



Jewellery maker Kochi Okada talks to Suburb Style, p7



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Suburb oak saved

"TREE FELLING WOULD CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL HARM," SAYS INSPECTOR



Threatened trees in Lucas Crescent

Following the Public Enquiry on 27 September the Planning Inspector, on October 13, upheld Barnet's refusal to allow the felling of a large oak tree on the EDF site in Northway adjacent to the Tea House.

Residents will remember that the campaign to save the tree involved the Residents Association and in particular its Trees and Open Spaces Committee, the

Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and many individuals. Strong support was given all along by Councillor John Marshall. At the Public Enquiry, those opposed to the felling were well represented and the Inspector was able to gauge the strength of public feeling on this matter.

At the core of the Inspector's decision was his view that the tree is an important and irreplaceable element in the landscape and that there are other ways of dealing with the real or supposed damage caused by large trees. It is to be hoped that the implications of this judgment will be considered in relation to other possible applications made to fell our trees, which is so often the destructive way in which insurance companies try to deal with the problem of subsidence here.

EVA JACOBS

Trust manager Jane Blackburn said "This is brilliant news,

congratulations to all at Barnet for seeing this one through. The Trust is delighted to have been able to support the local authority and the residents at the hearing. I hope this decision augurs well for the Willifield Way/Lucas Crescent oaks and the 9 Asmunds Hill oak too."

In his decision the inspector said, "I conclude that the group of TPO and other trees at the substation, together with those at the Tea House and Friends Meeting House, collectively make a very important contribution, both visually and historically, to the Hampstead Garden Suburb conservation area.

As a member of that group, tree T1 has significant amenity value. It follows that its felling would cause substantial harm to the conservation area's character and appearance."

He agreed that damage to the Teahouse was consistent with tree related subsidence but said



this does not justify the proposed felling. "From an engineering and construction point of view, it appears there is no technical

obstacle preventing the Tea House from being successfully underpinned, and no reason why this should not provide an

effective and reliable solution to the subsidence problem, without the need for any loss of trees."

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

The Institute Arts centre for sale

Only four years after opening the prize winning Arts Centre off Bishops Avenue The Institute announced in September that its council had decided to sell the building. The Institute sold its original building, which was taken over by Henrietta Barnett

School, for nine million pounds plus £750,000 for equipping new premises. The deal was done in 1998 and gave the Institute a five year rent free period in the school building while it looked for a new home. Institute accounts since 2005 have shown operating

deficits of more than a £million every year since the move from Central Square to the McDonalds building in East Finchley.

"We have already reduced our losses considerably," says Joy Solomon, appointed as Principal in 2009. "But it is clear that for The Institute to be able to continue offering quality affordable adult education in North London, we have no choice but to sell the Arts Centre. This sale is part of a planned development to secure The Institute's long-term future. The Council of The Institute has approved the sale to enable us to continue to provide viable and first rate adult education. A really positive outcome for The Institute

would be a buyer who is looking for a long term investment but is prepared for us to use the building on a lease-back basis."

The Principal confirmed that courses at The Arts Centre will be running as scheduled until July 2012.

The Institute, founded by Dame Henrietta Barnett in 1909, provides adult education to some 6,000 students from across North London. It is a much loved local institution. It is planned to make it a sustainable adult education resource for the local community.

"Securing and sustaining Adult Education at The Institute is our primary goal", said Joy Solomon, Principal of The Institute in East Finchley. "Our students will always come first for us and continuity of provision is our primary objective."



Campaigning pays off for new resident trustee

Dr Zadka won last month's election for a place on the Trust Council, as one of four elected resident trustees, with a substantial majority. The numbers of votes cast by Trust members were: Saul Zadka 323, Claire Calman 205 and Carol Boulter 185.

It was a first in the history of, usually low key, Trust elections in that Dr Zadka and his supporters of the Concerned Residents group had campaigned actively initially in getting many Trust members and then by door to door campaigning for votes.

Announcing the result, chairman Angus Walker said, "On behalf of the trustees I welcome Dr Zadka to the council. We look forward to his help in the work of the Trust and in strengthening its communications with residents."

A Suburb resident for five years, academic Saul Zadka, 53, and his partner Sylvie Pacquet live in Holyoake Walk. Their seven year old son, Eden, attends Brookland School. An older son, Alon, is post graduate at the LSE.

Saul was born in Jerusalem where he went to school and university with a spell in the army in between.

A PhD in military history from King's College was funded by acting as a foreign correspondent. He has been a senior university lecturer in political science and media studies. He now lectures as an international journalist and is to be seen as a commentator on Middle East affairs on BBC and other news programmes.

On the Trust he says he will try to build a better sense of community on the Suburb. "We gave a party in the garden for all our neighbours and I was amazed to find that so many people who, having lived close to one another for years, were

meeting for the first time," he said. He would like to see Trust funds channelled into the social fabric. He supports the idea of a progressive management charge and thinks too much may have been made of its cost by Concerned Residents. "More leaseholders should be encouraged to make voluntary payment."

Satellite dishes and TV masts are something else he hopes the Trust will tackle. But it is in areas beyond the Trust's strict remit that he would like to see it making its influence felt. "It is wrong that, in a conservation area, our pavements, for example, should be so badly neglected."

Eden, Sylvie and Saul Zadka



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