

# 2020 Chair's Report

My third year as chair proved to be a year like no other for so many of us. Covid-19 cast a shadow across the year for us all with schools closed, events cancelled, and many suffering economic hardship as well as illness or sadly worse. But our residents responded in so many wonderful ways. Therefore, we have dumped the usual reports from our committees, and I am trying to capture here what the last 12 months felt like in our lovely Suburb.

We had started 2020 full of hope and optimism for our new decade despite concerns for many of us about leaving the EU; this paled into insignificance once the pandemic took hold. The RA managed to hold a send-off for Terry Brooks, our long serving publications chair and editor, on 3 March. Jolly greetings via elbow tapping had just taken hold, and our volunteers enjoyed an evening at Hampstead Golf Club

over supper. But that was March 2020 BC ('before Covid'); within a few days we were all in lockdown and beginning to live life under the new normal.

All our planned events for residents – even our March AGM – had to be cancelled. We managed to run a small concert in July on Central Square with talented local musician Noah Max conducting an orchestra of inspirational young musicians. What a treat that was to brighten the cultural void we were experiencing and thanks to Adrian Hodgson (our Events Chair) and his friends and family for their hard work in making this such a success. Tickets all sold out within a couple of hours!

For me the positives that came out of Covid were manifold. Our community responded in a way I am sure few other London suburbs have managed to do. Local volunteers set up cooking

and delivery stations for NHS staff out of their homes; Food Bank Aid North London was created in a front garden supplying local food banks with military organisation; volunteers hand delivered notes offering help to people who might need it, and a telephone help line was set up for those who had no one to turn to. Some residents turned to sewing face masks before they were so readily available, and bags were sewn from donated fabric for NHS staff to wash their uniforms in.

Our hospitals were quickly overwhelmed with very ill patients and the scenes we were all seeing in the media made everyone want to help these front-line heroes, beyond just clapping to show our appreciation. The RA launched a match funding appeal raising over £65,000 for the Royal Free Charity. The generosity of people wanting to donate was really heart-warming.

I am sure we all felt so lucky to live where we do surrounded by wonderful green spaces and beautiful streets with gardens to admire and enjoy on our daily walks. Without the sound of airplanes and traffic, we began to appreciate the simple things in life such as bird song even more than usual. We gardened; cleared out our cupboards, sheds and attics; cooked, baked and made jam; decorated, and even started to learn musical instruments as well as catching up on those books we'd never quite got round to reading.

Our amazing Temple Fortune Health Centre doctors and staff set up a trail-blazing vaccination centre in December and are managing to vaccinate so many local people every week. Many elderly and clinically unwell residents attending would probably have found it very difficult to get anywhere else for their vaccination; we have been very fortunate to have this on our doorsteps.

Turning to RA news, our Suburb News editors, Marie-Christine O'Callaghan and Shelley-Anne Salisbury, have attracted and written interesting articles for us to enjoy including a new youth section written by pupils at Henrietta Barnett School. New blood has created fresh ideas and brought in new volunteers to our publications committee (quaintly known as PubCom – but of course no pub!). With few events to write about, people began to turn to other local aspects of interest such as the article on our local pillar boxes in issue 144 which I especially enjoyed.

Our Trees & Open Spaces Committee members have been working hard to set up a new community orchard in Lyttelton Playing Fields. Work is also taking place to protect and increase our street trees. Our Allotments Committee voted in a new chair, Philip Harlow, and secretary Evelyn Thomas.

We welcomed new membership secretary and minute taker, Selena Amado. Our meetings all



SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

## RA 2020 Financial Review

2020 was a turbulent year financially, with the budget torn up almost as soon as the year started. The main impact was the cancellation of nearly all events, usually a major area of expenditure. Other activities, however, continued apace.

Membership increased from 1775 to 1860, with subscription income up by £1,878. Our volunteer membership secretary stood down and we now have a paid administrator, with the cost of this largely being offset by a reduction in Honoraria costs.

Suburb News was distributed throughout the year. Advertising revenue held up remarkably well with a fall of just £1,000, while distribution was handled by a mix of volunteers and paid distributors to minimise risk at an additional cost of £3,000.

£6,000 was committed to new tree planting and nearly £1,000 spent on tree watering and care to help preserve existing stock. An accrual of £9,479, built up over several years to finance the planting of past additional trees, was added back into reserves following negotiations with LB Barnet.

Grants were made of £3,000 to Proms at St. Jude's and £1,375 to Northway Gardens Organisation. £25,000 from reserves was used to match fund donations from residents for the Royal Free charity appeal, with a total of £65,000 raised. £1,000 was donated to the Colindale food bank.

The year ended with net expenditure of £19,312 and reserves at £75,206.

moved to Zoom, and Peter McCluskie ensured we were all able to link up and kept us well organised. Our membership increased to the highest it has been for some years, maybe because people had more time in which to appreciate their local community. Our hard-working Treasurer and IT guru, Steve Morris, took over membership lead from me with his usual modest efficiency. I would love to get numbers up to over 2,000 members this year – I am sure we can.

Thanks as always to our volunteers too numerous to mention for all your time and energy: we have well over 400 when I think of all our litter pickers, Suburb News deliverers, committee members, allotment site secretaries, contributors to this publication etc. The area also has a very proactive and hard-working chair of the Police &

Community Action Panel for Garden Suburb Ward, Richard Davis. My sincere thanks for everything you all do.

And to those of you who have got to the end of this article and are not currently members of the RA, please do take a moment to join us and support your local community. We invest time, money and energy in keeping the Suburb green and clean; we support local charities including Proms at St. Jude's, Northway Gardens, Fellowship House; we produce this free newspaper for over 5,000 residents; we issue a monthly E-News to all members for whom we have an email address, and you can access our Master Tradespeople's List giving you recommendations of people who have done work locally. You can join via our website [hgstra.uk](http://hgstra.uk) or by use of the membership form below.

EMMA HOWARD, HGSRA CHAIR

### RA Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			
	2020(£)	2019(£)	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Subscriptions	32,184	30,308	
Contribution from Fellowship	2,029	1,788	
Bank Interest	900	959	
Advertising	19,200	20,141	
Events Income	646	4,423	
Room hire income	1,000	2,000	
Other income	50	1,250	
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,009</b>	<b>60,867</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Membership, printing & post	8,059	5,486	
Room & hall hire	2,349	3,045	
Honoraria	1,377	3,926	
Publications	23,195	19,472	
Events	751	11,067	
Suburb tree planting and maintenance	6,929	5,612	
Grants	4,375	7,576	
Roads & Traffic	151	1,152	
Other expenditure	1,433	608	
Bank charges	338	222	
Henrietta's Orchard	364		
Charitable Donations	26,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,321</b>	<b>58,166</b>	
<b>Loss/Surplus for the year</b>	<b>-19,312</b>	<b>2,701</b>	
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	80,130	94,384	
Debtors	2,939	4,911	
Share in Orchard Housing Society	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,070</b>	<b>99,296</b>	
Less current liabilities	7,865	14,257	
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>75,206</b>	<b>85,039</b>	
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>			
Accumulated fund brought forward	85,039	82,338	
Reversal of trees accrual	9,479		
Deficit for the year	(19,312)	2,701	
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,206</b>	<b>85,039</b>	

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES: (a) The accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis. (b) Members' subscriptions have been reconciled with the sums actually received during the year.

	2020(£)	2019(£)
2. COLLECTION FOR FELLOWSHIP		
Receipts	12,193	10,587
Less RA administrative fee	(2,029)	(1,788)
<b>Net</b>	<b>10,164</b>	<b>8,799</b>

3. MEMBERSHIP  
Membership at 31 December 2020 was 1,860 households compared to 1,775 at 31 December 2019.

## Orchard Housing Society is looking for an Honorary Treasurer and Secretary

At the heart of the Suburb, between Willifield Way and Hampstead Way lies The Orchard, a sheltered housing scheme which has its roots in the foundation of the Suburb.

The Society is an exempt charity, not for profit, regulated by the Regulator for Social Housing. It provides rented accommodation for Suburb residents or those with a Suburb connection over the age of 60 in need of supported housing. Two full- and one part-time members of staff support the voluntary committee and we are currently seeking to recruit a Treasurer and a Secretary.

Staff maintain cashbooks and we have a company prepare and audit the accounts. Hence, the Treasurer does not need to produce the accounts.

The Secretary needs to be experienced in committee work and support the Chair in ensuring the smooth running of the Management Committee.

In addition to these specific posts we would also like to hear from people with property/housing management or legal skills and we would welcome applicants who have experience of working with the elderly or in social care and good all-rounders with management experience to join our Committee.

All applicants must be able to commit to a minimum of 12 hours participation a month. More details can be found at [www.orchardhousingsociety.co.uk](http://www.orchardhousingsociety.co.uk).

To apply for either of these specific posts or to become a committee member please email by Monday 31st March, Beatrice Bousard, Tenant Support Manager at [bbousard.orchardhousing@btconnect.com](mailto:bbousard.orchardhousing@btconnect.com).

Although these roles are unremunerated you will be playing an important role in helping to provide a high quality housing service to local older people within our community.

## Become part of the community

If you'd like to join the Suburb community, please complete and return the form below or join online at [hgstra.uk](http://hgstra.uk). Our Privacy Policy can be viewed at [hgstra.uk/about/dataprotection.html](http://hgstra.uk/about/dataprotection.html).

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

One subscription covers everyone at the address for a calendar year  
I/We would like to join the HGS Residents Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription amount (Minimum payment £15) .... £ \_\_\_\_\_

Fellowship donation\* (Optional) ..... £ \_\_\_\_\_

(To support Fellowship, a Suburb charity, in its work for Suburb senior citizens)

**Total** ..... £ \_\_\_\_\_

\* I declare by making this donation that I want to Gift Aid my donations to Fellowship House and am a UK taxpayer paying sufficient tax to meet the Gift Aid on my donation. I agree to Fellowship receiving my details for this purpose.

(Delete the above declaration if you do not wish to Gift Aid your donation or do not pay sufficient tax)

I wish to pay:

by cheque (payable to HGS Residents Association). Please write your address on the back of the cheque and send with this form to the address below.

online via PayPal or with Credit or Debit Card – visit [hgstra.uk/join](http://hgstra.uk/join)

by bank transfer to HGS Residents Association:

Bank: HSBC, 897 Finchley Road, NW11 7NX Sort Code: 40-03-11

Account number: 91605747

Please return this form to: The Membership Secretary, HGS Residents Association, PO Box 67700, London NW11 1NS. (SN145)

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