



Thanks to Joe  
and all the TFHC  
volunteers, p5

Bigwood Fox  
inspires Peter  
Phillips, p9

Suburb Directory  
Pull Out & Keep,  
centre pages



## Tentatively looking towards the horizon

Walking across the Heath Extension in early January 2020, I was struck, as always, by the sight of St. Jude's spire rising in the distance from Central Square where the first clod of earth was upturned to create the Hampstead Garden Suburb. It looked particularly majestic against a cold but clear blue sky and I sent a photo to a friend in New York. She had fallen for the Suburb's charm when she had stayed with us some years ago and enjoyed the photos I sent whilst on my dog walks. I knew she'd love this one. "The Suburb in Winter" I typed. "Totally

sublime" she immediately replied. It was the start of a brand new decade and we were all blissfully unaware of everything 2020 would bring.

So many aspects of our lives have changed since then. Social distancing and wearing of masks have forced us to exist in a two-metre vacuum. We circumnavigate one another, carefully negotiating the space between us in fear of getting too close. Spending disproportionate amounts of time at home, interacting via screens, we have all become rather insular. It's difficult to look out towards the horizon

and see the bigger picture, the panoramic vistas.

Just over a year later on another walk across the Heath Extension, St. Jude's spire again comes into view. I send another photo to my friend. "The Suburb in a Covid Winter" I type. "...and still sublime" she replies. It is indeed.

I stop for a moment to take it in. Looking out into the distance at the familiar Suburb skyline, it dawns on me this view has remained unchanged, constant, proof that some aspects of our pre-covid lives might not be altogether lost after all. Perhaps we were all just too busy

concentrating on our immediate surrounds, demarcated by those two metres?

Now, with the vaccine here at last and a remarkably fast rollout programme, there is a real prospect of winning the war against coronavirus. As we cautiously start to emerge from a third national lockdown, following the Government's roadmap, maybe, just maybe, it's time for us to all start, albeit tentatively, to look out towards the horizon and acquaint ourselves with that bigger picture, those panoramic vistas?

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY



*Waiting for the inevitable – some are only able to visit the Suburb fleetingly. Whilst they have the time, they soak up it's beauty, serenity and, eventually... the sun! See back page for our Suburb Snow pictorial.*

## RA chooses Noah's Ark to support in 2021

The RA Council has chosen to support Noah's Ark Children's Hospice based in Barnet as its local community charity of the year in 2021. This hospice has for many years provided care

and support in north London for babies, children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and provided much needed help to their families. The charity receives

no NHS or local government funding. The majority of the children they support are unlikely to reach their eighteenth birthdays. The hospice enables these children to live life as fully

as possible. It supports families and helps them to face the future with hope after their child has died.

In early 2020, the hospice was asked to accelerate the opening of their new hospice facility called The Ark in Barnet to help relieve pressure on NHS facilities struggling to cope with the huge demands arising from Covid and the need to keep these highly vulnerable children in a Covid free environment.

The new premises include accommodation for the ill children as well as for their families. There are wonderful spaces including a sensory room, a music room, a soft play area and a specially designed playground. An interfaith prayer room and bereavement facilities are also there to help support families in their time of great need.

As RA Chair, I visited the charity's state-of-the-art hospice building in November and was hugely impressed by its light and modern facilities set in the grounds of a nature reserve. At the time of my visit a child had tragically recently died at the Hospice but his family had all been able to spend time with him. They were able to support and comfort each other and the child in his last days, as well as



NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

to receive support from the Hospice's trained professional staff. For families dealing with the constant demands and worry of looking after a child needing such a lot of care and often suffering great pain, the facilities available here to support them in their hours of need and darkness are so amazing, combined with the care from the professionals and volunteers involved. It is almost impossible to imagine how such families cope, but this wonderful hospice full of light and hope will make a big difference. When my younger brother was 9, he suffered major complications following a playground accident. A huge abscess on the brain behind his left eye caused blinding headaches; swollen eyes and blindness, and he became partially paralysed. Like many ill children he was also having numerous fits; he went into anaphylactic shock after being given a penicillin injection despite a known allergy to

antibiotics. He clung onto life with family and medical support, but I know how much difference family-focussed professional support in those bleak weeks would have made to him and my family, although fortunately he survived with few lasting side effects.

But for the Noah's Ark families there is no brighter dawn when their child recovers and leads a normal life again, and this impacts on every member of the family and also on the parents' ability to work meaning that they often live in poverty. But

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## CAN WE PLEASE BE YOUR 'SOUL' AGENT?

We understand that your home is much more than just a house. It is usually also a sanctuary for your family - a happy place, if you will - rich in nostalgia and memories.

Not only is it normally the largest tax-free asset in the family, but it does occupy an important part of the heart and the soul.

We appreciate and empathise with you the emotional wrench that moving home can cause and we would like to be your 'Soul' Agent to manage the process for you.

We are presently doing a remarkable amount of business in your area, post lockdown. Please feel free to talk to us about these "moving issues".



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