

Suburb News

Hampstead Garden Suburb
Residents' Association



Olga makes the brave decision to return to Kyiv with her daughters, read her story on page 6



Bishop (aka Henry) is missing and his partner, Betty, needs your help, p 21

Micky Watkins, archivist extraordinaire, dusting down the documents for your perusal, page 7



As winter turns to spring

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

Spring comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. The old proverb seems never truer as I write this column in early March just before we go to print. Hats, scarves and gloves are still de rigueur even as signs of spring abound all around us here in the Suburb. The profusion of white snowdrops, purple crocuses, yellow daffodils and sprays of pink blossom create a delicate palette of much needed colour after the seemingly endless monochrome and grey of winter. Once again we start to emerge from our self-imposed hibernation, greeting our neighbours in all the verdant open spaces the Suburb has to offer. The lifting of our collective spirits and lightness in mood is palpable as the days lengthen and we delight in nature.

But we are the fortunate ones, unlike those currently affected by natural disaster or basic human greed; those who cannot leave their homes, safe spaces and shelters; those who may not see daylight for more than a short time each day – if at all. Putin's war of attrition on Ukraine continues past its first anniversary. The aftermath of the terrible earthquake in Turkey and Syria has left thousands displaced, many of those after they have already survived another appalling war. For them, the change in season may go completely unnoticed as they struggle to survive one day at a time. For them, the smallest signs of spring may even be a painful reminder of better times, of loved ones they have lost and of lives they once had.

Spring is traditionally seen as a time of renewal, optimism and revitalisation. Let's hope then that spring is indeed a turning point for all those in need.



The Heath Extension – Winter '22 (Photo: Emma Howard) and Spring '23 (Photo: David Salisbury)

Garden Suburb Theatre Little Wood commemoration



Photo: Alison Melville

COLIN GREGORY

Suburb residents, and much missed members of the Garden Suburb Theatre, Robert and Joyce Jayes were commemorated by a bench in Little Wood, generously donated by their daughter Alison along with family and friends.

Robert and Joyce were residents of Corringham Road and then Heathgate for many years and are fondly remembered by members of the Garden Suburb Theatre which they supported during their time on the Suburb.

The bench was inaugurated with champagne, soup and sausage rolls!

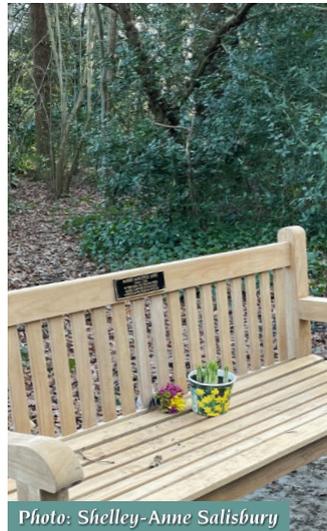


Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury

DESPITE THE ECONOMIC TURMOIL... WE ARE STILL ABLE TO PULL RABBITS OUT OF THE HAT

We have weathered many storms over the last 50 years and have let and sold an extraordinary number of homes in the Suburb, therefore if you are considering moving, we can still deliver a rabbit or two for you.

Whether it be a cottage or a castle, we procure quality clients moving up or down the property ladder.

These resourceful buyers/tenants are not just plucked from the local vicinity, but from far and wide, using our global connections, in order to extract the full value of your home.

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Photo: Jeremy Coleman

Project ImpACT warmth and kindness as the first snow fell

TONY WILSON

ImpACT teens from 26 schools gathered at Project ImpACT's annual Winter Warm Up event on Sunday 11th December. They collected, sorted and packed a huge collection of winter clothes, desperately needed as temperatures plummeted, wrapped gifts and wrote positive letters to those supported by homeless shelters and food banks. The ImpACT Youth Community Kitchen was a hive of activity as the volunteers also washed and chopped vegetables to make 200 portions of nutritious soup for shelters

throughout Barnet and Camden. The event brought together charities that support the homeless and asylum seekers. Representatives from Crisis, Centrepoint, Goods for Good and Barnet Together who joined the event were impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the young volunteers, as was special guest, TikTok rapper star, Formz who spoke openly and passionately about his experiences growing up in Borehamwood and his struggles with poverty. Teens listened raptly as Formz described how he followed his dream to become a famous rapper. He spoke about the importance of resilience

and staying positive even when things are tough, and looking after your wellbeing.

Surplus food donations from the Felix Project, Tesco, Kosher Kingdom and the generous donation of sweets from Swizzels were greatly appreciated.

Project ImpACT has been at the forefront of inspiring and empowering teens to volunteer and make an impact in the Jewish community and beyond.

Find out more or sign up for youth volunteering programmes at www.projectimpact.org.uk or you can obtain more details by calling 07816 268020.

Solar panel installation completed in Suburb

ASHER BUDWIG

Consent has been obtained from LB Barnet and the HGS Trust on a property that is on the protected properties list in the area. Under guidance issued by the Trust (www.hgstrust.org/documents/energy-guidance.pdf – page 15) solar panels would only normally be permitted if installed on a crown roof or flat roof where hidden from view – screened by a parapet wall or a ridge.

When I moved to the Suburb in 2019, I didn't base my property choice on the roof type, and it just so happens that I had a crown roof. I took advantage of this and successfully gained approval from LB Barnet and HGS Trust for a Solar PV system which was installed in 2021. This spurred me on to try and help others in the local area.

Recently a significant breakthrough has been achieved by a homeowner in the Suburb. The home in question has a rear ground floor extension providing a flat roof area overlooking the south-west facing garden. The property is of 'Architectural Interest' to LB Barnet, which put the application under greater scrutiny from their planning office.

After six months of discussion, permission to install solar panels was granted by HGS Trust and LB Barnet provided modifications were made, namely: all black solar panels with black frames, black mounting components, and the panels had to be angled so as not to be visible from the garden. The system was successfully installed at the end of 2022. It is a 2.4kWh system and will produce plenty of green energy for the homeowner.

Solar panels provide a good way of generating clean energy turning a home into a mini power-station and, with the right setup, self-sufficiency in the case of power cuts. Whilst performance is hampered in the winter with short, dark days, electricity generated in the warmer months will help to reduce energy bills and the home's carbon footprint.

Through the adoption of solar PV, which has soared in the last 12 months, we can lessen the requirement on grid companies to build new power stations, catering for the surge in demand that ensues with the march toward clean electric vehicles, as well as reducing energy bills.

For more information on solar panel installation on your home visit www.nextdaysolar.co.uk.



Thanks from Combat Stress

MARJORIE HARRIS

The Friends of Combat Stress would like to thank the many generous Suburb residents who bought Christmas cards supporting the provision of Combat Stress mental health assistance to former members of the armed forces who need it. Despite the high cost of postage and delays caused by the Royal Mail postal strikes, sales of Combat Stress Christmas cards raised £1,006.00. Generous buyers also donated an extra £161.33, so the final total was an amazing £1,167.33. Thanks

to St, Jude's, the Free Church, Waitrose Temple Fortune, the Highgate Society, the Horticultural Society, two pop-ups in Chatham Close and in particular to Fellowship House for allowing the Friends of Combat Stress to sell cards at their various events before Christmas.

You can help to raise more money for Combat Stress at a Designer Clothes Sale to be held in the small hall in Fellowship House while the Horticultural Society's Plant Sale takes place in the large hall and courtyard on Saturday 13 May, 10.30am – noon.

Relief where you want it – in your home

Long term pain or just feeling your age? Physiotherapy can play a vital role in pain management and rehabilitation. Please call for a free consultation or to arrange a visit to your Suburb home.



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Suburb parking update

CLLR ROHIT GROVER

In the last Suburb News, I gave an update on Barnet Council's 2021 'Engagement on Parking' survey, which led to a review of the Suburb's Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) restrictions. Readers will recall that, of the 1791 households surveyed, 397 responses were received (22%), with 27% of respondents in support of a CPZ and 68% against.

As elected ward councillors, Mike Mire and I strongly believe that: firstly, we should be honest with you about what our own position is, even though that may be unpopular with some residents and, secondly, there should be transparency over how the eventual decision is reached, with the reasons made clear and publicly available.

Our position is very clear: we think that CPZs should only be implemented on streets that experience parking pressures and where residents have expressed support for one. In the interests of transparency, our detailed response to the survey and our recommendations can be read here: www.barnetconservatives.london/response.

We have now held a number of meetings with the Council's parking officers, from which it is apparent they are leaning towards implementing a large-scale extension of the CPZ so that it would effectively cover most of the south side of the Suburb. This is because the Council wishes to avoid a piecemeal approach to the introduction of CPZs which has historically had the impact of displacing parking pressures into neighbouring streets.

We understand and respect this position, but are also aware that the Council's Administration has recently approved a series of income generation proposals to help meet its funding gap. Included within these proposals is £1.5m relating to 'Parking – A review of services and policies to ensure a consistent, fair approach to improving traffic, highway air quality and road safety. Meeting existing unaddressed needs and demands on the highway.' This information is publicly available on Barnet's website (Policy and Resources Committee, 29 September 2022, Agenda Item 9, Appendix B, Page 4). It has since been confirmed that this item relates to CPZ permits, and that approximately 5,000 extra permits will need to be sold across Barnet to achieve this target (Council 1 November 2022, question number 18 of 'Questions to the Leader').

As to how the eventual decision will be made, discussions are continuing but we understand that the Council's parking officers will ultimately make a formal report and recommendation to the Director of Highways. Mike and I have asked for our own recommendations to be referred to in this report and for the report to be made public. We have also voiced our strong opposition to the large-scale extension of the CPZ to the Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee, Cllr Alan Schneiderman – the Administration's political lead for parking, both in private and in the public Council meeting that took place on 24 January 2023 (Council, 24 January 2023, question numbers 22, 34 and 44).

We will continue to fight for residents and keep you updated.

Litter pickers unite! We have nothing to lose but rubbish



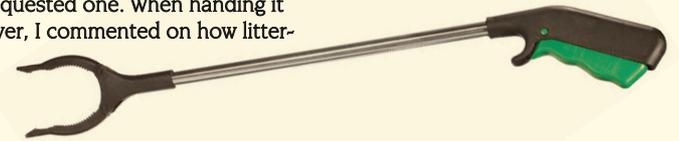
HELENA NAFTALIN

As the new 'litter-picker co-ordinator', I was delivering a litter-picking tool to a Suburb resident who had requested one. When handing it over, I commented on how litter-

free her street seemed. She replied that, since she'd lived in the street, she had always been collecting the litter BY HAND! So she was especially pleased to have the 'lifting stick' to make it easier and more pleasant.

Litter-picking makes a big difference to the lovely overall environment in which we live; it's easy, fun and young children particularly enjoy the challenge of spotting and collecting bits of litter for their bag! (We have child sized litter-picking sticks as well.)

If you're interested in helping your street stay clean, green and tidy, please contact me on litter@hgsra.uk with your name, address and phone number. I'll be happy to deliver a litter-picker to your door. Thank you.



Air Source Heat Pumps an important update

EMMA HOWARD

We have important news for all the HGS residents who are now thinking of installing an air source heat pump, which can dramatically reduce your home's carbon emissions (and may save money too).

We can confirm that consent from Barnet is not required for heat pumps, making the process potentially simpler.

We had previously advised people that consent was required from Barnet and the Trust. However, further research by RA REACH committee members and an approach by our Ward Councillors to LB Barnet has confirmed that Barnet consent is not required in the case of air source heat pumps as their installation is covered by

the Permitted Development Rights Legislation, even in the HGS Conservation area.

Consent from the HGS Trust is still required, however.

Although consent from both bodies would still be needed for ground-source heat pumps. (Not many people are thinking of installing these).

HGS REACH is keen to help residents install heat pumps. Initially, the conversion from gas may seem daunting, but they are commonplace elsewhere in the world and there are successful installations in the Suburb. The Trust is regularly approving applications.

For more information see the REACH section of the RA website (hgsra.uk) and read the article from last year's Suburb News.



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RA REVIEW



Home energy saving measures

GREN MANUEL

HGS REACH, the Residents Association's climate action group, is keen to help all Suburb residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes. However, many residents tell us they need help finding quality suppliers and contractors to make this happen.

We would like to collect more recommendations and add them to the Master Tradesperson List that is maintained by volunteer Mary Whiting and available to RA

members only, via the RA's website at hgsra.uk.

Do you have recommendations for specialist services such as installing double or secondary glazing, internal insulation, loft insulation, or other means of improving energy efficiency, with HGS Trust consent where required? If so, can you please email them to reach@hgsra.uk. We will filter, compile, and pass them on to Mary. We are also very interested to hear about contractors or consultants who are not specialists but who have shown a high level of

knowledge about sustainability. For instance, maybe you had a garage converted into living space and the architect suggested high-grade insulation and underfloor heating. Or you had a new kitchen, and the designer suggested this was an excellent time to install an air source heat pump. Again, please email any information to reach@hgsra.uk. Many thanks.

Your recommendations will help other residents keep their energy usage under control and help to reduce the carbon footprint of homes in the Suburb.



Air quality monitor

RUTH RAMAN

In December last year, HGS REACH received the exciting news that they had been successful in their application for an air quality monitoring station from the Breathe London Community Programme run by Imperial College and funded by the Mayor of London.

The station, similar to that shown above, will measure local levels of nitrogen dioxide and PM 2.5 (invisible microparticles that cause diseases such as asthma and lung cancer). It will be mounted on a lamp post and scanning a QR code below the unit will allow people walking past to obtain live data on local pollution. It will be part of a London-wide network and the data will be published on BreatheLondon.org. The location of the station is yet to be agreed.

We have connections with two other community groups that are getting nodes, and an HGS REACH

member has a mobile air monitor from Middlesex University. Combined community action in our area will help us highlight local air pollution problems and steer change with our local politicians and Barnet Council.

We are fortunate to have lots of green spaces around us which may lull us into a false sense of feeling secure that our air is clean. However, we are also surrounded by busy roads that generate large amounts of pollution. We also have local pollution hotspots caused by rat runs and idling traffic, especially near schools and stations. This air quality monitoring station will be the first step in a greater effort to campaign for cleaner air and greener initiatives in HGS and will support the future health of our community. In the meantime, we can all help by walking the short journeys as often as possible and remembering to switch our car engines off when parked for short periods.

LATE NEWS! Want to cut your energy bill? Reduce your carbon emissions? In mid-May, HGS REACH, the Residents Association climate action group, will run a teach-in on energy-saving for Suburb homes. For more details (and lots more info on sustainability), visit www.hgsra.uk/reach.



Play your part in keeping our Suburb special

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association was formed over 110 years ago. With nearly 1,900 members, it has become a strong, enthusiastic community in the Suburb. It:

- organises social events including the Summer Fair and Hallowe'en/New Year's Eve festivities
 - maintains and enhances the greenery in the Suburb by funding the planting of street trees and setting up of a community orchard
 - supports residents to prepare for environmental challenges
- works with LB Barnet to keep the Suburb clean and supports local litter picking volunteers
- supports local community groups and donates to local charities, including Proms at St Jude's
 - produces the quarterly Suburb News and annual Suburb Directory delivered by volunteers to all households in the Suburb
 - produces the monthly Suburb eNews with local information and events circulated by email to members only
- provides access to the Master Tradespeople List with recommendations from fellow Suburb members and the HGS List email group: both available to RA members only

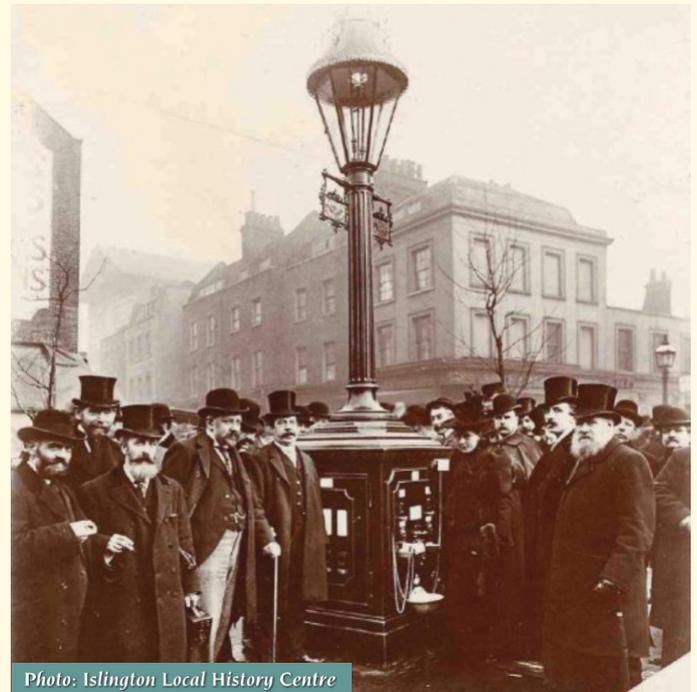


Photo: Islington Local History Centre

In issue 151 we read how lampposts are being used as electric vehicle charge points and, in the article above, to monitor air quality. But it's not the first time lampposts have been used for more than just lighting. At the Great Exhibition of 1897 a new type of gas lamp was unveiled, it certainly provided lighting but it also had an automatic machine that could dispense a gallon of hot water, or a halfpennies worth of beef tea essence, cocoa, milk, tea or coffee. It was called the 'Pluto Lamp' and had been invented by H. M. Robinson in 1896. The Pall Mall Gazette of the 8th July 1898 reported on the opening of the first Pluto Lamp in Leicester Square which, as well as dispensing a variety of hot drinks, offered cigarettes at 'four to the penny'. Alas these lamps were short lived. Part of the reason may well have been that small round pieces of tin could be substituted for the half-penny coins needed for payment, a problem the electric vehicle charging lampposts will not have as payments are contactless.

Marie-Christine O'Callaghan

Join the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association online at hgsra.uk/join or call 020 3488 9131

We'll help you find out why and where your home is cold

HGS REACH, the Residents Association's climate action group, has launched an infra-red camera loan scheme to help our members assess where heat is escaping from their homes.

Infra-red cameras can quickly identify problems such as badly sealed windows and doors, heat loss from bathroom fans, thermal bridges, faulty radiators, and more. The RA has funded the purchase of two IR cameras that clip onto smartphones (Android and iPhone) which we are loaning for short periods to RA members only so they can identify and hopefully resolve these problems.

Please go to hgsla.uk/REACH to register your interest to borrow a camera (including completing a brief initial survey) and find out more about the scheme. It needs to be used whilst it is still cold outside, so we only have a short window to make effective use of the camera before late 2023.

Residents who are not currently members of the RA can join via the website and participate in the loan scheme: cost is a mere £15 pa.

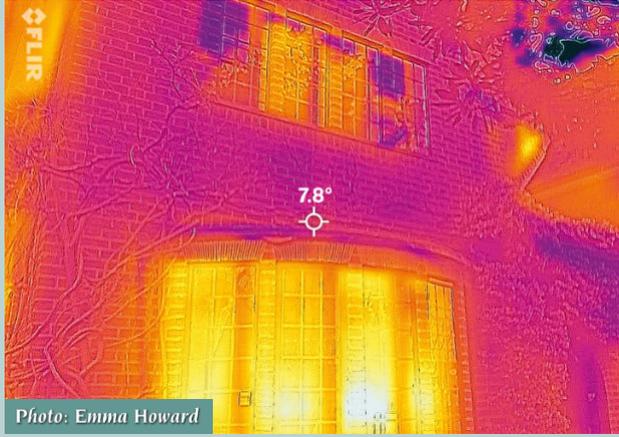


Photo: Emma Howard

Maria Schlatter, Committee member of HGSRA REACH (ircamera@hgsla.uk)



Paving v tree roots

LYNDA COOKE

North End Road starts at the junction of Wellgarth Road and leads down to Golders Green Station and is lined on both sides with London Plane trees. These trees are heavily pollarded annually, the rationale behind this reduction of the canopies being that, if the branches grow in a natural way, they will interfere with the buses travelling along this road. In 2022, for the first time in many years, the pollarding of the upper branches was not carried out and the trees began to look alive again.

During this time of intense climate change and global warming, the tree canopy that could be offered by these trees would be beneficial to the health of birds and invertebrates, people and, most importantly, the shade would reduce the intense heat that is now becoming the norm during our summertime.

In the second week of January, Barnet Council commenced work to replace the paving stones on North End Road. During the work, a magnificent chestnut tree located on the corner of North End Road and West Heath Drive was treated in a particularly harmful manner; the paving stones around the base of the trunk were removed and the large deep roots and the surface roots of the tree were completely exposed. Instead of protecting these roots by covering them with sand or earth, the workmen left their heavy tools and machinery around this tree for several days and nights* (see photo).

When Barnet replaces paving that is cracked and dangerous to pedestrians, it should ensure the trees are protected too. Peter Falk from the RA's Trees & Open Spaces Committee has written to Andy Tipping, Trees and Woodland Manager for Barnet Council, and it appears now that some intervention has been put into place. The trees are now surrounded by fencing and, instead of heavy paving stones weighing down the roots, layers of sandy earth have been heaped around three of the trees on the lower part of the road where the new paving stones have been placed.

Trees in woodland and forests are able to communicate with each other, as has been written about by Peter Wohlleben, author of *The Hidden Life of Trees*, and Merlin Sheldrake, author of *Entangled Life*. Woodland and forest trees share information and alert each other via their roots with regard to insects and other organisms which are harmful to them. By contrast, street trees, planted by humans in accordance with human designs and desires, are not able to communicate in this way and so we need to exercise extra caution and care to enable their survival.

If anyone is interested in learning more about street trees and how to care for them, please contact peter.d.falk@gmail.com.

**I am pleased to report that since writing this article the tree roots have been covered with tar, which is preferable to paving stones.*

The Suburb celebrates New Year's Eve

TONY BRAND

Midnight approaches on the last night of December 2022! With five minutes to go, people stream out of St Jude's, where they have enjoyed wine and snacks. The large crowd waits quietly around Central Square until the church bell rings out to signal the start of 2023, followed by a magnificent firework display lighting up the whole area. An opportunity for people to hope for a better and happier 2023.

Thank you to the volunteers who make this annual event possible, and to St Jude's parishioners for allowing us the use of the church.



Photo: Klaus Falbe-Hansen



Photo: Tony Brand



Photo: Hella Schrader



Photo: Michael Eleftheriades

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NEXT DAY SOLAR



Olga and her two daughters, Lera and Vlada, fly home

There's no place like home

OLGA STEFANYSHYNA

We are sitting around a large table, my friends, family and our children, all celebrating New Year. In Ukraine, New Year is the most important holiday. Delicious dishes are on the table, glasses of champagne are in our hands. We all dream about victory in the New Year and a peaceful sky... Immediately after the clock strikes midnight, we hear loud explosions and they seem to be very close. My friend notices something shining through the window. These are the shahids (Iranian drones). Russia launched them at peaceful Ukrainian cities to terrorise us all even on New Year's Eve. While they are being shot down by our air defence in front of our eyes, we shout loudly: "Children, everyone, go to the shelter!"

But despite all, Ukraine lives. Ukraine stands. There are more people living in Kyiv than before this war started. Many of them moved from other cities, where it is more dangerous, where everything is destroyed. People leave their homes, places where they were born, grew up, built happy lives – for safety. But often the war catches up with them there as well. Like a family from Mariupol who moved to Dnipro city, escaping from Russian shells. 19-year-old Liana, her grandmother and mother were in their new home in Dnipro city on January 14th. Liana was cleaning the house, her grandmother was baking cakes and her mother, who wasn't feeling too well, was lying in bed. At that very moment, their house was bombed by a Russian missile. They all died.

To live in Kyiv today is to live in a state of constant anxiety and complete uncertainty: you never know what will happen tomorrow. You never know, what could happen in five minutes. You can plan your day, make an appointment with the doctor or arrange to go for a manicure, plan to go to school or work. But you suddenly hear a shrill sound: it's a siren warning you of danger, Russian missiles are flying towards us from Belarus, and you must immediately go to the shelter. Your whole day is a mess, your plans are ruined. And most worrying of all, you are afraid that a missile might hit your house. Might kill you, your relatives or your friends.

To live in Kyiv today is to choose a school for your children, not only based on providing a good education, but also that the school has a comfortable bomb shelter and a generator in the event of power cuts in the city. This happens several times a day in the Winter. Sometimes there is no heat or light for 20 hours in a row and the Internet and cell phone connections are cut off.

To live in Kyiv today is to voluntarily give half of your salary to the army so you can be among people you love, support and mutually understand.

To live in Kyiv today means not being able to cook your favourite dishes at home, whenever you like, because of the frequent power cuts. But you can always choose to go to a restaurant nearby and invite friends to have a lovely dinner with candles – because this restaurant works on

a generator and bakes the best Khachapuri in the city. And then you have to wake up at 5am because there's electricity and you need to wash your clothes or hair.

To live in Kyiv today is to live with your own people. To walk through its streets and realise how much you love them, simply because they are yours. Cafés and restaurants are open, shops have all the necessary food, yet, sometimes you won't be able to buy even basic medicines in the pharmacy because of a power cut. So you start on a quest of finding a pharmacy that works on a generator. Finding a pharmacy that runs on a generator and has exactly the medicine your child needs. Then, as soon as you find one, you realise you can't pay by card because there is no electricity. Desperate, you look for cash in your pockets, almost crying because there is none. And at that very moment a kind man behind you says: "Take it, I have money," and just gives you the medicine because you need it. Because to live in Kyiv today is to feel incredible support from fellow citizens. Warmth and care. Because we are all in the same boat and we must hold on for the sake of our victory.

Many people say Ukrainians are unusual emigrants because they are united by an incomprehensible strength in their desire to finally return home. The kindness of people in London is amazing. Good conditions, comfort and safety, excellent education. But you still pack your bags and go home. The journey can take up to 30 hours – by plane, train and car. But it doesn't matter. Because you hear your children say "Mum, I want to see my grandmother. Mum, I miss my friends." And you see your new London acquaintances look at you when you tell them you are going back to Kyiv, asking that silent question: "Why are you taking your children back there to the bombs?"

And I answer "Because there is my home."

Editors' note: Olga and her two daughters, Vlada and Lera, came to stay in the Suburb under the Homes for Ukraine scheme and Margaret Harris interviewed Olga in the Winter issue of Suburb News. Since writing this article, Olga made the difficult decision to go back to Ukraine with her daughters. They left for Kyiv on February 14th.

With the passing of the one year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we return to Olga and her family's story, and their decision to return to Kyiv



"We are sitting around a large table..."

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On the 24th of February 2022 Russia started its 'special military operation' in Ukraine. Putin assumed that the 'operation' would be short and decisive but he underestimated the strength and bravery of Ukraine which has fought back courageously.

There have been devastating consequences to the war, both humanitarian and economic, not least in the millions of Ukrainians displaced both in their country and beyond.

The war has demonstrated how fragile peace is and how important it is for freedom-loving people to find ways to support Ukraine at this time.

If you want to help you can donate through trusted charities and aid organisations like DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee), UNICEF, and The Red Cross. You could also apply to be a sponsor for Ukrainians through Homes for Ukraine www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine.

Marie-Christine O'Callaghan

Do look up...

the joys of stargazing – with Isabelle Ficker



JUDY MARCUS

Stimulated by an article I read in the Independent recently, discussing how increasingly lit cities at night now worryingly reduce the night sky view of stars – much more than scientists predicted – I was inspired to write about my chats and walk with long-term Suburb resident Isabelle Ficker. She has decided to take on the challenge of increasing local awareness of the dangers of excess light at night.

One early evening last December, Isabelle invited me to join her for a walk to the Heath Extension to do some stargazing (without binoculars). Neither of us had experience in stargazing, but with the aid of a couple of stargazing apps we intended to gain some impressions of the night sky and generally enjoy the experience of walking under the stars.

It was a cloudy night, but the Heath Extension was relatively dark allowing for some (limited) stargazing. Isabelle and I counted the stars. Isabelle counted 40

whilst I could see no more than 14 (presumably time for a visit to the opticians?). We checked our stargazing apps. I recognised Mars – it glowed with a yellowish hue – different from the stars – but not its usual red hue. We also noted two satellites which looked a bit like airplanes going past but without flashing red lights. Isabelle recalled with fondness a driving holiday with her sister in the Moroccan desert some years ago where they saw so many stars they couldn't see the blackness of the sky!

I asked Isabelle what made her so determined about spreading awareness about excess light at night. Isabelle explained how humans' eyes can adapt to the dark; you leave your lit up home and go out into the dark, you don't see clearly immediately but soon your eyes adjust. Isabelle said she has been worried for quite some time now about the increasing amount of spotlights and floodlights being installed in the Suburb in the name of security and how often the positioning of these lights can be misaligned and

unsympathetically installed, in our architecturally protected area.

Her bugbear is that installers put lights up in daylight but, unhelpfully, do not come back to test the lights for the effect they have on the surrounding area and neighbours at night. Isabelle believes the environment and our health suffer from excess artificial light at night; so we need to use it wisely. If someone wants security lighting it should be downward facing, and set to a non-overly sensitive movement sensor setting.

Isabelle described how respected studies (she referred me to a publication 'Blinded by the Light' by The Commission for Dark Skies, part of the British Astronomical Association) have shown how damaging LED lights (most commonly used for security lighting) are to wildlife, disturbing breeding and circadian cycles: song birds will sometimes sing at night as they get confused because it's bright and become exhausted, which affects breeding. Isabelle explained LED lights have also been known to affect human health, stopping us setting up circadian rhythms effectively, resulting in melatonin suppression (melatonin is needed to prevent depression).

Isabelle often walks alone at night to count stars and I asked if she ever felt nervous. Isabelle said her mother always directed her to look as though you know where you are going as it will make you appear much less vulnerable. Emboldened, I returned safely home from my star walk with Isabelle.

Isabelle's unbounded enthusiasm for preserving nature and wildlife by reducing the amount of light pollution has definitely made me think differently. I've even continued to try counting the stars from my balcony on some clearer nights. Recently, I managed to count up to 50 stars. I'm definitely getting the hang of stargazing.



Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury

A shout out for... the Archives Volunteers

These volunteers work tirelessly to curate, maintain and update the enormous amount of Hampstead Garden Suburb archive material stored at the HGS Trust offices as well as liaising with the archive staff at the London Metropolitan Archives in EC1 where more HGS archive material is held. Whether you are an historian, writer or a just a Suburb enthusiast, you will find a treasure trove of archived documents, objects and photographs relating to HGS and these volunteers will help point you in the right direction. Photographed at the Trust offices by Shelley-Anne Salisbury, they are (back left, clockwise) Chris Rafferty, Colin Gregory, John Atkin, Micky Watkins and Bruce Mackay.



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Your Virtual Museum (hgsheritage.org.uk) is planning two major new Collections this year. One will be on Suburb Creatives – those wonderful writers, musicians, actors, architects and innovators who made the Suburb their home. The second will be on Suburb Women Who Changed the World – way beyond our little neighbourhood. So, enjoy reading about one personality who will feature in both Collections:



twenty-six years older than West, they started a 10-year affair in 1913 – producing a son (Anthony West) in August 1914. Unfortunately, her relationship with Anthony was strained and when he published Heritage (1955), he depicted her as a deceitful, unloving actress.

Rebecca West

HAILEY PLANT &
ISABELLE MONAHAN

Hampstead Garden Suburb has been home to countless artists, writers and activists. Of these figures, whose stories we will be sharing in our exciting new Collections, none could be a more fitting example than the activist and journalist Dame Rebecca West (previously of 5 Chatham Close).

Cicily Isabel Fairfield (later known as Rebecca West) was born in 1892 in London. Having been abandoned by her father at the age of eight, Cicily was raised by her mother along with her two sisters. However, Charles Fairfield, her father, would still end up inspiring her later political views.



Through his work as a journalist and his involvement in the American Civil War, he brought back controversial political opinions which led to him often inviting Russian revolutionaries and other radicals home to have debates – allowing Cicily to listen in and learn about socialist journalism. Her family moved to Edinburgh around the time of her father's death and she attended school until 14, when she decided not to return after surviving a bout of tuberculosis. She would later comment that her educational experience had been like a 'prison', instead preferring the Fabian Socialist summer schools she enrolled in. Cicily moved to London to train as an actress, taking the name Rebecca West from a play by Henrik Ibsen. West and her eldest sister Lettie became involved in the women's suffrage movement, attending street protests together. Abandoning her acting career in 1911 to become a journalist, she began writing for feminist newspapers The Freewoman and The Clarion. It was through these articles that she established herself as a left-wing women's rights activist.

Throughout Rebecca's life she would be very open about her opinions on critical events of the 20th century. Often she was criticised as a radical due to her status as an outspoken figure – yet she continued to write controversial articles and books well into her old age. Living through the Dreyfus affair as a child, she saw how unreasonable and powerful the will of the public

could be and so she often held a sceptical viewpoint as an adult. This attitude often isolated her within political circles, leaving her with few friends. Although she greatly admired Emmeline Pankhurst as a militant feminist, she criticised her daughter Christabel and the WSPU. She found the organisation to have doctrinaire aspects, and as an independent-minded activist she found this ideological inflexibility to be detrimental. Her stance on the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 also alienated her from the left, who welcomed it as the creation of a utopian society. She doubted that the Revolution would result in such a perfect world, instead noticing early signs of the bloody tyranny that would later characterise socialist Russia. She openly critiqued the American Government and even traditional Christianity, yet despite this remained successful – writing for newspapers such as The New Republic, New York Herald Tribune, New York American, New Statesman and The Daily Telegraph. Her most notable works were her reports on the Nuremberg Trials in 1955 and Apartheid in 1960 due to her interest in the human willingness to commit atrocities.

In 1912, West accused HG Wells of being "the Old Maid among novelists," leading to an invitation to lunch at his home. Despite Wells being married and

West's visits to the US since the 20s made her very popular there and led to her receiving the Women's Press Club Award for Journalism (1948) – President Truman calling her "the world's best reporter."

Despite her various relationships, even having one with Charlie Chaplin, in 1930 she married a banker, Henry Maxwell Andrews, remaining with him until his death in 1968. Her success as a writer led to her ownership of the grand country estate, Ibstone House in which she housed Yugoslav refugees during WWII – having made three trips to Yugoslavia during the 30s and falling in love with the country. West moved to an apartment in Hyde Park after Henry Andrews' death but during the Iranian Embassy Siege (1980), had to be evacuated. Towards the end of her life she enjoyed a full social life with friends such as Warren Beatty and Martha Gellhorn. Today she is remembered as one of the world's best writers, living on through the productions of her works and the posthumous publications that make up one third of her total writings.

If West interests you – feel free to explore our new Collections: 'Suburb Creatives' and 'Suburb Women Who Changed the World', which will be available from late spring onwards and feature West's story.



Photos supplied by Isabelle Monahan

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Catherine Avent OBE

1919 - 2022

MARGARET HARRIS

Catherine (known as 'Cathy' or 'Cath') Avent, who died in December 2022 at the age of 103 years, was a much loved and respected member of the St Jude-on-the-Hill Church community. In her latter years she took on numerous voluntary activities for both the Church and Proms, turning her hand willingly to whatever tasks needed doing, however humble they were. Her quiet involvement in Suburb social and community activities in later years, belied her long and distinguished career as a senior figure in public services.

Born in Hampshire and educated by governesses at home to the age of 12, Cathy went up to Oxford University's Lady Margaret Hall in 1939 and joined the WRNS in 1942 where she trained to be an officer.



After taking a Diploma in Social Science & Administration at the London School of Economics in 1948, Cathy joined the (now defunct) London County Council's Careers Service, helping to find

employment for school-leavers. She was later transferred to the Inspectorate of the Inner London Education Authority, retiring in 1984 having achieved the high status of 'Staff Inspector Careers'.

Cathy said that she had had 'two parallel careers' because, in addition to her full-time job, she also found time to be a writer and broadcaster on career topics and to serve on committees. In fact Cathy described herself as 'enjoying' committee work and served for periods as a governor of several public schools and higher education colleges, as well as on boards of charities, including Toynbee Hall. For three years she was a member of the Finniston Committee of Inquiry into the Engineering Profession, examining the apparent decline of British engineering in the 1970s. The Inquiry's report led to profound changes in the way in which the engineering councils regulated their professional qualifications.

Her work for the Inquiry obliged Cathy to travel to both Japan and the USA. In fact, travel was one of her delights and a hobby she pursued relentlessly. It was one of the many ways in which Cathy sought out new experiences in her life.

The high public esteem in which Cathy was held was reflected in her appointment as OBE in 1977 and in the many other honours bestowed on her. She was given honorary membership of several education bodies, Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and Vice-Presidency of the Lady Margaret Hall Association.

In a funeral eulogy, one of Cathy's many godchildren summed her up as 'a great and very modest woman'.

Ian Black

1953 - 2023

MARGARET HARRIS

As Suburb News went to press we heard the sad news of the death of local resident and journalist Ian Black. As Middle East Editor of the Guardian, Ian earned a reputation of showing fairness to all sides in the Middle East. An extensive obituary was published in the Guardian on 25 January 2023 and can be viewed at: theguardian.com/media/2023/jan/25/ian-black-obituary.



Johnny Buccheri

1932 - 2023

CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS

Johnny Buccheri, barber to countless Suburb residents for the last 30 years, died on 20th October 2023 at the age of 91. Johnny owned and ran the barber shop at the Suburb entrance by Golders Green station, retiring only in 2021 at the age of 89. Full of stories, he loved chatting with his many regular clients.

Of Sicilian and Belgian heritage, he moved to the Suburb with his Japanese wife, Kazuko in 1981 and opened the traditionally fitted out shop in 1990.

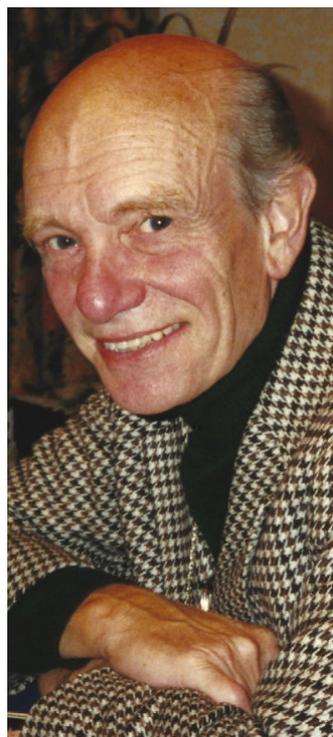
Learning his trade in the early fifties alongside his brother, they ran a barber shop together in Soho, near Ronnie Scott's Jazz club, where their clients included well known actors, musicians, and even the gangsters Ron and Reggie Kray. Celebrities such as the artist Francis Bacon, Bruce Forsyth, Frankie Vaughan, and Johnny Mathis attended the shop. Johnny was friendly with jazz musician Ronnie Scott, and while on holiday on a cruise was recognised by band members performing on the ship. He ended up taking over the ship's Salon and cutting all their hair, something of a busman's holiday.

Johnny also told of how he met the then 17-year-old apprentice electrician and amateur dramatics enthusiast David Jason, who continued to have his hair cut by Johnny in Golders Green, only stopping when a more recent role demanded he had long scruffy hair.

Before becoming a barber Johnny found work as a film extra, a page boy at Grosvenor House Hotel, a stable hand (his father wanted him to become a jockey) and a despatch rider in the Royal Signals serving in Egypt. He rode his motor-bike along the Suez Canal and during the crisis was one day belting along at sixty miles an hour when he caught a glimpse of a suspicious glint in front of him. Braking hard, he saw that it was a trip wire strung across the road intended to unseat or even decapitate unwary despatch riders.

He loved fishing, golf, dancing and cars - his vintage Ford V8 Pilot being a much-prized possession.

He leaves a wife, a son and four grandchildren, and will be much missed by his family, many friends and clients. However the shop he opened by the station lives on in the capable hands of his longstanding colleagues John Smith and Alf Leotta.



Easter at St Jude's

10.30am 2 April: PALM SUNDAY - Procession, Blessing of Palms
Celebrant - Bishop Graham Kings

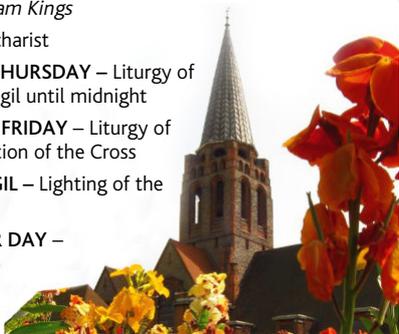
9am 3, 4, 5 April: Said Eucharist

8pm 6 April: MAUNDY THURSDAY - Liturgy of Maundy Thursday and Vigil until midnight

10.30am 7 April: GOOD FRIDAY - Liturgy of Good Friday and Veneration of the Cross

8pm 8 April: EASTER VIGIL - Lighting of the fire and Paschal Candle

10.30am 9 April: EASTER DAY - Parish Eucharist
Celebrant - Fr Guy Pope (Thursday-Sunday)



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Madeleine Melling
1943 - 2022

MARGARET HARRIS

Madeleine Melling, who died in December 2022, was one of the Suburb's most loved, respected and committed residents. Although she lived in Ruskin Close for 54 years, Madeleine was actually born in Australia.

Adopted as a baby, she grew up in the suburbs of Sydney but moved with her parents to the UK when she was fourteen years old. The family settled in Hampstead and Madeleine was educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Tunbridge Wells and the Sorbonne in Paris. Later she took an Open University BA degree course which provided a springboard to an administrative career in education.

Madeleine married Ronald Patrick Melling in 1965 and in 1968 they moved to Ruskin Close where they brought up their four children in a house that was, in the words of their elder daughter Margaret, "always full of activity – parties, get-togethers and general social hubbub." Through her children, Madeleine made numerous life-long friends and became embedded in Suburb life. Right up to the time of Madeleine's death, her Ruskin Close home remained a focal point for her children and grandchildren, a place in London where they were always sure of a convivial welcome.

After her retirement, Madeleine took on voluntary roles in the Suburb, using her administrative skills to the advantage of the community which meant so much to her. She took on the role of 'Friends Coordinator' for Proms for three years and moved on to membership of the Music Planning Committee in 2017. She chaired that Committee from 2018 to 2021, working alongside Yvonne Baker to ensure well-planned events each year. After she stepped down as chair, she remained a Proms volunteer, stewarding for Lit Fest and stepping in wherever there were gaps in rotas.

Madeleine also involved herself in other local activities and had a wide range of interests including local history, tai-chi and travel. She drew her second husband, David Barker (whom she married in 2004), into the life of the Suburb and they often attended concerts and local events. They travelled extensively, including to New Zealand, the Arctic, Greenland and the North West Passage.

Although she had an extensive network of friends in the Suburb, few were aware of how seriously ill Madeleine had become by the autumn of 2022. Sustained by her strong faith, Madeleine accepted her diagnosis with the same dignity that she had shown throughout

her life. But she leaves many Suburb residents deeply saddened by her passing. In the words of Susie Gregson, "Madeleine was a modest, kind and lovely human being, with a caring generosity of spirit." Her local friends will very much miss her presence.

Philip Okrent
1942 - 2022

MARGARET HARRIS

With the passing of Philip Okrent, who died aged 80 in October 2022, the Suburb has lost a committed member of the HGS Residents Association Council and a staunch guardian of our uneven, tree-damaged pavements.

Philip and his wife, Suzie, moved to Addison Way in the early 2000s. They wanted to be near other family members and, as keen walkers, they were attracted to the Suburb's good access to hiking routes. Walking together became a particular comfort to them during the restricted days of the Covid pandemic when, tragically, their son, Stephen, was one of the early victims of the virus.

Although retired from his work as a property consultant, Philip remained active in community activities during his Suburb years. In addition to his vigilance over

the state of our pavements and his constant lobbying of Barnet Councillors to get improvements in their condition, Philip was an active participant in the South Hampstead Synagogue and a volunteer with Jewish Care. Yet he always found time to help and support his children and grandchildren and to pursue his interests in gardening, sport and travel.

Philip's death in a car crash in Spain in October 2022 was a terrible shock to his family and friends who remember him as not only a devoted family man, but also as a true gentleman and active citizen; somebody who was always happy to pick up quietly whatever family or community activity needed attention. He is survived by his wife Suzie, his children and ten grandchildren.



Thinking about your home's energy efficiency?

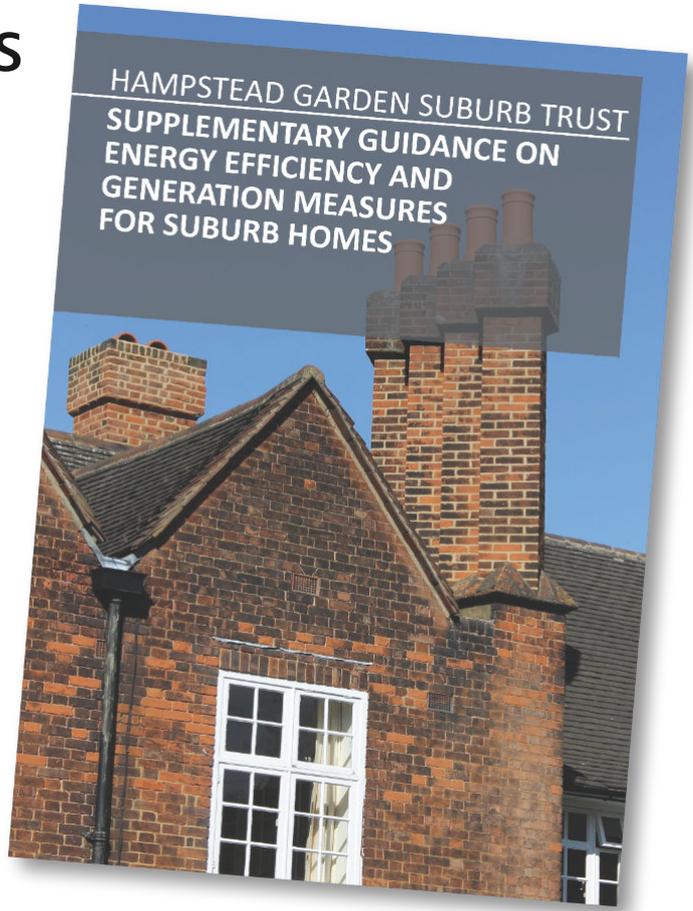
We have produced a guidance document on steps you can take to improve your home's thermal performance without changing its appearance.

The guidance covers:

- ~ Energy efficiency measures including:
 - Insulation (walls, roofs and floors)
 - Windows
 - Doors
- ~ Energy generation measures including:
 - Air and ground source heat pumps
 - Solar panels

Some of these works may require Trust consent, but many do not. We would be happy to offer advice if you would like to contact the office.

Download the Trust's Energy Guidance document today by visiting hgstrust.org then click 'Your Property', then 'Design Guidance'.



The Proms at St Jude's North London's world-class festival on your doorstep

JO LEWIS

Do you live in Hampstead Garden Suburb and have you ever been to Proms at St Jude's? If the answer is no, then you may not be aware that it is home to the world-class arts festival in North London and it is on your doorstep.

It is a summer festival that takes place for nine days every year and has been held for 30 years. In 2023, it runs from Saturday 24 June to Sunday 2 July. Events are held on and across Central Square in St Jude's, the Free Church, Henrietta Barnett School and the Central Square Minyan.

"It's a festival which brings people together from across the



Jaren Ziegler (Photo: Ben Wilkin)

Suburb. While we are local, we offer West End concerts with musicians who perform all over the world. But the Festival is not just about fantastic music. It also includes a Literary weekend 'LitFest' (24 & 25 June this year), where we attract best-selling authors and interviewers. There is also a programme of walks, comedy and family events. On Sunday 2 July, we plan to hold a Family Day for children of all ages and their families: a range of events from a Teeny Prom for toddlers to an exploration of unusual instruments for all the family," says Kate Webster, Chair of Proms.

"We want as many people as possible from the Suburb to come and experience the magic of Proms. We have many wonderful supporters who return every year because they love the concerts and the atmosphere, joining friends for drinks or food before the concerts. For those who have never been, we encourage you to come up, see what we are about and to come to a concert, talk or walk. See what you are missing on your doorstep."



Pico Players

We offer music to suit all tastes. If you like jazz and Duke Ellington, Peter Long, musical Director of Ronnie Scott's, leads a 16-piece orchestra in a tribute to Ellington and Holst, with new arrangements of their popular music on Sunday 25 June. This will include The Jazz Planets and Ellington's greatest hits, including Caravan, Satin Doll and Mood Indigo.

A really fun evening is promised, on Monday 26 June, with the 1927 German Expressionist science-fiction film Metropolis accompanied by the Covent Garden Sinfonia playing a UK premiere of a new adaptation of the original score, conducted by Ben Palmer. When first performed in Berlin, this sold out three times in a weekend. Not to be missed.

For a night of glamour and glitz, locals Emma Kershaw and Katie Birtill give a knock-out performance of Broadway favourites, including All That Jazz, Cabaret and Wouldn't it be Lovely in a Broadway and All That Jazz concert on Saturday 1 July.

If you prefer classical music, we open on Saturday 24 June with



Armonico Consort

the Fantasia Orchestra and Jennifer Pike on violin, performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, the piece that launched Pike's career when she became the youngest-ever winner of the Young Musician of the Year competition. They also perform Beethoven Symphony no 8.

For opera fans, the Armonico Consort present Purcell's masterpiece Dido and Aeneas, including the melancholic Dido's Lament, as a semi-staged opera on Tuesday 27 June. This is followed by Pergolesi's haunting Stabat Mater.

The Sitkovetsky Trio, Chamber winners of the prestigious BBC Music Magazine Awards 2022 will perform a programme including pieces by Beethoven and Schubert on Wednesday 28 June.

On Thursday 29 June, The Purcell School String Orchestra, including their own star horn player Chloe Harrison, team up with famed tenor soloist James Gilchrist to bring us Britten's evocative Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings. The programme also contains the Adagietto from Mahler's 5th Symphony and Beethoven's 2nd Symphony.

The Pico players will give us A Night in Vienna on Friday 30 June. They will perform arias and duets from Fledermaus and The Blue Danube Waltz by Strauss, Summer Evening by Kodaly and Enesco's Romanian Rhapsody No 1.

The London Mozart Players will perform at The Last Night of the

Proms on Sunday 2 July. Highlights are Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings and Mendelssohn's String Symphony no 8, as well as last night favourites.

For more information, you can visit www.promsatstjudes.org.uk. We will also be door dropping our leaflet in early April with the complete programme, and posters and banners will be popping up in May. You can also join our online mailing list by going to the website.

Tickets go on sale to Friends on 27 March and Public Booking opens on 25 April. Ticket prices range from £10 to £38.



Emma Kershaw

Of Russia

*onion domes surround the steeple
ordered 1555 by Ivan the Terrible
'shaped as a bonfire flame rising into the sky'*
St Basil your colours astonish
- secularised 1929
Turgenev, Dostoyevsky, Chekov -
they awaken our minds
many marvels
many horrors
a girl holds up a placard in 2014
'Putin you need a doctor'*

Liz Goldin

**from a guide book*

Proms at St Jude's Festival 2023

Saturday 24 June to Sunday 2 July

Our teenage volunteer crew is an essential part of Proms. Crew work behind the scenes, set up concerts and events, act as runners, help with refreshments and may operate cameras and technical equipment. All contribute to make the Festival successful.

It's hard work, but fun. Qualifies as volunteering for a Duke of Edinburgh award and looks good on a CV. You don't need to be a classical music fan (but will love it if you are!).

If you are interested in about a week's work with us in the Suburb this summer, please register on our website at promsatstjudes.org.uk/volunteering

BESSIE QUINN: SURVIVOR SPIRIT

by URSULA HOWARD

Ursula Howard's experience working in adult literacy and communal publishing, plus her directorship of an international literary research centre at UCL, has obviously provided Howard with all the skills required to put together this exceptional family biography.

Howard's grandmother, Bessie was one of ten children parented by Catholic Irish immigrants, refugees from the aftermath of Ireland's devastating famine in the mid nineteenth century.

The family started life again in Gallashiels Mills, in the Scottish borders, with Bessie, then aged two, in 1881.

In 1904 Bessie left her tenement home, to establish a new life in England and it was in Keswick, whilst working as a cook in at the Newland Guest House, that Bessie met Howard's grandfather, [Arthur] Cecil Howard who was staying as a guest.

Keswick at the turn of the century was a lively place offering an assortment of holiday activities, including Keswick's Cumbrian motorcycle rallies which gave Cecil a welcome chance to get out of London and escape his work at the bankruptcy courts.

Cecil's father Ebenezer, was the pioneer of the City Garden Movement, which was the inspiration behind Henrietta & Samuel Barnett's Hampstead Garden Suburb.

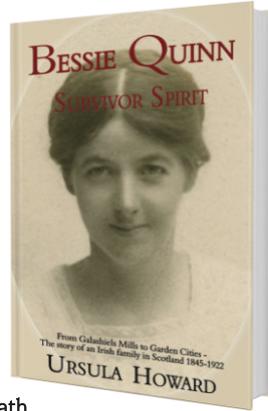
As a married couple, Bessie and Cecil moved into a semi-detached Arts and Crafts cottage in Asmunds Hill where they brought up their two sons. Tragically Bessie did not survive the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1919, and was buried in the Golders Green Crematorium.

Amplly illustrated throughout with almost 60 contemporary photographs, this book gives us a fascinating insight into the fast changing times from 1845-1922.

Both Bessie and Cecil's extended family are explored in detail and Howard has provided a clear family tree, stretching from Bessie's Irish grandparents through to Bessie's own grandchildren.

A map has also been included showing the journeys of Howard's maternal great grandparents from Ireland's west coast to Galashiels Mills and also that of her grandmother Bessie's from Galashiels Mills to North West London.

'Bessie Quinn' is family research at its very best and Suburb residents will no doubt find the references to HGS fascinating.



A BRAND TO DIE FOR

by ALEX PEARL

We are introduced to the book's Soho ad agency via newbie Brian Finkle, job seeker straight out of art school, an only child, newly liberated from living at home with his anxious Jewish parents who continue to worry about him.

Brian is offered an immediate job whereby he and the readers are plunged head first into the frenetic workings of an advertising agency. The louche atmosphere and badinage of the 1980s is wonderfully conveyed by Pearl.

The first half of the story revolves around the creative processes of developing an exceptional pitch for real coal fires and Brian's talent is given free rein, yet it is another seemingly dormant plot line that provides the real action when the serious work of homicide detection moves centre stage. The book now becomes a fast paced thriller with the introduction of several new characters and locations.

Pearl's ability to convincingly convey these different elements lends a sense of intrigue and mystery to the novel.

Brian and his colleague Angus, get into far deeper and murkier waters than either could ever have imagined taking them (and the reader) along an exciting and action packed journey.

Anyone who wants a fast paced read will enjoy this book with its unpredictable twists and turns, often darkly comic along the way.



DEAD THIN

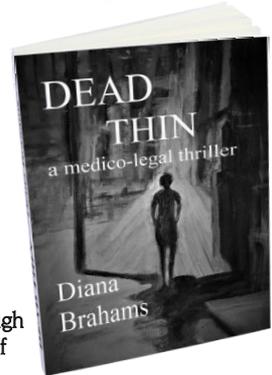
by DIANA BRAHAMS

As with her previous novel 'Lovers and Brothers' Diana Brahams rewards her readers with a gripping tale, containing a plethora of unexpected events and outcomes, which in their turn create an engaging roller coaster reading experience.

The convoluted world of commercial pharmaceutical companies is laid bare through the personal and professional experiences of Dr Raymond Reiss, the medical director in charge of essential clinical trials of a new wonder slimming drug. The author's in-depth knowledge of both the legal and medical world creates a convincing backdrop and atmosphere. The skillful use of dialogue moves the story along without a dull moment.

There is a large cast of players and the setting encompasses both the US and Britain, each with their specific concerns, which Dr Raymond Reiss has to negotiate his way through. Reiss is a multi-layered character – both fall guy and manipulator, so the reader is left undecided about him.

An ideal holiday read, this novel with its focus on the western world's obsession with quick fix dieting, is a gratifying leisure time treat.



The original production, with Caroline Taylor as The Vixen, with the foxcubs played by local children. (Photo: Laurent Compagnon)

HGO wins prestigious 'Offies' Opera Award

DAVID CONWAY

Hampstead Garden Opera, founded 30 years ago at the Suburb Institute, has won, against stiff competition, the prestigious 2023 Opera Performance Award from the 'Offies' – the celebrated annual prize-giving ceremony which reviews Off West End performances. HGO's award, given at a packed Alexandra Palace on 12th February, was for its production of Janacek's opera 'The Cunning Little Vixen' at Jacksons Lane Theatre, Highgate, in November 2022. Collecting the

award on behalf of the production were HGO's Chairman, David Conway, the show's music director Lada Valesova, and two of its lead singers, Caroline Taylor (The Vixen) and Toki Hamano (The Forester). In accepting the Award David praised the singers, musicians and production crew who had made the production such a success. "The award is also a tribute to all the young singers that HGO exists to promote," he added. He also urged the audience to come to HGO's next production at Jacksons Lane in May, Handel's satirical opera 'Agrippina'.

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HGS U3A is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) serving Hampstead Garden Suburb and adjoining areas. Charity registered in England, number 1182530.

'A Child in Striped Pyjamas' update

ANDREW BOTTERILL

The background, conception and an early run through of Noah Max's chamber opera were described in the Winter issue of Suburb News. Things progressed from there.



Photo: Andrew Botterill

Fellowship is proud to have been able to lend its premises for 10 days at New Year for full scale rehearsals for this ambitious and courageous project – further evidence of community support for local talent. It was an intense morning to night operation with

musicians, actors, production staff, cameras, video monitors and the main prop, a section of Auschwitz style fencing – both incongruous and threatening.

All the hard work paid off as tickets for both performances at the Cockpit Theatre in January quickly sold out and, as you can see from the below crits, was very well received:

'A Holocaust drama that's emotionally ambitious and vocally elegant... there can be no doubt of the integrity with which the tight-knit company deliver it' Sir Nicholas Kenyon, *The Telegraph*

'Intense, harrowing drama... [which] invites universal grief. The skilled Echo Ensemble create sonorities with much spiky interlacing, resembling barbed wire, but coalescing intermittently into more humane consonances' Barry Millington, *London Evening Standard*

'Seriousness of purpose is crystal clear from the outset. [Max's] control of colour and texture is as impressive as it is wide ranging' David Benedict, *The Stage*

Noah's brother, Hugo, has made a short film of the rehearsal process. It is planned to show this at a Q & A session with others involved in the production as one of the Fellowship Tuesday afternoon talks. Simultaneously there will be an art exhibition in the gallery of work based on the making of the opera. Watch out for details on the website www.fellowshiphouse.co.uk.



David Breuer-Weil's stunning 'Sister'

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

In issue 148 of Suburb News we featured an article on David Breuer-Weil and his art. Well, he's hit the headlines again with his stunning artwork 'Sister' – an innovative new sculpture on public display in Hanover Square, London until the end of July 2023, as part of Westminster City of

Sculpture and in collaboration with E & R Cyzer Gallery.

'Sister' combines abstract and figural elements in the shape of an egg, representing the origin of biological life and is a potent symbol of growth, regeneration and education, inspired by the artist's sister, a teacher.

Pop up to town to see it in all its glory – it's well worth the trip.



Photo: Marina Solarek

YMC honours neglected women composers

MARINA SOLAREK

The yearly Concerto prize of the Youth Music Centre is entering an exciting new phase. This year students will be part of the new 'Silent Scores and Concert Prize Festival'. On 14th May young musicians will perform pieces by neglected women composers in front of distinguished judges. Prize winners will perform with a professional orchestra on 4th June at 5pm in the HGS Free Church. Some of the pieces performed have only recently been discovered. It was immensely difficult for women to get their

works published – each of these composers have often led difficult, often tragic, lives and most of their amazing music is forgotten or lost. As YMC's artistic director, I have put together a substantial list of female composers' work which has been lying dormant for many years. It has been an interesting journey for students and teachers to discover this vast new repertoire together. The concert on 4th June will give composers like Amy Beach, Pauline Viardot, Florence Prize and many more their deserved platform.

For more information visit www.youthmusiccentre.uk.



Photo: Tony Brand

Concerts at St Jude's

TONY BRAND

Henrietta Barnett's School Orchestra gave an excellent Christmas music concert on the 13th December, showing their musical talents under the direction

of Maurice Chernick, their director of Performing Arts.

This was followed on the 18th December by another stunning performance given by Brookland School's choir conducted by their music teacher, Daniella Ellington.

Both concerts attracted a large and enthusiastic audience who were amazed by the standard of the local children taking part, many of whom will no doubt take part in future years in our fantastic summer Proms!



Alyth Choral Society – Spring awakens! The next concert to be performed by Alyth Choral Society will take place on Sunday 19 March at St Mary-at-Finchley Parish Church, Hendon Lane, N3 1TR. The programme features choral works by Haydn, Gilbert and Sullivan, local composers and a selection from *Schindler's List*. Tickets – £10 (under 16s free). The price includes refreshments. Further information can be found at alythchoralsociety.org, where tickets can also be purchased.

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Suburb News is delighted to welcome a new group of student journalists from Year 10 at Archer Academy



Riya Choudhary

My aspiration is to pursue a career in STEM where I can use my interest in Science and Computer Science. I also love reading, drawing and exploring current affairs. The teenage brain has lots of plasticity, which means it can change, adapt, and respond to its environment. As a young person in the community, I hope to raise awareness of issues that are of interest to the local community but also globally and perhaps offer a new perspective. I am really excited to be writing for Suburb News and hope that it will give us a platform to express our passion for topics that we wish to address.



Joseph Czaky

I am really interested in geography and history, as well as English and maths. However, my favourite subject is psychology and I hope to reflect my passion for this topic in my articles! I know HGS well as my grandparents have lived there for the past 47 years and it's where I went to primary school. Walking around the Suburb can feel a bit like a maze; once when I was younger, I got lost for hours because of how symmetrical and similar everything was. However, I think that it is this very neatness and familiarity which creates a charming, safe atmosphere which is why it has such a tightknit community. I see writing for Suburb News as a fantastic opportunity to reflect on local issues and to get a chance to research and debate topics to widen my own understanding of the world.



Jude Dolan

HGS is one of my favourite areas to visit. I love its peace and tranquility, the neat greenery as well as all the fantastic open spaces. History is a huge passion of mine and I really enjoy music. I play the trumpet and the treble recorder. I also enjoy playing tennis and sports in general. My dream is to become a sports commentator and journalist so I'm very excited to write for Suburb News. I hate to watch the deterioration of our natural world and I feel strongly about the need to limit the dominance of technology and social media in our lives. However, arguably the most pressing issue faced by North London may be the grim likelihood that Arsenal will end up winning the league this season. (I'm a Spurs fan).



Donya Khazaei

I enjoy a vast variety of subjects from Dance to English, however, I enjoy my citizenship class the most as it allows me to reflect on our society and view the world from different 'looking glasses'. I appreciate the close community in HGS and always look forward to a warm welcoming 'Good Morning' from my neighbours. I enjoy taking long walks with my family and inspecting the ever-changing nature as the seasons pass and the cycle continues. After Archer, I look forward to attending 6th Form, then university and will strive to become a lawyer. I look forward to writing for Suburb News.



Maleeha Morey

I take great interest in history – specifically international relations. I also study music and psychology; learning about how the brain works fascinates me. In the future, I would like to pursue a career in law and assist in providing justice to all. Music is my hobby which is why I love visiting the Proms at St Jude's – it provides a wonderful array of talent whilst simultaneously supporting local charities, such as the North London Hospice. I am very interested in politics and want to ensure every child has access to education, healthcare, and their rights, as I believe that a lack of these things is immoral.



Sam Rabin

After my GCSEs I am thinking about pursuing a career in Journalism. My Grand-mother lives in the Suburb and loves the sense of community. I often take my dog on walks to the Heath. I love all the greenery of the Suburb and I recognise that it is a rarity to have all this nature just a few minutes walk away – especially given the fact that we live in a world where our greenery is slowly diminishing. I'm an explorer scout and so over the years I have learned the importance of community and communication within the community. I hope to portray this sense of togetherness through the articles that I will be writing.

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Friendship



Ever-evolving friendship

The average Briton is still in touch with at least five of their former school friends. This number is relatively small – the complicated navigation of twists and turns in our youth perhaps confines us to a constricted number of schoolfriends, maybe because people simply grow apart.

As young children, we aren't usually exposed to the ugly side of friendship, we are blissfully ignorant of the negative extremes.

The graduation to secondary school stimulates a fear of the unknown. New classmates, new teachers, subjects you had never heard of. For many, primary school was comfortable and easy. We were surrounded by the same classmates for the past six years. The, almost foreign, concept of uncertainty is deeply unsettling, and the idea of having to communicate with unfamiliar people often stifles attempts at forming new bonds.

No one wants to be the kid left alone at lunch time – especially on the first day of secondary school. Thoughts of potential permanent isolation bubble, as the race to make new friends begins. Fears of choosing the wrong ones and not fitting in infiltrate defenceless brains. For many on their first day, a great first impression is all that matters.

Of course, many children remain friends with people from primary school. However, the contest to befriend new companions often overpowers the urge to stay in touch with old ones, leaving former friends in the dust. Many students describe how the people they used to be the best of friends with are now the ones they just smile at as they walk down the corridor.

Friendships are different in secondary school. As an individual you have discovered what you are interested in and students can make friendships with others who share the same interests. The complexity of each individual is central, and students say that this individuality enabled the realisation they did not have much in common with their primary school friends after all. The bond, with some primary school friends, however, is sometimes unbreakable – a level of deep understanding between two friends will always bind them. Many things change when going from primary to secondary school – friendships is just one of them.

Samuel Rabin & Maheela Morey – Archer Academy

What is friendship

Friendships: they are shaped from the moment your first words are formed all the way until your last words are stolen from under your breath. As Jim Rohn once said: "You are the average of the five people that you spend most of your time with." It is said friendship peaks for most people in their adolescent years, when the ventral striatum – the brains reward system – is the most active, along with your brains fuelling production of our bodies' most powerful blend of hormones: oxytocin, dopamine and serotonin. These chemicals are especially potent as you spend more and more time on social activities, drifting away from your parents and towards society's future generation. The warm radiating sensation of atoms constantly colliding, as our friendships evolve from a few specks of similarities and flourish into the overflowing biospheres that make up our world, dancing around our heads on a daily basis. It just takes that one pinch of dopamine to open our eyes, enabling us to see the alluring wonders of our world.

In our world, life flies past us like the wind on a breezy day. But friends are like the constant roots that keep the foundation of our lives grounded and secure. These states of enduring affection, esteem, intimacy, and trust boost our experience of the world and give us a heightened perspective we could never achieve alone. We crave and yearn for these luminous shadows at the end of the tunnel hoping they bring us true friendship.

Donya Khazaei & Riya Choudhary – Archer Academy



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Friendship

Aspects of a good friendship

Friendships have existed since the start of time, from cavemen, around 2.5 million years ago, to Rachel, Monica and Phoebe in F.R.I.E.N.D.S. But why are friendships so important? Friendship is the key factor, impacting our psychological and physical wellbeing. Spending time with friends can release hormones called endorphins in the brain, which makes us happy. There are many different types of friendship, but they all share one thing in common: they have the ability to brighten up our lives. Friendship has also been key to breaking through racial and cultural barriers.

However, humans aren't the only species that form lifelong friendships – animals can too. Most animals have acquaintances, but only a few species are capable of true friendship. Dogs, for example, have the emotional capacity to form deep and enduring friendships. A study has shown that unrelated chimpanzees can develop strong bonds that last for years and research shows that durable friendships can be formed beyond the chimp species. Unlike human friendships, animal friendships do not rely on words and instead are defined by the experiences they go through and the sacrifices they make. As humans, we could also learn from these animals; friendships are not built on words but on actions.

So, what are the most important aspects of a good friendship? There should be respect, care, empathy and many other qualities we all hope to possess. It is essential that these feelings are reciprocated, otherwise this may be a sign that you are in a fake friendship. There are also many flip sides to friendship, such as bullying, antipathetic relationships and friends who do not side with you during challenging times. As Charlotte Brontë said, "Friends always forget those whom fortune forsakes." But why worry about bad friendships when you could just be a good friend?

Praneeta Karjodkar & Armitha Panchalingam – HBS



Friendship in literature

Literature often idolise or romanticise various aspects of our lives, one aspect being friendship. As we read, we delve into the innermost feelings of a character towards their friends and unconsciously create a bias towards certain kinds of people or types of friendships. This can sometimes get in the way of perceiving friendship for what it is.

Charlotte Lucas and Elizabeth Bingley are two singletons at the start of the novel 'Pride and Prejudice', with contrasting personalities. Charlotte is the plain, intelligent one; Lizzie is the good-looking, sparky, lively one. They have opposing views on marriage; Charlotte values monetary gain over love, Elizabeth considers personal happiness more important. The marriage of Charlotte and Mr Collins marks a turning point in their formerly close friendship.

Even though Elizabeth grows as a person throughout the novel, she never learns to be a better and more forgiving friend to Charlotte, who made the best choice she could in her circumstances.

Harry, Ron and Hermione are probably one of the most famous friendships in recent literature. They are seen to be the golden trio. They balance each other out; in the first book, Ron's chess ability combined with Hermione's intelligence and Harry's bravery led to the reclamation of the stone. They always stand up for each other in times of need. However, there are little moments where their friendship is marred by jealousy, petty fights and distrust. When Harry's name gets drawn out from the Goblet of Fire, Ron becomes jealous of Harry. Ron refuses to believe Harry didn't put his name in the cup. They also have petty squabbles like when Ron thought his pet was eaten by Hermione's cat. In this friendship, while seemingly perfect, on the surface, they fall out at different points and exhibit unsupportive behaviour towards one another.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson have one of the most iconic literary friendships. Arthur Conan Doyle shows how their relationship deepens as a result of their shared experiences and how a once distant pair, eventually consult each other about important life decisions. Their presence in each other's lives has helped them both evolve as professionals as well as humans. However, the seemingly perfect relationship is not all it seems. There is an imbalance in power between the two with Watson being subordinate to Holmes and being made to feel inferior on many occasions. The problem with such iconic friendships is that often, the healthier side of their relationship can become accepted as the norm.

We look up to these friendships depicted throughout literature and we learn so much from them. After all, literature gives us a perspective on life and teaches us how to approach different circumstances and relationships. Friendships are all different and they will always have flaws no matter what. There will never be a 'perfect friendship', however it is important to call out toxic behaviours. We should remember the words of a wise man. "A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow" – William Shakespeare.

Riya Shah & Saanvi Akula – HBS



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Friendship crosses all boundaries

Friendship. It's a word we all know and value. It's the state of enduring affection, esteem, intimacy, and trust between two people. But where does it start? And where does it end?

The first step is when you spot similarities between you and someone else immediately and begin to wonder whether you would get along with them. Then, you start talking. You realise that you have a lot more in common than you thought. However, this may not always be the case. There may be an initial awkwardness. Then slowly, slowly but surely, you begin to understand each other. You begin to understand every word, every action, every expression, until it becomes so familiar that it's like you'd known them for years.

You learn so much about each other and soon your worlds begin to amalgamate. Every time you walk into a room, your eyes instantly start searching for them, your smile widening as soon as you catch sight of them, you expel a sigh of relief. Outside, you are chalk and cheese, inside, there is a connection that brings you together. If there's a problem between you, you handle it maturely, knowing to give the other personal space and time to work it out. If one is upset, the other will always be by their side, no matter what. If you feel like the friendship is weakening, you will reconcile by fixing it together. Soon, you begin to question what your life would've been like without them. It dawns on you that there is no longer a singular you, only plural.

Unfortunately, some friendships are temporary. But the effects of it can be long-lasting. In the summer of 1914, the European nations went to war with enthusiasm, believing that the war would end by Christmas of that year. It did not and thousands died. On the 25th December, Christmas Day, as dawn broke, German soldiers rose from their trenches, waving their arms to show no malice. They were quickly joined by the British soldiers, and together they exchanged gifts, played football, shared food and even sang carols, with those who had been their mortal enemies just a day earlier. A Christmas Truce. A truce built on the foundations of a new friendship. A friendship no one expected amidst the animosity of the war. And although this friendship was only able to survive for a short time, it emphasised the fact that friendship does not only have to be a spark between two similar sides, friendship can cross borders.

This goes to show that friendship can knock down any barrier, can leap over any hurdle. No matter what race, gender or social background you come from, a true friend will always see and appreciate you as you. The trust built in a true friendship is unbreakable and can withstand any obstacles that may come in its way. Friends may drift apart over the years, the friendship may make you laugh or even make you cry, but the memories created together can last a lifetime. Friendship is a relationship that transcends all boundaries, a strange bond which finally sets you free.

Vishali Thushyanthan & Soumiya Indrakumar – HBS

The pros and cons of social media friendships

The World Health Organisation defines health as a state of 'complete physical, mental and social well-being' rather than just the absence of disease and sickness. Friendship is the single most important thing affecting our mental well-being because relying on social connections is how humanity has always coped with grief and hardship. Having good friendships is essential at all stages of life, however it's when you are a child that making friends is crucial as it's a catalyst for development and aids the ability to form mature relationships.

When you enter your teenage years, the way that we connect to our friends' changes; the introduction of technology and social media opens up new methods of making friends. Unfortunately, there are many negatives to social media, particularly if you solely rely on online connections rather than real-life physical friendships. Teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18 spend the most time on social media, with time averaging at three hours a day. Some teens spend as much as nine hours a day on apps such as TikTok and Instagram. But what effect does social media have on our ability to form friendships?

When observing our biological ability to make friends, we can deduce that whilst social media allows us to have more connections and build a larger network, it ends up draining our energy to maintain real-person relationships. According to Dunbar, a psychologist, this is because 'our brains are only capable of handling around 150 friends, including family members'. His conclusions were based on conducting brain scans of peoples' neocortex (the part of the brain that manages relationships). Of course, most people have over 150 friends just on TikTok and our abundance of online friendships may end up damaging our ability to keep up with our 'real' friends. Many lonely teenagers turn to social media in order to prevent their loneliness when, in reality, it can have the opposite effect and actually push themselves deeper into their pit of loneliness.

On a more cheerful note, there are ways in which social media can be harnessed as a force for good. We can keep in touch with friends that have moved far away and we can make social plans much more easily and efficiently than our grandparents would have been able to 60 years ago. So, social media can be a valuable tool. Social media can also be leveraged to build positive online reputations that sixth forms and universities may find impressive for later on in life. In conclusion, social media is a double-edged sword for our generation – depending on how you use it.



Joseph Czaky & Jude Dolan – Archer Academy

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Anyone for... astronomy

JUDY MARCUS

With a nod to my school days' love of physics and armed with my physics O level A grade training, one wintry evening I went to join the friendly HGS Astronomical Society, a well-established Suburb group who meet monthly in the Oriel Room, upstairs at the Free Church Hall Building in Northway. It's not in the Free Church itself, (a mistake I first made on arriving). Here, invited lecturers give illustrated talks about deep space.

I received a warm welcome by the group's administrator Andrew Glendinning. The group consisting of about 15 people of mixed ages who were expectantly and excitedly waiting for the talk to be given by Roger O'Brien, lecturer in astrophysics at several institutions including the Open University and City Lit.

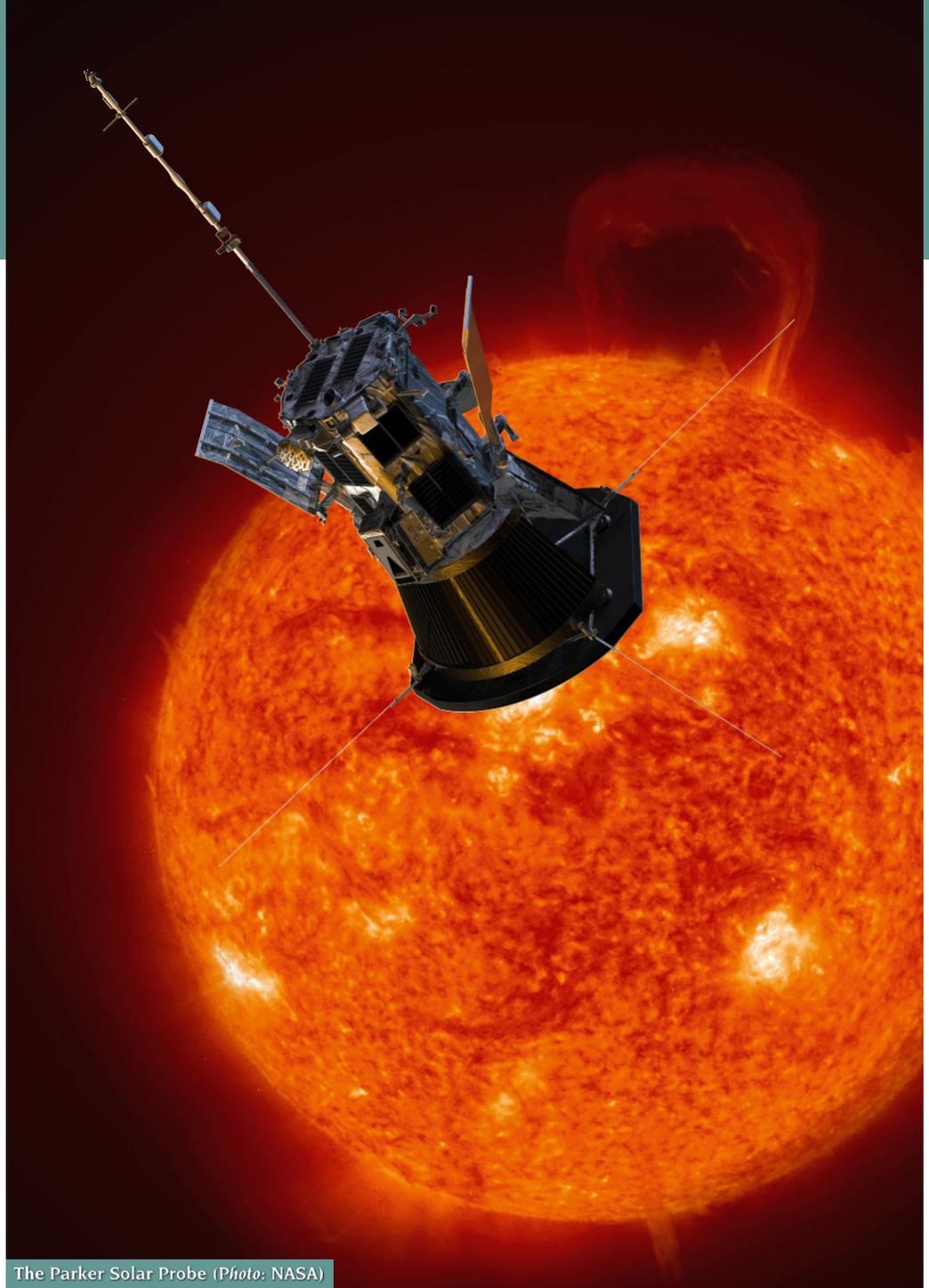
Roger's lecture on 'Solar Orbiters' was delivered with a passion for all things astrophysics. Admittedly, as a complete novice, I found some of the space engineering descriptions difficult; however I could appreciate the joy Roger took in his subject.

It's difficult to share the contents of an astrophysics lecture without it sounding like a list from the Guinness Book of Records and, I feel that since the first moon landing, cosmic scientific developments have rather taken a bit of a back seat. People seem more interested in science in medical and surgical improvements, robotic surgery and transport engineering (such as self-drive cars).

The Parker Solar Probe is an unmanned spaceship, travelling around the sun and sending back data. This NASA funded project is advertised as 'A mission to touch the sun'. Roger wryly dismissed this 'Nasa Hype'. He made it clear how the spacecraft could never reach the sun as "the dynamic field generated by the dynamo within the sun's Corona (the outer part of the sun's atmosphere) is immensely hot – 1 to 2 million degrees C..." However, the Parker Solar Probe has managed to travel just within the sun's Corona and is the spacecraft that came closest to the Sun.

Data sent back by the Parker Solar Probe enables scientists to predict solar wind patterns, thus decreasing risk to our communications satellites and to our electric grid. The payload onboard is kept free from solar radiation and near to room temperature with a heat shield covered with a thin black layer of calcium phosphate; a charcoal-like powder much like pigments used in cave paintings thousands of years ago. A case of the ancient meeting the cutting edge.

To achieve speed and direction the spaceship goes around Venus which changes the plane of the spacecraft's orbit using a technique called gravity assist or 'gravitational slingshot'. 'Slingshot' uses a spaceship's movement (here it orbits around the Sun), and the gravity of a planet (in this case Venus) to alter the path of a spacecraft: it's an elegant way to tweak a spacecraft's orbit into a direction you could never reach any other



The Parker Solar Probe (Photo: NASA)

way. The Probe 'falls' further towards the Sun each time it goes round Venus, reaching 101 miles per second.

The Solar Probe has taken the nearest ever image of the sun's corona using doppler spectroscopy – showing newly discovered details like holes in the corona and bright features likely to be flares, also amazing shots of

multiple planets including earth from the sun's aspect.

I admit a lot of the lecture was challenging: I had to simplify the data/engineering details, for this article. I also used Google to help me interpret Roger's data and complete my understanding. Despite its complexities, the lecture was definitely a springboard to stimulate my interest in

Astronomy generally. Roger wanted us to leave the lecture "bowled over by the fun of astronomy", and that he wanted his lecture to leave us "suitably boggled". I was "suitably boggled" and definitely bowled over. Mission accomplished.

To visit The HGS Astronomical Society contact Andrew Glendinning on 0775 1 305056 or go to hgsas.co.uk.



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HGS U3A Topical Talks

JUDI JOHN

Our first live Topical Talk of 2023 took place, on 19th January. Stephen Kon, an experienced EU lawyer, gave a fascinating and stimulating talk entitled "The UK's place in Europe: Fantasies, Nightmares and Uncertainties". It was very well attended with a very interesting Q & A session.

On Thursday 16th February, the second Topical Talk of this year was given by Author and Artist Linda Nissen Samuels, who divides her time between writing and painting. Her first book for adults, *The Man Under the Radar* is a biography of Linda's father, war hero Jack Nissenthall, a Radar engineer who volunteered for a suicidal mission on the Dieppe raid.

In November last year, Linda was honoured to lay a wreath in tribute to her father, at the Cenotaph.

The next Topical Talk will be held on 16th March. Maurice Collins is a collector of weird and wonderful objects and in his own words says "I don't think anyone else loves collecting 'thingy-mebobs' from the past as much as me."

Topical Talks take place at the Free Church, North Square (unless notified otherwise). Doors open at 2.30pm. Our Topical Talks are open to members of HGSU3A (free) who register on the Meetings page of our website: hgsu3a.uk/events.

If you are not a member and would like to join go to: hgsu3a.uk/join. Members may bring a friend.



Linda Nissen Samuels



MYKE JACOBS

We were delighted to receive many good submissions for the Photo Competition in 2022, the winners of which were announced in the last Suburb News. The prizes given to the top three entries were well deserved.

Accordingly, we are very happy to announce that we will be holding

another Photo Competition this year and the full details and rules will be set out in the Summer Edition in June 2023. This year's subject will be 'A Favourite Portrait' and all entries will need to be of one or more people, clearly showing their facial expression(s), no less than 2 megabytes in size, and taken on or after 1 June 2023. The last date for submitting entries

is 30 September 2023. Prizes will be awarded for the best entries in the form of Amazon Vouchers: First Prize – £75, Second – £50 and Third – £25. Winning entries will be printed in Suburb News and may be exhibited locally.

The judges will again be Myke Jacobs, Diana Iwi and Marion Davies, who are all members of the HGS U3A Photography group. They will be looking for portraits (which can be self-portraits) which tell a story and where one or more faces can be clearly seen.

The portrait alongside this article is an example showing a model having her face made up by an artist for a photoshoot in a street in Chinatown, London. They are totally absorbed in their work and the model is clearly preparing herself for the photoshoot to come. Little does she know that the shoot has already begun!

Since the photos must be portraits of people, all winning entries will need to have the consent in writing of the subject(s) to their photo(s) being published, or, in the case of children or other vulnerable people, have received the consent of parent or guardian.

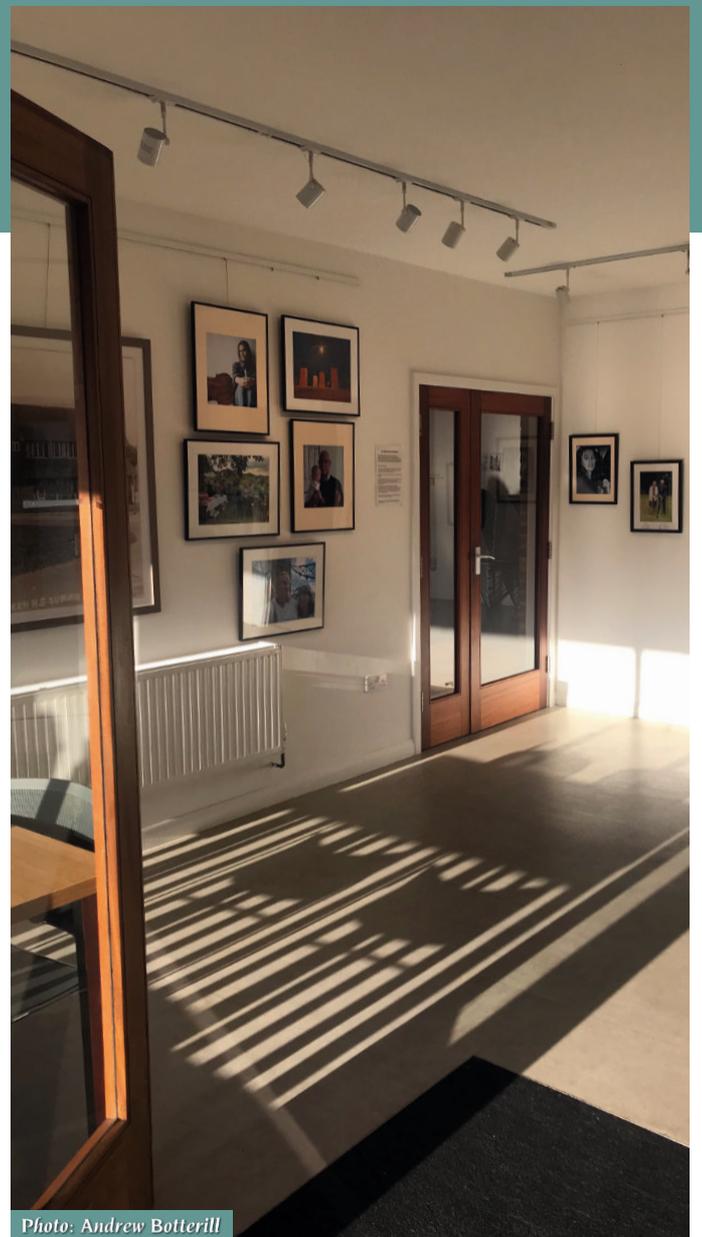


Photo: Andrew Botterill

Suburb News at Fellowship House

One of the strong points of Suburb News is the photographs sent in by residents. A new joint project we have started will seek to capitalise on this by mounting some of the more striking examples in a small revolving exhibition in Fellowship Reception. This will alternate with a similar arrangement made with the Archives Trust whereby examples from the archives are shown. The space will therefore present a changing vision of Suburb past and Suburb present.

On a related note we are pleased to welcome to our Management Committee as the RA representative, Marie-Christine O'Callaghan, one of the Suburb News Joint Editors.

Andrew Botterill

Bowling Club talk on Boris Bennett

JUDI JOHN

Boris Bennett was a doyen of wedding photographers. From his stylish Art Deco studios he made ordinary couples look like glamorous Hollywood film stars. At a packed-out event, Bishopswood Bowling Club member and Suburb resident, Michael Bennett, Boris's eldest son, spoke movingly and amusingly about the life and career of his talented and charming father, taking us from his childhood home in Lodz, Poland, to his studios in London's West End, via Paris and Whitechapel. Boris had a big heart as well as a good business brain; he gave work to needy local people and ensured all his brides looked their best in his photos by always having stunning bridal accessories on hand for them to borrow. Boris took more than 150,000 wedding photographs and they have since become extremely sought after by collectors of the Art Deco period.

This promises to be the first of many talks to be held at Bishopswood Bowling Club which welcomes new members. Anyone who would like to try their hand at the sport can just come on in



whenever the gates are open. The club is friendly and welcoming to both experienced and novice players and lessons are free.

For more information please visit bishopswoodbc.co.uk, phone 8058 2212 or you can email to: info@bishopswoodbc.co.uk.

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'Friends of Big Wood' Open Morning

FRIENDS OF BIG WOOD

Ever wondered what the volunteer group the Friends of Big Wood do? Why is it an Ancient Woodland and what plants, birds and other wildlife live in Big Wood? What happens at the Forest School Sessions? Why is it so important to look after Bigwood?

Why not come and find out the answers and much more at our Open Morning on Sunday 2nd April from 10am to 1pm – meet at the Temple Fortune Hill entrance.

We'll be doing mini walks around Bigwood; nature quizzes for children and adults; animal mask drawing; Forest School photographs and Craft displays; Membership

table (so you can join up straight away). Volunteers will on hand to explain about the sort of activities we do and how you can help us to look after Bigwood. Plus, there will be hot drinks and home-made cake!

Why not come and discover this wonderful community wood and become a Friend – so we can continue to look after and protect this unique ancient woodland.

If you would like advance information on our range of activities and the surveys recently carried out in the wood, visit friendsofbigwood.com.

We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday 2nd April – comfortable, waterproof clothes and shoes recommended!



Photo: Peter Falk

Big Wood Forest school

EMILY ASQUITH

Walking through Big Wood on a Saturday afternoon in spring, you may hear the regular tap-tap-tap of a woodpecker. Then you may hear a different kind of tapping... in a corner of the wood, under the calming green canopy, a group of children are hammering – the group are making leaf prints on pieces of calico, excited to see the imprint left by the chlorophyll of a hazel leaf on the natural material. The children peg their creations to a branch then go off to balance along the 'fallen giant' – an old fallen oak tree that straddles the glade. Three younger children have discovered a 'gold mine' in the yellow clay exposed at the base of the fallen tree and have



Photo: Emily Asquith

set up a production line, carefully digging nuggets of gold and breaking them into gold dust. Nearby some older children are making a shelter with a tarp and have asked one of the leaders for more rope. Later on, we will all gather for a snack and to learn about what the 'gold' in the mine is, why it's there and about the importance of the fallen deadwood to the biodiversity of our woods.

This is Big Wood Forest School, a monthly initiative set up and supported by the Friends of Big Wood with the aim of getting children out into nature – the idea being that if children learn to appreciate the woods now they will protect them later. The sessions also, importantly, allow children to play freely outdoors, with plenty of imagination, fresh air and not a screen in sight, all under the guidance of a trained Forest School team. Each session is thoughtfully planned to build confidence, community and awareness of the natural environment and, importantly, to be fun. The calming, immune-boosting phytoncides that the trees exude are a bonus. "I love Forest School!" says one of the children, "When's the next one?"

Newcomers welcome! The two hour sessions run monthly for children ages 6 -12. Email friendsofbigwood1@gmail.com for more information or visit friendsofbigwood.com

Moth breakfast

FRIENDS OF BIG WOOD

Whilst we are all familiar with the butterflies in our gardens, few of us have enjoyed the amazing diversity of moths that come out at night. As daylight fades a different world stirs and the air is filled with the activities of moths, and bats hunting them, hungry for their dinner.

Come and catch a glimpse into this nocturnal world and get expert guidance on what's going on from by Dr Phil Sterling, a leading authority on moths. Phil works at Butterfly Conservation, the charity working to conserve butterflies and moths.

The night before we meet, Phil will put a bright light in a garden next to Big Wood. The light will attract flying moths into a moth trap – a box where they can settle safely until morning. We will identify and talk about them, you'll get a chance to examine and photograph them in daylight and even hold a few of them if you like. You'll learn about some of their life histories and how moths fit in to the ecology of our ancient woodland.

In Britain there are around 2,500 different species of moth. They live from the tops of mountains down to the seashore, in woodlands, grasslands, heaths, marshes and ponds, even underground and in caves. They are an incredibly diverse group of insects.

But the best place to see them is in spring and summer in woodlands like Big Wood. Did you know that Oak trees support over 200 different species of moth?

How many might we see? That will depend on the weather. Moths are cold-blooded animals so if the night is cool there won't be so many flying. But if it's mild we should see dozens of them, perhaps 30 different species!

We meet at the Temple Fortune Hill entrance gate to Big Wood at 8.30 am on Sunday 30 April. Coffee and biscuits will be available. All the family will be very welcome. Children will be fascinated by the range of moths that can be found.

A wide-ranging programme of work and research in the ancient wood is organised by the Friends of Big Wood who manage the wood according to a five year plan agreed with Barnet. Detailed information on our activities, including the 5-year plan and all surveys undertaken in the last five years, can be accessed by going to www.friendsofbigwood.com.

For more information, contact friendsofbigwood1@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



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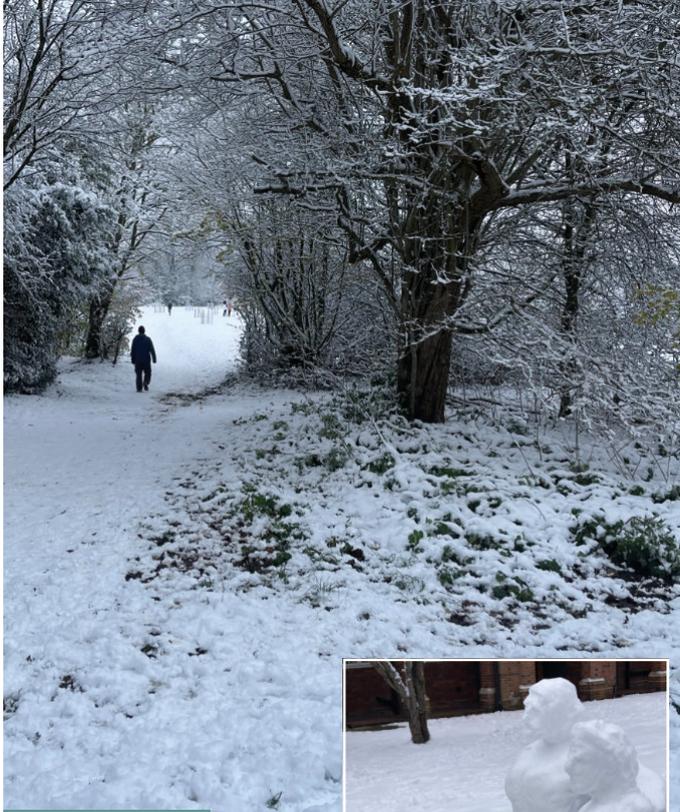


Photo: Emma Howard

Hampstead Garden Suburb saw a heavy snowfall a week before Christmas. It was perfect snow for building snowmen, snowball fights. The snow also inspired talented Suburb resident Marcus French to create this beautiful sculpture on a bench inside the grounds of Meadway Court.



Photo: Marcus French

Age UK Barnet walks

SIMONE HALFIN

Monday mornings are the time to have a leisurely breakfast, read The Times, plan my week ahead and generally relax. All that changed over a year ago when I joined my nearest Age UK Barnet Walks.

In January 2020 the London Community Fund awarded Age UK Barnet a grant to use over 12 months for setting up various park walking groups for over 55s around Barnet. Walks are now held in six parks throughout Barnet (Friary Park, Dollis Valley Greenwalk, Silkstream Park/Montrose Playing

fields, Stephens House & Gardens and Oak Hill Park).

Our local group volunteer leader, Brenda is amazing. Always cheerful and great company come rain or shine. We walk around Northway Rose Garden, Bigwood, Littlewood and Lyttleton Playing Fields for about 45-60 minutes; all very gentle, on pavements and always have a coffee at one of the many cafés in Market Place.

We meet at 10.30 on the corner of Northway and Litchfield Way by the bench

For more information contact Wendy Nutman on 8432 1421 or at wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk



Contrary to what was reported in the last issue of Suburb News, the friendly fellow in Big Wood is not called Henry but is actually Bishop. He lives with me, his partner Betty Bowler, at **Bishopswood Bowling Club**. He's gone missing and I'm very worried about him and anxious for him to come home. So I am appealing to Suburb News readers to keep an eye out for him. Anyone who has information on his whereabouts should contact Bishopswood on 020 8058 2212. Whoever finds him will be offered a warm welcome to the club, free bowls lessons plus cups of tea and some extremely nice biscuits.



Who's the lucky fella?

The Queen's Canopy

a new avenue of trees for the Suburb

COLIN GREGORY

Suburb residents may have noticed an avenue of trees planted either side of the path from Hampstead Way to the changing rooms on the Heath Extension. These are one of several groups the City of London Corporation is planting as part of The Queen's Green Canopy, which was one of the ways in which Queen Elizabeth marked her Platinum Jubilee. The trees are disease resistant elms, which should reach maturity in about 15 years. The path is part of the ancient drovers' track from Hendon to Hampstead.

Later another tree, an alder, was planted in Golders Hill Park, where the City and Barnet Council organised celebrations to mark Queen Elizabeth's Diamond and Platinum Jubilees. This tree featured as part of the 'Tree of Trees' sculpture outside Buckingham Palace during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and was handed over to the City at a ceremony at the Chelsea Royal Hospital.

Information about The Queen's Green Canopy can be found at queensgreencanopy.org.



Martin Russell, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet and William Upton KC, Chair of the Hampstead Heath, Queen's Park & Highgate Wood Committee of the City. (Photo: Colin Gregory)



Colin Gregory, the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee RA representative, throws a spadeful of soil



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THE GARDEN GIRL

CAROLINE BROOME

It's no secret that gardening is good for you. The internet is rife with websites extolling its health benefits, celebrity gardeners are writing books about it, doctors are prescribing it. Fresh air and exercise are good for mental and physical well-being. But this got me thinking: How can we continue to enjoy the health benefits of gardening as we get older?

I've been gardening for three decades now. But at 64 I'm not getting any younger, so I'm having to re-evaluate how I garden, in order to continue reaping its benefits for years to come. Adapt or die, as the saying goes! Same applies to all of us. Advancing age, injury or physical disabilities needn't stop you gardening.

I find a couple of hours at a time is enough for me, so it pays to be well prepared. Before you start work on your garden, walk around your plot and decide what needs doing. Prioritise. Think of this as a warmup, maybe doing some stretches, then gather the tools you'll need around you. A tool belt is a real boon for this if you're anything like me for putting tools down in the borders and not being able to find them again. It also spares you from having to keep getting up and down to fetch things, which plays havoc with the knees. Trousers with built in kneepads are a must-have: Not for me the elasticated monstrosities that stop the blood supply to your calves and slip down your shins the minute you stand up! I often hear friends say, "I've got no problem getting down, it's the getting up that's the killer!" Kneelers with handles can help with this.

Try to avoid spending too much time in one position, which may cause aches or stiffness. Divide your time between kneeling and stretching, so that you are working your muscles evenly, building strength, flexibility and balance. Hands-on tasks like seed sowing or potting on will aid manual dexterity. And take regular breaks: We all know to take a break from our computer screens

Colourful low maintenance shrubbery (Photos: Caroline Broome)

at regular intervals, so why shouldn't this apply to working outside?

One of the most labour-intensive jobs in the garden is clearing up, which can take as long as the job itself. So rather than rushing around at the end of a session when you are probably ready for a break, find a chair or a kneeler, put the radio on, and as you finish one task, chop it up and clear it away before moving onto the next.

Labour saving tools are a must. I favour Wolfgarten's Multi-Change Tools (worldofwolf.co.uk) because they have detachable handles which come in all different lengths, ideal if you struggle to bend. If your grip isn't what it was then there are tools with add-on grip handles. Save your back by placing heavy pots onto wheeled pot movers, (goes without saying to get help lifting them on in the first place!) Install lawn edging (everedge.co.uk) to keep your lawn edges from running into your borders. If you are going in for a re-design then raised beds and troughs will make life so much easier. The gardening charity Thrive has a mine of information (thrive.org.uk/get-gardening/why-gardening-is-good-for-your-health).

Your choice of plants makes a big difference to how you garden. I've always favoured herbaceous borders with hardy perennials as the main focal point, however as I get older I'm inclining towards plants that are lower maintenance. Shrubs and evergreens need far less attention but can reward you with year-round interest: fragrance and flowers, attractive foliage, autumn colour, ornamental bark and stems in winter. Conifers are making a comeback. Making bold changes can be very liberating!

It's all too easy to feel isolated, especially in the winter months, if you live alone, are less able bodied, new to the area. Don't be shy about asking for help. Get in touch with London's specialist environmental college Capel Manor College in Enfield (capel.ac.uk) to see if any of the students would like to help you in your garden, while they would no doubt benefit from your wealth of experience. Enlist young relatives to help you; after all, they are the gardeners of the future. It's no coincidence that local nurseries and garden centres do a roaring trade in their cafes, their clientele, shall we say, all of a certain age, all bored at being stuck at home on wet or wintry days. Why not join your local horticultural society (I would say that wouldn't I as Chair of HGS Hort Soc! Contact hgs.membership@virginmedia.com) or join the allotment society, hgstrust.org/trust-property/allotments.shtml, where you can share your love of gardening with like-minded neighbours.

Gardening Kneeler



Keep on Gardening!



Hort Soc update

MARJORIE HARRIS

2023 looks set to be a bumper year for the Horticultural Society, with a wonderful three-day trip to Wales planned for July and other coach trips to RHS Wisley and Cambridge Botanic Gardens set to roll in April and October. Coronation Day has inspired a red, white and blue theme for adults and juniors at the June Show and, whatever the weather throws at growers of the real thing, people of all ages can enter the brand new Paper Flower Competition at the show.

Joining Hort Soc is easy; just contact membership secretary David Broome on HGS.membership@virginmedia.com (8444 2329) or go to hgs.org.uk/hortsoc/ for details of how to join and the latest information on what is happening in nearly every month of the year. Many meetings and events and entry to the flower shows are free to members, you will receive a handbook and quarterly newsletter and get discounts at several garden centres including Sunshine and Finchley Nurseries. We would love more children and young people to take part in the junior classes at the shows (membership for under-18s and entry is free). We are also looking for volunteers to help with developing social media and new ideas and to join the Hort Soc committee.

The Horticultural Society manages the large flowerbed outside Fellowship House in Willifield Way. In 2009 we planted a tree there to celebrate our centenary and it seemed to thrive. Sadly the 2022 Autumn gales split it down the middle, made it unstable and dangerous, and it had to be removed by Barnet. This has provided us with the space and opportunity to plant a new tree to mark the death and celebrate the life of the late Queen Elizabeth II. We will be planting an Amelanchier Lamarckii, a tree with beautiful spring blossom for everyone to enjoy, in her honour very soon.

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The Curious Case of the Club House

ANDREW BOTTERILL

A large photograph hangs in the reception of Fellowship House. A peaceful summer afternoon on Willifield Green, Edwardian children staring into the camera. Little hint of the short life and curious end of one of the Suburb's few original community buildings: the Club House standing in the background.

With her drive to create a community rather than a mere housing estate Henrietta Barnett spent many hours with architect Raymond Unwin discussing the facilities of a building which would enhance her planned utopia. It should stand on a green surrounded by the cottages of the 'artisan's quarter'. It would contain inter alia a reading room/library, a smoking lounge, a games room with billiard tables, large and small halls and a women's meeting room and various 'other allurements for the members of the industrial classes'. The 'allurements', of course, stopped short of a bar in line with the Dame's conviction that spare time was better spent on tennis, gardening and self improvement.

Unwin entrusted the detailed design to one of the rising young stars of his practice, a dreamy rather enigmatic character called Charles Paget Wade. He was an accomplished draughtsman, much given to exotic dress, coiffure and amateur dramatics.

Unwin was already inspired by the architecture of medieval Bavarian towns, for example Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Wade took up this preoccupation with enthusiasm. Some examples he worked on are visible in today's Suburb – the Great Wall and the entrance to Hampstead Way at Temple Fortune. The trouble is that there are so few they sit rather incongruously amidst the surrounding English vernacular.

Wade's design for the Club House was a particularly striking example of this unease. Grafted onto a quintessentially English assemblage of gables and dormers,

an overbearing Germanic tower (a purely decorative feature) looked down upon the roses round the door cottages of the 'artisan's quarter'. Behind were tennis courts (yes, tennis again) and a bowling green.

Whatever the opinions then or now about the design, the Club House as a focal point for community based activities was a huge success for the thirty years from February 1910 when it opened its doors until 1940. During the First World War it served as a hospital for recovering wounded soldiers before resuming its former role in the local community when peace came.

Suddenly on 25th September 1940 the life of this building was snuffed out by a large bomb dropped on the Green, courtesy of the Luftwaffe – evidently with little regard for Germanic towers built by foreigners. The damage was substantial though not terminal and despite repair being an option the Club House was eventually demolished.

There followed 17 long years of fruitless wrangling between the various parties involved with the

Club House on what to do with the site. This was despite the pre-war popularity and financial viability of the building and the payment of £15,000 of Government War Damage compensation. Eventually the Trust sold off half the site to a developer on which a house of entirely indifferent design would appear and Edward Parry rode in to the rescue with his plan for the present Fellowship House on the remaining half.

The Trust was not enthused by Parry's appeal for funding, committing only £2,000 and writing that it saw itself neither legally nor morally bound to utilise the Government compensation money to help this or any other such project.

How well was the Suburb served by the Trust and the RA? Then as now these were the bodies specifically charged with protecting architecture, amenities and residents' interests. There remain more questions than answers.

On a brighter note, the Trust did give Parry two 999 year leases with peppercorn rents (for Fellowship House and the Bowling



Green – now a croquet lawn and allotments).

A final thought is that Unwin and Wade weren't the only architects inspired by medieval German architecture. Had the Club House survived the war, there would have been, looming above us, a frightening reference to the main watch tower at Auschwitz, that infamous motif of the Holocaust. There are better memorials.

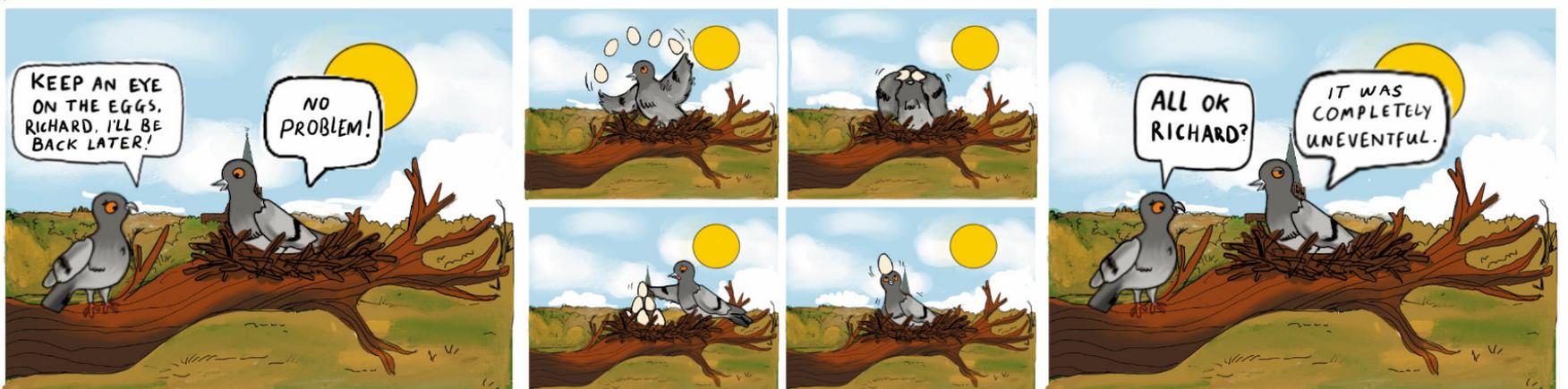


Answers to Virtual Museum Winter Quiz in the last edition of Suburb News

1. Wheelie Bins - hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/objects/sn20-p1
2. John Carter - hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/objects/sn59-p1
3. Hampstead Way had 595 houses (Willifield Way was close behind with 527). Answer in the graph towards the bottom of the Intro page – hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/c1911-0
4. A baby elephant – see photo hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/objects/HGSAT19
5. 70 – see hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/WW2-0
6. 30 – see hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/WW2-0
7. 31st August 1940 - hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/WW2-3-1-0
8. Four: Wilson, Shinwell, Mandelson, Clarke, see hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/entities/id%3A37
9. July 1983 – see hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/smarchive
10. 'Matters That Matter' – see hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/objects/HBS3
11. In 1906 by Raymond Unwin – see hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/H130
12. Unwin printed the map of the Eastern extension part in 1920
13. 12 - hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/allotments-2
14. Alfred Kamester - hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/GSS50
15. Culmer & Alford - hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/GSS50
16. Henry VIII acquired land from Eton College and that land was subsequently bought by HB for HGS. See hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/id%3A91
17. 10,000 according to the text in the caption of the archer photo, hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/bob1471 (then scroll down to the 'East Finchley' sub-heading and Archer photo with adjacent words '10,000 arrows').
18. Queen Mary, see hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/RLC-A228
19. Hermione Granger, see hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/entities/id%3A37
20. Residents cared for Belgian refugees, staffed the Garden Suburb Hospital, sewed, joined the Special Constabulary and Volunteer Training Corps. See hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/WW1-1
21. Situated at the top entrance to Bigwood, the gate lies along the boundary of the Bishop of London's land, dividing the parishes of Hendon and Finchley, hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/WW2-4-0
22. The horticultural society was the first society in the Suburb, created on the 20th of May 1909. Organisations: HGS Horticultural Society
23. 106 Willifield Way. Collections: Raymond Lowe collection of postcards.
24. Son of Rev William Maxwell Rennie, the third vicar of St Jude's who died rescuing children off the SS City of Benares after being torpedoed in September 1940. There is a memorial painting by Walter Stammer in the Church, Hampstead Garden Suburb Virtual Museum: Physical Object: Michael Rennie and the 'SS City of Benares' (hgsh heritage.org.uk)
25. 1968 – to protect its special characteristics, houses, layout, boundaries trees etc. Hampstead Garden Suburb Virtual Museum: Collection: Conservation area 50 years collection [CA50-1] (hgsh heritage.org.uk)
26. The cock and first weather vane – the work on the spine led to the discovery of two time capsules. One containing a note from Cannon Barnett and the other pictures and notes in a whisky bottle from the builders. Hampstead Garden Suburb Virtual Museum: Collection: St Jude's Spire, Weathervane and Time Capsules [SJS] (hgsh heritage.org.uk)
27. The houses in Hampstead Way were renumbered in 1913, hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/c1911-0-1-12 (second paragraph)
28. The opening of the tube line extension to Goldens Green, hgsh heritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/64 (second paragraph)

MARGERY + RICHARD

@GEOBERRI '23



From the Archives Field Boundary Map

COLIN GREGORY

Suburb Archives has a photo taken by Henrietta Barnett showing cows munching contentedly in a field surrounded by hedgerows, with woods beyond, below which Henrietta has written: "This is one of the views looking south over the new 80 acres of open space, which the inhabitants of the proposed Garden Suburb will, it is hoped, enjoy." The 80 acres were the land being acquired from Eton College and which became the Heath Extension. They were farmed from Wyldes Farm, the buildings of which can still be seen near the junction of Wildwood Road and Hampstead Way.

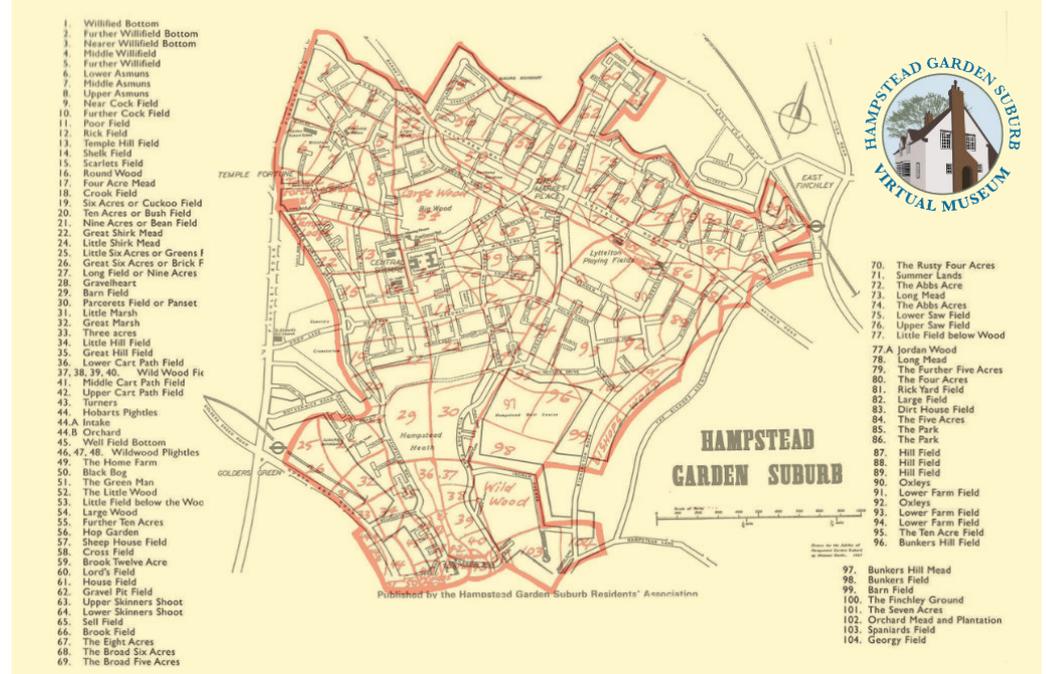
Suburb Archives has a number of maps showing the names and boundaries of the fields that covered the estate before the Suburb was built. The recently refurbished playground on the Heath Extension is situated in 'Middle Cart Path Field', although naming it after the field would be a bit of a mouthful and sound somewhat hazardous for the users.

The task of identifying which field any particular location is in, was made much easier when a map of the field boundaries, annotated with their names, was issued by

the Residents Association in 1968, which Michael Darke produced for the RA in 1957, the year of the Suburb's Golden Jubilee. An updated version of the 1957 map is still used in the RA's Directory, available at hgstra.uk/info/sd.pdf.

It is not clear who produced the field boundary overlay map, but a likely candidate is Christopher Ikin, who was a member of the RA Council at the time. A solicitor by profession, he lived at the top of Wildwood Road. He was a leading light in the protection group that led to the formation of the present Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust in 1968 and an avid local historian, writing books on how Hampstead Heath was saved and on the History of the Suburb. Suburb Archives has a thick folder of maps annotated by him showing land ownership and development in the area from the 1500s.

The source material for the fields Henrietta Barnett acquired from Eton College was a survey the College undertook in 1800. The rest of the Suburb was acquired from the Church Commissioners (as they are now called) in 1911 and the source for that area was the 1841 Tithe Award Map. Tithes were originally an annual tax which required a tenth of all



The Field Boundary Map is available to view permanently in our Online Virtual Museum: hgsheritage.org.uk/Detail/objects/RS01-02

agricultural produce to be paid to support the local church and clergy. In 1836 an Act converted those that were still payable in kind into monetary amounts and a survey was undertaken and a map drawn up to establish who was entitled to what.

The Suburb field boundary map has some familiar names: 'Willifield Bottom', 'Further Willifield Bottom' and 'Nearer Willifield Bottom' are all close to where Willifield Way begins at the Finchley Road end. Finchley Road itself was constructed following

an Act of 1825 authorising the establishment of tolls and turnpikes. 'Lower Asmunns', 'Middle Asmunns' and 'Upper Asmunns' also have a familiar ring, giving their name to Asmunns Place and Asmunns Hill. Perhaps in the distant past they were the 'Assman's' fields.

Apart from Willifield and Asmunns, not many names have found their way into our road names – roads are mostly named after notable figures involved with the foundation of the Suburb, artists, writers and lawyers. Nor do the roads tend to follow field boundaries, with the curious exception of Spencer Drive. Hampstead Way and Wildwood Road do run close to field boundaries – there are four 'Wild Wood Fields' and three 'Wildwood

Pightles'. A 'pightle' is a small enclosure. ('Pightles' is a misprint.)

The field boundary map is a fascinating reminder of the rural origins of the Suburb. No previous habitation is known to have existed on the site, which was comprised of woodland and agricultural land from earliest times. The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust will be publishing an article showing just how much the pre-existing hedgerows, oak trees and farm tracks influenced Raymond Unwin's Suburb plan in a future edition of Trust Times. He was a man before his time in respecting the underlying ecology of the site. We benefit from his vision and owe it to future generations to preserve as much as possible of what survives of our rural past.



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