

Daphne Berkovi chats to David and Judith Cohen

David and Judith Cohen have been stalwarts of the Suburb Community for many years. Emanating from the time they moved onto the Suburb 55 years ago

The Suburb was known to both of them as their parents had lived nearby; as children, Judith lived in Chalk Farm and David in Golders Green. After meeting each other at a youth club and settling down to married life, they moved to Hill Rise and lived there for seven years. Their next move was to a house in Northway. When I asked them why they decided to move to the Suburb, they explained "it was a leafy green area, an oasis just a few miles from Central London; and a good place for young marrieds to raise their children." Their two sons Richard and Pete were born in the Suburb and educated locally.

The Cohen's involvement in local affairs has been immense and wide ranging. Initially David became coordinator of Neighbourhood Watch for Northway. Following on from that David and his two sons, participated in yearly cricket matches with teams made up of 'The Odds versus The Evens' residents of Northway. These took place on Hampstead Heath Extension and were started in the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. Also, whilst living in Northway

they enjoyed walking their dog, Cindy, in Big Wood and Little Wood, and meeting the dog-walking community there.

They told me how much they valued the wonderful programmes at the Institute when it was in the Suburb, and participated for many years in taking a wide range of classes.

David explained to me that after working for 26 years in the family retail shoe business, he decided to change direction and, with Judith, formed 'David Cohen Fine Art' in 1984. Thus, began a long association of 32 years dealing in paintings, drawings, sculpture, commemorative ware and ephemera of the First World War, supplying major museums and clients around the world. This led to David becoming a leading authority on the subject and serving as Chairman of the Western Front Association for four years. Alongside this, David and Judith ran an annual W.F.A. weekend Seminar in Abergavenny for 14 years. They had ten exhibitions in West End galleries and at the National Army Museum in Chelsea; David has also given many talks around the country, some locally at Fellowship House, where they held their Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration.

Judith serves on the Committee of the local North-West Support Group for the North London Hospice, and both David and Judith assist at

charity functions by the Group. Judith also helps at the annual local Combat Stress Fair.

Another major local contribution from both of them has been their unstinting support over several years volunteering for the Proms at St Jude's, where they help to organise Stewarding at the annual Proms and Literary Festival; both of them previously volunteered as stewards.

Since 2009 David has led the annual November Ceremony of Remembrance at the Clock Tower at Golders Green organised by the Rotary Club of Golders Green, of which David is a member. David has been a Rotarian for over 50 years, and was President of the Paddington Rotary Club. David explained that the numbers at the Remembrance Ceremony

have grown over the years, and that the police stop the traffic for the 2-minute silence; wreaths are then laid – ten were laid last year.

Alongside all their activities, David and Judith still find time to be ardent Arsenal supporters, and David regularly invites local longstanding friends to watch the England and Saracens rugby games at his home;

they are referred to as the HGS Rugby Social Club.

One feels a strong sense of dedication and community spirit when listening to the Cohen's involvement in local affairs. The motto of Rotary International is 'Service Above Self' and as I left their delightful home, I felt a true sense of appreciation of their own service to the Suburb community. **S**



The Trust has just published its supplementary design guidance for hardstandings and paving in front gardens

The illustrated guide, available on our website, contains examples of a variety of hardstandings – paying attention to both scale and materials. It is a supplement to our wider Design Guidance, which is also available on our website.

For advice on hardstandings, paths or any other external alterations to your property, please contact the Trust office for a site visit from one of our architectural team. We do not charge for these visits as the cost is covered by the management charge, or ground rent for leasehold properties. Remember, whether under the Scheme of Management or the terms of your lease, you normally require the prior written consent of the Trust to make external changes to your property – please contact us for more information if you are unsure.



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862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB ~ 020 8455 1066 ~ mail@hgstrust.org ~ www.hgstrust.org ~ twitter: @HGSTrust