



Jonathan Ross opens the new Community Library in 2012

## Community Library's tenth anniversary

JEREMY CLYNES

On 17 April 2012 the Market Place library re-opened its doors as a Community Library after being closed just over a year earlier by London Borough of Barnet as part of a Borough wide Strategic Library Review. The Library had been in its current location for over 60 years serving generations of Suburb residents.

Two of those residents, Deborah Warland and Neville Silver, decided to take up the cudgel and fight the closure. Following a very successful campaign, which resulted in a residents' petition of 2547 names, the action group was given the opportunity to present their case to Barnet Council, which resulted in the Council asking if there was a volunteer proposal. The action group enlisted the help of the RA and within a short time a cohort of 38 volunteers had been created, co-chaired by myself and Jonathan Seres. This culminated in a successful volunteer-led library proposal being outlined to Barnet.

Hetty Colchester then joined us and the team of trained volunteers. With now over 3,400 registered users, the Library has been a great community success, not only lending books but also providing weekly and one-off children's activities, a monthly book club and regular author talks.

All this would not have been possible without Deborah and Neville, the Residents Association, Cllr John Marshall, Cllr Robert Rams, the late Mike Fahey and Hannah Richens from Barnet Libraries. Plus, all our many volunteers and support from the community.

We look forward to being the Suburb Community Library for many years to come.

## Combat Stress update

MARJORIE HARRIS

Despite being unable to stage any major functions in recent times, the HGS Combat Stress Committee has continued to raise funds for the Forces' mental health charity. In May, a pop-up good-as-new designer clothing sale was held in the Eileen Whelan Room while the Horticultural Society's Plant Sale was going on in the rest of Fellowship House. Also in May, profits from provision of refreshments at the HGS Art Fair went to Combat Stress, and the charity will also be in charge of the catering at the Horticultural Society's Suburb in Bloom open gardens event on Sunday 17th July. Waitrose Temple Fortune once again nominated HGS Combat Stress as a worthy recipient of their charitable funding and kindly donated over £300. This brings the total raised by HGS Combat Stress over the past few years to nearly £55,000. Thank you to everyone who has helped to raise this amazing amount.

## Orchard Housing Society needs you

JO MORRIS

The Orchard Housing Society manages a sheltered housing scheme in the heart of the Suburb. The Society is a charitable not for profit organisation providing accommodation for Suburb residents or those with a Suburb connection over the age of 60.

A voluntary committee supported by three members of staff runs the scheme and it is currently looking to recruit new committee members.

Those with property/housing management, IT, legal or financial skills would be particularly welcome and those who have experience of working with older people, in social care or good all-rounders with

some relevant experience. You would need to commit to at least five hours per month including one early evening meeting and a daytime meeting about every six weeks, plus occasional other meetings and activities such as interviewing new and existing residents.

If you would like to become a committee member please email Beatrice Boussard, Tenant Support Manager at [bboussard.orchardhousing@btconnect.com](mailto:bboussard.orchardhousing@btconnect.com) explaining how you feel you could contribute to the committee.

Although these are voluntary, unremunerated positions you would be playing a vital role in helping to provide a high quality housing service to local older people.

## Farewell Eucharist for Father Alan Walker...

ELINOR DELANEY

On the feast of St Stephen (Boxing Day), Father Alan Walker celebrated his last Service before his retirement on 31 December 2021. On 27 January 2022 a large congregation came together for the Parish Eucharist, to which Father Alan and Lucrezia Walker and their family were invited, in order for us to give thanks for his 27 years of ministry in the Suburb and to wish them well in retirement. The celebrant was the Very Reverend John Hawkins, Archdeacon of Hampstead.

Following the service the congregation gathered to hear words of thanks for various aspects of Father Alan's ministry. Nicholas Chalmers, Director of Music, spoke of Father Alan's

fulsome support for the musical life of the church and of his role as President of Proms at St Jude's. David White paid tribute to Father Alan's enthusiasm for the building, artworks and history of the church and Elinor Delaney thanked him for the rich liturgical tradition which he upheld during his time at St Jude's.

Lucrezia was thanked for her many kindnesses during their time among us. This was followed by a hearty toast with some suitable bubbly and the cutting of a huge cake which was decorated with the church logo. Lucrezia Walker spoke on behalf of them both and finally we persuaded Father Alan to say a few words of farewell himself. We wish them both well in their new home in Marylebone.

We now enter an important new phase in the life of St Jude-on-the-Hill as discussions and plans on the future of the parish start and decisions are made on the new direction for the church and its congregation.

The Parish Eucharist is held every Sunday at 10.30am, to which all are welcome.



Photo: Michael Eleftheriades

## ... and farewell to the Free Church Minister

LORNA PAGE

Sunday 13th March was an important date for Ian Tutton – he was 65 and it was his last service as Minister of the Free Church. It was a busy weekend as he had said he would be delighted to welcome and say goodbye to anyone who called in to the Coffee Morning on the Saturday, as well as to regular members of the church and visitors on the Sunday. It was a tribute to his time and work in the Suburb that so many people came on both occasions.

In her words of thanks Penny Trafford, the Church Secretary, warmly thanked him for everything he had contributed in the area, for his wise counsel, friendship and so many kindnesses over the years. He was a well-known figure on the Suburb and would be missed by many outside as well as inside the church.

So many people will have stories about their encounters with him, about the debt they owe him and how they found his steady

assurance and sure purpose a rock to which they could hold at a time of stress, bereavement or difficulty. And of course, on the other side, his great sense of humour and real enjoyment in sharing in the joyous occasions, especially whenever cake was involved. Everyone knew of his passion for football and love of Welsh rugby. Many a service had included references to either sport; it become expected and was always good to see him in a red tie when Wales had won the

previous day. Whilst in London he followed Leyton Orient but returning to Wales we'll know where to find him when Cardiff City are playing at home.

Much appreciative applause followed the service with farewell gifts including flowers for Georgia, his wife, a framed picture of a dove that hangs from the pulpit and a season ticket for two for Cardiff City football club.

Everyone wished him well, sang Happy Birthday and then enjoyed lunch together and... cake!



Photo: Michael Eleftheriades

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## Free Church: Part Time Vacancies

The Free Church is looking for a finance officer and a lettings officer. Both roles would suit a local person wishing to work part time. Full details of the Job Description, Terms and Conditions, Person Specification and application forms for both roles are on our website [www.hgsfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.hgsfreechurch.org.uk)