

## Big Wood dog usage survey results

As part of its work to assess the future management of Big Wood, the site's management group decided to find out more information on dog usage in the wood. A questionnaire was circulated to all households with the Suburb News last autumn, and more than 340 people returned a completed form. Here are the main results:

- 29% of respondents were dog owners/walkers, 71% were non-dog owners.
- dog walkers visit the wood more frequently although over half non-dog owners visit at least once a week.
- 76% of dog walkers let their dogs off the lead, and the dogs tend to run more in the centre and west of Big Wood, rather than on the east side.
- 68% of dog walkers preferred the 'fencing some compartments'

option, whilst amongst other walkers there was no clear majority (43% 'lead during nesting season'; 39% 'total ban in some parts all year'; 23% 'fencing some compartments' and 6% 'total ban in some parts in nesting season').

The Big Wood Management Group considered the survey results at its meeting on 9 March. After some debate, it was agreed to fence the centre of the woodland compartment south of Denmam Drive, on an experimental basis. 'A' level biology students from Henrietta Barnet school will be involved in species monitoring in the newly-created glades and the fenced area. This will help assess floristic diversity and the effect of trampling/lack of trampling in the different trial plots.

For further information, please contact Barnet Council's Countryside Officer on 359 3052.



Jocelyn Selson and members of her family at Buckingham Palace for her investiture by Prince Charles with an MBE for services to Music Aid.

## Pavilion Children's Centre Summer Festival

On Sunday, 17th May 1998, the Pavilion Children's Centre will be holding its very popular Summer Festival. Now in its 15th year, this event takes place on the grassed area outside the Pavilion in Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2.

Among the attractions to be enjoyed by all the family will be Pony Rides, Bouncy Castle, Chair-o-plane rides, a carousel and 'The Santa Fe Train'. There will also be face painting, Lucky Dip and other children's games, craft stalls and a delicious array of food including ice creams, candy floss, popcorn, cakes and bagels.

Music will be provided by the Mangrove Steel Orchestra, and as one of the first events of the Mayoral year, the Festival will be opened by the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet.

In conjunction with the Festival we will be running a raffle, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Trust at University College Hospital. A mystery celebrity will be drawing the Raffle at 4.30pm.

As a registered charity, the Pavilion Children's Centre relies on events such as these along with generous donations from members of the public and local companies to survive and thrive.

If you would like to know more about our daily held Mother and Toddler Group, where children are guaranteed a great time while you get a chance to meet other parents and nannies, please phone the Pavilion on 0181 458 0630 any weekday morning. We look forward to meeting you.

THE PAVILION COMMITTEE



Some people will do anything to get Suburb News delivered. It was when they realised how many deliveries they were missing out on that residents successfully campaigned for a new name Deacon's Rise, for their part of Lyttelton Road.

## Suburb house insurance premiums rocket

Suburb buildings insurance premiums have been doubled by General Accident, underwriters of the popular Neighbourhood Watch Insurance policy.

On renewal of my policy in March, Brownhill Morris & West, the agents for the policy, asked for a renewal premium of £890.46 compared with £435 paid last year.

In their covering letter Brownhill Morris wrote: "We regret the increase in your premium and advise that this is solely due to the continuing problem of subsidence in your area which is beyond our control."

Elizabeth Gundrey who lives in Southway had the same experience. "My renewal for buildings insurance was more than doubled to over £800," she said. Elizabeth received the same letter recommending her to stay with the existing policy.

Happily the letter from Brownhill Morris & West coincided with the January issue of Which? magazine surveying just this type of insurance. The first "best buy" I phoned quoted me a premium of £550. The second one I phoned was a mere £224.

Elizabeth Gundrey did even better. She found a company which charged her just over £100. "When my contents insurance came around, I got a reduced premium on that too," she added.

How is it that one company charges £800 for an insurance premium while another only wants £100 or £200? The reason may be that insurance companies base their premiums on their own claims experience in an area. But different companies have different numbers of policies in different areas and they don't define their areas in the same way. Some blanket the whole of NW11 and N2 with the same bad reputation even though subsidence has occurred only in parts of the area.

It's probable that the Neighbourhood Watch company

has a lot of customers on the Suburb, and it will need only a couple of subsidence claims to justify a hike for all other local policyholders. Other companies with few policies in our area are less likely to have had a claim and, until they do, don't consider it a "high" risk.

If you have already had signs of subsidence, though, you may have to pay up as a new company won't want you - and may not want you if a neighbour has had trouble either!

The low price may have an even simpler reason. The cheap company may just be offering a loss leader - a special limited offer like those you get in the supermarket. Once it has got in the required number of new customers, the premiums revert to a higher level. But if the premiums go up next year, you can change again.

The cost of buildings insurance also depends on the rebuilding cost put on your house. However, a number of policies only want to know the type of house (e.g. semi, detached, terrace) and number of bedrooms (usually with a maximum of five). These types of policies are likely to be the cheapest if your house qualifies. If your house is listed, the cost may be greater.

One argument used to persuade people to stick with their expensive existing insurance policy is that in the event of a subsidence claim with a new company, the new company may argue that the subsidence started before it was on risk.

This certainly can cause difficulties. But provided you go straight from the old company to the new one, one or the other is liable or they must share the cost. In the event they don't agree, the Insurance Ombudsman would be able to rule how much each should pay. So it would be prudent to check that companies you insure with belong to the Insurance Ombudsman scheme.

DAVID LEWIS

## News from Fellowship

"A TALENT TO AMUSE"? There is so much talent on the Suburb that many of our Tuesday afternoon entertainers are "home-grown" - whether it is Molly Cattle and her friends with some brilliantly abridged classic play or Sylvia de Peyer with her cello. If you have a talent you are dying to show off, our Tuesday afternoon organiser, Megan Hooley (455 0939), would like to hear from you.

The Croquet Club meets at Fellowship House for play on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays between 2 and 5pm. Games last between 45 minutes and an hour. Four can play at any one time but there are

plenty of chairs, seats and good company for anyone just watching or waiting to play a game. The Club plays "Garden Croquet", not "Association Croquet". There are mallets etc. available, the cost per game is 25p per person. Tuition can be arranged by ringing Moya Page (458 3527) or Margaret Curle (458 2375).

In 1998 play will start - weather permitting - end April/beginning May.

Elsewhere in this issue is an appreciation of the life of Daisy Stonhold: she was a marvellous person, and Fellowship misses her greatly.

EILEEN WHELAN

## Abigail's Party

The Garden Suburb Theatre's production of Mike Leigh's satire of life in the seventies had a troubled passage. Not only was it postponed from October last year, but it ended up in cold January at the St Albans Centre, a place with very little atmosphere, although the acoustics were better. This, alas, was not one of the GST's better productions.

Perhaps it was the time lapse, but very little thought had gone into recreating the characters. Mandy Ribekow-Evans, who had given a most exciting performance recently in a play by Fugard, was allowed to ape the performance given by Alison Steadman. There are other ways of playing Beverly. No need for all that grimacing

and hair patting. Caroline Phillips brought out the vulgarity of the ghastly Angela. Ashley Collins gave a quietly controlled performance as Susan, the mother who has sought refuge with her neighbours to escape her daughter's party. The most interesting piece of acting came from Declan Leary who invested Tony with a dangerous undercurrent of violence. How did he manage to live with Angela? Also good was Richard Kinder as Beverly's husband, Laurence - a down-trodden, overworked estate agent.

Mike Orme's production did not convey the cruelty of Leigh's play and Tim Solomon's set design also failed to understand.

LEONIE STEPHEN

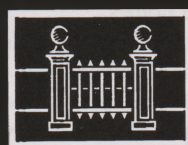
## A sensitive and creative approach to Architecture

We provide an efficient and individual response to our client's brief, whilst taking into consideration the most appropriate and effective design solution.

Planning Applications • Conservation Area Consents • Full or Partial Service

Stephen Davy Peter Smith Architects 39-41 North Road Islington London N7 9DP Tel: 0171-700-7020 Fax: 0171-700-7022

Stephen Davy  
Peter Smith  
Architects



# HEATHGATE

Residential Sales Lettings & Property Management

A small company with a big business selling and letting properties in The Suburb and surrounding areas.

Please contact Vivienne Harris on

0171 - 435 3344

105 HEATH STREET HAMPSTEAD LONDON NW3 6SS

"For Old Times Sake..."  
ANTIQUE EVENTS



0181 446 2886 0836 264336

THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB  
ANTIQU

AND COLLECTORS FAIR

AN INTERESTING QUALITY FAIR INCLUDING

Furniture • Jewellery • Watercolours • Prints • Glass  
Art Deco • Clarice Cliff • Shelley • Susie Cooper  
Silverware • Lace • Textiles • Ceramics • Porcelain  
Ephemera • Clocks • Watches • Pens • Commemoratives  
Plus many other Antiques and Collectables  
Full range of reference books for sale

THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB INSTITUTE  
Bigwood House (Bigwood Road) NW11

10am - 5pm SUNDAY 26 APRIL 1998

10am - 5pm SUNDAY 21 JUNE 1998

Admission £1.40 (Children Free) Homemade refreshments