

Suburb's worldwide significance recognised



(Left to right) Jane Blackburn (Trust manager), Cath Ranson (RTPI President), Pippa Aitken (RTPI representative on Trust council) and Dr Mervyn Miller.

President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Cath Ranson, awarded Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust a certificate in February to highlight the success of the Suburb and to mark its historical importance to worldwide planning.

Awarding the certificate, as part of the Institute's centenary year, Cath Ranson, President of the RTPI, said, "Hampstead Garden Suburb is internationally recognised as one of the finest

examples of early twentieth century town planning. It incorporates many elements of planning that today we take for granted – the importance of neighbourhood and community, the environment, and good design. I am delighted that the Royal Town Planning Institute is recognising its importance with the award of the Mature Planned Communities certificate to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust."

Cath Ranson and members of the London branch of the RTPI were given an expert tour led by the Trust's architectural advisor David Davidson, RTPI appointee to Trust Council Pippa Aitken, and the Trust President Dr Mervyn Miller, who is also a member of the Institute. Other guests were residents Judith Chaney, Jonathan Seres and Councillors John Marshall and Andrew Harper. Local resident and RTPI member Lester Hillman suggested and co-ordinated the visit.

Having accompanied the group on their walking tour, Trust Manager Jane Blackburn said, "We are delighted to have the work of the Trust, Barnet Council and residents, and the significance of the Suburb formally recognised and celebrated by the RTPI. Showing the Suburb's unique architecture and landscape to the newly appointed president continues a long-standing tradition of RTPI visits to the area. The Trust is proud of its historic and professional links with the Institute, with an appointed representative sitting on the Trust Council, directly contributing to the conservation and evolution of the area."

Combat Fair aims to raise £5,000



Many of you will have helped with, donated goods for, or spent your money at last year's Winter Fair in aid of Combat Stress, the mental health charity which supports members of the armed forces. The money kept on coming in even after the fair closed, so the committee thought you should know that, thanks to your support and generosity, the final sum raised was an amazing £4,990! Enough to keep a Community Outreach programme going for a week – no mean feat. But it also shows just how much money this national charity needs to

raise in order to keep its many different support programmes going throughout the year.

So last year's Winter Fair in aid of Combat Stress will be a very hard act to follow but, with your assistance and good will, we certainly intend to have a go. Assisting this particular charity is especially worthwhile in the year that marks the centenary of the start of World War I. It is also a poignant fact that this year Combat Stress is celebrating their 95th anniversary, but sadly the need for the charity's support services is as vital now as it was in 1919.

Please put the 2014 date in your diaries now (11am to 4pm Saturday 1 November) and start collecting goodies for sale, think of the fair and keep a few pots for us when you concoct your home-made jams and other preserves or take a stall to sell your own collectibles or crafts (the stall price of £30 goes direct to Combat Stress). There will be some new things at this year's fair, so do come along to the Free Church Hall on Saturday 1st November and spend your money! Together perhaps we can raise over £5,000 this year.

MARJORIE HARRIS

Whitefield School receives high praise from Ofsted

Whitefield School students and staff are celebrating following a glowing report delivered by Ofsted. Under the new and more rigorous Ofsted framework, the school has been judged 'Good' with 'Outstanding' for Leadership and Management.

The new Ofsted criteria make it more challenging for schools to achieve the top gradings of 'Good' and 'Outstanding', but in achieving both Whitefield is now on an upward trajectory to 'Outstanding' in all categories.

Inspectors praised students and teachers with quotes from the report ranging from: "Students

make good and exceptionally good progress in English and mathematics; teachers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their subjects and work well together to provide the best possible learning for their students; students are very proud and enjoy coming to school and they behave well; students want to learn and they work hard." Whitefield's Sixth Form was also commended, and the progress of all students was also a main feature of the report.

Students and staff are looking forward to an exciting and promising future with results

expected to continue their upward trend, extensive opportunities for students, a flourishing Sixth Form and state-of-the-art new facilities that have recently been launched within the community.

Headteacher, Martin Lavelle commented, "The outcome of our inspection is excellent and a testament to the commitment, skills and hard work of our exceptional staff and the support

of our governors and families. Our students are outstanding and deserve the praise that has been heaped on them.

We are determined to build on the successes achieved to date and to continue to deliver the quality of learning experience that will ensure all of our students achieve beyond expectations to live, learn, aspire and achieve to the best of their abilities."

Wildwood Road safety measures consultation

On 25 March, 37 residents, mainly from Wildwood Road and nearby, plus a number of other Heath users, exchanged views with the Barnet Highways team at an open meeting in Fellowship House organised by the RA, at the request of Cllr John Marshall. A consultation proposal, on safety grounds, had been issued to prevent daytime parking on the houses' side of the road. The original purpose had been to ensure safety at the exit from Fairway Close, but Barnet had enlarged this on the assumption that sight lines could be improved at the lower corner near Green Close. Residents pointed out that there would still be no sight line around the corner and

huge danger if children had to cross the road to enter houses.

There was concern that such a drastic proposal came without research figures on accidents. Barnet confirmed that no personal injuries had been reported in the three years covered by their enquiry. Users considered that a holistic view of parking starting at North End Rd is needed, including perhaps a one hour evening restriction at the top of Wildwood to end the 3-month caravan parking and free up space for Heath users who come from all over north London. Junctions could be protected by modest restrictions on the corners.

Barnet took away over a dozen suggestions and indicated that they would reassess.

Temple Fortune Post Office

We have a good news story of public service. The Temple Fortune Post Office has faced considerable challenges from changes in regulations, and at the same time developed its popular stock of original retail goods, particularly greetings cards and toys. This followed a conversion from the old village style into the modern approach of combining retail and post office products and services. The retail business offers all convenience household products, designer greeting cards, its own range of gifts, toys, partyware, stationery, confectionery, oyster, lottery and ID photos services.

The Temple Fortune Postal Services include inland and international Royal Mail and Parcel-Force, passport check and send service, zero commission foreign currency and travellers cheques*, travel money card, travel insurance, credit card with no foreign exchange fee charged abroad, moneygram, road tax disc, motor insurance, and a wide range of other insurance services including home, life and mortgages. Home-phone and broadband service is also available.

At Temple Fortune the savings portfolio includes a range of savings accounts and bonds and a majority of national savings and investment products.

This has enabled the build up of the business over the years, resulting in a large core of loyal supporters. Suburb News has seen some of their expressions of support, and is pleased to print a typical example: "It is a very busy Post Office dealing with many aspects of work in relation to customers' needs. Mrs M Vyas

and her staff provide excellent customer service, in an efficient and professional way. The staff are friendly and helpful.....".

The letters of support stress that the Post Mistress and staff at Temple Fortune are experienced, helpful, polite, patient and highly professional. They face very demanding customers on a daily basis, often in need of assistance, and always bound by several rules and regulations and compliance, proving knowledgeable and efficient. The letters emphasise that the Post Mistress and employees go out of their way to help customers of all ages, especially the elderly, and that many of these customers go out of their way to come to Temple Fortune Post Office because of the outstanding service received from the staff there.

Post Office Ltd is regenerating the post offices, and Temple Fortune are very enthusiastic to be part of this modernisation and transformation, and look forward to welcoming and providing extended services and products to their customers.

We take the opportunity to refer to our Winter issue, and apologise to Temple Fortune Post Office and its employees that only one side of the story was heard and published. Many of the letters of support refer to the personal assistance given when needed, and the courtesy in these cases by the postmistress and staff. Our assertions to the contrary were misleading as based on only one side of the story, and are unreservedly withdrawn. We regret our previous publication which in the circumstances was a mistake.

Basement decision at 2 Green Close

Residents who have followed this matter will have seen that the Court of Appeal has confirmed the decision of the High Court in the Trust's favour. The Court of Appeal has refused Sir Victor Blank permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. The Trust understands he plans to apply to

the Supreme Court for permission to appeal, and until the outcome of that application is known, the Trust thinks it inappropriate to comment on the case.

You can view and download a pdf of the Court of Appeal's decision at www.hgstrust.org/news/coajudgement.pdf.

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