

# Suburb News

Hampstead Garden Suburb  
Residents Association



A fond farewell to Hilda Williams, who returns to live in South Africa at 103! See page 8



Colin Gregory looking dapper at the Denman Drive Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party, page 15



Find out all about the new Proms at St Jude's Chair, Kate Webster, see page 9

## Feeling the heat of climate change

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

The summer of '76. Seemingly endless days of sunshine, paddling pools and ice cream. Days spent running back and forth through the sprinkler, rainbow after rainbow thrown up through the spray and projected against a cloudless blue sky. The mouth-watering smells of barbeques and huge chunks of ice-cold watermelon. I had never been so tanned (sun protection wasn't really much of a thing back then) and the inevitable hosepipe ban was simply an irritant to me as a young child – no sprinkler!

Apart from misunderstood eco warriors, far-sighted scientists (and probably David Attenborough) no one gave any real thought to the extreme weather back then. We didn't recognise it as a warning of things to come. No one worried about carbon emissions and the damage that was being done to our fragile planet.

Forward to 2022. The hottest UK summer on record and things now feel very different. We are not celebrating the heat. We are fearful of it because it's a clear sign of our poor caretaking. Many have woken up to the damage we have inflicted and hope we may still be able to do something about it. Here in HGS, committees like REACH are leading the way.

In this issue we have included an article from REACH on heat pumps (p. 5), Ivan Berg gives us his guide to electric car charging (p. 3) Peter Falk writes about how we can all implement simple actions to save our planet (back page) and we look at community efforts such as Daniella Levene's community fruit harvesting (p. 2) plus Naomi Russell's Food Bank Aid (p. 8).

Please remember, Suburb News is printed on recyclable paper so please recycle it when you have finished with it. We can we all make a difference.



(l-r) Mayor Alison Moore, Raymond Taylor and Richard Townley (Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury)

## Central Square handover to Trust

PAUL CAPEWELL, HGST

The Trust recently took on a 999-year lease of Central Square from the London Borough of Barnet. This handover of ownership marks another significant step for the Trust and its ambitions to protect, maintain and ultimately improve the Square for the benefit of all residents of the Suburb, local organisations, and visitors.

An intimate ceremony was held in June with special guests including the Mayor of Barnet

Alison Moore, who cut the ribbon on a new commemorative bench, along with trustee Richard Townley who has worked diligently over the years to help facilitate this handover and other improvements

to the Square. The Trust's chair Raymond Taylor also acknowledged the significant involvement in the early stages of the handover process of ex-chair Richard

(continued on page 2)



The Central Square Henrietta Barnett Memorial (Photo: Edward Botterill)



HM Queen Elizabeth II makes an appearance at the Southway Jubilee Street Party to share a joke with Stephanie Hurst (Photo: Caroline Hurst) See our Suburb Street Party Pictorial on page 15

## THE MARKET IS HOT... MAYBE IT'S TIME TO MOVE?

In the last few months, we have let and sold an extraordinary amount of homes in the Suburb, therefore if you are considering selling or letting there has never been a better time than now. We regularly deal with 'Cottages to Castles' and can procure both aspirational clientele moving up the property ladder and also the comfortable 'empty nesters', moving down.

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# Combat Stress committee ends on a high... of £60,650.99!

## COMBAT STRESS COMMITTEE

Through a combination of fundraising events held in the Suburb over the last 12 years, and additional donations that people have very generously given over that time, the HGS Combat Stress Committee has raised an amazing £60,650.99 for the Forces' mental health charity. But, with the average age on the committee now being 86, sadly, they have taken the decision to hang up their boots and disband the committee. They won't be disappearing completely though, as they will still sell Combat Stress Christmas cards. But regretfully their fundraising days are over.

From a rummage sale in a small Suburb kitchen to a sold-out CS Centenary Concert in 2019 – it's been an amazing 12 years!

The committee would like to take the opportunity to say a special thank you to the wonderful army of Combat Stress volunteers who have so generously given their time with great energy, enthusiasm, patience and humour. They are also very grateful to Martin Bell for his unstinting support and help

over many years – his enthusiasm and encouragement and his willingness to open countless Christmas fairs or introduce other events has spurred them on to do more to help Combat Stress. Thanks also to all the supporters who made their events so successful over the years, for their encouragement and help in making it possible to raise this amazing amount of money for Combat Stress and promote awareness of Combat Stress and the life-changing work they do for Britain's Veterans.

As the Combat Stress Committee's last hurrah, their wonderful army of volunteers worked through one of the hottest days of the year to provide non-stop refreshments at Fellowship House for the Horticultural Society's open gardens event on 17 July. All the proceeds from the sale of food and drink were donated to Combat Stress and raised a magnificent £1,100.

So, this is the HGS Combat Stress Committee signing off – thanks very much to you all for everything. Best wishes from Angela, Emma, Gerlinde, Marjorie, Mike, Ruth and Yvonne.



Photo: Daniella Levene

## Community Fruit Harvesting

DANIELLA LEVENE

Barnet Community Harvesters (BCH) started in Autumn 2020 with the aim of collecting surplus fruit, primarily apples and pears, from people's gardens, allotments and public spaces – fruit that would otherwise go to waste – and then divert the waste to food banks and other community causes.

The project works very simply; residents with fruit to spare get in touch. We arrange a convenient date and time and then coordinate a small band of volunteers to come harvest the fruit. It's amazing how many people with apple trees don't like apples or their trees are too abundant. We've collected over 100kgs from quite a few trees! It's a great activity for families,

children love it, and on average each harvest takes about an hour, depending on size of the tree, number of trees and number of volunteers. Tree climbers are always a welcome addition to a harvesting team.

People can also help by sorting the fruit, from the unblemished top quality fruit, to ones that need processing because of insects or other damage – often perfect for community apple juice making days and there's usually a few happening across the borough. Help is also needed in distributing the picked fruit to local food banks, there are currently 18 of them in Barnet.

Since the project's inception we have rescued nearly 2,000 kgs of fruit, but it has also created a community across the borough

that shares and cares – and loves fruit! Volunteer fruit pickers get to take some spoils from the harvest and with our specialist tools we help fruit tree guardians access fruit which would otherwise be beyond their reach, a service we're happy to provide for less mobile residents. We've also run pruning workshops, helped identify apple varieties and can give advice on fruit tree care.

Everyone should have access to fruit, something Dame Henrietta Barnet clearly believed when she gifted every HGS home with a fruit tree. So if you have fruit to spare and are happy to share, or want to help with the harvesting, please contact barnetcommunityharvesters@gmail.com. Or find us on Instagram@barnetcommunityharvesters.



Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury

## Christ's College aims for net-zero

CHLOE MARDEN

Every year a significant number of pupils from Garden Suburb Junior School transfer to Christ's College Finchley. Now when they do they will find a school transforming its infrastructure in order to improve its carbon footprint. The governors at Christ's College Finchley are delighted to announce that the school has won a £1.94 million government grant to decarbonise its heating infrastructure. This is the largest amount of money awarded to any single London school in recent funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy delivered by Salix Finance.

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) aims to promote green investment to support the Government's net zero and clean growth goals. This PSDS Phase 3 funding will help enhance the school's energy efficiencies and reach new levels of innovation for green growth.

It will allow the school to replace the existing gas boiler with new energy-efficient, low carbon air-to-water heat pumps.

Additionally, energy efficient measures including cavity wall and

roof insulation will reduce power requirements. These measures will reduce the school's carbon footprint significantly in line with the school's developing sustainability goals.

Headteacher, Mr S Olusanya, commented: "We are committed to giving our young people a practical understanding on how we can make a positive impact on our climate whilst providing our students with a much-improved environment for learning."

The school's Climate Council announced: "We are the Climate Council, who are striving to make our school more eco-friendly. The news of this low-carbon heating technology has made us excited to take the next step on our ambition to achieve net zero carbon and also to be established as an Eco-School."

Installation begins during the summer break and the project is due to be completed by the Spring of 2023.

## Central Square handover

continued from front page

Wiseman, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

The handover comes a few years on from the successful rejuvenation of the flowerbeds (in collaboration with the HGS Residents Association, North Square Residents Association and LB Barnet) which now provide year-round interest. The scheme was devised by Stephen Crisp, and the beds have been maintained by the Trust's gardener Jonathan Gordon. In this time, the two Central Square tennis courts have

also been refurbished and have proved incredibly popular with Suburb residents who can use them free of charge, with bookings made via the Trust website.

Now, the Trust's responsibility for Central Square extends even wider and will ensure that systemic maintenance of paths, trees and other elements is carried out, and that the Square remains the jewel in the crown of the Suburb, available for the use of local organisations and for visitors and residents alike.





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TOP 20 HOME CARE GROUP

# EV charging in the Suburb

IVAN BERG

I admit to being a bit of a petrol-head, my pride and joy is an oldish BRG (that's British Racing Green), Jaguar. I was with BBC Top Gear magazine for 17 years, and yet, and yet, I have been an enthusiastic promoter of the electric car since I first drove one and wrote about the experience for the magazine in, oh, I dunno, maybe as long ago as 1997.

I think it was a Citroen, or maybe a Peugeot, and the test drive was limited to 20 minutes, as that was about as long as the batteries would last. I was actually at the wheel for 10 minutes as I had to share the drive with the Daily Telegraph's motoring correspondent. We both thought that one day, in the very far off future, but possibly never, the electric car would be practical, and would have enough power and range to compete with petrol and diesel powered cars. We did agree that when they eventually did arrive, they would probably be cheaper to run. We didn't talk about the benefits to the environment or



Barnet's Street Lamp Charging Point

climate change, because in 1997 it wasn't on anyone's agenda.

And now, a quarter of a century later, electric cars really are here, and they have more than enough power and range to compete with petrol and diesel powered cars. And in the Suburb they're everywhere.

Now that you know where I'm coming from, let's talk about the only problem with electric cars that's left. How and where to charge them.

If your house has a driveway you can install a 7Kw/h home charging unit on a convenient wall and then plug in your car for an overnight charge, just as you do your smartphone. And the electricity used will cost you no more than the standard rate, which can be as little as 28p per Kw/h. If your electric car has a typical 50Kw battery, a full charge can cost as little as £14, usually enough to take you at least 200 miles. Compare this to the cost of fuelling a family car that does 40 miles to the gallon for the same distance and you can see that you're quids in.

But, you ask, what about those of us who have no option but to park on the street? Well, you may have noticed that Barnet Council are installing charge points in street lamps (see left). I say 'may' because there are less than a sprinkling of them in the Suburb. If you look at Zapmap, the 'must-have' smartphone app for electric car owners that shows you where the chargers are, you will see what I mean. Electric car owners have to apply for one to be fitted to a lamp post close to where they park, and promise to use it. You will pay a slightly higher rate, but of course you can still charge overnight at up to 7Kw/h.

If you think you can run an extension lead plugged in to your

house and run it over the pavement, forget it. It's not only illegal, but the power flowing to the battery will be just a trickle. You can request a lamp post charge point by emailing Barnet Council at [EVCharging@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:EVCharging@Barnet.gov.uk).

What does the Trust say about on-street lamp post electric car charging? I asked Trust Chief Executive Simon Henderson. He was unequivocal: "The Trust welcomes Barnet's increasing provision of EV charging points that provide a discreet and convenient on-street facility without compromising the unique character or amenity of the Suburb." He also welcomed the idea of the Trojan pavement pop-up charger (see below) because of its minimally intrusive nature.

As you might expect in this 21st Century, technology is, (pardon the pun), charging to the rescue. Camden and Brent Councils are currently trialling the Trojan Energy pavement pop-up electric car charger (see right). This solves the clutter problem of chargers on pavement posts while making car charging at up to 22Kw/h available to all, at the roadside. You can read all about it at Trojan's website [trojan.energy](http://trojan.energy).

However, and this is a big 'however', maybe this is a solution looking for a problem. Electric car charge points are popping up everywhere; in supermarket car parks, in workplace parking bays, charging bays in petrol stations, motorway service stations and increasingly in specially designed and built 'fast charge hubs' in forecourts, complete with coffee bars, snacks and even cafes. (See Shell's Fulham EV Charging Hub: <https://bit.ly/3OKA0Fk>.)

So, there's an argument for pointing out that as you don't expect to fuel your petrol/diesel car at home, what's so different



The Trojan Energy pavement pop-up electric car charger

about 'fuelling' your electric car at a charging station? The answer the electric car owner will inevitably come up with is 'time' and 'convenience' and 'cost'.

Time? It currently takes the fastest chargers around 15 minutes to add 100 miles to an electric car's battery. However, by 2024 Israeli battery company StoreDot, backed by Daimler, Volvo, BP and Samsung, will have batteries that do this in five minutes and by 2032 plans to reduce this to as little as two minutes!

Convenience? Home owners with driveways already have this and the pavement pop-up charger will make overnight charging increasingly available to all as the infrastructure develops.

Cost? Charging at home overnight is obviously cheaper than commercial hub charging. But hub

charging is much faster, and is the only solution if you need to charge up on a long trip. And it needn't be that much more expensive.

On a personal note, my son Nik, Suburb resident, motoring journalist, pundit and classic car enthusiast, (he owns a classic Lotus Esprit), leases an electric Kia EV6, has off-street parking and has never charged it at home. He pays a small monthly subscription to Ionity\*, an international commercial hub charge company and pays a rate of 35p Kw/h per charge at Ionity charge hubs. He reckons he has saved £1,000 on fuel since the car arrived in March.

\*Ionity is one of a number of subscription charging services springing up. Some of them are BP Pulse, Shell Recharge, Podpoint, Instavolt, and Electric Highway.



## A JOINT COMMUNITY AUDIT

The four churches that serve Hampstead Garden Suburb are collaborating to establish the current pastoral and spiritual needs of those living in Hampstead Garden Suburb. We recognise there are many different faiths within our community, but we hope we can draw on the support of all the residents to establish the needs going forward and how our buildings should be used in the future. We will be using Survey Monkey and a link to the questionnaire can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SZ69VHW> or scan the QR code below. All of our buildings need structural repairs and the results of this audit will help underpin any future grant application(s) that any one or all of us may make. Leaflets will have been put through residents' doors in early September and the survey should only take a few minutes of your time. Please help us to help you.

With thanks from:

David White, St Jude-on-the-Hill  
Penny Trafford, HGS Free Church  
Father Paul McDermott, St Edward the Confessor  
Jean Jenn, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)



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# SUBURB SUMMER FAIR

# RA REVIEW

Another busy period for the RA with a very well attended Summer Fair – the first for three years following Covid restrictions – on June 12th for which the sun mercifully shone and we had a cooling breeze up on Central Square. Thank you to Next Day Solar for their generous sponsorship ([nextdaysolar.co.uk](http://nextdaysolar.co.uk)) and to our hardworking Events Committee team and many volunteers who helped to make the day such a great success.

The Combat Stress cake stall helpers were hard at it all afternoon raising over £900 for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you to everyone who baked and cooked, and to Lola's Cupcakes for their generous cake contribution. The RA's Environment Committee's 'REACH' stall was busy all day; the Barnet Brass Band filled the square with lovely music, and the children really enjoyed Punch & Judy, face painting and the arts stall.

Emma Howard, Chair@hgsra.uk



Photos: Shelley-Anne Salisbury and Peter McCluskie

## FED UP WITH YOUR ENERGY BILLS RISING?

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# Heat pumps on the Suburb myths and reality

JONATHAN WAXMAN  
& GREN MANUEL

Imagine scientists invented a machine that could generate renewable energy from nothing more than air. Imagine it could provide hot water and central heating for a whole house – and it was no larger than a garden barbeque. Imagine no more.

That invention is the heat pump and houses across the Suburb are installing them, making a massive cut to their CO2 emissions. The Trust is seeing a sharp rise in applications to install one, and they are getting approved.

The gas boilers that heat most homes in the Suburb are on their way out. Government policy will see them banned for sale in 2035. And quite right too. They're a 20th-century solution to our heating problems, belching out greenhouse gases, their emissions made worse by the poor insulation of many Suburb homes.

Using energy data for two archetypal Suburb properties – a modest cottage in Oakwood Road and a larger home in Litchfield Way – we analyse that both have energy use around twice the size of comparable homes elsewhere in the UK.

That's twice the cost, of course. And also, twice the carbon emissions. In HGS, we burn approximately 160,000,000 kilowatt hours of gas yearly to

heat our homes. That is 30,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide added to our atmosphere and way above the average UK home per square foot. Indeed, we live in HGGs – the High Greenhouse Gas Suburb.

We must bring those figures down and eliminate them – get them to zero! The UK government wants to do that by 2050; we at HGS REACH think the Suburb should aim for 2040.

After all, we don't want to regularly bake as we did this summer (triggering further subsidence problems as our clay dries); we also don't want to repeat the flooding of Summer 2021. We also don't want Vladimir Putin to have the power to raise our household energy bills, like the 54% coming in October.

Heat pumps work because, even on the coldest days, there is still plenty of thermal energy in the air or ground. They function like a reverse fridge, pumping this heat (hence the name) into the home to run central heating or provide hot water.

You've probably read about them in the papers, some of which delight in running articles labelling them as useless, unreliable, noisy, or expensive. We'll examine each of these in turn:

**Useless?** They heat more than half the houses in Sweden. If they can heat homes in Sweden, they can heat homes in London. A handful of Suburb homes are using them,

kept toasty warm on cold January nights. This myth is busted.

**Unreliable?** Early heat pumps had problems, yes. But so did the first combi boilers. A new, well-maintained unit should be very reliable. Would the Swedes risk freezing to death by installing tech that would break down in their near-arctic winters? No. Another myth busted.

**Noisy?** The noise issue requires more careful attention. Their fans hum, so to avoid problems with neighbours, they should be sited away from a boundary, as noted in the Trust's guidelines. The noise, such as it is, is most noticeable when they are running hard, heating a home on a cold winter's night. It's unlikely your neighbours will be enjoying dinner in their garden at that time. If you're concerned about noise, contact us below, you can visit a house with heat pumps and test if you can hear a few metres away.

**Expensive?** The picture here is more complex and changing. Cost depends on the house size, which affects the unit size. (Here, for simplicity, we will talk only about heat pumps that collect heat from the air, which are the cheapest and most common). Installing your first heat pump may cost two or even three times a new combi boiler. One reason is that they are mechanically more complex than a combi boiler – that is slowly improving. The other is a shortage of qualified fitters, keeping fitting costs high. The government is attempting to fix this by offering grants that cut the price of new installations of air source heat pumps by £5,000 to stimulate increased demand and training. (Search 'boiler upgrade scheme' online for more info.) With this grant, the cost of an air source heat pump will be close to that of a new combi boiler.

But there is another issue very relevant to HGS: the heat output is different. Combi boilers pump water at up to 75 degrees C. Heat pumps are more efficient at 45 or 55 degrees – still hot enough for a shower but potentially not enough to fully heat a badly insulated house with small or inefficient radiators. Unfortunately, many of the Suburb's 5,000 homes fit that description.

We at HGS REACH don't have firm data but reckon most Suburb homes may need an insulation upgrade if they get a heat pump – maybe reducing heat loss from windows and improving loft insulation. They're a good idea anyhow. But it does underline that installing a heat pump for the first time isn't just a straight swap for a combi boiler. The engineer needs to assess heat loss in the home and find an appropriate place for the external unit which extracts the heat from the air. Small cottages in HGS may struggle to find a good place to house the external heat exchange unit; a few houses may need some rework to their heating pipework.

It's important to note that heat pumps require electric power. So, your gas bill for heating and hot water will drop to zero, but your electric bill will rise. However, by 2021 UK's electric power supply was already 50% carbon-free, and by 2035 the target is 100%.

And change is going to come. The government has banned gas boilers from new houses from 2025, and existing gas boilers cannot be replaced after 2035. No technology can take their place at present other than heat pumps.

If you're installing a new gas boiler before the winter, it's likely to be your last. Better yet, start fact-finding on heat pumps. Nothing can slash your carbon footprint as effectively. This applies even more if you plan a

substantial refurb – adding a heat pump at this stage is more straightforward and will ensure that your beautiful refurbished home is truly future-proof.

The Trust's guidelines (on their website) may appear daunting. But the reality is that applications are not only rising fast – but the Trust is also taking a constructive approach, and they are being overwhelmingly approved.

Want to know more? Email reach@hgsra.org. We can connect you to people in the Suburb with a heat pump (and nice warm houses). We are also looking at ways to drive down the costs by using our collective buying power – remember, all 5,000 homes in the Suburb will need a heat pump by 2035. We are looking at street-level schemes so installers can create standard installations for similar houses to drive down costs further. Stay tuned for this.

If you've got a heat pump, we'd also like to hear from you. We'd like to know which firms are doing a good job so we can help others to a trouble-free installation.

We will also help people improve their energy efficiency by loaning a thermal camera that helps identify draughts, poor insulation, and other ways heat (and your money!) is escaping your home. The RA has generously funded the purchase of this technology, and it will be free for HGSRA members. Stay tuned for this also.

## HGS REACH HACKATHON\*

HGS REACH would like to get residents started on their own heat pump journey! We will be running a hackathon this winter to gather as much information as we can about HGS homes – so that we can all start to think about replacing our gas boilers with a clean heat pump.

We will send out more info by email - please get in touch with us at reach@hgsra.uk – and we will share with you some simple steps to get heat-pumping! Also, keep an eye on the RA website...

The REACH team

\* Hackathon: a usually competitive event in which people work in groups on software or hardware projects, with the goal of creating a functioning product by the end of the event.

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# Call for Residents Association Trees & Open Spaces volunteers

MARIA SCHLATTER

Who among our residents has not been persuaded to live in Hampstead Garden Suburb, rather than any other London suburb, because of its life-enhancing green spaces? We are privileged to live in an area that, through a combination of design and commitment, preserves its beautiful public and private gardens, street trees, Hampstead Heath and Bigwood and Littlewood, not to mention Northway Gardens tended by local volunteers. They are an everyday delight to both HGS residents and visitors drawn to our restorative open spaces.

Given the diminishing access to nature in the built environment, we cannot take these green spaces for granted, and Hampstead Garden Suburb has active organisations that work to make them better for everyone to enjoy. They include the HGS Horticultural Society, Allotment Group, Northway Gardens Organisation, Friends of Bigwood, Henrietta Community Orchard, and of course the long-standing Residents Association's Trees & Open Spaces Committee, which is now in need of new members and volunteers.

Do you have an interest in nature, especially trees, and do you have some time available to

help us? We need more residents to support the work of the RA's Trees & Open Spaces Committee and are calling for both practical volunteers and potential committee members to help ensure that our magnificent public green spaces and our existing stock of street trees and iconic veteran trees are monitored and enhanced. We need volunteers to help with our annual tree survey, assisting in watering street trees, and helping to undertake a local hedgehog count.

If you would like to find out more about what we do, and make new friends in the process, please email us at: [trees@hgsra.uk](mailto:trees@hgsra.uk).



## UPDATE ON HEATH EXTENSION PLAYGROUND

After the fantastic support of local residents for the campaign led by 11-year-old Olivia White and her 'Wildwooders' to refurbish the playground on the Heath Extension, enough money has been raised and we are delighted to be able to announce that the City of London

Corporation has finalised plans for the playground and the works are set to begin in September. Renewed equipment designed to appeal to a wider age group will be installed, with Olivia and other young residents involved in the design.

Many thanks to everyone who has so generously supported this exciting project which will create a wonderful playground for our children and grandchildren.

*Colin Gregory, RA Representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee*

## Garden Suburb engagement on parking

EMMA HOWARD, CHAIR HGS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

On 13 October 2021, LB Barnet opened their engagement on Garden Suburb Parking with emails and a paper brochure sent to residents inviting us to participate in a survey on local parking controls. The aims of the survey were pretty ambitious, seeking opinions from households on the existing CPZ in the south side of the Suburb and how it should be extended – should it for instance cover the entire geographic area and, if so, for what hours? Residents were also asked to comment on needs for street charging points for electric vehicles, as well as on particular issues that they wished to identify.

As Chair of the Residents Association and previous member of the RA's long-standing Road & Traffic committee, I welcomed this initiative. We probably receive more concerns raised to us relating to traffic and parking matters than anything else. It was clear from the online survey comments that the Officer leading the review did not have an easy task ahead, and not everyone would be happy with the outcome, whatever that might be.

The survey closed on 10 November with the promise of a 'Decision Report' in December 2021 and 'Update and Next Steps' in 'Early 2022.' Garden Suburb Ward Councillors met with the officer in early 2022 and apparently requested more analysis. Then we ran into local Council elections at which point nothing was permitted to progress. So, writing this on 30 July, we still have no outcome and a July meeting of the officer and Councillors had to be cancelled.

So where does this leave us? The ULEZ introduced in October 2021 has undoubtedly helped keep non-compliant vehicles away, but some of the area is still a car park for commuters and long-term parkers. The introduction of the commercial dog walker's licence scheme has helped keep some vehicles at bay, but Wildwood Road is increasingly problematic with too much traffic and parked vehicles making safe passing by cars very difficult in places. Lots of residents are desperate for a CPZ in their road but others disagree, so reaching a solution that pleases everyone is a challenge.

Garden Suburb Ward Councillors Rohit Grover and Michael Mire have offered the following by way of an update:

"This has been a complex exercise, and we are grateful to all residents who participated in the survey independently. As ward councillors would also like to express our thanks to everyone who approached us directly in order to express specific concerns with respect to their own streets.

"We think it is important for all survey responses and viewpoints to be considered by Council Officers before they reach a decision. We do not want to rush into agreeing a plan for the Suburb and think it is important for Council officers to give due consideration to all viewpoints that have been expressed by a wide range of stakeholders.

"It is also worth pointing out that, since May's elections, the Council has been prioritising the implementation of the new Labour administration's manifesto commitments.

"Whatever interventions happen as a result of this exercise, we will press Council officers to keep the situation under review, so that changes can be made in the future in response to resident feedback.

"We think it is important for residents to hear from us directly, across a range of issues and not just this one. With this in mind, we have set up WhatsApp groups for this purpose – please join by scanning either of these QR codes. Both groups are the same but are limited to 200 members, so please join one. Also, you can email us at [cllr.m.mire@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.m.mire@barnet.gov.uk) or [cllr.r.grover@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.r.grover@barnet.gov.uk)."



## 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 •

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## Anyone for... topiary?

JUDY MARCUS

Topiary is the ancient art of clipping trees and shrubs into ornamental shapes, dating back to Roman times. The shape created can be a simple geometric design or lifelike and recognisable.

With its profusion of hedges, the Suburb naturally lends itself to topiary. You may have come across a large bird-shaped hedge sculpture standing proudly on the corner of Southway and Bigwood Road. On a breezy summer day, I went to make my enquiries about it from the house owners, Elaine and Keith, inherited their decorative

hedge art from the previous house owner, an artist, who, in turn, had inherited it from the owner before: also an artist. Elaine, also an artist (clearly a theme is emerging here) has a strong interest in maintaining the topiary and does most of the work assisted by Keith, who, being taller, is called upon to trim the tail, so acquiring the name 'tail-man'.

Under their care, the topiary changes between squirrel-like and a bird-like. If he's in the mood, Keith fashions a squirrel's tail, or he simply chops the tail in half and it becomes a bird again. Elaine likes the sculpture to be a mystical cross breed. She recounts hearing

children commenting, "Is it a squirrel or a bird?" From behind the hedge, Elaine calls out in a squeaky voice "I'm a squirrel-bird!" All goes quiet as the astonished children wonder if the mammal-bird has spoken!

When I visited, the mammal-bird was in need of maintenance and Elaine agreed to let me 'have a go'. Elaine uses a light handheld battery-operated hedge trimmer and a manual bolt cutter for areas that are tough and twiggy. She doesn't wear gloves as they make it harder to get an accurate line.

Efficiently and swiftly, Elaine sheared away spare strands from around the sides of the sculpture in demonstration. She explained: sometimes you can't cut everything



Photo: Adrian Marcus

you want to because the twiggy growth gets in the way and if you can't remove them with the manual shears you have to incorporate that area of growth into the design. That's part of the artistic licence and the fun. She then handed me the trimmers...

At first, I felt nervous about damaging this well-loved and elderly structure, but I soon got into my stride. All the hard work of producing the original shape had been done and it was just a question of following the pre-set

lines. It was rather relaxing. I stood back and was pleased to see how much neater I had made the structure. I could see how Elaine got a sense of satisfaction and pride in the creation she has maintained for eleven years. She also enjoys the sociable and communal aspect to her topiary.

As I left Elaine's pretty garden I looked back to admire our joint handiwork. The hedgerow creature looked so lifelike and, as it gently undulated in the breeze, it seemed to nod me a thank you as I left.



Photo: Michael Spiro

## India's Gold winning Bowls Team trained at Bishopswood Club

MICHAEL SPIRO

In the run-up to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Bishopswood Bowling Club in Lyttelton Playing Fields, hosted the National Bowls team of India while they prepared for their Lawn Bowls challenge in the Games.

Having arrived in London on July 20 they spent each day at the Club practising and training from the day they arrived until Sunday 24th, when they went on to Birmingham for further training on the actual greens the competitions themselves were to take place starting later in the week.

Many on the Suburb came to watch. Some club members also

had the opportunity to play with the India team. While the Indians won, the Bishopswood players held their own, giving the visitors 'real' games to play. A strong bond was formed between the club and the India team in the few intense days spent together, with some of the members attending the matches to support them.

At the Games, the India woman's fours team beat New Zealand, one of the best nations in the sport, in the semi-finals. They then went on to beat South Africa, another giant nation of the sport of bowls, to take gold! The India men's fours team beat England in the semi-finals but were defeated by Northern Ireland in

the final to take silver. All in all, an outstanding performance from the Indian squad! And it all started at our Suburb club!

If you would like to try your hand at the sport, just come in whenever the gates are open. Bishopswood Bowling Club is generally open seven days a week from 9:45 through to dusk. The club and the members are friendly and welcoming, and you will be invited to come in, learn about the game and have a go.

Please visit the club website at <https://bishopswoodbc.co.uk> for more information on bowls or the club, or you can contact them on 020 8058 2212 or email to: [info@bishopswoodbc.co.uk](mailto:info@bishopswoodbc.co.uk).



**Free Fellowship trip to Hatfield House** Fellowship's latest initiative to benefit its Club Members, an annual expedition by coach entirely free of charge, was taken up with enthusiasm. On 28th July a visit to Hatfield House for 40 Members was organised. A lovely day out by all accounts.

## Mayor's lockdown walk

EMMA HOWARD

Mayor of Barnet, Alison Moore, was delighted to visit Northway Gardens on a dry but dull morning on Wednesday 27 July. The roses were looking glorious despite the long dry spell, and the Mayor told the Head of Northway Gardens Organisation, Brian Ingram, that she had enjoyed walking through them as one of her 'lockdown' walks.

Brian explained the background to the gardens, including how the original beds which are mainly planted with evergreen shrubs, will slowly be replanted with flowering shrubs of various types – when funds permit. Sponsors to the gardens, which include local businesses, The HGS Trust and HGS Residents Association make all this possible, as does the generosity of some key volunteers who pay for the roses themselves.

Many volunteers are involved in keeping the gardens beautiful. There is also a regular coffee morning at the hut by the tennis court: a great opportunity to make new friends and meet people. The Mayor chatted to the attendees, who were enjoying a cup of coffee, before moving on to her next visit.



Photo: Emma Howard

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FBA volunteers (Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury)

# Food Bank Aid busier than ever

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

Food Bank Aid started back in April 2020 when Naomi Russell, founder of FBA, did a collection for her local food bank. Distribution was clearly an issue for the growing number of food banks so she set up a small distribution hub from her home garage. Today FBA operates a distribution hub from its N12 premises given free of rent and rates by Landsec Securities. FBA has distributed £2.5m worth of goods since its inception and now supports 15-20 food banks across north London which, in turn, currently help over 12,000 people (including 3,500 children) every week. And this number is only set to rise.

FBA's message is very simple. Reduce Food Poverty. Reduce Food Waste.

I went along to the FBA hub to meet some of its key management volunteers, Sasha Cohen, Mark Goldberg and Sue Green, as well as FBA's recently appointed CEO Dalia Davis.

FBA's premises are in Chaplin Square, Finchley, right opposite Vue cinema and next door to MacDonalDs. The location crucially allows for easy access for deliveries/collections with plenty of parking space; the hub area itself is positively cavernous compared to Naomi's garage where it all started. Products are neatly stacked and sorted into clearly labelled storage bins and boxes, making the picking and packing a smooth operation. Sasha, a Suburb resident, who volunteered right from the start and is FBA's Events Co Ordinator (and organisational guru – labels are her thing) told me it's full on.

Seven or eight car loads of goods go out every day (the hub operates deliveries five days a week but is open to receive donations every day) and is reliant on volunteers. When I arrived, there were six volunteers picking, packing and loading for the afternoon deliveries for the driver volunteers. The whole distribution process is remarkably well organised and no one's time is wasted so the maximum amount of deliveries can

be accomplished. The volunteers sign up to the FBA WhatsApp group to keep everyone up to date with FBA's daily needs and requirements. FBA works in a unique way, by communicating with the foodbanks directly. FBA knows what products are needed and links that back to the volunteers who, in turn, message out donation requirements. This way there is minimal to no waste.

Management volunteer team member and Suburb resident, Mark Goldberg, a startlingly agile octogenarian with a Glaswegian lilt, had just finished his morning foodbank drop off shifts when I arrived. He offered me delicious cake someone had kindly dropped off for the volunteers to have on tea breaks.

There was a real sense of community and camaraderie amongst the volunteers who clearly enjoy helping and plainly get huge satisfaction from seeing the hub and their roles in it making such a difference. Sue Green, another Suburb resident, said the hub was a wonderful place to connect with other like-minded people and had given some volunteers a real sense of purpose especially through the pandemic.

FBA are keen to educate schoolchildren and parents about food poverty and give talks at



Sue Green, Mark Goldberg and Sasha Cohen (Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury)

schools. The summer holidays are obviously a period of great concern for those families reliant on free school meals and they depend heavily on their foodbanks at this time. FBA provide nutritional lunch packs to the foodbanks to help with this. Sasha also showed me lovely treat bags made up by an elderly couple from the FBA food donations which are then distributed by the hub. These are the little things that make a huge difference. As Dalia said, if everyone added a couple of extra items to their weekly shop and donated to FBA, it would all add up to make a difference. Leaving the final words to Marcus Maughan, FBA's General Manager "Whether you give one or one hundred, it all helps."

FBA have over 200 volunteers on their books but need more as the hub is growing. If you would like to find out more about volunteering or donating go to [www.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.foodbank.org.uk) or email [info@foodbankaid.org.uk](mailto:info@foodbankaid.org.uk). Or scan the QR code (left) to donate.

*Key items needed now: Baby food (particularly formula milk), Sanitary wear, Toothpaste/Toothbrushes, Tinned fish (mackerel/tuna – in oil if possible)*

FBA JustGiving QR code



Car loaded and ready for delivery (Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury)

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## Hilda returns to South Africa at the age of 103!

FATHER ALAN WALKER

Residents Association life member Hilda Williams returned to live in South Africa on 11 August, the day after her 103rd birthday. Hilda will be known to many on the Suburb for her stewardship of Fellowship House for more than three decades.

Hilda Benjamin was born on the remote Atlantic island of St Helena in 1919. In 1936, aged 17, she left for South Africa to enter service. Two years later she married Albert Williams and together they had eight children. Albert died in 1961 and when her children were grown up Hilda joined her brother in London where she worked as a housekeeper in the home of a theatre costumier in Mayfair. In 1980 she moved to the Suburb (where her brother was caretaker of the Institute) and settled in the Barnett Homestead. She helped her brother and also worked in the staff canteen in Waitrose, Temple Fortune. In 1984 she started looking after Fellowship House.

From childhood Hilda was a committed Anglican and on the Suburb a regular worshipper and volunteer at St Jude's. For the last few years Hilda lived at Eastside House. We wish her well as she returns to live with her family in South Africa.



Photo: Father Alan Walker

# It went from there...

## Profile on Kate Webster, newly appointed Chair of Proms at St Jude's



Photo: Martin Webster

MARIE-CHRISTINE O'CALLAGHAN

**K**ate's association with the Suburb dates back to 1995 when she was appointed the deputy head of Henrietta Barnett School (HBS) and decided to live here because she wanted to be able to go for a walk without using a car. The proximity of the Heath and the architectural delights of the Suburb provided her with a plethora of interesting and enjoyable walks.

Kate was born in Peterborough and studied geography at Sheffield University before becoming a teacher. She first taught in a comprehensive and then in a grammar school which was in a deprived area and proved very challenging because of the socio-economic background of the students. HBS was a very different school; an all girls' school with students passionate about their education. While at HBS she was an acting head for two terms and the experience made her think that she could be a Headteacher. She was subsequently appointed Headteacher at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School in Barnet, a comprehensive school which reflected the diversity of London's population. Kate was very happy there, doing a job which matched her passion for girls' education and allowed her to 'open doors for young women'. Besides, "no two days were the same" and "it

was very satisfying to see children (and staff) progressing, occasionally against considerable difficulties."

Kate retired in 2015 and eventually joined the Proms as a volunteer friends coordinator and, as she says: "it went from there." Kate loves to walk so it seemed a natural step to take on the programming of the Heritage walks and lead some herself – 'a bit like a geography field trip for adults except it's about history'. She also got involved in the Suburb Archives particularly in the research relating to the 1911 Census which, among other fascinating information, reveals where people who moved to the Suburb came from. She then became the chair of the Proms at St Jude's Education Committee which organises children's and family concerts, together with a number of Barnet schools and the help of Da Capo, a charity that believes that every child should have access to a quality music education. A highlight is the Schools' Prom which brings together almost 400 children from Barnet primary and secondary schools to perform in St Jude's. A series of workshops prepare the children for a high quality musical performance with professional musicians.

It was at this time that Richard Clegg, the then chair of Proms, who had steered the Proms through the difficult Covid period, was thinking of retiring

and Kate was asked if she would be interested in taking on the job. She did (eventually) say yes.

Kate hopes to induct herself in the role by listening to the people involved in the delivery of the Proms. She wants to consolidate and take things forward by reaching out to the next generation of participants and volunteers. She feels the need for generational renewal is vital for any organisation. Kate would love to do more about education and heritage and to continue to develop the core music and LitFest strands of the Proms Festival. She thinks that it's wonderful that the children's concert sold out and that the family concert was well attended. She also wishes to turn some of the parents into evening concert goers. So, watch this space, good things are about to happen...



Photo: Jeremy Coleman

## HGS Synagogue welcomes new leaders

SIMONE HALFIN

**H**ampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue, or Norrice Lea as it is also known, was inaugurated in 1935 with 70 families. Now, with over 2000 adult members, and several hundred children, it is one of the most prestigious synagogues in England. July marked the beginning of a new chapter, with the appointment of Senior Rabbi Marc and Lisa Levene, and their daughters, as well as Community Rabbinic couple Rabbi Luis and Jodie Herszaft, together with their sons. Together with Cantor Avromi and Rochelle Freilich the new team is complete. Cantor Avromi, whose magnificent voice has raised all our spirits during the recent pandemic, has been part of the synagogue for many years.

Rabbi Levene was a Youth and Community Rabbi at the synagogue previously but left to take up a post at Belmont Synagogue for five years. He told me he and Lisa were exceptionally excited, and feel it is their purpose in life being appointed Senior Rabbi back in the Suburb after five years away. 'To develop and build and help grow such a flagship community is a dream job for us' were his words.

Discussing Covid, he felt it had decimated, like a tornado, everyone throughout the world and caused havoc, so every faith leader needed to work out how to bring people back to attending services and be part of their community again. As in Norrice Lea, people had got out of the habit of going to synagogue, and it was going to be hard to reverse that. Rabbi Levene felt his main job initially was to listen, to talk to as many of his congregants as possible and find out what they want both from the community leaders themselves, and from the synagogue. "It is about understanding what people want and how we can provide it." As with Church members also, he was firm in his belief that people should be part of a community, not just taking part in the religious services, but coming along to other activities as well.

Rabbi Luis and Jodie Herszaft are taking up their first post in the community since he qualified as a Rabbi. They have previously been very involved with youth and young people and, although originally from London, they have just arrived back from living and studying in Israel.



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Devotion to duty personified – Janet Elliott opening the HGS Sunshine Garden in the pouring rain! (Photo: Family archive)

# Janet Elliott

1932 - 2022

Laura Elliott

Janet was born on 13 December 1932 to a working class family in Plumstead. She refused to go to grammar school, instead she became head girl at a commercial school, then straight to work for the Daily Mirror at 16. In 1959, Janet married John Elliott, a Jewish refugee from Vienna. She continued to work, by this time for Vogue, then took A levels to enter the LSE in 1965. At this point, their children were four and two and much of their income went on childcare and domestic help. Janet grasped the cost of pursuing your ambitions and having much-wanted children. Graduating in 1970 with a master's degree, Janet briefly taught at Tottenham Technical College before rocketing up the career ladder to become Deputy

Chief Officer of the Business Education Council (later BTEC). Janet travelled the UK and the Commonwealth setting up vocational qualifications, and enjoyed conducting Whitehall negotiations on vocational educational reform. In her mid-fifties Janet was appointed Chief Executive of Pitman Examinations Institute, visiting its worldwide centres. She oversaw PEIs takeover by City and Guilds. Janet moved to the Suburb in 1994 after retiring from full-time work and soon threw herself into Suburb life. She was the RA Membership Secretary for 13 years and chaired the Residents Association (2009-2014). She was also involved in Fellowship House, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute and the HGS Library. Janet was a very able and fair-minded leader as well as a super-competent administrator. She was much-respected as chair of the Residents Association, a firm hand at the tiller in sometimes stormy waters. She received an award from Barnet for her community service in 2012. She and her husband John were dedicated Lib Dems. She worked for Sue Garden's Parliamentary

campaign in 2005, and could often be seen delivering election leaflets round the Suburb or at the all-night Barnet counts, disappointing though the results would always be. Sue Garden, now in the House of Lords, writes: "She could be a formidable presence, but like other formidable women I have come across, you discover warmth, humanity and care behind the professional exterior, and she had those in spades!" Some of her other Suburb interests included the Horticultural Society, the Proms at St Jude's, and Friends of Big Wood. Always

active, Janet was taking drawing and country dancing lessons right up to the start of the pandemic. Janet had put up with a serious heart condition for many years. During the pandemic, vascular dementia removed her independence. However, she continued to enjoy life in her home in Temple Fortune Lane and her visits to Fellowship House. Janet died peacefully in the Royal Free on the 5 June 2022, with her daughter beside her. She is survived by her children Dan and Laura, and her grandchildren Sam, Nanon and Nye.



Photo: Family Archive

# David Pope

1950 - 2022

ELINOR DELANEY (WITH THANKS TO ANNA HALLS)

David was born in Hillingdon on 11 June 1950, and attended Abbotsfield School for Boys. His love of history and art showed at an early age: he studied History of Art for O level and because the school had no teacher for this subject, he taught himself and was duly enrolled into the exam and gained an A grade. He took English Literature and Art at A level, gaining an A for art and went on to study Graphic Design at Kingston School of Art. A little while after his marriage to Jennifer Stoneham, David gained

his diploma in Art and Design and started on a career as a graphic designer. David started worshipping at St Pauls in Dorking, close to the family home, where his children sang in the choir and they found a supportive community. Following a period of illness David left the family home and came to live in Hampstead Garden Suburb in his own flat in Waterlow Court. It was at this time that David started worshipping at St Jude's, where his faithful attendance was so much appreciated and he found companionship and a rhythm to his life. David became the lynch pin of the Sacristy team at St Jude's and devoted many hours to cleaning the church equipment and preparing for the weekly services and the more complex services. He gained a detailed knowledge of the liturgy and was never happier than when he was able to pass that knowledge to others in the team. He left meticulous notes for the Sacristy team on all aspects of preparation for which we are so grateful. His other joy was running the Book Stall at our Church Markets and his skill as an artist was recognised when his fine drawing of the church was chosen for the tea towel which was produced in 1994. Always somewhat of a recluse, the impact of the pandemic on his health was huge. During this time he lost his father and sister and the effects of Parkinson's Disease worsened without regular exercise. His physical and mental health took a severe blow from which sadly, he never recovered. David died at Easter in 2022 and his ashes are buried, together with those of his parents, in Dorking cemetery with a fine view over to Box Hill. His devotion to St Jude's will be long remembered. He is survived by his son Oliver and two daughters, Julia and Anna.

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# Peter Haig Loyd

1922 - 2022

ROSEMARY LOYD

**P**eter Loyd, who died on 13 May 2022 aged 99, was a long-standing resident and champion of Hampstead Garden Suburb. Conscientious, organised



Photo: Daniel Elkan

# Judith Elkan

1929 - 2022

MARGARET HARRIS

**O**ne of the Suburb's truly 'gentle' women, Judith Elkan, died in February at her home in Coleridge Walk at the age of 92. Judith had lived in the Suburb for 53 years. Her house was a treasure trove of books and souvenirs of her travels; the large garden abundant in carefully nurtured roses, vegetables and flowers. There was even an olive tree flourishing in a sheltered corner. In the right season, Judith would take delight in harvesting a juicy apricot or two for you.

The peaceful garden reflected Judith's warm personality. Everything in it responded positively to Judith's thoughtfulness and kindness as well as to her gentle but firm direction. Although Judith was always humble and quiet in manner and voice, she had enormous determination and charisma. She turned the many challenges of her own life into

and community-minded, he was instrumental in the establishment of a very active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in 1987.

Peter spent his earliest years at the family home in Belgravia. At the age of six he went to boarding school. One of the highlights of his childhood was crossing to the Isle of Wight by paddle steamer aged 12 – an experience which sparked his lifelong love of the ocean. After leaving school, he joined the Royal Marines as an officer in September 1941. He served for 16 years, first in HMS Belfast in the Arctic and on Russian convoy duty, then as

reasons to do good and promote positive relationships.

Judith was the youngest of eight children born into an Arabic and Hebrew-speaking family, which moved from Aleppo, Syria to Jerusalem in the 1920s. She was nine when she arrived in London with her widowed mother, who was seeking medical treatment for her brother. Unable to return to Palestine due to the outbreak of the Second World War, the family settled in Maida Vale. There Judith attended school until the age of 18, when she returned to the newly-founded state of Israel.

Judith studied psychology at university in Israel, returning to London in the late 1950s to do a postgraduate degree in child psychoanalysis at the Tavistock Clinic. There she met her husband, psychologist and musician, Geoffrey Elkan (who died in 2002). The Tavistock training was the foundation for her lifelong commitment to working with children who had suffered trauma, including those who came to Britain in the 1930s on the Kindertransport.

Judith regularly travelled to Israel to teach Infant Observation and was glad to be able to share her specialist skills with Palestinian colleagues. Speaking both Hebrew and Arabic fluently, Judith was able to build rapport with both Israelis and Palestinians. She became convinced through her work that the fears and myths that each side held could be dissolved through sharing personal stories face to face. In the mid 1990s, Judith heard a talk by Israeli Yitzhak Frankenthal, who had lost a son in the ongoing conflict and, in response, had founded the 'Bereaved Families Forum' to bring together Palestinians and Israelis who had suffered a similar loss. Judith wanted to support this project from England and founded the registered charity 'UK Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum'. The UK FBFF raises awareness and funds to support the work being done in Palestine-Israel, organising speaking tours in the UK in which Palestinians and Israelis in pairs share their bereavement stories and their search for a resolution to the conflict in the Middle East. Judith remained the Chair of the UK FBFF until her death and worked tirelessly to raise funds and elicit support for the cause.

Judith is survived by her children, Miriam and Daniel, and two grandchildren.

Captain of Marines in HMS Nigeria, and in India, Burma, South Africa, Malta and Malaya.

On leaving the Marines in 1958, he accepted a role at ICI. It was at this time that Peter discovered Hampstead Garden Suburb. He embraced Dame Henrietta Barnett's vision of a community planned to suit people of different circumstances, the open spaces, and houses designed by the Arts and Crafts movement.

Peter married Rosie Moir in 1961 and moved from Waterlow Court to Meadway, along with Julie and William, the children of his first marriage. The arrival of Tony and Sophie completed the family. Peter continued to develop a career in industry and commerce: from ICI to BTR Industries, the Industrial Society, and finally with the British Institute of Management. Holidays were spent with friends and family aboard his successive boats each named Dyola. Later he also volunteered with the Ocean Youth Club teaching disadvantaged young people to sail. Other pastimes included carpentry, topiary and membership of the Magic Circle.

In retirement, his attention turned to Suburb life. The inaugural meeting to create a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) in December 1987 attracted considerable support. He was invited to join the Residents' Association Council and later became vice-chairman. In 1985, on a visit to this area, Margaret Thatcher met Peter and discussed

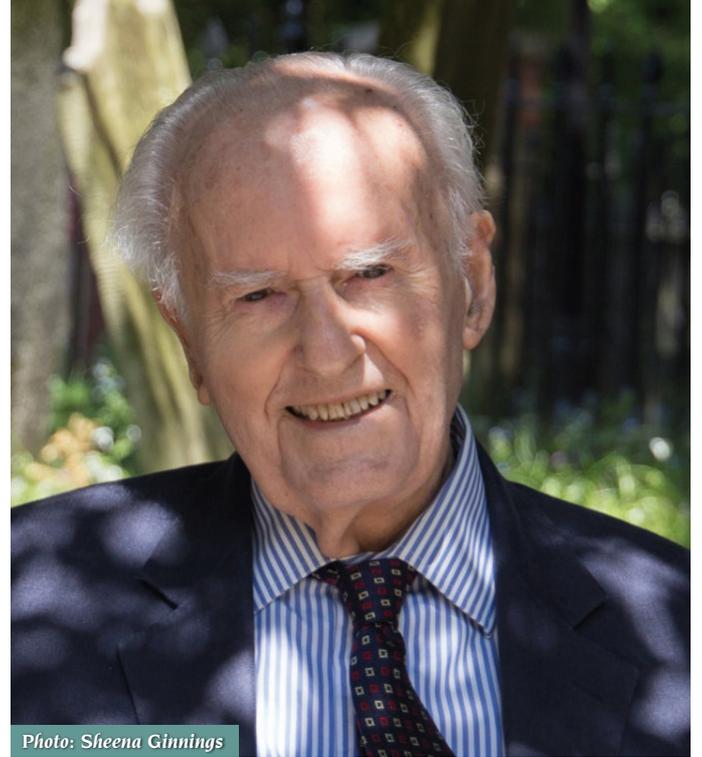


Photo: Sheena Ginnings

the progress of the NWS which he continued to develop until 1999. At its peak the NWS covered 6,500 homes and was credited with being responsible for a major reduction in burglary rates. He worked closely with the regional police force which awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation.

Meanwhile in 1988 Suburb News published a letter from Peter calling for residents to take responsibility for clearing litter dropped near their homes. It was the start of an energetic campaign and in 1989 John Marshall MP formally launched Litter Free Zones

on the Suburb. This campaign earned Peter the Queen Mother's Award for Environmental Improvement. In 1998 Peter was named one of the Ham & High's six 'people of the year'.

Peter's wife Rosie was very active and supportive throughout their marriage but sadly died in March 1997. In October 1998 he married Rosemary Markham and they remained at Meadway until 2013 when they resettled in Brookland Garth. Peter's life was celebrated with a service of thanksgiving at Hampstead Parish Church on 27 May 2022.

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# Summer holidays

## Summer holidays and what they mean to me

Education experts every year pose the question: 'do children really need such long summer breaks?' Apparently, such a long break disrupts their development and gets in the way of the learning process. Perhaps educationists aren't really aware of what children do during their vacations these days. A plethora of courses, classes, camps and workshops involving swimming, art, personality development, music, coding and the like have given rise to a new seasonal industry. Even the trips taken in the name of the holidays seem laden with exotic destinations and customized experiences packed into a short period of time. We can 'do' Europe in ten days and Australia in a week, and come back with overflowing suitcases and digital memories which have already been shared real time, and commented upon. Holidays are, in some ways, no longer a break but an intensified search for experiences not normally encountered in everyday life.

For me, holidays are a time for genuine relaxation: 'me - time' as many people like to call it. As I am about to go into an important year in two months' time, catching up on the subjects I have doubts about would do no harm, but still: life is too short. The best experiences need to be captured in these free days. The wonderful moments with your family and friends should be enjoyed and treasured. Ever since the Covid-19 pandemic, humanity has learned that anything can happen, and what lies ahead is unpredictable.

The summer holidays should be embraced: it is not about how much work you get done over these two months, it is about having fun, and relaxing. Life is not the same anymore. However, we are all slowly getting back to what we did before; we are slowly getting into the groove of things. So let us really enjoy the summer break like we've never enjoyed it before. You may wish to develop a new skill, or a new interest? As for me, I have definitely found a few good series on Netflix to watch over the summer.

SMRUTHI KARTHIKKUMAR, THE HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

## Summer daze

*lazy, sluggish summer afternoons  
crawl by to the slow tick-tocking of the clock  
tick-tock. tick-tock.*

*the shadow of laughter reverberating through the halls;  
a remnant of the lunch gone by.  
thus, lethargy hangs in the humid air.*

*tongue lolling, or drawling to the person behind  
slow squeaks on the whiteboards resound through the room  
subtle tap-tapping anticipates the end.*

*accompanied by laboured yawns,  
pens click-clacking join the musical arrangement  
of crickets chirping away*

*still clouds suspended in time  
the trickle of breeze too weak to move anything  
everything stops. stagnant.*

*sweat seasons the sultry air,  
once pallid complexions now flushed,  
as sticky strands cling to them.*

*burdening the heat on shaking shoulders  
dragging feet huffing and puffing --  
straining with the effort of existing.*

*these stifling summer days  
are a static rhythm.*

NYSA UPADHYA & LAURYN OKERAGO,  
THE HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

As this is the first year post-pandemic that students have been able to enjoy a normal summer break, we asked the SNY team to tell us what the summer holidays means to them...



(Photo: Jacqueline Botterill)

## Calling all youth! Fellowship House is not Just For Oldies

There is a popular misconception that a child's foot never crosses the threshold of Fellowship House. Not so.

As a centre serving the whole community whenever possible, the younger generation has been involved for many years, for example:

- Artist Vera Moore runs popular after school art classes (veramooreinfo@gmail.com, tel 07741 126151).
- Henrietta Barnett girls have held exhibitions of their work in the art gallery.
- Brooklands School Infants come to sing for Fellowship Club Members every now and then.
- The 2nd Golders Green Guides Monday evening session has been a fixture for many years. (Natasha Radjabi at 2ndgoldersgreenguides@gmail.com)
- The hall can be hired for children's private parties most weekends (Elisabeth Kocen, bookings@fellowshiphouse.co.uk)

## The history of school holidays

As children have been enjoying the school holidays, it's interesting to delve into the origins and development of this precious time. The concept of holidays for the general populace first arose in the mid Victorian era, when railways and additional worker's rights advocated by unionists and chartists alike enabled families to leave their towns for the first time. Beaches such as Brighton and Blackpool became incredibly popular destinations, and the iconic British summer holiday was born.

However, to understand how society reached this point, it is necessary to look further back. In 950 AD, the word halidaeg in Old English meant holy day, and by the 1460s, the modern spelling and definition had taken precedence. Until recently, children would only have religious holidays, as the summer holidays were essentially non-existent. However, in the 1840s, American educator, Horace Mann, proposed the revolutionary idea that it would be better for students' wellbeing to spend an extended period of time away from the classroom to relax and renew and so the iconic school summer holidays were born, gradually gaining traction in Europe. However, it was not until the 1930s that adults also got to share in the summer sunshine (or summer rain if you stay in Britain), when the socialist-controlled French government forced companies to give workers at least two weeks of paid leave a year, setting a precedent for labour unions and workers' rights groups across the world, as well as encouraging a significant rise in tourism.

Tourism has its roots in the 17th century, when nobles would tour Europe, engaging in a mix of cultural appreciation and carousing. One of the most famous examples is perhaps Lord Byron's Grand Tour, which included stops in Geneva and Greece. In the mid-19th century, Englishman Thomas Cook founded the first travel agency, opening up the concept of travelling for fun to a wider society. Popular Victorian holiday destinations included Brighton, the South of France, and Pompeii.

These two concepts combine today to form an iconic British summer, where children have six weeks off from school and are free to do with it what they will, often travelling with family. I personally think that after lockdown, young people will appreciate this precious time a lot more.

THOMAS YIANNIKOUEMU, ARCHER ACADEMY

## Home for summer – finally

For many, summer is a time to travel abroad to new, sunny places and enjoy the beach, explore foreign cities with lots to offer or even just stay at home and relax. But for some, the six-week break is a time to go back home, spend time with family and friends, visit places where you grew up, and do things you aren't able to do where you currently live. I, like many Londoners, have parents who have immigrated to the UK, and who travel back to their home countries in school holidays so, in summer, I always spend my six weeks in Canada.

It's a feeling many can relate to, going home for summer, especially this year as COVID restrictions loosen and countries open back up again. After three years of not seeing family, this summer finally feels like the warm sun against your skin, which is what summer should feel like. For kids and teenagers, summer is a break from school, exams, and stress: a time to relax and have fun! I couldn't think of a better, more fun but relaxing holiday than my summers in Canada, spending almost every day by the lake, swimming and having campfires, doing puzzles and painting, and of course spending lots of time with my family.

Whether travelling back home means going to the middle of nowhere and being in nature, hearing crickets and seeing the millions of stars in the sky, or if it means going to a city, going out for dinner, and seeing the city's shining lights, going home is always a cathartic feeling. For most, summer is usually filled with smiles and ice creams, but there's something so special, yet bittersweet about summers like mine, because even with the smiles and ice creams and cherished memories summer does eventually come to an end and everyone must leave their sunny places and cities, and come back to London. But despite my summers going back to what feels like 'home', London will still be home.

SUSANA RIO, ARCHER ACADEMY

## The season of summer

Here in the UK, we have a very clear idea of what the season of summer should look like. Time by the beach, a scorching, golden sun, 30-degree heat, sun cream, and cool evening walks. This is reinforced by the many American and British shows we watch, all of which display this same summer in some way, shape or form. We know that every country has warmer and colder seasons, but rumours that 'in Australia, people spend Christmas on the beach' frequently circulate each year; perhaps people we know have even experienced this. How could this be possible, and why?

Despite popular belief, it has nothing to do with the proximity of the Earth to the sun at each stage of its orbit – at any point in our orbit over the year, the difference in closeness causes a minimal difference to our weather. On our orbit around the sun, we are closest to the sun during 'perihelion' (4th January), and furthest during 'aphelion', (5th July), and yet we have some of our coldest temperatures in the UK during January, while at our closest to the sun thus proving proximity is not the cause of seasons. The answer lies in the angle the Earth orbits at, and how directly sunlight hits the Earth. Our planet is actually not perfectly oriented with the south pole at the bottom and the north pole at the top. Instead, it is tilted at a 23.5-degree angle. This means that the northern and southern hemispheres are exposed to the sun's rays at different angles, and this is the reason why seasons occur. When the northern hemisphere is tilted more towards the sun, light hits it at a right angle, and this is more direct than any other time of year producing summer conditions. Meanwhile, the southern hemisphere is further away and light hits at angles closer and closer to 0, becoming increasingly direct and causing it to be winter.

This is the same reason why, around the equator, countries do not have the four seasons we have – they are never tilted at an angle because they are located around the centre of the planet, and so instead they have wet and dry seasons. The wet season is long and results in the giant rainforests along the Equator. Consistent rainfall and a warm climate create a desirable environment for agriculture, and as a result, farming is a thriving business in many of these countries.

But why is the earth tilted? It is thought that around 4.5 billion years ago, an object the size of Mars (known as Theia) crashed into our planet when it was newly formed. It knocked our planet, rotated its axis and caused it to lean at an angle. Many scientists also theorise that all of the rubble sent into orbit by the crash gathered to become the moon.

So, this summer while you enjoy the sweltering heat, countries in the southern hemisphere are experiencing winter, and as the weather begins to get cold again here, their summer will only just be beginning.

OSCAR GRAHAM, ARCHER ACADEMY

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Marcelle with her daughter, Danielle Segal, and grandson Theo (Photo: Debra Barnes)

## Tree planting ceremony for Lela

MARCELLE BLACK

Readers will recall the remarkable story of Lela Black, a holocaust survivor, in the Spring 2022 issue of Suburb News. Here her daughter Marcelle tells of a tree planting ceremony for her mother in Lyttelton Playing Fields.

On 28th April, surrounded by family and friends, I attended a moving Tree Planting Ceremony in Lyttelton Playing Fields in memory of my late mother, Lela Black, who passed away 14 years ago. The tree, which I sponsored, was one of the last to be planted by the AJR (The Association of Jewish Refugees) in honour of their 80th Anniversary and under the auspices of the Queen's Canopy to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The commemorative plaque at the foot of the tree also reads: "...in recognition of all those who suffered during the Holocaust, and in loving memory of Lela Black, who survived Auschwitz and found sanctuary in Britain in 1946, having lost her entire family at the hands of the Nazis."

I also sponsored a Time Capsule, which we buried under the tree. It contains Lela's story related in the first person, with a selection of photographs illustrating her life as a young girl growing up in Greece and her subsequent new life in London.



Theo burying the Time Capsule (Photo: Debra Barnes)

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Professor Lynne Cox



Amanda Weinberg

## Return of the Art Fair

MALCOLM BRAHAMS

After a three-year break, due to Covid, the sun shone on HGS Art when they held their Art Fair over the weekend of 21-22 May. Some new, younger members have joined the group bringing the number of exhibitors to more than thirty.

Once more, Fellowship House in Willifield Way proved an ideal

venue with paintings, collages and photographs on display in the Eileen Whelan Room and the lobby and craft work including jewellery, sculptures and carvings on show in the main hall.

Combat Stress provided all the catering, raising nearly £1,180 for their charity and the sunshine allowed visitors and exhibitors to enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, cakes and sandwiches in the courtyard.



Art in the lobby (Photo: Malcolm Brahams)



Tea in the Courtyard (Photo: Malcolm Brahams)

## HGS U3A update

MICHAEL JACOBS

HGS U3A starts a new year on 12 September 2022 and new members are invited to join and existing members to renew. Annual subscriptions are £35 for an individual and £60 for a couple, which includes U3A-wide and group activities. New applicants should go to [hgsu3a.uk/join/](https://hgsu3a.uk/join/) - existing members are receiving a personal renewal notice.

All members are entitled to attend our Monthly Topical Talks for free and the 2022 programme is continuing on Zoom from September to November. It is very much hoped that the Topical Talks from January 2023 will resume being in person at a local venue. Details will appear in the next issue of Suburb News.

HGS U3A is delighted to announce that the talk at 3pm on 15 September will be given by Professor Lynne Cox on 'Preparing for ageing well' and the one on 20 October will be given by local author Amanda Weinberg, author of 'Tears of Monterini'.

These Talks are open to members of HGS U3A (free) and those who wish to attend need to register on the Meetings page of our website [hgsu3a.uk/events/](https://hgsu3a.uk/events/). Members can bring a friend.

Professor Cox is a biogerontologist and runs the Lab of Ageing and Cell Senescence at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford. Her lab researches the biological processes underlying ageing, with a particular focus on human premature ageing syndromes and cell senescence.

Amanda Weinberg has a degree in modern languages from the University of East Anglia and a PGCE from King's College, London.

Amanda's first novel is 'Tears of Monterini' was reviewed in Suburb News, issue 147. It's an historical piece of fiction set in the magical village of Pitigliano. Amanda became fascinated with its Jewish history and culture. As she became closely connected to the village and its inhabitants, she was inspired to write a novel based on true events during Mussolini's fascist era.

# The Queen's Jubilee celebration Suburb street parties

Street parties were held across the Suburb to celebrate 70 glorious years of the Queen's reign – the first British Monarch to do so. Fun and laughter were had by all.

Orchard Housing Society held a fantastic party on Wednesday 1st June. One of the tenants played the piano and there was a sing-a-long. There was an abundance of food and drink, with many tenants bringing their own culinary creations.



Photo: Iona Wolff



Photo: Sylvia Coury



Photo: Sylvia Coury



Photo: Amanda Boyle



Photo: Colin Gregory



Photo: Sue Sussman



Photo: Beatrice Bousard

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Photo: Sue Sussman

## CHURCH DIARY DATES



ST JUDE'S

**Sunday 2 October**  
10.30am Harvest Festival. Gifts for Homeless Action in Barnet

**Saturday 8 October**  
10.30am-2pm Autumn Market. All our usual stalls will be up and running, including Cakes, Preserves, Books, Bric-a-brac, Gifts, Tombola, Welsh cakes. Coffee and tea will be available throughout and delicious lunches from 12 noon. A warm welcome awaits you.

**Sunday 27 November**  
10.30am Advent Sunday

**Sunday 18 December**  
6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Saturday 24 December**  
6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
11.30pm Midnight Mass Celebrant, the Venerable John Hawkins, Archdeacon of Hampstead

**Sunday 25 December**  
10.30am Parish Eucharist for Christmas Day



FREE CHURCH

Regular Events:

**Every Saturday**  
10.30am-12.30pm West End Café in Free Church & West Garden

**Every Sunday**  
11am Sunday Worship

**Saturday 10 & 17 and  
Sundays 11 & 18 September**  
10am -1pm Open House Church

**Friday 30 September**  
1pm Organ Recital by Jonathan Gregory former Director of Music Free Church. Light Lunch served from 12.15pm

**Sunday 2 October**  
11am Harvest Festival Service followed by lunch for everyone

**Friday 28 October**  
1pm Piano Recital by Cristiana Achim. Light Lunch served from 12.15pm

**Sunday 6 November**  
3pm Annual Bereavement Service

**Saturday 12 November**  
11am-3pm Christmas Bazaar

**Friday 25 November**  
1pm Jazz Saxophone Recital by Lyn Dobson. Light Lunch served from 12.15pm

**Sunday 4 December**  
6.30pm Advent Sunday Service by candlelight

**Sun 18 December**  
11am Festival Nine Lessons & Carols

**Monday 19 December**  
7pm Carol Singing round the Suburb

**Sunday 25 December**  
11am Christmas Day Family Service

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# Rainbow over Proms at St Jude's

RON FINLAY

There was sunshine, showers and finally a rainbow for the Proms at St Jude's Festival this year – metaphorically as well as literally.

SUNSHINE

On the sunny side, the events were first-class and highly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Perhaps the best loved concert was the one that might be least expected to 'wow', and that was the combination of soprano voice,

organ and saxophone performed by the Suburb's Grace Davidson, Libby Burgess and Christian Forshaw under the title of their recent album, Historical Fiction (see review opposite). In the unprompted words of one visitor, "It was superb – probably the best I've seen/heard at Proms ever. All the performers were exceptional and they used the church acoustics to perfection. I do hope they will return. Thank you again for bringing such wonders to our doorstep."

Highly popular were Fantasia Orchestra with prize-winning pianist Alim Beisembayev stepping in late to play Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto; the Darius Brubeck Quartet performing jazz from South Africa and the Dave Brubeck portfolio; and the Joni and Me evening, starring Joanna Eden with Chris Ingham and Andrés Lafone.

Suburb stars Noah and Robert Max were acclaimed, as always; Orchestra Nova charmed audiences with Mendelssohn and Schubert; the Gould Trio impressed with their expertise; Nevill Holt Opera sang beautiful arias; and the Armonico Consort brought cheers to their reprise on music for the Queen's coronation.

LITFEST

The Henrietta Barnett School Hall was filled early on a Sunday morning to hear Jon Sopel in conversation with Simon Lewis. The two had known each other since their youth, when they had summer jobs at the former H R Owen garage in the Market Place. One subsequently became BBC North American Editor and the other Director of Communications at 10 Downing Street.



Anjana Ahuja (Photo: David White)



Enjoying the comedy (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)

Audiences were also treated to Suburb resident Claudia Roden reminiscing with Dan Saladino of BBC Radio Four's Food Programme over recipes and places she associated with them; and BBC Health Editor Hugh Pym discovering first hand from leading scientist Jeremy Farrar and FT reporter Anjana Ahuja what happened at the heart of government when a new virus from China came on the scene not so long ago.

Fiction fans got a chance to hear Francis Spufford talk about his new novel, Light Perpetual, and Charlotte Mendelson describe how she came to write The Exhibitionist. Magnificently, prize-winning author Colm Tóibín, talking to Hermione Lee, revealed by video to Proms audiences the secrets of his approach to writing over the course of his career.

In a tour de force, political commentator Steve Richards explained why The Prime Ministers We Never Had nearly made it, but not quite, and made some interesting forecasts about who would succeed Boris Johnson. If you want to know what he said, you can see his, and the other LitFest talks, online at [www.promsatstjudes.org.uk](http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk).

WALKS

Many of Proms' popular Heritage Walks around the Suburb and other interesting parts of London sold out well before their scheduled date. These have become more and more professional over the years, with guides now nearly all being well established tour leaders. Besides learning about the flora and fauna of the Heath, Suburb history and architecture and famous former residents of the area, participants were able to discover what made Covent Garden the Las Vegas of its day 250 years ago, what connects Spitalfields and Whitechapel with the Suburb and what shape the new town on our doorstep, Brent

Cross Town, is likely to take over the coming decade.

GREAT ATMOSPHERE

It was wonderful to see Proms come properly to life again after two years of running on half measures, with food and drink being served, late-night comedy on the second Saturday and a full programme of free lunchtime concerts by rising stars of the music world. There was also a marvellous Schools' Prom with hundreds of local schoolchildren performing, a Sunday afternoon concert for families and two amazing Teeny Proms for under 5s.

SHOWERS – BUT A RAINBOW The dampener on all this was that audiences were down on 2019 – in common with the experience of most festivals and public events around the country. This appeared to be a combination of more people on holiday, after two years' confinement, and still some wariness about Covid risk. For many festivals, this would have meant a threat to their viability, but Proms is fortunate to rely on a hard-working team of volunteers, which keeps costs to a minimum. And while lower audiences reduced the surplus available to donate to Proms' partner charities, North London Hospice and Toynbee Hall, the good news is that fantastic generosity by loyal sponsors, Friends and donors has meant the Festival will be donating £50,000 to these good causes this year.



Teeny Proms participants (Photo: David White)

Grace Davidson (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)



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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.

# Music (etc) at Fellowship

ANDREW BOTTERILL

You can hardly miss the St Jude's Proms, that great aircraft carrier of big music, big money and big charities which moors for 10 days each summer in Central Square. The Suburb however also benefits from a large flotilla of smaller musical craft that float through during the year, carrying a remarkable array of professional and amateur talent to a variety of local venues for our delectation and delight. One such venue is Fellowship House.

Now in its 12th year, the Autumn Series of six Chamber Concerts starts on October 23rd. International professional talent includes Imogen Cooper, John Tomlinson, Noriko Ogawa, Nicholas Daniel and the Piatti Quartet. Further details can be found at [fellowshiphouse.co.uk](http://fellowshiphouse.co.uk).

Increased grants from our faithful and generous sponsors, The John S Cohen Foundation and The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust ensure that seat prices for the Series can remain unchanged at a remarkable £12 (including

complimentary drinks): 'The Wigmore Hall Around the Corner'.

Suburb resident and music critic Barry Millington continues his amazing twice monthly Music Appreciation sessions. We're looking forward to contributions from Kate Hopkins, Brian Elias, Alan Young, Angela Zanders, David Matthews and Noah Max. A highlight from the previous few months was an interview by Barry of one of the world famous Kings Singers, Julian Gregory who gave some vocal illustrations of his art. "Pure gold" noted a choral aficionado present.

But of course good music is not just classical music. Françoise Geller and her Garden Choir deal in a lighter side. The shows she puts on from time to time are all sellouts. On May 1st there was something special – a Ukrainian Benefit Evening with drinks and eats. Uplifting music and emotive poetry and prose readings by Gordon Griffin. Cambridge graduate Viktor Ieromin gave an amazing account of how, a week or so before, he had travelled to Ukraine and extracted his granny back to North London. At the end, we all sang 'You'll Never Walk Alone'. We didn't know or care whether this was 'Carousel' 1945, Gerry and the Pacemakers 1963 or Liverpool FC. What we did know was that we were all Ukrainians now. The evening raised £1,500.

Finally, long-standing Suburb resident and former barrister Nigel Osner now treads the boards to great acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe and other festival venues



Susie Gregson introduces Kate Webster as new Chair of Proms at St Jude's (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)

## Kate takes Proms Chair

RON FINLAY

Kate Webster has taken over from Richard Clegg as Chair of Proms at St Jude's. Kate is a member of the Proms Board, chairing the Education Committee and responsible for Heritage Walks and the Friends programme. She has been involved in Proms since soon after retiring in 2016. She was formerly Head of Queen Elizabeth's Girls' in Barnet, following five years as Deputy Head at The Henrietta Barnett School (see article, page 9).

"I'm honoured to take on this role," said Kate, "although Richard

will be a hard act to follow. We are now entering the fourth decade of Proms, and my ambition is to develop all strands of the Festival, bringing it to an even wider audience. In this, I know I will be working with a very committed Board and wider group of committee members and volunteers who all make this annual event possible.

"I'd like to thank Richard for his dedication to the role over the last seven years."

Kate has lived in Hampstead Garden Suburb since 1995 and has been a Friend of Proms for much of that time.

around the country. He brought his one-man cabaret 'Too Young To Stay In, Too Old To Go Out' to a slightly apprehensive Fellowship one evening in spring. A warm, funny and beautifully observed performance with a bittersweet edge. He will be back soon.

In the meantime, if any of the Suburb's myriad lawyers want to kick the habit and live dangerously for a change, our doors are always open and Nigel will show you how.



Nigel Osner

## 'Historical Fiction' Review

Goodness we were so lucky to be in St Jude's last Tuesday 28 June to hear Grace Davidson, Christian Forshaw and Libby Burgess. The three of them created a fascinating and uplifting interpretation of early Renaissance and Baroque Music using voice, saxophone and church organ to extraordinary effect.

Grace opened the concert with an unaccompanied very early devotional song from Hildegard of Bingen from the apse of the church. It was spellbinding. Her pitch perfect voice is almost without vibrato and there were no swoops or wobbles so beloved of most sopranos. She was then joined by Christian on soprano and alto saxophone for some of his own arrangements of Purcell and Handel, madrigals by Dowland and Gibbons, Bach sonatas transcribed to saxophone and some of his own compositions too. The intonation on the soprano saxophone is notoriously difficult and Christian made it sound like a soprano voice, a trumpet, a harpsichord and even bagpipes according to the needs of the music. Libby played the organ with enormous sensitivity and restraint and supported the whole endeavour quite beautifully.

The overall effect was to create a thrillingly balanced and unusual sound. Great musicians with great music transcend technical considerations and show that old music sounds like new music. They certainly did this for us on Tuesday night.

Dr Peter Herbert



## What is THE MANAGEMENT CHARGE?

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust was set up by residents in 1968 and operates a Scheme of Management for Hampstead Garden Suburb under authority granted by the High Court. The Trust exists to "do all things possible to maintain and preserve the present character and amenities" of the Suburb.

This is to everyone's benefit.

The Management Charge is the annual cost of running the Scheme, and it is payable by all owners of an enfranchised freehold property within the Suburb. The total cost of running the Scheme is divided equally between all the Freeholds on the Suburb. This year the payable Charge for each property is £163.

### The Management Charge IS:

- ~ A compulsory land charge on each Freehold property
- ~ Solely for the running of the Scheme of Management (the Trust cannot make a profit, and each year anything left in the previous year's budget is returned to each Freeholder as a rebate on the current year's charge)
- ~ Your contribution towards the future of the Suburb

### The Management Charge IS NOT:

- ~ A voluntary donation
- ~ A 'membership fee' – not for the Trust, the RA, or anything else

A breakdown of the Charge can be found in the *Trust Times* at [www.hgsttrust.org](http://www.hgsttrust.org) (copies were recently posted out with the latest statements).

Contact the Trust if you have any questions:  
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HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST



John Constable's Hampstead Heath – the view from above the Vale of Health pond, looking north-east towards the neighbouring village of Highgate

## Constable's Hampstead

ESTELLE LOVATT

English Romantic landscape artist, John Constable RA (1776-1837), loved living in Hampstead. He felt a connection with the Heath and NW3 village, saying, "Here, Hampstead, let me take my everlasting rest."

Constable, born in East Bergholt, Suffolk, found himself lecturing, teaching and living in different houses in Hampstead after he fell in love with the location whilst he was a student at the Royal Academy, walking from the city up to the Heath, to paint the panoramas. He said he was able to walk, the "three miles from door to door [from Central London to Hampstead] see nature, and unite a town and country life."

Constable found the early Georgian and Regency Hampstead to be pure liberating comfort on his doorstep, providing refuge from the crowded polluted City. Since his wife was of ill-health, the

family moved to live in Hampstead, for the freshest air, which, as Constable said, being 400 feet higher than the City of London, meant, "Hampstead is the lungs of London" with "the finest views, unsurpassed in Europe, from Westminster to Gravesend, Kent, and the dome of St Paul's."

Constable spent the last 18 years of his life in Hampstead. Painting the views, with much artistic licence, to include in the distance, as he'd said, "views of Child's Hill, fields in Hendon, church spires in Harrow on the Hill, and even Windsor Castle." Drawing labourers at work on the Heath, tending cows and sheep, beneath the ash, birch, elm, oak and fir trees, around hedge rows near the ponds. Believing, "Painting is with me but another word for feeling."

Hampstead is where he did his painterly research and experiments. Including his clumps of cloud studies for his most famous

masterpiece, The Hay Wain, (National Gallery, London), which is of the River Stour between Suffolk and Essex, but Constable also painted this scene from his 'en plein air' drawings he'd sketched on Hampstead Heath, and on his easel in the shed, located in the backyard of his Hampstead home. Constable looked to the wilder landscape and skies of Hampstead Heath instead of formal city parks, saying they were artificially

cultivated spaces, "the gentleman's park is my aversion. It's not beauty because it's not nature." Stipulating, "My art is found under every hedge; in every lane – therefore no one thinks it's worth picking... [But] the landscape is too large to go unnoticed... [and the] Canvas takes the place of God's work; the landscape is God's plan in eye; because since the Creation, no two days are alike, no two hours are alike. No two trees are alike. No two leaves are alike."

As the great artist said, "Every day in Hampstead makes me long for a walk," before painting his last canvas of Hampstead, 'Hampstead Heath with a Rainbow', 1836, of Branch Hill Pond, (Tate Britain).

He advanced the art of landscape painting. As a stunning handler of paint he had an amazing technique capturing the experience of being outside in nature, in the landscape. With many tones of green shades so naturalistic, he broke up the surface of his canvas, using, as he said, "a thousand greens to capture the complexity of nature's beauty." Constable went on to inspire many artists including Monet, Cezanne and Lucian Freud.

Constable is buried in the family tomb, alongside his wife Maria, and their children, in Saint John's Parish Church, Church Row, Hampstead.

To join Estelle's 'Walk and Paint Constable's Hampstead' event please see [estellelovatt.com](http://estellelovatt.com) or [estellelovatt.eventbrite.com](http://estellelovatt.eventbrite.com).

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The photo here and the one below, which both include Colin, were taken 43 years apart: (Above) 'The Birds' by Aristophanes was staged by GST in Big Wood in 1979 and it was the first GST production that Colin (playing The Goldfinch – fifth from the right with a brown chest and a red face) was in.

# Pulp Fiction

ELIZABETH STURM

What do you think of when you see a piece of paper? As a local hand papermaker using plants sown and grown in my garden and allotment, I consider paper as divine; a connection to the earth and the richness of what we are provided with. It captures a breathing, living form into something that will have perpetuity. Working organically with natural and sustainable materials and colour, holding a respect for the plants, their individuality and unique characteristics, is a constant reminder that nature is not expendable. Our wonderful green Suburb environment, with allotments aplenty, is to be cherished.

The plants are harvested, broken down in the elements outdoors, cooked and pulped either by hand or in a beater to create a fibre pulp from which both sheets and art works are made. The colour palette is derived from plants cultivated for natural dyes such as weld, woad, hollyhocks, dahlias, rhododendrons and safflower.

The process requires patience (seed to useable fibre can take in excess of 18 months) but the magic of what happens makes the wait worthwhile. As the vibrancy in the plant diminishes at the end of its season, it undergoes a process transforming it to reveal the unique characteristic of each fibre and where it may lead me. I believe there is no such thing as waste; vegetable skin and peel or worn cotton/linen clothing is transformed into sheets of paper for printing, drawing or painting or unique paper commissioned for special occasions.

I love to be surrounded by nature, to watch the garden unfold with each season's new possibilities, accompanied by the rich symphony of bird song as I work.

I have lived in Hampstead Garden Suburb since 1997. I am a member of International Association of Papermakers and have studied paper making in Japan, Nepal and Israel.

Lizzie Sturm will be exhibiting her art at Fellowship House, 1-30 September 2022 and can be contacted at [pulpdepiction@gmail.com](mailto:pulpdepiction@gmail.com) or via her website [pulpdepiction.com](http://pulpdepiction.com).



(Above) Pyrenees Sunset (Above, right) 'Stacked' Plant Fibres (Photos: Lizzie Sturm)

## Garden Suburb Theatre's exciting 2022-2023 Season



James and the Giant Peach (l-r) Sam Newgrosh, Colin Gregory and Zab Hoy (Photo: Mary Musker)

COLIN GREGORY & STEVEN ROWE

From its earliest beginnings back in 1908 and via various incarnations including the Theoric Committee, Play and Pageant Union, Speedwell Players and Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society, Garden Suburb Theatre has very deep roots indeed... and with at least one production each year being performed at the Open Air Theatre in Little Wood, GST continues to build on its distinguished heritage by putting huge amounts of effort into producing five, highly professional, community-based, shows each year. Our auditions take place in the Free Church Hall and the Free Church (in which we also hold our fortnightly social events) and we rehearse each production (thrice-weekly!) in the

Free Church Hall. Our extensive props and costumes are all stored on the Suburb and we are indebted to both The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and to Fellowship House for their support.

A registered charity, our mission is to educate the public in the dramatic arts and our programme of pieces is chosen as much for their dramatic interest as box office draw. We also pride ourselves on our range with something for everyone! Our 2022/23 season starts with 'The Game's Afoot' (breathtaking mystery and high hilarity in equal parts are non-stop in this glittering whodunit by Ken Ludwig) from 6-9 October followed by Calendar Girls (the play not the musical) by Tim Firth from 24-27 November – both of which will be performed at the 'Upstairs at The

Gatehouse' theatre in Highgate. February sees our Children's Show, 'Robin Hood and the Brotherhood of Justice' (which has been specially written for us) followed in April by our production of 'The Misanthrope' by Moliere in a modern verse version by Martin Crimp. Finally, our June 2023 production – in our spiritual home in Little Wood – will be 'Macbeth'.

Tickets for our Gatehouse productions can be purchased via [upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://upstairsatthegatehouse.com) and becoming a Friend of GST at £35 per annum is an absolute bargain because it includes a ticket to see all of our superbly produced and directed shows (and you might even want to help backstage – it's great fun!). More information on this and on our other categories of membership including Active (for those wanting to perform) Family, Children's Show Only and Concession can be found at [www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](http://www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk) or by contacting our Membership Secretary at [membership@gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](mailto:membership@gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk).

## Lovers & Brothers by Diana Brahams

ELEANOR LEVY

This book is described by the author as a 'bittersweet love story' and so indeed it is. Manny and Eva Geller, observant Jews, and their largely adult family of four sons and two daughters, are at the core of this novel.

The narrative follows the ups and downs of the children's lives, as they often struggle with the conservative demands of their parents, each one seeking their own way through to fulfillment. The eldest son Reuben, works with his difficult and demanding father in the failing family business, next comes Jacob, an accountant, both personable and dutiful. Their third son David, estranged from Manny has chosen the acceptable exit route of a life in Israel, whilst Benny the youngest boy, newly post Barmitzvah, gets away with what he can. The Geller daughters and Reuben's wife, Leah, equally have their own issues.

The novel invites the question as to how much this book can appeal to non-Jewish readers.

Those conversant with traditional Jewish norms will of course be at an advantage. However, the issues are very well explained, and I feel that this book will have a wide appeal. Family life and tensions are universal.

Equally pertinent are queries regarding the mostly unquestioning conformity of the Gellers, in an age when individuality and experiment with differing life styles are a modern way of life for many. These facets of the 21st century do indeed provide a challenge to the older Gellers and it is Manny's determined grip on his family, which provides the story with many of its tensions.

Equally, those of us based in the Hampstead Garden Suburb, need only wander around Bridge Lane or Brent Street in Hendon, to become aware of the numbers of young orthodox Jewish families who quite obviously maintain a traditional way of life.

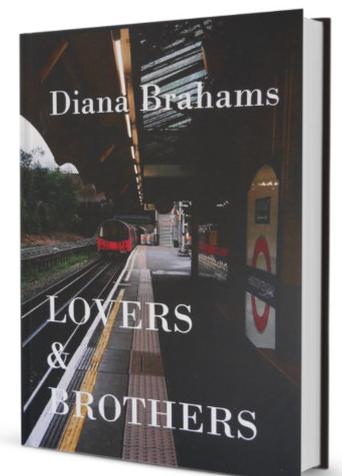
The central protagonist is Jacob, and it is his drama that gives the narrative its 'bitter sweet' flavour.

The book is an irresistible page turner, driven by fast moving

events, and Diana's excellent use of dialogue.

The joy and pain, which permeates the life of Jacob, Nancy (his girlfriend) and their families lived with me long after I had finished the novel. I even found myself missing their company!

Diana Brahams has lived in the suburb for over half a century and was a founder member of HGS Art. *Lovers and Brothers* is Diana's second novel.





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THE GARDEN GIRL

## Full Circle

CAROLINE BROOME

So here we are again, approaching autumn, and a full year has turned since I started guiding you towards creating your ideal garden. Your borders have revealed themselves to you through each season. You can reflect upon your successes and your failures: I hesitate to use the word failures, because an experiment that doesn't produce the desired effect is just a steppingstone towards a more appropriate solution.

If, like me, you've turned a blind eye to some spectacular howlers in your borders, then autumn is the ideal time to rectify them. One disadvantage of a happy perennial is that it will expand after about three years, often swamping less robust neighbours: sanguisorba Lilac Squirrel, veronicastrum, thalictrum or meadow rue, be afraid, be very

Photos:  
Caroline Broome



Trebah

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Miscanthus grass

afraid! So, it's time to lift and divide: cut back top growth, dig up the whole clump, chop it in half or quarter and replant the newest bits from the outside of the clump. No need to be delicate, I use a saw! Suburb favourite, sedum spectabile Autumn Joy, tends to die off in the middle creating a donut effect, so cut away the old middle bit and compost it, and replant with newer outside pieces. Textbooks will tell you that early flowering perennials such as pulmonaria and hardy geraniums are best divided in autumn, whereas those that flower from July onwards are better left until spring. Why? Because late bloomers, such as eryngium and rudbeckia, often flower well into October, but it doesn't have to be a hard and fast rule.

On the subject of cutting back, some people like me, prefer to cut back perennials throughout autumn and early winter, leaving more sparse borders than those who prefer to wait until spring. Arguments for autumn clearance? Less hiding places for pests such as slugs, less chance of spreading diseases like black spot, less work to do in spring. On the other hand, leaving architectural perennials like phlox and eryngium, will create a striking landscape, quite magical on a frosty morning. Overwintering top growth provides shelter for garden friends such as frogs and hedgehogs and provides seeds for the birds. Be aware that some grasses, especially pennisetum, and tender perennials, like shrubby salvias and penstemons, are best left intact until spring, to protect their vulnerable crowns. If you're feeling guilty because a tidy garden is considered to be un-pc in the environmental stakes, compromises can be made: there is always a sheltered corner of your garden where nothing much grows so why not create a log pile with your offcuts as shelter for hedgehogs and toads.

Ornamental grasses, like coppery miscanthus, often look their best against the winter backdrop, but come December can often collapse, their flower heads flying all over the garden, so don't be afraid to cut them down mid-winter. It's worth considering that the earlier in autumn you lift and divide, the more opportunity the roots have to re-establish before the cold weather. Otherwise, the decision is yours.

I'm often asked if cutting back shrubs at the wrong time will cause death by dangerous pruning. Although unlikely, there are a few good reasons why not to prune certain shrubs at this time of year. There is the chance that early frosts could polish them off, reason being that pruning encourages soft, new growth, which is susceptible to freezing temperatures. Most obvious victims of the secateurs would be winter and early spring flowering shrubs, such as camelia or hamamelis, which will be coming into bud now; prune these now and you prune off next season's flowers. Likewise, leave shrubs that produce berries, such as cotoneaster and pyracantha, for winter colour and essential food for birds in the cold months ahead. In theory you should have pruned early blooming shrubs directly after they finished flowering but hey, life often gets in the way! If such a shrub really has outgrown its space by the autumn, then it's a judgement call, compromises are reached, berries or flowers can be sacrificed for one year. The textbooks tell you not to prune dogwoods now, as their coloured stems adorn the bare winter borders, but I see no harm in trimming wayward stems to shape.

Although September may herald the autumn, there is still plenty of opportunity to enliven your gardens and extend the flowering season until the first frosts. Autumn plant fairs proliferate in September, including RHS Wisley, 6 - 11 Sept. [www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/RHS-Garden-Wisley-Flower-Show](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/RHS-Garden-Wisley-Flower-Show). Rudbeckias, heleniums, ornamental grasses, knifophias, will provide a welcome boost to your borders. And don't forget there are still Open Gardens to visit through the National Garden Scheme [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) if you need some inspiration. Moving into October and November, there is perhaps one of the highlights of the gardening year: Autumn Colour. Westonbirt Arboretum has the most dazzling displays of acers and other stunners. [www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt-the-national-arboretum](http://www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt-the-national-arboretum). And as the weather starts to turn, why not take in a lecture or perhaps attend a workshop. Beth Chatto's garden, Elmstead Market in Essex, has an interesting programme: [www.bethchatto.co.uk/shop-by-other/courses/](http://www.bethchatto.co.uk/shop-by-other/courses/).

But whatever you do, make the most of the autumn, it's a long winter ahead.



My favourite Rudbeckias



Mr N H Anglo judges the roses (Photo: Marjorie Harris)

## HortSoc back to normal

MARJORIE HARRIS

Held on 11 June in the Free Church Hall, Northway, the Horticultural Society's 289th Flower Show was the first live show to be held for two years, thanks to Covid. It was wonderful to be back, with committee members setting up and preparing the small hall for teas and watching the judges doing their stuff. The number of classes had been pared down deliberately to make a smaller show after such a long gap, but the hall looked and smelled delightful, with roses taking centre stage. The crowds came back and the home-made teas were very popular. Sadly, there were no entries for the scarecrow competition. Let Hort Soc know what kind of competitions you and your children would like to see next year.

The milestone 290th Flower Show will take place on Saturday 10 September (details: [www.hortsoc.co.uk](http://www.hortsoc.co.uk)). Grimsdyke Brass will play in the garden (indoors if wet), so please come and support the Horticultural Society and the Band. There will be three junior classes at the show for children under 12: Something you have grown yourself; Your favourite character on a boiled egg; Your best friend's face on a biscuit!

Seven gardens and one allotment opened to the public on 17 July with the object (successful) of raising several thousand pounds for The North London Hospice and Combat Stress, the Forces' mental health charity. The weather was hot, but the first visitor arrived at Fellowship House as the ticket office opened in time for the 11.30 start. A steady stream of visitors followed, all determined to enjoy the award winning gardens and allotment site despite the heat. For those who chose to start with something to eat, Ruth Smith and her volunteer team were offering mouth-watering savouries, with the promise of tea and cake later on – all profits from their hard work going to Combat Stress. *Please note: the talk by Ann Jones, The Medicine Chest in your Garden, scheduled for 20 October, will now take place the following Tuesday, 27 October, at 7.30pm in Fellowship House.*

## Quieter and greener gardening

LAURENCE WOLFF

For those fortunate enough to live in the Suburb, many say that the peace and quiet of the area are a major attraction.

Gardens need tending. The problem is that garden machinery can make a great deal of noise. Just as the work has finished in a neighbouring garden, the roar starts in another, and then another. The opportunity to enjoy one's garden in peace is reduced, with all the benefits to our mental health that come with it.

There are four main types of garden machinery – lawnmowers, hedge cutters, leaf blowers and trimmers. If they have a petrol engine, they are likely to be noisy and sometimes extremely noisy – so noisy that they are actually deafening. Because decibels operate on a logarithmic scale, 100 decibels is twice as loud as 90 decibels, and four times as loud as 80 decibels. Garden machinery makes noise at these levels. I spoke to an experienced commercial gardener who told me it was too late for him. He had gone deaf in one ear. Not only that, he had been breathing in the fumes from the petrol engines powering his

machinery all his working life. The weight and vibrations of the machines also damage the body.

I have talked to many gardeners and a landscape and arborist supplier regarding the case for battery powered equipment. Electric machinery is much quieter. It is generally lighter and requires less maintenance. It produces no polluting fumes. For individuals doing their own gardening, all four categories of machinery mentioned can be electric/cordless without reservation. For commercial gardeners, the problems are to do with the expense of changing over, battery power and lawnmowers not having enough 'grunt' to deal with bigger gardens. On the last point, the technology is improving. One gardener showed me sockets for batteries he had installed inside the doors of his van that recharge when he is moving between jobs. Another said that he asks his clients to allow him to recharge batteries while he is working.

The noise from petrol leaf blowers can be well over 100 decibels. Hearing loss can occur with relatively short exposure to such levels of noise. On the day of writing this article, I met the gardener in the photograph and

asked him to turn his cordless model on full power. Even in close proximity, it was not too noisy. My own Stihl cordless hedge cutter is very quiet and does not have the revving sound characteristic of a petrol engine. It is just on or off.

There are substantial ethical issues about the sourcing of the raw materials for batteries, particularly lithium. Nobel prizes to the scientists who can make a leap forward in battery technology would be richly deserved. Nevertheless, my view is that we should do all we can to accelerate the switchover to cordless garden machinery. Finally, for those who use hand mowers, shears and rakes, your virtue is undoubted!



A cordless leaf blower (Photo: Laurence Wolff)

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# The benefits of Pilates

JANE-ELIZABETH WALTERS

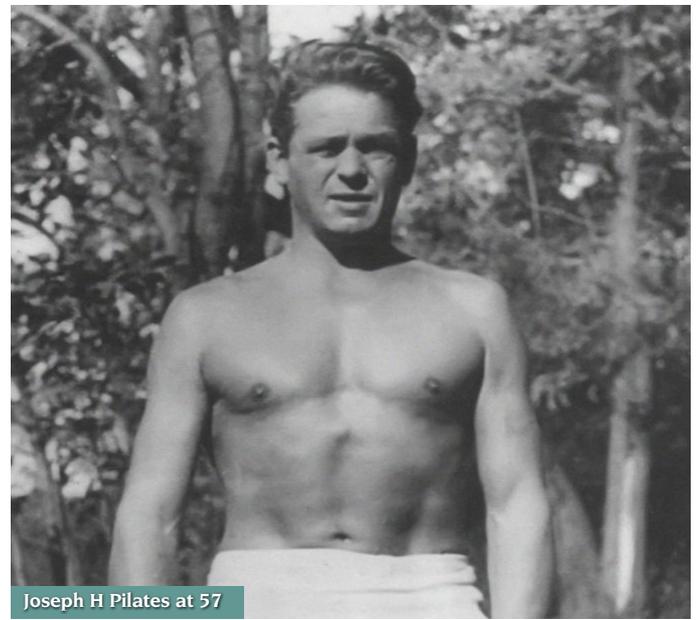
Around 80% of adults suffer from back pain at some point in their lifetimes and an estimated 2.5 million people experience back pain every day in the UK.

Some of the most common causes of back pain include lifting heavy objects, exercising incorrectly, twisting, moving and sleeping awkwardly through to conditions such as Arthritis, Osteoporosis, Fibromyalgia and even stress.

Pilates is one of the best forms of exercise to help those

experiencing anything from the odd niggle to frequently daily aches and pains. Pilates is more famously known for its emphasis on strengthening the core (the centre of the body from which all movement stems). It's many benefits include improving posture, decreasing muscle and joint pain, improving flexibility, increasing energy and decreasing stress.

Pilates was invented by Joseph Pilates and was originally called 'Contrology'. The German part time boxer was living in England when World War I broke out and he was sent to an internment camp on the Isle of Wight.



Joseph H Pilates at 57



(Photo: Eon Walters)

Tens of thousands of suspected enemy aliens were there during the war. Most of the people interned there were starving and looked in very ill health. Joseph Pilates organised the prisoners to do exercises; there are one or two surviving photos of them doing exercise out in the yard. Joseph also used hospital bedsprings to make resistance rods to improve their strength, muscle control and for stretching.

When the flu epidemic of 1918 broke out, none of the men who did Joseph's training died of the flu. He was very proud of this fact and decades later still told the story about the camp.

Now most Covid restrictions have been lifted (even though it's

still important to be careful) it's so lovely to see each other in person. Zoom has been amazing, but nothing beats getting together in person. That's why we are all so happy to be back to Pilates classes in the Friends Meeting House.

We are very lucky to have the Friends Meeting House; the classes here are so peaceful in this lovely building. We are all hoping that for our new term of classes in September that some more people, past attendees or new ones will come and join us. I for one am determined to do my bit to help more local people to move better and feel better.

For more info on Pilates classes you can contact me on 07770 576162.

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# No streets on the Suburb



Henrietta and Samuel, pondering street names? (Photo: Toynbee Hall)

MICKY WATKINS

Suburb founder Henrietta Barnett had great fun naming the streets of the Suburb. Yet there are none! The very word 'street', she thought, suggested the modern industrial city and its slum dwellings. So instead, we have Way, Road, Hill, Close, Square, Walk, Chase, Rise, Croft, Mount, Garth, Holne and Lea. All of these are Saxon words, and celebrated the medievalism of the Arts and Crafts movement and its style of architecture

Many of the Suburb roads were named after existing local fields or farms: Wellgarth Road from Well Fields, Asmunns Hill (Assmans), Temple Fortune Hill, Temple Fortune Lane, Willifield Way (from Willeyford Grove), Farm Walk, Wyldes Hatch.

Some simply showed a direction or location: Hampstead Way, Heathgate, Heath Close, Northway, Middleway and Southway, Church Mount (where a church was planned), Brookland Rise and Linden Lea (lined with limes).

Henrietta was herself an artist and admired English painters. So we have: Turner Drive, and Linnell, Constable, Morland, Cotman, Raeburn, Reynolds and Turner

Closes all quite near to each other. Hogarth and Creswick are further North.

She was interested in poets and writers, so Coleridge and Wordsworth Walk, Addison Way and Ruskin Close. Spencer Drive and Milton, Carlyle and Kingsley Close are in the 'new' Suburb. Browning was Henrietta's favourite poet, so it is puzzling that there is no Browning Walk.

Legal and political names appear in Erskine Hill (Lord Chancellor Thomas Erskine), Chatham Close (after the elder Pitt), and Denman Drive (Lord Chief Justice). Howard Walk was named after Ebenezer Howard, who came up with the idea of the Garden City. Ralph Neville (Neville Drive), was Chairman of the Garden City Association.

After 1918 most of the houses were built by 'Co-partnerships', and the roads were named accordingly. Holyoake (Holyoake Walk) was the author of 'The History of Cooperation in England' and was the last man in England to be convicted of atheism and sent to prison. Henry Vivian MP (Vivian Way) was Chairman of Coparts nationally, and MP for Totnes (Totnes Walk) in Devon (Devon Rise). Widcombe Way,

Blandford and Harford Closes are all places in the West country.

Sybella Gurney (Gurney Drive) was the Secretary of 'Coparts'. William Thomas Thornton (Thornton Way) was a social reformer and wrote on co-operation. Brunner Close commemorates Sir John Brunner, Chairman of the Coparts board.

Litchfield Way was named after Frederick Litchfield who held posts in the Tenants Societies. Sutcliffe Close was named for the Copartners architect, George Lister Sutcliffe.

Edmund James Cooper an architect, gave his name to Edmund's Walk. Chalton Drive was named for Chalton Hubbard, the Coparts solicitor. Greenhalgh Walk for John H Greenhalgh who was on the Committee of Hampstead Tenants. Hutchings Walk recalls William Hutchings who was Copart's Deputy Chairman.

Emmott Close was named for Lord Emmott who was Chairman of the Institute Council.

Some of the roads were named after Christian Socialists: John Ludlow (Ludlow Way) wrote many Christian Socialist tracts and was cofounder of the Working Men's College. Kingsley Way after Charles Kingsley (founder of Christian Socialism and author of The Water Babies). Kingsley was born in Holne in Devon, hence Holne Chase.

Denison Close and Maurice Walk after Frederick Denison Maurice, an adult education pioneer. Neale Close after Edward Vansittart Neale, co-author of Tom Brown's Schooldays.

Lytton Close was named for Lord Lytton, who was Chairman of the HGS Trust from 1913 to 1920, and became Governor of Bengal. Lytton Road is in memory of Alfred Lytton who was first President of the HGS Trust from 1906-1913. As he was a great cricketer, he would be delighted with Lytton Playing Fields.

Arthur Foley Winnington Ingram who was Bishop of London, and a member of the first Trust, has three roads named after him: Winnington Road, Bishop's Avenue and Ingram Avenue.

Abbreviated from 'What's in a Name' by Brigid Grafton Greene, First Suburb Archivist.

*Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.* MARTIN LUTHER

MARIE-CHRISTINE O'CALLAGHAN

Apples have a long association with the Suburb, Henrietta Barnett gifted an apple tree to every new householder. Apples have an even longer connection to humans. Scientists have shown that 750,000 years ago, early Paleolithic food gatherers in southern Kazakhstan were eating the fruit of a wild apple tree now called *Malus sieversii*. This tree became the ancestor of almost all of the 7,500 varieties of apples we have today. The original tree showed immense diversity in the apples it produced: they could range from large to small, sweet to sharp, and red to yellow and green. Its genome was sequenced in 2010 and was found to contain approximately 57,000 unique genes, making it the most diverse plant genome ever studied.

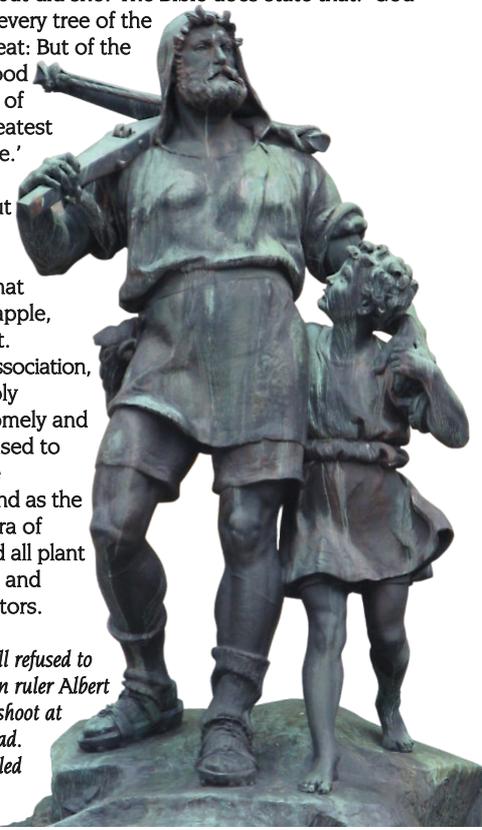
Humans rarely stay in one place for very long and as the food gatherers moved along nomadic and later trade routes, they took the apple with them. It reached the Middle East around 2,000 BC where it began to be farmed, and when Homer composed the Odyssey in the 8th century BC, he could describe 'a great orchard of four acres where trees grow tall and luxuriant, pears and pomegranates and apple-trees with their bright fruit'. The Ancient Greeks so valued the fruit that they considered the apple tree the sacred tree of the goddess Hera. Apples were also a favourite fruit for the Romans, the Roman armies carried apples across Europe, planting pips wherever they settled. They brought the apples with them when they conquered Britain.

Where the apple went, stories would follow. A golden apple inscribed 'To the fairest' started the Trojan war, Wilhelm Tell shot an arrow into an apple placed on his son's head, a feat which led to Switzerland's independence\*, the fall of an apple helped Newton to the theory of gravity, the evil queen offered Snow White a poisoned apple, and a new computer company was founded which took its name from this iconic fruit. Of course, there is also Eve eating an apple and being thrown out of Eden; but did she? The Bible does state that: 'God did tell Adam and Eve: 'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.'

The fruit of the tree of knowledge is not named but paintings, like the beautiful Adam and Eve of Lucas Cranach, spread the idea that the forbidden fruit was an apple, though, it probably was not.

Despite this nefarious association, apples have thrived, possibly because they are such a homely and comforting fruit. They are used to make cider, to add a subtle sweetness to main dishes and as the main ingredient in a plethora of desserts. Perhaps we should all plant an apple tree in our garden and thank our Paleolithic ancestors.

\*Legend has it that William Tell refused to salute the hat (!) of the Austrian ruler Albert Gessler who then forced Tell to shoot at an apple placed on his son's head. Tell shot the apple and later killed Gessler initiating the fight for Switzerland's independence.



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