

Wilfred Court 1931 - 2011



Wilfred Court at the Trust in the '80s

as an architect in Ghana and later in Nigeria.

After marrying Elisabeth in December 1963, they headed back to live in Nigeria returning with their two daughters to England to escape the dangers of the Biafran war.

In England, Wilfred worked for several architectural practices in Peterborough and in later years set up his own practice and also took on the appointment of Trust Architect on the Suburb. Mervyn Miller writes:

"I am probably the only person now connected with the Trust who was on Wilfred's interview panel for his application to become Trust Architect. At that time, in the mid-1980s, the new procedures, agreed with the Residents Association were being set up, including the Property and Plans Committee to recommend action to the Trust Council, which required exceptional skills in assessing applications. It didn't take long to decide that Wilfred was the man for the job.

"Wilfred made an enormous contribution to the effectiveness and credibility of the Trust over many years, firstly as Trust Architect and latterly as a Trustee. Positive action to manage the conservation of the character and appearance of the Suburb over a long period has been based on the ground rules of his unassuming professionalism and deeply rooted ethics. He will be sadly missed.

"During my service as Director on the Trust Council, I would often arrive early at the

office for the evening meetings. I shared a passion for white MGBs with him and we would often talk about the growing problems of keeping them running and the high cost of restoration – it was on his recommendation to a firm in Scarborough that mine, now 39 years old, was, at great cost, revived from wreck to classic. He would often mention Elizabeth and his daughters, and his practice work in King's Cliffe and Peterborough.

"As the family tribute shows, that was only a small hint at a life devoted to service of humanity, in which architecture and planning played a proportionate role in a greater context. Angus, Jane, David and I were amazed to learn of his international service in Pakistan and Ghana. Elizabeth played a full role in this after their marriage in 1963, and she developed her interests in music, choral singing and gardening after their settling in England. The Suburb has truly benefitted from the richness of their lives together."



With Trust chairman and vice chairman Angus Walker and Simon Hurst at Sunshine Corner where Wilfred is commemorated in the new brickwork

Horticultural Society blooms for Abbeyfield

One of the primary objectives of Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society is to promote the benefits and enjoyment of horticulture throughout the local community. The enjoyment of people who attend the local shows, lectures and excursions is well known.

However, for less mobile Suburb residents the opportunity to participate may be somewhat restricted. Which is why the committee – in particular Ruta Teteris and Caroline and David Broome – offered its services to Abbeyfield House Residential Home in Erskine Hill, last Autumn. The society offered to renovate the central raised flower bed within Abbeyfield's courtyard garden for the 11 residents to enjoy throughout the year in their home environment.

Within the confines of this somewhat challenging site, the aim was to provide year round interest, using low maintenance

planting, strong on colour, texture and fragrance. On 2 July the refurbished flowerbed was full of colour and herbal scents, in time to receive visitors for

Abbeyfield's open morning. The Horticultural Society committee hopes that the residents will enjoy the enhanced displays from January through to December.



Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Architect, later an appointed Trustee for many years and an RA Life Member, Wilfred Court died in April. He was 80.

He studied architecture at Caius College and when the time came to do national service he, as a conscientious objector, was sent to a voluntary work camp in Italy, where he oversaw the building of a school. He then travelled to India and Pakistan to continue his voluntary service. He reported for UNESCO on the educational work done at Gandhi's ashram in Sevagram and completed a solo walk in the foothills of the Himalayas.

He returned home on a meandering route through Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Italy. Wilfred then moved across the globe to start working



Win for Garden Suburb under 9 chess team

Against stiff competition from both the private and state sector, Garden Suburb School has won the Under 9 Chess competition in the 2011 National Primary Schools Chess Championships.

The National Primary Schools Chess Championships attract school teams from all over the country and is run at Under 9 and Under 11, over three stages, culminating in the finals in July. This year 85 Under 9 teams

qualified for the semi-finals. Eight teams qualified for the final which took place in Pontins, Brean Sands.

Garden Suburb have won the Under 11 Championships twice before but this is the first time that an Under 9 team has won from the school. Team members are Oren Levene, Reuben and Gabriel Balouka-Myers, Federico Rocco and Ethan and Leo Sanitt.

CPZs – a second council tax?

The East Finchley residents' group is seeking support for its High Court battle with London Borough of Barnet over proposals to increase CPZ permit charges across the borough including those within the Suburb. Although the natural instinct of many non-CPZ residents will be to feel sympathetic towards neighbours who could be about to see their parking and visitor permit costs jump by several hundred percent it may be that the matter deserves some analysis before deciding whether to back the campaign.

Frequently over the past several years the Roads & Traffic Committee has cautioned residents about voting for CPZs to be put into their roads. We have done so for many reasons, including the difficulties the zones would create for non-

permit holders who wished to use railway stations, shopping centres, doctors' surgeries and other local facilities and the risk to local commerce if parking for shoppers was made more difficult. If residents were unmoved by these arguments we implored them to consider also that once the CPZ scheme was rolled out as wide as it could go the Council could raise permit prices to the extent that living inside a CPZ could make the homeowner liable to what might become a virtual second Council Tax. We particularly warned about the potential for the price of visitor permits to rise making it difficult for residents to budget for annual parking costs and that this might also result in severe social difficulties for some people. Much of this has now come to pass.

In some parts of the Suburb a majority of residents recognised the potential problems of the CPZ and rejected schemes but in others they supported the proposals and were content to pay modest entry costs for more or less exclusive parking rights in their roads.

Many of the area's current parking difficulties can be directly attributed to the creation of these (initially quite small) controlled parking zones in the early to mid 2000s. Where before there was a parking problem for a few, in many places there

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Winter Fair in aid of Combat Stress

For the third year in a row, the very successful Winter Fair in aid of Combat Stress (Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society) will be held on Saturday November 5 from 11am - 2pm in Fellowship House, 136a Willifield Way.

Organisers Ruth Smith and Pamela Marenbach are delighted to announce that Martin Bell will once again open this event. "We are very happy that Martin Bell has agreed to be present again for this very worthwhile fund-raising event, especially as this Charity is very close to his heart and we hope that there will be as much support, or even more than previously from local families and their friends."

The Fair is a great opportunity to start some early Christmas shopping as there will be Vintage items, Collectables, Books, CDs, Children's books and toys, home made cakes and produce, Christmas Cards and lots more. Refreshments will be available, including light snacks.

This year we hope to raise £2,000 for Combat Stress so if anyone has any unwanted gifts, small items for the home (china, books, glass, pictures, linens) in good condition which they would like to donate, please contact Ruth Smith by September 30 on 8458 8191.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair on November 5!

Correction

It was drawn to our attention that a report in Issue 103 of Spring 2010 needed to be corrected. The last sentence of the

last paragraph of the lead article on the 24 Ingram Avenue case should have read; ...RA council was not unanimous...

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