



Countryside Officer Mel Lloyd in the Oakwood Road boundary ditch.

Oakwood Road flood alert

Friends of Suburb Woods don't just chop down trees and build dead hedging. Earlier this year an urgent call went out to anyone who could come to the wood NOW! to help dig out a flooded drainage ditch. Mel Lloyd, Barnet's Countryside Officer, and Georgina Malcolm dug quantities of mud out of the Oakwood Road boundary ditch while Susan Osborn battled to move an entire compost heap that someone had carefully built over the drain. The whole of Bigwood drains into this ditch but with the drain blocked by compost and garden rubbish the water had nowhere to go but into the gardens that back on to the wood. After all that rain we had in April it looked rather as though one or two of the houses in Oakwood Road might float away.

After several hours hard labour the drain was cleared and water in the ditch began to flow away freely. If your garden backs on to the wood and you find a mystery drain or perhaps a ditch, please don't put your compost heap just there. All this so-called global warming is

making the wood much wetter than it used to be and we need all the drainage we can get.

Sadly all the rain affected the oak seedlings which were planted last December but luckily not all of them died. So we are going to try again this November.

Tree planting

If you have oak seedlings in your garden please bring them to the Oakwood Road entrance of Bigwood from 10am on Saturday 25 November. This planting is part of a Tree Council sponsored record attempt, so any trees we plant will contribute to a new world record. Anything too small to go in the wood can be planted in the Tree Nursery. Dig up as much root as possible and wrap the roots in a plastic bag to make sure they do not dry out. Wear strong shoes or boots as we plan to plant in small natural glades throughout the wood: you may have to battle your way through the undergrowth to find a spot that sunlight reaches. See you in November. Chocolate biscuits are provided for successful planters.

GEORGINA MALCOLM

Noisy Suburb

Are you disturbed by leaf blowing machines, petrol driven mowers, trimmers or chain saws? Are you disturbed by the noise from builders working on a neighbour's house? And what about burglar alarms? Why do

they have to ring for so long? But are we disturbed when the noise comes from our own home or garden? It's very difficult to stop people making a noise, especially if you can't quite work out where it is coming from.

WANTED - new Brown Owl

It was after reading a notice like this in *Suburb News* Summer 1984 that Cathy Cunnold became leader of the 3rd Hampstead Garden Suburb Brownies. Sixteen years later we are now looking for her replacement. "It is such a rewarding job, I hate to give it up" said Cathy, "I took over from Ruth Ikin who was Brown Owl for 15 years."

Based in St Jude's church rooms the maximum number of girls, aged seven to ten is 24.

Being a Brownie teaches self reliance and great emphasis is laid

on making them think about how they can help other people particularly in the home. Brownies meet every Wednesday in term time from 6pm to 7.30 and children of all religions are welcome.

The new Brown Owl need not have been involved in the movement before and training sessions can be arranged.

If you enjoy being with young people and would like to spend Wednesday evenings doing a very worthwhile job, contact Cathy Cunnold 55 Middleway, NW11 8458 9741.

Residents Association meets with Barnet

RA chairman Richard Wakefield and the chairmen of the RA's CONSAM and Roads and Traffic committees David Lewis and Ken Murrell tabled a long list of matters for concern when they met Cllr Kathy McGuirk and Highways chief Michael Freestone last month. Amongst matters raised were the lack of progress, despite many attempts by the RA and the Trust, on stemming through traffic and

any sort of Suburb wide traffic calming; the stalled 'Greening the Garden Suburb' projects including further grass verges that should have been completed before April; bitumened pavements; weed killing sprays on verges and hedges; graffiti; lack of progress on street clutter after the RA's comprehensive Audit of Street Furniture which was handed to Barnet three years ago.

The Children's Millennium Woods Project

To celebrate the Millennium Barnet Council has decided to create four new woods in the borough. A tree is to be planted for every child born in Barnet in the year 2000 and one of the new woods is to be in Lyttelton Playing Fields. The field is just inside the Kingsley Way entrance. Parents of new born babies are being encouraged to help with planting and will then receive a certificate.

The field was once known as Summerlands which indicates that it was too wet to be used except in summer. It is still very wet so the trees to be planted are willow, alder and hornbeam which will not mind the damp

conditions. Planting is scheduled for Sunday 26 November.

Local Tree Wardens will be helping with the planting and anyone who likes can come along and help. This has been registered as part of the Tree Council World Record attempt so the more trees planted on the Sunday the better. Any trees left over will be planted by the children from Brooklands school early the next week.

GEORGINA MALCOLM



Last year children in Wordworth Walk raised money with a summer sale for the North London Hospice. This year Anna and Alexander Higgins, Sam and Sophie Brodbeck decided on holding their sale for the NSPCC. Neighbours gathered with their produce - carrots, green beans, cooking apples, delicious jams and lots more. The children sat by their goods all day and raised an amazing £90.

Litter News

Thanks to our 100 Litter Pickers, and increased Barnet Council involvement, the litter situation is much more under control.

The Council has had skips in a number of positions for one day in each road, in order to collect large items of household waste. They have also had teams out in particularly bad places.

To all Suburb residents

Contact your Suburb Litter Man - John Davies - at 3 Ruskin Close or on 8458 2277 to tell him

you're joining his team (it's a two-minute-a-week job), or to tell him of a particular litter problem.

In an emergency, contact The Customer Care Unit of Barnet Council Neighbourhood Management on 8359 4600.

In any event, please keep your immediate area completely clear of litter. Travellers say that Japanese cities and Singapore are totally clear of litter. Hampstead Garden Suburb intends to be equally clear.

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Consam (Conservation and Amenities Committee of the Residents Association) has been asked to try and improve matters. One suggestion is to prepare a leaflet which residents can give to neighbours or their builders or contract gardeners. The leaflet could contain information about the laws on noise pollution and who enforces the rules (Barnet has a department but it is mainly concerned with late night parties).

I think the brightest suggestion is for us to create a voluntary code where power tools are not used between certain hours of the day. For instance no power tools to be used between noon and 3pm nor after 5.30pm. I don't think people should mow their lawns at Saturday lunchtime. Indeed perhaps a ban all day Saturday and Sunday might be a possibility or at least a ban on petrol driven tools which are much noisier than electric ones.

Please send your suggestions to me at 4 Wildwood Rise, NW11 6SX or by E mail to suggestions@HampsteadGardenSuburb.org.uk.

DAVID LEWIS - CHAIRMAN, CONSAM

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