

Refurbishment of a community gem



The 'Skylon' posts and loggia at the front of Fellowship House

After many months of hard work, discussion and consultation, planning applications were lodged with the Trust and Barnet in September for refurbishment works to Fellowship House on Willifield Green. It is confidently anticipated that permission will be granted in December.

This is an important project for the Suburb. After the sale of the Tea House, Fellowship House is now the Suburb's sole remaining independent community building usable by all residents. Contrary to widespread belief, Fellowship House is completely independent of any other Suburb institution, club, synagogue or church.

It is used mainly by HGS Fellowship, a charity founded in 1910 and run by local volunteers providing activities, facilities and programmes for the over 60s. Some of these – for example the highly acclaimed annual autumn concert series and the weekly Tuesday afternoon lectures – are open to all residents, young and old alike. Recent lectures by speakers from far and wide have been on topics ranging from A Week in North Korea to The Hadron Collider, from Masorti Judaism to Wagner. In addition, the building is hired out to various Suburb clubs and institutions for a wide range of activities and also to residents for social occasions. It also houses

the RA's Garden Suburb Gallery. Hidden away behind is its large croquet lawn.

So what do the refurbishments involve? Little has been done to the building since it was put up in the late 1950s on the site of the old Club House. The aim is to bring it up to modern day standards in order to provide a more attractive and usable facility for the whole community. Suburb architect Mark Beedle was appointed. It is hoped that the works will be done next summer and minimising the shut down period will be a priority.

Both able and disabled access will be made safer and more friendly, the garden space more usable by conversion to a courtyard garden. The building's front will be brought forward by two meters, retaining the present attractive loggia and giving additional emphasis to the 'Skylon' posts. This will allow a much needed expansion of the hall and reception areas and a larger 'club room' to hire out..

Bigger window areas will provide more light and additional doors will improve safety and circulation. The kitchen will be totally refitted to improve catering standards. New seating and a state of the art audiovisual system will be installed in the hall.

These works could never have been contemplated without

the generous bequest of the late Eileen Whelan, a former Suburb luminary. This will cover about 75% of the estimated total cost. The remainder will be financed by a mix of Fellowship funds and residents' donations. Details of a Suburb wide appeal will appear shortly.

I strongly commend these much needed improvements to a great Suburb amenity which is popular, well run and financially sound. The appeal will be a great opportunity for us all to

show support for our own community's future.

The plans are available at the Trust office, 8455 1066 and on its website. For enquiries about Fellowship membership (£20 per annum) please call Dorothea Brandes, 8455 7910. For details of the project, call Andrew Botterill, 8458-6352. For any other queries, call Louise Scheuer, 8455-5459 or myself, 8209-1475.

JOHN HEWSON
CHAIRMAN OF FELLOWSHIP



The late Eileen Whelan and the tireless fundraiser and President of Toynbee Hall, the late John Profumo CBE on the Fellowship House croquet lawn.

Retiring Chairman (continued from page 1)

cases in the Lands Tribunal also generated substantial opposition. Above all, the controversy over the additions to the Henrietta Barnett School divided Suburb opinion on an unprecedented scale. Angus, as Trust Chairman, bore the brunt of the criticism, much of it personal and abusive. This turbulence has overshadowed the scale of the turnaround and, in particular, the great significance of the contribution made by Angus. He has a vast capacity for reducing complex problems to their fundamental elements and a rigorous, principled approach to decision taking. He is not one for the quick fix or the easy path. When faced with the decision of whether to fight a second challenge in the Lands Tribunal, having lost the first, his view was that if the Trust's powers were not worth the paper they were written on, then Trustees had better know that sooner rather than later. (In fact the Trust won the case outright and is now in a much stronger position to protect the Suburb against developers.)

No-one could call Angus a quiet man: a chance comment

SUMMER WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The currencies were: Dinar, Dirham, Dollar, Drachma, Euro, Franc, Krone, Kuna, Lira, Mark, Peseta, Peso, Rand, Real, Ringgit, Rouble, Rupee, Rupiah, Ryal, Sterling.

Summer Wordsearch winner

The summer wordsearch winner, for the second time, is Malcolm Hackett, who lives in Temple Fortune Hill. He does Wordsearch on the train and proves as clever at currencies as he was, a year or so back, at newspapers and magazines!

Yoga for seniors

The summer pilot classes for Yoga for seniors at Fellowship House have proved so popular that another one at 10am on Thursdays has started at the Free Church Hall.

Teacher Hilda Silver explained "you can never be too old for yoga and both men and women can benefit from this ancient discipline." Acknowledged to be a safe and effective method of exercise for older people, regular yoga has been proven to help several conditions associated with old age, such as osteoporosis, and arthritis. It has also been known as a means of exercise

for those with fibromyalgia. Even if you have not done any form of exercise for a length of time, the class works with simple postures which, performed correctly with the breath, help to re energise the body. Blocks, belts and chairs are available aids to assist the student.

It works on the physical, mental and relaxation areas and can help us lead a balanced life.

To find our more please contact Hilda on 07810 205343, email Hilda.thestagemanager@gmail.com or check her class schedule on yogawithhilda.yoga.classnearlyou.co.uk.

Screening dispute hits Chandos development

The planning application for the Chandos development has been modified since objections were raised by Reynolds Close residents over the height of proposed flats. There remains uncertainty over the planting of trees to screen the existing gardens from overlooking. From

the outset, residents have pushed for sufficient planting along the boundary, supported by the Consam committee of the HGS Residents Association. The revised planning application still does not cover the point, and objections have been lodged on this ground, including from the RA.



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WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 words associated with golf of FOUR or more letters; and an extra one highlighted to start you off (don't include it in your total!) Names may be read in all directions, straight or diagonally. Entries should be listed on paper or a postcard and sent to Diana Woodfield, 5 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HA with your name, address and phone number. The closing date is December 16. All correct entries go into a draw to win a £20 voucher from Joseph's Bookstore.

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DIANA WOODFIELD

The wordsearch prize is sponsored by

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