

Suburb



Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

News



Hilary Cronin wowed all at the Proms launch, 2015 details on page 9



Simon Callow supports the Youth Music Centre, page 4



Farewell to a dedicated HGS Trust manager, see page 7

Changes at the RA

The Residents Association has a new chairman, four new council members and additions to its constitution, all occurring on March 30 when the RA's 103rd Annual General Meeting was preceded by a Special General Meeting calling for constitutional changes to the association.

All members had received full details in advance, with a

copy of the Annual Accounts (see AGM Annual Report on www.hgs.org.uk). One of the constitutional changes was introduced by the chairman as controversial and needing full discussion; this was a provision enabling the council, by a three quarters majority, to expel one of its members. It would only be triggered by a future event, and six weeks' notice of the proposal would be required, with reason given and an opportunity for the relevant individual, or someone on his behalf, to speak. A member excluded from council could not re-stand for a year, but would remain a member of the RA.

Some residents will remember how previous attempts at constitutional change have stalled at this stage and, before discussion of the change could take place, a point of order was raised by Frances Prentice, suggesting that the proposal should be scrutinised by legal Counsel. The Chairman outlined the advice that had already been obtained and that the RA had not been in breach of procedure or rules. A short debate then took place with a number of speakers making points for and against, and the proposal was adopted by 50 votes to 14, with 5 abstentions (each household present having just one vote).

The AGM had a full agenda, including the election of David B Lewis as chairman, succeeding Jonathan Seres, and Anita Harlow, Hella Schrader, Lynda Cook and Simon Sackman as new members of Council.

The Annual Report was in a new format and printed in the middle pages of the January Suburb News. The Accounts, circulated subsequently, showed

amounts paid to help local projects which included the item of £20,000 from the RA's Centenary Fund towards the rebuilt playground in Northway Gardens, and the payment from Income of £4,000 which had been donated by the RA to Fellowship towards the recently completed development of Fellowship House.

Under 'other business', the chairman informed the meeting of the March planning application by a 'smart-meter' company for antennae on St Jude's church, following a brief pre-planning consultation. Those present were reminded that the plans had already been reported, with a photograph, in the RA's December eNews. On an informal poll at the AGM, the small number who recalled the photograph were almost all against the proposal.

The chairman of the Trust informed the meeting that the antennae appeared, from the plans, to be taller than stated in the application. The Rev Ian Tutton considered that the RA ought to have held a public information meeting, which the chairman agreed but said that in the time available that had not been possible, but that the RA's council would consider the matter the following week.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that Barnet officials would take into consideration any response up to the time of the decision. Suburb News can report that the RA's council authorised a letter to Barnet objecting to the proposal, citing architectural reasons and conveying the concern of local residents regarding the potential health hazard, albeit the RA did not have the expertise to comment on the latter.



Last year's dazzling Fun Day is to be repeated again this year on June 28. See article on page 3.



David B Lewis speaks at the AGM under the watchful eye of Henrietta Barnett



Preparing for the onslaught – Mike Freer (Con), Sarah Sackman (Lab), Jonathan Davies (Lib), Adele Ward (Green), Richard King (UKIP)

Suburb Hustings at Free Church

Residents had the opportunity to hear all five of our prospective parliamentary candidates give their opinions on a range of topics at the Hustings in The Free Church organised by the RA's Events Committee with the general election only two weeks away.

Sarah Sackman (Lab) got the most sustained applause on introduction, and would have won the applause award had there been a clapometer available.

Alan Walker managed to keep the participants well under control during the question and

answer session that followed ensuring that the candidates all had an equal chance to be heard. The topics covered ranged from the national, such as the proposed Mansion Tax, Trident, renewable energy, votes at 16, (continued on page 4)

The feared protest by Occupy activists failed to materialise, but there was a lone heckler to provide a voice of dissent at an otherwise civilised and well-mannered meeting in a packed church with, according to a rough head count, about 300 people present. A candidate observed that it was the best attended such event in our constituency until then.

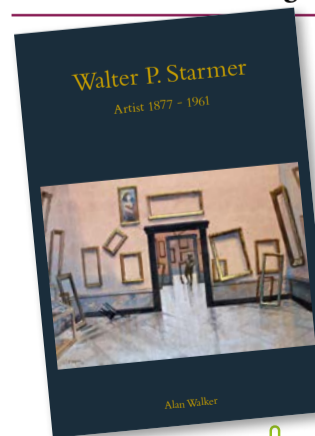
Rev Alan Walker of St Jude's was in charge of proceedings and managed as masterfully as ever, starting with a brief timed opportunity for the candidates to introduce themselves, which gave him time to sort through the questions proposed by members of the audience on the green cards given out for the purpose.

The candidates duly told us a little about their backgrounds and concerns. Only Richard King (UKIP) got no applause on introduction, but managed to say enough to receive some at the end of his time, perhaps a reward for his claim to stand for 'British Common Sense', while

Walter Starmmer A Suburb Artist at War

The Reverend Alan Walker on the painter of the murals in St Jude's who was also a war artist and political cartoonist.

Sunday 17 May, 3.00pm
Friends Meeting House, 17 North Square



Illustrated talk followed by tea and cakes. No charge but £5 donation would be welcome.

THIS IS A POPULAR ANNUAL EVENT ORGANISED BY THE RA IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL ROWLEY.

Copies of this newly published book on Starmmer will be on sale at a special price.



WE DELIVER

For almost 40 years now we have been serving the needs of the Suburb and we have enjoyed every moment of it. Our service extends from Cottages to Castles and there is no property which is too small or too large for us to handle.

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