

# Rona Wood 1923-2016



Rona celebrating her 90th with her two adoring grandchildren

Our mother, Rona Wood, who has died at the age of 93, lived in the Suburb for over 50 years.

Having started married life in Stamford Hill and then East Finchley, she was attracted to the ideals of the Suburb and the sense that it contained a community of interested and interesting people, and moved there with her family in 1964. She taught French at Henrietta Barnett School for many years.

Her love of French was greatly increased by a period spent as an au pair in Toulouse, just after the war. She kept in contact with the host family, and many of the cousins, children and grandchildren of the extended Léman/Lalande family remained close friends all her life.

Her university studies had been interrupted by the war when she joined the WRNS (Women's Royal Navy Service) and worked at Bletchley Park with Angus Wilson (later a very successful novelist) who had been seconded from the British Museum to work on de-coding enemy signals. After the war, Angus Wilson introduced her to one of his colleagues who had also been seconded to Bletchley,

Laurence Wood, a French specialist in the British Museum, and they married in 1947.

Rona had an intense capacity for making and retaining friends. At Henrietta Barnett, she was very supportive of the younger staff in the languages department and, though they went off to different schools, different jobs and different countries, they still kept in close contact with her and appreciated her keen interest in their lives and their children.

She was the same with family, always the one to seize the opportunity of a visiting cousin to organise a reunion of as many other cousins as the garden in Hampstead Way could accommodate.

Her interest in people made her a formidable networker, constantly on the alert for connections that might, in her view, help others. In recent years, she liked nothing better than to invite a group of friends and acquaintances for coffee and sandwiches, always looking to learn from them and to foster relationships. She greatly admired the experience and expertise of her friends, and also enjoyed a good argument.

She was formidably energetic. When, in 2013, the wife of an elderly blind Palestinian refugee she had befriended in the 1960s died, she began making a weekly round trip on two buses to Kilburn to collect, wash and return his laundry, despite the fact that she was 90 and staggered under the weight of the sheets!

For her interest in people, in politics and in discussion, for the help that she always tried to give others and for her dauntless energy, she will be greatly missed.

FRANCES & STEPHEN WOOD



Rona as a Wren, during the war

# Dorothy Ravenswood 1934-2016



JANA TETHERS

to your door; one of a number of unsung volunteers without whom the paper would not get to you. Dorothy Ravenswood was one of the team.

Dorothy, who was born in Tyldesley in Lancashire, had a fascination for the past, ancient and more recent – so it is worth noting that Tyldesley has a Roman heritage although the name itself is from the Old English 'Tilwald'.

She was born 'Walker' and had spent much time researching her family history; there are files of papers kept in meticulous order and I do hope that somebody will

take forward the work she devoted so much of herself to in this regard.

She had come to London as a student at Bedford College; where she acquired a love for books which she carried forward into a career in publishing and then into creative writing and editing, including working in collaboration with the Times Newspaper group and the British Museum to produce educational materials, and then finishing her career as letters editor with the Sunday Times.

During her latter years she lived here on the Suburb, at 29 Hogarth Hill, and involved herself in a number of local community activities; Suburb News deliverer, Community Library campaigner, and more. She was a good neighbour and loyal friend.

Like anyone who was educated, and who had cultivated a lively mind, she was not slow to express an opinion, of most things and most people. She was someone who had a feisty character, perhaps the product of having been, professionally, a woman in a man's world.

But there was a softer side to her; exposed in spite of herself especially when confronted by impending mortality and its attendant frailty and vulnerability; she may not have been afraid of death, but the process of dying was painful for her, and at times undignified, even demeaning; she found having to accept the inevitable very difficult indeed.

She is at peace now, and for that we can be profoundly grateful.

IAN TUTTON

# Hilda Silver 1952-2016

Residents and shopkeepers on the Suburb were shocked at the sudden passing of one of its most colourful characters, Hilda Silver, who died suddenly at the age of 64.

Hilda came to London in the late 1970's from Glasgow and lived for over 30 years on Falloeden Way. She was very well known in the area for her brightly coloured clothing and zest for life. She belonged to the local walking group, which she enjoyed very much, but is also well-known for her yoga classes, which were held at the Free Church Hall twice a week and were extremely popular.

Hilda had a varied working life, in radio, advertising, event planning, children's entertainment

and, in recent years, as marketing manager for a chocolate company, which took her all over the country holding tastings in many health food shops and food halls of well-known stores. She also appeared only last year in an advertising campaign for Barclays Bank, both on TV and in the newspapers. Although Hilda lived alone, she had many friends from all walks of life and her recent memorial service at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue, where she was a member, was attended by over 300 people, a testament to her popularity.

She is sadly missed by her mother, brothers and many, many friends.

STELLA STERNBERG



## Trust AGM (continued from page 1)

numerous meetings and was quite a commitment. It had initially meant a steep learning curve and he was pleased to have the opportunity to put something back into the community.

Unfortunately Suburb News was unable to hear much of the question and answer session that followed because of the noise coming from some of those present; although there was comment on six years being too long for a trustee to serve and this led to the formation of cliques.

Next Brian Ingram told us he had moved to the Suburb from Hampstead 40 years ago and was now distressed by the loss of front gardens, hedges and shrubs, about which the Trust was in denial. Asked about what he would bring to the Trust, he mentioned the management skills he had acquired from running successful businesses.

He thought there was a need to hire expert staff from other property companies and he agreed with David Iwi that there needed to be a management review. He claimed the Trust had become a closed shop, and that the Suburb was losing older residents unable to downsize and consideration should be given to allowing conversion of larger houses to flats to combat this.

Finally Richard Wiseman spoke about some of the concerns raised by Brian Ingram relating to extra staff and management skills while commenting that trustees must be able to work with people. He told us that the Residents Association often held the Trust to account in situations such as the development of gardens.

In reply to a question from Lynda Cook about the use of leaf blowers and pesticides he said that when questioned residents had indicated an unwillingness to pay more for alternatives.

Clive Lewisohn asked what control of residents' interests the Trust had exercised in relation to the actions of Trust employees. Richard Wiseman responded that great care was taken in this respect and complaints were most often unjustified.

Judith Chaney was told money would be the hardest challenge over the next three years. The lack of it meant things the Trust would like to do could not responsibly be done.

Nick Packard then moved the meeting onto any other questions residents wished to ask. Peter Falk was worried about new residents flouting the rules and the Trust Manager

said all new residents are contacted, but people often acted before considering the rules. Legal action was not always taken but all infringements are logged and remedied when the property is refinanced or sold.

Judith Samson was concerned about the unclipped hedges, overhanging trees and rubbish in the twitten between Erskine Hill and Willifield Way, and asked if the Trust could again threaten residents with costs if it had to carry out remedial work itself. Nick Packard said he would look into this.

Harry Simmonds asked about Bute Mews behind Market Place and whether the Trust could do something about its condition. The problem was a very difficult one with multiple ownership

and many leaseholders and freeholders involved. The Trust has no powers over the road and even Barnet cannot act effectively.

David Lewis, the Residents Association Chairman, said the RA had formed a committee to work on this and although fly tipping remained a problem there was less rubbish than previously. The road needed resurfacing but despite a notice from the owners pledging to do this two years ago, nothing had happened. The RA would continue to try to address the problems.

At 9.20pm the Chairman closed the meeting, which at times had been argumentative and bad-tempered with a low murmur of conversation sometimes making it difficult to hear the proceedings properly.

THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB TRUST LIMITED Election of Elected Member of the Council 2016	
Number of valid voting papers received:	494
Number of voting papers rejected:	8
Name of candidates	Number of votes cast for candidate
Michael Franklin	394
Brian Ingram	141
Richard Wiseman	375
The two candidates elected to fill the two vacancies are:	
Michael Franklin and Richard Wiseman	
Signed..... <i>Richard Weaver</i>	
Richard Weaver, haysmacintyre, 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4AG	

The certified results of the Trustee elections for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust

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