

Suburb News

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

FRANK PICK

Find out what former resident Frank Pick is doing at Piccadilly Circus tube, p23.



More tea vicar? Revd. Em chats to Suburb News about her plans for St Jude's, p10

Prof. James Holz and Punch, flushed with Summer Fair success, reveal their love of the Suburb, p12



HGS – a place rich in culture (and so much more)

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

We live in an area, not only of natural beauty, but one that is rich in culture too and this was never more evident than over this past summer. The Proms at St Jude's, LitFest, the Hejira concert, the HGS Art Fair and Fellowship's wonderful offerings were just some of the highlights covered in this issue. A veritable feast for the senses, with plenty more to come throughout the Autumn – the Duo Recital at the Free Church (p17), Fellowship's Autumn Chamber Concert Series (p18), Mill Hill Music Club's new season of concerts at Henrietta Barnett School, Garden Suburb Theatre's free performance of Mike Bartlett's Bull and The London International Concert Orchestra's autumn season at the Free Church (p20).

Suburb residents are engaged in a wide variety of interests and activities. Our intrepid reporter, Judy Marcus, tries out open water swimming (p3) and reports back from her trip to Argentina (p4). Newbie HGS resident, Prof James Holz, tells us all about the origins of Punch and Judy (p12) – his show was a huge hit with all ages at this year's RA Summer Fair (RA Review pp8 & 9). Read Stephen Wander's interview with our very own cabaret star and HGS resident, Nigel Osner (p11) and find out what Revd. Em, St Jude's new Priest in Charge, is planning for the Suburb community (p10).

Oh and please don't forget to enter this year's Suburb News Photo Competition. There are prizes to be won and a chance to have your photo printed in the next issue of Suburb News! (details on p23).



Alpenhorn at Family Festival (Photo: Susie Gregson)



Photo: Einav Sitton

ENERGY CRISIS? STRATOSPHERIC MORTGAGE RATES? HYPER-INFLATION? YES, ALL TRUE, BUT WE ARE STILL ABLE TO PULL RABBITS OUT OF THE HAT!

To say that we at Glentree are hardy perennials, is an understatement. We have seen-off four recessions over the last 50 years and we intrinsically understand how to get the best value for your home in the Suburb, regardless of the economic backdrop.

Whether you live in a cottage or castle, we can procure quality buyers/tenants for you. They are not just plucked from the local area, using our global contacts, we are able to procure them from much further afield, which ensures that you obtain maximum value for your family home.

If you have not used us before, may we invite you to contact us.

We are at your service and reassuringly, we always deliver on our promises.



07831 339699

www.glentree.com

Garden Suburb Infant School raises funds under the stars

JOANNE GOULD

Garden Suburb Infant School children got a taste of festival fun when the school field was transformed into a colourful camp site for the annual Summer Camp, thanks to the Infant School PTA. Families set up camp and decorated their tents to be in with a chance to win the 'best dressed tent' accolade, then went on to enjoy freshly made pizzas from local restaurants Amaretto and That's Amore, and toast marshmallows over the roaring, and carefully supervised, camp fire.

Many local businesses kindly provided prizes for the raffle and parent volunteers helped staff the bar, crafts and face painting stalls. Children got into the festival spirit as they danced barefoot to music provided by international DJ (and Garden Suburb School parent) Betoko, before settling around the

camp fire to listen to head teacher Sarah Sands read a bedtime story ahead of their night of sleeping under the stars.

Thankfully the weather was on the campers' side and attendees had a mostly dry and restful night under canvas. Morning brought more fun and activities, along with a breakfast generously provided by Gail's of Temple Fortune.

The event raised an impressive £2,000 of funds for the PTA, which will provide much-needed resources for the school. The school's next major purchases from PTA funds are new computers for the children and bikes for the playground. Head teacher Sarah Sands said, "The Summer Camp is always a fun occasion in Garden Suburb Infant School's calendar and no doubt the children will have some special memories from this year's event as well as generating crucial funds for our school."



Synthesis (heavy chain) (Photo: Royal Free Charity)

Art installation in the Pears Building

PHILIPPA HUTCHINSON

Following on from our Royal Free Charity article in Suburb News, issue 152, a sculpture that pays tribute to the work of scientists undertaking the UK's most advanced research into the human immune system has been installed in the Pears Building. The building, which is home to the Royal Free Hospital, is home to the UCL Institute of Immunology and Transplantation (IIT).

The sculpture, entitled 'Synthesis (heavy chain)', recounts all the genetic code variations possible for human protein creation. It incorporates a representation of the natural human antibody to SARS-COVID-2, which was identified by IIT researchers.

The sculpture was created by New Zealand artist David Rickard. David said, "Drawing on research to inform the sculpture, I wanted to work with our relationship to the space we occupy. It's a dance between the form of the work and the information gathered in it. There are almost 1,000 links and they represent chains as language and connection, particularly the connections between researchers in this building and their wider research communities."

The sculpture, commissioned by UCL Public Art, has been suspended from the exposed concrete ceiling above the atrium. It is visible from the reception and the atrium café and the academic areas on the first floor, creating a link between the different functions of the building.



Switch to Eco-heating for a greener world.

Whether you're looking to install a heat pump, learn about the technology or just want to visit our showroom in Mill Hill East (a short trip from the Suburb), we're here to give you the ultimate service.

 Heatpumps

020 8346 8000
www.heatpumps.london

Flooding in the Suburb: a growing problem

DR NICKY NAFTALIN OBE

Since moving into a property in Wildwood Road in 2007, our home has been flooded on four separate occasions. Many neighbouring properties in the vicinity have also been affected. All the events have taken place in July/August following exceedingly heavy downpours. The last such event was in July 2021 when half a month's rain fell in just a few hours. Climate change has made such incidents more common. On 6 November 2022 another downpour occurred, coming within a few centimetres of causing a fifth episode of flooding. Needless to say, the disruption caused by flooding lasts many, many months, and the cost of repair (even if covered by insurance) is substantial.

The storm in November 2022 turned Wildwood Road into a raging torrent coursing from the Hampstead Way end down to the roundabout, at which point the torrent split into two with half continuing down Wildwood Road in the direction of Meadway, and the other half diverting into Kingsley Way. Fortunately, on that occasion the storm was sufficiently short-lived, such that flooding was avoided – but it was touch and go. The gullies (drains) all down Wildwood Road were completely overwhelmed and water was even emerging from some of the manholes. It was clear that there was no capacity available to divert the excessive water flow and very

many houses in the area of the lower part of Wildwood Road and Kingsley Way were at serious risk of flooding.

There is an urgent need to fix this situation before its inevitable re-occurrence. A system to divert the flow from the hilly part of Wildwood Road before it gets down to the roundabout is required. The flow is predominantly on the Heath side of the road, and the Heath itself is, for much of the length of the road, some six to twelve feet below the level of the road, so technically it should not be difficult to create such a diversion. On that side of the road there are no properties for much of the length of the road and there are some existing ditches running



Cars wade through floodwater (Photo: Anthony Bernstein)

away from the road. There is also a pond at one point, halfway down the road some 50 metres away.

Communication with The Barnet Highway Team over the last nine months has not been a productive exercise. It has been facilitated by Councillor Rohit Grover, but such response as has been received has suggested only that they are looking at building a number of new gullies. It is not clear how that would help when the water volume delivered to the main drainage system under the road is demonstrably incapable at present of coping with the inflow from the existing number of gullies.

It is not for the residents to dictate solutions to what is obviously a very complex problem, but there is a desperate need for communication, and for the residents to know that this issue is being taken seriously. How many more episodes of flooding have to occur before effective action is taken?

There will be an item on this issue on the agenda of the September meeting of the East Area Committee of Barnet Council. I have submitted a petition with the requisite number of signatures on it. Councillor Mike Mire is a member and would be supportive. The meeting is in public and concerned residents have the right to speak. The meeting will be on Tuesday 19 September at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BQ, from 7.00pm till 8pm. Please come and add your support.

New Chair for HGS U3A

MYKE JACOBS

HGS U3A provides activities for those no longer in full-time employment in Hampstead Garden Suburb and adjoining areas. Founded in 2017, it now runs over 50 interest groups for more than 575 members; see more at hgsu3a.uk. Carole Spiers has been appointed Chair of the Trustees in succession to Richard Abramson, who filled that role for the previous two years, following the sad death of Jack Berkovi.

CEO and Founder of Carole Spiers Group, Carole is recognised as a world-leading authority on well-being and stress at work. Welcomed on board by the existing

trustees, Carole said "I wholeheartedly support the values upheld by HGS U3A and recognise the significant impact it has on our society. As their newly appointed Chair, I feel a deep sense of pride and humility."

Organised once again by Joint Vice-Chairs Tina Stanton and Malcolm Brahams, HGS U3A held a very successful Open Day in the Free Church on 13 July. Richard Abramson said "We are delighted that, as a direct result of our Open Day, 29 new members have joined HGS U3A."

More than 40 of the operating groups were represented by their group leaders and prospective and existing members had the



New Chair, Carole Spiers (Photo: Myke Jacobs)

opportunity to talk to them and find out more about their groups' activities. HGS U3A continues to grow and is looking to create new groups for new and existing members to join.

Central Square tennis courts: join the debate

There are four free-to-use tennis courts, for use by residents, on Central Square: two on the square itself, which can be booked on the Trust website (hgstrust.org) and two down the passageway to Willifield Way, which have been locked and allowed to fall into disrepair. HGS Trust is considering turning one of the lower courts into a 'green space'. There have been calls for the restoration of the lower courts for sports use. What do you think? Points to consider are:

1. Is access to the courts from Central Square and Willifield Way too steep?*
2. Are the courts too isolated?*
3. Do we need more 'green space'?
4. Not everyone can afford to join a club and not everyone wants to meet the constraints of club membership. At a time when we are all being encouraged to take more exercise, would you be in favour of proper maintenance of the tennis courts?

*The Trust's view.

Join the debate and send your thoughts to simon@hgstrust.org and copy in me at isabelleficker@hotmail.com. Or you can attend the Trust AGM on 20 September.

Isabelle Ficker



Anyone for... open water swimming?

JUDY MARCUS

A couple of weeks ago my friend Kati asked me to join her for a swim at the Hampstead Heath Women's Pond. Open water swimming is not an activity I would have independently thought to do.

It's not that I don't like to swim, but open water (or wild) swimming just wasn't on my radar. I wondered why? Was it because I felt it was for people with politically charged views, or for radical supporters of a women-only space, or only for seriously sporty people? Basically, not for people like me. However, as the weather was uncomfortably hot, a cold dip seemed to make a good deal of sense. I was eager to join in.

There was already a queue when we arrived in the early

morning. There were women in their 20s and 30s and quite a few of 50 plus. Everyone was patient despite the intense heat. When we got to the front of the queue, we showed our tickets and walked to the water via two 'meadows' – grassy areas with sun worshippers chatting quietly. It was a very gentle vibe.

Getting into the cold water was actually anti-climactic. I think the water had probably been kept tepid by the unusually hot weather we'd had all week. It certainly wasn't the shocking chill I'd been expecting.

Once immersed in the water, it was very serene. Areas of the pond had been roped off, allowing nesting for ducklings. I pointed out an unusual looking bird flying over our heads saying, "It's a stork, maybe?" A lady swimming by corrected me: "It's a cormorant

– they are often here." We got chatting as we swam round. She told us how she, like a lot of the swimmers, often swims here alone. She said it was hard to find like-minded friends to share her rather esoteric interest. I felt very much welcomed by the other swimmers. People are open to chat and are respectful. No back-biting here! How nice.

After a few circuits around the pond I was feeling slightly colder, a little uncomfortable and happy to come out. Despite this, my post-swim feeling of victory left me wanting more, so during subsequent hot days I went back to swim, sometimes with my friend but also by myself. A member of the 'old guard' told me it gets too crowded in the summer (I hadn't noticed particular crowding) and the best time to come is Autumn,



Photos: (above) Kati Kay (top) Denni Schnapp/flickr

particularly September and October. Then you feel like the pond is your own. I'm not sure I'll be taking up her suggestion!

From my experience, I would definitely recommend you try open water swimming. The Ladies Swimming Pond in Kenwood is a precious and rare resource. Summer swimming tickets are £4.50 and can be booked online at Eventbrite. Sales for the week go out at midday every Monday.

The Phoenix is on the rise

BEN McDONALD

Following several years of challenging trading, 2023 marked a major stage in the transformation of the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley to a successful and modern community cinema. Though admissions are still down on pre-pandemic levels, the Phoenix continues to hold successful special events including Q&As with leading film-makers.

The cinema was also the most successful venue in the country for 'Vermeer: The Greatest Exhibition', a film exploring the major retrospective on Vermeer at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, with over 2500 people attending the screenings.

The Phoenix continues to have strong links with the local community, including through groups such as N2 United, the East Finchley Festival and with local schools and other independent businesses around the High Road. Throughout the year, the Phoenix runs a full programme of community and education activities, including screenings for local schools, Into Film festival, Parent and Baby club and Captioned Screenings, alongside partnerships with Black History Walks and the UK Jewish Film Festival. The cinema also continues to be the base for a weekly free-meals initiative, organised by the N2 Food Project.

Photo: Rio, Phoenix & Act One cinemas



Since the re-opening after the pandemic, the Phoenix team has worked hard at re-establishing the Phoenix as a much-loved and valued part of its community and London's cultural life.

This year, several improvements have been made, including the installation of a new laser projector with a brighter, steadier picture. Laser projection means greater running economy, and lower power consumption. A new high-gain screen has also been installed, which creates a brighter, clearer image and brand new cinema audio amplifiers improve the sound quality, again, with far lower power consumption.

Plans are also under-way to build a second screen that would further secure the future of the cinema by allowing us to show a more diverse selection of titles. This will help the Phoenix to remain a thriving, modern and independent community cinema in north London.

G COHEN
ANTIQUE SILVER

We wish to purchase items of silver in any condition.

As a long standing resident of the Suburb, Gideon Cohen is happy to view your silverware in your home and will make an offer to purchase, free of any obligation.

17 The London Silver Vaults
53-64 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1QT
020 7404 1425 | enquiries@gcohen.co.uk
www.gcohen.co.uk



In this series Suburb News spotlights the independent shopkeepers of Market Place

SIMONE HALFIN

Greg Sar has worked at Bekem's Food Store for five years. Originally from Russia, he and his wife, Lilya, came over to England 15 years ago. Greg started working at Bekem's during lockdown to help Lilya, the general manager. Greg started out stacking shelves, then worked on the till and organised rotas for the staff. He is now an assistant manager. Greg feels he really learnt the job properly during

lockdown because he had to help with everything, such as stocking the shelves with fresh fruit from the market, to kosher, vegan, organic and gluten-free items, as well as toiletries, household goods, wines, and spirits. I remarked that there seemed to be much more of a variety now but Greg says it only looks that way as they are finally back to what it was before Covid and Brexit.

Bekem's was established in 2016 and is owned by Mr Bekem himself (he also owns Coffee

Temptations). Mr Bekem originally ran a smaller convenience store called Rose, which some readers may remember. He chose Market Place simply because it seemed a good spot to work in! His aim is to maintain the current business model for a few more years till things settle down globally, as he feels the whole industry has been badly affected.

Greg takes special pride in the fresh fruits and vegetables which are delivered at 5am by a dedicated driver who picks them up from the market. There is a staff of five with a couple working all night as Bekem is open 24/7.

During lockdown, it was the first shop in the Market Place to offer help to local residents unable to go shopping and deliver

whatever was needed. Most of his customers are regulars; if they want something that is not in the store Greg will try and stock it. He feels the visualisation of the merchandising side of things needs improving – in fact, you may have noticed the redesigned window display, courtesy of Lilya – which now has a host of eye-catching items on sale. Greg would like to see Bekem's offering more items that are unique to them. He likes it when customers come in and tell him they are delighted to see something that they can't get anywhere else. They are currently trying to source suppliers for 'ready to go' fresh sandwiches.

I am sure you will all agree Bekem's Food Store is a real asset to the area.



Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury

Don't cry for Argentina

JUDY MARCUS

On a recent bucket list visit to Argentina, our taxi driver provided an interesting insight into the country's philosophy. He explained that, as inflation has climbed 7% per month for the last few months, working people were living off loans which they also used to pay for their weekly supermarket shop. A working week's salary has little real worth. Our driver opined that despite this Argentinians "laugh and smile" as though nothing's wrong.

I gathered from this description that the Argentinians' view is to

focus on making a celebration from everyday life, even when that life is harsh. Travelling on the Buenos Aires underground the next morning I had an experience of this zeitgeist. A busker came into the carriage and played his saxophone (it's common here for buskers to perform on the train). Everyone clapped enthusiastically – I think in London he would have been politely tolerated.

A few stops later, a violinist with superstar looks arrived on board. His piece was a really fast étude; I'm no classical music buff, but to me it was jaw-droppingly good and he received rapturous applause as he passed round his hat before leaping off, violin and hat stashed under his arm. Everyone in the carriage felt they had shared something great. There was a feeling of cheer and people chatted animatedly.

Travelling on the overground train near a local football stadium later that week, we experienced some football fans celebrating their team's win, playing trumpets and horns and singing. I think here we would feel threatened being crowded in a train with a group of noisy football fans post-match, and we would think they were most probably drunk. These football fans were not drunk, just joyful and loud. Their co-passengers let them have their exuberance and enjoy their celebrations.

The taxi driver told us that after Argentina's World Cup victory, everything stopped for three days, most of the time the roads were traffic-free and everyone was out celebrating wholeheartedly without inhibition.

I loved the spirit of exuberance so much and I was really sad to leave Buenos Aires. After our flight home to rainy old England, I felt deflated. However, I was uplifted upon hearing my Argentinian co-passengers clapping heartily, celebrating a successful landing and appreciating the pilot's work.

It's easy to fall for the sunny, cheerful South American atmosphere and forget the

suffering that lies beneath – recent history and the troubled economy shows that the Argentinians have much to be in anguish over. However, perhaps we can learn a thing or two from this attitude and, in our own troubled times, forget the stiff upper lip and find joy in the small everyday things.

In any case, I won't be crying for Argentina any time soon.



Me and my husband Adrian in Buenos Aires in front of the solar powered moving flower sculpture (Photo: A friendly passer by)



UK Top 20 Home Care Group 5 years in a row

"It helps me a lot knowing I have someone to get my shopping for me each week."

★★★★★ -Jim

- Wellbeing
- Personal care
- Dementia care
- Companionship
- Household tasks
- Outings & activities
- Medication support

Regulated by Care Quality Commission

Wage Living Wage Employer

TOP 20 HOME CARE GROUP

Call us on 0208 064 0240

camden@radfieldhomecare.co.uk
www.radfieldhomecare.co.uk



N2's other Market Place

A flagship project to make East Finchley green again

SAMANTHA HAYCOCK

Market Place Playground next to the Archer Academy, is a half-acre of crumbling tarmac and dated equipment, surrounded by high density housing. It seems an unlikely place to begin a green revolution in the London Borough of Barnet.

In the second lockdown, the playground provided a vital service as the only outside space many East Finchley residents could access (61% live in flats).

During early 2021, locals discovered that Barnet Council rated it 'low value/low quality', placing the site at risk of development. A group of parents formed a Friends group to save and improve it.

The pandemic drove home the importance of nature and outside play – both are essential for children's mental and physical health. And it was clear from the Friends survey of 337 residents that users wanted more trees, planting and a community garden. A natural space could be a place for all ages to enjoy.

The Friends group enlisted the support of child-friendly design expert Tim Gill as well as local councillors and N2's lottery-

funded Grange Big Local project. Having secured initial council grants, they commissioned a new design from the renowned team of Aileen Shackell and Phil Doyle. Their beautiful proposed layout replaces a polluted tarmac hotspot with a natural haven, full of challenging play equipment for all ages.

Net Zero initiatives are often seen as 'sacrifices' – expensive inconveniences we have to tolerate for the sake of protecting our climate. But creating pockets of green space in our community has no downsides. Pollinator walks, communal gardens and natural playgrounds promote biodiversity, create shade, provide drainage and help offset air pollution as well as making where we live nicer.

Over £370,000 has been raised; fund-raising initiatives include a screening with Bill Nighy at N2's Phoenix Cinema. The proposed layout has planning consent and the tender process is about to begin. The Friends group would love to share their knowledge and experience with others who want to 'green' our public spaces.

For more information and to sign up to our mailing list visit: friendsofmarketplace.org.uk.



Summer play at Market Place Playground (Photo: Monica Wells)



Bill Nighy tries out the swing in the playground (Photo: James Vernon)



Signature
AT HENDON HALL

Luxury living, exceptional care

At Signature, we know that the only person who can decide what a luxurious care home looks like is you. That's why we're inviting you to join us for a short stay, so you can get to know us - and we can get to know what will delight you most.

Ideal for respite or convalescence, a short break is a great chance to enjoy everything that Signature has to offer. Whether you prefer an evening G&T in the garden, a game of Bridge or a salsa class, an indulgent salon session or good movie in our cinema, come and experience what life at Signature is like for yourself.

RESIDENTIAL | NURSING | DEMENTIA CARE | RESPITE

To book your personal show round, please contact the Client Liaison Managers on 020 3394 0486 or email enquiries.hendon@signaturel.co.uk

signature-care-homes.co.uk

SCAN
FOR THE
LATEST
EVENT
DETAILS



Signature at Hendon Hall, Ashley Lane, Hendon, London NW4 1HF

RA REVIEW

RA Summer Fair 2023

EMMA HOWARD HGSRA CHAIR

Thankfully, the forecast rains held off for the Saturday 15 July summer fair on Central Square. The downpours of the previous day had the organisers ready to decamp into St Jude's Church, but in the event not a drop fell, although the high winds were challenging. Fortunately, the gazebos stayed firmly in place, having been expertly pitched by Adrian Hodgson, RA Event Chair,

and his helpers. The invigorating sounds of the Barnet Brass Band wafted across the Square, the musicians apparently undeterred by the flapping of their sheet music.

The Punch and Judy shows kept children and adults alike entertained with lots of topical and interactive humour. The coconut shy was a hit, and the table tennis table proved popular despite the challenge of the strong gusts.

Solar panels fuelled the coffee and tea urns at the magnificent

cake stall run by Henrietta Barnett School PTA volunteers. With thanks to Next Day Solar for the solar energy, and the children's educational activities. Cakes provided by Lola's were a real triumph and my eight-month-old dog adored the 'pup' cakes.

The plant stall, face painting, Pimms for the parents, and a professional photographer added to the jollities.

Thanks to everyone who made this fun community day possible.



Photo: Peter McCluskie



Photo: Michael Eleftheriades



Photo: Michael Eleftheriades



Photo: Michael Eleftheriades

RA grant news

One of the most rewarding aspects of being involved with the running of the RA is that we regularly award grants to deserving local organisations. We welcome applications from those supporting the local community with a strong link to HGS. Our grant application form and further details can be found on our website hgsra.uk on the home page, via the Grant Application button.

This year we sponsored Proms at St Jude's Literary Festival with £3,000. Money raised by Proms goes to support Toynbee Hall and North London Hospice. You can read more about the 2023 Proms on p16.

We were delighted to receive applications from organisations that the RA has not previously supported and to be able to help support talented children. Hampstead Garden Suburb Junior School applied for a grant to meet the costs of the annual Year 6 trip to the Isle of Wight in the situation where families of children in that year would not be able financially to meet the cost themselves. We awarded this £6,850. Readers will be able to find out more about the September school trip in the December issue of Suburb News.

At the July RA Council meeting, we considered a detailed grant application from the North London Festival of Music, Speech and Drama who use the Free Church for their activities. We agreed to a grant of £1,000 for 2024 to cover the first prize for the Piano Prize Competition and to provide support for children whose families could not otherwise afford for their talented children to enter the competition. Readers may have seen the article on P.11 of the previous Suburb News, and we will provide more details of this festival, run and supported by volunteers, in forthcoming editions. You can visit their website at northlondonfestival.org.uk and sign up for their newsletter with details of events.

In 2022, the RA raised funds for the wonderful new children's playground on the Heath Extension. We received extremely generous donations and support and succeeded in raising the £48,000 required. We would now like to add to the equipment available and are looking to raise a further £10,000 this year. The RA has pledged up to £5,000 if the local community can match fund this. Gift Aid for taxpayers is available on donations made via this site: www.justgiving.com/campaign/heath-extension-play-area. Please consider a donation to help us meet our target. If you would like to discuss other ways to donate, please contact Colin Gregory at colingregory@talk21.com.

Emma Howard HGSRA Chair



The new Heath Extension playground (Photo: Emma Howard)

Litter-picking good

HELEN NAFTALIN

I love my new litter-picking stick! Yesterday I cleared my Close of litter and I am shortly going out on to the Heath Extension with my dog and see what I can do there! Grateful thanks for my picking stick."

I received this message from a new recruit to our Suburb litter-picking team who joined, having read the article in the last edition of the Suburb News. The response was so good that I asked for more picking sticks, which were promptly delivered.

So, if you would like to be able to clear litter on and around your road and help keep our wonderful corner of London cleaner and tidier, we have adult- and child-sized litter-picking sticks. If you email me at litter@hgsra.uk or hmmaftalin@gmail.com with your name, address and phone number, I'll be happy to deliver to your door!

Thank you.



Helen with her grandson JJ (Photo: Sam Naftalin)

NSS LEGAL LTD

If you would like to speak to a Private Client Solicitor regarding:

- Making a Lasting Power of Attorney so that someone can look after you if you lose capacity;
- Making a Will to pass your assets to your chosen beneficiaries when you die, taking into account tax efficiency and family dynamics;
- Advice for suitable trust structures either for lifetime inheritance tax planning or upon death in a Will Trust.

Contact NSS Legal Limited at:

www.nsslegal.co.uk

Roman House, 296 Golders Green Road

London, NW11 9PY

020 8209 1222 | info@nsslegal.co.uk

Update on application for redevelopment of Temple Fortune Health Centre

EMMA HOWARD HGSRA CHAIR

Barnet Council officials have postponed a decision on the application to redevelop the Health Centre which serves so many in our local community. The application would see the existing site redeveloped to create 11 flats to fund a brand new modernised, fit for purpose ground floor health centre. The application is available to view on the Barnet Council website planning section (reference 22/5485/FUL).

We understand that the decision has been deferred in order to enable further revision to the replacement health centre in consultation with the NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board. The two practices co-located at Temple Fortune Health Centre have for many years provided Healthcare to an ever-increasing patient list size. They have demonstrated their innovative approach to patient care in the past. They were the first medical centre in Barnet to deliver the Covid vaccination in collaboration with volunteers commencing December 2020.



Architectural Drawing, North East Elevation © GPAD London Ltd

Doctors Harverd and Grossmark, the GP site owners who have applied for the redevelopment, have commented that the new modern health centre will provide an improved modern facility fit for the 21st century.

Dr Leora Harverd says: "Karen Grossmark and I are committed to delivering primary care to the local community for decades ahead. We will ensure a smooth transition process to and from temporary premises, should planning permission be granted."

Suburb News, in cooperation with Doctors Harverd and Grossmark, will keep readers informed as the details of this ambitious new development become clearer.

Let's not fiddle while Rome burns

JONATHAN WAXMAN
HGS REACH CHAIR

In July 2021, Hampstead Garden Suburb was hit by a flash flood that saw Kingsley Way, Norrice Lea and other roads a foot deep in water within two hours. Many houses were flooded.

In summer 2022, temperatures exceeded 40°C in the UK for the first time in recent history. This summer the world experienced record heat waves across Europe, the US and Asia. Ocean surface temperatures exceeded previous records by substantial amounts, bringing large-scale damage to marine eco-systems. In the week of 22 July, Rome hit a new record temperature of 42°C while Palermo in Sicily hit 47°C, breaking the previous record of 45°C from 1999. In Turpan, China, the temperature exceeded 52°C. In Phoenix, Arizona the daily high temperature exceeded 43°C for 19 consecutive days and for days, the lowest temperature didn't fall below 32°C.

The world experienced its hottest days and weeks ever this July. By a big margin. We may have been immune to it in our wet and mild summer, but that must not allow us to be lulled into a false sense of security.

The Antarctic, the sleeping giant of our ice world, is showing signs of responding quickly to global warming. The ice that melts over the southern summer is not rebuilding as the continent heads into winter; the loss appears to be pretty massive.

These are worrying, but perhaps not surprising, statistics. We have been heating our planet up for the past 200 years by burning fossil fuels which add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. The rate at which we have been doing so has been growing, with massive CO2 emissions in the past 30 years.

It is plausibly the warmest our planet has been for 120,000 years.

However, this is not a reason to give up on tackling climate change. This is not the end of global warming: as things stand, we are in the foothills of this

change right now. We can expect temperatures exceeding 50°C in Italy and the desertification of Southern Europe if we stay on our current path.

We continue to heat our world by burning large quantities of fossil fuels and increasing the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

The solution to climate change is obvious if not easy: we must replace all our fossil fuel burning with clean energy. And this is something in which we in HGS should play our part. The single most important thing any individual can do to eliminate some of the carbon emissions that they produce is to replace their gas boiler with an air or water heat pump.

HGS Reach will be organising a heat pump hackathon this winter. We will help you get the data from your home to help you calculate how you can switch to a heat pump. We would like 400 homes to participate.

It will require a small amount of work on your part, but it will help you understand the heating requirement of and CO2 emissions from your home and to think through whether some additional insulation measures might help you and be cost-effective.

If you'd like to contact me, email environment@hgsra.uk.

Stay tuned...



Heath Extension wild flower meadow

Early in the year, the grass was removed in a section of the top field on the Heath Extension, adjacent to Hampstead Way, and a wire fence put up. It all looked pretty muddy and unattractive for a while, but then plants started to emerge and looked much greener, and I forgot about noticing it. Then after a week away in Cornwall, the wonderful spectacle of yellow daisy flowers and blue cornflowers, as well as pretty pink fringed grasses, had emerged from seemingly nowhere to brighten up our summer. The flowers are humming with insects, especially our all-important pollinators, but also moths, butterflies and other insects.

This year the grass has been kept longer on the Extension fields, and whilst it must be annoying for the footballers and rugby players, the white clover has been full of bees and insects. Apparently, the longer grass has also provided shelter enabling the vole population to thrive, and in turn this has led to barn owls returning to the Heath for the first time in 77 years. This helps to illustrate what a difference small changes can make to the success or otherwise of our wonderful natural world.

Emma Howard, HGSRA Chair



Play your part in keeping our Suburb special

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

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

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

The Suburb's first air quality monitor

RUTH RAMAN & CRAIG HALES
HGS REACH MEMBERS

If you're passing the junction of Hampstead Way and Meadway then look up – you're passing the Suburb's first air quality monitor recording the pollution at the junction of these two notorious 'rat runs.'

The solar-powered, internet-connected monitor is part of Breathe London's monitoring network installed as an initiative of HGS REACH, the RA's climate and health action group.

With live data that everyone can view online, it will provide us with valuable knowledge on air quality in the Suburb. To see the data, scan the QR code below or

go to the HGS REACH website at hgsra.uk/REACH.

The monitor records nitrogen dioxide and particulates smaller than 2.5 microns, known as PM2.5. Both are known to cause health problems, such as heart disease, at levels much lower than the UK recommended limits, especially in the elderly. Heart disease and asthma are just two of the conditions made worse by poor air.

There can be a preconception that there is no air quality problem in the Suburb because it is founded on the Garden City principles of open green spaces. However, Suburb roads are often used as short cuts during peak traffic periods, not just by cars but also coaches and lorries. We also

have the H2, drifting fumes from the North Circular and Finchley Road, and have other local emissions such as wood-burning stoves and open fires.

Better data means we can identify and address the root cause of poor air (whether from vehicles, buildings or wood burners), educate residents and inform change in HGS and the wider area.

It is still too early to make conclusions from the data – normally at least six months' data is needed. Also, traffic on the Suburb's roads decreases significantly during the summer holiday period.

HGS REACH is one of a number of community groups to



Craig Hales and Gren Manuel of HGS REACH installing the air quality monitor, with Barnet's permission (Photo: Phillip Manuel)

receive nodes from Breathe London, run by the Environmental Research Group at Imperial College London.

These monitoring nodes provide an alternative to the air quality monitoring usually undertaken by local authorities who use expensive to buy and maintain equipment. Indeed, this could be the primary reason that LB Barnet has relatively few

monitoring locations across the borough. The more affordable and easier to install sensors provide a perfect accompaniment to the expensive reference grade monitors. The Breathe London sensors are made by Clarity Movement Co. and the funding provided by The Mayor of London and Bloomberg Philanthropies.



The RA's Community Harvesting Scheme

STEVEN ROWE
TREES & OPEN SPACES CHAIR

With its own allotments and established by Dame Henrietta Barnett as part of her revolutionary vision for an environmentally and socially sound community with a fruit tree in every garden, what better place than The Orchard to now hold meetings of the RA's Trees & Open Spaces Committee? The committee is chaired by an Orchard resident and we are looking forward to building on the foundations of Daniella Levene's Barnet Community Harvesting (BCH) scheme working with their support in 2023 and

then aiming to run a self-sufficient Suburb Community Harvesting Scheme in 2024.

The aim of community harvesting is to collect surplus fruit, mainly apples and pears, from residents' gardens, allotments and from public spaces; fruit that would otherwise go to waste. We then deliver that fruit to food banks and other community causes. With our specialist tools we help fruit tree guardians access fruit which would otherwise be beyond their reach, a service we're happy to provide for less agile residents.

It's a great activity for families (children love it) and, on average, each harvest takes about an hour



Happy Harvesters (Photo: Daniella Levene)

depending on the size and number of trees and the number of volunteers. Tree climbers are always a welcome addition to a

harvesting team. Volunteers can help by separating unblemished fruit from damaged fruit that needs dealing with quickly because of insects or bruising. Damaged fruit is often perfect for jam or chutney-making, or for community apple juice pressing and there are usually a few of these days taking place across the borough. Help is also needed to distribute picked fruit to local food banks of which there are currently 22 in LB Barnet. Everyone having access to fruit is

something that Dame Henrietta clearly believed in, so if you have 'fruit to spare and are happy to share' or you want to help with harvesting (volunteer fruit pickers get to take some spoils from the harvest), please contact harvesting@hgsra.org.

For more information on all the work of the Trees & Open Spaces Committee – we welcome new volunteers to help us keep the Suburb green – please contact trees@hgsra.org.

Introducing Graham Jaffe Leasehold Enfranchisement Expert

Buying your freehold or extending your lease contact **Graham** for experienced specialist advice.

Call on **0208 209 2653**
Email gjaffe@gadlegal.co.uk



www.gadlegal.co.uk
746 Finchley Road NW11 7TH

Gregory Abrams Davidson Solicitors is a trading name of National Law Partners Limited.

GAD GREGORY ABRAMS
DAVIDSON
SOLICITORS

Maths

Combat **Learning Loss** with Expert private coaching in HGS (Meadway)

Online or face-to-face

**Common Entrance and 7+, 11+, 13+
GCSE, A level and Further Maths
STEP & MAT**

Recent successes at Westminster and St Paul's, as well as Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Highly experienced former Head of Maths with B.Sc. Maths, 1st Class hon. degree from top UK university and experience in writing 11+ materials.

1-to-1 support that will secure those A*s, grade 9s, top university, Independent or selective places.

Contact: 07811 254061

Improving pedestrian safety

at the Meadway/Hampstead Way roundabout

CLLR ROHIT GROVER

Many Suburb residents will be aware that this mini roundabout at the junction of Meadway and Hampstead Way tends to be ignored by drivers. This is because the existing layout doesn't provide any deflections on the approaches, and the faded state of the central island doesn't encourage motorists to slow down and drive around it. The current layout and speed of approaching vehicles makes it very difficult and dangerous for pedestrians to cross here, especially a problem at rush hour when people are trying to walk children safely to school.

Meadway and Hampstead Way are two of the longest roads in the Suburb. They connect the major arterial routes of the Finchley Road, North End Road and the A1, which makes this a location that experiences significant traffic volumes. Surveys have revealed that up to 700 cars cross the roundabout during the peak morning hours, while on an average day there are up to 250 pedestrian crossings at each arm of the junction. With a 30mph speed

limit in place, it's understandable why pedestrian safety has been a major concern for many years.

While thankfully we can't call it an 'accident black spot', there have been enough warnings, near-misses and collisions over the years to make this – in the opinion of a great many residents and LB Barnet's Highways department – an accident waiting to happen. Something needs to be done.

In October 2020 I made a funding request to LB Barnet's Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee (since renamed the East Area Committee) for a feasibility study to be carried out at this location. I was grateful that RA Chair Emma Howard attended this meeting and spoke in favour of this request, confirming that this is the one issue residents raise with her the most. The funding request was unanimously agreed.

The feasibility study including traffic, speed and pedestrian surveys was carried out in March 2021. The results of this study were presented to the same committee on 30 June 2021, along with proposed changes to the configuration of the roundabout. This report can be viewed on LB



Photo: Google

Barnet's website (the easiest way to find it is to search for 'Barnet Council East Area Committee' and navigate to the agenda papers for 30 June 2021).

The approved proposals include pavement 'build outs' on Meadway near to the roundabout which narrow the road so as to make pedestrian crossings easier, along with central hatching road markings and additional signage at the roundabout entrances. These changes should encourage drivers to slow down before entering the roundabout and give way when required, while new double yellow lines should

increase intervisibility between pedestrians and vehicles.

These proposals went through a process known as a 'statutory consultation', where nearby households are given the opportunity to comment. This consultation took place in December 2021 and a number of objections were raised by nearby residents, mainly due to the fact that some resident parking bays will need to be removed. Both Emma and I attended a meeting between some of the objectors and highways officers at which we asked Barnet officers to consider alternatives such as the introduction of a 20mph zone, speed humps

or a pedestrian refuge island. Unfortunately, we were informed that none of these options is feasible, though it may be that a 20mph zone across a larger area could be explored in the future.

The implementation of this scheme has just started (10 August) and is likely to involve some disruption, and ultimately quite a lot of change to the busiest junction in the Suburb. However, once completed, residents should feel safer when crossing these roads.

As your Garden Suburb Ward Councillor, I can be contacted at Clr.R.Grover@barnet.gov.uk.

What makes this place so special? Join us this Open House season to find out.

The Open House festival of architecture is upon us once again, giving Londoners the chance to discover the buildings, streetscapes and histories that surround us.

Closer to home, there are a number of walks being given around Hampstead Garden Suburb, and we're proud to say that three of the Trust's expert staff will again be giving up their time to lead some of these walks.



On **Thursday 7 September at 2pm**, join the Trust's Head of Architecture David Davidson on **'The Sharing of Great Things'**, a walk to explore Raymond Unwin's aspirations to create a new form of town extension which encompassed the best aspects of town and country.



On the northern part of the Suburb, at **10am on Saturday 9 September**, Architectural Adviser Joe Mathieson will deliver a walk on **'Streamline in the Suburb'**. Joe's walk will explore the suburban Streamline Moderne architecture of the speculative builders who toned down the International Style.



And on **Thursday 14 September at 11am**, Architectural Support Officer Calum Orr will be looking into **'The Architecture of Community in Edwardian Suburbia'**, uncovering how the ideas of the wealthy social reformer Henrietta Barnett and architect and town planner Raymond Unwin have held up during the intervening century.

Bookings for these and all the Open House events must be made online via: programme.openhouse.org.uk.

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

www.hgstrust.org ~ mail@hgstrust.org ~ 0208 455 1066

OPEN HOUSE
FESTIVAL 6-17.9.23



Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury

Tea with the vicar

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

It rather smacks of a British TV sitcom to be invited to tea with the Vicar, but Revd Em is far from a sitcom pastiche. She greets me warmly as she opens the front door of St Jude's vicarage on Central Square. The large vestibule has been painted a soft pink and there's a comfy sofa with scatter cushions. It's important to Revd Em that the vicarage is a welcoming environment – after all it will be home to the Kolltveit family (husband Are and 12 year old son Saxon) for the next three years.

I ask Revd Em if she was daunted by moving into such a large house but, having grown up in a very large house in Cornwall, the copious vicarage doesn't faze her at all. Actually not much fazes her. Not even the huge cracks in the vicarage's interior walls which she points out to me.

In the three months she's been Priest in Charge, Revd Em has been very busy indeed but she feels it's still early days. She's still formulating her plans for St Jude's and its role in the wider HGS community. She acknowledges that HGS is a completely different proposition from areas she has previously worked in – Hackney and Camden. Revd Em says she has come to HGS with "an open heart and mind." Of course, there is no denying that the beauty of the Suburb and St Jude's itself had clearly struck a chord with her. It seems it was love at first sight for Revd Em – in her own words: "My heart flew out of my chest."

Revd Em says the Suburb community has been very welcoming. She sensed the worshipping community at St Jude's was ready for a change. When I ask her about the role St Jude's plays in the wider HGS community, Revd Em is clear it should feel like a home for local residents, no matter their religious beliefs. Of course, St Jude's is an Anglican church and is subject to Anglican strictures, but Revd Em

holds fast to the new King Charles's view that the church should serve the whole community. Sunday morning worship is only a part of the much bigger picture.

St Jude's is one of 300 major UK churches and Revd Em sees it as a vast project. She doesn't have a detailed business plan, preferring to see how things develop during her tenure. Her style is not to 'strong-arm'. She prefers a gentler approach and is currently concentrating on people, getting to know them and helping them grow their vocations. She gives an example of one of her parishioners, Elinor Delaney, who had been 'somewhat discouraged' from becoming ordained. Revd Em saw how important it was to Elinor and actively supported her. As a result, Elinor will be commencing her training as a priest this September.

Describing herself as a 'bouncy female vicar' this Revd wants everyone to feel seen and heard when they walk through the door of St Jude's. She finds people fascinating: "everyone has their unique loveliness – even the most challenging!" In addition, she says it's important to model 'joyful living' which she accepts isn't always easy. She tells me an optimistic outlook is rooted in the Christian faith.

As a female vicar, Revd Em still feels she has to prove herself and work hard to be taken seriously by some. The Vicar of Dibley references wear thin. There are also some within the clergy (particularly in the London diocese) who believe female vicars aren't actually ordained and, as a consequence, men ordained by women are also not recognised. Revd Em thinks it may be another ten years before female vicars are fully accepted.

Clearly not one to shy away from anything deemed controversial, Rev'd Em has signed up St Jude's to the Inclusive Church Network and, although the Anglican church is (currently) unable to officiate over same sex marriages, these unions can now receive a blessing which Revd Em is keen to be able to offer to the worshipping community. It's a work in progress.

Continuing the theme of encouraging inclusiveness, Revd Em is also very aware of loneliness and isolation within the community and, particularly, of the vulnerable younger members suffering with mental health issues. She says: "Poverty comes in many forms but even in a rich community, there can be poverty of joy."

And what of interfaith matters? Revd Em sat on the Camden Interfaith Forum. She believes the coming together of the great Abrahamic faiths would be a mighty force for good. Her view is that problems emanate from fanaticism and ignorance.

Revd Em subscribes to the 'just do it' line of thinking. She has lots of ideas to bring the wider community together – one of these being a whole community café in the gardens of the vicarage. She takes me into the vicarage garden and shows me where she would like to site the café. She describes how it will look and when I listen to her I can start to see it too. Her enthusiasm is infectious.

This Priest in Charge has big plans for the HGS community and, with her Nike attitude, she's bound to make a significant impact.

Complete Bespoke Furniture
Design - Manufacture - Fit

enviro-furniture.co.uk

ENVIRO
FURNITURE

info@enviro-furniture.co.uk
020 8068 6664

St Jude ON-THE-HILL

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH THE CHOIR OF ST JUDE'S & NICHOLAS CHALMERS MD

1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH – 6.30PM
1ST OCTOBER & 5TH NOVEMBER

3RD DECEMBER – ADVENT PROCESSION
17TH DECEMBER – NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

For more information visit: stjudeonthehill.com
or contact Revd Emily:
priest@stjudeonthehill.com or 07947 792869

A Crown for Me Competition

During the build-up to the Coronation of King Charles III, Garden Suburb Community Library decided to involve local children in a challenge to design their own crown. We were very pleased to see 23 entries by the closing date. Some children had made actual crowns and all were to a very high standard. The prizes we awarded were coronation mugs and pens.

A former library volunteer and trained artist kindly stepped in to do the judging and was clearly impressed by the quality of the work. All the winning entries were posted in the library window and are shown below. Congratulations to everyone. We look forward to seeing you back in the Library very soon.

Marc Hull



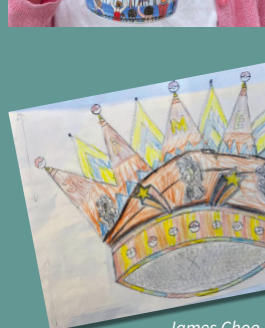
Anna Kyriacou (6)



Esme Martin (4)



Rees Gratton (8)



James Choo (7)



Noor Thukral (9)



Toby Lesser (5)



Photos: Marc Hull

A conversation with Nigel Osner

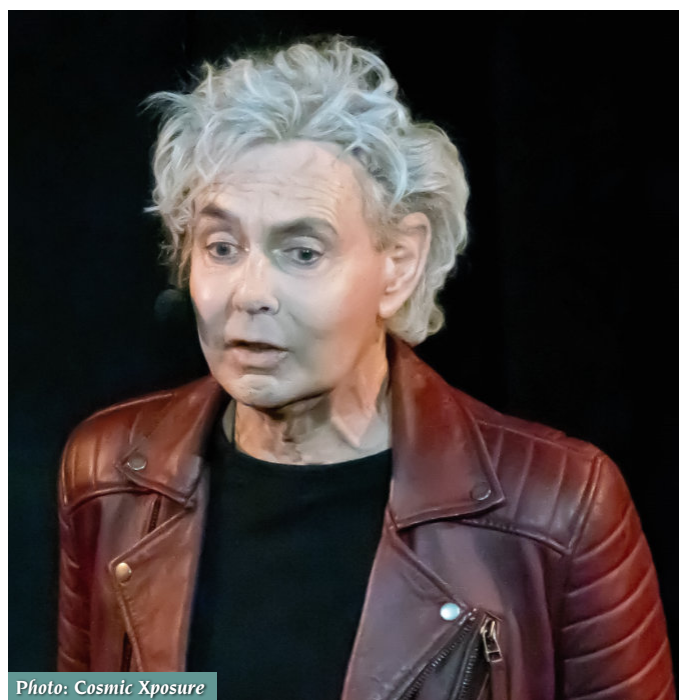


Photo: Cosmic Xposure

STEPHEN WANDER

Nigel Osner is one of those difficult to define people. Slight in build with searching eyes, he proves to be deceptively good company.

We share a coffee and croissant at the aptly-named 'joi de vie' in Temple Fortune, following his

performance of Fellowship Follies with musical accompaniment by Barry Millington (Fellowship House, 13 July 2023).

The best way to sum up Nigel's Lebensgeist is through his hilarious and clever poem 'Don't Label Me'. Performed with a disarming smile and a twinkle in his eye, the message cuts to the

quick; have the courage to be your authentic self and see what happens. It usually turns out just fine. Well, it has for Nigel.

Born in an era of structural expectation, Nigel dutifully studied Law and went on to become a criminal barrister. In classic understated style, he puts any successes down to his ability to "just pay attention". My sense is that Nigel was being characteristically modest for a man who possesses an uncanny ability to observe life, shape a narrative and shift perceptions. Not least his work ethic to carve this into a compelling body of work.

At Fellowship House, Nigel's set started with him performing standards such as Noel Coward's whimsical I Went to a Marvellous Party, a jaunty Is You Is, or Is You Ain't my Baby and Tom Lehrer's punchy The Vatican Rag. Finishing up with Gershwin's wistful Embraceable You. For me, though, the evening sparkled when Nigel gave us a flavour of his own material with cheeky little numbers such as Botox Blues, Don't Label Me and I Found My True Love.

Melding wit and home truths through his clever and self-effacing verse, Nigel leads his audiences through an enchanting sequence of songs and monologues that seep into our psyches. Like all clever entertainers, what is superficially an evening of light humour manages to cast us into our own internal world of thought and reflection.

Not one to shy away from costumes and characters, Nigel shape-shifts across multiple personalities and vocal styles, but still manages to remain quintessentially Nigel. A man who seems comfortable with himself, having found his place in the world.

I asked Nigel when he got the urge to perform and (aside from performing a Tango with a cushion when aged 11 at prep school) this really kicked in when he moved to the Ministry of Justice and started writing satirical takes for the department Christmas revues. Recognising this was his true vocation, he eventually went part-time and began working the Fringe. On discussing his creative process, Nigel explained: "I really only accept a piece might be OK once I have started working on the next piece, ie, I have moved on." And then thoughtfully clarified: "it is always a risk and I am never quite sure until I see how an audience responds."

Talking with Nigel is like walking into Narnia. A creative mind, magical stories and

absorbing thought. As well as performing, Nigel has published a Children's book 'Magic in Ravenswood', which was turned into a musical, and the first novel of his trilogy 'World of Legends' about a self-centred student and two worlds.

Now at 75, Nigel emphasised that he has more energy and desire than ever to bring his brand of poignant storytelling to as many audiences as he can muster. Travelling from HGS to Edinburgh and Penzance he has an appeal well beyond his homestead.

So, whilst he is still motivated to keep going, do catch him on 19 October at Stephens House and Gardens in N3 for his show 'Still Kicking'.

You'll have a fun and a most memorable evening.



BRILL OWEN
CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

We are able to offer a complete service from conception to completion helping you to create a unique home that fulfils your needs

Contact us for a free no obligation consultation on

0208 349 0037

Or email at

architects@brillowen.co.uk

View our recent work at
www.brillowen.co.uk

We are Chartered Architects based in North London specialising in refurbishments, extensions and new build houses and flats within conservation areas and to listed buildings.



.Web Studio Lab
Creating unique websites with personal attention

Here to help integrate and manage your business goals in the digital landscape. Without any fuss!

Do something different. Clarify and implement the right digital strategy for your business.

webstudiolab.co.uk

PROF. JAMES HOLZ

It's just over a year since I first parked my poster-covered black VW Beetle (aka the Punchmobile) outside our leafy little maisonette in the Suburb and started unloading my puppets to take inside. This wasn't a gig though; this was a change of address. As I gazed out across the flower-studded green space that prefixes our new pad, my first thought was 'I would love to perform around here!' But for now, let's skip back a decade to when I first considered picking up Punch and Judy puppetry as a profession.

What gave me the idea? I'm not sure! I was working in IT support at the time and had never even seen a Punch and Judy show as a boy. Having bought a ragtag collection of puppets on a whim, I started my studies by booking lessons with a voice coach. It seemed like a sensible place to start. After this an acting class, followed by lessons with professional entertainers, before I set about travelling around the country meeting with real life Punch and Judy Profs (Professor is our official title).

I learned by watching as many shows as I could, read scripts and practised for hours in front of the mirror. Ultimately, I found the only way to really get good at Punch and Judy is by just doing Punch and Judy. Prof Glyn Edwards of Brighton told me the first thousand shows will be the hardest and he

was right. It got easier after that.

Each of the 15 puppets I use in my set is created by a different maker. A good puppet has to speak to me. Let me know what kind of personality it has. The puppets have to be practical and hard-wearing but most importantly of all it has to connect with audiences. It seems natural to me that when someone makes a puppet, it reflects a little of their uniqueness and it is my belief that this helps the puppets feel like real characters.

Punch and Judy has its origins in the Italian plays of the 16th-18th centuries. Stock characters from these plays were brought all around Europe by travelling Italian puppeteers. The most popular character was the folk hero Pulcinella, a wise buffoon who carried a large slapstick. This was anglicised as Punchanello and then shortened to Punch. The first recorded Punch and Judy show in the UK was enjoyed by Samuel Pepys in 1662 and later written about in his diary.

So what is the story of Punch and Judy? People are often surprised to learn that there isn't one! Each Professor throughout history has come up with their own unique take. Of course, there are certain elements which people expect – there has to be a crocodile, a baby, a policeman, etc. Like many working professionals, I have dropped the slapstick violence which became popular in the Victorian era. People ask if



Photo: Michael Eleftheriades

this is because I am 'PC' or 'woke' – but it's simply because I follow the tradition of keeping old Mr Punch up to date and funny to a modern audience.

In July I was granted the honour of performing at the Resident's Association's Summer Fair. It was at that moment, finally able to

share my dream profession with the fellow residents of my dream home, that I felt I had truly arrived in our beautiful Suburb.

Prof. James is available for bookings. Contact him on: 07947 135995, londonpunchandjudy@gmail.com Londonpunchandjudy.co.uk.



Michael, Mark and Lynda Spiro at the Pilgrims' Stone, Canterbury, the day before Mark set off on his walk (Photo: Timed, self-portrait)

Cutting-edge surgery that saved a life

CHERYL KUCZYNSKI

Mark Spiro was 7,000 miles away, living in rural Chile when he learned that his father, Michael, had suffered a serious stroke and had undergone emergency surgery at UCL National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queen Square.

"It took 60 hours to get home but it felt like 60 days," said Mark. "I've worked as a nurse with brain-injured patients in Lesotho and Tanzania and, to be honest, I was expecting the worst."

Mark, who lived in Milton Close and went to King Alfred School, said that a rarely-performed, cutting-edge surgery – a thrombectomy – saved his father's life and was a

crucial factor in his recovery. "Dad was lucky. Strokes are a leading cause of death and disability and 100,000 people have one every year in the UK. Ten thousand will be eligible for a thrombectomy but, due to a lack of doctors trained for this ground-breaking procedure, only 1,000 can be performed."

"We are so grateful to the NHS and Queen Square for saving dad's life; he and mum are the glue that binds our family together. My brother James and I have always known what a loving and caring father he is, but we have been completely blown away by the wonderful messages we've received from many people who have been touched by his kindness and generosity in some way."

Mark talked to the doctors at UCLH to find out what he could do to help others with his dad's condition and an idea started to take shape.

"There are only six doctors in the UK who can perform a thrombectomy, so we desperately need more trained in this life-saving procedure. But that costs money. So I decided to walk the historic Via Francigena pilgrimage route, from Geneva to The Vatican, raising money with every step I take; one step for each of the 1.3

million stroke survivors in this country. The money I raise for the UCLH charity will help train more doctors, fund research into innovative treatments and provide essential support services for stroke survivors and their families."

Mark has been heavily involved with Michael's rehabilitation. They walked together every day – across the Heath to Michael's beloved Bishopswood Bowling Club where he is President and general leading light. This has been great training for Mark.

"I'm really thrilled that my father is joining me for the last stretch of the walk. Completing the walk with my dad will be a testament to the wonderful treatment he received under the NHS and to his own grit and determination to get back to peak fitness after his stroke."

Michael Spiro is recovering well. "I am so grateful to the doctors who saved my life and for the love and support of my family, especially my wife Lynda. And I am really proud of Mark for working so hard to raise money that will save more lives in the future."

Follow Mark's walk and please donate to a truly worthwhile cause: Visit www.markspiro.com or go to www.justgiving.com/page/advmark.

Relief where you want it – in your home

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



SHARON SOLOMON • MEMBER OF THE CHARTERED SOCIETY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY • 07796 268300

A Q&A brunch with Sarah Sackman

MARILYN GROSSMAN

Earlier this Summer, I hosted a group of about twenty local residents with varied political views at a Q&A brunch with Sarah Sackman, Barrister and Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Finchley and Golders Green, which took place at the Suburb's Romeo and Juliette café.

Sarah has been active in the community and the wider Finchley area for many years. She led the successful 'Save Friern Barnet Library Campaign', and worked hard to protect After School Club funding in Barnet for children with disabilities. Sarah was born and grew up in HGS on Brim Hill where her parents still live. She attended Kerem House School and Norrice Lea Synagogue.

I personally believe that Sarah's pro-active work ethic, genuine in-depth interest and knowledge of our community, current developments in politics locally, nationally and globally, make her the ideal MP for Finchley & Golders Green. I wanted others to have the opportunity to speak with her.

Questions included the topics of housing, refugee welfare, police availability, tax domicile and more. Sarah gave frank, full and knowledgeable answers, which were well-received by all, including those of opposing political views. Feedback from all agreed that Sarah had "certainly given us a lot to think about before the next election."

If you would like to meet Sarah at a similar event, please email Sarahsackmanforfgg@gmail.com.



Marilyn Grossman, Sarah Sackman and Dame Jenni Murray (Photo: Naser Afifi)



Photo: City of London Corporation

"Declan loved the natural beauty of the Heath and understood that whilst humans could enjoy it, we should never take its vegetation or deprive wildlife of its advantages."

These sentiments are echoed by Thomas Radice who is a trustee of the Heath and Hampstead Society. He told Suburb News: "Declan was one of the kindest and most helpful people that local stakeholder groups and the public generally will have come across in their use of the Heath and its environs. He was a credit to the Heath Superintendent's team and reflected the spirit fostered by previous superintendents Simon Lee and Bob Warnock."

In fact, many local residents knew Declan personally through walks that he led during Proms Week. Others knew Declan because of his willingness to join them on litter-picking walks on the Heath Extension. During the Covid pandemic, Declan did his best to ensure that local open spaces were not overrun with people wanting to party outdoors.

Even those who were not lucky enough to know him personally will long appreciate the work of Declan and his colleagues in ensuring the enhancement and maintenance of Hampstead Heath as a precious legacy for us all. Colin Gregory, RA representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee of the City of London Corporation said "Declan was unique and amazing. His immense kindness and humanity shone through everything he did. He had tremendous experience and wisdom and that quality of commitment that means you carry on regardless of the challenges facing you – and of course running the Heath involves many challenges. I shall miss him hugely."

Declan was for 17 years Operations Manager for Hampstead Heath, which the City of London Corporation runs, including Golders Hill Park and the Heath Extension. Declan worked tirelessly to maintain and preserve these open spaces. HGS resident Lynda Cook, a member of the Heath Sub-Committee of the Heath and Hampstead Society as well the Trees and Open Spaces Committee of the HGS Residents' Association, told Suburb News:

MARGARET HARRIS

If you are one of the many Suburb residents who enjoy the beauty of Hampstead Heath, the Heath Extension and Golders Hill Park, you will be saddened to learn of the death of one of the Heath's long-standing guardians, Declan Gallagher, who died on 30 April at the age of 56.

Declan was for 17 years Operations Manager for Hampstead Heath, which the City of London Corporation runs, including Golders Hill Park and the Heath Extension. Declan worked tirelessly to maintain and preserve these open spaces. HGS resident Lynda Cook, a member of the Heath Sub-Committee of the Heath and Hampstead Society as well the Trees and Open Spaces Committee of the HGS Residents' Association, told Suburb News:



Local residents enjoy brunch and banter with Sarah Sackman at Romeo & Juliette café (Photo: Naser Afifi)



Photo: Family Archive

Alan Cohen

1930 - 2023

JUDY SMITH

Alan was a Hampstead Garden Suburb resident from birth – his first home was in Deansway. Alan's long life was devoted to local civic causes, for which he continued to work until his death.

He had a most remarkable life. He was a polymath, who enjoyed success in a great variety of projects. His energy, enthusiasm, strength of character and sense of purpose was evident to everyone who worked with him.

Alan's parents built a house in Winnington Road in 1938 and his wartime memories of life in HGS are recorded in Hampstead Garden Suburb – Virtual Museum (hgsheritage.org.uk/Detail/objects/WW2-6-1). Alan was one of the driving forces behind the foundation of the Virtual Museum and he became a Trustee.

He was a hard-working student and achieved an Exhibition at Trinity Hall Cambridge in 1948. However, he deferred taking this up so he could undertake his military service. Still only 18, he achieved Officer role as Captain. He finally took up his place at Cambridge in 1950 to study History. It was at Cambridge that he joined the Liberal party.

After establishing himself in the family business of wood veneers, starting his family of three sons and building his house in Church Mount, he began his

voluntary career in local civic activities. He was encouraged by the chairman of Finchley and Friern Barnet Liberal Party Association to take an interest in local government issues and Finchley Council in particular. He was chosen as the candidate for the Bishops Ward of Finchley, and at the age of 26 won the seat and became a Councillor. However, the days of Finchley Council were numbered. In 1963 an act was passed creating the 32 new Greater London boroughs. None of these had names and those names had to be single words wherever possible. It was Alan Cohen who suggested the name 'Barnet' to end the dispute between various different local factions. He was subsequently made an Alderman on the London Borough of Barnet – a post he held for 11 years.

In 1965 he was appointed as a magistrate, sitting first at Highgate and then at the City of London Bench. His experience in local government led to his involvement with many aspects of the judiciary, including the probation service. All of this whilst still running a successful business.

He was a stalwart of Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue in Norrice Lea, passionate about art history and boxer dogs. He and his beloved wife, Gwen, enjoyed travelling, especially going on exciting cruises. One in particular was more exciting than intended, with the Ham & High headline: "Hampstead Couple Stuck on a Cruise Ship in Brazil for their 66th Wedding Anniversary" as a result of Covid in March 2020.

Alan Cohen was a remarkable man – we will not see his like again.

LEVERTON & SONS LTD

Independent Family Funeral Directors since 1789



We are your local Funeral Director

in Hampstead Garden Suburb
624 Finchley Road, NW11 7RR

020 8455 4992 | levertons.co.uk
finchleyroad@levertons.co.uk

5 branches across North London: Camden Town | Golders Green
Hampstead | Kentish Town | Muswell Hill

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Standard



Does the Monarchy have a future in Britain?

The monarchy, that great symbol of Britishness and tea drinking, an institution with a colossal global, historical and cultural presence. But in an age of democracy, equality and TikTok mad teens, can the British monarchy really hope to map out a feasible future?

It is possible that the attitude of young people towards the monarchy could pose a serious threat to its existence. For many, the very idea of what the monarchy represents is completely contrary to the beliefs and values that the modern world has taught them. How can we expect an institution, fostered in the turmoil and prejudices of centuries ago, to resonate with the people of today?

Another problem is its financial burden. Though the argument that the monarchy brings in tourism and so ultimately benefits the economy holds credence, for a working person it is difficult to accept that part of their hard-earned income is 'snatched away' to pay for the royals. Resentment is inevitable. If the monarchy started to pay its own way, then this could stand it in very good stead for the future.

The monarchy holds a special place in our nation's heart – at least it used to. After Queen Elizabeth's death, the reputation of the royal family went into a steep decline as many had never seen another monarch in power during their lifetime.

We took this to the Year 10 students of our school, Archer Academy. Contrary to popular belief, though many did not necessarily like the monarchy, when asked if they would

abolish it the answer was an emphatic "No" with 73% saying they wouldn't. However, the youth are under no illusion that the monarchy is in a fit state with 75% saying they believed the monarchy was not being run suitably, whether referencing its ridiculous wealth and its burden on the taxpayer, the farcical conduct of its senior members and what may be perceived as the hostile snobbery and attitudes of those who surround it. This would suggest that our poll result, though positive, is closer to a stay of mercy than an overwhelming mood of royalism. To win over the youth completely and securely, the monarchy must fully focus on strengthening its bond with its citizens.

But the real question is this – does the monarchy really have a future? The answer is not completely clear. Thus, we must delve deeper into the core of the monarchy. It is important to remember that even though the monarchy may have been slowly stripped of power it still has a presence. It possesses a certain charm and place within British history and society that may never be lost.

Jude Dolan and Donya Khazae, Archer Academy

The Royals and the media

The Paparazzi – they play a role in every celebrity's daily life, especially that of a royal. The love story between Meghan Markle and Prince Harry was a modern fairy tale that captured the world's imagination, or as the media would describe it 'a whirlwind romance'. However, how much of what we were shown of their relationship was actually a reality? How much was twisted by the media?

Of course, our knowledge of the media's invasive tactics can only lead us to wonder whether the media's scrutiny and sensational headlines played a role in the couple's decision to step back from their royal duties. More recently, before King Charles's coronation, Buckingham Palace confirmed that Prince Harry would be attending this event, but his wife would be staying at home with their two children. As always, the media took this as a chance to make a detailed list of various ways in which Meghan has allegedly disrespected the British Monarchy.

Frustration at the relentless media intrusions led the couple to take legal action against some media outlets for invasion of privacy.

Meghan won a claim against publisher Associated Newspapers in February 2021, after they printed a letter she had written to her father in 2018. Prince Harry also has five pending legal cases, related to his family's privacy, including

one against Rupert Murdoch's News Group paper for illegal information gathering.

In an interview with Oprah, the couple revealed that a major reason for them leaving their royal roles was the media's perceived racist treatment of Meghan. A Guardian study in 2020 showed that 43% of headlines published about Meghan were negative in tone and only 8% positive, unlike their reports on Kate Middleton, where 45% of headlines were positive and only 8% negative.

As I am sure that many of us may have realised by now, Prince Harry, who had experienced the loss of his mother, Princess Diana, would not have wanted history to repeat itself. Megxit was a defining moment in the history of the British Monarchy and its relationship with the media and the public. But I guess we'll never know what was accurate and what was twisted by the media.

Armitha Panchalingam & Praneeta Karjodkar, HBS

With the recent coronation of King Charles III, we asked the SNY team for their thoughts on the monarchy in the modern world



PillarCare

Outstanding care in your home for independent living

PillarCare's friendly, experienced team have been helping people live as independently as possible in their own homes for over 20 years.

Call us to speak to a member of our team.

- 020 7482 2188 -



pillarcare.co.uk | enquiries@pillarcare.co.uk

The Crown and its influence

'The Crown' is an immensely popular Netflix show with over 73 million households watching it worldwide. This show has raised awareness about the lives of the royal family and provides insights into British history. 'The Crown' explores the role of tradition in British society and the tensions that can arise between modernisation and preserving historical customs. However, the line between the fictional dramatisation and reality is blurred and potential misinterpretations can have a profound impact on the viewers' impressions of the royal family.

'The Crown' has been seen as insensitive to historical accuracy.

However, viewers should not think of the show as a factual piece of work, but rather a dramatisation of historical events which, inevitably, include some elements of fiction.

Artistic licence has obviously been taken to produce a more compelling and interesting drama which is often

forgotten by the viewers and results in the monarchy being criticised, sometimes unfairly.

An example is of Prince Charles' s meeting with John Major to discuss the potential abdication of the Queen, so that he could ascend to the throne before her death. This led to heavy criticism of Prince Charles. However, there is no real evidence that it actually happened. Another example is when Winston Churchill's assistant, Venetia Scott, tragically died after being hit by a bus in season one. But, as it turns out, Venetia wasn't a real person. So, creative alterations made to the storyline can distort images of the monarchy and create unconscious bias towards certain characters.

'The Crown' has had a significant impact on its viewers, especially with the launch of season five, just two months after the Queen's death. It appears, decades after the real incidents happened, attitudes towards individuals have shifted. After the story broke about Charles's affair with Camilla, much of the public sided with Diana. Now, Diana is viewed as media-savvy and manipulative. Furthermore, the public has gradually accepted Camilla and even come to admire her.

In conclusion, although 'The Crown' tries to portray the monarchy as close to the factual events as possible, the need for drama to make events interesting to its audience may mean some facts are somewhat skewed, resulting in a distorted image of the monarchy and its values. However, overall, 'The Crown' seems to have a positive impact as it makes the monarchy more relevant to today's society by making it more relatable.

Riya Shah & Saanvi Akula, HBS

Then vs Now: Monarchy and Accessibility

In ancient times kings were revered as god-like figures, associated with tales of conquest and heroism. Their stories were chronicled and passed down through generations. During the Renaissance period, kings took centre stage in literature and theatre, often creating icons for the audience. William Shakespeare, one of the world's most renowned playwrights, also shaped our perception of history, immortalising the concept of kingship through characters such as King Lear, Macbeth, and Henry V. These literary works delved behind the default heroic depiction of kings by offering insights into the psychology of the rulers. For example, through the tragic tale of Macbeth, Shakespeare shows that power can be corrupt, but he

also warned about the consequences of immoral behaviour. Shakespeare's Macbeth could be seen as a reminder that history is malleable and subject to interpretation as is regularly hinted throughout the play.

There is a massive difference in the way that the media has affected the monarchy in recent years – the Royals are arguably more 'untouchable' in some ways. During the last hundred years new media forms have emerged; in earlier times images of royalty were conveyed through literature and portraits, whilst, in the late 20th century, television and the press dominated. The invention of television was, arguably, extremely important in the public's relationship with the Royals, as it provided a more accessible format for the Royal Family to present themselves and impact the population's perception of nobility. This is very different from the time of Shakespeare – he had more of an ability to impact the Queen directly as he could convey messages to her via performances of his work which the Queen could attend. Today, 'messages' are arguably conveyed less directly, owing to the increasing forms of media. The Royal Family is, however, much more accessible; they are aware of this and there is a 'Royal Rota,' which consists of media representatives who are invited to report on royal events, which means the Royal Family is very aware of the importance of good public relations.

Maleeha Morey and Riya Choudhary, Archer Academy

RICHARD TERRY CLARK

Are you hearing me loud and clear?

We offer hearing assessments and hearing aids for adults in a warm, supportive, and friendly environment. We will always offer unbiased advice and recommendations and are committed to ethical, evidence-based practices.



Please contact us with any questions or to book an appointment.
david@finchleyhearing.co.uk · 020 8050 4518 · www.finchleyhearing.co.uk
Finchley Hearing, Healthspace 307, 307 Regents Park Road, N3 1DP

Get a **FREE** quote from an experienced solar panel installer in Hampstead Garden Suburb.



CONTACT US TODAY FOR YOUR FREE QUOTE:

✉ HELLO@NEXTDAYSOLAR.CO.UK ☎ 020 3608 3475

★★★★★ Excellent Rating
★ Trustpilot Based on 38 reviews

QUALITYMARK ACCREDITED MCS TRUSTMARK Government Endorsed Quality NAPIT

NEXT DAY SOLAR



Aki Blendis and Jaren Ziegler (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)

Another successful year for Proms at St Jude's

RON FINLAY

Proms at St Jude's notched up another success in its 31st year. After three pandemic-struck years, audience levels recovered towards 2019 levels as the sun shone.

A great sense of what Proms is all about came at the Irish *céilí* session on 1 July – a new early evening of music in the tent that was free of charge and full of craic. With fiddle, guitar and button accordion, Eilish Byrne-Whelehan and Friends soon had the crowd singing and clapping, even inciting dancers to take to the floor to show off their Irish jig skills. The bar was open, ice cream on sale and the atmosphere festive.

The centrepiece of Proms is of course the more formal music, but there too expectations were exceeded. At the opening concert of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with Fantasia Orchestra, soloist Jennifer Pike dazzled, as did young Aki Blendis and Jaren Ziegler with the London Mozart Players in a sold-out Last Night. The audience was enchanted by a

glamorous Night in Vienna from the Pico Players and by the Elgar and Britten Serenades so beautifully played by The Purcell School Chamber Orchestra; and there were tears and laughter at Armonico's Dido and Aeneas, and awe at the virtuosity of the Sitkovetsky Trio. No classical music lover could feel left out or left cold.

Away from traditional classical music, sci-fi fans as well as music buffs appreciated Fritz Lang's silent movie masterpiece Metropolis with a new arrangement of the Huppertz score by Ben Palmer and the Covent Garden Sinfonia. Broadway and All That Jazz was a great hit, as Emma Kershaw and Katie Birtill sparkled, both in their dress and their delivery of favourite songs from Broadway and the West End. And for jazz fans, the Echoes of Ellington Jazz Orchestra took them on a trip forward to the planets and back to the 1930s. Evenings to be remembered!

True to its educational ethos, Proms ran a wonderful Schools' Prom involving nine local schools and held a Fanfare Competition for young people. Prize-winners in the 11-13 and 14-18 category respectively were Joseph Sainsbury and Nemunis Jusiones, whose coronation-inspired pieces were played at the start of two of the concerts.

Proms put on free lunchtime recitals as usual too, and had a record audience for the Ramat Gan Chamber Choir from Israel, visiting in recognition of their town's twinning with the London Borough of Barnet.

The LitFest weekend hosted top authors such as Times writer Daniel Finkelstein, BBC broadcaster

Justin Webb, food guru Henry Dimbleby and Guardian doyenne Polly Toynbee, talking about and signing copies of their books.

New this year was a Family Festival, where children up to 11 years old and their grown-ups could explore unusual musical instruments, see author and illustrator James Mayhew painting as he told them musical stories, and enjoy face painting, pizza and ice cream.

On top of this, expert guides led over a dozen popular Heritage Walks, there was late-night comedy and Teeny Proms for toddlers and children under five.

"Proms at St Jude's was blessed with a week of wonderful weather which really brought out the crowds for our concerts, heritage walks, LitFest and first-ever Family Festival on Central Square," said Chair Kate Webster. "The combination of world class musicians and authors, as well as some locally-based rising stars made for atmospheric performances and enthusiastic audiences. We are very grateful to everyone involved, in particular our generous sponsors, supporters and audience members, as well as our very committed volunteers without whom there would be no festival.

Once again, Proms has delivered premier events in a community setting, as well as raising an expected £50,000 for our partner

Mayor at the NGO's Tea Party

Mayoral Councillor Nagus Narenthira became the 58th Mayor of Barnet, after being officially sworn in on Tuesday 23 May. The mayor is just starting to visit the various areas of Barnet and was very pleased to visit Hampstead Garden Suburb.

She was impressed by Northway Gardens and what a small motivated group of volunteers can do with Community support. Northway Gardens is a 120-year-old Park in a conservation area, designed by the original Architects of HGS and Letchworth.

The mayor was keen to meet local residents and so, along with her husband, joined us at the weekly Tea Party @ the Shed which went very well.

Brian Ingram, Northway Gardens Organisation (NGO)



Photo: Jane Ingram

charities, Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice."

If you are maybe interested in volunteering for next year, come along to Proms' Open House from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursday, 28 September at Fellowship House, 136A Willifield Way, NW11 6YD.



Late Night Comedy (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)



Eilish Byrne-Whelehan and Friends (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)

Review of The Jazz Planets – Holst Re-imagined

BENEDICT TURVILL

Since man first set foot upon the moon, we have lived in an age of cosmic exploration. The world's billionaires have since

taken it upon themselves to compete for dominance of the Space Industrial Complex. And while a Suburb resident is unlikely to be among the first homo sapiens to stroll through the frozen wastes



Echoes of Ellington (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)



Crew at 2023 Proms (Photo: Susie Gregson)

of the Red Planet, or sunbathe on the sweltering Venusian riviera, Proms at St Jude's provided the next best thing.

Jazz has always had the power to fly us to the moon, but never before have other celestial bodies come into the equation. Peter Long's 16-piece menagerie boarded us onto our vessel with an efficiency usually enjoyed only by world leaders, and had us hurtling through the heavens in no time. The blasting of a dozen jazz horns proved ample rocket fuel as we pierced the stratosphere.

There is something unnatural about the dark emptiness of space: as a species we know we don't belong there. And there was, at first,

a similar sense of strangeness as Long's crew blended musical genres, playing styles, and cultural eras. Such dizzying alloys of sound seemed, at first, alien. But soon, gazing through the porthole, I began to see that the saturnine majesty of Holst's sound world, married with Ellington's meteoric melodies, had all the brilliance of a supernova: 'I Vow To Thee My Country' lost none of its patriotic heft on the saxophone.

Long and his band marshalled their years of experience at Ronnie Scott's to defy the very laws of physics: space, being a vacuum, is a domain where sound cannot penetrate. It is an infinite void bereft of music. Until now.



Photo: Malcolm Brahams

HGS Art held their fifth Art Fair at Fellowship House at the end of May. This was the first time the fair was presided over by Valerie Cowan who took over from the founding chair Diana Brahams in 2022. The weather stayed dry and warm and several hundred people from the Suburb and further afield came to browse and buy the art and crafts exhibited by more than twenty local artists. At one of the outdoor tables local art teacher, Vera Moore, held art sessions for children.

This year, Finchley Women's Institute took over the catering role and provided delicious home-made cakes and sandwiches. The funds raised will go to Grief Encounter and Barnet Age UK.

The event proved to be an ideal opportunity for visitors to chat to the artists and to meet old friends and new.

Malcolm Brahams



DaCapo Music Foundation

Hall of the Mountain King School workshop at Wren Academy (Photo: Michelle Groves)

MICHELLE GROVES

The DaCapo Music Foundation is a music education charity with a thirty-year history, dedicated to a Kodaly-based, child-friendly programme of learning from toddlers to teens and adult learners. The charity is overseen by a dedicated board of trustees and has a team of thirty teachers working at its Flagship Family Music Centre at Wren Academy in North Finchley and also in schools and independently.

DaCapo has evolved from being a Saturday morning music school into an organisation which runs Family Music Centres, Teacher Training Programmes, Family Concerts and Special Projects. DaCapo partner with an impressive list of organisations – including Proms at St Jude's and The Yehudi Menuhin School which make ambitious projects possible.

DaCapo's latest endeavour is software for the infant and junior classroom. Working with a new sister company, DaCapo Primary Music, the full DaCapo curriculum is now available for use through a school's interactive board at low cost. This enables any school, with or without a music specialist, to deliver top-quality music lessons every day.

For more information about DaCapo please visit dacapo.co.uk or dacapoprimarymusic.co.uk.



Selling items of value has never been simpler.

WHETHER YOU'RE CLEARING A HOME, MOVING OR REMODELLING, I WILL GET THE BEST PRICES FOR ANY ITEMS OF VALUE YOU'RE LOOKING TO SELL

- I AM AN INDEPENDENT BROKER ACTING SOLELY ON YOUR BEHALF
- I SELL THROUGH MANY DIFFERENT AUCTION HOUSES, HIGH-END DEALERS, COLLECTORS AND PRIVATE CLIENTS
- HAVING BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR OVER 10 YEARS LOOKING AFTER MANY, MANY CLIENTS, YOU WILL ALWAYS RECEIVE MY PERSONAL DISCREET ONE-TO-ONE SERVICE (REFERENCES AVAILABLE)
- THERE IS NO COST OR OBLIGATION MEETING WITH ME AT YOUR HOME OR STORAGE FACILITY
- PROBATE VALUATIONS CARRIED OUT
- CLIENTS IN THE UK AND EUROPE
- BASED IN ST JOHNS WOOD
- DISCRETION ASSURED AT ALL TIMES

Simply Sold

Perry Field | 07802 157500

You can also message me through my website www.simplysold.co.uk

Duo Recital



LORNA PAGE

Katherine Bamber and David Trafford will be performing a Duo Recital at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 14 October. Music by Tartini, Mozart, Liszt and Beethoven will be performed.

Proceeds will enable the church to provide seasonal presents for

the sixty in-patients on the acute mental health unit at nearby Edgware Hospital. So it's a win, win situation – enjoy a wonderful evening of music and know that you could be helping someone very much in need.

Admission to the recital is free and there is a retiring collection in aid of the Dennis Scott Unit at Edgware Community Hospital.



Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury

STEPHEN WANDER

Saturday morning and I am listening to Bleecker Street by David Amram, which is the second movement from his Greenwich Village Portraits – a haunting and evocative portrait of New York’s grittier side. Melodically captivating, it describes the yearning narrative of an era slipping from our grip. Bringing to mind a Fedora wearing character viewed from behind and gradually disappearing through wisps of smoke rising from street level grills into an uncertain future. For me this wonderful piece of music resolved an extraordinary evening at Fellowship House in HGS, where I was the guest of Suburb News editor (and my sister) Shelley-Anne Salisbury.

The concert was titled ‘All That Jazz’, part of the Music for a Spring Evening series. Eight pieces were performed by Naomi Sullivan (saxophone) and Charles Matthews (piano). These sublime musicians engaged the audience from the first moment they started on their musical programme, which was curated to illustrate the intersection of Jazz and Classical music.

Starting with Gershwin’s preludes (1926) we were guided through sentinel pieces including Erwin Schulhoff’s Hot Sonata (1930) and Claude Bolling’s (Le Papillon (1952) to Jenő Tacaks Two Fantasies (1972). Then the more recent Bleecker Street (for Odetta) composed by David Amram (2013) and Zoe Cutler’s Obstacle Illusion (2022).

I must admit most of these pieces were unfamiliar to me, as were the composers. As someone who enjoys a wide spectrum of music, the evening opened my mind and refreshed my play lists.

The programme was also interspersed with the roof-raising Maple Leaf Rag by Scott Joplin/Sidney Bechet (1932), which Naomi Sullivan belted out on her soprano sax to a wildly appreciative audience. Naomi explained that she had to include this in the programme after she discovered an original recording and needed to fulfil one of her

lifelong dreams of performing the music to a live audience.

Charles Matthews, organist and pianist extraordinaire, is someone who could probably turn his hand to any genre of music. His magic touch and deft phrasing melded into an incredible musical synergy with Naomi. Also an accomplished composer, Charles played us one of his original pieces that he composed during a week’s retreat with his tutor and fellow students in France. To set the scene, Charles described his singing lessons during the mornings, communal swimming in the afternoons and tremendous fun by night, leaving the enigmatic music for us to flesh out the full experience.

The concert felt as though it ended all too soon, although it ran for 90 minutes. Secretly, I would have wanted an encore based on some audience requests. I had imagined our two musicians playing one or two of Elton John’s



A stellar line up for the Fellowship House Autumn Concerts

The seasons turn and Fellowship’s renowned Autumn Chamber Concert Series is upon us once more – for the 13th time! Call the box office on 07973 186729 or go to fellowshiphouse.co.uk for details of the programme and how to book. The Ukraine Red Cross will again be supported.

ballads and perhaps a couple of Bowie’s more epic soundtracks (check out his orchestral arrangement of ‘Heroes’).

Fellowship House is a serious cultural centre that is approachable and very welcoming, even to out-of-towners like me. I look forward to a return visit – if my sister invites me along again!

A Dizzy day out

ANDREW BOTTERILL

Hughenden Manor, home of the charismatic Benjamin Disraeli and nestling cosily in the Chilterns, was the chosen destination for Fellowship’s annual July freebie for 50 Club Members. Beautiful grounds, enchanting views, exhibits (everything from the great man’s desk to his commode), Victorian décor, architecture, picnics, sunshine (well, mostly). A good time was had by all.

The house shares a surprising history. It was taken over in World War II as a top secret map-making centre for Bomber Command. After war’s end, all traces of this activity were removed with the



Photo: Andrew Botterill

exception, strangely, of a crumpled map of Berchtesgaden.

Such was the respect for the wartime Official Secrets Act, that for over half a century neither the general public nor the National Trust (which inherited the manor from the Disraeli Society in 1947) had the slightest inkling of its wartime role. However, one day in 2005 a house guide overheard an elderly visitor speaking of his work at the manor during the war. This was Victor Gregory, who, when 19 was taken on as a cartographer in 1941. This revelation led to the establishment of the fascinating exhibition of its vital wartime role

which today sits in striking contrast to the Disraeli museum.

One wonders what ‘Dizzy’ would have made of it all.



Benjamin Disraeli



Victor Gregory

NEED HELP? One way Fellowship has traditionally helped in hard times over the last 110 years, has been to give welfare grants. Of course local demographics have changed dramatically but there are a few people we are gladly helping in a modest way. If you know of any Suburb resident who could benefit from a limited grant, do please get in touch with Lorna Jones on 0203 723 9299.

Hall and Randall Plumbers

Plumbing and Heating Services • Property Maintenance



Central Heating, Plumbing Repairs & Advisory Service

Look no further... your local plumbers

Emergency repairs, blocked pipes, drainage, guttering, roofing, central heating and boilers.

12 months guarantee, 40 years experience

132 Manor Way, Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 1QX

Web: www.hallandrandallplumbers.com

Email: office@hallandrandall.com

Tel: 020 8953 2094 • Fax: 020 8905 1602

Evenings: Garry 020 8207 3286 • Greg 020 8953 9828





Photo: Dr. Michael Amdurer

Hejira Concert

A local triumph for Joni Mitchell fans

STEVEN ROWE

There was much anticipation in Hampstead Garden Suburb leading up to the 17 June concert at St Jude's which had the dual purpose of welcoming its new Priest in Charge, The Revd Emily Kolltveit and also celebrating the 80th birthday of one of Revd Em's musical heroes, the legendary Canadian singer-songwriter, Joni Mitchell.

We knew from the advance publicity that the seven-piece band 'Hejira' – named after Joni Mitchell's seminal album – were not just good friends of Revd Em but also highly accomplished musicians. Front and centre on vocals and guitar was Hattie Whitehead who, as well as mastering Joni's mannerisms, is a great singer/songwriter in her own right, having won the Glastonbury Emerging Talent Competition in 2016. Hattie was masterfully supported by band-leader Pete Oxley on guitar, Ollie Weston on saxophone, Will Barry on keyboards, Dave Jones on bass, Rick Finlay on drums and Marc

Cecil on percussion.

Come the great night itself, St Jude's was packed to the dome with all 250 seats pre-sold and 20 people buying tickets on the door for standing room only. And the already awe-inspiring interior of this Grade One listed masterpiece was enhanced by truly amazing lighting effects. The spectacular evening was kicked-off by St Jude's first Pop Scholar, Robert Vel (who is being mentored by both Revd Em and her husband, Are Kolltveit). This was Robert's first large audience and he gave a very polished and professional performance. Hejira, the main event, lived fully up to expectations.

All in all it was a fantastic evening, aided in no small part by a wonderfully warm and welcoming group of helpers and a busy bar serving 'Hymns and Pimms' amongst many other splendid and much-needed refreshing libations. A memorable beginning to what I am sure is going to be a highly successful and enjoyable new era for St Jude's with its dynamic and inspirational new Priest in Charge.



Photo: LICO

LICO UPDATE The London International Concert Orchestra's autumn season for 2023 begins with another concert in the Free Church on Sunday 15 October at 7:30pm, featuring guest cellist, Miguel Ángel Villeda Cerón.

The programme is:

Coleridge-Taylor – *Ballade in A minor, Op.33;*

Prokofiev – *Sinfonia Concertante for cello & orchestra, Op.125;*

Elgar – *Enigma Variations, Op.36*

All details and tickets are available on the website: li-co.org.

Ann Sheffield

BOOK REVIEW BY ELEANOR LEVY

BURGENLAND

by DAVID JOSEPH

David Joseph KC determined some years back to track down the story of his Austrian forebears. The resultant book is remarkable.

The starting point was a framed family photograph on his grandmother's dressing table. It was taken in Lackenbach, Burgenland, in Austria where the Jewish community was established in 1527 and thrived under the protection of the Esterhazy Princes. This golden period was brought to an abrupt end when, in April 1938 (a month after the *Anschluss*), Burgenland was declared *Judenrein* (Jew-Free) as a birthday gift to Hitler. With enormous prescience, before their forced departure, the family posed for a final photograph.

David has assiduously followed every possible lead in order to get as full a picture as possible of what happened to his family. In doing so, he takes us along with him on this investigative journey, allowing us a grass roots view of the details and events as they unfold. So much Holocaust literature has been published in recent years, it feels as

though there is not much left to surprise us.

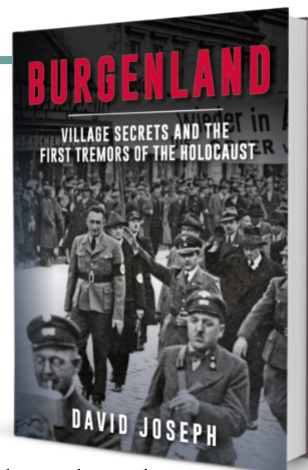
However, the deeply personal nature of David's account gives the reader a heightened sense of involvement in this biography.

David also examines the lives of those who survived, including his mother and her parents. This section of the book lays bare the political realities that they (and all of European Jewry) faced at that time.

David's mother came to England on the *Kindertransport*, her own mother following on later under a work visa allowing her to work as a domestic. This left David's grandfather stranded due

to immigration restrictions in the US and Europe as well as the British Mandate for Palestine, which severely limited Jewish entry. Eventually, David's grandfather managed to enter Palestine covertly but was imprisoned as an illegal immigrant. After the war, we learn of his repeated attempts to be reunited with his wife and daughter.

By writing this book, David has created an in-depth and very personal look at the terrible impact of the Nazis on Europe's Jewry and in doing so, created a wonderful ancestral narrative for his descendants.



The family photograph at Terci's bedside (Photo: Family archive)

XUL
ARCHITECTURE

XUL Architecture is an imaginative architecture practice inspired by natural light

33 Belsize Lane
London NW3 5AS
+44 (0)20 7431 9014
xularchitecture.co.uk

RIBA 
Chartered Practice



Next season at Mill Hill Music Club

DAVID BAKER

The Mill Hill Music Club holds monthly classical music concerts on Sunday evenings in the Hall of Henrietta Barnett School. Over the years, the Club was based at various venues across North London, and we have been based in the Suburb since 2007.

We have an exciting season of concerts scheduled for 2023-24. We begin on 10 September with the Hanover Band, an early music orchestra comprising of some of the best period instrument specialists in the UK. On 22 October, we will be joined by the London Mozart Players, one of the world's finest chamber ensembles, who will be playing a programme including Handel's Concerto Grosso in B flat, Bach's Concerto in D minor for two violins, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Another highlight of our forthcoming season will be a

concert featuring Dame Imogen Cooper, an internationally renowned performer described by Sir Simon Rattle as "one of the greatest musicians England has produced." On 14 April 2024, Dame Imogen will be performing a programme including Beethoven's Sonata Op. 110 in A flat major and Schubert's Sonata in C major, D840 (the 'Reliquie').

Although Mill Hill Music Club has kept its original name, we no longer have a club membership as such. Nevertheless, we do have a very loyal following and we offer a discount on tickets for the whole season, which runs from September to May. Through the generosity of the Cavatina Trust, the Club is currently able to offer free tickets to concert goers from ages 8-25.

For details of all the concerts in our forthcoming season, and for more information about the Club, visit: millhillmusicclub.co.uk.



The London Mozart Players (Photo: Kaupo Kikkas)



Free performance of 'Bull'

COLIN GREGORY

The Garden Suburb Theatre received a grant from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust to enable studio productions in the Free Church Hall to be open to all free of charge. Studio productions are staged between the main productions. Although the actors hold scripts, they are fully staged. The next one is 'Bull' by Mike Bartlett, which will be performed on Saturday 16 September at 7.30pm. Director Daryl Hurst, last seen as Malcolm in Macbeth in Little Wood, writes: "Mike Bartlett's 'Bull' is a razor-sharp play about the fine line between office politics and playground bullying. 'Bull' offers ringside seats as three employees fight to keep their jobs. Begging the questions: do we ever grow out of the patterns we learn and develop as kids and is it really only sticks and stones that may hurt us?" The cast comprises GST regulars Clare Janew, Kayne McCutcheon, Tilak Patel and Edwin Coutts. The play contains strong language. There is no need

to book, just turn up at the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11 6PB for 7.30pm. Refreshments available.

COMING UP AT THE GATEHOUSE IN HIGHGATE

From 12-15 October, GST will be performing 'Murder With Ghosts' by Simon Brett, who won the Crime Writers' Association Diamond Dagger Award in 2014. The play sends up the popular stage whodunnit and adds a new ghostly twist. From 23-26 November GST will be performing 'Wyrd Sisters' by Terry Pratchett, adapted by Stephen Briggs. Pratchett takes Shakespeare's Macbeth and, as director Fiona White puts it, "turns it up till the knob comes off."

Both productions will be performed at Upstairs at the Gatehouse, 1 North Road, N6 4BD (above the Gatehouse pub). Performances are at 7.30pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and at 4pm on Sundays. Tickets can be obtained from Upstairs at the Gatehouse (020 8348 3488 or upstairsatthegatehouse.com) or from ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre.



Repaircare London
EST.1999

Window Restoration

Hampstead | Highgate | Muswell Hill | Primrose Hill

www.repaircarelondon.com

- ✓ Window Restoration
- ✓ Internal Decoration
- ✓ Draft Excluder & Glass Upgrades
- ✓ Window Maintenance Programme
- ✓ Crittall Lead Lights



Find us on Instagram
[@repaircarelondon_ltd](https://www.instagram.com/repaircarelondon_ltd)



View our website
repaircarelondon.com

020 7101 3311
enquiries@repaircarelondon.com



Grimsdyke Brass Band at HGS Hort Soc Autumn Show 2022 (Photo: Caroline Broome)

HGS Horticultural Society moves into a new era

CAROLINE BROOME

In 2011 my husband David and I opened our garden for the National Garden Scheme and our very first visitor was the then Chair of HGS Horticultural Society, Suburb resident Michael Franklin. Always on the lookout for new blood, he 'persuaded' us to attend the next committee meeting. Against our better judgement we went along, just to be polite really. We didn't want to take on any more commitments, both of us working full time back then. Suffice to say that the committee was so warm and welcoming, lively debates ensued with such gusto and humour, that the bait was hooked!

I'm not exaggerating when I say that joining the HGS HortSoc committee changed our lives. We made new friends and had a whole new raft of gardening

hobbies and activities to choose from. The Allotment Society, Friends of Big Wood, the RA, all made us feel like part of a community. And as we begin winding down our careers, our increasing involvement with the Horticultural Society has helped to bridge the gap that that created; I can't imagine life without it now.

But don't just take my word for it. As a result of joining the society, former committee member Lorraine Wilder found that she couldn't walk around the Suburb without spotting a familiar face. Our most recent volunteer, Sue Williams, has joined the committee after helping out at the Plant Sale and the Flower Show because she says, "It's a hoot!"

The Spring and Autumn Flower Shows are a quintessential part of the Suburb calendar. On a warm June day, you could be forgiven for thinking you were at a country show. The heady fragrance of roses and the lure of home-made tea and cake create a bucolic idyll barely six miles from Central London. We all know that gardening is good for you, but I will take that one step further and say that being with like-minded people amongst beautiful flowers (and cake) is balm for the soul. Having said all that, I did discover in myself a slightly unsavoury streak of competitiveness on entering my roses into the shows and always feel cheated if I don't get a commendation!

The rush to buy pelargoniums at the May Plant Sale can only be compared to the first day of the Harrods Sale; 200 plants sold out in less than half an hour! For the dozen or more volunteers it's a rush to serve the jostling hordes. Hasty mental arithmetic, counting on fingers. Cups of tea drunk on the hoof, until all but a few stragglers remain, and everyone can breathe a satisfied sigh of relief. Such fun.

For those of you uninitiated in the ways of a horticultural society, what comes to mind? I've had comments like, "Oh I can't join because I don't have a garden", "I don't grow my own fruit and veg", "I'm not experienced in gardening enough to join." Well, I'm here to tell you that none of these things matter; all you have to do is like gardens! Another favourite is: "We'd love to get involved but what with work and family, there just isn't time." Time to get your children involved; after all, they are the next generation of gardeners. Enlist the help of their grandparents. Children's cookery classes, paper flower making, simple veg growing at entry level, radishes, tomatoes, strawberries. Give it a Go.

Look, our lives have changed irrevocably since the pandemic, we've all had to re-evaluate how we live. And the Hort Soc is no different: we see social media as a means of communicating in a more inclusive and immediate way.

We are planning on developing our website so that members can interact with each other via messages and photos. Questions and Answers swapped. Advice given. Plant and seed swaps. Endless possibilities.

We've got Big Ideas, but we need volunteers to make them happen and move the HGS Horticultural Society into a new, more relevant, era. Getting involved doesn't have to take up hours of your time. The more volunteers the merrier! Come talk to us about your particular skills and ideas at our September Flower Show. Can you help out at events by baking a cake, serving teas or selling plants? Could your admin skills be put to good use curating the shows? Edit our newsletters and E-bulletins or use your IT skills to help with social media development?

If you would like to find out more or become involved, please contact me on 020 8444 2329 or, alternatively, you can email me at: carosgarden@virginmedia.com.



HGS Hort Soc cake (Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury)

The winning trug, Best In Show Autumn Show 2022 (Photo: Caroline Broome)



YOU DESERVE CARE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Quality care you can trust, delivered in the comfort of your own home

Now serving Camden, Hampstead, Westminster & Golders Green

- Our care is person-centred - we go the extra mile
- All CareGivers are introduced to Clients in advance
- We do not wear uniforms, unless requested by Clients
- Our Care calls are never rushed
- 1 hr minimum up to 24/7 live-in care



- Companionship
- Transportation & errands
- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping
- Personal care
- Medical reminders
- Post-operative support
- Holiday & respite cover
- Specialist dementia care
- Hospital to home
- Help washing & dressing
- Live-in care
- and much more...

Call us for a **FREE** care assessment

0203 921 1111

camden.hampstead@rightathome.co.uk
www.rightathome.co.uk/camdenandhampstead



BROWNHILL
insurance group

LOVE ART
INSURANCE

Hampstead Garden Suburb
We've Got You Covered.

We are a 3rd generation family business, not a call centre corporation.

Our personal approach attracts clients who expect a little more care and attention.

Private and Commercial

Our individual service and insurance products are tailored to your specific needs.

For art lovers, from art lovers.

Love Art provides specialist advice on how to best insure the collection you love.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE



call us **020 8658 4334**



Stihl HLA 86 Cordless Long Reach Hedge Trimmer
(Photo: Barry Millington)

Time to go green in the garden

BARRY MILLINGTON

Spring comes, green shoots appear, the hedges need a trim and within days the Suburb has become a war zone. Contract gardeners are sent out to terrorise us with horticultural bazookas, polluting the environment and deafening anybody foolish enough to welcome the spring with their windows open.

Often two or three of these operators open fire simultaneously, explosions ricocheting round the buildings. Thought you'd have a quiet coffee in the garden with a friend? Forget it. After an hour or more of this, there's a blissful silence but it's only a temporary ceasefire. The hedge trimmers are abandoned and it's on to the leaf blowers. Everybody knows they're only blowing the leaves from one garden to another. Next day another lot will blow them back again. Never mind: job done. They're off to shatter the peace around the corner.

Why do we stand for this? They're making fools of us and it's not necessary. Our gardener, Ollie Gael – a real pro with 40 years' experience – recommends the Stihl HLA 86 Cordless Long Reach Hedge Trimmer (RRP £429). It's virtually soundless from a short distance away and spare batteries can be carried if they're in use all day.

Ollie doesn't use a leaf blower, believing them to be unnecessary and inefficient, as well as anti-social. Raking is an ecologically-preferred alternative and has the advantage of not sounding like a heavy-artillery assault. The noise emitted by petrol-powered leaf blowers can be over 100 dB. Employers in the UK are legally required to provide hearing protection for workers subjected to more than 80dB and so it isn't surprising that hearing loss and tinnitus are common among users of this type of petrol-powered gardening equipment. And what about residents innocently going about their daily lives?

Nor is it just our hearing we need to be concerned about. A commercial petrol leaf blower generates as much pollution as driving a small car about 1100 miles, according to the California Air Resources Board. Research conducted in 2019 by a journalist for the respected American periodical, *The Atlantic*, established that the two-stroke engine found in many leaf blowers is vastly dirtier and less fuel-efficient than the four-stroke engines of most modern cars 'because by design it sloshes together a mixture of gasoline and oil in the combustion chamber and then spews out as much as one-third of that fuel as an unburned aerosol', ie as pollutant-bearing exhaust. These pollutants have been shown (by Adrienne Bernhard in a well-researched 2018 article in the *Wall Street Journal*) to be linked to cancer, heart disease and asthma.

As well as endangering the health of humans, leaf blowers disturb the insects on which our wildlife depends, destroying habitats and 'precious soil', leaving the air toxic and dangerous to breathe.

If you can smell the fumes of these pestilential machines as you walk past, you've already ingested a dangerous dose. If you have children or grandchildren, are you happy to expose them to this poison? To risk shortening their lives or blighting them with cancer?

So, what can we do? More than 100 cities across America, and many more in Europe, have already banned petrol-powered leaf blowers. In the UK, more and more local councils are under pressure to phase out petrol machinery in favour of electric. Efficient electric machines are now available, safer for both gardeners (quieter and with low vibrations for hand comfort) and residents, and generally cheaper than petrol-powered ones (they certainly require less maintenance).

Both the Residents' Association and the Suburb Trust support the move towards electric. Simon Henderson, Chief Executive of the Trust, tells me they are considering how to encourage a more environmentally

responsible approach in their own contracts. The RA already has an action group called HGS REACH (Residents Action on Climate and Health) grappling with such issues. Visit their page on the RA website, hgsra.uk/reach, if you would like to register your support.

Just think how much more pleasant and safe the Suburb would be without these noisy, noxious machines. This is a battle we can win. Where Hampstead Garden Suburb leads, the world will surely follow!

A (forbidden) toast to the allotments

PETER HODGSON

On warm summer evenings and later in the autumn, to mark the harvesting of their produce, the plot holders at the Temple Fortune Hill allotments gather to raise their glasses.

A central area, featuring a pear tree and shaded by a parasol, has been devoted to relaxation and for the social use of plot holders. These occasions are much enjoyed but whether the Suburb's founder would have approved is moot. The serving of alcohol would have conflicted with the express wishes of Henrietta Barnett, her deeply Christian beliefs having made her vociferously opposed to alcohol. Drinking, she averred, was a ruination and the allotments she included in the original designs were intended as a distraction: "a place where every resident would find healthy contentment" and "where every man would be turned from spending his time and his family's money in the public house".

The fact that the autumn harvest party beverage, a warmed and spices-infused port, loses much of its alcohol in its preparation might offer some mitigation, maybe drawing a sigh of acceptance from the austere Suburb founder. Being the wife of a canon, she may also have been persuaded by the religious connotations of this tippie, known as 'the bishop' – in earlier times supposedly served in a vessel shaped like a bishop's mitre.

However, Henrietta Barnett would surely have approved of the way the Suburb's allotments are currently being used. "Father working, mother watching, children helping, the land yielding its kindly fruits." Her words, true now as then, save perhaps it's now the case of "father and mother working".

The photographs below were taken at the Temple Fortune Hill allotments in February, April and July to show the change to the landscape from deep winter to bountiful summer.

This year, these allotments are as productive as ever. Contained in an area measuring 1,500 square metres, the irregularly-shaped plots display some 60 types of vegetables, salads, fruit, herbs and flowers.

Reflecting upon the array before him, one plot holder said it was "a pleasure and a privilege" to have an allotment. "A pleasure to work the land and see the results and a privilege to have such a peaceful place in a busy city." Another plot holder said "At the end of my working day I just want to walk with nature, the birds, the butterflies and to gather vegetables for supper."

There are 13 separate allotment sites in the Suburb, each with its own environmental and botanical distinctiveness. If you are interested in joining the 100 or so tenants who are currently signed up to them, contact the HGS Trust on 020 8455 1066.



Winter: The beginning, the time for fertile thinking. Spring: Matching the thinking with the land's fertility. Summer: A mass of green suggests the combination is fruitful. (Photos: Peter Hodgson)

Four Seasons GARDEN MAINTENANCE

- ♣ Weekly or fortnightly maintenance contract
- ♣ Garden clearance
- ♣ Lawn care (mowing, turfing, fertilisation etc.)
- ♣ Planting
- ♣ Weed killing & treatment
- ♣ Hedge trimming, tree works
- ♣ Patio cleaning
- ♣ All general garden services

We offer a professional, reliable service with 16 years of experience at an affordable price. Call Roland or leave a message for a free quote.

♣ 07584 574520 ♣ fourseasonsgarden@hotmail.com



WHAT'S NEW IN THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM?



Tribute art installation dedicated to Pick at Piccadilly Circus station

Frank Pick (1878-1941)

The Man Behind London Transport's Identity

JUDY SMITH & JOE MATHIESON

The Virtual Museum is concentrating on 'People of the Suburb' and we are currently building our new collection. This promises to be one of the most interesting parts of the museum as we are discovering the extraordinary individuals who really changed our world. One of these extraordinary individuals is Frank Pick. You may not have heard of Pick, but you will almost definitely recognise the brand he helped to create – the London Underground.



Beautiful, original London Underground sign at Aldgate East Station

Pick became Chief Executive of London Transport and was a towering figure who had an unrivalled flair for design management. During his 30-year career, Pick changed the face of London Transport. In 1906 Pick became assistant to George Gibb at the UERL (Underground Electric Railways Company of London), which controlled the District Railway, which would later be known as the Bakerloo, Northern and Piccadilly lines. In 1908 Frank Pick became publicity officer for the London Transport Passenger Board. In this role he organised and rationalised the bus network to complement the train stations. Working with Albert Stanley, the company's general manager, he helped develop the corporate branding of the London Underground, including introducing the use of the all capitalised UNDERGROUND.

He believed in fitness for purpose and the power of good design to enrich life. This ethos aimed to enhance the quality of

the passenger environment through innovative architecture and design.

Pick successfully cultivated a large network of artists and designers. His vision brought London's transport system international acclaim for its architecture, graphic art and design. Pick helped create the now iconic London Underground logo roundel (or bullseye).

To aid the burgeoning use of the tube network, Pick started commissioning posters, his first one being an advert about Golders Green in 1908. Pick was also responsible for the typeface that we know today as the Johnston typeface, named after its creator Edward Johnston. Pick explained to Johnston that he wanted a typeface that would have 'the bold simplicity of the authentic lettering of the finest periods' but that would belong 'unmistakably to the twentieth century'. It was rolled out in 1916.

As well as commissioning design, Pick also commissioned

architecture, particularly appointing Charles Holden to design stations for the expanding tube network. Pick had met Holden at the Design & Industries Association (DIA) in 1915, and he saw modernism as key to creating a definable image for twentieth century London transport.

Pick claimed that 'a new style of architectural decoration will arise' leading to a 'modern London – modern not garbled classic or Renaissance'. He commissioned Holden to redesign Piccadilly Circus station (where you can now see a tribute art installation dedicated to Pick, see above) and the Underground Group's new headquarters at 55 Broadway in St James.

An ardent advocate of good design, Pick was president of the DIA 1932-34 and the first Chair for the Council for Art and Industry set up by the board of Trade in 1934. Pick was also an honorary member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.



Pick's first poster, advertising Golders Green, in 1908

Pick turned down a knighthood and a peerage – he disliked the honours system. However, in 1932 he did accept the Soviet Union's Honorary Badge of Merit for his advice on the construction of the Moscow Metro.

Pick died in 1941 at 15 Wildwood Road. The plaque (put up in 1981) is, of course, written in the Johnston typeface.

Judy Smith is Chair of the HGS Virtual Museum and Joe Mathieson is Assistant Architectural Advisor to HGS

JOSHUA BERGER
CARPENTRY

For all your professional carpentry needs

I specialise in all domestic and commercial carpentry to the highest possible standards. Professional decorating services also managed with over 10 years of excellence.

Call now for a free quotation
07811 911 389
joshuabergercarpentry.com



Your chance of a claim to fame ends soon
Suburb News Portrait Photography Competition closes
30 September



Get your camera lens focused on that winning portrait

MYKE JACOBS

This year's theme is *A Favourite Portrait*. Hampstead Garden Suburb residents are invited to submit photographs to the Suburb News Photography Competition 2023. There are many talented photographers in the area and Suburb News would love to see your best photos from HGS residents of any age, so come and take part in the Competition. Full details, and an upload facility, can be found at hgstra.uk/photocompetition. The deadline is 30 September 2023.

The prizes are: First £75, Second £50 and Third £25. In addition there is the Richard Wiseman Prize (£75) for the best Self-Portrait.

The competition is being organised and judged by Myke Jacobs, leader of HGS U3A Photography and two of its long-standing members Marion Davies and Diana Iwi.

If you want to know more and would like some tips, the judges set out their approach on page 12 of issue 154 of Suburb News (June 2023) which is also available online at hgstra.uk/suburbnews/sn154/sn.pdf. Good luck to all the contestants.

P R HARTLEY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
& REGISTERED AUDITOR

Accounting & Taxation Services

Call 020 8731 9745 or 07850 634395
Email: paul@prhartley.co.uk
www.prhartley.co.uk

Aye, where's the rub?

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Bowling Club

The clue to the identity of those in this photograph from 100 years ago, lies at the feet of the front row: these are the gentlemen – and one lady – of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Bowling Club. The reverse has been annotated with some of the names. A star of the club was Mr B Gill – seated ninth from the left in the middle row. He won the President's Cup eight times between 1925 and 1938. You might think that having won the cup so many times they would have let him keep it, but it resides with a group of others in the Archives, unpolished for decades, hence the misquotation from Hamlet.

Others in the photograph would have been familiar with Shakespeare's references to bowls. Mr Todd (back row, second from left); Mr Meadows (back row, eighth from left); Mr Chambers (back row, twelfth from left); and Mr Walsh (middle row, eighth from left) were all involved in the Play and Pageant Union, indicating the

cross-over between many of the Suburb societies. Percy Meadows wrote the music for the first Pageant in the newly-constructed theatre in Little Wood, 'Pan Pipes in Archos', staged in June 1920. George Ramsbotham (back row, sixth from left), winner of the President's Cup in 1913, was also a well-known Suburb character. He was the foreman for General Builders, the main contractors building for Copartnership Tenants Ltd in the early Suburb. He lived at 25 Asmunds Hill.

The Club was established in 1911 and the Town Crier reports that they played their first match on 13 May against Crouch End: "and we were soundly thrashed as expected." They did rather better against Hampstead Corporation on 17 June and gained their first victory against Ealing Tenants on 8 July.

There is evidence that bowls was played in ancient Egypt and by the Romans. Sir Francis Drake famously finished a game of bowls before tackling the Spanish Armada. Henrietta Barnett, the Suburb's founder, held strong views on recreation as on most things. She railed against the music hall and "inane beach shows", but approved

of "games of skill", so bowls probably met with her approval. The Club was situated behind the Club House on Willifield Green, where Fellowship House is now.

Another item in the collection of Suburb Archives is an example of the Bowling Club's blazer badge. It features the pascal lamb, symbol of Hendon Borough Council and

now part of the arms of LB Barnet. A note on the bag containing the badge says the Club flourished from about 1912 to 1955 "when it died of old age." The writer added that retired members played during the day so working members found it difficult to get a good game in the evening.



The last name on the President's Cup was SA Pailthorpe, who had won it in 1949. The Club closed in 1956.

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Bowling Club may have shuffled off this mortal coil but Suburb devotees of the game can still play bowls at the Bishopswood Bowling Club, which celebrated its centenary last year and meets in Lyttelton Playing Fields. And the Temple Fortune Club in Bridge Lane also has a bowls section and encourages new members.



A taste of paradise

MARIE-CHRISTINE O'CALLAGHAN

Interesting thing a fig tree; it crops up in the oddest of places. It grew in the Garden of Eden, as Adam and Eve used fig leaves to cover their nakedness. This has led some to think that the forbidden fruit (unnamed in the Bible) was a fig.

In Ancient Egypt, Pharaohs believed that when they died they would encounter a fig tree at the edge of the desert, from which the goddess Hathor would emerge to welcome them to heaven. The Kikuyu people of Kenya make offerings at sacred fig trees to communicate with God. The Tree of Awakening under which Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment was a fig tree. Romulus and Remus's cradle was caught in the roots of a fig tree. The prophet Mohammed reportedly identified the fig as the one fruit he would most wish to see in paradise.

Given this rich mythological baggage, it is not surprising that many cultures have established taboos against harming fig trees. In Guatemala, for example, there is a story of a man who was turned into a monkey just for trying to climb a sacred fig tree. Nor is it surprising to learn that fig trees have been around for a very long time. They were certainly one of the earliest fruit trees to be cultivated. Figs dated to between 9,400 and 9,200 BCE were found in the Neolithic village of Gilgal in Jordan

and may well represent the earliest evidence of agriculture.

In truth, fig trees are even older than that. Scientists have shown that the trees existed 80 million years ago so figs were probably eaten by some dinosaurs, but it is a very different kind of animal to which fig trees owe their very long existence: a minuscule insect known as the fig wasp. Fig tree and fig wasp are a superlative example of co-dependent evolution. You may have noticed that fig trees do not produce visible flowers, that is because the fruit of the tree is an inverted flower. The tiny female fig wasp enters the fruit through a small hole in the base and lays its eggs in the flower; once the baby wasps are born, they leave and the fertilised flower produces a shelled fruit. This co-dependence has been so successful that there are more than 750 species of fig plants, each with its own species of wasp.

The first documented fig tree in the UK was planted by Cardinal Reginald Pole around 1522 in the garden of the Palace of Lambeth. It is thought to have been a White Marseilles which produces large pear shaped fruits which are pale green to white. With our evolving weather, it should be easy to grow a fig tree in your garden, (the RHS recommends 'Brown Turkey' which received an RHS Award of Garden Merit) – you would then be able to eat your very own fig and enjoy a real taste of paradise.

Hampstead Garden Suburb is our home

We have been selling and renting Hampstead Garden Suburb homes since 1989. Most of our team live in Hampstead Garden Suburb and have a unique insight into our special area. So we are not like any other estate agent you'll come across on the high street.

Contemplating selling or renting your property?
Call us or email us to find out how Litchfields can assist.

020 8458 5000 | sales@litchfields.com | litchfields.com

litchfields

Submissions deadline for issue 156 is 1 November 2023 • Suburb News Co-Editors are Marie-Christine O'Callaghan & Shelley-Anne Salisbury • suburbnews@hgsra.uk

Please help make Suburb News your newspaper. Articles, letters and news items welcome. Send to the publisher along with High Res pictures at suburbnews@hgsra.uk.

Digital copies of recent issues are available on the RA website at hgsra.uk. Earlier copies are available at hgsheritage.org.uk (some issues still to be uploaded).

Views expressed in Suburb News are not necessarily those of the Residents Association, its committee members or its editors, and they cannot accept any liability for errors, omissions or inaccuracies published. Also Suburb News shall have no responsibility or liability in respect of any claims made, services provided or goods offered in the adverts featured.

Suburb News uses paper from well-managed sources or recycled stock. Pre-press methods use no chemicals, developers or fixers. Vegetable oil-based inks are used in place of pure oil inks. Associate Members receive their copy in a mailing bag made from 100% recycled plastic and the bag is fully biodegradable after use. Please recycle this copy of Suburb News once you have finished with it.

