

Small Suburb organisation wins big award



Emma Rodwell, Gerlinde Crossley, HGS Combat Stress Committee Chair Ruth Smith and Yvonne Oliver receive their Community Group of the Year Award from Combat Stress at the Cavalry and Guards Club

On 18 September, Ruth Smith and three other members of HGS Combat Stress Committee, Gerlinde Crossley, Yvonne Oliver and Emma Rodwell, attended an evening reception given by Combat Stress HQ at the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly.

While they were watching the presentation of the Extra Mile Awards, the group was utterly amazed to hear the speaker mention the HGS committee by name, including the fact that they had raised more than £40,000 for Combat Stress mental health outreach services since 2008. They were

then invited to come up to receive the charity's inaugural Community Group of the Year Award to much applause.

But the group didn't rest on its laurels by any means. On 5 October they and the other four members of the committee launched their most ambitious project yet, when they put on a special centenary concert at the Free Church, North Square.

Having already raised well over £40,000 for Combat Stress over the last eleven or so years through Christmas fairs, catering for other organisations, etc., this time they provided an evening

of music and song featuring The North London Military Wives Choir and The Royal Naval Volunteer Band – Northwest



Headquarters, who sang and played to a packed and very appreciative house.

Long-time supporter and Suburb resident Martin Bell OBE introduced the proceedings, members of Merchant Taylors' Combined Cadet Force helped with stewarding and many other tasks, and there were moving speeches from Combat Stress HQ's Peter Butterworth and former PTSD sufferer Graham Smith. At the end, choir, band and audience joined together for a rousing performance of Jerusalem.

The Combat Stress Committee are now selling a large selection of newly-designed Christmas and Seasons Greetings cards, as well as some 'blank for your own message' cards in aid of Combat Stress. They cost £4.50 for 10 (35p each). To buy them you can contact Ruth Smith at ruthsmith@hotmail.com.

MARJORIE HARRIS

Martin Bell, with members of the North London Military Wives Choir, launches the concert on 5 October

Pay for your green bin collection? Barnet consults



By the time you are reading this, you might already have had your last green bin collection of garden waste on the Suburb for this year – due on November 6. The next time you see a green bin lorry will be in February next year.

Our annual winter pause has been extended because of essential works to the Oakleigh Depot, and Barnet suggests you compost your waste or take it to the Summers Lane site.

Barnet is also considering charging householders for their green bin collections. Barnet does not have a statutory duty to deal with garden waste and wants to make the collection an opt-in service for which there will be a charge.

You can read their reasoning for making this move at www.engage.barnet.gov.uk/garden-waste-charging-2019, and then you can complete the online questionnaire by clicking on the

link provided. The consultation finishes on November 22 and the outcome will be considered by the Environment Committee.

Given the continuing planned Treasury cuts to council support grants it will be surprising if we do not find ourselves having to pay to have garden waste collected – no matter how the consultation goes.

But consider yourself lucky not to be a resident of Waterlow Court. You may remember reading in our spring issue about a surprising consequence of the changes to bin collections last year. It was suggested that residents would have to pay the annual sum of £11,000 to have their bins moved to the kerb for collection in order to assuage the Health & Safety concerns that led to the suspension of their bin collections..

Beware, moving bins in Barnet is clearly very hazardous!

Mayoral visit to Northway gardens



Brian Ingram of the NGO showing the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Caroline Stack, around the Rose Gardens with wind in the willows

The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Caroline Stock, visited the rose beds in Northway Gardens as part of her declared intention to encourage people to make the most of the borough's green spaces, and promote healthy living during her term in office.

When the Northway Gardens Organisation (NGO) won the bid to manage the beds five years ago, we wrote that after a long wait

there was, at last, hope that the Northway Rose Gardens would enjoy a welcome facelift.

At the time Brian Ingram of the NGO declared, "All of us are HGS residents. We came together because of our mutual annoyance at the continued deterioration of the Rose Gardens area in Northway Gardens."

During her visit the Mayor saw the evidence to show what

local people can achieve through their own voluntary hard work, and with the help of donations from supporters and local sponsors.

The NGO would like to thank Ellis and Co Estate Agents, Streathers Solicitors, Gavzey Opticians, Ant Removals, the HGS Trust and the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association for their support.

In the Summer edition of Suburb News, readers were able to learn about the launch of the litter picking volunteer group led by Michael Green. This group has continued to grow and flourish and now boasts some 70 members, many of whom are involving their children and grandchildren in keeping the Suburb clean and green. We hope readers will have seen the difference.

On a bright, dry Autumn morning the rains kept away for the first group litter picking session attended by volunteers and two of our Councillors, John Marshall and Rohit Grover.

We were tackling Lyttelton Playing Fields, a much-loved facility in the area, which gets a lot of use, and sadly also a great deal of litter.

Volunteers' ages ranged from 8 to 80 and all set enthusiastically to work armed with litter picking grabbers provided by LB Barnet to pick up the litter which had blown into hedges and onto the banks of Mutton Brook. There was the usual assortment of bottles, cans, crisp packets and cigarette butts. However, our litter pickers even retrieved a (replica) gun and parts of a motor bike.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and were pleased that local families visiting the park were interested in our efforts with

some keen to get involved going forward. The Gaya Park Café supported our volunteers' efforts by supplying delicious coffee as well as cold water at the end of the morning's work.

Volunteers collected seven large refuse bags of litter for LB Barnet to collect. They are keen to repeat the event.

Litter pickers with their morning's catch



EMMA HOWARD

Litter picking record?

This was the headline on an e-mail (reproduced below) sent to the RA's message forum, the HGS List. It prompted some wry replies, and opened some eyes.

"My pick today yielded (inter one heck of a lot of alia):
• one full half-bottle of rum
• one dead squirrel (no, it was stiff and I didn't kill it for the record)
• one long piece of motor vehicle
• only 4 red bull cans (my record on this item is 12)

- only one gas capsule (record here is 26)
- two banana skins
- two fast-food boxes (empty)
- three coffee cups with lids on
- one abandoned bag of dog faeces

Go on, can anyone beat that?
REVOLTED. TOM HEINERDORFF

Thanks to the writer and litter picker, Tom – it's clearly a demanding job but, we hope, much appreciated by the community.

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