

LOOK WHO'S TALKING..... about my playgroup

Hi! My name is Hannah, I've been around for 1½ years now, sometimes it seems a lot longer.

One of my earliest memories is at six months old being taken to the Pavilion Playgroup in Lyttelton Playing Fields. I didn't make much of a nuisance of myself then. I played with soft toys and rattles and watched the big children. Now I go two or three times a week. Sometimes we go at 9.30 am or if I've had a hard night and need an early nap I catch the 11 am session.

We have a playgroup leader called Gill, she makes sure all the Mothers, Fathers and Nannies don't get out of hand. Gill is also in charge of the apples and if you're lucky enough to have teeth you can have a slice.

There's a brilliant play kitchen, with a washing machine. Clothes seem to come out the same as they went in —

I'll work it out one day. Then there's the new climbing blocks, the tent, the house and the sticking and painting table. The idea here is to get the paint on the paper. I'm learning, but I'm misunderstood sometimes.

We all help put away the toys. Actually I prefer taking them out, but as singing is last on the programme I co-operate. We sing some Nursery Rhymes/Songs and then using the instruments we give a fair imitation of Iron Maiden.

Finally, just when it's all going to plan, and I know my new friend David likes me, I find it's time to go. I never do that to my nanny when she meets a nice guy at the shops, but that's a secret, as is watching Neighbours at lunchtime.

My mum pays £1 each time I



go to playgroup. I think that's a pretty good deal.

If you're too old to come in the morning — you get old when you're about 3 and go to Nursery School — you could probably use some afternoon fun. Why not ask your folks to find out about the Art and Music classes?

Finally, here's a date for your

diary. Sunday 12th May, be at the Pavilion in Lyttelton Playing Fields at 2pm, that's when the Pavilion Festival starts. I hope there will be the donkeys, the train and the bouncy castle like last year, my informers tell me there will be these and more.

See you there!

Friends of the Earth

Barnet's new environmental strategy, which will be incorporated in the borough development plan to be published later this year, was given a critical reception at a crowded public meeting organised by the Hampstead Garden Suburb and Golders Green Group of Friends of the Earth on March 12. Council officers John Watling and Peter Adams found themselves in a line of fire over the borough's poor record on green issues, particularly those relating to water pollution, recycling and care of nature reserves and public open spaces.

Eileen Whelan, RA Chairman and Councillor Brian Stone of Childs Hill Ward, joined forces in condemning the Council's lack of action over the pollution of Mutton Brook by sewage. It was an enormous problem that had not been dealt with for at least 10 years. The faecal content was so high that it was a danger to children. 'It's a disgrace' said Eileen Whelan.

Other speakers were indignant about the Council's policy of dumping rubble and sewage on nature reserves, removing hedges or trees or building on public open space. There was widespread applause at the suggestion that, if open space was needed for building anywhere in the borough it should be exchanged for another piece of land, and every

street tree cut down should be replaced and protected from vandals by a wire cage.

The Council's record on recycling also aroused indignation. Why didn't all local supermarket stores have a bottle bank, asked David Rapson. This should be a condition of planning consent. The Council has announced that it will install a further six to eight bottle banks in the borough by June. With only one bottle bank per 20,000 residents this is picking at the problem. The audience heard that a can crusher is to be made available to schools on a trial basis to supplement the three can banks which are the borough's entire complement at the moment. Without a crushing facility it was impossible to install more said

John Watling. Why not ask people to remove the ends and stamp on them, asked Eileen Whelan.

On the credit side, tenders are being invited for the provision of a new refuse collection service to start in August, and we should also see cleaner streets as the borough complies with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act which comes into force in April. Street cleaning in Barnet is being placed out to private contract in January 1992.

John Watling recited other Council pluses: the withdrawal of CFC-based aerosols in Council offices and of weedkillers previously used on footways, substantial improvements in access to the countryside for the disabled and control of off-road car and motor-bike parking. On recycling, Government Policy is that 50% of recyclable materials should be recycled by the year 2000 — 'optimistic, but we will do what we can' said John Watling.

'Not good enough' said Duncan McClaren, who produced Friends of the Earth's 'Environmental Charter for Local Authorities' which has been adopted by several boroughs. He accused Barnet of placing cost-saving before environmental protection. The BATNEEK yardstick adopted

by the Council — best available technique not entailing excessive cost — could mean that even a small additional cost in dealing with the borough's environmental problems could result in no action being taken. Barnet was one of only two boroughs which had not introduced traffic restraint policies, he said. And pesticides in the borough were above the maximum permitted concentrations yet the Council had not committed itself to reducing their use.

The local Friends of the Earth Group is joining forces with Barnet and Finchley FoE to hold a round-table discussion with Council representatives on green issues. They will urge the Council to take on board the following proposals before the development plan is implemented:

- *publish a firm time-table for the implementation of their green strategy actions (not in the present report)

- *ensure that their newly set up Green Issues Working Party is representative of all Council departments and voluntary bodies, and will both monitor and evaluate green issues

- *do a borough-wide audit of air and water pollution, waste management and energy use

- *set up a borough information office on green issues.

NATIONAL TRUST

The Hampstead Centre of the National Trust organises a series of fascinating activities for its members' enjoyment, and would welcome the interest of readers of this newsletter.

Throughout the year, the Centre holds chamber music recitals and open air theatre at Fenton House, takes accompanied day outings to visit National Trust Properties and their country gardens, has guided visits during the day to places of interest in London, arranges the occasional weekend and week away (sometimes abroad) and gives talks and coffee afternoons at Burgh House; all greatly appreciated

by their friendly members.

You too can help appreciate and preserve places of historic interest and natural beauty by joining the National Trust and then the Hampstead Centre (subscriptions £2.50).

Please send a self addressed envelope to:

Mrs Sue White
The Honorary Membership Secretary and Chairman
The Hampstead Centre of the National Trust
2 Meadway,
Hampstead Garden Suburb
NW11 7JK

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INVITING WINDOWS

Interior Futures co-proprietors Jenny and Colin Morris wanted to utilise their large and beautiful white tiled showroom for more than just selling albeit the very special SieMatic kitchens, along with bedrooms and bathrooms, and have planned a whole programme of artistic events, starting with Windows and Water.

Barbara Chandler is a journalist regularly contributing features to national newspapers and magazines. She frequently has photographs published with her writing, but this show is from her private collection of work.

"Windows and water, linked by their fascinating powers of reflection, are favourite subjects of mine. I've also included harsher architectural shots, and some that are frankly voyeuristic." Locations are diverse, ranging from Crete and Venice to a rain-washed Warsaw pavement with a mirror image of the sky. There are amusing views of London shop windows in Oxford Street and Soho. Other shots from Poland preview Barbara's major exhibition images of Poland to be held at the Posk Gallery in the Polish Centre, Hammersmith, in March 1992.

Jenny Morris comments "As a qualified interior designer, I

want to show my clients exciting and possibly undiscovered artistic works which they can purchase for their homes or offices. Black and white photography is one such area, and we are thrilled to be opening our programme with Barbara's work." Ceramics and modern garden sculpture are just two of the future delights this enterprising couple have in store for London residents.

Barbara concludes "I like the idea of people putting my photos in their homes to look at everyday, and I find the domestic environment of a kitchen studio very sympathetic as a background for my work."

An invitation to the Private View on Sunday May 12th is extended to all Suburb News readers.

The two week show is open to the general public, admission free, opening times 10 a.m. — 5.30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

THEATRE CLUB

The Hampstead Suburb Theatre Club is coming to the end of its second year of existence. The current season will end with a visit to Sadlers Wells Theatre to see Mozart's "The Magic Flute" on 21st May.

The last few months have not been without their problems, the most important being lack of members and members not taking up tickets in large enough numbers. The membership, which will cost £8 a year from the new season, is open to all inhabitants of the Garden Suburb and only one member of each household need join. There is no limit to the number of tickets each member can buy. To make the scheme break even at least 45 persons are needed for each outing.

It is a wonderful way to go to the theatre. No worries about

buying tickets; how to get there; where to park and no anxieties of having to go alone as there are always others like you and a coach picks you up at Pullens and brings you back there or to the Market Place after the show.

This year the club has been to see "Coriolanus" at the Barbican, "Kean" at the Old Vic, "Private Lives" with Joan Collins and the Redgraves in the "Three Sisters", as well as a lovely outing to the Mill at Sonning and trips to Greenwich, Windsor and Oxford.

A questionnaire will go out shortly to all members asking what interests you so that committee can arrange a new programme.

DO JOIN US WE NEED YOU! Send your subscription to Helen Hastings, 38 Hampstead Way, NW11 7LG.

UNDERPINNING — COLD COMFORT?

For those residents who have suffered the hassle and trauma of 'subsidence' and the eventual underpinning of their property, will probably be asking themselves "was it really necessary?" — Why? well the Government's Building Research Establishment have produced a Report "Foundation movement and remedial underpinning in low rise buildings" (price £25).

In their Report the BRE state "a significant proportion of the work carried out is not

necessary for the structural safety of the houses". They also suggest that the insurers are seeking a "once and for all solution".

It seems that there is a lack of will on the BRE's part to approach the insurers and get down to the task of producing a set of guidelines, which would protect the insured and the insurers.

Once again it would appear that the insured party is "pig in the middle".

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