

# SUBURB NEWS

Issue 55

THE H G S RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER

Spring '97

## NEW CHAIRMAN FOR RA ELECTED AT AGM

Rather more members than usual were attracted to the Association's Annual General Meeting on March 24 because, for what is believed to be the first time in its 86 year history, there was to be a contested election. Customarily the Council decides who should be appointed to the four constitutional offices, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Sec and Treasurer, and, whilst the Notice of Meeting calls for other nominations none has been forthcoming.

This year however not everyone on the RA Council was entirely happy with the nominations and Richard Wakefield, previously Vice Chairman, decided to break with tradition and allow his name to go forward for the office of Chairman.

The meeting, somewhat delayed as some 270 residents were checked in, commenced with the retiring Chairman Leonie Stephen welcoming Life Members, visitors and the press and then giving an update on the published Annual Report including the latest news of the preparations for the 90th Anniversary celebrations in June, which were later amplified by Elizabeth Gundry.

Members were then invited to put any questions to officers and committee chairmen arising out of their sections of the report. A good many questions were asked before the Report and Accounts were adopted.

### Election addresses

At this point the Chairman invited Neville Silver, the Council's nominee for the chair, and Richard Wakefield to address the

meeting and members were asked to vote using ballot papers provided on the basis of one per member household.

### Council elections

Whilst the votes were being counted the meeting passed on to the election of Council Members retiring by rotation and newly nominated. Again unusually there were some who had not been nominated by Council. There was no need for a vote this time as the AGM can accept up to 10 nominations and 10 were standing: Simon Abbott, Jean Barraclough, Joan Beales, Howard Goulden and Sidiek Meer were newly elected and Peter Beesley, Colin Gregory, Hugh Hamilton Mervyn Mandell and David Morrison were re-elected.

### Presentations

John Boulter, the Association's treasurer for the past ten years,

was thanked by Leonie Stephen for his years of service to the RA and received a presentation as did Peter Blackstaffe who, due to pressure of work is retiring as Honorary Auditor after 17 years.

### Honorary Life Members

Leonie Stephen said she was delighted that Anne and Alan Lawson had agreed to accept Honorary Life Memberships. Past Chairman Gerry Mansell presented certificates to the winners of the Architectural Award, made by Consam and the Trust, to Barry Millington and Deborah Calland for their sensitive extension to their house in Denman Drive. The design for the extension was by Suburb architect Roz Archer who also accepted a framed certificate.

### Thanks from Fellowship

Jean Dyson thanked the RA and its membership representatives for once again collecting a record amount from residents for the work of Fellowship.

### Election result

The ballot papers having been counted Richard Wakefield was elected as Chairman with a substantial majority.

The Council nominations for Vice Chairman and Hon Sec, Leonie Stephen and Peter Loyd, withdrew and Alan Brudney was duly elected as Treasurer.



For no reason, other than to celebrate a Spring when the Suburb has looked at its best, a view of the 'top of the hill' from the top of Eastholm

## HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB 90th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

Plans for the 90th Festival are well in hand. The weekend of June 21/22, organised by the Residents Association and the Trust will be a welcome opportunity for all Suburb residents to get together and enjoy one another's company as well as all the entertainment and interest on offer for adults and children.

### Art on the Suburb

During the Festival an art exhibition is planned in the Free Church. The idea is to collect together in one show as many examples of paintings with Suburb connections as possible that are normally little seen and widely scattered. There are for example matching paintings by Codner of Henrietta Barnett which hangs in the Institute, and the first vicar Basil Bouchier in St Judes.

There are others in the archives of the Institute, the churches, the Suburb Archives and Toynbee Hall but what we would like to show are some of what must surely be many pictures either by renowned Suburb artists or older pictures of the Suburb. The celebrated Camden group artist Radcliffe lived here and gave his picture of Erskine Hill, now in the Tate, to the school. If he lived here there must surely be other

examples of his work around. Did W.I. Aston, whose watercolour of the Suburb in 1915 was found recently in a Hampstead gallery, produce only one picture? Did he live on the Suburb? Is one of his pictures hanging in your spare bedroom? The current Garden Suburb Gallery, now run by the Residents Association, has been a gallery selling Suburb pictures and commissioning pictures of houses for many years, perhaps you have one of those.

If you have an interesting picture and would be prepared to lend it for the Festival exhibition, where there will be full security and insurance, please call Rev Alan Walker, 455 7206, call in at the gallery or phone 455 9132.

### New gardening column

Our pleas for someone to write about gardening on the Suburb paid off when we heard from Diane Berger offering a regular slot. Diane lives and breathes gardens and gardening. Gardening holidays, weekends at Wisley, friends in famous gardens to say nothing of inspired planting in her own garden in Willifield Way. She hopes to inspire and gently instruct those of us who are rather less knowledgeable to make the most of ours.

### Cryptic winner

Our other new column seems to be a welcome addition. The winner of the cryptic crossword this time was D R Bedford Smith of Wild Hatch to whom a well deserved bottle of bubbly.

It has been pointed out that people who receive their Suburb News early are at an advantage if the first correct answer is the winner. From now on then the first correct cryptic drawn a month after publication will win.



## Jean Henderson remembered

Residents who took part in the extraordinary events of the early sixties or those of us who have only read about "how they saved the Suburb" will have been saddened by the death of Jean Henderson. With George Bower and a handful of others\* she was responsible for the formation of

the HGS Protection Society and the HGS Trust as we know it. Without their foresight and determined action the Suburb would have been a very different place.

\*by coincidence D H Bedford Smith, our first crossword winner, was one of them.

## 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