

Simon Hurst, Principal at SCHED Ltd, chats to Suburb News before leaving for the south west

Simon Hurst who became the RIBA appointed trustee on the board of the HGST Trust in May 2003 is moving on

Suburb News managed to have a few words with him before his final appearance on the Property and Plans Committee in April.

His leaving the Trust was prompted by accepting some major work on a Grade I listed building in Cornwall, which made continuing as a Trustee impractical; there would have been too much travelling.

His architectural practice is based in East London and he specialises in work in context with historic and listed buildings. He is the Honorary Architect to the Art Workers' Guild, which aims to bring together practitioners in all the applied arts. This led to the successful commission of Georgy Mkrtychian to carve the new console brackets for the canopy of the HGST office extension.

His route to the Suburb came through his 1998 travelling scholarship from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and by chance encountering Dorian Crone, a previous RIBA trustee, and himself a former SPAB Scholar. An interest in Lutyens and the Arts & Crafts movement meant there was no hesitation when Dorian stood down and the opportunity to become one of our trustees came up.

He found both the planning flexibility and the ability to

control little things surprising. More of a problem for him was reconciling the natural feeling of owners that, "my home is my castle and I ought to be able to do as I wish" with having to act in the long-term interests of the Suburb and those who live in it.

Simon revealed the Suburb was the scene of the most unpleasant evening of his life when the council was severely criticised and heavily heckled at the AGM in 2011 over the Henrietta Barnett School extensions. However he took comfort from this clear demonstration of the passion we have here for our Suburb, which he found very encouraging.

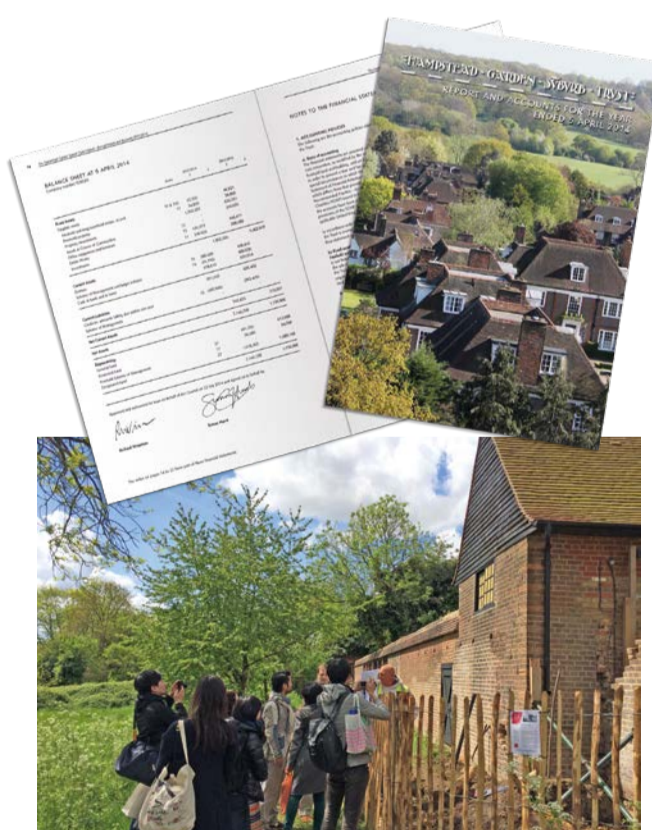
He felt the Trust has gone from strength to strength. Taking more notice of developments and engaging in more active management, it had also become more involved in other Suburb activities and bodies. He thinks the Suburb is a real community, which is a precious thing. The Suburb is a happy place; a feeling that is mirrored in the Trust with the admirable staff team.

He confessed to being a classic car fiend, he has nine cars in total, and made special mention of his restored Fiat 500, Vanden Plas 1500 (a posh Austin Allegro) and Riley One-Point-Five. He also admits to spending a lot more time recently on landscape gardening.

Suburb News wishes him well, and thanks him for the gift of his time and expertise over the last 12 years **S**



Become a Member of the Trust Company



The Trust strives to conserve and maintain the unique architecture and planning of the Suburb which makes it "that most nearly perfect example of the unique English invention and speciality, the garden suburb," according to eminent architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner. Trust Members should include all residents who believe that conservation of the Suburb is worthwhile.

Benefits of Full Membership:

- Receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Company
- Participation in Suburb management through the Annual General Meeting
- Voting rights in Trust Council elections and at Annual General Meetings
- Invitations to exclusive Members events, including lectures and walking tours

The requirement for Full Membership is that you are an adult who has lived on the Suburb for 3 years or longer. Residents who have lived on the Suburb for less than 3 years can become Associate Members.

The Trust differs from most companies in that while fulfilling its objective to conserve and maintain the character and amenities of the Suburb it produces no profits or dividends. The Trust does not have shareholders but Members; who have no financial commitment and a limited liquidation liability of £1.

The eight Trustees who are the company directors (known as the Trust Council) are volunteers. Four of the Trustees are appointed by outside organisations; the other four Trustees are residents elected by Trust Members.

To download a Membership application form, please visit www.hgsttrust.org or contact the Trust office if you would like one posted to you.

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