

Elections for the HGS Trust Council

Every year in late September one or two of the four places for elected Trustees of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust is vacated. In 2013 two places are available; Angus Walker and Geoffrey Marriott are retiring after six years as Trustees.

Candidates can be proposed in the last two weeks of August, closing at 5pm on 30 August.

If more than two candidates wish to stand there will be an election by postal ballot which will be held between 11 September

and noon on 25 September.

This being the Suburb, dark rumours have circulated about the election process. These have been fully investigated and are complete fiction.

The founders of the present Trust set out strict rules for a secret, secure postal ballot, which would be extremely difficult to circumvent.

Only members of the Trust, renewing their membership every three years and formally declaring that they are continuously

resident on the Suburb, are eligible to vote.

The vote is by postal ballot. A numbered voting paper (on marked paper) is sent by post to the home address of each Trust member. The members' auditors, who count the vote, are sent the list of members, with the ballot paper number against each name. Members mark their vote with a cross, sign the paper and return it by post direct to the auditor's office. There the ballot papers are checked as genuine and

numbers and names are checked to ensure that no 'extra' ballot papers can enter the system. Then the votes are recorded. Fake ballot papers would be easily detected.

This process is undertaken by members of the auditor's staff who have no connection with the Suburb or the audit of the Trust's accounts. No possible conflict of interest.

For more information about the election please contact me at the Trust office.

JANE BLACKBURN, TRUST MANAGER

Missing your favourite postman?

No one knows the Suburb like a postman and we get to know them in return. Much consternation, therefore, in some roads when their favourite morning callers told them that they wouldn't be calling any more. "Our rounds are being changed but we will still be here," said Keith Evison. Temple Fortune Lane is saying goodbye to Keith (right) who is now introducing himself to Meadway and Meadway Court.

Lee Newcos will be missed in Willifield Way after more than 10 years on the round, pictured below by John Mathias early one morning.



Richard Wiseman – forthright, frank, and often funny



Richard Wiseman is among the first to announce that he will be standing for election as a Resident Trustee at the HGS Trust AGM in September.

Richard retired a couple of years ago, having spent his working life as a lawyer at Shell; his final position was Global Head of Ethics and Compliance.

He has lived on the Suburb with his family for about 17 years and had associations with it before then – his daughter went to Henrietta Barnett, and one of his sons was at Brooklands School. Now four generations of his family from his three-year-old grandson, who goes to Alyth Kindergarten, to his 88-year-old mother who lives at Birbeck Court enjoy what the Suburb has to offer.

Richard is probably best known as the forthright, frank, and often funny Chairman of the RA's Open Meetings, where he has risen to the challenge of keeping order at some extremely

well-attended and decidedly heated debates. He has been a member of the RA Council for some years, and chaired the review of the RA's strategy, which made recommendations to streamline the organisation and increase consultation with residents. He also quietly contributes in less high-profile roles – for example, by stewarding at the Proms and LitFest and as a member of the Trust's Finance Committee. Now he is keen to make a more substantial effort to enhance the experience of those living on the suburb, make its social and architectural history better known and more accessible, and to help consolidate the work currently done by the Trustees and professional staff. If elected, he would stand

down from the RA to avoid any conflict of interest.

"In recent years, considerable improvement has been made to the physical state of the Suburb, and the extent to which the Trust has been able to carry out its remit in this regard. We are all aware of the controversies that have divided residents in the past, like the HBS extensions and the Trust's old investment policy, but now it's time to move forward," says Richard. "The finances of the Trust are in better shape than they have been for a long time, so we can begin to take a long, hard look at the future of the Suburb. We need to put long-term plans in place for its improvement and raising its profile – to the extent that resources allow."

Michael Franklin – Green fingers and a head for business

Michael Franklin, who will be seeking election to the Trust Council in September, was brought up on the Suburb from the age of eight; he attended the local primary school and a preparatory school in Kingsley

Way (which has now closed). He moved away for some years while raising his family but couldn't wait to return, which he did in 2001.

On his return to the area, and with a longstanding interest

in gardening, he soon became involved with the Suburb's Horticultural Society and has been its chairman for the past five years. He has built on the success of his predecessor, Marjorie Harris, in running the Suburb's most successful society, which has nearly 400 members and a wide-ranging programme of events and activities.

Recently retired, Michael ran a retail business in St Alban's for 40 years, which he describes as a 'happy ship' exemplified by a loyal staff many of whom worked there for decades.

Having experienced the ups and downs of retail, he has a solid business background and is not afraid to make difficult decisions.

Michael is passionate about the traditional values that exist

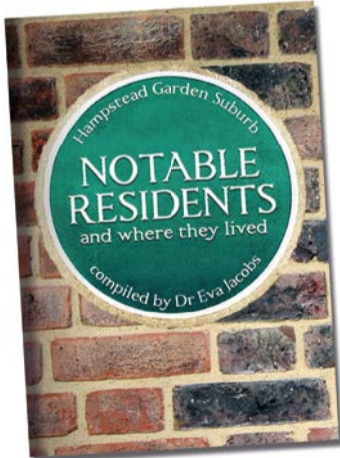
on the Suburb and is determined to maintain its cultural integrity and horticultural traditions.

He is particularly keen to see an improvement in the Suburb's open spaces in a way that is sympathetic to the architecture and the environment of the area. Of course, he understands that improvements of this kind come at a cost, and need widespread support, and at the same time he is keen to ensure that the management charge continues to be wisely spent.

Michael brings energy, financial expertise, passion for the Suburb, strong local links and a determination to maintain the wonderful area that we all value. He realises that he would have a lot to learn but, if elected, can't wait to get on with the job!



Notable Residents



Many people of note have made their home in Hampstead Garden Suburb since its foundation in 1907.

Eva Jacobs, Suburb resident and honorary lifetime member of the Residents Association, approached the Trust in 2010 with her research and proposal for publishing findings on Suburb residents who are known to 'have made a considerable contribution to society'.

Working with the Trust's Education and Publications Assistant Lauren Geisler, Eva

compiled 'Notable Residents and Where They Lived', a 50-page book presented as both a collection of short biographies and self-guided walks through the streets of the Suburb, with map references accompanying each entry and special mention given to existing commemorative plaques.

The inspiration for this project stemmed from the Suburb Centenary Celebrations during 2007-8, for which Eva prepared an exhibition of biographies and maps of notable Suburb characters, at the Church Farm Museum. Those included in the completed book are not necessarily 'celebrities' in the modern sense, but all have made a considerable contribution to society, with the author choosing to give less information about those residents who are in the usual sense 'famous', and more about those to whom the reader's attention may need to be drawn.

Copies of 'Notable Residents and Where They Lived' are available for £4 from the Trust office, Suburb Library, and online from the Trust via Amazon.





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