



Suburb Style Farewell

Suburb Style editor, Deborah Warland says goodbye to Suburb News

Dear Readers, It is time to say goodbye. I have been fortunate enough to have interviewed many of you over the past eleven years. I feel sorry in many ways to finish writing about such a talented, charming and interesting community, but I think it is for the best. Let me explain, two years ago Peter, Claude (our cat adopted from Connie and John of Southway) and I moved to Totteridge and increasingly our ties with the Suburb have been reduced, so I think it better that someone currently living on the Suburb should take over this role. I wish them as happy a time as I had in interviewing all the many people with their different backgrounds and attributes.

Peter and I moved to the Suburb 30 years ago and lived initially in Coleridge Walk – really friendly, then Heathgate – lovely architecture, then Southway – some of the best neighbours ever! Initially we were unable to contribute to the Suburb because of our working hours. However, as time went on we decided that we wanted to help out and asked if we could assist the RA in whatever role was needed. Peter became Membership Secretary and I joined the Events Committee and later the Publications Committee.

So for several years we helped the RA and hoped to contribute in the way the Suburb wanted us to. We both believed that if the Suburb was to be kept in the way we wished it to be, then we had to play our part in this.

In 2003 Georgina Malcolm suggested that there should be a 'Style' Section in Suburb News and I was asked if I would take it on, I said "why not."

There are too many people to say thanks for, but I remember the hilarious story from Lynton Black about the organist from St Jude's who had his bed in the vestry. Michael Clerizo taught me much about watches, Ian Tutton was so interesting about South Wales and the problems with unemployment. John Whiting was funny and clever. I also had the privilege to interview many local artists, sculptress and collectors of all sorts – including those who collect post cards like Kay Graham.

Gardens and allotments were often a part of the interviews. Diana Berger was a treat – but Chris Page continued to evade my requests! A particular pleasure was talking to young musicians from overseas. What I did not understand initially was just how many people on the Suburb had so much to offer. David Littaur had a great story to tell, Naomi Angell is doing a lot for the children around us, Gill Roberts helps us enjoy ourselves and the Falks contribute so much to the life of the Suburb.

The Suburb really is an international environment, with bags of talent and many people who have so much to offer. And a super tennis club in Farm Walk with lovely members such as Sally, Mary and Heather who I miss greatly.

If I were to sum up the last eleven years of 'Suburb Style', I would say the following:

Residents are over the moon still with the Heath Extension and the walk to Kenwood, and Bigwood is a favourite for contemplation. People feel privileged to live here because they feel they are living in the country – but it is really in central London. The Suburb is so green and quiet and the gardens are super, the hedges organised, the buildings as well controlled as they can be and the neighbours are as well behaved as you would hope.



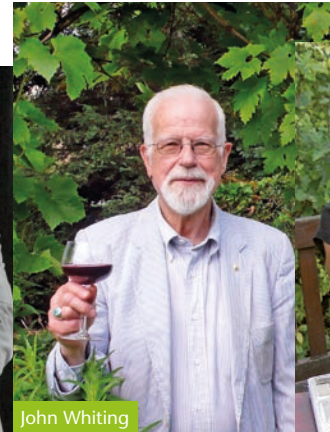
Lynton Black



Michael Clerizo



Ian Tutton



John Whiting



Kay Graham

They love the 'greenness', the birdsong, the feeling that as soon as they have left the North Circular that they are 'home'.

However,

What could strike anyone who was not familiar with the Suburb is just how many people who live here are not happy with the four wheel drives, the anti-social parking, the noise of the blowers and particularly the problems that parking has created by so many cars which the Suburb was never meant to have. I am sure, however that for most the benefits outweigh the negatives.

Totteridge is fantastic, we go to the end of our road and are in green belt fields full of wild flowers, birdsong, butterflies and miles and miles of open space. We have horses walking past our door and rabbits down in the den.

We are so lucky that we have been able to experience both these marvellous places.

Thanks for all your help Richard. Love Dx **S**

Debbie is being altogether too modest in not mentioning her part in saving the Garden Suburb Library. It was she who first raised the alarm, realised that a 2,000 signature petition was needed to make Barnet listen and, with others like Neville Silver, actually got 2,600 signatures. She followed it through and attended all the council meetings before handing it over to the current organisers who submitted the successful bid.

Richard Wakefield



Diane Berger



David Littaur



Naomi Angell



Gill Roberts



The Falks

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Insight Love Learning



The Institute

Bishop Douglass School,
Hamilton Road, East Finchley,
N2 0SQ



The Institute's summer term has just begun and we have a range of wonderful short courses on offer for you through until mid-July. With the longer days and the brighter weather, everyone suddenly seems to have more energy – and what better use to put it to than learning something new?

The Arts have always been one of The Institute's strengths and this summer is no exception. Our Arts courses range from one day workshops – such as 'How to Use Your Sketchbook' on Saturday, 17 May – through to 11 week courses such as Vahid Erfan's new 'Life Drawing: Beginners' class or Paul Solomons' new 'Topical Cartooning' course. Your perennial favourites of pottery and sculpture feature as do short courses in drawing and calligraphy.

Have you read the rave review of our baking teacher Mary Davis on the opposite page? If so, you might be tempted to join one of Mary's summer short courses: 'Learn How to Bake: Improvers' - an 11 week course or 'The Art of Baking: Advanced' - also an 11 week course. Mary also has three fantastic one day workshops left this term for those of you who can't commit to a full 11 week course. You can choose from 'Practically Perfect Puddings' on Saturday, 10 May, 'Marvellous Macarons' on Saturday, 24 May or 'An Introduction to Patisserie' on Saturday, 5 July. We have a tempting bill of savoury fare from The Institute kitchen too: our summer workshops include Spanish and South American cooking, 'A Taste of Tuscany' and a Pasta Making Workshop.

Our Fashion and Textiles courses include a number of novelties too: Fabric Painting, Silk Painting and a follow-on 6 week Patchwork and Quilting course for students who have already enjoyed our beginners' class. That is as well as short courses in dressmaking, decoupage, knitting and interior design.

If you are after something more technical, our Computer Skills tutor has a one day workshop on Excel coming up on Saturday, 10 May plus a six-week introductory Excel course starting on Thursday, 5 June. If you want to master Photoshop, we have a one day introductory workshop on Saturday, 24 May. For the first time at The Institute, tutor Geoff Stocker is offering a special two day workshop 'Photoshop for Fashion and Interiors' on Saturday 3 and Saturday, 10 May.

If you want to step outside and broaden your horizons this summer, why not try one of our 'out and about' courses? You could join one of our London Walks - venturing into the little-known delights of south London this term - or sign up for one of our 'Exploring London's Museums and Galleries' courses accompanied by a specialist tutor.

For further details ring 020 8829 4229 or visit www.hgsi.ac.uk