

# TfL Top Schools Award

Brookland Junior School was awarded the School of the Region award by Transport for London (TfL) in November 2014 for their commitment to sustainable travel and work with the wider school community. Three Year 5 pupils attended with School Travel Plan Champion, Bryony Davies.

Jed Langham commented that the day at City Hall was special because "it looked amazing and the views were great, especially of the poppies. The food was also amazing, my lunch was delicious! We were very proud to win the School of the Region award."

Here is what was said about the school: Brookland Junior in Barnet has been awarded School of the Region for taking a whole school approach to their School Travel Plan (STP) work; involving the whole school community including the adjacent Infant school which write their own plan. The STP Champion, Bryony Davies, has effectively embedded this into the school ethos as can be seen from their walking bus, walking zone around the school, unofficial one way system and

many, many more initiatives they undertake each year. It is hard to get all school staff involved in a STP but at Brookland Junior all the staff took part in a pedometer challenge where the children had to guess who would walk the most over a period of time. The STP has been discussed by governors and is also part of the School Development Plan.

The school has had a STP since 2006 and through their ongoing commitment has reduced their pupil car use from 43% to

15% and increased walking from 39% to 51%. The percentage of staff walking to school has also doubled, from 10% in 2006 to 20% in 2014. Local residents are kept informed about the STP via a residents' newsletter.

There are plans for another residents' newsletter in the spring term and more than half of Year 6 has received Bikeability training this year. There are plans to work with the Infant School and neighbours to improve driving and parking.



Front, Jed Langham, Alisa Goldstein, Maya Rosen. Back, Leon Daniels (TfL Managing Director, Surface Transport), Bryony Davies

## Horticultural Society's 100th AGM

The HGS Horticultural Society's 100th Annual General Meeting was celebrated on November 11 in the Free Church Hall by the cutting of a large, beautifully decorated cake. This was executed jointly by Press Officer Marjorie Harris, Chairman Chris Page and Vice-Chairman Yvonne Oliver.

The Horticultural Society was founded in 1909, but no meetings or shows were held for five years during the Second

World War, hence the fact that this was not the 105th AGM!

Afterwards the business of electing and re-electing committee members and handing out cups, medals and prizes to show winners was carried out.

To mark the auspicious occasion by saying thank you, special silver medals were presented to two people who had played a unique role in the society's life for a very long

time. Nigel Sutton had taken countless photographs of the society's events for *Suburb News* and the *Ham & High* and Hilda Williams had set up Fellowship House for meetings until her recent retirement.

In addition gold membership cards were presented to three people who had been members for 50 years – John and Margaret Reeve and Joyce Wheatley. Later Chris Page gave an overview of the very successful year it had been for gardeners, growers and the society; the new committee was duly elected and prize winners rewarded.

### HGS SEED SWAP

The HGS Horticultural Society and Garden Suburb Allotments are holding a joint HGS 'Seed Swap Day' on Thursday February 26 at 7.30pm at The Free Church Hall. Anyone interested is invited to bring along their saved flower and vegetable seeds to swap with others, in addition to their hints and tips on all matters horticultural. For further details email [ruthbeedle@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ruthbeedle@tiscali.co.uk).

Details of the Horticultural Society's 2015 events can be found at [www.hortsoc.co.uk](http://www.hortsoc.co.uk), in the *Suburb News* listings and in Horticultural Society members' newsletters. To join, call David Broome on 020 8444 2329 (details on the website).

MARJORIE HARRIS



NIGEL SUTTON



JOHN MATHIAS

## Combat Stress Winter Fair

Very many thanks to the huge number of Suburb residents who came to the Winter Fair in support of Combat Stress, held at the Free Church Hall on 1 November. Organised by the Winter Fair committee – Gerlinde Crossley, Kathy Cunnold, Marjorie Harris, Norma Milner, Yvonne Oliver, Angela Phillips, Emma Rodwell and Ruth Smith, and opened by

Martin Bell, the fair made well over £4,000 to support the charity's outreach remedial programmes for armed forces veterans who have returned from combat with mental health issues. There is still money to be added from November's green disc charity collection at Waitrose, Temple Fortune. The final amount raised will be announced in the next

issue of *Suburb News*, after an outside cheque has been handed over to Combat Stress's HQ in February. The 2015 fair promises to be even bigger and better, and will be held on Saturday 31 October. Please put the date in your diaries and, if you would like to take part or donate goods or money, contact Ruth Smith on 020 8458 8191.

## RA carries out speed checks

No subject is raised with the Roads & Traffic Committee more often than speeding on Suburb roads but it is not clear how much of a problem this truly is. Whilst some residents are convinced that speeding is widespread others see no evidence of this and certainly accident statistics on Suburb roads remain very low.

In order to obtain an accurate picture the RA has bought a speed checking 'gun' which has been used by the Roads & Traffic Committee in a number of roads during the build up to Christmas with a summary of the results as set out below (full details can be found on our website):

- Hampstead Way** (opp Heath Extension)  
No. of vehicles monitored: 100  
Speed limit: 30mph  
Avg speed recorded: 30.87mph
- Addison Way**  
No. of vehicles monitored: 70  
Speed limit: 20mph  
Avg speed recorded: 26.5mph
- Meadway** (Holne Chase jct)  
No. of vehicles monitored: 105  
Speed limit: 30mph  
Avg speed recorded: 26.37mph
- Willifield Way** (between TF Hill & Asmunds Hill)  
No. of vehicles monitored: 25  
Speed limit: 20mph  
Avg speed recorded: 27.88mph
- Temple Fortune Lane**  
No. of vehicles monitored: 50  
Speed limit: 30mph  
Avg speed recorded: 27.32mph

These tests are only a snapshot in each location but they allow residents to see actual

rather than anecdotal speeding evidence for the first time where our roads are concerned.

The most striking aspect of the results is the high degree of observance among motorists on the 30mph roads. However within the 20mph zones at Willifield Way and Addison Way traffic speeds are barely different from those where 30mph prevails. Whereas the great majority of motorists seem to be driving within the law in the 30mph section the opposite appears true where 20mph prevails.

If the R&T Committee's findings are indicative the effect of creating 20mph zones has been merely to criminalise most users of those roads without having any impact on traffic speed. Whilst a few residents would no doubt call for draconian treatment of drivers doing 24mph or 25mph where 20mph is the maximum it would seem likely that most observers will recognise that 20mph is simply the wrong limit for most Suburb roads. Our tests so far show that the great majority of motorists drive at sensible speeds suited to the circumstances of the particular road irrespective of whether the limit is 20mph or 30mph. We would probably all agree that the handful who drive recklessly ought to be urgently apprehended but the idea that practical safety can be achieved by simply lowering the limit is unlikely to prove correct.

The R&T Committee is very keen to carry out further checks on Suburb roads and residents

are encouraged to contact us if they believe they have identified a problem area. In this way, and with the help of residents, we hope within a few months to have more comprehensive speeding statistics from which we can both gauge the true extent of any problem and if necessary plan for the most genuinely effective solutions.

GARY SHAW

## Wordsearch

The autumn Wordsearch winner was Mrs Cristina Lago. She is Spanish and moved to the Suburb fairly recently. She writes mainly for Spanish newspapers and magazines, and enjoys local talks and lectures. She sailed home with all the correct answers. Congratulations!

Cristina has also, most timely, agreed to take over Wordsearch from Diana Woodfield, who is retiring from Wordsearch after creating 38 Wordsearch teasers spanning ten years! *Suburb News* would like to thank Diana for her wonderful contribution which has proved to be such a popular feature of this newspaper. Also welcome to Cristina, who picks up the mantle, with her first mind-bender appearing in the spring edition.

The answers to last autumn's Wordsearch, 20 names of rock, stones or metals, were: aluminium, amber, basalt, capstone, chalk, crystal, diamond, gold, granite, jade, jasper, lapis, lead, limestone, oolite, quartz, sandstone, silver, slate and zinc.

# Unlock the Power of Code!

AS SEEN ON  
**BBC**



**PROGRAMMING ACADEMY**

Starter Coder | Advanced Coder | Online Coder | Game Coder | Mobile Coder | Robotics Coder

...is your child ready to code?

Your child will not only consume technology but will also need to engineer and manage it. FunTech's Programming Academy is a professional series of coding courses for aspiring young coders who want to learn how to code to industry standards.

**Ages: 10-18 years.**

**BOOK AN ASSESSMENT**

[www.funtech.co.uk](http://www.funtech.co.uk)

Hampstead 020 8455 5227  
Head Office 01628 621215  
Email [info@funtech.co.uk](mailto:info@funtech.co.uk)



"SCORE 10/10" TANVI (10)  
"FANTASTICAL" COREY (16) ★★★★★  
"AWESOME!!!!" ALEX (12)



VIRTUAL LABS



CENTRE LABS



**FunTech**