

It's not always easy being a parent!

There are classes for ante-natal and groups for post-natal, but most of us learn parenting 'on the job', and it certainly isn't a piece of cake! Many of us follow the example of our parents, whether we mean to or not; I can remember thinking that raising children was the most important job in the world and here I was without any instruction at all. I bought all the books but found it difficult to connect page with the reality of a screaming two year-old in a restaurant with my family, so I was really delighted when I heard about an organisation running groups for parents.

My partner Martin and I signed up straight away. We had committed ourselves to a Parent Network group, run by a trained facilitator (and also a parent herself), which would run for thirteen weeks.

It changed our lives. During the course we explored how to listen and talk more effectively, learned how to improve self-esteem in ourselves

and in our children, worked out how to be clear and firm and set boundaries where appropriate.

It felt enormously reassuring to hear from other members of the group about their experiences which were often similar and sometimes worse than our own! Although quite young at the time, our children were quick to spot the change in our style of parenting and we have never looked back.

Since then (10 years ago) we have attended several other courses run by Parent Network and have trained to be facilitators ourselves.

Our next Parenting Matters course will be starting soon on Monday evenings at the Middlesex County Cricket Club in Finchley; each group has a maximum of 12-13 people and is suitable for parents, step-parents, grandparents and adults caring for children. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more details phone us on 020 8455 1573.

DEBORAH HOFMAN



LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVE

Suburb Pageant this Summer

This summer the Garden Suburb Theatre will be marking its first season of the new millennium with a revival of one of the pageants for which it used to be famous. *The Stars*, written by former Suburb residents Cyril and Enid Kelsey, was first performed in Little Oak Wood in June 1933. Later that summer it was repeated at Avenue House for the celebrations held when

Finchley became a borough (now of course part of the London Borough of Barnet).

Pageants were generally high on spectacle and low on plot, but *The Stars* is perhaps more relevant than ever: the stars decided that Earth must be destroyed because humans are so wicked; the Sun pleads for her reprieve and the stars are persuaded to give us a second chance.

The pageant - which will run from 30 June to 8 July - will be part of a Summer Festival this year on the Suburb and will be performed along with a little known comedy by George Bernard Shaw: *In Good King Charles's Golden Days*. Colin Gregory directs and hopes that as many people as possible will take part in the pageant.

The original pageants had casts of hundreds. Local schools have already been approached and

residents of all ages will be very welcome at the auditions. Auditions will be held on Sunday 5 March at the Friends' Meeting House, North Square, NW11 at 3pm for those aged 8-16 and 7.30pm for those aged over 16.

If you are interested in taking part, please write or telephone for further details from Colin Gregory, 70 Denman Drive, NW11 6RH, 455 0682. No previous acting experience necessary!

COLIN GREGORY

Fellowship News

In the run-up to Christmas, Fellowship delivered 163 bowls of hyacinths to all housebound and elderly people on the Suburb; these are always greatly appreciated by the recipients. Early in January we will have had our splendid New Year parties - a lot of hard work for the organisers, but thoroughly enjoyed by those who attend.

We welcomed two things in the autumn:

(a) an award to Ralph Baldry by the London Borough of Barnet in recognition of his outstanding work in the community; and

(b) the setting up by the Red Cross of a discharge centre in association with a 'Home from Hospital' scheme at the Royal Free Hospital.

These two things alone will hopefully prevent some of the unfortunate occurrences in the past.

We are still in need of more volunteer drivers to take people to and from Fellowship House on Tuesday afternoons (the rota works out at 4-weekly intervals). If you can help, please phone Shirley Thomas on 458 4131.

EILEEN WHELAN

Northway to re-open soon?

At the beginning of 1999 the Residents Association were assured that the strengthening of the Northway bridge was not in the plan set for bridge repairs during the next three years. In fact, we were informed that it was unlikely to happen in the next decade!

However, Barnet Council has received supplementary funds for bridge repairs and reconstruction in Northway is now due to start in January 2000. Barnet Council have no plans to retain the emergency width restrictions when the repairs have been completed.

The removal of the width restriction will be viewed as a

mixed blessing. Many residents will be pleased that MTL have confirmed that the H2 will revert to the normal route via the Market Place - but Northway residents may experience the return of additional traffic - unless of course the date of repair is changed again!

The Committee are always pleased to hear the opinions of residents; if you have any views on this change please let us know by writing to Ken Murrell, 167 Hampstead Way, NW11 7YA.

Or, you may wish to write to A Cunningham, Highways Service, 1255 High Road, London N20 0EJ, with a copy to me, please.

KEN MURRELL

East Finchley parking zone

Residents in the vicinity of Brim Hill/Deansway will be aware of the details of this scheme and the consultation undertaken by Barnet Council. The original proposals have been amended, taking into account feedback from residents, and Barnet Council will also consider further amendments when the scheme is reviewed after six months of operation.

The outer zone of the scheme will be similar to the Golders Green CPZ where parking controls

will operate for one hour only per day thereby preventing all-day commuter parking. The scheme was expected to start in mid 2000, although at the time of writing the scheme has not received final approval from Barnet Council.

The Residents Association and the HGS Trust will be involved with LBB in the detail of signing and lining to ensure the minimum visual intrusion.

KEN MURRELL

Temple Fortune - Pay & Display

The Pay and Display scheme is in operation and it appears to be easier to park in Finchley Road, albeit with a price attached.

The Residents Association was concerned that some long term parking would be displaced from Finchley Road to adjacent Suburb roads. We need to know

the effects on residents in nearby roads to ensure that Barnet Council consider appropriate action if necessary.

So, good or bad, please let the Roads and Traffic Committee know how Pay & Display affects you by writing to Ken Murrell at 167 Hampstead Way, NW11 7YA.

Telephone 0181 458 4422



W.M. GLENDINNING LIMITED

Building Contractors & Decorators

FOUNDED IN LONDON IN 1904
SEVENTY YEARS BUILDING ON
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

**66-70 GRANVILLE ROAD
CHILDS HILL NW2 2LA**



Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward
INCORPORATING GORDON HUDSON

Successfully Selling in the Suburb

for over 45 years and now part of over 30 offices serving South, Central and North London.

Don't trust the sale of your largest asset to a less experienced agent.

You value your home and so do we.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB OFFICE
10 Market Place • London NW11 6JG

SALES
Tel: 0181 455 4755
Fax: 0181 455 3533

LETTINGS
Tel: 0181 883 2340
Fax: 0181 372 4658

CENTRAL HOTEL

AA - RAC - * * *

35 Hoop Lane
Finchley Road
Golders Green
London NW11 8BS

Telephone: 020 8458 5636
Fax: 020 8455 4792



**TRAVEL CENTRE
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN
SUBURB**

Our experienced staff will help with all travel arrangements

**8 MARKET PLACE, NW11
Tel: 0181 209 0444
Fax: 0181 209 0447**

