

## Asmunds' oak reprieved



There was a resounding cheer and jubilant applause for the near unanimous decision by councillors to keep the magnificent oak at the rear of 7 Asmunds Hill on Tuesday April 9. Tony Gilchik spoke in support of the tree from the perspective of HGS residents and the Trees and Open Spaces Committee, and Nick Packard explained the Trust's engineering report. The tree was cited as causing damage to a modern extension,

but pertinent questions from two councillors in particular, John Marshall and Hugh Rayner, highlighted the flaws in the insurer's arguments. One of the usual suspects was responsible for this survey which, as usual, tried to lay sole blame at the roots of the tree. The Trust's surveyer disagreed and highlighted likely other causes which were taken up by the councillors. John Marshall said, "it would be sacrilege to take this tree down." One of the reasons we love living here is the natural environment, and we must be vigilant in stopping insurers taking a perceived easy way out. After all, we pay hefty insurance premiums to deal with our property issues, not raze glorious old trees to the ground. Thank you to those who came along to support us on Tuesday and to the 125 who wrote in to Barnet opposing this felling application.

SUSANNE BRAMSON

## An apple tree for Henrietta

When Betty Law looks out of her window now she can see her very own tribute to Henrietta Barnett – a beautiful young apple tree.

"I feel so grateful to Henrietta, for the wonderful schooldays (1935-40) as a scholarship girl from Cricklewood and for the life-long friends I made at the school." Now living in The Orchard, Hampstead Way, with Fellowship House a few minutes away and still so near her beloved school, Betty feels she owes so much to Dame Henrietta.

Betty was the inspiration behind the restoration of the Bernetts' memorial in the church-

yard of St Helen's, Hangleton, East Sussex, which had been sadly forgotten and shockingly neglected for many years.

And now, 'Core Blimey', the apple tree chosen by Betty with the help of The London Orchard Project: Urban Fruit for Urban Communities. Residents of The Orchard should be enjoying the fruit of this tree for years to come.

If you would like to enquire about flats at The Orchard, please call Jill Purdie, 8458 5042 or Sally Lewis, 8458 3663, or you can email orchardhousing@btconnect.com.

## Dawn Orr 1931-2012

Dawn was educated in New Zealand where she met her future husband, Robert, but came to England and was married here in 1955. They did not settle permanently on the Suburb until 1964. Nancy, their third daughter was born in Asmunds Hill. Another move to Erskine Hill in 1971, brought three families with three daughters each, into happy neighbouring proximity! So there were always lots of children and visitors around and later numerous grandchildren.

For many years Dawn was on the staff of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, helping to sort out planning applications.

She was also a member of the HGS Conservation Area Advisory Committee and until 1991 she taught English at Albany College, staying in touch with her students until long after her retirement. She did voluntary work for the local Abbeyfield Home which she helped to found, becoming honorary secretary when it was established as an independent society. She was made an Honorary Life Member of the RA in 1993 for her services to the Suburb.

After Robert's death in 2003 and despite increasing infirmity, Dawn managed to make further trips home to New Zealand. But she loved the Suburb most of all.

DIANA WOODFIELD

## Residents meet on Tea House future

Residents at the Open Meeting on March 6 heard from Trust Manager Jane Blackburn on the current situation regarding the Tea House in Northway.

It was built by the Trust in 1923. In 1952 it was let on a 999 year lease to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute who sold it in October 2008 to its present owner LSG Capital for £750,000 which went into the Institute's funds.

The building, which is in poor structural condition, suffers from subsidence with large cracks visible in the brickwork. Underpinning is required to stabilise the structure.

The lease provides that the owner must use the two flats in the building as residential units and the rest for catering with the right to hire it out. The owner is asking the Trust to vary these covenants so that he can convert the building to a residence. He is entitled to apply to the Lands Tribunal to ask if the lease provisions can be considered obsolete. He is also asking for Trust consent for some alterations for which he also needs planning and listed building consent.

Exploratory discussions have taken place with the Trust but

no commitment has been made. Money paid to the Trust for its agreement to any variations to the lease would be held in trust for the benefit of all residents of the Suburb.

The garages and drive at the rear of the Tea House, accessed off North Square, are owned by the Trust. If the Trust decides to dispose of these, they will have to be offered for sale on the open market to satisfy Charity Commission requirements that the best price reasonably available is being achieved. Several Suburb residents have expressed an interest in acquiring them.

Many people at the meeting expressed concern that the proposals would remove from community use an asset which would be missed and that more importantly this reflected a trend in the suburb in the diminution of community amenities and facilities.

The general consensus was that if the development could not realistically be prevented, it was essential that the Trust secured the best possible deal financially and otherwise for residents and if possible any financial gain should be earmarked for a particular project.

RICHARD WISEMAN

## New look for Theatre Club

### HGS Theatre Club

'The Theatre Club that collects and delivers'

Patron Sir Donald Sinden CBE



After almost 24 years the HGS Theatre Club has changed its logo to clear up a slight confusion that has occasionally arisen over a similarity in name.

We are not the Garden Suburb Theatre that has been in existence for over a hundred years and which directs and produces a whole variety of successful plays at least five times a year in our neighbourhood.

We, on the other hand, are the Club that takes our members on a theatre outing to the West End and elsewhere once a month by coach. We offer a choice of two pickup points, North Square and Barclays Bank, Temple Fortune, and the coach delivers us to the theatre door and, at the end of the performance, returns us back to the Suburb.

We are guided by our members in our choice of plays.

Forthcoming outings will include Passion Play by Peter Nichols with Zoë Wanamaker, Untold Stories by Alan Bennett with Alex Jennings, Race by David Mamet, Merrily We Roll Along by Stephen Sondheim, and our Christmas special From Here to Eternity, the musical.

If any of these fill you with enthusiasm, now is the time we enrol new members. Please ring our Membership Secretary Elaine Grays on 8442 0096 for further details.

We book senior citizens discounted tickets, hire a comfortable coach and hope to offer some magical theatrical experiences. All our members must belong to the HGS Residents Association to join the HGS Theatre Club.

We look forward to having you on board!

VALERIE R CODRON

## RA AGM

(continued from front page)

Brudney, David Littaur, the Rev. Dr Ian Tutton, Richard Wiseman, John Sells and Brian Ingram.

### ALEXANDER STUART GRAY AWARD

John Sells, Chair of Consam, reported that the short list for the award for 2013 had comprised house extensions in Northway, Meadway and Denman Drive, a house in Wildwood Road and a building within the Garden Suburb School. The award was to Louise and Stephen Kalms of Denman Drive for work on an interesting linked extension to

their home. The architect was Nick Brill of the Brill and Owen Architectural Partnership.

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

RA Council had recommended that Alan and Eva Jacobs who had each given many years of work to the Residents Association, Alan as a member of Consam and one of its representatives on the Trust PPC, and Eva as a member of the Council and of the Trees and Open Spaces Committee, be appointed Honorary Life Members.



Alan and Eva Jacobs

CISAR DURAN

## New premises for The Institute

The Institute chairman Greville Waterman announced at The Institute's AGM that as from September 2013 The Institute will be entering into a strategic partnership with Bishop Douglass School.

"Whilst we are retaining access to the specialist art rooms on the ground floor of the Arts Centre as part of our agreement with the Archer Academy, he said, we clearly need more space elsewhere for our other classes, both daytime and evening. We have found this space at Bishop Douglass School. The school, which is located in Hamilton Road (off East End Road) N2 0SQ, within 5 minutes of The Institute, is a thriving secondary school described in its latest glowing OFSTED report as 'a well-ordered, purposeful and safe community.'

Negotiations are currently ongoing between The Institute and the school regarding the number of classrooms which will be available for our use at Bishop Douglass. We will have a number of classrooms in the school's Art Block for our exclusive use for daytime and evening classes and we will also share use of some classrooms with the school. What is even more exciting is that we are currently exploring opportunities for a long term or permanent home on the Bishop Douglass site.

The chairman continued, "This is an exciting moment for The Institute: we have guaranteed our survival, are back from the brink, in the black for the first time in living memory and about to enter into two significant lifelong learning partnerships with two excellent local schools."

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