee to get in touch.

Another initiative for the coming year is a drive for new members "We are looking for members of standing committees and for more Membership Representatives and for an

increase in the number households".

The Chairman also said "We want to start again to work towards the provision of a Community Centre. The Millennium and Lottery funds could give an opportunity to really do something about this at last and, again, we want your views on what form it should take or indeed any other ideas to mark the millennium or the Suburb's centenary.

## Committees

**John Boulter** presented the accounts for 1994/5 and reported an increase in membership and Fellowship contributions.

**Freddie Hannam** thanked the RA for collecting a record amount for Fellowship.

**Colin Cawood** Allotments reminded the meeting that they looked after 113 plots "There are now some vacancies so if you wish to pit your muscles against the land and enjoy fresh produce, please apply".

**Mervyn Mandell** CONSAM, thanked David Morrison for his years of service as Chairman of the committee. He went on "Consam is here for you and to help conserve the Suburb" he continued "We are always pulled in two directions in trying to balance the wishes of those who want to change their houses and those who would conserve everything" We are glad to take up causes if you have grievances against Barnet, the Trust or your neighbours.

**Eileen Whelan** explained that the Environment Committee was



Léonie Stephen thanks Sylvia de Peyer

to be wound up and their work and members distributed amongst other committees.

**Spencer Hudson** Trees and Open Spaces, said he was fortunate in having a highly qualified team. He was delighted with the progress of The Friends of Northway Gardens and stressed his desire for his committee to work in partnership with LB Barnet. A piece in Suburb News, last issue, had resulted in the recruitment of 9 volunteer tree wardens.

**Rosie Loyd** Publications, thanked her committee for the hard work that goes into producing RA publications and said they would be working on the research questionnaire.

**Sally Murrell** Membership, announced that over 800 households had renewed their membership so far, 200 more than at the same time last year but made a plea to those using

the free post to sign, date or otherwise complete their cheques.

**Peter Philips** was thanked for his time as Secretary to the Committee.

**David Rapson** Roads and Traffic, told us about his meeting, arranged by John Marshall, with the Dept Transport when the Minister had said that work on Henly's Corner would not commence before roadworks east of Falloeden Way were completed. He talked about the RA scheme for one way traffic, with calming, round the education block and the RAs ideas for Suburb wide calming.

Mr Sales said that Temple Fortune Lane was a "racetrack" and called for temporary traffic calming "before people got killed"

Alison Chesshyre said that this would force traffic on to Willifield Way and David

Rapson said "that is precisely why we insist on a Suburb wide scheme."

Dorothy Unwin made a plea for white lines on the corner of Brim Hill and Deansway like those at Northway/North Square.

**Peter Loyd** Neighbourhood Watch, said that the Suburb and immediately adjacent areas had 5000 out of 6000 homes covered. 1994 had been a very successful year for reducing crime on the Suburb.

**Presentations** The Chairman said she was sorry to be losing two officers this year. Sylvia de Peyer who has been Hon Sec for seven years and Peter Loyd who was retiring as Vice Chairman to spend more time on Neighbourhood Watch.

**Elections** The business of the AGM proceeded with the re-election of Léonie Stephen as Chairman and John Boulter as Hon Treasurer and the election of Richard Wakefield as Vice Chairman.

There were two new Council members for election Prof Dennis Baron and Bernard Lubert. Léonie Stephen thanked retiring members and those standing again were elected en bloc.

**Honorary Life Members** Bill and Tina Bailey and David and Joyce Morrison were accorded Honorary Life Memberships in recognition of all they had done for the Suburb over many years.

Philip Davies from **English Heritage** who is also a Suburb resident had been asked to speak about his report "Greening the Garden Suburb". He described

his holistic approach to conservation which includes the street scene and traffic calming as well as the buildings.

**Suburb Gallery.** Under any other business the Chairman outlined proposals for the RA and the Trust to take over Hamilton Fine Arts gallery in Hampstead Way. Run by the RA the gallery would sell pictures by Suburb artists and act as a focal point and shop window for both organisations. She asked residents for their comments.

## RA avoids issues

Also under any other business Douglas Blausten, a long time Council member himself, criticised the Residents Association for avoiding controversial, social and domestic issues. He thought the RA should have had an agreed policy on both the Eruv and the School/ Institute situation.

## Suburb News bias

Asked to explain, to members of the audience who had not yet heard, what the result of the court action had been Malcolm Davis the Institute's Acting Chairman took the opportunity to say that *Suburb News* had not been neutral but that its editorials had favoured the School's side of the argument. He further explained the court judgement.

The AGM, attended by over 200, ended with drinks and heated conversation between members, many of whom were nervously aware of a roving boom microphone hovering above their heads as the BBC's Omnibus team eavesdropped from above.

Richard Wakefield

## Tell me about the war, Grandma . . .

*Freedom of movement, which in days of Peace  
We took for granted, now had ceased to be;  
The fact we couldn't always get to school  
Worried my parents but delighted me.*

*The Hampstead Heath extension where we used to walk  
Was now the home for anti-aircraft guns.  
The Suburb corner shop no longer had in stock  
Our favourite things, like sweets and sticky buns.*

*Our air-raid shelter, reinforced concrete,  
Was in the garage where we used to store  
Odd things like deckchairs and the garden peat  
In scarce-remembered days before the war.*

*The nightly raids and German airplane hum  
And numbness that the war was fashioning  
Prepared for different trauma yet to come,  
The loss of neighbour (and still stricter rationing . . .)*

*In London we'd grown used to wartime stench,  
Rubble and noise no longer bothered us;  
Evacuation though was quite a wrench;  
We cried - my parents didn't dare to fuss.*

*Fresh country air and quiet village school  
Made fighting and V.1s seem far away.  
Still in my city clothes I felt a fool  
Among the local children and the hay.*

*How did I celebrate the end of the war,  
Restrictions, fear and concentration camps?  
We didn't need our blackout any more -  
I opened windows, turned on all the lamps;  
I laughed and danced and cheered with all my friends,  
Feasted on extra rations we had kept.  
But later my euphoria disappeared.  
I thought of all the carnage and I wept,  
Then crawled into my bed and slept and slept.*

Mary Huttner

THE LOCAL ARTS FESTIVAL  
WITH WORLD CLASS MUSICIANS

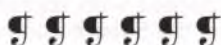
**Proms**  
at St Jude's

In aid of North London Hospice  
St Jude's Organ Appeal



Humphrey Lyttelton

Refreshments will be available in the Proms Marquee and the intervals provide an opportunity for socialising.



There are five exhibitions as well. The Suburb at War coincides with this year's 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two. Suburb sculptor Alec Worster shows his sculptures of "homeless people" and other pieces from his Suburb studio.



Erich Gruenberg

**Ticket proceeds are donated to the North London Hospice and the St Jude's Organ Appeal.**

Tickets can be booked by telephone to 01395 223400 between 10.00 am and 7.00 pm. Credit cards accepted on ticket sales of £15 and over (£1 booking fee).

Saturday 24 June	<b>Ebony Steel Orchestra</b> £7.50 & £5
Sunday 25 June	<b>Crispian Steele-Perkins</b> International trumpet player with Andrew McCrea at the organ £10 & £7.50
Monday 26 June	<b>Humphrey Lyttelton</b> and his Band £10 & £7.50
Tuesday 27 June	<b>Lady Walton and Richard Baker</b> 'Black tie' performance of Walton's 'Facade' £25 including buffet dinner
Wednesday 28 June	<b>Garden Suburb Theatre</b> A performance of 'Murder in the Cathedral' £6 & £4
Thursday 29 June	<b>Erich Gruenberg and the Nonesuch Orchestra</b> Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' £7.50 & £5
Friday 30 June	<b>Richard Greenwood and Maria Lidka</b> Piano and String recital £6 & £4
Saturday 1 July	<b>Bobby Lamb and Trinity Big Band</b> £7.50 & £5

**There are recitals at lunchtime too, when admission is by donation, from Tuesday 26 June to Saturday 1 July.**

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