

# SUBURB NEWS

Issue 50 THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Winter '96

## EDITOR'S FILE

### Suburb expats

Keen-eyed viewers may have spotted ex Suburb resident Andrew Graham Yool among the dignitaries in news shots of Princess Diana's visit to Argentina. Andrew, now back in Buenos Aires following his years of exile, is the Editor of the *Buenos Aires Herald*. During their time here Andrew wrote books and edited *South*; Michaela served on the RA Council.

### Best intentions?

Institute News, not Suburb News, distributed widely on the Suburb during December giving news of intended redevelopment of the Central Square site says that it is at consultation stage with the RA and the Trust. Hopefully this more a statement of intent because in fact the views of neither the Trust nor the RA have been sought.

### Archives?

*Suburb News*, old enough to provide archive material! Dr Mervyn Miller spent hours in the Editor's study going through the hundreds of photographs accumulated over a dozen years of publication, looking for pictures to bring his new book on the Suburb's history right up to date. It's the latest Suburb book and it's available from the Garden Suburb Gallery.

### Butlins anniversary?

In November Pat and Joan Laurance, founders of the Family Holiday Association, were invited to a 60th Anniversary celebration of Butlins Holidays, or so they thought. They were asked to be photographed with a group of Red Coats and a two-legged Butlins' cat and were flabbergasted when the cat, removed her headpiece to reveal Esther Rantzen, who informed them that they had been nominated for a 'Hearts of Gold award'.

The programme is scheduled for showing in March.

### Dartmoor Watch

A Suburb resident motored across Dartmoor this winter in foul weather, but just as he approached Princetown, drawing level with the high walls of the prison, his spirits rose on seeing the sign "You Are Now Entering A Neighbourhood Watch Area".

## RA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Residents Association will take place on 25th March 1996 at 8 pm in Bigwood Hall, Bigwood Road, NW11.

Any motions for inclusion on the agenda must be received by first post on 12th February 1996.

Nominations for the posts of officers and members of Council must be submitted, in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder, and have the Nominee's consent. These must be received by 15th March 1996.

Notice of motions and nominations should be sent to the Acting Secretary, Neville Silver, 13 Maurice Walk, NW11 6JX.

## PLANNING RULES FAIL TO SAFEGUARD WILD HATCH

There was jubilation in the autumn of '1984 when a Suburb-wide campaign to "Save Wild Hatch" succeeded in defeating a planning application to build on Garrick's Glebe, a strip of woodland between Wild Hatch and the crematorium that is actually beyond the Suburb boundary.

At the time Wild Hatch residents were quoted in *Suburb News* as saying "this development would destroy the delightful rural setting and tranquillity of Wild Hatch and the peaceful walk through the woodland of Wild Hatch lane to the heath". The D of E inspector said that Garrick's Glebe "being densely wooded with trees and shrubs forms an important visual barrier between the residential element of the conservation area and the crematorium's garden of rest immediately to the south west".

### Destroyed by fences

Since then, however, the delightful rural aspect has been destroyed piecemeal by the erection of high fences along almost the entire length of the footpath on both sides. Garrick's Glebe can no longer be seen and most of the gardens on the Suburb side, 67 to 85 Hampstead Way, have, with no planning permissions, put up wooden fences. The RA's CONSAM committee has not been made aware of what has been happening until now, but the Trust has. Christopher Kellerman, Trust Manager, told *Suburb News* that the Garrick's Glebe side, where the owner of 85 Hampstead Way has put in a tennis court and an aviary, is beyond the jurisdiction of the Trust and that planning permissions for fences on the Suburb side of the path have not been granted.

### Dangerous precedent

These fences spoil an otherwise very attractive path and could



create a dangerous precedent for other places where gardens back on to public footpaths, twittens and the woods.

The security excuse for erecting high fences has been exposed as a myth as Tom Sales of Temple Fortune Lane found when he called half a dozen insurance companies and was told that no restriction applies in insurance of properties without fences. He was also told by the local crime prevention officer that wooden fences provide not only an illusion of security but are an invitation to an opportunist thief and that hedges, if properly maintained down to ground level, always provide

more security than fences.

### Design Guidelines

To quote from Design Guidelines, the booklet published jointly by the guardians of our conservation area, "Hedges are important to the overall appearance of the Suburb and should be preserved. Walls and weatherboarded or panelled fences are likely to be unacceptable on property boundaries" and "The retention of mature trees and hedges is vital to the Garden Suburb scene" and "Changes requiring consent from both the Trust and Barnet Council" ... "Putting up a fence or a wall".

Richard Wakefield

## RA REPORT

The RA, together with the Trust, has commissioned a traffic study for the Suburb in order that a master plan can be drawn up for the introduction of traffic-calming measures, as and when money is available from LB Barnet.

Proposals are now well advanced for the setting up of an Architectural Merit Scheme whereby awards will be presented to residents who have carried out sympathetic work to their properties in the traditions of the Suburb and who have enhanced the character and architectural design of the Suburb.

The RA has been actively seeking a solution to disturbance by car alarms but, as yet, it has been unable to obtain satisfactory assurances from Barnet who are responsible for noise abatement that positive measures will be taken in the future. An approach is now being made to John Marshall MP to press for a change in the legislation.

The working group on the Centenary and Millennium Projects

has now completed its studies and will be presenting its reports to the February meeting of the RA Council. Some imaginative and exciting projects, including a community centre, have been identified and these will be debated and carefully considered by the RA during the year.

Liaison meetings continue to take place with the Trust and LB of Barnet at which matters of common interest are frankly discussed. However, the RA were disappointed to learn at their November meeting with Barnet that the Borough will now hold such meetings only once a year.

Residents are reminded that the RA holds regular meetings at Fellowship House at 8 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome (members and non-members) to hear, debate, discuss and to participate in issues which are relevant to the Suburb. Also if you have any questions or issues to raise, there is the opportunity to raise such matters.

Neville Silver

## Henly's Corner reprieve

The D of T has announced an indefinite halt to roadworks plans for Henly's Corner. Cllr Frank Davis said "efforts of the Action

Group, 5000 registered objectors and years of campaigning appear to have paid off."

Richard Wakefield

## 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

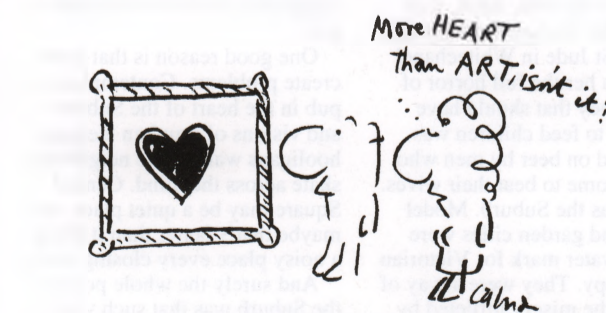
## GALLERY VALENTINE SHOW

The Garden Suburb Gallery is mounting a special exhibition leading up to Valentines Day. Pictures, pottery and cards with Valentine themes will be on display, and for sale, from January 29 to Feb 14.

The Valentine Show moves to the Suburb after many years at Mel Calman's Cartoon Gallery and is organised by Pat Huntley who worked with Mel Calman until his death two years ago. Some of Mel Calman's work will be included.

Amongst other artists inspired by the Valentine theme are Jane Muende, Geoff Thompson, Caroline Holden, Kathryn Lamb, Oliver Preston and Claire Calman with ideal presents for the day ranging in price from £20 to £100 plus Daphne Sandham's pottery cats and beautifully crafted Valentine cards from Liz Clarke.

Not to be outdone regular



Gallery artists Annie Walker, Clare Curtis, Ellen Gilbert among others have also contributed to the show.

The RA gallery has now been running successfully for six months featuring the work of local professional artists and pictures of the Suburb plus maps, books and other 'suburbabilia'. The Valentine Show is the first themed exhibition which, it is hoped, will be followed by others through the year.

Manned by volunteers, and we

could do with some more, the Gallery is open every day of the week except, for the time being, Sunday.

Richard Wakefield

### Gallery volunteers

If the idea of telling visitors about the RA and selling them pictures, pots, books, maps and cards for half a day a week or less appeals please call in and talk to whoever is on duty. The Gallery is at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way.