

# Gerard Mansell CBE 1921-2010



NICHEL STUTTON

the World Service. By the time of his retirement he was the Deputy Director General.

He joined the RA Council in 1981 as vice chairman in '82/3 and chairman in '84/5 with Chris Kellerman as his vice chairman. This was at the time when the Trust succeeded, in the high court, in altering the Scheme of Management so that a variable annual management charge could be made to freeholders. At the same time an RA/Trust working party was proposing to reform the way the Trust operated. A result of the working party discussions was that in 1984/5 Chris Kellerman was employed as the Trust's first manager and Gerry Mansell took over as Trust chairman. He said at the RA's AGM that he regretted the fact that the RA was losing both of them to the Trust.

He took the Trust chair again in '92 after the sudden departure of Lord McGregor.

Suburb News started under his RA chairmanship. As a journalist he gave good advice freely and took a keen interest

in its success. Even after his move to Hampstead in 1994 he enjoyed keeping up with Suburb affairs. He was an accomplished painter of still lifes and pastoral scenes of his beloved France. The Garden Suburb Gallery was privileged to have an exhibition of his work. Gerry is much missed.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD



Gerry Mansell and Eileen Whelan try out the Tony Mandelson Memorial bench on Willifield Green

Eileen Whelan died on 5 January 2011 at Eastside House Rest Home where she had lived for the past two years.

"Eileen was wonderful – and she was absolutely marvellous as chairman," said Peter Loyd who was vice chairman of the RA during her six years as chairman from 1988.

I remember that Tony Mandelson was keen to ensure succession when he retired after his six years as chairman. We were agreed that Eileen would be a good choice. I had been his vice chairman but made way for Eileen at the 1987 AGM.

In the event Tony died the following year and Eileen took over early.

She worked tirelessly and fearlessly for the Suburb as chairman from 1988 to 1994.

It was an eventful time, in which she masterminded a Suburb Environment Week, a big Suburb clean up; she welcomed Virginia Bottomley to the Suburb to see the RA's Litter Free Zone.

Eileen led the opposition to the (then) dreaded wheelie bins and was immortalised by Alan Coren in the Times. "The moment the letter from the

HGSRA Chairman arrived, I could tell I was dealing with a different class of person. That Miss Whelan did not refer to herself as Person, indeed indicated much." She organised a survey of Suburb houses and Barnet agreed to issue bags to people who could not manage the bins because of steps or infirmity.

She started an Environment Committee of the RA and was behind the LA 21 campaign to lower traffic speed with car stickers saying 20 is Plenty on the Suburb.

Eileen was a remarkable woman with seemingly boundless energy. It took her from chairing the RA to taking over the same position at Fellowship where her capacity for giving of herself in pastoral care was much appreciated and is still missed.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

## Consam's policy on basement applications

Consam's policy towards basements in the Suburb is that which was contained in the original draft Design Guidance put to LB Barnet: '... in many cases basements will not be approved, particularly for smaller properties or planned groups of houses. Where they are acceptable, they will usually be limited to larger, detached houses.' This was deleted from the final version approved by Barnet, based on its internal legal advice. However, Consam still feels this principle should be applied and is working towards this end in meetings with the Trust and Barnet Councillors and Officers.

At a meeting on 6 December 2010 with the latter, it was agreed that they would seek to make it mandatory that proper professional analysis of site

and subsoil conditions and engineering proposals, particularly in respect of safeguarding against potential damage to adjoining properties, be provided at Planning Application stage rather than relying on Building Control procedures and Party Wall awards as is now the case.

It was noted that this is now a requirement in Camden, after lengthy negotiations with the Heath and Hampstead Society, with whom Consam members have discussed the relevant issues. Barnet is considering adopting a similar approach to the issues as Camden so this is seen as a first positive step towards a broader level of control which would be closer to the original draft guidance which was concerned with the change of character that basements in these smaller properties would cause.

## Open House apology

In the last issue of Suburb News the report on Open House in the Suburb accidentally misattributed credit for the Guided Walks.

The Guided Walk leaders were once again Marilyn Greene and Chris Kellerman, both stalwarts of Open House Guided Walks in previous years. This year they had a particularly difficult job because the number of would-be walkers, on a 'first come, first served' basis, was higher than ever. But Marilyn and Chris readily accepted the challenge

and took everyone who wished to join them, with about 50 in each party. The enthusiastic feedback clearly underlined how successful and enjoyable the walks had been, with one walker writing that the tour "had given me a new awareness of planning, design and structure," another that "it provided a different perspective of the city," and another (Barnet resident), "I would like to be a volunteer next year as I have enjoyed Open House so much over the years!"

ALAN JACOBS

## Now it's the RA's 100th

2011 is the Residents Association's centenary year. A number of events are planned by the RA's Events Committee including another Summer Picnic on Central Square with music and children's entertainment on July 3. There will also be a celebratory dinner in the Henrietta Barnett School Hall. The annual Michael Rowley event in the Free Church Hall will be a talk by TV's architecture guru and author Gavin Stamp

But perhaps the most imaginative event is the Centenary Creative Arts Festival in the Free Church on July 2 and 3 of which Dr Rev Ian Tutton writes: As part of the Residents Association Centenary Celebrations, we want to invite

all those living on and around the Suburb who have a creative talent, to put it on show for all of us to enjoy. Do you draw, paint, write, sculpt, sew, knit, cook, sing, play an instrument, arrange flowers, make models, dance... the list is endless. Anything and everything that reflects the breadth of creative talent present in our community deserves to be enjoyed by us all.

If you are interested in being part of this event please contact Ms Maureen Schuricht, 11a, Brim Hill, 8455/9122 or email, itutton@aol.com. Please do get involved.

Full details of all centenary events will be in a special leaflet published later and in the next Suburb News.

## Shocking news on CPZs

### NO FREE SPACES

The RA has objected to two Barnet proposals on the three controlled parking zones that affect the Suburb. The first was the removal of free parking spaces and their conversion to permit holder usage.

The chairmans letter to Barnet said: The CPZs were established ostensibly to deter all day commuter parking by reserving most of the space within the CPZs for resident permit holders. The Zones have achieved this aim and the small number of free bays that exist are mostly known only to local people who require access to one of the railway stations or to Hampstead Heath or other local amenities. Any further tightening of restrictions will impact not on commuters but on local residents who do not live in the specific CPZ areas to which the changes would apply.

We strongly urge the Council not to extend restrictions inside any of the CPZs within Hampstead Garden Suburb (HGS) or those areas of the Golders Green CPZ which are on the edge or just outside the boundaries of HGS.

### COST RISES, FROM 100 TO 500%

Residents living within a CPZ will remember that the Roads and Traffic committee of the RA has always opposed these zones

on the Suburb on the grounds that there is no limit to what Barnet will charge for permits. They may very soon find they are paying a good deal more as Barnet are now proposing to sharply increase the charges.

The full details of the proposed changes are set out in a document located on Barnet's website at: [http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/documents/getdoc\\_ext.asp?DocID=8890](http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/documents/getdoc_ext.asp?DocID=8890) (PDF format) but highlights are:

Resident permits:  
First car: Currently £42 increasing to £100 (138% increase)  
Second car: Currently £75 increasing to £125 (67% increase)  
Third car: Currently £75 increasing to £150 (100% increase)  
Green car: Currently £15 increasing to £50 (233% increase)  
Amendments: Currently free increasing to £20 (new charge)  
Refunds: Currently free increasing to £20 (new charge)  
3 month temporary permit: Currently £37 increasing to £240 (549% increase)  
Visitor permits: Book of ten vouchers: Currently £12 increasing to £48 (400% increase)

Barnet's Cabinet Resources Committee met on 13 January to approve the proposed increases which it is believed would then take effect from the beginning of February.

WILLIAM SOWERBUTTS

## BT broadband boxes

Consam, while welcoming the initiative for the early installation of advanced broadband facilities, has objected to the applications by BT for the installation of equipment at 16 sites. They say they are quite seriously concerned about the impact these boxes would have on the Conservation Area environment.

As the proposals stand they would be in conflict with the Design Guidelines for the Public Realm agreed with the LB Barnet.

"However, we believe," said Consam chairman Geoffrey Spyer, "that in a review with BT we could find ways of overcoming the environmental problems. In particular, the idea of installing all or some of the equipment underground, and we would request that such a review is held before the applications are considered further by LB Barnet."

We understand that BT have withdrawn applications for 12 of the sites.

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