



Suburb News



An optimistic
Suburb library
triumvirate.
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Watching
Angels
celebrating.
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Suburb News

Catch up on all the latest news on and around the Suburb

Suburb News, launched nearly thirty years ago by the Residents Association, was published to "foster community feeling and make sure that everyone knows what is going on in the Suburb." What may have seemed adequate for the last century is not quite quick enough in these days of

instant information. It may have taken us a long time to get round to it but there is now also Suburb eNews to keep members up to date.

Suburb News goes to every household four times a year produced and delivered to you by RA volunteers and funded by

our advertisers. eNews is restricted to Residents Association members of which there are more than 2,000 households; so far we have some 1,300 email addresses.

If you are a member and have not received the first two Suburb eNews send an email to enews@hgs.org.uk.

Strong start for RA Open Meetings

The RA council decided last summer to reduce council meetings to six a year and to use the time, approximately every other month, to invite residents to open meetings to discuss subjects of interest and

make sure that RA policy reflects members wishes. The first two, on Basements and Traffic were well attended, lively meetings that lived up to expectations and gave plenty of food for thought. See reports on pp 2 and 8.

MEET OUR MP

The next RA Open Meeting is on February 14 when Mike Freer MP reflects on the change from Leader of Barnet Council to back bench MP and answers questions from the floor. Fellowship House, 8pm.

Enquiry into RA role over HBS development plans

An Enquiry into the RA's role in the HBS buildings is ending in February. The aim is to answer three questions about the RA's role and actions.

1) Who knew what and when?
2) Given (1), what should have been done with the information?
3) What beyond those measures already adopted, should be done to achieve a good provision of information and action for Suburb residents in respect of major issues in the future?"

The intention is to have a fairly short report produced in the first instance for the RA Council, followed by publication of the report or a summary for Suburb residents.

The Enquiry is not about the aesthetics of the building, or whether or not the buildings could have been prevented or significantly modified, or about what steps might now be taken in relation to them. Nor will it comment on the behaviour of individuals. The focus is the RA as an organisational entity.

The enquiry is expected to cost some £3,000. The John S. Cohen Foundation has donated a generous £1,000.

Dr Margaret Harris, who is conducting the enquiry, is Professor Emeritus of Voluntary Sector Organisation at Aston University, and Visiting Professor at Birkbeck, University of London.

She has more than thirty years' experience of working in and with the voluntary sector and she has published widely on topics concerning the organisation and management of voluntary associations and community groups. Evidence collected will be treated as confidential in the sense that Dr Harris will not share with individuals information or viewpoints provided by other individuals. General and specific invitations to submit written evidence on the questions of the Enquiry have been widely distributed in December and January. For more information on the Enquiry, please contact abbott.s@virgin.net

New Offices, New Era

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 have more flexible 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/letting needs the tender care of dedicated and sensitive professionals who are skilled at this important task.

We have just refurbished our offices which are now bristling with all manner of state of the art technology and there is a private clients car park which you may find very useful.

If you have not used our services before, what a good excuse to pop in and have a chat over coffee, even if it is just about current trends. After all, we are at your service."



020 8458 7311
www.glentree.co.uk



The Residents Association's thirteenth Fireworks Party in St Jude's and on Central Square went without a hitch and was probably attended by more people than ever. RA Chairman Janet Elliott said "It's an awful lot of work for David Littaur and his Events Committee and it was gratifying to see so many enjoying it."



Trust consults

Residents were invited by the Trust to attend a meeting at the Landy Gallery in Norrice Lea in December to be consulted about new proposals for the conduct of consultations. Chairman Angus Walker explained what the Trust council had in mind following criticism of consultation procedures over the HB school extensions on Central Square and said that the council had reviewed its procedure to ensure that major planning decisions are the subject of full and genuine consultation with residents of the Suburb.

20th year of Proms

The 20th Proms at St Jude's Festival will run this year from 23 June to 1 July. As well as a top line-up of musical talent, a literary weekend will feature for the first time. Leaflets will be distributed locally but keep an eye on www.promsatstjudes.org.uk for the latest information. To enjoy priority booking, become a Friend – see website, email promsfriends@gmail.com or ring 8455 1025.

A cultural Olympics

The world is coming to London for the Olympics. Actually, the world is already here – living on the Suburb. During the weekend of July 15/16 the Residents Association, together with the Free Church are intending to host an exhibition featuring the various nationalities, ethnic and cultural groupings represented here. It will be held in the Free Church on Central Square. Are

you prepared to be involved? We are looking for displays of all kinds; anything that represents a particular national, ethnic or cultural identity. This is a great opportunity to share ourselves with one another and we want you to be part of it.

If you are interested or want to know more, please contact Ian Tutton, Minister, HGS Free Church, itutton@aol.com, 8457 5898.



The 100th AGM

of the Association will take place on Monday March 26 2012 at 8pm in the Free Church, Central Square.

Motions for the agenda must be received by 13 February 2012. Nominations for the posts of officers and members of the Council must be received by 16 March 2012.

They should be submitted in writing, signed by proposers and seconders and have the consent of nominees. Please send notices of motions and nominations to:

The Assistant Secretary, Rosemary Goldstein,
1a Church Mount, N2 0RW