

# Suburb News

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association



Read Lela's amazing story of survival on page 4



The Garden Girl springs into action on page 18

Find out how to win this year's SN Photo Competition, page 15



27 years at St Jude's comes to an end, see page 5



## Springing forward

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY  
CO-EDITOR

At midnight on 26th March, the clocks will go forward heralding the start of British Summertime. Definitely forward, *not* back in case you are asking. (It gets me every time – I find the American prompt *Spring forward, fall back* very useful in moments of doubt). Even though

we lose an hour this time, the reward of an extra hour of daylight on the Sunday is always worth the lost hour of sleep.

When we officially start daylight-saving the relief will be palpable. Longer, lighter days with the promise of warm weather just around the corner. Unburdened by our winter coats hats and gloves, there will be a literal spring in our step. The Suburb will once again be transformed into a place of breath-taking beauty as the blossom bursts forth like popcorn, the Hawthorn hedges start to flower and the Magnolias begin to bud. A magnificent palette of purest white, palest pink and fuchsia will turn the Suburb streets in to veritable ticker tape parades, eliciting awe all round from residents and visitors alike.

I've already seen the early signs of Spring. Clusters of crocuses dotted about in the woods, the quick darts of squirrels checking out the pre-spring offerings, the unbelievably loud and slightly comical drilling of a couple of woodpeckers and the derring-do's

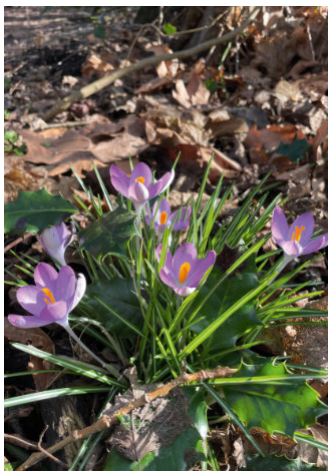
of some plucky foxes. It's all very Attenborough-esque on a miniature scale, but nevertheless just as enchanting.

Given the dismal winter, with the miserable dull wet weather which has left the Heath Extension in a sorry boggy state, and the enforced isolation of many as Omicron hit, this Spring

can't come soon enough. In fact, on my first day out of captivity a couple of weeks ago, I thought I saw a Swallow soaring high above me. Inky black against a clear blue sky. It was possibly my overactive post-isolation imagination or plain wishful thinking (tad early for Swallows) or maybe global warming is messing with the avian migration

timetable. I know one Swallow doesn't make a summer, but I'm feeling positive. Covid restrictions have lifted, Winter is behind us, Spring is almost here and Summer's not that far away. That's something to smile about surely?

Marie-Christine and I hope you enjoy this Spring issue of Suburb News.



Clusters of crocuses in Big Wood (Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury)

## Brave New World – the new Brent Cross Town development



The new Claremont Park (Photo construction: www.brentcrosstown.co.uk)

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

Nick Searl is a man with a mission. As one of the Partners of Argent Related, Nick and his team are creating Brent Cross Town, part of the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration area of 180 acres which sits on the southern side of the North Circular and Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

A hugely ambitious and far-sighted project, Brent Cross Town will be a new town centre with leisure, retail and sports facilities alongside municipal buildings such as schools and hospitals. The development will incorporate 6,700 new homes, workspace for around 25,000 people, affordable housing and student accommodation. Additionally, Brent Cross Town will be a mere 12 minutes from Kings Cross and St. Pancras International via the new Brent cross West Thameslink.

No strangers to regeneration and good design, Nick and his team at Argent Related were responsible for the redevelopment of Kings Cross, a hugely successful project.

Brent Cross Town is based on the principle of creating a '15

minute town' meaning the basics of daily life can be accessed within a 15 minute walk or bike ride. In addition, the amenities will be set out in such a way as to make life as simple as possible for residents and visitors. Good design is key.

Billed as a destination place for 'all the family', Brent Cross Town will provide plenty of activities for everyone. With an Everyman style cinema, pop up shops, restaurants, markets, and events, there will always be something new and exciting going on. There will be an emphasis on art and culture and leisure facilities which are seen as hugely important in the overall design. 44 acres will be retained as green playing fields. "The people of NW London will want to come," says Nick who believes word of mouth will be a big factor in drawing people to the area.

So far so good, but will Brent Cross Town basically be a reimagined Milton Keynes for the 21st century? Absolutely not says Nick. Milton Keynes was designed on a compartmentalised basis,

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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.

We are at your service and we reassuringly deliver on our promises.



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