



These pictures show the 'before and after' of the prizewinning design by Ros Archer for the Gregsons at Wild Hatch. Gone are the plate glass doors, ugly pipework and flat roofed extension. Even the TV aerial is no longer needed as the house now has cable instead. The judges were impressed by the attention to detail and selection of materials. The standard of craftsmanship and careful consideration of proportion and scale that have so enhanced the elevation.



Higher attendance and more nominees at RA AGM

Some 150 members, a larger than usual audience for an Annual General Meeting at which nothing controversial was expected to occur, attended the meeting on March 30.

The Publications Committee had made every effort to persuade members to come with a poster delivered to most households as well as a report which stressed the date and that a display of some of the RA's work throughout the year would be on show.

The chairman, having welcomed guests and Honorary Life Members, brought the meeting up to date with developments on a number of fronts since the Annual Report was written.

Lottery application

The joint application, with the Trust and LB Barnet, for Heritage Lottery funds had gone through albeit in a disappointingly reduced form. The application now asks for the Unwinisation of Willifield Way junctions and reinstatement of grass verges in Willifield Way.

"This application, encouraged by English Heritage, had to be reduced in scale from what was the original intention but we will find other ways, possibly through Agenda 21, of implementing the traffic scheme, the Bigwood entrance, resurfacing twittens, more grass verges and all the other initiatives we have discussed with residents or which were originally included in the English Heritage report 'Greening the Garden Suburb'," he said.

Tree planting

Referring to the display of photographs by Georgina Malcolm of Suburb street trees and a Trees and Open Spaces Committee survey which showed that more than 150 trees were missing, the chairman said he wanted to float the idea, so far only approved by the Executive Committee, that, bearing in mind that Barnet can replant only 30 or so trees a year, the RA should pay for the same number each year. "This is something the RA can do to benefit the whole Suburb from Creswick Walk to Edmunds Walk and Brookland Rise to Wildwood Rise and, before it goes to Council, I'd be glad to know what members think of the idea."

Accounts approved

The Treasurer, Alan Brudney, took the meeting through the accounts and said that with the 90th Festival, the Traffic Scheme and the new look for the RA

and its publications, expenditure was over £6,000 more than the previous year.

This however had been partially offset by incorporating the Garden Suburb Gallery figures into the RA accounts for the first time, with the result that the deficit for the year had been kept to £842 compared with a surplus of £2,814 for 1996. The Chairman of Fellowship thanked the RA and its membership representatives for collecting for Fellowship.

Subscription increase

A motion to fix the suggested minimum subscription for 1999 was carried. The Treasurer pointed out that the £5 level had been in force for a number of years and that it was prudent to consider an increase in view of the likelihood of increased expenditure. Eileen Whelan asked that it be made clear that it is a suggested minimum and smaller amounts were welcome.

Officers elected

There having been no other nominations, the Council's proposed officers were elected. They are: Richard Wakefield, Chairman; David Rapson, Vice Chairman; Graham Cunlold, Hon Secretary; Alan Brudney, Treasurer.

More nominations

In addition to the Council nominations of eight previously co-opted members to Council, the chairman said he was pleased to announce that there had been four nominations from members. The Council nominees were: Carol Boulter, Elizabeth Gundry, David Lewis, Ken Murrell, Terry Rand, Michael Rowley, Ruth Smith and Léonie Stephen.

The nominees from the membership were: Alec Worster, Terry Brooks, Sylvia Pace and Charles Gale. Two of these, the maximum number the constitution allowed us to elect at an AGM being ten, would be co-opted at the April Council meeting.

Auditor appointed

The chairman said we had been fortunate in having the services of Peter Blackstaffe for many years but pressure of work had made him retire last year. The appointment of Paul Hartley as Hon. Auditor was proposed by the Treasurer, and carried.

Honorary Life Members

Tribute was paid to Peter Loyd for his work for the Suburb as a

past vice chairman of the RA under the chairmanship of Eileen Whelan and Léonie Stephen, for his organisation of the Suburb's Litter Free Zone scheme and his continuing work as Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

Tim and Jean Neal were made Hon. Life Members for a lifetime of devotion to Suburb causes. Tim, who was born in their home in Meadway, had been on the RA Council for many years, being particularly active on the Trees Committee of which he had been chairman. Both he and Jean had been actively involved in Fellowship, and still were, and for 25 years their home had been open every year for the Neals' famous Oxfam lunches.

Architectural Awards

The chairman said that the RA had decided to rename the Architectural Merit Awards after the well known Suburb architect Stuart Gray who had died in February.

The first prize had been awarded to Susie and Paul Gregson and their architect Roz Archer for a Wild Hatch extension. Special commendations had been awarded to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue for a new entrance hut in Norrice Lea and to the Garden Suburb Theatre for the theatre in Little Wood.

Bouquet for Rosemary

The chairman thanked Rosemary Goldstein for her long service as Secretary to the RA, with flowers.

Questions

The Chairmen of committees answered a number of questions on the subjects of traffic, litter, Golders Green station and controlled parking schemes and the meeting closed in time for those who live nearby to catch the last episode of 'Our Mutual Friend', but most people stayed for drinks, and for the snacks provided by Sherrards, until after 10.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

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Operatic Society revives neglected masterpiece

'The Gipsy Princess', being staged by the Manor House Hospital Operatic Society at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute on May 12-16, is a neglected masterpiece full of tuneful music and witty dialogue. It was *the* hit musical, on the German side, of the First World War, not surprising because of its Hungarian exuberance and its six show-stopping numbers! The composer Kalman, better known on the continent than in the UK, was the contemporary and equal of Lehar, and the operetta has been given a fresh touch with a new book by operetta expert, the tenor Nigel Douglas, who, engagements permitting, hopes to attend the first night.

The plot, more naturalistic than many, concerns an Austrian nobleman, Prince Edwin, who has fallen in love with a cabaret singer, Sylva Varescu, to the scandal of his aristocratic family. When a priggish cousin, Rohnsdorff, comes to summon Edwin back to his regiment, Edwin goes through a form of marriage to Sylva, in the Orpheum Cabaret Theatre. After Edwin has gone, Sylva's manager and devoted admirer, Count Boni, produces a card, given to him by Rohnsdorff, saying that Edwin is already engaged to his cousin, Countess Stasi.

Sylva goes off in a huff to carry out a tour of America, but later returns, masquerading as Boni's wife, to attend Edwin's engagement party. The plot is further complicated by Boni falling in love at first sight with Edwin's delectable fiancée, Countess Stasi. Come and see the dénouement.

SIMON HUGGINS

Open day at the Institute

Whatever the weather, you can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome at the Institute's Open Day, Saturday 20 June from 11am to 5pm. The art and craft displays, special events, and opportunities to observe classes in progress and meet Institute tutors will give you a comprehensive view of the variety of activities the Institute can offer.

Visitors to Open Day can also enrol for Autumn Term classes. Popular courses fill up quickly, so early enrolment is advised.

For further information on Open Day and enrolment, ring the Institute Office on 455 9951.

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