

SUBURB NEWS

Issue 52

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Summer '96

EDITOR'S FILE

Suburb mum braves the Big Apple

Mencap national council member and volunteer, Pia Duran, is putting her best foot forward to raise cash for Mencap's Golden Jubilee Appeal. Pia is taking the brave step of entering for the New York City Marathon in November and is looking for local sponsors to support her venture, tel 696 5583.

Joined the RA yet?

The page in the last issue of Suburb News asking you to join the Residents Association brought an encouraging response and a useful number of subs - but nothing like enough. Still, it's never too late - please join now.

No-nonsense plug

Very nice plug for a well known local restaurant, and Suburb News advertiser, from Donald Sinden in the Sunday Telegraph recently "I go to the Capriccio twice a week; it's straightforward no-nonsense Italian food. Leo, Danilo and Gianni who run it make it a delight to go there - everyone should have a local like it."

On the news

FHA Fete goes were somewhat surprised to see themselves on BBC News later that evening.

Just looking

Much as we like to sell things in the Garden Suburb Gallery, to keep it going, residents are always welcome just to come in and have a look at the pictures and pots produced by their talented neighbours. As they say "There's no obligations to buy" just to enjoy.

Baillie-Scott in London

The exhibition originally at Kettles Yard can be seen at Geffrye Museum, Aug 13 - Nov 3.

A 'Fine' contribution

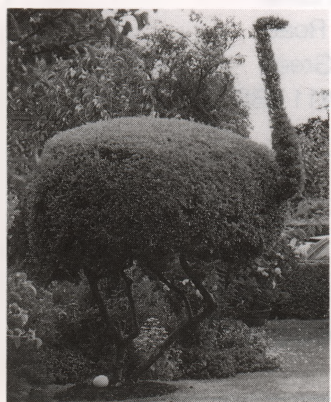
You have to hand it to the North West Hospice Support team, they have the most inventive ideas for raising money. The Hospice benefits from the students at Henrietta Barnett School, not by proceeds from a raffle or a stall at a summer fete, but by donation of 'fines' paid by the girls when they lose their locker keys!

Autumn Fair books

If you would like to donate books for the St Jude's Autumn Fair bookstall they can be left at 26 Hampstead Way during September.

Omnibus ostrich

Peter Loyd's topiary ostrich caught the eye, and the cameras, of the Omnibus team when they were filming on the Suburb last year. In case we never get to see the film, and it does seem to have vanished without trace, here's the ostrich in situ in Meadway.



LOCAL RESIDENTS TO OPPOSE INSTITUTE DEVELOPMENT

The Institute unveiled outline plans during March, not for publication, to a number of Suburb bodies and to local residents for development of their site including an additional 50,000 square feet between the present Grade 1 building and Bigwood House.

The Residents Association wrote to the Institute expressing concern at the density of development and the likely increase in traffic problems for residents in the event of an increase in student numbers. The Institute then submitted plans, not registered by Barnet as a formal application, for consideration by Barnet, the Trust and English Heritage.

Pressure group formed

Immediate local residents have formed the Central Square Residents Association, chaired by Raymond Taylor of Southway, and have raised a fighting fund of more than £6500 with the intention of commissioning Town Planning Consultants to help them fight what they see as an overdevelopment that threatens their views and the values of their homes. They ask whether this is the site of a new Barnet College and say "Central Square Residents' Association has been formed by a group of Suburb residents. From the information we have been able to see it seems to us that the Institute wants to turn the site into a college campus. It is our view that this is wholly inappropriate on the site and represents a radical change in the character of the Institute. We are not anti Institute but we are very much against this scheme."

We recognize that Henrietta Barnett School requires a design and technology laboratory and that it would like to replace the existing portacabins. We understand that this can be achieved in a very unobtrusive manner by extending Bigwood Hall and in principle, subject to seeing and approving the plans,

Cafe Toulouse

The Cafe Toulouse, geddit?, in Nortway Gardens appears to have fulfilled a local need as is evidenced by the full tables on the terrace as residents take advantage of Mrs Green's cooking and the summer sunshine.

Originally the site of the public loos the building has been derelict for years and is now a very welcome addition to Suburb life.

Cafe Toulouse proved very useful when the Residents Association entertained a visiting party from Letchworth and were able to reciprocate their hospitality, when they returned footsore and weary after a tour of the Suburb led by Mervyn Miller, they were given a sumptuous tea hosted by RA Chairman, Léonie Stephen. **Richard Wakefield**



Sally Botterill with her son Edward with handfuls of cups after they had won the mixed doubles at the Farm Walk Club Tournament. Edward also won the mens singles and, with partner Claus Geissmar, the mens doubles too!

we would not object to this.

The Institute on the other hand has not given any explanation as to why it needs such a huge development of the site nor why it believes such a gross overdevelopment is for the benefit of the Suburb. The Institute should publish the plans and tell everyone, residents and Institute members, what the Institute is seeking to achieve. As a first step in this process we have written to the Institute to ask for copies of the plans, why the Institute needs the additional space, how much of it will be used by the school, how many additional students will attend, how many cars will be parked and what affect it will have on traffic throughout the Suburb.

We make no secret of our opposition and urge all residents

and members of the Institute to oppose this scheme. If you wish to oppose the scheme, please write to Central Square Residents' Association, c/o Solomon Taylor & Shaw, 3 Coach Yard, Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QD and we shall write to you telling you how best to register your objections.

If you want to see the plans in detail and consider them before making any decision please urge the Institute to supply all the information which has been requested of it and then to enter into a public debate on the merits of the scheme. The Institute should have no fears of such a debate if it truly believes that the scheme will preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Suburb."



INSTITUTE UPDATE

A great deal has happened since the Spring issue of Suburb News when we urged all those involved to negotiate a settlement of this difficult problem.

Readers will recall that on advice from their lawyers and due to a shortage of funds the Institute served notice to quit on the school in order to be able to charge rent for the space the school occupies. The school backed by Barnet as the education authority contested this. The High Court action that followed established that in principle the Institute was entitled to give notice (and when it expired to charge a rent) but that the length of notice had been inadequate.

A further notice to quit was served to expire on 31 August next year. By March this year nothing had been agreed and Barnet felt that in order to safeguard the interests of the school it had to apply for a compulsory purchase order. This meant that a Public Enquiry would have to be held. The cost of this both in time and money focused the minds of those concerned.

Apart from this tangled web there is a practical problem that the school has a very pressing need for more space so that it can fulfill the requirements of the National Curriculum. This the Institute can not supply as it already has resort to temporary buildings and to occupy and pay rent on other premises such as Fellowship House and Free Church Hall.

In an effort to resolve all the problems in one fell swoop the Institute's architects have prepared plans to accommodate both bodies on the site. This will mean the addition of about 50,000 sq ft to the present 65,000 sq ft on the site. Briefly the Institute's case is that this will enable them to bring all their activities onto the site and provide other facilities such as a library and staff rooms which

they do not have at the moment. In addition they want to share less accommodation with the school. They can then work more efficiently, leave equipment in classrooms and have (in some cases) larger rooms. It is planned to increase the day time students by some 200. These, it is said, will mostly young students who will be on grants and will not have cars.

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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.



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