

Drumroll please... for the Suburb News Distribution Team



SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

It was a cold, wet Friday evening. I really didn't want to go. But as one of the new editors of Suburb News I felt I probably ought to. I considered walking over to the Free Church, a less than ten minute walk away, but the dog wasn't having any of it. I could hardly blame her. North Square was ghostly quiet as I got out of the car. I pulled my hood tight and trudged on. It was pitch black and a bit eerie. I contemplated going home but then I saw the light, so to speak. It was coming from a small window to the side of the Free Church's main entrance. I pushed open the large wooden

doors and was immediately transported into a veritable hub of activity. An industry of sorting, packing and ticking off lists amid animated banter.

This was the Suburb News Distribution Team, the people who volunteer under the direction of organisational wizard Lorna Page, ensuring Suburb News is delivered to our doors, issue after issue, come rain or shine. The volunteers meet four times a year, usually on a Saturday morning, but, this time, the Rugby World Cup had taken priority hence the Friday night antics. It was a jolly atmosphere.

Mugs of hot tea and generous squares of delicious homemade apple cake (courtesy of Lorna) were handed out. Everyone was most welcoming as I was introduced by Terry Brooks, editor emeritus of Suburb News, who stood at the helm in his bright orange ski jacket (definitely needed that evening) offering a helping hand and moral support.

When I returned home an hour later, glad to get back to a warm house and supper, I thought, rather guiltily, of the Distribution Team finishing off the delivery packs for the volunteer sub-distributors – the 'ground soldiers' who actually deliver the Suburb News to the residents. But then, as I recalled the almost festive atmosphere, the chatter and camaraderie, the offers of yet more tea and apple cake, I realised I was definitely the one missing out on all the fun....

The SN Distribution Team could always use more volunteers. If anyone would like to help with the distribution of our local paper, it would be much appreciated. Please contact Lorna at lornapage@talktalk.net.

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

Proms at St Jude's 2020 – make it a million milestone

There's a spectacular line-up of concerts planned for the Proms at St Jude's 2020 Festival.

Running from 27 June to 5 July, musical highlights will include:

- Aurora Orchestra with soloists Sarah Connolly and Andrew Staples performing Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde.
- Opera Gala Evening performed by the Orion Orchestra with favourites by Puccini, Verdi, Donizetti and Bellini.

Sir Willard White



- Following their show-stopping performance of 'Stand By Me' at the Royal Wedding in 2018, The Kingdom Choir will sing a mix of gospel and songs from their album.
- Sir Willard White returns with Counterpoise to trace the progress of music from ragtime, blues and jazz.
- The highly successful British vocal ensemble VOCES8 will perform a wide programme of

songs from Rachmaninov to Tallis. This will include the world premiere of a new commission 'The Innocents', about the sinking of the SS City of Benares when they will be joined by the Finchley Children's Music Group.

Over the past 28 years, the Festival has grown in size, quality and reputation, with 5,500 people from all over London attending. In 2020, Proms hopes to reach a very special milestone – one million pounds raised for charity since it began in 1993.

Concerts will take place at St Jude's in Central Square. To book online and to find out more visit www.promsatstjude.org.uk. Friends enjoy priority booking and other privileges, so if you want to guarantee your seats, join now by going online and clicking on Friends. Public booking opens on 27 April, with earlier dates for Friends.

For further information contact ron.finlay@promsatstjude.org.uk, 07779 013093.

Road safety for school children

Around 72 per cent of children killed or seriously injured on a school day arise from accidents between 8-9am and 3-7pm. The short peak in the morning clearly coincides with children travelling to school. The afternoon peak is longer as children finish school at different times due to after school activities.

The new initiative of placing brightly coloured cartoon style cutouts near the entrance to primary schools are a very welcome additions to our streets. They bear safety warnings such as:

- Thank you for not parking here
- Thank you for driving slowly
- Show you care park elsewhere
- Parking here could cost a child's life.

Primary school children, in particular, have difficulty judging speed and distance. They are easily distracted and often act on impulse. And, of course, they are small so can't always see hazards – or be seen.

Within the Suburb, Brookland School, Kerem School and St Christina's have started using the colourful cutouts, which do not come cheap (they cost around £150 each), but, at what price a life?

Perhaps we should teach our children the Green Cross Code: 1) Think; 2) Stop; 3) Look; 4) Wait; 5) Look and listen again; 6) Arrive alive. And maybe we should now add the following: Never ever use the phone while crossing the road!



Brookland School's new effort to stop inconsiderate parking. These colourful figures (six in all) will help to solve the problem, which exists everywhere!

TONY BRAND

An inter-faith experience

On 17 November 2019, there was a well-attended gathering at HGS synagogue, Norrice Lea, for an interfaith discussion jointly organised by the synagogue and Nisa-Nashim, the organisation which brings Muslim and Jewish women together – the name, of course, being the translation of the word 'women' in Arabic and Hebrew. There are now some 25 groups in the country which meet regularly to socialise and hold inter-faith events.

The subject of the event was the significance of head covering in both the Jewish and Muslim faiths. For the Muslim community, the speaker was Sahar Zahid, co-chair of the Nisa-Nashim's Golders Green Group, with Rabbanit Batya Friedman speaking for the Jewish community.

The proceedings were chaired by one of the Suburb News editors, Shelley-Anne Salisbury, who started by introducing the co-chairs of the Nisa-Nashim's Southgate Group, Diane Greenberg and Anna Hussain, who spoke of the many activities they carry out together, including, celebrating the various festivals and raising money for charities. Monies were recently raised for an interfaith prayer room at the hospice. As Anna Hussain said, "There is more that unites us than divides us."

Sahar, who grew up locally and now teaches part-time at Haberdashers Boys' School, decided to start wearing a hijab as a teenager. This was in spite of the fact that she did not come from a family where women covered. Her mother said to her, "Are you sure that this is what you want to do? Once decided, there can be no going back." Sahar says it's a question of her relationship with God. It makes her feel spiritually closer to her faith.



HILARY HALTER

There are, in Islam, of course, many types of head covering with which we have become familiar, from the hijab which covers the head but not the face, the niqab which only leaves the area around the eyes clear to the burka which covers the entire body. Sahar says that The Koran does not specify that the face should be covered. It calls upon men and women to behave with decency and respect (i.e being modest). Some Muslim women choose not to wear head coverings. Sahar was asked at what age Muslim girls start to cover their heads, she replied that it is a matter of choice. It really starts when a girl reaches puberty but often they choose to start much sooner. She thinks that some Muslim families feel,

"We are living in a foreign country. We must show that we are Muslim."

Rabbanit Batya explained that married Jewish woman, wear a sheitel (wig) for spiritual reasons. Both she and Sahar questioned just how modest it was when women of both faiths go to great lengths to achieve as attractive a result as possible by adding highlights to a sheitel and wearing increasingly ornamental hijabs which must take hours to put on.

There was a lively question and answer session with plenty of audience participation. The evening, enjoyed by all, was informative and carried out in an atmosphere of relaxed friendliness.

Edited version of article by Hilary Halter editor of The Norrice Leader

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