



The original home of The Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, in its glory days, now The Henrietta Barnett School

A future for The Institute?

As Suburb News goes to press the long-term future of The Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, as it was once known, hangs in the balance. It has been beset by problems, mainly financial, since it was evicted from its home in Central Square and moved first to East Finchley, and then to Kingsbury.

At the beginning of April readers of the HGS email group (see page 4, Need a hyponotist?) learnt that the trustees had voted to put The Institute into liquidation. It then emerged that the members of the Institute Society would need to vote on this and that the trustees had resigned.

A special general meeting of the society was needed for a decision to be made on the membership of any new trust council, and on the future in light of the current financial situation.

A statement on the website (www.hgsi.ac.uk) addressed to the students starts, "We are delighted to inform all our students that The Institute will re-open later than planned on April 25. We now have a new board of trustees and would like to thank all well wishers for their messages of support."

The jungle drums work well in the larger Suburb world and it was not long before Jenny Stonhold wrote to us from South Wales with a letter about her memories of life in the English as a Foreign Language department, which is printed

below and will strike a chord with some readers.

It certainly does with your editor for whom The Tea House was base camp for over 20 years as a teacher in the department. In fact it is Jean Barraclough's fault that you have got me doing this job, but that's another story.

Whatever happens to The Institute, there is an initiative to facilitate Community Learning on the Suburb. After a first meeting in March, there is another at 8pm on May 5 at the Free Church (see this page: A Community Learning Initiative).

An edited press release issued after this article was written is reproduced below.

TERRY BROOKS

INSTITUTE PRESS RELEASE

The Institute re-opens with new Board of Trustees

The Institute, which celebrates its 107th birthday this year, is delighted to announce that it will be running classes as usual on Monday 25th April, opening just one week later than was originally planned.

The Institute is excited to report that it now has a dynamic board of Trustees ready to take it into a new and fresh era.

Chair of the Trustees, Fay Naylor said "We're thrilled that The Institute has opened its doors

again, under new leadership, with a fabulous team who have the drive, energy and expertise to grow the Institute and pave the way to a sustainable and successful future. The Institute moves forward with the same ethos as its founder Dame Henrietta Barnett had – to educate people for life-long learning, across multiple generations, from all walks of life, backgrounds and cultures."

The Head of Art, Nicky Pinder said "The staff at The Institute are hugely committed to their students and we are pleased with the leadership and direction of the new Trustees; the future is secure and we are able to continue to serve the community with the provision of a wealth of

excellent courses in the new Kingsbury Campus."

The Institute has over 1,200 students and provides around 500 full-time, part-time, day, evening and weekend courses, with taster sessions as well as holiday and children's classes. There are various subjects on offer such as languages, photography, cookery, computing, dressmaking, music and dance as well as art, design and creative courses, which include sculpture, pottery, painting and drawing.

There is something for everyone at The Institute and places are still available for the summer term. If you would like to enrol, please visit www.hgsi.ac.uk or call 0208 829 4229 or email office@hgsi.ac.uk.

Memories of The Institute

When my mother, Jean Barraclough, moved with my father, Peter (former minister of the Free Church) to the Suburb in 1961 she got a part-time job at the Institute teaching English to foreign students in the small EFL department which had been in existence since its foundation in World War 1 to teach European refugees.

This developed into a full-time job and in 1977 she became Head of EFL, while the department had grown with over a 1,000 students from more than 80 countries. Her office in the Tea House, Northway, was the busy hub of the operation, which had classes in all the public buildings round Central Square.

As a staff representative on the Institute Council she was very involved in supporting the Principal and Council in fighting the court case to get the Henrietta Barnett School to pay rent for the space that it used in the Institute building on Central Square. The Institute finally won this case and later also won the appeal against the

compulsory purchase order, but the court decision was over ruled by the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, who, with Barnet Council, supported the school.

I have happy memories of the International Students' Services in the Free Church in early December. Especially memorable was the Swedish contribution with a procession singing 'Santa Lucia' led by a student wearing a crown of lighted candles. There were also student social afternoons in the Free Church Hall where students could speak English with local people.

My mother was Department Head until retiring at the age of 67. She continued to support and train teachers of all subjects at the Institute until she was 80.

It saddens me greatly to hear that the Institute could now be closed and my thoughts are particularly with those staff that remained with the Institute as they moved from the heart of the Suburb to East Finchley, and then to Kingsbury.

JENNY STONHOLD,
HON RA LIFE MEMBER



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A Community Learning Initiative

Over 30 people met at the Free Church on March 10 to discuss possibilities regarding Community Learning on the Suburb now that the Institute no longer has a presence here. A similar number had expressed interest but weren't able to attend on the night itself.

It was very encouraging to discover that there is an extensive network of informal classes, groups and activities already happening. Those present were very keen to do what they could to enhance this provision as well as initiate new opportunities. This will take time and effort, but the goodwill is there and that is vitally important. The next stage is to put ideas into practice:

- Continue to raise the profile

- of what can be done;
- Produce a directory of current opportunities;
- Identify the areas of interest, potential teachers and students as well as premises and facilities;
- Generate a marketing strategy;
- Create partnerships with other groups and organisations on and beyond the Suburb.

To begin to push this forward, it is intended to hold a workshop evening at the Free Church on Thursday May 5 at 8pm when we can begin to put in place what we need to do to make this work.

Please come along if you are prepared to contribute to this. Further information can be obtained from Ian Tutton, 8457 5898, itutton@aol.com.

Suburb Open Meetings

A large number of residents have asked the RA to host a meeting on the state of dangerous pavements in the Suburb.

The Met Police want a similar meeting held soon to update HGS on the level and type of crimes committed in the area and what they are doing to prevent and solve them.

These will both take place during the spring. Full details of dates and location will be posted on the HGS e-mail group, put in Suburb E-News and on posters around the Suburb when known.

The information will also be posted online on the Events Committee list at: hgs.org.uk/events/eventlist/all/org-2.

RA AGM

(continued from page 1)

than the present system of one vote per household.

Before the meeting moved on to questions and contributions from members, Rosalind Josephs was appointed as an honorary life member of the RA as an appreciation of all the work she had done for the Suburb over many years.

There were complaints about traffic in Willifield Way with concerns about congestion, pollution and speed raised by Judith Bronkhurst and Ken Murrell among others. Cllr Marshall said that consultation with the emergency services and residents had led to the removal of the speed humps when the road was resurfaced.

Pavements were also a hot topic, with Micky Watkins wondering what was going to be done to rectify their increasingly bad state of repair. Adrienne Franklin suggested residents pay for repairs that were caused by the building contractors working on their properties.

Ann Lewisohn suggested that problems should be reported to www.fixmystreet.com, while Cllr Marshall said specific problems

should be reported to Barnet and Cllr Rozenberg informed the meeting that money had been allocated for the purpose of pavement repair.

Terry Rand pointed out that he had had no reply from Cllr Rozenberg to his request a year earlier for measures to stop cycling on the pavement on Fallofen Way after having been knocked down outside his house. Cllr Rozenberg replied he had forwarded the correspondence to TfL and would be in touch when he got a reply.

The disgusting state of Bute Mews also came up with questions about the problem of rubbish accumulating in this very potholed private service road behind the shops on the south side of The Market Place. An RA working group is liaising with Barnet and the Trust to try to get some action on an increasingly serious fire and health hazard.

Finally there were comments during the meeting on how Suburb News failed to report certain events or cover some stories. Lorna Page suggested getting in touch with the editor.

TERRY BROOKS



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G Cohen
ANTIQUÉ SILVER

We wish to purchase items of silver in any condition. As a long standing resident of the Suburb, Gideon Cohen is happy to view your silverware at home and will make an offer to purchase, free of any obligation.

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