



Modern
This lamp post was erected this year in Wildwood Road to replace one demolished in an accident. Other slimmer designs of lamp post in evidence elsewhere in the Suburb do not appear to be an option as they are either not made or are no longer purchased by Barnet.



Albany
The Albany design comes with a greater variety of lamp posts as can be seen from the examples, so the same basic design may give many variations.

GROW IT YOURSELF

People often ask me "What do you grow on your allotment?". "Well, vegetables of course," I reply, somewhat impatiently. But at least these friends know what an allotment is. Nor is my answer completely accurate, because—like many others—I also grow soft fruits while some of my neighbours grow flowers, too.

Allotments have been around since the 1930s, when, as a result of an 1831 Act of Parliament, parish councils were empowered to provide working people with land on which to grow their own vegetables. This was particularly valuable for people who had moved to the cities and no longer had the gardens they had had in the country.

Dame Henrietta Barnett was particularly keen on providing allotments for Suburb residents, especially those who lived in the smaller (and cheaper) homes at the northern end of the Suburb intended for artisans and other manual workers.

There are currently 11 allotment areas with between 5 and 35 allotments on each, making 116 in all. Originally there were more, but some fell into disuse and became extensions to the gardens of houses that backed on to them. The plots vary in size but 20 feet by 60 feet would be typical, and some people have more than one.

The allotments are owned by the HGS Trust and rented to their users for a modest annual fee of £2.50. Most are currently cultivated but a few are available to anyone living on the Suburb who wishes to take one on.

So what in fact do I grow and why do I have an allotment? Well, generally, I grow fruit, vegetables and herbs that are easy to cultivate in the English climate. My vegetables and herbs include potatoes, parsnips, onions, leeks, spinach, sprouts, cauliflower, various beans, lettuce, tomatoes, spring onions, mint, parsley and sorrel. My fruits include raspberries, gooseberries, and red and

black currants.

And the reason why I take the trouble to grow them? Firstly, they taste so much better than anything you can buy in a shop. Honestly! Home-grown cabbages, for example, have a strong, peppery flavour that older residents may remember from the days before farming became an industry.

Secondly, there is the sheer magic of plants popping up out of the ground. I've grown vegetables for years, but every year I'm amazed that the seeds I put into the ground actually germinate, send up shoots and eventually turn into things I can eat. I'll never forget the time I planted my first seed potatoes on badly neglected soil. When I dug up the first root there were two potatoes. "Fantastic," said my wife, "that's 100 per cent profit!" Of course, we do much better now, in spite of the droughts which have severely reduced our crops during the past few years.

Thirdly, my wife and I both enjoy the physical activity—or to put it more bluntly, the hard work!—after (in my case) a lifetime of desk work. And I know it helps to keep me fit at the age of 71—not that that is old for an allotment holder, as several are in their 80s.

Of course, in England's climate it's not an all-the-year-round occupation. Work begins in February, when you plant seed potatoes and broad beans, but the busiest time is March/April, when most of the land has to be dug and most of the seeds sown. April is also the month when the last of the previous season's crops are harvested: mainly leeks and cauliflowers.

May/June is also fairly busy, with more seeds (e.g. peas and beans) to sow, weeding to be done and seedlings (tiny plants grown from seeds) to be planted out, including lettuce, tomatoes and winter vegetables. July is when the first of the new season's crops can be harvested, usually starting with gooseberries and broad beans.

Harvesting continues through-

out the year. There's always something. Even in the depth of winter there are potatoes and parsnips to dig, and sprouts to pick. But winter generally is the quiet time, although when the weather permits there's always some clearing up and tidying up to be done.

My wife and I manage to eat almost everything we grow (from two allotments), apart from what we give to friends and neighbours. Except for soft fruits, which we freeze, we eat all of it fresh. Like people in countries which do not import food, we are quite happy to eat according to the season—eating tomatoes two or three times a day in the tomato season, cauliflowers every day in the cauliflower season and so on. Some people might find that boring, but when you've grown it yourself and the food tastes so good, you wouldn't swap it for the most exotic meal by one of London's superstar chefs. If you are interested in having an allotment, please contact: David Rapson, on 0181 458 5094.

Maurice Jay

Old lamps for new? A question for you

Barnet Council says that the Street Lamps in Hampstead Garden Suburb are nearing the end of their useful life and plans to replace them. The replacement is likely to be phased. It has been suggested that the replacement lamp posts could be older fashioned, than the existing posts, most of which date from the 1970s although a number remain from the 1950s.

The purpose of this article is to consult residents on what, if anything, should be done. Barnet has proposed a choice of three alternative designs, the **Abbey**, the **Albany** or replacement with

modern lamp posts as in the rest of the Borough.

The replacements do not have to be uniform across the Suburb. On 21 June as part of the Hampstead Garden Suburb 90th Anniversary Celebration, HGS Residents Association Conservation & Amenities Committee (Consam) showed a display of various alternative proposals.

We asked residents to write down their views. We received a good response and now is your chance to let us have your opinion. We haven't reported the results of the 90th Anniversary Consultation here as we might be

accused of influencing your choice.

So when you have read this article and looked at the photographs and drawings, please cut out the coupon below and return it to us in the post or by hand to the Garden Suburb Gallery on the corner of Hampstead Way and Finchley Road. The full address is on the coupon. If you want to make additional comments, please add a covering letter.

Lamps of the same basic design can look different. In particular the **Albany** design has many variations. For instance the

bracket holding the lantern has several distinct versions three alternatives are illustrated: **Stirrup**, **Round Neck** or **Hook Neck** (see the line drawing). There are also different column designs. The height of the lamp post also can make a big impact on its look.

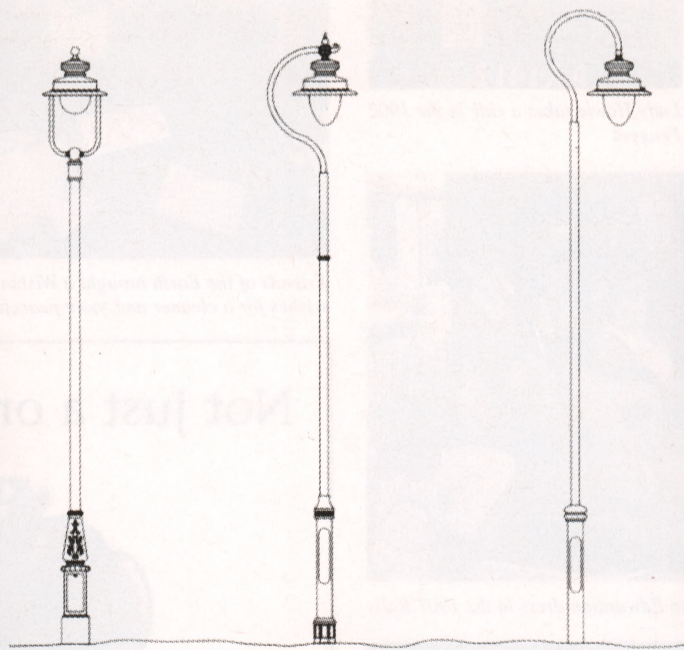
Many of the streets of old Hampstead have had lamp posts similar to the **Abbey** design installed. Designs similar to the **Albany** can be found around Covent Garden and the Holly Lodge Estate in Highgate.

Old photographs of the Suburb show relatively few lamp posts

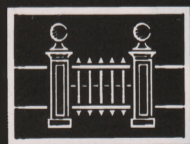
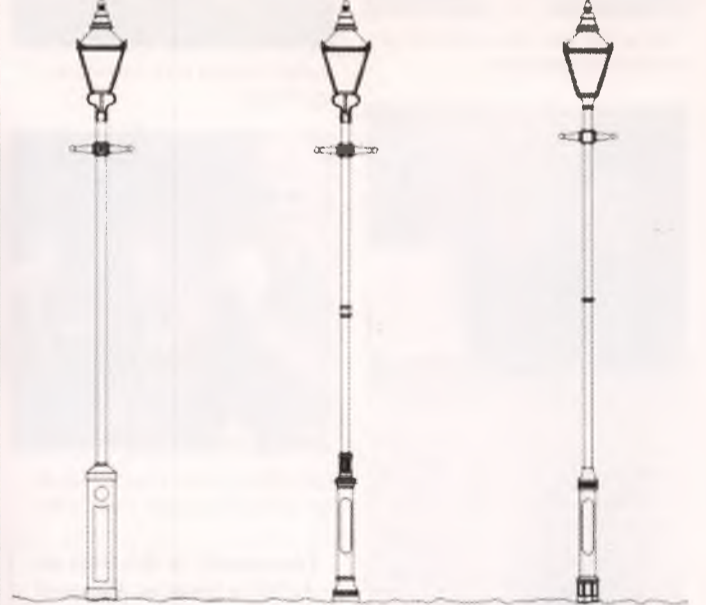
but according to photographs and the testimony of older residents, the original lamp posts were gas lit and similar to the **Abbey** design. However, the **Albany** style lamp posts date from the era when the Suburb was built and old photographs show them in parts of the Finchley Road.

The results of this survey will be published after we have analysed them. So please make your choice, and send it to us today.

David Lewis
Secretary of CONSAM



Abbey
This lamp comes in two sizes with three alternative power bulbs. The posts themselves come in several different designs. The posts can be different height; usually the bigger the road, the higher the post. This lamp looks odd on outside posts.



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To: Consam, c/o The Garden Suburb Gallery, 16 Arcade House, Hampstead Way, London NW11.

Please circle one number in each row to indicate your likes and dislikes:

	Dislike a lot	Dislike a little	Neutral	Quite like	Like a lot
Abbey	1	2	3	4	5
Albany	1	2	3	4	5
Modern	1	2	3	4	5
No change	1	2	3	4	5

Your address (optional):

.....

Your name (optional):

.....

If you have any other comments or suggestions, please put them on a separate sheet.