



## ALLOTMENTS

The membership of the committee is made up of the Site Secretaries of the eleven allotments in the Suburb. The Co-opted and ex-officio members include; HGS Trust Estate Management; Current Chair of the HGS Horticultural Society; HGS Residents Association Representative.

Most of the allotments are owned by the HGS Trust, with two owned by the Orchard Housing Society. There are over 100 plot holders of mixed ages who spend much of their leisure time raising crops for their personal use in this tranquil environment.

The Allotments Committee meets three or four times a year, liaising with the Trust to ensure that the efficient management of the sites is maintained, that the plots are kept in good order by the users and that rapport with boundary residents is preserved. Other items include water supply issues; overgrowing hedges and trees; occasional vandalism; annual rents paid to the Trust. We also liaise with the HGS Horticultural Society, sharing meetings of joint interest.

During the summer, the condition of all plots is inspected by committee members. Plot holders may offer their growing produce for judging. Amongst the social events is the popular Harvest Supper where plot holders can provide food made from their produce, exhibit their crops, and the plot winner(s) can collect their prizes.

The weather was as usual, quite mixed and rain early on delayed some sowing. However, we enjoyed a long warm spell at the end of the season with many extended crops, notably blackberries that seemed to be never ending.

There are quite often plot vacancies. If anyone is interested in spending some of their leisure time in this calm and productive environment, please contact the site-secretaries (in the RA Suburb Directory on page 18), the Assistant Estate Manager at the Trust on 8455 1066, or at paul@hgstrust.org, or Peter Hodgson; email peter-hodgson@hotmail.co.uk.

ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE (raallotments@hgs.org.uk)



## CONSERVATION AND AMENITIES (CONSAM)

Consam continued to keep up the pressure on all aspects of conservation in the Suburb. The work was actioned by means of direct contact with the HGS Trust (HGST) and the London Borough of Barnet (LBB). I would like to thank my committee colleagues who have given freely of their time to help with this essential, and fundamental, aspect of the Residents Association's work.

- Contributed to the consideration of individual planning applications at 9 meetings of the HGST Property & Plans Committee.
- Contributed to the consideration of individual planning applications at 17 meetings of the LBB Conservation Area Consultative Committee.
- Pursued general conservation issues with HGST and LBB at further meetings called for the purpose.
- Ongoing co-operation with HGST in and finalisation of supplementary guidance on paving and hard-standing, including the taking of photographs to illustrate the guidance.
- Alerted HGST to several infringements of the HGST/LBB Design Guidance, with appropriate follow-up.
- Objected to several planning applications via the LBB planning portal.
- Circulated LBB's weekly planning applications to the HGS List Email Group.
- Pursued with LBB and an independent consultant a number of public realm conservation issues.

PETER MCCLUSKIE, Chairman (raconsam@hgs.org.uk)



## EVENTS

The busy Events Committee calendar closed 2016 with the annual New Year's Eve Party in St Jude's Church followed by a spectacular Firework's display in Central Square celebrating the arrival of 2017!

The 105th RA AGM was next on the calendar and in 2017 took place on Monday 27 March 2017 at its usual location, Henrietta Barnett School. The event was well attended and also welcomed our local councillors who were able to interact with local residents and contribute to the lively discussions around the state of repair of our roads and pavements, security and tree re-planting.

In May the Events Committee hosted the annual Michael Rowley lecture. Our very own Suburb resident and wife of Reverend Alan Walker, Lucrezia Walker, talked about the life of Australian artist Tom Walker who lived on the Suburb for several years from 1909. Her illustrated presentation showcased some of his paintings whilst giving us an interesting insight into his life in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Swiftly following on was the Summer Picnic in Central Square – the biggest event in the RA Events calendar. The weather was kind to us this year and soon the queues formed at the bar to grab a free glass of Pimms. Picnic tables sold out and Sound of the Suburb entertained whilst families and friends were enjoying their lunch.

This year we also welcomed a lot of four-legged friends on the square. Our local charity "All Dogs Matter" had invited local dog owners to participate in a friendly "best of show" competition. Dog owners proudly presented their pooches in the hope to scoop one of the sought after rosettes.

Other entertainment included known and loved favourites such as Face Painting, Balloon craft with Fizzie Lizzie, Donkey Rides, Animal Show, Punch & Judy and Arts & Crafts with Vera Moore.

Before ending the year with our annual Fireworks display, RA Events took over Fellowship House to celebrate Halloween. Now in its 2nd year, the children's Halloween Party was attended by more than 40 children plus their parents. The house was packed! Story teller Sarah Lloyd-Winder enchanted the children with her stories, whilst local artist Vera Moore engaged our party goers with Halloween Mask making, and her daughter turned some of our guests into butterflies and sprites with her Face Painting skills.

Sadly the year was overshadowed by the passing of our dear Charles Gale, resident of Hampstead Garden Suburb and a long standing member of RA Council and the RA Events Committee. We miss him greatly.

DAVID LITTAURO, Chairman (raevents@hgs.org.uk)



# 2017 COMMITTEE REPORTS



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I joined the Residents Association a few days before I moved to Hampstead Garden Suburb in 1994. I happened to meet the then Treasurer at a party in Hampstead. I remember he took my subscription on the spot. It never occurred to me then that I would later become your Chairman, let alone twice. Now I'm retiring after being Chairman for three years. As many of you know, I was previously RA Chairman for four years ending with the Centenary Celebrations in 2006, which makes my total seven years.

The achievements of the Association over the past 12 months are documented in the individual Committee Reports on these pages. Year after year the RA continues to recruit competent and intelligent people to help run our many activities and to organise our campaigns.

I'm happy to report that the RA now has a younger generation of intelligent and well organised volunteers who are already taking over the leadership of the Association. If you want to join this team, get in touch with any RA official – details can be found in the Suburb Directory which is re-published each year in the early Summer. If you are not a member of the RA, join at the AGM which is open to the public.

The two most recent elections I have won have been contested. These have been the only contested elections held for an RA Chairman since 1997. Thank you for your support.

I consider that the Residents Association continues to be an important force for good in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Although the RA has no statutory authority, The Residents Association still serves an important purpose in providing volunteers to serve on public committees, and to influence the HGS Trust and public authorities for the good of the Suburb. We also co-ordinate and publicise the many Suburb organisations which are active here. This year, together with other groups, we have prevented an outline scheme to build a skyscraper in Golders Green towering over the Suburb near the Tube Station.

The physical beauty of our location and environment has had a significant influence on the social cohesion and the unique cultural diversity of our area. I have been honoured to have participated in a small way in this success during my leadership of the Association and as chairman of some of its standing committees.

DAVID B LEWIS, Chairman HGS Residents Association (rachair@hgs.org.uk)



## MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee is responsible for encouraging residents both to join our association and to rejoin on an annual basis. Our membership year is from January to December. In order to encourage members to maintain their membership on a continuous basis, we recommend they set up an annual Standing Order. Once set up, the renewal payments for the agreed amount is paid directly into the RA's bank account. This both saves time for residents and cuts down time and work for the membership secretary. Residents can also pay the annual subscription via cheques, Pay Pal or by making direct payments into the RA's bank account.

Our system also provides for members to make donations to Fellowship, the local charity for the over 60s. Each year we raise about £9,000 for Fellowship via this facility.

Maintaining a database for a community of over 5,000 households, requires regular attention which is done by the Membership Secretary, backed up by Jeremy Clynnes who provides our IT support. There is also a regular need for co-operation between the Membership Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer, Emma Howard.

Contact with members is principally by e-mail and occasionally by telephone. The date and time of the AGM is advertised in advance via Suburb News and via Suburb eNews to all members who have given the RA their email addresses. Postal mailings are used in May and June to encourage residents to join or rejoin. A further mailing is sent out in September, and a membership table is manned by volunteers at the annual summer picnic. This also enables us to make contact with new residents and encourage them to join. Get-together parties for new residents are arranged from time to time.

Contact with Associate members, and Life members living outside the Suburb is maintained by sending copies of Suburb News 4 times a year.

The committee also helps maintain the Discount Scheme, which the RA has negotiated with selected local retailers. To facilitate this Resident Association Membership Cards are issued each year, and remain valid for this purpose until the end of July of the following year.

Membership has been steady in recent years, with 1,750 households joining or rejoining in 2017. Thanks are due to all who helped contribute to membership matters in 2017.

JANET ELLIOT, Secretary (ramembership@hgs.org.uk)



## PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee lost a much-loved member with the death of Charles Gale in March last year. He did invaluable work finding and retaining advertisers and was responsible for running the RA Discount Scheme with local businesses.

The committee still needs a volunteer to take on the advertising brief for Suburb News. The Suburb Directory needs someone to do the same job, and also a volunteer to administer the Discount Scheme.

We thank Steve Morris, a former member of our committee, for continuing to operate his website at www.hgs.org.uk for the benefit of all Suburb residents and its organisations.

We continue to be responsible for the following:

- Publishing Suburb News every quarter with delivery carried out by a team of over 100 resident volunteers.
- Publishing the Suburb Directory every Spring.
- Administering the Discount Scheme for RA members. A list of participating businesses can be found at the back of the Suburb Directory.
- Publishing details of local events and news in Suburb eNews using the e-mail addresses of RA members.
- Administering the Facebook page of "The Hampstead Garden Suburb Group".
- Arranging for Suburb News and the Suburb Directory to be available to view on line at www.hgs.org.uk.

TERRY BROOKS, Chairman (rapublications@hgs.org.uk)



## ROADS AND TRAFFIC

As always the Roads & Traffic Committee was heavily engaged in local traffic matters during 2017. In July the committee was represented at an RA public meeting which was called to discuss pedestrian safety in the Suburb. Following this we have had a series of meetings with our ward councillors, Barnet officials and Transport for London representatives to see whether improvements can be made to the Market Place/Kingsley Way/Ossulton Way junction.

Being a part of the A1 the junction operates under the authority of the more distant TfL rather than Barnet and we have appreciated the active help of our councillors in bringing residents' concerns to the attention of senior Transport for London personnel. We are hopeful that a re-phasing of the traffic lights or some other change to existing arrangements might soon be introduced to allow for increased pedestrian crossing times.

As the year went on the committee heard from many more residents who had received CCTV issued traffic fines in Barnet. Members might remember that at the public consultation in 2015 the committee strongly opposed the introduction of CCTV fearing that it might be used over-zealously.

These concerns were dismissed and cameras now monitor the yellow box junctions at the Golders Green war memorial and at the Bridge Lane/Finchley Road intersection and also the zig-zag restriction at Brookland School, as well as at other sites frequented by Suburb residents. We have received many complaints about unfair enforcement and we have certainly found examples of penalty charge notices being issued without justification.

The rules governing box junctions and school parking restrictions are not always well understood – both by motorists and enforcement staff – so members in receipt of parking or traffic tickets which they feel have been unjustly issued should always check with the Committee before paying to see whether they might have a case for appeal.

Residents who have recently moved into or within the Suburb are reminded that it is vital to advise the DVLA of their change of address as soon as possible because a misdirected traffic ticket often results in reminders also being sent to the wrong address. In those circumstances the first notice of a CCTV generated ticket is often a clamped car outside the house and a demand for an immediate payment of several hundred pounds in release fees.

As 2017 came to a close the Committee was in the process of submitting objections to a Transport for London proposal to convert several Market Place parking spaces into bays for the exclusive use of electric taxis. We are anxious that some of TfL's policies, which might be appropriate for central London streets, are in danger of being introduced locally without proper consideration of local demand for competing facilities. For many years we have had to work hard to explain to TfL that the Market Place's viability depends upon access for residents and these latest proposals may represent a new challenge to one of our most important local shopping areas.

We continue as always to take note of residents' comments about all traffic related issues which in 2017 have included such matters as long term parking in local roads, congestion around our local schools, the maintenance of bus services to and through the Suburb, and problems caused by traffic diverting to avoid main road congestion.

The Committee is always interested in hearing from members who might like to join, we are a small group but we do currently have one or two places. With that in mind we note with thanks the retirement of longstanding R&T member Michael Milner, and also with sadness the passing of Charles Gale during 2017.

GARY SHAW, Chairman (ratraffic@hgs.org.uk)



## TREES AND OPEN SPACES

As in previous years, we continued to monitor the Suburb to identify problems to do with trees, grass verges and hedges, with individual members of the committee covering the various areas. Our aim is to visit all Suburb roads noting the gaps within the planting scheme and to help Barnet fill these gaps by matching the number of trees they will plant, up to a set total cost. For Barnet's spring 2017 planting they were unable to get all the trees the Residents Association requested so we funded fewer trees than expected. The total planting was, once more, not enough to fill all the gaps. The tree on Finchley Road, by the corner of Temple Fortune Lane, which we funded to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, was badly damaged and had to be removed during 2016. It is to be replaced by another elm, together with our small plaque, in the spring 2018 planting.

Our work with the Central Square Residents Association, the HGS Trust and Barnet for replanting the flower beds in Central Square, with some lifting of the lower branches of the trees in the square to let more light onto the flower beds, was completed with their official opening on the 7th July. Later in the year we marked the many years of invaluable service to the Suburb by both Richard Wakefield and Charles Gale by sponsoring Lutyens benches in their memory. The two benches are situated by the tennis courts, one each side of the central path, looking out across the new flower beds.

We continue to play an active part in the management both of Hampstead Heath, with a representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, and of Kenwood, as a member of English Heritage's Kenwood Landscape Forum.

During the year the RA has given the Northway Gardens Organisation another small grant to help maintain their newly planted flower beds in Northway Gardens. The year has also seen the successful setting up of The Friends of Big Wood to protect and preserve the Big Wood Nature Reserve. The Friends have taken over organising the Bigwood Working Group and its six or so Activity Mornings a year working, out of bird-nesting season, to improve the woodland structure by coppicing hazel and removing some of the ground ivy and bramble to create some small glades amongst the mature trees, whilst maintaining enough variety for the birds, bats, fungi and other plants to thrive. Have a look at the website www.friendsofbigwood.com for full details of this work, and how you can join the Friends to get involved.

TONY GHILCHIK, Chairman (ratrees@hgs.org.uk)

Come and discuss Suburb issues with your neighbours at the Residents Association AGM  
**Monday 26 March 2018, 8pm – Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Central Square**  
All residents welcome • Refreshments

The Financial Report and Accounts will be available on the website at [www.hgs.org.uk/ra/agm/index.html](http://www.hgs.org.uk/ra/agm/index.html) by 12th March 2018. If you would like to receive a hard copy please email [ratreasurer@hgs.org.uk](mailto:ratreasurer@hgs.org.uk) or write to HGS RA Treasurer c/o 40 Temple Fortune Lane, London NW11 7UE. Copies will be distributed at the AGM 26th March 2018.