The Hill Association P.O. Box 658

Scene on the Hill

VOLUME 3; ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2009

Doris Duke Historic Preservation Awards The Hill Association Celebrates A Hat Trick

For the third year in a row a homeowner on the Hill is receiving the Doris Duke Historic Preservation award for preservation excellence in Newport. Congratulations to Clint and Kelly Clemens for their outstanding and heroic work to their home Redwood Hose Company 8 at 118 Prospect Hill.

O r i g i n a l l y planned as a restoration project, the work on Hose Station 8 turned out to be a much larger undertaking. The project was halted when it was determined that the original beach-sand mortar had led the building to be structurally unsound. The Clemens made the remarkable decision to reconstruct the entire building using the original brick siding and replicating its historic exterior appearance. The fire house has been reconstructed using "green" and sustainable materials and technologies, so that it can function efficiently into the future.

R h o d e Island Monthly featured an article on taking the house down and putting it back up brick by brick. Popular Mechanics also is running an article in the June issue on the Firehouse focusing on the Geothermal wellheating and a/c, Solar Panels and the recycled newspaper insulation. Kelly said "Clint and I felt that these articles were important to let homeowners know not only how to commit to Green Resources but to let the Newport community know why the building had to be taken down."

The Clemens would like to express a special thanks to their patient neighbors, Pamela Giroux on Pelham Street as well as David and Evelyn Clemett who endured 2 plus years of straight out construction. They are most grateful also to NRF for storing an entire house of stacked bricks in the neighboring vard, contractor Dwayne Paiva and his team from ESHI Construction, and architect David Hacin of Hacin and Associates, Boston..

The award recipients were chosen by a committee comprising representatives from the City, the Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF), and individuals involved in historic preservation at the local, state and national levels. Pieter Roos, executive director of the Newport Restoration Foundation, noted that, "Our award recipients are not (Continued on page 5)



Board Members

Win Smith, President Alexandra Allardt, VP Bill Farrell, Treasurer Federico Santi, Secretary David Wixted Virginia Baldwin Liz Doucette

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This time of year, moving from Spring into Summer, is always one of my favorites. Not only for all the obvious reasons like the weather, but as much for our Summer Garden party. This year we held it at Pam Giroux's beautiful garden for the second time in two years. What a treat! And, with the summer weather so iffy and "Johnny be late this year", we regret we have decided not to host another late summer evening cruise until next summer.

Y our Hill Association has been, and is currently, active in a number of community efforts that effect our neighborhood and the City at large. The City, after much discussion, is continuing to fund a Historic Planner on staff as it had until last year. Our Board members are supporting this as we hope all of you will as well. In fact we

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

earlier on offered raffle tickets for anyone interested in supporting this effort as a way to personally get involved. Any proceeds from the raffle would go directly to fund educational outreach materials in support of this position and the need to raise public awareness on preservation issues. With the economy the way it is and the resulting effects on our City it seemed like a good way to support what we believe in and show some commitment as well. Newport's future is so dependent on it's past, it seems only logical to protect it as best we can.

We continue to work with other community associations in Newport. One of them is the Alliance for a Livable Newport which extends beyond a particular neighborhood and is involved in issues that are citywide. The Hill Association is on the ALN Board and works with them on issues that have common interests to both Historic Hill and Newport.

As stated in our previous Newsletter we are always seeking support from neighbors like you. Alex Allardt, our volunteer newsletter coordinator, can always use help with our "Scene on the Hill". Newsletter content is key as Alex often reminds us. We are always seeking articles of interest and neighborhood news.

Also, we plan to take advantage of today's basic internet technologies to better communicate with you, our members. This is an effort that could use an assist by anyone with some experience and a willingness to help. So, as I have mentioned before, think not what the Hill Association can do for you but rather what you might consider doing to get more involved with The Hill Association, in support your neighborhood.

See you on the Hill! Win Smith, President





Under the watchful eye of the portrait of Dr. Cotton, the winners of "Newport Needs its Past" Raffle stand for a photograph. Winners are Pat Watters, Win Smith, Kiki McMahan, Hillary and Joe White. Winners not able to be present were Marianne Richardson, Bonnie Watson, and Paige Bronk. Winners and their guest receive a behind the scenes tour of Rough Point followed by a wine and cheese reception in October.

The Hill Association

Historic Hill is part of the Newport National Historic Landmark District, one of five recognized historic districts in Newport.

"The Hill" is bounded by Bellevue Ave. and Kay Street to the east, Bull St. onto Marlborough St. to the north, the Waterfront to the west, to Anne Street and up the hill, past Spring St onto Golden Hill, and back to Memorial and Bellevue to the south.

The Hill Association has been representing neighbors living on Historic Hill for over 30 years. Its elected Board of Directors is

Welcome to New Hill Association Members

John and Diane Pfautz, 60 Johns St

Edward & Michelle McGrath

77 Division Street

James Egan and Lucinda Landon,

152-154 Mill

Bob and Melissa Donahue, 41 Donahue St.

John and Jennifer Caulfield,

136 Prospect Hill

Mark Simmons, 94 Prospect Hill

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Spring Street Spirits

Fine Wine Beer & Spirits 137 Spring Street Newport, Rhode Island a watchdog group protecting the interests of its members within the larger city environments. The Association regularly host events supporting a variety of causes and to build community.

The Association has raised funds for a variety of neighborhood projects over the years including tree planting, the installation of park benches, maintenance of the walking tour signage, the Touro Park flag pole and founders plaque, restoring city monuments and Newport Restoration Foundation Preservation Awards.

Welcome to New Residents on the Hill

Matthew Ward

12 Sherman Street

Martin Cook and Nicole Grisham

61 Church Street

Trisha Struble

70 Church Street

Edward and Michelle McGrath

77 Division Street

James and Molly Mahn 103 John Street

Join the Hill Association

Family Memb	ership	\$	20.00
Individual Membership		\$	10.00
Business Membership		\$	20.00
Advertising	\$15/issue	2 issue	es/\$25

Name: _____

Street Address:_____

E-mail: _____

Committee interest or your ideas:

Send to: Hill Assn. P.O. Box 658, Newport, RI 02840

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MARGARET CLULOW

Long time resident and supporter of the Hill, Margie Clulow died this Spring. She will be greatly missed by Hill residents. Newport Restoration Foundation has welcomed the Vernon House to its collection of historic homes. The following is her obituary.

Margaretta Maganini Clulow, of Newport, Rhode Island, died Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in Providence, RI, after a long ill-ness. She had been a long-time resident of Greenwich, CT, prior to moving to Newport. Margy - as her family and friends knew her was an artist, designer, writer, music-lover, friend, and most importantly, mother. She was known for her ready wit, humor, intelligence and creativity in many fields. A graduate of the Hewitt School in New York, Margy received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale University School of Drama, and graduated L'Ecole D'Art Americaines in Fontainebleau, France with a Certificate in Applied Arts. She went on to design costumes for the New York City Opera, the Santa Fe Opera, the Cincinnati Opera and WNET Television. Her work was highly acclaimed and after retiring from profes-sional work to bring up her children, she worked with several local community theatre groups in Greenwich, Stamford, New Canaan, Norwalk, Wilton, and other places in Fairfield County CT. She came out of retirement in

1999 to design costumes for a production of "Hansel & Gretel" at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. In 1996, she was named to the Connecticut Commission for the Arts. She received her BFA from Charter Oak University in 1998.

In addition to her design work, Margy also directed and acted in several productions of various community theatre groups in the area. She taught speech and drama at Greenwich Academy and costume design at Fairfield University. She was dedicated to promoting an appreciation of the theatre as a whole in her students, wanting them to be aware of all aspects of stage design, acting, direct-ing, stage craft and the like.

Margy was also a businesswoman. For 33 years, she was Chairman of the Board of Kingsbury, Inc., a bearingman-ufacturing firm founded by her grandfather, Dr. Albert Kingsbury in 1912 in North Philadelphia, PA. She served on the Board of Directors of Spencer Turbine in Windsor, CT, and was President of Edition Musicus, Inc., a music publish-ing company begun by her father, Quinto Maganini, until the early eighties. She remained a board member of the company until her death.

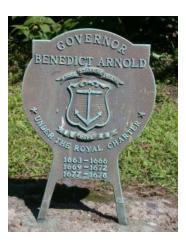
Margy was a member and past president of the Daughters of the Cincinnati, a patriotic organization dedicated to help-ing daughters of military offi-cers achieve a college education. She also was a member of the Society of the Daughters of Holland Dames, the Huguenot Society of America, the National Society of Colonial Dames, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and the Colony Club of New York. She was a member for more then 45 years of Mystery Club where she contributed many written articles, musical moments and dramatic productions.

More recently, Margy had a one woman show at the Newport Art Museum "Fifty Years of Costume Design" where her costume renderings were on dis-play, with much acclaim by that community. Her family home in Newport is the Vernon House, which served as the French Headquarters during the American Revolution.

Margy is survived by her daughter, Evelyn, of Norwalk, CT and was predeceased by her son, Quentin, in 2006.









WHERE ON THE HILL CAN YOU FIND THESE LANDMARKS?

Awards cont.

(Continued from page 1)

only working to preserve important historic architecture, but are also acting as community partners who are helping to improve our city at a vital time in is history."

In addition to that stellar project, The Hill Association will be acknowledged for their neighborhood effort in supporting preservation. Combined with the Hill Board's pledge of \$1000,

The Hill Board's raffle raised over \$2000 making the Hill Association a Doris Duke Gold Circle sponsor in support of neighborhood preservation projects. The funds raised will be put towards educational materials or public workshops that support the Preservation Planner . Raffle winners were drawn on June 30th and won a behind the scenes tour of Rough Point later in the Fall to be led by the Director The tour will include a (Continued on page 11)



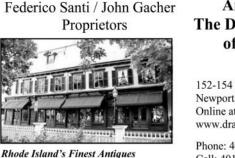
Extensive road, gas and electrical work disrupted access on Mill Street during the month of May as the public utilities coordinated the different phases of work . The work was completed just after Memorial Day weekend with a fresh resurfacing .

Antiques on the Hill By Federico Santi

When my partner and I moved to Newport in 1985 and opened our first antiques shop here, there were 42 different antiques shops, many on The Hill. Our first shop was on Stone Street, which is I believe the shortest street on the Hill. We had moved from Fall River where we had owned a large Greek Revival home once owned by the Durfee Family. About a year after we moved here, we had the opportunity to purchase a 350 sq. ft. commercial shop at 221 Spring Street. While in that shop we also rented other spaces for display including a shop next to The Franklin Spa and a barn on lower Prospect Hill Street. Antiques dealers in the Hill at that time that no longer have a shop here included: George

Fay, Ada Smith, Sarah Niles, Candida Simmons, Barbara Leis, Robie, John Larner, Dominic Schleppinghoff, Carolyn Skelly, and so many more. In 1993 we moved to our present location at 152 Spring Street. Today there are fewer than a dozen antiques shops in Newport and only a very few in the Hill. Over the years, we have welcomed the occasional celebrity in our gallery. Barbara Streisand spent a hour exploring and selecting items to be shipped back to California. Matt Dillon walked in one day in search for lighting for his foyer. Rex Reed wandered through the door off a cruise ship, complaining that he had been talked into the cruise and swore never to go on one ever again. Cy Twombley escorted by his personal biographer toured our upstairs home and the garden. The favorite object he spied was a 1960's telephone in our music room (by an Italian designer; of course). We got him to sign a

retrospect of his work in our library. I spent a delightful hour with David McCullough while he was waiting for an event to start at Trinity. I gave him a collection of 1920's Rochambeau pamphlets as a gift which he said would help him with some future writing project. Trinity events always draw an interesting visitor. One morning while my partner was having coffee in the living room overlooking Trinity he saw the back of a woman exiting a chauffeur driven Rolls and knew immediately that it was Fergie, Duchess of York. She was greeted by passers-by and signed autographs with graciousness before going into Trinity for a wedding. We miss many of the old faces in the Newport antiques business that have gone on to that big auction in the sky and are slowly realizing that we are becoming those old faces that will some day be missed.



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SEAMAN'S INSTITUTE UPDATE

As an established landmark on the Newport waterfront for 90 years, the Seamen's Church Institute at 18 Market Square continues to evolve and change to meet the needs of the sailing and our local community. The Hill Association gives three cheers to the wonderful work of the staff under the leadership of Jack Grant.

During the spring semester, students from Johnson & Wales Business College worked with Seamen's on a marketing study for the Aloha Café. The result was a comprehensive report suggesting a variety of strategies to better promote the restaurant to visitors and local residents. The primary recommendation was to work on "branding" the Aloha Café and the students worked with Arsenal Design on Bellevue Avenue to create a new and more definitive logo for the Café. Over the next several months, this new logo will become more visible and hopefully identified with the "good food at good prices" associated with the Aloha Café. In addition, patrons will be reminded

that in addition to the great eats and service, their support of the Café contributes to helping the Seamen's Church Institute mission to provide a "safe haven to men and women of the sea" as well as to individuals and families from Newport County with compassionate assistance for basic daily needs.

The Aloha Café's menu has been updated and an email blast every Friday presents the Café's weekly soup and luncheon specials for the coming week as well as being posted on the website <u>www.seamensnewport.org</u>. If you would like to receive the weekly specials "blast", just provide your email address at <u>seamensnew-</u> <u>port@gmail.com</u>

Phase II of the *History with a Heart* Capital Campaign has less than \$275,000 to raise to reach a goal of \$1,265,000 by the end of this year. This ambitious effort will allow handicap access to all levels of the building, infrastructure upgrades, and renovations of the rooms and restrooms on the fourth floor. Phase I of the Capital Campaign, which has already been completed, raised just over \$600,000 to accommodate the new Rhode Island fire code requirements as well as to improve the appearance and usefulness of the Mariner's Lounge and Henry H. Anderson, Jr. Library for Mariners.

Sailors for the Sea, a new tenant at Seamen's, is a non -profit organization that educates and empowers the boating community to protect and restore our oceans and coastal waters through a series of projects and programs. Visit their website at <u>www.sailorsforthesea.org</u> for more information on this ocean conservation effort.

The successful "Sundays at Seamen's Music Series" program was initiated early this year to celebrate SCI's 90 years of service with a monthly music concert. On September 13, with the performer(s) still to be announced, audience members will be asked to bring a new or gently used children's book, suitable for grades K-6, for collection to support a project coordinated by Hands Across The Sea for school children on

the island of Dominica in the Caribbean. The Harmony Heritage women's' A Cappella chorus, will perform on October 11th, and the final concert by Peter Warburton of Newport on November 8th will include a collection of non-perishable food items for the Martin Luther King Food Pantry.If you have never been into Seamen's Church Institute, you are enthusiastically encouraged to stop by to enjoy the lovely Memorial Garden, have a quiet moment of contemplation in the Chapel of the Sea, sit and relax with any of the interesting maritime books or magazines in the Henry H. Anderson Jr. Library for Mariners, or, of course, visit the Aloha Café for a delightful breakfast (served till closing at 2:30) or lunch. The historic building is open all day, 365 days a year.









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www.almondyinn.com

Eggs Almondy

The Inn's own variation on Eggs Benedict: Poached Eggs over Herbed Cornbread and Chorizo Sausage, topped with traditional Hollandaise Sauce.

Herbed Corn Bread	
1 cup all-purpose flour	2 table spoons sugar
2/3 cup corn flour	¹ / ₂ teaspoon crushed rosemary
1/3 cup softened butter	½ teaspoon rubbed sage
1 table spoon baking powder	2 eggs
½ teaspoon salt	2/3 cup milk
Hollandaise Sauce	
3 egg yokes	½ teaspoon salt
1 tbl spoon red wine vinegar	Pepper to taste
2 tbl spoons Half & Half	Several drops of lemon juice
1 teaspoon dried tarragon leaves	8 tbl spoons cold butter, sliced
¹ ⁄4 teaspoon onion powder	Dash of Cayenne

Sausage: Heat and brown Portuguese ground Chorizo sausage in a sauté pan.

Poached Eggs: In a slightly greased sauté pan, simmer 2" of water with a drop of vinegar. Break 2 eggs per person

To Serve:

Place 2 slices of Herbed Cornbread on a plate. Carefully arrange a layer of sausage meat on top of each slice. Place one poached egg on each slice and top with Hollandaise Sauce. Garnish with a dash of cayenne pepper.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY



Left to right, Graeme Smith, Stan Glover, Christine Landon and Clint Clemens converse about Chris's presentation on the Channing Steeple restoration project. The project is funding through Save America's Treasurers, van Beuren Charitable Foundation, the Aletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust, the Prince Charitable Trusts and parish contributions. The project is expected to be close to

completion by November.



Left to right, George Hauerstein, Rico Santi, Joan Hauerstein, John Gacher enjoy the evening and Pamela Giroux's garden in bloom



Left to right, Bill Farrell, Diane Pfautz, Stan Glover, Aaron Jaspar, Kate Leonard, Michelle Drum and Charles Weishar are enjoying the food and catching up on old friendships. Overlooking the Channing Church project and the Clemens building preservation project, preservation was a popular evening topic.



Kiki McMahan from Mary Street, and Herber Valkenberg from the Almondy Inn on Prospect Street are listening to Pieter Roos' presentation on the state of the historic preservation position in the City budget as the kick off for the Hill's "Protecting the

Neighborhood clean up day







Community youth groups, left and center left, provided needed hands for the Clean Up Day/ They were rewarded in by Councilor Kate Leonard, above, with a City proclamation recognizing their community service.

Octob19, 2008, a cloudy cool Fall day, youth and residents from the neighborhood came together to build community pride and spruce up areas throughout the Hill. There was hot cider throughout the day, and a hot dog and hamburger grill lunch on Division Street for all participants. The program many sponsors included the Aquidneck Island Land Trust and the Rotary Club of Newport. T-shirts were provided by Ocean State Job lot. Home Depot Middletown provided yard waste bags, and Newport Restoration Foundation provided cleaning supplies, food and drinks. Newport Historical Society gave a year's membership to all youth participants and their families.



Betty Ann Morris, above, hosts an art exhibit retrospective of Lois Shapleigh's work during the Clean Up Day event.



Ruth Taylor, Director of the Newport Historical Society speaks with Win Smith, President of the Hill Assn. and Paul Steinbrenner, President of the Rotary Club of Newport during the Clean Up Day event

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NEWPORT ART MUSEUM EXHIBITION FOR HILL PHOTOGRAPHER VISTA REDUX: PHOTOGRAPHS, 1969, BY FEDERICO SANTI

Youth, idealism, poverty and hope - all are evident in Federico Santi's photographs documenting his time in South Florida with Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) forty years ago. "VISTA Redux: Photographs, 1969, by Federico Santi," opening at the Newport Art Museum in Newport, Rhode Island on August 29, recalls the volunteers, migrant laborers and their families, and at the same time captures a feeling for the late 1960s' idealism and youth culture. Redux" "VISTA runs through October, 25. 2009. The Museum will host a preview reception for its late summer shows on Friday, August 28 from 5 - 7 pm. The reception is free for Newport Art Museum members; 10 for non -members. RSVP (401) 848-8200 x 104.

"VISTA Redux" features about three dozen large format images and many more shown in smaller proof format. Santi used two cameras for his projects: a Leica M3 and a Hasselblad. He shot in black and white, explaining, "I really saw everything in black and white at that time in my life." Asked whether he intended a double entendre, Santi pauses and says, "It's an artistic statement but I can see that it could be a comment on youthful idealism. (Santi was 23 years old in 1969.)

Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, Ameri-Corps VISTA is a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Santi describes his fellow VISTA volunteers as "free-thinkers. It was the late 1960s and it was all about free love, rock music, the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. I'm sure many of them thought of themselves as revolutionaries of a sort."

Santi paints a vivid picture of himself at that time. "My standard attire was an air force jumpsuit. I had long blonde hair and goldrimmed glasses. I wore black army boots with purple stars glued all over them. I looked like a freak!"

Images of the volunteers, the people they served and the notorious migrant labor camps in South Florida populate the gallery walls in "VISTA Redux." A projected slide show of images runs continuously during



Peace Now, 1969, Digital print from scanned negative, 11 X14

the show and Santi has added a soundtrack of pop music from the 1960s.

Despite their poverty and appalling living conditions, many of the migrant workers in Santi's images turn smiling faces towards the camera. The children especially, seem imbued with optimism or at least, unconcern about their circumstances. There is hope here and that strikes a familiar chord today. Federico Santi has lived in Newport for 25 years and co-owns with his life partner, John Gacher, "The Drawing Room Antiques" on Spring Street. He studied photography at Florida State University and his work has been featured in photo technique books and numerous regional trade publications. Santi co-authored or contributed to several books including Art Nouveau Ironwork of Austria Hungary, Zsolnay Ceramics: Collecting a Culture, and Newport Mansions: Postcards of the Gilded Age.



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NEW ART GALLERY IN NEWPORT'S HISTORIC HILL DISTRICT

The latest addition to Newport's local art scene, is the new collaborative art gallery at 134 Spring Street, in the quaint Historic Hill neighborhood of downtown Newport: **"Harbor Fine Art".** Proprietor and renowned local artist Betty Ann Morris, has transformed the corner storefront of her 1700's building into a spectacular showcase for local artists.

Joining forces with her in this venture are fellow painters John MacGowan, Mark Fernandez, Jonathan McPhillips, and Edward Fay. "We wanted to create a space to present what some of Newport's best artists have to offer, most of our contemporary oil paintings reflect both the history, feel and charm of our city" says Betty Ann. The gallery also

gives the opportunity for other art forms to be displayed, such as the innovative stained glass works by Laura Fernandez. Conveniently located in downtown Newport, on historic Spring Street with neighboring Antique Shops and Trinity Church, **Harbor Fine Art** is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm, with extended Summer hours. The gallery is also a working Studio where several of the artists create their work. Artwork can also be viewed on the galleries website: www.harborfineart.com

The new Harbor Fine Arts at the corner of Spring and Church Streets is a collaborative of creative spirits. Stop in and visit any day.



Preservation awards cont.

(Continued from page 5)

wine and cheese gathering for the winners and their guest. Be sure to find a picture of the winners elsewhere in the newsletter.

Both the Ochre Point/Bellevue Avenue Association and The Point Association also pledged funds to support of the historic planner position. This broad demonstration of the neighborhood associations and the number of individuals who were willing to show support for the position with funds was influential in bringing the Council to a unanimous vote on June 10th in support of keeping the position in the city's budget.

Congratulations to Richard Long a long time Hill resident and preservation architect for the use of his architectural drawing of the original stair spandrel of the Job Townsend House as the cover art for the invitation. Be sure to look for it on the Preservation Awards invitation.

The third annual Doris Duke Awards ceremony will be held at Rough Point Friday, September 18th. The awards highlight preservation excellence in Newport. All proceeds from the award event benefit the Doris Duke Fund for Historic Preservation and are distributed through community grants.

Past preservation award recipients on the Hill include Federico Santi at 152 Spring Street, Nicolas Sheetz at 40 Division Street, and Alexandra Allardt at 73 Division Street.



The brick walls at Redwood Hose Station 8 crumbled in your hand and provided no structural integrity. One wall simply fell over. Every brick was dismantled by hand and individually cleaned in preparation for rebuilding the walls again.

THE HILL ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 658 Newport, RI 02840

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND IDEAS

Animal Patrol—The Mouse Interview



I'd like to thank new neighbor Ed McGrath for reading my last column and for setting up the interview with a mouse.

Ed was kind enough to get the contractors to do some major work on this new house and the mice in the walls headed across the yard and through the fence seeking a new home.

I have to say that the speed of the exodus made it pretty hard to get any of them to stop long enough to answer my questions and I had to resort to catching a few and bringing them in to try and interview them.

Unfortunately this seemed to scare them quite a lot though I was very gentle when I picked them up. They would sit very still and quiet. I guess they were hoping I would not notice as they made a dash for the wall, or a curtain to climb, or a crack in the floorboards which they seem to excel at wriggling through.

Sadly I also have to report that more than a few simply stopped moving, wouldn't answer any questions and indeed behaved in a very cold and stiff manner towards me. So it is hard to know quite what to think as I never got a sensible answer out of one of them except for the odd "Squeek!"

Now I am back to watching the birdies in the trees and bushes as they teach the fledglings how to fly. I'm amazed how good at flying they are the very first time they try it - I've not really managed to get too close to any of them to interview either.

I've figured out part of the problem is the bright red bird in the tree opposite makes a lot of noise whenever I am on the block - and that seems to tell the others to stay high. There is also a bright blue and white bird who will fly over and bop me or flutter all over me -



while staying just out of reach - if I show too great an interest in his chicks. It's not like I mean any harm. I just want to look at them.....

PS—Thanks to Stacie Mills for Thanksgiving dinner....

Also Rico and John for the "Scotch Eggs".

I might see some of you on the block if it stops raining.

Later....