

Canon Barnett Homesteads sold

Canon Barnett Homesteads, Erskine Hill, built to provide homes for First World War widows has been sold by the Institute.

At present only four of the 12 flats are occupied and Fay Naylor, Institute Principal, told *Suburb News* that "The ladies living there are protected, their lifetime tenure was written into the title." There had been concern expressed at the RA Council on April 4 that the tenants had been unable to pay their rents and that no one was looking after the building. "There was a short period when this may have been the case but the new owners have now written to the tenants and a representative has visited them" said Fay Naylor who declined to name the new owners who, she said "might not want their names to be divulged"

There had, earlier, been moves to halt the sale by Suburb residents, the Institute's previous Principal John Enderby and the National Association of Almshouses who appealed to the Charity Commissioners. They however ruled that the Institute could sell the property.



There is also a question mark over whether the proceeds of the sale can be transferred to the general fund, as was the money previously collected as an Arts Centre Fund, or should be used for similar charitable housing purposes.

Fay Naylor said "No decision has been taken, most of the money is invested and the Institute Council has yet to consider the matter."

Suburb News understands that the new owner is a Mr Harouni of Alpha Gems in Hatton Garden.

Richard Wakefield



Children's Day at Fenton House - 4 June

As part of the National Trust Centenary Year, our Thames & Chiltern Region is organising a Children's Day at all its properties in the region on 4 June.

Our property is Fenton House, Windmill Hill, Hampstead. The day is being organised jointly by the London Centre, the Barnet Association and our Hampstead Centre. It is to be a fun day for all the family and you don't need to be a member of the National Trust. There will be side shows, a barrel organ, a treasure hunt, an adventure in the orchard, an unnatural quiz in the garden and

games; also a bran tub and prizes to be won.

Children are asked to come wearing a hat or mask with a late Edwardian nautical theme and there will be a parade, with prizes for the best entries. Orange squash will be on sale but bring picnics. Admission to the garden will be free, the House will be open but the normal entrance fee will be charged.

Do come and enjoy the fun from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Sue White

Jazz at the Institute

The Julian Costello Jazz Quartet will play for the third time in the Institute Theatre on 3 May starting at 7.30.

Tickets are £6 (£5 each for four or more) and wine and food will be on sale throughout the evening.

The proceeds from the event are to be used to fund the teaching costs of our courses for **young people with learning difficulties**. The courses which have so far been very successful, aim to improve the communication skills and self confidence of the students so that they can make their own decisions and

lead more fulfilling lives. With the help of our courses, some students have obtained paid or voluntary employment, or progressed to more advanced courses. As the students do not usually have any income from employment when they start the course, they are only able to pay minimal fees and the proceeds from this and the previous successful events are desperately needed to allow this valuable work to continue.

Bookings can be made in person at the Institute Office, or by phone, using Switch or a credit card.

Fay Naylor

Your local Abbeyfield House needs volunteers!

If you have visited a friend or relative at Abbeyfield House or been to one of our regular coffee mornings, you will know that it is a charitable trust which houses 12 active elderly residents, each of whom has furnished their own room. There is also a sitting room, dining room, kitchen, several bathrooms and a lovely garden. The garden is well looked after, but we urgently need someone who will come from time to time to help out with those household jobs that are too small for the plumber, carpenter, painter etc. For example, in recent high winds a panel came loose on the side gate; one resident had a tap in her room that was very difficult to turn off fully. None of these jobs is large and hardly warrants the high call-out charges that apply these days.

Do you know anyone who could spare an occasional hour or two to help out? The housekeeper does wonders, but a helping hand sometimes would be very welcome.

Please phone Mrs Norma Milner (458 1110) if you would like to know more.

By the way, our next Open House and coffee morning will be during the Suburb Weekend on Saturday 24 June from 10.30 am until noon. Do join us, you will be very welcome.

1 Hurst Close
London NW11 7BE

6 February 1995

Sir,

As your readers may be aware, 25 April 1995 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. I write to let you know that in the coming year a whole series of national and international events will take place which will receive considerable media attention. In addition, a stimulating programme of local events is being promoted and coordinated by a combined United Nations Association UK Committee representing Hendon & Golders Green, Finchley and Barnet.

The year's events will begin with the raising of the UN flag by the Mayor of Barnet on 25 April at Hendon Town Hall. The flag will also be flown at five other locations.

We hope that everyone in our area will wish to participate in as many events as possible which will occur during the coming year. These will include lectures and seminars by prominent speakers as well as UN linked concerts and educational projects.

Yours,
Ron Baker (Prof)

Bunkers Dip,
Neville Drive
London N2 0QR

21 February 1995

Sir,

In response to your request for news of birds on the Suburb, my goldfish pond was emptied six times by herons! During this period I tried large tree branches and then large-hole plastic fencing across the pond. Finally a plastic heron alongside. All to no avail.

A couple of years ago I stretched fine green anti-bird fruit tree net across the pond, secured at either end on long solid tree branches. It is virtually invisible and has worked perfectly. At frog spawning time I leave a gap along one side of the pond.

If you have a pond rather than a lake (mine is about 15 feet by 5 feet) I strongly recommend this approach.

Yours,
David Goodenday

4 Meadow Gate
London NW11 7LB

30 January 1995

Sir,

Please allow me to pass on information which may be of interest to your contributor, Mr Neville Silver, concerning water meters and an article in the issue no.46.

I have had a meter installed at my address as above by the Thames Water Co. and far from the cost quoted by Mr Silver, I was charged in excess of £350 + VAT for the meter installation. I consider this most excessive, but since it was the "authorised installer", I took it for granted that this was about the figure that they were entitled to claim.

I think your readers ought to be acquainted with the fact.

Yours,
K J Gradon

LETTERS

58 Oakwood Road
London NW11 6RL

13 February 1995

Sir,

The recent English Heritage discussion paper regarding the Suburb makes many welcome suggestions and it is hoped that it will be fully adopted by all the interested parties.

Careful consideration must be given as to how such a large scheme, undoubtedly of lengthy duration, can be best managed so as to ensure that it is not watered down at either the strategic or the detailed level.

Yours,
Robert Dobrik



St Anne's,
8 Turner Drive,
London NW11 6TX

21 March 1995

Sir,

As you know, one of the most conspicuous features of the Suburb are the many miles of hedging.

For us they provide not only a decorative effect but a mixture of privacy and act as wind breaks and shelter for other plants.

However, for the smaller birds they are an essential habitat providing places where nests can be constructed which can be difficult for predators to reach.

During this period of the year the birds are breeding and it is most important that during this time their habitat is not disturbed. However, many Suburb residents, if not the majority, cut their hedges in this period, a course of action whose timing causes the maximum disturbance to the breeding cycle.

It should be added that this can well mean that hedges should not be cut until June, and though some may consider this untidy, it should enable them to get by with only two cuts during the growing season.

Bearing in mind how sensitive the residents of the Suburb usually are to environmental matters, it is sad to see from an inspection of the hedges during April and May the relatively small number who allow the small birds to nest undisturbed.

Yours,
John Read

45 Willifield Way
London NW11 7XU

21 February 1995

Sir,

In the last issue of the Suburb News, you had a photo of cars parked on the pavement in the area of Willifield Way where I live, with a stern admonition to the culprits. If you lived here, you would not only park on the pavement, you would wish to take your car indoors with you. Those of us who have had cars badly damaged and, in some cases, completely written off, will agree with me.

The selfish speeding, mostly hit and run drivers, who use this road as a racetrack are the culprits, not us. The Council and the Police tell us that unless someone is killed, they do not regard this road as a serious problem. Let us hope we do not have to prove that it is.

Yours,
Shirley Arkush (Mrs)

Dear Suburb Residents,

This letter is to thank you for the wonderful support given so far by the Residents Association and the Neighbourhood Watch in Hampstead Garden Suburb to the campaign to stop a gaming centre being opened at 107 Golders Green Road, two minutes from many synagogues and the Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Residents Against Gaming in Golders Green, which has been set up to campaign against the granting of a licence under the Gaming Act to Family Entertainment Ltd. (a firm which runs gaming machine and amusement centres in the West End) has so far succeeded in encouraging over 1,000 people to write individual letters of objection to Barnet Council and another 1,000 to sign a petition along the same lines.

Please, if you haven't done either, write a letter to the Head of Trading Standards, Hatchcroft, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BN as soon as possible, saying among other things that you oppose the granting of a licence because 'there is no demand in the locality' for this kind of establishment. Its location has been chosen to draw on a wide catchment area not - as those of us who are familiar with the locality know - to serve residents. This reason for objection has most force under the law. Proving the same assertion helped Enfield win a similar battle lately.

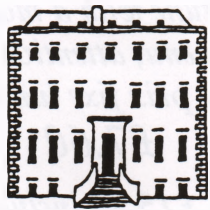
Please also write to Inspector Garside, Golders Green Police Station, 1069 Finchley Road, NW11 0QE stressing how important it is that the local police also follow Enfield police's example and express their formal opposition to a development which in countless other places has brought an increase in drug-pushers, street crime, burglary and hold-ups in the entire area.

Gaming machines cause real addiction, desperation and crime in children and draw truants. Our police are currently, and inexplicably, unwilling to emulate Enfield, Chichester and Ilford police (to name but a few recently) who have all registered their opposition and helped crime prevention campaigns.

Our final request: please, if you can, help with donations so we can raise the £1,000 needed to fund a professional, independent survey, proving that there is no demand. This will be vital evidence at the hearing - and the possible later appeal stage. Cheques for however little, to be made out to RAGGG (see full title above) and sent to our treasurer, Mr C Blake, 28 Dolphin Court, Woodlands, NW11 9QY.

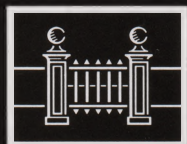
Yours,
Margaret Edmunds

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