Wiseman, opened the 51st Annual Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before the Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman, opened the 51st Annual Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before the Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman, opened the 51st Annual Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before the Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman, opened the 51st Annual Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before the Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman, opened the 51st Annual Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before the Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman, opened the 51st Annual Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before the Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman, opened the 51st Annual Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before the Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman, opened the 51st Annual Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before the Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman. Marie-Christine wrote an article on Avenue House in our last issue and has contributed another on bilingualism in this one. Shelley-Anne is responsible for the article on (and baking) cakes for the Horticultural Society. Nick Packard had provided attendances with a sheet of questions and comments, titled ‘The Empire’, relating to the increase in staff numbers since 2006; the effect of this on the management charge; the trustees’ lack of action; the silence of the auditor; the refusal to have a management review; and the consequences for the Suburb of unanimous agreement. The Trust needed to take advice. A donation of £16,000 to St Jude’s for help with the repair of the fabric of the building was also questioned. It was pointed out that the funds for such grants were not part of the Scheme of Management and so not paid by charge-payers. The financial situation of the church was precarious with the liabilities that come with the upkeep of such a large iconic building. As the longest serving agents in the area, we believe in good old-fashioned service - no fuss, no obligation, please give us a call. Residents are warmly invited to the Residents Association party in St. Jude’s from 10:45pm, followed by a fireworks extravaganza on Central Square at midnight. Residents are warmly invited to the Residents Association party in St. Jude’s from 10:45pm, followed by a fireworks extravaganza on Central Square at midnight. Residents are warmly invited to the Residents Association party in St. Jude’s from 10:45pm, followed by a fireworks extravaganza on Central Square at midnight. Residents are warmly invited to the Residents Association party in St. Jude’s from 10:45pm, followed by a fireworks extravaganza on Central Square at midnight. Residents are warmly invited to the Residents Association party in St. Jude’s from 10:45pm, followed by a fireworks extravaganza on Central Square at midnight. Residents are warmly invited to the Residents Association party in St. Jude’s from 10:45pm, followed by a fireworks extravaganza on Central Square at midnight.
Bilingualism – a good thing?

Bilingualism means knowing and being able to use two languages. It has been estimated that the majority of people speak English as their first language. Most school children in the Garden Suburb primary schools do not have English as their first language. Hebrew, Persian-Farsi and Polish are the most common languages. The Garden Suburb pupils (barnet.gov.uk).

There is a perception among some parents and teachers that growing up bilingual is not only fraught with challenges but could even be a risk to educational development. This perception needs to change as research conducted both in the UK and in Canada (Toronto) indicated that the reverse holds true.

The research showed that bilingual children ‘notice’ better how language works and, as a result, outperform monolingual children in tasks linked to language awareness. For example, they can distinguish whether a sentence is grammatically correct from whether it is true. In one experiment, children were asked if the illogical sentence “Apples grow on noses” was silly, but the children who were bilingual insisted it was true. They’d say: “That’s silly”, but the ones with both languages engaged in what is known as “language-driven attention”.

Parents who speak different languages should therefore encourage their children to speak both. They can do this by providing systematic exposure to both languages and by doing so they should be safe in the knowledge that knowing the language of one’s parents is an important and essential component of children’s cultural identity and sense of belonging.

There is one more reason to encourage bilingualism. A recent article in the journal Neurology reported that bilingual patients with Alzheimer’s had been diagnosed 4.3 years later and had reported the onset of symptoms 5.1 years later than the monolingual patients.

All of the above should indicate that there are two very good reasons for people to pass their heritage language to their children. Firstly it connects children to their ancestors and secondly bilingualism is good for you. It makes brains stronger.

Remember it is never too late to learn another language, only think of the advantages it would give you. The Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (1500-1558) famously said, “I speak in Latin to God, Italian to Women, French to Men, and German to my Horse.”

Lutyns’ anniversaries

Three anniversaries of Suburb architect Sir Edwin Lutyns were marked with a dinner at the Royal Institute of British Architects on October 2. Organised by The Lutyns Trust, the event marked the 150th anniversary of Sir Edwin’s birth on 29 March 1869, the 75th anniversary of his death on 1 January 1944, and the centenary of the founding of the Jewish Community Cenotaph, precursor of the permanent memorial in Whitehall.

It took place in the presence of HRH The Duke of Gloucester who has recently become a patron of the Trust. Guests were welcomed by great-nephew Martin Lutyns and addressed by author, broadcaster and cultural campaigner Loyd Grossman who showed examples of the architect’s work including several from the Suburb. The Suburb was represented by HGS Trust’s Life President, Dr Mervyn Miller, author of Hampstead Garden Suburb: Arts & Crafts Utopia (’92/’06), the Reverend Alan Walker, Vicar of St Jude’s and HGS Archives Trustee, and Mrs Luciazeta Walker.

Edwin Lutyns was appointed Consulting Architect to Hampstead Garden Suburb in May 1908. He was commissioned with the task of designing the centrepiece: the churches and institute. An Central Square and the private houses around it. Because of his departure for New Delhi in 1912 many of the houses were completed by others to plans based on his original designs. St Jude’s and the Free Church are two of only five churches designed by Lutyns and the only Grade 1 Listed buildings in the London Borough of Barnet.

Guests at the anniversary dinner were given a Celebration booklet which included an article (from Country Life 1942) by the architect’s son Robert Lutyns which explained the origins of the Cenotaph. Lutyns had designed a garden seat – “a massive affair consisting of an immense ball of timber supported on masonry” – for the Surrey garden of his collaborator Gertrude Jekyll. A friend remarked that it looked like a ‘cenotaph’, then “an obscure term unknown to Lutyns which meant “a monument erected to a deceased person whose body is buried elsewhere.”

When, in 1919, Lloyd-George asked him to design a catalogue for the anniversary of the Armistice, Lutyns immediately remembered the garden cenotaph and evolved a design, not as a catalogue, but as the empty tomb – “the monument of millions buried elsewhere.” Interestingly, a wooden model (perhaps an original design) of the Cenotaph stood in the Free Church as a part of a war memorial scheme until the 1930s. The Archives Trust (suburbarchives.org) possesses several actual and proposed schemes by Lutyns.

Obituary

Edda Tasiemka – the ‘Human Google’

Edda Tasiemka who lived in Temple Fortune Lane died on March 30 this year. Although she lived relatively quietly in her latter years, her home was a destination for historians, writers and organisations and had to travel to another in the city. This of course aroused the suspicions of the Gestapo who began a series of interrogations and abrupt searches which culminated in her mother’s arrest in 1938. Edda herself died of exhaustion himself before the rescue ships arrived. He is remembered in a mural in St Jude’s church. Deborah Heiligman notes that the overwhelming majority of the crew were South Asian Asilmins she was amongst the first to offer the vicar a large glass of sherry on his visits and to talk at length about her life and adventures. A recording of a conversation with the Reverend Alan Walker – mainly about her childhood and youth in Nazi Germany – is held by the HGS Archives Trust.

Torpedod

Torpedod: The True Story of the ‘Children’s Ship’

Edda Tasiemka had a great dislike of religion but was happy with the task of designing the centrepiece: the churches and institute. An Central Square and the private houses around it. Because of his departure for New Delhi in 1912 many of the houses were completed by others to plans based on his original designs. St Jude’s and the Free Church are two of only five churches designed by Lutyns and the only Grade 1 Listed buildings in the London Borough of Barnet.

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Small Suburb organisation wins big award

Pay for your green bin collection? Barnet consults

Mayoral visit to Northway gardens

Litter picking record?

The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Caroline Stock, visited the rose beds in Northway Gardens as part of her declared intention to encourage people to make the most of the borough’s green spaces, and promote healthy living during her term in office. When the Northway Gardens Organisation (NGO) won the bid to manage the beds five years ago, we wrote that after a long wait the Mayor saw the evidence to show what was, at last, hope that the Northway Rose Gardens would enjoy a welcome facelift. At the time Brian Ingram of the NGO declared, “All of us are HGS residents. We came together because of our mutual annoyance at the continued deterioration of the Rose Gardens area in Northway Gardens.” During her visit the Mayor was pleased with the work the NGO had done.

In the summer edition of Suburb News, readers were able to learn about the launch of the litter picking volunteer group led by Michael Green. This group has continued to grow and flourish and now boasts some 70 members, many of whom are involving their children and grandchildren in keeping the Suburb clean and green. We hope readers will see the difference.

On a bright, dry Autumn morning the rains kept away for the first group litter picking session attended by volunteers and two of our Councillors, John Marshall and Robt Grover. We were tackling Lyleton Playing Fields, a much-loved facility in the area, which gets a lot of use, and sadly also a great deal of litter.

Volunteers’ ages ranged from 8 to 80 and all set enthusiastically to work armed with litter grabbers provided by LB Barnet to pick up the litter which had been blown into hedges and onto the banks of Mutton Brook. There was the usual assortment of bottles, cans, crisp packets and cigarette butts. However, our litter pickers even retrieved a (replica) gun and parts of a motorbike.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and were pleased that local families visiting the park were not to be a resident of Waterlooville. 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.

This was the headline on an article that led to the suspension of the Health & Safety concerns that led to the suspension of the Health & Safety concerns. We would love to have more volunteers to cover this large area so please do get in touch: every bit helps and we are never too old or too young to get involved.

EMMA HOWARD
Meet your police

Garden Suburb Ward has its own Safer Neighbourhood Local Policing Team (SNT) and residents now have an opportunity to meet their local team.

A ward SNT is made up of one Sergeant, two PCs and one PCSO. SNT officers, who are at ground level, regularly hold public contact sessions. It is an opportunity to have one-to-one engagement with regard to issues of concern to suburban residents, as well as general crime prevention advice. These one hour sessions are known as ‘Surgeries’.

The locations are advertised in advance online at www.met.police.uk. For the Suburb the SNT regularly use Costa Coffee in Temple Fortune at present. It is easy to forget that it is possible to get a place at our top universities from a local sixth form college when so much attention is given to schools such as the top girls school we have in the Suburb.

HGST Winter Lecture
M O N D A Y 4 N O V E M B E R, 7.30 PM

William Simmonds, Silent heart of the Arts and Crafts movement and his formative years in Hampstead

We are pleased to welcome Jessica Douglas-Home, who will discuss her book of the same title, and Simmonds’ connections with Hampstead. Join us for some light refreshments and learn all about the master artist, craftsman and puppet maker. The event takes place on Monday, 4 November 2019 at 7.30pm for an 8pm start in Bigwood Hall, Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square.

TERRY BROOKS

More Oxbridge places for Woodhouse College

Students at Woodhouse College, near Tally Ho Corner, woke up to good news on August 15 with the publication of another set of excellent A level results for the college. 114 students made a clean sweep of three or more A*/A grades, and at least 18 students achieved their offer of a place at Oxford or Cambridge university.

An unprecedented 30 offers were made by Oxbridge colleges to Woodhouse students this year. The results improve on those reported by Suburb News last year.

And to judge by the following comments the college does more than just secure those all important A levels.

Louisa Velat, 18, from Palmers Green got four A’s and is off to Manchester University to study physics with philosophy. He said, “I've really enjoyed my time at Woodhouse – the teaching’s been excellent, the whole time has been brilliant, and I've done so many things I never thought I would.”

Ellie-Mae Taylor, 18, from Enfield got three A*’s and is off to Durham to study Business Management. She said, “I've really loved Woodhouse, the teachers and the amazing friends I've made. It's been the best two years of my life.”

Seda Orhan, 18, from Southgate is off to Nottingham for psychology. She said, “I'm so happy, I loved my time at Woodhouse and grew so much as a person.”

The Principal, John Rubinstein, remarked, “As ever, I am extremely proud of how hard our students have worked. Last year’s results were our best for ten years and the second best sixth form college in England. We are delighted with our record number of 18 students who secured their place at Oxford or Cambridge, and the very large numbers progressing to medical schools and to top universities. And thanks also to our amazing staff who teach, inspire, encourage, push, help support our students all year long.”

Woodhouse is a popular and oversubscribed sixth form college in Barnet. It has been given ‘outstanding’ status by OFSTED. Students are aged 16-18 years and come from over 180 different schools across North London while 95% go on to university. The College acts as a bridge from school to university, giving students a chance to grow in confidence and to develop independent learning skills.

All students study A levels, offered in a wide range of subjects, and can study them in almost any combination.

I can repeat what I wrote last year and say, “It could clearly be one of the options to be considered when thinking about where to study for A Levels in Barnet. It can be a difficult time for parents and students alike, so they could find that adding Woodhouse to their list might make the choice a little easier.”

TERRY BROOKS

Meet your police

The same complaints had been raised for many years and the Trust has twice been the subject of independent reviews. Staff numbers had risen since 2006 because of a considerable rise in the workload as the Trust dealt with a communal wall problem with four full-time and three part-time staff now compared to four part-time staff in 2006. The reorganisation of the Trust and its finances had not been addressed, and the subject of discussion. Staff felt it was time to get more engaged with local residents, working with the Trust as part of a group of residents solving a problem with a communal wall in Corringham Court led to her being asked to sit on the Safer Neighbourhood Local Policing Team (SNT) and residents have or general crime prevention sessions known as ‘Surgeries’. They are advertised in advance online at www.met.police.uk. For the Suburb the SNT regularly use Costa Coffee in Temple Fortune.

Some of those present expressed some support for the idea of a management review, while others felt that it was unnecessary and would be costly. Claire Calman, who was an elected trustee from 2012 to 2017, said it had been obvious how hard the staff worked, and how complex and time consuming some applications had become, in some cases involving over ten revisions of plans for a basement, for example.

Richard Townley, a surveyor and a Suburb resident for 42 years, mentioned his experience as a trustee of an autism charity and his role in the replanting in Central Square, which involved working with local residents, Barnet, the Trust and the RA. As a trustee he would listen to suggestions and complaints.

Moving on to general questions some of the topics raised by David Iwi’s paper became the subject of discussion. Staff numbers had risen since 2006 because of a considerable rise in the workload as the Trust dealt with issues that, historically, had not been addressed, and resolved an increasing number of more complex cases.

There are seven full-time and four part-time staff now compared with four full-time and three part-time in 2006 before the reorganisation of the Trust and the repairing of its finances. Staff numbers are regularly reviewed and thought was given to how to run the office efficiently.

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TERRY BROOKS
Fellowship exhibition

Hazel Lopatkin has an exhibition of her paintings, prints and installations at Fellowship House starting November 7. Hazel lives on the Suburb for ten years and enjoys the idea of a community art gallery that promotes the work of local artists. She is a member of HGS Arts and has run art workshops for children at the local library. Alongside working on her own art practice, she is an art teacher in an East London girls school and teaches a mixed media evening class at the Art Stables in Finchley.

She explains, “My artwork is autobiographical in the sense that it connects to people, places and artefacts I’ve encountered. It is bound to the idea that life is ephemeral and impermanent, yet there is a physical trace on inanimate objects and meta-phorical trace of other peoples precious memories.” Hazel tries to repurpose memories and protect the trace of the previous owners.

Hazel is a mixed media artist and there are strong connections between genes and stories found in her work. She developed an alter ego, Kalinka, in her final year at Goldsmiths University, and Kalinka became a keeper of things that she was afraid of losing, for example her cultural heritage, including Yiddish and her knowledge of traditional feminine skills.

Hazel’s grandfather was an antique dealer and she always had an interest in antiques, collectors and collections. She has a fascination with used, precious objects and the idea of personal traces on physical items. She tries to replace the missing moments in the objects through her art.

There are organic dappled large-scale acrylic canvases and drawings that reflect this concept accompanying the found object display. The landscapes are a reflection of the journeys of the objects. Her work will be on display and for sale at Fellowship House from November 7. Please go to www.fellowshiphouse.co.uk for details and www.hlwfineart.com for further information.

2019 Chamber Music Festival in Highgate

The Highgate International Chamber Music Festival (HICMF) has announced the programme for its 2019 festival. The theme, Beethoven 249, sees HICMF celebrate this notable anniversary of the birth of the great man, with Beethoven featuring in each of the main concerts.

Founded in 2012 by Festival directors Ashok Klouda, Natalie Klouda and Irina Botan, HICMF brings together outstanding chamber musicians from around the world for one week of music making in the heart of North London. Concerts take place from November 23 to November 30, 2019 at St Anne’s and St Michael’s Churches in Highgate.

The festival will continue their unique, integrated Young Artists scheme this year, which helps emerging ensembles to develop as complete communicators and well-rounded musicians.

This year the opening concert at St Michael’s Church includes Beethoven’s Kreutzer Sonata arranged for String Quintet and much-loved String Quintet in C major performed by Alexander Sitkovetsky, Natalie Klouda, Laurence Power, Shoku Kanneh-Mason and Ashok Klouda.

Highlights include Julian Bliss performing Beethoven’s Clarinet Trio Op.11 and Dohnányi’s Sextet Op.17, John Suchet providing spoken introductions to Beethoven’s Piano Trio Op.1 No.3 and String Quartet No.11 in F minor; Beethoven’s String Quintet Op.29 ‘Storm’ led by Priya Mitchell.

The festival finale includes Clara Schumann’s Piano Trio Op.17 and Finzi’s Interlude for oboe and string Quartet, Op.21, and culminates in Schubert’s Death and the Maiden D.810.

HICMF’s 2019 ‘Concerts by Candlelight’ late-night short concerts series will feature masterpieces such as Brahms’ Cello Sonata in F major Op.99 and Beethoven’s Piano Trio Op.97 ‘Archduke’ at close quarters in a relaxed setting, with mulled wine, mince pies and a truly festive atmosphere.

Tickets are available at www.chambermusicfestival.co.uk. Under its ‘Kah’s Go Free!’ initiative, any paying adult may bring up to two children (16 & under) with them free of charge.
Despite being tucked away in a small corner of North Square adjacent to Big Wood, there is an institution in our midst with a long and interesting history that created, and continues to provide, a space for everyone to meet and share their religious experiences and social commitments: that is the Golders Green Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

The Meeting House was built in 1913 in the Arts and Crafts style, and which was rejected by Dame Henrietta Barnett because it had no spire or dome to match St. Jude’s at the Free Church. She did not get her way that time. Quakers emphasise simplicity and equality, and are very stubborn once they believe the authority with which they work is Divinely inspired.

Two of the Meeting’s founders who embodied such stubbornness were Joan Mary Fry, the daughter of a High Court Judge, who lived on Temple Fortune Hill, and John Fletcher from a humble background, who lived on Maurice Walk. Fry was a pacifist and Quaker Prison Chaplain who visited Fletcher, also a pacifist and a conscientious objector, imprisoned for two years in Pentonville during the First World War.

Fletcher was an indefatigable worker for peace and reconciliation, and also a Quaker Prison Chaplain in the Second World War. Fry organised support for impoverished and starving refugees in Germany after the First World War. She was also a campaigner for the new National Allotment Scheme (1925) for the relief of the poverty-stricken and unemployed in England and Wales. This enabled them to grow and sell vegetables without losing any of their dole money.

A British postage stamp commemorating Fry’s work as a ‘Bristol of Distinction’ was issued in 2012. Three other ‘public’ Golders Green Friends were the humourist Gerald Hoffnung, the journalist and broadcaster Gerald Dome to match St Jude’s or the & his Quaker Prison Chaplain, Frederick, from whom around 6,000 people engaged in the meetings in 1933, shortly after Hitler came to power.

When I joined Golders Green Meeting in 1967 there would be some 70 or 80 Friends worshipping on a Sunday morning for an hour beginning at 11 am. They included those with traditional Christian beliefs, those with Universalist beliefs and those who wished to worship with Quakers, who were quite opposed to any doctrinaire religion. Some were Jewish refugees who had been helped out of Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia by the Kindertransport. That was an organisation strongly supported by The Germany Emergency Committee of the Religious Society of Friends set up in 1933, shortly after Hitler came to power.

Most new Friends today go to their first meeting in their 40s. The numbers who worship today at Golders Green have declined but on a Sunday there may be from 10 to 20 regular worshipers, occasionally even 30, some who have attended for many years but are not members because they are not ‘joiners’. The age range is from 19 to 101. We still reflect a wide range of personal belief, religious origins and ethnicity. What links us is a belief that there is that of God in everyone; and a mode of worship based on an attentive silence that can be broken by anyone present who is inspired to speak words they believe helpful to the spiritual life of the Meeting. Anyone, who also would like to experience the stillness and depth of a Quaker Meeting, is welcome to join in worship on a Sunday morning.

JOHN SHINBOURNE

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Barnet Carers, the borough’s care organisation, has announced a new initiative designed to help carers. We are all aware that caring carry out a vital role in society, and that the social care system would collapse without them. Barnet Carers aims to provide carers with support to carry out their caring role and to reach out to as many of them as possible.

Barnet Carers Centre has been providing support for adult and young carers, and at-home care, in the London Borough of Barnet for almost 30 years. There are an estimated 32,000 carers in Barnet of whom around 6,000 engage with the centre.

Caring for someone can be challenging, especially if you feel like you are caring alone. Sometimes getting help with caring is essential to make sure you have a life outside of caring.

Providing unpaid care can have a real impact on the mental health and wellbeing of a carer, and it is hoped that using the latest IT will be able to provide carers with added information and support.

A new app delivers events information, training, videos, from carers needs assessments, articles of interest and news. It also enables carers to contact each other through the development of a kind of community of carers, and so helps to counter feelings of social isolation.

The app can be downloaded for iOS at Apple.co/26orlgw, and for Android. Bit.ly/22w0tC. For further information visit www.barnetcarers.org, contact admin@barnetcarers.org, or call 020 3995 1909.

Barnet Carers also provides some at-home care to enable people to stay safely in their own homes and keep their independence.

The following short essay will hopefully give Suburb News readers an insight into a care assistant’s day.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HOME CARE ASSISTANT

The first order of the day is a strong coffee to wake me up, a quick bite to eat, and then I am off to my first appointment at 7.30 am.

Mrs Y is an 85-year-old lady who is determined to stay in her own home to feed the family and hear about their lives. At 9 pm I go back to Mrs Y and get her ready for bed. She also uses our Night Owl Service and a colleague will pop in to see that she is OK during the night.

I grab some lunch and then head off to Mr Z. He has complex health needs and I am going to provide Penuttaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) feeding, for which I have received special training. I make him as comfortable as possible during the procedure and have time for a chat with him and his wife before I leave.

I have some paperwork to do and I do this in the car before heading off to collect Mr Q from the day centre. Then it’s time to set off to my own home to feed the family and hear about their day, and have time to put my feet up for a while. At 9pm I go back to Mrs Y and get her ready for bed. She also uses our Night Owl Service and a colleague will pop in to see that she is OK during the night.

The Orchard Housing Society is looking for a part-time housing assistant on a six-month temporary contract at a salary of £9000pa. The offer is for two days per week 9am to 5pm (16 hours), of which one day will be Monday.

Orchard Housing Society is a small sheltered housing scheme in the heart of the Suburb on Hampstead Way. You should have an interest in working with older people in person, and on the telephone.

We are looking for a part-time housing assistant who has good written, communication, IT and administration skills and has basic stage.

To find out more about the RFMS visit their website at www.royalfreemuscociety.co.uk.

Tickets priced at £10 (half-price for full-time students/ unwaged) are available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/rfms, or at the door for £12.

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“Is it chance or the hand of God”
Volunteer staff at the HGS library
Walking into Little Oak Wood
William Faddy RM, Dabby Bryant,
which makes the world go round?”

Life at the Fringe
I’ve lived on the Suburb for 38 years, longer than my career, first as a practising barrister and then in the Ministry of Justice, doing things like advising the Lord Chancellor or working on judicial appointments. When I retired joyfully from all this, I decided to concentrate on acting and performing. I do now have an agent and I am a member of Equity. My special love is cabaret. I have performed at London venues like the Crazy Cops, the Jermyn Street Theatre and the Fheasuny, doing a mixture of original and existing material. Looming over me was the prospect of the Edinburgh Fringe, which I hoped might raise my profile. For that I felt I had to produce entirely original material. In 2016 I finally made it there.

My show was called ‘Angel to vampire!’ It was based on my life’s years, illustrated by various quirky characters, including, no surprise, an angel and a vampire. What many people don’t realise is the huge amount of effort you have to put into getting your show noticed. In 2016 there were 3,500 shows in the Fringe. That is a lot of competition. I had two huge and striking posters (which showed me – as ‘Angel to vampire!’) which were impressively visible – in a side street which not many people knew existed. The other was on the railings in a very busy square. Unfortunately, it was usually hidden behind a parked car. Apart from that, there were an awful lot of posters people. Edinburgh during the Fringe. So you have to push your show by handing out flyers. I really didn’t know that, as I had to get used to stopping knots. The one notable exception is Sarah (my new look) who is the drawing character in the book. She’s a quiet, modest soul – a hospice nurse who ministers to her terminally ill patients and those around them. It is not coincidental that the show ends in Edinburgh, it falls to her, with the wisdom and empathy her vocation has bestowed on her, to take charge at a moment when only those qualities can solve an impending crisis. “We are a family deeply troubled by war,” she says, before explaining in a haunting cri de coeur that it is the strength of hope, the strength of the future, and not the weakness of despair about the past, that provides the possible solution. It is a lesson not only for the characters, or the audience of Edinburgh, but for all of us.

The review is a volunteer librarian at the Hampstead Garden Suburban Community Library.

Welcome to St Jude’s
Sunday December 22:
6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, followed around 7pm by mulled wine
Christmas Eve:
4pm Children’s Nativity Play
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Days:
from 10am until 3pm
10.30am Christmas Celebration followed by seasonal refreshments
All Welcome

SAINT JUDE-ON-THE-HILL • THE PARISH CHURCH OF HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB
www.stjudeonthehill.com
www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

Garden Suburb Theatre excels
The Lady in the Van
Cameron home for three months...
the stays there for 15 years!” During her 15-year stay in his drive, Bennett balances his writing career with watching Miss Shepherd and providing for his increasingly invalid mother. Though he denies “caring” for anyone, he slowly becomes aware of his growing friendship with Miss Shepherd.

The production comes to Upstairs at the Gatehouse (Highgate, London N6 4BD) from 21-24 November. Evening shows on Thursday to Saturday will start at 7.30pm and there will be a 4pm start on Sunday 24 November. Tickets are £14/£12 concession and can be booked at www.upstairsthegatehouse.com or by calling 0348 3448. For further information, please visit www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

Life at the Fringe
Volunteer staff at the HGS library have been working hard on this wonderful piece of theatre. The play is a must see for all who enjoyed the film of the same name, which starred the venerable Dame Maggie Smith in the role.

The Lady in the Van tells the true story of playwright Alan Bennett’s friendship with Miss Mary Shepherd. Despite her being a crabby, eccentric and a complete womaniser, Bennett “allows” her to park her van in the driveway of his Camden home for three months...
HBS World Record! A number of local residents kindly volunteered on April 23 to witness the Henrietta Barnett School's attempt at a new world record for the largest number of people reciting four Shakespeare soliloquies while keeping in sync. The Guinness Book of World Records has accepted the result and the school is now listed as the current world record holder! A fantastic result by the school and many people around the world will now be checking where and what Hampstead Garden Suburb is.

Maggie’s at the Royal Free Hospital

Maggie’s at The Royal Free Hospital is a charity which provides free, practical, physical and emotional support for people living with cancer, their relatives and friends. Maggie’s have centres all over the country which are welcoming, safe spaces that are staffed by cancer support specialists, benefits advisors, nutritionists, therapists and psychologists, all providing support in whichever way best suits you. Maggie’s at The Royal Free has a full evidenced-based programme of activities which include; Yoga, Tai Chi, massage, acupuncture, exercise classes, counselling and much more, which are all free of charge.

The centre is currently based in the Sheila Sherlock Education centre and is the interim centre until the new building is complete in 2021. Daniel Libeskind has unveiled his designs for a 'sculptural' Maggie’s Centre in North London. The Maggie’s will be built in a corner of the hospital’s car park and will replace its existing centre. Libeskind’s design includes an ‘approachable and undulating timber form’ and a roof garden which will act as a ‘serene enclosure’ for visitors. The 26-room building has gardens in the rear and front along Rowland Hill Street. The centre will be the 21st Maggie’s Centre to be built in the UK.

As a charity, Maggie’s Royal Free relies on donations and fundraising efforts which allows it to continue to develop a unique, high-quality programme of support, offering the best support possible to people with cancer as well as their family and friends. So, you can support Maggie’s Royal Free in a number of ways; by attending an event, volunteering or making a donation.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Information Stand at The 02 Centre, Finchley Road

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11
Christmas Carol Concert at St Peter’s Church and Christmas Raffle.

For more information contact Brooke.parsons@maggiescentres.org, call 0203 981 4840, or visit www.maggiescentre.org.

DAPHNE BEROVUT
Waitrose in Temple Fortune have chosen Maggie’s as one of the charities they are supporting in November for their green tokens appeal.

Hilda’s 100th

As reported in our last issue, Hilda went on a trip to South Africa to celebrate her 100th birthday on August 10 with her family. On her return she found herself at another celebration of the event; this time with her Fellowship House family, as the photo shows.
Brookside Walk

Have you ever been there? Do you even know where this is?

The Virtual Museum.

Way and the A1: there it is. Have you ever been there? Do you even know where this is?


day? Perhaps your house has an interesting or unusual story to tell. If so, please write to info@hgsheritage.org.uk, or phone me on 8455 6507.

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WORDSEARCH

In our Autumn Wordsearch we have included the names of 20 types of tea. The winner of the competition in the last issue was Adrian Brodkin from its beginnings to the present day? Perhaps your house has an interesting or unusual story to tell. If so, please write to info@hgsheritage.org.uk, or phone me on 8455 6507.

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GARDEN SUBURB COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Boroughs' Surgery & Social Prescribing Clinic

TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER
10.30am cider & cheese. Have your say at the surgery. Get to know your GP, how to book appointments and how to get the most from your surgery visit. [Free of charge]

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I wonder sometimes, is it the same robin that follows me around The Suburb as I work from garden to garden? The plants certainly do! Do the birds transfer forget-me-not and Welsh poppy or is it, in fact, me? Truth is, as far as nature is concerned The Suburb has just one vast floral patrician. There is a certain synergy to the planting that has nothing to do with fashion. I’m not talking about the hairy Harringtons of Annabelle, adorning gardens throughout. Rather the ones that pitch up on your own-volition. Welsh I suppose you could call them, wild flowers would be kinder. After all, as George Washington Carver once said, “A weed is (merely) a flower that is growing in the wrong place.”

Even more pertinent perhaps, in an age where we are seeking to encourage biodiversity. “A flower is merely a weed growing in the right place.”

Let’s take Lady’s Mantle, or Alchemilla molis, as an example: There is not a single garden that I have visited that doesn’t have some somewhere. Whilst some can’t get enough of it, others can’t dig it up fast enough. Campanulas or creeping bellflowers, very obliging, it flowers, you pull it up, it flowers, you pull it up again and again! Euphorion karvinskianus, or Mexican flaxman to thee and me, is another one. It took me two years to nurture a handful of seedlings resilient enough to grow in the cracks of a retaining wall in Meadowly, and now, three years later, it’s gone rogue, happily seeding itself in every paving crack in the courtyard garden.

Whilst many of these self-sown residents are welcomed with open arms, others claim squatters’ rights. Spanish bluebells and wild garlic can choke a garden if left unchecked. You’ve got to admit their tenacity, spreading by seed and bulb, so deeply embedded that only monotonous and judicious digging will shift them.

Barbara says, “There is a reputation to uphold.” All future cake contributions will be very much welcomed and if anyone would like to join the ‘teas team’ list (the baking of cakes is not a prerequisite), please contact Caroline Broome at carogarden@vgingmedia.com.

Let nature do the work

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On the last Saturday in September allotment plot holders hold their traditional Harvest Supper with the menu containing not just the Suburb-grown food, but also the awarding of trophies.

During the summer members of the committee carry out a walkabout of the plots. It serves as an inspection of the sites and all the plots, and at the same time the best allotment is chosen. Judging is based on the range of plants, their health, the use of space and on general appearance and tidiness.

The winner receives the Phyllis Young trophy, named after a keen local grower, magistrate, and founder of the Allotments Committee in 1969, 50 years ago. The trophy was first awarded 33 years ago. This year for the first time there was a special award for the best newcomer, which is a reflection of the surge of interest in people taking a plot for the first time.

The newcomer’s award went to Augusta and Laurence Wolff of the Big Site, and, indeed, winners of the Championship Goe – the best exhibitor in show – at the recent Horticultural Society Autumn Show.

The overall winner of the Phyllis Young trophy this year was Ruth Beedle. Both winners received Alan Buckingham’s latest edition of Allotment Month by Month. Just in case there are things they do not know.

On the last Saturday in September the trophy was first awarded 33 years ago. 50 years ago.

**Open Gardens**

The RA website is www.hgsra.uk

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