

Progress on Traffic Calming - at last

As part of our effort to develop traffic calming on the Suburb we have suggested to the Borough that we make a start by using the Ward Initiatives scheme. This is the scheme under which funds are provided each year (£10,000 last year, £7,500 this year) for road improvements in each Ward.

We sent to the Borough in mid-1993 a comprehensive traffic calming scheme for the Suburb which included special entry treatments for the 16 entrances to the Suburb, and we have now suggested to the Borough that the Ward Initiatives funds be used first on establishing these entry treatments. The order in which we proposed they should be taken is East End Road/Ossulton Way, Finchley Road/Hampstead Way, Finchley Road/Willfield Way, Finchley Road/Addison Way, and thereafter the sequence to be agreed in discussions.

The scheme has been accepted in principle by the Borough and they have proposed implementing the first three early in the New

Year and suggested a typical entry treatment of what is sometimes called pedestrian tables - that is, the side road entrance (e.g. Ossulton Way) would be narrowed slightly by kerb extensions and the surface of the road raised to pavement level with coloured blocks in a herring-bone pattern for a distance of about nine or ten metres along the side road.

At the same time we are continuing to press for the Suburb-wide traffic calming scheme to be implemented in full under the provisions made by the Traffic Director for London for his Red Routes scheme, which recognises the need for traffic calming in 1km wide corridors on either side of Red Routes. In the case of the two Red Routes coming past the Suburb - the A406 and the A1 - corridors of this size would take in about four-fifths of the Suburb and we are therefore claiming that the whole should be suitably calmed.

SFB



Did you know that there is a happy group of mothers with pre-school children who meet every Thursday afternoon in the Church Rooms?

Organized jointly by members of the Free Church and St Jude's, Church Mice is now in its fourth year.

We encourage mothers with young babies and toddlers to come and make friends with one another, and we feel that we have played an important part in the community, particularly for new people moving onto the Suburb or young mothers with their first baby.

If you have a new neighbour, or know a lonely young mum, please tell them about Church Mice.



If you go down in the Wood today

To many Suburb residents their oldest memories of local theatre are probably the open-air shows produced in Little Oak Wood, first by the Play and Pageant Union and more recently by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society and the Garden Suburb Theatre.

In the early days huge pageants with casts of hundreds epitomized the spirit and vitality of the garden suburb movement, and today a warm July evening watching Shakespeare or Wilde evokes a magical atmosphere that captures audience and cast alike.

However, as long-standing supporters will know, the amphitheatre in Little Oak Wood has become increasingly dilapidated over the years. The Garden Suburb Theatre has now embarked on a ambitious project to improve the facilities and environment of the theatre, including the tidying up and replanting of the stage area, the establishment of a screen of trees to lessen the traffic noise from Falldon Way and the replacement of the asphalt terracing with York stone. One major development will be the building of a scenery store which must, of course, be of a design in sympathy with its woodland surroundings.

As you can imagine, this will all cost a lot of money and the Garden Suburb Theatre is planning several fund-raising activities over the next few months.

Tickets are already on sale for a grand lottery with prizes to include a weekend for two in Paris, tickets for a West End show and tickets for Prime Minister's Question Time. Tickets are available from GST members and at the forthcoming productions of "Pinocchio" and "The Crucible".

On 12 March there will be a 'Very Trivial Pursuits' quiz evening with light buffet supper and entertainment and on 20 March a car boot sale in the playground of Garden Suburb School. For details on times and tickets please see "What's On".

Terry Rogers, who has directed several successful musicals in the past, is hoping to imitate the large scale productions of earlier times in "Little Acorns", a special gala night on 21 May. He aims to feature every single member of the Garden Suburb Theatre! The evening will consist of highlights from some popular past produc-

tions, though some of them may not be quite as you remember them...

By supporting these events you will be making a vital contribution towards the Oak Wood project (and your own comfort and pleasure next time you go to an outdoor show!) You can also help by adopting a tree. A £10 donation will go towards the purchase of trees and shrubs for the arena and you will receive a certificate as well as having your support recorded on site. If you would like more information contact Treasurer, Andrew Forney, on 081 441 9533 or come to a production, where forms will be available.

The Garden Suburb Theatre hopes that these efforts will go a long way towards raising the estimated £20,000 required. However, we are also seeking assistance from national and local businesses in the form of sponsorship, a donation or contributions in kind. Already a cheque from British Gas (see picture) has met the cost of replanting some of the auditorium. Pictured in the Wood

on a chilly day in November are Susan Quine (left) and Natalie Berg in their costumes from the recent production of The Rivals, Roy Schutz, John Marshall, Philip Grant, Chairman of the Garden Suburb Theatre and Alan Thorne, Operations Director for British Gas.

If you, on behalf of your business, would like to help, in whatever way, towards this worthwhile project, Terry Rogers would be very happy to discuss the matter with you on 081 445 0227 or you can write to him at 10 Netherfield Road, London N12.

DL

SHAMPOO AND GOSSIP

Michael Morris has been cutting Suburb hair for over thirty years. He began in his twenties in "Belle Madame" in the Market Place. He then set up on his own as "Michael Paul" for nineteen years.

He has now amalgamated with Steven Krieger and is still in the Market Place, opposite the Library in a salon called, intriguingly, "Gossip".

Michael has seen a steady change in the way we use our visit to the hairdresser over the years. Women used to go once or twice a week for sets. They liked



the controlled look; their aim was to look smart. Today, people prefer a more natural look, and many go only monthly for cuts, highlights, perms and colouring. Both types of customers are catered for.

The atmosphere in hair-dressing salons these days is much more relaxed, and 20% of the customers are men. It is accepted as normal that men and women sit together, whereas not long ago they were segregated.

"Gossip" is a particularly welcoming place; it is decorated with walls of bricks and timber, instead of the usual bright white and chrome. It has such a relaxed atmosphere that Katie Boyle, a regular customer, has been known to bring all her four dogs with her while she was being looked after.

Michael hears a lot of things from us as we sit there for our half or full hour. People choose him to listen as they unburden their problems. He is totally discreet, naturally, but claims that he is an unpaid psychiatrist; he jokingly wishes that he had the rates that they charge.

All the time that Michael is talking or working, he looks up at people going in and out of the salon, greeting them. He also joins in the telephone conversations. "We are on first name terms with a lot of our customers".

He is delighted with the vast improvement in the hairdressing chemicals that are available. They condition the hair so well that we have healthier hair these days. Altogether, we look after our hair better now. On his day off, Michael likes to wander around and notice how people wear their hair. He particularly likes to see that people have made an effort.

JN

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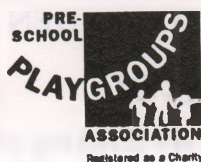
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