

Suburb



News



Youth Music Centre to perform at St Jude's, see back page



"There's another Summer Picnic this year? Wow!" Details back page

Mayor of Barnet, Cllr David Longstaff attends Proms launch, p5



RA AGM inaugurates the era of secret ballots



The Residents Association's 105th AGM was held on March 27 at Henrietta Barnet School Hall and, fortunately, was a more agreeable evening than last year for those present. The Chairman, David Lewis, welcomed everyone and the usual early business of welcomes, apologies and approvals of minutes, reports and accounts was swiftly dealt with.

Asked about the payment in the accounts to Fellowship House, the Chairman explained that many RA members donated to the charity at the same time as paying their RA subscriptions, and the RA passed the money on.

The meeting then moved on to the election of RA officers and council members. This year there was to be a secret ballot held using ballot papers distributed to member households before the meeting. David Lewis was standing again for the chairmanship, and was being challenged, as he was last year, by Brian Ingram.

The RA Secretary, Gary Shaw, took the chair while the two candidates gave a brief statement of their intentions and were then open to questions. Brian Ingram spoke first and commented

on last year's election as having been chaotic, and said the RA hadn't changed.

He was concerned by the lack of action by Transport for London on safety on Falloeden Way. He mentioned his track record with the Oakwood Road playground and the Northway Rose Gardens. When questioned he said he wanted change, short meetings and more young people involved.

David Lewis read the statement he had prepared and distributed. He too was concerned about the traffic situation in The Market Place and on Falloeden Way. He mentioned the new working groups which had been formed on Bute Mews and Noise Abatement, and the public meeting (see page 2) held on the proposed housing development in Bute Mews.

The nominees for election to be officers or council members were then able to present themselves and say a few words. Those who were to be new members of council were looking forward to having the opportunity to help make the RA and the Suburb better.

The meeting moved on to the rest of the agenda while the ballot papers were being counted and after re-appointing Paul Hartley as the Honorary Accountant, the meeting moved to AOB in the form of general discussion.

Members raised a number of matters, many of them familiar concerns. What to do about overgrown trees and hedges without neighbourly disputes escalating was the first topic. There are guidelines, which are frequently ignored, and in extreme cases Barnet will take action; Claire Calman of the Trust offered to talk to the questioner afterwards.

There was concern about crime and the police presence on the Suburb. Jeremy Hershkorn, a member of RA Council, related his experience of spending a day with the police (see page 3 SN128 Autumn 2016) covering the Suburb, and how they do the best they can with the resources they have. We were reminded the police regularly hold open meetings in the Suburb Library.

A resident of Erskine Hill complained of "the abysmal state

of the roads", which clearly struck a chord with the audience. Cllr John Marshall recommended always providing photographic evidence, while Emma Howard of the RA's Roads and Traffic committee said she would be writing on the subject of potholes in Suburb News (see page 6).

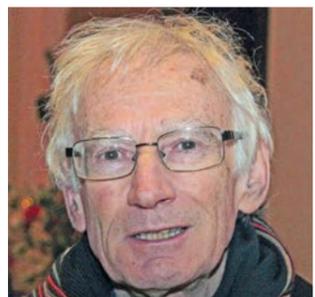
There was also great concern about traffic and safety in The Market Place and Falloeden Way with Saul Zadka being particularly vocal and predicting, "a tragedy in the next few days". The RA will be holding a public meeting on this subject including the safety of pedestrian crossings once TfL and the police had fully investigated the recent fatal accident.

There was a moment to remember the very recent death of Charles Gale, an irreplaceable member of RA Council and quite a few committees, and friend of many - who we remember on page 2 of this issue.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments and to await the result of the count, which after some delay was announced, with David Lewis retaining the chairmanship by 55 votes to 13 cast for Brian Ingram.

Jeremy Hershkorn, Jonathan Seres, Gary Shaw and Ann Spencer were re-elected to the council, while Adrain Hodgson, Emma Howard, and Peter Spaul became members for the first time.

TERRY BROOKS



David Lewis (above) RA chairman and Brian Ingram (below) contestant.



"Be careful, be very careful..." Protective instincts on display at last year's RA Summer Picnic. Details of this year's Summer Picnic on back page.

Theatre on the Suburb

Once there was the Play and Pageant Union, which joined with the Speedwell Players to become the Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society, which in the early 90s was reborn as the Garden Suburb Theatre.

GST is the Suburb's very own drama group and has been performing on the Suburb - under those various names - for over a century. It is still going strong

today with around 200 members, and a programme which includes five full productions a year. Also there are a number of rehearsed and unrehearsed readings just for members, to give them further opportunities to act, direct and learn backstage skills.

GST currently has a busy few months ahead. In May, it is participating in the Barnet and

(continued on page 3)



Last year's summer production in Little Oak Wood of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

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No obligation, no fuss, just good old fashioned service.



Tom Roberts

An Australian Artist on the Suburb by Lucrezia Walker

An illustrated presentation of the life of Australian artist Tom Roberts who lived in Hampstead Garden Suburb with his wife Lillie from 1909 until his return to Australia in 1923.

3:30pm Sunday 21 May 2017

Friends Meeting House, 17 North Square

Tea and biscuits at 4:30pm



No entry charge but a £5 donation would be welcome.

This is a popular annual event organised by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association in memory of Michael Rowley.

www.hgs.org.uk

Charles Gale 1935-2017



MICHAEL JACOBS

A TRIBUTE

Charles's car reminds me of

I have known Charles for about six years, when he re-joined the RA Council, which he had left several years earlier. Immediately, I became aware that there was a character so individual that he was impossible to ignore.

This rather quirky gentleman with the distinctively resonant voice asked me whether he could join the Events Committee and I accepted his offer with alacrity. His presence livened up our somewhat earnest committee meetings with amusing and witty remarks. He never failed to see the funny side of things and expressed himself cogently in his matchless, stentorian voice. He brought humour as well as humanity to the committee table, plus a great deal of wisdom. When he sent apologies for absence, the meetings felt dull by comparison.

He spoke in sentences and was the essence of clarity. Knowing my difficulties with deafness, he would preface his remarks by asking whether I could hear him. Of course, I could hardly fail to discern his crisp and crystalline tones, since his diction was peerless.

Charles was just a tower of strength on the RA Events Committee, having worked hard and successfully to obtain sponsorship over the years. He managed to raise large sums of money to underwrite events like the Summer Picnic and Fireworks, and the RA owes him a big debt of gratitude.

There was far, far more to Charles than his light-hearted facetiousness. He was the epitome of kindness and he always had concerns for the welfare of his fellows. Altruism was his chief attribute: for example, since I myself stopped driving, Charles regularly gave me a lift to meetings in his car. Even when he was not attending the function himself, he would offer to leave his warm home on a dark evening just to drop me at my destination. Not many people would do that, such was the utter selflessness and kind-heartedness of the man.

one of the eccentricities contributing to his endearing personality. He had a complete lack of a sense of direction. Yes, he could keep to well-worn routes and find his way to Waitrose or Fellowship House. But away from landmarks familiar to him, he was quite lost and at the mercy of his passengers. Maps to Charles were pieces of paper containing indecipherable hieroglyphics: they were irrelevancies to him and had no place in his daily life. As for SatNavs...!

Similarly, he had no understanding of the world of computers and his feeble attempts to relate to them were abysmal. He did receive emails on his almost unemployed computer, but he never looked at them. However, he managed to get by splendidly without referring to them.

Because his powers of expression were so good, he was a superb salesman; he would visit every single shop in the Market Place and Temple Fortune and talk to the owners about the benefits of the RA's Discount Scheme. Shopkeepers could not resist his charm and powers of persuasion and they would agree to participate in the programme, in numbers unheard of before Charles led his campaign. His persuasive skills also encouraged them to display RA publicity in their shop windows and, due to the excellent relations he had with Waitrose and others, they went out of their way to supply the Events Committee with provisions at advantageous rates.

Charles's last months of illness were distressing for him and all his family and friends who saw him. He continued to look forward in a positive manner and never once did I hear a word of complaint. He even hosted an Events Committee meeting in his home, during which he added his own recommendations to the debate. May I pay an especial tribute to his beloved sister Angela and

his devoted carer Blessing, who gave him such wonderful care and support.

I know that all of us will mourn the loss of this dear, eccentric, kindly, humorous and much-loved personality. Through his ever-cheerful demeanour and selfless example, he succeeded brilliantly in illuminating our

Reading David's tribute to Charles led me to remember one occasion when Charles arrived late for a meeting of the Publications Committee and demonstrated what David called his 'lack of sense of direction'.

A EULOGY

Uncle Charlie had no children (that I know of!), but did have lots of pets. Spaniels, cats and, more recently, miniature Schnauzers. He leaves behind Noodles, who always doted on Charles and never left his side.

Things were not always straightforward where Charles was concerned: he was drafted into National Service, but it didn't last long: he complained so much about the scratchy clothes he had to wear, they let him out early.

In his 20's he had a sports car, which he would drive to the only real job he ever had, which was teaching English to foreign students. As he was always late for work, he would drive down Southway from the top to the bottom with his hand on the horn, to warn people that he was coming, speeding past several Give Way junctions on the way. One day a police car was waiting for him. He was arrested and banned from driving for 2 years, which he was not pleased about, but also made the front page of the local paper, which he was pleased about.

Charlie helped my brother with his English Literature O-Level, tutoring him in *The Merchant of Venice*. He also played Scrabble very strictly, memorising all the unusual words that he was allowed to use.

He was somewhat eccentric: whenever my brother and I visited as children, Charles would be wearing his dressing gown all day, often playing Scrabble with his mother, Carmel, who he called 'Bunky'. He would then leave the house late at night to play cards or chess, which sounded exciting. When my son was little, my mother would tell him 'naughty uncle Charlie' stories. My favourite story was when he got bored with his violin lessons he sawed the violin open to see what it was inside that made the noise.

As a family we would go on holiday together. Charles would usually have to change rooms a few times before he could settle down and enjoy himself. But he was extremely charming, and

lives. Although we will miss him very much indeed, Charles would not want us to be sad. There are other ways of showing how much he meant to us: as he spread so much happiness, what could be more fitting than remembering his inspiring life with a grateful smile!

DAVID LITTAUR

He apologised profusely for being late and added, with a wonderful insouciance, that he had got lost on the way to my house in Brim Hill from his in Southway. A lovely memory of a lovely man.

Editor

would make friends with all the hotel staff so that he would be the centre of attention and would get special treatment.

Even in his 70's he still had a sense of adventure, using a motor scooter to ride around everywhere, and falling off at one point and breaking his ankle. His sense of adventure continued even after he got ill: he tried out a few mobility scooters, but never actually found one that he liked. There is a great photograph of him test-driving one in the street still wearing his dressing gown.

His home was always lively. Rather than live on his own, Charles had a series of lodgers, and more recently some of them were housekeepers, and all of them were young, attractive and female. He looked after his lodgers and housekeepers as if they were his children, providing advice and guidance, and was always there should they need a shoulder to cry on.

One of his pastimes was chess, which he played even better than Scrabble, and he would often challenge me to a game. To make it fair for me, he would start with no queen, and a few other pieces missing. I think I only beat him once, when he started the game with hardly any pieces! His favourite chess venue was a café called *The Prompt Corner*. Parking was difficult in the area, but that didn't stop him from parking nearby. I remember once my grandfather, Reuben, showing me a drawer of what looked like hundreds of letters relating to unpaid parking tickets, each one of which he had contested on Charlie's behalf.

Most of all, Charles was a paternal figure for me, having lost my own father at a young age. He wasn't intrusive into my life, but would gently steer me in the right direction when he felt it necessary.

Charles died on 10 March, after a long illness, which he refused to let affect him, staying in control of all his affairs until the end, and doing the Guardian cryptic crossword every week with his sister, Angela.

TOM GREENFIELD

Bute Mews planning

The Residents Association hosted a public meeting at the HGS Synagogue's Landy Gallery for residents and business owners to obtain information and express views about the recent planning application for the private road in the Suburb called Bute Mews. This road, currently used as a service road, runs between Kingsley Way and Northway behind shops and flats in the Market Place.

The planning application is for six 3-bedroom houses to be built in place of blocks of garages, which are to be demolished. Links to the planning documents are given at the end of this article.

The meeting was chaired by Peter McCluskie, Chairman of the RA's Conservation & Amenities Committee, and was attended by about 45 people. The main speaker was Graham Robinson, Planning Manager, Barnet Council. Councillors John Marshall and Rohit Grover also attended as did Richard Wiseman, Chairman of the HGS Trust. The developers, Tenorpace Properties Ltd were invited but did not attend and were not represented.

There was a lively question and answer session with Mr Robinson, who was well briefed, dealing with a large number of diverse issues including:

- the density of the development
- the appearance of the proposed terrace of houses

- larger dormer windows overlooking the park (Northway Gardens East)
- garden gates leading directly into the park
- loss of trees and other vegetation
- unrealistic landscape proposals
- possible narrowing of the service road
- parking for businesses and their customers
- future maintenance issues
- disruption during building work, including to traffic in the already congested roads abutting Bute Mews

It was not all negative, however, and some attendees welcomed the potential improvement of an area which had become notorious for fly-tipping, rodent-infestation and crime.

Mr Wiseman confirmed that the Trust's consultation ended on March 8. Mr Robinson said that Barnet Council's consultation would continue until the planning meeting in May. Mr McCluskie encouraged residents to send in their comments to the Trust and Barnet Council.

The meeting concluded with a spontaneous round of applause for Mr Robinson. Mr McCluskie thanked the synagogue and its staff for use of the Landy Gallery.

The Bute Mews planning documents can be viewed at www.hgstrust.org/butemews.shtml and www.tinyurl.com/j2mp8xb.



Letter to the editor

Gary Shaw of the RA's Noise Abatement Working Group passed on this letter to Suburb News for publication:

NW11

Dear Mr Shaw, Re: Barnet, Gardeners and Noise The other day one of the Barnet tree men rang on my door to tell me that they would be doing some tree shredding. Apparently they are required to inform neighbours by law because of the noise.

I am afraid that I did not think to pursue this. But I pass on the information in case the same law can be used against noisy gardeners.

With regard to the red card scheme, it certainly seems to be having an effect. As I think I have already told you, gardeners seem much more wary of having several machines going at the same time and I have also started to see many more gardeners with brooms. Perhaps one could congratulate these gardeners in the Suburb News so that they get a little free advertising. It might also give gardeners who say it takes much longer to sweep (I am yet to be convinced) something to think about.

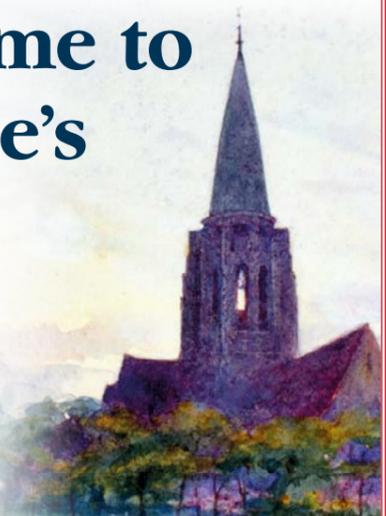
*Yours,
Isabelle Ficker*

Welcome to St Jude's

Sundays:

8am
Said Eucharist
10.30am
Sung Eucharist

All Welcome



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www.stjudeonthehill.com



Many of you will be sad to hear that long-time Suburb resident Leonie Stephen died at home in Willifield Way a couple of weeks ago after a long illness. Suburb News will carry a full appreciation of her life in our next issue, but readers in the meantime might like to refresh their memories of Leonie by reading our conversation with her on page 6 of Issue 124 in Autumn 2015.

G Cohen ANTIQUÉ SILVER

We wish to purchase items of silver in any condition. As a long standing resident of the Suburb, Gideon Cohen is happy to view your silverware at home and will make an offer to purchase, free of any obligation.

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Suburb News goes to The Market Place

Dolce Napoli – a taste of Italy

The Market Place has a new Italian café providing traditional Italian food in its midst. Luca Onorati, who took proprietorship of the café recently, is the new owner. He told me his story whilst serving my husband and me tea and a delicious homemade vegetarian pie.

Luca has now completely refurbished the café situated on the north side opposite the Heathfield Medical Centre, and it has a cosy atmosphere with Italian music softly playing in the background. "I am committed to bringing a taste of southern and central Italian food to the Suburb," he explains.

At Dolce Napoli authentic Italian fare is served alongside some traditional English food. All the food is home made, and Luca's mother does the main part of the cooking, which is cooked fresh every day; this is a real family business.

There is a wide variety of gorgeous cakes, which are all home-produced and can be made to order as well. The café can also cater for various dietary needs, including vegetarian and eggless cakes, along with dairy- and gluten-free produce.

A take-away service is also available, and discounts are given to staff in local businesses. There is even a loyalty card for coffee drinkers.

Something unique that Luca offers is beautifully homemade Easter Eggs. A present is inserted inside the egg, this is then sealed and can be offered as a



gift. There is also another added bonus to local people who might want to practise their Italian or develop their language skill whilst enjoying their visit to the café.

It is open on Monday to Friday from 6am to 5pm, on Saturday from 7am to 5pm and even on Sunday from 9am to 5pm. The early morning start on weekdays is especially good

for early travellers to work, who want to start with a hearty breakfast at the café, before catching the bus nearby.

You can discover all about this very welcome addition to The Market Place at their comprehensive website at www.dolce-napoli.co.uk, or pay them a visit on Facebook www.facebook.com/DolceNapoliUK/.

DAPHNE BERKOVIC

U3A – the sheer pleasure of discovery

On Thursday March 2 over 300 people packed into St Jude's to hear Ian McCannan from The Third Age Trust explain the concept of U3A. Ian was surprised by the number of people who had attended to express their interest.

The purpose of the U3A is for retired and semi-retired people to come together to learn, not for qualifications, but for its own reward – the sheer pleasure of discovery. Ian explained that there were no outside lecturers employed and that we would have to form our own interest groups and that many meetings would be held in our own homes. There are no restrictions on age or interests, and suggestions for

groups put forward at the meeting included bridge, chess, dance, lawn bowls, walking, poetry, patchwork and quilting.

Attendees were given forms to complete giving their details and specific interests they would like to see included. The next step was to form a steering committee and all interested persons were asked to attend an inaugural meeting at Fellowship House on March 16 when the committee was subsequently formed with 14 members.

Our group will be known as HGS U3A. We now have over 30 interest groups for you to join and the first groups will meet in June. Details will be available at our first open meeting on

Thursday, May 18 from 10 am to 1pm at HGS Free Church Central Square NW11 7AG. Please come along and sign up.

We are still seeking people who are willing to host small groups covering a subject they have knowledge of and wish to share with others by forming a group. If you would like to take on this role and form a small group, please could you send full details to groups@hgsu3a.uk.

You will be able to register your interest in joining a group at the May 18 meeting and meet your group leader. You can get more information on how the U3A works and the groups set up so far at www.hgsu3a.uk.

MICHAEL FRANKLIN



Miranda and Rosalind in Pets' Corner

Miranda and Rosalind's owners are happy that they live a five minute walk away from the wonderful Medivet practice in The Market Place. That's because for the first year of their lives each of them spent a great deal of time there. Life has improved since then – the cats are now two and a half – but it was tough and go there for a while.

The sisters came to live in Hampstead Garden Suburb at eight weeks. Both were lively, happy and friendly, but Miranda's heartbeat seemed awfully fast and she was very clumsy – clumsier than the usual kittenish awkwardness.

It was when Miranda was spayed that disaster happened. She experienced major seizures the evening after her op and we rushed her over to Medivet. They knew something very serious was going on, so she spent the next couple of days at Medivet Hendon before being transferred to Queen Mother Hospital for Animals.

The diagnosis was grim – a liver shunt, which meant that her liver could not function properly. One of the common symptoms is temporary blindness and she was blind when she returned home. A wonderful person from the HGS chatline lent us a large pet cage so we could care for Miranda.

Blindness in a pet is heartbreaking, especially for one so young, but fortunately she started to see again. She had major surgery at nine months and constant, loving care from

Drs Jeremy, John and Sarah at Medivet (as well as from the lovely staff there). The surgery was only partially successful, but we're managing with a special diet and daily medication.

And what about Rosalind? One day, shortly after Miranda's op, she came home in desperate straights dragging her gorgeous fluffy tail on the ground. Off she, too, went to Medivet and was immediately put on antibiotics. Despite follow-up visits every three days, she developed a large abscess and her tail had to be amputated. She has coped quite well with the loss.

Both cats are a bit more skittish than when they were little – and who can blame them? – but they love to hang around with us and get lots of petting – when they feel like it.

Sometimes I wonder if we own them or they own us.

We've discovered the new world of high technology cat products – since they cannot eat each other's food we've bought separate feeders that respond to their neck chips and only open for the designated cat. The cat flap is also chip sensitive and neither cat is allowed out after dark (a boon for us and also for the local wildlife – although neither cat seems particularly adept at hunting).

So fingers crossed that Rosalind and Miranda will be less 'frequent flyers' at Medivet – when we were last there we all marvelled that it had been a whole year since the last visit and that this visit was simply for routine check-ups and jabs.

TINA ISAACS KNOX



Garden Suburb Theatre

(continued from front page)

District Drama Festival with a production of Alan Ayckbourn's topical comedy, Neighbourhood Watch. The play tells of the Bluebell Hill Development, a wonderful place to live until an innocent mistake leads the residents to take extreme measures in order to protect themselves. With some blissful comic moments, love at first sight, clandestine affairs, medieval torture devices and gnomes, there really is something for everyone. The play will be performed from 11-13 May at The Bull Theatre in Barnet. Don't miss it!

From 14-16 and 19-22 July, the society will be back in the Suburb to perform in the open

air theatre in Little Oak Wood, between Addison Way and Denman Drive. This year, they are performing an adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel, Pride and Prejudice. The familiar story of the proud Mr Darcy and the prejudiced Elizabeth Bennet becomes the focus of this witty drama of manners, money, marriage and love and should make for a wonderful few hours' entertainment in the wood's magical setting.

In the autumn, Garden Suburb Theatre will be taking their usual couple of slots Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate, with Power by Nick Dear and The Flint Street

Nativity by Tim Firth. If you'd like to join the group on stage, then the next audition is for Power and takes place on Sunday 23 July.

Of course, you don't just have to act – GST welcomes anyone who would like to get involved backstage or front of house. Membership fees are very reasonable and include a free ticket to all performances. Friends' membership is good value for those who would just like to watch.

To find out more about the society's productions and activities, including how to join, see their website, www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

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**GREGORY ABRAMS
DAVIDSON
SOLICITORS**

Saying it with flowers

Last autumn Suburb poet, Peter Phillips, was involved in a collaboration with the composer David Loxley-Blount who, inspired by a series of about thirty poems entitled 'Saying it with Flowers' by Peter, wrote four pieces for organ and solo instruments.

'Saying it with Flowers' imagines the strange life of flowers, their human dimension and the poet's connection with them. The four poems featured in the concerts imagine the flowers in a setting of fear and danger.

Each piece was written for and named after one of four poems, and performed over a period of three weeks in October 2016 at

St Lawrence Jewry in Guildhall Yard in the City. David Loxley-Blount is no stranger to the Suburb and has contributed to the Proms at St Jude's lunchtime concerts, which are sponsored by the Residents Association, while excerpts of choral works performed at St Jude's can be heard on his website at www.djlloxley-blount.co.uk.

Peter, who has had six collections published, is trying to organise workshops for those interested in learning the art of making poetry. Readers who are interested can contact him using the details given in his advertisement below.

KNOTWEED

Don't even dream of winning – you've read the reports
seen us on YouTube
cringed at the images

You think you can get us
at ground level
breaking through foundations.
Once we're properly out, on the
march, that's it, unless
you purge deep.

Our
roots
are
deeper
than
you
can
dig.

We know biological control is
under trial.
You decide if chemicals
are ethical.

You want a solution
but there is none.

You won't find us
but we're everywhere
waiting.

We decide when to strike.
We're in your garden.

Music written for
organ and saxophone

UKRAINE SUNFLOWER

Dogs were howling. I don't
know what breed
but something like wolves;
so maybe Alsations.
They wouldn't stop, their noise
was contagious.
Soon we were all weeping.
When they came,

we quietened, but not the dogs.
Soldiers picked
through our debris-scorched
field. Most wore
balaclavas. Only yesterday,
children had skipped
through us, laughing at how
tall we were.

We don't feel tall now. Soon
trucks arrived
more soldiers. The dead were
found, their
pockets emptied. Dogs kept
howling. Pieces
of the plane were scattered,
some crushed us.

I said, *Can we still be called
Sunflowers?*
And the dogs? They were shot.

Music written for
organ and trombone

EST. 1980 H.G.S. SUBURB ARCHIVES FROM THE ARCHIVES



The Golders Green Hippodrome

At 6.30pm on Boxing Day Friday 1913, Mrs Walter Gibbons, the managing director of the 'Golders Green Amusement and Development Company' sang the National Anthem to herald the grand opening of the latest addition to her husband's London-wide portfolio of 'Theatres of Varieties' - The Hippodrome, Golders Green. The Stage newspaper was there to witness and record the special occasion, and noted that Mrs Gibbons received "a fine reception" from an audience "who appeared highly delighted with the splendid building, as well as with the excellent fare provided".

The very first chapter in the topsy-turvy life and times of the Hippodrome had begun, and with a classic variety line-up of the era: magician David Devant "who mystified the company at will", the "mirth-provoking patter" of comic dancers The New Macs, the singing impersonator Tom Stuart "bringing down the house", animal trainer Dandy George and his Jungle Kid, and a host of other singers, comedians and musicians.

The Hippodrome would go on to establish itself as part of the romance of theatre history, and the building would subsequently be reinvented into a BBC television and radio studio, a BBC concert hall, and in recent years as one of the homes of an international Christian movement. But now it appears that the future of this Grade II-listed building appears uncertain. So an appropriate time to chart a remarkable story...

With the construction of the extension of the Hampstead Tube Line to Golders Green in 1907, shopping parades and homes began to pepper the former countryside. For land-owning entrepreneurs, it was the perfect opportunity to speculate on money-making enterprises to complement an expanding suburb - designed not only to entertain those pioneering new arrivals, but to attract visitors from the surrounding neighbourhoods.

So in the year 1913, not one, but two astonishing buildings emerged out of the north-west London soil. The first was in May - the impressive Ionic Cinema, complete with its four enormous Grecian style pillars, which was opened by Anna Pavlova, star ballerina and local resident. Then in the same month, work began on London's latest 'Theatre of Varieties' - on the very same spot that had only recently served as a construction site for Golders Green station. Building the Hippodrome took just over six months - and a Ham & High reporter Ham & High writing just before opening night was suitably impressed:

"It occupies such a delightfully convenient position beside the tube terminus that it is likely to be not only a recreative boon to the people of Golders Green, and the Garden Suburb, but to all the other suburbs which are in touch with it by means of trams and motor buses. Architecturally the building will be of an imposing and pleasing character, and will give a touch of distinction and completeness to the fine square which it dominates. The internal decorations will be artistic, the comfort of every class will be studied down to the smallest detail - and every seat may be booked".

The renowned theatre architect Bertie Crewe had concocted a Modern English Romanesque masterpiece at a cost of £24,000 - dubbed "the crowning glory of the whole scheme of colonization" by the Hendon & Finchley Times. The Hippodrome was a whopping 2,340 seater, a giant stage complete with a trap door for a massive water tank specially designed for aquatic spectacles. The Stage's reviewer was equally impressed on the first night: "eighty feet above the street level hangs a brilliant electric light, the main entrance leads to an inner hall with panelled walls and ceiling, marble staircases lead to the stalls and the grand circle, and both balconies are constructed upon the suspensory system, which prevents the use of any pillars. The colour scheme is Rose du Barri and French Grey."

Intriguingly, it appears that Crewe had made no plans for licensed bars in his original designs for the Hippodrome. Perhaps, I wonder, in sympathy with the 'temperance' of the nearby Hampstead Garden Suburb? At any rate one of the conditions of the Hippodrome's first liquor licence in 1915 was that alcohol would only be served at performances of plays - and not music hall or films...

The prices of admission were aimed at luring in locals and visitors alike and in the early years, just 1 shilling got you a seat in the dress circle compared with 7s 6d for the equivalent seat in West End. Even on the priciest night of the week - second house on Saturday night - it cost 8d in the Stalls, 2s for the 'Imperial Fauteuils' - and 3d on the Balcony. After all, there was plenty of space to fill!

Music Hall-style variety dominated the programme in the early years, and all the great performers of the day - Marie Lloyd, Gus Elen and Lillie Langtry - came to Golders Green. The second phase in the life of the Hippodrome was staging major pre- and post-West End theatrical productions, and the beginning of a long-term relationship with the D'Oyly Carte Opera company. This coincided with the next phase of its life in the early 1920s under new proprietorship - the second of only three owners in its entire history as a theatre.

The Hippodrome also served the locality as a fund raising venue - hosting a variety show helping to secure finances to build the Golders Green War memorial clock tower, and concerts in aid of Hendon Wing Air Training Corps Welfare during WW2. And today, ask any local or former resident (over a certain age), I'm certain that the Christmas pantomimes or Ralph Reader's Gang Shows for the Scout Association were a formative part of their Hippodrome-going ritual.

However, in its final theatre era, the Hippodrome (now owned by Mecca) had struggled with dwindling crowds, and threats of redevelopment. In 1959 there had been a bid to build a 12 storey office block on the site - but it was blocked by a vigorous local campaign with its 30,000 signature petition. Hiring the space to the BBC provided a lifeline for the owners, but by 1968 it was all over. On Sunday 18th February, just under 55 years on from its first breath, there was a showbiz send-off they fondly dubbed "Hippodrome Adieu" - with a massive cast list - Bud Flanagan, Vera Lynn, David Kossoff, Danny La Rue, David Jacobs and Status Quo - representing the Music Hall era to the emerging pop stars of the day...

The BBC then moved in, and finally purchased the leasehold of the former Hippodrome Theatre in 1970. The building was converted into a radio and television studio, reducing audience capacity to 700 seats, and famously providing a home for the BBC Concert Orchestra whose live broadcasts of shows like Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night' would become Golders Green legend.

But disaster struck in 2003 when the auditorium ceiling collapsed leaving tons of plaster and cement in front of the stage - and the decision was made to permanently close down all operations from the former Hippodrome Theatre. With the Ionic, The Lido, The Orpheum and The Regal already gone, this would sadly mark the end of a 90-year history of cinema and theatre venues in the locality. The building was eventually sold to the El Shaddai church in 2007 for £5 million.

Perhaps there may yet be another twist in the tale of the Hippodrome?

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Proms at St Jude's Silver Jubilee



Chilingirian String Quartet

Proms at St Jude's celebrates its 25th season this summer, with a magnificent line-up of top musicians and authors, a set of new Heritage Walks and a special spit roast on Central Square. Running from Saturday, 24 June to Sunday, 2 July, this is a local festival not to miss.

A special story of long-time Suburb resident Peter Lobbenberg comes to life at the Festival with the world première of Letters from Lony, commissioned by Proms from Ronald Corp, Musical Director of Highgate Choral Society. The music is based on yearning wartime letters to Peter from his grandmother Lony, trapped in Nazi-controlled Amsterdam, which gradually unfold her story as her life becomes increasingly oppressive. Lony ultimately perished in Auschwitz without ever seeing her adored grandson.

Peter says: "Beyond revealing Lony's experience in those troubled times, these letters commemorate all those who suffered persecution during that period. Music powerfully helps ensure the terrible history of those years is never forgotten."

Mezzo-soprano Sarah Pring, the Chilingirian Quartet, and pianist Andrew Brownell combine for this deeply moving testimony to Lony's final years.

LITFEST

The first weekend of Proms brings its now traditional LitFest, held in association with The Henrietta Barnett School and supported by West End Lane Books. This year, half of the eight sessions are for non-fiction work and half for writers of what might today be called alternative facts.

In the first category, Woman's Hour doyenne, Dame Jenni Murray – now a Suburb resident

– will be talking to broadcaster Piers Plowright about A History of Britain in 21 Women; Guardian writers, Polly Toynbee & David Walker, will be discussing their new critique of the current government, Dismembered; historian Laurence Rees will present the themes of his masterful account of The Holocaust; and Dan Cruickshank will walk us through his architectural exploration of Spitalfields in conversation with Proms Patron, Sue MacGregor.

Joel Morris & Jason Hazeley brought a different twist to Ladybird books with their new series for adults on topics such as the Mid-Life Crisis and the Sicking. They will be discussing the art of pastiche with Suburb resident and comedy writer, Ian Davidson.

In a session on crime, Silent Witness scriptwriter, MJ Arlidge, pairs with novelist Susie Steiner to discuss the genre. Nina Stibbe, whose neighbours once included Alan Bennett and Jonathan Miller, will talk about her novel about life in an old people's home, Paradise Lodge. And former stand-up comedian and classicist Natalie Haynes will discuss her latest book, The Children of Jocasta.

There's a special offer on LitFest tickets this year: if you buy one full price, you can attend other talks the same day for a discount. And the lovely LitFest café will be running again with its delicious homemade cakes, sandwiches and snacks.

PRIVILEGED

The Choir of King's College Cambridge will be making the Suburb its only appearance in Britain on its tour this year,

performing Fauré's celebrated Requiem and works by Bach, Brahms, Bruckner, Byrd, Duruflé and Tomkins. Given the acoustic of St Jude's, this promises to be an enchanting evening.

Another highlight will be the return of Nevill Holt Opera for the fourth successive year, this time giving a concert performance of Puccini's Tosca. Under artistic director Nicholas Chalmers, the company continues to reinforce its national reputation, and we are privileged to have them join us. Particular thanks go to principal sponsor, Investec, for making this possible.

One of the world's finest clarinetists, Michael Collins, together with internationally acclaimed soprano, Grace Davidson, and Michael McHale, piano, will perform a programme including Schubert's Shepherd on the Rock and Mozart's sublime Clarinet Quintet. Grace grew up on the Suburb, so it is particularly pleasing to have her return here for this concert.

POPULAR

2017 marks the centenary of the first release of three Charlie Chaplin films – The Cure, Easy Street and The Immigrant – and in tribute, Proms has arranged for a screening of all three, while the Orchestra of St Paul's plays Carl Davis's hilarious and touching scores, live to picture. Artistic Director Ben Palmer, who will conduct the performance, has made a speciality of conducting films live to screen. "We're very excited about bringing these three films to the Proms," he says. "They're hilarious, but



Marie Sato



Grace Davidson

also very touching – it'll be a really fun evening."

In the same spirit, an evening of Simon & Garfunkel songs by tribute band, Bookends, should delight audiences looking for something different. With hits like Bridge over Troubled Water and Sound of Silence on the bill, you'll find yourself reliving the 1970s in no time.

HERITAGE

For those of you who enjoy the fresh air and some education with it, Proms is again running its popular guided Heritage Walks. Most take place in and around the Suburb and Hampstead Heath, exploring history, wildlife or architecture. This year, there's also a walk around the secluded Highgate West Cemetery and a trail following the buried Fleet River down to Gospel Oak, all led by highly experienced guides.

CELEBRATION

The last weekend of the Festival will offer a particularly celebratory feel. On Saturday, 1 July, not only will there be foot-tapping jazz, courtesy of the Big Band of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of

Pete Richards and Dan Haynes of Bookends



London International Orchestra

Min Kym launches the Proms

Min Kym, the virtuoso violinist, whose 1696 Stradivarius was stolen from Euston Station, launched Proms' 25th season at a special event held at The Henrietta Barnett School on 26 March.

She delighted guests by performing a programme including works by Massenet, Dvorak and Bach. She also talked about her new memoir 'Gone', due to be published in

April, which recounts the story of the loss of her precious violin.

Susie Gregson, Proms Chief Executive, said, "We were thrilled to have Min Kym launch our Silver Jubilee, and it's fitting that she is both a musician and an author, given that our festival focuses on concerts and literary events."

The launch was also attended by Councillor David Longstaff, The Mayor of Barnet and

representatives of Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice, the two charities to which Proms donates its surplus each year.

"I've attended Proms for the last three years and each time they have been nothing short of wonderful", said the Mayor. "It's fantastic that Proms has donated over £750,000 to good causes since it started and I wish it well for the next 25 years!"



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Library needs more volunteers

The Garden Suburb Community Library in Market Place has been successfully run by volunteers since 2012 after the RA and many members of the local community campaigned to prevent its closure by the London Borough of Barnet.

The library is now run by over 40 trained volunteers with an ongoing grant from the LB Barnet of £10,000 and it has gone from strength to strength in the past five years. It is a friendly place that now has over 2,200 registered users of all ages and their number is growing all the time.

Apart from lending books it runs regular other activities such as the Story and Sing Song time for toddlers and small children on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, summer reading contests for school children, a monthly Book Club and occasional author talks. With regards to the latter, the library will be hosting local history author John Atkin, who will be giving a talk, with slides, about his book 'Hampstead Garden Suburb During the Great War' on Wednesday the 14th of June. Forthcoming events are always advertised on the library window notice boards.

There are also two computers for public use and a printer, which can scan and copy. The books are constantly replenished with the newest titles and the

Travel Books section has been recently significantly enlarged and updated. Apart from fascinating volumes covering many of the popular world destinations we also have publications that cover day trips within easy reach of the capital or fascinating walks in London itself.

The library is a registered company and charity and is supervised by seven trustees. The core of its strength lies in the volunteers who each commit fortnightly a little of their time to staff it from Tuesday through Saturday each week. The library opening hours are 10.00 - 17.00 and there are two shifts, a

morning one from 10.00 - 13.30 and an afternoon one from 13.30 - 17.00 each manned by a pair of volunteers.

The library is always looking for new enthusiastic, preferably local, volunteers, particularly for certain shifts. The work consists of issuing and returning books, registering new library members, cataloguing books, restocking shelves and various other related tasks. Full training is provided by experienced volunteers during the initial sessions. Even though no special knowledge is required, some basic computer skills would be useful.

If interested, please contact mail@gardensuburblibrary.org.uk.



Plans for Golders Green stations



Transport for London has spoken to Barnet Council about the possible future development of Golders Green Bus & Underground Stations, the marshalling yard, depot and sidings.

In response the LB Barnet has produced a Draft Planning Brief and has put it out for public consultation. We welcome the fact that LB Barnet has asked residents what they think.

The responses from the public will be considered by the Planning Department and the Draft can be amended. Barnet's 'Policy & Resources Committee' will meet to consider the written views and decide whether to accept the plan or make amendments. The Draft suggests opportunities and constraints and provides guidance to anyone considering making a planning application as to the preferred approach of the Council. The final plan will form material consideration in the determination of any planning application.

It is important to realise that once the plan is agreed by the councillors, property developers may, in principle, be able to build within the parameters of the plan.

So residents of the Suburb should read the draft and then send their comments to the planning office by 11 May. The concern with a 49 page document is that people are likely not to read it fully or carefully.

The effect on the Suburb may not be immediately apparent. However, the detail is important.

The Draft's density figures would mean the building of a minimum of 1,300 flats and additional houses with a likelihood of at least 4,000 people living there.

The site is in the catchment area of one primary school, Garden Suburb School. There is nothing in this Draft plan to deal with the effect of a new village. Nothing about planned increase in school places and GP surgeries.

The Draft suggests that Golders Green needs more offices yet many are empty. It suggests more cafes at the station and other retail shops. Yet cafes are numerous and retail space is hardly in short supply.

The Draft says that the bus station must be able to deal with an expected increase in use. However, on Site A (the bus

station) the development is so comprehensive that it seems it would reduce the space for buses. This at a time when some National Express coaches are stopping at the London bus stop on Finchley Road and disgorging customers and their luggage.

The potential effect on the Suburb is large. For example, the tall building mentioned at para. 6.3.5 would be seen from many roads in the Suburb and the Heath Extension. The latter view is recognised universally as special. Indeed other countries send their planners to see how it was achieved. There are no tall buildings to be seen above tree height and a tower block would be a blot on the landscape.

The suggested new road from the Suburb into the development, possibly needing the demolition of homes, is unconscionable and must never be permitted.

Golders Green Station Action Group [GGSAG] has had hundreds of Suburb residents expressing their concern. On 27 April a large public meeting was held.

Please do not rely on others to respond to the Draft. The number of people responding does send a message to those who are deciding. Last time there was a possibility of developing this site a large number of individuals succeeded in reducing the scope of the potential development.

The 'Draft Planning Brief' can be seen at: barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=6553.

Please make your submission to LB Barnet by 11 May 2017 at 5pm. The response can be made by e-mail to: forward.planning@barnet.gov.uk.

RONNIE JAFFA, HON SEC GGSAG

Problems with potholes, pavements and privets?

Many of the questions from attendees of the recent Residents Association (RA) AGM concerned issues with pavements, roads and overgrown hedges in the Suburb. The three elected Garden Suburb Councillors who represent us on Barnet Council were in attendance and took notice of these concerns.

The Councillors are John Marshall, Rohit Grover and Gabriel Rozenberg, and all can be contacted to assist if needed where residents run into difficulties in getting problems rectified. The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust also had two of its elected members in attendance at the meeting and Claire Calman (Chair of the Estates Committee of the Trust) gave some advice on the matter of overgrown hedges.

The RA itself has a Roads & Traffic (R&T) Committee; details of the members are listed in the Suburb Directory available on line at www.hgs.org.uk in pdf format or via the annually distributed hard copy. This committee meets quarterly and can be contacted in the event of particular problems or concerns by e-mail to ratraffic@hgs.org.uk.

However, Suburb residents will appreciate that there are potentially a huge number of road and pavement issues that need attention at any one time, especially after bad weather when roads frequently develop potholes. We therefore encourage residents to report any issues direct to Barnet. Ideally this should be done via their website which enables you to provide Barnet with precise details of the issue and the location.

Barnet advise that they assess reported potholes within 48 hours of receiving a report and carry out urgent maintenance if required. They work to a 10 day time table in assessing pavement issues: where there is a 2.5cm height difference in paving stones which is regarded as a trip hazard, the time frame is escalated.

Fly tipping can also be reported on this website again providing a precise location. I can report that Barnet seem incredibly efficient in this aspect and the 20 or so fly tipping incidents I have reported in recent weeks since joining the R&T Committee, have been dealt with incredibly quickly.

The Barnet 'report a problem' area of their website is fairly user friendly and can be accessed via www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/report-a-problem. If you register your details on this account, you will receive an email with a reference number for any problem you report. Barnet are working to improve the technology here and in due course you will be able to access a link that gives you an update on the issue. In the meantime they (sometimes!) send an e-mail to confirm when action has been taken.

You can also call the Highways Maintenance Line on 020 8359 3555 to report issues or e-mail the department on highwayscorrespondence@barnet.gov.uk.

There is a lot of information on Barnet's website covering roads, pavements, abandoned vehicles etc. We unfortunately do not have room to cover everything here but do look at the website on www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/parking-roads-and-pavements/Roads-and-Pavements. You can use this to report overflowing bins, blocked drains, graffiti and many other everyday issues too numerous to cover here.

Returning to the AGM, it appears that dealing with overgrown hedges is a little less straightforward. Where hedges are obstructing pavements or twittens (the narrow footpaths between hedges on the Suburb), it seems that Barnet may take action and rebill the householder for the cost of the works to rectify the matter, but probably only in extreme circumstances.

Guidance on hedge height and maintenance is provided on the Trust's website www.hgstrust.org/your-property/tree-work.shtml under the subsection Hedges and Hedge Height. Barnet also offer guidance at www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/planning-conservation-and-building-control/conservation/high-hedges. It can be wise to try to rectify the problem through discussion with the offending neighbour as resolution through other means is not easy and may result in costs.

There are issues with cars being abandoned or parked for long periods on the Suburb. A

tip I have for you here is to use the DVLA's on line check to see if a car that you think may have been abandoned is taxed and has a valid MOT. If it does not, then it will be easier to persuade Barnet to take enforcement action to remove the vehicle. All you need to check the car out is the vehicle registration number and the make (the model is not required). When you put these details into the website it tells you if the road tax and MOT are up to date or if they have expired.

I also have some advice for reporting water leaks and have found Thames Water very efficient on checking out and then repairing leaks reported through their website <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help-and-advice/report-a-problem/report-a-problem?type=leak>. You will need the location including postcode and you are asked to indicate the severity of the leak. By way of example, there was a leak on Hampstead Lane which resulted in the path from Sandy Heath across to Kenwood becoming impassable. I reported it and it was repaired within a few days- and they also rebuilt the path, which is now much improved!

I hope readers find this useful. In the event of particular unresolved issues or indeed any particular success stories the R&T Committee would be delighted to hear from you on ratraffic@hgs.org.uk.

EMMA HOWARD



EMMA HOWARD

Food fundraise for Combat Stress

The HGS Combat Stress Fair Committee was delighted to be invited to provide the refreshments at the highly successful HGS Art Fair held at Fellowship House over the weekend of April 1 & 2.

Following a plea for cakes on the Suburb HGS List e-mail forum, wonderful goodies poured in. On each of the two mornings,

the scent of baking croissants filled the halls, and volunteers were kept busy filling plates, serving tea and coffee to exhibitors and visitors all day even after the kitchen door officially closed for business.

Over the two days, £877.67 was raised from refreshment sales and donations for the

forces' mental health charity, Combat Stress. Thanks to everyone who bought tea and cake so enthusiastically and donated so generously.

This year's Combat Stress Suburb Winter Fair will be held on Saturday 28 October at the Free Church Hall. Make sure you don't miss it!



TONY BRAND

Become part of the community

Join the Residents Association. It's a friendly group of 1,800 households in which you can either play an active role preserving the Suburb or just support it with a small subscription of just £15 per household per year. Join online, or download a standing order form from hgs.org.uk/ra/joinnow.html.

Alternatively, if you own a smart phone, scan the QR code.



Friends of Big Wood Association formed



A Volunteer Group has been working closely with the London Borough of Barnet to manage and preserve Big Wood over the last few years. This group was re-formed and managed by a Barnet Green Spaces Department employee, Paul Frainer, who was experienced in the management of ancient woods.

Unfortunately Paul left Barnet three years ago and although, to begin with, he continued to give occasional support this gradually ceased as he got more involved in his new Essex area and the Volunteers therefore continued to work to his plan without much Council involvement.

Barnet have recently advised us that budgets are being further reduced for their Green

Spaces Department and their work in the wood is likely to be limited in the future to health and safety issues.

The Volunteers decided to form a Friends of Big Wood Association to help safeguard the future of this fantastic ancient woodland in our midst. We have been working closely with Barnet, to whom ownership of the land was transferred some years ago, by organising work days to create nine new glades, clear invasive species and plant over 90 oak saplings.

We have also agreed a new five year plan to 2021 with the Council, but most of the work will have to be carried out by us because of the cuts described above. If we want to safeguard

and preserve this wood for the future, we need a partnership with the Council, and the local community to become more actively involved.

The objectives of the Friends of Big Wood Association is to carry out most of the new management plan by continuing to hold monthly work mornings but we also plan to erect some more nest boxes, plant some more oak saplings and wild flowers as well as signposting the perimeter of the wood to prevent the very small minority of house owners who try to extend their gardens into the wood.

In addition we want to monitor changes; updating the recent surveys on birds, fungi, bats and the flora in the wood.

We are organising guided walks in the wood, including an early morning bird walk which took place on April 11, and a floral walk on May 6. Other walks are planned later in the year to learn about the various trees in the wood, and also a bat evening stroll. We also arranging to hold 3 to 4 evening meetings a year to discuss progress and invite an expert speaker to give a talk followed by drinks.

The inaugural meeting of the new Association took place in January at Fellowship House to discuss the Constitution of the Association and confirm the Committee for the first three years. There then followed a fascinating talk from a member of the Woodland Trust, where it was pointed out the vital need to plant more trees.

The woodland in spring is a magical place as the woodland flowers start to appear. The pictures show a glade which has been cleared to encourage the wild flowers whose seed has remained dormant in the soil with wood anemones, solomon's seal and the beginnings of bluebells, and another of yellow archangel and wood anemones.

England's trees are also now rousing themselves again after the long winter. Only there are not enough of them. It is said that last year we felled more trees than we planted. We already have fewer trees than almost any other country in Europe. Our tree cover stands at about 13% compared to the European average of 38%. According to



Big Wood glade

the Woodland Trust we planted less than 1,000 hectares last year compared to the government target of 5,000 hectares. In fact the government's manifesto commitment to plant 11 million trees during the life of this parliament seems completely out of reach.

The situation with ancient woods (defined as continuous woodland for at least 500 years) is even more critical. Only 2% of our land is ancient woodland and many sites are threatened by proposed government building plans. Big Wood's continuous woodland history can be traced back 1000 years.

Yet trees are so important to us. They absorb carbon dioxide and improve air quality. A walk through Big Wood can be an enriching experience. Not only is the air quality so good, but the wood is a haven of calm, and you can forget that you are on the outskirts of a city of 12 million inhabitants.

More information can be found about the Friends of Big Wood by visiting our website at www.friendsofbigwood.com, where there is a contact email address. We are asking interested Suburb residents to become members of the Association for just £15. We need some annual funds to do all the planned work and commission surveys. At present we have 70 members but we would like to increase this number to over 100 households.

Wood anemones



HGS Art Fair



HGS Art's first public event, an Art Fair held at Fellowship House over the weekend of April 1 & 2 attracted nearly 700 visitors. The show presented the works of HGS Art members who include painters, photographers, sculptors, makers and designers of fused and stained glass, arts and crafts people using fabrics and other materials, a potter, a jeweller and a film maker. For further details take a look at our HGS Art website www.hgsart.co.uk.

In addition to the adult gallery and table displays in two rooms HGS Art had organised an Art competition for children aged 6-16 on the theme of Spring, and during the Fair held

an art workshop for children who visited Fellowship House with their families which was run brilliantly by Vera Moore and Linda Cook, and supported by Cass Art.

It was exciting and gratifying to experience such a feeling of a community coming together and enjoying itself in glorious weather. From the moment the doors opened at 11am until they closed at 5pm there was a buzz and a rush of people, many of whom told us they had never before been inside Fellowship House; they were impressed by its facilities as well as the exhibits.

Everywhere, people were viewing, buying, or greeting

neighbours and friends, smiling and chatting, scoffing cake and sipping tea and coffee cheerfully served by Ruth and her amazing team of ladies from Combat Stress both inside and out on the terrace in the sunshine, and who raised over £850 for their charity, Combat Stress. Some exhibitors donated money from their sales to the North London Hospice and other charities.

HGS Art is a new organisation but already has more than 60 members, with more joining all the time. The idea was conceived last summer by a group of local artists to support and further all forms of Art, and education about it in the Suburb. Core founder members were Diana Brahams (Chair), Professor Michael Baum (membership and much else as well as a key exhibition organiser), Alex Halfin (secretary), Gail Philipp (social), Morris Cohen, Valerie Cowan (appointments and social), Mary Davis (now membership), Ellen Gilbert (who hosted the first social event), Alfred Lester, Bill Asprey, Barbara Jackson, Hanan Baradon, Esbe and Ilana Krasnik. The attractive HGS Art logo was designed by

Esbe who also developed the HGS Art website while Ilana has charge of social media. Jeremy Clynes, whose wife Kochi Okada is a jeweller, agreed to be the treasurer, and with his help HGS Art set up a bank account.

Links were quickly formed with other like-minded groups in Finchley and East Finchley. The website took shape and a Facebook page was set up. A 'Show and Tell' was held in the Free Church on a Sunday afternoon last year to enable members to meet and see each other's work which proved to be as varied as it was impressive; it is recorded in a film by Malcolm Brahams 'Restoring Art to the Heart of Hampstead Garden Suburb' available on YouTube. This has been followed by 'Artists at Home'.

A few weeks later we enjoyed a lecture by Michael Baum (one of a series of four) titled 'The Picture of Health', which was



TONY BRAND

held in Fellowship House, and members and their partners' met at a social event held at the Brahams' house where the next talk will be given by an HGS member, Ruth Jacobson, on the work of Chagall in the evening of June 22.

There are plans for a further Art Fair in the autumn, more talks, visits to museums and collections. The future looks exciting.

HGS Art would like to thank everyone who made the Art Fair such a success.

DIANA BRAHAMS



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Suburb News *in conversation with...*

...Professor Evelyn Fishburn

Professor Evelyn Fishburn or 'Evi', as she prefers to be called, who has been living in the Suburb since 1958, talks to Daphne Berkovi

Yet, today's surroundings are very different to where Evi's story first began, in Vienna, Austria on 18 July 1937.

Once Hitler came to power, Evi's family had to leave Vienna. Evi explained that she and her brother were taken to Hungary with their nanny, to stay with their grandmother. Months later her parents were able to join them and they all set off from Italy to start a new life in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Life was very happy for the family in Buenos Aires, where Evi describes, "I went to 'Northlands' school, a bastion of British Empire in education." With Anglo-Argentine roots, it became renowned as the best girl's school in South America. It was at the age of 17 that Evi moved to Geneva, where she took her 'A' levels and studied languages at the renowned Ecole d'Interprètes, obtaining a University Diploma in Translation. Whilst in London on her way to a May ball in Cambridge, Evi met her husband to be, Freddy. "It was my marriage that brought me to London, where I became the Spanish teacher at a local independent girls' school, Channing, in Highgate." She stayed there for ten years, interspersed with raising her family.

The pathway to Latin American Studies in Britain came through a rather circuitous route. It was during a period

when Evi was urging her A-level pupils to apply to a new course called MILARS (Modern Iberian and Latin American Regional Studies) being established at University College London, that it occurred to her that she should also do the same. Thus in 1970 Evi enrolled as an undergraduate student at the newly established MILARS course. She was the only mature student on the course, and recalls that not a single female author was included in the MILARS syllabus. The rest she explains is history, well, Evi's history.

Thereafter completing her PhD at UCL, with a few interruptions, she has remained attached to the Department of Spanish and Latin American studies ever since. Her teaching career evolved as follows, "I inherited a two-year special subject option, 'Borges and Cortázar', which I taught first at Birkbeck College, then Westfield College (as it then was), King's College, and finally the then Polytechnic of North London." At present, she is working on humour in fiction, but her main research interest over the years has been the Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges; her seminal work is "Hidden Pleasures in Borge's fiction."

When we discuss family life, Evi explains that her parents and brother remained in Argentina. Her husband Freddy studied law and worked as a solicitor. They have three daughters, all of whom are academic, and ten grandchildren.

Academic work has always taken up the greater part of Evi's life, but she is able to pursue her hobbies with interests in Opera, Art, Literature, Travel, and Theatre. She also enjoys Pilates and Tai Chi.

When the family first moved to the Garden Suburb they lived in Howard Walk, then moving to Ossulton Way and finally to South Square where they presently reside. The main

reason for moving here was because Freddy had family living here and it was the nearest suburb for them to travel to central London.

The other attraction was also the picturesque surroundings in the Suburb and Evi explains "it was also the geography of the area with its superb greenery, fine hedges and wonderful feeling of being close to nature, which has not changed."

However, she has seen changes in the demographics of area; it has become more diverse in character.

Due to the demands of academic life Evi has not been able to engage in local activities as much as she had hoped. However, she now intends to become more involved locally. As just recently she took up the initiative promoted by the Reverend Ian Tutton to establish

a literary course 'Serious Readers' as part of the new 'Community Learning Network'. The group meets alternate weeks at Evi's home and discusses theoretical aspects from a variety of literary texts.

It is envisaged that the group will continue, but Evi also anticipates starting a literary group for the new Hampstead Garden Suburb U3A when it is formed this summer **S**



Works to trees on your Suburb property



Tree work on the Suburb requires written consent from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust under the Scheme of Management (for freehold properties) or the terms of leases. It is a criminal offence to undertake unauthorised works to trees on the Suburb (either pruning or felling).

Approval from the London Borough of Barnet is also required. See Barnet's website for details: www.barnet.gov.uk.

Before carrying out tree work, please telephone the Trust office on 0208 455 1066 and book an appointment for a site visit with the Trust's Arboricultural Consultant. Appointments can only be made through the Trust office. Appointments usually take place on a Thursday morning.

Once the Trust's Consultant has visited your property he will forward his recommendations for tree work to the Trust and the Trust will usually issue a decision in line with his recommendations. This process normally takes approximately two weeks from the date of the site visit. Consent shall only be granted to the owner(s) of the property on which a tree stands.

There is no individual charge for a visit from the Trust's Consultant as the cost is incorporated within the Management Charge or Ground Rent for your property.

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB ~ 020 8455 1066 ~ mail@hgstrust.org ~ www.hgstrust.org ~ twitter: @HGSTrust

The tree outside our house is missing! How do we get one back?

From time to time our well-loved street trees go 'missing'. They may have died, suffered bad weather, been stolen or damaged beyond replanting by buggies, cars, vans, lorries, or even local mini-buses.

No need to panic! The Trees and Open Spaces Committee, T&OS for short, will come to the rescue and will organise, with

the help of LB Barnet and the Residents Association, to have a replacement tree planted. The Residents Association budget for up to £3,750 per year towards new street trees. This is matched by L B Barnet so we can replant about 25-30 new street trees annually. Of course a missing tree cannot be replaced until the appropriate replacement

type can be sourced – no easy task – and planted at the proper time of the year. This can take time, but if there is a replacement available, this can be achieved fairly quickly.

We can only do this if we are alerted to the unfortunate loss by local residents as soon as possible, or it is recorded on our latest Local Street Trees Survey.

This is undertaken by T&OS Committee members, who every year, walk every street, close and twitten to log – excuse the pun – all the trees standing and their apparent condition. In addition, the vacant place where once a tree proudly stood, that has sometimes surreptitiously been covered over by gravel or even ugly tarmac, probably by LBB, needs to be recorded.

Once a new sapling tree has been planted, nearby residents can help by giving it a modest watering, down the open tube by its base, especially during hot weather. Regrettably, most garden trees, however obtrusive, imposing and ugly they are, fall outside our remit, unless they pose a risk to street users.

The T&OS Committee meets every two months or so to discuss a raft of topics, that include: Big Wood and Little Wood, Bute Mews, Central Square Improvements, Hampstead and Highgate Ponds,

Hampstead Heath & Extension, Kenwood, Lyttleton Playing Fields, Memorial Benches, Northway Gardens, Twittens and much more besides.

When an oak tree, which probably pre-dates local property, comes under threat from an insurance company or resident in the hunt to reduce their liability, T&OS makes robust representation to LBBarnet. In the past few years, we have had considerable success in saving these ancient trees. Where appropriate, we obtain Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

to put a stop to some of our local heritage being chopped down unnecessarily.

However, we do need the eyes of residents to let us know when trees and other significant foliage, plants, hedges, shrubbery, etc. come under threat.

We are a very friendly committee undertaking much essential work and if you are a member of the RA and wish to join us, please contact our chairman, Tony Gilchik, at tony@ghilchik.demon.co.uk.

ALAN BRUDNEY



Asmunds Place oaks



GEORGINA MALCOLM

So you want to be a Trustee of Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust

There are eight trustees. Four, who must not be residents of the Suburb, are appointed by the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Law Society, the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Victorian Society. The trust has no control over whom they appoint.

Then there are the four elected trustees who must be Suburb residents. Once elected they serve for three years and can stand again for another three at the end of their first term, but cannot then stand immediately for re-election thereafter. This

article is about election as one of these resident trustees.

In the course of the next two and a half years trust members will be electing three or perhaps four new resident trustees.

At the AGM later this year David White's first three-year term as a resident trustee comes to an end. He may or may not stand for re-election.

Claire Calman's second term of three years ends at the AGM in 2018 and if more than one candidate is nominated there will be an election for a new trustee then. Similarly, at the

AGM in 2019 Michael Franklin and I will also finish our second three-year terms and will be replaced by new elected trustees.

Almost every time there is an election, in addition to excellent candidates, we find people standing who seem to have shown no previous public interest in the work of the Trust or the Suburb. They often know little about the work of the Trust (or its powers) or the history of the Suburb; they are then surprised and disappointed not to be elected. If you don't know a little about the work of the Trust and its aims, and if you are not known to a reasonable number of other residents, it is difficult to make a good case for your election. Of course there are other qualities a good trustee should show.

My first piece of advice is therefore to get to know both the Trust and the Suburb. At least read the Scheme of Management. I would also recommend learning a little of the history of the Suburb from any of the excellent books. Perhaps either Mervyn Miller's 'Hampstead Garden Suburb' or C.W. Ikin's 'Hampstead Garden Suburb Dreams and Realities' which is a little dry but gives a compelling account of the difficulties the Suburb faced in the 1960s and '70s which led to the creation of the present Trust and the safeguards its constitution provides (including the way in which trustees are chosen). You don't need to read them from cover to cover to get a good-enough impression of why we are set up the way we are (but of course they repay reading in their own right). The Trust's website also contains a wealth of information at www.hgsttrust.org.

More importantly, you should take the opportunity to volunteer

to work on Trust or other Suburb institutions – for example:

- the Residents Association;
- the Horticultural Society; or
- the Library.

This would help you to get to know the people and what the real issues are. It would also help to get a wider range of residents to get to know you. By all means make an appointment to come to the trust office to find out more.

Remember that to become a trustee, you must be a full member of the Trust. This is free and the application form is on line. We come across countless examples of people who think they are members but turn out not to be. The only qualification is that you apply and that you are an adult who has been a Suburb resident for the last three consecutive years – any number of people in one household can become members. None of the following on its own makes you a member;

- Being a freeholder;
- Paying your management charge or ground rent to the Trust;
- Being a member of the Residents Association.

Membership has to be renewed every three years. If you are in any doubt, the office can tell you if you are a member and when your membership is due for renewal.

Even if you have no intention of standing for election at the moment, I would recommend your volunteering to help any of the organisations which make the Suburb what it is. You can find a list of these organisations in the Residents Association Directory for which you can find a link on line at: www.hgs.org.uk

RICHARD WISEMAN, CHAIRMAN
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB TRUST

WORDSEARCH

In this issue we have concealed the names of 20 famous painters (one of them is highlighted to start you off – please don't count it in your total). Names may be read in all directions, straight or diagonally. Please send your entries by email to cristina.lago@gmail.com with your name and contact details. The closing date is June 16. All correct entries go into a draw to win a £20 voucher from our independent local shop Joseph's Bookstore. Good luck!

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WINTER WORDSEARCH ANSWERS, FACTS & WINNER

The answers to the last issue's Holidays Wordsearch were as follows: Adams, Buchanan, Carter, Cleveland, Eisenhower, Ford, Garfield, Grant, Hoover, Jackson, Johnson, Lincoln (given), Madison, Monroe, Nixon, Obama, Roosevelt, Taylor, Truman and Wilson.

Judith Samson from Erskine Hill is the winner of the Joseph's Bookstore £20 voucher – congratulations! Thank you also to all of you who sent in your answers, keep participating!

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WHAT'S ON



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY GODFREY & BARR, HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB'S LEADING ESTATE AGENT

SATURDAY 6 MAY

10.30am Free Church Traidcraft Sale Clothing Exchange and Coffee Morning at The Free Church.

SUNDAY 7 MAY

2.30pm Athlone House, Cohen's Fields and the upper Highgate Ponds A Heath & Hampstead Society walk, led by Thomas Radice. Meet in Hampstead Lane, by entrance to Kenwood Walled Garden and Stables (210 bus stop Compton Ave/Kenwood House). Suggested min. donation £5. Info 07941 528 034; email hhs.walks@gmail.com.

MONDAY 8 MAY

Free Church Mental Health Awareness Week to May 14. Daily activities in the Free Church, including coffee mornings, information about resources in Barnet for mental wellbeing, health and illness, carers group, bereavement group, fitness, meditation & mindfulness.

10am-12noon Seminar 'Spirituality & Mental Illness' led by Rev Dr Ian Tutton.

TUESDAY 9 MAY & EVERY TUESDAY

10.15-10.45am RA Library Story/Song Time Garden Suburb Community Library, 15 The Market Place, NW11 6LB. We welcome toddlers and their carers into a warm, friendly group. We provide rhythm and rhyme making activities alongside both new and familiar songs, and an introduction into the world of exciting and boundless stories beyond home provision. Come and join us for some fun with your little ones. Admission free.

TUESDAY 9 MAY

10am-12noon Market Place and Coffee Morning Organisations in Barnet sharing information about resources for mental wellbeing, health and illness.

2.30pm 'Lost London', a Fellowship House Talk Speaker Philip Davis.

THURSDAY 11 MAY & EVERY THURSDAY

10-10.30am & 10.45-11.15am RA Library Sing Song Time Garden Suburb Community Library, 15 The Market Place. A first library activity for under-threes and their grown-ups. Rhyme, rhythm and repetition are all fundamental to a baby's speech and language development. Sharing rhythms and singing songs help babies to develop listening and concentration skills. Admission free.

THURSDAY 11 MAY - SATURDAY 13 MAY

7.30pm Garden Suburb Theatre Neighbourhood Watch by Alan Ayckbourn The Bull Theatre, 68 High Street, Barnet. Admission £12/£10. To book 020 7723 6609/ www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre.

SATURDAY 13 MAY

10.30am-12noon Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale Fellowship House. Annuals, perennials, herb and vegetable seedlings for sale. Cash and cheques only, sorry no cards. Entry free. Details 020 8455 0455.

2-4.30pm Farm Walk Tennis Club Adult Open Day.

7.30pm Free Church Christian Aid Concert The Free Church.

SUNDAY 14 MAY

11am Free Church Junior Church Festival Service The Free Church.

1-3pm Farm Walk Tennis Club Junior Open Day

7.30pm Piatti String Quartet at Henrietta Barnett School Hall Presented by the Mill Hill Music Club. Haydn Op 33 No 3 in C major 'The Bird'; Brahms String Quartet No 2 in A minor; Beethoven String Quartet Op 130 in B flat; Beethoven Op 133 'Grosse Fuge'. Admission £15. To book 020 8959 3866 or online www.millmusicclub.co.uk.

MONDAY 15 MAY

5pm Borough Councillors' Surgery at HGS Trust offices. Ask for advice on local problems.

TUESDAY 16 MAY

2.30pm Joseph Wright of Derby - a Fellowship House Talk Speaker Lucrezia Walker.

THURSDAY 18 MAY

Horticultural Society Outing to the Savill Garden Coach outing to one of Britain's finest ornamental gardens. Details 020 8455 0455.

10am-1pm HGS U3A Inaugural Meeting The Free Church. Join the HGS U3A and sign up for interest groups. Info www.hgsu3a.uk.

2.30pm Free Church Thursday Fellowship Social Afternoon Free Church Rooms. Modern poetry reading by Michele, 'Wolf Life in Verse'.

FRIDAY 19 MAY

Highgate Gallery The Gaia Principle Fellowship House. Tom Scase's new work responds to the inner working of the environment both seen and unseen: the flux and uncertainty.

TUESDAY 23 MAY

2.30pm 'Both Sides of the Bench', a Fellowship House Talk Speaker Judge Barrington Black.

FRIDAY 26 MAY

1pm Free Church Piano Recital by Asagi Nakata The Free Church. Lunch in support of Christian Aid served from 12.15pm.

TUESDAY 30 MAY

2.30pm He Loves and She Loves, a Fellowship House Event A love story, illustrated with Gershwin songs. Françoise Geller & Gordon Griffin.

SATURDAY 3 JUNE

10.30am Free Church Traidcraft Sale Clothing Exchange and Coffee Morning at The Free Church.

SUNDAY 4 JUNE

2.30pm Identifying Trees in the Hill Garden Meet North End Way, by entrance to Inverforth Close. A Heath & Hampstead Society walk, led by Bettina Metcalfe. Suggested min. donation £5. Info 07941 528034; email hhs.walks@gmail.com

TUESDAY 6 JUNE

2.30pm 'Corbet, Barker, Howerd, Allen, Dawson, Dodd - and Barry Humphries', a Fellowship House Talk Speaker: Ian Davidson.

8pm Residents Association Council Meeting Fellowship House. Hear Suburb issues debated and raise your concerns at Question Time (8.05pm).

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

10am Borough Councillors' Surgery HGS Trust offices. Ask for advice on local problems.

12.30pm Residents Association Summer Picnic Fun Day Central Square NW11. Hi-energy Rock-n-roll Band 'Sound of the Suburb', Face Painting, Donkey Rides, Punch & Judy and much, much more. Tables & chairs must be booked in advance. Info raevents@hgs.org.uk.

TUESDAY 13 JUNE

Residents Association Last copy date for What's On in August, September and October for insertion in the Summer edition of Suburb News. Details to David Littaur, 84 Wildwood Road NW11 6UJ. Tel: 020 8731 6755 or 07510 308 997. Email: dvltr@gmail.com

2.30pm 'My Love for Kathleen', a Fellowship House Talk Speaker Peter Falk. A memory of my first romance.

7-8pm Horticultural Society Entry Night for the 283rd Flower Show at Fellowship House. Bring your entry forms for entering the produce, cookery, baking, preserving, children's and photography classes into Saturday's flower show. Info 020 8455 8741.

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

7.30pm Garden Suburb Community Library Talk by John Atkin on his book 'Hampstead Garden Suburb During the Great War'.

THURSDAY 15 JUNE

2.30pm Free Church Thursday Fellowship Social Afternoon Free Church Rooms. Talk by Lester Hillman 'Bank Job' (new works at the Bank Underground Station).

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

3-5.30pm Horticultural Society Summer Flower Show at Free Church Hall. Full details in the members' handbook. Hopefully, the show will be opened and children's activities judged by Hon President, Jonathan Ross. Home-made teas, raffle. Non-members £2. Members and children free.

SUNDAY 18 JUNE

6pm YMC 50th Anniversary Concert at St Jude's Church. YMC's magnificent orchestras and choir perform a programme including the wonderful Happy Birthday Variations by Peter Heidrich, Handel's Passacaglia, along with works by Albinoni, Bizet, fiery Tangos and Haydn's Toy Symphony. Admission free. Info 020 8450 9290

TUESDAY 20 JUNE

2.30pm 'Saying it with Flowers', a Fellowship House Reading by Peter Phillips, who offers flower poems and others from his collections

SATURDAY 24 JUNE

12.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Family Concert A Symphonic Safari at St Jude's Church. Musicians from the Royal Albert Hall, with Kevin Hathway playing works specially for kids.

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Opera Night with Nevill Holt - Tosca at St Jude's Church. One of Puccini's greatest operas.

Proms at St Jude's Literary Festival 11am-12noon Nina Stibbe talks to Hannah Beckerman about her book Paradise Lodge; **2-3pm** Joel Morris & Jason Hazeley discuss the art of pastiche with Ian Davidson; **3.30-4.30pm** Natalie Haynes talks to Nicholas Clie about her book The Children of Jocasta; **5-6pm** Jenny Murray talks Piers Plowright about her book A History of Britain in 21 Women. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

SUNDAY 25 JUNE

9am-5pm Youth Music Centre Assessment Day 111 Lichfield Grove, London N3 2J. Any child wishing to be part of YMC's orchestras, ensembles or choir needs to play a piece of their choice on their instrument. Voice/aural skills will also be assessed. Book a time slot by phone or email. Admission free. Info 020 8450 9290.

12noon-5.30pm Horticultural Society Hampstead Garden Suburb Gardens open in conjunction with the National Gardens Scheme at Fellowship House. Nine of the Suburb's finest gardens and one allotment are opening on one day. Tickets with maps £8.50pp (children free). Details at www.hortsoc.co.uk and the NGS website. Info: Caroline Broome, 020 8444 2329, carosgarden@virginmedia.com.

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra at St Jude's Church performs Beethoven's Triple Concerto and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique, with Robert Max, Sophie Lockett and Zoë Solomon.

Proms at St Jude's Literary Festival 12.30-1.30pm Laurence Rees talks about his latest book The Holocaust; **2-3pm** MJ Arlidge and Susie Steiner discuss their latest books, Love Me Not and Persons Unknown with William Ryan; **3.30-4.30pm** Dan Cruickshank talks to Sue MacGregor about his paperback Spitalfields; **5-6pm** Polly Toynbee and David Walker discuss their book Dismembered with Liz Thomson. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

MONDAY 26 JUNE

10.30am Proms at St Jude's - Heritage Walks The Babbling Brook in the Next Valley traces the buried Fleet River to Kentish Town City Farm in Gospel Oak.

12.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Flute Recital - Marie Sato with pianist Tony Ingham at St Jude's Church. Programme to include C.P.E. Bach's Sonata in A minor, Fauré's Fantasie and works by Bozza, Debussy, Bourne and Vivek Haria.

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Bookends - A Tribute to Simon & Garfunkel featuring Leos Strings at St Jude's Church.

Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

TUESDAY 27 JUNE

10.30am Proms at St Jude's - Heritage Walks Hampstead's Heathland and Wetland Habitats Richard Payne, Heath Conservation and Supervisor. Walking shoes advisable. Meet at Golders Hill Park café NW3 7HD.

11am Proms at St Jude's - Family Concert - Tiddly Prom at St Jude's Rooms. Know someone under three years old? Bring them to Tiddly Prom! Admission free.

12.45pm Proms at St Jude's - The Purcell School at St Jude's Church. Admission free. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

2.30pm Horticultural Society 'Are the streets now truly paved with gold? Conservation Areas turn 50' a Fellowship House Talk. Speaker Lester Hillman.

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Michael Collins & Friends, with Grace Davidson at St Jude's Church. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE

10.30am Proms at St Jude's - Heritage Walks Kenwood's Landscapes and Ladies. Tamara Rabin describes the genius of landscape gardener Humphrey Repton, the lovely grounds and the ladies portrayed in the Music Room at Kenwood House. Meet Kenwood car park NW3 7JR.

12.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Piano Recital by Daniel Lehardt at St Jude's Church. Prize-winning pianist Daniel Lehardt plays Schubert, Mozart and Rachmaninov. Admission free. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

2pm Proms at St Jude's - Heritage Walks The Suburb and the Great War, Charlotte Curtis looks at how the Great War affected the development of the Suburb. Meet St Jude's car park.

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE (CONTINUED)

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Chilingirian String Quartet at St Jude's Church with pianist Andrew Brownell performing Brahms's Piano Quintet in F minor and mezzo-soprano Sarah Pring in the world premiere of the song cycle 'Letters from Lony' by Ronald Corp. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

THURSDAY 29 JUNE

11.15am Proms at St Jude's - Heritage Walks The Evocative Highgate Cemetery Gordon Wolffe shows you the most impressive architectural features of the secluded and historic West Cemetery. Walking shoes advisable, as there are steep steps. Not suitable for children under 8. Meet West Gate, N6 6PJ.

12.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Family Concert Schools Concert at St Jude's Church. Cappella ensemble from Apollo5 and pupils from local schools showcase their ensemble singing.

2pm Proms at St Jude's - Heritage Walks 1967 and the Big Conservation Conversation Marjorie Galbinski explores how a 1967 Parliamentary Act has protected and enhanced valued places, and how the Trust operates to maintain the distinctive character of the Suburb. Meet St Jude's car park.

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Charlie Chaplin Triple Bill at St Jude's Church. Orchestra of St Paul perform live to screenings of iconic films The Cure, Easy Street and The Immigrant. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

10.30am Proms at St Jude's - Heritage Walks Sir Edwin Lutyens and the Suburb. Paul Capewell leads a tour that highlights what Lutyens and his followers brought to the Suburb and explores some of his unrealised plans for the area. Meet at the Free Church car park.

12.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Harp Recital at The Free Church by 1st prizewinner, Camac Harp Competition, North London Festival of Music, Drama and Dance 2017. Admission free.

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - The Choir of King's College, Cambridge - Director Stephen Cleobury at St Jude's Church. The highlight of this programme is Fauré's celebrated Requiem.

Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

SATURDAY 1 JULY

10.30am Free Church Traidcraft Sale, Clothing Exchange and Coffee Morning at The Free Church.

10.30am Proms at St Jude's - Heritage Walks Hampstead's Heroes and Heroines. This walk is based on the Heath and Hampstead Society's and English Heritage plaques. Meet outside Garden Gate at Burgh House, Well Walk NW3 1LT. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

11am Free Church Flower Festival at The Free Church.

12.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Family Concert Cartoon Fun at St Jude's Church. What's up, Doc? Come and enjoy the music from some of your favourite cartoon films. Admission free.

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Jazz Night Big Band of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance at St Jude's Church. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

SUNDAY 2 JULY

1-7pm Free Church Flower Festival at The Free Church.

2.30pm The Ponds Project: how well is the Heath recovering? Meet at Burgh House. A Heath & Hampstead Society walk led by Lynda Cook. Suggested min. donation £5. 07941 528034; email hhs.walks@gmail.com.

7.45pm Proms at St Jude's - Last Night of the Proms The London International Orchestra at St Jude's Church. Toby Purser conducts, with Edward Batting organ and mezzo-soprano Victoria Simmonds. Details and book at www.promsatsjudes.org.uk.

TUESDAY 4 JULY

2.30pm Horticultural Society '1966 and All That' a Fellowship House Talk. Speaker: Colin Gregory on the creation of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society.

8pm Residents Association Council Meeting at Fellowship House. Hear Suburb issues debated and raise your concerns at Question Time (8.05pm).

SUNDAY 9 JULY

10am Borough Councillors' Surgery at HGS Trust offices. Ask for advice on local problems.

TUESDAY 11 JULY

2.30pm Cambodia: Towns and Temples a Fellowship House Talk. Speaker Ray Jones, local resident, on his recent trip

8pm Residents Association Council Meeting at Fellowship House. Hear Suburb issues debated and raise your concerns at Question Time (8.05pm).

FRIDAY 14 JULY - SUNDAY 16 JULY

7.30pm Garden Suburb Theatre - Pride and Prejudice Little Oak Wood, Addison Way. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2.30pm. "The proud Mr Darcy and the prejudiced Elizabeth Bennet soon clash and their spirited sparring and courtship become the focus of this witty drama of manners, money, marriage and love. Admission £10/£8. To book 020 7723 6609/ www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre

TUESDAY 18 JULY

8pm Hampstead Music Club Summer Concert at Fellowship House. Info: claire_crescendo@hotmail.com.

2.30pm 'Think Jessica' a Fellowship House Talk. Speaker Dale Bevington, from a local charity, making people aware of scams.

WEDNESDAY 19 JULY

Horticultural Society Coach trip to Waterperry Gardens and Pettifers, Oxfordshire at Fellowship House. Restaurant available for lunch. For price and to book contact Horticultural Society (020 8455 0455).

Horticultural Society Suburb in Bloom Best Garden Competition Closing Date at Fellowship House. Details and entry forms from Patricia Larsen (patsy_larsen@yahoo.co.uk) or Pauline Murphy (paulinemurphy16@aol.co.uk). Judging Day: 26 July. Horticultural Society membership essential.

WEDNESDAY 19 JULY - SATURDAY 22 JULY

7.30pm Garden Suburb Theatre - Pride and Prejudice (See 14 July)

THURSDAY 20 JULY

2.30pm Free Church Thursday Fellowship Summer Party Free Church Rooms.

TUESDAY 25 JULY

2.30pm 'Now I Come to Think of it' a Fellowship House Talk. Speaker Roger Rose, on his recently published biography.

FRIDAY 28 JULY

1pm Free Church Violin Recital by Makoto Nakata at The Free Church. Lunch in support of Christian Aid served from 12.15pm.



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If you've only got two hours

By now, in late Spring, the garden is getting into its stride, new treasures emerging every day. It's a pleasure to meander around with a cup of tea, delighting in the wonders of nature – until, that is, you spot the scruffy lawn edges and that rose you keep forgetting to prune. That gentle feeling of wellbeing can quickly turn into yet another bullet point on your To-Do list!

With evidence on the benefits of gardens and gardening for health and wellbeing, it seems a shame that our own green spaces, which are supposed to bring calm and tranquillity into our busy lives, can often produce the opposite effect. So with this in mind I hope to offer you some tips to guarantee that your garden is well

maintained with the minimum of effort and time.

With the exception of those garden obsessed amongst us who actively look for things to do in the garden at every opportunity, you only need spend 2-3 hours a week max on the basic upkeep of your plot. If you have a lawn, but don't want to mow it every week, then keeping the edges neatly trimmed creates instant orderliness. That's probably half an hour. Whilst you're at it, it doesn't hurt to get the broom out for a quick sweep of the paths and patios. Using a besom broom gets into all the corners too. Another 15 minutes.

Little and often goes a long way to maintaining the garden's status quo. If you like to stroll around your garden to unwind at the end of a busy day, you



Neat lawn edges, swept paths

can deadhead as you go: Drink in one hand, secateurs in the other and a receptacle looped over your arm. A few minutes every day and you're done. Do get a lightweight long handled hoe; no more reaching into the flower beds risking life and limb, to get at that errant weed right at the back of the border. By often I only mean a few minutes each week. Unchecked weeds go on to flower and set seed, which will colonise your borders in a flash, so it makes sense in the long run too.

"Now what about pruning all those flowering shrubs?" you ask, "It's alright for you, you know what you're doing!" If you follow nature's timetable, gardening goes in cycles. What's more, as it's unlikely that every shrub in your garden will flower

simultaneously, you should only have to prune one or two at a time. I prefer to say there are certain guidelines rather than rules when it comes to pruning times:

- Climbing roses between December and February.
- Clematis early February
- Shrub roses & buddleias mid to end February.
- Traditional mop head and lace-cap hydrangeas should be lightly pruned end March.
- Hydrangea Annabelle however, so popular on the Suburb, can be cut back quite hard to a pair of buds about 12 inches from ground level early April.
- Ditto early April for fuchsias and shrubby salvias.
- Evergreens such as pittosporum, grown for foliage rather than flowers, should not be pruned until the risk of frost has passed,

around mid-May here in London.

• Spring flowering deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia, philadelphus & weigela, should be pruned straight after flowering, end May to end June.

Hopefully you have started to get the idea.....

If on the other hand you prefer the belt and braces approach, then I can guarantee from my experience tending some of the loveliest gardens in the Suburb (you know who you are!) that a three hour session will allow for enough basic maintenance from week to week. Although reluctant to admit it, it's not all that different from cleaning your house! Firstly, progressing from one end of the garden to the other, my failsafe routine consists of deadheading & light weeding

(dusting), mowing, lawn edging and lastly sweeping (vacuuming), including any major pruning on the way round.

Having been a professional gardener for six years it never fails to amuse me how each month follows certain common characteristics, give or take a week or two's grace from year to year. After all, Mother Nature doesn't respect garden borders: As far as She is concerned it's all one large pasture. So, for example, first mow of the year early-March. Sycamore seedlings start springing up end-March. Wild garlic rears its ugly head second week April. Spanish bluebells take over mid-May, and at the end of every May I come home covered in forget-me-not seeds.

CAROLINE BROOME



Centenary Bed - Slip shape



Well pruned and band box neat

Horticultural News



Diane Berger's Open Garden

This Spring the HGS Horticultural Society has an exciting programme of events planned to satisfy even those of you with the greenest of fingers.

On Saturday, May 13 from 10.30am until 12, the society's ever popular, annual Plant Sale will be held at Fellowship House, 136a Willifield Way, NW11 6YD. Come along and choose from hundreds of expertly grown and great value flower and vegetable plants to fill your garden with all manner of delights. Come early as the plants sell out very quickly.

On Saturday, June 17 from 3 to 5.30pm the society will be holding its 283rd Flower Show at the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11 6PB. The entry night is on Tuesday, June 13 from 7 to 8pm at Fellowship House. Make

sure your roses and sweet peas are in tiptop condition to be in with a chance of a rosette.

For the first time ever on Sunday, June 25, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the National Gardens Scheme, nine members of the society are opening their gardens for charity.

Their beautiful gardens and one allotment site will be open on the same day, along with plant nursery stalls, a treasure hunt for kids and plenty of tea and cake. This will be a unique opportunity to explore some of the best gardens our area has to offer.

Details of the Open Gardens will be posted on the Society's website, www.hortsoc.co.uk, and on the National Gardens Scheme's website at www.ngs.org.uk.

JAMES ROBBINS



Blooming flower beds in Northway Gardens. The Northway Gardens Organisation would like to thank Streathers Solicitors and Ellis and Co for their generous support, as well as the Residents Association for their grant, and the over 250 Suburb residents without whom these beds would still be a jungle.

Suburb rainfall

The winter of 2016/17 has been dry, although at times it has been so grey that dry was not how we saw it. If we can take winter as being the months of October to March, this winter has received 11 inches of rainfall, compared with an average of 15.4 inches.

Unfortunately (for those who can still enjoy childish things) there was no snow, apart from some very half hearted flurries on January 13. Also, the just over five inches of precipitation in the first three months of the year was two inches short of the

average. This may be good news for the suppliers of automatic watering systems, but is bad news for those who try to garden organically.

There may not have been quite as much rain as some gardeners would have liked, but there have been compensations in wonderful sunsets, and, in late February, only one serious gale. At the time of writing, in early April, the lengthening, very sunny, days are much to be enjoyed.

DIANA IWI
FROM MEADWAY

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RA Summer Picnic – 11 June 2017



Fizzie Lizzie, the balloon modelling 'queen'

Another afternoon of fun and entertainment for the whole family is in the making, so make a note in your diary to be on Central Square on Sunday, June 11!

Central Square, which lies between St Jude's Church and the Free Church in the centre of the Suburb, will host the RA's annual family picnic accompanied by music and a range of familiar (and some new) attractions and entertainment.

The afternoon will kick off with the popular Happy Hour between 12.30-1.30 where you can pick up a free glass of Pimms, wine or juice. Live music will be provided by our very own local band, Sound of the Suburb.

There will be an dazzling array of sideshows including:

- Punch & Judy shows
- Donkey Rides
- Animal Encounter
- Dog Show
- Children's entertainer
- Balloon artist
- Face Painting
- Homemade cakes

It promises to be a super afternoon with something for everyone. You can bring your own blanket or hire a table and

chairs for the afternoon and enjoy Sunday lunch 'al fresco' with family and friends.

As always we are still looking for volunteers to help on the day with the setting up and general organisation of the event. We are also appealing to baking enthusiasts to contribute a cake or cookies to the Cake Stall.

Proceeds will go to support the various events put on each year by the RA Events Committee,

Painted Penguin face painting



and this year we will also be collecting for the renovation of St. Jude's church.

We are now taking bookings for picnic tables and chairs. If you would like to book a table for you and your family, or you'd like to join our Volunteers Rota and be part of the team to put up gazebos or help at one of the stalls, or you are just after further information then please email raevents@hgs.org.uk.

North London Sinfonia fills Free Church

A programme of Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert attracted a capacity audience to the Free Church on Saturday, March 25 for the Spring Concert given by local amateur orchestra, the North London Sinfonia, under its Conductor and Music Director Owen Leech.

An exciting opening with a spirited rendition of Beethoven's Fidelio Overture was followed by a performance of Schubert's Symphony No.4, 'The Tragic', in C minor which managed to convey both the tempestuous and dramatic character of the outer movements of the work together with the contrasting ideas of the slow movement.

Perhaps the highlight of the concert was the Brahms Double Concerto for violin and cello, performed with both technical skill and instinctive feeling by soloists Jo Keithley, who is the orchestra's principal cello, and Clare Wheeler. This work, which

has become one of the most admired of the late Romantic period, was a big ask for an amateur outfit, but judging from the audience's enthusiastic reception, it rose admirably to the challenge.

The orchestra has strong connections with the Suburb, and its Summer concert is at the same venue on Saturday, July 15, with a programme which includes Kodaly's Summer Evening, Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances and First Rhapsody for Violin and Orchestra, Ravel's Tzigane with soloist Hartmut Richter on violin, and Roussel's Le Festin de l'Araignée.

The orchestra puts on three concerts a year, including well-known works from the classical and romantic repertoire, alongside gifted professional soloists. It has also acquired a reputation for taking on less common works and composers, including some premieres and new music. As

Owen says "...I think people are attracted by our repertoire, but also because we are a friendly, welcoming orchestra..." Its players come from diverse backgrounds, but what they all have in common is a shared passion for playing music. Owen has been described as getting the most out of them. This concert proves that.

NLS always welcomes new players (no auditions). Visit www.nlsinfonia.org, email nlsinfonia@gmail.com or ring 07773 717747.



PHOTOS: HARRY GRINDROD



50 years of music making at YMC

The Youth Music Centre is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a spectacular concert on Sunday, June 18 at 6pm at St Jude's. YMC's magnificent Orchestras and Choir will perform a programme including the wonderful Happy Birthday Variations by Peter Heidrich, Handel's Passacaglia along with works by Albinoni, Bizet, some fiery Tangos and Haydn's Toy Symphony.

Our centre owes its existence to the late Emanuel Hurwitz CBE and Kay Hurwitz MBE, who started the Youth Music Centre in their own house, and, with their friends, gave students the opportunity to play chamber music together.

Emanuel Hurwitz was one of Britain's great chamber musicians, orchestral leaders and teachers, and his wife Kay was a viola player in many major orchestras, but is best remembered for her passionate

work teaching young children. The inspiration and tireless efforts of these distinguished musicians has led countless pupils to brilliant careers in music.

Nigel Goldberg and his team of dedicated teachers are continuing the work of the school's founders in the spirit of the school they so loved. Every time YMC students and teachers meet on Saturday morning at the base in Bigwood House at Henrietta Barnet School an

exciting morning of chamber music, orchestral playing and choir singing unfolds.

Children can take part in voice, theory and recorder classes apart from the larger scale music making. All this is for our young future musicians from the age of three!

The 50th Anniversary concert is free of charge, and afterwards everyone is welcome to join us for a picnic.

MARINA SOLAREK



HGS Golf Society

The Spring meeting of the HGS Golf Society took place on March 31 at Hadley Wood Golf Club. Six teams of three took part in a most enjoyable round of golf with the first prize going to the Cornwood Chippers – Helen Cohen, Ian McCannah and David Morris. The runners up were the Denham Drivers – Alison Cook, Douglas Conn and David Carman.

Whilst we managed to avoid any rain, the sun did not show

its face until later in the day but this did not detract from a most enjoyable gathering. A delay in the kitchen resulted in our lunch being served a little later than planned which meant that not everyone was able to enjoy the meal together. Those who did enjoyed a very satisfying meal, having worked up a decent appetite on the golf course.

The Autumn meeting will return to our local Hampstead

Golf Club on October 9 and further details will follow.

We are planning to arrange group tuition, which we hope will encourage anyone who would like to try golf for the first time, or those who simply want to improve their skills. Any readers who would like to take part should contact Paul Wenham at paulwenham@hotmail.co.uk, or Sandra Okin at sandraokin@yahoo.co.uk.



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The RA website is www.hgs.org.uk