

All change again for Central Square lights

Central Square is full of surprises. Earlier this year it was surrounded by Barnet's turquoise signs welcoming visitors to this Barnet park. Cllrs were quickly alerted to what had been done in the conservation area and the signs disappeared as quickly as they had arrived.

A month ago the contractors for Barnet's lighting sprang another surprise when, with no consultation with anyone, they



planted a proliferation of 6m high black lamp posts, "like an invasion of triffids," said one resident. The RA's Trees and Open Spaces Committee held meetings with the contractors and devised a rather less frightening scheme. 11 new lamp posts will be removed and replaced by three 6m posts in the passage down to Willifield Way and eight 5m posts topped by the traditional lantern shown here. "A more satisfactory solution," says RA council member Tony Ghilchik who has been handling the lighting brief on the committee.

Note: With a nudge from Cllr John Marshall and the RA complaints to officers, Barnet have now been persuaded to remove the remaining turquoise signs from Little Wood and Northway Gardens.



Well-behaved rebels on the Suburb

PHOTOGRAPH: INIVA KALASHNIKOVA



Libyan rebel Mufth(sic) Albruk poses outside the eleven-million pound Suburb home of Saif Gaddafi, one of Muammar Gaddafi's sons, seized in March by British-based Libyans. As squats go this one takes some beating: It features 12 bedrooms, indoor pool and a home cinema with suede-lined walls. Mr Albruk, a British-based student, says the occupation is intended to seize the house for the Libyan people.

The banner on the roof is the rebel flag with February 17 on it, the date the uprising started. The rebels now have squatters rights and pride themselves on good behaviour. There are no parties, the place is immaculate and local residents are to be invited to an At Home. "We'll invite the neighbours for dinner," Mr Albruk told Suburb News.

CHRIS STEPHEN

70 years between neighbours

The royal wedding day saw a double celebration with the 90th birthday of RA life member Jean Neal and Hannah Blausten's 20th. "They are probably the oldest and newest Suburb women

to have been to Cambridge," says Douglas Blausten who sent the picture. Hannah is in her first year at St Catherine's College while Jean came down from Newnham in 1948 when, being a woman, she was not allowed to be awarded her

degree. 50 years later in 1998 it was awarded and Jean was able to collect her degree. The Neals and the Blausten families have been Meadway neighbours for 60 years. Are you living a bit of Suburb history? Suburb News welcomes pictures and stories.



Now where's mummy? Mothering Sunday at St Jude's saw children distributing spring flowers to their mothers and all the rest of the congregation.



litchfields

22 years of successfully selling & renting in hampstead garden suburb



A driver demolished the dwarf wall at the end of Heathgate, along the grass verge adjacent to the york stone path and then crashed into the decorative retaining wall fronting on to the Heath Extension. The car crashed into a section which had been rebuilt in the 1980's and one of the original piers. The pier fell off, but is still partially intact. Sunshine Corner is part of the Grade II listed Great Wall designed by Charles Padget Wade and is the most high-profile public space owned and maintained by the Trust on the Suburb. It has been the subject of a three-year phased programme of repair and conservation by the Trust. The final phase of landscaping to the outer court and areas either side of the york stone path which is due to be undertaken in the 2011/12 financial year, has been slightly delayed by the incident.



Bigwood coppicing continued in March with a band of stalwarts from the RA's trees and open spaces committee. The intention is to clear the undergrowth of fast growing hazel to let light through to the forest floor and allow wildflowers and insects to flourish.

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 Views expressed in Suburb News are not necessarily those of the publishers.
 Deadline for the Summer issue is mid June for publication late July.
 RA web site www.hgs.org.uk