



Do join the Hospice Fun Walk

Last year's event was a great success. The North West Support Group of the North London Hospice was thrilled and delighted with the total of over £100,000 raised by the sixth Big Fun Walk's thousand plus walkers, courtesy of their generous sponsors.

However, this is not the end of the story. Hospice costs continue to rise and at the same time, statutory help appears to

fall, so that it now provides only 16% of the £2.6 million needed each year to keep the North London Hospice going. We have to keep fundraising if this vital charity, which has helped so many in the final stages of their lives, is to continue to do its tremendous work. Some come and join us on 3 March, or failing that, sponsor a walker. Details for Vivienne Bentley on 020 8282 5586.



Suburb in Bloom winner

As part of the wider Barnet in Bloom competition held every summer, the HGS Horticultural Society sponsors a special class for Suburb gardens that are accessible to the judges from the road, by presenting their new silver Millennium Cup to the winner of the Suburb in Bloom

class. Temple Fortune Garden Centre (Capital Gardens) also presents vouchers to the first, second and third prize winners.

Congratulations to Joann Bowen-Griffith of Addison Way, who won first prize in 2001 by creating an oasis of colour on the wasteland behind her house.

At the award ceremony at Hendon Town Hall on Tuesday 6 November, the Mayor of Barnet presented Joann with the Millennium Suburb in Bloom Cup, a certificate and £25 Capital Gardens vouchers. This was not Joann's only success, since her garden was also featured by the BBC during the summer at the time of the Hampton Court Flower Show.

In 2001 the number of entries from Suburb residents was disappointing, so we hope that many more people are even now planning ahead to enter their gardens in the 2002 competition. The judging normally takes place unannounced in early July and entry forms can be found in the Spring Suburb News or can be obtained from Pauline Varnals at Barnet Town Hall (8359 2657). There is nothing to stop Suburb gardeners from entering other Barnet in Bloom classes, such as the 'most colourful garden' or 'best balcony' - unfortunately we have no pub to enter into the 'best blooming pub' competition!

SUSIE GREGSON

MARJORIE HARRIS

Jane Collins

ARCHITECT

JANE COLLINS
ARCHITECT
27 CALVERT ROAD
HIGH BARNET
HERTS EN5 4HH
TEL: 020 8440 5870
FAX: 020 8440 6078

Like many residents I would love to see the demise of rooftop aerials, satellite dishes and telephone lines. But let me tell you a story..... a story for anyone who has a TV & video or for anyone with more than one television set.

A couple of years ago we did a complete renovation of our house, replacing early '60's wiring and plumbing etc. TV reception had always been a problem with a rooftop aerial. Since we were laying new service pipes from the street, we took the opportunity of laying a dedicated cable from the pavement into the utility room and installing cable

television. Fortunately cable had been laid in our road. I was delighted to have the opportunity to remove the unsightly aerial from the roof.

After laying cable TV, it was possible to watch any terrestrial channel in any room ie. wherever we plugged in a TV. But only in the room with the black box could you watch the cable channels. This was fine.

HOWEVER: early last year the cable service was switched to a digital service and it is now no longer possible to watch different programmes in different rooms. Whatever programme the black box is tuned to dictates

what any other television in the house must view.

Furthermore, it is now no longer possible to record one programme on a video whilst watching a different channel. So if you have two good movies you fancy watching, you can watch one but cannot even record the other.

I am told by tekkies that this is because a digital signal cannot be split. In order to receive a different station on another TV, that set would also require a black box. At what cost?

WARNING: if you are reading this, feeling slightly relieved that you never did sign up to cable

TV, then please *pay attention*. The whole of the UK is due to switch to a digital television service by 2005. The problems outlined above will become a problem for us all - even if you have only a rooftop aerial, one television and a video machine.

I have spoken to many people, including our local councillors. No-one has been able to suggest a simple solution and the tekkies just say that the government will have to sort something out and bring the cost of black boxes down to virtually nothing. Is there anyone who can offer any reassurance?

A cautionary tale of digital TV

Planning review

In co-operation with the Residents Association the Trust Council are proposing to carry out a review of their planning procedures to see what improvements can be made. The present system was introduced more than 15 years ago.

Over the years many residents on the Suburb will have had dealings with the Trust on planning matters either as applicants or through being notified about alterations at an adjoining property.

In order to improve the service we provide residents we should be very grateful if you could let us know in writing what changes and improvements you would like introduced. For example, one of the issues we shall be looking at is whether our files should be open. Some residents write in on the basis that their observations are

confidential and will not be seen by the applicant. Others believe that all correspondence should be in the public domain.

With applications some conflict is inevitable and if the Trust approves a scheme neighbours sometimes complain that the Trust is too lenient. On the other hand if the application is refused the applicant on occasions accuses the Trust of being too rigid and inflexible.

The purpose of this review is to try and reduce these areas of conflict and we are looking forward to receiving your suggestions. Please write to either Steven Licht, the Chairman of the Trust at the address below, or to Richard Wakefield, the Chairman of the Resident's Association at 26 Hampstead Way, London NW11 7JL.

-HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST-

The New Hampstead Garden Trust Ltd. 862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB. Telephone: 020 8455 1066 & 020 8458 8085