

# Suburb News

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

The Pandemonium Drummers kick off the start of the Proms at St Jude's (p3)

Ruth Jacobs, inspiration for the RA fun day on the square (p5)

Mad hats were appraised by Jonathan Ross (p9)

## Fun Day on the Square

Several hundred picnickers, entertained by jugglers and magicians, enjoyed a Sunday afternoon on Central Square, on June 23, organised by the Residents Association, and opened by the Mayor of Barnet. Trust chairman Angus Walker expressed the admiration of the HGS Trust Council for the efforts and dedication of the RA in making it such a success.

"The combination of the Fair, picnic and the enthusiastically attended discussions with authors organised by the St Jude's Literary Festival – all in the face of uncertain and discouraging weather – showed that there is enormous social vigour in the Suburb and that all the work of your volunteers, as well as those of the St Jude's Proms, was very well directed. I hope that everybody involved found it a happy and rewarding experience."

Children had mini-roundabouts, and free donkey rides, facepainting and Punch & Judy. The Garden Suburb Theatre put on a dramatic play-reading of 'A Tale of Two Cities', while the local Youth Music Centre and Guildhall Jazz Quartet played during the afternoon.

Tables were manned by 24 local organisations, including the Police Cadets. Donated strawberries sold by Norrice Lea synagogue youth raised £110 for the North London Hospice, and cakes baked by residents, and more donated by Sherrards and Waitrose, raised a further £350 for the Hospice.



Enthralled by Punch and Judy



All the fun of the fair on the square

Since the RA's Centenary event 4 years ago, it has held an annual picnic. This year was an innovation to expand the event to attract more families and for the RA to participate in the special weekend of LitFest and Proms (see pages ?? and ??). The occasion was a resounding success, enjoyed both by picnickers who stayed for the afternoon, and many others who came along after lunch. RA banners across the central path welcomed arrivals and led them by the tables of the library, the police cadets and the numerous local societies. The horticultural table in particular sold out its plants and lots of tickets for the open gardens.

Volunteers stewarded the event, thanks to an organising committee of nominees from the RA's Events team and several co-opted residents who played an enormous part in the planning and on the day, led by Ruth and Michael Jacobs of Constable Close and Chris Rafferty of Eastholm.

## Trust members urged to put Suburb first

The next Annual General Meeting of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust will be in September and this is followed by the election of two new members to the Trust Council. In the Spring 2007 issue of Suburb News I wrote about how, "elected trustees are often co-opted or elected unopposed because of the lack of candidates," and it is a good thing that this is no longer the case. The last few years have seen vigorously contested elections which force members to consider how we feel about the management of our Suburb.

A trustee has to ensure a charity remains true to its charitable purpose and objects as set out in its governing documents. For us this means that our trustees ensure the Trust does all things possible to maintain and preserve the present character and amenities

of the Suburb using the tools at its disposal. Trustees also have to ensure the Trust remains solvent and has the resources necessary to do its job. In our context a trustee should also encourage the continuance and development of the new policy of communication and consultation with residents.

The Trust has the responsibility of maintaining an important example of twentieth century suburban design and is also our best protector against inappropriate development. In order to do this effectively the Trust must not only be able to initiate legal action when necessary, but also

to respond to action taken against it, and to get any external advice it needs to decide on legal or other matters.

I would urge you to vote for candidates who will ensure the Trust continues to be properly resourced and not those who look to reduce its income and hamper its effectiveness. The management charge has remained in its target range for the last five years and remains cheaper than my TV licence or daily newspaper; I would say that is good value for money.

I would also urge you to vote for candidates who will use the

law to defend the Suburb when needed. If owners and developers think that the Trust lacks the will or resources to do so, they will be quick to exploit the weakness. It is up to us to show by our votes that we are prepared to support those who will protect us.

So if you are a member, please vote for the candidates who will put, by supporting the objectives of the Trust, the Suburb first.

Finally it is very important to say that the above represents my personal views and not those of anyone else or any group.

TERRY BROOKS

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## Victory for Barnet CPZ Action Group

Mrs Justice Lang has ruled that Barnet Council acted unlawfully when it hiked permit costs to generate more money for road maintenance. She rejected claims from the north London council that it had the power to raise extra cash through permits.

In April 2011, Barnet Council more than doubled the charge for a resident's first car permit from £40 to £100. The cost of a permit for second cars was pushed up from £70 to £125, and for a third car the permit charge rose from £70 to £150. The council also quadrupled the cost of daily visitor vouchers from £1 to £4.

A group of residents formed the Barnet CPZ Action group, led by East Finchley solicitor David Attfield, in order to challenge the increased costs. They argued that the price hikes were not needed to cover the cost of running the permit scheme, which they said was already in surplus.

The group also said the price increases were "unfairly" loaded on a small proportion of the borough, claiming that just 10% of Barnet residents live in a CPZ.

The council said the extra income was intended to meet projected expenditure for road maintenance and improvements,

concessionary fares and other road transport costs.

But at London's High Court on July 22, Mrs Justice Lang said that the 1984 Road Traffic Regulation Act "is not a fiscal measure and does not authorise the authority to use its powers to

charge local residents for parking in order to raise surplus revenue for other transport purposes." She ordered the council to repay Mr Attfield's parking charges plus his legal costs.

The council said it would appeal against the decision.

## Suburb in Open House London 2013

The 2013 Open House London event will take place over the weekend of 21 and 22 September. As usual hundreds of buildings and sites which are not normally accessible to the general public will be open to the public, free of charge, in an outstanding celebration of London's historic architecture and heritage.

Despite the refusal of Barnet to take part Hampstead Garden Suburb will again be included in the event, through the support of the Residents Association, the Trust and the Free Church.

Refreshments will be offered on both days in the Free Church and in St Jude's where cream teas will be served. The Rev Alan Walker will give a talk at 3pm on Saturday and Sunday on his recent research into the life and

work of Walter Starmer who was the painter of the St Jude's renowned frescoes. The Friends Meeting House, a charming arts and crafts building designed by Fred Rowntree, a member of the Quaker chocolate family will be open on the Sunday. In addition there will be two Guided Walks of the Suburb on Sunday afternoon.

Full details of the event across the whole of London are shown in the Open House London Programme, which is due to be published in August. This will be available to residents, free of charge, from the Garden Suburb Community Library, the Trust offices and the Gallery, [or by post directly from Open House London, 18 Ensign St, London E1 8JD, at a cost of £7.50.

ALAN JACOBS