

# SUBURB NEWS



Issue 53

THE H G S RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER

Autumn '96

## EDITOR'S FILE

### Archives in the freezer

The need for a new home for the Suburb archives was underlined earlier this year when prompt action by archivist Harry Cobb saved many documents that were soaked after a burst pipe flooded the basement storage room in Bigwood House. Contacting the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell, he arranged for them to collect all the boxes of books and papers and freeze dry them. After that it was a matter of sighs of relief all round and waiting for everything to thaw gradually, not much the worse for the ordeal.

### Intrepid film-maker

Alan Lawson, lifetime Suburb resident and past Chairman of the RA, took pictures and helped make a film during the Spanish Civil War which form part of the exhibition on the subject at Hendon's Church Farm Museum. As a young cinematographer Alan went to Spain in 1938 with a crew that was working on three films, one of which is on show. Later, he tells me, they managed to get out only hours before being cut off by Franco's forces.

### Sorry, wrong number

Apologies to Anthea Davidson and to all those who tried to phone following the last issue when we told readers about her lessons in soft furnishing. So if you did try to ring or want to find out how to make curtains, cushions, pelmets, etc, it's 455 8983 - that's 455 8983.

### Music critic

Welcome to a new regular contributor, as music critic, Vera Segal who lives in Denman Drive. Following musical training Vera taught for some years but eventually turned to a career in journalism. She retired recently as editor of *Living Magazine*. Vera starts with a crit of the concert enjoyed by a large Suburb audience in aid of the Hospice on 5 October.

### Gardening too?

Suburb News would like to respond to reader requests by reinstituting the gardening column; so if you know someone who can write about gardening from a Suburb perspective, please contact the Editor.

### The CPO Inquiry

The CPO Inquiry was fascinating to listen to. There were protracted cross examinations by Counsel for Barnet and for the Institute, often conducted very slowly in order that the Inspector should have time to make his copious notes of all the exchanges. There were moments of drama when an unexpected point came out or a witness seemed to be caught on the hop. They must have been particularly tense moments, however, for residents who had the courage to face possible cross examination as they made their personal statements for or against the compulsory purchase order. About 20 people gave evidence and we had hoped to publish four of them. Four opposing views that would have given readers a flavour of the arguments for each side.

## 'STOP SQUABBLING' says CPO Inspector

At the end of the CPO inquiry in Hendon Town Hall the Government Inspector Ronald Holley, much as had the judge in the High Court action between the Institute and Henrietta Barnett and the DfEE in 1995, urged the parties to stop squabbling and reach a settlement.

In his summing up he hoped that agreement could be reached before the Education Secretary had to come to a decision about the compulsory purchase order. Towards the end of the hearing, which had taken seven days, the Institute Principal, Fay Naylor, walked out of the chamber during the final speech of Barnet's

Counsel, Christopher Lockhart-Mummery.

### Offer from Barnet

Before the inquiry began it seemed that the Council and the Institute were nearing agreement on all aspects. In an attempt to obviate the need for the CPO Inquiry to proceed LB Barnet had proposed a capitalised sum to be paid by the DfEE, which would be paid up front in exchange for a building agreement. 'This would have secured interest on the capital sum until the building works were completed and would have been instead of a rental' says Max Caller.

Richard Wakefield

## 'OUTRAGEOUS' says Institute Chairman

'Outrageous!' was the comment of Malcolm Davis, chairman of the HGS Institute, at the recent Public Inquiry, on the refusal of the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) to pay the rent due to the Institute after the notice to quit expires on 1st September next year.

The High Court action in 1995 had decided that the Institute was entitled to rent once the period of notice had finished. The judge had said that the period should be two years and three months. Mr Davis stressed a longer period had been given, and that expired next year. The rent had been agreed by valuers at £300,000 p.a.

### New plans

Mr Davis said that he had done all he could to try to reach an agreement so that both the school and the Institute could stay on the Central Square site. Negotiations had been difficult but plans for new buildings were now agreed in principle. These included the use of roofspace in Bigwood House and lowering the ground level of some of the new buildings. The total new area was only a little more than half that shown on the plans which had been put forward by the Institute earlier in the year, he explained.

From evidence given at the Inquiry it was clear that part of the proposed settlement was that the school (financed by LB Barnet or the DfEE) would pay a lump sum to the Institute for a 99-year lease of the space to be occupied by the school. But as the Institute's solicitor explained to the Residents Association representative at the Inquiry, that money could take three or four years to come. The lump sum would be paid only after the dispute was resolved, plans agreed, possibly new buildings had been put up and all legal problems solved. 'This could take years. It is not acceptable if the rent that is due is not paid in the meantime,' he said.

### Negotiations break down

The lack of any assurance on the rent (which LB Barnet says it has no power to pay) meant that, for the moment, negotiations had broken down. The Institute could not withdraw the notice to quit and in turn Barnet had to safeguard the interests of the students at the school and proceed with the Inquiry. It is expected that the Inspector will have sent his report to the

Secretary of State for Education and Employment in mid October.

At the Inquiry, the Inspector noted the wide measure of agreement that existed between the

continued on page 5

## RA Council member for Trust

In the Trust election last month Mervyn Mandell topped the poll in a contest between himself and Lorna Page, who was the Trust's nomination to fill the place vacated by Lady Howie at the end of her 6-year term as an Elected Member.

Mervyn, who currently chairs the Residents Association's CONSAM Committee, has lived on the Suburb for 18 years, since 1986 in Holne Chase with his wife Ruth and their children Lisa

and James. He is a chartered surveyor with a degree in estate management. Richard Wakefield



Mervyn Mandell

## Allotments gain

The HGS Charitable Trust, at its final AGM following its merger with the Trust, announced a grant of £2000 to Toynbee Hall and the rest of its remaining funds some £2200, to the RA Allotments Committee to pay for much needed laying on of water to parched allotments. Allotments Chairman Eileen Whelan welcomed the donation and said, "It is impossible these days to garden without water."

## Trust AGM

Opening the AGM of the HGS Trust, which followed, Chairman Eddie Caplin welcomed Dorian Crone, the new RIBA appointed Council Member and paid tribute to Mairi Howie for her six years on the Council. Accepting a presentation bouquet, Lady Howie said, "I have enjoyed my time on the Council. It has taught me, what everyone on the Suburb should know, that the Trust works diligently for the conservation of the area and that decisions are made with the utmost probity." The Chairman introduced David Pickles (see p 3), who has taken over as Trust architect from Wilfred Court, and welcomed John Marshall MP. The report and accounts were approved and questions taken from members.

## Crematorium fumes to cease

Mr J Horn, the administration manager, has confirmed that the new machinery is still expected to be delivered and ready for installation in November 1996. The work should be completed about six weeks after that. This information will come as a great relief to those residents who have for too long suffered from the fumes and smell which the present furnaces emit, and which constitute a serious health hazard. These, we are assured, will be eliminated in future. Tom Sales

## STOP PRESS

On controversial issues, particularly that of the Institute/ School, we have always given space to all opinions; every letter has been published regardless of its viewpoint, with exceptions of two that were stopped recently, - until now.

The RA Executive Committee has decided "in the best interests of the Suburb" that, on the subject of the Institute, only articles prepared by Hugh Hamilton will appear in this issue, see p.5. Apologies then to Eileen Whelan, Yvonne Oliver, Carol Boulter, Selma Shrank, Harriet Galgut, Richard Townley and our readers



The American oaks in Erskine Hill will have to go eventually to be replaced by lime trees. Story on Page 3

## 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