Association saves residents thousands of £s in fines

The Residents Association Council in May passed a resolution thanking and congratulating Gary Shaw chairman of the RA’s Roads and Traffic committee for the way he has fought Transport for London (TfL) over hundreds of fines. Though to be some 700 a month, these were imposed on motorists who are unaware where they are allowed to park in Market Place because it is not clearly signposted. A series of Parking Appeal Service decisions have supported the RA’s position that the Red Route loading bays in The Market Place are inadequately signed. The bays have been the subject of six separate bearings at which the parking adjudicators have been scathing about TfL’s administration of the restrictions.

One adjudicator said that it is unacceptable that TfL is pursuing motorists for fines in Market Place without addressing signage deficiencies

which we also attended on behalf of two local residents. That case has been adjourned until the end of May to give TfL an opportunity to present more evidence so we will not know the outcome then. However we remain hopeful of a result which will force TfL to change the signs and to withdraw from all outstanding cases.”

He continued, “We understand that as a result of our campaign the CCTV camera has been more or less taken out of use for enforcing the south side loading bay and wasn’t strait and motorists should continue to take great care at the signs remain very confusing.”

Elsewhere, the Red Route loading bay in Hill Rise has been de-restricted after it was found to be invalid because it encouraged a road administered by Barnet rather than TfL. The Roads & Traffic Committee is pressing the Authority to refund fines to all motorists tendered in Hill Rise – 413 since January 2007 amounting to £421,425 of revenue.

For details of how to fight cases in either The Market Place or Hill Rise contact Gary Shaw at traffic@hgs.org.uk or on 8455 0145.

Residents Association AGM

At a well attended Residents Association Annual General Meeting in March chairman David Gibbins fulfilled a long held ambition to run the London Marathon this year and in so doing raised more than £2,000 for the North London Hospice.

“We have been so generous, it’s still coming in,” says Sarah Smith. “I’m so glad I’ve done it but it is an awfully long way. It would have been better if I’d had been able to go faster but five hours of talking to myself did get a bit much.”

Hospice Marathon

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Literary Society takes off

Following the first two very successful meetings of the HGS Literary Society with Will Self and Tracy Chevalier, the next two events are with Deborah Maguire on 3 July and Nick Hornby on 15 November. Both start at 7.30pm and are in the School Hall, Central Square. Book signings kindly arranged by Joseph’s Bookstore.

An additional event marking Remembrance Day at 7.30pm on 11 November will be ‘An Evening with Martin Bell’ former BBC war reporter, former politician, author and journalist.

Signed copies of Martin’s book, ‘The Truth that Sticks’ – on issues of war and peace, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, will be available for purchase (Net proceeds from ticket sales for this evening will go to the Poppy Day Appeal).

The Literary Society was set up as an extra curricular activity for the pupils, staff, parents, old girls, their parents and local residents. It is free for all in advance for each event from to Vellman at The Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square NW11 7BN, email development@hgs.org.uk or tel: 8209 9730. Pupils and staff free. Please send an e and cheques payable to HGS Trust.

Trust charge ‘reasonable’

After more than a year’s deliberation, the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal ruled in April that a flat management charge is legally ‘reasonable’. However, the judgement states that although the flat charge is not ‘unreasonable’, it goes on to say “It may well be that one form of charging is more reasonable than another.” It added that, “The Tribunal’s decision in this case does not affect any possible future application for variation under the terms of the scheme.”

See Letters on page 11.

Caring, Competent & Committed

Our experience spans over 30 years and contrary to popular belief, we will much of the middle to lower priced property within Hampstead Garden Suburb. There is no magic at work here. We are totally committed and are known for dealing handsomely for reason.

Firstly, because we deal with buyers thinking it as well as down in price range, the latter of whom usually have borough budgets.

Secondly, we regularly deal with monied purchasers from outside the area who have grown used to even higher prices to Central London and believe that the Suburb is not only leafy and desirable, but good value.

“We are passionate Suburbs and we eat and breathe the Suburb, it is in our blood and we treasure its heritage.”

Most importantly we understand that your home is your sanctuary and is probably one of the largest assets in the family and therefore a sale/purchase needs the tender care of dedicated and sensitive professionals who are skilled at this important task.

The market is excellent at the moment, so if you have not contacted us before, try us, we think you will be pleasantly surprised.

We are at your service.

The Garden in the Suburb

An illustrated presentation organised by Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and Kingston University in appreciation of the life of Michael Rowley 1952 - 2006

Dr Vesna Goldsworthy will introduce the work of the Centre for Suburban Studies, Kingston University.

Dr Janet Waymark ‘Garden Spaces for the People’ an illustrated presentation on landscapes of planned suburban development.

Dr Rebecca Preston ‘Pestilent Suburban Cottage’ or ‘Desirable Villa Residence?’ nineteenth- and early twentieth-century views of the suburb

Saturday 31 May 2.00-5.30

Friends’ Meeting House, North Square

Free – All welcome – Tea will be served

Further information from: garden@hampsteadgardensuburb.com or www.hgs.org.uk/gardeninthesuburb

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Humph – a sad loss to all his friends on the Suburb, the Proms at St Jude’s, radio 4 listeners and jazz lovers everywhere

Our own Deborah Waterland reveals her writing experiences on page 7...

... but who’s been ruffling the feathers of the St Jude’s cornerstone. See page 12

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