

Secret Suburb

Lyttelton Playing Fields

Everyone knows the Suburb began in 1907, but what was here before that? It was farmland for the most part, and if you know where to look and have the right maps you can still see where some of the roads respect the old field boundaries.

However, there's one boundary that anyone can see. There's an old hedgerow, which would have marked the boundary between fields, in Lyttelton Playing Fields.

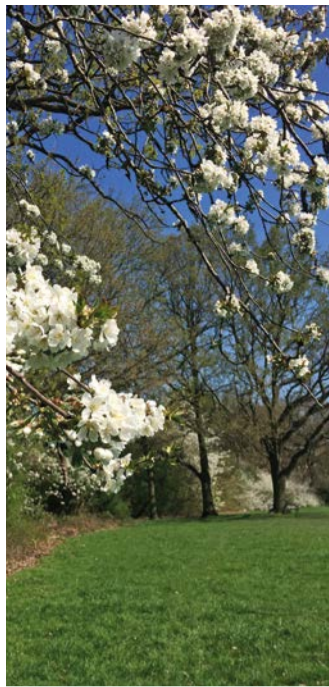
If you enter from Kingsley Way, follow the path round the Millennium Wood (that's the wooded area with an illegible sign) and stop before you get to the children's play area. On either side of the path there is a slightly scruffy looking curving belt of trees and shrubs. It's a hedgerow: a mix of standard trees and lower-growing 'under storey' trees or shrubs.

There's a rule of thumb, called Hooper's Hypothesis, invented in the 1960s to calculate the age of a hedgerow. Very simply, you count up the number of trees and shrubs in the hedge and multiply that by 100. So three species of tree – 300 years old, eight species – 800 years old.

It's more complicated than that of course. The official government leaflet on how to survey a

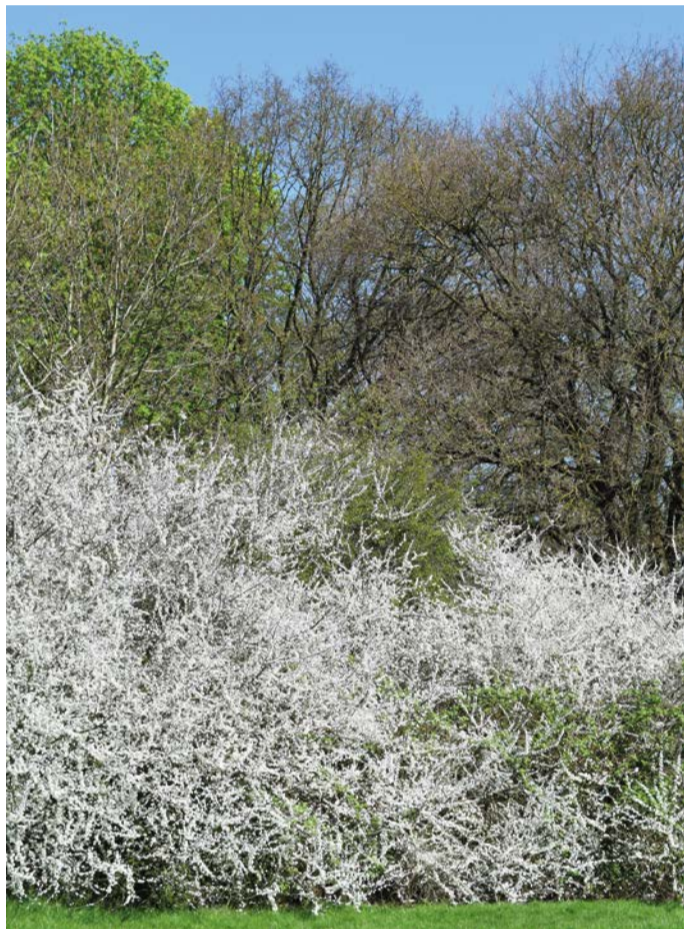
hedgerow is over 100 pages long. But even a not very expert survey (and no leaflet) on one hot day in April I spotted oak trees, elder, holly and yew, horse chestnut (not a native but it's very successful locally), hawthorn (possibly two types of hawthorn but I can't tell them apart if they're not fruiting), hazel, wild cherry, blackthorn and hornbeam. Plus a lot of ivy and bramble. And I didn't even think about the plants that might be growing under the trees.

That's 10 different species of tree without trying too hard. So this feature in Lyttelton Playing Fields could, perhaps, be a thousand years old and surely



The ancient hedgerow qualifies as an ancient hedgerow. Which is quite exciting for an area only 110 years old.

GEORGINA MALCOLM



Blackthorn in bloom



Wild cherry blossom

Sunday Summer Fun Day

This year the RA's annual Sunday Summer Fun Day takes place on Sunday June 10 at its usual location in Central Square. The animal charity All Dogs Matter has again agreed to hold a 'dog competition' to find the 'Cutest Pup' and the 'Waggiest Tail,' as well as many other categories.

There will also be a much larger Children's Arts and Crafts section (ages 3-11) this year, which will be organised by experts from

local HGS Art groups. Come along and show your original artistic talents and skills. Photos of the best may appear in a future issue of Suburb News!

The event would not be complete without the ever popular Donkey Rides and there are also the usual attractions: Face Painting, Punch & Judy, Fizzie Lizzie. There will be a Plant Sale, Raffle and a variety of Refreshments with a Cake Stall selling wonderful,

home-made Suburb cakes. Music will be provided by the ever popular 'Sound of the Suburb'.

An exciting display of cars will be hosted by Volvo Cars North London who have kindly agreed to sponsor our event. Picnic tables are available to book now for £17 for a table and 6 chairs. With promises of a good summer, we hope to see many of you on Central Square to enjoy the festivities.



Last year's Summer Fun Day

Northway Rose Garden bursts into spring

The Volunteers at the Northway Rose Gardens are looking forward to Spring openings! "Already to be seen are Snowdrops, Daffodils, Hyacinth, and Wallflowers as well as many spring shrubs, such as the amazing yellow Forsythia," say Moses and Monika two of the keenest volunteers. The many beds of Roses are ready for their best summer display in many years. Visitors will see a lot of new colour.



With fundraising under way for 2018, the Northway Gardens Organisation already have formal sponsorship from Ellis and Co. Estate Agents, Streathers Solicitors as well as the HGSRA and HGS Trust. All residents donations are also much appreciated, allowing us to go that extra mile in helping to develop these historic 1910 Suburb Gardens.

"We hope to buy and bring in some 300 sacks (over 15,000 litres) of organic material with the physical muscle of all the great young people from The Harington Scheme and Good Gym," says Kristin Green.

Local volunteers do tasks such as planting, pruning, composting and watering with more than 100m of hosepipe. Visitors can see how many leaves have been collected for leaf mould. If you have a suggestion for the NGO, do let them know of it using the contact information that is on the site.

Working with Barnet Parks, there are three new benches

made from local trees, and 4 new traditional benches to replace broken ones. Locals are looking to add one more bench in the sunniest place for evening and autumn sunshine.



105th RA AGM

(continued from front page)

comments about how poorly repairs were carried out so that the holes reappeared soon after the repairs were finished.

The councillors present acknowledged the feelings of residents and said they responded to all the complaints they received by logging them with the appropriate officers. They told the meeting that there was a programme of road renewal due to start in April. All reports were investigated and repairs prioritised by the severity of the problem.

For some people the reason for the council's inability to keep our roads and pavements in reasonable condition lay in the relentless succession of cut, cut, cut by the Treasury over the last eight years in the central government grants, which used to bolster local government

budgets. If this is the case, then we should expect the situation to get worse in the future.

Terry Rand's perennial complaint about cyclists using the pavement in Fallosen Way was left unanswered. There seems to be little that can be done to help him avoid being struck down outside his own home by pavement cyclists. Like potholes in the road and fixing broken pavements it is a question of available resources in a time of shrinking budgets and increasing spending on statutory obligations.

It was time to end the questions and get the results of the ballot. Emma Howard was elected as the RA's new Chairman, with Hella Schrader as her deputy. Peter McCluskie was confirmed as the Honorary Secretary and Tony Ghilchik, Colin Gregory, Max

Petersen and Simon Sackman were all re-elected to RA Council.

The position of RA Treasurer remains unfilled and any reader who thinks they would be suitable for the post should get in touch with the RA.

The meeting concluded with Emma Howard thanking her predecessor, David Lewis, for his contribution to the RA over the years, and inviting those present to enjoy the refreshments available and a chat with their Suburb neighbours.

TERRY BROOKS

Residents who wish to report potholes, faded road markings or missing signage can do so directly to Barnet Council at: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/council-and-democracy/report-it-now.html>, or phone 020 8359 2000.



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Views expressed in Suburb News are not necessarily those of the publishers the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.

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The RA website is www.hgs.org.uk