

Suburb

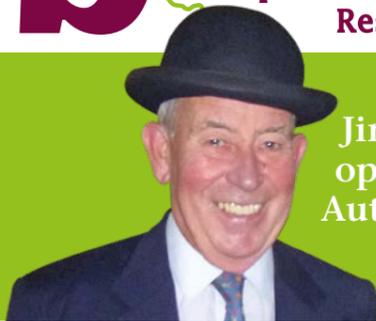


Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

News



Nick Packard keeps the peace at Trust AGM, see below



Jim Buttress, VMH opens Horticultural Autumn show, see page 11



Jasper has a story to tell, you can read it on page 3



An ill-tempered HGS Trust AGM

Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust members gathered in Henrietta Barnett School Hall for half an hour of chat and a drink before Trust Chairman, Richard Wiseman, opened the 48th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday evening, September 14.

He started by giving an apology from Tim Leach, the council member appointed by the Victorian Society, and welcoming Mervyn Miller, Honorary Life President of the Trust, and Barnet Councillor John Marshall.

The Chairman continued with an explanation of the order the meeting would follow but was interrupted by Saul Zadka, who objected to his chairmanship of the meeting when he was standing for re-election. The Chairman maintained that the usual procedure was perfectly reasonable, and Saul Zadka was obliged to

stand down after an overwhelming show of hands in support of a resolution by John Whiting objecting to the interruption.

The Chairman then thanked the Trustees and the Trust staff for the work they do. He followed by thanking Suburb volunteers in all their guises whether working at the Trust, or with the RA, or any other of the voluntary groups active in our community.

Members were told that the Trust was slowly recovering from a period of financial mismanagement but was breaking even using fees and leasehold sales. Basement planning guidelines had been refined and the number of applications for basements had fallen.

Before the report and accounts were received, Arthur Linden asked if damages were going to become a usual remedy, while

David Iwi questioned the legality of accepting damages. The Chairman said that injunctions would remain as the first option, and that damages for unjust enrichment were perfectly legal.

The meeting then moved to receive the report on last year's election to the Council from Nick Packard, the Trust Manager. Saul Zadka felt that it was wrong for the auditors to also be responsible for receiving and counting the votes in elections, but was told that this was in accordance with the Articles of Association. Gloria Moss argued that there was ambiguity in the relevant article, but this was denied.

Ian Tutton wondered if the candidates were present during the counting of votes, as this was often the case with elections, and the practice was good for transparency. The Chairman said they were not, but the auditors

could be asked about changing this and that the idea was good.

Eddie Caplin, a previous Trust Chairman, said that in the late 1980's the votes were counted by the Trust but this was changed to the present system, which was considered to be more independent.

David Iwi questioned the legality of the Management Charge. He claimed the audit was not certified in accordance with the Scheme of Management because it should declare the Scheme was being operated in an economical, efficient and consistent manner. The Chairman replied that this was an old complaint, upon which the Charity Commission had refused to act.

Judith Chaney felt that the meeting was being hijacked by a handful of people with scant respect for the rules. She said there were procedures in place for changes to be made through the Articles of Association.

Varda Aaron wondered why membership of the Trust was not automatic for all owners and was told membership was based on a residence qualification. The motion to reappoint the auditors was then passed by an overwhelming majority.

Nick Packard then took the chair for the three candidates for election, Michael Franklin, Brian Ingram and Richard Wiseman, to address the meeting with each having three minutes to speak and five minutes to answer questions from the floor. He reminded those present that the papers had to be returned to the auditors by midday on September 28. The certified result can be found on page 2.

First Michael Franklin, standing for re-election, told how he brought his experience of running a retail menswear business with strong financial and management skills to the benefit of the Trust. Being a trustee involved attending

(continued on page 2)



The rights (above) and wrongs (below) of living on the Suburb. For fifty years Consam has worked alongside the HGS Trust and the London Borough of Barnet trying to help conserve, protect and enhance the appearance, character and tradition of the Suburb. Full story on page 3.



An expensive prune

Most residents know that tree work in the Suburb requires permission from Barnet Council and the Trust. Not getting it can be costly, as this story demonstrates.

Towards the end of October last year some unauthorised tree work in Midholm Close was reported to Barnet which, after having taken a witness statement and receiving photographic evidence, decided to prosecute the tree surgeon involved for carrying out the work without the required formal Conservation Area notification.

The case was heard by Willesden Magistrates Court at the end of July this year and the company had to pay £4,620 in fines and costs for the lopping of branches on two sycamore trees and an ash tree, and for lopping more branches and removing a stem from a second ash tree.

A cautionary tale for those who think that the law will not be enforced, forget to notify the council, or are unaware of the rules about trees in a conservation area.

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.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Fireworks party

FREE DRINKS!

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

Residents are warmly invited to the HGSRA party in St Jude's from 10.45pm. Plus a fireworks extravaganza on Central Square at midnight. There will be a collection to help with the fireworks

Organised by the Events Committee of the Residents Association. With thanks to St Jude's.