



ALLOTMENTS

The cultivation of the garden gives the purest, deepest and most creative of pleasures through which all may be able to feel in themselves the joy of being creators.

So stated Henrietta Barnett in the early days of the Suburb. Today, more than a century afterwards, up to 100 gardeners create their pleasures on a dozen allotment sites – ‘backlands’ as the original architects called them – for the communal growing of fruit and vegetables.

To preserve and enhance those pleasures, as the Suburb’s founder described them, the Allotments Committee, meeting three times during the year, has been concentrating on the tidy appearance of its sites and on the active use of plots by their tenants. The Committee’s preoccupations can be summarised as:

- Letters were sent to all plot holders urging the removal of unsightly and unwanted materials, particularly plastics.
- Two walkabouts by Committee members were held to identify waste and unworked plots. The summer inspection also judged the winners of the best plot awards.
- Decision taken to fit self-locking devices on the Big Site gates, and to erect ‘privacy’ signs following crop picking by unsanctioned visitors.
- With regular inquiries, many from those with no growing experience, two documents were produced by the Committee for newcomers. Entitled *A Pleasure and a Privilege* and *The Green Allotmenteer*, they provide a guide to Suburb growing conditions and practices.
- Links with the Horticultural Society (the two organisations were once unified) continued through the early-season Seed Swap, a well-attended event at which there was a talk and discussion on the mental health benefits of gardening. Many allotmenters exhibited, and won prizes, in the Society’s shows.
- Discussions continued to take place on widening the system of raising rents based on the size of plots.
- For the second time, the Temple Fortune Hill site was opened to the public in July as part of the National Gardens Scheme. It attracted some 250 visitors.

PETER HODGSON, Chair (allotments@hgsra.uk)



CONSERVATION AND AMENITIES (CONSAM)

Consam continued to monitor and, where necessary, keep up 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). Discussions with these bodies are conducted amicably and co-operatively – but with the necessary assertiveness to try to ensure that our Suburb is conserved in such a way as to benefit both current and future residents.

I would like once again 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. My thanks to Janet Elliott and Andrew Plaskow who stepped down from the committee during the year.

Here are just a few examples of Consam’s activities in 2019:

- 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 LBB’s HGS Conservation Area Consultative Committee.
- Pursued general conservation policy issues with HGST and LBB at further meetings called for the purpose including security guidance, electric vehicle charging points, pavements, street furniture, neglected gardens, establishment of precedents, solar panels, external lighting, oversight and enforcement of consents and issues regarding specific properties and areas including Meadow Gate and several other topics.
- Alerted HGST to infringements of the HGST/LBB Design Guidance, with appropriate follow-up.
- Pursued with LBB, with voluntary help from an independent consultant, a number of public realm conservation issues.
- Discussed Henrietta Barnett School expansion application with school authorities, with ongoing monitoring of the 2019 funding bid.
- Monitored projects in areas adjoining HGS for any impacts on the Suburb.
- Circulated LBB’s weekly planning applications to the HGS List Email Group.

PETER MCCLUSKIE, Chair (consam@hgsra.uk)



EVENTS

The Events team’s programme kicked off in March with the Residents Association Annual General Meeting which drew in good attendance. Residents had the opportunity to meet members of the RA Council as well as local Councillors, to ask questions and to enjoy refreshments.

In early June we hosted one of the RA’s smaller events at the Friends Meeting House, the Michael Rowley lecture. This annual event continues to be popular with our residents. This year’s guest lecturer, James Stourton, a former Chairman of Sotheby’s and writer and broadcaster talked about ‘Heritage Now and Then’ to mark the 50th anniversary of the Hampstead Garden Suburb conservation area.

Later in June, the RA’s biggest event, the Summer Fun Day, took place. The weather left us guessing until the last moment and a wet and windy morning led to a slow start. But soon the weather turned brighter and the crowds started to arrive. Dog owners were again able to enter their pet into the dog competition organised by local animal charity, All Dogs Matter. And there was lots more: the Punch & Judy show, face painting, donkey rides, table tennis, football and Arts & Crafts kept the children entertained. The cake and plant stalls as well as the Pimms tent and music from Sounds of the Suburb were very popular with the adults.

In the autumn, children were invited to join the RA Halloween Party. Fellowship House was buzzing with excited children dressed up in their favourite costume ready to party. Excellent entertainment was provided with a festive theme including apple bobbing not to mention singing and dancing. There were also Arts & Crafts activities and Face Painting.

2019 was brought to a close with the RA’s annual New Year’s Eve Party in St Jude’s Church followed by the Fireworks display at Central Square. For the 2nd year running, The Spaniards Inn generously sponsored the event. Residents enjoyed a drink with their family, friends and neighbours to see out 2019 and welcome in 2020. At the stroke of midnight, Platinum Fireworks released a stunning display of fireworks seeing in the New Year in style.

HELLA SCHRADER, Chair (events@hgsra.uk)



2019 COMMITTEE REPORTS



CHAIR’S REPORT

This has been my second year as Chair of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association. There have been a number of changes and challenges in the course of the year, but I am pleased to be able to report that membership has again shown a small net increase on previous years, albeit recruiting new members continues to be a challenge. We particularly welcome younger residents and those in rental properties wanting to support the work that we do as you are vital to our growth in the coming years.

We sadly had to say goodbye to Terry Brooks, Editor of Suburb News for the last five years and Chair of the Publications Committee for 20 years. However, we welcome two new co-Editors to the team: Marie-Christine O’Callaghan and Shelley-Anne Salisbury have been hitting the ground running to generate this Winter Edition Issue 141 of Suburb News. Let’s hope we can continue to buck the trend of the demise of printed matter as our hard copy Community Newspaper is so important to our residents in HGS. We seek a volunteer to edit the Suburb Directory if any reader is interested in getting involved. You can contact the co-Editors on: suburbnews@hgsra.uk

We welcomed a new Head of Litter in the year: Michael Green has done a splendid job in driving the litter picking initiative forward and we were fortunate to receive the support of LB Barnet with the provision of litter picking equipment. We already have around 70 volunteer litter pickers as well as a host of girl guides and Henrietta Barnett School girls, and the Suburb is definitely looking cleaner! If you would like to get involved, please email litter@hgsra.uk.

Tony Ghilchik stood down as Chair of the Trees & Open Spaces Committee and Colin Gregory was elected as his able successor after many years’ involvement with the RA and this committee. Thanks to Tony for all he did for this committee over several years.

Gary Shaw also stood down as Chair for many years of the Road & Traffic Committee to focus on other matters, but the committee has kept going and has made progress in various respects.

Hella Schrader is leaving the Events Committee after two years of chairing it and the efforts of Hella, and her husband Steve, in making our events so special in many ways, but most wondrously in the baking department will be greatly missed.

We are also delighted to have a new website: our thanks go to our Hon Treasurer and IT guru, Steve Morris, for his hard work in creating this for us: see www.hgsra.uk.

We also said goodbye to our long-standing Assistant Secretary, Rosemary Goldstein, who has diligently and efficiently done minutes for the RA for over 37 years. Christina Brownson, our new Administrator, will be taking over this work as well as supporting the RA on other administrative matters.

A few dates for your diary for 2020: the AGM is on 30 March; the Summer Fair on 14 June. We also have a public meeting on police and security matters at Henrietta Barnett School Hall (Bigwood Site) on 28 April. I hope to see you there.

EMMA HOWARD, Chair, HGS Residents Association (chair@hgsra.uk)



MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Secretary is responsible for encouraging residents both to join the Residents Association and to renew their membership on an annual basis. Our members can also make donations via the RA to Fellowship House, the local charity providing activities for the over 60s and others in its community centre. In 2019, we again raised over £11,000 for Fellowship via this facility.

Maintaining a database for a community of over 5,000 households requires regular work and attention. Contact with members is principally by e-mail and occasionally by telephone. We like to hold email addresses for our residents so we can send them Suburb ENews regarding local events and other news relevant to the Suburb. If you would like to be on this email list, please let us know by sending an email to membership@hgsra.uk.

Electronic and postal mailings are used in Spring each year to encourage residents to join or to renew their subscriptions. You can also meet us at our table manned by volunteers at the annual Summer Fair on Central Square (to be held on 14 June 2020). Contact with Associate Members and Life Members living outside the Suburb is maintained by sending them copies of Suburb News. New residents to the Suburb may hear about us from the HGS Trust when they buy a property here or can read about us in Suburb News, delivered to every home in the Suburb.

We are pleased to say that, after some years of decline, membership of the Residents Association has been growing in the last couple of years with 1,775 households joining or renewing in 2019. If you would like to join us and support the work we do in the Suburb please see our website at www.hgsra.uk/about/join.html or contact me at the email address below.

MICHELE ROITER, Membership Secretary (memberships@hgsra.uk)



PUBLICATIONS

This year saw my retirement as editor of Suburb News and from the committee. We were fortunate to find two volunteers, Marie-Christine O’Callaghan and Shelley-Anne Salisbury, to take over as co-editors of the paper. They can be contacted suburbnews@hgsra.uk. Shelley-Anne agreed to take over as chair of the committee.

The committee would like to thank our volunteers who ensure the delivery of Suburb News to the over 5,000 households on our Suburb.

After his absence for a number of years, we welcomed the return of Steve Morris to our committee. He has set up a new dedicated website for the RA at www.hgsra.uk. He also continues to operate his website at www.hgs.org.uk for the benefit of all Suburb residents and its organisations, and is also responsible for running our e-mail forum, the HGS List, for residents who are members of our association.

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 co-ordinated by Lorna Page.
- Publishing the Suburb Directory every Spring and delivering it with Suburb News.
- Arranging for Suburb News and the Suburb Directory to be available to view online.

The Publications Committee still needs volunteers to help with the Suburb Directory, the advertising and other jobs and can be contacted at publications@hgsra.uk

TERRY BROOKS, Chair (publications@hgsra.uk)



ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Gary Shaw stood down as Chair of the R&T Committee in 2019 after many years. He remains involved in assisting our residents on traffic related penalty notices and can be contacted in this capacity on parking@hgsra.uk. We are grateful to Gary for his long and diligent contribution to the RA over many years, not to mention his amazing knowledge on all related matters.

The R&T Committee has continued to meet and operate following Gary’s departure and its members have carried on addressing matters that are important to many of the RA’s members. These have included the following:

- Carrying out speed checks on certain roads using the RA’s equipment as well as working with the Metropolitan Police Speed Watch team to try to deter speeding on our roads. We remain concerned about the speed of traffic in many of our residential roads. Following speed checks in Temple Fortune Lane by the RA and then LB Barnet which showed speeding here, we are still waiting for LB Barnet to install the speed flashing signs that they currently favour. These are already in place in various locations in the Suburb albeit concerns remain about their effectiveness in deterring those intent on speeding.
- The R&T Committee has also been working over recent years to try to improve the traffic restriction island and posts on Addison Way near the A1 Faldoden Way section. This route is frequently used by commercial vehicle and car drivers as a short cut to avoid the traffic lights at Henleys Corner. Following representations by the R&T Committee members to LB Barnet, they have now approved a revised configuration here involving higher kerbs and posts closer to the kerb which it is hoped will deter access by larger vehicles. In the meantime, we are constantly reporting repairs required to the existing metal posts which don’t seem to deter anything very much. We hope the new configuration will be installed this year.
- Recognising local concerns about safety on Faldoden Way following three fatal accidents in recent years, the Residents Association commissioned an independent safety report from a specialist traffic consultancy organisation to seek to establish whether there were any aspects of the stretch of the A1 going through Hampstead Garden Suburb that were inherently specifically dangerous and where improvements might be made. The full report is available on the RA’s website: <https://hgsra.uk/info/2019-wilbar-a1-report.pdf>. The Committee continues to liaise with LB Barnet and TfL officials to seek improvements on this major road that cuts through the Suburb.
- The CPZ has just been extended further by LB Barnet and now covers the top end of Erskine Hill and new sections of North Square. The matter of CPZs continues to provoke strong feelings with many residents being in favour of the introduction of a CPZ throughout the Suburb, whilst others resent the charges and resulting restrictions and would prefer not to see a CPZ where they live.
- Other aspects dealt with in the year include numerous reporting of potholes and dangerous paving as well as damage to our roads and related infrastructure. We have also requested LB Barnet to consider improvements to the roundabout on the junction with Hampstead Way and Meadow Gate as there have been several traffic accidents here and it remains difficult for pedestrians to cross the roads here with no traffic shelters or crossing points in place. LB Barnet have deferred this review to 2020 for budgetary reasons.

RUPERT DENNY, Committee Member (traffic@hgsra.uk)



TREES AND OPEN SPACES

At the start of the year Colin Gregory took over as Chairman of the Committee from Tony Ghilchik, who had chaired the Committee very ably for ten years. Under his chairmanship Tony built up very good relationships with Barnet Council members and officers and Colin has continued with this since taking over. We continued to monitor missing street trees and are funding the planting of an additional 14 trees by Barnet Council this year. We were concerned that some of the trees planted last year were planted too late in the season and have urged the Council to plant them earlier this season.

A number of new ornamental trees requested by the RA were planted by Barnet Council in Lyttelton Playing Fields in the spring; a few struggled in the dry weather, but regular watering from the Council and local volunteers helped ensure they all made it through and will flourish. The Committee is working with Barnet Council to install an outdoor table tennis table next to the gym in this location and develop a community orchard, as suggested at a meeting of RA volunteers.

We also monitor tree work by Barnet Council and the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and expressed our concerns about pruning work both Barnet Council and the Trust were proposing to carry out just as trees were coming into leaf. We play an active part in the management of Hampstead Heath and made representations to the City of London in response to their consultation about the possibility of opening a café on the Heath Extension. We are also represented on the Kenwood Landscape Forum and successfully opposed English Heritage’s proposal to site a memorial on the edge of the Heath.

During the year the RA gave grants to the Northway Gardens Organisation and continued to work with The Friends of Big Wood on management issues concerning Big Wood and Little Wood. With financial constraints, and parks not a statutory responsibility of local authorities, working together is the only way to preserve the wonderful green environment of our Suburb. We always welcome new people with an interest in trees to assist us so please do contact us at trees@hgsra.uk if you think you can help.

COLIN GREGORY, Chair (trees@hgsra.uk)

Come and discuss Suburb issues with your neighbours at the Residents Association AGM
Monday 30 March 2020, 8pm – Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Central Square
All residents welcome • Refreshments