

SUBURB NEWS

THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER ■ SPRING 98-ISSUE 59

Calling local Naturalists...

The Big Wood Management Group are keen to gather more detailed information on birds, butterflies and invertebrates at the site. The London Wildlife Trust would like to hear from any Suburb resident with records on Big Wood from recent years, or who can help with surveys during the summer. Please ring Barnet LWT Chair, Ann Brown, on 346 5011 if you can help.

CATHERINE CAIRNS

Rural walk to Whitechapel

To raise money for Toynbee Hall, Chris Kellerman will be taking a sponsored walk from the Suburb to Toynbee Hall in Whitechapel.

Leaving Central Square at 2pm on Sunday June 14 the route will cross the Heath to Gospel Oak and then follow the towpath along the Grand Union Canal to the East End, total distance 7-8 miles, where tea and other refreshments will be provided by Toynbee Hall before the party returns by underground.

For more information please ring Chris on 458 8085 or 455 1066.

The RA's Publications Committee needs you!

We need a Secretary to handle agendas and minutes for our main committee meetings, about four times a year. The Secretary is also involved in agreeing some work decisions in between meetings. No special experience is needed but word processing skills useful. We would also welcome someone with editing skills to help with the publications being produced. If interested, please contact Simon Abbott on 455 6537.

Yet another Institute deadline

Once again another deadline has been set by the DfEE for the Institute and Barnet/Henrietta Barnett School to solve the dispute over occupancy of the Institute site.

The Secretary of State said in letters faxed to the Institute on the day of the last deadline, March 31, that he was minded to proceed with the compulsory purchase order but gave the parties until April 21 to make further representations.

Fay Naylor, the Institute's Principal, told Suburb News that agreement between the parties had been very close only the day before but it seemed that Barnet officers were pressing the Dept to implement the CPO.

Earlier plans to share the site, with the Institute retaining sole use of the upper Institute building and the school using Bigwood House plus extensive new buildings, founded on the estimated building cost of some £18 million plus a further £4 million to the Institute for the school's part of the site. The Institute feels the building estimates have been exaggerated. Mrs Naylor felt it was likely a CPO would be confirmed and, if it was, it is likely the Institute would appeal.

"If we win an appeal," she said, "we would invite the school to remain provided a rent was paid, but if we lose we would be constantly anxious about Barnet's attitude towards the Institute."

The Institute has other extra sites in mind such as Ivy House in North End Road or a move to Muswell Hill but only tentative moves and enquiries, no firm offers, have been made.

"Whatever happens, if the Institute is to flourish it needs more space and use of a substantial site elsewhere is likely with classes for Suburb residents remaining on the Suburb," said Mrs Naylor.

RA gets into politics

Apologies had been received from Labour Party candidates Carol Kohll, Polly Napper and Tony Hulstrom.

The recent news on the Institute front prompted questions including, from Institute Principal Fay Naylor, "Who runs Barnet Council, Mr Caller or the Councillors?" The answer to that one, from more than one candidate, was that it was up to

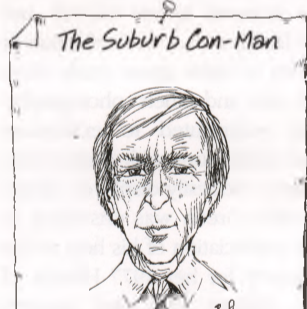
Councillors to control the agenda. Nobody spoke up for the eruv, although it was generally agreed that this was more a planning matter than anything else. Litter and traffic were, predictably, major concerns with all parties determined to combat them, but with the Green candidate making the point that they were global problems.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

The Suburb Con-man

An extract from a Residents Association Newsletter in 1982:

"In the past few years we have warned residents of the



Artist's impression from descriptions given by residents.

visit of a 'con-man'. He knocks on doors, usually of newcomers, telling them that he is collecting subscriptions for the Residents Association. Needless to say, we never see the money!"

This same man has been visiting the Suburb, on and off, for the last 15 or 20 years. He has recently been calling on Suburb homes again. Latest description - 5ft 10 inches, mid fifties, well dressed with receding sandy/mousey hair, pointed nose with weasel-like features and generally carrying a clipboard with names and addresses on it. He is very plausible and says he is collecting money (cash only!) either for the RA or the Trust. Recently he has introduced himself as John Carter. But neither the RA or the Trust ever collects money on the doorstep.

Although he has come to be known as the 'Suburb Con-man', in fact when he is out of prison he works these confidence tricks all over London. If he has not done so already, he will probably move on to another area soon. And he will return to the Suburb again when he reckons the heat has died down and plenty of new residents have come to the Suburb who do not know him. All Suburb residents are asked to be on the alert for this man - and to warn new neighbours. He will almost certainly be back again.

And if he calls on you, ask him to wait outside while you "get the money"! Then, close the front door on him, dial 999 and tell the police that a con-man is outside and, if they come really quickly, they will catch him on your doorstep red-handed!

PETER LOYD



Ros Archer and Susie Gregson winners of the RA's Alexander Stuart Gray Architectural Merit Award (see p 9)



Highly commended, Ros Archer's design for a new entrance but at the HGS Synagogue.



Highly commended, Stephen Brookhouse's design for the open air theatre in Littlewood for the Garden Suburb Theatre.

Award to remember Stuart Gray

The Residents Association's annual award to residents who have made a significant contribution to the conservation of the Suburb by means of building or improving property has been renamed 'The Alexander Stuart Gray Architectural Merit Award'.

This year the Award was given to Susie and Paul Gregson and their architect Roz Archer for an extension to 6 Wild Hatch in which the opportunity was taken to significantly improve the ground floor plan but particularly to improve the external appearance by getting rid of ugly patio doors, pipework and an earlier extension.

A great deal of trouble was taken over the architectural detail such as the woodwork and rainwater hoppers, one original

of which was used to make a cast for two more.

The judges, Trust council member Mervyn Mandell, architect and RA CONSAM member Stephen Brookhouse and RA chairman Richard Wakefield made the award after inspecting plans and making a dozen site visits. Exceptionally this year they decided that two excellent pieces of work that could hardly be directly compared with house improvements should be specially commended. These are the Open Air Theatre in Little Wood designed for the Garden Suburb Theatre by Stephen Brookhouse (and he didn't vote for that one!) and the gatekeeper's hut designed by Ros Archer for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

Home Sweet Home

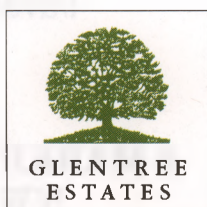
We at Glentree, who live and work in the Suburb regard it as our home and we would like to believe that all our clients feel at home with our service.

Buying or selling a house needs very careful handling and over the past quarter of a century we have endeavoured to provide the kind of service which is professional, understanding and sensitive to the needs of our clients.

We are an unusual company in that although we are locally based, we procure purchasers from a worldwide international network which may enable us to achieve a fulsome price for you, which we hope fully justifies the value to you of your home.

We have produced a guide to selling and renting your home and also one which refers to the various aspects of the recent listing of 500 properties in the Suburb of architectural merit.

If you would like a copy or just an in principle discussion, we would welcome your call.



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