



New Henrietta Barnett plans approved

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will reflect the original buildings in terms of materials, colours, pitch of roof etc. They will not be a disrespectful Lutyens pastiche but a homage to the existing building with the benefit of modern materials."

Low buildings on each side of the existing main building will allow the removal of the 'temporary' huts that have disfigured the site for too long. The designs, by the eminent firm of Hopkins Architects, responsible for such high-profile buildings as the Glyndebourne Opera House, are for two buildings in an L-shaped configuration to be built each side of the main building enclosing landscaped courtyards facing Central Square. Major improvements will be made to the landscaping between the main and Bigwood buildings and the courtyard to the main building will be upgraded and enclosed with gates.

Many residents complained that there was insufficient consultation with residents over the development of "the most important site on the Suburb". Although the Residents Association finally persuaded the school and Hopkins to make a public presentation of the proposals in March this year, this was for information only since planning permission had already been granted by Barnet and the Trust, albeit with a long list of conditions that included treatment of windows and brickwork. English Heritage and the Lutyens Society have also given it their blessing.

The Hopkins design has not met with universal approval on the Suburb. Douglas Blausten, an RA Council member who also sits on Barnet's Conservation Area Advisory Committee, sent a blistering critique to the Ham & High. Andrew Botterill, in a critical letter to Suburb News, said, "In the years to come it will be ordinary Suburb residents, not architectural experts, who will face either an architectural masterpiece, a missed opportunity or a disaster." (and see letters, p9). Many consider the horizontal theme of the windows to be out of sympathy with the existing school building and the Suburb vernacular and that the buildings should be in grey bricks to match the façade of the existing building facing Central Square.

With the support of RA Council, Suburb resident Jonathan Seres and others, including architect Michael Balla-Goddard, campaigned for changes in the design. The Trust encouraged, and the school agreed to, a dialogue with Hopkins. This took place early this year but the design incorporating 'horizontal' windows and red bricks was not changed and more detailed drawings, including a sought after change to two inch bricks, has now been approved by the Trust.

Work on the refurbishment of the existing school building is starting imminently and construction of the new buildings will begin in the autumn, for completion in good time for the school's centenary which starts in September 2011.

The Henrietta Barnett School Summer Fete

Stalls will include international foods, BBQ, desserts, strawberries and cream, homemade cakes, mini-melt ice creams, Pimms bar, hot and cold drinks, books, scarves, jewellery, plants and attractions for children including inflatable slides, 'Gladiators' and 'Sumo', traditional games and races, personalised acrylic key

fobs, phone fobs and much more, with music provided throughout the afternoon by some of the HBS musicians. Do come along and join in the fun. And if it rains, there is plenty of room indoors! Sunday 12th July 2009 from 12 noon to 3.30pm (entrance in Bigwood Road).

JO VELLEMAN

The Institute on the Suburb

Wendy Brennan reminds us that although the new Institute in East Finchley is right on the edge of the Suburb, there are still a

number of courses available in the Free Church Hall, including Tai Chi and Yoga. Call 8829 4141 for the new prospectus.

St Jude's autumn walk

Readers and their friends and families who would like to discover green and secluded paths through North London's parks and woodland in autumn sunshine and raise funds for the St Jude's central heating appeal are invited to join us for a 6-mile sponsored walk, almost entirely away from roads, on Saturday 10 October, starting at St Jude's and finishing at Manor House underground station on the Piccadilly Line.

St Jude's, centrepiece of the Suburb, is a Grade I listed building. Its 100-year-old central heating equipment is nearing the end of its useful life. We want to replace it with a state-of-the-art eco-friendly system, but this will cost in the region of £150,000.

We hope that funds raised through the walk will be matched by grant-giving organisations.

Make a note of the date now. Details will be available nearer the time on the church website www.stjudes.org.uk. Adult walkers will be required to raise a minimum of £25 in sponsorship.

For details contact Jennifer Radice, jennifer@radice.clara.co.uk or ring 8455 1025.

Ofsted honours Henrietta Barnett School

The Henrietta Barnett School has been honoured by Ofsted in a celebratory event recognising outstanding schools in England.

Schools on the list provide an excellent quality of education across the full range of their work and attain high levels of student achievement across an often diverse and complex range of circumstances.

Addressing 300 Head teachers in London, the Chief Inspector said, "I wholeheartedly congratulate the Head teachers, staff, governors and students of all outstanding schools on their success and hard work in delivering such an excellent standard of education."

Outstanding schools have leaders of vision, courage and conviction, and the ability to create and inspire their staff and their students. I hope that these outstanding schools are a beacon to others; an example of what can be achieved with aspiration and determination."

Head teacher Mr Oliver Blond said, "The school is very pleased to gain this Ofsted recognition which is a reflection of the dedication and hard work of everyone involved with the school, from the pupils, teachers, Governors and parents to the local community and our partnership schools."

Hampstead Rugby Club

The club had a very successful season which culminated in a play-off for promotion to London League 2, narrowly losing a hard fought game 23 - 15 away to Brentwood. The women's section goes from strength to strength. They were promoted at the end of last season and finished second in the higher league, narrowly missing what would have

been an astonishing achievement of two successive promotion years.

The club continues to put out five men's sides each week; playing on Saturday afternoons on the Heath Extension. The women play at lunchtime on Sundays.

Results and information are on www.hampsteadrugbyclub.co.uk or ring Mark Spilsbury, 07967 154173.

TOM SALES

New RA chairman elected

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management charge which he considered unfair in that the cost of litigation over development of large properties was borne by the freeholders of small houses and flats. Bill Asprey asked whether the RA would hold a ballot and would the Trust accept the result? In answer the chairman mistakenly gave the impression that the RA council had decided not to pursue the matter and asked, "why did the four Suburb Trust members not carry out their election promises?"

There was no answer to questions about the sale of the Teahouse from Joyce Morrison. In answer to Jim Ambrose's question how did plans for the school's new buildings get so far without adequate public consultation? The chairman gave details of the timetable of consultations with public and organisations that had led eventually to partial approval for the plans from The Trust and Barnet. Andrew Botterill thought

there was nothing more to be done about the school plan, "it's a dead duck," but said the RA exists to look after residents interests and has an obligation to preserve the character of the Suburb.

Jane Blackburn, Trust Manager, said the final outcome of the detail of Hopkins designs for the school were yet to come and residents concerns had been taken into account.

Susan Benjamin wanted to know why estate agents boards are permitted here but not in some other conservation areas.

Thanks

Fellowship chairman John Hewson thanked the RA for raising more for Fellowship and hoped more members would visit the club and the Garden Suburb Gallery.

It fell to David Littaur to wind up proceedings with a vote of thanks to the outgoing chairman. He had worked hard over eleven years, first on CONSAM and then as chairman, to promote the Suburb. "His finest achievement," he said, "had been the Centenary year in 2007." He made a presentation of an oil painting by Paul James of the Heath path leading towards Wildwood Rise.



Hampstead Garden Suburb Lawn Tennis Club

We are a small, most friendly, tennis club catering for the needs of intermediate standard players who primarily want to play doubles tennis on a 'roll up basis', that is to say turn up without the need of a regular partner and know one will get a pleasant game.

We meet at the courts in Lyttleton Playing Fields (Hampstead Garden Suburb N2) on Sunday mornings, and on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons. Currently, the annual subscription is £75 and having all weather courts we play all the year round.

We have a small club room there, and balls are provided.

We invite anyone interested in joining us to come and play, without any obligation, at an open morning we are holding at our courts on Sunday June 7th from 10am. If that date is not possible do contact Alan Cohen at 4 Church Mount London N2 ORP or just call by at the courts on any Sunday morning between 10.30 and midday.

The Institute Open Day

11am - 5pm June 27

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