

SUBURB NEWS

Issue 49

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Autumn '95

EDITOR'S FILE

Late news

The Institute called in the local press, Oct 18, to talk of future plans. *Suburb News*, which goes to every Suburb household, was not invited. The occasion provided little not known to the journalists and turned into not much more than a complaint about those who were said to be "anti-Institute" including *Suburb News*. This despite our carrying every article sent to us by The Institute and reporting both sides of all the arguments.

Trust election

Pia Duran, who was up for reelection at the end of her first three-year term as an elected Trust Council member, increased her vote to 302 (250 last time) and won a second term. Michael Kritekman, standing for the first time, polled a creditable 220. 55% of Trust members voted.

Tea for the memory

Sherrards has long been established in the Suburb. So long in fact that Laurence Sherrard is not sure when his father started the teashop and bakery in Market Place.

Readers with long memories may be able to tell him not only when but also what the corner shop was previously.

Tea and cakes will be offered for the best written memory of this bit of Suburb history.

Mediterranean Suburb

The long hot summer may have been hard on lawns and hedges but those of us fortunate enough to have fig trees in our gardens are enjoying an all too rare bumper crop.

Having a clear out?

The Homeless Furniture Project collects household gear and refurbishes it so that it can be used for the homeless when they are being housed. 808 8591.

Any questions?

Don't forget, the RA has instituted a convenient question time during Council meetings at Fellowship House. Questions are taken at 8.30 and meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month.

Anniversary Day

Many thanks to several readers who sent the cutting from the *Times* of October 3 in which was reprinted the news of that day in 1907 of the opening of the Suburb.

Whoops

Pretty spectacular accident when a crane gantry was dropped on the newly completed roof of the new Corringway flats.

Where is the Gallery?

The Gallery is at the bottom of Hampstead Way just before Arcade House. Built originally as a summer house for the Arcade House flats it has been a picture gallery under two owners for the past 15 years. Prior to that it has been an electrical shop, a teashop and a florist.

A charming little building it must be one of the smallest galleries ever, in which, nevertheless, a wide variety of work is on display.

BARNET COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER THREAT TO INSITUTE

In the last month there have been two significant developments in the long running dispute between the School and the Institute. On 7 September the Department for Education and Employment (DFEE) made an offer to settle all the outstanding issues. Then, on 5 October Barnet's Education Committee approved a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to acquire the whole of the Institute site on Central Square, including Bigwood Hall but not the Tea House. This decision needs to be ratified by the full Council which meets on 31 October.

These moves should be seen in the context of the Court case which was heard last March. In the judgment of Mr Justice Carnwath, the dispute could be solved only by the two parties within the framework of the 1944 Education Act.

On 7 April the Institute served a Notice to Quit on the governing body of the School, a procedure laid down in the 1944 Act. If by August 1997 there is no agreement, the School could be forced to close. Since this Notice has less than 2 years to run, Barnet considered that it was essential to safeguard their own position, and for this reason issued a CPO.

Under Section 90 of the 1944 Education Act a Local Education Authority can be authorised by the Secretary of State for Education to compulsorily purchase any land which is required for the purposes of any school which is maintained by them or which they have power to assist. A CPO can take up to 2 years to implement since it involves a Public Inquiry. To ensure the continued existence of

the School on this site the process had to be initiated at once.

If in the meantime a negotiated solution is found, the CPO would be immediately withdrawn. Barnet see the CPO as a defensive move and all the Councillors at the Education Committee meeting hoped that it would never be used.

Perhaps even more important than the CPO is the deal put forward by the DFEE. It has three components:

- The Institute would receive a capitalised rent of £3.2 million in exchange for granting the School a 99-year lease at a peppercorn rent,
- The Institute would receive an additional £1.1 million for new buildings to replace accommodation currently rented off site. (Free Church Hall, Thomas More etc.)
- The School is likely to receive a grant of £900,000 towards the costs of a Design and Technology Building.

Compared with previous offers these proposals seem very generous, and the Institute can argue that its stance has been vindicated. Invested wisely, the £3.2 million would generate a regular long-term income, and the £1.1 million towards a new building would eliminate the need for rented accommodation. More daytime courses could be offered on the Institute site.

It would be wonderful if the Institute, School, RA and the Trust could all join forces to plan the new buildings and work towards creating a new sense of community. If the Institute rejects the offer, the outlook is grim. The various legal battles between the Institute, School, Barnet and the DFEE will go on for at least another two years, while the recriminations and ill feelings continue.

The whole Suburb would lose. The DFEE proposal provides an honourable solution for all parties and is a sensible way of burying the hatchet once and for all.

Christopher Kellerman



At the launch reception for the Garden Suburb Gallery, l to r, Lucy Lyons, Suburb artist; Léonie Stephen, RA Chairman; Gerry Mansell; Eddie Caplin, Trust Council Chairman; Alan Lawson who was presented with a watercolour of his Oakwood Road home in recognition of his services to the RA over many years; John Marshall MP; Anne Lawson and Annie Walker whose watercolours, pastels and oils of the Suburb have proved popular with Gallery visitors.

RA OPENS SUBURB GALLERY

Gerard Mansell, former chairman of both the Residents Association and the Trust, declared the Garden Suburb Gallery open at a reception on September 24.

In the course of a thoughtful and typically witty speech he said that "The Gallery is a brilliant idea and a good example of cooperation between the Trust and the RA."

Suburb artists

Watercolours, drawings and oils from local professional artists, or of local subjects, are on sale alongside craft jewellery and pottery.

Among the artists exhibiting their work are Clare Curtis, Annie Walker, Chloe Hilary Gear, Anna Leung, Polly Rockberger, Lucy Lyons, Malcolm Sowerby, Alexander Redhouse and potters Helen Cohen and Doreen Arenstein plus Diana Redhouse with enamel jewellery.

Commissions

Several of the artists will accept commissions to paint Suburb homes and portraits. In the short time the gallery has been open this has proved very popular as residents have an opportunity to compare styles and prices before discussing their commissions with the artist.

Suburbabilia

A full range of Suburb literature is on sale along with framed maps as well as a variety of cards and notelets including Chloe Hilary Gear's flower etchings, Gerry Mansell's still lifes and aerial photographs of the Suburb.

New Book for Christmas

Mervyn Miller's new book in the Archive Photograph series on Hampstead Garden Suburb will be in the Gallery in time for Christmas.

Residents Association shop window

The Gallery is run by the RA, with help from the Trust, and is intended as an information centre for residents. Ask about any aspect of the work of the RA from conservation to traffic calming or theatre to gourmet clubs and the volunteers should be able to give an immediate answer or put you in touch with someone who can.

With over 2500 members the RA is supposed to be the biggest residents association in the country; we hope the Gallery will prove to be a good way of keeping in touch with the membership.

Open every day

The Gallery is now fully operational and, staffed by a panel of volunteers, is open from 10-5 most days except Sunday. Telephone 455 7410.

Richard Wakefield



Clare Curtis, at the opening of the Garden Suburb Gallery. Clare is much in demand as an illustrator of books and magazines but enjoys finding time to paint the Suburb.

From Cottages to Castles

We are at home in the Suburb

A home is a very special place, particularly so in the Suburb. It is filled with a lifetime of experiences.

A safe haven, a welcoming friend.

Alas, eventually even homes need to be sold or let. We feel it is incumbent on the agent handling the transaction that they not only have an intimate knowledge of the area, but recognise that a home is much more than bricks and mortar.

Glentree is such an agent. For many years we have been handling Suburb properties and we are at home with everything from "cottages to castles".

A further benefit to the Suburb's residents is our extensive contacts with potential buyers outside the immediate area.

At some time in the future, without obligation, we would be pleased to give you advice on your property.

You will be talking to us in the knowledge that we too are at home in the Suburb.



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