

# LETTERS

1 Wildwood Rise  
NW11

Editor

It is appalling how time flies! It is exactly 35 years since the Protection Society packed the RA AGM in 1962.

In those days the RA had a General Committee of whom one-third was elected every year. At its first meeting after the AGM the General Committee appointed the RA Chairman from its own ranks. We who attended the 1962 AGM were given lists of candidates who supported the Protection Society and those were accordingly elected.

A year later the same thing happened. That gave the Protection Society a majority and stopped the RA being rude about the Protection Society. Ted Hoblyn was appointed RA Chairman and with David Bedford Smith, reorganised the RA.

The Protection Society as a courtesy asked the outgoing RA Chairman to continue as a party

to certain ongoing negotiations, but he did not want to. The story is to be found in HGS Dreams and Realities on pages 105 and 106 and 122 and 123.

I remembered worrying at that time about the vulnerability of the RA. We were at that time very aware of malign developers. I could find no answer, for there is no building big enough to hold a democratic meeting of all the RA membership.

When the present HGS Trust was designed, the membership was limited to 500 with a waiting list in order to prevent a membership surge followed by a packed meeting. From time to time the maximum has been increased from 500 at the behest of learned counsel so as to present a more 'democratic' profile, but in fact the maximum has never been reached and one of the Suburb protections is missing.

How many of your readers cannot be bothered to join the Trust?

Yours sincerely,  
C W Ikin

3 Sutcliffe Close  
London NW11 1GNT

Dear Editor,

English Heritage, in its document 'Greening the Suburb', recognises that grass verges are an important feature in the landscape of HGS and proposes that they should be reinstated in places where they have been replaced by tarmac.

Unfortunately, the grass verges that still remain are themselves under threat, and it is difficult to see the point of reinstating the others unless all residents start to take responsibility for preserving them.

Parking on the verges destroys them, and creates a mess that is more unsightly than tarmac.

Unbelievable as it may seem, it is often residents of the Suburb, who have chosen to live here because of the attractive environment, who are the culprits. But visitors of every kind also park on the verges, and are not challenged by residents.

I should like to suggest that residents

a) do not themselves ever park on the verges  
b) ask their visitors not to park on the verges  
c) do not allow their workmen to park on the verges (for instance, gardening contractors often park their large vans on the verges while working to beautify the gardens of residents!)

Could the Residents Association produce a short, polite notice, pointing out the damage that people who park on the verges are doing? These could be placed on their windscreen by concerned residents, and might deter them from doing it again. It is actually an offence under local bye-laws to park on any pavement, but I believe that the actions of residents in protecting their environment is bound to be more effective than having recourse to the law.

Yours sincerely  
Eva Jacobs



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Sir,  
**Henrietta's Nightmare?**

'Appalling', 'unfair' and 'patronising' are comments I have heard about that Omnibus film on BBC1. It did anger and disappoint me. Why was the emphasis on so many divisive issues, most of which are not peculiar to the Suburb? The boundaries of an eruv, dealt with at excessive length, would extend beyond the Suburb, although many residents are concerned about its implications. Our Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the barnitzvah do not differ from others elsewhere, surely? Neighbours complaining about nuisance from birds or the establishment of a boarding house next door might do this anywhere. And why the shots only in St. Jude's, with no mention of the Free Church or the Society of Friends? Lord McGregor's 'illegal' rear windows were probably installed by a previous owner, and there was no explanation that the Trust can do little to rectify long-standing infringements. That AGM, of which we saw a few snippets, must have dealt with issues more serious than trees damaged by a few drawing pins.

Sometimes we can take ourselves too seriously, I agree, but we do not deserve such a thorough 'sending up' (occasionally cruel) as in this film. This nightmare bore little resemblance to the Suburb we care about and therefore care for.

Your sincerely  
Camilla Raab

Hampstead Garden Suburb  
Trust

Sir,  
In the light of discussions around the BBC Omnibus program about the Suburb, I feel that it might be of use for me to clarify the Trust's current position on the issue of an Eruv. During my Chairmanship and that of my predecessor, the Trust Council has accepted that there is a wide range of views amongst the Trust's membership and local residents. Our Council members, therefore, do not see the matter of the Eruv as a Trust issue, except insofar as relating to any planning aspects which may arise.  
Yours faithfully,  
Edward Caplin

23 Rotherwick Road  
NW11 7DG

Editor  
My wife and I collect postcards of Hampstead Garden Suburb.

A postcard has recently come into our possession which illustrates The Garden Suburb Auxiliary Military Hospital Way, Willifield Way, NW. A photocopy is shown.

Do any readers know the background to this? Was it the Club House? Any information would be gratefully received.  
Yours sincerely,  
Conrad Graham

## New President for Probus

Probus stands for PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS men and women in retirement. It is a national organisation and the Northern Heights Club caters for Hampstead, Highgate and Golders Green. Meetings are held once a month on the third Wednesday at 12.30 for lunch at 1 pm in the upstairs room of 'The Old Crown', 90 Highgate Hill. There is always a speaker and meeting finish at about 2.30

## Farm Walk veteran champions - not quite Edwardian

By the time you read this we hope that some of you will have joined us on Suburb Weekend for the championship finals and 'Edwardian' tea.

Amongst you we hope to have seen some of our previous finalists dating back to 1957 when Desborough Brooks won the Men's Singles, Tecla Finck the Ladies' and David Bedford Smith and Mrs T Kirby the Mixed Doubles.

Although tennis no longer figures in her sporting activity, Tecla can still be seen regularly enjoying some (cold?!) exercise in Highgate Ponds. Our old winners' boards, too large now for the clubhouse, have been replaced by framed records so that the names of the winners since 1951 will now be on permanent display.

Another veteran champion in the Club is our coach, Sally Freeman, who has retained her Ladies' Singles title of the British Open Veterans' Clay Court Championships. We are lucky to have the services of so highly respected and experienced a coach.

Our new artificial grass courts are proving very popular - as is our permanent barbecue, the venue for a very successful social evening during our recent spell of good weather and for many Junior activities over the summer.

We welcome new members and our Membership Secretary, Esmé Kingsley (tel 0181 203 1731) will be very happy to provide further information.

Gill Read

## A chance to see inside

Every autumn, a 'London Open Day' takes place when private houses of architectural interest, and other buildings not normally on view, are opened to the public. As part of this scheme, the Suburb is this year offering a chance to see inside the churches on Central Square, the Friends Meeting House in North Square and some of the Lutyens houses nearby. This will be on the afternoon of Sunday 21 September, and the RA's Events Committee is planning to increase the interest of the occasion with a tea and a short talk by officers of the Trust and the Residents Association's committee on conservation - about the measures they take to preserve Lutyens' contribution to the Suburb scene (a chance for you to ask questions, too). There will be a free leaflet about Lutyens; and it is hoped that a member of the Lutyens family will talk to us about their memories of him. Things are still in the planning stage, but anyone sending a postcard now to Elizabeth Gundrey at 30 Southway NW11 6RU will receive details later.



Lady Mayor Cllr Agnes Slocombe poses with two of the Suburb's nonagarians Mrs Levenson and Mrs M. Levenson, also 1907



Zoe Hudson and Laura Murrell were in Midsummer Nights Dream by Henrietta Barnett School pupils



Dressed up as Edwardian nurses at the Garden Suburb School events

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