

Suburb News

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association



Hilary Cronin wowed all at the Proms launch, 2015 details on page 9



Simon Callow supports the Youth Music Centre, page 4



Farewell to a dedicated HGS Trust manager, see page 7

Changes at the RA

The Residents Association has a new chairman, four new council members and additions to its constitution, all occurring on March 30 when the RA's 103rd Annual General Meeting was preceded by a Special General Meeting calling for constitutional changes to the association.

All members had received full details in advance, with a

copy of the Annual Accounts (see AGM Annual Report on www.hgs.org.uk). One of the constitutional changes was introduced by the chairman as controversial and needing full discussion; this was a provision enabling the council, by a three quarters majority, to expel one of its members. It would only be triggered by a future event, and six weeks' notice of the proposal would be required, with reason given and an opportunity for the relevant individual, or someone on his behalf, to speak. A member excluded from council could not re-stand for a year, but would remain a member of the RA.

Some residents will remember how previous attempts at constitutional change have stalled at this stage and, before discussion of the change could take place, a point of order was raised by Frances Prentice, suggesting that the proposal should be scrutinised by legal Counsel. The Chairman outlined the advice that had already been obtained and that the RA had not been in breach of procedure or rules. A short debate then took place with a number of speakers making points for and against, and the proposal was adopted by 50 votes to 14, with 5 abstentions (each household present having just one vote).

The AGM had a full agenda, including the election of David B Lewis as chairman, succeeding Jonathan Seres, and Anita Harlow, Hella Schrader, Lynda Cook and Simon Sackman as new members of Council.

The Annual Report was in a new format and printed in the middle pages of the January Suburb News. The Accounts, circulated subsequently, showed

amounts paid to help local projects which included the item of £20,000 from the RA's Centenary Fund towards the rebuilt playground in Northway Gardens, and the payment from Income of £4,000 which had been donated by the RA to Fellowship towards the recently completed development of Fellowship House.

Under 'other business', the chairman informed the meeting of the March planning application by a 'smart-meter' company for antennae on St Jude's church, following a brief pre-planning consultation. Those present were reminded that the plans had already been reported, with a photograph, in the RA's December eNews. On an informal poll at the AGM, the small number who recalled the photograph were almost all against the proposal.

The chairman of the Trust informed the meeting that the antennae appeared, from the plans, to be taller than stated in the application. The Rev Ian Tutton considered that the RA ought to have held a public information meeting, which the chairman agreed but said that in the time available that had not been possible, but that the RA's council would consider the matter the following week.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that Barnet officials would take into consideration any response up to the time of the decision. Suburb News can report that the RA's council authorised a letter to Barnet objecting to the proposal, citing architectural reasons and conveying the concern of local residents regarding the potential health hazard, albeit the RA did not have the expertise to comment on the latter.



Last year's dazzling Fun Day is to be repeated again this year on June 28. See article on page 3.



David B Lewis speaks at the AGM under the watchful eye of Henrietta Barnett



Preparing for the onslaught – Mike Freer (Con), Sarah Sackman (Lab), Jonathan Davies (Lib), Adele Ward (Green), Richard King (UKIP)

Suburb Hustings at Free Church

Residents had the opportunity to hear all five of our prospective parliamentary candidates give their opinions on a range of topics at the Hustings in The Free Church organised by the RA's Events Committee with the general election only two weeks away.

Sarah Sackman (Lab) got the most sustained applause on introduction, and would have won the applause award had there been a clapometer available.

Alan Walker managed to keep the participants well under control during the question and

answer session that followed ensuring that the candidates all had an equal chance to be heard. The topics covered ranged from the national, such as the proposed Mansion Tax, Trident, renewable energy, votes at 16, (continued on page 4)

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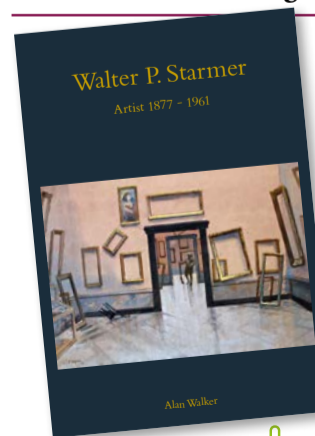
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Walter Starmmer A Suburb Artist at War

The Reverend Alan Walker on the painter of the murals in St Jude's who was also a war artist and political cartoonist.

Sunday 17 May, 3.00pm
Friends Meeting House, 17 North Square



Illustrated talk followed by tea and cakes. No charge but £5 donation would be welcome.

THIS IS A POPULAR ANNUAL EVENT ORGANISED BY THE RA IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL ROWLEY.

Copies of this newly published book on Starmmer will be on sale at a special price.



Nick Goldberg 1981-2015



Everyone in the Finchley and Golders Green Labour Party was saddened and shocked by the tragic, devastating and untimely death of our good friend and comrade, Nick Goldberg. He died of a heart attack, while on holiday in February.

Nick was a Hampstead Garden Suburb resident and stood as a Labour candidate for the ward in last year's local elections. He may not have won on the day, but, from the first moment I met him, it was clear that, if he wanted to, he could have gone on to have a great and meaningful career both in the party and in local government.

I first got to know Nick through the Save Barnet NHS campaign. He was chairing the first meeting I went to, and he couldn't have been any more welcoming or accommodating. He had endless energy and so many great, creative ideas that helped him to get the best out of everyone around him. He inspired us all, making us feel important and ensuring we all knew our potential and the great things we are capable of.

Nick was an active campaigner and was well known, and loved by many. He was a dedicated activist; deeply committed to the fight for social justice and against inequality. He passionately believed in the good of people, and he was always thinking of others. Politics and social change were such huge and heartfelt parts of his life. When he wasn't campaigning for the Labour

Party he was providing advice and advocacy support to the disadvantaged in his work with a great charity, the Zacchaeus 2000 Trust, which helps some of the most vulnerable and under-supported people in our society.

Nick had a magnetic and infectious personality that saw him forming a number of great and very close friendships with many people from across our community, and I consider myself very fortunate to have been one of them. The reasons why we loved him are obvious; he was compassionate, intelligent, supportive, empathetic and, regardless of the situation, he always had a generous and sharp wit. A snappy dresser and a beard Karl Marx would envy, he was always great fun to be around and always made time for his friends.

For many of us, we haven't just lost a staunch campaigner, we have also lost a dear friend. Nick truly was one of a kind. He was taken from us too young, and he will never be forgotten. His funeral was attended by hundreds of people from across the country; a true sign of the measure of the man, and of the number of lives he touched and enhanced. His legacy will live on in all those he inspired and all of those he helped. My heart, thoughts and strength go out to Nick's husband, Romin, his loving parents, and to all of his friends and family at what is a very sad time.

SARAH SACKMAN



Help build a school in Cambodia

Want to do something amazing? Join Guy's Trust next February and help build a school in Cambodia!

Three years ago, Suburb residents Tony and Vicky Joseph set up the charity Guy's Trust in memory of their son Guy who was tragically killed, aged 25, in a paragliding accident in 2011. Guy's Trust offers educational opportunities to disadvantaged young people in developing countries and focuses on projects that reflect Guy's interests and the countries in which he spent some time.

To date Guy's Trust has funded 12 marine conservation internships in Indonesia and built three schools and a library in Nepal in Guy's memory. In 2013 they took a team of 30 people to Nepal to start working alongside the local people on the first Guy Joseph Early Childhood Development Centre.

Guy's Trust is now working in Cambodia, building a much-needed primary school in a small village near Kampot. The school there is so derelict that the children are unable to use some of the classrooms and the charity will be building them a new school.

From 12-21 February 2016 they will be taking a team to start the build there and would welcome any local people who would like to join them. No particular skills are required, just enthusiasm! This will be a unique opportunity to visit a

fascinating country, to be physically involved in building a legacy for Guy and to make an impact on a community that needs help. A great sense of camaraderie and fun is also guaranteed!

For further information on this project please visit guystrust.org/downloads/Cambodiatrip.pdf or contact vicky@guystrust.org if you have any questions.

Guy Joseph was an intrepid adventurer and traveller who loved snowboarding, scuba diving and paragliding. After graduating from Newcastle University with a first class degree in Marine Biology, he worked as a scuba diving instructor in East Timor and Indonesia for two years before travelling to Nepal where he spent the winter of 2010/11 learning to paraglide.

He was intelligent, warm, tolerant and non-judgmental; a wise and caring son and brother and dear friend to many people all over the world. Despite his youth and legendary sense of fun and zest for life, he had a reputation as a responsible and gifted teacher with a talent for developing lasting friendships with anyone, whatever their background, nationality or age.



Freeview interference

Suburb News has learned of a problem that could affect some households using the Freeview TV service. The new 4G mobile internet network operates using frequencies next to those used by Freeview and this has the capacity to interfere with, or even block, the TV signal.

4G mobile operators have set up an organisation named at800 to ensure that households do not suffer as a result of the expansion of the 4G network. If you think you are suffering

such disruption, you should go to www.at800.tv for information on how to proceed. This service is provided free of charge and usually results in the fitting of an aerial filter to block the 4G signal.

The reader who alerted us to this problem was surprised to be told by the aerial company sent round by the management of his accommodation provider that the problem was with his own equipment, which needed replacement. He feels he was being scammed and is pursuing

the matter with the relevant trade association and the Trading Standards office.

He warns that if you are suffering disruption on your

Freeview TV reception, it is worth checking first with at800 before spending any money on the recommendation of a TV aerial company.



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Fellowship House reopens

On 2 March Fellowship House on Willfield Green reopened its doors for business as usual. The day before there had been a well attended opening reception for appeal donors whose superb generosity made possible the extensive refurbishment and extension project.

This seven-month job, taking nearly three years to plan and build, finished on schedule and within budget, has resulted in a modern amenity of which the Suburb can be justly proud.

The two-metre extension has brought much needed extra space to the three interlinked public areas within, whilst enhancing the building's 1950s architectural integrity. The roof

has been strengthened; access, safety, equipment, furnishing and ease of circulation have been brought up to 21st century standards. The main hall now seats up to 100 and a smaller room, equipped as an art gallery, 35. There is a removable stage and an up to date audiovisual system. A new kitchen has also been fitted.

Outside, a new people friendly courtyard garden replaces the old inaccessible lawn and difficult steps. Four planting areas will, in time, green up and soften the present hard edges.

The total project cost was £350K. This was met by Eileen Whelan's wonderful bequest (£188K), Fellowship resources

(£74K) and Appeal donations from Suburb residents (£88K).

Fellowship House as well as being the home of HGS Fellowship, a 100-year old charity dedicated to residents over 60, is also a valuable and unique amenity available to the wider Suburb. It is entirely secular and independent and serves as a venue for many local clubs, groups and activities as well as being available for private hire, with or without catering. For all enquiries please contact the chairman, Louise Scheuer on 8455 5459 or email her at scheuer.louise@gmail.com. A new website is being built at www.fellowshiphouse.co.uk where all relevant information will soon be available.



Sally Botterill and Peter Blackstaffe enjoying the new facilities



Summer Fun Day 2015



All fired up and ready to go – Suburb children, if not the donkeys, at last year's Residents Association Fun Day!

When you wake up on Sunday 28 June this year and the kids ask 'What are we doing today?', you can breathe a sigh of relief because an afternoon of fun and cakes and donkeys is on hand.

If you head up to Central Square you'll be met by a vast array of activities and events. You will also find a large picnic space for you to enjoy with your family and friends – bring your own blanket or hire a table and chairs for the afternoon.

Kick off the afternoon with Happy Hour between 12.30-1.30

and pick up a free drink. Then have a wander around, enjoy the vibe and visit one of the many attractions and stalls. You can even have a dance to live music from our very own local band *Sound of the Suburb*.

It promises to be a super afternoon with something for everyone. So, if you want to channel your inner Mary Berry, you can make something for the Cake Stall or perhaps you fancy yourself as the next Andy Murray? Then enjoy a volley with our Tennis pro. Maybe your hero

is Frank Lampard? Have a kickabout and 'beat the goalie'.

All proceeds go to support the various events put on each year by the RA Events Committee.

A TASTER OF WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- Punch & Judy
- Several Fairground attractions
- Donkey Rides
- Beat the Goalie
- Tennis Demos
- Cookery Demos
- Children's entertainer
- Magician
- Face Painting
- Make up Demos
- Story teller
- Homemade cake stall
- Crepe & Ice Cream stalls
- A variety of Raffles

If you'd like to join our Volunteers Rota and be part of the team to put up gazebos or sell cakes for example, please email raevents@hgs.org.uk.



Punch & Judy, always a firm favourite.

Bowls Open Afternoon



Are you already a bowls player or are you prepared to try something new? You can get fresh air in the company of fellow Suburb residents at the Temple Fortune Club. Try it at their Open Afternoon on Saturday 6 June from 2-10pm, or any Wednesday between 2-10pm as

long as the weather is dry. You can borrow bowls and shoes, and members and coaches will be there to help. To encourage you take the plunge, the first two sessions are free.

For more information please contact Pia Duran (captain) on 8458 2300.



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Welcome to St Jude's

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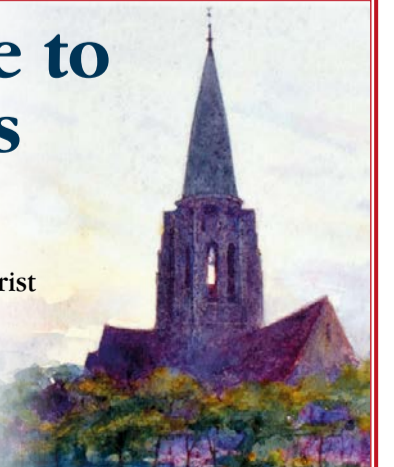
8am Said Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Thursdays:

10am Said Eucharist

All Welcome



Youth Music Centre grows stronger



Simon Callow CBE, Tanja Goldberg, Members of the Kingfisher ensemble: Mine Ibrahim, Natalie Bhak, Sarah Mohamed, Alice Yau, Xavier Nadal and (behind) Robin Powel (Festival director).

This year the north west London based Youth Music Centre (www.youthmusiccentre.org) had a triple win in the 2015 Spring Grove Music Festival and took home a cash prize of £750.

The groups are the Sunshine ensemble, Primrose ensemble and the Kingfisher ensemble, all taught by Tanja Goldberg and only got together last September. These young musicians meet every Saturday morning at the Youth Music Centre for orchestral playing, theory, voice lessons and choir. The centre takes children from as young as 24 months into their highly successful Junior Musicianship classes.

From September the YMC which has been predominantly string-based will add wind sections to their orchestras. They are now looking for any keen wind players who would like to come to their assessment day on 7 June in Avenue House in north London.

Recently the YMC has been awarded a substantial grant by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust towards their annual Concerto Prize Competition, which is held in April, and every prizewinner will get the chance to play a concerto with orchestra at the prizewinners concert on 10 May at 4pm in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church.

Library author talk

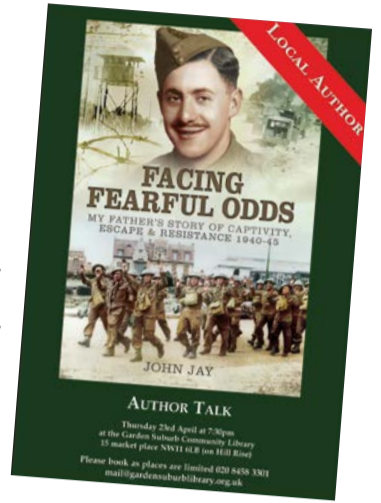
On Thursday 23 April, the first-ever evening author talk took place at Hampstead Garden Suburb Community Library in the Market Place. Local Suburb author John Jay talked about his book, 'Facing Fearful Odds', to an audience packed into every nook and cranny of this tiny space. The book details the experiences of John's father, Rifleman Alec Jay, following the capture of his unit in Calais. Alec differed from most of the other POWs captured by the Nazis, being Jewish. He suffered forced labour in Germany, where he led a rare successful strike, escaped at his fifth attempt and joined with Czech partisans in the closing weeks of the war in Europe. Alec Jay never wrote a POW diary or memoir, but he did bring home a slim volume

of poems written during his captivity. Around these his son John has reconstructed his war, an inspiring and compelling account of a young man 'facing fearful odds' as one of very few Jewish military prisoners.

The author of this fascinating book, John Jay, was born in the Suburb in 1957. He was City Editor of the Sunday Times and ran the business coverage of the Sunday Telegraph. Now in asset management, he lives in north London with his wife and daughter.

The library may be small, but it is fast becoming a lively and vibrant community asset, now that Barnet has handed over the entire running of it to the fully independent volunteer management team. New books have recently been purchased and are flying off the shelves

and its selection of books and DVDs are heavily used by local children. New volunteer librarians are always welcome and training will be given. For details visit gardensuburblibrary.org.uk.



Suburb Hustings (continued from front page)



support for the small business, the NHS (a topic that raised a heckle when it mistakenly appeared it was being left out) and the economy, to the international with the Mediterranean boat people, Tibet and the state of Israel all featuring.

More personal and local questions were also answered and so we heard opinions on affordable housing in Barnet, the first thing you would do on taking a seat in the Commons, a policy of your party you disagree with, the biggest issue facing Britain, hate crime and racism, LGBT issues and the Number 13 bus.

All the candidates apparently are users of the 13 prompting an "I am Spartacus" moment from the last one to declare, while Richard King somehow managed to bring Quantitative Easing into his reply, but the 13 will not disappear if our candidates have anything to do with it.

Jonathan Davies (Lib Dem) echoed a feeling residents have written about on the HGS List that the wording of TfL's statement is strange. Is the back down on the proposal to scrap the 13 a temporary stay of execution so that it comes back after the election when politicians' priorities have changed?

As is often reported there is sometimes remarkable agreement on some things. So all the candidates support human rights in Tibet, a 2-state solution to the Israel Palestine question, the number 13 bus and the LGBT community with Mike Freer (Con) speaking particularly effectively on the latter issue. On other issues responses were

sometimes predictable; Mike Freer and Jonathan Davies often stood on their record, although Mr Davies made sure we knew the LibDem record was a different one to the Conservative's. Adele Ward (Green) was the only candidate to show concern for the environment and climate change, and for Richard King the answer to almost all questions (including parking) was to leave the European Union.

The audience were remarkably well-behaved and after nearly

two hours of talking Alan Walker brought the proceedings to a close thanking the five candidates for their time and commitment.

They must be committed as Suburb News learned they had already attended a hustings in the morning in East Finchley, and members of the RA who are on the HGS List will know they were due to appear again in Central Square at the Minyan a week later. A process no doubt repeated all over the constituency, so that by the time it comes to

the declaration of the result they will surely be grateful it is over.

The vociferous heckler however seemed to give up after some counter-heckling and left the church in a noticeable fashion in the second half of the meeting. Suburb News, having been unable to comprehend what he was saying, questioned a number of people as they were leaving, but it appears no-one was able to understand what was causing him such anguish.

TERRY BROOKS



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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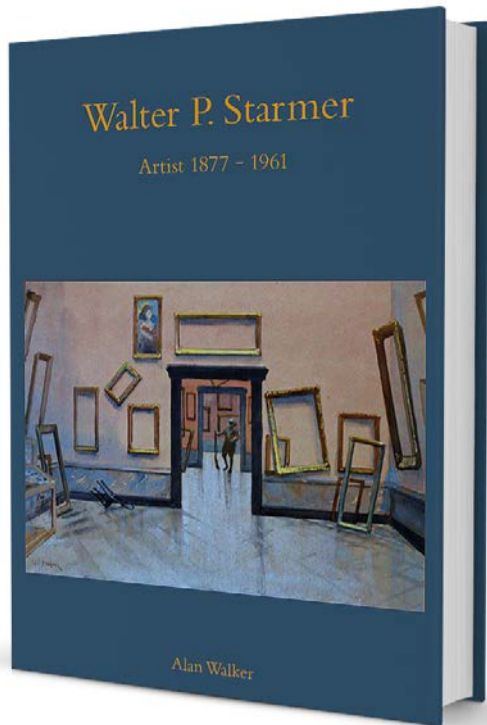
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Walter P. Starmer Artist 1871-1961



In 1994 when Alan Walker became the Vicar of St Jude's he realised that, as well as nurturing the spiritual welfare of his parishioners, he was also the guardian of one of the most significant church buildings of the twentieth century. Lutyens groupies would ask the question "when are you going to get those dreadful murals whitewashed over?" The murals were by an unknown, and therefore obviously insignificant, artist and they diverted attention from the purity of Lutyens's architecture. There is a widely held view that Lutyens neither wanted nor approved of the mural scheme for St Jude's. However, Alan has discovered that this was far from the case. Indeed at the time this book was being edited, he discovered the Free Church too had been planning a similar decorative scheme. After consulting English Heritage, who reported that the work was actually a rather outstanding and nationally important example of twentieth century ecclesiastical decoration, Alan Walker set about finding out as much as he could about the artist, and now the fruits of his research have been made available in a splendidly produced volume *Walter P. Starmer Artist 1871-1961*. Starmer's complete body of work is explored here for the first time ranging from advertising work for Poppyland (north Norfolk), through cartoons for *The Anti-Vivisection Review* and golden age Children's book illustrations.

At this time of marking the centenary of the First World War, Alan Walker has managed to track down and reproduce several of the paintings Starmer

made when serving with the Red Cross on the Western Front. Unlike some 'official' war artists, Starmer was based in France for the duration of hostilities and this degree of freedom provided him with thoughtful and unusual source material. Starmer's special mission was to record the work of the YMCA in offering rest and recreational facilities for the troops. In one painting Starmer depicts a large group of Australian soldiers viewing a film show projected onto the wall of a farm building. Others show the little-known contribution of Chinese workers and Indian troops to the war effort. The YMCA built semi-permanent structures behind the front lines. A number of these were decorated with Starmer murals.

It was in France that Starmer met the first Vicar of St Jude's,

the Reverend Basil Bouchier, who was serving as a military chaplain. Bouchier invited the artist to submit proposals for a war memorial at St Jude's. Rather surprisingly Starmer came up with a scheme based on images of the women of the Bible and which was later extended to include other 'eminent women'. The latter included historical figures such as Joan of Arc, but also the more recent promoters of the kind of causes that appealed to the early radically-minded female residents of the Suburb such as the campaign against vivisection and, of course, women's suffrage: Frances Power Cobbe, Josephine Butler, Angela Burdett-Coutts, Edith Cavell and Emily Davison. A reminder, perhaps, that for its founder, Henrietta Barnett, the Suburb was as much a 'feminist' project as a social experiment.

Although a prize-winning student at both Norwich and Birmingham art schools, Starmer never became famous at least in part because he worked in media that by the middle of the twentieth century had become decidedly unfashionable - church murals and stained glass. Ironically one of Starmer's contemporaries at Norwich was Alfred Munnings, the society equestrian painter. Back in those collegiate days Starmer was considered the more promising student, but it was Munnings who was to have the flashier artistic career, ending as President of the Royal Academy.

Sadly Starmer's artistic legacy and reputation has faded as most of his later work for West End churches was destroyed during the Second World War. By a strange quirk of fate, one of

these was St Anne's Soho, the church to which Basil Bouchier moved after his time at St Jude's. What the Luftwaffe had failed to achieve, in town planning was ruthlessly carried through by postwar developers. Both St Peter's, Piccadilly and St Agatha's, Shoreditch, had substantial Starmer murals - but where are they now? Extant sketches indicate that his post St Jude's mural style was evolving in interesting ways. Starmer's portfolio of varied and unusual war paintings was sufficiently highly regarded by the Imperial War Museum that they bought no fewer than thirty examples. Disappointingly not one of them has ever been on public display.

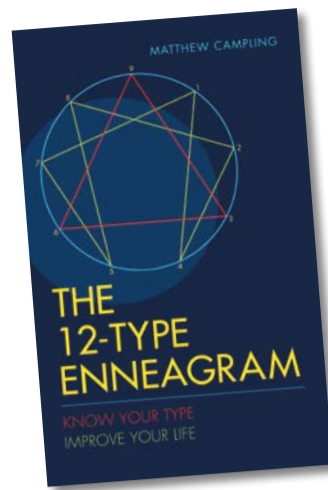
Despite all the knocks, Starmer was no garret-living, starving artist. He was a successful professional practitioner of his craft. He was able to make a comfortable, if moderate, income throughout his life from the work he set out from childhood to do. He comes across as a modest and shy man, but one driven both by a commitment to his art and his religious convictions. *Walter P. Starmer Artist 1899-1961* reads like a detective story as Alan Walker unpeels the onion skins of the artist's life and work. Eruditely written and lavishly illustrated, this book throws a spotlight on the man and his work too long overshadowed by Lutyens.

STEPHEN JAMES

Walter P. Starmer Artist 1871 - 1961 by Alan Walker is available through Amazon and eBay at £19.99 or directly from the church at the special price of £15.



Find your essence type



type, how this knowledge can help with understanding ourselves and others, and enable us to live more fulfilling lives. Readers can find out more about the essence types on the website at www.12egram.com.

Matthew Camplin is a psychotherapist who lives in Willifield Way. He has written for magazines and newspapers, featured on television and radio, and was a regular guest expert on ITV's *The Trisha Show*. For those who are interested he is running workshops on the 12-Type Enneagram.



Suburb resident Matthew Camplin, author of two books on eating disorders, has recently had a new book published by Watkins Publishing. Entitled *The 12-Type Enneagram*, it reveals how and why we all think, feel and behave differently from each other by identifying which one of 12 very specific 'essence types' a person is.

The book shows how our lives are affected by our essence

WORDSEARCH

Welcome to the new series of the Wordsearch! In the box below there are 20 world languages concealed. An extra one is highlighted to start you off but don't include it in your total! Names may be read in all directions, straight or diagonally. All words have four letters or more. Please send your entries by email to cristina.lago@gmail.com or by post to Cristina Lago, 47 Willifield Way, NW11 7XU with your name and contact details. The closing date is June 20. All correct entries go into a draw to win a £20 voucher from our great local shop Joseph's Bookstore. Good luck!

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Suburb News *in conversation with...*

...Nick Packard, new Trust Manager

'The new face of the Trust' by Diana Brahams

Nick Packard took over as Manager of Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust from Jane Blackburn in February 2015.

He is a new broom with keen and practical ideas to safeguard the Suburb with useful experience under his belt as he worked for five and a half years as the Trust's Estate Manager under Jane's stewardship during which time he qualified as a chartered surveyor. He offers a safe and sensible pair of younger hands but with relevant experience and fresh ideas.

Nick was born in Kingston-upon-Thames and grew up in the Barbican, has worked in central London and currently lives with his wife and young family in Hackney. In consequence, he brings a wider perspective to the Trust and while he is a committed conservationist he told me he recognises that conservation has to be sensible and practical and take account of modern living.

After university, Nick's early career was spent working as an estate agent during the rapid gentrification and advance of the City into Spitalfields where he observed at first-hand how rapidly an area could change both visually and in terms of its occupancy and land values and increased his undoubted

commitment to conservation. "I think some important old buildings and areas are worth preserving and that we need to build on a large scale to help improve the affordability of housing."

He decided to become a chartered surveyor and to enable himself to start formal training he obtained the prerequisite of (in his case) a Master's degree (2007-8) at Kingston in European Real Estate. At this point he joined the Trust as its Estate Manager in 2009 as a trainee surveyor and told me he is very grateful to Geoffrey Marriott, a former Trustee, who helped and mentored him during the qualification process.

I asked Nick what it was that attracted him to become a surveyor and work in the Trust: "I have always been interested in residential property – people's homes are interesting – people are different in their homes from their work life."

With regard to the Trust: "I liked the personal element – it can be very enjoyable but also sometimes stressful. People are passionate about their houses."

I asked about funding for the Trust in the light of some expensive litigation which ended in the Lands Tribunal finding against the Trust's refusal

to agree to give permission to demolish the single J C S Soutar designed house in Ingram Avenue which stood on a large double sized plot. However, even though the developer won the right to demolish the original house and build two houses on the same land, they had to negotiate with the Trust in the redesign of the two houses. The Trust was also successful in a second case in Ingram Avenue at the Lands Tribunal and Court of Appeal in resisting building above a garage.

While it may at times be frustrating personally, in many other instances we must be grateful to the Trust for keeping inappropriate "improvements" and additions out of the Suburb. When the Trust has taken its eye off the ball in the past it was not long before ugly cladding and extensions and so forth began to appear. People are attracted to the Suburb precisely because of its consistency and charm, the hedges and trees and pretty windows on the houses with their red brick or white-washed walls and yet, human nature ensures that new buyers and even long-standing residents fail to appreciate the bigger picture if and when their own plans for extensions and alterations and dormer windows are turned down.

It is worth remembering how the Trust began. In or around 1906, (close to the time when the Northern line was extended and Golders Green tube station opened), the original Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust was set up by Dame Henrietta Barnett to purchase the land that was to become and be developed as Hampstead Garden Suburb (from Eton College Estate and the Church Commissioners). The Trust sold plots on 99 year leases with restrictive covenants to individuals and builders over the years retaining others and building many of the smaller houses and cottages and then letting them out at modest rents to artisans and other working people with a view to achieving the integrated social and class mix that Dame Henrietta desired. No pub was allowed on Trust land and the girls' school and the adult Institute (that shared the same premises for so long) were intended to prioritise local people, but no longer do so.

The Suburb quickly became a very desirable place to live and bring up families and was soon a hostage to its own success: prices rose ahead of other local areas and 'artisans' cottages' were sought as bijou residences in need of modernisation. Many of these smaller homes have delightful and relatively large gardens, which had been intended for growing vegetables and fruits by their tenants to improve income and diet. By the 1960s many tenancies had ended and the Trust sold them off, and increasingly was selling 900 year extensions to the original 99 year leases with fixed ground rents. The Leasehold Reform Act 1967 was in the process of



going through Parliament and the original Trust was facing financial difficulties as it had a fixed income from ground rents and borrowings linked to variable interest rates which were rising. The original Trust was wound up and the Suburb sold at auction in 1969 to a property company. During the late 1960s and early 1970s a group of residents fought to obtain section 19 of the Leasehold Reform Act and formed the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust as a body to run a Scheme of Management for the Suburb under that section of the Act. The Scheme of Management was eventually granted to the New Trust in 1974 to control alterations to freehold properties and manage communal areas of the Suburb. The Scheme of Management must equal the Trust's reasonable

costs of operating the Scheme each year and the Trust is not allowed to make a profit on its operation.

The New Trust (now renamed the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust) therefore requires its own income to continue to operate. The Trust eventually obtained all of the freeholds on the Suburb and the benefit of restrictive covenants over the estate. Within the last 10 years the Trust has reversed its diminishing resources by taking a more commercial view on its assets e.g. releasing owners from the restrictive covenants that prevent conversion of garages into living space.

The Trust has also been seeking investments to provide an income to the Trust as its capital assets will eventually run out. Until fairly recently the only property the Trust retained was

its office headquarters building at 862 Finchley Road. It has sensibly extended the downstairs area and this has enabled it to re-convert a flat above, which it lets out. It has also been buying flats (it now owns four) on the Suburb, which it lets out, and aims to provide itself over time with a portfolio of property that will provide an income and capital growth to sustain its future. This strategy coincides with Nick Packard's arrival and time spent as Estates Manager and we can be sure that he will carry it forward in a practical and sensible fashion and so ensure the Trust will endure to support Suburb activities which include the forthcoming Suburb Proms at St Judes (20-28 June) and will protect the character and all that is best about our beloved Hampstead Garden Suburb now and in the future.

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Jane moves on to pastures new

Before she left us for pastures new, Suburb News spoke to Jane Blackburn about her time with us as Manager of the HGS Trust. Asked about the path that led her to the Suburb she explained that although she originally qualified as an architect it was her work experience which brought her here.

Jane spent ten years working at the Royal Opera House in their housing department where she found herself representing the interests of building users within the organisation and acting as a kind of interpreter of the technical aspects. She said it was a huge organisation (Suburb News checked the website and it is huge) presenting a consequent diversity of experiences and challenges. It was also great fun to work for.

When the time came to move on, it was from one prestigious organisation to another in the form of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Jane was struck by the influence of the company in Stratford and the interrelationship between the company and town.

After working for two large well-known organisations with building programmes and complex relationships with building users and local communities, coming here was quite a change. However the position at the Trust was a wonderful opportunity to work in a special organisation in a special area, the Suburb, and it suited Jane professionally by building on and broadening her previous experience, while also being convenient personally as it was not far from home.

The thing she found the most surprising was that the Trust had seemed unaware of, and had not anticipated, the strength of the legal framework that underpins its ability to resist inappropriate development. Hence in recent years we have seen the testing of the support of the courts for the continued conservation of the Suburb.

More problematic for her was convincing residents that the Trust tries to act in the best interests of the Suburb and those who live in it. She also often found it difficult overcoming the suspicion some have of the Trust and explaining the limits of its powers, particularly in the area of compulsion.

Asked about achievements she mentioned two that she felt had occurred during her time in the job. One was the winning of cases that helped to secure design guidance with legal backing. The other was the reorganisation of the Trust's finances, which resulted in the recovery of financial security and the emergence of financial stability.

The memories Jane will take with her are, almost unbelievably, all positive. She particularly enjoyed the many walks she led over the years, meeting people from all over world, and giving explanations to the participants. The Conservation Area Appraisal was full of discovery and a chance to learn new things. She will remember with fondness the organisation and the staff

with whom she worked. She also said how much she appreciated the opportunity offered to work with builders.

Although she is taking early retirement from the Trust, she is not putting her feet up as she is moving on to a new challenge; becoming the chairman of a new co-housing scheme in Colchester with 23 houses and flats which share one common house. A scheme which allowed Jane to offer us a quote from a foreword written in 1907 by Raymond Unwin for a booklet called Co-partnership in Housing about the Hampstead Tenants' Societies which talks of "those who associate to accept and enjoy the sharing of great things in place of the exclusive possession of small things."

For relaxation and clearing the mind she likes walking. Holidays are often spent in the Lake District or taking on walks such as a recently completed 120 mile excursion on the South West Coastal Path. She told of also recently being press-ganged into cycling, but that is another story.

TERRY BROOKS



LIO – a dedicated performance

True to its title, the London International Orchestra looked towards both the east and the west, in a cleverly-devised programme of Russian and American music. On 25 February, a well-attended audience in the Free Church was treated to some splendid performances, conducted by Paul Wynne Griffiths, a long-standing member of music staff at the Royal Opera House.

The overture to Leonard Bernstein's musical, *Candide*, opened with a tremendous burst of energy and the conductor gave the orchestra its head in a colourful, lively rendering of music that could not have been anything other than American.

Koussevitzky started his career as a double-bass player and was principal in the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra. He became an international conductor and is remembered for his long tenure as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In 1905 he gave the first performance of his concerto for Double Bass and string orchestra. This single-movement piece of his which is beautifully written for the instrument, is rarely performed, because there are so few players who are capable of doing it justice.

Sixteen-year-old Matthew Paris is a notable exception. He imbued the solo lines with the sonority and tonal beauty of a cello, notably in the yearning middle section. He used his controlled vibrato to make the audience hold their breath and ensured that the romantic flavour never degenerated into oversentimentality. Matthew's mastery of the instrument was underlined by his skill in projecting a testing passage of harmonics with purity and clarity. In him, we were privileged to hear a musician of the first order: I would predict that he has a most distinguished career before him.

Matthew dedicated this performance to his late grand-

father, Nathaniel Paris, who had sadly passed away very recently, aged ninety. He had been a good friend and colleague of John Bakewell, principal double bass of the London International Orchestra, who paid a moving tribute to him and to their long collaboration in the double bass section of the Royal Opera House Orchestra. Nat, as he was generally known, was a popular member of the LIO as well.

In the exciting and lively performance of Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*, the LIO strings excelled themselves in creating a wild, primeval atmosphere with some deftly bold pizzicati. The bass drum enhanced the thrill of the action. Throughout the work, the conductor kept a tight rein and retained an impeccable ensemble in the rapid urgency at the end of the dances.

Rachmaninov's huge, romantic *Symphony No 2* took up the entire second half. From the sombre and passionate introduction of the first movement to the exultant conclusion, the orchestra displayed

a sense of relish in all departments. In the mocking downward motif in the second movement, we heard some distinguished playing by the horn section. And finally, some expressive poetry from principal clarinettist, Colin Bradbury, in the third movement, will stay long in the memory.

DAVID LITTAUR

You can hear the LIO at the Last Night of the Proms on 28 June at St Jude's Church.



Paul Wynne Griffiths

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Central Square Tennis Courts



The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust is in the process of refurbishing two tennis courts at Central Square for the use of residents.

One court is ready for use, having been cleaned and re-painted, and we expect the other court to be refurbished in 2015/16.

The courts are for use by Suburb residents and are available for hire free of charge to all residents and their guests.

Please book your time on the courts online via the Trust website:

tinyurl.com/hgstc

Please note that these courts are only to be used by those people who have booked for a specific time period. They are not to be used for tennis coaching, by non-residents, or for any other purpose.

Should you have any queries, please contact the Trust office: mail@hgstrust.org, 020 8455 1066.

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TfL driver defies Market Place restrictions



Those many residents who have received parking tickets from Transport for London for accidentally stopping in the confusingly marked loading bays or for other minor infractions in the Market Place will be astonished to see the above photograph of a TfL car parked in the south side disabled bay.

The photo was taken on the afternoon of 9 March by the RA's Roads & Traffic Committee chairman Gary Shaw who happened to be there when the TfL car came along. Mr Shaw said "TfL's employee appeared to have come to the Market Place to check on some work that had been carried out in Northway. There was plenty of available space on the opposite side of the road but he pulled straight into the disabled bay and the car remained there for several minutes at least. TfL's CCTV camera which has relieved residents and visitors of many thousands of pounds over the years is right above the disabled bay which is clearly marked and cannot

realistically be used by accident unlike the loading bays."

"The CCTV camera is used all the time to catch loading bay offenders who very often genuinely fail to recognise the restriction but it hardly ever monitors the disabled bay whose status is perfectly clear. It's quite possible that someone needing that bay was denied it during the time that TfL's able-bodied employee parked there."

The Roads & Traffic Committee sent the photo to TfL's senior parking officer who replied that staff and contractors are under instructions not to contravene parking regulations other than in an emergency and acknowledged that this was no such case. TfL have told the Committee that they intend to reinforce that message to their staff. Nevertheless the sight of a Transport for London vehicle flouting the restriction that is best understood and best respected by the rest of us will do little to encourage confidence in the enforcement arrangements in the Market Place.

CPZ - keeping the traffic or the money flowing?

The letter reproduced below from Suburb resident Hildburg Williams eloquently reminds residents that Barnet Council's CPZ scheme exists not for the purpose of resolving our parking problems but for raising revenue for the Council.

In the early days of the scheme it was mostly non-CPZ residents who fell foul of complicated restrictions but as the schemes have become better understood by visitors it tends now to be the permit-holders themselves who form the prime target for the Council's parking contractors. A common complaint among residents is of critical delays or bureaucratic mix-ups when the Council is asked to issue replacement permits after an

old one has expired. Transferring a permit to a new car or obtaining a temporary permit for a hired or borrowed car can also be a problem. Mrs Williams' case seems extraordinary but it is by no means unusual.

It beggars belief that the Council's contractors could genuinely have doubted Mrs Williams' account and it is clear that had any modicum of common sense been used her parking ticket would have been cancelled. After all she was a registered resident of the road with a current permit on a car that was out of action and which was not being used in the CPZ at the time. What possible purpose or public interest was there in fining her for parking inside a

zone that the Council claimed was put in for the benefit of residents? The answer of course is that the Council had absolutely no public interest in pursuing Mrs Williams and this act, along with countless similar ones, reveals the true ambition of the CPZ programme - the extraction of as much money as possible from the personal or private economy to bolster the Council finances that it might maintain its ever more intrusive presence in our lives.

Potential new CPZ residents are often seduced by the thought that the parking schemes will ensure that parking controls in their roads will operate in their interests. For as long as these interests are identical with the Council's some may find the

schemes a convenient solution but from the moment those interests fail to coincide, permit-holders will be left in no doubt whatsoever as to what the CPZ programme is all about.



Gary Shaw, RA's Roads & Traffic Committee chairman

17 Asmuns Place

Dear Sir,
Barnet Council has been much in the news lately, especially concerning its parking policies. I myself have been involved in a rather lengthy and frustrating parking permit issue, which has left me exhausted and resigned to pay the inflated fine in the end.

It all started when my car had to be taken away for extensive repairs and the garage provided me with a courtesy car for the duration of this work. The exchange took place on 16 June 2014.

As I live in a Controlled Parking Zone I was anxious to find out what I had to do since the courtesy car would be parked outside my home. I rang the Barnet permit office and spoke to a lady who told me to display two notices, clearly visible, inside the vehicle, and let her have the make and registration number of the courtesy car as soon as it arrived. This I did, sending an e-mail to the lady who gave her

name as Szilvia, and also requesting a transfer of my parking permit to the courtesy car.

I acted on the advice given to me, so I was surprised to find a parking ticket on the courtesy car when my own car was delivered back to me on 28 June 2014. Being convinced that there must have been a misunderstanding I wrote a letter on the same day explaining the circumstances and sent the ticket (unopened) back to Barnet together with the two notices which had stayed inside the vehicle all the time.

Nothing happened until the end of July when I received a Penalty Charge Notice from Barnet Parking Services in Sheffield. I was told that no "temporary dispensation permit" had been found and that therefore the charge was correctly issued. For me it became clear that the lady I had spoken to on June 16 had failed to send me the required dispensation notice with the official code and had also failed to put me on the database.

In case the information I had sent her was not sufficient, the Parking Permits team should have informed me of the correct way of transferring a parking permit to a courtesy car and also how to obtain a dispensation code. After all I approached Barnet for advice and had acted on it.

In the following correspondence Barnet remained adamant that the fine was justified, dismissed my explanations and completely ignored the print out of my e-mail as evidence of my innocence. A Notice to Owner arrived in October, which although I didn't know it, was my opportunity to make formal representations. Since I was not the legal owner of the courtesy car I only responded with another letter, enclosing again a print-out of the e-mail.

When I received the Charge Certificate and was threatened with the possibility of having bailiffs sent round to my home, I turned to Citizens Advice Bureau for help. At this stage not much

could be done, although my adviser actually managed to speak to a person at the Barnet Parking office who also happened to know 'Miss Szilvia'. I was advised to request a recording of the conversation I had with her on 16 June. I am still waiting.

As I wanted to make sure that the payment for the charge actually reached its correct destination, I decide to deliver my letter, with the enclosed cheque, personally to the officer my adviser from the CAB had spoken to and would be informed about me. Unfortunately I was told that he was not known at the address he had given on his e-mail. Instead I was put in touch with a lady at the Coventry branch of Barnet Parking Services who informed me that no letters were accepted 'by hand'. Payments should be made either on-line or by cheque sent through the post.

Yours sincerely,
Hildburg Williams

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society

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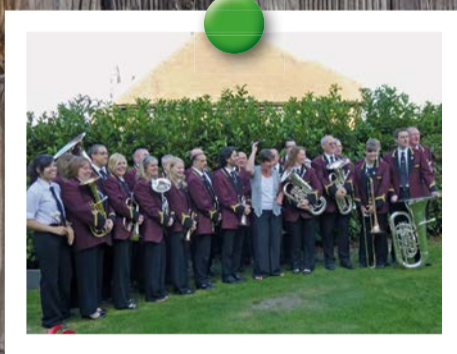
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- An advice line and 'buddy' scheme

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Glorious Proms at St Jude's Festival 2015



Maureen Lipman

This year's eagerly awaited Proms at St Jude's includes the world's favourite opera, one of Beethoven's best-loved violin sonatas and a musical celebration of Alice in Wonderland narrated by West End star Maureen Lipman.

But the festival will open on June 20 with a special tribute to Kay Hurwitz, founder of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Youth Music Centre, who died last year at 94.

The lunchtime family concert of choral, orchestral and chamber music features senior students and ex-members of the centre which opened in Bigwood House in 1967. Artistic director Nigel Goldberg will direct them in works by Strauss, Grieg and Mozart.

Former Muswell Hill resident Maureen Lipman, now exiled to far-away Paddington, is looking forward to returning to the Suburb to narrate the London première of *Wonderland*, a musical tribute to Alice in Wonderland creator Lewis Carroll.

Among other highlights are Nevill Holt Opera whose sell-out *La Bohème* wowed first-night audiences in 2014. They are back this year with a concert performance of Bizet's *Carmen* conducted by St Jude's director of music Nicholas Chalmers.

Violin virtuoso Charlie Siem returns with a programme including Beethoven's *Kreutzer* Sonata, the Brodsky String Quartet perform Schubert's *Quintet in C major* with cellist Gemma Rosefield and vocal ensemble The Cardinal's Musick sing works by Palestrina, Allegri and John Tavener.

Swing lovers can look forward to Clare Teal and her Mini Big Band as they recreate songs from the great female jazz singers of the 20th century.

YOUNG TALENT

There will plenty of 21st-century talent on show, too. The Melos Sinfonia, which draws students and new graduates from UK and European conservatories and universities, performs Poulenc's *Concerto for Two Pianos* and Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony*. They are directed by former Highgate School pupil Oliver Zeffman who recently conducted the Russian premières of several major British works.

And Kammerphilharmonie Europa, young musicians from 19 European countries, will continue the instrumental evenings with Sergey Schepkin on piano. The New York Times calls him 'arresting and formidable'.

As ever, the festival ends with a Last Night of the Proms. Concert-goers can be sure of plenty of bunting, flag-waving and traditional favourites galore as the London International Orchestra and mezzo Victoria Simmonds bring proceedings to a rousing finish.

The festival runs from Saturday June 20 to Sunday June 28 in and around Central Square, with most concerts held in St Jude's church. Running alongside it are the popular Lit Fest and the guided Heritage walks.

Proms spokesman Ron Finlay said "Whatever your tastes – music, literature or simply getting out and about – this year's festival is sure to have something you'll enjoy. And you'll be helping good causes too. Last year we raised an amazing £60,000."

Three pounds in four of proceeds raised go to Toynbee Hall's *Make It* project to help socially excluded young people and the fourth pound supports North London Hospice.

WONDERLAND

Maureen Lipman, who returns to the Suburb to narrate Lewis Carroll musical tribute *Wonderland*, said: "I relish every opportunity to revisit North London after eight years in Paddington looking for a small bear in a duffel coat. The suburb is home to my first walk with my dog, my Sunday bage-l-and-chopped-liver expeditions and my visits bearing a special stone to the beautiful grave of my husband Jack Rosenthal.

"I have never *not* been ever-so-slightly lost driving through it but during the blossom season it is the prettiest place on earth outside Japan. The idea of the HGS Proms is very seductive and I can't wait to be part of it."

Wonderland was scripted by *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* author Louis de Bernières to mark the 150th anniversary of Carroll's masterpiece. Proms organisers are delighted to be hosting its London première in St Jude's on Sunday June 21. The work, with

contributions from 12 composers whose style ranges from chamber music to film scores and rock, is suitable for adults and children over eight and starts at 7pm.

THE BOOKS

The LitFest on the weekend June 20 and 21 in Henrietta Barnett School has something for everyone in a dazzling line-up.

Former Moscow investment banker Bill Browder, who has a home in Hampstead, will discuss his sensational new book *Red Notice: How I Became Putin's No 1 Enemy*. In it he claims President Vladimir Putin runs Russia like a crime syndicate... and he should know. Corrupt officials seized Bill's assets and stole \$230 million. His lawyer was beaten to death in jail. And now sinister text messages warn he might be next. He will be in conversation with former UK ambassador to Moscow and Proms Patron, Sir Rodric Braithwaite.

Suburb author Michael Ridpath, who gave up a career as a city bond trader to write a string of financial thrillers, will be talking about his move into the crime and espionage genre. *Sea of Stone*, again featuring Icelandic detective Magnus Jonson, is the fourth in his *Fire and Ice* series. A sequel to *Traitor's Gate*, set in Berlin in 1939, is to be published in the summer. Michael will be in conversation with ex-lawyer-turned-crime-writer William Ryan.

Stanley Johnson, father of London Mayor Boris, will be talking about his latest volume of memoirs *Stanley I Presume*. His life has roamed many avenues from his pioneering work saving rainforests to serving on the staff of the World Bank and the European Commission.

One-time Labour Cabinet Minister and now best-selling author Alan Johnson will discuss his second volume of memoirs, *Please Mr Postman*, with Gordon Brown's former spokesperson Simon Lewis.

Other must-see guests include former journalist Gill Hornby, BBC maths wizard Alex Bellos,



Charlie Siem



Clare Teal

award-winning political journalist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown and Vita Sackville-West's granddaughter Vanessa Nicolson.

THE WALKS

Daily guided walks around the Suburb and beyond take place alongside the festival. In one, Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust manager Nick Packard will look at the work of the Trust and how it cares for our area.

Other walks will highlight different aspects of the Suburb past and present. The history of the artisan quarter during the blitz will be examined by

Marjorie Galbinski. And a tour of Golders Hill Park and Hampstead Heath Extension led by Heath superintendent Bob Warnock will tell how Suburb founder Dame Henrietta Barnett helped save them from developers.

TICKETS

Go online at promsatstjudes.org.uk or phone 020 3322 8123. Lunchtime concerts are free and tickets are not required. Most musical performances are in St Jude's Church. LitFest events take place in The Henrietta Barnett School.

ROBIN PORTER



Susie Steyn, Mike Freer MP and Niamh O'Donnell-Keenan at the Proms' launch

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WHAT'S ON



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY GODFREY & BARR, HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB'S LEADING ESTATE AGENT

FRIDAY 1 MAY

3:30pm Book Club Garden Suburb Community Library, 15 The Market Place. A different book every month discussed over cake and tea. Pick up a copy at the HGS Library and join us first Friday of month. Admission free.

SATURDAY 2 MAY

10:30am Drop in Coffee Morning Traidcraft Sale and Clothing Exchange at The Free Church.

SUNDAY 3 MAY

Horticultural Society Coach Trip to Borde Hill & High Beeches In Sussex. Borde Hill has shrubs from around the world. High Beeches has walks through a woodland and water garden. Travel and price details later.

TUESDAY 5 MAY

2.30pm Durand-Ruel: Making Impressionism Fellowship Talk by Lucrezia Walker in Fellowship House.

8pm Residents Association Council Meeting at Fellowship House. Hear Suburb issues debated and raise your concerns at Question Time (8.30pm).

EVERY TUESDAY 5 MAY - 28 JULY

10:15-10:45am Story/Song Time Garden Suburb Community Library, 15 The Market Place. Join us for some fun with your little ones. Admission free.

EVERY THURSDAY 7 MAY - 30 JULY

10-10:30am & 10:45-11:15am Sing Song Time Garden Suburb Community Library, 15 The Market Place. A first library activity for under threes and their grown-ups. Admission free.

FRIDAY 8 MAY

11am Guided Walk in the Steps of Magna Carta Meet at Temple Underground station. The NW Support Group (in aid of NL Hospice) present a 90-minute walk around the City, ending at the Museum of London. Admission £12.50. To book 8455 8687.

SATURDAY 9 MAY

7:30pm Choir Concert at The Free Church.

SUNDAY 10 MAY

4pm YMC Concerto Prizewinners Concert at The Free Church. Winners of the annual Concerto Prize perform their winning pieces, accompanied by the YMC Chamber Orchestra. Info 8450 9290.

7:30pm Sunwook Kim plays Piano at Henrietta Barnett School Hall. Presented by Mill Hill Music Club. Bach, Scriabin, Schubert. Single concert £15. Season Ticket for all 7 concerts £95. Aged 8-25 free. Tickets available Box Office, 2a Millway, NW7 3RE. 8959 3866, info@millhillmusicclub.co.uk. **7pm Supper Quiz** at Free Church Hall. In aid of NL Hospice. Buffet Supper, including glass of wine. Admission £17.50, 8455 0721.

TUESDAY 12 MAY

2.30pm Policing in West Africa in the 1950s Fellowship Talk by John Allen in Fellowship House.

THURSDAY 14 MAY

2:30pm Free Church Thursday Fellowship Free Church Rooms. 'Enjoying different types of bread'.

FRIDAY 15 MAY

7:30pm Alyth Choral Society Concert at Fellowship House. Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein, with organ, harp and percussion. Aesop's Fables by Bob Chilcott. Tickets £12.50 (under 16s free) at the door. Info and pre-book: alythchoralsociety@gmail.com.

SATURDAY 16 MAY

10am-12:30pm Abbeyfield Open House Coffee Morning Abbeyfield House, Homesfield, Erskine Hill. Opportunity to visit House & meet residents, staff and volunteers. Admission free. Info 020 8458 1110.

10am-12:30pm Coffee, Cake and Clothes Sale in aid of Combat Stress at Fellowship House. Sale of new and nearly new women's and men's clothes & accessories - Boden, Next, M&S, Max Mara, Per Una, The White Company and more.

10:30am-12pm Horticultural Society Plant Sale Fellowship House. Bedding plants, annuals, vegetable and herb seedlings at very reasonable prices. Entry free. Please bring your own carrier bags if possible. Cash and cheques only.

SUNDAY 17 MAY

11am Junior Church Festival Service at The Free Church.

3pm Residents Association Walter Starmer: a Suburb Artist at War at The Friends Meeting House. Rev Alan Walker gives an illustrated talk on the painter of the murals in St Jude's. Followed by tea and cakes. No admission charge, but £5 donation welcome. Copies of new book on Starmer on sale at a special price. A popular event, organised in memory of Michael Rowley.

MONDAY 18 MAY

6pm Borough Councillors' Surgery at HGS Trust offices. Ask for advice on local problems.

TUESDAY 19 MAY

2.30pm End of Empire: National Service in the late 50s Fellowship Talk by Martin Bell in Fellowship House.

TUESDAY 26 MAY

2.30pm Blenheim Palace (a DVD will be shown). Fellowship Talk in Fellowship House

WEDNESDAY 27 MAY

7:30pm HGS Astronomical Society Rosetta Mission Update Oriol Room, Free Church Hall, Northway. Speaker: Roger O'Brien. Free for first timers. New members welcome at annual fee of £25. To book 07751 305056.

FRIDAY 29 MAY

1pm Patrick Dodds Trumpet Concert at The Free Church. Lunch in support of Christian Aid served from 12.15pm.

TUESDAY 2 JUNE

2.30pm A History of Naturalistic Painting Fellowship Talk by Max Herbert in Fellowship House.

FRIDAY 5 JUNE

3:30pm Book Club Garden Suburb Community Library, 15 The Market Place. (Details as 1 May).

SUNDAY 7 JUNE

10:30am Drop in Coffee Morning Traidcraft Sale and Clothing Exchange at The Free Church.

2-6pm Garden open in aid of National Gardens Scheme (yellow book) charities for NGS Festival Weekend: 48 Erskine Hill. Entry £3.50 (children free). Plants for sale, teas, children's quiz.

TUESDAY 9 JUNE

2.30pm The Lighter Side of Hunting Fellowship Talk by Steve Jemmett Page in Fellowship House.

7-8pm Horticultural Society Submit your entry forms for the 279th (Summer) Flower Show & Fancy Dress and Fancy Hats Competitions at Fellowship House. Bring the entry forms from your Members' Handbook. Or drop your entries in to 4 Asmunds Hill, 8455 8741.

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

Residents Association Last copy date for What's On in Aug-Oct for insertion in the Summer edition of Suburb News. Details to David Littaur, 84 Wildwood Road NW1 6UJ. 8731 6755, 07510 308997, dvtltdtr@gmail.com.

2-4pm Open Day at Farm Walk Tennis Club See our friendly Suburb tennis club in action. Refreshments available. Info 8209 0696.

3-5:30pm Horticultural Society 279th Flower Show Free Church Hall. Flowers, vegetables, herbs, cookery, baking, preserving, photography, etc., categories for children, raffle, home-made teas. Plus Children's Fancy Dress Competition and Adults' Fancy Hats Competition in the garden at 3.30pm, judged by our Hon. President Jonathan Ross (tbc). Entry free for members and under-18s, or if accompanied by a child in fancy dress or an adult in a fancy hat. Non-members £2.

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

2-4pm Open Day at Farm Walk Tennis Club See our friendly Suburb tennis club in action. Refreshments available. Info 8209 0696.

2-6pm Gardens open in aid of National Gardens Scheme (yellow book) charities: 74 Willifield Way). Entry £3.50 (children free). Teas.

2-6pm Gardens open in aid of National Gardens Scheme (yellow book) charities: 79 Church Lane. Entry £3.50 (children free). Plants for sale, teas.

TUESDAY 16 JUNE

2.30pm 'A Totally Preposterous Parson' Evelyn Waugh and the first vicar of St Jude's Fellowship Talk by Rev Alan Walker in Fellowship House.

THURSDAY 18 JUNE

2:30pm Thursday Fellowship Free Church Rooms. Animal quiz (plus animals).

SATURDAY 20 JUNE

11:00am Proms at St Jude's LitFest Weekend Henrietta Barnett School. Gill Hornby - her first novel *The Hive* was a Sunday Times Top 10 bestseller. *All Together Now*, her new novel, is a sharply observed account of a small-town choir. Admission £9, 3322 8123.

12:45pm Proms at St Jude's: A Tribute to the Late Kay Hurwitz MBE St Jude's Church, Central Square. Family friendly. Youth Music Centre perform choral, orchestral and chamber music by Strauss, Grieg, Geminiani and Mozart. Admission Free.

2pm Proms at St Jude's LitFest Weekend Henrietta Barnett School. Let Alex Through The Looking Glass unleash your inner geek. Alex Bellos writes about maths with wit and limitless enthusiasm. Admission £9, 3322 8123.

3:30pm Proms at St Jude's LitFest Weekend Henrietta Barnett School. Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, the award-winning political journalist, discusses *Exotic England* her latest book. Admission £9, 3322 8123.

5pm Proms at St Jude's LitFest Weekend Henrietta Barnett School. Alan Johnson with Simon Lewis. The Labour politician turned author discusses his memoirs. Admission £9, 3322 8123.

7:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Carmen St Jude's Church, Central Square. Nevill Holt Opera in a concert performance of the world's most popular opera, by Bizet. Admission £12, £25, £30, 3322 8123

SUNDAY 21 JUNE

10am Borough Councillors' Surgery at HGS Trust offices. Ask for advice on local problems.

10:30am Proms at St Jude's Heritage Walks: How the Trust Cares for the Suburb Meet at car park, St Jude's, Central Square. A look at the Trust's work on the Suburb. Admission £8, 3322 8123.

12:30pm Proms at St Jude's LitFest Weekend Henrietta Barnett School. Bill Browder with Sir Rodric Braithwaite. An inside look at corruption in Russia. Admission £9, 3322 8123.

2pm Proms at St Jude's LitFest Weekend Henrietta Barnett School. Vanessa Nicolson with Piers Plowright. Granddaughter of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson discusses her powerful memoir of growing up in the 1970s. Admission £9, 3322 8123.

3:30pm Proms at St Jude's LitFest Weekend Henrietta Barnett School. Michael Ridpath with William Ryan. Local author, former bond trader, and now writer of financial thrillers, in conversation with a fellow crime novelist. Admission £9, 3322 8123.

7pm Proms at St Jude's: Wonderland St Jude's Church, Central Square. Narrated by Maureen Lipman, Suitable for children 8+. A musical entertainment to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of Alice in Wonderland. Admission £11, £19, £24, 3322 8123.

MONDAY 22 JUNE

10:30am Proms at St Jude's Heritage Walks: The Listed Buildings and Beautiful Gardens of Golders Green Crematorium. Meet at Crematorium reception, Hoop Lane NW11 7NL. How cremation started and famous people remembered in London's first crematorium. Admission £8, 3322 8123.

12:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Guitar Duo Recital St Jude's Church, Central Square. Haydn Bateman and Jack Hancher play guitar works from the 16th to 20th centuries. Admission Free.

7:45pm Proms at St Jude's: The Brodsky Quartet with Gemma Rosefield at St Jude's Church, Central Square. Hugo Wolf, Italian Serenade; Brahms, Quartet in C minor; Schubert, Quintet in C major. Admission £11, £19, £24, 3322 8123.

TUESDAY 23 JUNE

10:30am Proms at St Jude's Heritage Walks: War and Peace Meet outside Fellowship House, 136a Willifield Way. The history of the Suburb in the Second World War. Admission £8, 3322 8123.

12:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Harp Recital at St Jude's Church, Central Square. By the winner of the Camac Harp Competition. Admission Free.

2.30pm A Lighthearted Afternoon of Poetry & Prose Fellowship Talk by Roger Rose & Marilyn Lehrer in Fellowship House.

7:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Kammerphilharmonie Europa at St Jude's Church, Central Square. Vivaldi, Concerto di Parigi; Faure, Pavane; Hummel, Trumpet Concerto No 23 in A; Nielsen, Little Suite Op. 1. Admission £11, £19, £24, 3322 8123.

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE

Horticultural Society Suburb In Bloom 2015 Best Garden Competition Closing date for entry. Details Patricia Larsen (patsy_arsen@yahoo.co.uk).

10:30am Proms at St Jude's Heritage Walks: From Whitechapel to Toynbee Hall Meet at Whitechapel Tube. A walk around the East End revealing pioneering efforts to relieve suffering. Admission £8, 3322 8123.

12:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Ceruleo: Aspects of Love at St Jude's Church, Central Square. Purcell and Monteverdi. Admission Free.

2:30pm Proms at St Jude's Heritage Walks: The First Street Trees Meet at St Jude's car park. A circular walk looking at 'road trees' listed in The Record of 1913 and 1915. Admission £10, 3322 8123.

7:30pm HGS Astronomical Society Astrophotography Oriol Room, Free Church Hall, Northway. Speaker: Michael Eleftheriades. Admission free for first timers. New members welcome at annual fee of £25, 07751 305056.

7:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Violin and Piano Recital St Jude's Church, Central Square. Charlie Siem with Caroline Jaya-Ratnam. Beethoven, Kreutzer Sonata; Jenő Hubay, Fantaisie brillante on themes from Carmen. Admission £11, £19, £24, 3322 8123.

THURSDAY 25 JUNE

10:30am Proms at St Jude's Heritage Walks: Suburb in the City Meet at the West face of St Paul's Cathedral, statue of Queen Anne. Explore Suburb links and architectural and heritage treasures. Admission £8, 3322 8123.

12:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Schools Concert A celebration of national and traditional dance at St Jude's Church, Central Square. Family friendly. The Nonesuch Orchestra plays Skalkottas, Piazzolla, Grainger, Tchaikovsky and Grieg. Admission Free.

7:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Melos Sinfonia at St Jude's Church, Central Square. Fancoise-Green Piano Duo. Debussy, Prelude a l'après-midi d'un faune; Poulenc, Concert for two pianos; Schubert, Unfinished Symphony. Admission £11, £19, £24, 3322 8123.

FRIDAY 26 JUNE

10:30am Proms at St Jude's Heritage Walks: Hampstead Heath: A Precious Inheritance Meet at Golders Hill Park Café off North End Way NW3 7HD. Takes in Golders Hill Park, the Hill Garden and Pergola and the Heath Extension. Admission £8, 3322 8123.

12:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Organ Recital The Free Church, Central Square. Light lunch served from midday. Organist Peter Holders performs works by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Harris, Ireland and Elgar. Admission Free.

7:45pm Proms at St Jude's: The Cardinal's Musick: Music for the Sistine Chapel St Jude's Church, Central Square. Acclaimed vocal group performs Allegri, Miserere Mei and works by Palestrina, Victoria, Josquin Desprez and John Tavener. Admission £11, £19, £24, 3322 8123.

SATURDAY 27 JUNE

10:30am Proms at St Jude's Heritage Walks: Hampstead's Great and Good Meet at Well Walk, NW3 1LT - garden gate in front of Burgh House. The fascinating history of Hampstead's distinguished painters, writers and scientists brought to life. Admission £10, 3322 8123.

12:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Family Concert: The BBC Elstree Concert Band St Jude's Church, Central Square. Music from films and West End shows, including 'Frozen'. Admission Free.

7:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Clare Teal and Her Mini Big Band St Jude's Church, Central Square. The 'Queen of Swing' interprets songs from 20th century's great female jazz singers. Admission £11, £19, £24, 3322 8123.

SUNDAY 28 JUNE

12:30pm Residents Association Summer Picnic Fun Day Central Square. Hi-energy Rock-n-roll Band, Face Painting, Donkey Rides, Magician, Punch & Judy, Roundabouts and much more. Tables & chairs must be booked in advance. Cost per table and 10 chairs £25, payable to HGS Residents Association. To book raevents@hgs.org.uk.

2-6pm Horticultural Society Suburb Open Gardens in aid of the North London Hospice and Horticultural Society at Fellowship House. Selected gardens open to visitors throughout HGS. Tickets £10 (children free) will be sold on the day at Fellowship House, Willifield Way (not at individual gardens), maps provided to help you plan route.

7:45pm Proms at St Jude's: Last Night of the Proms St Jude's Church, Central Square. The London International Orchestra and soloists including Victoria Simmonds, mezzo-soprano, perform works by Lehar, Bruch, Rossini and Verdi plus Last Night favourites. Admission £12, £25, £30, 3322 8123.

TUESDAY 30 JUNE

2.30pm Cartier: The Jeweller of Kings Fellowship Talk by John Williams in Fellowship House.

FRIDAY 3 JULY

3:30pm Book Club Garden Suburb Community Library, 15 The Market Place. (Details as 1 May).

SATURDAY 4 JULY

10:30am Drop in Coffee Morning Traidcraft Sale and Clothing Exchange at The Free Church.

SUNDAY 5 JULY

4pm Anete Graudina Students Concert The Free Church. A Graudina violin class. Admission £1. Children free. 8458 5542 or 07931 902923.

TUESDAY 7 JULY

2.30pm When Flying was (mostly) Fun Fellowship Talk by Peter White in Fellowship House.

8pm Residents Association Council Meeting Fellowship House. Hear Suburb issues debated and raise your concerns at Question Time (8.30pm).

TUESDAY 14 JULY

2.30pm 'Hands Up' Fellowship Talk by Prof Heinz Wolff in Fellowship House.

THURSDAY 16 JULY

2:30pm Thursday Fellowship Summer Party Free Church Rooms.

SUNDAY 19 JULY

10am Borough Councillors' Surgery at HGS Trust offices. Advice on local problems.

1-6pm Gardens open in aid of National Gardens Scheme (yellow book) charities: 4 Asmunds Hill. Entry £3.50 (children free).

1-6pm Gardens open in aid of National Gardens Scheme (yellow book) charities: 86 Willifield Way. Entry £3.50 (children free). Plants for sale, teas.

TUESDAY 21 JULY

2.30pm Life in the Lords Fellowship Talk by Lord W Howie in Fellowship House.

FRIDAY 24 JULY

1pm Organ Recital at The Free Church. Lunch in support of Christian Aid served from 12.15pm. Recitalist: Jonathan Gregory (Director of Music HGSCF).

TUESDAY 28 JULY

2.30pm Why Men like Straight Lines and Women like Polka Dots Fellowship Talk by Gloria Moss in Fellowship House.



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Suburb Open Gardens

The HGS Horticultural Society is the Suburb's first society, started in 1909 and continuing to cater for gardeners of all sorts and organising many events not just for its members benefit, but for the enjoyment of us all. The popular February Seed Swap for exchanging saved vegetable and flower seeds is one of many such events. The annual plant sale on Saturday, 16 May in the newly refurbished Fellowship House is probably already in many people's diaries and is the next occasion for us to benefit from their organisation.

And a few weeks later Suburb residents will have the chance to enjoy the delights of four Suburb gardens and Suburb News's

own gardening correspondent's nearby garden in East Finchley, which will all open to the public in aid of the National Gardens Scheme (yellow book) charities this summer.

First off the mark is Marjorie Harris at 48 Erskine Hill (Sunday 7 June, 2-6pm, teas). She is closely followed by Caroline Broome at 79 Church Lane, N2 and David Weinberg at 74 Willifield Way (Sunday 14 June, 2-6pm, teas at both gardens). Then Diane Berger at 86 Willifield Way and Yvonne Oliver at 4 Asmunds Hill will open on Sunday 19 July, 1-6pm, with teas at 86 Willifield Way.

More information about these and other events can be found on the website at hortsoc.co.uk.



NICHE SUTTON

Seed Swap (with Patricia Major, Ken Murrell, Terry Rand and Gill Read)

Rose Gardens

Walking through Northway Gardens, which date back to the beginning of the Suburb, one cannot help but notice that work is going on in the Rose Garden beds. The water supply installation, digging over and composting, which Suburb News reported in the Autumn issue as being in the pipeline, have recently been completed.

"It took seven hours just to wheelbarrow the manure onto the beds," said Kristin Green one of the Northway Gardens Organisation leaders after helping to move the first six tons of the 200 or so metres from Northway to the beds. "With three more tons going on next week this will help transform the soil structure and allow plants to grow properly. It was hot steamy work!" she added.

Brian Ingram continued, "With all beds now planted up, including seven beds of superb roses, we are well on our way to transforming

these ignored gardens and after 15 years of neglect it is starting to look decent again. The feedback from all visitors has been excellent and our little group of local residents who make up the Northway Gardens Organisation is very pleased. Barnet and us are going for low maintenance planting that will ensure the long term viability here."

The NGO has so far relied only on donations from residents and supporters; although they are applying again to the Trust and to the Residents Association for some funding.

If you would like to contribute, you can send money to the account of the Northway Gardens Organisation, NatWest, Temple Fortune, sort code: 51 50 11, account no: 66631904. You can also send a cheque payable to Northway Gardens Organisation to 69 Brookland Rise, NW11 6D. To find out more, please phone 8458 5313 or 07503 212253.



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Dry shade and boggy borders – right plan, right place



Bog garden

The London clay throughout Hampstead Garden Suburb offers a mixed blessing: Dry and cracked in summer, soggy, sometimes waterlogged in winter, but rich in plant nutrients. Perennials thrive up in the heat, roots rot in the airless, saturated soil of the bog, and are no contest to the tree roots in the dry shade. Money down the drain, disappointment all round.

Many local gardens, whether through poor drainage, natural springs or high water table, have permanently boggy areas. By contrast, but often within the same plots, there are extensive barren dry areas in the shade of the mature trees that surround and overlook our gardens. However by working with nature you can create diverse and innovative areas of planting that will not only survive but thrive in these challenging conditions. There are a few interventions you will need to make, but ultimately, by choosing plants that have naturally adapted to these extreme habitats a lot of the hard work has already been done for you.

BOG GARDEN

Contrary to popular belief, there is a broad range of plants to choose from for both environments. In the bog garden, for lush abundance not to be

found in more traditional borders, why not try *Ligularia dentata* 'Britt-Marie Crawford' for its glossy claret coloured leaves and huge daisy like flowers loved by bees, and *rodgersia pinnata* Superba, with its spikes of bright-pink flowers above deeply divided, dark green leaves, purplish-bronze when young? Martyrs to slugs and snails, but well worth persevering! For real impact add *osmunda regalis*, the royal fern. For colour add drifts of *astilbe* with its soft plumes of white, pink and red, and *primula beesiana*, and the magenta *candelabra primrose*. Invincible spreaders include *houltuynia cordata*, *persicaria*, *lysimachia* or yellow loosestrife, *iris ensata* and marsh marigold. Finally mulch around the plants with leaf mould, coarse bark or homemade compost to add body and keep in moisture. Avoid walking on the soil by placing stepping stones at intervals amongst the planting to stop soil compaction. Regardless of how boggy the soil gets make sure to check that the plants get enough water in hot dry spells.

DRY WOODLAND GARDEN

Think about what you see in the countryside: broad drifts of ground cover and bulbs, very

little in the way of height, although there are a few stalwart evergreen shrubs such as *viburnum rhytidophyllum*, *mahonia* and *sarcococca*. For deep shade try *sorbaria sorbifolia*, *dryopteris* and *polystichum* ferns. Don't be afraid to plant spreaders that you would normally avoid like the plague: *Euphorbia amygdaloides* Robbiae, *woodruff*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, commonly known as yellow archangel, *epimedium* and lily of the valley. Must-haves for dappled shade are *pulmonarias* (e.g. Diana Clare), *brunneras* (e.g. Jack Frost), *alchemilla mollis* (lady's mantle), *pachysandra* in plain and variegated form, *geranium phaeum*, *vincas* and *hellebores* to name but a few.

Plant drifts of English bluebells, snowdrops and cyclamen *coum* and *hederifolium*. Try to imitate nature as far as possible by applying a generous layer of leaf mould or compost each spring. Log piles, drifts of dead leaves and tree stumps create a natural habitat for wildlife and will rot down and add organic matter to the thin shallow soil. Water in well and regularly while the plants are establishing, but in time they should only require watering in prolonged hot weather; a good soaking once a week rather than a sprinkling every day. It wouldn't be advisable to install an irrigation system either as these are plants that like dry conditions.

CAROLINE BROOME



Dry shade garden in spring

Suburb Rainfall

By the time of writing, at the beginning of April, 2015 is turning out to be a cheerful beginning to the year as far as the weather is concerned. Here in the Suburb, there has been more sun recently; it wasn't really as cold in January as the more excitable weather forecasts (with their beloved amber warnings!)

would probably have led people to expect. However, that does not mean there was little of interest over the six winter months.

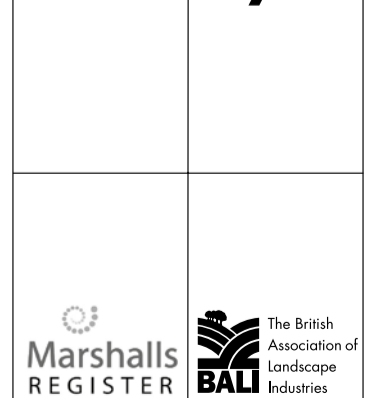
Overall, 2014 turned out to be a wet year, the 36 inches of precipitation being the highest since – 2012! The totals of over 41 inches in 2000 and 2002, and 37 inches for 2001, the year

between, put the rain of last year in better perspective. In the six winter months of October to March, there was a total of 16.5 inches, almost exactly the average for the period. Seven inches of this fell in October and November while the four succeeding months had below average amounts. The end of

March gales were not appreciated by some trees and flowers but, otherwise, the wet autumn, followed by a drier December, February and March really does seem to have inspired Suburb gardens to prove Robert Browning right when he wrote "Oh to be in England now that April's here!"

DIANA IWI FROM MEADWAY

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Combat Stress Winter Fair raises over £5,000

Now that all the money is in, following last November's successful fair in aid of veterans' charity Combat Stress, the HGS Combat Stress Winter Fair Committee was delighted to draw up a giant cheque for £5,123.00. It was handed over to Josephine Grace, Volunteer

and Community Fundraising Manager of Combat Stress, at a ceremony on Monday 16 February by fair opener and Denman Drive resident Martin Bell (former MP, BBC War Correspondent and author). The final sum also included the £450 proceeds of a subsequent charity green disc

collection at Waitrose, Temple Fortune. The ceremony took place in the small Free Church hall during a well-attended 'thank you' reception for everyone who contributed to the organisation of the fair including the many generous sponsors, stallholders, donors, helpers and committee

members comprising Gerlinde Crossley, Kathy Cunnold, Marjorie Harris, Norma Milner, Yvonne Oliver, Angela Phillips, Emma Rodwell and inspirational founder chair, Ruth Smith.

This year's fair will take place on Saturday 31 October at the Free Church Hall.



NIGEL SUTTON



Josephine Grace, Community Fundraising Manager of Combat Stress, dates the giant cheque

Library bookmarks

Last summer the Garden Suburb Community Library in Market Place held a competition that asked children to come up with a design for an official bookmark for the Library. The competition was sponsored by Funtech, also in Market Place, who run computer-coding classes for children, and printed the resulting winning entries. The winners, Maya Smythe aged 6, Celeste Chhibber, 11 and Maya Reiss, 8 were presented

with their bookmarks at the library by the company.

The bookmarks are free and available from the library for all to use. One of the library managers, Hetty Colchester, who judged the offerings of the young illustrators, remarked, "We had some amazing entries. The designs were fantastic and they are all on display on the library walls. It was very difficult to choose a winner."



NIGEL SUTTON



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EDITOR:

Terry Brooks, rapublications@hgs.org.uk

WHATS ON EDITOR:

David Littaur, dvdltr@googlemail.com

Views expressed in Suburb News are not necessarily those of the publishers the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.

Deadline for the Summer issue is July 1 for publication on July 25

The RA website is www.hgs.org.uk