

RESIDENT BIRDS

Glancing through the 1968 edition of the Resident's Association Handbook my eye was caught by a most succulent illustration of a Waxwing. The adjoining text was most interesting, though no mention was made of Waxwings; it listed the birds nesting in the Suburb at the time as: Tawny Owl, Carrion Crow, Jay, Wood Pigeon, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Nut-hatch, Tree Creeper, Starling, Song and Mistle Thrushes, Robin, Blackbird, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, House and Hedge Sparrows, Great, Cole and Blue Tits and Wren.

Of these, I am afraid we have lost the Green Woodpecker, which does not seem able to recover from the after-effects of hard winters as well as some species, notably the Wren.

The most obvious addition is the Magpie. Kestrels breed also though not every year and there is certainly a dramatic increase in the number of Bullfinches. These the anonymous author describes as, 'one or two pairs, very shy and rarely seen'. My garden contains a nest this year and every year we endure the torment of hearing the weak and innocent contact calls during fruit flowering time, and knowing that the potential fruit is being systematically stripped by the Bullfinch gang Que faire? How to choose between Bullfinches and fruit?

One of the great satisfactions of seeing such a bird in the

garden is that it is truly wild and will scarcely ever take food put out for it. Of the nesting birds listed above only the Owl, the Tree Creeper and the Wren are normally indifferent to bird tables; given the appropriate diet all the others can be fed. Herons, even, can be attracted by constantly refilling the pond with goldfish.

At this time of year, when the main bird effort goes to feeding the nestlings, natural food should be sufficient. Bread will tend to bloat the chicks with low value bulky food, nuts may choke them, and fat, or rich seeds will overheat. Insect eating birds should have little difficulty in finding adequate grub at present, and finches also tend to supplement their usual diet of seeds with the abundant aphid and vegetable provisions.

Returning to 1968, the anonymous author, whom I should like to meet, mentions also winter visitors, Wagtails and Redwing. The latter he describes as very rare. This is no longer the case; the Suburb is often full of Redwings in hardish weather, accompanied by a few Fieldfares.

Did you happen to see the recent episode of Minder, where Max Wall, released from prison, carried forth a Bullfinch in a cage and was driven to Primrose Hill by Arthur and Tel? He released it there, and it had become a Chaffinch during the car ride. I hope it was a nice little earner for each! CG

Residents of renown

Suburb historian Kitty Slack is trying to trace and write brief biographies of past residents of the Suburb, that is those who have died since they lived in or left the Suburb, who have gained reputé or renown in their particular fields of work or professions, with the intention of making an illustrated commemorative book to present to the archives entitled 'Repute and Renown in the Hampstead Garden Suburb'.

To date she has traced some seventy to eighty such past residents. It may well be that some of the older residents of the Suburb know of renowned ex-residents.

If there are any such Kitty Slack would be very glad to hear from them.

If you also possess photographs or anecdotal material she could use it would be of even more value.

Kitty Slack is, of course, the author of Henrietta's Dream which is now in its second edition. Copies are available at £2.60 from the Trust office or from Kitty Slack, 17 Asmunds Hill.

YOUTH CLUB FETE

The Catalyst Youth Club fete at the Tea House on June 28 was organised by Toby Oliver.

1) Ilavia Norsa, Emma Jackman, Charlotte Murphy, Sarah Pace, Toby Oliver and Harriette Backham.

2) Katy Oliver and Kate Jackman at the Tombola.

3) Pia Jannering with her Treasure Island.



LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Mr Kellerman makes a good case but there is another way of looking at it. A large number of people who have garages — and hard standings in their front garden — do not use the garage but park the car on their hard standing. They have two bites of the cherry — park in the garage or park on the hard standing. If parking on their hard standing does not destroy the neighbourhood it seems illogical that people without garages should not have the same privilege (i.e. be allowed hard standings). Or should people with garages be strongly encouraged to use them?

Yours faithfully,
Peter Turner

Dear Sir,

I am sure you are all familiar with Lyttelton Court, a mansion block which has been allowed to fall into the most appalling state of decay and dilapidation. For nearly fifteen years, under the landlordship of Freshwaters Property Management, this block of flats now stands as a constant reminder to everyone, as to what can happen when a landlord negates his responsibilities, even related to basic upkeep.

We, the Residents Association at Lyttelton Court, after nearly a five year battle with Freshwaters over the service charges and an antiquated and corroded hot water system seem, and I emphasise seem, to have finally resolved this matter. I can assure you that the latest negotiations were extremely hard and at some point unpleasant, however, even Freshwaters realise that they may have to alter their attitude, particularly to Lyttelton Court.

As it was so aptly quoted in a letter by Tony Mandelson last year to Benny Freshwater and I quote "The state of Lyttelton Court would cause concern anywhere. In a Conservation Area, it is an outrage, and can only reflect adversely on the reputation of the Freshwater Group of Companies".

To note the broken windows, crumbling brickwork, the dangerous roofs, the corroded pipework, broken concrete (especially in the slip road), lack of paintwork on all the windows, and the general overall decay, as Tony

Mandelson said is an outrage.

At the present time Parliament is considering the Nugee Report which will bring legal pressure on itinerant landlords to uphold their management conduct, however, until this becomes law, Resident Associations like ours have to battle over every major item which requires attention. The whole situation in the Hampstead Garden Suburb MUST NOW COME TO AN ABRUPT END. I appeal to all residents, especially those living in Freshwater owned flats to firstly, contact myself and secondly, write to the Chairman of the Barnet Housing Committee, Mr Norman Hirschfield, who is well aware of our problems requesting that Barnet Council immediately adopt the CODE OF MANAGEMENT which has been issued by Patricia Kirwan, Chairman of Westminster Housing Committee, and which maybe coincidentally, have forced Bergers (also landlords) to consider leaving the residential market.

We are now gaining a great deal of support from Hampstead Garden Suburb Resident Association and we would like to set up, in Hampstead Garden Suburb and possibly the immediate area, i.e. Golders Green and Temple Fortune a combined Freshwater property owned, RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION.

Please contact myself or my husband at 39 Lyttelton Court, Lyttelton Road, London N2 0EB, or telephone 455 5735.

Cynthia Godfrey
(Chairman,
Lyttelton Court
Residents Association)

Dear Sir,

Following on at a tangent from the recent correspondence about Lutyens, I wonder if many other residents have noticed that as you walk along the pavement of North Square, the weathercock of St Jude's appears to be racing along the apex of the roof of the Free Church. I do not know whether this is fortuitous or an example of Sir Edwin's visual wit, but it is a regular source of delight for my five-year-old daughter and her friends.

Yours faithfully,
François Crompton-Roberts.

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