

**RA Report**  
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The Residents Association's **Trees and Open Spaces Committee** has been very active this year under the very able leadership of Spencer Hudson. Very close and active liaison with the Trust and Barnet Council is now taking place and it is hoped that this will minimise problems that have occurred in the past where trees have been removed or lopped unnecessarily. Some members of this committee have volunteered to join Barnet's tree warden training scheme and their newly acquired expertise will be of invaluable benefit to the Suburb. A particularly important matter currently being pursued is the reinstatement of single species trees on Suburb roads.

As always **CONSAM** (Conservation and Amenities Committee) has devoted much time to considering various planning applications for altering existing properties and to the many infringements to the planning laws that occur. However, on the more positive side, this committee has now instigated an **Architectural Merit Award** to encourage residents to carry out sympathetic improvements and restoration to their properties. Another achievement has been the publication of the first of several **Walks Booklets** for the Suburb - this one is entitled *The Artisans' Quarter*.

In conjunction with the Trust, the **Residents Association** has submitted an Application to the Millennium Commission for funds to build a **Suburb Centre**. The proposal is for a new building close to Central Square to provide for a small museum and exhibition space for displays about Hampstead Garden Suburb; accommodation for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Archives Trustees with research and educational facilities linked to the museum; rooms for community use; a shop/gallery selling books and paintings of local interest and a café/refreshment area for residents and visitors to meet and socialise. The **RA** expect to be advised sometime this month by the Millennium Commission whether their Application is to be "long listed" for more detailed consideration.



**They sang at St Paul's**

Eleanor Ryle and Christine Cunnold, members of St Jude's choir received their Dean's Award at a service at St Paul's Cathedral and were able to sing with the choir of St Paul's on November 23

A Study into views of residents and their awareness of their **Residents Association** has just been completed and the results are currently under consideration by the **RA Council**. The survey involved the random selection of some 270 households and the subsequent interview of 50 residents. The most salient problem experienced by residents was in respect of the volume of through traffic and the amount of on-street parking. Other issues concerned the lack of a central meeting place, lack of public toilets and neglect of areas such as Northway Gardens. Much confusion apparently exists in understanding the roles of the Trust and the Residents Association. Some residents felt that the RA lacked teeth and should be more pro-active. All of these matters will be the subject of close scrutiny by the **RA Council** over the next few months and it is hoped that positive steps can be taken to take on board some, if not all, of the very interesting issues that have been raised. The **RA** is extremely indebted to Suburb resident, Gerald de Groot, for organising this very revealing survey.

Neville Silver

# TIMES PAST

I was most interested in the articles, 'Times Past' in the recent editions of **Suburb News**; they brought back so many memories. My husband and I are very fortunate to receive copies from Mrs Hollyn and although it is many years since we left the Suburb we always find it most interesting reading.

My roots are certainly in the Suburb. My father, Ernest Bellingham, lived at the bottom of Erskine Hill for 2 or 3 years before he married my mother in 1913. They set up home in Denman Drive - I remember my father telling me that he was taken up into part of the spire of St Jude's when it was being built and the fantastic view looking towards London.

I was born in 1915 and went to the kindergarten section of the Henrietta Barnett School; it was then at Homesfield, which I think is now Abbeyfields. We wore brown uniforms with a daisy badge, and Miss Ironside was the headmistress. I believe my love of flower arranging dates back to that time as I can remember taking flowers from our garden and arranging them (probably in a jam jar!) in her room.

Then came the move to the Institute and the building of the Queen Mary Hall - I can remember Dame Henrietta driving round the Suburb with H.R.H. Queen Mary and stopping to watch us playing tennis - a most daunting experience.

My years at the Henrietta Barnett School were very happy ones. Miss Hutchings was the Headmistress and we all had a great respect for her. I made many friends and am still in contact with quite a few. I left in 1933, and in the few years before the War belonged to several societies, and later became a Governor of the School. St Jude-on-the-Hill

has played a big part in my life; I was christened there by the Rev. Basil Boucher, confirmed, and married to my husband Stephen Graves in 1940 by the Rev. Maxwell Rennie.

When my husband returned from war service we were extremely fortunate to find a house, No.15 Erskine Hill, where we lived for 25 years with our son and daughter.

During that time we took part in many of the Suburb activities. My husband became a member of the Residents Association; Horticultural Society; he then went on to become a Councillor of the Garden Suburb Ward on Hendon Borough Council and was elected Mayor of Hendon in 1959-1960. He was the first Mayor from the Suburb and at that time the youngest Mayor of the borough.

One outstanding memory is of our Civic Service at St Jude's, taken by the Rev. Bill Masters, who was our Chaplain and always affectionately known as Friar Tuck.

In 1957 after Princess Margaret's visit for the Jubilee I founded the Hampstead Garden Suburb Flower Arrangement Club, with the help of my husband as Treasurer and my mother, Mrs May Bellingham, who made the coffee in the interval. Our first venue was a site hut on the left-hand side of the Institute, but so many people came we had to transfer to the Junior School for the next meeting; we then went to Fellowship House - I am delighted that it is still in existence after many ups and downs, and next September will be the 40th anniversary of its formation.

Our roots are still in the Suburb as every house to which we have moved we have called 'Erskine'.

Mary Graves



**AWARD FROM PRINCESS ROYAL**

Jocelyn Selson receives the Save the Children Award from Princess Anne at an award-giving ceremony in October.

Jocelyn, who has lived on the Suburb since 1928, founded Music Aid in 1985. The charity works to raise money via concerts where musicians give their

services in aid of Save the Children.

On the Suburb Music Aid was responsible for planning the programme for the 1996 Proms at St Jude's and is now in the process of devising another five days of exciting concerts for 1997. **Richard Wakefield**

## News from Fellowship

I have a feeling that a lot of people don't actually read our Annual Report and Accounts, but they do read *Suburb News*. So this is an opportunity to let you know how grateful Fellowship are for all the financial support you give us. As you know, we are probably unique in being a charity which is entirely financed by local residents.

The money is spent largely on welfare work, but the Fellowship House Club is not entirely self-financing and, of course, Fellowship House itself has to be maintained, decorated and heated - to say nothing of water rates!

In addition to your annual donation there are other ways in which you could help us: anyone with regular time to spare (however little that may be) could help with the tea rota or by

transporting disabled members to and from Fellowship House on Tuesday afternoons. It is difficult to describe the welfare work we do, but occasionally our members have need of specialist expertise - legal, or financial, for example. I would like to have a note of anyone who could be called on (but who may not be). The other way in which people can help is in visiting the housebound, or those in hospital. If you can help in any way, please ring me on 458-2889. A surprisingly large number of people these days have no relations, or nobody in this part of the country. I know a great deal is done informally by immediate neighbours, but on the Suburb we are all everybody's neighbours, aren't we?

Eileen Whelan

## Kenwood Management Plan

Two years after their consultation exercise on the management of the Kenwood estate, English Heritage finally published their management plan *Caring for Kenwood* last November. English Heritage's Chairman, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, had intended to launch the plan by leading a walk around the estate, but an unexpected fall of snow meant that Lorna McRobie, Director of Gardens and Landscapes, introduced the new plan from the warmth of the Old Kitchen.

You may recall that considerable controversy surrounded work at Kenwood a few years back, particularly the clearing of scrub and thinning of woodland. The 1994 consultation involved an exhibition at the House and a questionnaire, distributed to every house on the Suburb. Public meetings were held, chaired by Jocelyn Stevens, and the debate became quite heated. The results of the survey, analysed by MORI, showed that opinion differed between those who lived locally and visited the estate frequently (who generally wanted little change and valued it for its feeling of unspoilt countryside) and those who came from further afield or less frequently (who tended to be in favour of restoring historic features). English Nature (the national nature conservation body) were also consulted.

The management plan seeks to balance the differing views and interests. It emphasises how much of the historic design still exists as a unique survival so close to London - perhaps so as to deflect criticism from those opposed to "restoration" of historic features. The plan looks forward over the next fifteen to twenty years; and some measures, such as thinning the copes in the West Meadow, which would almost certainly encounter criticism if undertaken immediately, are intended to be achieved gradually by allowing the birches to come to the end of their natural lives while preventing regeneration of undergrowth. The proposal to fell turkey oaks in the North Wood has been dropped. A more

detailed description of the plan will appear in a future issue of *Suburb News*.

English Heritage are keen to provide more information about work at Kenwood and to establish links with local groups. A new management team is now based at Kenwood, led by Julie Ehlen, formerly at the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, as General Manager, and Nick Bailey as Estate Manager. Rachel Holden is their new Visitor Liaison Officer and the new Estate Office in Mansion Cottage (next to the Restaurant) should be open by the time you read this, providing information for visitors. At the working level the Residents Association has already established a friendly and constructive dialogue with the new management team. The RA will be commenting formally on the new management plan early in 1997, and at the behest of the RA and others English Heritage are proposing to set up a forum of local organisations, similar in many respects to the Corporation of London's Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (on which the RA is represented).

If you have any views on the management of the Kenwood (either the landscape or the House itself) you can write to the General Manager, Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, NW3 7JR. Colin Gregory, of 70 Denman Drive, NW11 6RH, is responsible for liaison between the RA and English Heritage and would be glad to receive copies of any correspondence or will pass on any comments you make to him.

Colin Gregory

## Gordon Hudson

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