

# The Trust in action



An architecture student, Amy Butt, spent this summer on a work experience placement with the Trust. "As

well as appreciating the beauty of the Suburb, I was amazed at the amount and variety of work the Trust does." Amy made a photographic record as she shadowed staff, volunteers and trustees around the Suburb.



(Above left) Council members Simon Hurst, Wilfred Court and David Bogush with David Davidson and Jane Blackburn on a visit to an approved new extension in Willifield Way.

(Above) Council member Richard Wakefield with the Trust's tree specialist Tony George, right, the insurers representative and a concerned resident discuss the fate of a poplar accused of undermining neighbouring buildings.

(Left) David Davidson takes time to guide a group from Brooklands School and give them an appreciation of our heritage.



## One year on... (continued)

critical importance of the work of these unpaid volunteers is a measure of the need to increase the professional capacity within the Trust's office in order to make the very best use of its resources. Looking forward, we still have a lot of planning and work to do and we cannot simply rely on residents for help.

## Renewal

After a hundred years, the public fabric of the Suburb is showing signs of age and wear. Roads, walls and ornamental features need renewal or refurbishment. Open and green spaces also need improvement.

The prospective expenditure, which is very large indeed, does not all fall on

the Trust. However, even where the Trust does not bear the cost, it must ensure that a balance is struck between the demands of modern life and the conservation of the Suburb.

To do this we need to create a long-term development plan and to consider how best it can be financed. We intend to make a start on this in the current year.

## Area Characterisation Study

A key tool in this planning is the Area Characterisation Study. The start of this has been delayed by the sheer pressure of day-to-day work on planning approval which soaks up most of all our managerial capacity. Many residents have volunteered their help and we plan to co-ordinate and

put this energy to good use starting this autumn – again with the help of a volunteer.

## The provision of resources

We know that residents want the support of the Trust to conserve and improve the Suburb and the Trust Council is considering how to provide the greater resources that this will need. We need, perhaps, to contemplate the re-endowment of the Trust. This will be no light task and I would welcome any thoughts and suggestions that you may have about this.



Mervyn Mandell, Trust Council Chairman