

# COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS – 2015 AGM

## ALLOTMENTS

In January 2014 Pia Duran retired from the Allotments chair; the committee would like to thank Pia for all her hard work. We have a new logo designed for free by Leslie Mello. All allotments are fully taken, but vacancies arise when holders move away from the Suburb. Residents for the waiting list should contact me on 8455 2033.

PATRICIA MAJOR – Chairman (raallotments@hgs.org.uk)

- Over 100 allotments in use throughout the Suburb
- Phyllis Young Trophy for the best kept allotment was won by Pamela Hall
- An unwelcome development on Big Site has been theft of produce and equipment throughout 2014
- Allotments' party was held in the Free Church Hall in September and was a great success; it was great to see new and old faces and some whole families.



## CONSERVATION AND AMENITIES

Issues this year continue to illustrate the pressure on Suburb heritage arising from high prices and the consequent deep pockets for over-development. Consam representatives on the Trust's PPC and Barnet's CAAC committees oppose these as forthrightly as their remit allows. Unauthorised development is also a problem, and we encourage the Trust to require reinstatement or sometimes an improved adaptation.

JOHN SELLS – Chairman (raconsam@hgs.org.uk)

- Obtained Barnet's agreement to paint green the new short CPZ posts
- Survey of tall posts almost completed
- Car club bay proposed to Barnet
- Unauthorised pool pavilion opposed
- Participated in successful resistance to height of flats behind Reynolds Close
- Information gathered on possible development overlooking rear of Heathcroft
- Draft energy booklet progressed.



## EVENTS

Key events are shown in the bullet points below. We have refreshed our committee with marvellous volunteers from our online survey of the previous year. Thanks to Radio 4's Alan Dein and the Archive Trust, our annual Michael Rowley event presented the historical sounds of the Suburb to a packed hall.

DAVID LITTAUR – Chairman (raevents@hgs.org.uk)

- New year's eve party and fireworks – to the delight of so many, this event returned to begin 2014
- Toddlers' party in March – innovative, and a great success
- AGM organised by our committee, including complimentary wines and canapes
- In May the Rowley event – sounds of the Suburb – and the Hustings for Barnet and Euro elections – two crowded and participative audiences.
- Summer Fun Day – fairground and a galaxy of activities on Central Square
- Councillors for Suburb and East Finchley interacted with a spirited audience at the 7 October open meeting.

## MARKETING

Our committee, an innovation for the RA, was created in January 2014. We are committed to developing and implementing strategies to increase the awareness of the RA and its functions within the Suburb, and to attract new members.

We seek to promote HGS as a vibrant community, an ideal place to live with unique and attractive features. We see our role as establishing closer links with all residents, to identify what they care about and seek to fulfil this requirement.

With these aims in mind we have undertaken the following activities over the past year.

DIANE WALSH – Chairman (ramarketing@hgs.org.uk)

- Held two New Resident parties in February and May
- Manned an RA table at the Summer Fun Day
- Placed new HGS Notice Boards in and around N2
- Redesigned the RA Annual Report into this two page format for attractive and easy reading.



## YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Come and discuss Suburb issues with your neighbours at the Residents Association AGM

Monday 30 March 2015, 7.45pm

Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Central Square

All residents welcome - Refreshments

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

When I was elected last year, I said that my objective was to involve residents in two of the RA's constitutional aims:

- the maintenance of the character of the Suburb
- the promotion of community enjoyment.

You only have to glance at the committee reports on this page to see the work being done to promote these aims. However, the challenge to all of us is to bring new members on to those committees. A survey monkey the previous year brought out the volunteering spirit, and resulted in two heavily refreshed committees, and the establishment of a third, marketing.

The RA's governing body is its Council, and this Report from me is on behalf of Council. It too has to bring in new people, and in April we did so, four entirely new, and one a returning old hand. We need to repeat that process in the coming year. Reaching out to residents so that you become aware that 'nothing does itself', and that in the RA we have something of communal value for which it's worth giving some time, and obtaining some pleasure, is one of our key objectives.

Community is an opportunity for both giving and receiving. Fellowship House is an example. The RA collects with its membership fee donations for Fellowship which is a separate charity for senior residents with a programme of events run by volunteers, but the RA also benefits from holding meetings in Fellowship House, at a modest fee, and is looking forward to returning there after the rebuilding.

This report will not refer to each committee, save to record the Council's appreciation for their work and also for the work of residents who represent us on other Suburb bodies, as listed in the annual Directory that we distribute each May, to which I add my own appreciation of the work of the officers, Council, Rosalind Josephs' litter picker team, Mary Whiting for maintaining the Master tradesmen's list, Steve Morris for hosting us on his website and our many other volunteers. Most importantly, I wish to add to the tribute I paid at the last AGM to my predecessor, Janet Elliott, whose tireless work as chairman over five years has left us in such good shape, and who has continued in her other role as Membership Secretary.

The Directory and Suburb News are our key publications. The latter has been uniquely produced by the late Richard Wakefield whom we dearly miss, and to whose Jocelyne and family we have expressed our grateful thanks and deepest condolences. Fortunately, Terry Brooks, our chair of Publications, has been its editor in recent years, and in November was already gathering copy for the 2015 first issue.

The Suburb Gallery was another brainchild of Richard. It was in recent years at Fellowship House until closed for rebuilding in July. The enlarged Eileen Whelan room will no longer be available for our exclusive use, so the plan is to hold special exhibitions there and in other venues, while exploring additional ways to promote Suburb art such as via the website and possibly café art and open house venues.



Council decided that we should, this year, reach back to the early 'noughties' when our report was printed in Suburb News, and we have therefore adopted a modern layout to highlight key bullet points. This means that some further details will be in the formal report on the website www.hgs.org.uk and set out on chairs at the AGM detailed above. The accounts will be added to the website when signed off in February, and will also be available at the AGM, as well as on prior application as to be detailed in the notice of AGM.

JONATHAN SERES (rachair@hgs.org.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP

March and September renewal reminders were posted as usual, with a good response. To help fulfil the RA Council's drive to reduce both costs and the physical burden of the May renewal reminders, emails were sent to those who had registered with us and letters to others who had yet to renew. The outcome has been a reduction from 1,964 members in 2013 to just over 1,800 in 2014. Another contributing factor has been the loss of about 60 associate members living outside the Suburb when the Theatre Club requested a termination of the link. Through the continuing support of our Hon Treasurer, Jeremy Clynes, we have issued eNews and membership emails via Mailchimp.

JANET ELLIOTT – Chairman (ramembership@hgs.org.uk)

- 1,800 households in membership (probably about 6,000 individuals represented)
- Directory contained membership form for first time, delivered to whole Suburb
- All membership work done by volunteers
- For new residents' parties, see Marketing committee
- Discount scheme now in over 40 local shops, thanks to Charles Gale and Ann Spencer. Vouchers emailed in May, and equivalent membership cards delivered or posted to others.



## PUBLICATIONS

Richard Wakefield's sad death ended an era for our committee. He produced 120 issues of Suburb News over 30 years, and oversaw the design standard for all RA publications including the Directory, our posters and the more recent Suburb eNews. We will attempt to maintain the high professional standards he set as we continue his work and also keep abreast with changes in modern media.

TERRY BROOKS – Chairman (rapublications@hgs.org.uk)

- Suburb News published quarterly with its costs covered by advertising revenue and delivery carried out by over 100 volunteers co-ordinated by Lorna Page
- Annual Suburb Directory delivered to every household with the spring issue of Suburb News
- Liaising with Steve Morris on the new design of the RA pages on his HGS website
- Arranging in the coming year for the entire Suburb News archive to be available online
- Administering the Facebook page of 'The Hampstead Garden Suburb Group'.



## ROADS AND TRAFFIC

We have opposed higher on-street parking charges and a potential cost increase for Suburb parking permits in the CPZs. We have responded to several consultations and continued to campaign against TfL's inflexible enforcement at the Market Place, one of several locations where we have again successfully helped residents overturn unjustified parking tickets this year.

GARY SHAW – Chairman (ratraffic@hgs.org.uk)

- Liaison with schools and local authorities to help avoid disruption to residents
- RA operated speed checks to ascertain whether speed limits are being observed
- Assistance with fighting parking tickets
- Constant monitoring of Council plans for Suburb roads
- Responded to retain shoppers' parking bay in Kingsley Way.



## TREES AND OPEN SPACES

We continue to work to preserve and, indeed, enhance the character and appearance of the Suburb and its trees and open spaces; by surveying the streets and ensuring Barnet's replacements fit with the historic planting scheme; by organising working group action days in Bigwood, and by working with local resident groups to plan improvements such as those in Northway Gardens playground and Central Square, and with the City in relation to the Heath.

TONY GHILCHIK – Chairman (ratrees@hgs.org.uk)

- Funded an extra 40 street trees, trebling the number to be planted by Barnet in early 2015
- 6 Saturday morning monthly action days, out of bird-nesting season, in Bigwood coppicing and clearing glades, and planting another 30 oak saplings to maintain age diversity
- Finalised with Barnet and users' group the refurbishment of the Northway Children's Playground, opened by the Mayor, supported by RA Centenary Fund
- Helped plan an improved planting scheme proposed for Central Square.



# Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association