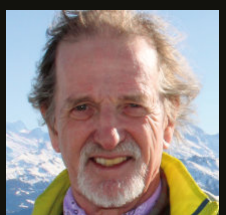




# Suburb News

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

It is with much sadness Suburb News shares the news of the death of its former editor Terry Brooks – see his obituary on page 5



Read all about Britain's Biggest Living Garden Update on page 7



We say goodbye to HGSRA chair, Emma Howard, after seven years in post, page 6



Ruben volunteers to perform, and stuns all, at the Free Church Charity Concert, see page 10 (Photo: Peter McCluskie)

## We are a caring community

EDITOR: SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

In this issue of Suburb News you can read about the many types of volunteering opportunities that abound in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

There are too many to list here but include: Food Bank Aid (p1), Britain's Biggest Living Garden (p7),

At last, an end is in sight for the long, wet, dreary winter. There are crocuses and snowdrops everywhere and the days are getting longer. Spring is redolent of new beginnings but we must also say a few goodbyes.

Terry Brooks, former editor of Suburb News, and Jennifer Radice sadly passed away in December (p5). Terry stepped up to edit Suburb News when the editor and founder, Richard Wakefield, unexpectedly died. Terry edited Suburb News for five years before ill-health prevented him continuing. He was an absolute gentleman and will be greatly missed.

Emma Howard, the current RA Chair, will be stepping down from the role in March. She has been a

tour de force and ensured the RA has upheld all it was set up to do and so much more. She will be a hard act to follow. Thank you so much Emma.

I'd also like to thank Marie-Christine O'Callaghan for her invaluable support as my co-editor and, although she is hanging up

tree planting by Friends of Big Wood (p3) and the newly formed Friends of Lyttelton (p18). Our youth are also extremely community minded. Archer Academy student, Nittai Levi, reaches out to senior community members (p5) and the SNY team discuss the benefits of volunteering and what it means to them personally (p11-13).

her editorial hat, she will remain on the Publications Committee.

Finally, a big thank you to all our contributors who make Suburb News the varied and interesting read it is. If you have any articles you think other readers might be interested in, please email me at suburbnews@hgsra.uk.



Food Bank volunteers (Photo: Food Bank Aid)

## Food Bank Aid update

ALYSON WALSH, CEO, FOOD BANK AID

According to recent reports, 25 per cent of Londoners are living in poverty and one in five schools now have food banks within them to support pupils and their families. These children – our future – are already facing an uphill battle, growing up in environments where food insecurity and mental health challenges are the norm. The ripple effect of the on-going cost-of-living crisis is profoundly undermining communities around us, including some not far from the Suburb.

In Autumn 2022, Suburb News featured the work of Food Bank Aid. At the time the charity was supporting 20 food banks from their hub in Chaplin Square, Finchley, opposite the Vue Cinema. (continued on page 2)

**Annual General Meeting 2025**  
(RA members only – you can join at the door)

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

**The meeting (incorporating a Special General Meeting) will take place at 8pm on Monday 31 March**  
Henrietta Barnett School, Bigwood Hall, Bigwood Road, NW11  
(Doors open at 7.30pm – light refreshments will be available before the meeting)

Nomination procedure for the RA Council:  
[www.hgsra.uk/docs/agsm2025-nomination-procedure.pdf](http://www.hgsra.uk/docs/agsm2025-nomination-procedure.pdf)  
The meeting agenda will be available on the RA website from 24 March 2025.

**Speakers: our local MP and the area Police Inspector**

## DESPITE THE PRESENT UK ECONOMIC WOES, WE ARE STILL SHORT OF PROPERTIES LIKE YOURS, FOR SALE OR RENT.

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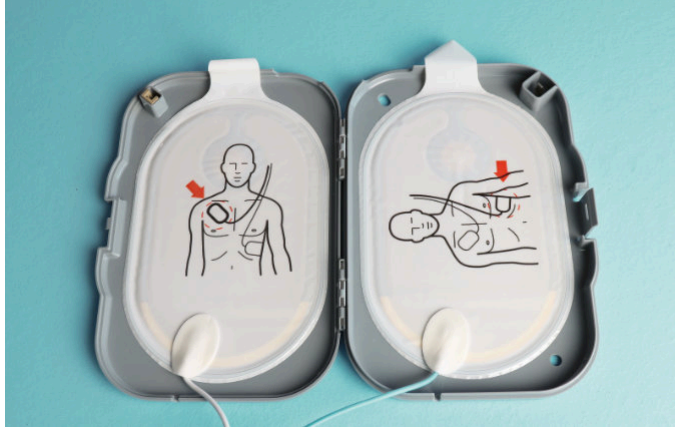
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## Defibrillator update

GREN MANUEL

The project to install defibrillators across HGS is making headway. Fellowship will shortly be installing an external unit at Fellowship House on Willifield Green, the first defibrillator in the heart of the Suburb. This means hundreds of homes in streets such as Erskine Hill, Temple Fortune Hill and the north end of Willifield Way – the 'Artisans Quarter' – will be within easy reach of a unit.

But to ensure that all Suburb residents have access to one of these lifesaving devices perhaps a total of a dozen units will be needed, externally mounted and available 24/7. Work is underway to raise finance. Planning, training and maintenance issues also need to be worked out.

The RA is coordinating the project but it is a cross-community initiative that will involve organisations such as clubs, and places of worship. Want to know more? There will be a presentation at the RA AGM on March 31. Please contact [defibs@gmail.com](mailto:defibs@gmail.com) if you or your organisation could help support this important project.

BRYONY DAVIES, ASST HEAD,  
BROOKLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Brookland Junior School has been incredibly lucky to receive a very generous grant from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association. This has enabled us to replace a vital classroom interactive whiteboard and install two new table tennis tables on our playground. Our pupils will benefit from these upgrades for years to come.

The two new table tennis tables replace our old ones which were broken and unusable for playing games. We now have a

revived interest in table tennis and many pupils keen to improve their skills and team work. The new ones are likely to last for longer and survive more inclement weather.

"I really like the table tennis. I play it every day with my friends and even if they aren't here, there are always other people to play with. It is my favourite sport currently. The game helps me with teamwork and it is just really fun.

I play table tennis out of school, so having good equipment in school helped me to practise my skills. Thank you very much for the grant. We love table tennis and hope to start a table tennis club soon," said Christopher and Vlad, Year 6.

The support from the HGSRA and our Parents' Associations have also enabled us to replace one of our whiteboards that was no longer interactive or reliable. This ensures that pupils have access to modern and effective technology to support their learning.

Year 5, spoke as one, to say, "Our new board is excellent. It is interactive, so we can play fun maths games with the whole class after we have finished all our work. It helps all of the children show their qualities to the rest of the class. We want to say a very big thank you to the PA and HGSRA. Our teachers are super excited to use all the great features on it. We all thank you deeply."

## The 'Outstanding' Archer Academy



Photo: Katie Ruback

KATIE RUBACK

In January 2025, we welcomed Ofsted inspectors into the Archer Academy. They spent two days inspecting every area of our school's life and performance and it was a thrilling moment when Ofsted confirmed that we continue to be an 'Outstanding' school.

Our Headteacher, Lucy Harrison, was absolutely delighted and thanked the fantastic staff for their incredible hard work and dedication and also the students, governors and parents who demonstrate such ongoing pride and passion for their school.

There were so many positive things about our school in the

inspector's report that it is hard to pick out the highlights, but I will share just a couple: "Pupils receive an exceptional education at the Archer Academy." "The school fosters a happy, welcoming, and inclusive environment where academic excellence and personal development hold equal importance." The full report can be found on the Ofsted website, which captures our school's strengths, values, and the impact of our ambition on each and every student and member of staff.

We were graded 'Outstanding' at our last inspection in 2019, and to keep that judgement five years later is something we at Archer are all extremely proud of, especially in the wider context of local and national challenges. This has required an incredible amount of commitment and support from the whole school community. Claire Straus, our Chair of Governors, said she was incredibly proud of the entire school and, in particular, its exceptional headteacher, Lucy Harrison who, together with her leadership team, has worked tirelessly to ensure our school provides an outstanding and bold education in an environment where students feel cared for and both pupils and staff live and breathe the school's values. As Claire said: "The Archer Academy is a remarkable school that goes beyond what is expected."



Photos: Bryony Davies

## Food Bank Aid update

(Continued from page 1)

Today they are supplying 33 North London Food Banks. There are another dozen on the waiting list who urgently need their help.

I'm passionate about tackling food insecurity and implementing innovative new strategies to increase the impact of a charity's work. Together with the charity's founder, Naomi Russell, we will spearhead FBA's annual three-day fund-raising drive over 15, 16 and 17 March when every donation, large or small, will be doubled. Last year FBA raised £1.3 million and needs even more funding if it is to continue supporting the 23,000 adults and 5,000 children in the foodbanks and schools who have come to rely on it.

Most of the food, personal care and household goods are bought in bulk from FBA's trusted, secure suppliers. Donations from street collections, families, schools, individuals and businesses are a vital part of the organisation. A lean charity where 400 passionate and dynamic volunteers are its life-force, making, sorting, picking, delivering and collecting run like clockwork, FBA has been set up

to be smart, nimble but most of all, impactful.

Its unique selling point is that by liaising with its food banks and strategically purchasing goods, the charity can supply exactly what is urgently needed. Items include basics for family cooking, instant food which only needs hot water or a microwave and ingredients which are culturally relevant to different communities. This is especially welcome during the many joyous religious festivals which are celebrated all over North London.

Sadly, food insecurity is here to stay. Food Bank Aid is a grassroots, volunteer community charity which Henrietta Barnett would have applauded.

For all enquiries, information about drop off points and where you can donate food, email: [info@foodbankaid.org.uk](mailto:info@foodbankaid.org.uk). For information about volunteering: [volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk). To support the Food Bank Aid Matching funding appeal, visit: <https://bit.ly/FBA-HGS25>, or scan the QR code here.



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Photo: Maria Schlatter

## Love Trees for Meadway Gate

MARIA SCHLATTER

Last year, Peter Falk officially stepped down as chair of the Friends of Big Wood, which he co-founded and ran with great energy and effectiveness for many years. This does not mean retirement for him, however, as he stays involved with the Friends' campaigns to safeguard the

Suburb's threatened veteran trees and continues his homeless charity work. Many residents will also know him as a great supporter of music in the Suburb, an instigator of the local Autumn Concert Series, former Fellowship House treasurer and organiser of the Film Club. To thank him for his long-standing engagement, we had a whip round among his local

friends, green spaces volunteers and the music community.

Their generosity raised enough to be able to plant four Judas or love trees (*Cercis siliquastrum*) in Meadway Gate. Peter chose this location because rose aficionado Stephan Conaway and other volunteers have been working proactively in that delightful green space to improve it and renew the

flower beds. The four bushy small trees with striking rosy-pink flowers will only add to its appeal.

Peter hosted a tea party at Meadway Gate on Saturday 30 November to mark the planting and to thank everyone who had contributed.

Maria Schlatter is chair of Friends of Big Wood, [friendsofbigwood.com](http://friendsofbigwood.com).



We are seeking to co-opt community members onto the Garden Suburb Infant and Junior Schools' Governing Body. These are voluntary positions, and the board of governors invites members of the community to apply.

Becoming a governor is a rewarding opportunity to develop valuable skills such as leadership and team building. You don't need to have a background in education – your unique perspective as a member of the community is invaluable. As a governor, you'll help ensure our schools' strategic direction, hold school leaders accountable and oversee financial performance.

We welcome applicants with skills in finance, HR, ICT, data analysis, law, education, communications and marketing. However, anyone passionate about

contributing to our schools' success is encouraged to apply. Full training is provided!

We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community and we welcome applications that reflect this. Garden Suburb Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All governors will be expected to have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Please visit our school website to find out more about the skills we are looking for, the level of commitment required, the criteria for governors and how to apply. Just scan the QR code to find out more.



## The almost secret Master Tradespeople List

MARY WHITING

This is an almost-secret bit of local information, though it's available to everyone who wants it. The thing is, if you suddenly – and urgently – needed an osteopath or a plumber or, perhaps slightly less urgently, a solicitor, surveyor or tree surgeon, how would you find a good one?

Of course you might find someone likely-sounding online, or you might consider using that

advertising blurb that came through the door. But how much better to have someone that other HGS residents have used and were keen to recommend.

In fact, all you have to do is to look at an extraordinary local resource called the Master Tradespeople List. This has been going for some years now and has accumulated an amazing 600 categories to date with over 2,000 recommendations! Each recommendation was sent in by a local resident and gives the contact details of the business, the names of the residents recommending it and the date. And, usually, details of the work done.

This is close to being a unique service in any local area and invaluable. It's open (and free!) to everyone who's a member of the HGS Residents Association (ie not the Trust), and possibly one of the most useful and beneficial reasons for belonging.

To become an RA member, go to <https://www.hgsra.uk/about/join.html> and give your email address. When you're a member, go to either [members.hgs.org.uk/mtl](https://members.hgs.org.uk/mtl) to access the list, or click on <http://hgs.org.uk/registration/index.html> to join the local chatline and get automatic monthly updates of the Master Tradespeople List, as well as info on local affairs.

And, of course, if a business has done a super job for you, send your own recommendation to [mary@whitings-writings.com](mailto:mary@whitings-writings.com) to be added to this ever expanding list.



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## New Trust CEO: Farewell Simon; Welcome Will

PAUL CAPEWELL

**A**s announced late last year, the Trust has appointed its new CEO, Will Hawkins. Will took up the role in January, and some of you may have already met him. He looks forward to meeting more residents as he gets to know the Suburb. Also in January, a small gathering was held at Fellowship House to mark not just the transfer of leadership from Simon Henderson to Will as chief executive, but also to commemorate the end of Raymond Taylor's term as Chair. That role passed to Richard Townley after the Trust's AGM in September.

Simon joined the Trust at a turbulent time, just before the first Covid lockdown of 2020 changed all of our lives forever. At the Fellowship House event, Richard Townley applauded Simon's work to keep the Trust running steadily and productively throughout this disruptive period. Simon conducted himself with a modesty and a warmth that was felt by many people he came into contact with through his time at the helm.

Simon's tenure of five years was mirrored closely by Raymond's two three-year terms as elected resident trustee, and their partnership ensured a consistency that proved fruitful in the various Trust projects completed during that time, as well as in the day-to-day running of the Trust.

(Top left) Richard Townley presents Raymond Taylor and Simon Henderson with customised 'Suburbopoly' boards in recognition of their efforts  
(Top right) New HGS Trust CEO Will Hawkins meets his new colleagues  
(Photos: Mike Eleftheriades)

## The Orchard has vacant seats at the Trustee Table



Do you want to give something back to your local community? Become a trustee for the Orchard Housing Society.

Orchard Housing Society Ltd runs the social housing complex situated at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way and known locally as The Orchard. We provide sheltered housing units for people over the age of 60 who live in or have a connection with the Suburb. The governing body, known as the Management Committee, would now like to recruit one or more trustees, to act in a voluntary capacity.

We would particularly like to hear from you if you are professionally qualified – eg a solicitor or barrister, a housing professional, surveyor, have business or management experience at a senior level or have fund-raising experience.

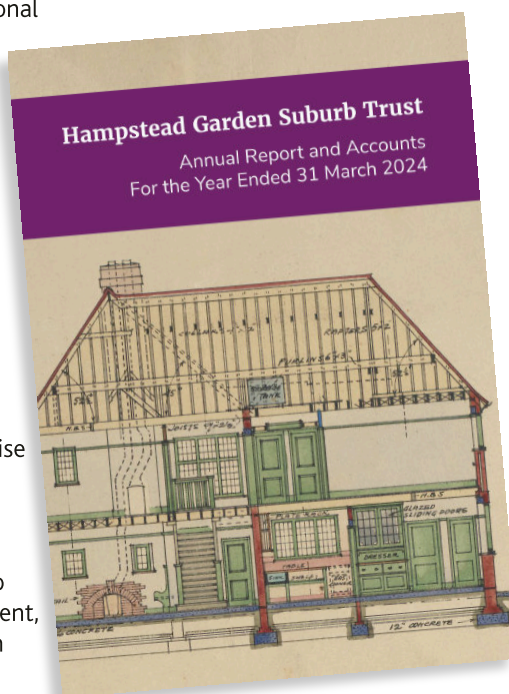
If you are interested, please write to the Secretary at 1 The Orchard, Hampstead Way, London NW11 6YN, or e-mail [secretary@orchardhousing.uk](mailto:secretary@orchardhousing.uk), phone: 0208 455 0093.

# Become a Member of Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust!

Hampstead Garden Suburb is a place of international significance as well as an inspiring and desirable setting in which to live. It is a landmark of good practice in domestic architecture and planning that many modern developments aspire to but very few attain. The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust was established by residents to maintain and preserve the Suburb's unique character and amenities for the general benefit of all who live on the Suburb, now and for the future.

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee, as well as a registered charity. It fulfils its objectives without producing profits or dividends. The Trust has members rather than shareholders and is governed by eight volunteer trustees, who comprise the Trust Council. Four trustees are appointed by relevant professional organisations, and four are elected by the members themselves.

Trust Membership isn't automatic. It's separate to paying the Trust management charge or ground rent, and is open to Suburb residents whether you own your home or not. It's individual, too, so multiple members of a household are welcome to join. It's a show of support for the Trust, and a way to get more involved in how we work.



### New for 2025!

Our last AGM in September 2024 passed a resolution allowing all adult residents to become members from the moment they move to the Suburb. There's no longer a three year minimum. If you're new to HGS and want to show your support, join today.

#### As a Trust Member you can:

- Receive the Annual Report and Accounts
- Participate in Suburb management through our AGM
- Vote in Trust Council elections and at AGMs
- Join exclusive occasional Members events including lectures and walking tours

Trust Membership is **completely free**.

To become a member today, please visit [www.hgstrust.org/membership](http://www.hgstrust.org/membership).

If you're not sure whether or not you're currently a member, send an email to [paul@hgstrust.org](mailto:paul@hgstrust.org) and we'll let you know.

If you care about the Suburb, please become a Member and help us keep it special

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# Terry Brooks

1951 - 2024

MARGARET HARRIS

Terry Brooks, who died in December 2024, was the Editor of Suburb News for five years and the Chairman of the RA Publications Committee for 20 years. He took over as Editor in 2014 at short notice after the passing of Suburb News Founder-Editor Richard Wakefield.

Terry's association with Hampstead Garden Suburb dated



Photo: Georgina Malcolm

back to 1963 when his parents bought a house in Hampstead Way, having lived in social housing in London. Terry remained a Suburb resident up to the time of his death and involved himself in many roles in Suburb life.

A formative experience for Terry was a road trip in 1972 which he took with his then girlfriend. Terry came back to England on the QE2. The green landscape of England was in sharp contrast to the grand

landscapes of America and made him feel it was good to be back home. Terry took a degree in Economics and Politics, which he achieved as an external student of London University. Although not much interested in conventional sports, Terry loved climbing and skiing, outdoor activities which he was able to enjoy in later life during extended stays in Switzerland with his second wife Georgina. (In fact, Terry and Georgina met when they

were both serving on RA Council.) Terry was drawn into local activities by Jean Barraclough, who was his brother's mother-in-law and head of English at The HGS Institute. Jean asked Terry to teach English as a Foreign Language. Terry found he enjoyed teaching and eventually designed his own Institute course on British Life and Institutions. Through Jean, Terry was drawn into the governance of the Residents Association and

was on the Council for many years. Terry also enjoyed the challenges posed by car mechanics and went into partnership with friends to open a motor-cycle shop in Chalk Farm. Despite being busy with children, the motorcycle shop and teaching, Terry and his then wife Jenny found the time to set up the Wysing Arts Centre near Cambridge, an arts residency centre and campus for artistic production, experimentation and learning. The Centre is still there and flourishing.

Terry is survived by his wife Georgina, two adult children, Jessica and Luke, and his granddaughter Ottilie.

*Acknowledgements: Thanks to Marie Christine O'Callaghan for information about Terry published in Suburb News 141 (2020).*

# Jennifer Radice

1940 - 2024

MARGARET HARRIS

Jennifer Radice was known for her boundless energy and formidable organisational skills. She contributed to local life in a variety of ways following a busy and varied career in the Foreign Office, the Diplomatic service and the Overseas Development Administration (now Department for International Development).

Jennifer put her prodigious linguistic skills at the disposal of St Jude's Proms, volunteering as Secretary for a long stretch in the early 2000s and ensuring that 'foreign' terms in the Proms programme notes were accurately translated. Jennifer's command of languages and love of travel were rooted in her family background as the child of a father who was posted to places all around the world including Germany, Sarawak, the Caribbean and Zambia. Jennifer later joined the Foreign Office herself and enjoyed trips to countries including India, Canada and Brazil. Her travel experiences – many were in fact treks – were recorded in a book she authored called 'Jennifer's Travels'.

After her retirement, Jennifer took on a new project: to add to

her portfolio of languages by learning Italian. She enrolled for daytime classes at what was then the HGS Institute. With her good working knowledge of other romance languages, she progressed rapidly to A-Level, after which she went to University College London to study Italian and graduated with a First. This led to a new career as a professional translator.

Jennifer's love of languages and travelling was matched by her love of choral music. She sang with several choirs including the St Jude's choir, Hampstead Choral Society, the London Bach Society and the City of London choir.

Jennifer is survived by her husband Thomas, sisters Joanna and Josephine, children Mark, Louisa and Simon and grandchildren Elias and Lucian.



Photo: Family Archive

## Reaching out to Suburb Seniors

NITTAI LEVI

Hello Neighbours. I am a year 11 student at The Archer Academy and I'm reaching out with a special invitation for the wonderful senior members of our community – or anyone who knows someone who might enjoy a little extra company.

As part of our school's active citizenship project, some Year 11 students are working to brighten the lives of local senior residents by offering moments of connection and kindness. Here's how you can

join in: (1) Join us for tea and biscuits! We'd love to welcome you to The Archer Academy, at Agen Close, N2 8DJ, date and time to be confirmed, for a friendly chat with students and fellow residents over a warm cup of tea and some biscuits. (2) Receive a handwritten letter: If you'd prefer, we'd be delighted to send you a thoughtful letter from one of our students. If you're interested, just share your postal address so we can write to you. To do that, get in touch with my dad and he will forward me your details.



Photo: Eldi Levi

This is all about creating moments of joy and connection. We'd love to hear from you or anyone you know who might appreciate this! To reply, please contact my dad, Eldi, by email to: eldadlh@gmail.com. Thank you and have a lovely week.

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EMMA HOWARD CHAIR@HGSRA.UK

I hope that readers are enjoying our 161st edition of Suburb News. Now going strong for over 40 years, thank you to all who contribute to writing pieces, editing, spell checking, taking photos and then sorting, distributing and delivering copies. All done by over 150 volunteers, which is quite remarkable.

It is, however, my last article as Chair of the HGS Residents Association. I was elected chair at the 2018 AGM and will not be standing for re-election at the 31 March AGM. It's been an honour and pleasure to do the role, and it's been wonderful seeing the RA develop into new areas and attract new and younger volunteers, but it's time to hang up my boots and give someone with fresh ideas the chance to take it forward.

I would like to thank our other volunteers organising and running events, looking after IT, membership and the website, updating the Master Tradespeople List as well as looking after our street trees and open spaces, picking litter, helping on reducing our environmental impact and leading biodiversity. Really what people are willing to do as unpaid volunteers is quite remarkable.

Thank you also to our loyal RA members who have paid their dues and supported us in our work for many years. You have also been very generous in our fundraisers, most notably for the Royal Free Hospital Charity and the Heath Extension Playground. Personally, raising money for good causes has been one of the roles I have enjoyed doing the most and I have always been humbled by the willingness to contribute to a worthwhile local cause.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

A very successful Summer Fair in June, incorporating the Horticultural Society's 293rd flower show, raised close to £5,000 for local groups at a net cost to the Residents Association of £4,032. The traditional New Year's Eve fireworks display was again combined with a wonderful party at St. Jude's, at a net cost of £853. A bi-annual event to thank the many volunteers who help with RA activities was held at a cost of £1,400. We would like to thank Repaircare London and Litchfields Estate Agent for their generous sponsorship of events in 2024.

Membership numbers have disappointingly continued to decline, from 1718 in 2023 to 1622 in 2024. However, through reductions in running costs, net income from membership increased from £26,710 to £27,482. Suburb News continues to be a great success, with advertising revenue increasing from £30,163 to £33,705. Overall net income from publications increased from £12,451 to £14,456.

An RA led crowdfunding appeal met its target of £5,000 to plant new Suburb trees with a further £5,450 contributed from RA funds. £670 was spent on

planting at the Henrietta Orchard in Lyttleton playing fields.

The RA REACH environment group organised public events on electric cars and heat pumps at a cost of £471.

Grants totalling £31,750 were made: £5,000 to each of Garden Suburb and Brooklands Infant and Junior schools; £4,000 to Proms at St. Jude's; £4,000 to Britain's Biggest Living Garden project; £3,000 to the St Jude's murals restoration project; £750 to North London Music Festival.

The year ended with a net deficit of £2,946 and reserves of £75,959.

### HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

#### Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE                              | 2024(£)        | 2023(£)       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                       |                |               |
| Subscriptions                                       | 28,099         | 29,048        |
| Contribution from Fellowship                        | 500            | 500           |
| Bank Interest                                       | 3,500          | 2,627         |
| Advertising                                         | 34,755         | 32,203        |
| Events Income                                       | 5,091          | 2,599         |
| Sponsor a tree scheme                               | 0              | 750           |
| Donation/ Grant received for HHE Playground         | 0              | 558           |
| Other income                                        | 400            | 0             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                 | <b>72,345</b>  | <b>68,284</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURE before Grants</b>                    |                |               |
| Membership                                          | 1,117          | 2,838         |
| AGM, Storage, Room Hire & Zoom                      | 1,095          | 952           |
| Accounting & Secretarial                            | 850            | 819           |
| Publications                                        | 20,299         | 19,752        |
| Events                                              | 11,576         | 5,614         |
| Suburb tree planting & maintenance                  | 5,450          | 7,200         |
| REACH                                               | 471            | 968           |
| Other Expenditure                                   | 1,453          | 751           |
| Bank charges                                        | 310            | 430           |
| Henrietta's Orchard                                 | 670            | 1,874         |
| Heath Extension Playground/Other                    | 250            | 5,558         |
| <b>Total Expenditure before Grants</b>              | <b>43,541</b>  | <b>46,756</b> |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year before Grants</b> | <b>28,804</b>  | <b>21,528</b> |
| Grants                                              | 31,750         | 21,171        |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year after Grants</b>  | <b>(2,946)</b> | <b>357</b>    |

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## RA Summer Fair 2025

Saturday 7 June from 12-5pm

Do you run a local community organisation or group, and would you like to represent yourselves at the Fair? Or are you a fellow resident who would like to volunteer to help at the event? Please email [events@hgsra.uk](mailto:events@hgsra.uk) and we will be in touch.

Please save the date and come and join us on 7 June. Everyone is very welcome. All Dogs Matter will be organising their amazing dog show; the Horticultural Society Flower Show will be in the marquee. Donkeys plus Punch & Judy are all booked as are many more stalls and activities: bring friends and family and spend a happy afternoon on Central Square.



RA Summer Fair 2024  
(Drone photo: Ramon Bardolet)



# Britain's Biggest Living Garden UPDATE

DOMINIC ROSE  
BIODIVERSITY@HGSRA.UK

It is now a year since our launch of the Britain's Biggest Living Garden project with its ambition to make Hampstead Garden Suburb the most biodiverse urban area in the UK.

The project has surpassed original expectations and ambitions in many respects. We now have:

- Over 250 people actively engaged in the mission, and encouraging wildlife friendly practices in gardens and green spaces
- Suburb-wide biodiversity surveys showing a huge diversity of species living in our midst
- Significant planting of the Henrietta Community Orchard Garden in Lyttelton Playing Fields to create a haven for park visitors and wildlife alike
- Establishment of a new Friends of Lyttelton group
- Engagement with schools and nurseries in the area, most of whom are participating in the project and looking to develop their own wildlife gardens
- Over 300 species logged in HGS by citizen scientists on iNaturalist
- A vibrant kids' gardening club which has created a beautiful, wildlife-friendly garden
- A new sense of purpose and community for our local area, in line with founding principles of a community living in harmony with each other and with nature.

I am hugely grateful to local residents and organisations for their time and support including the Residents Association, Horticultural Society and HGS Trust, Barnet Council, St Jude's Church, Finchley Nurseries, Equigrow and Frogna Gardens. Volunteers from GoodGym, Growing Green and EcoJudaism have also been of huge help.

## KIDS' GARDENING CLUB

This meets every Tuesday from 4-6pm in the community garden by St Jude's. We aim to engage and inspire young people in gardening and local wildlife, and to create communal spaces for local residents, visitors and wildlife alike. Everyone is welcome.

Please register in advance to express your interest using the url below. All children must be



Kids' Gardening Club  
(Photo: Oh My Butterfly)



Henrietta Community Orchard Garden (Photo: Richard Rose)



Lyttelton Playing Fields new gate (Photo: Emma Howard)

supervised at all times by a carer, and we request a donation of £25 per child if affordable to help to cover running costs. We need some older children (over 13) to help, and adults to take on gardening tasks. Donations of spare tools and plants are always appreciated and can be left outside the greenhouse at any time.

More info and sign up at:  
[www.britainsbiggestlivinggarden.org/discover/kids-gardening-club](http://www.britainsbiggestlivinggarden.org/discover/kids-gardening-club)

## HENRIETTA COMMUNITY ORCHARD GARDEN

Barnet Council has devolved the management of this site in Lyttelton Playing Fields to the local community. Volunteers have planted 3,000 spring flowering bulbs, built a willow tunnel, wildflower meadows have been created and 50m of mixed hedging laid. Combined with the fruit trees planted in previous years, the months ahead promise to be beautiful and fruitful.

In coming months, we plan to build arches for pollinator friendly climbers and, if funding can be secured, to install a drainage swale and rain garden which will help with water management in this boggy area and create new diverse habitats for wildlife.

## FRIENDS OF LYTTELTON

Lyttelton Playing Fields has potential to be the beating heart of our community and efforts to improve biodiversity in line with Barnet Council's vision for the management of their parks and green spaces. Please see my article on Friends of Lyttelton in this edition on page 18.

## LAWN CONSULTATIONS

A reminder that the RA has now launched a free lawn consultation service, with many already successfully conducted. With the onset of spring, many residents will be going outside to find their lawn looking muddy, bare and soggy.

It's easy and common to think that astroturf is the only solution – but it's one that comes at a huge financial and environmental cost (as well as being prohibited by the Trust). There is always another way, and the lawn consultation service will help you identify wildlife-friendly and cost-effective ways to improve your lawn. To get in touch and arrange a free visit, please email me at: [biodiversity@hgsra.uk](mailto:biodiversity@hgsra.uk).



Kids' Gardening Club  
(Photo: Oh My Butterfly)

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## RA REVIEW

## North London Festival of Music Speech &amp; Drama 2025

STEVEN ROWE

The RA first sponsored the 'Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association Piano Prize' for pianists studying in the Senior Department of a UK Music College, Academy or Conservatoire in 2024. The £750 First Prize was presented by RA Chair Emma Howard to Jeremy Chan, of whom the eminent adjudicator James Kirby said: "he is clearly destined for a professional career on the concert platform." Indeed, Jeremy

is well on his way because in November 2024 he gave a recital at the prestigious Steinway Hall and critic Christopher Axworthy wrote: "Nobody was actually breathing, everyone held their breath in anticipation of every new sound Jeremy was creating." So make sure to put Tuesday 13 May in your diaries to experience the 2025 competition.

Founded in 1920, North London Festival is a registered charity which nurtures emerging talent at all levels, ranging from

children aged four to 18 to elite competitions aimed at higher level music students. This year's Music Festival will, with a break over Easter, run in the Free Church from 10 March until the End of Festival Concert on Tuesday 20 May.

Most days involve several 'classes' of school-age children performing to an audience who are often amazed by the high levels achieved and everyone receives feedback from a professional adjudicator together with a certificate and/or a prize. Instruments



RA Chair Emma Howard presents the first prize to Jeremy Chan (Photo: Peter McCluskie)

covered include Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Recorder, Woodwind, Brass, Harp and Chamber Music ensembles. There are also singing competitions and NLF is one of the very few UK festivals to offer composition classes, providing a platform for pioneering young composers to share their innovative skills.

Suburb residents are welcome to all events and especially to the RA Piano Prize Day and End of Festival Concert where selected winners from the main classes perform their winning pieces.

More information at [northlondonfestival.org.uk](http://northlondonfestival.org.uk) where you can also sign up to receive the newsletter.



Photo: Adrian Hodgson

## Children's Carnival Party

PATRICIA MAJOR

The HGS Residents Association organised a carnival parade event on Sunday 9 February in the Central Square Inspire Centre. Local youngsters in fancy dress spent a happy afternoon designing masks and making maracas. They then gathered for a photo shoot before marching around Central Square adorned in their masks and trailing organic balloons.

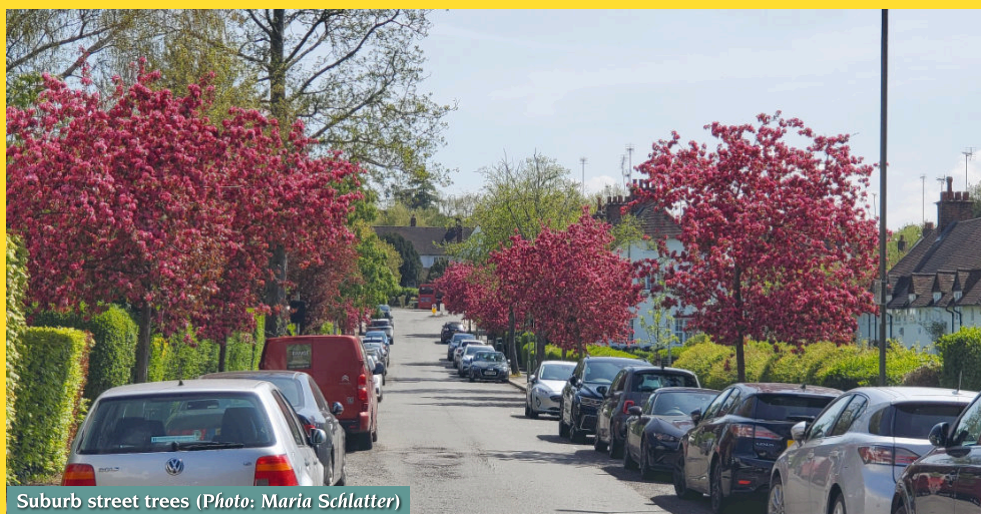
Thanks to Vera Moore for organising the artistry and the Residents Association Events Committee for organising it. This was a free event funded by the HGSRA.

## Sponsor a tree in the Suburb

It was inspiring to see the engagement of Hampstead Garden Suburb residents wanting to safeguard our beautiful street tree landscape last year, when HGS Residents Association teamed up with 'Trees for Streets' National Street Tree Sponsorship scheme. With your help, we managed to raise just above our annual target of £5,000. This has made it possible for Barnet to plant and look after an additional 20 street trees in the Suburb this winter. A huge thank you to all who took part and offered their donations. We are now asking you to keep up the momentum and raise funds for another 20 street trees to be planted this year. However large or small, your donations will go even further as, under the Trees for Streets scheme, Barnet will subsidise the costs of each fundraised tree.

This campaign is very necessary. In total, 59 streets trees are being planted in the Suburb this winter, but Barnet's budgets are forever tightening and even with the HGS RA's additional support, there are still around 300 empty street tree pits to fill. Please help us keep Hampstead Garden Suburb green and beautiful by contributing via the Barnet Council's Trees for Streets webpage: [treesforstreets.org/hgsra](http://treesforstreets.org/hgsra)

Maria Schlatter, HGS RA Trees & Open Spaces



Suburb street trees (Photo: Maria Schlatter)

Can you spare just £15 a year to help keep our Suburb special?

We hope that your answer is YES because, with your support, this 110 year-old, volunteer-run, organisation can continue to:

Bring the community together with social events like the amazing New Year's Eve Fireworks & Party and the Summer Fair

Support biodiversity via the very popular Kids Gardening Club and Henrietta's Orchard and promote Net Zero projects

Fund street tree planting and defend our green spaces and at-risk heritage trees

Liaise with LB Barnet to keep the Suburb clean and beautiful and run a litter picking volunteer team

Produce Suburb News (and, as an RA member, you'll also get Suburb eNews monthly and access to our recommended traders' database)

Support local charities and community groups including equipment in HGS playgrounds and grants to local primary schools

Just £15 per annum enables you to join over 1,700 other Suburb households that are already members of the Residents Association. You can join online at [hgsra.uk/join](http://hgsra.uk/join) or call 020 3488 9131. Please contact [chair@hgsra.uk](mailto:chair@hgsra.uk) if you would like to volunteer to support our many activities and have fun with others in fostering a strong community.





# Must-see events at Proms 2025

RON FINLAY

**P**roms at St Jude's has again put together a fantastic programme for its annual festival, which runs this year from Saturday 21 to Sunday 29 June – put the dates in your diary now!

## OFF WITH A BANG

The world's premier solo percussionist, Dame Evelyn Glennie, will be performing on the opening night, with the popular Fantasia Orchestra, which appeared at the BBC Proms for the first time in 2024.

This will be followed on Sunday 22 June by a very different kind of concert: sea shanties, folk songs, dance and lively fun from the Old Time Sailors, a band of 20 singers, dancers and musicians. You are invited to wear fancy dress to get into the spirit!

Adding to the variety, the rest of the week will see:

- Music from the 16th-20th centuries, from Debussy's haunting 'Clair de Lune' to selections from 'West Side Story', played by Connaught Brass
- A celebration of 'Cider with Rosie' author Laurie Lee, with music performed by The Orchestra of the Swan, based at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and star actors Anton Lesser and Charlie Hamblett playing a host of roles in Red Sky at Sunrise
- Chamber music from Haydn, Smetana and Beethoven, courtesy of the award-winning Fibonacci Quartet
- A Classical Pride concert, celebrating three LGBTQ+ composers and the immense contribution they have made to the history of classical music.

## FINAL WEEKEND

On Friday 27 June, you can hear the superb sounds of Fleetwood Mac's 'Rumours', courtesy of The Transatlantic Ensemble.

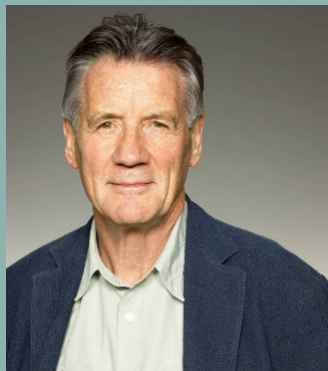
The following day, the Caravan Circus Band, a French and Italian duo on guitar, bass and vocals, performs a set of jazz and swing favourites FREE of charge at 6pm. After refuelling yourself with the food and drink on offer, head on at 7.30pm to hear The Swingles, one of the world's most admired vocal groups. Follow that at 10pm with another session of unmissable stand-up comedy, with a fully licensed late bar.



Fantasia Orchestra  
(Photo: Kaupo Kikkas)



Anton Lesser, Red Sky  
(Photo: Lucy Barriball)



Michael Palin  
(Photo: John Swannell)



Charlie Hamblett  
(Photo: Lucy Barriball)



Dame Evelyn Glennie  
(Photo: Philip Rathmer... and Brigitte)



Red Sky at Sunrise

Sunday 29 June sees the return of our Family Festival on Central Square, with music and art activities for children, many FREE of charge.

Our popular Last Night that day will come with an Italian theme. The London International Concert Orchestra will perform arias from beloved operas by Rossini, Puccini and Verdi, treasured instrumental music and a range of Neapolitan songs, as well as the usual Last Night favourites.

## HERITAGE WALKS

There will again be a fantastic range of guided walks to choose from. These include:

- Constable's Hampstead
- The Brewer, the Felon, the Showgirl and more: the surprising radicals of North End
- A Hard Rain – the Great Storm of 1975 and its impact on Hampstead and the Heath
- Golders Hill and its Glorious Trees
- Crime and Punishment – a walk taking in the Old Bailey and other City sights.

As usual, our walks will be led by highly experienced guides with excellent local knowledge and will last up to about two hours.

## AUTHOR INTERVIEWS

Our popular LitFest, kindly supported by the HGS Residents' Association, runs on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June. We are delighted to welcome a range of authors to talk about their new books, including:

- Sir Michael Palin on 'There and Back: Diaries 1999-2009'
- Tracy Chevalier on 'The Glassmaker'
- Philippe Sands on '38 Londres Street'
- Petroc Trelawny on 'Trelawny's Cornwall'
- Gabriel Pogrund and Patrick Maguire on 'Get In: The Inside Story of Labour Under Starmer'
- Sir Vernon Bogdanor on 'Making the Weather: Six Politicians Who Changed Modern Britain'

## PRIORITY BOOKING

Many of our events sell out quickly, but you can benefit from priority booking by becoming a Friend, from as little as £50. This will also help Proms' two beneficiary charities, Toynbee Hall and North London Hospice. For details or to subscribe, go to [promsatstjudes.org.uk/join-as-a-friend](https://promsatstjudes.org.uk/join-as-a-friend). Tickets to the public go on sale from Monday, 14 April at [promsatstjudes.org.uk](https://promsatstjudes.org.uk).

## KEEP UPDATED

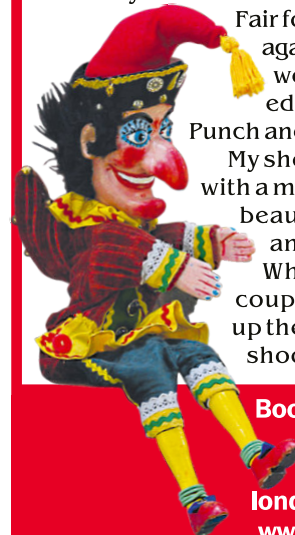
To ensure you keep up to date with all Proms news, sign up at [promsatstjudes.org.uk/join-our-mailing-list](https://promsatstjudes.org.uk/join-our-mailing-list) to receive a monthly e-newsletter. And if you'd like to get involved as a volunteer yourself, just go to the Volunteering page on the Proms website.

## HE'S BEHIND YOU!

Hello Everybody, I'm Professor James, I live on the Suburb and run one of the country's best loved Punch and Judy shows. I have performed at the RA's Summer Fair for several years and will be there again this year. I also do parties, work events, festivals, and educational talks on the history of Punch and aspects of the tradition.

My show follows a traditional format with a modern twist...enacted by a beautiful collection of hand-carved and painted puppets.

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Anete Graudina (Photo: Peter McCluskie)

## A cracking charity concert!

PETER MCCLUSKIE

**O**n 15 December the Free Church was the venue for a string ensemble concert arranged by Suburb resident, violin virtuoso and teacher Anete Graudina. The ensemble consisted of children and adults – with the kids being given prominent parts.

There were the most enjoyable performances of Bach, Pachelbel,

Rieding and Kuchler. Vivaldi played by three-year-old Ruben brought the house down!

The concert was in support of the reconstruction of the famous organ in St Peter's Church, Riga, Latvia. Bach's last student travelled specially to Riga to play this organ. The Carl Bechstein Foundation is also supporting this project which indicates its importance to the world of music.



(Photo: Peter McCluskie)

## GST performs An Ideal Husband

COLIN GREGORY

**T**he Garden Suburb Theatre's next production will be one of Oscar Wilde's most astute and topical plays: *An Ideal Husband*. The leading character, Sir Robert Chiltern, is a successful government minister, well-off and with a loving wife. All this is threatened when Mrs Cheveley appears with evidence of a past he would rather hide. Sir Robert has to decide whether to yield to blackmail or risk exposing the origins of his wealth and position.

The themes of this play, which revolve around blackmail and political corruption, are as relevant now as they were when Oscar Wilde wrote the play 130 years ago.

The play is directed by Mary Groom and Ömer Warman. Mary has previously adapted and directed Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* for the Garden Suburb Theatre and has adapted *An Ideal Husband* to focus on the main characters and their contemporary relevance.

The play will be performed at Upstairs at the Gatehouse on Thursday 1 May to Saturday 3 May at 7.30pm and Sunday 4 May at 4pm.

Check the Theatre's website to confirm times and you can book tickets at [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com).



Oscar Wilde by Napoleon Sarony, 1882 (Photo: trialsanderrors, licensed under CC BY 2.0)

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**Ruth Anderson**

My favourite subject at school is psychology and I'm really interested in understanding people. I'm also a keen reader, particularly of dystopian novels. One of my biggest interests is film, and a short film I wrote recently premiered in London as part of a school club. I'm so thrilled to be able to write for the Suburb News this year.

**Clara Chavasse**

I have always loved immersing myself in stories and books, especially 19th and early 20th century literature, so when I heard about the opportunity to write for Suburb News and extend my creative skill-set into the world of non-fiction, I jumped at the chance. I look forward to working with my very talented peers on this.

**Taran Garratt**

My favourite subjects are English, PE and computer science. In my free time I like to exercise and I love reading new books to enhance my literary skills. I am really excited to be involved in this project and to write for the Suburb News.

**Nathan Heymann**

My passion is music. I play the double bass and piano and sing. I play in the Barnet Youth String Orchestra and the Barnet Youth Jazz Ensemble as their bassist. Additionally, I play tennis and football. I'm very happy to be able to contribute to SNY.

**Tess Panes**

Ever since I was little, I have liked reading and over time my taste has changed. Currently I really like mystery. I also have always enjoyed sports, especially karate, which I have been doing for ten years, and volleyball. Another hobby of mine is playing the drums. My favourite subjects are PE, science, and history. I am very glad to write for Suburb News.

**Nuria Ramos**

I enjoy learning about historical and sociopolitical studies, whether through reading dystopian novels or listening to music through the ages. In this day and age, the consumption of media has a vast individual impact, so I'm delighted to be able to write for the Suburb News.

## WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU GIVE

### WHAT WE LEARNT AT THE FOOD BANK

When we were looking for somewhere to volunteer as part of our bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, the first place that came to mind was our local food bank. The Finchley Foodbank was founded in 2013 and operates out of St Mary's RC Church and other local churches and businesses. Twice a week, they provide basic food and toiletries for people living in food poverty. These necessities include UHT milk, oil, nappies, toilet paper, pasta, pet food and canned goods. Some items, considered more of a 'luxury,' such as instant coffee and honey, are offered as part of a choice between four or five such items, permitting the recipient family to choose one of these.

For our Duke of Edinburgh, we had to complete at least one hour a week and for this we worked at home portioning bags of essential items like teabags and washing tablets. We also spent a few hours helping with the bi-weekly stacking of the shelves at the main location in St Mary's Church. Whilst doing the portioning in our own homes, it was easy to overlook why this work was so important. However, working with the dedicated team, it really hit home how essential food banks have become in recent years.

According to a government report, 11.3 million UK residents live in poverty and 7.2 million people (11%) were in food insecure households in 2022-3. Food insecurity is when individuals do not have reliable access to enough affordable and nutritious food. 2.3 million households had to use a food bank during 2022, with 760,000 doing so for the first time. Two years on, this problem is only growing, with costs of living and food prices still going up. Food banks are largely charity foundations which rely on local donations. In the Finchley Foodbank, most of the people who keep this vital part of our community alive are volunteers giving up many hours to help those who need it. We were honoured to be just a small part of this amazing team, but it is also deeply saddening that food poverty has grown into such an issue in a wealthy, first world country. Over the course of our many months volunteering, we appreciated privileges we often take for granted. Becoming a volunteer helped us grow a deeper understanding of this complex worldwide issue which impacts so many.

RUTH ANDERSON & CLARA CHAVASSE, THE ARCHER ACADEMY



In this edition, we are delighted to welcome a new group of student journalists from the Archer Academy who have shared a little about themselves and their interests. Both teams have produced articles on Volunteering. They look at their own experiences as well as the positive benefits volunteering can bring to all age groups.



## VOLUNTEERING AS INSPIRATION

*In 2024, the nation's children completed 4,725,825 million hours of volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Here are our experiences:*

### Nuria

I volunteered at the AysaNew Kassa Trust founded by Jean Bailey. Volunteering for an hour a week for three months, I left these brainstorming sessions inspired by the grass roots organisation which had funded St Raphael's, a school for the visually impaired in Azezo, Ethiopia.

Throughout these sessions, I realised I had felt extremely isolated from those outside my London bubble. So, I asked myself, what is preventing you from making a difference? By volunteering I understood the power fundraising could have on a bright young student in Azezo, to help supply some uniform and textbooks.

Now having finished my volunteering, I see that the self-belief and supportive community I found in the AysaNew Kassa Trust has not only boosted my social skills but has improved my mental health and self-worth through changing the lives of others for the better.

### Tess

Volunteering was something I had never planned to do and I only went to help out at my karate club as a requirement for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. I always felt I should help with my community but never got around to it. I now realise how inspiring volunteering can be.

I believe that sports can be much more than a way to improve fitness. It can help with forming new friendships and connecting with new people. Karate has helped me so much over the last ten years and I hope it can help others. It can give people confidence to stand up to bullying, or a just place to escape, even if it is just an hour a week. When I began volunteering, I found myself seeing a younger me in many of the little kids, and it was so rewarding seeing them improve each lesson and grow even more infatuated with the sport, just like I did. I'm also incredibly grateful I was able to help my coach who has helped me for so many years.

For me, volunteering was an incredible experience and I have continued even after my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. I feel so inspired by helping others, and I now feel motivated to help elsewhere like at the local food bank or at a non-profit organisation.

NURIA RAMOS & TESS PANES, THE ARCHER ACADEMY

## VOLUNTEERING PROMOTES COMMUNITY SPIRIT

*Volunteering is an essential part of sustaining a vibrant community as it promotes community spirit. It allows you to support the people around you, as well as augmenting your own skill-set. We volunteered as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.*

### Taran

I volunteered at my Primary School by supporting children at an after-school club. Volunteering can provide you with a chance to give back to a community that raised and nurtured you; it brings you self-fulfilment and provides lifelong lessons. It can also improve mental wellbeing as it allows you to step back from the stress of school life, and detox from your daily routine by providing you with a sense of purpose.

Volunteering allows you to act on your values, passions, and interests. You are able to engage and enjoy new social and cultural experiences as you interact with new individuals and make new connections to help build your social skills. I have learnt how to safely interact with and supervise children whilst also maintaining an atmosphere of enjoyment. It is so rewarding as you are able to see the positive effect you can have on the lives of these children.

### Nathan

I taught and mentored children at my synagogue, preparing them for their B'nai Mitzvah, the transition between childhood and adulthood which is a pivotal milestone within the Jewish tradition. Mentoring allowed me to widen my understanding of teaching, enabling me to connect with my mentees on a spiritual basis. Initially, many of the children were disengaged and unenthusiastic, so I had to build my ability to be patient and empathetic to connect with them. I guided mentees in crafting unique, personal, reflective B'nai Mitzvah prayers resulting in more meaningful and impactful ceremonies both for the children and their families.

Volunteering at my synagogue allowed me to have a broad overview of the leadership, coordination, and logistics of the synagogue. As a senior mentor, I underwent welfare training and learned how to support troubled children. I also volunteered at Springways, a spring camp for children. I met Keir Starmer there, as he was doing his Passover message at my synagogue!

To conclude, we both gained valuable skills which will aid us in the future, and we believe that everyone should try to engage themselves with their community as it benefits the community, as well as enhancing your own life skills.

TARAN GARRATT & NATHAN HEYMANN, THE ARCHER ACADEMY

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# WHY SHOULD WE VOLUNTEER?

‘Humans are selfish by nature.’ As humans, it’s in our nature to lead lives that revolve mainly around ourselves and make decisions based on our own needs rather than thinking about how they might affect others. Although some may call this selfishness, others may argue that it is simply our primal instincts of survival in a world full of competition.

However, when you delve deeper you will find that there is so much to appreciate, such as the little things done for us which greatly improve our days. For example, someone going out of their way to hold the door open for you when you have a lot to carry, or someone picking up and giving you the ten pound note you had dropped. If these small, mostly unconscious actions can boost someone’s day, imagine the impact of bigger, more thought-out actions – a perfect example of which is volunteering. Although defined by the dictionaries as ‘freely offering to do something’, volunteering is so much more. It is a prized opportunity to give back to the world that has given so much to us, and a medium through which we can bring smiles to people’s faces.

In our own society, there are many chances for us to give back to our communities. We have first-hand experience of volunteering in charity shops for our Duke of Edinburgh qualifications. Aside from giving us the ability to make a difference in the world, it allowed us to foster skills and make memories that will stay with us forever. Additionally, HBS provides wonderful opportunities to spend your time productively and volunteer during lunch, whether it’s a Book Club for students from a local primary school or helping enrich our environment with gardening in Central Square. Volunteering builds a sense of community, inspires others, and puts a smile on people’s faces.

If humans are selfish by nature, how can we explain our willingness to spend our time and resources helping others without expecting anything in return? Even though we may be driven by selfish impulses, we also have the capacity for empathy, compassion, and connection. Volunteering proves that even in a world shaped by competition and self-interest, there is still room for kindness and selflessness. Volunteering is vital for the flourishing of our communities and brings us one step closer to making the world a better place.

SAANVI DWIVEDI & EMAAN SHERWANI, THE HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

## THE GIFT OF GIVING

Volunteering encompasses a multitude of ways to aid society, your community, individuals and yourself through simple acts of kindness and generosity. Whether you choose to help out at your local library or a homeless shelter, the donation of your time will positively impact not only the recipient, but also the volunteer.

There is a beauty to the act of giving that gratifies both the mind and soul. One example is an event called ‘Book Banter’ in which HBS students meet with Year 5 pupils from a local primary school to discuss and complete activities about a book they have recently read, encouraging further reading. Melissa, a Book Banter volunteer, commented, “I think the most rewarding thing was to make them feel confident.” Not only is the work personally fulfilling, but it also reminds the giver of their own good fortune. Additionally, the health benefits of volunteering extend beyond the mental and into the physical. A national survey by the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) found that 77% of volunteers believed volunteering improved their mental health and well-being, while 56% reported a physical boost.

Through volunteering you can find friendship, form new relationships and feel more connected to your community. In the NCVO survey, 68% of UK volunteers said that volunteering made them feel less isolated. Volunteering can expand your social network and allow you to meet interesting and diverse groups of like-minded people. For perhaps an hour a week, you have the chance to form bonds, broaden your life experiences and make a difference.

Volunteering also provides an opportunity to share your passion and hone your skills. For example, if you are an environmental enthusiast, you may find like-minded people by volunteering to plant trees or pick up litter. The skills built during volunteering are beneficial in a multitude of ways, from building confidence to enhancing your experience in a job application. Volunteering provides a way to feel more connected, improve physical and mental well-being and develop skills and interests. Why not get involved? There are so many ways to be a part of something bigger than yourself, including here in Hampstead Garden Suburb. You could help out in the Garden Suburb Library, aid conservation efforts with Heath Hands, or if you are a younger reader, help make HGS the UK’s most bio-diverse urban area at HGS Kids Gardening Club.

ZELLA KENDALL & HONOREE WALLIS, THE HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

## THE GENERATIONAL EVOLUTION OF VOLUNTEERING

Winston Churchill said: “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” The act of giving is transformative; volunteering acts as a bridge, connecting selfless acts across generations to create a stronger and more united community. Every generation’s approach to volunteering may be different but they share the goal of making the world a better place.

Children often view volunteering as simple acts of kindness like helping friends. Many see it as fun and rewarding. Take Pranshu Datta, a nine-year-old boy, who likes serving at the temple and helping his teachers as they do so much. He said it feels right for him to give back. If he could volunteer anywhere, he would organise games for the elderly at a retirement home to entertain them. Volunteering instils good values in children from an early age.

For teenagers, volunteering allows them to foster new skills such as teamwork and leadership. By volunteering, the younger generation can gain valuable experience, discover a sense of purpose and form new friendships. These days teenagers often leverage social media to organise campaigns and raise awareness. Chloe Liang, a Year Ten student at HBS said social media helped to open up ideas about where to volunteer. In addition to work experience, volunteering gives a feeling of achievement and fulfilment, enhancing self-esteem.

For adults, volunteering can be a way to share wisdom, leave lasting imprints on lives and a legacy of compassion for future generations. From gardening with Heath Hands on Hampstead Heath to teaching refugees English in Israel and Sudan, Ms Barker, a teacher at HBS, thinks of volunteering as an “unambiguous good”, always remembering a Hebrew phrase from the Bible that she learnt from one of her experiences: ‘tikkun olam’, meaning repairing the world. She thinks children are even more enthusiastic as schools promote it and it gives them a strong sense of social justice.

Youth volunteers often juggle academic pressures and extra-curriculars which can limit their time for consistent involvement. Meanwhile, older volunteers may struggle to balance professional and personal responsibilities. Despite these obstacles, both groups experience the fulfilment volunteering provides, gaining a sense of purpose and personal growth. Volunteering across generations strengthens ties to the community while broadening their support networks across different age groups.

TANISHKA GAVADE & PURBARSHA DATTA, THE HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

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## The Joy of Purim

ABIGAIL COX

Fancy dress is usually reserved for Hallowe'en and theme parties, but a noticeable exception is the Jewish festival of Purim. Purim, which falls on 13-14 March this year, commemorates the survival of the Jews who, in the 5th Century BCE, were marked for death by their Persian rulers.

The heroes of the Purim story are Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman living in Persia and her cousin Mordecai, who raised her as if she were his daughter. Esther was taken to the house of Ahasuerus, King of Persia, to

become part of his harem. King Ahasuerus loved Esther the most and made her Queen, but he was unaware she was Jewish as Mordecai told her not to reveal her identity.

The villain of the story is Haman, an arrogant advisor to the King. Haman hated Mordecai because Mordecai refused to bow down to him, so Haman plotted to destroy the Jewish people. The King gave the fate of the Jewish people to Haman, to do as he pleased. Haman planned to exterminate all of the Jews. To decide on the day for this massacre, he drew lots which is the meaning of Purim in Persian.

Mordecai persuaded Esther to speak to the King on behalf of the Jewish people. This was a dangerous thing for Esther to do, because anyone who came into the King's presence without being summoned could be put to death and she had not been summoned. Esther fasted for three days to prepare herself, then went into the King to suggest a banquet which Haman would attend. At the meal she pleaded for the Jews and accused "this wicked Haman" of plotting the annihilation of her community, revealing her Jewish identity. Due to Esther's courage, Haman was hanged on the gallows which had



Purim, a painting by Arthur Szyk (Photo: Public Domain)

been arranged for Mordecai. King Ahasuerus issued a new decree allowing the Jewish people to defend themselves against anyone who tried to kill them.

So why the fancy dress? It's to emulate the way Esther disguised her Judaism from her husband and also to create joy. It is not just children who dress up, adults do

too and there is always great excitement at Alyth (North Western Reform Synagogue) to see what the Rabbis will be wearing to take the Purim service each year. This year, along with the traditional reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther), Alyth is running a Purim carnival before the Friday Shabbat service – all welcome!

### Bishopswood Bowling Club Open Day 24-25 May

Have you ever thought about taking up lawn bowling or returning to the game? Well, we would love to welcome you, your friends and family at Bishopswood's Open Weekend on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th May. It's always a fun day, with a great turnout of club members as well as lots of people who are interested in learning, improving or just playing the game. Our experienced coaches will be delighted to give you a lesson and some top tips. We can provide equipment too. Refreshments are on tap – hot and cold drinks plus delicious sandwiches, biscuits and cake!

We are a friendly, sociable club located on Lyttleton Playing Fields, just off Norrice Lea, next to the tennis courts. If you can't make the Open Day then just pop in whenever you see people playing (we start the season mid-April). Contact us: 8058 2212, [info@bishopswoodbc.co.uk](mailto:info@bishopswoodbc.co.uk), [www.bishopswoodbc.co.uk](http://www.bishopswoodbc.co.uk).

Cheryl Kuczynski



Photo: Bishopswood Bowling Club

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Elders and angels praise God (Photo: Wellcome Collection)

## Alyth Choral Society Presents Hallelujah: Psalms of Praise & Contemplation

DIANE LANGLEBEN

Music lovers and choral enthusiasts are in for a treat as Alyth Choral Society presents Hallelujah: Psalms of Praise & Contemplation on Sunday, 6 April at 7:30pm. Hosted at St Mary-at-Finchley (26 Hendon Lane, N3 1TL), the concert promises an inspiring evening of sacred music and choral excellence.

The programme features Bernstein's Chichester Psalms alongside works by composers Rossi, Beach and Dawes. Under the direction of conductor Alison

Smart Fisher, the choir will be accompanied by Tim Hooper (piano & organ), Sioned Williams (harp), and Bogdan Skrypka (percussion).

Tickets are available for £15 via Ticketsource (scan the QR code) or the Alyth Choral Society website ([alythchoralsociety.wordpress.com](http://alythchoralsociety.wordpress.com)), with free entry for students and under-18s. Audience members can also enjoy refreshments during the interval.

For an evening of soul-stirring music and contemplation, don't miss this rather special event!

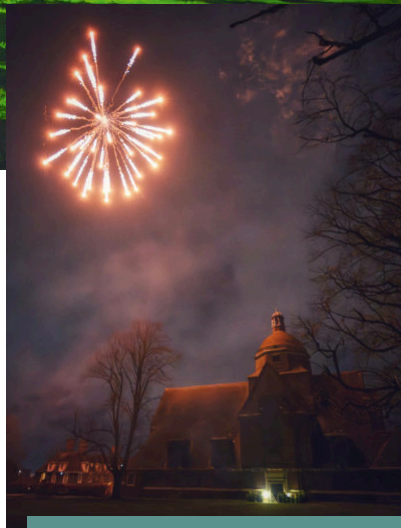




# New Year's Eve on Central Square



A flash mob of hundreds of residents arriving on foot, greeting neighbours and ushering excited children to the best position to view the fireworks.



The Free Church held its quieter and colder this year (due to a broken boiler) annual Watch Night service. The bell rang out, the countdown began and echoed around the Square, enthusiastic oohs and aahs illustrated the neighbourly camaraderie of Hampstead Garden Suburb and the sheer enjoyment of a fantastic event. It was announced by some as better than Edinburgh and indeed better than the previous year.



St Jude's lit up to the rafters and full of party goers enjoying live music and a disco. Raising much needed funds for the Church at the bar.

Helen, the display director from Frontier Fireworks, did a fantastic job under the circumstances with wind speeds close to show stop levels. Her substituting the high-level fireworks for lower ones allowed the show to go ahead safely. The RA Events Committee would like to thank all those involved, particularly our volunteers, the Trust and generous sponsorship donations from both Repaircare and Litchfields. We would also like to thank residents for their ongoing support and look forward to seeing you all again next year. With special thanks to Michael for the fantastic photographs – the pictures speak a thousand words!

Patricia Major



Photos: Michael Eleftheriades



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## HGS Art Fair

11am-5pm

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 May  
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136a Willifield Way, NW11 6YD

Discover wonderful work by more than 20 local artists including paintings, sculpture, jewellery photography, textiles, ceramics, prints and glass. Free admission

WI Finchley will be serving a range of delicious refreshments with proceeds going to local charities.

And don't miss the FREE art activities for children with HGS ART artist, Vera Moore!

Sue Haskel



Vera Moore

## Sargent exhibition at Kenwood House

HELEN PAYNE

From 16 May-5 October 2025, there will be an exciting exhibition at Kenwood, the first significant loan exhibition in 25 years. 2025 is the centenary year of John Singer Sargent's death and during this landmark year 18 of Sargent's works will be exhibited at Kenwood House.

These include Kenwood's own 'Daisy Leiter', loans of full-length oil paintings from America and the UK and charcoal drawings from around the world. Sargent's artistic training was extensive and his full-length portraits have more than a touch of Gainsborough and Reynolds about them.

The exhibition links Kenwood's two great philanthropic collections, the Iveagh Bequest and the Suffolk Collection. It was Daisy Leiter, heiress to the Marshall Field department store, who was later to become Margaret, Countess of Suffolk through marriage into the Howard family.

'Heiress: Sargent's American Portraits', will offer a new reading of the women in the portraits on show, all heiresses who married into the British aristocracy. The exhibition will bring these women



Marguerite 'Daisy' Hyde Leiter (c1879-1968), later 19th Countess of Suffolk, by John Singer Sargent (1856-1925). (Photo: Historic England Archive)

together for the first time and present them as individuals of substance with more agency than has been acknowledged to date – surprisingly a theme which has never been covered in an exhibition.

We invite all Suburb News readers to come to the show and please tell your friends about it! This exhibition will demonstrate the potential of Kenwood as a major London destination and we hope it will encourage visitors to engage with one of the country's greatest art collections.

Entry will be ticketed but free for the Friends of Kenwood and members of English Heritage. You will also be able to make donations on the day of your visit. To find out more, please contact us at [info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk) or visit the 'Join Us' page of our website, <https://friendsofkenwood.org.uk>.

## The Free Church

### Easter Services

Palm Sunday – 13 April

10.30am: Meet in the Square for Palm Sunday procession with St Jude's  
11am: Service in the Free Church

HOLY WEEK – April 16 to 19

Meditation Labyrinth in the Free Church (see website for times)

Maundy Thursday – 17 April

7.30pm: Quiet service of reflection with Communion

Good Friday – 18 April

11am: Service remembering the crucifixion of Jesus

Easter Sunday – 20 April

11am: Christ is Risen! Service of Celebration



Minister: Rev Aled Jones

The Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG • 020 4531 2055  
[www.hgsfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.hgsfreechurch.org.uk) • [minister@hgsfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@hgsfreechurch.org.uk)





THE GARDEN GIRL

## In Praise of Summer Bulbs

CAROLINE BROOME

**W**hen you think of bulbs, do you automatically think of spring flowering bulbs, narcissi, tulips and the like? But how many of you realise there is a vast choice of summer flowering bulbs too? To be precise: bulbs, tubers, corms and rhizomes! And now is exactly the right time to be planting them for a show-stopping display of summer colour in your borders and containers.

We all know Lily of the Valley, but many of us have trouble establishing it in our borders. *Convallaria Majalis*, to give it its Latin name, is a low-growing, spreading perennial, bearing arching stems of bell-shaped, highly fragrant, white flowers, in May and June. Grown as ground cover in shady spots, it is ideal for a woodland garden or planting beneath shrubs. If you follow this guide, you should have a flourishing colony within three to five years.

Typically, lily of the valley is sold 'bare root', which just means it comes as a rhizome, a shoot tip one end and roots the other, encased in loose compost in a small plastic bag. I wouldn't recommend planting these straight into the soil now, as newly-planted lily of the valley struggles to grow in cold, wet conditions. Soak the rhizomes before planting them in pots during March, and grow them on indoors until mid-May when they will be sufficiently developed to plant in your borders. Grow in moist soil in partial to full shade. Dig over the soil to loosen it to about 30cm depth. Plant 15cm apart, spreading the roots out around the pointed bud. Cover the roots with soil, with the tip of the bud sitting just below soil level. Water thoroughly; your plants will



Begonia Sutherlandii (Photo: Caroline Broome)

not flourish in dry, compacted soil. Add a layer of organic matter or home-made compost annually. Be patient; they may take two years to flower.

Lilies, especially Oriental Hybrids, may look exotic but they are as tough as old boots. Grown for their heady perfume and glorious colours, they will add the wow factor to your late summer borders. Let me tell you about my prized Tree Lilies which, incidentally, is just a marketing term for giant oriental hybrids. In spring 2010, when I was a plant trialist for Thompson and Morgan, I received a dozen assorted Tree Lily bulbs. Each one was huge! I potted them up in 12cm plastic pots and grew them on indoors before planting them out in May. I planted them as deep as my heavy soil would allow, which was about 25cm on a 3cm bed of horticultural grit to aid drainage and stop them rotting. In the first year they reached 1m and within five years they were

heading for 2m. Carrying dozens of flowers on sturdy 3cm thick stems they have come back bigger and better every year since, shrugging off the coldest, wettest winters. All they ask for is a good dollop of well-rotted manure each spring. One word of caution: beware the dreaded lily beetle, bright red critters that can devour your plants overnight.

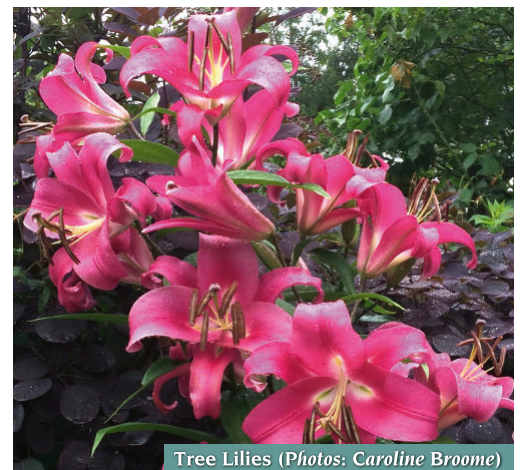
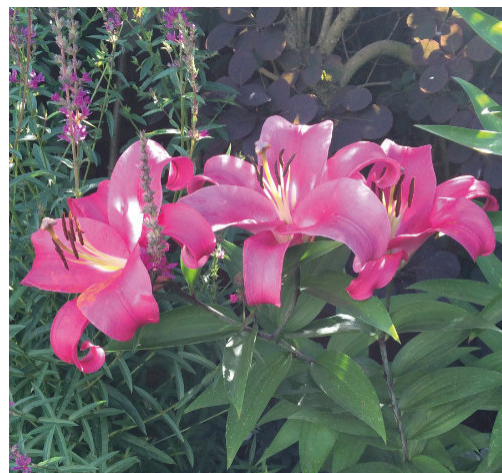
I'm going to wave a flag for two very unfashionable flowers, namely gladioli and begonia. These beauties are a far cry from the stiff electric blooms so favoured in the 1970s. Aptly named the butterfly sword lily, *Gladiolus Papilio* has arching stems bearing cream and smoky purple nodding blooms, surrounded by narrow, grey-green leaves. Plant in your borders, with a good helping of grit for drainage and this late summer flowering hardy perennial will delight you year after year.

The highly fragrant flowers of *Acidanthera Murielae* or Abyssinian

gladiolus are white with a beautiful throat. *Gladiolus Byzantinus* has deep magenta, funnel-shaped flowers with palest pink flashes. Recognisable by their sword like leaves, both flower late spring to early summer. These tender perennials need winter protection so are more suited to container displays. Corms should be planted into large containers of multi-purpose compost in spring and kept dry and frost free in winter.

Deciduous *Begonia Sutherlandii* is a tuberous perennial, with red veined, green leaves and delicate single apricot flowers. Overwinter in a dry, frost-free dry place. Although perennial, *Begonia Boliviensis* Starshine is best treated as an annual. Cascades of bell-shaped, single flowers ranging from orange red to delicate pastels will reward you with blooms from July right through to the first frosts.

To read my latest blogs visit my website: [Garden-Girl.co.uk](http://Garden-Girl.co.uk).



Tree Lilies (Photos: Caroline Broome)

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# Gardening gloves and trowels at the ready, spring is here

ALISON SEABROOK MOORE

Spring is in the air and the irresistible lure of the outdoors spurs us on to rediscover our gardens, make trips to the garden centre, tackle neglected borders and sow seeds. Hort Soc hopes to accompany you on this journey, offering an exciting programme of events, timely advice and a friendly group of keen (not necessarily expert!) amateurs.

A Gardeners' Question Time panel on Tuesday 18 March launches our 2025 programme. At this 'free to members' event, the audience is invited to submit questions on any aspect of gardening from box blight and caterpillars to gardening on clay or how to get a privet hedge back under control. Our very own local experts, hosta-guru Chris Page, professional gardener Caroline Broome, planting designer Sonya Whaley and eco- and therapeutic horticulturist Deena Kestenbaum will hand out sound advice to HGS gardeners who are, after all, the trustees of what is perhaps "Britain's Biggest Living Garden."

Then it's time to stock up at the Plant Sale on Saturday 10 May. There will be a range of summer

bedding and annuals, geraniums, herbs, vegetable "plug plants" and herbaceous perennials on sale at discounted prices. Demand was so high last year that Finchley Nurseries' stock was quickly stripped bare. This year, Hort Soc members will get early-bird entry so contact [membership@hortsoc.co.uk](mailto:membership@hortsoc.co.uk) now to join – £10 (single) or £15 (family) membership.

The highlights of the Hort Soc year are, without a doubt, the Flower Shows in June and September, dating back to the earliest years of Henrietta Barnett's Suburb. Nothing compares to the spectacle and heady smell of flowers, vegetables, preserves and home-baking in a Flower Show marquee, particularly if your own produce is displayed (and perhaps decorated with a coveted first prize). Now is the time to browse through the Hort Soc Handbook and plan what you want to grow, with special entry categories for young people.

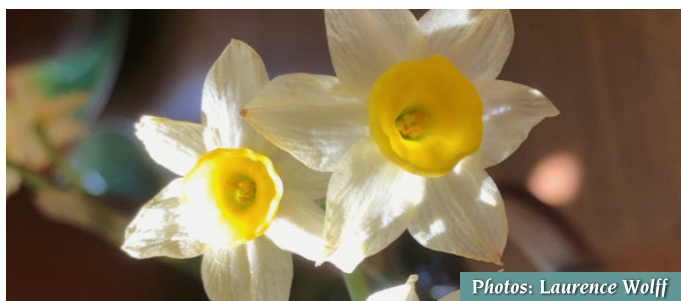
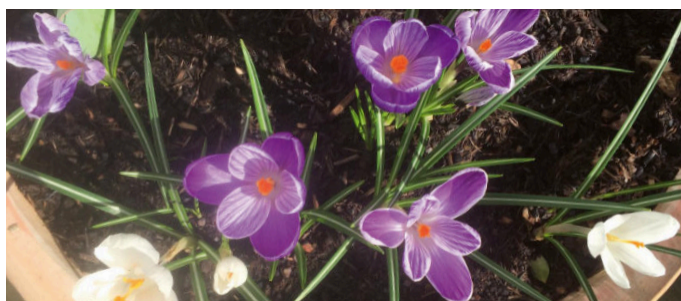
If you're in need of garden inspiration, join one of our Hort Soc coach outings. Our first trip is to Beth Chatto's Gardens in Essex whose ethos of 'right plant, right place' transformed a 1960s wasteland into an otherworldly paradise.

These informal, sustainably planted gardens should be at their best when we visit on 17 May – £38 per adult/£25 for students in full-time education/£22 under 16s. The second coach trip will be on 2 August to Wisley in Surrey, the flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society, but more of that later in the year.

If you've not already done so, now is the time to sign up for our three-day trip to the gardens of Lincolnshire (13-15 July), including: Burghley House near Stamford, built for Queen Elizabeth I's chief advisor, Lord Burghley; National Trust Gunby Hall, a charming country house with Victorian walled garden nestled below the Lincolnshire wolds; and other gardens not normally open to the public. Accommodation (singles and doubles/twins) will be at the 3-star BW Kenwick Park Hotel with indoor swimming pool.

For details on these events, contact: [events@hortsoc.co.uk](mailto:events@hortsoc.co.uk).

*Alison Seabrook Moore runs HGS Horticultural Society's events programme. A keen gardener, she recently qualified as a Blue Badge tourist guide after a career in languages. Her father was garden writer/broadcaster Peter Seabrook.*



Photos: Laurence Wolff



## Suburb gardens open for the National Garden Scheme in 2025

This year five Suburb gardens are opening under the aegis of the National Garden Scheme to raise funds for Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Support, Hospice UK, the Carers Trust, the Queen's Nursing Institute and Parkinson's UK, among many other very worthy charities.

**7 Deansway** will open from 12.30-5.30pm on Sunday 11 May and by arrangement for groups from 17 March-31 July;

**92 & 100 Hampstead Way** will open together on Sunday 1 June, from 1.30-5pm;

**25 Asmunds Hill** opens from 1.30-5.30pm on Sunday 15 June;

**48 Erskine Hill** is open by arrangement from 5 May - 31 August for groups.

*Teas will be available on all the opening days. Full details at [ngs.org.uk](https://ngs.org.uk) or in the 2025 Garden Visitor's Handbook from the NGS.*

Marjorie Harris



Photo: National Garden Scheme

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## Have your say in planning a pathway for Lyttelton Playing Fields

DOMINIC ROSE

The inaugural meeting of the new Friends of Lyttelton committee took place in early January with representatives of key stakeholder groups including the RA, HGS Trust, Kerem Nursery, Barnet Council and Bishopswood Bowls Club. The meeting was chaired by me, Dominic Rose, founder of Britain's Biggest Living Garden. The committee agreed their ambition to improve the 24-acre park so that it becomes more widely used, with a range of improved facilities for the local community whilst also becoming more wildlife friendly. This ambition is in line with the draft Parks strategy for Barnet Council.

The committee discussed key ideas and suggestions for the development of the park and reviewed those ideas submitted

by park users and members of the wider Friends Group, established through recent community planting sessions.

We invite everyone to become a Friend of Lyttelton with a chance to be involved in creating ideas, community events and volunteering opportunities: [www.britainsbiggestlivinggarden.org/discover/friends-of-lyttelton](http://www.britainsbiggestlivinggarden.org/discover/friends-of-lyttelton).

The priority suggestion from the committee, in line with input from other park users, was the construction of a circuit path to:

- Create a walkable surface around the full playing fields area
- Connect the Linden Lea entrance to the rest of the park.

Numerous reasons were put forward to support the development of such a path:

- The park is under-utilised for much of the time because of the inaccessibility of large sections of the park, and therefore the majority of the park area delivers little value to the local community
- Minimal usage can be made by those with reduced mobility or wheelchair users who are unable to use the grass surface in the absence of a good pathway
- Entrance from Linden Lea requires crossing grass which is frequently water-logged. This particularly affects access for parents with children at the nursery who would prefer to walk through the park than along perimeter roads

- A circuit path would benefit dog walkers, runners and families, especially those with young children using bikes or scooters. A measured 'circuit' trail would encourage more exercise in the park and be of use to local school and community groups
- The development of 'wild corners' and meadows on the outside of the path would benefit wildlife and be of interest to park users who would be able to see first-hand how to improve the wildlife in their garden spaces and the impact that it can have.

**THE PROPOSAL IN MORE DETAIL**

- Development of a pedestrian path to extend around the park, connecting the Norrice Lea and Linden Lea entrances and to join the main path close to the entrance

to the children's playground (see image above).

- A minimum width that will allow two parties to pass each other without having to step onto the grass, also allowing sufficient space for small children on scooters and bikes without endangering other path users
- Path to be constructed of porous material with edging
- The potential to include some adjacent 'natural' bumps and ramps along the path for use by small children will be explored
- The location of the path to be set to be as far away from the park perimeter as possible, whilst maintaining a safe distance from the two cricket pitches
- The 'outside' of the path to be allowed to grow wild (ie mowing ceased) and/or converted into wildflower meadows to improve biodiversity, increase interest and discourage usage of the area outside the path perimeter
- Distance of the full circuit to be set at exactly 1km in order to provide the potential for a training track and trim trail as exists in many other Barnet parks
- During development, potential to add other trim trail equipment around the circuit to be explored.

### THE CONSULTATION

The Friends committee is aware that circuit paths have been explored before, and particular concerns were raised by local residents whose gardens back on to the park. We believe that those concerns have been mitigated as:

- The path will not directly abut the perimeter boundary, and will be located as far as possible away from the boundary, whilst maintaining a safe distance from the cricket outfield. We anticipate that this will be a minimum of 5m at all points
- The outside of the path will be allowed to grow long as either grass or wildflower borders, which will reduce the accessibility of the areas directly beside the perimeter vs today
- The pathway will not be lit and so not encourage any use after dark
- Increased family and exercise usage on the path may discourage current levels of anti-social behaviour in the far edges of the

parks by bringing greater visibility and people just enjoying the facility

- Several households currently back on to high use sections of the park and we are not aware of any resulting security issues arising beyond those experienced across the wider area.

We wish to take to the Council a fair, full and evidence-based representation of the views of local residents, stakeholders and park users and so believe that a local consultation exercise is necessary.

All stakeholders are invited to express their support, objection or indifference towards the circuit path proposal along with any commentary they may choose to add. This will be submitted in full to Barnet Council. The Friends group plans to host some in-person meetings to discuss the path proposals and hear views.

We have launched a consultation to understand local views on this proposal before taking this to Barnet Council for their consideration. If you are a local resident, organisation or park user, you can express your views in a 5-minute survey (which also gives more information) at [www.britainsbiggestlivinggarden.org/discover/local-consultation-lyttelton](http://www.britainsbiggestlivinggarden.org/discover/local-consultation-lyttelton). Or scan the QR code below. Survey closes 31 March.

### Please note:

*This consultation exercise is being run and managed by the Friends of Lyttelton and is not done in conjunction or collaboration with Barnet Council.*

*No funding has yet been secured for the development of this path nor detailed plans developed.*

*The purpose of this consultation is to show the balance of local sentiment and to then be taken to Barnet Council for their consideration and review in line with their principles of park development and community engagement.*

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# Henrietta Barnett School sets a new standard for lighting

ISABELLE FICKER

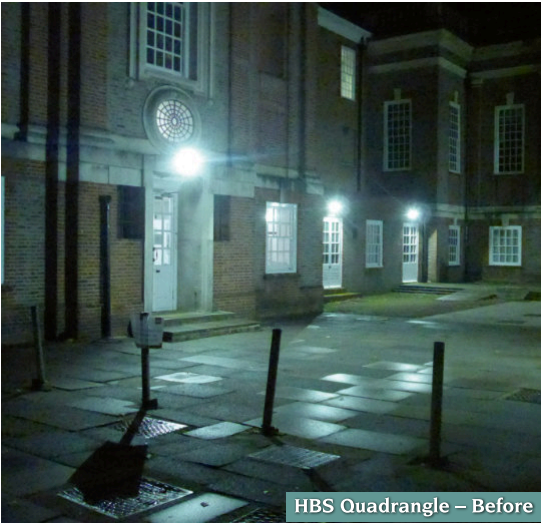
Anyone who is used to going past HBS at night, will no doubt remember the interrogation-strength lighting that greeted them as they passed the main quadrangle on Central Square. All that has now changed. (Now former) Head, Clare Wagner, angled the spotlights downwards and changed the bulbs to a lower, warmer CCT\* (2700K). Not only is the lighting softer, but it enhances the architecture and creates a more welcoming experience.

Mrs Wagner believed that artificial light at night – and high CCT LED light in particular – has a detrimental impact on fauna and flora, and that we should do all we can to reduce it. This belief carried over into the redevelopment of the Caretaker's Cottage on Northway, where the lights installed are fully shielded, low CCT and downward-facing.

It was not before time that someone took an interest in the public face of the school. Improvements in lighting, starting to rejuvenate the hedges and clearing the rose suckers and weeds under the magnolias at the front of Bigwood House, are just some of the things Clare achieved during her time there. It is to be hoped that the new Head will continue the good work and replace existing lighting with more friendly forms as and when lights need to be replaced.

Henrietta Barnett School is housed in two buildings\*\*, the main one of which forms part of the iconic Central Square. This was designed as the cultural, recreational and spiritual centre of the Suburb. The school's first steps at eliminating light pollution through the use of warmer and carefully directed lighting, balances visual, social and environmental objectives with the aim of enhancing the night-time experience for both people and biodiversity and protecting dark skies. Hopefully, the school's neighbours and the wider Suburb will follow HBS's lead.

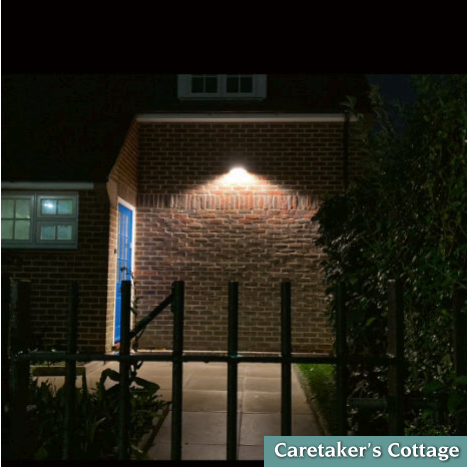
To find out more about light pollution on the natural world and health, visit: <https://darksky.org>. To find 'dark sky' environmentally responsible light fittings go to Dark Sky Lighting at <https://tinyurl.com/49d4hb4v>.



HBS Quadrangle – Before



HBS Quadrangle – After



Caretaker's Cottage



Bigwood House (Photos: Isabelle Ficker)

\* CCT stands for 'Correlated Colour Temperature'. This is measured in Degrees Kelvin. The higher the CCT, the 'cooler' and 'bluer' the light. The lower the CCT, the 'warmer' and more 'yellow' the light. It is generally recommended that a CCT of 2700K or less (ie 2400K, 2200K etc) be used.

\*\* The main building on Central Square is Grade II\* listed and was designed as the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. Bigwood House is Grade II listed and was designed as Henrietta Barnett Junior School.

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

SIMONE HALFIN

**J**B NEWS in Market Place, has been owned by Girish and his wife Bharti Depala for the last 31 years. Before that Girish and his father were taught to work as gold dust cleaners in Aden, South Yemen. I had no idea what that was, but apparently after jewellery shops close at night the floors are swept and the dust from the workshops and machines is sifted to keep the gold dust.

'J' stands for Jayshree, Girish's sister-in-law (he is not sure why – "maybe ladies first" he told me!) and 'B' for Bharti, his wife and they enjoy working together. Driving around, they just happened to see a buy-to-let board outside the shop in Market Place, telephoned the agent, and managed to acquire it. Unfortunately, the previous owners had been bankrupt and owed a lot of money to suppliers, so they had to work very hard to establish the business. However, after three months customers came back. Bharti also works at Kerem school.

I remarked that the wines looked very interesting, and Girish told me he stocked a selection from Chile, South Africa, Portugal, Israel and many more places. I was also tempted by all the biscuits and chocolates.

Apart from the usual newspaper and magazine delivery service, Girish hopes to start a Deliveroo and Uber service soon, as well as adding gifts and balloons to their stock. I asked if people had changed their choice of goods, and Girish said after Covid a lot of items had been impossible to get so he had introduced more continental foods and, to my surprise, liquorice was a best seller – not my favourite!

Girish and Bharti have two sons, two grandsons and one granddaughter. Girish has no intention of retiring because he says: "if I retire doctor's appointments come, and I don't like to go to doctors."

Girish told me he and his wife know most of the customers and they have served some celebrities over the years. They also have many professional customers, several of whom have given their sons good advice which enabled both to gain good degrees and employment. Fortunately, they are able to help out when their parents go on holiday.

JB News is open from 5am-7.30pm Monday to Saturday, and on Sunday they still open at 5am as they run a lottery and people like to pay council tax and bus passes, etc then. They close at lunchtime.

You can be sure of a very warm welcome as soon as you enter.



Joe Langham-Ferriera demonstrates a shot at the club (Photo: Philip Vile)

## Table Tennis at the Inspire Centre

RICHARD GRETHE

**S**ince 2005, over 1,000 people have been through the doors of the Suburb table tennis club at the Free Church Hall. The club and facility have been amazing working in conjunction with the Free Church team, but the facility is very heavily used by other clubs and societies and there has not been the availability for the club to use it from 5pm for after school use. The club has produced some great players, but to take them to the next level it has always been trying to find a facility where we can train junior players more than once a week. The three coaches are all currently ranked in the top 30 in England, and believe they have the strongest coaching team in the UK and want to train the next Olympians from the Suburb.

The club has now secured a facility at the Inspire Centre in Central Square that works in conjunction with our current club and is available as an after-school academy from 5pm - 6.20pm Monday to Wednesday each week.

The sessions can be booked on a termly basis at suburbttc.com on a membership basis for the Inspire Academy, and you can choose whether your child can attend for one, two or three days each week. The address is: Inspire Centre, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 7AH.

## Lawn Bowls

PHYLLIS ELLIS

**T**emple Fortune Club, which is situated on the edge of the Suburb in Bridge Lane, consists of tennis, squash and bowls sections. The club, therefore, has members of all ages. It has a car park, large clubhouse and a bowls pavilion. The clubhouse has a nice bar, a caterer, showers and two new table tennis tables.

The Bowls section is very active and informal – with no dress code except for matches. It is different from most local bowls clubs as about half the members are female.

The club welcomes all types of players, from those who just want to come and play and socialise, to the very competitive who play in district competitions. We run a weekly group for HGS U3A.

We have a full calendar of friendly inter-club matches, where we use players of all standards and a full programme of internal competitions, many of which are handicapped. Last year, a new member, who had never played Bowls before, won some of the internal competitions.

Our teams in the district competitions had a very successful year, reaching the semi-finals of the Prentice and President's Cup, winning the Bishopswood league and the Stanmore Plate and a member won the Finchley & District men's singles.

This Spring the club is planning a trip to Portugal and will again hold our Trophy Day competition, open to neighbouring clubs. This is a charity event in aid of the North London Hospice. Last time we raised £2,830.

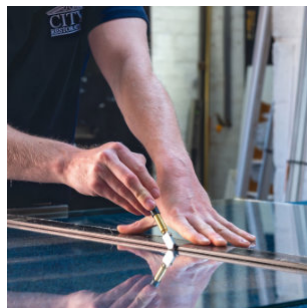
New members are welcome. Contact: bowls@templefortune.co.uk or Sharon Cavendish (Captain): 07436 778303.

Our season starts in April when the evenings last longer and hopefully the weather is better. Do come along and try out Bowls; a game that's been going since 13th Century!



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# Anyone for... Club Swinging?

JUDY MARCUS

Suburb News Editor Shelley-Anne and I were walking our dogs on the hill next to Kenwood House one morning, when we came across a group of women standing facing each other in a circle. They were holding long wooden clubs and being trained by an instructor as they made circling movements with their arms. It looked just the thing for tightening up bingo wings. And the group looked pretty happy. They were getting exercise as well as some fresh air with a great London skyline view.

With her Ed's hat firmly on, Shelley-Anne suggested I might try it out and write up my experience for Suburb News' Anyone for... column. I was curious but didn't want to disturb the tranquil atmosphere and, quite honestly, having just walked up a hill I didn't have the stamina to go back down and have to do it all over again.

I thought (as my late father-in-law would say) discretion being the better part of valour, I would hold back and just Google for more information. Little did I know what a google rabbit hole I would fall into...

To start with, I didn't really have the specific name of this meditative exercise. I entered the words 'Clubs' and 'Swinging' and 'local (to me)'. As you will no doubt have already anticipated, I didn't quite get the results I was searching for. I was offered swinging meetings, swinging clubs, Secret Swingers Club Dating Service in the City, Explore the Kink and the like.

Then, clearly sensing my blushes, the search engine queried did you mean SWIMMING CLUBS near to me? and directed me to the Finchley Lido.

I don't know, it all felt wrong somehow. On phoning friends to confer and still drawing a blank I made further investigations online and eventually found Indian Clubs – Meels Mugdar. So I commenced a second online search. After being directed to 'Kuch Kuch Bollywood Nights' (includes karaoke) at a bar in Kensington, then to Masti London Restaurant and Bar, I was on the point of giving up –

although the Bollywood Nights sounded potentially a fun way of celebrating my 60th.

After further perseverance, I finally found 'Indian Club Swinging'. An ancient practice, started in India and Iran. Wikipedia informed me this was 'exceptionally popular during the fitness movement of the late Victorian era. Used by military cadets and well-heeled ladies alike, they appeared as a gymnastic event in the 1904 and 1932 Olympics. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries they became increasingly common in Europe and the United States. The popularity of Indian clubs waned in Europe during the 1920s and 1930s as organised sports became more prevalent.'

I understand this sport (which is now gaining a resurgence of popularity in the United States) is highly regarded for all ages due to its maintaining 'longevity and balance'. One American practitioner says its use is for side and rotation movements as in everyday life we use these as often or more frequently than vertical plane movements. Most people's gym exercise comprises of lifting weights in the vertical plain, training the muscles with up and down (not side to side) swinging movements.

I finally achieved success seeking an Indian Club Exercise Class. There are some in South London. However the prices are quite high and you have to commit to a term of classes as well as trek somewhere far away. I also found classes in the USA, Winchester and Edinburgh, but nothing local. There is much encouragement online to partake in pay-as-you-go training videos and classes but I'm more keen on the 'buddying' approach – working alongside other people (live) to learn and achieve a new discipline, whilst enjoying the built-in social aspect.

I will keep you updated if anything arrives in my feed/email box. Until then, I'll just continue exercising by walking my dog on the Heath Extension.

If anybody has any information about the elusive group and their exercise instructor I spied on the Heath, please email me. My email address is judymarcus@me.com.

## Sponsor a pollinator-friendly planter in Lyttelton!

Ever think that Lyttelton is a bit... boring! It's time for that to change and make the park more interesting for visitors and pollinators alike, with a unique opportunity to make your mark in the Suburb's largest park.

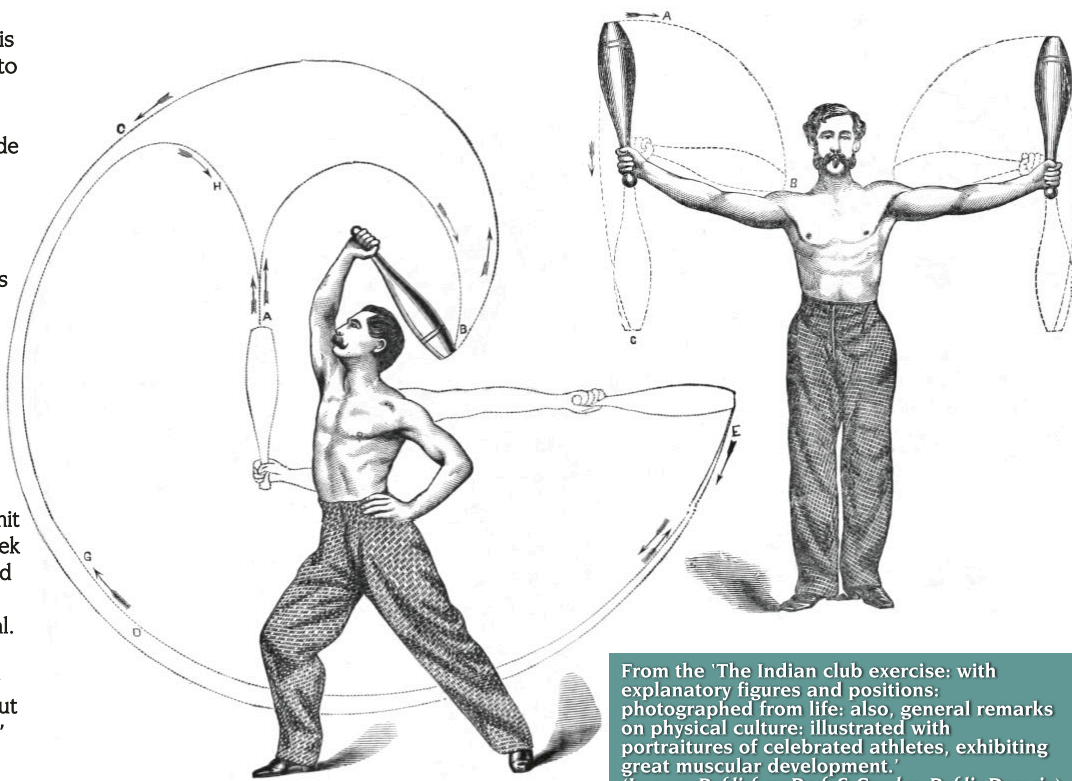
The new Friends of Lyttelton have permission to install up to six 1.2m x 2.4m raised planters along the main pathway opposite the children's playground, if we can find the funds and take care of their planting and management.

We are seeking residents, individuals, businesses or organisations who would like to sponsor the installation of a planter and/or take care of or sponsor its planting or management. Both would come with a plaque recognising their generosity, visible to the many visitors who pass by every day.

This is a great and unique opportunity for green-fingered locals, individuals passionate about the environment, local businesses or those seeking to commemorate a loved one. Several local schools and nurseries have expressed interest in launching a gardening club to take on just such a planter – and the brief for planting is that it should be drought-tolerant and pollinator-friendly.

If you are interested to find out more, please email [biodiversity@hgsra.uk](mailto:biodiversity@hgsra.uk) ASAP – slots are limited!

*Dominic Rose, Chair of Friends of Lyttelton Playing Fields*



### Tree planting event

Come and help plant three new Tiny Forests (1800 trees!) near Mutton Brook on Wednesday 26 March. Have fun, make new friends and enjoy creating an important contribution for our local future.

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## OUT &amp; ABOUT



After 12 attempts AI created this unimpressive image of the Suburb, yet Google ImageFX is considered the best by many (Photo: Google ImageFX)

## A sunlit drive through the Suburb in a Mercedes convertible

IVAN BERG & CHATGPT

With all the talk about senior school kids getting ChatGPT to write their essays, job-seekers asking it to beef up their CVs and authors not actually writing books, I wondered if it could do the same for me. Could Chat GPT do a journalist's job and make me redundant by writing a piece for Suburb News.

My instruction to Chat GPT was to write 400 words about a sunlit sightseeing drive in a Mercedes convertible through

Hampstead Garden Suburb, mentioning Central Square, St Jude's Church, the Free Church and Henrietta Barnett School for girls. This is what ChatGPT returned:

"A sunlit sightseeing drive through Hampstead Garden Suburb in a Mercedes convertible is an experience that feels as though it belongs in a bygone era of quiet elegance and charm.

As the car glides smoothly along the tree-lined streets, the soft hum of the engine blends with the gentle rustling of leaves,

creating a serene atmosphere that invites you to fully appreciate the beauty of this iconic London neighbourhood.

The first stop on the journey is Central Square, the heart of Hampstead Garden Suburb. Here, the white-painted façades of the houses stand in perfect harmony with the surrounding greenery. The square is framed by manicured lawns and a collection of traditional architecture, evoking a sense of timelessness. The sun casts long shadows across the cobblestones, accentuating the character of this peaceful, almost village-like enclave. A stroll around Central Square reveals not just a place of residence, but a community steeped in history and a sense of purpose.

From there, the drive winds towards St Jude's Church, an impressive Gothic-style structure that rises proudly against the backdrop of the clear blue sky. Designed by the renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, the church has a distinct and commanding presence, with its tall spire and intricate stonework drawing the eye upwards. The churchyard, framed by tall hedges and adorned with spring blooms, offers a tranquil respite from the bustle of London. It's easy to imagine the countless services, weddings, and community gatherings that have taken place here over the years.

Just a short distance away, the Free Church offers a contrast in architectural style, its simple yet striking design standing as a testament to the suburban ideals of the area. The understated beauty of the building complements the surrounding streets, with its large windows and clean lines offering a sense of openness and light. The church,

with its welcoming atmosphere, serves as another anchor in this close-knit community.

As the drive continues, the Mercedes convertible cruises past the impressive Henrietta Barnett School for girls. Nestled among the well-tended gardens, this historic institution stands as a symbol of the area's commitment to education and culture. The architecture, with its classical proportions and serene surroundings, reflects the values of Hampstead Garden Suburb – where tradition meets modernity, and where every building, from school to church, contributes to the rich tapestry of the neighbourhood.

In this sunlit setting, each landmark tells a story of a carefully

curated suburban dream, where architecture, nature and community intertwine in perfect harmony."

Most certainly not my style. Very flowery text and a lot of it made up: 'white-painted façades of the houses', in Central Square? 'Cobblestones'? 'Henrietta Barnett nestled among the well-tended gardens'? Come on! Do the research. Nevertheless, it's not all that bad, even if it's written like an estate agent's blurb.

So, should I be worried? No, not yet, at any rate.

*The image above was created (after numerous attempts) by Google ImageFX to accurately depict, in a photo-realistic rendition, the article written by ChatGPT.*

# SUNDAY FUNDAY

**1st & 3rd Sunday Of The Month**  
9.15am - 10am  
The Inspire Centre, at St Jude on the Hill  
Central Square, NW11 7AH (Formerly The Church Rooms)  
For Info Contact Revd Em priest@stjudeonthehill.com

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# The Extension Field and the Suburb

JOHN ATKIN

Stroll down the main path of the Heath Extension from Wildwood Road and not too far from the top you will notice, on the right hand side, a disused Portland stone drinking fountain. Why is it there? Answering this question will not only provide an insight into the origins of the Suburb but will also cast a spotlight on a woman who does not always receive enough credit for her role in its early history.

The monument in question, which is Grade II listed, is officially known as the Walter Field Memorial Drinking Fountain. Field, who died in 1901, was a notable artist and an Associate of the Royal Watercolour Society. The fountain was donated by his sister Emily Field and erected on the Heath Extension in 1907.

Walter and Emily lived in Hampstead and helped to found, in 1897, the Hampstead Heath Protection Society (the predecessor of today's Heath and Hampstead Society), for which Emily acted as Hon Secretary until 1904. In this role she was one of the first to suggest that land should be bought from Eton College to prevent the approach to Hampstead Heath from being blotted by the high-density housing that was expected to follow the planned extension of the Underground to Golders Green.

This suggestion was made in the 1902 Annual Report of the Hampstead Heath Protection Society. Henrietta Barnett, who had been thinking on similar lines, responded swiftly and, in March 1903, she invited a small group of friends, including Emily Field, to her home near Spaniards Inn to discuss '...the possibility of obtaining the extension of the Heath'.

The group was soon to morph into the much bigger Hampstead Heath Extension Council (HHEC), with Henrietta Barnett becoming its formidable Hon Secretary and with Emily Field serving as a member of its Executive Committee.



The Walter Field Memorial Drinking Fountain  
(Photo: John Atkin)

Henrietta Barnett led the campaign to buy 80 acres of land from Eton College for the Heath Extension. Funds were sought from individuals, guilds and local authorities, but things did not start well. Two key potential donors, London County Council (LCC) and Hampstead Borough Council, initially refused to contribute – the former on the grounds that the 80 acres lay in Middlesex or beyond its domain, the latter on the grounds that its relatively well-off ratepayers were already well served with open spaces.

It was at this point that Henrietta Barnett played a master stroke, when she revealed to the Ham & High that she had secured an option from Eton College to buy a further 243 acres of land bordering the proposed Heath Extension, on which to build her long cherished ideal of a garden suburb housing all classes of people. News of the option, which was to be exercised only after the acquisition of land for the Heath Extension, reshaped thinking in Hampstead. Impressed by the thought of the Extension being used by rich and poor alike, its councillors changed their earlier stance and agreed to donate. In turn, their donation – by demonstrating local support for the project – encouraged the LCC to follow suit.

The Heath Extension can be regarded, to all intents and purposes, as the precursor of the Suburb. Henrietta Barnett is rightly applauded for her key role in its acquisition. However, the part played by Emily Field is worthy of praise too. She was a pioneer in calling for land to be bought from Eton for the Extension, she served on the HHEC throughout its existence, and she was one of the biggest individual donors to its coffers (giving the equivalent of almost £47,000 today). Indeed, her decision to site the Walter Field Memorial Fountain not on her home turf of Hampstead Heath, but on the adjacent land of the Heath Extension, provides a tangible reminder of the close attachment she had to the campaign for its acquisition.

## The Rev Bouchier's Sermon on the Sinking of the Titanic

JUDY SMITH

The RMS Titanic sank on the night of 15 April 1912 with the loss of more than 1,500 lives. The Rev Carter, former Vicar of St Jude's, Whitechapel, and his wife, passengers on the Titanic, both drowned when it sank. Rev. Bouchier led a memorial service at St Jude-on-the-Hill in Hampstead Garden Suburb in late April 1912.

"We are met together tonight under the shadow of an unexampled and unparalleled calamity. The heart of the nation has been well nigh broken as day by day, during this last week, fresh details of the wreck of the Titanic have reached our shores." He went on to say: "I am not for the moment concerned as to whether there was an

altogether inadequate supply of lifeboats and searchlights, nor need I inquire the reason why the outlooker had no glasses. The fact that there were too many waiters and cooks and too few seamen I may pass by. I am constrained only to ask two simple questions. The first is: "Is it really the truth that human lives were subordinate to the creation of a new record for speed?" And "What are we to say of the breathless haste that dictated the Titanic's course?"

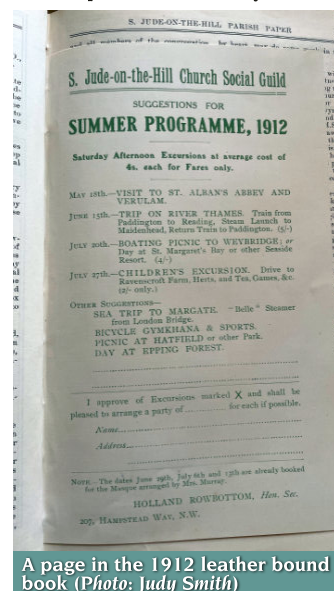
The whole sermon was recorded in the St Jude's Parish Paper of 26 April, 1912 – one of the gems discovered in the remarkable St Jude's Archives. The parish newsletters have been carefully archived by the St Jude's community for over 100 years.

Currently Suburb Archives and the Virtual Museum are exploring the best way for at least some of the weekly Parish Papers to be scanned and displayed online in the Museum. The Henrietta Barnett School pupils, under the guidance of Director of Studies Denise Walker, have offered to do some scanning and the planning for this is moving forward.

The unique history of Hampstead Garden Suburb is reflected in the content of these Parish Papers dating from February 1912 to January 1984. You can see from the image of the extensive Summer Programme planned by St Jude-on-the-Hill Church Social Club that parishioners had a vast number of activities to enjoy.

The planning to enable these exceptional documents to be displayed in the museum is very much a collaborative work in progress between the Virtual Museum, St Jude's archivists and Henrietta Barnett School. But the most interesting discovery on

reading through some of these wonderful Parish Papers is that the sense of community, social values and ethical behaviour that is displayed within their pages is still very evident in the content of Suburb publications today.



A page in the 1912 leather bound book (Photo: Judy Smith)



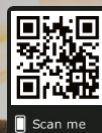
An engraving of the sinking of the Titanic by Willy Stöwer (Photo: Public Domain)

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Edward and Jill Levetus outside 1 North Square around the time of V-E Day (Photo: Levetus Archives)



A truck of revellers passing through the Strand, London on V-E Day, 8 May 1945 (Photo: Public Domain. Photographer unknown)

ANDREW BOTTERILL

Spring will soon be in the air again and with it that renewal of life and optimism. We'll no doubt celebrate the 80th anniversary of V-E Day. On 8 May 1945, optimism seemingly could not have been higher. Was this a new dawn, a new age? Had it been 'a war to end all wars'? The outpouring of joy on the streets of London indicated that change was indeed at hand. But was there also just a sliver of foreboding that this could be merely a welcome pause in the endless cycle of violence between humans – the pattern which Voltaire had mockingly described two centuries earlier as the best of all possible worlds?

And how did we in our beloved Suburb mark V-E Day 80

years ago? There was certainly joy and relief although, unsurprisingly, perhaps a little more restraint than in less well-mannered parts. Maybe we had already become more conscious of Candide's final exhortation that the only way to live was to 'cultiver notre jardin'. If that couldn't be done in Hampstead Garden Suburb, it couldn't be done anywhere.

We are fortunate enough to have a contemporaneous account. Jill Levetus, who lived with her family at 1 North Square from the 1930s to the 1950s, wrote a letter to her daughter Margaret who was driving ambulances in Wiltshire. It paints an atmospheric picture.

The family appears to have had a 'good war' – helped no doubt by home grown vegetables and chickens in the coop.

*7th May: Everything and everybody seemed to be on tiptoe, waiting for the news. Before I set out for the Bach Choir rehearsal, I thought that the news of the total surrender might come before we got home again, and in that case the streets, the 'buses and the trains would be thronged, so I arranged with the Hadens that Father and I would come back to Golders Green, after the rehearsal, in their car, instead of staying in town for dinner, as is our habit on a Monday night. Mr. Haden had just got his huge Packard car out of*

*storage (smelling strongly of moth ball!) and we swept homewards through streets which were beginning to be decked with flags and bunting.*

*I somehow guessed that Mrs. Kauffman might be alone, so we asked her to come over to hear the 9 o'clock news – so she came over and drank her Ovaltine in our company.*

*8th May: This morning we put out our four Union Jacks. Many – I think most – of the houses had flags flying. Some of the houses had all their lights on behind uncurtained windows, and many had strings of fairy lamps for decoration. The little 'flower shop' in Hampstead Way was very gay with lots of coloured lights and a green glow up in that glass lantern affair on its roof.*

*We heard the PM at three, and will listen to the King tonight.*

*People were all making their way up to Jack Straw's Castle, and there, by the Whitestone Pond, was a huge bonfire, with folk marching round it with flags flying. There seemed to be mostly family parties along Spaniards Road, and arm-in-arm bands of youths and maidens who were singing.*

*When we got back to the Square, the searchlight display was beginning, and we found Francesca and Papa and watched it – it began with innumerable*

*little blobs of light dashing about the sky like running mice. Then they all stood still before forming themselves into a great tent of light. Then they became one huge multi-coloured beam that paled to white, and lit up St. Jude's spire and the Free Church dome – that was very lovely. Then the lights went out and left the sky to the stars.*

*9th May: Last night we went out again as darkness fell. We did not go far – in that space between the south door of St. Jude's and the top of Heathgate there was a big bonfire and round it were skipping and dancing children, some in fancy dress, some carrying flaming torches, some little ones carried shoulder high. Music was provided by a radio, fixed up in the doorway of the church. Everybody was there – including my butcher and his wife.*

*The searchlights were playing again and everything was merry. At about midnight, Father Rennie, in cassock and biretta, called out, "Any of you who like to come into the church and sing a hymn will be very welcome." People streamed into the brightly lighted church, a tremendous crowd of them. Father Rennie spoke a few words, welcoming all who had entered "with their dogs and whatever else they had brought." Then we sang three hymns, with prayers and thanksgivings between. Then the National Anthem, and the Benediction. The crowd streamed out again and dispersed quietly.*



## 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.

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## Be in the picture at Stephens House

Did you know that thousands of people came to the Gardens of Stephens House in East End Road N3 3QE, to celebrate Victory in Europe in 1945?

On Sunday 4 May, with your help, we hope to recreate this picture taken on the terrace of Avenue House. Why not join us? The picture will be taken at 6pm and the Gardens stay open until 8pm.

See a larger version of this picture at [www.stephenshouseandgarden.com](http://www.stephenshouseandgarden.com)



This image records the euphoria of victory celebrations on V-E Day, 8 May 1945, at Avenue House, Finchley (Photo: Public Domain)

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