

Letters to the Editor



Twenty walkers reach Toynbee Hall

Rotherwick Road,
NW11 7DG

Sir,
ROTHERWICK ROAD
There were twenty of us on this interesting nine mile walk from St Judes to Toynbee Hall in Whitechapel, a deprived area in London's East End. In the late 1800s when Henrietta Barnett and her husband, a Church of England curate, did their pioneering work at Toynbee, prior to her

inspiration and setting up of Hampstead Garden Suburb, Whitechapel had many Jewish and Irish immigrants, now a large Bangladeshi community. Our route took us over Hampstead Heath, down to the Grand Union Canal, then on to Islington and Spitalfields. In this very wet season we were blessed with dry weather. Having appealed to the residents of Rotherwick Road for sponsorship in connection with the Henrietta Barnett Day

walk on 8 June I was overwhelmed with their response. We achieved the grand total of £262 for this year's appointed charity, i.e. Stepney Children's Fund (Toynbee). Many thanks to all who very generously contributed.

Yours
Patricia Garvin

Over £500 was raised altogether. Ed

Asmunds Place
NW11 7XE

Sir
It appears that the conventional concept of a green and flower-filled garden is no longer fashionable. Landscape "artists" transform a patch of garden into Disneyland fantasy with stone effigies, wooden structures and other arty features. We have seen it all. But it seemed scarcely credible that we should come face to face with this concept in our own much-treasured Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Imagine a quiet little cul-de-sac off Hampstead Way with picturesque artisan cottages which are frequently visited by groups of people interested in our suburb architecture and have recently been included in the register of listed buildings by English Heritage.

One fine morning a fortnight ago, a group of men descended on No 21 Asmunds Place and with lightning speed stripped the front garden of all its plants and demolished the existing paving and the steps up to the front door of the house. At the end of the first, very active, day, the intentions of the enterprise were clearly there for everyone to see and immediately set alarm bells ringing all around.

This was obviously going to be a major departure from a previously pleasant little front garden which blended nicely with all the other properties in the road. With its overall raised level of paving and another big elevated section, it seemed to resemble more a terrace (or a helicopter landing pad) than a mere front garden.

Furthermore, the materials used, especially the ugly square grey concrete cubes for the base of the steps to the



house and the edges of the elevation and borders of plant holes are simply alien to our environment.

A telephone call to Barnet Council revealed that there had been no planning application submitted, neither were the immediate neighbours notified of the prospected changes. Another call was made to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and its Manager, Mr Chris Kellerman arrived shortly afterwards to survey the site; surprisingly, he was undisturbed by what he saw. Could it possibly be that he knew about it all along since the firm of builders who carried out the work on No 21 Asmunds Place is actually on the Trust's list of recommended

builders? Should this be so, it would be rather worrying for all of us who live on the Suburb and cherish its unique beauty as a Garden City.

Just think: a listed building, no planning application, drastic visual changes to the premises, the use of alien building materials – but perhaps that attractive little brochure with its pretty little pictures quoting all those specific neat regulations concerning repairs and minor alterations, which dropped into our letter-boxes together with the information that we were now the proud owners of a listed building is merely cosmetic?

Yours
Hildburg Williams (Mrs)

Chris Kellerman says no permission was sought but an application for retrospective planning permission has now been made to the Trust and Barnet.

Hampstead Way,
NW11 7YA

Sir,
My thanks to all those on the RA Committee who worked so hard to make the Suburb Jubilee weekend such a success. It catered for all ages and interests and was great fun. June has been a busy and enjoyable Jubilee month – aren't we lucky living on the Suburb!

Yours,
Helena Chamberlan

Hampstead Way
NW11 7XD

Sir
We had a wonderful evening on Monday and enjoyed every moment of the Jubilee Celebrations. our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to give us an evening to remember.
Yours
Anne Corden

Brim Hill,
N2 0HD

Sir,
I am sure I am not the only reader with less than perfect sight who has difficulty with the Suburb News.

The content is admirable but, the combination of glossy paper, grey print and, in the case of the Letters section, small and ornate type, leave me frustrated and with aching eyes. I long to be able to read what appears to be the interesting a controversial correspondence but give up in despair.

Would it not be possible to produce the paper with the elderly reader in mind? I am sure the RNIB would be able to give advice as to suitable paper and print and the result could still be attractive and at the same time reader-friendly.

I hope you will try to solve this problem.

Yours
Rebecca Morgan

This page is typeset in a clearer italic font and is, hopefully, more legible. Ed



Roundabout signs after they were reduced in height.

Erskine Hill,
NW11 6EY

Sir,
ROUNDAABOUT – MEADWAY/LITCHFIELDWAY/GREY CLOSE
Were the Trust, the Residents Association, the RA Traffic Committee and CONSAM asleep when Barnet proposed their new 'traffic calming' roundabout at this junction?

A more environmentally damaging and aesthetically destructive treatment of this junction and its surroundings, within a conservation area of special significance, could not have been possible. It is just plain ugly.

May we insist that future works of this nature be preceded by not only full consultation with the above who represent the Residents

but also by the installation of TEMPORARY schemes to allow us all to see if any purpose is served by their inclusion in the 'traffic calming' plan.

In a previous letter to Suburb News I suggested the painting on the road of a 20 mile an hour sign at the entry to the area covered by the new speed reduction. This would involve some seven signs. I am told that CONSAM would not find this acceptable as there are already too many signs on the roads of the Suburb.

I would record that from my own observations in living near one of the entries to this area that, at present, the pole signs are ineffective and further back up IS necessary if this scheme is to be effective.

Yours,
Ivor Hall

The Trust and Residents Association were consulted by Barnet Council and the RA did give notice of this scheme in their Annual Report earlier this year. The measures were proposed by Barnet Council after repeated accidents at three junctions on Meadway.

The Trust and RA did persuade the Council to abandon both a proposed roundabout at Kingsley Way and the proposal for an ineffective mini-roundabout at Grey Close. Ultimately the Trust and RA can propose change but do not have the power to veto Council schemes. The scheme was supported by local Councillors and 130 local households were consulted, with 84% of respondents in favour of these measures, and only one comment on the roundabout design.

There are more signs than anticipated and discussions are ongoing to reduce their height and number, and also on plans to plant shrubs on the roundabout to reduce the impact of the central signs.

20 MPH ZONE

The RA have worked to the same principles for the 20mph zone and all other traffic schemes on the Suburb, in requesting that signing requirements are kept to a legal minimum. Hence the reluctance of the RA to ask for additional 20mph road markings.

This may be reviewed following Barnet Council's assessment of the 20mph zone this summer.

THE RA ROADS & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE



The gallery, which is run by Residents Association volunteers and supported by the HGS Trust, sells Suburb books, maps, cards and the work of more than thirty local artists. Browsers are welcome.

The Garden Suburb Gallery

at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way, tel 8455 7410