

## Suburb Pets Scarlett



Writing this in the early hours, I am keenly aware of the empty corner of our kitchen where, until only a couple of days ago, our dog Scarlett would have been fast asleep in her basket, under her blanket, with just her nose and tail peeping out.

Scarlett was a rescue dog. Rescue centres are full to the brim with dogs needing a good home and, whilst caution should always be exercised, especially with children, there are many wonderful dogs who will thrive in the fold of a caring, loving environment. Scarlett was one such dog. She'd been picked up as a stray from rural Ireland, one of the many farm dogs left to run wild. Badly mistreated, she was a quivering wreck for the first few months, fearful of anyone with a stick, a hat and a deep voice. It was heart-breaking to witness. A scrappy thing, caked in mud and of an indeterminate colour, I knew we'd found our dog the moment she came off the van at the rescue centre.

A few weeks later, after completing the adoption formalities, Scarlett was handed over to us. Approximately six months old with large pointy ears, one slightly floppy at the tip, probably due to having been sat on by her siblings, she looked comical. No show dog, but definitely our dog. Some hard



Scarlett

work and a bit of no-nonsense training later and Scarlett was fully integrated into our family life. The Heath, Heath Extension, Little Wood and Big Wood were her (and my) stomping ground. She was at her happiest running across the fields on the Heath Extension or sniffing her way through the Woods, marking her territory in true terrier style.

A distinctive looking dog, one of a kind as mixed breeds often are. Some thought she was an Egyptian Pharaoh Hound because of her ears and sphinx-like silhouette, others thought she might be a Podenco. I hated to disappoint, so, sometimes said she was a Bitsa (a bit of this and a bit of that to you and me).

Once, a jogger on the Heath, stopped and asked, in a thick (and slightly familiar) Mancunian accent, where he could get a dog like mine. She's a one off, I said and explained her rescue story. He nodded and told me that I was very lucky, patted her and resumed his run. It was only after he'd left, I realised it was Liam Gallagher.

Scarlett was my constant companion, following me everywhere I went. Curled up at my feet whilst I worked, her radar-like ears on alert, we passed many a contented hour.

A couple of years ago we discovered Scarlett had a heart murmur. She was put on medication and was doing fine until, inevitably, her heart condition worsened and the pills finally stopped working. The tough decision had to be made. She'd had enough. I stroked her trademark ears one last time. She'd done well to make it to thirteen and it was time to say goodbye. I'd like to think she's now back on the Heath Extension, running, sniffing and marking her eternal territory.

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

*Suburb News welcomes stories about pets in the Suburb, large or small. We will be running Suburb Pets as a regular column so please do email us at suburbnews@hgsra.uk.*

## New Hon President of Hort Soc

In June 2001 Jonathan Ross and his wife, Jane Goldman, then newly moved-in residents of Hampstead Garden Suburb and newly-appointed Hon Presidents of the Horticultural Society, paid their first visit of many to open the Horticultural Society's Summer Flower Show in June in the Free Church Hall, Northway. In the early years they were often accompanied by their children and later Jonathan usually brought one of his dogs with him. When Jonathan and Jane opened that first show, they were presented with L-plates, since they were self-confessed non-gardeners at the time, but said they were looking forward to learning by example from members.

Over the years, they drew the crowds, judged children's scarecrow competitions, launched the Horticultural Society's Suburb Centenary Garden on Willifield Green in 2008 and ate a lot of home-made cake at the shows. In 2019, after 18 years, it was time to step down, so, at the Horticultural Society's recent



Stephen Crisp

AGM, Chair Chris Page expressed everyone's heartfelt thanks to Jonathan and Jane for the time they had given so freely and the fun they had brought to the many shows in which they had been involved.

At the AGM on 12 November, the new Hon President of the Horticultural Society expressed his pleasure at being elected. Stephen Crisp has no need of L-plates. He is Head of Horticulture for the United States Embassy in London where he has worked since 1987. He is a committee member of the London Gardens Network, champions apprentices

and is an RHS Britain in Bloom judge. He is also an RHS Show garden judge and selection panel member, and was elected an RHS Associate of Honour for services to horticulture in 2017.

Stephen's association with the Horticultural Society goes back many years. In 2008 he designed and installed the Suburb Centenary Garden on Willifield Green, which remained there till 2013. At the time of The Horticultural Society's own centenary in 2009, he redesigned and refurbished the attractive plot outside Fellowship House, which the Horticultural Society took over from the London Borough of Barnet and maintains to this day.

Also at the AGM in Fellowship House, members applauded as Chris Page presented a bouquet to Hilda Williams (see below), who had recently celebrated her 100th birthday, and Hon. Vice-President Michael Franklin presented cups and other awards to all of this year's show and garden prize-winners.

MARJORIE HARRIS



PHOTOS: MARJORIE HARRIS



TONY BRAND

Last November, local MP, Mike Freer, visited Northway Gardens to see all the hard work local volunteers had put in, rejuvenating the flower beds and general area for the benefit of the community. He was particularly impressed with the range of roses.

## The new Suburb News editors

### MARIE-CHRISTINE

I came to the United Kingdom to study originally at the London School of Economics and then at Cambridge. I got married and thought I wanted to be a teacher but after teaching for a year

decided I would prefer to be a librarian which led to a MSc in Information Science. We moved to the Suburb in 1990 just in time for my two sons to start their education at Brookland School. Since retiring, I have worked as a volunteer at Kenwood House and Stephens House. I have MS which has landed me in a wheelchair. I am an eclectic reader, who greatly enjoys opera and ballet.

**SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY**  
We moved to the Suburb in 1998, an oasis of green, after a stint in West Hampstead and Belsize Park. It has been a wonderful place to raise our three daughters. I was a commercial lawyer, a law lecturer at the University of Law and an

in-house legal consultant. Having co-invented and patented a hair accessory, I then ran a design and manufacturing business. I am an accredited facilitative mediator and arbitrator. I am an avid reader, love walking and enjoy creative writing.



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**CO-EDITORS: Marie-Christine O'Callaghan & Shelley-Anne Salisbury, suburbnews@hgsra.uk**

**WHAT'S ON EDITOR: David Littaur, dvltr@gmail.com.**

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

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On the 28 November, the new Archer Academy library was opened, to the delight of the many parents and supporters who had worked so hard to bring it about.

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Hampstead Garden Suburb | 800 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, NW11 7TJ  
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