

Honorary Life Membership for Spencer Hudson

Spencer Hudson, who recently retired from the Trees and Open Spaces Committee, received the award of Honorary Life Member at the Residents Association's Annual General Meeting. Spencer worked with 'Trees' since 1987 and was its chairman for three years in the nineties, when he was very involved with Big Wood and the Tree Warden scheme. Indeed he is the first warden with special duties to look after a group of street trees around Southwood Court. He served on the Residents Association Council for 16 years, and was also on the Executive for some time. He represented the RA on the London Tree Forum and on Friends of the Earth.

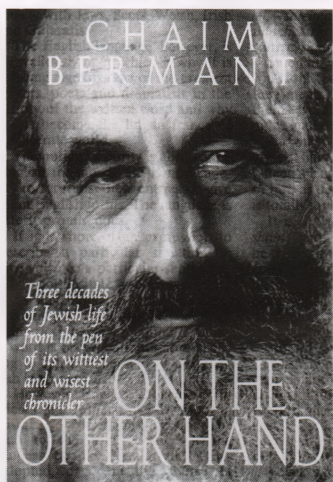
He and his wife, Jean, were among the first Friends of the Citizens' Advice in Barnet and he represented the RA on their Management Committee, where

his knowledge of the workings of Borough Councils proved useful. Jean, helped by Spencer, set up the Neighbourhood Watch in Southwood and Bigwood Courts in April 1987 and they are still doing it today.

Spencer, born in Leeds, has lived on the Suburb for thirty-nine years in the same house. Indeed if you visit Southwood Court you will see on which side he lives by the wonderful display of flowers, not only outside his house but his neighbours, as well as he believes in sharing his gift. Everything he plants flourishes under his tender loving care. His expertise, good advice and humour will be greatly missed by all of his colleagues. We wish him a happy retirement and, in words very much his own, "manifold felicitations".

LEONIE STEPHEN

On the other hand



Guardian. However it was his column in the Jewish Chronicle, 'On the Other Hand', that he came to regard as his weekly pulpit. From it he gave sermons about every aspect of Jewish life and wrote with insight and wit about such diverse topics as barmitzvahs for dogs, beards, same sex marriages, West Bank politics, even his beloved Suburb. He was a tireless walker and loved walking all over the Suburb from the house in Hill Rise which has been the family home since 1966.

Chaim Berman, who died last year, wrote more than thirty books and was a regular contributor to the broadsheets from the Telegraph to the

His widow Judy has selected the best of these columns spanning over twenty-five years for a book which will be published in May. 'On the Other Hand', Robson Books, £16.95.

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Whatever next?

Not entirely typical e-mail messages on the hgslit recently.

I see on the back page of the Weekend section of today's Times that one Dandy Cockburn of NW11 has sought and been given advice on a point of etiquette. I strongly suspect that the said correspondent lives in Southway. I've heard of cats talking - Saki's Tobermory comes to mind - but never before have I come across one writing to a newspaper. Whatever next! Posting e-mails on the hgslit, I wouldn't be surprised.

David Meyler

From Dandy@30 Southway

"Whatever next?" asks David Meyler. Well my brother Tippy and I suggest a Suburb website especially for us moggies who want to exchange news by Mew-Mail about, for instance, the whereabouts of mice, warnings of foxes and the latest style in whiskers. Miaouww - that's Moggie speak for greetings to all.

Dandy Cockburn

This exchange was prompted by Dandy's letter to Morgan's Modern Manners;



Q. My Siamese neighbour keeps entering my home uninvited. I do not want to share my meals with him and when he goes into my mistress's bedroom I get cross. How can I tell him his intrusion is bad form? Shall I bite his tail?

Dandy Cockburn

A. Heaven forbid that this column would suggest hissing and spitting at a neighbour. Gently but firmly defend your territory with the arrogance of an aristocrat. The human who lives with you could help by locking the cat flap at meal times, closing her bedroom door and showering you with tlc while ignoring the trespassing cat should it appear.

Residents aid Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund achievements

A review of our last year includes the final stages of the appeal for funds for Toynbee Hall in the East End, the Barnetts' foundation supplying vital services to local residents. Martin Bell MP, Patron of the Appeal, handed over a 'cheque' for £14,000 to Roger Harrison, chairman of Toynbee Hall.

Toynbee reports the appointment of the new Youth Work Manager, part-funded by the appeal, whose working includes developing crime schemes, training youth workers and volunteers, and managing camping and residential. The appeal also funds, for two years, weekly Saturday evening activities for some 40 to 50 mostly teenagers "as an alternative to hanging around the streets in a bored manner". Finally, the appeal funds for two years, English classes for young people attempting exam courses, and mainly mothers who are homebound because of children and language difficulties.

The DHBF also funded the training of four young leaders for a year who are "on the fringes or into criminal behaviour" but become "exceptional role-models and mentors" at camps and elsewhere. We additionally have funded weekend residential for several hundred young people for curriculum and outdoor activities plus "for the vast majority... their only break from the inner city".

Through the Henrietta Barnett School, grants went to a number of girls and young women. These included 13 students achieving geography Field Centre study partly counting towards exam marks, and seven for biology, art, physics and activities work. Other grants went for European work experience, travel fares, textbooks, music and sport. All were for students in need, for example "in severe financial hardship and... supported to

remain in full-time education". There were real achievements, for example, in sport the student "represented England at international level. Her team won the under-16 group, she won the under-16 singles and came second with a partner in the under-16 doubles."

Seven students were aided at the HGS Institute, including the first recipient of a major new arts scholarship and "the mother of a large family living on the Suburb" who "had not had the opportunity to pursue her education and wanted to gain the skills and qualifications to help in the...design business."

The aim of the DHBF is "through education, out of poverty". This means funding educational work which gives leverage to assist people to move away from disadvantage. All the above grants went to people whose families, or themselves, were on income support or equivalent, and all the grants were targeted to accompany real progress.

Applications need to be from individuals or agencies applying on behalf of individuals, on an application form obtainable from Toynbee School, or Institute, or from myself at 1 Hill Close.

The DHBF depends for its income substantially on giving by the Suburb. Two-thirds of its income last year was raised through events and donations with particular thanks going to the St Jude's Proms who raised the splendid figure of £4,300, and to the Residents Association and its Events Committee. To achieve more work in 2000, we are grateful to receive donations and volunteers who will help us build up the work of the DHBF on the Suburb. (Is there a volunteer to assist with the minuting and organising of the occasional full Trustee meetings?)

SIMON ABBOTT - CHAIRMAN

Free garden competition

Barnet in Bloom, now in its tenth year, continues to improve our borough through the use of shrubs and flowers. In the 1999 competition Barnet was nominated as the 'Most Improved Borough'.

The colourful summer displays of geraniums, impatiens, verbena, petunias and many more will soon be emerging across the borough as residents, community groups and businesses help to make Barnet the brightest and best London borough to live and work in.

Finalists go through to the 'London in Bloom' competition, which covers all London boroughs. Last year was our most successful yet. The Spires won the Cleary Trophy as the best shopping centre; for the second year running Barnet won the Wild Flower and Environment prize, this year with Big Wood and Little Wood. Also, the White Lion Public House came second for the Best Bloomin' Pub and the Hendon Hall Hotel came third in the Best Floral Hotel Trophy for 50 to 100 bedrooms.

This year a special category, sponsored by the HGS Horticultural Society, is to be included for residents of the Garden Suburb

with a prize of £25. Special rules will apply to this category because many of the cottage gardens are near to roads. Gardens may be entered if they are at the side or back of the property.

To enter this category please fill in the application form printed below and send it to Barnet in Bloom 2000, Recreation & Parks, Freepost ND1237, 1 Friern Barnet Lane, N11 3DL.

For more information e-mail pauline.varnals@barnet.gov.uk.

RULES

- 1) All entries must be within the London Borough of Barnet.
- 2) No correspondence will be entered into, and the judges' decision will be final.
- 3) Exhibits must be ready for judging by 25 June 2000.
- 4) Entries must consist of live plant material only - no artificial plants or spray paint must be used.
- 5) Any photographs organised by the council remain its property and may be used for any reasonable purpose.
- 6) Displays may be at the side or at the back of properties but with access for judges to view.
- 7) Winners will be advised in writing.

ENTRY FORM

I would like to enter the 'Barnet in Bloom' Gardening Competition.
I agree to abide by the rules, printed above.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Please return this form by 25 June 2000 to:
London Borough of Barnet Recreation and Parks
FREEPOST ND1237, 1 Friern Barnet Lane, London N11 3DL
Fax: 020-8359 3011 or 020-8359 2666.
Email: public.relations@barnet.gov.uk

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