

Gaming Centre

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However, this is only one way of preventing crime. In the longer term, a far more satisfactory and longer lasting solution is to tackle the problem of criminality itself - by doing all those things that discourage our young people from becoming criminals in the first place and by encouraging them to become law-abiding citizens.

It is a known fact that this type of gaming can very easily become addictive and can encourage young people to turn to crime to get the money to feed their addiction. Indeed, 'Gamblers Anonymous' have found addiction to gaming machines to be the fastest growing form of gambling addiction at the present time and so serious a problem that they have set up a new section to deal with it. It is also a known fact that drug peddlers and existing criminals tend to frequent these gaming arcades and seek to influence young people to turn to crime.

The Police and Neighbourhood Watch have a difficult enough task as it is in combating existing criminals without having a facility in our midst that gives further encouragement to our young people to turn to a life of crime. We contend that there is no demand for a facility of this sort in this essentially residential area. We don't want it; we don't need it and, on the grounds of preventing the encouragement of further criminality, I have written officially to Barnet on behalf of all 4,985 Neighbourhood Watch households on the Suburb and its adjacent areas asking that this application to operate a gaming facility in this area should be firmly rejected. **Peter Loyd**

WHO'S FOR CROQUET?

It has been suggested that an HGS Croquet Club be formed, which would use the Fellowship House lawn on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday evenings with a Saturday morning session during the summer months. The session times will be 6.30 to 8.30 pm and 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Charges 50p per session. If interested please phone Alan Lawson on 458 3827.

PICTURE FRAMING

HGS Resident: evening, week-ends, days. 458 2894

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News from Norrice Lea

After the great joy and excitement of the diamond jubilee celebrations, life at Norrice Lea Synagogue has returned to a more usual level. Usual of course does not mean uneventful. Just slightly less frantic.

March saw the celebration of the Purim festival with its attendant partying by the Synagogue's children. The traditional festivities by the pupils of Kerem School included a fancy dress party which proved as popular as ever.

In April, Passover will be celebrated both in the Synagogue and in the home with the traditional Seder service designed especially to stimulate and bring enjoyment to children. In previous years the Synagogue has

concerts. Among his recent performances was one held for the benefit of the North London Hospice, where Rabbi Jackson is the visiting Rabbi.

On April 26, the Synagogue will be holding its annual Holocaust commemoration. Because this year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the war and the liberation of the concentration camps Norrice Lea Synagogue is especially honoured and delighted to have as its guest speaker Sir Michael Latham. Sir Michael is a former Member of Parliament and is an executive member of the Council of Christians and Jews. He will be giving an address after the traditional candle lighting ceremony and the memorial



provided a communal Seder service on the second night of the festival which unfortunately will not be held this year as the second night is a Saturday and preparations are difficult to make on the Sabbath.

Our new Cantor Auromi Freilich continues to inspire the congregation during services and to delight everyone with his

prayers and readings.

One sign that spring has reached the Suburb is that preparations are under way for the annual opera which is always a highlight of summer festivities. This year Madam Butterfly will be performed on June 27 and tickets for this ever popular event will be on sale shortly.

Richard Glyn

Wouldn't you like to help the Suburb?

Your Residents Association, now in its 84th year, works to make the Suburb a better place to live in many ways. To represent all the residents and to carry out all its functions the RA needs the personal involvement of as wide a range of skills and enthusiasms as possible.

That is why the Chairman launched a drive for membership at the recent Annual General Meeting.

Different levels of involvement are needed, we hope there may be one to suit you.

Membership Representative

There are currently over 130 membership representatives who are the eyes and ears of the RA. Each looks after a small number of households and should be the first port of call for anyone on their patch who needs help, has a complaint or just wants information. They also distribute the RA's Directory and the freepost subscription envelopes and later call on neighbours who have not sent in their subs and donations to Fellowship.

It has been said that "the conservation of the Membership Rep. service, composed as it is of people, is more important than the preservation of hedges".

Any organisation of this size inevitably has a fair turnover every year. For this year, and distribution starts with a party on May 16, we need 26 new reps to call on houses and six more to call on flats. Most of these are on the north side of the Suburb.

Ward Organiser

There are fifteen Ward Organisers, each looks after about ten representatives, and we need two new ones for Asmunds Ward and Central Ward.

Committee Member

Perhaps you would rather be on a committee. The standing committees of the

RA concern themselves with Allotments; Conservation; Membership; Trees and Open Spaces; Roads and Traffic; Publications and Social. These committees comprise Council members and co-opted members. Some of them meet almost every month and some far less often to carry out Council policy and to initiate new objectives.

Roads and Traffic for example is working on a Suburb-wide traffic calming scheme, Membership on a way to achieve a higher number of RA members and Social will be charged with encouraging neighbourliness on the Suburb and organising social events, this should not involve catering but organising functions and thinking up new ways of getting people together.

Council Member

Finally the RA Council itself which involves taking part in Council meetings and being on a standing committee.

Do join

So if you would like to join a group of like minded people who are dedicated to the Suburb and determined to enjoy what they do please complete and send this coupon. We look forward to meeting you and if, after that, you don't like the sound of it we won't mind a bit.

To the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

c/o 26, Hampstead Way, NW11 7JL.

I would like to know more about being:

A Membership Representative ☐

A Coopted Committee Member ☐

A Membership Ward Organiser ☐

Elected to the RA Council ☐

Name:

Address:

Institute vs School judgement

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By the same token Barnet and the School were also mistaken in arguing that the Institute held the land and buildings as trustees for the School. If this point had been accepted the Institute could not receive rent or reclaim the site. He also rejected the "Estoppel" argument under which the School could not be evicted because of the public money spent on the buildings.

The key event in the history of the relationship between the Institute and the School was the 1944 Education Act. Until then the Governors of the School had no legal status apart from the Institute. In the words of the Judge "Under the 1944 scheme, they acquired a wholly separate status from the Institute". The Act defines the duties and responsibilities of the various parties including the Voluntary Aided School, the Foundation Body (Institute) and both the local and national education authorities. While acknowledging that it was reasonable for the Institute to receive rent the exact terms and conditions under which the School will continue to occupy the site can only be resolved by the parties involved:

"Nor do I think the Court should attempt to determine whether, and if so on what terms, the occupation of the School on this site should be extended. That can only sensibly be done between the various parties - statutory and private - taking account of financial, educational and other considerations. The legal framework provided by the statutory scheme and charity law should provide adequate protection, without the need

for some additional equity."

If the negotiations fail there are procedures laid down in the Act for the Institute to seek repossession of the site. These are summarised on page 72 of the Judgement.

"Section 14 requires the Governors to give not less than 2 years' notice to the Secretary of State. Where there has been expenditure by the Secretary of State, other than in connection with repairs, the leave of the Secretary of State is required. The authority, if necessary, can insist on free use of the premises until the expiry of the notice (s.14(3))."

During the 1980's some £3.8 million was spent on major repair and refurbishment works to the buildings of which almost £3 million was paid by the Department of Education. The Judge extended the period of notice by a further 3 months which he thought would be adequate time for reaching an agreement. Negotiations had already started prior to the case being heard. If no satisfactory conclusion is reached there are specific powers in the Act to acquire land by compulsory purchase, subject to compensation.

The Judge gave clear guidance about how he expected these discussions to be conducted:

"Consistently with its charitable purposes, the Institute would be bound to act reasonably in deciding whether to initiate any proceedings pursuant to its notice".

"In practice, the amount of payment will be a matter for negotiation, based on a market rate but having regard to the respective capital contributions to the development of the site.

"If there is disagreement, no doubt some form of arbitration may be put in place".

Finally the Judge ordered that both sides would have to pay their own costs, which in total probably amount to over £250,000. This is the price that was paid for establishing that responsibility for sorting out the

problem rests with the parties to the action and not with the Courts.

I believe that most Suburb residents are hoping that various parties to the forthcoming negotiations will put the Court case behind them, and concentrate on finding a solution which will safeguard the long term future of both organisations. They are an integral part of the Suburb's heritage and they should share the site on fair and equitable basis.

For this to happen I think there are three conditions which need to be satisfied:

1. There is no doubt that in recent years the Institute has been woefully underfunded and it can't be expected to provide a modern adult education centre on the present level of grant. The Institute has every right to expect a realistic level of grant/rent which will increase in line with inflation.
2. A new building on the site is urgently required so that the School can meet its commitments under the National Curriculum, and particularly in the area of design and technology. A new building would also allow the Institute to scrap the temporary huts for which planning permission expires in June 1995, and reduce its dependence on rented accommodation.
3. The Institute and School need to be put on a secure footing both financially and organisationally to ensure that there is never again a repeat of the present difficulties. In particular the duties and responsibilities of the foundation body (Institute) in respect of the school for which they are fundamentally responsible need to be clearly defined.

On hopeful sign to come out of this sorry saga is that even before the case went to Court the government had agreed to pay make a payment to the Institute and fund a new building for the School.

Christopher Kellerman
RA appointee to the
Institute Council 1989/94

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