

# INSTITUTE OPEN DAY

Despite the rival attraction of England's exploits against Spain in Euro '96, the Institute's Open Day on 22 June proved to be one of its most successful ever, with a marked increase in attendance on 1995. Distinguished visitors among those casting an appreciative eye over the exhibits and demonstrations were John Marshall MP and the Mayor of Barnet Pam Coleman.

The accent of the event was chiefly on those Institute activities which lend themselves to attractive visual display, as one might expect, with the main hall in Central Square and Bigwood Hall as the focal points for the exhibitors. Many of the art and craft courses were represented, including Bookbinding, Calligraphy, Flower Arranging, Furniture Restoration, Jewellery, Painting and Drawing, Picture Framing, Silk Painting and Stained Glass; work by the Prefoundation Art students, who study full-time at the Institute for two terms before moving on to higher-level courses, was also in evidence, contributing to the generally high standard of the material on show.

Outside the Pottery studio a spectacular demonstration of the Raku method of pottery making, involving large bins, intense heat and clouds of smoke, drew an intrigued audience, while on the opposite side of Northway, advice on foreign language courses was available to enquirers.

A large and impressive array of pictures by the Institute's very productive and talented photography students was the central feature in the main hall. There were additional attractions, however: in the bar, visitors could sample wines

under the expert tutelage of wine appreciation teacher Gerald Darrer, or taste food prepared by cookery teacher Lynn Stephenson. On the stage, meanwhile, a variety of music was being performed - everything from Latin American numbers by language teacher Emerio Duarte and his friends, to orchestral music under the baton of Roy Budden. Later in the afternoon, the new Estonia grand piano was put through its paces by piano teacher Joan Cohen. A fascinating interlude was provided by the young members of the Pantha Karate group, who meet at the Institute every week, and whose disciplined and well-co-ordinated moves were well worth the generous applause they received.

A great many teachers were on hand to give advice and answer questions about their courses, and a

lot of people took advantage of the opportunity to talk to them, before going to the office to enrol. In the end, over 200 students registered for forthcoming courses, making sure of their places before the rush in late summer and early autumn.

The recent retirement of Pauline Brown who has been, for some years, the co-ordinator of Open Day, led to the creation of a small team to pull the event together, among them Monica Stanshall, Barbara Jackson, Jenny Rymer, June Standing and Bob Rothero. Their hard work, and support they were given by other teachers, as well as office and caretaking, notably Sylvia Pace and Peter Whitehead, contributed to an enjoyable day which amply illustrated the important role the Institute plays in the life of the Suburb. **Richard Bradbury**

## Suburb Gallery

Take the time and go and see  
The works of art at The Gallery  
It is easy to find in Hampstead Way  
And you can pop in any day.  
There are water colours from top to floor -  
There may even be one of your front door!  
There are views from high up on the Heath  
And flowers budding underneath.

The Artists come from all around  
But from the Suburb they abound.  
If you are the Impressionist kind  
There are delightful scenes that you will find,  
And if it's sketches that you like  
The pencil work is a sheer delight.  
There are Objets d'Art of pottery  
You can look around and it's all for free.  
But if you truly wish to buy  
You are sure to find something to please the eye.

So if you haven't been to view  
They'll be very pleased to welcome you. **Barbara Bliss**



Host Elizabeth Gundry (seated centre) with guests Alexander Baron, Chaim Bermant, Diana Bishop, Sam Eilon, Moris Farhi, Nicola Grove, Eve Haas, Alec Hasensun, Katherine Holabird, Meredith Hooper, Leon Kaufman, Maisie Mosco, Joan North, Jane Revell, Denis Rosen, Ann Saunders, Peter Scheur, Lucy Seifert, Elizabeth Sussex, Charles Thomson and Vitali Vitaliev.

## An area rich in authors

On a sunny June Sunday, over twenty of them - all members of the Society of Authors - gathered for a writers' garden party at the home in Southway of Elizabeth Gundry (author of the bestselling "Staying Off the Beaten Track", etc). Though a social occasion, there was much "talking shop" - agents being recommended (or otherwise), ideas for a standard contract to pin down shifty

magazine publishers, tips on watching publishers' figures for royalties...

Embryonic plans were laid for a Suburb authors' public event later (perhaps raising funds for PEN's Writers in Prison group), of which more news anon. And some writers volunteered to give talks at the Suburb's Fellowship House.

This looks like being the first of a series of parties for Hamp-

stead Garden Suburb authors. The next will be at the home of Moris Farhi (author of "Journey through the Wilderness" and other novels): 11 am on **Sunday 22 September**. Any local writer wishing to be a guest need only send a postcard (giving titles of books published) to him at 11 North Square, NW11.

**Elizabeth Gundry**

## North London Hospice



### Temple Visit

It was too early in the year to be called an 'Indian' summer but nevertheless there was blue sky and sunshine to set the perfect scene for a visit to the exotic new Hindu Temple at Neasden.

The coach outing, which left from Holne Chase, Hampstead Garden Suburb and was organised by the North West

Support Group of the North London Hospice, included superbly guided tours of the fascinating Temple and magnificent environs, a video about the building and an exhibition to further the understanding of Hinduism.

The lunch afterwards back on the Suburb was more in the Western style, and the event raised £650 for the Hospice.

## Coffee morning at the Health Centre

The annual coffee morning at the Temple Fortune Health Centre proved to be as popular as ever, with patients and visitors. Over £1,200 was raised to benefit the North London Hospice. **Gillian Newman**

**PICTURE FRAMING**  
HGS Resident: evenings, weekends, daytime. 458 2894

*Jane Collins*

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# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## Robbery

The following article appeared in *Suburb News* Summer '95, and set out virtually everything I could think of saying to warn Suburb residents of what they should do to protect themselves from being 'mugged'. Unfortunately, robberies continue and the article is as relevant now as it was twelve months ago.

"Many Suburb residents are aware that the crime of 'robbery' - or theft accompanied by violence - is becoming more prevalent. This article is intended to explain the present position as objectively as possible and to suggest actions that residents can, and should, take to minimise the risk of becoming victims to this particularly nasty crime. And, if this repeats some of the information which residents have read already in Neighbourhood Watch newsletters, there may be no harm in setting out the information again.

As burglary of our houses becomes more and more difficult for criminals, a few of them are now resorting to attacking people outside their homes or in public places and robbing them of cash, jewellery, watches and other valuables which they may be carrying. This is not happening just to Suburb residents but throughout the home counties and elsewhere in the country.

However, we need to get this crime into perspective. Altogether 793 crimes were committed on the Suburb and its adjoining areas over the last twelve months. This overall figure was made up of 226 burglaries, 345 vehicle crimes and 222 other crimes of which only 22 were robberies. So, robbery is still a comparatively rare crime.

**How robberies take place**  
Nevertheless, however rare it may be, it can be particularly vicious and unpleasant for its victims and so Suburb residents need to understand how robberies take place and what they need to do to minimise the risk and protect themselves from becoming victims. A



pattern seems to be emerging as follows:

- criminals wait around at places such as Brent Cross shopping centre, in Golders Green Road, at various prestigious West End stores and shopping areas, at cash dispensers and outside expensive restaurants and gaming clubs, selecting their victim(s) from people who are displaying expensive jewellery or watches, or who otherwise appear conspicuously wealthy. In some cases, one of them will approach a potential victim and ask the time in order to see what sort of watch he or she is wearing;
- having selected their victims, the criminals then tail them and follow them home by car, drawing up behind them as they get out and rob them of jewellery, cash and other valuables at knife point;
- a variation on this procedure is that, on a few occasions, the criminals have been able to find out the addresses of their intended victims in advance and to get to their homes before them, surprising them on their doorstep and forcing their way into the house. On one occasion, a woman was forced to admit masked men to her home and to unlock a

safe containing her jewellery and other valuables.

### The lessons to be learnt

All of this may sound pretty horrific, but there are clear lessons to be learnt and counter measures to be taken to ensure that none of us becomes a victim:

- First, and most important, it is extremely unwise to display wealth conspicuously anywhere in public, especially in shops, shopping arcades or in the street. It is virtually saying to a certain type of criminal 'look at me dressed up like a Christmas tree and ripe for the picking!'
- Then, anyone travelling home with valuable property, either on their person or in the car, should keep a careful look-out especially in their rear mirror. If it is suspected that a car may be following, either dial 999 on a mobile 'phone or drive to the nearest police station.
- On arriving home, make a special point of observing to see whether any car has been following. If in doubt, drive on and go to the nearest police station.
- In all cases, if at all possible, note the car registration number of the suspect vehicle and inform the police."

The problem essentially is that there are wealthy people, many of whom display their wealth conspicuously in public places - and there are criminals working in twos and threes on the lookout for them. The answer quite simply is - **be vigilant, be much more aware and don't put yourself at risk in the first place.**

**Peter Loyd**

## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1995/96)

### Wilfred Court retires

After more than 12 years as Trust Architect, Wilfred Court retired at the end of June. This brief space does not allow me even to summarise the huge impact which Wilfred has brought to the Trust. His methodical and thorough approach has allowed us to deal with applications efficiently and consistently. As important as the advice and site visits he has made has been his thorough overhaul of our records, his detailed knowledge of Suburb architecture and its underlying influences and his wry sense of humour and unflappability in sometimes trying circumstances. The entire Suburb can thank Wilfred for what he has so patiently achieved, the detail we can see on the buildings around us and for the infrastructure he has left in place for his successors.

### New Trust architect

The new Trust Architect, David Pickles, has been with us since April; this overlap has given us a smooth transition. David has already shown his capability to prove a worthy successor to Wilfred Court and the Council look forward to working with him for many years to come.

Alan Hewett (our RIBA nominated Council member) will also be retiring shortly, having served on our Council since 1993. Alan has consistently injected level-headed and informed advice into our deliberations.

After a 6 year term (now the maximum for elected representatives) Marie Howie will be leaving us in September. Marie's individual approach and common sense solutions to Suburb problems will prove hard to replicate.

The accounts which follow are the first reflecting the Trust's status as a charitable body. As a non-profit body concerned with the conservation and amenities of the Suburb, the activities of the Trust have been unaffected whilst providing some financial bonus. Once again, we are pleased to report healthy and stable finances for the past year.

Included with this report are a set of motions for our AGM designed to broaden this Trust's aims so as to incorporate those of the Charitable Trust. The two Trusts were set up together as sister bodies. By absorbing the Charitable Trust's role (to be exercised through a new Grants Sub-Committee operating at arm's length from the main Trust Council) we can ensure that former inter-relationship between the two bodies is restored.

At the time of writing, perhaps the most important issue facing the Suburb is the future shape of the Institute, both operationally and in its buildings. We sincerely hope that a long term solution can be found whereby both Institute and School can co-exist on the Central Square site. Plans for new buildings on this focal site have been submitted, representing the most significant development for the Suburb at least since the rebuilding of Fellowship House 40 years ago. We can confirm that we will ensure wide public consultation and consider the long term effects as part of our application process.

### Edward Caplin

Chairman  
July 1996

**HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST**