



Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Suburb News



The Archer has a new Academy in his sights, see page 8



No fireworks party this New Year, see below

Read about Pierre-Emmanuel's life and loves of the Suburb, page 6



Trust invests in Suburb property

Despite excitement generated by the election for a resident trustee the Trust AGM turned out to be a routine affair. Chairman Angus Walker welcomed members and guests who included Mervyn Miller, the Trust's life president, Janet Elliott, Chairman of the HGS Residents Association and councillors for the Suburb Ward, John Marshall and Andrew Harper.

Among a number of questions from the floor the chairman was asked about the loss generated by the the previous investment policy. He told the meeting that the Trust now has a policy of investing in residential property on the Suburb.

The Report and Accounts were received without dissent and the auditors were reappointed, after a five year review, again without dissent. The Trust was reported to have continued to consolidate its financial position; its reserves are now half way back to where they were in real terms in 1963 and to have succeeded in stimulating lively participation in its Council and advisory committees with the addition of 20 resident volunteers, many nominated by the Residents Association. There are also four nominated, non-resident Trustees.

Janet Elliot moved a motion of thanks for the work of the Trustees and staff of the Trust. The chairman thanked Judith Chaney and paid tribute to her dedication during her three years as an elected trustee and previously as a volunteer, when she was largely responsible for organising the Suburb Character Appraisal. He was glad that she would be continuing and running a new tree survey.

Manager Jane Blackburn then introduced Claire Calman and Dr Gloria Moss, candidates for election to the place on the Trust Council vacated by Professor Judith Chaney. Each made a brief statement and answered questions put to them by members.



Tree-Lovers - Your Suburb Needs YOU!

Conservation is not about the past; it's about the future and, when it comes to the Suburb's living landscape – its trees, gardens and hedges, that is especially true. A survey of the Suburb's trees is now underway and we need volunteers to help assist. You don't need to be a tree expert or even have a particular interest in trees.

The survey is being done by the Trust with the support of the

Residents Association and LBB. Volunteers from the Trust and the RA Trees and Open Spaces Group have just finished a pilot survey of the trees in the Central Square area. They found that 13 of the 17 major oaks that predate the building of the Suburb still survive. Two trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) were missing and others were in very poor condition. The group were also testing the criteria they had developed for identifying trees which are particularly important to the landscape and which might be considered for TPOs in the future.

The survey results will provide an objective base from which to plan for the conservation, planting and replanting of trees on the Suburb.

The intention is to survey the whole Suburb using volunteers. Judith Chaney, the project co-ordinator believes that the

success of the Suburb Character Appraisal demonstrates that Suburb volunteers can produce high quality results. "When we pool our efforts, it is astonishing what can be achieved." She is keen to emphasise the different types of experience which are required. "Of course we need people who are knowledgeable about trees, but we would also like to hear from residents with any experience of maps and mapping, IT skills particularly in programmes such as excel spread-sheets and photoshop, data entry, photography, report writing and editing. All these skills are relevant."

If you are interested in helping us in any way, do please join us by emailing treesurvey@hgstrust.org. A meeting at which potential volunteers can learn more will be held later in the Autumn and the main survey will get underway in Spring 2013.



Trustee election

The election of a new Trust Council member in September resulted in a decisive win for Claire Calman. The votes cast by Trust members, as announced by the Trust's auditors, were: for Claire Calman 561, for Dr Gloria Moss 311.

At the AGM Claire Calman had said that the Trust needed to improve its communications. After the election a delighted Claire Calman told Suburb News, "Getting to know this extraordinary place has been rather like falling in love. But, setting my passion for the place to one side for a

moment, it all seems very clear to me: The Suburb is unique and beautiful – an unexpected, unrivalled part of London; Its architecture, landscape and heritage need protection; The Trust is the best-equipped organisation (professionally-run, legally-empowered) to protect the Suburb; therefore, it is simply common sense to help support the Trust.

"I will do my best to deserve the confidence my nominees, and all who voted for me, have in my ability to serve the Suburb."



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Celebrating Summer instead of New Year

When the Residents Association started its New Year's Eve party in St Jude's and fireworks on the

square the only real costs were the wine and fireworks. That was for the millennium in

1999/2000. Since then the expense involved in health and safety measures and in managing the event and has escalated to the extent that the Council has reluctantly decided that the funds earmarked for the 13th New Year's Eve party would be much better spent expanding the Summer Picnic on the Square.

The Picnic was a big success in 2011 and, despite uncertain weather, was much appreciated in July this year.

Our hope is that more Suburb organisations and businesses will join us in putting on a spectacular all-Suburb event, perhaps over a weekend. We would like to build on what we have so far achieved, involving and being enjoyed by more residents.

Institute nearly there

The search for a buyer for the Institute Arts Centre seems almost to have been concluded.

Greville Waterman who, since our last issue, has been confirmed as chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute council told Suburb News, "Contracts have yet to be exchanged but we have accepted an offer for the

Arts Centre that gives us use of the building for the 2012/13 academic year, an upfront payment to pay off the bank overdraft and sufficient surplus to find new premises for 2013/14."

He expects the latest end of year figures to show a break even position, the first for many years, following a year of cuts

combined with a successful prospectus. "Our key objective is to ensure survival; we have to cut our cloth accordingly and make the organisation fit for purpose," he said. He would welcome new blood on the council "particularly people with knowledge of property and financial management."