

Centenary Update



This update from the Centenary Committee is the latest in a series to keep you up to date on what is being discussed and how you can become involved.

The Committee, set up by the Suburb Trust and Residents Association, has been meeting for the past two years. Recently, we have gained the benefit of two appointees from the London Borough of Barnet.

The Suburb's centenary will fall in May 2007. It is envisaged that a year-long celebration will run for this anniversary to include both involvement by regular Suburb activities and some special events. We hope that you will take part in the overall centenary activities and will liaise over more specific issues as the date draws closer. We would like to involve as many groups and individuals as possible.

So far, we have identified several projects which, due to their

long lead times, are seeing planning starting now. These include:

- Re-landscaping Central Square. This area, a focal point of the Suburb, has become run down over the years: its reinstatement will be a lasting benefit of the centenary events.
- Improving amenities around Central Square for community use. Several options are being investigated.
- An architectural conference. A gathering of international planners will both look inwards and out from the Suburb with sessions designed for residents as well as more academic issues.
- Publications. As well as a souvenir booklet for all residents, we look forward to the first biography of Henrietta Barnett (the Suburb's founder), a well presented photographic portrait of the Suburb and also an update of Miller & Gray's study of the area.
- Special theatrical productions from the Suburb Theatre.

If you would like to become involved, have specific ideas or are aware of sponsors for individual projects then please write to us at the Trust offices or email us at HGS100@o2.co.uk

EDWARD CAPLIN
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Honorary Secretary?

The Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund seeks a trustee who will take on the job of Honorary Secretary. The Fund is the only Suburb charity which combines supporting work which tackles poverty, linking the Suburb and the East End, having a particular interest in young people, and being set up by Dame Henrietta, the founder of

the Suburb and the co-founder of Toynbee Hall. There are just two trustee meetings each year. The Hon Secretary needs to be a Suburb resident and have access to e-mail, required for conducting our committee business. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Simon Abbott on 8455 6537. Thanks.

Raphael Wallfisch plays for Buskaid at St Jude's

Suburb News has had a few brushes with fame but was especially flattered to be phoned by Janet Suzman who wanted us to tell our readers about Buskaid and the concert they are putting on in St Jude's on 23 May.

"It all started," she said, "when some members of the ENO heard about a project to help children in Soweto. They literally busked, and made wonderful music in London to raise funds for the Sowetan Project in South Africa." The Buskaid Sowetan String Project was formed from the younger members of the Sowetan Project in 1997 and now has a Buskaid Music School with 75 students and a teaching staff of three. "It is a fantastic start in life for children for whom there is otherwise nothing to do," says Janet Suzman. "For those who

attend the school and experience the discipline of working in an orchestra a future opens out, please come and support them."

Buskaid's mission is to give children from impoverished backgrounds in the townships of South Africa the opportunity to learn classical instruments to the highest possible standards, and to train a number of its students to become professional string teachers. The UK Scholarship Fund enables young gifted Buskaid musicians to attend music colleges and to further their education in the UK.

In the concert, in aid of Buskaid, celebrated cellist Raphael Wallfisch plays Bach's Complete Suites for Solo Cello. 6.30 pm, 23 May. Tickets £10 £20 & £30 from Buskaid, 6 Long Cross, Shaftesbury, SP7 8QP or at the door.

Parents left behind

'Parents & ICT' was an event aimed at demystifying computers for parents who feel left behind by the rapidly changing world of computers and unsure about how best to help their children in this new learning revolution.

Computers get a bad press. Just look at the headlines about the dangers of chatrooms, inappropriate internet content, worries about obsessive game playing, inbuilt spellcheckers which remove the need to learn how to spell correctly - these are all legitimate worries for parents, many of whom left school or university without ever having used a computer themselves and have had to play catch-up ever since, with their children frequently telling *them* how to use the family PC.

But according to Lorrae Jaderberg, the school's Special Needs Co-ordinator and a senior member of the management team, there is growing evidence that used wisely and correctly, computers and computer programs can result in significant educational benefits, boost learning outcomes, and aid knowledge retention.

Brookland's 'Parents and ICT' event, on April 26 at Brookland Junior School, Hilltop, from 7pm - 9.30pm, included presentations from leading ICT/educational experts. There was also an exhibition and a chance to try out recommended software and educational products aimed at helping parents to help their children by making informed software buying decisions.

LINDA LEWIS

Another garden suburb

Last summer four members of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society set off for Brentham in the London Borough of Ealing, which was holding an open gardens event.

We knew that Brentham had been founded a few years before our own Garden Suburb, but on arrival were stunned by a sharp thrill of recognition. Many of the houses and road layouts were similar to ours and nearly everyone had hedges!

The familiarity continued as we looked down the list of addresses we were to visit - we too have a Holyoake Walk, a Neville Drive, a Ruskin Drive, a Brunner Close. We too have an Adult Education

Institute, but our clubhouse, the pictures of which look similar to Brentham's, was bombed during the war and later rebuilt as a small, rather ugly, single-storey building.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visits to the gardens. The fact that so many were enclosed by privets, meant that we could empathise with the benefits and drawbacks of hedges. Over tea and cake in Holyoake Walk, we discovered that Maureen McCarthy had taken part in our Horticultural Society's open gardens and guided Suburb tour in May.

Thank you very much Brentham gardeners for your hospitality. We will be back!

MARJORIE HARRIS



Residents Association AGM

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Architectural Awards

The Alexander Stuart Gray Award commemorates one of our earliest life members and is awarded to householders who have completed work on their houses that in the opinion of the judges, conserves or enhances the Suburb's built environment. There had been several entries this year and the winner is, unusually, not an Arts and Crafts house but an uncompromisingly modern extension on a Neville Drive house, built in 1937 by the architect Ernst Freud, belonging to Debbie and Marcus Flacks who already have an RIBA award for this extension.

The judges, who were the Chairman of Consam, David Lewis, architect Michael Rowley and Richard Wakefield, the editor of *Suburb News*, also made two

commendations for outstanding conservation work on two contrasting buildings.

The first is, by coincidence another thirties Ernst Freud design, Belvedere Court on Lyttelton Road. Here the residents, who some time ago bought the flats, have gone to the trouble and expense of using original materials to replace the roof and generally returned this imposing block to its original state. The award was collected by Mr Marriott on behalf of the residents.

The second highly commended was for the sensitive restoration of Mr and Mrs Sowerbutts' Lutyens house and its garden at 2 North Square.

The 92nd annual general meeting closed with questions and refreshments for the 140 members and guests present.

Temple Fortune

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you uphold our complaint and require Barnet Council to carry out a meaningful consultation under the Experimental Traffic Order Procedure and to restore Temple Fortune to a state where there is no more danger to pedestrians than under the previous situation. In doing so you would also be requiring Barnet Council to comply with its own Unitary Development Plan as set out above and in particular to remove pavement parking and restore a significant number of the mid-road refuges.

We also request a refund of our costs in commissioning the RoSPA Report. The Residents Association has spent £1,586.25 of the membership's money in commissioning this report, which served to emphasize the concerns of local residents rather than allay them. Despite the high regard in which the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is held, Barnet Council chose to ignore this comprehensive document entirely.

The Times of April 18 reported that Ken Livingstone withheld

£1.5 million of funding yesterday from a council that is challenging his anti-car agenda by ripping out road humps and bus and cycle lanes. The move follows revelations about the policy in *The Times*. The Mayor of London claimed that the London Borough of Barnet was endangering pedestrians by allowing cars to drive uninterrupted down residential streets and park on wide pavements.

Mr Livingstone said, "Barnet's half-baked policies are putting children's lives at risk. We are not going to allow that to be undermined by the loony Right in Barnet Council." Mr Livingstone said that the money would be withheld "pending an investigation by Transport for London".

Brian Coleman, a Conservative councillor in Barnet, said that he would not be deterred by 'political grandstanding'. Mr Coleman said lawyers had advised him that Mr Livingstone could not withhold the money as the council had the power to determine policy on traffic on local roads.

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