



It was a lovely day on November 6 for the North London Hospice's annual sponsored walk on the heath Extension, led by Cllr John Marshall and Dr Simon Gideon. The girl on the right, back row next to the end, Heidi Park is a nurse on placement at the Hospice



48 Erskine Hill NW11 6HG will open on 3 June

Henlys Corner completed

The Holiday Inn Express overlooking Henlys Corner was the venue for the 13th January 2012 celebrations of the completed highway works.

The red carpet was rolled out for Mayor Boris Johnson, Mike Freer MP, Assembly Member Brian Coleman, the Leader of Barnet Council plus TfL representatives, contractors, police and local residents numbering towards 100. The Friday afternoon event included tours of the completed junction where works had begun Monday 7th February 2011. The Mayor of London, previously

Member of Parliament for Henley, claimed "hoots of unalloyed approval" from passing motorists. Taking inspiration from La Delivrance the 'Naked Lady' just across the road (unveiled in 1927) he cloaked himself in the mantle of a modern day liberator, not of Paris but of pedestrians and road users in this part of North London, sentiments echoed by the Leader of Barnet Council. At 4.10pm the upgraded North West portal to the Suburb was declared completed.

LESTER HILLMAN

A real treat for garden lovers

Suburb residents who enjoy visiting other people's gardens are in for a treat in 2012, as thirteen gardens in the locality will be opening for charity in the Spring and Summer months under the aegis of the National Gardens Scheme (Yellow Book).

Look out for full details in future editions of Suburb News, on the NGS website which can be found at www.ngs.org.uk and in the GS Yellow Book 2012 itself, out soon.

MARJORIE HARRIS

LETTERS

Raeburn Close, NW11 6UH

Sir,
Now that the Institute is up for sale why can't it return to its rightful place? May I suggest, as the school is empty at night, it would benefit the school financially and would delight all those friends whose trips to the classes were such a great joy.

Yours
Joyce Dent

Asmunds Hill, NW11 6ET

Sir,
With reference to the 'Suburb oak saved' articles in the Autumn 2011 edition of Suburb News, we thought you would be interested to know the situation regarding the oak tree we are fortunate to have in our own garden in Asmunds Hill.

For the past year our insurers (Aviva/Crawfords) have been monitoring our house for subsidence. The oak tree was implicated, along with several smaller, younger trees sited nearer the house.

Our insurers initially reported that they wanted the oak tree removed. I am delighted to say that they have now agreed it can remain, 'because it predates the house and there is a risk of heave'. Although we are relieved by the outcome, it has been a disturbing experience to discover how devoid of 'soul' (by which I mean regard for aesthetics and our environmental heritage) insurance companies can be.

Yours
Carolyn Simon

Forecast unpredictable

As always, the weather has yet again given us something to talk about, if not, at different times, to celebrate or complain about.

After the 2010 coldest December for over fifty years as shown by these North London records, we are told that 2011 was the second warmest year in a record stretching back 353 years. (Guardian 2/1/2011). This is a Central England average of four weather stations enclosing a large area of central England. The unseasonable autumn warmth has meant all sorts of flowers coming out earlier or later than usual.

Rainfall throughout the year has fallen unpredictably. October is normally the wettest month with an average 3.3 inches, nearly half an inch more than the second wettest, January, which has 2.85 inches. This year, however, October received only 0.86 inches, with only April and March getting less. It was the second driest October in thirty years.

As both September and November had much smaller amounts than usual and December was also just below normal, the

four months of September to December, at 6.29 inches, received little more than half the average of 11.21 inches. Certainly, the first week of January looks as if it is trying to make up for lost rainfall, but this is when ground-water must be replenished if trees and plants are not to suffer. So perhaps we should hope for a wetter remaining winter than usual.

Spring and autumn were dry this year, meaning hoses were needed for the garden in spring. The summer months of June to August were wet (and cool as well, making us wonder where summer had gone).

So, in the end, the yearly rainfall total of 25 inches, although well below the mean of 29.75 inches, was not really dry. It can be compared with the lowest recorded in these North London readings in 2005 when 21.83 inches fell.

Can we hope 2012 will be a little more like what we expect and, especially, we may be able to enjoy warm, dry (but not too dry!) summer days? Of course we can't, but nevertheless a good, weather-wise year to all.

DIANA IWT

Newcomers win flower showprizes

New names appeared on the list of cups and medals and other prizes awarded to Flower Show and Suburb in Bloom 2011 winners by the HGS Horticultural Society at its AGM held on Tuesday 8 November, at Fellowship House.

As she worked out the points won over the two 2011 shows, Show Secretary Yvonne Oliver was delighted to discover that several of the cups and medals were going to be awarded to people who had either entered the flower shows for the first time, or had never won these particular cups before.

First-time winner Adam Crossan won the Wildwood Cup for Dahlias, as well as the London Dahlia Society Bronze Medal. Sujata Deakin, a regular competitor, also struck gold for her roses for the first time with the award of the Maurice Brewer Memorial Cup and the Royal National Rose Society Bronze Medal, and her HGS Jubilee Medal for cut flowers. David Golya, won the Leonard Potiphar Cup for the best vegetables in the September show at his first attempt, and society Chairman Michael Franklin won not one, but two, cups for the first time – the Fellowship Cup for pot plants and the WH Cutbush Challenge Cup for flower-arranging, as well as an HGS Jubilee Medal. Pamela Hall and Patricia Larsen shared the Norman Wheatley Cup for Sweet Peas.

But the regular winning names at the shows were not neglected, with Gill Read walking off with the Merriman Fruit Cup, the Marshall Roberts Cup for Preserving, the Dudman Challenge Cup for the overall winner of Domestic Economy, a joint share of the Alice Dennant Memorial Cup



Not newcomers but old timers. Joan Rees Philips, vice president presents a handful of cups to Gill Read

for cut flowers from seed and two HGS Jubilee Medals, for cookery and preserving and fruit. Ken Murrell won the Championship Vase for the highest points achieved in the horticultural classes, the 30th Anniversary Cup for Vegetables, the RHS Banksian Medal for the highest prize-winner, the London Dahlia Society Silver Medal and the HGS Jubilee Medal for Vegetables.

In the children's classes, Melissa Redman won the Winifred Price Cup (5-8 years) and Charlotte Croft won the Jack Rumbold Children's Cup (9-11 years).

Other cup and medal winners were: Diane Berger, Adrian Dell, Caroline Egen, Marjorie Harris, Sally Murrell, Yvonne Oliver, Chris Page and Ruta Teteris.

In the society's annual best Suburb garden competition, the Suburb in Bloom 2011 Millennium Cup and first prize were awarded to Chris Page (Wordsworth Walk), with second prize going to Diane Berger (Willifield Way) and third prize to Yvonne and Peter Oliver (Asmunds Hill).

MARJORIE HARRIS

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