



Vivienne Bellos wins award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to music in the community, p3

Brookland Infant School pupil wins over the audience at Suburb Storytelling Festival, p9



Reports on Suburb Centenary festivals, events and activities to end what will be a memorable year for residents



# Suburb News

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## Cherished oak trees saved

Two magnificent oak trees in Denman Drive and Reynolds Close, which were to be felled at the insistence of the insurers of nearby houses, have been saved by Suburb residents, the Trust and the Residents Association. On January 8 Barnet Council, at the urging of Cllr Marshall and Cllr Harper, who had been lobbied by residents, the Trust and the RA's Trees committee, refused an application by insurers to fell the trees.

Local people had been campaigning to save the trees, which had been threatened with felling because they were implicated in damage to buildings. The campaigners who included local residents Claire Calman and Larry Finlay of Reynolds Close and Deborah Calland from Denman Drive argued that the ecological and amenity value of the trees is so great that the buildings should be repaired so

that the trees can remain.

The chairmen of the Trust and the Residents Association wrote a joint letter to the insurers, Norwich Union, asking them to spare "the mature oak trees which are one of the glories of this very special area." Martin Bell, who is a long time resident of the Suburb, wrote saying, "it would be an irreparable loss to all of us if any of these trees were to be felled."

Norwich Union has now informed Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust that it will abide by Barnet Council's decision and will organise the necessary repairs to the properties concerned. Trust Chairman Angus Walker said, "the Suburb was planned to respect the value of mature trees and the Trust is delighted that major insurance companies are prepared to acknowledge the value of such trees and moderate their actions accordingly."



Cllr John Marshall, Jane Blackburn, Martin Bell, Georgina Malcolm, Angus Walker and the Denman Drive oak tree.

Claire Calman and Leo, Reynolds Close.

Inset: Deborah Calland, Denman Drive.

## RA takes action over Market Place scam

In response to a spate of penalty charge notices issued to motorists who had parked outside the post office in The Market Place, the Residents Association took the decision last October to erect its own notices warning residents to take care not to park in the road's poorly marked loading bays. The notices also invite anyone receiving a parking ticket to contact the Roads & Traffic Committee for help in having the fine overturned.

Within three weeks of the RA notices going up, Transport for

London received around 80 appeals from Suburb motorists. Each appeal included a request that the authority mark the loading bays with carriageway lettering in the style of the one in Northway as this would clearly indicate the restricted status of the bays.

Incredibly, Transport for London's response was to take down the RA notices and to remove the roadway lettering from the Northway loading bay rather than to apply a similar

marking to the bays in The Market Place. TfL also removed carriageway lettering from all of The Market Place's disabled bays causing confusion to a large number of elderly disabled badge holders, many of whom are now under the impression that the area's disabled parking concessions have been withdrawn, although this is not the case.

Despite TfL losing a Parking Adjudication in January 2006 on the grounds that The Market Place loading bay is not adequately

signed, the authority introduced CCTV camera enforcement of the bay last autumn. This resulted in an 80-fold increase in the number of parking tickets issued at the site where the camera is now discharging approximately 700 tickets a month, which adds up to £1 million of revenue per annum for TfL.

R&T Chairman Gary Shaw said, "The loading bay outside the

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## New chairman elected at Trust

In the first meeting of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Council, following the election of four new trustees in September, Angus Walker was elected chairman and, in a departure from previous practice, a vice chairman, Wilfred Court, was also elected. Wilfred, an architect, was previously the Trust's architectural adviser and has been the Victorian

Society's nominated member for some years. He is a Life Member of the Residents Association.



Angus Walker Wilfred Court

## Planning Bill threat to Suburb

The London Forum of Amenities and Civic Societies, to which the RA belongs, in its latest news forum, headlines the planning white paper before parliament as "A planning disaster in the making." Overwhelming opposition has been expressed to the White Paper - Planning for a Sustainable Future. The proposals are seen as a threat to local democracy, to future planning controls and to public participation. A coalition of major organisations concerned with environmental and planning issues have banded together to campaign against the Bill and have established a web site at:

www.planningdisaster.co.uk.

The headline proposals in the Bill include:

- Putting decisions on major infrastructure projects such as roads, powerstations, incinerators and airports into the hands of an independent, unaccountable panel of 'experts'.
- Limiting the public right to have a say at public enquiries.
- Out-of-town developments made easier, threatening local shops.
- Introducing a 'presumption in favour of development'.
- A significant widening of permitted development rights, even in Conservation Areas.

Cllr Daniel Moylan Deputy Leader of Kensington and Chelsea has described the Bill as "A charter for philistines and vandals."

Jane Blackburn, Trust Manager, told Suburb News, "The Bill makes the value of the Trust to the Suburb even more apparent. Barnet could have less control than it does now but because the Trust has separate powers under the scheme of management it will still be able to protect the Suburb. However, if the Bill goes through it will undoubtedly increase the pressure from developers or those who want to enlarge their homes disproportionately."

## Caring, Competent & Committed

Our experience spans over 30 years and contrary to popular belief, we sell much of the middle to lower priced property within Hampstead Garden Suburb. There is no magic at work here. We are totally committed and are known to achieve handsome prices for two main reasons:

**Firstly**, because we deal with buyers trading up as well as down in price range, the latter of whom usually have fulsome budgets.

**Secondly**, we regularly deal with monied purchasers from outside the area who have grown used to even higher priced property in Central London and believe that the Suburb is not only leafy and desirable, but good value.

"We are passionate Suburbites and we eat and breathe the Suburb, it is in our blood and we treasure its heritage."

Most importantly we understand that your home is your sanctuary and is probably one of the largest assets in the family and therefore a sale/purchase needs the tender care of dedicated and sensitive professionals who are skilled at this important task.

The market is excellent at the moment, so if you have not contacted us before, try us, we think you will be pleasantly surprised.

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## Residents Association AGM

The 96th Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place on Monday March 31 2008 at 8pm in The Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Central Square, NW11.

Motions for the agenda must be received by 21 February 2008.

Nominations for the posts of officers and members of the Council are invited. They should be submitted in writing, signed by proposers and seconders and have the consent of nominees.

These must be received by 21 March 2008.

Please send notices of motions and nominations to:  
The Hon Secretary, HGSRA, 26 Hampstead Way NW11 7JL