

Trees taking over

Walking around the Suburb one is becoming increasingly aware that in certain parts the vegetation is taking over from the architecture. The Suburb was carefully designed so that the hedges, trees, shrubs and flowers should complement, rather than overshadow the houses.

Unfortunately with the warm, wet summers this equilibrium has been disrupted with the result that in a number of places the vegetation has become excessive and obtrusive. The Suburb is a managed environment and not a forest.

Trees and shrubs need to be regularly pruned to maintain their shape. For free advice about what to do please contact Tony George, the Trust's tree consultant. Another problem is posed by conifers, many of which are not indigenous species (leylandi and eucalyptus). They can grow very large depriving houses and gardens of light.



RA tree planting

The tree planting season is rapidly approaching and soon I will be out with my can of biodegradable spray paint marking the exact spot for Barnet's contractors. Not that they always pay attention to the instructions, sometimes preferring to plant bang on top of a telegraph pole rather than two metres away. And surely they won't accidentally discover another gas main this year. But these were isolated incidents and I'm sure they won't happen again.

On the North side we have 7 red mayrs for Brim Hill which has lost a number of trees recently and has begun to look rather bare. We also have a silver birch for Blandford Close. I would have liked to plant several more here, but there are far too many telephone wires which would damage the birches and result in ugly trees. We have to wait for BT to remove the wires before we can put in any more trees. More deep pink-flowered crab apples will complete the planting in Devon Rise. Back in 1996 a Devon Rise resident put together a petition requesting more trees. The road now has one of the healthiest collection of trees on the Suburb. Denison Close had even fewer trees to the metre (the criteria used by Devon Rise residents) but with last year's 4 and this year's 4 more Prunus 'Umineko', a beautiful white cherry, it will be worth a detour in spring, probably in April.

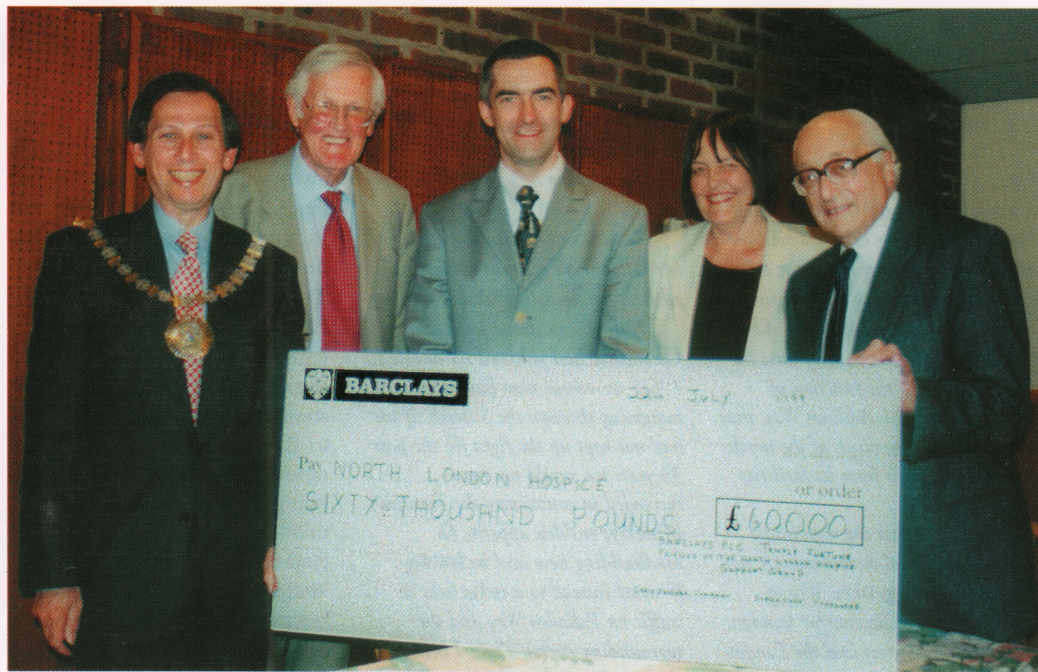
Brookland Hill is getting a change of planting scheme. The residents are less than happy with their red oaks so we have chosen to plant Prunus serrula 'Tibetica'. There are two in the road already. This is a pretty little cherry with beautiful shining bark which peels off in curling ribbons.

On the South side there are 4 new rowans for Spencer Drive. The road looks rather sad at the moment with 2 stumps waiting to be removed. Another stump, in Temple Fortune Hill, will be replaced by a Prunus avium 'Plena'. This is a double-flowered version of the wild cherry. Go and look at the wild cherry at 5 Temple Fortune Hill in spring. This is one of the first street trees planted on the Suburb. Its broadly spreading branches contrast with the compact shape of the Uminekos in Dennison Close. But look at it soon; there are large fungal growths on the roots and the tree may not last very long.

Most planting decisions are made as a result of resident requests so remember to contact the Trees & Open Spaces Committee if you think your road is being neglected. Before you do, please note that already on the list for planting next year, that's the 2000/2001 planting season, are Norrice Lea, Ossulton Way, Gumey Drive, Bigwood Road, Asmunds Hill and Brookland Rise.

To celebrate the millennium, we have ordered two very unusual paperback mulberries for Northway Gardens. The hairy leaves are all different, so no two should be the same shape, the bark is blotchy and the females produce orange fruits. This tree is dioecious which means the male and female flowers grow on different trees so you need one of each to get fruits. They will be planted along-side the tennis courts.

GEORGINA MALCOLM



At the AGM of the Hospice's North West London Support Group the Mayor of Barnet Cllr Jack Cohen saw the Hospice's medical director Dr Chris Baxter, who gave a very interesting talk about the work of the Hospice, accept a cheque for £60,000, raised by the support group, from their treasurer Gerald Cane. Also at the top table Chairman Dr Chris Donovan and Jan White.

Trees of time and place

BTCV, Barnet Council and the Watling Chase Community Forest have set up a new project in Barnet, the *Trees of Time and Place (TOTAP)* project. Its aim is to collect seeds from local trees, grow them on and plant them out to celebrate the new Millennium and as a gift to future generations.

The project invites schools and community groups and the wider public to join the project and help with seed collection, setting up and running community tree-nurseries on allotment sites and later on planting trees and hedges in the Barnet area.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the value and importance of trees, especially in urban areas, through the process of handling a seed, watching it grow, learning about

the tree it was coming from and later on sharing the pleasure of planting your personal tree within your community.

Big Wood is a fascinating and diverse woodland but it is suffering from a lack of natural regeneration through an overpopulation of squirrels and shady conditions. Get involved and help to grow the next generation of Big Wood trees.

The project invites everybody in Barnet to join and learn how to grow a tree on your windowsill and make it your personal Tree of Time and Place. The future is in your hands!

For more information, advice and support call Meike Weiser, BTCV Project Officer for TOTAP, Watling Chase Community Forest, 01923 852641.

Worried about GM crops?

If so, why not grow your own fresh fruit, flowers and vegetables on a Suburb allotment. Autumn is a good time to start and gives time to prepare for Spring, to plant strawberries for picking next summer and for planting garlic to ensure a bumper crop next year.

There are a few plots free on Suburb allotments and at the Finchley Manor allotments next to Brooklands School.

Don't be worried if you are a beginner there will be plenty of help and encouragement from neighbouring plot holders.

Please phone Isobel Exell 731 9964 for Finchley Manor or David Rapson 458 5094 for all other sites.

KEN MURRELL

News from Fellowship

Apart from August (when we are closed to allow for refurbishments, holidays etc. - though croquet keeps going throughout the summer), Fellowship has had a busy and active summer season.

In June we had our usual visit from the Senior Care and Leisure members of Toynbee Hall, and this year we were delighted that John Profumo came with them. They sat in the sun around the croquet lawn (some of them 'having a go'), had a sumptuous tea provided, as always, by our wonderful volunteers, and then were given 'gentle keep fit' by Jeanne Solomons. (When John Profumo wrote me a letter of thanks afterwards, he said he was still

recovering from the 'aerobics'!)

On 21 July we had a coach outing to Capel Manor College of Horticulture and Countryside Studies, near Enfield. We were lucky that the day was not too hot and Fellowship members were able to explore the 30 acres of gardens, and a little zoo, without getting too exhausted. We also enjoyed a splendid tea in the Refectory.

Now we are back in the swing of things, with activities most afternoons of each week. We are always delighted to welcome new members and volunteer helpers. Just give Florence Chamberlain (455 1491) or me (458 2889) a ring.

EILEEN WHELAN

ENGLISH

Why settle for less?

TOP GRADE EXPERIENCED TEACHERS, FRIENDLY, SMALL CLASSES

APPROVED TEACHER TRAINING CENTRE

TRINITY COLLEGE CERT

FREE CLASSES 1-3!!!

FOR OUR REGISTERED STUDENTS!!

WP AND COMPUTER TRAINING!

Golders Green College

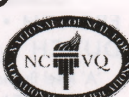
and School of English

11 Golders Green Road, London NW11 8DE

Tel: 0181 905 5467

Fax: 0181 455 6528

e mail: GGCOL@easynet.co.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH HOUSEHOLDS SHOULD NOT PAY HIGH RISK PREMIUMS

DOES YOUR PRESENT POLICY PROVIDE ALL OF THESE BENEFITS?

Up to 40% savings on home contents insurance

Up to 30% No Claims Discount

Home visit to provide tailor-made cover

Reduce the risk of becoming a burglary victim with a FREE Home Security Survey

Protect your treasured items with FREE* Property Imaging with Identi-Pic

WE DO!

ARE YOU TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERSHIP?

CALL US NOW: 0800 614091

BROWNHILL MORRIS & WEST

16 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 5JE

COVER UNDERWRITTEN BY CGU INSURANCE PLC - THE NUMBER ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH INSURER

*First ten items free then a £2 per item charge thereafter

