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NEWS *and* VIEWS

OF WOODSIDE PARK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER, 8 p.m.

VOL IX No 1
SEPTEMBER . OCTOBER
1963

Woodside Park

Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

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Chairman :

H. M. Pike, 30, Lullington Garth HIL 4176

Vice-Chairman :

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Miss D. E. Day, *Advertisement Manager*

News and Views

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
WOODSIDE PARK RATEPAYERS' AND RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Volume IX

No. 1

September-October, 1963

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday 20th September at Frith Manor School.

I am asked to express the hope that you will be able to attend.

L. A. CLAYDON,

Hon. Secretary.

AGENDA

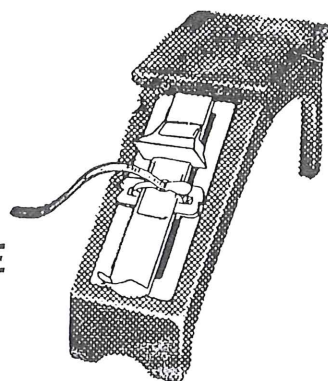
The Notice of the Meeting will be accepted as read

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st September, 1962.
2. Chairman's Report.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Election of Committee.
(The Constitution provides for the election of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Treasurer and ten Committee Members).
6. Election of two Auditors.
7. To consider the following addition to the Rules:
The Committee is empowered to elect Honorary Members in recognition of outstanding services rendered by such members to the Association. Such Honorary Members shall have the same voting powers as ordinary members so long as they are resident in Woodside Park.
8. Any other business.

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HENDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meetings of the Hendon Borough Council during the ensuing municipal year will be held at 6.15 p.m. on the following dates: —

9th September 1963

7th October 1963

11th November 1963

16th December 1963

6th January 1964

3rd February 1964

9th March 1964

20th April 1964

The Councillors representing Mill Hill Ward have been elected to serve upon the following Committees: —

A. P. Fletcher

Appeals

Finance

Estates

Building and Town Planning

Allotments

Re-organisation of Local Government

T. C. Stewart

General Purposes

Works

Education

Highways

Civil Defence

The other Ward member, Councillor Mrs. C. Thubrun will, as Mayor, be an ex-officio member of all Committees.

Extracts from the Council Meetings

SURFACE WATER SEWER

The Borough Engineer & Surveyor reported that in order to relieve flooding on part of the Woodside Park Estate it would be necessary to divert one of the existing surface water sewers and to connect it with the Dollis Brook. This would necessitate the laying of a 15in. diameter surface water sewer from the junction of Lullington Garth and Chanctonbury Way to the Brook. Financial provision existed in the current estimates for this work.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the Borough Engineer & Surveyor be instructed to carry out the above work by direct labour within the sum provided in the current estimates.

Elected to Serve on the Council

The Committee has been sorry to lose the services of Mr. Kenneth Farrow who was a successful candidate in the Municipal Election last May. The Rules of the Association would preclude Mr. Farrow from serving on the Committee but in any case the hectic life of a Councillor would no doubt have made his attendances at Committee Meetings few and far between. We wish him well in his term of service on the Hendon Council.

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Preparing for the Winter

"We couldn't possibly have another winter like the last one." In a few months time this remark will no doubt be echoed up and down the country. It is reassuring, therefore, to note that the Hendon Council intend to make every effort to counteract a repeat of last winter. In a previous issue we wrote about conditions in Woodside Park back in January and February and suggested that the Council should spend—although it would be an addition on the rates—a considerable sum of money on renewing existing and purchasing new and more modern snow clearing equipment. It is understood that despite a heavy bill for clearing the snow and the subsequent repair of roads and footpaths the Council is considering the purchase of various items of snow clearing equipment including a bulldozer, road gritters and the installation of several salt stores throughout the Borough. We consider such expenditure essential but it must be remembered that to keep our roads clear it will cost money—our money.

The Travelling Library

In order to enable staff to have an occasional Saturday afternoon off, the Travelling Library will be closed at 5.30 p.m. on Saturdays with effect from the 7th September.

THE BOROUGH OF BARNET?

A new name will soon be known —

DURING the last few months the intricate negotiating machinery involved in the construction of a new borough has accelerated, be it only slightly. A conference of representatives from the five local authorities forming Borough No. 30 decided by a vote of four to one to recommend to the Minister of Housing and Local Government that the name BARNET should be used for the new borough.

This decision, has, of course, disappointed many residents of Hendon and at the same time given Barnet folk some cause for jubilation. At the moment Hendon is the largest of the five authorities and Finchley could be regarded as occupying the central position geographically. Barnet, on the other hand, would be a new name for a new borough and not the continuation of an old one.

As reported in this journal, many names have been suggested to the Councils but the matter now rests solely in the hands of the Minister. In a directive to Councils Sir Keith Joseph suggested that artificial names such as "Finbardon" should be avoided and that names submitted to him should be short and simple.

While we must await his decision to be announced probably after the summer recess this writer holds the view that an entirely new name should be used for what will be an entirely new local government administrative area.

Extension to the Hendon Council Chamber

The choice of name is only a very small part of the deliberations with which the Council is faced in setting up the new borough. It is understood that plans are already in hand for extending the Council Chamber at the Town Hall to accommodate the members of the new Council next May, but a permanent administrative centre must be built and everything points to this being in Finchley. Available space may well be the deciding factor and the vacant site adjoining the Finchley Open Air Pool would be convenient and certainly very central. This site was, in fact, earmarked by Finchley Council in the early 1930's for a Town Hall and but for the intervention of the war years and some obstinate opposition in the Council Chamber Finchley might well now boast one of the finest town halls in the country.

Overhanging Trees and Shrubs

The Association is receiving numerous complaints from residents of overhanging trees in various parts of the Estate. We trust our members will not object to a gentle reminder in the way of a printed postcard put through the door to ask if the offending branches can be cut back. Several minor accidents have occurred in the past where a passer-by has had his spectacles damaged or an eye scratched by protruding branches.

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Fluoridation for Woodside Park

By Dr. J. L. Patton, Medical Officer of Health for Hendon

THE fluoridation of water supplies is now widely accepted in the United States as a means of improving the dental health of future generations, and those cities where the water supply is deficient in fluoride, such as New York, Detroit, Washington, Philadelphia and Baltimore, have adopted fluoridation, and some are already showing good results. Last month in Hertford, Connecticut, a children's dental clinic had to be closed because fluoridation had reduced the supply of small patients.

A few people in England are fortunate enough to consume water which naturally contains more than 1 part per million of fluoride. They live in such places as Slough, parts of Windsor, Sandhurst and Frinton-on-Sea, where the drinking water is obtained from deep wells which provide the necessary quantity of fluoride. Most of us, however, are deprived of this useful trace element, and so our teeth never attain their best quality. Children who have been born and bred in the natural fluoride areas of Britain have less than half the decay of children born in areas where fluoride is deficient.

If the Borough of Hendon had been a small independent isolated state like Monaco, and we had been forced to drink water obtained within our own boundaries, we would probably have had a fluoride water ; because it is known that the only deep well used for human consumption is one situated in West Hendon, which has a relatively high fluoride content.

Fluoride as it occurs naturally, and as it is used in fluoridation, is a simple inorganic chemical salt. It is present in almost all drinking waters and in most foods and it is a normal constituent of teeth and bones. Like many other substances it is a poison if taken in large quantities, but no harmful effects from fluoride have ever been demonstrated when the water supply contains one part per million.

The benefits of fluoridation in this country have now been demonstrated by schemes undertaken in Anglesey, Watford and Kilmarnock. The results achieved were published in July 1962, and showed that :

- (a) among those children who had had the benefit of fluoridation all their lives, the average number of teeth affected by decay was cut by more than half : nearly twice as many children as formerly had completely sound teeth ;
- (b) no evidence of harm from fluoridation could be found despite the closest watch by all concerned ;
- (c) no technical difficulties arose in adding fluoride to water supplies and maintaining it accurately at the specified level.

Continued on page 10

THE PEOPLE AROUND US

4. — The United Kingdom Optical Co.

THE building which has been a landmark at the top of Bittacy Hill for over half a century has had a unique history because it has been occupied successively by three different optical companies.

When talking of the optical industry a large section of the general public will immediately voice the opinion that the Germans and more recently the Japanese are the only people who can make good lenses. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that their cameras dominate many markets and the camera is probably the only form of optical instrument which is owned by a large percentage of the population. Photographic equipment does provide a tremendous annual turnover for the optical industry and at the same time gives an even bigger volume of business to the manufacturers of photographic materials. In spite of the importance of photography in science, commerce and entertainment it is perhaps a relatively small sphere of the applications of lenses and optical instruments. From this point of view it is a little irritating for a British lens maker to be written off as a novice by the man in the street. It is only necessary to read textbooks on light and optics to find out how many fundamental contributions have been made to the science by British workers. Even as far as camera lenses are concerned most of the medium priced miniature camera and transparency projector lenses sold today are based on a design worked out by an Englishman, H. Dennis Taylor, about 1895. There grew up around these scientists a capable optical industry which although not very large has developed to the point where it now has a flourishing export trade.

However, at the beginning of the 20th century very few spectacle lenses were made in this country and the bulk of the supplies were imported from the U.S.A. and Germany but the invention of a new type of bifocal lens really put Britain on the map in this particular field. Early forms of this lens had been made with two pieces of glass but the invention had enabled them to be ground and polished from a single piece. A small company was started with a band of young men to manufacture and develop the market for these solid bifocals as they were called. The company was named the Uni-Bifocal Co. Over a period of some years several of the apprentices left the firm to go their various ways and joined other companies or started up their own businesses in spectacle lens manufacturing.

During the period of 1914-1918 there was a desperate shortage of ophthalmic lenses and a group of these companies was formed to make a determined effort to establish mass manufacturing in this

Continued on page 14

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HORTICULTURAL NOTES

IT HAS been suggested to me that a few notes on shrubs would be of general interest, so on this occasion I propose to deal with deciduous shrubs; those that lose their leaves in the Autumn. Shrubs are more or less permanent occupants of the garden and therefore careful consideration should be given to their selection and where they are to be planted. To obtain the best results the ground should be well prepared preferably a month or so prior to planting, which may be undertaken in Autumn immediately after the leaves have fallen.

The shrubs which I am now going to list are those which are most popular and most easily grown. AZALEAS, there are many quite hardy varieties flowering in May. BERBERIS (BARBERRY) yellow flowers and red berries. BROOMS (CYTISUS) attractive white, yellow, crimson or rosy-pink flowers in May. CEANOTHUS AZUREUS, pink or blue flowers in late summer. COTONEASTER UORIZONTALIS, red berries in autumn, flattish growth, will grow well against brickwork. DAPHNE MEZEREUM, perfumed purple flowers in February. EUCRYPHIA PINNATIFOLIA, white flowers in July. FORSYTHIA INTERMEDIA SPECTABILIS, yellow flowers in March. HYDRANGEA, pink and blue flowers in July. LILACS (SYRINGA OFFICINALIS), many good varieties now available in white, dark red and rosy-lilac. MAGNOLIAS, varieties to flower from March to May. PHILADELPHUS (MOCK ORANGE) perfumed white flowers in summer. RIBES (FLOWERING CURRANT), attractive red flowers in April. SPIRÆAS, a number of useful species in white, cream, pink and carmine. TAMARIX PENTANDRA, pink flowers in summer. VIBURNUM OPULUS STERILE (SNOWBALL TREE) clusters of white flowers in June; and WEIGELIA (DIERVILLA) rosy-carmine flowers in summer.

By "Woodside"

FLUORIDATION (*Continued from page 7*)

The responsibility for the decision to add fluoride to the domestic water supply rests with the local health authority—Middlesex County Council, and the County Council has considered all the representations received, and has decided to endeavour to arrange for the fluoridation of those public water supplies which are deficient in it naturally.

Hendon is supplied with water by two authorities, the Colne Valley Water Company and the Metropolitan Water Board, and these supplies now contain less than 0.2 parts per million or less than one-fifth of the desirable amount. When the local health authorities supplied by these two bodies are able to arrange fluoridation then we should have the benefit of this new scientific discovery, and children born and nurtured in Hendon will enjoy a state of dental health which their parents never knew.

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A new headmistress at Frith Manor School

WITH a new term at Frith Manor School beginning this month we take this opportunity of extending a welcome to Miss E. M. Folkes the new Headmistress. It would appear that Miss Folkes is a little reticent in pushing herself forward and we are unable to find out very much about her. She comes to Frith Manor, however, with an impressive record and upon high recommendation. For the past ten years she has been Headmistress at Bell Lane Infants School and has on a number of occasions attended courses on Reading and Mathematics at Oxford.

The early part of Miss Folkes' teaching career was spent at Mansfield, Notts., which was followed by several years in Colindale. Throughout these years Miss Folkes has been keen and active in many sports, particularly swimming. She has the A.S.A. Teaching Certificate and a Bronze Life-saving Medal. One can confidently expect that her interest in swimming will be reflected in the sporting activities at Frith Manor and we wish her every success in all branches of her duties.

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16th - 22nd A. Leiter, 601 High Road, N.12.
23rd - 29th C. W. Leaversuch, 73 Woodhouse Road, N.12.
September 30th —

OCTOBER

October 6th London Co-op Chemists, 845 High Road, N.12.
7th - 13th R. H. Nind, 808 High Road, N.12.
14th - 20th Timothy Whites and Taylors, 730 High Road, N.12.
21st - 27th Boots Cash Chemists, 788 High Road, N.12.

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THE PEOPLE AROUND US (*Cont. from page 8*)

country. It finally came to pass in 1919 and the United Kingdom Optical Co. began its life. The factory chosen was the one at the top of Bittacy Hill. Originally this had been built by the famous German optical firm Carl Zeiss for making some of their optical instruments in England. At the outbreak of hostilities their operations ceased and the factory was taken over by a long established British optical firm, Ross Ltd., to augment their capacity for the supply of equipment to the Services. At the end of the war this space was no longer needed and became conveniently available for the United Kingdom Optical Co. Nobody would deny that the first few years was hard going for the new venture but the work was carried on with grim determination and dedication. One of the turning points was an idea put forward by a London optician for another new type of bifocal lens. His knowledge of lens making was limited but he approached the U.K. Optical to develop the idea and in 1925 patents were taken out. This again was one of the most significant developments in ophthalmic lenses and a few years later the manufacture was started up in the U.S.A. under licence.

At the same time as the U.K. was formed an ex-apprentice of the Uni-Bifocal Co. joined a small lens manufacturing firm called Taylor and Ustonson and over a span of ten years it became the largest manufacturer of solid bifocals in the country with considerable export markets. It was also one of the first firms to make and develop the use of diamond tools for the preliminary grinding of spectacle lenses. In 1936 the two companies amalgamated and there began a steady widening of activities covering the whole field of glassworking. It was not very long before preparations were being made for the Second World War and in a relatively short time the majority of the company's capacity was organized for the production of every conceivable type of optical component for the Armed Forces. One large contract was placed for the supply of many thousands of components for the R.A.F.'s Gyroscopic Gunsight. The design and purpose of this instrument was a closely guarded secret for several years. To cope with the possibility of the whole output being destroyed by enemy action a dispersal factory was started at Leyton. Fortunately no serious damage was suffered although the solid bifocal unit located in Clerkenwell was completely destroyed in the last fire raid on London.

After the War a massive reorganization took place so that the normal business could be resumed and a new solid bifocal unit built. The company also decided to lay plans for a big increase in production to take advantage of the bad state of the Continental optical industry. As factory space was virtually unobtainable in England a manufacturing unit was set up in Lurgan in N. Ireland. The plans were successful and a substantial export business established.

The expansion continued and although up till the War the company's products had been confined to lenses the scope was widened to include spectacle frames, ophthalmic and instruments among other things. In 1956 the company entered into an agreement with the Bausch and Lomb Optical Co. of Rochester, U.S.A. This firm although perhaps not well known over here is one of the largest instrument manufacturers in North America and established over 100 years ago. Their range of activities is very wide and they designed and made much of the equipment for the Cinemascope process and earned an "Oscar" for the achievement. The management of the U.K. is still entirely British and the two companies co-operate in technical developments and in export marketing. The company's products are supplied directly to prescription houses who have the job of selecting, assembling and adjusting mass produced lenses and frames to comply with the prescriptions ordered by the ophthalmic opticians and surgeons. As speedy service is important there are some 400 of these prescription houses situated all over the country. To fulfil their orders promptly between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 lenses in nearly 25,000 forms are kept in stock at the Mill Hill warehouses. Even with this vast range many hundreds of special non-stock lenses are made to individual order every day. In addition to lenses a tremendous range of frames, cases and many other items are always available.

The output of the U.K.'s factories absorbs about 1 ton of glass every day as well as large quantities of grinding and polishing abrasives. Each year several thousand pounds worth of diamond tools are used, and the disposal of the ground glass is one of the company's bigger problems.

Although the productivity of the factories has increased steadily the number of employees has risen from 450 during the War to about 1,300 at the present time. It is interesting to note that two local people who are working in the company were originally engaged by Carl Zeiss.

Two other companies have grown up over more or less the same period of time as the U.K. and between the three have built up an industry which has earned itself an enviable reputation, and in the course of fifty years has turned Britain from an importing nation into an exporter.

Would you like to guess one of our biggest customers? Well, the answer is Germany!

A

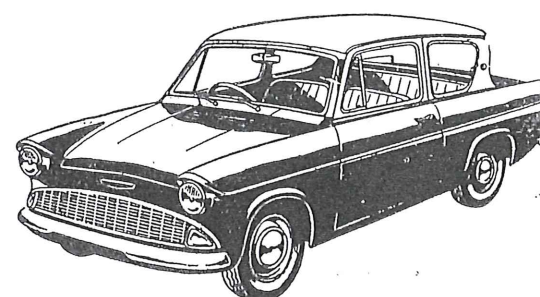
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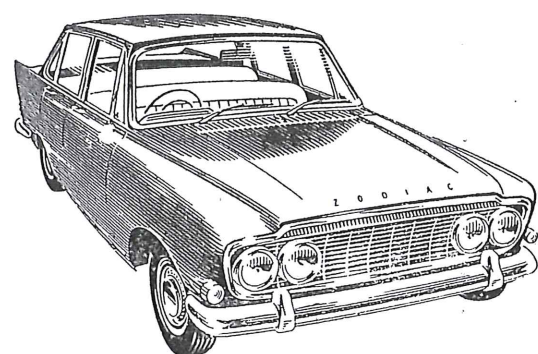
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| Local Chemist | ... | ... | ... | HIL | 3815 |
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| Gaumont, Hendon | ... | ... | ... | HEN | 7137 |
| A.B.C., Golders Green | ... | ... | ... | SPE | 6161 |
| Odeon, North Finchley | ... | ... | ... | HIL | 1698 |
| Odeon, The Quadrant | ... | ... | ... | SUN | 3538 |
| Odeon, Temple Fortune | ... | ... | ... | SPE | 9741 |
| Rex, East Finchley | ... | ... | ... | TUD | 2233 |
| Golders Green Hippodrome | ... | ... | ... | SPE | 0022 |
| Colne Valley Water Co., Watford | ... | ... | ... | WA.2 | 3333 |
| Eastern Electricity Board, Brent Street, N.W.4 | ... | ... | ... | SUN | 0111 |
| North Thames Gas Board, N.3 | ... | ... | ... | FIN | 2600 |
| Hendon Library | ... | ... | ... | HEN | 8282 Ext. 155 |
| Home Helps — Area Health Office, Town Hall, N.W.4 | ... | ... | ... | HEN | 8282 |
| Ministry of Labour & National Service, 316a Regent's Park Road, N.3 | ... | ... | ... | FIN | 6216 |
| Ministry of Pensions & National Insurance, 10 Finchley Lane, N.W.4 | ... | ... | ... | SUN | 0091 |
| National Assistance Board, 10 Finchley Lane, N.W.4 | ... | ... | ... | SUN | 0091 |
| H.M. Inspector of Taxes, Grand Arcade, N.12 | ... | ... | ... | HIL | 6651 |
| Motor Registration & Licensing, 84 Uxbridge Road, W.13 | ... | ... | ... | EAL | 7755 |
| Div. Inspector of Weights and Measures | ... | ... | ... | STA | 3027 |
| P.D.S.A., 640 High Road, N.12 | ... | ... | ... | HIL | 8093 |
| R.S.P.C.A. (Inspector), 101 Cumbrian Gardens, N.W.2 | ... | ... | ... | SPE | 1412 |