

# What's indispensable and tucked inside Suburb News?

This issue of Suburb News comes with a thin, but packed with info, booklet produced by us to be your Suburb companion. It's the Suburb Directory and please don't just bin it, but give it a test drive to see what it can do.

First, what does it look like? Well, below is the front cover.

Second, what do I do with it? Put it close to the nerve centre of where you live. It might be the kitchen, it might be the hall; for me it's the kitchen. And then it has to go in the little pile of bits of paper, leaflets, labels and stuff, which are vital for future reference.

I'm afraid I'm countertrending by being a bit of a clutterphile.

Third and last, why do I need it anyway? Good question and I'll try to keep it short.

Clutterphile, yes. But am I a technophobe? No. I use search engines and Wikipedia, route-planners and online maps, but I also find there's a place for the real thing as well.

The Suburb Directory can give me instant comparisons; for instance you can see all the chemists on just one page, all at once. And there's no need to dash between webpages to be able to contact your councillor and then find the council department contact number. All on one page.

Telephone numbers can sometimes be really difficult to find on some websites. Maybe, being cost conscious, they want to funnel enquiries online, but the Suburb Directory has them for a multitude of organisations, institutions, businesses and others.

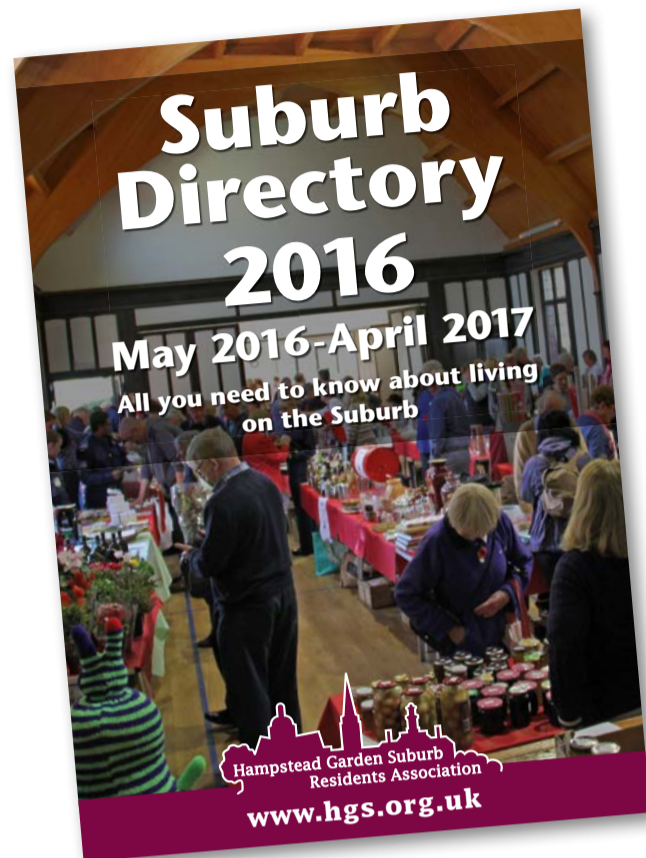
If you're a member of the RA, you can remind yourself of what kind of benefits are on offer from over 35 local businesses on the RA's discount scheme. If you're not a member, it's another reason for joining. What's more you can also find out who does what in the RA.

Lastly, and for me the clincher, is the map. It's the Suburb and just the Suburb. Easily accessible with a readable index on the same page, again. The Suburb Complication is well-known to navigators and this map is the must-have tool for Suburb explorers. You will not get lost in the Suburb with this map to help.

Also a lot of work by volunteers goes into its production, and even if it's been around for years, look closely and you'll see e-mail and web addresses have begun to appear ([www.hgs.org.uk](http://www.hgs.org.uk)). We'd also like to know about errors or suggested improvements.

Give the Directory a chance; keep it to hand and you'll soon discover how useful it can be.

TERRY BROOKS



A dynamic Style Dynamo at the 2015 Marathon des Sables

## More from Suburb Bloggers

More Suburb bloggers have emerged and I am pleased to be able to introduce you to a couple who have responded to our appeal. However, first I have to apologise for an error in our last issue's article, Suburb bloggers revealed, on page 2.

We made a mistake in the address we gave for the blog written by The Young Gun – it should have been given as [www.theyoungun.blogspot.com](http://www.theyoungun.blogspot.com). A rogue g got into the address and proved fatal if used.

Our first new blog goes by the name of The Style Dynamo and can be found at [www.thestyledynamo.com](http://www.thestyledynamo.com). If, like me, you live in that part of the Suburb where BT refuse to update the network (see Issue 123, page 2), you'll need to be patient as the page takes some time to load.

There is a great variety of writing on a great number of topics under Fitness, Fashion, My Beauty Stash and Gear by someone from the fashion and beauty industry, who confesses to being a Francophile. There's probably something for everyone in there, so give it a go.

This issue's second blogger is Carolyn Simon, who may be known to some of you as a teacher of the Alexander Technique on the Suburb. Her writings can be found at [www.carolynsimon.com/blog](http://www.carolynsimon.com/blog). There are posts on a

wide range of subjects, but they all have a connection with the Alexander Technique.

For those who know of the Alexander Technique, but can never quite remember exactly what they know, there's a simple but clear explanation of the Alexander Technique in the Boxing Day post on the first page of the blog, which is only

one of many pages of Carolyn Simon's website.

So now instead of watching clips of cats on YouTube, spare some time to have a quick browse of these blogs by your neighbours and see what you can find of interest.

Meanwhile are there anymore of you out there? I'm convinced there must be. Please get in touch.



Carolyn Simon at work



## Become part of the community

Become part of the Suburb Community and join the Association. It's a friendly group of 1,800 households in which you can either play an active role preserving the Suburb or just support it with a small subscription of just £15 per household per year. Complete and return the form below, join online, or download a standing order form from [hgs.org.uk/ra/joinnow.html](http://hgs.org.uk/ra/joinnow.html). Alternatively, if you own a smart phone, scan the QR code.



### MEMBERSHIP FORM

one subscription covers everyone at the address

I would like to join the HGS Residents Association.

PLEASE USE CAPITALS THROUGHOUT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Giving your Email address helps us keep in touch and reduce costs)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription amount: £ \_\_\_\_\_ (Suggested minimum payment £15)

Fellowship donation: £ \_\_\_\_\_ (To support Fellowship, a Suburb charity, in its work for Suburb senior citizens)

**Total:** £ \_\_\_\_\_ (Total amount for cheque, standing order, PayPal or credit card via [www.hgs.org.uk](http://www.hgs.org.uk))

Standing order is best – stays unchanged unless you alter/cancel it!

### BANK STANDING ORDER FORM To the Manager:

Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_ Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

(If different to name above)

Please pay the 'Total' amount entered above now and then annually on 1st February until further notice to:

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.  
Account number: 91605747, Sort Code: 40-03-11  
at HSBC, 40 Temple Fortune Parade, London NW11 0QU

Quoting Reference (leave blank, RA to complete) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with the bank standing order section completed or your cheque made payable to HGS Residents Association to: **HGSRA, 40 TEMPLE FORTUNE LANE, NW11 7UE**

Possibly not! But you might need a plumber, painter, gardener, roofer or solicitor. Or a good garage to service your car, or someone to teach your child the piano? Well, help is at hand!

'The Master Tradesperson List', which is available to all Suburb residents, has over a thousand recommendations and over 200 categories of professional businesses! Every recommendation comes from a resident and, usually, with their comments on the work done.

And, rather entertainingly, in addition to the more predictable categories, the Index shows such entries as catteries, car boot sales, face painting, hinges,

hypnotists, invisible mending, jet-washing, kitchen design, lawnmower repair, mobility aids, notaries, security lights, taxis, wasps' nests removal, yoga... You get the picture!

Interestingly, too, the list reveals something about our lives here: the number of gardening categories, charities (for donating goods), cars, computer experts and teachers are easily the largest. A list of other headings could show a quite a different kind of community. One could say this list shows how we clearly care for our homes and gardens, our children, our animals, our cars and other machinery. But we also like eating out,

travelling, keeping fit and preserving old furniture.

What a lot of time and effort, and often money, can be saved by having such a list! And how to get it? Once you're a paid up member of the Residents' Association and you've joined the HGS e-mail group you will automatically get an updated Master Tradesperson List every month. What could be simpler?

There's a form on this page for joining the RA, or go to [www.hgs.org.uk](http://www.hgs.org.uk) and click on the link in the top right hand corner. Once you've joined, you can register on the HGS e-mail group using another link in the same part of the same home page.

Once you've joined the group and are receiving the e-mails, you'll see how the recommendations come, and be able to thank Mary Whiting who keeps the list updated and posts a link to each new monthly update.

You'll also be able to read the posts made by other residents on a surprisingly wide range of subjects. Sometimes things get a bit excitable and you have to decide whether to wade in, objectively, with your own view, or perhaps just keep your own counsel. It's well worth joining, but sometimes your delete button finger does get a bit of extra exercise!

