

WOODSIDE PARK GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Spring Newsletter

March 2000

Letter from the Secretary

Aren't the signs of Spring welcome after such an interminably dreary winter! And don't our green spaces and flowering trees and surrounding countryside make this a good place to live at this time of year!

Your committee is doing what it can to keep it that way. The Association was represented at recent meetings of the Whetstone Area Forum and the Chipping Barnet Environment Subcommittee and at recent Agenda 21 conference, and a representative has been appointed to the Darlands Management Committee.

On the social side, our traditional Christmas carol concert was again a great success, thanks in large part to Colette Landucci, who led the singing and Lucille Crook, who provided the refreshments.

The Whetstone Area Forum has turned out to be a lively occasion at which residents draw the Council's attention to things that need doing, and then ensure that their complaints are followed up. Please let me know if you want something done but can't find the time to attend. Residents are also free to attend the Council's Environment sub-committees and to make their views known about proposals under consideration. Meeting arrangements can be got from the Sussex Ring notice board or from Alison Brooker on 359 4669.

The Council are considering

launching an *Agenda 21 Partnership* for the Mill Hill area. If they do, it will probably include Woodside Park. They have already launched seven partnerships, including one for North Finchley, and they want to cover the entire borough by 2003. The purpose is to bring together residents, businesses, schools, the council and others to find ways of improving the local environment and the quality of life. Projects put forward by local partnerships may qualify for council grants, such as the £30,000 awarded for the creation of a village green in Cricklewood. Your committee is keeping in touch with the council on this, and would welcome members' views.

The grass verges at the edges of our pavements are being damaged by being parked on by delivery vehicles and others. It seems that some drivers mistakenly believe that it is legal to do so provided that they do not park on the actual pavement slabs. Please draw the attention of visitors and delivery men to the true legal position - summarised overleaf - especially about grass verges. If necessary, the council can be asked to enforce the regulations.

Julian Cohen was not well enough to send you a chairman's letter this time. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Nick Gardner

*Let me go forth and share
The overflowing sun
With one wise friend, or one
Better than wise, being fair
Where the peewit wheels and
dips
On heights of bracken and ling
And Earth unto her leaflet tips
Tingles with the Spring.*

William Watson

Overleaf:

- Council News
- Police Resources
- Friends of the Park
- Parking on pavements
- National Spring Clean

Subscriptions

The membership subscription for the year is £1.

Committee members will be calling to collect yours in April or May.

As I See It!

Undoubtedly the introduction of the builders skip has been a blessing and a boon - to the builder; providing as it does a saving in labour costs and adding a few more millionaires to the skip owners. However, it cannot be said that skips are the undoubted blessing to neighbours!

Any road obstruction adding to the countless thousands of cars parked on the roads these days increases danger. To leave skips, once full, for weeks on end, standing in roads and driveways is both dangerous and unsightly. Of course it pays the skip owner to have it standing in the public highway rent free and not having to pay rent for storage elsewhere, or in a depot.

Haven't the highway authorities a say in such matters?

Diogenes

Council News - a report from Councillor Coleman

The Council has sent out two separate forms each with postage paid, one on what level of increase in council tax residents prefer, and another on which services residents would like to see improved or cut. I hope that residents took the opportunity to comment on Council services. Sadly the Council is going to see cuts in some basic services such as the closure of Etchingham Park Day Centre and the Barnet Countryside Centre used by local schools.

I think residents should be aware of two facts when considering the merits of the proposed arts centre in North Finchley. No business plan has been produced so Councillors have no idea what annual subsidy will be required. The block of 140 luxury flats which accompanies the arts centre will be 14 storeys high, higher than even Barnet House and will be visible from virtually every garden in Woodside Park!

A report to the Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub Committee, on measures to combat speeding along Longland Drive/Northam/Southover/ Chanctonbury Way is promised soon after April.

On a non-contentious note, Councillors of all parties supported the establishment of a Holocaust Memorial Day and voted to pressure the Government into making "holocaust denial" a criminal offence as it is in many European countries.

I hope all residents who attended the Council Millennium celebrations at Cophthall on January 2nd enjoyed the fireworks! Your Councillors were assured the event came in "under budget"!

POLICE RESOURCES

Your Committee has responded to concerns over slow response to 999 calls and has discussed the matter with our local police inspector at Colindale, with Neighbourhood Watch and with our local Councillor Brian Coleman. We also attended the Barnet Council debate. You will have seen from the local press that due to shortage of funds and the diversion of experienced officers from Barnet to boroughs of higher crime rate, the whole of London is short of resources but Barnet in particular, at a time of rising crime rates. Low morale and low pay for the most junior ranks has badly affected recruitment. Hendon Police College expects 40 graduates from the current course instead of 150. Finchley police station is not expected to re-open following its closure for refurbishment.

Barnet Council has resolved to write to the three Barnet MPs, to the Association of London Government, to the Society of London Treasurers and to the Home Office over what it sees as a crisis in policing in our borough. The 20th January issue of the Hendon & Finchley Times carried a report from Chief Supt Humphrey expressing concern over resources in Barnet. The next issue reported that he had been replaced. The leading article reports that many officers believe he has been made a scapegoat. Your committee has written to the Home Office expressing its concern and has copied this letter to our local MP Sir Sydney Chapman who has replied supportively saying that he too has taken the matter up with the Home Office. Neighbourhood Watch has also taken the matter up. If individual residents wish to express their concern they can write to Sir Sydney at the House of Commons SW1 0AA or to the Home office at 50 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1

FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

This is a Council scheme allowing residents to register their interest in their local park. It offers a channel of communication and some limited funds are available. Since Riverside Walk (between Southover and Fursby Ave) is on our territory and is the cause of many issues, your committee has registered our interest in this parkland. We will commence with a thorough survey of the condition of the park which will be forwarded to the Council for attention. We will then pursue various issues.

It is important that as many residents as possible involve themselves in this scheme. If you have anything to contribute please write, e-mail or speak to Arnold Reid, 23 Linkside, 346 5872; Fred Westphal, The Bungalow, 2a Lullington Garth, 343 7201 (westphal@waitrose.com); or, Alan Hill, 8 Sussex Ring, 446 1685 (alan@alanhill.demon.co.uk).

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

This campaign takes place every April. It is open to businesses, schools, voluntary groups and individuals. You just choose an area that needs a clean up, join together with friends, and have a bit of fun whilst helping to fight the litter problem. Everyone who registers gets a free kit, including tabards, posters and refuse sacks. Details and registration forms from the secretary, from Ian Brearley [359 3035], by calling, 0800 783 7838 or by visiting www.tidybritain.org.uk/nsc.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

Some residents have been told that it is legal to park on the space between the road and the paved footway **THIS IS NOT TRUE.**

The following is a summary of the law as set out in s7 of the Road Traffic Act 1974 and s13 of the Greater London Council General Powers Act 1974)

It is an offence to park a vehicle with one or more of its wheels on a footway or on a grass verge or space at the verge of a road, except:

- with the permission of a police constable in uniform;
- in emergencies such as saving life or extinguishing fires;
- for the purpose of loading or unloading which could not otherwise be satisfactorily done, and provided that the vehicle is not left unattended when so parked.

There are other exceptions concerning public service vehicles.

Your Committee

Julian Cohen (Chairman)
Alan Hill
(Vice-Chairman)
Ken Buckwell
(Hon Treasurer)
Nick Gardner
(Hon Secretary)

Bill Dunn
Priscilla Halsall
Bill Hampsher
Therese Jones
Ron Pilcher
Dave Pollock
Arnold Reid
Jacqueline Weiner

The Secretary, Nick Gardner, can be reached at
15 Chanctonbury Way,
922 0847 or
nickgchanc@msn.com

Monitoring responsibilities

buses & library	Nick Gardner	922 0847
refuse & litter	Julian Cohen	445 6034
planning & roads	Bill Hampsher	445 4278
parks	Arnold Reid	346 5872
crime prevention	Therese Jones	346 4431
environment	Priscilla Halsall	445 8227

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JOINING THE COMMITTEE? --- WHY NOT ASK THE SECRETARY WHAT IT INVOLVES?

WOODSIDE PARK GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Summer Newsletter

May 2000

Letter from the Chairman

For as long as can be remembered, and that is going back a long time, newsletters have been delivered to the one thousand or so houses in Woodside Park Garden Suburb. Regularly - four times in every year: each Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter - these messages have dropped through your letterboxes. At no time were we, your committee, able to check whether they were read or just thrown in the bin. Only in our last newsletter were we able in some measure to find the answer to the question that had been eluding us. In that newsletter it was written that I, your chairman, Julian Cohen, had been unwell and had been unable to write the letter to you.

So what is the relevance of this preamble? In the last few weeks, so many residents have stopped me in order to enquire of my health. Not only did it prove your kindness but, too, it told us that the newsletter was being read. Please allow me to thank you for your kindness.

It seems that the war of Partingdale Lane is over and that we have lost. However, the war had its moments of glory and to one person alone the award of the Victoria Cross should have gone. Bill Hampsher has fought and fought and fought. But the other side had the bigger weapons...

Several phone calls have been received during the last few weeks regarding the fouling by dogs of our footpaths and grass verges. We have written about this before, but some dog-owners seem to have disregarded our pleas. If you are a dog-owner, please help to keep our streets clean.

What are your feelings about the proposed fourteen-storey building at Tally Ho corner? If it proceeds, will there be even more chaos at Tally Ho? And will the lesson not be learned from the tower blocks that were built - and replaced - in the East End of London?

Our hearty congratulations to Brian Coleman on his election to the Greater London Assembly!

Julian Cohen

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate;
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date ...*
W Shakespeare

Don't forget to attend your
Annual General Meeting and Woodside Park Forum
(Wednesday June 14th
7.30 pm
Frith Manor School)
and
bring your questions!

Your ward Councillors, the school's Headmaster, and representatives of the Metropolitan Police and the Council's Neighbourhood Management Organisation will be on hand to answer your questions

Council News - a report from Councillor Coleman

As many residents will know, on May 4th I was elected to the new Greater London Assembly to represent the Boroughs of Barnet and Camden. Although this gives me a wide role, representing 361,000 electors, I have no intention of resigning as a Totteridge Ward Councillor on Barnet Council. Although that may come as a disappointment to some residents - not too many I hope! - I strongly believe that if the new Mayor and Assembly for London are to work, members must be firmly in touch with the boroughs and local communities.

On the Barnet Council front, the Council has recently conducted its annual "Attitudes Survey" of a cross section of residents, and it will come as no surprise that the three top concerns of Barnet residents are: quality of health services (36%) traffic congestion (35%), and rising crime (31%). Compared with London as a whole, significantly more Barnet residents are concerned about traffic congestion.

The North Finchley Arts Centre and Tower Block will come to committee in July and those residents who are concerned about this development may wish to write to me in my GLA role, as I intend to pressure Ken Livingstone to call the application in for a public enquiry. In this I have the support of the Green Party Assembly Members, led by Darren Johnson.

The North Finchley pedestrian crossing is being changed from a "Pelican" to a "Toucan" and Councillors have been assured that this will speed up traffic flow in North Finchley. Your ward Councillors remain unconvinced and continue to campaign for it to be returned to its original site at the end of Lodge Lane.

Farewell and best wishes to the Reverend Plaskow!

The Secretary has received the following letter:

After 43 years as Minister/Reader of Woodside Park Synagogue, I have now retired and will be leaving Woodside Park to live near our children in Israel.

In my early years I was on the committee and also Vice-Chairman of the Association.

I take this opportunity to wish you, the Chairman and Committee much strength in all your future endeavours on behalf of all the residents.

Woodside Park is a very beautiful area. I am proud and delighted to have lived here and I hope that the area will always be treated with the respect that it certainly deserves.

*With best wishes
Yours sincerely*

Michael Plaskow

PS: Best wishes to Bill Dunn, who was with me on the committee.

Litter Vandalism

On two recent successive Friday nights youths spent their time in the small children's playground. On Saturday morning when parents took their infants to play there they found it littered with cigarette ends, spent matches and lighters, beer bottles and cans, crisp bags and the big bags in which they had been brought. The graffiti had been added too, and branches from trees scattered about. The Council's Neighbourhood Management Service turned out to clean up. We feel concern for the state of mind of these youths and perplexed about their parents. The police have been asked to keep a lookout.

Your Committee

Julian Cohen (Chairman)	Priscilla Halsall
Alan Hill (Vice-Chairman)	Bill Hampsher
Ken Buckwell (Hon Treasurer)	Therese Jones
Bill Dunn	Dave Pollock
	Arnold Reid
	Jacqueline Weiner

Contacting the Council - New Arrangements

Following successful pilot schemes in other wards, the Council is introducing a devolved Neighbourhood Management System in the Totteridge ward. The ward has been divided into three areas, each with its own neighbourhood management unit. The remit of a unit includes:

- the maintenance and repair of roads, pavements and parks
- litter and graffiti
- abandoned vehicles
- dog fouling

Unit staff can call up a rapid response team to deal with urgent and short-term problems, and can refer other problems to the appropriate Council departments. You are advised seek the advice of the unit if you are contemplating work involving the use of scaffolding or builders' skips.

To get in touch with the unit covering the Woodside Park area, call 8359 4066. Alternatively, or if you are not sure whether your problem is within the unit's remit, call the Council's Customer Care Department on 8359 4600.

The Secretary, Nick Gardner, can be reached at
15 Chanctonbury Way,
8922 0847 or
nickgchanc@msn.com

Friends of the Park

Having joined this scheme the Association has now completed a Survey of the condition of Riverside Walk and forwarded it to the relevant Council officials. We expect to meet them shortly to see what improvements we can expect.

Police Resources

We wrote to the Home Office concerning the shortage of police resources in Barnet due to financial provision, poor recruitment and transfer of experienced officers elsewhere. Our MP Sir Sydney Chapman also wrote and raised the matter in the House of Commons. Sadly we have received no indication that more resources will be provided. The official view at the Home Office and at Scotland Yard appears to be that there is no problem, though this is not the view of local police on the ground. Equally Neighbourhood Watch has failed to obtain assurances of police ability to react to quality of life crime. Perhaps the London Assembly will be more effective.

Graffiti Attracts Graffiti

There has been a renewed outbreak of graffiti in Woodside Park with shops, traffic bollards and residential property affected. We strongly believe that graffiti is best removed as soon as it appears. The residential graffiti has been removed and the Council's Neighbourhood Management Service (NMS) have cleaned the traffic bollards. We have written to all Sussex Ring Shops suggesting that they clear the graffiti from their premises or engage the services of NMS to do so. We applaud Real Estates who had cleared their premises immediately. We continue to press the others to act.

As I see it!

I am amazed - in communicating with local government departments - by the number of changes to the titles given to the people in charge. The good old-fashioned Town Clerk has given way to a *Chief Executive*; the former Borough Architect is now - wait for it - *Head of Development and Regeneration*, and the revered Borough Treasurer has been ousted by someone known as the *Director of Finance*. Apart from needing a foolscap envelope when writing to the departments, you can't get some of these titles on an ordinary envelope.

Could it be the more grandiose the title, the greater the salary?

When Juliet whispered to her Romeo

What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

- he could well have responded

Yes my dear! But how about the shekels that go with the name?

Diogenes

Resolutions for the AGM and nominations to the committee should reach the Secretary by June 7th

Newsletter

August 2000

Letter from the Chairman

Do you know where your children are ?

We are said to be lucky in this Garden Suburb since crime is higher elsewhere, yet our shops, traffic bollards, fences and benches are covered in graffiti; litter is everywhere and the toddlers playground is trashed regularly. Parents and children alike wander from the shops scattering around them the wrappers from their chocolate bars. We hear from residents who will not enter their gardens at night because of youths in the park. The youths who crash drunkenly through our parks are someone's children. Do you care that they are growing up as the second generation underclass - doomed to a criminal record and no decent job ? A police officer recently wrote to his local newspaper :

"We are breeding a generation of ignorant, insolent, drunken, drugging, foul-mouthed, litter-strewing yobs of both sexes who exist in a moral vacuum. These louts have not a shred of consideration within them for anyone other than themselves. They have been brought up by negligent parents to be self-centred. They know everything there is to know about their rights, but nothing of responsibilities. The fact that their outrageous behaviour may be making life a misery for other people matters not a damn to them. There is a very simple explanation for why we are unable to respond immediately to every call of this type. It is because the problem of hooligan youths is now becoming so widespread that the police, with their limited resources, are being run ragged trying to cope. Many parents were either irresponsible louts themselves, or had wanted children but not responsibility. Fathers and mothers alike are enthusiastic only about making money."

(as reported in the Daily Telegraph 8th June 2000)

We will only improve matters if we, the community, in co-operation with the local authority and the police make an effort. We believe that graffiti attracts graffiti. We are pressing the local authority to repair benches and remove graffiti with some success. London Transport Buses co-operate in cleaning bus shelters promptly. The police have promised to try to patrol more often and have confirmed to us that every resident who sees or hears vandals smashing things or adding graffiti should not hesitate to **DIAL 999**. Only when all these incidents are recorded in the police computer will we justify police time. We look forward to parents being called to the police station to collect youths who are about to collect a criminal record. Only then will we recover our quality of life.

Alan Hill

Bill Hampsher – a tribute

Bill died at Barnet General Hospital on July 23rd at the age of 86. For more than twenty years he had been a leading member of the Association's committee. His wisdom, tenacity and good humour have been an example to us all. We shall miss him sorely.

Our sympathy and condolences go to his wife, Elsie, and their family.

Overleaf:

- Council News
- Woodside Park Forum
- Friends of the Park
- Julian Cohen
- Briony Tew
- Graffiti
- Newsletters

CHEESE & WINE EVENING

By popular request we are holding another of our Evenings with cheese, wine and good company.

Frith Manor School
13th September 7.30pm
 Admission £2-50

Well, the battle to stop the inappropriate development of Tally-Ho appears to have been lost. At an extraordinary Council meeting on 27th July the planning application was approved. This was the first planning application in living memory to go to full Council and I regret to say that as your elected representative I was unable to take part (and vote against) having been advised by the Borough Solicitor that I risked action from the Ombudsman as I was not coming to the matter with an "open mind"! Having made my opposition to this development - which gives us a block of luxury flats taller than Barnet House - well known, I suppose he had a point. I tried my hardest on the Greater London Assembly to get Livingstone to write to the Secretary of State to call it in for a public enquiry, but Ken declined on the grounds that he had no powers to act on applications filed before July 3rd. However, he did comment that he did not approve of the scheme. Frankly, I fail to understand why no public enquiry is to be held on this prominent site, when we will be lumbered with the consequences for the next 50 years.

Your ward Councillors were saddened to learn of the death of Bill Hampsher. He had over many years brought the Council (and individual Councillors!) to book on behalf of residents of Woodside Park. One of the last issues on which Bill worked was the planning application on the Inglis Barracks site. The approval of this - in my view, over development - only heightens the need to re-open Partingdale Lane.

THE WOODSIDE PARK FORUM following the AGM of the Association June 14th 2000

The panel consisted of **Councillors Coleman, Lyon and Edson** (Mr Coleman is also our London Assembly representative), **Inspector Tony Scott** (Metropolitan Police), **Mr Gil Moss** (LBB Neighbourhood Management Officer), **Ms Nicky Lobo** (Deputy Head Teacher, Frith Manor School), **Mr Tony Judd** (Woodside Park Club) and **Mr Bill Hampsher** (the Association).

Mr Moss had provided a number of illustrations of the history of Woodside Park and a series of leaflets with explanations of services.

Residents were very critical of the Council on the closure of Partingdale Lane (in spite of the opposition of the overwhelming majority of residents), their failure to provide a Park Keeper for Riverside Walk to combat hooliganism and graffiti, for announcing a graffiti removal programme and then running out of funds, over the proposed development at Tally Ho, for ignoring the Association over the footpath dispute, over the quality of mowing and planting compared with other parts of the Borough, over too early weekend newspaper collections, for their failure to monitor dumping at the Equestrian Centre leading to the death of trees and over the state of paving stones.

Councillors said that anyone opposed to the Tally Ho development should write to the Head of Development & Regeneration at Barnet House. Mr Coleman hoped that the London Assembly would persuade the Minister to call the matter in.

Inspector Scott regretted that he had too few officers to support local residents in the way they expected. He said that things would get worse rather than better since recruitment salaries were uncompetitive and we were approaching a retirement bulge. The beat police officer assigned to Woodside Park had been on sick leave for five months and was now on light duties (ie inside police station). There were no spare officers to replace him.

Ms Lobo said that pressure on places meant that dependent on the number of sibling (priority) applicants the catchment area would not cover Woodside Park (only as far as Cissbury Ring at present). Councillors said that there was no resolution in sight without further building. There was an inconclusive discussion on parent parking. A resident urged that no mobile phone masts be erected near the school.

Mr Judd took note of residents' complaints about excessive noise and litter.

Your Committee
 Alan Hill
 (Chairman)
 Fred Westphal
 (Hon Treasurer)
 Nick Gardner
 (Hon Secretary)

Julian Cohen
 Bill Dunn
 Priscilla Halsall
 Therese Jones
 Dave Pollock
 Arnold Reid
 John Robinson
 Kiyotaka Suzuki

The Secretary, Nick
 Gardner, can be reached
 at
 15 Chanctonbury Way,
 922 0847 or
 nickgchanc@msn.com

Julian Cohen steps down

After seven years' service as our Chairman, Julian has been forced by persistent ill-health to relinquish that post. He has agreed to continue to serve on the committee. There were expressions of appreciation and thanks at the AGM for his skilful and friendly conduct of meetings, and for the inimitable style of his contribution to newsletters. Councillor Coleman has since written to a similar effect.

Our new Chairman is our former Vice-Chairman, Alan Hill.

Briony & Alan Tew leave Woodside Park

Briony & Alan Tew are shortly to retire to Devon. Briony has been a stalwart of Neighbourhood Watch for years and has been unstinting of her time and energy. In addition she has extended many kindnesses to neighbours in need. Alan has served on our committee, was Secretary of the Woodside Park Horticultural Society and is the author of a short history of Woodside Park to be published by the Association shortly. They will both be greatly missed by their many friends.

FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

We met with Barnet officials to discuss our Survey of the state of Riverside Walk. Barnet has agreed to carry out extensive resurfacing, bench repairs, better notices, litter and dog bin additions and removal of graffiti. Some of these improvements are appearing. We will continue to monitor the situation.

GRAFFITI

We wrote to and visited all shops in Sussex Ring asking for their co-operation in removing graffiti promptly. Sadly, in spite of promises given, **Melanies and Blakes** have failed to act. Residents will perhaps remember this when deciding where to place their business.

Newsletter frequency

Residents have told us that they like the Newsletters, so we have decided to publish six a year instead of four. The next issue will be for August/September towards the end of August. Please tell us what you think we should be doing on your behalf.



The Woodsider

November 2000

Community or Dormitory?

There is some justification for calling Woodside Park Garden Suburb a dormitory suburb. Sleeping may not be the only activity that goes on here, but there are not many others. There are no pubs, no churches, no restaurants no places of entertainment, very few shops, and hardly any places of employment. We chose it mainly because it offered a prospect of individual privacy in a relatively clean, tidy and peaceful environment. It is easy to communicate with the outside world, but there is seldom any occasion to communicate with other residents. We do not often pass each other in the streets. When we venture out, it is usually for the purpose of leaving the suburb – and we seldom do so on foot. It is quite possible to spend decades here without any contact with the neighbours – even with the people in the house next door.

And yet, we do have some things in common. For one thing, we share a distinctive environment. Our garden suburb has a style about it that is quite different from other parts of Barnet. Our houses are of a consistent and distinctive design, we have more trees and more grass verges; and we are surrounded by green belt and parkland, with pleasant walks and views and a rich variety of wildlife. For many of us it was not just for its dormitory merits that we came here. We thought it would also be a good place to spend our evenings and weekends. And so it has turned out – more or less. But there was no guarantee that it would turn out that way. The whole character of the suburb could have changed as the trees became decayed, the grass verges rutted, the paving stones uneven, and the roads potholed; and as litter and graffiti appeared everywhere. Our park might have suffered the unsavoury fate of Brent Park, and access to Totteridge valley might have been hampered by commercial buildings and blocked footpaths. We had – and we still have – a common interest in resisting such depredations.

Our main barrier to communication has been convention – stemming originally from a desire for privacy. When something has happened to lower that barrier, the experience has often been rewarding. Lives have been enriched by the discovery of common interests and mutual acquaintances. The suburb contains many circles of friends and acquaintances that have sprung up in that way. Their existence makes it much easier for us to act together. And our Association serves to promote and link together such circles, and to use the resulting mutual understanding and influence for the defence and enhancement of our suburb.

So – although we *are* in many respects a dormitory suburb, that does not mean that we are incapable of community action when the occasion arises.

WANTED - REWARD

Man/woman able to drive with one hand whilst bellowing into mobile phone. Must also be able to steer round corners one handed without using trafficators. Can stop on a sixpence immediately outside destination without concern about yellow lines or congestion caused. Must be able to ignore seat belts for self or children in back and front seats. Must be unmoved by public information tv broadcast showing how unbelted child kills driver from behind on impact. Must always park on yellow zigzags at school and not care that they are to protect children. Must regard litter thrown from car windows as a public service. The Reward is being able to drive around Finchley being an example to all those boring people who care about children and the law.



FOR YOUR DIARY
 don't forget
 to come to
 the
CAROL SINGING
 on
Saturday 16th December
 at 4-30 pm
 Sussex Ring
bring the kids!

Yes! In case you were wondering, this is your regular newsletter. Along with the new name we hope to introduce some other innovations. Read on, and you will see what we mean

Overleaf:-

- Council news
- News from the suburb
- A Woodside Park reunion
- The membership database
- Can you help?
- Mobile phone thefts
- Have your say!

The Karen Morris Memorial Trust

Set up to continue the fund-raising activities of Karen Morris of Cissbury Ring South, who died of leukaemia in 1998 aged 23, the Trust has raised over £100,000 for a range of medical charities. Can you help by – for example - selling raffle tickets, supporting the *buy a brick* scheme for Karen's *leukaemia home from home* (at £10 a brick), running in the London marathon, or buying a T-shirt with the Trust's logo?

Or would you like to attend the Trust's

Victorian Music Hall
at the famous

Players Theatre, Charing Cross

on
Sunday 12th November

- if so call Sylvia Morris on 8445 3380

Few residents will be unaware of the repeated occupation of various pieces of land in the Borough by Travellers this Summer. The most serious was perhaps Brook Farm where about 150 vehicles appeared in August. As the Totteridge Ward Councillor "on duty" at the time, I know how much nuisance was caused. When the matter came to Council, the consensus was that the Neighbourhood Management Service had functioned very professionally under enormous provocation; that we should encourage residents not to give "cash in hand" work; and that all parties locally do not support the establishment of a permanent travellers site. (The one in Hertfordshire at the South Mymms Roundabout has recently been closed due to vandalism.) Sir Sydney Chapman has had a letter from the Minister of State saying that lack of police manpower was no excuse for not implementing the Criminal Justice Act in relation to travellers.

The Council has recently been the subject of a very critical Social Services Inspectorate report on our adoption service, which led to the departure of the Chief Children's Officer and to Barnet being "named and shamed" to quote the BBC, as one of eight failing local authorities.

A consultation document concerning traffic calming from Sussex Ring to Laurel Way is to go out to residents, hopefully before Christmas. No humps are involved, and in my view the proposals are not unsightly.

A Woodside Park Reunion

The secretary has received the following message from Mrs Sheila Jelley (née Bradford), formerly of 34 Walmington Fold:

Over the last twelve years we have held four very successful reunions of people born between 1930 and 1942 who spent their childhood in the Woodside Park Garden Suburb. We now live in all parts of the UK, Canada, Australia and Europe and we have all been so glad to come back for a day. Our childhood memories include playing round the brook all day - without our parents worrying! - and the VE day street celebrations, and haymaking in the field opposite the school. We have decided to hold a Service of Thanksgiving - for having spent our childhood in such a lovely place - on Saturday 9th June 2001, followed by a buffet supper at the Woodside Park Club.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending, please contact Mrs Jelley at Oak House, 37 Copperkins Lane, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, HP6 5QF - telephone 01494 725124 or by email sjelley@waitrose.com. Returning visitors may count on a warm welcome from members of this association.

Membership Database

We now maintain a computer membership database. It contains names, addresses and telephone numbers of residents, and notes of subscriptions paid and of other contacts with the association. It contains no *sensitive personal data* (as defined by the Data Protection Act). Members are entitled to view the entries relating to themselves, and those entries will not be divulged to others.

Would you like to help?

The committee depends on help from a small band of willing volunteers. If you could devote a little of your spare time to the work of the association, please contact the secretary. No expertise is needed, although with the loss of Bill Hampsher we should also value the advice of someone familiar with planning procedures.

Mobile phone thefts – a message from Inspector Scott.

To combat this growing trend, I recommend "property marking" with an ultra-violet pen, and keeping a note of the "IMEI" number – which is unique to the set. Should you wish to have your mobile phone or other small item property marked, we are holding our next session on **Monday 20th November** at the Leisure Way Complex between 11am and 1pm. Also, if you are unaware of your "IMEI" number my officers can trace it for you.

Have your say!

Readers' letters will be welcomed

But don't be surprised if yours is shortened or held over. Your letter can be anonymous, provided that you give the editor your name and address.

We want to publish your news

Let the editor know if you have recently arrived and if you would like us to tell your neighbours that you are here; or if you are planning to leave and would like to use *The Woodsider* to say goodbye to your neighbours; or if you want us to include – for example - a wedding or birth announcement.

News from the suburb

The annual **cheese and wine evening** was a great success, thanks mainly to the efforts of Lucille Crook who provided the food, Rita Pollock who did the flowers and the raffle, and Bill Dunn who took care of the drinks. It was relaxed and friendly; an occasion for conversation with the local police, the ward councillors and the neighbours.

The visit of the council's **block cleansing** team was generally well received. Should we congratulate them? Their next visit will be in February or March next year.

Diseases are attacking our cherry, crab apple and hawthorn **ornamental trees**. The council say that it will be some years before all dead trees are replaced – probably with different species.

It is proposed to pump the silt out of the **Darlands Lake**. In the meantime children should not be allowed unsupervised near the lake or its weir.

All of the **graffiti** referred to in our last newsletter has been removed, and Blakes and others have assured us that any further outbreaks will be dealt with promptly. However, there has been a recurrence at Martin's and their HQ have promised to take action.

ウッドサイドパーク自治会は住民
(賃貸を含む)の為に組織です。
自治会の事、ご意見は以下にご連絡下さい。
K.SUZUKI
14 CHANCTONBURY WAY
TEL:020-8445-7353