

# Combat Stress committee ends on a high... of £60,650.99!

## COMBAT STRESS COMMITTEE

Through a combination of fundraising events held in the Suburb over the last 12 years, and additional donations that people have very generously given over that time, the HGS Combat Stress Committee has raised an amazing £60,650.99 for the Forces' mental health charity. But, with the average age on the committee now being 86, sadly, they have taken the decision to hang up their boots and disband the committee. They won't be disappearing completely though, as they will still sell Combat Stress Christmas cards. But regretfully their fundraising days are over.

From a rummage sale in a small Suburb kitchen to a sold-out CS Centenary Concert in 2019 – it's been an amazing 12 years!

The committee would like to take the opportunity to say a special thank you to the wonderful army of Combat Stress volunteers who have so generously given their time with great energy, enthusiasm, patience and humour. They are also very grateful to Martin Bell for his unstinting support and help

over many years – his enthusiasm and encouragement and his willingness to open countless Christmas fairs or introduce other events has spurred them on to do more to help Combat Stress. Thanks also to all the supporters who made their events so successful over the years, for their encouragement and help in making it possible to raise this amazing amount of money for Combat Stress and promote awareness of Combat Stress and the life-changing work they do for Britain's Veterans.

As the Combat Stress Committee's last hurrah, their wonderful army of volunteers worked through one of the hottest days of the year to provide non-stop refreshments at Fellowship House for the Horticultural Society's open gardens event on 17 July. All the proceeds from the sale of food and drink were donated to Combat Stress and raised a magnificent £1,100.

So, this is the HGS Combat Stress Committee signing off – thanks very much to you all for everything. Best wishes from Angela, Emma, Gerlinde, Marjorie, Mike, Ruth and Yvonne.



Photo: Daniella Levene

## Community Fruit Harvesting

DANIELLA LEVENE

Barnet Community Harvesters (BCH) started in Autumn 2020 with the aim of collecting surplus fruit, primarily apples and pears, from people's gardens, allotments and public spaces – fruit that would otherwise go to waste – and then divert the waste to food banks and other community causes.

The project works very simply; residents with fruit to spare get in touch. We arrange a convenient date and time and then coordinate a small band of volunteers to come harvest the fruit. It's amazing how many people with apple trees don't like apples or their trees are too abundant. We've collected over 100kgs from quite a few trees! It's a great activity for families,

children love it, and on average each harvest takes about an hour, depending on size of the tree, number of trees and number of volunteers. Tree climbers are always a welcome addition to a harvesting team.

People can also help by sorting the fruit, from the unblemished top quality fruit, to ones that need processing because of insects or other damage – often perfect for community apple juice making days and there's usually a few happening across the borough. Help is also needed in distributing the picked fruit to local food banks, there are currently 18 of them in Barnet.

Since the project's inception we have rescued nearly 2,000 kgs of fruit, but it has also created a community across the borough

that shares and cares – and loves fruit! Volunteer fruit pickers get to take some spoils from the harvest and with our specialist tools we help fruit tree guardians access fruit which would otherwise be beyond their reach, a service we're happy to provide for less mobile residents. We've also run pruning workshops, helped identify apple varieties and can give advice on fruit tree care.

Everyone should have access to fruit, something Dame Henrietta Barnet clearly believed when she gifted every HGS home with a fruit tree. So if you have fruit to spare and are happy to share, or want to help with the harvesting, please contact barnetcommunityharvesters@gmail.com. Or find us on Instagram@barnetcommunityharvesters.



Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury

## Christ's College aims for net-zero

CHLOE MARDEN

Every year a significant number of pupils from Garden Suburb Junior School transfer to Christ's College Finchley. Now when they do they will find a school transforming its infrastructure in order to improve its carbon footprint. The governors at Christ's College Finchley are delighted to announce that the school has won a £1.94 million government grant to decarbonise its heating infrastructure. This is the largest amount of money awarded to any single London school in recent funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy delivered by Salix Finance.

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) aims to promote green investment to support the Government's net zero and clean growth goals. This PSDS Phase 3 funding will help enhance the school's energy efficiencies and reach new levels of innovation for green growth.

It will allow the school to replace the existing gas boiler with new energy-efficient, low carbon air-to-water heat pumps.

Additionally, energy efficient measures including cavity wall and

roof insulation will reduce power requirements. These measures will reduce the school's carbon footprint significantly in line with the school's developing sustainability goals.

Headteacher, Mr S Olusanya, commented: "We are committed to giving our young people a practical understanding on how we can make a positive impact on our climate whilst providing our students with a much-improved environment for learning."

The school's Climate Council announced: "We are the Climate Council, who are striving to make our school more eco-friendly. The news of this low-carbon heating technology has made us excited to take the next step on our ambition to achieve net zero carbon and also to be established as an Eco-School."

Installation begins during the summer break and the project is due to be completed by the Spring of 2023.

## Central Square handover

continued from front page

Wiseman, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

The handover comes a few years on from the successful rejuvenation of the flowerbeds (in collaboration with the HGS Residents Association, North Square Residents Association and LB Barnet) which now provide year-round interest. The scheme was devised by Stephen Crisp, and the beds have been maintained by the Trust's gardener Jonathan Gordon. In this time, the two Central Square tennis courts have

also been refurbished and have proved incredibly popular with Suburb residents who can use them free of charge, with bookings made via the Trust website.

Now, the Trust's responsibility for Central Square extends even wider and will ensure that systemic maintenance of paths, trees and other elements is carried out, and that the Square remains the jewel in the crown of the Suburb, available for the use of local organisations and for visitors and residents alike.



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