

East Finchley CPZ

This Controlled Parking Zone has often appeared to be a mirage that disappeared every time it became clear. In the Suburb News of January 2000 a start date of midsummer 2000 was confidently predicted, but summer passed without any CPZ action. However, with eternal optimism it is reported that the scheme has passed all the hurdles of consultation and authorisation and Barnet Council expect to start work in February 2001. The signs and lines will be kept to a minimum and will be consistent

with the approach taken in the Golders Green CPZ.

This scheme should make it possible for residents to reclaim their streets from all-day commuter parking and remove much of the inconsiderate and dangerous parking that occurs at various road junctions.

Barnet Council will monitor the scheme after it starts, to see if there are any unforeseen problems. The RA will be equally keen to hear the views of residents once the scheme has settled in.

KEN MURRELL

Red route -associated traffic calming

A year ago Suburb News contained an article explaining the possibility of traffic calming for Brim Hill, Deansway and Addison Way. As explained then, these limited funds can only be provided by the Director of Traffic for London for routes that are parallel to the Red Route. Other roads in the Suburb with their own traffic problems must wait for funds from the limited budgets of Barnet Council.

At the time of writing, the traffic engineers have decided that speed humps in Addison Way will be the greatest deterrent to speeding vehicles. This is consistent with calming measures already used in Oakwood Road.

The choice of speed tables for Brim Hill and speed cushions for Deansway reflects the use of this route by the H3 bus and also the differing road layouts.

During the period that this edition of the Suburb News is being issued Barnet Council will be carrying out a formal consultation with residents of these roads.

The Residents Association have supported these proposals as the best that can be achieved within the available funds. The RA hope that they will receive the support of residents, thus enabling this protracted scheme to be implemented in the near future.

KEN MURRELL

Services to the Suburb

Residents are once again asked to nominate people who have given exceptional service to the Suburb over a long period, for the Residents Association's Honorary Life Membership. Nominees should, to a greater extent, have retired from whatever it is for which they are

being honoured. It can be a specific service or something of benefit to the Suburb generally. It does not have to have anything to do with the RA. Please send nominations in confidence to the Hon. Sec. Siddiek Meer, 123 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HU.

Lifeboat thanks

Caroline Smith of the HGS Lifeboats committee was delighted with the result of their Fete in November at Fellowship House. "We raised

an amazing £1,281 and the committee would like to thank all who attended and gave so generously to the Lifeboats."



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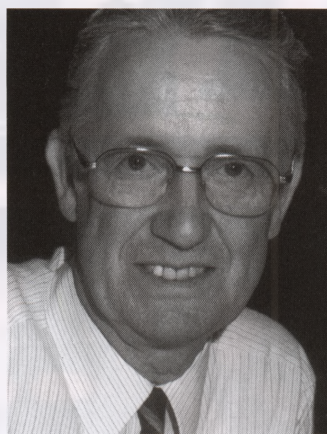
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New chair for Neighbourhood Watch

David Fulton, the new Chair of Neighbourhood Watch, has lived in Chalton Drive, N2 for over 20 years. He has his own educational publishing company based in Bloomsbury. David hopes that his experience as a long time special constable will be of benefit to the committee and helpful when it comes to understanding the challenges facing Neighbourhood Watch today. He admits that following Peter Loyd is no easy matter but ably backed by committee members and Street Co-ordinators believes that there is no reason why it shouldn't be business as usual. On the committee are Jenny Stonhold (Deputy Chair), Derek Chandler (Administration), Eric Townley (Treasurer), Kaye Morgan (Borough Watch Representative



David Fulton

and Public Relations), Keith Graham (Fund Raising), and Bill Asprey. David looks forward to seeing you at the next co-ordinators' meeting on 29 March which is now at the Free Church Hall not Fellowship House.



The Horticultural Society sponsored a new category in the Barnet in Bloom competition, 'The best Suburb front garden'. At a ceremony presided over by Cllr Suzette Palmer and masterminded by Barnet's Pauline Varnals, Deputy Mayor Cllr Ansula Sodba presented the prize to Samantha Ambrose and her husband David for their garden in Denman Drive.

Boost for volunteers

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2001 the International Year of Volunteering. The UN Volunteers programme has been designed as the focal point for its presentations. Finchley and Golders Green is honoured in having thousands of volunteers in her midst and without their dedicated endeavours life would be much poorer, much more difficult to endure and much more barren. It is high time that we celebrate and congratulate those women and men, and let's not forget the army of young volunteers, for their hours and days freely given up to assist those who need it and to improve lives by checking the powers of institutions, multinationals and government for the good of society.

No state can exist without volunteers, whether they are individuals or groups, organised or informal. In many countries voluntary action contributes significantly to both society and the economy and fosters social cohesion and political stability. The average economic contribution alone made to society by voluntary activity is estimated at 8% of gross domestic product and may even reach 14% of GDP depending on the country concerned. Translated into money terms that means an annual economic contribution of tens of billions of pounds in the UK.

Voluntary action involves learning, sharing and acquiring new experiences of life, civic spirit and vocational skills. It transmits knowledge and often leads to real job creation.

I have written to Tony Blair to ask him to contribute this year one day in his busy life to volunteering. He agreed to do so, as did all senior members of the Government. They could hardly refuse. We are now asking the Government to identify and eliminate in our laws and practice any obstacles which directly or indirectly prevent people from engaging in voluntary action and to adopt and promote dynamic policies favouring volunteering. We also wish voluntary workers to have legal status and adequate social protection, while of course respecting their independence.

In the Council of Europe we are urging Member States to sponsor the organisation of an annual European television contest in cooperation with Eurovision, designed to reward outstanding individual, group and community volunteer achievements.

I hope that you will all have a wonderful and prosperous 2001. My special thanks go to our volunteers for their valiant efforts and dedication in the past. May it continue and flourish even further in the future.

DR RUDI VIS MP

New chairman and committee for Horticultural Society

The 86th Annual General Meeting of the Horticultural Society was held at Fellowship House on 21 November. Following a minute's silence in memory of late Chairman, Norman Wheatley, Secretary Joan Rees Phillips reported on a busy and, in the main, successful year which began with a sell-out Plant Sale in May, continued with an exhibit at the Suburb Open Weekend and ended with a very enjoyable and well-attended Autumn Show in September.

This year for the first time the Society had sponsored a special class with a £25 prize for Suburb gardens in the Borough's Barnet in Bloom competition. The meeting congratulated the winner, Samantha Ambrose of Denman Drive, who was collecting her award that same evening at the Hendon Hall Hotel.

Of the long-serving officers and members of the committee who were standing down at the AGM, President Walter Mathews had been on the committee for 40 years, Joan Rees Phillips (Secretary) for 21 years, Mari Aldred for 17 years, Betty Arkell (Membership Secretary) for 16 years, Sue Rees (Show Secretary) for 13 years, Joe Webb for 11 years and Gwyneth Heady (Lectures Secretary) for 8 years.

Marjorie Harris was elected Chairman and her first act was to thank the retiring members, including Treasurer Jeremy Clynes,

and also existing members for their loyalty and dedication to the Society over the years, and to present colourful bouquets to Joan and Sue, who had had the hardest jobs of all on the committee.

After the meeting cups, prizes and medals were awarded to Ken Murrell, Chris Page, Aileen Flucker, Samantha Ambrose, Anne Lowe, Ruta Teteris and others by Show Secretary Sue Rees.

The new committee for 2000/2001 is: Chairman: Marjorie Harris, Secretary: Samantha Ambrose, Show Secretary: Anne Crawley, Treasurer: Arthur Kogut, Membership Secretary: Ruta Teteris, Lectures/Activities Secretary: Suburb News gardening columnist Diane Berger. Members: Barbara Kogut, Dr Chris Page, David Rapson, Dawn Shindler, Michael Tomlin, Barbara Wardley. The Manager of Temple Fortune Garden Centre (Matt Clawson) was elected as an ex officio member.

The Society hopes to relaunch itself in time for the new season in 2001. Its first action was to hold a brainstorming meeting of members and non-members at Fellowship House on 12 December, as a forum for new ideas and activities for the future. If anyone was unable to attend and wants to have an input, please contact Marjorie Harris on 8455 6507 (email: marjorieharris@which.net).

MARJORIE HARRIS

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