

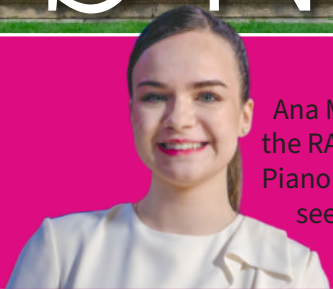
# Suburb News



Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association



Ex Suburbite Josh Glancy, Associate Editor of The Sunday Times, is interviewed by our editor, see page 6



Ana Maria Ilie wins the RA sponsored NLF Piano Competition, see page 4



Cllrs Michael Mire and Martha Levy respond to the local election results, see below

## Small things, strong ties

EDITOR: SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

A theme emerging from these pages is something reassuringly practical: people just getting on with things. Volunteers continue to raise funds. Local schools celebrate their achievements. New faces arrive in community roles (congratulations to Cllrs Mire and Levy). Familiar institutions evolve. Communities are not built by grand declarations. They are built incrementally through attendance, contribution, curiosity and care. And I would add pride – what Suburb resident could not be anything but proud to live in this beautiful Garden City? The Suburb's strength lies not just in its architecture or its heritage but also in its strong sense of community. Residents do not merely reside in the Suburb, they help shape it.

almost defiantly steady. Even those that have moved away retain nostalgic memories of the Suburb and still hold it dear in their hearts.

That is not to say the Suburb exists in a rose-tinted bubble, although it often feels that way. Barnet's political uncertainty matters. Questions about community facilities, planning, safeguarding our green spaces and supporting vulnerable residents are very real. So too is the anxiety many feel about the wider world.

In an attempt to look at the positive aspects of life, we asked our Suburb News Youth team to reflect on the small things in life that bring them joy. Along with compliments and music, I was pleased to see that chocolate was high up on their list!

Amidst all the current cacophony and discord, there remains enormous value in the small things. After all, these are the things that hold a community together.

Wishing you all a good summer.

SARAH SACKMAN MP

I started my career as a young lawyer volunteering at the Free Legal Advice Centre at Toynbee Hall in the East End, which was founded by Hampstead Garden Suburb's own visionary, social reformer Henrietta Barnett. There I learnt more about justice than the lecture hall could ever teach me.

I recall helping an elderly woman facing eviction following the death of her husband. After reviewing the paperwork from her landlord, it was clear they had made an error. With my help we wrote to her council, secured her home and won an apology.

It showed me what accessible legal support can do – it can right wrongs, provide support and empower people.

Twenty years later it's why I'm so proud to be supporting this kind of work as an MP. When I was elected as MP, I saw that there was limited access to free legal support in Barnet. That was something I wanted to change.

## Free Legal Advice Pop In Centre



Sarah Sackman's first legal advice pop-up in Childs Hill last month (Photo: Office of Sarah Sackman MP)

When I suggested the idea of a Free Legal Advice Centre to residents last year at an event in the Houses of Parliament, the interest from local lawyers keen to help use their skills to support neighbours, including many from the Suburb, was phenomenal.

Last month we launched our first Free Legal Advice Centre 'pop-up' at a community centre on Finchley Road. We brought together local volunteer lawyers who provided advice on family, housing and employment law.

I felt heartened by the community turning out to help each other, using their skills and knowledge as a practical force for good, helping residents who may

otherwise struggle to access legal support. Moira, a criminal solicitor and volunteer said: "It was very rewarding to be able to give back to the community. Many people don't realise their rights and the options available to them, and being able to help bridge that gap is exactly what important initiatives like this are about."

If you are a local lawyer and you would like to help us provide free legal advice to neighbours, please get in touch with me via sarah.sackman.mp@parliament.uk.

To find out about the next session or register for free legal advice, residents should visit: <https://sarahsackman.com/free-legal-advice-centre/>.

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## Barnet Council update

The recent local elections were both a privilege and a humbling experience, and we would like to sincerely thank every resident who placed their trust in us and took the time to vote.

Throughout the campaign it was a pleasure to meet so many residents across the Suburb, listening to concerns, discussing local priorities and hearing directly about the issues affecting daily life in our community. HGS is the largest ward in Barnet and if we did not have the opportunity to meet you personally this time, please accept our apologies.

Barnet finds itself in a unique position of 'No Overall Control' with the Conservatives holding 31 seats, Labour 31 seats, alongside one Green councillor. At the time of writing (10th May), discussions are still ongoing regarding how the council administration will be formed, with greater clarity expected following the first council meeting on 19 May.

Election Day always serves as a reminder of the strength of local democracy. It was encouraging to see so many residents participating in the democratic process, while the count itself brought the usual mixture of anticipation, uncertainty, and reflection. Across Barnet, several wards saw significant political change, including Childs Hill and Brunswick Park returning Conservative councillors, previously held by Labour.

Regardless of the final political arrangements at Barnet Council, our focus remains unchanged: to continue working hard, listening to residents, and serving the HGS community to the best of our ability.

Cllr Michael Mire & Cllr Martha Levy



Photos: Aiden Griffin

# Annemount's Readathon Book Bingo

GERALDINE MAIDMENT  
HEAD, ANNEMOUNT NURSERY  
AND PRE-PREP SCHOOL

Annemount School is proud to have received an excellent inspection from the Independent Schools Inspectorate just before Christmas, recognising the high standards of care and education provided.

This year, the school is delighted to be celebrating the National Year of Reading. Well-known figures such as Leah Williamson, Michael Morpurgo, Julia Donaldson and Richard Osman are supporting this nationwide campaign to inspire a love of reading for pleasure, led by the government and the National Literacy Trust.

To bring this celebration to life, Annemount has launched its

very own Readathon Book Bingo, open to every child, whatever their age or reading ability. Children choose from a range of reading challenges across different genres, either reading independently or being read to. Each completed challenge earns a square coloured in on a Bingo card – a simple idea that has created enormous amount of excitement. Once a child completes their Book Bingo card, they proudly present it to the headteacher and are rewarded with a brand-new book to take home and keep – a wonderful way to remember and celebrate their achievement.

The response to this initiative has been fantastic, with children eager to read more often and for longer periods of time. Pupils are also encouraged to join their local

library, to help build a lifelong love of books beyond the classroom. Parents are also invited to read to their child's class, modelling an enthusiasm and joy for reading.

The National Year of Reading is just one of the initiatives we are undertaking this year as Annemount Nursery and Pre-Prep School celebrates its 90th birthday. To mark the special occasion, six year old Annemount pupil, Sacha, wrote to His Majesty The King, informing him of the celebration. She was thrilled to receive a reply and delighted to share his warm wishes with everyone at the school.

The school would love to reconnect with former pupils and hear their memories, and past pupils are always welcome to visit. Do contact headteacher@annemount.co.uk to get in touch.



# Brookland Juniors' sports prowess

LUCY TOBIN

Brookland Junior School has capped an extraordinary year of sport with a haul of accolades across six different disciplines that may make it the most-successful primary school in the borough – and one of the most-decorated London primary schools. The school, on Hill Top, has been awarded the Platinum School Games Mark, the highest national accreditation for school sport. It recognises teaching excellence, high participation rates and inclusion in competitive sport. The award serves as a fitting backdrop to two terms of remarkable results for the school's 360 pupils.

In November, Brookland's mixed Year 5 and 6 football team claimed first place in the Barnet Football tournament, beating off competition from 56 teams to take the top spot. The girls' Year 3 and 4 team also excelled, finishing fourth overall in their tournament.

In the muddy fields around Copthall, Mill Hill, and Oak Hill, in Barnet, Brookland's cross-country team of 12 runners dominated across every age group. With the help of expert running coach Kabir Kemp from Heathside running club, who is a teaching assistant (TA) at the school, Brookland's runners came away as overall Barnet champions.

In the pool, too, Brookland swimmers dominated at the Barnet Copthall Swimming Gala in March. The school is lucky to have

one of very few on-site pools in the capital, with all pupils enjoying weekly lessons. Former Team GB swimmer, Akshay Shah, is also a TA at Brookland and led twice-weekly squad practices which helped the school's team claim first place in a three-hour gala.

Elsewhere, Brookland's netball squad finished third in the Barnet team competition, and the school also shined in boccia. The team, led by its PE teacher Kelly Capalan, won first place in the Barnet boccia competition, then went on to triumph at the London Youth Games' boccia event. The London Youth Games is one of the most prestigious multi-sport competitions for young people in the capital.

The less physically active sport of chess has been another area of dominance for Brookland this year: its teams excelled at the National Championships last term, with seven teams winning places in the prestigious National Finals, which take place in May.

"What makes this year so special isn't just the number of wins, but the range of sports and the sheer number of Brookland pupils who had a chance to shine," said Kasra Adjudani, head of sport and year five teacher at Brookland. "A huge number of our children have had the chance to represent the school and succeed at the highest level, spanning team sports and individual efforts. It's been remarkable to see the whole school get involved in sports and enjoy getting fit and healthy."



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Swimming Squad at Barnet Swimming Gala



Brookland A, B & C Chess Teams



Year 3 & 4 Mixed Football Team (All photos taken by Brookland teachers)

questions, community... and £20k of good news

FRANCINE BARSAM

This year's AGM took place on 30 March 2026 and, as ever, it was a well-attended evening with plenty to discuss. After the formal business wrapped up, residents took the opportunity to ask questions – always a lively part of the evening – and it was a good reminder of the wide range of views across our community.

We also heard a really engaging presentation from Andrew Botterill on the history of Fellowship House. Inspired by William Morris, it has grown into a much-loved social and cultural hub for the Suburb, offering a wide range of activities. Andrew also put out a call for volunteers – particularly anyone who might be able to offer lifts on

Tuesday afternoons to help more residents get along and take part.

A notable new face this year is Stewart Roiter, treasurer, who spoke about the Residents' Association's grants programme, something well worth highlighting. Over £20,000 has been distributed including: £4000 to The Proms, £2500 to The Royal Free Charity, £4000 to Britain's Biggest Living Garden and the Kids Gardening Club, £2500 to Hatzola in response to the arson attack, and further grants to local schools and organisations. A strong reminder of the positive impact the RA continues to have across the community.

Everyone on the ballot paper was elected, providing continuity for the work ahead.

Full minutes from the meeting will soon be available on the website.

RA HIGHLIGHTS



(From top left, clockwise)  
Peter McCluskie, RA Chair;  
Andrew Botterill, Fellowship;  
Stewart Roiter, RA Treasurer;  
Residents vote  
(All photos: Michael Eleftheriades)

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# RA HIGHLIGHTS

## HGSRA North London Festival Piano Prize Competition

ROSEMARY COOK

The North London Festival of Music, Speech & Drama is in full swing at the Free Church. Last Tuesday afternoon saw one of the highlights of the Festival –

the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association Piano Prize Competition. Entry to the competition is limited to pianists currently studying in the Senior Department of any UK Music College, Academy or Conservatoire.

Each pianist gave a short introduction to their performance and played two contrasting pieces by different composers. We heard stylish performances of pieces by CPE and JS Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Frank, Liszt, Ravel, Domenico Scarlatti and Schumann.

The winner of the £750 Residents Association Prize and an Outstanding Certificate was Ana Maria Ilie, who played Beethoven's Sonata Op 10 No 3 in D and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody. Her wonderful technique controlled the piano well in what can be a challenging acoustic. Ana Maria is from Romania and is a student at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, supporting herself by working part time as well as studying. Second Prize went to the winner of the North London Festival's Emanuel Trophy Competition, Gordon Chan. Gordon played the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata, Op 110

and the first two movements of César Franck's Sonata.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon of high-standard music

making. The Festival is very grateful for the support of the RA and its Chair, Peter McCluskie, who presented the prizes.



Ana Maria Ilie receiving her award from RA Chair Peter McCluskie (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)



NLF Piano Adjudicator, Eva Doroszaowska (Photo: Peter McCluskie)



NLF Festival Administrator, Janice Twistleton (Photo: Peter McCluskie)

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The award winners with Eva Doroszaowska (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)

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Saxon, son of Revd Em Koltveitt, very kindly helped the RA by distributing door-to-door on the Suburb, the new HGSRA promotional leaflet (Photo: Revd Em Koltveitt)



Dear Peter,

I'm delighted to share an update on the build of the new Performing Arts Studio at the Archer Academy, made possible thanks to your generous support of last year's fundraising campaign.

After some initial delays, construction is now well underway, with completion expected this July, and the space is already taking shape. This inspiring drama and dance facility will provide a vibrant hub for students and the wider East Finchley community to create, rehearse, perform, and bring ideas to life – particularly important at a time when performing arts provision is declining nationally.

The studio has been designed as a flexible, high-quality performance space, featuring two specialist studios separated by a retractable wall, allowing the space to function either as two teaching and rehearsal rooms, or as one large performance venue. The new building will also include semi-sprung wooden floors, professional sound and lighting, and tiered retractable seating for 121 audience members (expandable to 170). It will serve as a multi-purpose venue, with changing rooms, storage, a kitchenette, and a work pod – ideal for both school activities and community events, while also generating valuable income for the school.

We are incredibly grateful for your support and look forward to welcoming you to a special celebration in Autumn 2026 when the studio is complete. In the meantime, you can follow the project's progress on our social media channels or find out more on our website: <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/raise-the-roof-project/>

Facebook: @TheArcherAcademy Instagram: @archeracademy

With thanks and my very best wishes,

Lucy Harrison

Headteacher, Archer Academy

## Trees and Open Spaces

COLIN GREGORY

The remit of the RA Trees and Open Spaces Committee, as its name suggests, covers the open spaces on and next to the Suburb. As well as open spaces on the Suburb such as Central Square, Lyttelton Playing Fields and Big Wood and Little Wood, these include Kenwood and Hampstead Heath, since 1989 owned and run by English Heritage and the City of London Corporation respectively. The RA has a role in relation to both these spaces, with representatives on the Kenwood Landscape Forum and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

At a recent gathering in Golders Hill Park, the Heath Consultative Committee's immediate past Chairman, William Upton KC, planted a cherry tree in the orchard that is one of the Park's loveliest spots.

Close by is the Golders Hill Zoo, one of the Park's most popular attractions. Fully accredited by the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, its collection policy is focused on native species. Among recent arrivals are a pair of Scottish wild cats: part of a project to help this endangered species regenerate in the wild. From this year the City has begun to move the Heath, which is a

registered charity, on to a new financial model more reliant on charitable fundraising. Late last year the City Corporation was approached by a local philanthropic foundation, who are funding a feasibility study into the reuse of the Butterfly House at Golders Hill Park, closed since the pandemic, which will also look at the sustainability and learning opportunities for the Zoo. This is an encouraging development.

The Residents Association will continue to support initiatives aimed at caring for these much-loved open spaces close to the Suburb and used by so many of its residents.



Scottish wild cat at Golders Hill Park Zoo (Photo: Charlotte Williams)

### RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION CONTACT DETAILS

Advertising – Suburb News.....	advertising@hgsra.uk	Pavements & Hedges.....	pavements-hedges@hgsra.uk
Advertising – Suburb eNews.....	enquiries@hgsra.uk	Publications (general).....	publications@hgsra.uk
Events.....	events@hgsra.uk	REACH (environment).....	reach@hgsra.uk
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Membership (incl. subscriptions & MTL access).....	membershipsec@hgsra.uk		
Notice Boards.....	noticeboards@hgsra.uk	Telephone (Voicemail).....	020 3488 9131
Parking & Traffic Penalties.....	penalties@hgsra.uk	Postal Address.....	Fellowship House, 136A Willifield Way, London, NW11 6YD

If you would like information on any the RA's committees, or would like to become involved in any of the RA's activities, then please contact us by email, phone or post

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Photo: The Sunday Times

## Interview with Josh Glancy

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

Josh Glancy is Associate Editor of The Sunday Times. He has been nominated five times for feature writer and interviewer of the year, at the Press Awards and British Journalism Awards.

Some journalists thrive on noise – the viral barb, the righteous certainty. And then there's Josh Glancy, who has quietly built a career doing almost the opposite.

Glancy lives in Kentish Town with his wife, fellow journalist Charlotte Ivers. It's just the right distance, he says; close to home, but not too close. The home he refers to being Hampstead Garden Suburb, where he grew up and where his family still live. But more of that later.

So what exactly is an associate editor? Glancy explains it's basically a bit posher than assistant editor. He's being modest. In reality, it places him firmly within the paper's inner editorial circle, helping shape what readers encounter each Sunday. Alongside that he writes the main political column, a 1,300-word distillation of a week spent speaking to MPs, special advisers and, occasionally, the Prime Minister.

Apparently, the easiest bit is the writing. The hard part is everything before that – the gathering of all of the intel and building all the

relationships. Even then, the process doesn't stop when the words are down. Glancy can still be tweaking an article on Saturday morning, hoping he's got it all right by the time it goes to print later that afternoon. Glancy cites the journo's familiar affliction, *l'esprit de l'escalier*, that perfect line that seems to arrive a tad too late. "But you have to learn to live with your mistakes," he says, "and even love them a bit."

Glancy has been at The Sunday Times for 16 years, long enough to witness dramatic shifts in both politics and journalism. He spent five of those years in the United States reporting through the tumult of the first Trump term. Has Trump changed journalism? "Well, he's definitely given it a boost," he says. Glancy feels the language has become cruder and his experience covering Trump meant learning to sort the signal from the noise – a skill that now feels essential everywhere, not just in Washington.

What distinguishes Glancy's work is a refusal to lean into the outrage economy. "There's so much noise and anger now," he reflects. Extremes get rewarded. His instinct is to resist and he tries to chart a middle path. Not radical, not nasty, just fair-minded. Glancy cares about the big picture and appreciates the shades and complexities of the world. He doesn't lean into polarisation.

Before Kentish Town and Washington, there was East London. Five years in Bethnal Green in his twenties and, before that, something altogether milder: Hampstead Garden Suburb. Glancy grew up on the South Side of the Suburb surrounded by extended family. His parents and grandmother (a centenarian) still live on the Suburb.

It was idyllic and apparently, every hedgerow has a memory. Goodness, there are a lot of hedges in the Suburb... He recalls rollerblading through the quiet, verdant streets and spending long, unstructured days on the Heath Extension, which was effectively a giant playground sans the health and safety restrictions of today. He tells me it was a wonderful childhood – full of warmth, family, friends and endless sports.

Like many suburban teenagers, Glancy went through a phase of rebellion and admits he got quite sneery about it. He wrote a derisive piece about the area around the time Justin Bieber reportedly bought a house on Bishops Avenue. Looking back, Glancy now appreciates how delightful it was and understands why celebs such as Ricky Gervais are drawn to it: privacy, calm, proximity to central London without the chaos. A devoted fan of *The Lord of the Rings*, Glancy describes the Suburb as a bit like the Shire. Always there, unchanged and not particularly interested in where you've been.

Educated locally at Kerem House, then UCS, before reading History at Balliol College, Oxford, he acknowledges his was a very rooted upbringing. That sense of rootedness perhaps explains his resistance to ideological extremes. Glancy describes himself as not hugely political in a tribal sense, despite spending his life writing about politics. It's a mindset shaped, in part, by those he admires. He speaks warmly of Ben Taylor, Editor of The Sunday Times, calling him a mentor. He also cites Jonathan Friedland and David Aaronovitch as two of his formative mentors.

As for his own work, he's proudest of two in-depth magazine pieces on Keir Starmer, as well as a probing interview with Dominic Cummings. But he also singles out a lighter piece, an interview with Jilly Cooper, for bringing a bit of warmth and joy into the world.

Away from deadlines and Westminster intrigue, his pleasures are reassuringly simple: a country pub, good food, walking and a book by the fire. Ideally George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda* – or Tolkien again – in the form of his well-thumbed, much-loved copy of *The Lord of the Rings*. Possibly while listening to his favourite track – Neil Young's *After the Goldrush*. Glancy has a fondness for the colour blue, Shackets (a shirt/jacket combo) and a love of dogs, specifically a childhood golden retriever named Samwise, another nod to Tolkien's Middle-earth.

Glancy appreciates the architecture of the Suburb, its sense of community, the many green spaces it offers, its sense of calm and, of course, its community feel. Would he return? Probably not. Glancy prefers to be somewhere closer to the Tube. For the time being anyway.

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Interviewing Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer (Photo: Glancy's phone)



Photo: Michael Eleftheriades

## Welcome Ben

REVD EM – VICAR

**W**e are delighted to welcome Revd Ben Sheridan as the new curate at St Jude's Church. Ben joins our parish with a rich blend of experience.

Ben's main focuses will be Forest Church, Eco Church and getting to know the parish. He brings a warm, pastoral heart and a passion for helping families, sustainability, and community engagement. In his role, he will work closely with the team, giving training guidance and immersing himself in every facet of parish life. I hope this collaborative approach will ensure Ben is well-supported as he grows in his ministry within our community.

Ben is married with two small children. His family values and lived experience informs his pastoral care, making him particularly attuned to the needs and joys of

parish families. We can all look forward to his thoughtful presence at services, outreach events and parish activities.

Before joining St Jude's, Ben served as part of the pastoral team at St Martin-in-the-Fields, where he gained a breadth of experience in pastoral care, community outreach, and team leadership. His time there has equipped him with practical insight and a collaborative spirit that he is eager to bring to our Suburb.

Ben's arrival marks an exciting chapter for St Jude's as we continue to grow, strengthen our eco-conscious initiatives, and deepen our engagement with local families and individuals. He will be with us for the next couple of years and we invite everyone to extend a warm welcome as we embark on this journey together.

Please do give Revd Ben a wave if you see him.



Photo: SN archive

## Making connections

DENISE WALKER  
DIRECTOR OF STUDIES  
THE HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

**A**t the heart of The Henrietta Barnett School's mission is the belief that education does not stop at the school door. It has been a great privilege to see our school values – kindness, endeavour, connection, curiosity and authenticity – brought to life through our work within the local community.

We take great pride in our regular schedule of community engagement events. The monthly 'Tea & Tech' sessions have become a firm favourite, where students sit down with local residents to troubleshoot everything from setting up tablets to navigating social media, all over a warm cup of tea and a custard cream. It is a wonderful exchange where digital

skills are traded for life experience and wisdom.

In addition to tech support, HBS students are actively involved in preserving local culture and the environment. Through our fortnightly 'Hedge Hacking' sessions and the scanning of the St Jude's wartime Pastoral Papers for the Virtual Museum, students are applying their physical and technical skills alongside members of our community to help ensure that the Suburb remains a wonderful space to share.

Our relationship with the University of the Third Age (u3a) continues to go from strength to strength. Whether it was rolling up our sleeves to help set up their Open Day or providing an extra pair of hands for the Festive Tea, HBS students have found immense value in supporting these vital

social hubs. It is a joy to see the mutual respect and friendship that blossoms during these events.

We are thrilled to announce a new initiative launched in spring/summer 2026. Starting on Thursday 23 April, with another session on 12 May, we introduced 'Mix & Mingle'. From 1pm to 2pm, HBS students headed out to Central Square by the tennis courts to specifically sit, chat and share a lunch hour with members of the community. Further dates are Wednesday 3 June, Thursday 18 June and Wednesday 1 July. We look forward to meeting you on Central Square.

We are incredibly proud of the students' commitment to our local area and would love to have more connections; please feel free to contact us if you need any community help and we will see what we can do!



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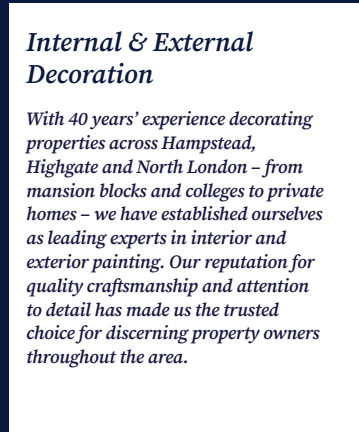


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- Brick and wall repointing
- Epoxy resin repairs
- New glazing & putty
- Rotten timber repair
- Front door repair & painting
- Window maintenance programme

\*Trust permitting



Women's Walk in support of Jews (Photo: Bishop Anderson Jeremiah)

## Letters of Faith

RABBI MARC LEVENE & REVD EM KOLLTVEIT

Dear Rabbi Marc,

On 30 April, I had the immense privilege of joining a large group of women of all faiths in a peaceful walk in support of Jews in Golders Green. We met outside the station and walked to the place where the recent act of terrorism took place. I was grateful that

several of my colleagues could participate, including my Bishop, Anderson Jeremiah, who lives in Golders Green and felt compelled to come and show his support, and the women warmly invited him to walk with us. As we walked down the street together, I heard first-hand accounts of antisemitism that the community I love has endured. These stories were harrowing and underscored for me the need to stand and speak up, in solidarity with our Jewish community.

I want to reassure Jews in this parish and beyond that you have allies in the people of St. Jude's. Yet I know that many of us struggle with how to respond most effectively in these troubling times.

Rabbi Marc, could you guide us on how, as a community, we can best support our Jewish friends and neighbours? We seek concrete and meaningful ways to pray, love, and act – ways that go beyond words. I would be grateful for any guidance on practical steps we can take together to educate our congregation about antisemitism, and how we can advocate for policies that continue to protect religious freedom.

With prayers and solidarity,

Revd Em  
The Reverend Emily Kolltveit,  
Vicar of St Jude-on-the-Hill

Dear Revd Em,

Thank you for your deeply thoughtful and moving letter, and for your presence at the walk in Golders Green together with Bishop Anderson and your colleagues. It meant a great deal to many people simply to see faith leaders and neighbours standing visibly alongside the Jewish community.

At a time when so many Jews feel vulnerable, anxious and, at times, painfully isolated, gestures of genuine solidarity carry enormous weight. Often people ask what they can say or do, but the truth is that simply showing up already says something profoundly important: you are not alone.

What touched me most in your letter was not only your compassion, but your desire to move beyond words and

towards meaningful partnership. That itself is an expression of friendship and moral leadership.

You ask what communities like St Jude's can do practically and I think there are several things which matter deeply. Firstly, education. Antisemitism thrives where Jews become abstract, distant, or reduced to stereotypes and headlines. Creating spaces for conversation, learning and understanding helps build the kind of society where hatred struggles to take root.

Secondly, moral clarity. Jewish communities do not expect agreement on every issue, but we do long for consistency in recognising antisemitism when it appears and the courage to name it clearly and without hesitation. When respected voices in wider society speak with clarity, it offers reassurance far beyond the Jewish community alone.

And finally, friendship. There is something profoundly healing about communities standing together not only in moments of crisis, but in ordinary life too. Relationships built on kindness, respect, and genuine neighbourliness create resilience long before it is needed.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks often spoke about the need to respond to division not with more anger, but with the deliberate building of friendship, understanding, and human connection.

Please know how grateful we are for your friendship, your leadership, and the support of the St Jude's community. It is so valued, and deeply appreciated.

With warmest wishes and gratitude,

Rabbi Marc Levene  
Senior Rabbi,  
HGS Synagogue

## Anyone for... a dog (fit for the Suburb)?

JUDY MARCUS

When I was a young child, my Auntie Eunice had a dog called Duke. He was enormous and spent his life sitting around generally on the best placed armchair. Being an Irish wolfhound, he did look very majestic sitting very still. His human family referred to Duke with

respect, if not awe. I was intrigued by the powerful reaction dog ownership produced, but I wasn't taken in by a smelly hound who contributed very little.

Many years later my children urged me to get a dog. Thinking of Duke and the adulation he inspired, I encouraged them that we should get a large, characterful dog. We decided on a non-moulting dog due to the family's asthma. We also wanted a dog to feel at home in the Suburb so we felt he should have both class and dignity.

Morris is a pure-bred Portuguese Water Dog. He's very handsome, with thick black fur and a white bib with black dots down the front like buttons. He has been called both a judge and James Bond because of his white

bib dinner shirt front under a black tuxedo. Very fitting for the Suburb.

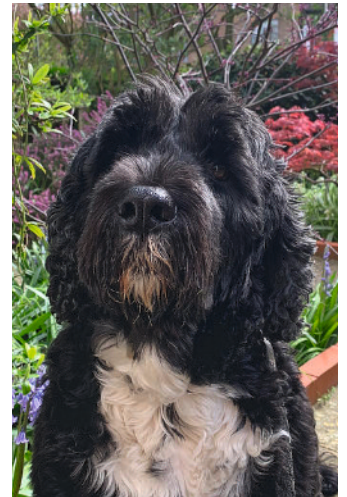
Morris loves to be out walking on the Heath Extension, Bigwood and Little Wood. There are enough streams and puddles for him to splash in – he is a Water Dog after all.

A great benefit for me and my family is the increase in the amount of weekly exercise we take. I have done my 'steps' every day from just the one or two walks the dog needs. Without a miserable hound moping at the door making me feel guilty enough to take him out, I probably wouldn't bother.

There is a fantastic bond between Suburb dog owners. We have made a lot of friends while walking Morris. It is another type of vibrant community within the Suburb community.

Even more gratifying is the bond which has grown between my family and Morris as we discovered his personality. For example, I know that Morris has his special person in the family (not me) but if I take him for an extended or interesting walk one day, I will suddenly become his favourite and he will follow me around till bedtime.

Now the children are all leaving home, the dog is a bonus. The house is never empty and we always have somewhere to be and places to go. Often I suspect that the reason my children come home is because they want to see Morris.



Morris is nearly nine years old now and with no children in the house to compete with him, I have been told he's spoilt. He sleeps on the best part of the sofa. He eats whatever we eat and at night he sleeps on the bed (but only if he wants to). Sometimes a non-dog owner visitor might suggest there is an unpleasant damp fur smell emanating from the upholstery. I'm having none of it. Morris takes precedence. If he wants to stay in the room and listen to us socialise then he stays where he is whilst the rest of us huddle round in the chairs left over.

Morris has won. I'm sure his cousin Duke, the Irish wolfhound, is looking down nodding and wagging his tail in full agreement.



Photos: Judy Marcus

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Photo: Family Archive

# Thomas Radice

1940 - 2026

JUDY SMITH

You will know the name Thomas Radice if you attended The Proms at St Jude's Festival and read his extensive remarkable programme notes.

Thomas attended Westminster Under School from the age of eight. He read Classics at Magdalen College, Oxford and then joined the Civil Service, where he met Jennifer, his future wife, a young diplomat in the Foreign Office. They had both been sent on a training course – teaching economics and statistics to arts

graduates in the Fast Stream. By all accounts, Jennifer had a transformative effect on Thomas, bringing the shy, rather lonely and studious boy out of his shell and shaping him into a strong, calm and loyal man. They were married in 1972 and Mark, Louisa and Simon were born in the following years.

Thomas was developing his career in the Civil Service. He worked in various government departments, including the former Department of the Environment and later became a Parliamentary Officer, working in the House of Lords for eight years as a Committee Clerk.

After their first home in Highbury, the Radices moved to Golders Green, living much closer to the 'green lung' of North London – the sprawl of meadows, woodland and deep pools known as Hampstead Heath. Thomas and Jennifer's new home in Middleton Road was only two streets from the Heath Extension.

Thomas would become very involved in matters to do with the Heath, and also Kenwood. He and Jennifer were members of the Heath & Hampstead Society for over 20 years; Thomas joined the Heath Sub-Committee in 2006 and he would later organise the Society's programme of monthly walks on the Heath, occasionally leading some of them himself.

As well as his career and family, music remained a constant in Thomas's life. He was a gifted pianist and clarinettist, and was involved in many choirs, orchestras and ensembles – as a singer, performer, accompanying pianist, arranger and hard-working member of committees.

As well as sometimes performing, programming or simply providing musical advice, one of Thomas's great gifts was writing programme notes. He wrote hundreds of notes to accompany concerts and recitals for many different choirs and orchestras.

He continued writing programme notes right up to his final months. Typical Thomas, he was admitted to the Royal Free Hospital for a fortnight after falling ill on Boxing Day, but he still managed to write up and send out a programme notes from his hospital bed for a performance by the Haydn Chamber Orchestra at St Michael's in Highgate, that took place at the end of January.

But Thomas's most significant musical involvement was with the

Proms at St Jude's. Thomas and Jennifer were involved in the festival from early on. Jennifer was on the committee of the Proms at St Jude's, and Thomas became a Trustee and joined the Music Planning Team.

His knowledge of music was outstanding and of immense value, both in helping to choose the musicians and, of course, in writing programme notes. He was assiduous and precise in the tasks he did.

Every year there was a Proms launch party for which Thomas and Jennifer always used to make delicious Parmesan biscuits (which became somewhat legendary over the years). Unable to make the

biscuits last year (Jennifer died in 2024), Thomas passed on copies of the recipe to committee members and sent a photo of Jennifer cutting the biscuits out to make sure the committee understood what to do and to ensure they would still be made for the launch party.

Thomas passed just five days before this year's launch party – but the Parmesan biscuits were still there. A reminder of Thomas's deep connection and involvement to Proms at St Jude's. He will be remembered by all who knew him as a towering intellect, a calm and supportive presence and a kind and loving friend.

## Thick Parmesan Biscuits

Jennifer & Thomas Radice (updated 2019)

8oz plain flour (220g); 4oz butter (110g); 4oz grated Parmesan (110g)  
2 egg yolks; 1 level teaspoon cayenne pepper; ½-1 tsp salt;  
4 tablespoons water

Rub the butter into the flour, add the cheese, egg yolks and seasoning. Moisten with the water. (This can be done in a food processor and the quantities here are about right for our Magimix.)

Roll out the dough to the thickness of about ¼ inch (5mm). Cut into rounds or use fancy biscuit cutters. Arrange on a lightly-greased baking sheet. Bake in the oven at 150° C for a fan oven (160° for a non-fan oven) for 20 minutes. Lift them off carefully with a spatula and leave them to cool on a rack.

This amount of dough makes 25-30 biscuits. They are easy to make in larger quantities – in multiple batches (depending on capacity of food processor). Eat them on the same day if possible, otherwise store in airtight container and warm up gently before serving.

Adapted from *Spices, Salt and Aromatics in the English Kitchen* by Elizabeth David. Penguin, 1970. ED records that the original author of the recipe (Lady Clark of Tillypronie, 1851-1897) 'makes the point that it is the thickness of these biscuits that gives them their character. The Parmesan is also essential. English cheese will not do.'



Photo supplied by Knight Ayton

# Jenni Murray

1950 - 2026

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

Dame Jenni Murray was the unmistakable voice of BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour for 33 years – calm, authoritative, companionable. She was there at kitchen tables and in commuter traffic, in moments of solitude and shared routine, accompanying generations through the everyday business of living.

Born in Barnsley in 1950, she carried with her a clarity of voice that never deserted her. It became one of the most recognisable sounds in British broadcasting. From 1987 to 2020 she reshaped Woman's Hour, moving it beyond domestic magazine territory into a serious national forum for women's lives: health, politics, violence, ageing, work – the whole complex texture of experience. She asked

the questions others skirted. She listened with such focus that people found themselves answering truthfully, sometimes to their own surprise. Conversations with her felt purposeful but never forced – perhaps the secret of the deep loyalty she inspired in listeners who felt, quite simply, that she heard them.

When I interviewed her for Suburb News in 2024, she spoke with equal precision about something closer to home: the quiet satisfactions of life in her adopted home, Hampstead Garden Suburb. After decades at the centre of public debate, she relished the measured pace of neighbourhood routines and the support of community life. Domestic constancy mattered to her. She loved animals deeply and spoke of them with humour and tenderness. Her Suburb cottage was shared with a small, affectionate menagerie of cats and dogs.

Jenni's professional life had been defined by amplifying the experiences of others and she carried that attentiveness into other areas of her life. Her column for SAGA continued to display her resilience, her sharp wit and allowed her a new platform. She

refused to sentimentalise the realities of ageing when, in later years her health became increasingly fragile. Her mobility was affected and even arranging our simple interview was punctuated by hospital admissions – a chest infection, then a fractured big toe after one of her beloved cats knocked a glass ashtray onto her foot: "He definitely knew what he was doing," she said, stroking the culprit fondly.

We finally managed to meet up in her home. Her voice, still rich with authority and warmth, carried the piece. It was one of the most effortless interviews I have ever conducted – and a real privilege.

Despite her mounting health challenges, she never retreated from engagement. Always the consummate professional, she remained committed to the Garden Suburb Community Library, its honoured guest, cutting the anniversary cake in 2023 and also to Proms at St Jude's, attending many of the concerts and interviewing authors for LitFest, lending her formidable broad-casting skills to the community she had come to cherish. Her final contribution was to record a voice-over introduction for the festival's author sessions. Her first take (just a warm-up she insisted) was flawless. Still, she demanded three versions. Each was perfect. She knew instinctively where to pause, where to emphasise, how to hold an audience. Well, of course she did.

I was sitting beside her when the recording was first played at LitFest last summer. The room instantly fell silent as that familiar blend of authority, clarity and honeyed tone filled the hall at HBS. A woman a few rows behind

us whispered with much excitement to her companion: "Ooh, I think that's Jenni Murray's voice." Jenni leaned towards me, eyes bright with mischief through those reading glasses: "I've still got it," she murmured.

Absolutely.

Dame Jenni Murray, you will be greatly missed.

Jenni was such a lovely warm supporter of Proms, attending and speaking whenever we asked. She was kind and generous with both her time and enthusiasm, often remarking on how lucky she was to live in such a vibrant community where there are so many wonderful events to attend.

Susie Gregson MBE – Founder and CEO, Proms at St. Jude's



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The SNY theme for this issue is ‘(Small) things that bring me joy’. Given the state of the world at present, we thought that it would be good to bring things in very close and ask the pairs to write about one or more things that bring them joy and raise one’s spirits



Music

MAKES LIFE SING

In today’s world, languages, borders and cultures seem to be the devices we wield as proof of how different we are. Over the chaos of political debate, heinous discrimination and violent wars, one thing seems to rise above the noise to give us hope and unite our fractured communities: music. We sing it in our churches, hum it as we get ready for work and school, chant at sports matches, and wistfully whistle the melodies of songs we can’t get out of our head.

For example, in primary school, we can remember singing our choir songs with friends in the playground, long after practice had finished. As a human race, we rarely seem to appreciate the gift that is music. Somehow, combinations of notes can illustrate feelings and emotions where words fail. The majority (up to 90%) of the population has experienced ‘the chills’ whilst listening to music – such emotion never seems to run as deep when we listen to arguments between political groups or whispered insults directed towards people we should call neighbours.

Whilst melodies can undeniably unite us, they also have a very large individual impact. It has been scientifically proven that listening to music increases the release of dopamine and slows the release of stress-related cortisol, meaning that it improves mental health. Both metaphorically and literally, music has the power to save lives. There is an abundance of examples. In the USA, whilst working slaves used to sing songs that, in their lyrics, would contain the way to escape. Those slaves are certainly not the only ones who found such an escape through music: sometimes, in a time of such turbulence, it may be the brightest light that guides us to a better world – a world of peace and harmony.

MIZUKI & LILY, CHRIST’S COLLEGE

Chocolate

MAKES EVERYTHING SWEETER



Who doesn’t love eating? Most people enjoy a little sweet treat and what better for a treat than chocolate! Rich in magnesium and antioxidants, over 90% of people in the world love chocolate just as much as we do, and 40% would consider themselves chocoholics. In the UK, 59% of people eat chocolate daily – this suggests how much of an impact chocolate has made on the world.

Chocolate has become synonymous with celebrations including Easter, Valentine’s day and Christmas. Due to our constant and sometimes unavoidable exposure to it, as a planet, we have become obsessed. This might not just be because it tastes so good, but could be due to the release of chemicals in the brain, such as theobromine which can offer a gentle energy boost and helps reduce stress. Dark chocolate, however, is high in flavonoids which can improve brain blood flow and can reduce stress hormones.

We like chocolate because we believe that snacking can be good for your mental health, when done in moderation. Chocolate can bring comfort and happiness and it consistently ranks as the number one most popular comfort food globally. Not only do 93 per cent of children consume chocolate daily, but roughly 88 to 91 per cent of adults regularly consume chocolate, to alleviate negative moods, manage stress and reward themselves. Chocolate’s popularity comes from its ability to offer physical benefits, such as stress reduction and improved brain blood flow, as well as its emotional benefits such as comfort and joy. Overall, we can confidently say that chocolate is a universal, science-backed source of happiness.

REIKO & PHOEBE, CHRIST’S COLLEGE

Compliments

MAKES HEARTS HAPPIER



You may not realise it, but compliments are a small act that can make someone’s day. Whether it be saying someone’s new hair looks nice, or congratulating them for a new job role, these little comments can have a large impact on increasing an individual’s self-esteem and confidence. If each person said one single compliment every day, we would have over eight billion smiles across every face, proven to release feel-good neurotransmitters such as dopamine and serotonin, acting as natural antidepressants.

Imagine that! These simple words carry so much power, an act that can be done in the blink of an eye, yet the consequences resonate in their heart, forever.

*You inspire me*  
*You’re amazing*  
*Thank you for being you*  
*You matter*

Not only this, but a compliment can even start up a new conversation, increasing a person’s confidence to socialise. Socialisation is a key aspect to everyday life, and being kind may very well be the way to make new friends. This expands your social circle and creates opportunities for you to discover more about people you may have never imagined talking to. You may even have some friendships dear to you, all which stemmed from the compliment you gave many years ago! Even the daily waves and smiles you give across the course of a few hours contribute to a large part of how the rest of someone’s day may pan out, providing the foundation to a good day.

Furthermore, a compliment can even increase the productivity of an individual in a work environment, such as school or the office, due to the recognition and reinforcement of positive behaviour.

These compliments you may give without even realising the impacts, have a domino effect on the cognitive ability of those who receive them, leading to increased activity in the brain while also improving mood greatly!

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“To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.”

MARK TWAIN

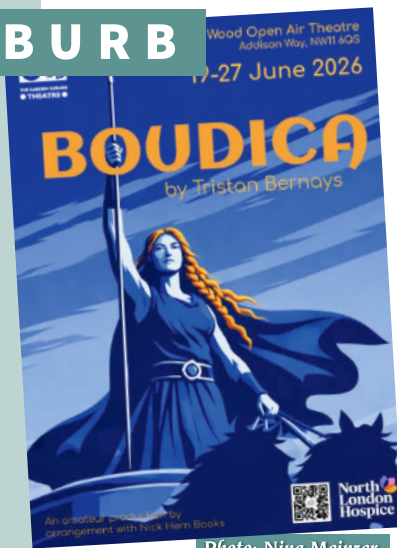


Photo: Nina Meinzer

## Boudica in Little Wood

COLIN GREGORY

This summer the Garden Suburb Theatre is bringing its production of *Boudica*, by Tristan Bernays, to Little Wood. Set in Roman Britain in AD 61, the play charts Boudica's famous rebellion, during which she

destroyed what is now Colchester, London and St Albans. Rome has denied Boudica her throne as Queen of the Iceni, Rome has flogged and humiliated her and defiled her daughters. Yet, she refuses to lie down and lick her wounds but pursues her revenge at the head of an army. The play was first performed at Shakespeare's Globe in 2017 to critical acclaim. It received four stars from the Evening Standard, whose critic wrote: "The writing is vivid... Eleanor Rhode's raucous production delights in its rawness... packed with sword fights and exuberant filth."

The Garden Suburb Theatre's production will be directed by Nina Meinzer, who relishes modern verse drama as well as history and is now able to bring them together. In April 2023, Nina directed Martin Crimp's modern translation of Molière's *The Misanthrope* for the Garden Suburb Theatre at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate.

The Garden Suburb Theatre has brought ancient Rome to Little Wood before. In 1932, they performed an adaptation of *The Golden Ass* by the Roman author Apuleius, with costumes researched with the help of the British Museum. *The Golden Ass* was a light-hearted comedy, while *Boudica* this summer will take us into the world of Britain's most famous female warrior and rebel. It will be performed at the Open Air Theatre in Little Wood from Friday 19 June to Saturday 27 June at 7.30pm, with an additional matinée on Sunday 21 June at 3pm. Tickets from <https://www.ticketsource.com/gardensuburbtheatre>.



Hi, it's Teah! Welcome back to my film review column. In this issue I am going to be discussing the iconic 1950 movie *Sunset Boulevard*, directed by Billy Wilder.

*Sunset Boulevard* is arguably the greatest movie about Hollywood and here's why. Billy Wilder reinvents *meta* and *noir* cinema in this thrilling, exhilarating and touching masterpiece. Gloria Swanson plays the faded star, Norma Desmond, and delivers an absolutely brilliant performance which leaves you feeling deeply unsettled and certainly mesmerised. The pure potency of her theatrical expressions grips you from the moment she steps on screen, not to mention her perfect execution of show-stopping lines – my personal favourite: "I am big; it's the pictures that got small."

Yet what truly elevates the film is its sometimes comedic yet always chilling and brutal critique of Hollywood itself. Through the tragic persona of Norma Desmond, Wilder exposes an industry that both builds up and breaks down its stars, leaving them disillusioned and fragmented within the real world. The primary setting of the film, the decaying mansion on Sunset Boulevard, is a symbol of this decline. Once grand and opulent, the mansion now stands lifeless, preserved in some earlier time and is a reflection of Norma Desmond's mind.

The film's narrative structure also acts as a compelling device. Wilder's decision to tell the story through the voice of a dead man, Joe Gillis, immediately sets an eerie tone. The shocking opening not only hooks you into the film, but also conveys a deeper message of the fragility and transience of life. The cinematography creates an intense and powerful atmosphere: stark lighting, foreboding shadows and mirror shots illustrate the psychological descent and ultimate fate of the characters.

*Sunset Boulevard* is more than just a film about Hollywood. The portrayals of fame, ageing and visibility haunt you even after the credits roll. The final moments are heartbreaking and unforgettable, the perfect ending to a timeless piece of cinema.



Photo: Simone Halfin

## Royal Free sculpture

SIMONE HALFIN

NHS staff who lost their lives saving people during Covid were undoubtedly the unsung heroes of that time. Nic Careem, an award-winning British activist, cultural ambassador and entrepreneur committed to promoting human rights, equality and social justice, has dedicated his life to creating a more inclusive and compassionate world.

He is the NHS Memorial Project Director who came up with the idea and organised the erection of a sculpture at the Royal Free Hospital, which he commissioned from internationally renowned sculptor, Nicola Ravenscroft, whom he met quite by chance at an Albert Hall event six years ago. He paid tribute to Dean Russell, a former Conservative Member of Parliament for Watford, who raised the money enabling this to happen. Nic told me the idea to give the sculpture a permanent home in the Royal Free garden came about because he was a patient there several times and said they saved his life.

The unveiling was attended by dignitaries from all walks of life, including many NHS nurses, doctors and consultants, as well as members of parliament and even Lord John Bird of Big Issue fame. It took Nicola nearly three years to create. When I mentioned I felt there was almost a serenity surrounding it, she was delighted and said that was exactly what she hoped people would feel. She created it during Covid and said it was a heart-breaking time for her. At the base of the sculpture are large rocks, which she sculpted in clay in her studio, before casting them in bronze; then growing out of them are two tall trees with branches and many leaves and at the top the trees touch giving a feeling of resurgence, then entwined and rolling down the trees are many roots, depicting a cycle of life. There are two tiny children sitting on the rocks, a sign of tomorrow and an inscription saying, "you laid your life in love, your sleep is not in vain." Nicola said that was the overriding message she wanted to get through – that the NHS staff paid the ultimate price and this memorial should be a testament to their courage and faithfulness. Nicola is also a lyricist and, in fact, her late husband was a well know saxophonist, Raphael Ravenscroft. She wrote a poem, which her children set to music so listen out for its launch – and take time out to sit and take in the beauty of her glorious creation in the calm of the Royal Free hospital garden.



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## Here comes Proms!

RON FINLAY

**P**roms at St Jude's, Hampstead Garden Suburb's own summer festival, starts in only a few weeks' time, running from Saturday 27 June to Sunday 5 July. It's a fantastic opportunity to enjoy world class events on your doorstep.

**CLASSICAL AND MODERN** Classical favourites will be performed at St Jude's church throughout the festival, from Mozart's Overture to The Marriage of Figaro on the first Saturday and Debussy's Clair de Lune on Monday 29 June to Beethoven's Archduke Piano Trio on Tuesday, Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony on Thursday and Parry's Jerusalem on the Last Night. Wednesday 1 July sees the Choir of The Queen's College Oxford perform a cappella works, including traditional choral music and modern songs from the musicals.

As variations from this genre, you can see BAFTA-nominated actor Anton Lesser narrating from Hilary Mantel's text in Wolf Hall in Concert on Sunday 28 June, with Grace Davidson, soprano, and the Locrian Ensemble conducted by leading TV and film composer Debbie Wiseman.

The Van Morrison Alumni Band – musicians and singers who performed and recorded with the star – appears on Friday 3 July, playing hits including Brown Eyed Girl and Moondance. On Saturday 4 July, you can celebrate the 250th anniversary of the declaration of American Independence to music from Gershwin, Bernstein, Cole Porter and other top US jazz artists.

On top of these evening concerts, come and enjoy lunchtime recitals free of charge, thanks to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, performed by

leading young musicians. Plus free country, soul and bluegrass music at 6pm on Saturday 4 July, and summer busking by a tar and setar player at 6.30pm on Tuesday and by cabaret star Debbie Chazen at the same time on Friday.

**LITFEST** There's also a weekend of conversations with authors at the Literary Festival, taking place on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June at The Henrietta Barnett School and supported by the HGS Residents Association.

In the fiction category, Booker Prize winner Alan Hollinghurst discusses with chair of judges Hermione Lee the body of work for which he was awarded the David Cohen Prize for Literature. And historian Tracy Borman talks about her novel, The House of Boleyn.

In non-fiction, Andrew O'Hagan discusses friendship; Daily Telegraph cookery writer Diana Henry discusses food and life; Hannah French talks about Vivaldi's The Four Seasons; Arthur Edward Guinness discusses his brewery family's history; Gyles Brandreth recounts the life of A A Milne and the legacy of Winnie-the-Pooh; and Anthony Seldon reflects on his 1,300km route walking to Auschwitz.

You can enjoy light lunches, snacks and delicious home-made cakes in the LitFest café all weekend.

**KIDS** At the Family Festival on Central Square on Sunday 5 July, supported by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, there are great opportunities to introduce young children to music. The classic Peter and the Wolf will be narrated by author, broadcaster and actor Zeb Soanes, while

famous children's book illustrator James Mayhew will illustrate the story live on screen as the story is told. He will also give a talk and sign books after the concert.

You can take children aged four plus to the energetic STOMP Workshop, where Carl Smith, founder of the hit show of the same name, will teach teamwork, rhythm and creativity. For children under five, Proms offers two Teeny Prom concerts, giving little ones a chance to sing, make noise and have fun. Tickets for all these must be booked in advance, but many free activities will also be available.

**EAT, DRINK, LAUGH** Throughout the week, tasty sandwiches, snacks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will be on sale, and you are also encouraged to bring your own picnic if you prefer. To prepare for any weather eventuality, you can book a picnic table for up to six people under cover to keep you dry from 6pm onwards.

You can have a good laugh at Late Night Stand-Up Comedy on Saturday 4 July at 10pm, where acerbic wit will be complemented by a fully-licensed bar in the marquee outside St Jude's Church.

Funds raised support North London Hospice, Toynbee Hall and education outreach.

Full details and tickets at [www.promsatstjudes.org.uk](http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk) or telephone 020 3322 8123.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS** Proms LitFest special event, An evening with Sir Antonio Pappano, at The Henrietta Barnett School on Tuesday evening 8 September. For more details and tickets see [www.promsatstjudes.org.uk](http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk).



Alan Hollinghurst



Grace Davidson



Debbie Wiseman



Zeb Soanes and James Mayhew



Timothy Ridout (Photo: Jiyang Chen)



Peter and the Wolf (© James Mayhew)



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Arthur Edward Guinness



Hannah French (Photo: Sane Seven)

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Photos: Blake Ezra

# March of the Living

JACK FROHLICH

Last month, I had the privilege of serving as Bus Leader for the Youth Movement delegation on March of the Living 2026. Bringing together young people from across the Jewish community, the journey offered a powerful opportunity to explore our shared history while grappling with enduring themes of resistance, leadership and responsibility.

We began in Kraków, walking through the old Jewish quarter of Kazimierz, once a vibrant centre of Jewish life. It served as an important reminder that this journey is not solely defined by the atrocities of the Holocaust, but by over a thousand years of rich Jewish history in Poland. Long before destruction, there were Jewish people just like us, arguing about the 'right' way to practise our religion. The phrase: two Jews, three opinions, became a recurring theme on our bus, as participants

carried that spirit into thoughtful debate about Jewish life today.

As we travelled across the country, we visited concentration camps such as Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau, stood in mourning at mass graves in Łopuchowo and heard the first-hand testimony of those who survived the Holocaust. Standing in these spaces, the scale of devastation is difficult to comprehend. The heaviness of what we witnessed is indescribable and yet the overwhelming emotion many of us carried by the end of the trip was not only grief, but pride.

That feeling was perhaps most tangible during the march itself. Walking from Auschwitz I to Birkenau, retracing a path once forced upon so many, we sang, we discussed our Jewish values, and most importantly, we stood as one community. Over 6,000 Jewish people, including more than 50 Holocaust survivors, marched not



only to remember, but to affirm the continuity of Jewish life.

In that moment, joy and remembrance stood together. This is the same message expressed by Merrit Malloy's Epitaph, a poem I share each year, which reads 'when all that's left of me is love, give me away.' Malloy's words serve as a reminder that we hold the power to humanise those we memorialise and share the love and sense of community millions were stripped of.

For me, one of the most powerful experiences each year is walking along the Heroes' Path in Warsaw, where we learn about the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Led in large part by young people, many the same age as those on our bus, the uprising is a striking example of courage in the face of impossible circumstances. As we walked, today's youth movement participants actively engaged with these stories, asking difficult questions about choice, leadership and moral responsibility.

March of the Living is, at its core, an educational experience rooted in confronting painful history, but it is equally grounded in the strength and vibrancy of contemporary Jewish life. At a time when antisemitism is on the rise, including within our own local community, the opportunity to stand proudly as part of a global Jewish community felt both powerful and necessary.

What I witnessed during the week was not only remembrance, but a deep sense of collective pride. These young people carry forward not just the memory of what was lost, but a new perspective on what it means to be Jewish today.



Photo: Archer Academy

# Mr Morpurgo returns

ANNA HINDMARSH

The Archer Academy welcomed Mr Michael Morpurgo back to the school for the first time since he formally opened it in 2013. His visit formed the highlight of this year's LitFest, focusing on books, stories and the power of language.

As part of the event, Year 9 prefect students have been working together to raise money for Mr Morpurgo's charity, Farms for City Children, which he founded with his wife. The charity invites inner-city schools to spend time on a farm, encouraging children to connect with the countryside and explore nature.

Students will take part in bake sales to raise funds, designing their own adverts and working with the school's finance office to plan how the money will be collected. Headteacher, Lucy Harrison, said they are aiming to raise £200.

To reward their hard work, these students sat down with Mr Morpurgo and had the opportunity to quiz him over his writing and seek advice for young readers. One student, Gabriel, asked for some advice that Mr Morpurgo wished he had known when he was younger.

Mr Morpurgo said: "The things you really care about are the things that you remain in contact with.

It may well be family, it may well be a place, but it may well be some cause or other which is important to you. And that's really important. The golden rule for a writer is that you write about what you care about... I write about war, actually, because I care about peace."

He also shared some of his tips for overcoming writer's block and committing pen to paper when he starts writing. He said: "Don't write as if you are writing something down, tell it, tell it as thoughts are pouring out onto the page. That's what your story should be... and with your heart and soul you should mean it."

Encouraging students to stay curious, he added that ideas for his stories have come from everyday details, from wallpaper and furniture to conversations at social gatherings.

The visit concluded with an assembly for years 7-9, and a few year groups from the local primary school, Holy Trinity, where Mr Morpurgo gave a talk and read out some poetry from his collection - My Heart was a Tree.

He left the students with a message about the power of reading stories: "If you read books, you can travel the world and meet extraordinary people without getting on a plane, and you will find out more about yourself."

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# OUT & ABOUT

*In a garden where the may made the straggling fences gay  
And the roses cream and scarlet shed their petals on the breeze  
Your maiden aunts and I, and you, demure and shy,  
Played a sober game of croquet underneath the spreading trees.*

*Just beyond the garden wall we could hear the merry call  
Of the tennis players yonder, flitting gaily in the sun,  
But we recked not of their glee, for all too content were we,  
And we weren't flushed and heated when our quiet game was done.*



Croquet by James Tissot (Public domain)

ANDREW BOTTERILL

A picture is worth a thousand words but can poetry better bring to life the atmosphere of a game of croquet? The opening verses of Alice Guerin Crist's love poem written just over a century ago capture well the essence of a game on Fellowship's jewel of a lawn. Even the players of the Mercury Tennis Club next door get a walk-on part as we see them sometimes through the trees 'flitting gaily'.

Are there any more croquet players out there – any age, from total novices to the quietly competent? The only qualification is to be a Suburb resident. The best equipment and an excellent playing surface in fabulous hidden surroundings await you.

We are holding a late afternoon event in late June/early July when you are welcome to try out the game and enjoy a cup of tea or a glass of wine with us. Maybe you'd just prefer to sit and sip and chat and take in the magnificent surroundings. Email me at [andrew@northsq.com](mailto:andrew@northsq.com) to register interest and get timing and access details.

And love? Well, not de rigueur – does it help or hinder the game? It could also be just the memory of love or even just love of the game.

## Spring and early summer on the Suburb



Photo: HGS Trust

It's proving to be a beautiful spring and early summer on the Suburb, and the trees and green spaces are looking fantastic. We can thank nature for most of that – but of course it doesn't all happen by accident. Gorgeous gardens need care and attention and the Suburb is full of gardens with some amazing trees. If you need help or advice with work that you'd like to do to your garden trees, give us a call and I will come out to see you. Remember, you do need the prior written consent of the Trust before you carry out tree surgery, so ring us today if you'd like to arrange a site visit.

The warmer weather over the last couple of months was accompanied by some stunning cherry blossom, and you can't fail to have noticed how much more active the birds suddenly became, finding extra food for their young. Importantly, this means that the time for trimming hedges this year has now passed – birds are busy raising families in our hedges and they should now be left alone in case of disturbing nests.

As well as the timing of the work, hedge-trimming should be done with care. I recently gave a masterclass to the HGS Horticultural Society, showing some methods of cutting hedges at a few different sites. My tutorials for tidying hedges included a variety of species which can be found all around the Suburb, including wild plum, privet and, of course, beech.

We hope you'll agree that the flowerbeds at Central Square are looking especially good at the moment. Proms at St Jude's is just around the corner, and amongst other walks and talks led by my colleagues in the Trust office, I will be giving a talk on Central Square's trees with a live demonstration from a tree surgeon. See the Proms at St Jude's website for more details and to book tickets.

**Anyone for tennis?** As the summer months approach and a certain international lawn tennis competition brings the sport back into the limelight, we expect our hard courts on Central Square will be very busy. Our courts can be booked via [clubspark.net/hgstrust](http://clubspark.net/hgstrust) (or scan the QR code) after which you'll receive a code to unlock the gates. Our courts are only for casual games played by Suburb residents and mustn't be used for coaching – there are many other facilities available locally for that purpose.

If you have any questions or concerns about the courts, or if you see our courts being used inappropriately, please do get in touch via [mail@hgstrust.org](mailto:mail@hgstrust.org)

Frank Hawkins, Green Estate Manager, Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust

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# More than a bike ride: community, confidence and camaraderie

FRANCINE BARSAM

What started as a small idea between two neighbours has grown into something rather special. Around five years ago, local resident Terry Clarke (together with Eric Wilson) set up a small cycling group through U3A. The first ride attracted just a handful of people, "about four or five," she recalls, but today, their regular Tuesday rides see up to 15-20 cyclists heading out together.

And this is no ordinary cycling group. Most members are over 60, many returning to cycling after years away from the saddle. Some are rebuilding confidence after injuries or illness; others simply wanted to get fit again. What they've found is not just exercise, but community.

"It's the camaraderie that really characterises the group," Terry says. "It's been amazing bringing all these people together."

Rides are carefully planned, with Terry drawing on her background as a fitness instructor to ensure distances are manageable. The group often cycles 30-40 miles – an impressive feat – but always at a pace that works for everyone. There's no competition here, just encouragement.

"It's very friendly," she explains. "No-one's trying to outdo anyone. People support each other."

Routes vary each week, with riders joining along the way, from East Finchley to Whetstone and up towards Barnet, and once a month the group ventures further afield, often to the Chilterns. For many, it's as much about getting out into the countryside as it is about the cycling itself.

The impact goes beyond fitness. For a group where many members have faced health challenges, hip replacements, injuries, or simply the realities of getting older, it's about regaining independence and confidence.

"Most people have had something to deal with," Terry says. "This helps them come back to it, gently."

**A BIKE WITH A STORY**  
Earlier this year, Terry's efforts received unexpected recognition. As part of International Women's Day, Transport for London and Santander Cycles launched an initiative to celebrate women encouraging others to cycle. Unbeknownst to her, Terry had been nominated, by no fewer than 15 people.

"I had no idea," she says. "Absolutely none."

Selected from over 150 nominations, she was named one of the winners, with a Santander bike now carrying her name and story, travelling across London.

The official unveiling took place at the velodrome, though Terry missed the ceremony while on holiday. Instead, the bike was brought to a local docking station near Regent's Park, where members of her cycling group gathered for their own celebration.

"It was lovely," she says. "But what really meant something was knowing how many people had nominated me."

**MORE THAN JUST CYCLING**  
While Terry is clearly proud of the recognition, she is also thoughtful about the bigger picture.

She speaks candidly about the challenges facing cyclists – road safety, infrastructure, and the sometimes-fraught relationship between cyclists and motorists.

"There's too much aggression," she says, "on both sides."

She believes more could be done around safety and accountability, from better road-sharing awareness to clearer guidance for cyclists. At the same time, she is a strong supporter of cycle lanes and initiatives that encourage people onto bikes,



Terry Clarke (Photo: Michael Owen)

despite acknowledging that infrastructure isn't always perfect.

Closer to home, though, her focus remains firmly on the group. Every Tuesday morning, she sets off to collect riders, building the group along the route before heading out together. It takes time and organisation, but it's clearly worth it. "You do it because you want to help," she says simply.

**AN OPEN INVITATION**  
Newcomers are welcome to a trial ride, with shorter routes available for those easing themselves back into cycling. It's a simple message, but one that has already helped

many local residents rediscover cycling, build confidence, and, perhaps most importantly, find a sense of belonging.

As we finished talking, Terry turned to me and said, "Why don't you come along one Tuesday?", even suggesting I could just do part of the route to see how it felt. Later that day, I found myself looking at my rather dusty cycle shorts and helmet. It's been a while. But hearing what this group has built and the difference it's making, has definitely made me think.

It might just be time to get back on the bike.

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# The mayor visits Bishopswood Bowling Club

CHERYL KUCZYNSKI

**W**e were delighted to welcome Mayor Danny Rich to play a few ends at Bishopswood Bowling Club. After some tips from our chief coach, Ian Kaye, Mayor Rich proved to be a natural bowler and we would be happy to have him as a member any time!

New members – experienced or beginners – are always very welcome at our friendly, sociable club. Come along any time. If the gates are open there will be people there, more than happy to have a chat and lend a helping hand. We offer free lessons from experienced coaches and equipment can be provided to get people off to a good start.

We're located in the Lyttelton Playing Fields, just off Norrice Lea, adjacent to the tennis courts. Bowling is a lovely way to get out into nature and enjoy the summer, so come along. You know it makes sense.

For more information, please email [info@bishopswoodbc.co.uk](mailto:info@bishopswoodbc.co.uk) or call us on 020-8058 2212. Also, check out [www.bishopswoodbc.co.uk](http://www.bishopswoodbc.co.uk).



Photo: Jim Webb

OUT & ABOUT



Photo: Dana Tamari

In this series Suburb News spotlights the Suburb's local independent shopkeepers

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

**S**et in the heart of Lyttelton Playing Fields, Gaya Café feels less like a business and more like an extension of home. Run by Danielle Oren, a local resident who moved to the Suburb three years ago with her husband and three daughters, the café is rooted in something deeper than just coffee – it's all about community.

Danielle's background was in social consulting – regenerating industries and spaces – and you can see the impact of her expertise here. She has created not just a café, but a community hub. With green vistas and nature surrounding the café, it's a place where children can play whilst parents linger over an expertly made coffee and dogs are as warmly welcomed as their owners.

Of course, the coffee matters too. Danielle knows her demographic. She uses Doppio coffee beans and even sells the Nespresso-compatible pods for those who want to replicate the coffee experience at home. And alongside the all-important coffee, Gaya café offers delicious home-made food, including granola, cakes, Mediterranean-style breakfasts and bagels all made by Reut, Gaya's in-house chef and baker. Danielle stresses the importance of using the freshest ingredients.

But Gaya Café thrives on more than its menu. Picnic mats, spare essentials, dog accoutrements – Danielle has thought of it all. Weekly groups have formed organically: embroidery sessions, children's activities, themed food mornings, tea gatherings and even a knitting club. Gaya café has its own community WhatsApp group and everyone is welcome to join.

Danielle's vision for growth is impressive – she's brimming with ideas: tech workshops and community fairs are on her current list. Gaya café hosted a well-attended event for dog owners and their dogs, complete with a dog trainer and a photographer. A belly dancing event at Gaya café was also a big hit.

Gaya Café is a delight and offers great coffee, delicious food, fun events and community – surely a recipe for success.

**Gaya café opens 7 days a week – 8.30am-6pm on weekdays and 10am-6pm on weekends.**



Gaya Café Breakfast (Photo: Danielle Oren)



Burekas plate (Photo: Danielle Oren)



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# Glebelands parties with the Mayor

TESSA WIRE



On Monday 2 February, 35 years to the day after it was officially opened, Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club in Finchley marked a major milestone with a birthday celebration attended by The Worshipful The Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor Danny Rich.

The club was built in 1990 with a 50-year lease from Barnet Council and was officially opened in 1991 by the then Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Roy Shutz LL.B. Three and a half decades on, Glebelands remains a thriving hub for sport, friendship and community.

Councillor Rich was warmly welcomed by club founder Don Knight, who is still bowling after 35 years, alongside Chairman Howard Norden, President Michael Hart, and ten inaugural members including veteran club champions, all proudly wearing their club blazers.

Never one to stand on ceremony, the Mayor got stuck in on the green, bowling in his socks in line with the club's strict rule of clean, flat-soled footwear only – even for the Mayor! He received a lesson from club coach Rhys Lewis, who neatly summed up the game: bowls takes minutes to learn, but a lifetime to master.

As part of the celebrations, the club held a President v Chairman match featuring 60 current members. It was a closely fought contest, with the President's team narrowly taking the win. In a generous gesture, the winning side donated the day's green fees to North London Hospice.

In a moving speech, the Mayor spoke about the vital role clubs like Glebelands play in the local community. He highlighted how the club is far more than a sporting venue, offering warmth, companionship and support. For members struggling with the cost of living, the heating is always on and a hot meal is available. Several members told the Mayor how the club has given them friendship and a place to go over many years. One 95-year-old member explained that since his wife died a few years ago, he visits the club every day to meet friends and enjoy lunch.

The Mayor also met the club's oldest member, Solly Ohayon, who is 99 years young, and its youngest, 18-year-old Andrew Heneaghan – a powerful reminder of the club's appeal across generations.

Over 130 members enjoyed a free birthday lunch, with Councillor Rich helping to serve the meal and cut the birthday cake as the whole club joined in singing "Happy Birthday". His relaxed and approachable manner helped everyone feel at ease.

Today, Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club boasts over 400 members, with regular roll-ups and opportunities to compete in competitions, men's, ladies' and mixed leagues, accessible sessions for adults with disabilities, and matches against other nearby indoor bowls clubs. After 35 years, the club is still 'on a roll' at the heart of Finchley!



Don Knight and the Mayor (Photo: Steve Charkin)



Photo: Colin Gregory

As we go to press, sheep will be grazing on the Heath Extension, from 29 May to 8 June. The Heath and Hampstead Society is working with the City of London Corporation, the London Natural History Society and the Rare Breeds Society for ecological grazing trials to help conservation on the Heath. Five sheep from Mudchute Farm on the Isle of Dogs will be once again be on the Heath Extension opposite Reynolds Close, Hampstead Way NW11 7EA. The sheep will return in the Autumn from 10-21 September.

Colin Gregory

# Taking the plunge at Kenwood 200 years on

FRANCINE BARSAM

On a stunning spring afternoon there was a sense of anticipation in the air at Kenwood; the kind that only comes with witnessing something genuinely rare. After more than 200 years, the historic Cold Bath at Kenwood House has been brought back to life, and someone was about to step into its waters again. And, thankfully, it wasn't me. That honour went to Jamie Knowles, whose brave dip marked the opening of this hidden gem.

Tucked within the Kenwood estate, the Cold Bath dates back to the 18th century, when the house itself was re-modelled by the architect Robert Adam. At the time, bathing wasn't about hygiene

in that it was closely tied to ideas of health and wellbeing, cold-water immersion believed to invigorate both body and mind, influenced by classical traditions.

Today, that same idea has come full circle. Cold water plunging has seen a surge in popularity in recent years, with many people embracing it for its perceived physical and mental health benefits. Over time, the Cold Bath fell out of use. By the 19th century it had been filled in and repurposed, at one stage even serving as a storage space. For decades, its original purpose was largely forgotten.

An ambitious restoration project, completed in 2024, carefully brought this unusual structure back to life using durable,

conservation-led techniques. The water still flows much as it always has, naturally sourced, mineral-rich and notably high in iron. The bathhouse will now be open for visitors to see, though not for general swimming.

The project has been made possible through the support of organisations including English Heritage, alongside charitable trusts and dedicated volunteers.



Kenwood Cold Bath (Photo: Francine Barsam)



Jamie Knowles takes a dip (Photo: Francine Barsam)

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For Your Eyes Only (Photo: Caroline Broome)

THE GARDEN GIRL

# Stop and smell the roses

CAROLINE BROOME

June, the month that roses transform our borders with their vibrant displays of colour and fragrance. Renowned for its diverse colours, intense fragrance and symbolic meaning, the rose consistently ranks as the top-selling flower in the UK. I would go as far as to say that every garden should have at least one rose and there is at least one rose to suit every situation, be it sweeping landscape or courtyard garden.

It's no surprise to learn that there is a great deal of myth and legend wrapped up in such an iconic bloom. Whilst we all associate red roses with beauty, passionate love and romance, they can also represent blood-soaked sacrifice. White roses embody innocence, purity and remembrance, making them popular for weddings and funerals. In ancient times, yellow roses were associated with betrayal and infidelity and in the Victorian era they signified jealousy. It is only in modern times that yellow roses have become symbols of friendship and platonic affection. Pink roses embody gratitude and admiration, while peach roses show sincerity and appreciation.

Roses are very resilient and, once established, will provide a multitude of blooms year after year. Single-flowered roses, in particular, are ideal for pollinators, as their open structure allows insects easy access to nectar and pollen. Trouble is, with so many types and varieties to choose from, where do you start? Hopefully, this simple guide will point you in the right direction:

**Modern Bush Roses:** These include Hybrid Teas and Floribundas, developed for continuous blooming, disease resistance and a wide colour range. Floribundas produce large clusters of flowers continuously throughout the season and are generally bushier, hardier and better for landscape colour than hybrid teas. If you have a cutting garden, then hybrid teas, the classic florist rose, featuring one large, shapely bloom on a long stem, are an ideal option. 2015 Rose of the Year *For Your Eyes Only*, is renowned for its unique, single-bloom, pollinator friendly, floribunda flowers in shades of pink, apricot, and salmon with a maroon centre. This hardy, repeat-flowering shrub is highly disease-resistant, fragrant, and ideal for containers or borders, reaching a height of roughly 90cm.

**Shrub Roses:** A broad category, probably best known for David Austin *English* roses. They are hardy, disease-resistant and versatile, blooming repeatedly with minimal maintenance. I love all-time Suburb favourite, Gertrude Jekyll, for its classic charm and heavily scented, bright pink flowers. Repeat-flowering *rosa* Jacqueline du Pré, which grows to about 1.2m tall, with clusters of fragrant, ivory semi-double blooms, surrounding prominent crimson and gold stamens, is my all-time favourite. A close second is *Tottering-by-Gently*, with its sprays of single, lightly scented, pale-yellow blooms, that repeat-flower for months.

**Patio Roses:** Small-scale versions of full-sized roses, patio roses are ideal for containers and small gardens. They offer repeat blooms and a compact, bushy shape. Low maintenance, ground cover roses in the Flower Carpet range and the County series, including Surrey, Kent, and Cambridgeshire, typically produce dense foliage and clusters of small flowers throughout summer and autumn. AGM-winning Flower Carpet White has a low, spreading, dense habit, making it particularly suitable for planting in large containers and as ground cover. It is free-flowering and disease-resistant, with semi-double white flowers and yellow centres. What these varieties sometimes lack in fragrance, they make up for in flower power.

**Climbing Roses:** These have long, flexible canes that can be trained up trellises, fences, or arches. I would recommend climbers rather than ramblers, as they can be pruned and managed more easily, especially if space is limited. *Rosa Etoile de Hollande* is a vigorous climber, reaching up to 3.5m, producing an opulent flush of deep crimson flowers, with a zingy citrus scent, in early June, followed by a smaller display later on in summer. Climbing Iceberg will reach 3m, making it ideal for a rose arch, pergola, or to frame a doorway. Paul's Scarlet will clothe a brick wall with its large clusters of lightly fragranced, classic semi-double blooms.

**Rambling Roses:** Ramblers are much more vigorous than climbers, with smaller flowers in clusters. They usually bloom only once in early summer and have a more romantic, wild growth habit. As ramblers are not easy to prune, I recommend that they only be grown where they can have free reign to spread, for example over an outbuilding or into a tree. *Rambling Rector* (that title always makes me smile) will grow to about 6m tall, producing large sprays of creamy white blooms in mid-summer, followed by a mass of red hips. *Rosa Banksiae Lutescens* grows to 6m tall. Flowering in late spring, its sweetly scented, single yellow blooms are carried on slender, almost thornless stems, that flush coppery red on new shoots and leaves.

Follow me on [www.garden-girl.co.uk](http://www.garden-girl.co.uk); [garden-girl](#) (facebook); [@carolinegardengirl](#) (instagram)



Rose Iceberg (Photo: Caroline Broome)



Rosa Oxfordshire (Photo: Caroline Broome)



Jacqueline du Pré (Photo: Caroline Broome)



Paul's Scarlet (Photo: Caroline Broome)

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# Make your own humus



Photo: Patricia Major

PATRICIA MAJOR

**H**umus is the dark, organic component of soil formed by the decomposition of plant matter by microorganisms, nature's way of tidying up after itself. Rich in nutrients, it improves soil structure, increases water retention and boosts overall fertility. The word humus comes from Latin, meaning earth or ground. It's often simply called composting, though the finished product rarely resembles the neat, polite bags of compost you can buy at the garden centre. Think less store-bought perfection, more earthy chaos with benefits.

Tutorials can be found on social media or in books – worth exploring, as composting is a process as old as time itself (and possibly older than your gardening gloves). There are many methods, so find one that suits you, and your tolerance for mild mess.

At its simplest, composting is about layering greens and browns. Not, exactly, a fashion choice, but just as important.

Greens include fresh plant material: vegetable peelings, eggshells, coffee grounds, old flowers, soggy undressed salads (we've all been there), fruit skins, hedge cuttings, and similar waste. Weeds can be added too, as long as they are not flowering or setting seed.

Browns include cardboard, shredded paper, egg boxes, dry plant stems, straw, pet bedding, and wood chip. In short: the dull-looking stuff that does all the hard work.

Avoid adding cooked or processed foods (such as pasta or noodles), tempting as it may be to share your leftovers. You can, however, use cooled pasta water, as it contains starch, your compost's version of a carb-heavy treat.

Grass cuttings should be added in moderation, ideally mixed with shredded paper and never if they've been chemically treated. Your compost heap should be lively, not hazardous.

The more finely chopped the material, the faster it will break down, so a little effort now saves a lot of waiting later. Keep your

compost moist but not waterlogged; think wrung-out sponge, not swamp. Grey water can be used during dry spells.

Worms and other small creatures will move in, uninvited but very welcome, and your compost should be teeming with life. (If it isn't, they've clearly found a better party elsewhere.) The real transformation happens when it is returned to the soil. In my garden, I place the compost where the ground needs mulching; when ready, I simply tip it out and spread it around. The richest compost is always at the bottom, and the best soil is often found beneath the bin itself – *des res* in the worm world.

I'll admit my compost is full of stray flower seeds, as I add old seed heads to the pile. This means a multitude of self-seeders. For potting, I use this compost sparingly at the base, topping it with a mix of peat-free compost, topsoil, and coconut coir. I use the same blend for sowing seeds, otherwise chaos ensues and seedlings are crowded out by those self seeders!



HortSoc members visit Kew (Photo: Alison Seabrook Moore)

## A busy calendar for Horticultural Society

CHRISTINE GEISSMAR

**R**esidents across the Suburb have been enjoying a spectacular burst of spring colour, as cherry blossoms, magnolias and wisteria come into bloom. Thanks to generations of thoughtful planting, local streets and gardens are now at their seasonal best, offering uplifting views for anyone taking a stroll.

Particularly worth visiting are the planters and orchard at Lyttelton Playing Fields, Central Square, and the well-tended beds in Northway Gardens. Many Suburb locals agree the area has rarely looked better.

**SOCIETY IN FULL SWING**  
The HGS Horticultural Society has also been making the most of the season, hosting a series of well-attended talks and workshops.

A recent Luscious Lawns session by Geoff Hodge gave practical advice on tackling moss, improving aeration, and timing seasonal lawn care. Meanwhile, a hands-on hedge maintenance workshop led by Frank Hawkins saw members trimming and reshaping hedges around the

Kid's Garden, learning techniques to encourage healthier growth.

Container gardening was another highlight, with experts from Sunshine Garden Centre demonstrating how to create eye-catching displays using a mix of focal, supporting and trailing plants.

Members also enjoyed a sunny guided visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, conducted by local resident Ann Lissauer who is an official Kew guide and HortSoc member.

Highlights included the vast arboretum and the striking Great Broad Walk Borders – thought to be among the longest herbaceous borders in the world.

Each event concluded with informal refreshments at Fellowship House, giving members the chance to socialise and share ideas.

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
There is no shortage of upcoming events for gardening enthusiasts:  
• 10 May – Annual Plant Sale at Fellowship House, featuring discounted plants and home-grown contributions from members (members from 10.00am, public from 10.30am);  
• 17 May – Open Gardens at 92

and 100 Hampstead Way, part of the National Garden Scheme;

• 30 May – Coach trip to Oxford (now fully booked);  
• 1 June – Ikebana Flower-arranging Workshop at St Jude's Church;  
• 13 June – Annual Flower Show at the Free Church Hall.

A special evening event on 15 June will feature well-known gardener Sarah Raven alongside author Adam Nicolson, with discounted tickets available to HGS HS members.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
The Society is run entirely by volunteers and is calling for extra help, particularly ahead of the June Flower Show and for ongoing maintenance of the Centenary Bed outside Fellowship House.

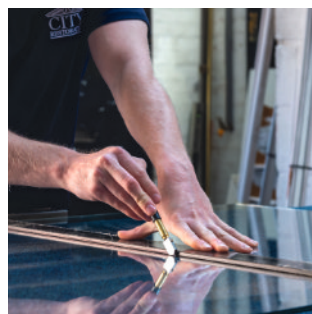
**COMMUNITY IN BLOOM**  
With its packed programme and flourishing surroundings, the HGS Horticultural Society continues to play a key role in bringing the community together.

Residents are encouraged to take part in upcoming events, or simply enjoy the vibrant displays that make spring in the suburb such a special time.

Happy gardening!

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# The Garden Suburb Library

COLIN GREGORY

70 years ago, on 4 June 1956, Mr JD Reynolds, Borough Librarian, reported to the Public Libraries Committee of Finchley Borough Council that shop premises at 15 The Market Place would shortly become vacant and would be very suitable for a branch library. The Committee approved the idea, but with typical local government caution set up a sub-committee to investigate. In due course the idea was approved and the new Garden Suburb Library opened early in 1957. I like to think this was partly due to the fact that my great uncle, Councillor Reginald Norman, a member of the Borough's Finance Committee, was invited to join the sub-committee. The Borough agreed a lease with Co-partnership Tenants Ltd at a rent of £500 per annum.

1957 was the year of the Suburb's Golden Jubilee, the celebration of which culminated in a visit by Princess Margaret on 2 July. By 1957 Finchley already had three public libraries: at North Finchley (1936), East Finchley (1938) and Hendon Lane (1939). In the early days of the Suburb, Finchley Urban District Council (it became a Borough in 1933) was much less supportive of the Suburb's ambitions for a publicly-funded library. Finchley's first public library had opened at Seymour Terrace on the High Street in 1896. Before that John Miles, a publisher and bookseller, had set up a small lending library under the aegis of St James' Church school in Friern Barnet Lane in 1854, which continued until at least 1937. The Barnet Borough Times tells us that the books would have most likely been 'of an improving nature.' This would have met with the approval of Henrietta Barnett. She and her husband Samuel were active campaigners for library facilities when they lived in Whitechapel. When they moved there in the 1870s it was an area of appalling poverty and overcrowding. Samuel campaigned for a free library. As there were many Jewish immigrants in the area, his promotional leaflet was in Yiddish as well as English. The foundation stone of the new Whitechapel Library was laid by the Lord Mayor of London in July 1891. From the beginning Hebrew books and papers

were provided, the library later holding the largest collection of Jewish books in any UK public library.

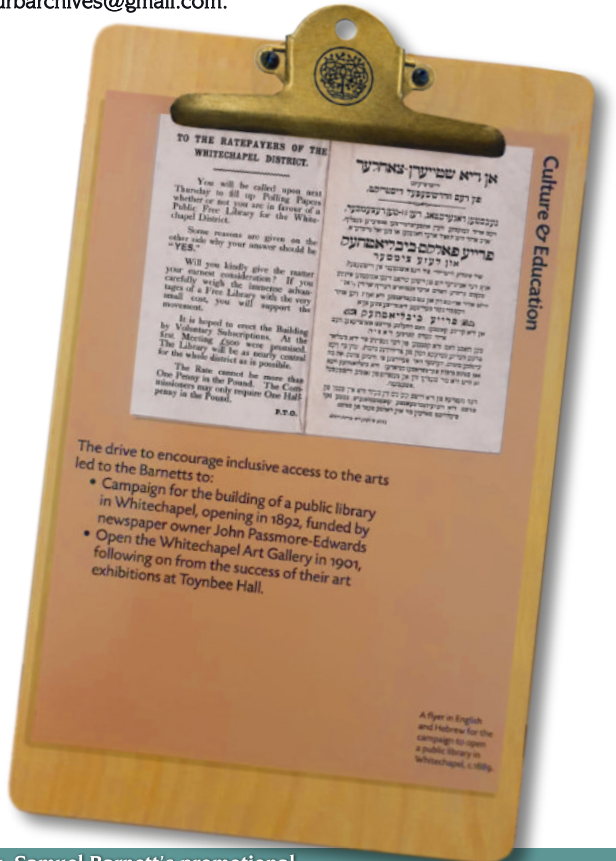
The philanthropist John Passmore Edwards provided a substantial donation. Another philanthropist with a strong interest in libraries was Andrew Carnegie. Born in Scotland he moved to the USA in 1848 and became one of the world's richest men by expanding the American steel industry. Over 2,500 libraries were established with his money, including 660 in Great Britain and Ireland. He met Henrietta Barnett and personally promised her a donation of £7,000 to establish a library in the Suburb; but it never came about. In her book *The Story of the Growth of Hampstead Garden Suburb 1907-1928*, Henrietta Barnett describes the story as too painful to relate. What happened? We will probably never know, as the records that survive are colourless and bland.

Early Suburb residents were quick to establish a voluntary library. Following a meeting in March 1908, residents were invited to contribute spare books and a library was opened in March 1909 in the Workmen's Hall, on the corner of Temple Fortune Hill and Willifield Way (where early church services were held). It quickly expanded and after a proposal that it be taken over by the Residents' Association foundered, it moved to the new Club House on Willifield Way, where Fellowship House is now. A second library was established at the Institute (now The Henrietta Barnett School). Books you could borrow there included *Alcohol and the Human Body*, by Sir Victor Horsley and Dr May Sturge, and *Training of the Young in the Laws of Sex*, by Edward Lyttelton, headmaster of Eton College and brother of Alfred, first chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. There was also a music library, including gifts from Sir Henry Wood, founder of what are now the BBC Proms, and a children's library.

You can find out more about Suburb Archives by writing to suburbarchives@gmail.com.



The Club House Library (Photo: Suburb Archives)



Rev. Samuel Barnett's promotional leaflet for a free library in Whitechapel, on display at Toynbee Hall (Photo: Colin Gregory)

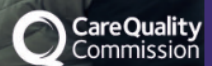
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# Fly Me To The Moon

JONATHAN WAXMAN

First released in 1954, Fly Me To The Moon – as re-recorded by Frank Sinatra – became the sound track to the Apollo missions of the 1960s and was played on a Sony Walkman on Apollo 11.

The Apollo space exploration was announced by US President John F Kennedy at Rice University Texas in 1961. In that speech he announced his intention that NASA would land a man on the moon before 1970 with these rousing words: "We choose to go

to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

And indeed, although JFK did not live to see the fruits of his efforts, on the Apollo 11 mission, NASA did indeed land Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon in July 1969 – the first occasion on which humans had ever set foot anywhere other than on earth.

Apollo 17 in 1972 was the end of the Apollo missions and since that time, although we have had many other space achievements,

we have never been back to the moon.

NASA's Artemis (Greek goddess of the moon) programme is changing all that. The successful Artemis 2 flight of April 2026 was the first time that humans had flown to the moon and back for more than 50 years, setting the stage for a series of missions that will establish a permanent human presence on the moon – a moon base.

Artemis 2 launched on 1 April from Florida, did two loops of the earth at high earth orbit and then headed off to the moon on its 10 day mission, carrying its crew of four astronauts.

The astronauts travelled around the far side of the moon that we never see from earth; the moon is tidally locked to earth, meaning we always see the same face of the moon. They made important observations that will inform our future plans and, in particular, added information that will assist in the design of the moon base. Movingly, Hansen named a new observed crater Carroll after Wiseman's late wife, who died of cancer in 2020.

NASA is setting out on the Artemis programme under the new leadership of the incredible entrepreneur/pilot Jared Isaacman, who will push the organisation to its limits. Cadence is increasing with a focus on standardisation and learning. In 2027, Artemis 3 is planned, to test interoperability with commercial landers SpaceX and Blue Origin which will be central to increased ambition and capability. SpaceX has demonstrated the value and importance of reusability,

achieving a current launch/land cadence of 200 flights per year and NASA will be looking to emulate that. By 2028, NASA plans two Artemis missions to land crews on the surface of the moon and to establish a permanent human presence on the moon.

This story sort of brackets my own life. I was born shortly after JFK's bold declaration and one of my earlier memories is of watching, with my dad, on a tiny black and white Sony TV, Neil and Buzz set foot on the moon for the first time with the immortal words "One small step for man, one giant step for mankind." Now nearly six decades later, we set sail again with new ambition for the exploration of the moon and then on to Mars. Exciting days.

Is this story local news? Well, that depends on how you look at 'local'. In Douglas Adams' Hitch Hiker's Guide to The Galaxy, the Vogon ship commander berates humanity for not having looked at the plans for the new hyperspatial express highway that required the demolition of earth.

"After all", he points out, "the plans were lodged at your local planning office at Alpha Centauri for the past fifty years – and that is only four light years away from you. If you can't be bothered to take an interest in local affairs, that's your own lookout."

HGS Space will be holding regular meetings to ensure accountability and that we stay on track! Details to boldly follow...



The crew of Artemis-2 ready to board – they should look more nervous. L to R: Jeremy Hansen (Canadian newbie), Vic Glover (Pilot), Reid Weisman (Captain), Christina Koch (Mission Science Specialist). Other than Hansen all are experienced astronauts from tours on the International Space Station (Photo: NASA)



1 April: We have liftoff! The Orion spaceship on top of the SLS rocket (Photo: NASA)



10 April: Landing in the Pacific Ocean. Safely back home! (Photo: NASA)



Koch looking out at earth from Orion's main window (Photo: NASA)

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I am delighted to tell readers that the HGS Virtual Museum goes from strength to strength. After a year of planning and consolidation we welcome two new dynamic Trustees to our Board. We are planning new collections

and one of our new Trustees, Michael Eleftheriades, also has plans for exciting developments in the Museum. Here is his Virtual Tour update along with some stunning photography. *Judy Smith, Chair HGS Virtual Museum*

## HGS Virtual Tour Update

MICHAEL ELEFTHERIADES  
HGS VIRTUAL MUSEUM TRUSTEE

In the article in the Summer 2024 issue of Suburb News, I mentioned the completion of the first phase of the HGS Virtual Tour, which covered St Jude's. I am pleased to announce that, two years later, the tour is approximately four times larger and now includes the whole of Central Square and surrounding streets, The Henrietta Barnett School, the Free Church and the Free Church Hall.

The virtual tour's expandability enables the addition of limitless new locations and information. I have incorporated my first ever panorama, taken from the bell tower of Henrietta Barnett School in 2017. The image does not have the quality of images taken with more recent equipment but the unusual view of Central Square more than compensates and is definitely worth a visit.

In November 2015 Storm Barney raged over the Suburb and brought down the cockerel and fish weathervane from the spire of St Jude's. Six years later scaffolding was erected around the spire for maintenance work and to replace the weathervane. This provided the perfect opportunity in 2021 to capture the Suburb from the highest vantage point, although I have to admit that I had a large dose of vertigo when climbing up the steep ladders! I am pleased that these panoramas have been incorporated into the tour because everyone can now experience for themselves the incredible and special view of the whole of the Hampstead Garden Suburb. I hope that readers will welcome this opportunity to virtually climb the spire and maybe even try to locate their home.

For privacy reasons, people that happen to be nearby are removed and number plates from cars are erased. Additionally, those working on the spire, as well as myself, had to be digitally removed, not just for the above reasons, but also because it reinforces the experience of navigating through the spaces on your own. In addition to the imagery, a large amount of historical information and facts on the architecture and buildings, both interior and exterior is included.

### HOW TO USE GUIDE

The Virtual Tour can be accessed using the link: [vr.hgsvm.org.uk](http://vr.hgsvm.org.uk).

Once loaded, drag your mouse (or finger) to navigate around the panorama. Pinch in to zoom in or pinch out to zoom out. Click on the white targets to move location or the (i) button to display the information panel. Click on the three dots at the bottom of the screen to display the controller icons and zoom in/out, stop/start the auto rotation, or go into full screen mode. If using on a mobile phone or tablet you can also set Gyroscope Mode from here which enables navigation using the motion of your device. This is useful when using with a basic VR viewer such as Google Cardboard.

If you have a virtual reality headset, you can enable VR mode using the same controller for an incredible, fully immersive experience. Use the wands that came with your headset to navigate and interact, however, on more up to date headsets you can do away with these and just use your hands which will appear virtually on the screen. Point your hands to the target and then bring your finger and thumb together to 'click'.

### FINAL WORDS

Our plan for the future is to expand the virtual tour to other notable buildings and locations in the Suburb as well as to include

additional information. We would welcome any feedback and your views. Please also inform us on anything notable or unusual about your property or location

you would wish us to include. We hope that everyone, including people from outside the Suburb, will experience and learn from this project and the area we are so

privileged to enjoy. If you have any information or suggestions you think we'd like to hear, or further information from us, please email me at: [medias@me.com](mailto:medias@me.com).





(Top left) View of Central Square from Henrietta Barnett School Clock Tower with fisheye lens  
 (Top above) View of Henrietta Barnett School, with target and information buttons showing  
 (Above) St Jude's Spire Interior, an example of an inaccessible place you can visit virtually  
 (Below) View of the Suburb looking east from St Jude's spire



(All photos: Michael Eleftheriades)

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# Cooking rooted in the flavours of northern Mexico

KARLA ZAZUETA

I am originally from Baja California in Mexico, and I have been living in London for the past 20 years, with the last 14 spent in Hampstead Garden Suburb. Cooking has always been a big part of my life, and for me it is much more than just preparing food; it is about sharing, gathering and creating a sense of home.

Over the years, I have loved cooking for my family and friends, often hosting gatherings in our garden. Those moments, sitting around the table and sharing food and conversation, eventually inspired me to start my Mexican supper club. Now, on the last Saturday of every month, I welcome guests into my dining room and cook a seasonal menu inspired by the food I grew up with.

My cooking is rooted in the flavours of northern Mexico, fresh,

vibrant, and full of character. I focus on dishes like ceviches, tacos, tostadas, and salsas, using recipes that come from my family and the coastal traditions of Baja California. The food I cook is healthy, comforting and designed to be shared, bringing people together in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Alongside my supper clubs, I also run Mexican cooking classes from a small studio in my home. In these classes, people learn how to cook authentic Mexican food from scratch and at the end we all sit together to enjoy what we have prepared. One of the things I enjoy most is showing people that Mexican cooking is not complicated or difficult; it can be simple, approachable, and full of flavour when you use the right techniques and ingredients.

Since I started writing my blog, many wonderful opportunities

have come my way. I have been fortunate to develop recipes for newspapers and magazines, and more recently to publish my first cookbook, *Nortefia*. It has been an unexpected journey, rooted in a love of sharing the food of my home.

For this column, I would love to share recipes and stories that bring a taste of Mexico to the table. Prawn ceviche and green aguachile are perfect examples – fresh, vibrant dishes that are ideal for summer. Both are light, full of flavour, and can easily be made using ingredients found in most supermarkets, making them accessible as well as delicious.

I would also love to welcome readers to experience my food in person, whether at a supper club or around the table in one of my cooking classes.

Karla is a Mexican Cookbook Author  
IG@mexicanfoodmemories  
[www.mexicanfoodmemories.co.uk](http://www.mexicanfoodmemories.co.uk)

## Guacamole

Serves 6

### Ingredients

5 ripe Hass avocados  
1 small onion, finely diced  
2 limes  
20g fresh coriander, finely chopped  
1 jalapeño, finely diced  
1 tsp salt  
1 tbsp olive oil

### Method

Halve the avocados, remove the stones and scoop the flesh into a bowl. Mash lightly with a fork or potato masher, keeping some texture.

Toss the onion with the juice of 1 lime and leave for 2 minutes to soften.

Add the onion, coriander and jalapeño to the avocado. Squeeze in the remaining lime juice, then stir in the salt and olive oil.

Taste and adjust seasoning if needed. Serve immediately with tortilla chips.

## Refried Pinto Beans

Serves 4

### Ingredients

4 tbsp sunflower oil or pork lard  
50g onion, finely chopped  
1 garlic clove, finely chopped  
400g tin pinto beans, with their liquid  
½ tsp salt  
50g queso fresco or feta, crumbled

### Method

Heat the oil or lard in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook for 3–4 minutes until softened.

Add the pinto beans with their liquid and the salt. Bring to a simmer. Mash with a potato masher for a chunky texture, or blend for smooth beans.

Cook over low heat for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until thickened.

Transfer to a serving dish and top with crumbled queso fresco or feta. Serve warm.

**Tip:** Use a neutral oil rather than olive oil so the flavour of the beans stands out.

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Photo: Karla Zazueta

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