

Suburb parents working to create a new local secondary school

PHOTO BY PHILIP VILE



The Archer – a 3m high statue on East Finchley station by Eric Aumonier erected in 1940.

A group of Suburb residents are at the heart of the team who are in the process of setting up a new local secondary school, the Archer Academy.

Brookland parents and Suburb residents Cathy Whitelock, Sarah Pearce, Toby Blume and Alex Taylor-Yeates are part of a 12-strong team who have been working to put together a proposal for the school as part of the government's free schools initiative. And back in July, their efforts paid off as their plans were given the go-ahead by the Department for Education.

The school will open in September 2013 as a non-

denominational, non-selective school for girls and boys with places for 150 children in each year group. It will specialise in English and Maths with a vision based on three core values: realising potential, inspiring creativity and engaging with the community.

Cathy explains, "Brookland children, like many others in our area, don't have an automatic follow-on school to go to with their friends as there is no mixed community school nearby. Instead, the Year 6 children are scattered all over the place to a mixture of faith schools, selective schools and

after approximately 50+ reports on the HGS email list, it seems there may be some device in operation that manages to open cars at will.

When we discovered that our car had been opened, rifled through and contents taken, we assumed we had forgotten to lock it. A dozen times later, we've discounted amnesia and realised that this is a serious problem. It would appear that someone is opening the car and removing anything of value. There is no forced entry and

private schools or their parents move to live in the catchment of a good community school.

All this makes the transition to secondary school so much more stressful for the children and their families whereas a good local school that they could all go up to together would be brilliant for everyone. That's why I decided to get involved with the Archer Academy and why I'm so delighted that the Department for Education have given our plans the thumbs up." However, there was no time for the team to sit back and enjoy the good news as they are now on a countdown to welcoming their first intake next September. Chief amongst their tasks is securing a suitable site for the school and recruiting a headteacher.

Sarah, who will be the school's vice-chair of governors, says, "The first thing everyone wants to know is, 'Where is the school going to be?' We would love to tell everyone more about our plans for our site but in order to make our negotiations as straightforward as possible we need to keep them confidential.

As soon as everything is signed and agreed we'll make an announcement but until then, rest assured that we're on the case. We're working very closely with experts from the Department for Education, the Education Funding Agency and Barnet Council and are confident that we'll have everything in place within plenty of time.

We're very excited about recruiting our headteacher and we're in the middle of that process now. We've had some strong applications from experienced,

dynamic individuals and we're looking forward to introducing the successful candidate to our community."

Admissions to the Archer Academy for September 2013 are now open and, because it is a new school, are being run independently of Barnet Council. The deadline for applications to the school is 13 February 2013.

As Toby explains, "For this first year parents need to complete a separate application form to apply for the Archer Academy which they can find on our website. They may then end up with two choices in March; one from us and one from whichever school their local authority has allocated them.

It's really unusual for parents to have a choice of state schools on Offers Day and, of course, by the time they need to make a decision they'll know where the school is going to be and who the headteacher is. So it's a great opportunity for current Year 6 children and their parents."

In the meantime the team will continue to press on with their pre-opening plans with the help of their panel of experts. As Alex explains, "We're working with a wide range of advisors, from educationalists and school governors to design and marketing professionals, to make sure our school lives up to our community's expectations. We've got a lot to do but it's worth every minute we're spending to provide our children with the local school they so desperately need."

To submit an application, download the prospectus or to find out more, visit the Archer Academy website at www.thearcheracademy.org.uk.

LETTERS

Falldon Way, NW11 6LP

Sir

Yet another leaflet from the Concerned Residents the contents of which are pugnacious, vexatious and polemical. All the allegations are supercilious.

It beggars belief how anyone can link communism with the Suburb's glossy newsletter, Suburb News. It is a very useful publication that keeps residents informed of what is going on on the Suburb. Neither the residents nor the Trust pay anything towards its publication.

Indeed Pravda is not dead. It is alive and kicking in the Concerned Residents and it appears in the well-sharpened weapons of distortion. Its Bolshevik is alive and kicking, ready to ignite revolution and division among Suburb residents.

Richard Wakefield – if he did act as editor – what breach did he commit? Terry Brooks wrote in Suburb News asking for residents to vote for Claire Calman. What was wrong with that? Like most of us he feels Claire Calman, being an independent candidate would be impartial to Suburb needs. Ultimately it is the residents' choice.

The Suburb is unique. It is acclaimed internationally for its beautiful architecture. We who live in the Suburb, whether in a magnificent house or a cosy cottage, have a duty to preserve its environment, character and fabric.

Mrs Blackburn, the Trust manager, only made her observation about the surveyor's decision in respect of the management charge, and took less than a quarter of the front page in issue 110. Had she taken more space, so what?

The Trust is neither a poodle nor a watchdog. In its administration the Trust must adhere to the Scheme of Management as outlined by the court.

Criticism about the extension to the Henrietta Barnett School is unnecessary. The plans and drawings were available for residents to inspect and make comments. The Trust was not expected to go knocking house to house for residents' comments. There is nothing wrong with the extension. A difference of almost a hundred years in the two buildings is bound to project. The school is a beautiful building and is the jewel in the Suburb's crown.

In the end I must state I knew Dr Raphael Papadopoulos long before Dr Saul Zadka came into the picture. In May 2007 Dr Papadopoulos phoned me and asked me to come to his house in Asmunds Place to discuss the management charge and to complete an application to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal. There were two or three other

ladies present. I told Dr Papadopoulos that there were no grounds on which he could file the application to the LVT and it would be rejected. During the course of that of that meeting Dr Papadopoulos calculated what the management charge would be or could be in a few years' time. One of the ladies present remarked, "I do not think we could afford to live here."

It is time Dr Papadopoulos and the Concerned Residents stopped their antics.

Yours

Pamela N Dua
BA, LLB, DAP, ACIS, FPC

Asmunds Place, NW11 7XG

Sir

In an article entitled 'A plea to put the Suburb first' you seem to regard that it is within the editor's rights to urge residents to vote for Mrs Calman in the 2012 Trust Council elections and presumably against Dr Gloria Moss who derives part of her support from the Concerned Residents. You justify this on the grounds that 'the Trust need our support now not a kind fifth column within its own membership'. Yet the Suburb News is financed by the subscriptions of the residents a substantial section of which disputes the wisdom and legality of certain policies and actions of the current Trust Council. The election of the Concerned Residents' candidate to the Council last year offers proof that we reflect the views and concerns of an important section, – if not the majority – of the Trust's members.

This raises the question as to whether the Trust Council is bound to take into account the views of residents who pay the bulk of its expenses. Hence we propose to question the prudence and appropriateness of your 'personal views' and your 'fifth column' theory.

Yours, for the Concerned Residents,
Dr Raphael Papadopoulos

The editor would like to thank Dr Papadopoulos for the expression of his opinion and wishes to point out that Suburb News, Suburb e-News and the Suburb Directory are not financed by RA subscriptions. They aim to be, and generally are, self-supporting through their advertising revenue.

I did not claim to speak for anyone but myself, and certainly not 'an important section, or majority, of Trust members'. It was quite clear that what I wrote represented my personal views, for what they are worth.

Unlocking the mystery of the Suburb cars...

As night falls in the peaceful Suburb streets, residents relax in their homes safe in the knowledge that their cars are parked securely outside. Or are they? A strange phenomenon is sweeping our streets and we seem powerless to prevent it.

When we discovered that our car had been opened, rifled through and contents taken, we assumed we had forgotten to lock it. A dozen times later, we've discounted amnesia and realised that this is a serious problem. It would appear that someone is opening the car and removing anything of value. There is no forced entry and

after approximately 50+ reports on the HGS email list, it seems there may be some device in operation that manages to open cars at will.

After speaking with the car dealerships (Mercedes & Audi) and with their Head Office Press Offices they denied knowing of any such issue – perhaps they should take my doctor's appointment for amnesia. The cynic would suggest that such stakeholders are trying to keep the situation quiet.

The police have had many a report of cars being mysteriously opened and after speaking with both BBC Top

Gear and Watchdog – who came to the Suburb and spent the day knocking on resident's doors, interviewing residents and filming – they confirmed the issue exists (but didn't have enough proof to feature it). I have tried to get it published as much as possible as I can't believe it's happening just in our area.

We are now two years on and the issue is still occurring. We are fortunate to live in an area where residents still talk to each other (albeit via email!) and so I wonder where else this is happening where people are still driving themselves mad thinking they are not locking their cars and not speaking to their neighbours about it.

Last night I woke up at 4am to hear a car outside and after thinking, 'Right. Caught them' and nearly executing a citizen's

arrest on the paper boy, I decided enough was enough.

I have a few options to get to the bottom of this: 1. Sleep in the boot of the car until someone opens it, but then it would be frustrating if I didn't wake up; 2. Install some kind of motion sensor in the glove box (you may think somewhat Tomorrows World but us IT Geeks get off on this kind of stuff!) or 3. Install a camera to watch the cars during the night.

I decided to go for the last option and to install a recorded camera in the bedroom to watch the cars. I have had sign-off from my wife as long as I turn on the microphone and keep it firmly pointing out of the windows!

Let's hope we eventually get some footage of how they do it and what they look like.

MARC LESTER

G Cohen
ANTIQUÉ SILVER

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