

# CONNECTION

even after sale - remained his, and he expected to be able to alter, borrow or copy them at will. Surprisingly, he often opted to sell replicas rather than originals.

His major financial disaster came after the death of his wife, when he inherited £20,000 from Maria's father and spent it all on mezzotinting some of his landscapes and incorporating them into a book. It was an operation that went on for a long time, but neither paintings nor book sold.

## Constable and the Royal Academy

From 1810, he tried unavailingly to be elected, and was finally successful in 1829. He still correctly felt that many of his fellow members did not really care for his paintings. In any event, the death of his beloved Maria the previous year had overwhelmed him.

It was only during his last years that he occupied much of his time with the R.A. and the Artists Benevolent Fund. He also became involved with the Dulwich Picture Gallery and helped supervise its affairs during its early years.

A recent exhibition of the

David Thomson collection of his drawings continued there for three months before being shown in Canada and the Frick Collection in New York. Constable's last works were drawings, since arthritis prevented him from painting at the end.

## His lectures and thinking

He believed that a young artist must walk humbly through the fields in order to appreciate the beauties of nature. An arrogant man cannot feel beauty. Contemplation, work, study of nature and the development of an original style or manner were the steps he considered necessary for an artist to grow.

His lectures used to make three main points:

1. Landscape painting is scientific as well as artistic.
2. Imagination cannot produce the same quality as reality.
3. No great painter is self taught.

To picture nature was his aim. We, who live on the Suburb, are fortunate that this High Priest of Pantheism, which according to one definition is the religion of natural beauty, has his name in our midst.

John M Davis



David and Shirwan Walden won this year's Phyllis Young trophy for the best kept allotment for their Creswick Walk plot. Eddie Caplin had led the team of judges and made the presentation at the Allotment Committee's Harvest supper

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## Vehicle Crime

Vehicle crime reached its lowest twelve month level of 328 such crimes in April 1995 since when it has increased steadily, month by month, to a twelve month total by the end of November of 434 - an increase of over 32%. The Golders Green Police are very concerned at this increase and have formed a special 'Motor Vehicle Crime Squad' to take various pro-active steps to combat the situation. These include having police officers in plain clothes patrolling at some of the highest risk times during the night - although, if you see a suspicious looking character loitering near your car in the early hours of the morning, don't assume that he is a police officer in plain clothes, but dial 999 immediately!

However, there is a great deal that we can do as well as this, and the police have appealed for our help in getting the level of these crimes back down again in 1996.

## The Types of Vehicle Crimes

Essentially, there are only two main vehicle crimes, the 'unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle' and the 'theft from a motor vehicle'. There is also the crime of 'Criminal damage, vehicle' which occasionally is just wanton vandalism but, in most cases, is the attempted 'taking of' or 'theft from' the vehicle. The criminal was deterred either because the break-in proved too difficult or because he was surprised in the act.

## The Unauthorised taking of motor vehicles

Over 85 Suburb cars were stolen during 1995 mostly in the late evening. As well as the obvious security precautions such as closing all windows and locking all doors, there are essentially five ways of minimising this risk. The first four cost money and the fifth costs nothing at all.



- The most expensive is 'Tracker' costing about £300 which is fitted inside the car and enables a stolen car to be tracked by the police wherever it may be, and apprehended;
- The second is a car alarm that works. Not one that goes off every time a lorry or other car passes, but a reliable one with a red warning light where it can be seen by any criminal together with stickers on the windows on each side indicating that a car alarm has been fitted;
- The third is an immobiliser which causes the complete car circuitry to be dead once the ignition key has been removed. The car cannot then be started by any 'hot wire' technique of short circuiting the ignition switch;
- The fourth is a visible physical lock - either a handbrake to gear-shift

(about £20), or a metal bar through the steering wheel (about £25);

- The fifth, which costs nothing, is to join Vehicle Watch.

## Vehicle Watch

This is the system whereby you display two Vehicle Watch stickers, one on the windscreen and one on the rear window. And experience over the last three or four years has demonstrated that cars with these stickers are seldom stolen. There are two colours - orange for daytime (10 am-4.30 pm) and yellow for night time (12.30 am-5 am), the yellow being to most appropriate for the great majority of Suburb residents who do not normally drive their cars between 12.30 am and 5 am. If the police see your car being driven between these times they will endeavour to stop it and question the occupant. All you have to do to join is to contact either your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, who should have the necessary forms and stickers, or contact the police direct at Golders Green Police Station.

## Theft from motor vehicles

The majority of these crimes take place between 1 am and 5 am when most people are asleep. Three quarters are of radio/cassette stereo systems, or CD players. As well as the precau-

tions already referred to of securing the car and fitting a reliable alarm system, the most effective deterrent is to arrange for the radio/cassette to be removable from the car - and then to remove it ideally every time you leave the car, but certainly at night. The next most effective deterrent is to have a radio/cassette which is incorporated by the car manufacturer in two separate parts into different sections of the fascia.

The other quarter of these thefts from cars are of mobile phones, brief-cases, golf clubs, leather jackets or other attractive articles such as plastic cards or jewellery either left on display in the car for all to see or put in the glove compartment. Nothing should ever be left in a car on show - not even an old coat or an empty plastic bag as the criminal doesn't know that they aren't worth stealing until he has broken into your car and examined them. He may then take out his frustration on your upholstery. If any items have been left in the car, they should be hidden in the boot whenever the car is left unattended.

Other desirable items for stealing are the wheels, especially if they are alloy wheels. But any wheels are at risk and they can easily be made secure with one locking wheel nut on each wheel, a set usually costing less than £20.

## A further measure

Finally, if you really want to make sure that some idiot criminal doesn't but a brick through your car window, it may be an idea to put a large notice inside the car windscreen where it can be read under a street light saying:

**"The radio/cassette is removed from this car overnight and there is nothing else of any value.**

**The car is protected by a car alarm and an immobiliser."**

Peter Loyd

## Suburb Crime generally

This time last year, I was able to report that Suburb crime had come down during 1994 by a staggering 32%. Regrettably, I cannot report such encouraging news for 1995 when, during the year, the total of Suburb crime increased.

This was partly due to a number of quite unnecessary burglaries which were mentioned in detail in the Neighbourhood Watch article in Suburb News three months ago. But it was also due to significant increase in vehicle crime reported in the article on this page.

If we can all make a real effort to take the necessary precautions, there is really no reason why we should not get crime back on a downward path again and make 1996 another relatively crime free year.

## Hampstead Garden Suburb

The Trust and L B Barnet's Design Guidance booklet has been produced to guide residents towards the best way of going about alterations to their homes and to explain why this very special place requires, and should inspire, the highest standards in the treatment of its buildings and gardens.

It also explains the necessary procedures for making applications to the Trust and Barnet for any changes to your property.

Copies are available from the Trust office.

- Design Guidance -

**HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST**

Simple door canopies are to be found on many Suburb houses. Elaborate door cases or porticos are completely out of character.

862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB. Telephone: 0181 455 1066 & 458 8085

Original Suburb dormers are elegant in design and construction. The same care is required for new dormers.

