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## NEWS AND VIEWS

OF

## WOODSIDE PARK



## Woodside Park Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

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## NEWS and VIEWS

Official Magazine of the Woodside Park Ratepayers' & Residents' Association

Volume 5, No.6

July-August 1960

#### Editorial

That irritating nickel coin, the threepenny piece, does, of course, have its uses. By giving it to the librarian one may reserve a new copy of any best-selling novel. Excellent value and excellent service. On the other hand this same coin can purchase a postage stamp and from thereon a letter can travel to a variety of places, except, perhaps, to that which it is addressed.

Without so much as completing a reservation card I recently received a new book. Not destined to be a best-seller, it is issued free, I think it calls for some comment. It is the Seven Stages of a Letter—or what you get for threepence. It is issued by the Post Office to coincide with the forthcoming celebration of the tercentenary of the Charles II Act of 1660 establishing the general letter office.

In those three hundred years I doubt whether the collection and delivery of mail has improved to any great extent. This informative little book tries to blind the reader with statistics—twenty-six million letters are posted every day of every week—there are 100,000 posting boxes in the country, and so it goes on. What percentage reaches its destination is not given. A fantastic job, I agree, but there is no assurance that one's letter will be delivered and, what is equally

important, delivered within a reasonable time. If it is incorrectly addressed then the sender is obviously to blame. Day after day I get letters which have been through the 'seven stages,' perhaps a journey of two miles with the crow but stretched to nearly double by this elaborate method. A letter posted early one day fails to reach me until late afternoon the next. I cannot get my morning mail before 9 a.m. because 'the postman's route is carefully planned and cannot be altered.' Isn't it marvellous? If I post a letter on Friday evening it may not reach its destination until the following Monday afternoon.

So much for the threepenny-worth offered by the Post Office, I could take the letter myself by bus, or else I could, with my £12 a year telephone, speak the contents of the letter. No matter which way I turn I am caught by the Post Office which would rather tell me how marvellous their system is than actually trying to improve it to the satisfaction of its customers, the public.

There is only one solution, the carrier pigeon. Unperturbed by times of collection and delivery and undaunted by red tape it could reduce the 'seven stages' to two, there and back with a reply.





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#### Date Fixed For Pylon Plan Enquiry

The Hendon Borough Council announced Tuesday, July 19th, as the date of the public enquiry into the scheme to throw a highly charged electricity cable on pylons through some of the most beautiful open land in the borough of Hendon.

Opposition to the proposal has been building up for years. Every local and county council concerned, every interested local organisation, and numerous private individuals, have already expressed their determination to fight the scheme tooth and nail. The inquiry looks like being one of the biggest in recent history and the Council have reserved two days for the hearing.

Residents of Woodside Park will remember that it was proposed to build a sub-station in the Express Dairy field in Lullington Garth and those of you who live in Lullington Garth, Rodmell Slope and Offham Slope will be the most affected. We would strongly urge that as many of you as possible should attend this public enquiry. Your Association has, of course, sent their protest in writing.

Note the Date: Tuesday, 19th July, 10 a.m., Hendon Town Hall

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#### Your Magazine

Perhaps the most striking feature of anything printed these days is the offer of getting something for nothing. Any glossy magazine you care to select from a bookstall tries to gain your affection by tempting you with price reductions or so-called free gifts. News and Views is not free. You pay one shilling a year for six issues and we offer no startling prizes but merely present to you the facts and figures of the Association's work.

As this issue concludes the fifth volume it may be well worth recalling why and how it all started. The Association's work is such that we do not shout it from the rooftops. It is constant throughout the year and covers a multitude of topics which through the medium of a magazine is presented to our residents in order that they may keep up to date with matters which should concern them.

A far from new duplicating machine started off the venture and as the editorial committee became more ambitious so the quality and style improved until the present form was attained. It is always conservative in style and approach and if published for residents of Woodside Park it is surprising how far afield it travels. All chief officers of the Hendon Council receive a copy as do local and county councillors whose affections reach out to this ward.

The editor does not imagine for one minute that each issue will hold the reader spellbound, far from it, but a resident with normal interest in local and domestic affairs should invariably find something to attract him. The financial side of producing such a publication is one which could not be achieved without the help of local traders who buy space to advertise their business. We are most grateful to them.

We strive to keep News and Views in such a way that it lives up to its name. No easy reproduction of articles from other publications but mainly news and more news of Woodside Park and any matter which affects the district. In this world of high powered publicity, countless periodicals and the ever present television we cannot hope that you have time for more reading matter. But we can present news to you in such a way that it stimulates interest in local affairs. The magazine is, of course, also your shop window to express your views and we shall gladly reprint letters on items we have discussed in committee or, in your opinion, ought to be discussed.

#### School Sports

The INTER-SCHOOLS SPORTS were held on the 15th June last and once again the girls of Frith Manor brought home the Alderman Maughan Trophy. This is the seventh year running they have won this Cup and we congratulate them.

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## Inquiry into the Future of the Frith Manor Site

At an inquiry held on 31st May, 1960, at Hendon Town Hall into the future of the Frith Manor site, the Council's representative outlined the history of the mansion up to the time it was destroyed by fire, and the suggestions for the development of the site since that time

He said that in 1948 the manor was under requisition by the Council but was derequisitioned in 1956. Since then the property had been gutted by fire and is now merely a heap of bricks and rubble.

In 1952, an application to develop the land by erecting 24 houses was refused on the grounds that the property lay within the Green Belt, and in 1956 this decision was confirmed by the Minister.

In 1954, the owner submitted a claim to the Minister under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act. In the following year Middlesex County Council expressed their opinion that the land could be used for some residential purpose or educational development, and there was before them a proposal to build a school on the land to the north of Frith Manor site, but this had since been dropped.

An application to build five houses was made in 1957 but when Ministerial approval was sought it was rejected on the grounds that it would encroach on Green Belt land. The owner's present proposal was to rebuild the Manor House and use it as ten flats, but this was refused on the grounds the planning authority thought that ten was too many. The Council maintains that the site could be developed either as a training hostel, a nursing home, an old people's home or the flats, provided that they did not make more than thirty habitable rooms.

As a result of the refusal of the Council to allow the rebuilding of the house and its use as ten flats, the owner had served a notice on the Council alleging that the property had become incapable of "reasonably beneficial use" in its existing state, and he required them to purchase it.

#### The Minister's Decision

There is to be no rebuilding of Frith Manor House, Mill Hill, and the site is to remain an open space and part of the Green Belt. This is the decision of the Minister of Housing and Local Government following the Public Enquiry on May 31.

Announcing the decision to confirm the purchase notice, the Minister states that he adheres to the view that "neither the rebuilding of Frith Manor House nor the erection of any other building of an institutional or residential character should be permitted on the land."

#### Noise Abatement Society

Nothing has caused more noise during the last few months than talk of noise. From time to time we have written about it and in a recent issue announced the Association's membership of the Noise Abatement Society. Possibly it is the most misunderstood word in our language mainly because one cannot get two people to agree on what is and what is not noise. The aim of the Society and, indeed, of any normal citizen, is to abate *unnecessary* noise. Set against this is the person who cares not about the noise he creates, directly or indirectly, and the person who does not consider such noise to be unnecessary or offensive.

Some few weeks ago the then Mayor of Finchley called a meeting at the Municipal Offices to hear Mr. John Connell, the Secretary of the N.A.S., and to determine whether a Finchley Branch could or should be established. The meeting was widely reported in the press and the Finchley Press did not hesitate to point out that the meagre attendance was hardly representative of the Borough. A more convenient time of day might have attracted a wider audience. However, certain residents present expressed the view that such a branch should be formed if only to assist those subjected to unnecessary noise and unable to do anything about it. The decision reached by the Mayor, and in the opinion of many, regrettably, was that a local branch was not called for and that any development should await the outcome of the Noise Abatement Bill.

So much for national noise. What about Woodside Park? We are reasonably quiet and grateful for it, but the Association constantly receives complaints, these are naturally more frequent in the summer, of radio sets and car horns causing offence. Mrs. X lying in bed with prolonged ill health is plagued by a neighbour's portable radio in the garden and young Mr. Y studying for his exams is disturbed by unecessary blasts from a car horn. These trivial complaints are those which cause harsh words and unpleasantness but about which the Association can do very little. We cannot and will not take it upon ourselves to snoop on residents' activities but can express the hope that this pest can be stamped out by well chosen words over the garden fence and an all round improvement in consideration for others.

#### British Red Cross Society

The Flag Day held recently on behalf of the British Red Cross Society resulted in a total collection of £28 13s. 1d. for the Woodside Park area. This was an encouraging figure for the local organiser Mrs. K. Armes and her helpers.

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#### Destroy That Wasps' Nest Now!

Queen wasps are now busily engaged building nests, and if these are not found and destroyed within the next few weeks then it is probable that we shall be plagued with wasps for the whole of the summer. The writer, who lives in Lullington Garth, has found two nests on his premises already, and in view of this thinks that there may be many more nests in the Woodside Park area which, if dealt with now, can be quickly and harmlessly destroyed.

A nest in its early stage of development is about the size of a ping-pong ball and, if found in a shed or loft, is attached quite firmly to a wooden surface. It is light-brown in colour, extremely fragile, and if the outer petal-like covering is broken, the comb can be readily seen. The structure of the comb is very similar to that of a honey comb, and if the cells are closed it is almost certain to contain live grubs. At this stage it is quite harmless, and the comb can be removed quite easily and crushed. Later on, as the grubs hatch out, the nest becomes active and its destruction under these circumstances should not be undertaken, unless by an expert; it is usually carried out after sundown when the wasps are inactive.

It is recommended that residents should search their garden sheds and lofts without delay and destroy immediately any nests they find. Also, if a queen wasp is observed to be going underground in a garden rockery, the stones should be carefully removed, and it is very probable that a nest in its early stage of development will be unearthed. However, a word of warning!—if the nest is an active one, don't disturb it, but consult an expert.

#### Frith Manor School

At a recent Parent Teachers Meeting, the necessity for a School Crossing Patrol to see children across the road was again the subject of much discussion. The volume of traffic, including coaches, has much increased as also has the speed. It was decided there and then to get up a petition which was signed by all the parents present and this will be sent to the appropriate committee again urging the necessity for a School Crossing Patrol. Those of you who were not present at the Meeting and who did not take the opportunity of signing this petition at the school sports or at the Open Day, can still rectify this by writing a letter to The Chairman, Road Safety Committee, Town Hall, The Burroughs, N.W.4, supporting our petition.

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#### News in Brief



#### TRAFFIC—LULLINGTON GARTH

In a recent issue we expressed concern at the ever-increasing flow of traffic along this road and, indeed, the speed of some vehicles. We are not so bold as to think that there is an immediate solution to this problem but we are in correspondence with the Council and will get the assistance of the Police if necessary. In these days of over-crowded roads traffic must obviously be kept moving but not to the detriment of road safety.

#### TENNIS COURT—RIVERSIDE WALK

The recent closing of this court has dismayed its regular users but the reason is now known. The fencing had become dangerous and in order to avoid accidents the Council thought it wise to suspend further use. An order for replacement fencing had been placed some considerable time ago and thus an avoidable delay was caused. However, now restored to normal working order we can only await long dry spells in our unpredictable weather.

#### ROAD SURFACES—IMPROVEMENTS

The early days of June found this long-needed work in progress. Drains and manhole covers were raised and replaced where necessary and then a new layer of tarmac was laid. Whether we are to have the inevitable chippings is not known at the time of writing.

#### ST. BARNABAS DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Like most amateur companies this society is now 'resting.' At least as far as the production of plays is concerned. Following "Wild Goose Chase" in April the committee are now reading plays from which they will make their choice for the coming season in the Autumn. Before that, however, it is hoped that they will be able to enter for the Friern Barnet Drama Festival. In September play readings, make-up lectures and other social activities will be resumed on Monday evenings. If you are interested there will be a welcome for you.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Friday, 23rd September, at FRITH MANOR SCHOOL at 8.0 p.m. Full details of the Agenda will be published in the next issue of the Magazine.

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#### Horticultural Hints

Much can be written about the care of a garden which can be vastly improved in appearance by even a little attention, so here are a few notes to assist you.

The control of weeds is important and they should be removed before they have a chance to seed. I have found that a large number of small weeds can be removed very quickly with an ordinary table fork. They can also be rapidly dealt with by hoeing especially between the rows in the vegetable garden. Weeds will be discouraged in the flower beds and borders if the plants are set reasonably closely as their attempts at growth will be smothered. Weed killer will soon clean up garden paths and a hormone spray will effectively remove weeds from lawns.

Efficient staking of plants is essential to a tidy appearance and it should be carried out before they become too straggly. A few shillings spent on good bamboo canes is

well repaid and the canes if looked after will last for many years. Even some of the shorter plants such as pinks and carnations need staking.

Many plants need attention during the growing season, for example perennials often throw up a large number of stems and it is a good idea to pull out the thinner ones which will strengthen the remaining growth. Pansies after the initial flowering can be shortened to encourage new growth.

One must also contend with the inevitable attacks of aphis. They will be found on many plants, but in greater numbers on roses, dahlias, chrysanths and beans and they will soon destroy growth entirely if not effectively dealt with. For rapid results use a good insecticide to which should be added a little detergent which will make the solution stick to the aphis.

By "WOODSIDE."

#### Local Organisations

The Association now has a complete list of organisations functioning within the Borough. It includes allotments, archery, athletics and the arts and almost every hobby, pastime and interest one can name. If you want details of any such local body our Secretary will be pleased to let you have full information.

#### To School By Car

It has been reported to the Association that many parents taking their children to Frith Manor School by car make U-turns outside the School before resuming their journey. It is not for us to make comment other than to say we hope great care will be shown by these parents in view of the many other children, less fortunate, who have to cross the road from the bus stop.

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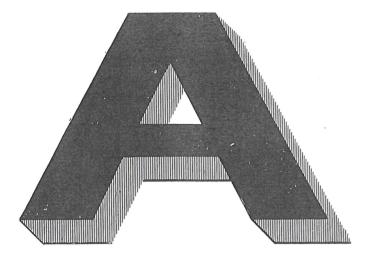
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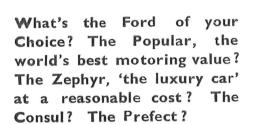
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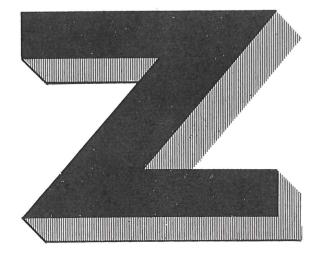


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