

Suburb

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

News



Horticultural Show brings out the creativity in Suburb residents, see back page



Not really a show hat, so what is Diane Berger up to? See page 11



What brings Alan Johnson to the Suburb, see page 9

RA Open Day discusses Noise

During the evening of Tuesday, June 2 Fellowship House was the scene of the latest RA Open Meeting, where residents can turn up and participate in a discussion on a subject of local concern. It was the turn of noise to be examined to see if we considered it to be a nuisance and, if so, had ideas to remedy any problems. The meeting was moderated by the RA Chairman, David Lewis who thanked those present for coming and pointed out that councillors Gabriel Rozenburg and Rohit Grover of Garden Suburb Ward had come to hear residents' concerns.

David Lewis presented the meeting with the fruits of his research into how to combat the nuisance caused by noise. The legal means to do so seem to be very limited although the Environmental Protection Act gives local councils the power to control statutory nuisances, including noise, through abatement notices. He wondered if noise-insulating headphones were the only answer to the noise of gardening tools!

As the evening progressed the amount of distress caused by noise was evident. Many of the contributors were obviously upset and angered by the some-

times continual din produced by modern garden tools, but there were also mentions of builders (renovations being particularly intrusive), dogs (not time limited like gardening and builders), radios and children. In many case the noise was being produced while the householder was out.

For some the problem with children lay with parental control, or lack of it, and there were differing views of what is acceptable behaviour. One family complained of being made to feel unwelcome because of their children who, in their parents' opinion, were merely being children. That unwelcoming feeling was unacceptable for most.

Old-fashioned gardening, using rakes and brooms for instance, was much-favoured, but most of the noise is made by contracted gardeners and some believe reverting to manual methods would increase the cost to householders. An alternative idea was using less noisy electric tools instead of petrol driven ones.

There was mention of different ways of using education in the fight against noise. One idea was to use an initiative to explain how noise pollution

impacts on everybody, and why we need a voluntary scheme of active noise reduction measures. Another suggestion put forward was that the RA should produce a card asking residents to consider the effect of noise on their neighbours, and how they could mitigate it. Putting one through the letterbox of a noisy neighbour would, for some, be preferable to making a fuss.

For many the best idea as a start would be to ask local bodies such as the HGS Trust and Barnet to set a good example by using less noisy gardening techniques, and act as an encouragement to others.

The RA decided at its July council meeting to set up a Select Committee on Noise Abatement, which in the coming year will look at sources of noise pollution and think about possible ways to lessen its nuisance. It will see if social pressure or legal means can be used to help solve problems of noise. It will consider what can be done at a local or national level to persuade government to enforce existing laws and by-laws or create new ones. Any representations are welcomed by e-mail at rahonsec@hgs.org.uk.

TERRY BROOKS



BBC Elstree Concert Band delighted and enthused many children at this year's Proms at St Jude's. Full story page 9.

Trust to elect new member

The next Annual General Meeting of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust will be on September 9, and this year it will be followed by the election of one new member to the Trust Council. As we go to press there are no declared candidates, although

Suburb News understands that Claire Calman, who stands down by rotation, intends at present to stand again for the second three-year term allowed by the constitution.

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 *(continued on page 3)*

Annual RA Picnic and Fun Day

Early rain delayed the start of the fun, but luckily the weather cleared up by 2pm with crowds arriving along with the sun. This is an event designed to bring the local community together and in particular those younger members who sometimes feel left out.

There appeared to be a constant coming and going of buggies as families came out to see what was going on and there were probably around 400 people there at any one time.

The RA's Events committee also tries to bring to people's attention new businesses coming to the area who are eager to contribute something to be an active part of HGS. This year there was Gail's Bakery and Dani Heneghan's 'Salon Hair at Home', and we all wish them every success.

Our hard working and long serving Councillor, John Marshall came for the opening and was

followed by our newly elected Ward Councillor Rohit Grover who brought his wife Aneka and little girl Raya, who loved the Ferris wheel!

The highly talented face painters, make-up artist and hair-braiding expert were kept busy non-stop all afternoon. Sam's donkey rides and the Punch & Judy by Geoff Felix had queues as usual and Fizzy Lizzie was as popular as ever. With a magician from France, Fun Fair rides, Simmons Crepe stand, cookery demos from local expert Gill Roberts and music provided by local band 'Sound of the Suburb', there was pretty much something for everyone!

Winner of 'Guess the Pennies' was Paul Moore, and 'Guess the Hamper' was Dave Dresner.

Many thanks first of all to the many volunteers who helped make the HGS Funday a huge success. You know who you are! From erecting gazebos

first thing Sunday morning, to laying out tables, to selling cakes, to pouring drinks, to smiling in the rain – thank you!

Secondly, thank you to all who came and supported the event. Proceeds of the cake sale and two collection tins went to the local charity 'Resources for Autism' and we raised a fabulous £421.84 for them. The North London Hospice and Toynebee Hall also received some of the money raised at the event.

Of course, none of this could have happened without our main sponsor, Ellis of Golders Green, and also A2B Movers.

If you have any comments to make on the event, the RA Events Committee would be very interested to know your thoughts. Our e-mail address is raevents@hgs.org.uk or you can find our contact details in the Suburb Directory.

AMANDA REUBEN & TONY BRAND, RA EVENTS COMMITTEE



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All the fun of the fair. More photos on page 8.