

LETTERS

85 Northway
NW11 6NY

29 June 1996

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to see two letters in the last issue of Suburb News about cycling. I had had some letters and phone calls in response to my article in Spring's issue so I feel that I must have touched a nerve. I am particularly appreciative of the thoughtful answer in your columns from Terry Rand who states the pedestrians case while giving thought to the overall problem. I certainly support his call for a better deal for cyclists on Fallden Way.

Most cyclists want to ride on the roads: one can go faster and more smoothly when unencumbered by consideration for pedestrians, dogs, bumpy and unmaintained surfaces and broken glass all of which seem to inhabit dedicated cycle paths. I'd like more space on all inside lanes for cyclists and cars or buses together. Within residential areas I fully support the 20 mph zone goal which will make our streets safer for everyone. I am a confident road user who rides to get to a destination. Lots of cyclists are less confident than I am (with a greater realism perhaps), some are young children (who should be encour-

101 Willifield Way
NW11 6YH

Dear Editor,

May I, through your columns, express appreciation for Elizabeth Watkins?

In each issue of Suburb News she comes up with another intriguing "Wordsearch". May I say "Thank you" on behalf of all those who, like me, never quite manage to complete it, but who nevertheless spend a happy hour grappling with it.

Yours
Eileen Whelan

aged now so they may become the confident cyclists of the future) and many are leisure cyclists who may be new cyclists or newly returned to cycling through leisure use. All of these groups would have good reason not to cycle on Finchley Road or Fallden Way even if these roads were a bit more cycle friendly.

I am as opposed to ill-mannered and loudish behaviour as Tim Neal and Terry Rand; I am often subjected to it from car drivers (and I am much more likely to be seriously injured or killed by the lout behind the wheel of a car than is any pedestrian by a cyclist, no matter how badly behaved). However, I don't advocate that anyone other than small children should cycle on the narrow pavements of residential roads and this isn't the proposal that I put forward. I suggested that we should try sharing a few footpaths with cyclists. Of course, cyclists should be courteous to pedestrians as they would like motorists to be to cyclists and, slowing down, be ready for the unexpected. I look forward to more debate

Yours
Roz Archer

47 Holne Chase
N2 0QG

8 May 1996

Dear Editor,

You printed in your Winter edition a road accident survey form produced by the Roads & Traffic Committee. This asked residents for information about accidents in the Suburb in February/March 1996, including those where there was no human injury so that the police may not have been involved. We received only two replies, both referring to incidents before the period of the survey. The police inform me that in the designated period there were 17 accidents (6 with injury) reported to them; did no readers of Suburb News notice them?

Yours
Professor Denis Baron

3 North Square
NW11 7AA

3 July 1996

Dear Editor,

The HGS Institute

In a recent letter to the Principal of the Institute, I asked as a practicing Chartered Surveyor and a resident of North Square, for some information about their proposals to develop the Institute building.

In a reply dated 20 June 1996, the Principal replied that 'the plans have now been submitted to the Local Authority'. She also stated that the 'Institute has gone through an extensive consultation process which has included the Residents Association, the HGS Trust, English Heritage, London Borough of Barnet and our 'nearest neighbours'. This consultation process has been highly selective. The meeting for the 'nearest neighbours' was restricted.

It appears that by being selective, the Institute is endeavouring to set the Agenda.

I have not yet seen the plans and am therefore unable to form a view as to whether I approve or not. However, as a result of its secretive approach towards the issue, the Institute has succeeded in creating antagonism even before it has presented its case. The implication is that they are well aware that their proposals will provoke controversy and disagreement.

The Principal's reply to me, far from giving me comfort leads me to the view that I and the other residents and their representatives, the HGS Trust and the Residents Association, must be particularly diligent to ensure that the Institute does not take advantage of surprise or apathy to achieve its objective without due consideration.

Yours
Richard Townley

I Buy a School by Marion Berry

This book comprises a charming account of an 'adventure' of a Suburb resident, now well over eighty; born and brought up in Reynolds Close; both more and less well-to-do, including a losing battle with the bailiffs, who remembers with sympathy the Poor Law children once housed in what is now Abbeyfield, and other children in the East End who could not go to school because their mothers had had to pawn their shoes to buy food; and the days when the underground fare from Euston to Golders Green was 4d.

One anecdote follows another - of the small boy struggling with his nature essay writing of seeing "a mother spider hurrying home to her children", or the ratcatcher who reassures her after a night of horror

with: "There's nothing so timid as what a rat is."

There is no doubt that Marion Berry, who was herself a pupil in the first infants' school that was housed in the Institute, was a born teacher with an innate understanding of children; running the Girl Guides at St Jude's; keeping house after her mother died; struggling more than once with loneliness, illness, anxiety and breakdown - a governess in Greece; training in the Charlotte Mason College in Ambleside; on the staff of the PNEU school once in the Suburb Market Place and then in Rickmansworth, until she bought and became Headmistress of her own school there.

Miss Berry was and undoubtedly is a woman of deep Christian faith,

of imagination, courage and understanding; willing in the past to risk herself financially and personally for the sake of her children, her staff and the school, which in due course became an Educational Trust with a Board of Governors, until she finally returns to the Suburb. It comes as no surprise that one report from HM Inspectors ends: "The children make good progress in an agreeable environment. They are happily and profitably employed and are being well prepared for the next stage in their education."

Kathleen Slack

I Buy a School is available at Joseph's Bookstore, Temple Fortune, 731 7575, price £5.

Free Church concert

The Free Church choir and an orchestra drawn from Hampstead Garden Suburb residents and their friends gave a well balanced concert of justly loved favourites at the Free Church on the Suburb on Saturday 11 May.

Eine kleine Nachtmusik, with the strings in lively form, gave of its irresistible magic, movement after movement. Though Pachelbel's Canon is a slighter work it, too, sounded fresh not familiar.

Mozart's Requiem, his last work, is an altogether more serious piece and Kenneth Dougall's interpretation rose well to its demands. From the haunting opening, with clarinet and bassoon, through the dramatic contributions of the choir, soloists (Elizabeth Fergusson, Dilys Thomas, Peter Quantrell and Kenmure Melville) and the excellent trombone soloist, Diane Prince, the effect was cumulatively moving. A fine performance of a great work has magic that CDs cannot offer.



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What will the world be like when he's a dad?

A polluted environment or a clean healthy one? Golders Green Friends of the Earth are working towards improving air quality. One way to achieve this is to reduce the amount of traffic on our roads. A quarter of all car journeys are under two miles, so we could all do something positive to help air quality by not using our car whenever possible. Walking and cycling do no harm to the air we breathe and are wonderful aerobic activities. Try it for two days a week and leave the car at home. You will need to use the car less if you support your local shops, walk to school or the tube station or catch the bus.

If you join Golders Green

Friends of the Earth, you will be joining a group of friendly respectable local people who are concerned about global warming, the destruction of natural habitats and who are campaigning locally for a better public transport system and for cycle paths to be built.

Many of us live on the Suburb and feel we are doing something positive to preserve Henrietta Barnett's dream by working towards a greener and happier environment for ourselves and future generations.

For more details of Golders Green Friends of the Earth phone David Rapson 458 5094 (home) or 0171 586 1534 (office) or Carolyn Killen 455 6352.

'Tom Jones' and Gilbert & Sullivan from Manor House Opera

Manor House Hospital Operatic Society has had a most successful run of 'Tom Jones' at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. It was a critically acclaimed production admirably adapted by their talented director, Shane Collins. David Mackie, former conductor of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, put together an operetta of an excellent musical standard both from the singing and orchestral points of view.

The opera group is now looking forward to their next ventures with great confidence. A special centenary concert version of the rarely performed Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Grand Duke' is to be held at the Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green on Saturday 16 November. Also Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Princess Ida' is to be held at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute between 13 and 17 May 1997. Box Office details from David Epstein (tel 346 3244).

Singers of all ranges are most welcome, subject to audition. Contact Eileen Huggins (tel 346 2104).

WEA classes, new session

WEA is a national organisation of nearly 100 years standing, offering classes for adults on your doorstep on a variety of interesting topics, such as Music, Literature, Art, History, Religion and Current Affairs.

Our brochures will be in all the libraries in Barnet, under the title W.E.A. Courses in Barnet, giving full details.

The new session starts from September 26, 1996 and runs for Autumn and Spring (2 terms).

The Secretary will be pleased to give you any further information if you phone 452 8850.

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