

**Mr. John Gorst**

We welcome Mr. Gorst as our M.P. in succession to Sir Ian Orr-Ewing. He has written to us to say that if we have any problems with which we think he could help, would we let him know. A helpful gesture which we appreciate.

His grandfather, Sir John Eldon Gorst was an M.P. from 1865 and from 1885-1886 he was the Solicitor General and became Under Secretary for India in 1886. He established peace between the Government and the Maoris in New Zealand. He died in 1916, aged 81.

Mr. Gorst was educated at Ardingly College in Sussex and at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he obtained his degree in History and Modern Languages. He spent a year in the Royal Corps of Signals and was subsequently commissioned into the East African Service Corps in Kenya and learned to speak Swahili. He taught at private and grammar schools and then joined Pye Ltd. for ten years, where he finally became the home and export advertising manager. He travelled in this capacity to Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Scandinavia, the United States, Canada and the Middle East and will visit Israel.

Since 1963 he has run his own business as a public relations and industrial consultant and formed a National Telephone Users' Association which, as Honorary Secretary, he runs in his spare time, to improve the service and encourage new methods and equipment. He is also Secretary of the local Radio Association and played a prominent part in promoting the introduction of local broadcasting in this country.

Mrs. Gorst, as ballerina Noel Rossana, danced in many countries with the London Festival Ballet. They have four sons.

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NEWS

AND

VIEWS OF

WOODSIDE

PARK

GARDEN  
SUBURB

**Woodside Park  
Ratepayers' and Residents' Association**

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# News and Views

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

Volume XV

No. 1

1970

## EDITORIAL

AT our last Annual General Meeting we explained that due to increasing costs of printing and wages awards, we had been unable to continue to produce our Journal until sufficient subscriptions had been received.

In the past also we were able to reward our volunteer collectors of subscriptions. They are now at University and the members of our Committee responsible for delivering our Journal to the different roads decided that they could call on you personally for the yearly subscription, and in fact for any additional subscription which you felt you could contribute.

It was also decided to economise in printing costs by omitting the grey cover and advertisements and printing a smaller number of pages but filling it all with text. We would also print three issues a year instead of six. We would like to thank our advertisers for their support in previous years.

Your Committee has nevertheless been busy in connection with a number of matters:— the playground equipment, the Grocer's Stall at Sussex Ring, the Library Van, Charrington's unsightly boarding up of their empty shop, the invitation of our prospective Parliamentary candidates to a special meeting and the placing of schoolchildren in local schools and always with us, but sometimes too infrequently, the Northern Line. The recent fare increases and cutting out of the 6d fare for instance, induced the London Borough of Barnet Council to protest in March about the proposal. We are indebted to the Council for their trial proposal to provide Finchley Central Car Park free for 13 Saturdays from 26 September.

**We welcome you to our Annual General Meeting on September 24th at 8 p.m. in the Frith Manor School Hall.**

### **Sir Ian Orr-Ewing**

We wrote to Sir Ian regretting that he was not longer seeking re-election as our M.P. but thanking him for all the help he has given us in the past. His reply said he and his wife thoroughly enjoyed their 20 years service to North London and they were grateful for all the loyalty and friendship which so many showed, and particularly thanked our officers and members for their help over so many years.

### **Christian Aid**

The organisers of Christian Aid would like to thank you all for contributing £125 by subscription.

### **Playground Equipment: the Library Van: the Grocer's Stall**

We saw in the local Press earlier this year a headline saying "Residents Win Fight". It seems that a resident or residents had written direct to the Council asking for playground equipment to be supplied and that the Council had allocated £1950 for its supply. The Council then wrote to our Association asking where we would like the equipment put.

We then received a number of letters objecting and we wrote to Councillor Gibson reporting this, saying we would organise a Round Robin to find out the general opinion.

On 7th March we visited every house backing on to the Brookside Walk, in Walmington Fold and Chanctonbury Way asking three questions. The answers are given in brackets.

1. Are you for or against Playground Equipment? (9 Neutral; 23 For; 59 Against).
2. Are you for or against having the Library in a Shop? (11 Neutral; 69 For; 6 Against).
3. Are you for or against the recent Greengrocers Stall opposite Hay Bros. on the forecourt in Sussex Ring? (6 Neutral; 22 For; 25 Against).

Only Chanctonbury Way was asked about Question 3. Had we more time we would have asked the whole estate about Question 3 but your opinion is welcome now. Please telephone or write to the Secretary.

The Playground Equipment died because we later had a letter saying that the proposal had been cancelled on the grounds of economy.

Regarding the Library, immediately Achille Serre closed, your Chairman wrote to Councillor Gibson on 9th February giving the address and telephone number of the Agents and reminding him of

his earlier suggestion that a shop would be the cheaper way of providing a permanent library as opposed to a new Branch Library. His approach to the Chairman of the Finance Committee was unsuccessful but he asked us to write to the Library Committee to suggest that financial provision should be made should a suitable shop become vacant in the future.

We have since heard that although the shop proposal is shelved, the Borough proposes that the Library Van should call more frequently and says that in any case the van can hold more books than a shop! But presumably not more people. More toffee papers, more dogs and more fouling of grass verges however.

The Library Van attracts visitors from outside Woodside Park. Dogs are also attached to posts or trees temporarily and have made a nuisance of themselves on the grass verges to the serious inconvenience of our Resident members.

The Council reacted quickly to your Chairman's telephone call and tied to a tree a warning notice about dogs fouling footpaths. Unfortunately it was tied with string and fell off the week following. It was however more permanently secured soon after.

Many residents had said that playground equipment would attract hooligans from outside Woodside Park and one resident in Walmington Fold said he had seen a dozen or so louts with sticks yelling and shouting around the Brook.

Many residents said that they had paid extra for their houses because they overlooked the countryside or the Brook at the rear and they thought it was an imposition even to suggest that playground equipment should be placed on those greens. They feel that the Brookside Walk was part of the estate, a pleasant peaceful place where people could sit and enjoy the views and they wanted it kept that way.

A significant proportion of residents suggested a branch post office would be very desirable and others complained that the grocer's stall overcharged. Some said that a stall was better than nothing but it would be better in a shop.

### **The Northern Line**

There have been signs of steady improvement and on a number of occasions it was obvious that the staff were energetic in giving reasons and apologies on the Tanoy system for non-arrival of trains. North bound Barnet trains now wait at Finchley Central for a Mill Hill East or Finchley Central-only train to arrive which shows some thought.

One of the Parliamentary candidates on being told that we had been very active for a number of years in getting to grips with London

Transport, said "Snap", which was not too well received considering that our number of years amounts to something like ten.

### **The Christmas Tree**

We are grateful to the Borough Engineer and the Parks Superintendent for having planted another Christmas tree. Mr. David Cohn has been active in watering it during the evenings of this hot summer but if anyone who lives near would like to give it a bucket of water occasionally we would all be grateful as we feel we must look after it.

### **Lullington Garth**

We still feel that a centre white line should extend from the Brook to Frith Lane. The traffic is becoming more intense.

### **Pavement Verges**

We were rather disappointed earlier this year with the apparent way re-asphalting had been done. We think it should have been properly rolled and sanded after laying. Residents' car tyres simply picked up the asphalt when crossing into their drives. There are spillages of bitumen on the footway—not a very clean job. Mrs. Plaskow, the wife of our Committee member was expecting a child and fell due to the unevenness of the excavated asphalt at the side of the paving slabs. The Council speeded up the work after a letter was sent to them and we send our congratulations to them both on the safe birth of their child.

### **Child Minding**

Young children have been seen riding small bicycles and tricycles in the roadway and there have been one or two near misses by passing cars. The sun shines directly down certain roads on our estate and if a car comes from shadow into the sunlight the driver is temporarily blinded resulting in a screech of brakes. We do urge parents to discourage children from cycling on the roadway or even carrying one another on the carrier of bicycles.

### **Exterior Decoration**

We ought to mention that painting the outside brickwork of your house ruins the bricks and may possibly reduce the value of the house in a surveyor's opinion. The paint can only be removed by burning it off.

### **Evening Classes**

Mr. E. S. Woods' presence was greatly missed last year. Some of our more recent residents may not know that when he was a

Committee member of our Association, he started the classes at Frith Manor and until last year had managed them ever since 1948. He used to arrange to deliver a pamphlet to everyone on the estate explaining the subjects taught and the dates and times, particularly the commencement of the winter term. He did everyone a service.

Organisational changes instituted by the Barnet Education Committee have replaced a number of part-time heads in the old Hendon Institute by a full-time area principal. The Frith Manor Centre now comes under the charge of Miss P. Turner, area principal of Finchley with headquarters at Stanhope Road, N.12. We have asked Mr. Wood to submit a short history of the original development of the classes at Frith Manor which we hope to publish in a later issue. The full range of courses available was published in the "Finchley Times," very competently thought out and displayed.

### **Holden Road—New Flats**

The Town Planning Officer, Mr. Parry, continues to ask the Committees' opinion on various blocks of flats which developers propose to erect on the west side of Holden Road. The Town Planning Committee decisions are not by any means "rubber-stamp" decisions. As many as fifteen revisions are submitted before final Town Planning Approval is given. Areas involved include 97-125, 59-65.

### **Boys Stealing Milk**

One lunchtime recently at the end of the school summer term, two boys, wearing black and blue blazers, were seen taking two bottles of milk from the doorstep of an opposite neighbour. They walked over the low side wall of the garden into the short lane leading to the golf course from Cissbury Ring South. They were chased but the chase was unfortunately hampered by a frock that would have suffered damage through the bushes and by the time the owner of the house was informed and took up the chase and the police telephoned, the boys had disappeared across the golf course.

### **Selection of Children for Secondary Schools**

Two members of our Committee with children aged 11 were dissatisfied with the grammar school to which the Borough Education Department had proposed to allocate them. It may interest residents to note that the decisions were changed for the two children concerned who will be starting in September at the schools of their first choice. We hope to report details at a later date, but it should be mentioned that Mr. Gorst's intervention appears to have been successful.

**Hendon Central Library** is likely to be extended by a rear ground floor addition and the insertion of floors to provide more space.