

# Open House: Waterlow Court opens up its doors for the first time

There was a measure of success on a Sunday in September during which this Edwardian secret was open to all comers for a feast of not only wonderful architecture, but also cakes and scones with on-tap teas and coffees brewed from blends only known to the frequenters of the old importers' coffee shop in Golders Green Road, where they roast beans creating aromatic white clouds

which float above the clean and well-cared for pavements. More than 120 eager guests from many parts of Barnet, and as far afield as Germany, USA and Brazil thoughtfully waited for one of the 5 guided tours of Baillie Scott's cloistered homes. Originally built for Edwardian single ladies and now home to a mix of small families, single professionals and cohabitants.

Baillie Scott's sense of humour and profound understanding of architecture can be seen in all its glory at Waterlow Court. Upon arriving at the portcullis front gate the underway could be likened to a medieval drawbridge leading to the main building with brick ground floor retaining walls and bright white cloistered arches.

In measured steps the three guides had so much to reveal; from the unique ironmongery cast in different forms to the 'parquet flooring' brick panels in each of the gables of the external walls, while not forgetting the zigzag patterned glazed tile courses in two of the projecting elevations affording space for elm timber staircases, complete with heart-shaped finials, patterned handrails and balustrades. Lastly, there was a silent peek of the lush green central lawn.

Yet there was so much more to share as the tours only covered one quarter of the secret homes in order to protect the privacy and sense of security felt by some residents. Visitors could however marvel at photos retrieved from the HGS archives and so carefully assembled to be on view in the entrance to the central courtyard.

The residents who generously delivered a gastronomic, joyous day of sunshine and well being are surely evidence of a community dwelling – a thriving example of what must have been Henrietta Barnet's wish over 115 years ago.

LISA HALL & ARNOLD LINDEN

*For those who would like to know more about Waterlow Court a well-illustrated booklet, 'Waterlow Court, from women's utopia to urban oasis' by Ann Reeder, is available from Joseph's Bookstore and the HGS Trust office in Temple Fortune.*



Lisa Hall and Arnold Linden



## Double glazing for thermal efficiency



There are a number of ways to improve the thermal efficiency of your home. One of those is with double glazing.

It is possible to manufacture double glazed windows, both in timber and steel, that do, in some cases, carefully match the original designs. The Trust can supply the names of specialist manufacturers of steel and timber framed double glazed windows. Contact the Trust office for further advice or a site visit.

The Trust will need to approve any new windows and will ask for large scale details or sample windows being submitted, and approved, to ensure the replacements match the originals.

Alternatively, it is possible to improve the thermal performance of original windows. The frames can be made more efficient by weather stripping to exclude draughts. Secondary glazing can also be fitted internally. This is less costly than replacing the original windows and there is a minimal change to the external appearance of the building.

For further advice on window replacement, please refer to the Design Guidance, pages 26 - 27, available from [www.hgstrust.org](http://www.hgstrust.org) or pick up a free copy at the Trust office.

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