

# RA REVIEW



## Home energy saving measures

GREN MANUEL

HGS REACH, the Residents Association's climate action group, is keen to help all Suburb residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes. However, many residents tell us they need help finding quality suppliers and contractors to make this happen.

We would like to collect more recommendations and add them to the Master Tradesperson List that is maintained by volunteer Mary Whiting and available to RA

members only, via the RA's website at [hgsra.uk](http://hgsra.uk).

Do you have recommendations for specialist services such as installing double or secondary glazing, internal insulation, loft insulation, or other means of improving energy efficiency, with HGS Trust consent where required? If so, can you please email them to [reach@hgsra.uk](mailto:reach@hgsra.uk). We will filter, compile, and pass them on to Mary. We are also very interested to hear about contractors or consultants who are not specialists but who have shown a high level of

knowledge about sustainability. For instance, maybe you had a garage converted into living space and the architect suggested high-grade insulation and underfloor heating. Or you had a new kitchen, and the designer suggested this was an excellent time to install an air source heat pump. Again, please email any information to [reach@hgsra.uk](mailto:reach@hgsra.uk). Many thanks.

Your recommendations will help other residents keep their energy usage under control and help to reduce the carbon footprint of homes in the Suburb.



## Air quality monitor

RUTH RAMAN

In December last year, HGS REACH received the exciting news that they had been successful in their application for an air quality monitoring station from the Breathe London Community Programme run by Imperial College and funded by the Mayor of London.

The station, similar to that shown above, will measure local levels of nitrogen dioxide and PM 2.5 (invisible microparticles that cause diseases such as asthma and lung cancer). It will be mounted on a lamp post and scanning a QR code below the unit will allow people walking past to obtain live data on local pollution. It will be part of a London-wide network and the data will be published on [BreatheLondon.org](http://BreatheLondon.org). The location of the station is yet to be agreed.

We have connections with two other community groups that are getting nodes, and an HGS REACH

member has a mobile air monitor from Middlesex University. Combined community action in our area will help us highlight local air pollution problems and steer change with our local politicians and Barnet Council.

We are fortunate to have lots of green spaces around us which may lull us into a false sense of feeling secure that our air is clean. However, we are also surrounded by busy roads that generate large amounts of pollution. We also have local pollution hotspots caused by rat runs and idling traffic, especially near schools and stations. This air quality monitoring station will be the first step in a greater effort to campaign for cleaner air and greener initiatives in HGS and will support the future health of our community. In the meantime, we can all help by walking the short journeys as often as possible and remembering to switch our car engines off when parked for short periods.

**LATE NEWS!** Want to cut your energy bill? Reduce your carbon emissions? In mid-May, HGS REACH, the Residents Association climate action group, will run a teach-in on energy-saving for Suburb homes. For more details (and lots more info on sustainability), visit [www.hgsra.uk/reach](http://www.hgsra.uk/reach).



## Play your part in keeping our Suburb special

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association was formed over 110 years ago. With nearly 1,900 members, it has become a strong, enthusiastic community in the Suburb. It:

- organises social events including the Summer Fair and Hallowe'en/New Year's Eve festivities
  - maintains and enhances the greenery in the Suburb by funding the planting of street trees and setting up of a community orchard
  - supports residents to prepare for environmental challenges
- works with LB Barnet to keep the Suburb clean and supports local litter picking volunteers
- supports local community groups and donates to local charities, including Proms at St Jude's
  - produces the quarterly Suburb News and annual Suburb Directory delivered by volunteers to all households in the Suburb
  - produces the monthly Suburb eNews with local information and events circulated by email to members only
- provides access to the Master Tradespeople List with recommendations from fellow Suburb members and the HGS List email group: both available to RA members only



Photo: Islington Local History Centre

In issue 151 we read how lampposts are being used as electric vehicle charge points and, in the article above, to monitor air quality. But it's not the first time lampposts have been used for more than just lighting. At the Great Exhibition of 1897 a new type of gas lamp was unveiled, it certainly provided lighting but it also had an automatic machine that could dispense a gallon of hot water, or a halfpennies worth of beef tea essence, cocoa, milk, tea or coffee. It was called the 'Pluto Lamp' and had been invented by H. M. Robinson in 1896. The Pall Mall Gazette of the 8th July 1898 reported on the opening of the first Pluto Lamp in Leicester Square which, as well as dispensing a variety of hot drinks, offered cigarettes at 'four to the penny'. Alas these lamps were short lived. Part of the reason may well have been that small round pieces of tin could be substituted for the half-penny coins needed for payment, a problem the electric vehicle charging lampposts will not have as payments are contactless.

Marie-Christine O'Callaghan

Join the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association online at [hgsra.uk/join](http://hgsra.uk/join) or call 020 3488 9131