



First Henrietta Community Orchard trees planted

MARIA SCHLATTER, FRIENDS OF HENRIETTA COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Henrietta Community Orchard is an exciting initiative of the HGS Residents Association, located in the north eastern Capital Ring corner of Lyttelton Playing Fields, next to the Bishopswood Bowling Club.

The first 12 fruit trees are due to be planted on 20th March. The trees have been carefully selected to continue the fruit growing tradition so central to Henrietta Barnett's original aspirations for the Suburb.

The newly planted fruit trees will be very vulnerable during the first couple of years and will need regular watering in the spring and summer months, as well as keeping the root area free of weeds. The adjacent Bishopswood Bowling Club is kindly providing us with an easy water source.

We are looking for volunteers to help with watering and weeding while the young trees are getting established.

Please email fruitorchard@hgsra.uk if you want to find out more or join the Friends of Henrietta Community Orchard.

Thank you.



Photo: Philip Okrent

Chasing pavements

PHILIP OKRENT, RA COUNCIL MEMBER FOR PAVEMENTS

As the RA's 'pavement man,' I continue to pace the streets of the Suburb which takes a lot of concentration, as we must have some of the most uneven pavements in London!

I report any dangerous hazards, which include exposed tree roots, to our local Ward Councillors who send details to LB Barnet Street Services who generally react promptly stating that the report is noted and logged and an inspection will be made. More often than not they report back, stating repairs will be carried out within a set time scale but unfortunately this does not always happen and I continually have to chase up through our Councillors.

Nevertheless, in the nine months that I have been doing this, there has been a great improvement and I urgently ask all of you who spot a dangerous and hazardous stretch of pavement to contact me by email and I will happily have a look and bring it to the attention of our Councillors 'if appropriate' so that together we can help in making our pavements a safer place for everyone to walk.

HGS REACH

GREN MANUEL, HGS REACH HONORARY SECRETARY

HGS REACH (officially the RA's Environment Committee or 'EnComm' for short) is the Residents Association's newest standing committee – REACH stands for Residents Environmental Action on Climate and Health – and already we have a long list of ideas and projects. All focus on our primary goal: making the Suburb a leader in low carbon living and becoming Net Zero for carbon emissions by 2040. This sounds like the sort of project that only the government can undertake. But as our list of projects shows, we as residents can start work today to reduce our emissions and reduce our contribution to the catastrophic warming of our planet.

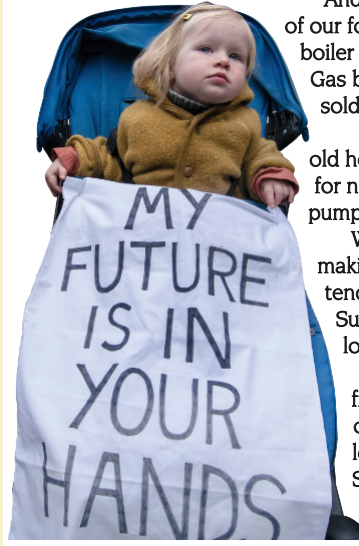
And many of our ideas will also help HGS residents save money. Much of our focus is on the way Suburb homes are heated. Most of us have a gas boiler – but few realise these are about to go the way of the steam engine. Gas boilers are banned from new houses in 2025 and will no longer be sold from 2035.

We have a list of ideas and projects to help us make our 100-year-old houses more heat efficient. This not only makes them more suitable for new types of heating technologies such as ground and air source heat pumps – but will also save money amid today's sky-high energy prices.

We're also going to start talking to Transport for London about making the H2 and H3 buses electric when the routes next go out to tender. This will not only reduce emissions but will also help improve Suburb air quality, which is one of our secondary goals. And there's lots more to do...

If you too are passionate about these issues, we'd love to hear from you. There is no requirement to be a committee member; many of our activities (such as a survey on energy efficiency) will need a local network of volunteers spread across the Suburb, each contributing a little.

Excited to help? REACH us via email at environment@hgsra.uk



Planting trees, like the education of children, is a gift to the future

PETER FALK, TREES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEMBER

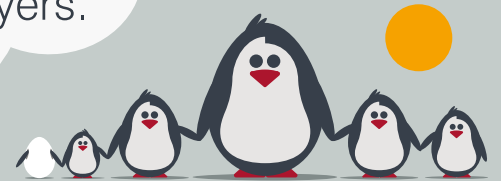


The planting of street trees in the Suburb is now complete. A total of 87 tree species and locations were agreed with LB Barnet, of which 81 have been planted. Six further sites are for the species *Crataegus x prunifolia* (frosted thorn trees, shown here) but unfortunately the young trees had to be rejected on quality grounds and new trees will now be planted in the next planting season instead.

Because of financial support from the RA and extra support from some residents, LB Barnet were able to increase the number of street trees planted from 62 to 81. If you would like to join in our efforts to replace trees in our streets, please contact me at trees@hgsra.uk.

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