



Residents Association Chair, Emma Howard, gives a round up of the latest RA News

Lime Bikes

Want to try an eBike for yourself? This was the tempting offer made by Gren Manuel (secretary of the RA's REACH environmental group and a frequent Lime user) in the 1st October issue of eNews, which goes to RA members for whom we have email addresses.

The offer noted that shared electric bikes have invaded the Suburb – causing both enthusiasm and concern. Enthusiasm on the one hand because these bikes are an excellent way to travel to nearby places such as Hampstead and Swiss Cottage, often faster than public transport and with no contribution to local air pollution. Concern on the other as bikes are often left blocking pavements in the area, with little thought given to residents, especially those with impaired mobility or vision, or pushing prams or wheelchairs.

So, keen to find out more, I duly turned up to Central Square on a warm autumn evening having downloaded the Lime app to my smart phone before setting out. I found Lime bikes shown on the map on the app – and, lo and behold – by the one opposite the school, there as promised stood Gren discreetly dressed in blazing yellow lycra and helmet. We were soon joined by over a dozen other residents all keen to find out more.

I learned how to get set up to use the bike and had a couple of fun trips around the block, enjoying the way the electric motor helped me cycle up Southway towards St. Jude's (appropriately named 'on the hill'). The bikes are very heavy and have no gears but are simple to use and have a bell on each handlebar and a decent sized carrier in the front. They can't be used unless you have card payments set up on your phone and the charges rack up quite quickly at £1 set up and then 21p per minute. The bikes come with good front and rear lights and the app tells you how many kilometres of charge the bike has when you scan the QR code to get started. The bikes are maintained by the Lime fairies who come round changing the batteries at night which then get recharged back at their depot.

A great innovation and brilliant for those awkward local journeys which are a bit too far to walk, and where public transport links are problematic. However, with no docking stations needed to park the bikes at the end of a journey, it is not surprising that they can also be a nuisance to other residents. Improper or illegal parking of Lime bikes can be reported in the Help section of the Lime app in your account, and it would be great if local users could assist on this to help limit problems caused to others by inconsiderate bike parking.



Gren gives guidance (Photo: Peter McCluskie)

Air Source Heat Pumps: an open evening

It was standing room only at our information meeting on heat pumps at Fellowship House on November 10th.

Some 45 RA members turned up to get more information about these devices, which can potentially reduce heating bills but, more importantly, slash your household carbon emissions and make a real contribution to fighting climate change.

A guest speaker from CB Heating (one of the largest UK installers) presented detailed information on air source heat pumps, including costs and grants currently available. Local renewable energy experts whose homes are heated by air and ground source heat pumps were there to share their experiences. The discussion was facilitated by a Suburb resident planning to install a heat

pump in the Suburb home her family is currently purchasing. The meeting was well attended, and there was genuine interest in these technologies, as well as in home insulation matters.

Readers should note that consent from HGS Trust and LB Barnet is always required in the case of air source heat pumps. (Don't be misled by online information that may tell you no permission is required.)

For ground source heat pumps, which require underground pipework in the garden, the Trust should be informed even if no changes to landscaping are envisioned. If alterations to landscaping are proposed at the same time, an application for Trust consent is required.

A detailed article about the 10th November meeting is available on the REACH section of RA's website, hgsra.uk. The site also has other local information about energy saving and climate change and is updated weekly.



Photo: Peter McCluskie

HGS Trust elections

Congratulations to Gren Manuel, secretary to the RA's REACH committee, who was successful in the elections to become a trustee of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. Gren, a financial journalist, has lived in the Suburb for 20 years with his wife and two sons who both attended Garden Suburb School. Gren is passionate about the impact of climate change and would like to ensure a balance between conservation and reducing our Suburb-wide carbon footprint.

Congratulations also to Richard Townley who was re-elected after his great contribution to bringing Central Square back under Trust control.



Gren Manuel & Richard Townley (Photo: Peter McCluskie)

Philip Okrent

It was extremely sad news when RA Council members learned in early November of the sudden and tragic death of Philip Okrent whilst in Spain where he had a second home.

Philip was a gentleman and a delightful character who took on the Pavements mantle for the RA during covid when he and his wife were out walking a lot and noticed how bad many of them were.

He was always a pleasure to deal with, handling concerns and complaints from residents efficiently and it was never too much trouble for him to go and visit a problem site, take a photo, and then report it to local councillors to action.

Philip leaves behind his wife, Suzie, three daughters as well as a sister who are in our thoughts at this terrible time.

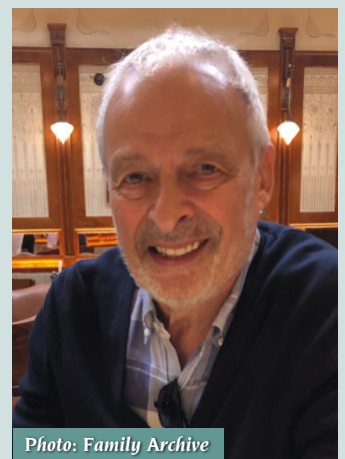


Photo: Family Archive

"No, I think that's the bell..." (Photo: Peter McCluskie)



FED UP WITH YOUR ENERGY BILLS RISING?

Get a FREE solar installation quote today from regulated solar panel installer installing in Hampstead Garden Suburb. Installation subject to HGS Trust and LB Barnet consent.



Contact our team today for a free quote:
E. hello@nextdaysolar.co.uk
P. 020 3608 3475

NEXT DAY SOLAR
Excellent Rating
Based on 21 reviews
★★★★★
Trustpilot

