

LETTERS

1 Wildwood Rise
NW11

Sir
"Omnibus" asked me why I was unwilling to appear in the TV programme. I forecast to them that I would have an interesting interview, that long after that, they would decide what their 'line' would be, and they would then extract with scissors a remark out of context which would probably make me look a B.F. I offered to vet their project for historical truth; I urged them to choose as a 'line' whether it could ever have been possible to create and maintain a mixed community. I heard no more of them.

I have however been concerned about the only item in the programme that made me say 'That's not true'. It was not spoken but written in Art Nouveau with reverential music in the background. There were two consecutive statements: 'HB who wished to rescue people from squalid housing in London's East End' and 'if only we could buy a huge estate ...' This seems to have produced subliminally a belief that the cottages near Temple Fortune were originally intended for a bulk removal of East Enders. I do not think that HB ever had such an intention. Was this ever in her mind?

Yours
C.W. Ikin

48 Erskine Hill
NW11

Sir
In your celebration of the 90th Anniversary Festival (summer '97 issue), you refer to John Marshall 'our prospective Barnet Councillor' as being present at the opening proceedings on Saturday morning. I think you were being a little previous. This implies a) that he is the only candidate b) that his election next May is a foregone conclusion c) that he was the only candidate present on that day.

When the voters of Garden Suburb Ward elect their Councillors, there will presumably be three Conservative candidates altogether. There will certainly be three Liberal Democrat candidates. I will be one of them and I was also present at the opening ceremony (much enjoying Léonie Stephen's impersonation of Dame Henrietta), but you didn't mention me!

You should keep out of politics and allow the residents of the Suburb to make their own choice of representatives for Barnet Council on 7 May. For information, the margin at the last local election between Tory and Liberal Democrats was 20 votes, so there's everything to play for.

Yours
Marjorie Harris

1 Grey Close
NW11

Sir
It may be due to the warm weather and more people being out on the streets, but have residents noticed how much litter there is on the Suburb? It has never been so bad.

Perhaps we should be responsible for the litter in front of our premises as is the case in parts of the continent.

We should be proud of our conservation area, so how about it?

Yours
Rosalind Josephs

4 Meadway Gate
NW11

Sir
As a member of the Residents Association for nearly forty years I find it strange that I and seven neighbours have remained 'anonymous' on maps published from time to time in Suburb News, as in the last issue. Meadway Gate, though shown on the map, is not 'honoured' with its title and remains a blank between Temple Fortune Lane and Wild Hatch. No wonder taxi drivers cannot find us! The rating authorities do. In other respects I always find Suburb News of interest, and I do appreciate that it and other 'services' are provided by volunteers. So there is no offence meant.

Yours
Ken Gradon



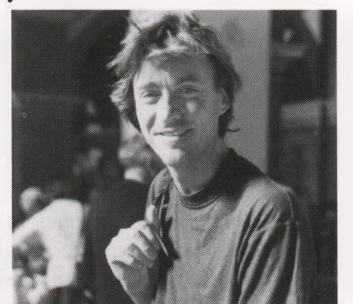
The Cubs and Beavers hot-dog contingent: David Gregson, Marion Lowe (Bagheera), Jonathan McKinley, Luke Gregson, William Glendinning, Richard Orme, Trevor Staines (Baloo), Andrew Knox, Moira Phillips (Akela), Paul Young, Andrew Yugin, Alice Knox and Peter Looher.

Autumn Market at St Jude's

Nearly £3,000 was raised for charity as a result of a very enjoyable day for all concerned and for the hundreds of residents who turned up to take advantage of the bargains to be had from the generous gifts of those who had turned out their cupboards and bookshelves.

Food and drink were very popular, it is said that some returned this year just for the

date and cream cheese sandwiches! The Welsh contingent soon ran out of ingredients for their marvellous cakes and the Cubs and Beavers did a good trade in hot dogs. See above.



Above: Richard Madeley browses on the book stall.

Below: Caroline Hutchinson and Amber McKinley with a big friendly ball.

Above: Geoffrey Britain stocks up on marmalade at Diana Woodfields produce stall.

Possible plans for Central Square

Visitors from all over the country were joined by a large Suburb contingent on Open House day to hear the talks from Lutyens grand daughter and biographer Jane Ridley, Dr Mervyn Miller and RA Consam Chairman Carol Boulter.

Jane Ridley said that the Suburb was really something of a surprise because Henrietta Barnett's christian social ethic would have been alien to Lutyens. "His patrons were the Edwardian rich; he didn't work on the sort of things Dame Henrietta wanted and had never built a church". Mervyn Miller explained that "the Lutyens legacy

is only part of the legacy of the Suburb" and told how the Dame had engineered his dismissal.

Carol Boulter told the audience that her Conservation and Amenities committee of the Residents Association works to help ensure the protection and enhancement of the appearance, character and tradition of the Suburb and its amenities. She went on "Consam's work for the conservation and improvement of our unique environment includes the scrutiny and discussion of planning proposals with the Trust and Barnet and, where appropriate, it is involved in either their support or opposition on behalf of the Suburb or individual residents.

Consam's concern with Lutyens would not only be with any planning applications to individual houses, but also with any proposed changes in Central Square.

It is well known in the Suburb that Central Square is incomplete. Edwin Lutyens intended the East side of the Square to be closed by wings to the Institute building, which were never built for lack of funds.

Plans for the Square (of which there are many variations) also show halls at the West end of the two churches, which would have provided an increased sense of enclosure to the South and the North; writers have speculated on why these were never built.

The consequence is that the Square is unsatisfactory as currently laid out. The distance between the buildings and the

general feeling of emptiness, coupled with the fact that there are no shops as was once contemplated, contributes to what many feel is a rather sterile atmosphere.

There has been some criticism of this, including in the Shankland Cox report, a conservation study in 1971 of the Hampstead Garden Suburb, and most recently English Heritage in its report "Greening the Garden Suburb".

The draft report of Shankland Cox suggested that the open land on the west side of the Square should be developed to enclose the Square, but many residents were unhappy with this idea and showed a preference for the open, informal landscape.

In its report English Heritage states that:

- it believes that the advent of lottery and millennium funding offers an unprecedented opportunity for the conservation area to reinforce its special character.

- that the focus should be on Central Square with the aim of regenerating the architectural, townscape and community focus of the area and
- that a plan should be prepared for consultation and agreement as soon as possible, to be "prepared and implemented by all interested parties acting in concert".

Consam, as representing the Residents Association, would expect to be one of these parties and would expect to be fully involved in the examination and

discussion of what English Heritage describes as "a modest, achievable package of improvements".

It would also have as one of its priorities informing and consulting Suburb residents including especially those living in the immediate proximity of the Square on whom any changes would have the most immediate impact.

This consultation would take place perhaps through special meetings as well as in the columns of Suburb News. Any planning proposals would be further scrutinised by Consam members sitting on such bodies as the Trust and Conservation Area Advisory Committee, one of the local council's planning sub-committees.

The primary aim of this package of improvements should be:

- to upgrade the environmental quality of the Central Square and
- to complete the original design concept.

The package consists of:

- provision of a linear canal on the axis between the Free Church and St Jude's Church based on Lutyens' original design concept.
- Completion of the tree planting and appropriate new landscaping to reinforce the formal character of the space.
- Resurfacing of tarmac paths and church car parks in bound gravel.
- Discreet floodlighting of the Free Church, Institute and St Jude's.
- Lowering of hedge to Vicarage Garden to expose Lutyens' war memorial, which should be floodlit.
- Removal of intrusive signs, street furniture and existing floodlighting posts around Henrietta Barnett Memorial.
- Provision of Lutyens seats to original designs around Henrietta Barnett Memorial.

In the meantime Central Square is under consideration for addition to the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens."

Jane Collins

ARCHITECT

JANE COLLINS
ARCHITECT
UNIT SIX
998 NORTH
CIRCULAR ROAD
LONDON NW2 7JR
TEL: 0181 208 3870
FAX: 0181 208 3802

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All quiet on the Trust front

It was a fairly low key affair, the Annual General Meeting of the Trust in September, nothing controversial, no elections, just a congenial get together of the faithful few. Mary Ambrose, who usually asks the first question, was at home nursing a cold, and David Bogush seems to have given up challenging the accounts so the official business of the meeting, even including a lyrical essay on the wildlife of the Suburb from chairman Eddie Caplin was over in less than twenty minutes.

Tribute was paid to retiring staff members Jean Carton and Zenab Mongan and to two Suburb pioneers and founding members of the New Trust who had died during the year; Jean Henderson and David Bedford Smith. Colin Gregory was elected

unopposed for his second three year term and the report and accounts were duly proposed, seconded and approved.

Elizabeth Gundry offered to help the Charitable Committee raise funds for Toynbee Hall, an idea that went down well.

A lucid explanation of the Controlled Parking Zone plans for Golders Green (see Suburb News January) followed from Ken Murrell who is the new chairman of the Residents Associations Roads and Traffic Committee. He explained that Suburb roads included within the CPZ would be Hampstead Way down as far as Meadway, Hoop Lane and the lower half of Meadway Gate and Wild Hatch, as well as Corringham Road and Rotherwick Road.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

P R HARTLEY

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