

Suburb News



Why is Ruth Smith all at sea? Find out, p3



Geocaching – what’s it all about? see page 23

David Breuer-Weil – the man and his art, see page 14



Welcome to our new EnComm chair, Jonathan Waxman see page 9



In this issue, you are invited to time travel with us...

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY
Co-EDITOR

The time capsule discovered inside the base of the old weather vane of St Jude’s (see p4) inspired the new Suburb News Youth team to ask what they might put in a time capsule of their own? We also discover hidden treasures, both in the Suburb and beyond, as we explore the world of Geocaching (p23).

We take a fascinating look at the Suburb’s relationship with artists, past and present, and how the Suburb remains a source of inspiration to current artists, including Suburb resident and renowned artist, David Breuer-Weil (see feature on page 14).

A short film about the Suburb made in 1975 recently resurfaced (<https://tinyurl.com/44cxd9az>). A hidden treasure and time capsule of sorts, it’s a fascinating watch. Apart from the clothes and cars, a time traveller wouldn’t really notice

much change to the ‘look’ of the Suburb; a testament to Henrietta Barnett’s vision and the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust’s caretaking.

Even back in 1975, concerns about air pollution was evident. Residents protested about the heavy pollution caused by the Lyttelton Road dual carriage way. This echoed an earlier protest in the 1930’s when the dual carriage way was first constructed, resulting in dividing the Suburb to much criticism and dismay of residents.

Which brings us right back to the modern day, climate change and the recent CoP 26. We include articles by Jonathan Waxman, chair of the recently set up RA Energy Committee (Encomm, and Suburb News co-editor, Marie-Christine O’Callaghan, on global warming. Everyone will agree that the time to act is *now* if future generations will be able to enjoy all that our wonderful Suburb has to offer.



Air Pollution in the borough

RUTH RAMAN

As we walked up North End Road on the way to school recently, our four-year-old complained “Mama, why is it so stinky?” She and her siblings are

faced with exhaust fumes from cars, buses and large vehicles on a daily basis. Living in London we’re all used to busy roads, and as so many of us make efforts to reduce our contribution to air pollution the question kept nagging at me, “how bad is it, really?”

I’m a mum of three young children and a member of Barnet volunteer groups (Mothers’ CAN, which stands for Climate Action Network, as well as Friends of the Earth) and with the question of air pollution and its impact weighing on my mind, I quickly found other members were wondering the same thing. Upon further digging I found that the Trust for London was funding testing through Barnet Alliance for Clean Air Day and we applied to receive 10 diffusion tubes. These would test the amount of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), a gas produced as a result of road traffic and other fossil fuel combustion processes, in a given space over a two-week period. We placed them on lampposts across Barnet, at sites we knew were well trodden by all members of society. After the allotted time we collected them all, sent them off to a lab and awaited the results.

In the meantime there was research to be done. There is a plethora of information about the damage air pollution can do to our physical and mental health. The British Medical Journal stated in September this year: ‘Exposure

to air pollution increases the likelihood of major lung and heart diseases. It also has adverse effects on pregnancy, cognitive development in children, dementia, and mental health. During the covid pandemic, poor air quality increased the likelihood of infection from the coronavirus and of deaths.’

All of this, and then finding that Barnet has the second highest death rate attributable to air pollution in London was, frankly, terrifying. Furthermore, at the last Council Environmental Committee meeting, the council took the baffling action to vote against Barnet joining the vehicle anti-idling action project across London Boroughs.

At last, the results came back for the two sites local to us, one outside the Hippodrome and one outside St Anthony’s School and Nursery (also opposite King Alfred School and Clowns Nursery). Both readings were above what the World Health Organization says is a safe level of NO₂, with the former coming in with a reading of 56.79 micrograms in each cubic metre of air (µg m⁻³) and the latter at 44.42. Recently, the WHO limit of 40 µg m⁻³ has been revised down to just 10 µg m⁻³.

So, what can we do? Of course, not everyone can avoid travelling by car, and some jobs require the use of a vehicle. The

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THE MARKET IS HOT... MAYBE IT’S TIME TO MOVE?

In the last few months, we have let and sold an extraordinary amount of homes in the Suburb, therefore if you are considering selling or letting there has never been a better time than now.

We regularly deal with ‘Cottages to Castles’ and can procure both aspirational clientele moving up the property ladder and also the comfortable ‘empty nesters’, moving down.

Our resourceful applicants are not just plucked from within the local vicinity, but from London-wide and Globally, which gives us the unique opportunity to extract the full value of your home.

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