

Suburb



Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

News



Frances Mensah Williams returns to the Suburb to talk about her new book, page 5

Captivating nativity performances caught on camera, back page



Look at you, all grown up! Tudor the cat, five years on, page 4



No support for Brookland traffic proposal

The hall at Fellowship House was full on December 17 with standing room only at the meeting arranged by the Residents Association for a discussion on the new traffic proposals in the Brookland area. The meeting was taken by the RA chairman, David Lewis with Gary Shaw, who is chairman of the RA Roads & Traffic committee, at his side. Also on the top table were the three councillors for Garden Suburb Ward, John Marshall, Gabriel Rozenberg and Rohit Grover (see below), who were there to discover the views of residents in the roads affected by the plans.

misrepresentation of the school's part in the process and applause again for a complaint about the lack of consultation, which was described as shabby.

For some it seemed strange for money to be spent on detailed proposals like these without finding out from those involved what problems needed solving and if there were any opinions on how that might be done. But cynics might say this is the state's decision-making default mode; although in this case apparently even the Suburb ward councillors had no knowledge of what was going on. Some blamed the faceless far-flung employees of the large corporation that now looks after us, but whose first duty is in fact to its directors, executives and shareholders.

The proposals are somehow connected to the School Traffic Plan initiative and there was

applause for a comment that the plan should demand pupils walk to school. Some readers will remember an article on page 5 of SN 121 on this very subject (archive available online at www.hgs.org.uk/suburbnews/index.html if you have mislaid your copy) telling readers that Brookland Junior School had won an award for their commitment to sustainable travel. Those of you from roads in the vicinity will know there is a constant stream of children being walked to and from school every day, and the schools encourage people who use their cars to 'park and stride' before getting too close to their school in their cars.

There were many complaints about inconsiderate parking, with driveways often being blocked at school times. Even worse there were a number of people who received abusive and insulting responses for having the temerity to ask offenders to move their vehicles. Unsurprisingly therefore another loud round of applause greeted the suggestion of the introduction of a CPZ in the area. The peak times for disruption to the traffic were around 3.15pm and 3.30pm, with another at noon.

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TONY BRAND



More New Year Eve pictures, page 9

PHOTOS: MICHAEL JACOBS

New Year celebrations

HGS residents with their families and friends, streamed into St Jude's church for the RA's annual New Year party at 10.45pm, Thursday 31 December. Before long, the church was full with everybody enjoying wine and snacks while chatting about Christmas activities, presents and the holiday.

The organisers had been holding their breath all day, praying the night would be fine with little wind and, for once, conditions were almost perfect. As usual, it was hard to persuade people to leave the party in the church and go outside to find a comfortable viewing place. This time many came wearing their wellies, knowing how wet and muddy the square gets. Crowds appeared from surrounding streets

and quickly filled the square.

As the church bell rang, announcing the start of 2016, the show started and some 1,500 people were held spellbound for nearly 10 minutes until, sadly, it was time to go home.

Luckily, if you were unable to come, you can relive the show recorded by our famous local videocam expert, John Whiting, on: <https://youtu.be/culuT7lcV7I>. You can also view a number of photos on the St Jude's website at <http://goo.gl/sAewn8>.

Large events like this would not be possible without local volunteers freely giving their time as stewards, collectors and general helpers, for the benefit of the community, and they range from teenagers up to the

wonderful Hilda Williams helping to serve drinks at 95 years old!

Once again, we have to thank the Reverend Alan Walker for the use of St Jude's church, this year's sponsors Felicity J Lord and Melissa Conway Opticians, plus the generous contributions to the bucket collection from many spectators.

In addition, thanks to all our hard working events team who hand delivered invites to some 3,000 Suburb households over the previous few weeks. They ensured health and safety requirements were met by Alchemy Fireworks, event manager Richard Millward, and permissions were obtained from the Trust and the London Borough of Barnet.

TONY BRAND

New residents welcomed



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Over the last 18 months, HGS welcomed 148 new households to our friendly community! As in past years, the Resident's Association decided to host a New Residents Party for them on Sunday evening, November 15, at Fellowship House.

36 turned up including their children and while enjoying

refreshments, spent nearly two hours grilling members of various local groups and committees as to what activities they could be involved with in the area.

Parents were particularly interested in asking about local schools and nurseries where personal experience is important. They were all impressed learning

about our library as a centre for local information, with its toddlers mornings and the invaluable advice on the Trades Person list for RA members who join the e-mail forum, HGS List.

Hopefully those unable to make it this time will be able to attend the next one.

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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.

We are delighted to introduce you to the Glentree New Homes office, where we are able to offer the largest selection of new developments in North West London, either as a home or as a buy-to-let investment.

At Glentree Rentals, our bespoke letting service, we are bristling with a wide selection of fine homes to rent in all price ranges and why not enquire about our specialist Suburb Sales division which deals exclusively with properties such as yours and has a house-by-house understanding of this very special area.

We believe we can make a substantial difference to you by selling your cherished home for the highest possible price when the time is right ... and not before, of course.

Our well known International connections allow us the unique facility of attracting buyers/tenants not only from the locality, or within the UK, but also from virtually every corner of the globe. A wider globalised audience means usually better terms for you.

We are the longest serving agents in the area, under the same Management for over 40 years and if you want to know what's going on in the market or check the value of your home, please feel free to pop in and you are welcome to use our private clients' car park (at the rear of our offices).

No obligation, no fuss, just good old fashioned service.



The 104th RA AGM

will take place on Monday 21 March 2016 at 8pm in the Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Central Square.

Motions for the agenda must be received by 8 February 2016. Nominations for the posts of officers and members of the Council must be received by 11 March 2016. They should be submitted in writing, signed by proposers and seconders and have the consent of nominees.

Please send notices of motions and nominations to:

The Assistant Secretary, Rosemary Goldstein, 1a Church Mount, N2 0RW

(Members will receive notice of the meeting with agendas by 7 March 2016)