

SUBURB Style

SUBURB

Enthusiast

featuring Dave Brown

Dave Brown, 20, has lived in the Suburb all his life. He was educated at Bloxham School studying politics, geography and ICT. He now works in the events industry and has worked with The Rolling Stones, Radiohead and at venues including The Royal Albert Hall and Excel Docklands. He is also doing a business degree with the Open University and has been a member of the RA Council for the last 18 months, incidentally being the youngest member. He is on the Events and Membership committees. Dave is involved in The Garden Suburb Gallery and helped to mastermind the Big Birthday Party, as well as other Centenary events. He volunteers as a team leader at the yearly London Playtex Moonwalk.

In my spare time I enjoy cross country running and have entered the ballot to run in next year's London Marathon. If I do get a place in the marathon I want to help raise money and awareness for The Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund. The charity's aim is to help and support young people to get out of poverty through education. They achieve this by encouraging them to complete a Duke of Edinburgh expedition and by creating access to academic opportunities that would otherwise not be available to those in poverty.

I am a keen cyclist and enjoy the daily commute to Central London. As a result I am planning to cycle from Lands End to John o' Groats in May of next year, supporting a local charity, The North London Hospice.

In the future I hope to establish my own events company specialising in conferences and sponsorship. The ultimate goal is to live on Ingram Avenue, with a vintage sports car on the drive, and have a weekend retreat in North Oxfordshire.

FAVOURITE SUBURB EVENT:

The annual summer Proms at St Jude's music festival. The music this year was fantastic with top internationally renowned musicians right on the doorstep; my favourites were Stacy Kent, John Williams and the traditional last night. Not forgetting the free lunchtime concerts, featuring up and coming artists, the Proms has to be one of the highlights of my year. It manages to raise fantastic sums for the North London Hospice and Toynbee Hall. But above all it brings volunteers, local businesses, charities and the community together in a way that no other event on the Suburb does.

FAVOURITE PUB:

The Freemasons Arms in Hampstead, on Downshire Hill, just by the Heath. The atmosphere is unique and unbeatable; its interior is a stylish mix of contemporary and traditional. The food is just divine with a lovely simple menu and superb pub garden. The best thing is that I always seem to bump into someone I know.

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB?

The Suburb is unique, it feels like we are living in a small tranquil country village, but we are in fact less than five miles from Central London. We are lucky enough to live in an area that has been so well conserved by The Residents Association and The Trust, who work tirelessly to improve life for Suburb residents. We can enjoy vast areas of well maintained open space;



Totting up takings at the Gallery

residents can potter around for hours on their allotments; there are a clubs and societies for every interest, for example: The Horticultural Society, Fellowship House, the Garden Suburb Theatre, the Gallery and the Institute; one can work as a steward or behind the bar at this year's New Years Eve Event on Central Square. So whatever your interests, log on to www.hgs.org.uk, become a member of the RA and get involved with the community. Enjoy and conserve this gorgeous area that we are lucky enough to call home. I have made some great friends through the RA and other Suburb organisations and have met few nutters along the way.

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

Although there is an immense sense of community within the Suburb, I think that we could benefit from a community centre, somewhere that all generations could appreciate and benefit from. There could be a café, meeting rooms for all of the various suburb organisations, a base for the RA and not forgetting that all important bar. The rooms could be decorated and furnished with items relating to the area. Perhaps this could be a project for the Suburb's 150th birthday; I will propose it to the RA Council when I'm 69. A perfect venue would be the Tea House or the currently unused basement of Meadway Court.

I have heard on the grape vine, that there use to be a putting green on the land just behind the south side of the Market Place shops, which is between Lyttelton Playing Fields and Northway Gardens. I would love to see this reinstated or a crazy golf course created. I think that a putting green would get a lot of use from all generations, but particularly young people.

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