

# New Fellowship House

As the talk on poetry on September 23 was cancelled, Andrew Botterill stepped into the breach and gave an Illustrated update of the refurbishment works taking place at Fellowship House.

It was the late Eileen Whelan, an Honorary Life Member of the Residents' Association whose generous bequest of £188,500 to Fellowship House after her death in 2010, provided the spark for improving the building. Fellowship House was originally built in 1910 with two storeys and a tower at one end. In 1940, the old Clubhouse was hit by a German bomb, and half the site was sold off. The present building dates from 1957.

Fellowship already had funds totalling £51,500 but this amount

plus the bequest, totalling almost a quarter of a million pounds, were insufficient to carry out the required works. An appeal was made in 2013 which brought in a further £108,000, making a grand total of £348,000.

Discussions on what needed to be done took place over several months; the plans went out to tender and eventually contractors were chosen. Permission of the Trust and Barnet Council was sought, and in August this year, work finally began. It was decided to take out a fixed price contract – 100 pages long – the advantage being that if any major faults were found during the works, they could be rectified without any extra payments being made.

The roof was already falling in so structural engineers were called in to measure the strains and stresses of the metal. Better acoustic quality will be provided by installing a new ceiling. Various walls will be removed or pushed out. One which was already bulging would certainly have needed repairing within the next 10 years. Two steel columns will be supported by two large beams. The 1957 replacement building was a flimsy affair, more like a shed, with no insulation and just thin cladding outside. Anyone pushing very hard could have gained entry, in spite of the strict security rules! Now modern safety glass will replace the original glass. There will be a new kitchen, supplied by IKEA which will be more useful for outside caterers. In addition, a new plumbing system will comprise new radiators, pipes and a heating system.

Outside, there will be a courtyard garden. Excavations are being carried out to support the building. The sundial has, with great difficulty, been dug up: its foundations were amazing as they were so deep.

We await the new building with bated breath!



(Above) The original Fellowship 'Club' House designed by Charles Wade in 1909  
(Below) Fellowship House party for long-standing residents



## Leading Musicians join forces for Fellowship

Top musicians have generously agreed to give their services for a fundraising concert in aid of the Fellowship House appeal. The concert which will be held at the Free Church on Sunday November 23 at 2.30pm will feature some of the leading performers in the country, all of whom have connections with the Suburb.

Lucy Roberts Knight, a 2013 International Opera Awards Foundation winner who has sung at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, the Aldeburgh Festival and other notable venues round the world, will be singing a selection of songs by Schubert and Strauss (including favourites such as the rapt Die Nacht and

Zueignung). She will be joined in Handel's Let the Bright Seraphim and the ravishing Eternal Source of Light Divine by the noted trumpeter Deborah Calland and the organist of the Free Church, Jonathan Gregory.

Robert Max, a familiar face both on the Suburb and on the international concert platform, will be performing Brahms's grand, elegiac Cello Sonata No. 1 in E minor with Barry Millington, who will be abandoning his critic's pen for the day. Pierre-Emmanuel LARGERON, a prizewinner at the Paris Conservatoire and elsewhere, will play César Franck's impassioned Violin Sonata with Daniel King Smith, a former piano finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year.

It's a remarkable line-up of talent and in aid of a very worthwhile cause. Tickets cost £10 and are now available from

Sally Botterill, 1 North Square, NW11 7AA, telephone 8458 6352, email sally@northsq.com.

BARRY MILLINGTON



Lucy Knight



Robert Max

## The faithful virgin from Roman times

A recent story in the press related to a scandal about an EU committee issuing a directive compelling restaurants to serve extra virgin olive oil in sealed jars. Dipping bowls and pouring jugs would be outlawed.

This directive was intended to stop cheap, inferior and in all probability adulterated oil being passed off as extra virgin by dishonest restaurateurs. Following an outcry over cost and culture it was quickly withdrawn.

This brings me to a little hobby I have been pursuing. My wife is Italian and one thing she is fussy about (che sorpresa!) is

food and its preparation. That means using extra virgin she can trust. So, in Italy where we have a home, we buy our olive oil from a nearby family-run estate. The olive tree plantations range across the nearby Ernici mountains as they have since Roman times.

We decided a decade ago to test local Suburb interest by importing oil from this estate, run by the Quattrociochi family at Alatri just south of Rome.

Americo Quattrociochi, who runs the business, is keen to point out that his growing methods are organic, that the milling methods meet EU and the International

Olive Oil Council's standards for extra virgin and, consequently, there is no adulteration by oils produced elsewhere.

"Good olive oil should have the taste of fresh grass, not of ripe bananas," he told me. Indeed. If I were the official taster, I should be looking for a fruity, bitter, peppery flavour, one that lingers on the palate without leaving a greasy coating on the lips. Then, everything else being equal, I could truly call it Extra Virgin.

Inquiries can be emailed to: peter\_hodgson@hotmail.co.uk or phoning 458 1311.

PETER HODGSON



## The Suburb Library needs you

In April 2012, the library at 15 The Market Place was saved from closure due to the prompt action of the HGS Residents Association and a very dedicated team of volunteers, to whom the management committee is indebted. Since then the library has been fully operational and continues to be open Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Libraries are at the heart of local communities and we are looking for New Volunteers to help out.

### WHY VOLUNTEER

*This is what Nikola, one of our Volunteers, had to say:*  
I came to London from the Czech Republic to work as a nanny on the Suburb. I was nineteen and I didn't know anyone except my host family so I went to the local library to borrow some books. I discovered that it was a community library and the librarian asked me whether I wanted to be a volunteer librarian and I said yes. The first day, after my CRB check and initial training, I was still not sure what to do, but my colleagues helped and every session became easier. Being a librarian gave me new friends, helped me to improve my English and gave me the confidence to deal with people. I am no longer that shy girl I was when I came, and I am very grateful for that. It also meant that I could add this experience to my CV which allowed me to find the job I always wanted - hotel receptionist. I want to thank all the people working in the library for their patience, their help and for taking me in as part of their team.

I would definitely recommend volunteering, especially to young people. Being a volunteer is a great experience which will give you new friends and the skills you will need to find work.

If you are 16 or over and have a spare morning or afternoon, please email: [mail@gardensuburblibrary.org.uk](mailto:mail@gardensuburblibrary.org.uk) or call into the library to arrange a taster session

