

70 years together



The Littaur's holidaying in Lysefjord, Norway in September 2015

Suburb News has learned that David and Joyce Littaur celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on January 29 and would like to share the news with our readers. I am sure you will join us in

congratulating them, and wishing them well.

They threw themselves into Suburb life on their arrival from Highgate in August 1998. David sits on RA Council and is Chairman

of the RA's Events Committee, while Joyce accompanies him to RA Council meetings.

David remarked, "How lucky I feel that we have been granted so many years together!"

A Christmas gift from Dolce Napoli

In our spring issue last year (SN130) we reviewed the new Italian café, Dolce Napoli, in The Market Place, and we have news of a very generous offer made by the family who run the establishment.

They issued an invitation to share a Christmas lunch for single elderly people in the neighbourhood. Although there were originally three women who accepted the invitation, ill-health meant only one, Betty Mason, was able to take up the offer.

She has told Suburb News that she was served a five-course meal with plenty of wine on offer. At her request they made a traditional Christmas Pudding, but that in fact the Pannetone was better.

She said, "Later on (many glasses later!) friends joined us for coffee and cake, filling this small cafe with the love and spirit of Christmas. I returned home happy and contented that there are still such good

people working amongst us." She added, "I was the only OAP to partake of the occasion and could not have had a happier time had I been with family or other friends. Fulvio, Silvia and Luca of Dolce Napoli, deserve thanks for their wonderfully generous lunch, for those

who were elderly and had no other plans on Christmas Day."

Suburb News would like to add its thanks to them for this demonstration of community and Christmas spirit. Doubtless there will be more people ready to accept this generous Christmas gift should the offer be repeated.



Betty's picture of her Christmas hosts

Theatre finds new venue

The Garden Suburb Theatre traces its origins to the first dramatic performance held in the Suburb in 1908. So it is sad that recently they have not had a permanent home here, apart from annual performances in Little Oakwood Open Air Theatre. Not unlike the travelling players of the past, for the last few years, they have wandered from theatre to theatre.

Now, however, they have found a new venue next to the Suburb. King Alfred School, in North End Road has acquired and is refurbishing a building to provide theatre space for the school, across the road from their main site. GST will be putting on a production there of Oscar Wilde's

A Woman Of No Importance from Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th April. They hope this may be the first of more productions there. Do go and support them.

Before that, from Friday February 16 to Sunday February 18 (half-term) you will still need to travel to Barnet to see Aladdin, a pantomime specially written for the group, at The Bull, 68 High Street. Box Office: 020 3582 1333 or book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre.

New members are welcome, as active performers, backstage crew or audience members. Details at www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk. Membership enquiries: Maureen Colmans on 020 8446 4029.

Two awards for Dr Mervyn Miller

Many residents will recognise the name of Dr Mervyn Miller who sat on the HGS Trust Council for many years, was made Honorary Life President in 2001 and written on the history of the Suburb.

In recognition of his involvement with the Lutyens Trust, Letchworth Garden City, Athlone House, and Dissington Garden Village, as well as our Suburb, he was awarded a Fellowship by the Royal Institute of British Architects in November last year.

The citation mentions his published histories of Letchworth and the Suburb and his Doctorate

for his biography of Sir Raymond Unwin. Mervyn has written to say that he looks on this as a 'lifetime achievement award' but will continue to work with the institutions with which he is involved.

He has also accepted a three-year Fellowship in the University of Hertfordshire School of Life Sciences, which will allow him to develop his ongoing passion for the international context of the Garden City movement and related aspects of architectural history.

Suburb News can join many readers in welcoming these two



well-merited awards for someone who has spent his working life contributing to the understanding and conservation of the historic built environment.

Memory Matters – a topical talk

Despite being a rather wet and rainy late October afternoon, an almost full hall of HGS U3A members hosted the first in the season of our monthly Topical Talks. As one of our members related after the talk, it was "illuminating, informative, pacy and with moments of humour." Dr Emma Ward led an interesting and illustrative interactive talk on 'Memory Matters'.

She firstly gave us an overview of recent developments in this area: exploring different kinds of memory and how they are affected by the natural ageing process. Dr Ward then explained how scientists test different types of memory in the lab, and some new findings about how factors, such as attention, mood, rhythm and music, are believed to preserve or even enhance memory with age.

Alongside the talk, there was plenty of audience participation, where we were invited to join in some memory tests, using words flashed up on the screen, and then having to memorise them and write them down thereafter.

Dr Ward and her team of researchers invited our members to participate in their on-going



research on cognitive ageing. Participants will be tested in individual sessions in which they will be asked to perform a straightforward computer task and a battery of verbal tests assessing memory and other cognitive abilities.

If members were unable to attend the talk they can still be included in the research. So, please contact us at <https://hgsu3a.uk/> if you are interested, so we can pass on your details to Dr Ward.

DAAPHNE BERKOVI



Dr Emma Ward



Suburb author in library talk

On November 22, local author and eminent surgeon Michael Baum presented an illustrated talk at the Garden Suburb Community Library. He gave an insight into the research for his latest novel, Aaron's Rod, which involved a series of fascinating archaeological trips. The talk was extremely well attended and it was followed by an interesting Q & A session before those present had a chance for a pleasant drink and chat with the author.



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