



TREES AND OPEN SPACES

In the spring, Peter Beesley retired from the Committee after over 20 years of much appreciated involvement. We were later joined by Stephan Conaway and Jules Parker plus, for a few months, Vicki Parker, and we are actively seeking more members.

As in previous years, we continued to monitor the Suburb to identify problems to do with trees, grass verges, hedges and benches, with individual members of the committee covering the various areas. Our aim is to visit all Suburb roads noting the gaps within the planting scheme and to help Barnet fill these gaps by matching the number of trees they will plant, up to a set total cost. For Barnet's spring 2016 planting there were problems in getting some of the trees required by the planting scheme so the Residents Association funded fewer trees than we requested and the total planting was, once more, not enough to fill all the gaps. The tree on Finchley Road, by the corner of Temple Fortune Lane, which we funded to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was damaged during the year, was removed and is to be replaced, together with our small plaque, in the 2017 planting.

Our work helping the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust to create a database of significant trees, other than street trees, in the Suburb was finished during the year and the resultant Tree Survey can be seen on their website at www.hgstrust.org/the-suburb/treesurvey.shtml.

We continue to play an active part in the management both of Hampstead Heath, with a representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, and of Kenwood, as a member of English Heritage's Kenwood Landscape Forum.

The Bigwood Working Group aims to improve the woodland structure by coppicing hazel and removing some of the ground ivy and bramble to create some small glades amongst the mature trees, whilst maintaining enough variety for the birds, bats, fungi and other plants to thrive. 9 glades have been created and are being maintained in Bigwood, and the work has been expanded into Little Wood with its amazing amount of wild flowers, which would also benefit from clearing much of the ground ivy and bramble. Peter Falk, who organises the Action Days, is aiming to create a new group of Bigwood Friends who would each pay a £15 annual contribution. Come and join us either to work or as a Friend (email peter.falk@dsl.pipex.com for details).

During the year the RA has again given the Northway Gardens Organisation a small grant to help maintain their newly planted flower beds in Northway Gardens, and has been working with the Central Square Residents Association, the HGS Trust and Barnet on the newly replanted flower beds in Central Square which was supported by a large grant from the RA.

TONY GHILCHIK, Chairman (ratreess@hgs.org.uk)



EVENTS

We on the Events Committee have retained most of our marvellously enthusiastic volunteers from our online survey of 2013 and have since added several new proactive members. Key events of the year are shown in the bullet points below.

- New Year's Eve party and fireworks – most successful Fireworks event, with record attendance;
- AGM on 21 March organised by our committee, including complimentary wines and canapés;
- New Residents Party on 15 May attracted 12 households, mingling in the relaxed atmosphere of the intimate Eileen Whelan Room at Fellowship House;
- Our annual Michael Rowley event on 22 May featured Dr Eva Branscome, talking about the work of the Barnetts in the East End;
- The hugely popular Summer Picnic on 12 June was another very successful and well-attended event. Among the attractions were Donkey Rides, Children's Entertainer, Face Painting, Punch & Judy, Tropical Animals and Sound of the Suburb;
- Children's Halloween party on 29 October was attended by 43 children, who were bewitched by the storyteller and the face painter.

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



CONSERVATION AND AMENITIES (CONSAM)

Consam, which reached its 50-year anniversary in 2016, continued to keep up the pressure on all aspects of conservation in the Suburb. The work was actioned by means of direct contact with the HGS Trust (HGST) and the London Borough of Barnet (LBB). I would like to thank my committee colleagues who have given freely of their time to help with this essential, and fundamental, aspect of the Residents Association's work. This work included:

- Contributing to the consideration of individual planning applications at nine meetings of the HGST Property & Plans Committee;
- Contributing to the consideration of individual planning applications at 17 meetings of the LBB Conservation Area Consultative Committee;
- Pursuing general conservation issues with HGST and LBB at further meetings called for the purpose;
- Ongoing co-operation with HGST in respect of the proposed supplementary guidance on paving and hard-standing, including the taking of photographs to illustrate the guidance;
- Alerting HGST to over 20 infringements of the HGST/LBB Design Guidance, with appropriate follow-up;
- Pursuing with HGST the issue of light pollution in the Suburb, as a consequence of inappropriate lighting installed by householders;
- Objecting to several planning applications via the LBB planning portal;
- Circulating LBB's weekly planning applications to the HGS List Email Group;
- Pursuing with LBB a number of public realm issues, including signage, posts and the conservation aspects of pavements;
- Pursuing with LBB conservation issues relating to Controlled Parking Zones, and also a proposed cycle route through the Suburb, in liaison with the RA Roads & Traffic Committee;
- Implementing the new HGS Residents Association Conservation Award (which replaced the Alexander Stuart Gray Award), with increased emphasis on restoration of features, including landscaping, in line with the Suburb's ethos;
- Obtaining and considering Schemes of Management of eight other conservation areas which are subject to a Scheme.

PETER McCLUSKIE – Chairman (raconsam@hgs.org.uk)



2016 COMMITTEE REPORTS



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The reports on this page describe the work of the Residents Association over the past year. These achievements are due to the hard work of a large number of skilled volunteers who belong to our committees or who help out at individual events or projects. Thank you everyone.

New volunteers are always welcome and a number of our committees including Roads & Traffic, Trees & Open Spaces, the Noise Abatement Working Group and Membership & Marketing would welcome new members. If you are interested in participating in the work of these committees, especially if you have relevant experience, please email me at rachair@hgs.org.uk or phone on 8458 0876.

Much of the work of the Residents Association is concerned with monitoring the activities of the HGS Trust and the London Borough of Barnet. The Residents Association enjoys good relations with both these bodies despite the need from time to time to remind them that their policies are not always aligned with the interests of residents.

We have a good working relationship with our Ward Councillors and often find it expedient to channel comments and complaints regarding London Borough of Barnet activities through them. I would like to draw attention to a particularly important achievement in persuading Barnet Council to drop a proposed cycle route across the Suburb which would have included many unsightly road signs as well as road painting. This proposal could also have created a serious danger to cyclists and pedestrians.

The HGS Trust is much closer to home and four of its Trustees including the Chairman are residents who have a fuller understanding of the issues we raise. We participate in the Trust's work by nominating residents to its committees, including the very important Property & Plans Committee which decides on applications for permission to carry out exterior alterations.

DAVID B LEWIS, Chairman HGS Residents Association (rachair@hgs.org.uk)



MEMBERSHIP

In March 2016, the Council of the Residents Association decided to merge the Membership Committee with the Marketing Committee, so that at our first meeting in April, an enlarged committee met for the first time. The following is a summary of what we were able to achieve in 2016.

- Under our newly appointed Chairman, Hella Schrader, a policy of working in closer co-operation with the Events and Publications Committee was begun;
- Greater publicity was given encouraging both RA members and other residents to come to the AGM in March and overall attendance was considerably higher than in recent years;
- Membership mailings were organised in the Spring and in the early Autumn. The latter included a particular effort to recruit new members among residents who had recently come to live in the Suburb;
- Publicity included an updated leaflet and a new 'Join the RA' poster campaign on all HGS Poster Boards;
- In May the committee organised a new residents party and in June the RA Membership Committee was represented at the Summer Picnic with an RA booth to encourage attendees who were not already members to join up;
- The Discount Scheme run in cooperation with local retailers was continued;
- Overall membership rose to 1,747 households, compared to 1,676 in 2015. Continued efforts to increase membership and encourage members to work to ensure the success of the RA overall will continue into 2017.

JANET ELLIOT, Secretary (ramembership@hgs.org.uk)

Come and discuss Suburb issues with your neighbours at the Residents Association AGM
Monday 27 March 2017, 8pm – Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Central Square

All residents welcome • Refreshments

The Financial Report and Accounts will be available on the website at www.hgs.org.uk/ra/agm/index.html by 13th March 2017. If you would like to receive a hard copy please email ratreasurer@hgs.org.uk or write to HGS RA Treasurer c/o 40 Temple Fortune Lane, London NW11 7UE. Copies will be distributed at the AGM 27th March 2017.



ROADS AND TRAFFIC

During 2016 the Roads & Traffic Committee was instrumental in influencing a great many local traffic matters on behalf of Suburb residents. These included:

- Helping to ensure the most intrusive elements of the Brooklands area traffic proposals were withdrawn after a majority of residents opposed 20mph limits, flashing lights and a zebra crossing scheme;
- Objecting to Council proposals for unsightly Suburb cycle lanes which would have included dozens of brightly coloured road signs;
- Lobbying for a safer layout of the Temple Fortune Hill and Willfield Way junction which has been the site of several accidents over the years;
- Lobbying for a traffic island refuge to aid elderly pedestrians crossing Temple Fortune Lane opposite the health centre;
- Making representations to Transport for London regarding changes to bus routes and also over congestion for Finchley Road traffic at Henlys Corner;
- Making representations to Barnet about parking problems in Kingsley Way and adjacent roads;
- Providing assistance with wrongly issued parking tickets in Hampstead Garden Suburb and Temple Fortune;
- Reporting potholes and missing or damaged signage, bollards etc. to Barnet and TfL.

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



PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee is still looking for a volunteer to take on the advertising brief for Suburb News. The Suburb Directory needs a volunteer to do the same job, and also administer the Discount Scheme as Charles Gale is unable to carry on with these commitments at the moment. The committee also said good-bye to Terry Rand last year after many years of service and thanks him for his contribution over this time. Among our activities are the following:

- 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;
- Administering the RA Discount Scheme; members can find details on the final pages of the Suburb Directory. We need a volunteer to keep this information up to date;
- Arranging for RA members to hear of local events and important news through the Suburb eNews. RA members who want to receive this e-mail bulletin should give us their e-mail address;
- Administering the Facebook page of 'The Hampstead Garden Suburb Group';
- Arranging for Suburb News and the Suburb Directory to be available to view on line at www.hgs.org.uk.

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

BUTE MEWS WORKING GROUP

The RA Bute Mews Working Group was formed last year by me and a group of flat tenants to try and deal with the horrendous amount of fly tipping that was going on in Bute Mews, which is the service road behind the shops on the south side of the Market Place. The worst of it was by a prolific fly tipper over many months. He was 'caught on camera' by a flat resident, who took a photo of him sitting on a pile of fly tipped wood and household items one morning at 4 a.m.

This area has been disgracefully neglected for a number of years, and last year it was so bad that it was becoming rodent infested and a health hazard. The neglected state of the Mews was encouraging more and more rubbish, which was encroaching on to the public footpath.

The Bute Mews Committee presented a 50 signature petition to Barnet and it was accepted at the Finchley and Golders Green Forum last November and with the help of our local Barnet Councillors, liaising with Barnet on our behalf, we have, at last, managed to see an improvement and some action being taken to improve the area.

There has been a recent application to Barnet by the Landlords for a development in Bute Mews. We hope that any development, agreed by Barnet and the Trust, will be in keeping with the Suburb and improve the area and enhance the aspect of Northway Park.

BARBARA BLISS, Chairman (butemews@hgs.org.uk)

NOISE ABATEMENT WORKING GROUP

During 2016 the Noise Abatement Group continued to campaign for a quieter Suburb. The projects undertaken included:

- Providing polite pre-written notices for residents who wished to contact their neighbours about noise nuisance;
- Writing to Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust to request an end to the use of leaf blowers on Trust property;
- Writing to our Member of Parliament to ask for assistance in curtailing late night noise;
- Launching a local poster campaign to encourage use of less noisy garden tools;
- Liaising with other resident groups in London and across the UK who are running similar anti-noise campaigns;
- Contributing to articles and programmes in the media to help maintain awareness of the issues;

GARY SHAW, Chairman (ranoise@hgs.org.uk)

