

Suburb

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

News



Rosie the Riveter inspires our Suburb girls, p5



VE Day, a shared moment of Celebration, p9

NGO volunteer, Moses and daughter, meet the mayor, back page



Suburb spirit rises to the challenge Covid-19 presents

As the country continues to ease out of lockdown, HGS residents are slowly coming out of what has felt like a very long hibernation indeed. But, we must not be complacent. COVID-19 is still with us – and may well be for quite some time yet. The wearing of face coverings and social distancing have become the new normal. Popping out to our local shops in the Market Place now means remembering to take a mask and hand sanitiser and facing the inevitable socially distanced queuing – just like everywhere else.

Despite this, the indomitable spirit of HGS residents continues. Over the last few months, HGS societies turned to virtual platforms for the usual summer offerings: Proms At Home, The Virtual Flower and Garden Show, Virtual Walks around the Suburb, and the Garden Suburb Theatre's performance of The Hound of the Baskervilles via Zoom – to name but a few. The RA carried on its fundraising for the NHS and HGS residents continued collecting for food-banks, cooking for NHS and care-home workers and selling tie-dyed T-shirts and homemade preserves to raise much needed funds for charities. The neighbour support groups, set up right at the start of lockdown, have also continued to help those still shielding or isolating.

There is no question, we are living through very troubling times, but, to quote Rumi, "There is hope after despair and many suns after darkness." Here in the Suburb, we have

seen glimmers of that optimism and hope. The glorious live concert recently performed by the Echo Ensemble in Central Square was a wonderful example of this. And, back in May, whilst the country was still deep in lockdown, HGS residents celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Bunting abounded and residents toasted other residents out on their daily constitutionals, with cups of tea and slices of cake from the socially distanced safety of their driveways. We have dedicated a whole page of this issue to VE Day and included some wonderful memories contributed by HGS residents.

And last (by no means least), Suburb News Youth is celebrating Women. We were so impressed with the SNY team's ideas that we gave them an extra page. The colours used in this section are those adopted by the suffragette movement; purple (loyalty and dignity), green (hope) and white (purity), paying homage to these brave women – many of whom lived in the Suburb. Kate Webster's 1911 Census virtual walks (part of the Proms at Home) took us on a fascinating tour through the Suburb and includes many of the homes occupied by the suffragettes and suffragists at the time.

We hope there will be plenty for everyone to enjoy in this issue. Thank you for all your contributions. Please keep them coming!

Keep well and stay safe.

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY & MARIE CHRISTINE O'CALLAGHAN, EDITORS



Echo Ensemble brings hope to Suburb

Suburb resident Noah Max, in conjunction with the RA, brought much joy to those lucky enough to have been able to purchase tickets for a wonderful open air concert which took place in Central Square on Sunday August 2. The tickets for the Echo Ensemble sold out within two hours. The RA Events Team, led by Adrian Hodgson, did an amazing job of ensuring the event complied with all the COVID regulations and kept everyone safe.

Echo Ensemble was founded by Noah in 2016 when he was

studying at the Purcell School of Music. He wanted the Ensemble to 'inspire hope through creativity'. Many music loving Suburbites will have already seen the Ensemble in 2018 when it opened the Proms at St Jude's. Despite getting involved with a number of virtual performances (a set of online concerts are planned for December 2020) Noah is keen to get back to performing in front of live audiences as "the audience is a very important part of music making." Noah

started his music career as a cellist but prefers the role of conducting, seeing the conductor as 'a silent musician'.

It was clear the Central Square concert, was an emotional experience for the Ensemble and audience alike. It was hard not to be moved by Noah's obvious elation in conducting the talented musicians and Elgar's sublime Nimrod (part of the Enigma Variations), performed at the very end, was the perfect way to end this special performance.

As Noah explained, Nimrod, with all its Britishness, is his musical exemplar of hope. Listening to this wonderful piece in the delightful setting of Central Square, with St Jude's as the backdrop, it certainly felt like it.

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY



Noah Max

PETER MCCLUSKIE

HGS residents show support for BLM

On Sunday 7th June, HGS residents Rebecca Moss and Rachel Rose (both aged 24) organised a demonstration in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement who staged mass demonstrations in Central London on the weekend of the 6th and 7th June. This was in response to the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man from Minneapolis, Minnesota who died after a white police officer had knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down on the ground. Floyd had been arrested on suspicion of using a counterfeit banknote. Rebecca and Rachel said they had initially wanted to join the main demonstration in Central London but due to Covid-19 didn't feel comfortable so decided to hold a local demonstration. Using social media they were able to gather around fifty demonstrators who stood with their placards in the Market Place. They attracted quite a number of local residents



Rebecca Moss and Rachel Rose (front centre) at the local BLM solidarity demonstration they organised

who applauded and drivers passing through on the A41 hooted in solidarity.

As Rebecca and Rachel said "This was a way of doing something in a local way... we hope this will push new conversations around the dinner table bringing local awareness to these issues." Both Rebecca and Rachel feel they are using their 'privilege' to "amplify black voices".

A member of the Finchley Allstars, a Nigerian football team, who play in Lyttelton Playing Fields on Sundays, said, "every voice helps to get the message out, whatever their ethnicity and social class. It's also important to remember this is a 'human' struggle and not just a black issue. All racism, all intolerances need to be stamped out."

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

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We understand that your home is much more than just a house, it is a sanctuary for your family, and meeting place, if you will, which presumably is rich in nostalgia and happy memories.

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We most certainly understand the importance and emotional wrench that moving home can represent to a family and we share and empathise with your concerns, if you allow us to be your 'Soul Agent'.

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