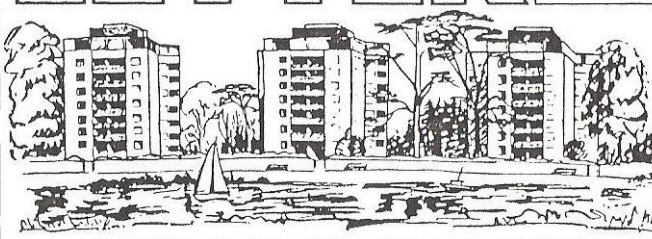


NEWS LETTER

No:
83



THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1989

FAREWELL, HARRY !
FAREWELL, JOAN !

AFTER 14 YEARS our Janitor Harry Webb and his wife Joan have finally left The Lodge to enjoy, we trust, a well-earned retirement in their new flat in Rustington.

We said our official Goodbyes to them after our Annual General Meeting at Tiffins Girls School on the evening of Thursday 26 October, over glasses of wine.

That was after Chairman George Newman had made the formal presentation - a parting gift from everybody of a cheque made out for £1,123, accompanied by a card containing the names of all the contributors.

Instead of the more usual bouquet, with its limited life, Mrs Webb was given porcelain flowers, an ornament it is hoped will be an everlasting reminder of her days in The Albany and all the people there who regarded the Webbs as their good friends.

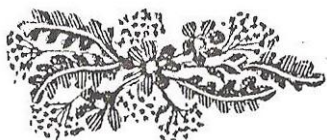
Harry said Thank you, too, to all the residents who had given him their individual good wishes and parting gifts.

THE ALBANY SAILING BASE

The canoeing and sailing activities carried on from the Albany Sailing Base, the council-owned centre next to York Court, make a colourful and interesting contribution to the life and character of this part of Kingston and the river. Sadly, under a recent scheme to concentrate all Kingston's water sports on the newly-bought island of Ravens Ait, the Sailing Base is doomed to be closed down and the site sold to a developer.

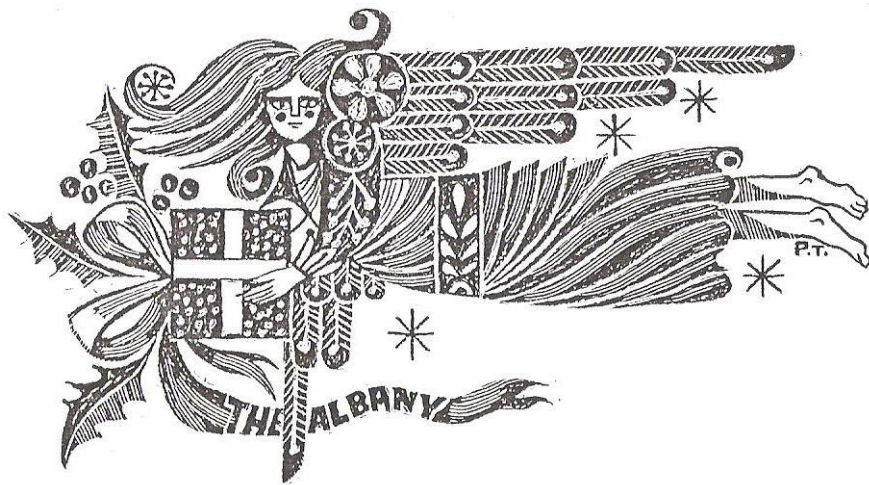
The views of the Albany Association were invited by Guildhall, a copy of the Ravens Ait Officer Working Group Report being sent to us by the Corporate Chief Planner.[Extracts were displayed on our notice boards].Unfortunately we were given only a few days before the "deadline" in which to express our views. The Association has asked the Council to have second thoughts about this part of the scheme, to save the Sailing Base which is currently under-used, and to expand its activities. We are not too optimistic about the outcome, because the Council wants the money from the sale of the site to help to meet the £1.4 million cost of the Island.

However, a copy of our letter has been sent to Mr Peter Taunton, Director of Housing and Leisure Services, who has been given overall responsibility for the Ravens Ait project.



HOSPITAL LEGACY FROM MRS TAFT

A GENEROUS LEGACY of £15,000 has been left to Kingston Hospital's League of Friends by Mrs Fredena Taft who died on 6 May 1987. Mrs Taft lived at 18 Ulster Court for 16 years. The sum, one of the largest bequests the League has ever received, has already been spent on much needed equipment. Six special intensive care unit beds have been bought, also four electronically controlled Pegasus mattresses. Before her health began to deteriorate Mrs Taft used to work for the League.



HERE IS THE CHRISTMAS ANGEL, bearing blessings and gifts for The Albany. What a lovely motif Paul Temple has designed for us. Christmas isn't so far away; already the town and shops are decorated, and it will seem no time at all before our foyers are sparkling with our own Christmas trees again. May it be a happy season for everyone.

* * * * *

Stopcocks. As this operation ends we find that more than half the residents accepted the plumber's offer. In view of some of the more awful plumbing discoveries the Committee decided that in future all stopcocks should be tested and serviced annually, as part of the normal maintenance included in the service charge. We have to remember that if there's something risky in the pipework of one flat it will probably be other, innocent lessees who will have to bear the brunt of the damage.

* * * * *

Well, **Edmund Russell** asked for it! Now he's got it ... the go-ahead from AGM to "refurbish" one lift to demonstrate what can be done at about £330. [That cost, it must be remembered, includes Edmund's own highly expert "free" labour.] As the professionals gave some pretty horrendous quotations it will be interesting to see what Edmund can do. On the other hand, having seen superb examples in the past of what Edmund can do, we think this one's going to be OK

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Diary entries 1990. Garden parties: evening of mid-summer Saturday, 23 June; lunch-hour of Sunday, 19 August (pre late-summer Bank Holiday). In both cases, as usual, weather permitting, of course. Leslie Ambrose proposed that these dates should be fixtures, so that people could make plans accordingly. AGM gave him support.

MORE RETIREMENTS

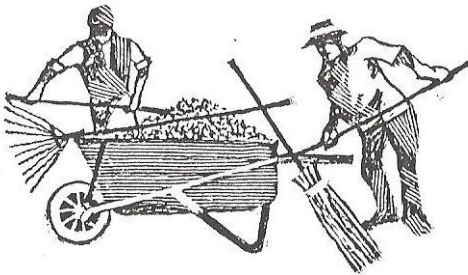
COMMITTEE MEMBER and former secretary **Peter Clarke** made two presentations at the close of this year's A.G.M.: **FRANCES ROBERTS** was thanked for her nineteen years' service as Association Treasurer, and for the countless other tasks she has shouldered in that time. Before we discovered the photo-copier Frances would take to her house near Bognor Regis all Association material such as News Letters and Ballot forms, put it on stencil, and run it off on her Gestetner. Frances was presented with a riverside picture.

MAY BATE was thanked for her five years' work as Association Secretary, a strenuous period which included the purchase of the Freehold of the Albany. She was presented with a delightful ornamental barn owl. This event took May completely by surprise and, uncharacteristically, while trying to say Thank you, was lost for words.

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THE NEW COMMITTEE

BRUNSWICK...	Frank Armstrong	546 8230
	Peter Clarke	546 3276
	Margaret Parkinson	546 4142
	Helen Sandford	546 2643
ULSTER...	Linda Laughead	
	John Reed	549 7073
	Alan Spong	546 3993
YORK.....	Desmond Higgins	541 0954
	Pam Smith	546 1977
	Edmund Russell	546 5713



This News Letter, together with previous issues, could be kept in your new Slide Binder