

# Busy times for Friends of the Suburb Woods

## Work Day

Friends of Suburb Woods held their first work day on September 27. A select group congregated at the Oakwood Road entrance, complete with rakes and trowels and a bag of woodland flower seed mix, and made their way around Big Wood seeding in bare patches along the main paths. About 24 places were seeded and records were carefully kept of where we

should look out for wild flowers next year.

## Fungus Foray

The second Fungus Foray led by David Thomas was held on Sunday 3 October on a brilliantly sunny morning. This was a great relief to all who remembered the 1998 Foray which took place in a torrential downpour. A number of interesting fungi were found ranging from the tiny Candle Snuff fungus and Coral-

spot, to black King Alfred's Cakes and yellow Sulphur tuft. The group also found the edible Beef-steak fungus and Agaricus silvaticus. Residents should remember that Big Wood and Little Wood are a Local Nature Reserve and neither wildflowers nor fungi should be picked. The Foray was arranged by Anne Brown of the London Wildlife Trust. We hope to arrange a third Fungus Foray for autumn 2000.

## Oak Seedlings

Last winter about 25 seedlings were planted in each of the Big Wood glades. About half have survived in the Oakwood Road glade. Those planted in the Big Glade were not as successful so once again we ask that you dig up oak seedlings from your gardens, particularly if you live close to the wood, and help us put them in the glade. Come to Temple Fortune Hill entrance from 10am on Saturday 20 November and follow the directions to the glade. If possible your seedlings should be dug up immediately before you set off for the wood. Wrap them in plastic bags so they do not dry out and come along to help regenerate the wood.

## Winter Walk

A walk, 'The Holly & the Ivy', has been arranged by friends of Suburb Woods and London Borough of Barnet for Sunday 5 December. Put this date in your diary now. Meet at the Temple Fortune Hill entrance at 10am. Hot drinks and mince pies will be provided.

## Watery Wood

Most local residents are aware of Big Wood and Little Wood but how many are aware that there is a third old wood inside the Suburb? Watery Wood appears on 19th century maps but more recently has been lumped in with Lyttelton Playing Fields. The wood grows on both sides of Mutton Brook but its most obvious feature is the large oaks in front of the Pavilion in Lyttelton Playing Fields. It has apparently never been surveyed and Barnet's Countryside Officers know nothing about it. Definitely a project for the future.

GEORGINA MALCOLM



Big Wood fungus - Auricula - judae Below: Hornbeam Left: Cow parsley



PHOTO: GEORGINA MALCOLM



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## Converting tennis courts?

The Trust, Residents Association and Barnet are looking at the possibility of converting two of the tennis courts in Lyttelton Playing Fields into an area which can be used for five-a-side football and basketball.

On the Suburb there are a large number of both public and private courts which are under-utilised. There are five clubs:

Angela Buxton, Chandos, Farm Walk, Mercury and the Suburb Club, as well as 10 public courts in Lyttelton Playing Fields and Northway Gardens. In addition the Institute owns 6 courts which are available for hire.

In contrast there are no facilities currently available for five-a-side football and basket ball. These sports are becoming

increasingly popular. A common complaint about the Suburb is that there is not enough for teenagers to do and it is hoped that these new facilities will go some way to solving this problem. If you have any comments on these proposals please write to Christopher Kellerman at Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, 862 Finchley Road, London NW11 6AB.



## Horticultural Society's 90th celebrations

HGS Horticultural Society, founded as the very first Suburb society in 1909, concluded its 90th anniversary celebrations with a highly successful and colourful Flower Show and Archive

Exhibition at the free Church Hall on 18 September. In the presence of the Deputy-Mayor and Mayoress of Barnet, Councillor Jeremy Davies and his mother, Mrs Marjorie Davies,

The Revd Alan Walker, Vicar of St Jude's, cut a beautiful birthday cake decorated with colourful miniature icing-sugar fruit and vegetables and quoted from the speech made by Henrietta Barnett when she opened the very first Flower Show in 1909.

There was the usual array of flowers, domestic economy, fruit and vegetables, and the judges seemingly ignored the fact that an enormous pumpkin appeared to be masquerading successfully as the heaviest marrow. In addition, the Society mounted an extensive exhibition of archive material documenting its history from its pre-foundation meetings in 1908, through two world wars, right up to 1999. Many members and visitors, who signed a Visitor's Book and came from all over North London, had their own memories of long-gone Flower Shows and were happy and nostalgic to see photographs, articles, scrap books and artefacts reminding them of people who had been familiar faces in the Society and around the Suburb both way back and in the more recent past.

While celebrating the past, the Horticultural Society is also looking forward to the future. As London suburbs become more and more built up, the Flower Shows continue to bring a breath of the country to the town, the Autumn and Winter lectures answer many of our horticultural questions and the Plant Sale in May keeps our gardens supplied. Like any voluntary society, if we are to survive as current exhibitors and committee members retire, we need new, active people to take their place. Nearly everyone in this Garden Suburb has a garden or an allotment; many of us grow fruit, vegetables and flowers for our own pleasure and for relaxation. There is no need to be very competitive or to have previous experience to put them into a show and there are plenty of classes for children. Why not come along and meet us at our AGM and Prize Giving at 7.30pm on 23 November at Fellowship House? If you would be willing to join the committee, please telephone our secretary, Joan Rees Phillips, on 0181 883 5953.

MARJORIE HARRIS

"For Old Times Sake...."

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