

## David and Joyce Morrison - Life Members

David and Joyce Morrison were both made Honorary Life Members of the Residents Association last year in recognition of their work for the Suburb. David has spent ten years chairing our architectural watchdog, the Conservation and Amenities Committee (CONSAM). Joyce has twice performed the herculean task of heading the team to organise the Suburb Weekend in 1993 and in 1995, the most ambitious task ever undertaken by the Association. Both have made enormous contributions, contributions that may be taken for granted because things that would otherwise have been difficult now run smoothly.

David and Joyce Morrison were brought to the Suburb by a bomb. The bomb, a parachute mine, was dropped on Willifield Green by the Luftwaffe early in 1940 and destroyed the former Garden Suburb Clubhouse.

More than a decade later, David and Joyce, then living in Hendon, heard that the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust were offering a plot of land for sale in Willifield Way. They obtained the site and after the usual difficulty in getting the plans approved they moved there with their sons Paul and Richard in 1957.

When David began thinking of retiring from his architectural practice in 1982 he decided he would have more time to assist the Residents Association. The late Tony Mandelson, then RA chairman, lost no time in persuading him to join CONSAM. Within six months, David was the committee's chairman. He stayed in the post until 1994, and remains on the committee of CONSAM as well as the RA Council, where his knowledge and commitment are much appreciated.

He was born in Islington and studied architecture at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London. His work includes local authority housing in Greenwich, Swanley town centre, Sentinel Square in

Hendon and the Hendon Reform Synagogue as well as supermarkets and office blocks.

Joyce gained a degree in the History of Art as a result of classes undertaken at the Institute. She returned to the Institute later at the invitation of John Enderby to teach the University of London extramural diploma class there, and in other centres, for the next 20 years.

In 1993 she was asked to head the organising committee for the Suburb Weekend, then a new joint venture by the Trust and the RA, which was designed to bring the Suburb together. It proved to be the most ambitious project ever undertaken by the RA. Joyce accepted an invitation to repeat the exercise and led the team organising the 1995 Suburb Weekend.

Joyce was born in Camden Town and educated at North London Collegiate School, and then studied modern languages at the City of London College.

They have been married 56 years - deciding to marry while sitting in a milk bar in Cheapside just as war broke out. Joyce says that although their families already knew each other, it was her return to England from study in Vienna wearing a new purple dress that made David see her in a new light.

Léonie Stephen

## A Suburb Poet

Why do we read poetry? Is it for the way words are used and put together, or for the feelings the poet expresses, or for comment on the world today?

Mary Brainin Hutterer in her slim volume of verse "New World for Old" reveals feelings and comments on life today. Her poems, some of them very short, are often amusing. About love she is rather cynical. Her subjects range from growing older to the National Health Service, British Telecom and on being a

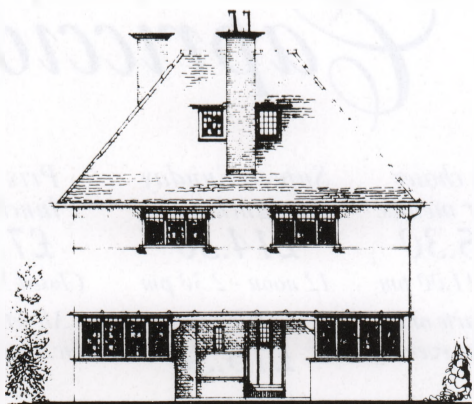
housewife.

Her best poems deal with her life as a child, as a refugee from Vienna. *Suburb News* printed one in autumn 1994 and another in April 1995. Equally effective are "Kindertransport" and "Forever Alien". These are all in Part 11 and are her best and most thoughtful.

"New World for Old" is on sale at the Garden Suburb Gallery, proceeds to the Institute.

Léonie Stephen

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Ellie Cohen, Mitchell Bayer-Goldman and Joshua Elias play the shepherds at the tree which was later taken by the pupils of Annemount School to the Royal Free where it was presented to Zunz Ward

66 Oakwood Road  
NW11

16 December 1995

### Woodland Management in Bigwood

Sir,

I was surprised to read in *Suburb News* that coppicing in Bigwood in 1985/86 helped to improve the population of Wild Service trees. To my mind the survey of Wild Service, which was done for us by a consultant in autumn 1994, gives a different picture.

Only one compartment (the one behind our house) was coppiced in 1985/86 and this was done again in 1992. I am quite sure the rest of the wood has not been coppiced for at least 50 years and it may be longer than that, though some hazels have probably been cut here and there. In the coppiced compartment only 2 specimens of Wild Service were found (though waist-high bramble made it difficult to cover every bit). In each of the 6 uncoppiced compartments much higher numbers were recorded namely, 11, 16, 33, 12, 13, and 17. I have been told that our survey was the one given to the London Ecology Unit and that the large recorded number of 104 trees occurring naturally in this small area was one of the main reasons why Bigwood was upgraded to a Borough I site.

That is why I was also surprised to read in the article that Bigwood had a "small population of Wild Service trees". I believe it has a significantly large number. Several experts have told me it is quite a rare component of a wood and that usually only small numbers of specimens occur, though of course there are some exceptions. The Woodland Trust use the word rare when describing Wild Service in their handbook of Trust Woods.

One of their woods does have a considerable number of Wild Service but they tell me they are worried because these trees are hardly regenerating at all. A Forestry Authority expert has told me there is a general problem with regeneration. There is a little wasp in many areas that attacks the seed and makes over 90% of the berries infertile. He also said suckering does not occur readily in many places. However in our wood Wild Service are regenerating very well (probably by suckering) and there are very large numbers of tiny specimens and young saplings as well as older trees, and 5 very old trees as tall as the oaks. It seems a great pity to me to drastically change the conditions in which quite a rare tree is flourishing, before the reasons for this, and the conditions and relationships of plants in the wood, are more fully understood - something we hope to investigate further. Coppicing each compartment in a regular rotation will change the conditions greatly. At the moment Wild Service are springing up in dappled shade cast by mature hazels and a mature oak canopy upon fairly open leaf litter.

The same Forestry Authority expert was also interested to hear that the hazel in Bigwood is doing well, as he said there is a growing problem generally. Squirrels are eating many of the nuts so there is little viable seed, that old coppiced stools are often rotting from the middle, and layering is by no means always successful. However in Bigwood we have many new small bushes and lots of large ones with healthy stools sending up outer stems. One of the people working recently in the wood felt much of the hazel was self sown. So it seems Bigwood might be unusual from this point of view too. I know we also have at least 3 notable individual trees here, with interesting features. We also have over 21 species of high forest trees, shrubs and small trees and over 20 types of ground flora. Many of these have a high number of invertebrates associated with them. Also they give blossoms and fruits at varying times of year and all these provide food sources for birds, of which we have many species associated with Bigwood

Because I feel Bigwood is very special I would venture to suggest that a very sensitive management scheme is introduced rather than a more generalised drastic coppice regime. It seems to me that Bigwood should be regarded now as high forest with mixed understorey, a combination which is a most valuable habitat, instead of being seen as hazel coppice with oak standards. I do not think it should be returned to a strict regime which may not have been practised here for a very long time. Coppicing does not seem suitable for such a small wood and there are quite a few arguments against it from an amenity point of view. Surely it would be better to carefully enhance what we have already and encourage more of the species of birds that like the present conditions.

There is a big problem with oak regeneration as there are only about 20 young trees growing at present. More are needed in order to make sure an age range is present that will keep oaks as a major component of the wood. 10-20 could be planted each year. This could be done where there are existing gaps in the canopy (of which there are at least 10), and by selectively pruning hazels beneath. Also pruning or cutting of some hazels could be done round the edge of existing glades, to thicken ground cover. The glades could be kept free for ground flora and more flowers put in. Where a shrub species becomes too predominant it could be checked. This kind of management would have a much smaller visual impact and would not greatly upset the conditions that are allowing other interesting developments to occur.

Yours,  
S Osborn

## Suburb Birdwatch



Cold weather can make finding food impossible for garden birds, who freeze to death if they cannot increase their body temperature by feeding.

We can help them by providing food and water each day. Fat is important and suet and bacon rind with nuts, seeds, raisins, apples and grated cheese is welcomed. Birds eat most foods but cannot deal with excessive salt, so avoid salted peanuts. For special treats, you can buy tubs of live food for

example, mealworms and wax-worms. These will tempt woodpeckers (perhaps John Rosen's Green Woodpeckers in Linnell Close would appear sooner) and you will see a wider range of species in the garden.

The food should be as fresh as possible and safe from rodents. Any feeder must be sited in a safe place away from plate glass windows and away from cover, where a cat could be concealed. Remember to give the birds a chance to find and become used to the new feeder.

Bird tables and feeders must be kept clean. Once you start feeding, try to continue as birds learn quickly and take advantage of daily feeding.

If you are planning new species for next season, consider a good number of flowering plants and berry bearing shrubs to help the bird population.

Elizabeth Watkins

154 Falloden Way  
NW11 6JE

4 November 1995

Sir,

### Re: Cable TV

I must take you up on your phrase that when the Suburb is finally cabled satellite dishes will no longer be needed.

I work in the music/TV business and can assure you that cable may be fine if all you want to watch is sport and movies in the main. However there are many channels available on satellite that are NOT included on cable channels, but are of great interest. With cable you are offered limited choices with no flexibility as it is take it or leave it. Many of the foreign language channels on

Eutelsat and Intelsat and some on Astra are NOT included with Videotron packages and you might remember that many people from the continent live on the Suburb and want to keep in touch with home news. I took this up with them at their meeting in Bigwood Hall some years ago and their man obviously wished I would disappear since it was clear he was not mentioning the limitations. I also wrote to Videotron suggesting they include more foreign language channels for the Suburb. They took 6 months[!] to answer and were not interested. So please take Videotron's claims with a pinch of salt.

Yours,  
Tony Brand



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