

A recent donation

Andrew Glendinning recently brought in drawings and plans relating to Suburb houses recovered from the offices of the local building firm WM Glendinning.

The man who gave his name to the firm, William Macdowell Glendinning moved from Glasgow to London in 1904 and set up as a plumber and general builder in Brixton. During the First World War he gave up the business and was commissioned in The Royal Scots Fusiliers. After the war, Mr. Glendinning joined Garden Suburb Builders, "Garsubil", who were building houses on the Hampstead Garden Suburb and there he met a young trainee builder, William Arthur Mackridge. When Mr. Glendinning left to restart his business in 1927, he took Mr. Mackridge with him.

The Archives recently digitised a number of recordings that had been held at the LMA and these include an interview with Mr Mackridge in which he describes the work that was done by the firm on the suburb and his encounters with "the dame" (Henrietta Barnett)

By 1939, the firm was employing 200 men and the business was booming. The firm acquired premises in Granville Road and offices at 915 Finchley Road, "Right under the Bridge". At that time the office was next to The Bamboo Bar but now it is well known as L'Artista pizza restaurant.

During the war years, the firm was heavily engaged in emergency repairs to bomb damage in the capital, and many workers directed to this job from provincial towns came under the firm's administration. The firm was incorporated in 1944 and in the immediate post-war years there was a lot of repair and renovation work for suburb residents, and renovation and reconstruction to be done elsewhere. The firm employed all trades required for an integrated building contracting business and carried a large number of apprentices, most of whom stayed with the firm after completing their training.

In the 1970s some of the firm's larger projects included a department building at Barnet Hospital and a number of buildings at London Zoo comprising education blocks including two lecture theatres designed by Sir Hugh Casson, underground luxury toilets that were landscaped into the surrounding area, and the reconstruction of the children's zoo.

During the 1980s the firm was forced to reduce the number of directly employed staff and in the 1990s the company closed its offices and workshop in the Finchley Road.

In 2004, its centenary year, a significant downturn in business forced the company to close. The business ceased trading in April 2005.

Andrew can be heard talking to Alan Dein about WM Glendinning Ltd on the Suburb Archives website as part of the interactive map – The Golders Green Arches: suburbarchives.com/#linteractive-map/cjg9



The Hampstead Garden Suburb Archives Trust

exists to preserve the history and culture of the Suburb

Website: www.suburbarchives.com · Contact: 020 8455 8813 or 8455 2877
 Email: suburbarchives@gmail.com



Suburb Arts Project

Over 40 Suburb artists met on a lovely sunny evening in the Free Church on Thursday April 14 to discuss promoting arts on the Suburb.

The meeting was organised by Jeremy Clynes who outlined the history of arts on the Suburb including the sterling efforts of the late Richard Wakefield who created a Garden Suburb Gallery which sadly closed a couple of years ago.

Jeremy outlined a number of exciting possibilities, and was followed by Peter Hale from East Finchley Open, Susie Gregson from the Proms at St Jude's, Ian Tutton from the Free Church and Sally Botterill from Fellowship House, each of whom described how their organisations might work with Suburb artists.

After much discussion it was agreed that promoting arts on the Suburb was an excellent idea and

a working party will be established to explore the possibilities in more detail. A social gathering of artists would also be organised so that they could meet each other and exchange ideas.

Any Suburb residents who have not been involved so far but would like to be, are welcome to e-mail arts@hgs.org.uk and will be put on the e-mail list for future communications for this exciting project.

90th birthday invitations

Annemount School has asked us to let Suburb residents know of an unusual birthday party invitation. The school is having a party on Friday, June 10 to celebrate our Queen's 90th birthday and is inviting all Suburb residents born in 1926

to come along and join in on the celebration.

So spread the word and get in touch with the school if you were born in 1926 and would like to go, or if you can help the school to contact residents who you know were born in

that year so that they can receive a formal invitation.

The school is also celebrating its 80th birthday this year and would like to warmly welcome neighbours and Suburb families to their annual garden fete on Saturday, June 18 from 2 to 5pm.

Crime rife at Community Library

The Community Library, in the Market Place, hosted a Crime Writers panel on March 16, featuring William Ryan, Judith Flanders and Stav Sherez (Suburb News, Winter 2016, p5). The three authors, with over a dozen published books between them, were voluble on the current popularity of crime fiction, why they write in that genre and how their novels are put together. The crowded audience participated fully in another first for the library.

In February the library had been equally crowded for Frances Mensah Williams' talk about her first novel "From Pasta to Pigfoot", a romance that is set in Ghana and London where Frances grew up. The evening included readings from the novel, slides and discussion of the author's prior career in banking.

There is a sequel coming soon. It's called "Second Helpings" and is scheduled to be published at the end of May.

The success of the library could not be achieved without the wonderful contribution from our team of our volunteers. The management team and the local community are indebted for all their support. In order to build on this success, we continue to rely on new volunteers, so if you would like to be part of this team, please contact us at mail@gardensuburblibrary.org.uk and we would be more than delighted to welcome you.



Below, Frances Mensah Williams and, above, Stav Sherez, Judith Flanders and William Ryan



P R HARTLEY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT & REGISTERED AUDITOR
Accounting & Taxation Services

Call **020 8731 9745** or **07850 634395**
 Email paul@prhartley.co.uk
www.prhartley.co.uk

Property Lawyers

Serving the suburb for 30 years
You'll want us on your side.

For fast and competitive conveyancing, call Oliver Joseph on **020 8209 0166**



746 Finchley Road, Temple Fortune, London NW11 7TH
 Email: info@gadllp.co.uk
www.gadllp.co.uk

