

Suburb News

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association



Caught up in the moment, at this year's Proms at St Jude's, p6



All you need to know about the new Proms chairman, p7



Prof Louise Scheuer just can't stop thinking about 'dem bones, dem bones', p8

Suburb Crime and Pavements

A MEETING ON CRIME...

There was standing room only in Fellowship House for the Residents Association Open Meeting on June 21 on the intriguingly named subject of Pavements & Increase in Crime. The hopes of those wishing to discover some esoteric linkage between pavements and crime were swiftly dashed as it became clear the meeting was to be divided between the two topics with crime coming first.

The subject was a response to three street robberies in the previous three weeks in Bigwood Road, Southway and Wildwood Road. Inspector Jason Mosley and Sergeant Mark Thomas from the Metropolitan Police along with our Greater London Assembly member, Andrew Dismore, and Suburb ward councillor, Gabriel Rozenberg all gave their time to come and listen to residents' concerns.

It was an opportunity for people to question the response to crimes that had recently affected them personally. Stories of burglaries and muggings, some violent, were retold and there were even more accounts of car crime; a subject which will be familiar to users of the HGS List e-mail group.

Residents bemoaned the lack of patrols, but were told that there were resources to hand, which could be deployed when needed. Cars are now stationed at Barnet and Colindale and have a target response time of 12 minutes. It is hoped resources to bring back the presence of Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be found before long.

Andrew Dismore reminded us that the Met, which gets 75% of its funding from central government, had to cut £600 million from their budget in the last five years, and were expecting to lose another £400 million in the next four years, which in total would represent between a quarter and a third of its expenditure.

There are now 60 fewer police officers and 80 fewer Police Community Support Officers in Barnet as a result of the cuts. We were reminded that it is important to report all crime because it helps the police to use their scarce resources according to need.

Police advice is to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. In a real emergency people should phone 999, or 101 for less urgent matters. Asked what to do when confronted, the advice was to

consider one's personal safety and avoid injury while a personal alarm could be useful. Prompting the comment, "But who will come?"

Car theft is best combatted by using a good steering-lock. Taking off conspicuous jewellery or watches is recommended as is using phones discreetly and with one's back to a wall. The police told the meeting more than once to be alert, but not afraid.

Cllr Rosenberg reminded us that the statistics showed no rise in crime, although perhaps it had become more violent, and that there was no direct link between police numbers and crime.

Perhaps our fear of crime is greater than is warranted, but Suburb News can repeat what we said after last year's Open Meeting on this subject. Crime prevention is mainly in our hands and most Suburb crime is opportunistic; valuables visible in cars, windows, doors or gates left open, newspapers or mail stuck in the letterbox are all visible invitations. Fit a burglar alarm, check the strength of your front door, put some lights on timer switches, fit good locks and security lights. Take

(continued on page 2)



Children flock to Fizzie Lizzie, the balloon modelling 'queen'. More pictures back page.

RA Summer Party celebrates Queen's 90th birthday

The Residents Association decided the best way to mark this important landmark was by having a Summer Party in Central Square.

No surprise with the current weather that it was raining until around 2pm before it cleared

up, although hardy locals had already fortified themselves with a free glass of Pimms!

During the afternoon, we welcomed Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg and family, and Barnet and Camden's London Assembly member, Andrew Dismore.

The new and very popular attraction this year was the Tropical Wildlife Show, which was both educational and fun by introducing children to various animals including tarantulas, snakes, skunks, meerkats, giant tortoises and other small animals. It gave them a chance to ask questions about their habitat and lives in the wild. Tropical also operate a rescue service for unwanted exotic animals.

'Punch and Judy' was as popular as ever and the brilliant face painters had long queues for their artistry. Gill Roberts instructed kids in the art of biscuit decoration while Fizzie Lizzie covered balloon modelling. Sam was kept busy running donkey rides and no one fell off! Simmons Crepes did a brisk trade and strawberries and cream were served at the drinks tent. Music was provided by famous local group 'Sound of the Suburb', supported by their many fans!

A special thanks goes to all those residents who baked which raised the fantastic sum of £198 for this year's charity, which was 'All Dogs Matter!'

Finally, none of the above activities would have been possible without the generosity of our sponsor Wigmore Associates.

TONY BRAND

Play a part in what the Suburb has to say

The RA Publications Committee and Suburb News are looking for some help in doing its work. Our most obvious job is the production and distribution of the quarterly Suburb News and annual Suburb Directory, a copy of which you should have received with your last issue of this paper in May.

As well as those two printed publications, we e-mail members a copy of Suburb eNews when there is an event imminent or there is news about the Suburb we consider urgent. We keep an eye on the style of all material the RA publishes such as posters or leaflets, and we watch over our Facebook page.

All the work involved is done by volunteers, although we do pay for the professional design and layout of Suburb News, the Suburb Directory, our posters and the leaflets. So the writing, photography, compiling, creation of eNews, collating, finding of advertisers, updating, liaising, maintaining the discount scheme and other things I have forgotten is done by a small number of people, who do it for free. And then there are the 120 or so volunteer distributors, one of whom brought you this paper.

We need people to join us and help with some or all of these tasks, but there are a couple of particular needs, of which more in a moment. The committee usually meets four times a year, which is really not a lot. The meetings rarely last more than 90 minutes; there is a fair amount of gossiping and some

refreshments. Obviously there are tasks to do between meetings. The particular needs are:

- A Suburb News advertising manager. Someone to find and retain advertisers in Suburb News.
- An assistant for Suburb News to help with the production of articles. Much of the content is written by contributors from the various societies, other organisations and institutions who are active in the Suburb, but help is still needed.
- A new editor for the Suburb Directory.

So if you're interested in joining us to do one of the above, or just help out generally and get at the refreshments, please e-mail rapublications@hgs.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming some new faces around the table.

TERRY BROOKS



WE DELIVER

For almost 40 years now we have been serving the needs of the Suburb and we have enjoyed every moment of it. Our service extends from Cottages to Castles and there is no property which is too small or too large for us to handle.

We are delighted to introduce you to the Glentree New Homes office, where we are able to offer the largest selection of new developments in North West London, either as a home or as a buy-to-let investment.

At Glentree Rentals, our bespoke letting service, we are bristling with a wide selection of fine homes to rent in all price ranges and why not enquire about our specialist Suburb Sales division which deals exclusively with properties such as yours and has a house-by-house understanding of this very special area.

We believe we can make a substantial difference to you by selling your cherished home for the highest possible price when the time is right ... and not before, of course.

Our well known International connections allow us the unique facility of attracting buyers/tenants not only from the locality, or within the UK, but also from virtually every corner of the globe. A wider globalised audience means usually better terms for you.

We are the longest serving agents in the area, under the same Management for over 40 years and if you want to know what's going on in the market or check the value of your home, please feel free to pop in and you are welcome to use our private clients' car park (at the rear of our offices).

No obligation, no fuss, just good old fashioned service.



Become part of the Suburb Community and join the Association

It's a friendly group of 1,800 households in which you can either play an active role preserving the Suburb or just support it with a small subscription.

Only £15 per household per year. Join online, paying by credit card or PayPal, or download a standing order form from hgs.org.uk/ra/joinnow.html



join now



www.hgs.org.uk