

# SUBURB NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association SPRING '88

## FIGHTS OVER HENLY'S CORNER

The Department of Transport's Inspector, Vice Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, got the Henlys Corner public inquiry off to its predicted stormy start in February with two days preliminary hearings on procedure and scope at the Hendon Hall Hotel, resuming for the inquiry proper on 8 March.

All the early warnings about Ministry dirty tricks and Inspector's bias proved well founded. There was no valid fire certificate for the hall, objectors were denied entry and the Ministry succeeded in misleading the Inspector with untruths about the availability of an alternative and more suitable venue for the inquiry. The Ministry, who wanted the inquiry to continue at the inconvenient, inaccessible and expensive Hendon Hall Hotel, were caught out "fibbing" to the Inspector that the Kinloss Gardens Synagogue at Henlys Corner was not available and had in any case been refused by the warden. The truth was that a large hall in the synagogue WAS available and the Ministry was concealing the fact that they had indeed arranged a meeting with the warden for the following Monday in order to discuss facilities.

The Inspector, quick to condemn objectors, refused to voice even a hint of criticism over the Ministry's attempts to deceive him and promptly lost all credibility for his claimed independence. As he became more authoritarian towards objectors and more pliant towards the Ministry, it was clear that all hope of a fair and constructive inquiry was lost.

The frustration this evoked in

objectors, many of whom had taken time off from their work in order to attend, was further intensified when the vitally important question of evening sessions was rejected time after time by the Inspector. Although he accepted that all objectors "required" evening sessions in order to attend the inquiry, he would not concede them as he "wished" the inquiry to take place during the day.

At the end of the two days procedural hearings, two things had been gained by objectors: the right to have their representatives attend the Ministry's meeting with the synagogue's warden to discuss facilities, and a revealing insight for first-time objectors into how unfair and undemocratic the Ministry and their Inspector are able to make the public inquiry procedures for objectors.

The following Monday Bill Tyler from the Finchley Society and Terry Rand from the Lorry Route JAC represented objectors at the synagogue meeting and ensured that the Ministry could claim no grounds for rejecting the synagogue as a venue. As a result the inquiry was reconvened in a hall that objectors could reach conveniently and cheaply.

The tremendous turnout for the opening day of the inquiry proper was already indignant that the Inspector had justified his decision not to hold evening sessions with reasons which were clearly untrue. It seemed that the Ministry and their Inspector were prepared to abandon any pretence of honesty in their determination to override the rights of objectors. John Marshall, MP for Hendon *continued p.2*

## Care for the elderly in care

The Suburb initiative to help the elderly in care, reported in the Autumn 87 issue gets under way on June 1 with a public meeting which it is hoped will be chaired by Gerald Priestland at Temple Fortune Health Centre.

Speakers will include Dr. Nori Graham, chairman, Alzheimers Society; Neville Croft and Dr. Chris Donovan. Sally Greengross from Age Concern will also be invited. Residents are urged to come along and contribute to the discussion. **RW**

## Montreal opportunity

The Council of Christian and Jews has agreed to sponsor two participants from this country (one Jewish and one Christian) to attend "The International Council of Christians and Jews Young Leadership Seminar". This will take place in Montreal from 17-19 August 1988 and will be addressing the question of "Dialogue: Facing the Dignity of the Other - The Risks of Pluralism". The participants will be chosen by means of an essay competition. Those who are interested (20-35 years old) should contact Philip Freeborn for more details. (455-9320)

## Free Church Hall

If any Suburb based organisation, clubs or groups have specific requirements for use of a Hall or other space on a regular basis would they please provide full details to Property Steward, David Morris, 59 Temple Fortune Hill, NW11 or the Accommodation Officer, Michael Holton, 4 Ludlow Way, N2.



This issue completes five years of the Suburb News in its present form so it seemed appropriate to celebrate with a touch of spring colour.

Five years may not be a very long time for some of us, but in that time a great many issues have been covered and welcome publicity provided for the Residents Association and lots of other Suburb organisations. Hundreds of residents have been

mentioned and photographed. For a good many of these a look through the early issues shows five years to have been a significant proportion of their young lives.

In that time several children of the more participative families have, for instance, appeared in

their mother's arms and grown into brownies or angels or first been pictured hiding behind fete face paint and turned up later sophisticated youth club members.

Thanks to all our contributors, distributors, advertisers and most of all to those readers who express interest and appreciation. **RW**

## SUMMER FAIR

June 18 sees the biannual Summer Fair at Garden Suburb School helped along, the PTA Committee hopes, by one of those hot cloudless days so familiar from the summer of '76!

Food and drink from lunch all through the afternoon. There'll be all sorts of sideshows, tombolas, crafts, books and much much more. **RW**

## All fenced in

Many have commented on the fortifications surrounding the Henrietta Barnett Memorial on Central Square. The RA has been pressing Barnet to make sure that repairs are carried out before Environment Week, but it is now apparent that the damage caused by vandals is very extensive and repairs will include recasting and are unlikely to be completed before June.

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