

SUBURB HGS U3A

ARTS

Photography Group

MICHAEL JACOBS

HGS U3A was formed in spring 2017, led by long term HGS residents Myke Jacobs and Roger Cookson. The aim of the photography group is to encourage amateur photographers of all abilities to develop their photographic and technical skills by taking photos at agreed places and then sharing them at meetings, where the more interesting ones are evaluated and discussed. The group has 15 members, with a wide variety of cameras, skills and experience, ranging in age from 60 to 90.

Originally, we met fortnightly. We chose a place in London to meet and take photos and two weeks later we would gather in the main hall of the Synagogue in Alyth Gardens to show each other our photos and discuss particular techniques, cameras and other pieces of equipment.

Then came Covid 19 and we moved online and now have weekly sessions on Zoom, mainly drawing on our fairly extensive libraries of digital photos we have taken over the years, but also taking new photos, generally interior shots, this has worked remarkably well, thanks to HGS U3A's subscription to Zoom.

The places we have physically visited have ranged from parks like Kew Gardens, to railway stations, markets, like Spitalfields, museums like the RAF Museum, Hendon. Online, we have alternated between photos of places we have visited, like town centres, rivers and seascapes to more technical subjects like portraits, still lives, black and white photos, composition and exposure.

Members of the group act as semi-official photographers at HGS U3A events and for Suburb News as well.

The group is thriving and we welcome new members.

If you are interested please contact Myke Jacobs: 07802 187505, hgsu3aphoto@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.hgsu3a.uk.



Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury



St Jude's choristers taking a break on Central Square. Their red robes in the morning light were completely arresting.

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Back in March, as schools were starting to return, Henrietta Barnett School encouraged its students to write a poem about spring walks inspired by the wonderful scenery of Hampstead Garden Suburb. This creative writing challenge was the brainchild of Ana Ferreira, librarian at HBS. The students all voted for their favourite poem and this is the winning entry. Well done Sofia!

Spring

*A spring breeze, air clean, air fresh, smelling of thyme
Brings tidings of a new beginning,
A blissful girl laughs as it ruffles her hair,
A message about love and beauty and living.*

*A blossom, petals pink, petals coral, smelling of roses
Emerges from an emerald bud spinning,
A blissful girl laughs as she sees it and inhales
A scent about love and beauty and living.*

*A robin, breast proud, breast cherry red, smelling of leaves
Cocks its head, its golden beady eyes grinning
A blissful girl laughs as it warbles and chirps,
A song about love and beauty and living.*

*An oak, branches gnarled, branches ancient, smelling of bark
Towers above, dominant, magnificent and thrilling
A blissful girl laughs as its boughs sway and rustle,
A whisper about love and beauty and living.*

*A breeze, a blossom, a robin, an oak
With life and nature and spring brimming
A blissful laugh as they surround her, entwine her,
A secret about love and beauty and living.*

*Of hope found in the most unlikely of places.
In the scent of a blossom, in the song of a robin.
In the rustle of branches, in the caress of a breeze.
If you look the right way, you can see the whole world is a garden...*

Sofia Kountouri, 7G