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Dustbin collections could be cut by half

CAMDEN COUNCIL'S proposal to move from weekly to fortnightly rubbish bin collections in a bid to save money and increase recycling rates has been strongly opposed by local Frogna and Fitzjohns councillors.

A motion earlier this year by councillors Siobhan Baillie and Andrew Menear calling for the protection of weekly collections was voted down and to date Andrew has received no substantive answer to his inquiry as to which streets are likely to be affected if the proposal is incorporated in the new

Temporary reprieve for number 13 bus

TRANSPORT for London's proposal to scrap the number 13 bus, which runs between Golders Green and Aldwych along our part of Finchley Road, and replace it with alterations to routes 82 and 139 has been put on hold.

TfL claims that concerns had been expressed that the consultation, to which they say they received over 3000 responses, had been partially undertaken during the pre-election period.

Our councillors suspect a not insignificant factor will have been pre-election pressure put on Mayor Boris Johnson by Finchley MP Mike Freer.

"We campaigned, tweeted, posted flyers and spoke to Camden," Councillor Siobhan Baillie told *NNA News*. "It was heartening to see so many respond to the consultation and we did not meet a single person who wanted to see the end of the service."

TfL say the comments received will be used to inform future bus network planning in the Finchley Road area, and any resulting proposals will be subject to further public consultation.

street cleaning contract to begin in 2017. "We believe fortnightly bin collections pose serious public health risks, attracting rats and urban foxes," Siobhan Baillie told *NNA News*.

Camden is seeking comments and ideas about waste collections and street cleaning following a series of local presentations during March and April (see camden-waste-challenge page on Camden's website) and residents are strongly encouraged to respond.

Meanwhile, NNA member Philip Clapson, whose letter to Camden's chief executive last year about street cleaning in our area did prompt some action on the council's part, commented: "The proposed reduction of bin collection to once a fortnight would turn a most unsatisfactory situation into a disaster."

Legal challenge

"It has never been explained to us by Camden why there is already so much domestic rubbish on our streets when it should be in bins. Not to collect once a week would turn a constant presence of

rubbish in the streets into a sea of trash to wade through. Since it is the council's responsibility to collect rubbish and keep the streets clean, its ongoing failure to carry this out would be an occasion for legal challenge to its competence."

Philip Clapson reports: During 2014 and so far in 2015, NNA residents have been attempting significantly to improve the level of street cleaning in the area. Many have complained about the condition of pavements and streets, and the behaviour of local shops and offices.

The interface with Camden was via Senior Area Monitoring Officer, Paul Nuckley; his role has subsequently been taken by Mathias Fernandez.

The results of our meetings and discussions have been good in part. Finchley Road cleaning has improved, and at the bottom of Netherhall Gardens the pedestrian steps are cleaned and the feeding of pigeons has ceased because a notice of significant penalties has been displayed. The recycling bins, which

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NNA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 27th April 2015

Danish Centre, 43 Maresfield Gardens

7.00pm RECEPTION: drinks and buffet

7.30pm AGM: 2014 overview, election of officials, questions, any other business

8.15pm GUEST SPEAKER

Jessica Learmond-Criqui: 'For the love of community'



A local barrister and solicitor specialising in employment law and business immigration, Jessica Learmond-Criqui is founder and editor of the I Love Hampstead and Hampstead Shops campaign e-newsletter. She chairs both the Frogna and Fitzjohns Safer Neighbourhood Panel and the Hampstead and Belsize Town Team and is also a member of the board of the Heath and Hampstead Society. (See page 2 for more on Jessica)

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Jessica Learmond-Criqui

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LAWYER AND AUTHOR of the I Love Hampstead and Hampstead Shops e-newsletter and guest speaker at this year's NNA AGM, Jessica Learmond-Criqui originates from Trinidad in the West Indies. She began trying to help save small independent local traders about four years ago.

Campaigns in which she has been involved include working with the community to stop Sainsbury's moving into South End Green, helping Sue Jasani, former owner of the High Street health food shop, in her battle with the Prudential, and assisting with the survival of Pure Fruit (now Artichoke) and the Creperie.

More recently she has been working with residents on objecting to the application to develop Grove Lodge next to Admiral's House and with the community on objecting to the New End nurses home application which will see three basements dug out of New End.

One of the main frustrations in these endeavours, she told *NNA News*, is the difficulty in identifying landlords.

Internationally-renowned sculptor selected to take on Elgar statue project

VETERAN Luxembourg-born sculptor, architect and urban designer Rob Krier has been appointed to take on the commission to create a statue of Sir Edward Elgar at the junction of Netherhall Gardens and Fitzjohn's Avenue.

Krier, 76, was unanimously chosen by the NNA's Elgar project committee when previous appointee Vivien Mallock had to pull out on ill-health grounds.

Known worldwide for his monumental, slightly impressionistic Rodinesque bronzes, Rob Krier, a former professor of architecture at Vienna University of Technology, now lives and works both in Berlin and in Liguria, Italy.

Committee chair Liam O'Connor, who has himself been responsible for commissioning a number of major monuments in London, reports that, "Progress is being made with the culture team at Camden Council which supports the principle of such a statue.

"Hampstead has an illustrious list of great musicians associated with this part of London and Elgar composed some of the most famous British music of the twentieth century whilst living in Netherhall Gardens from 1911 to 1921."

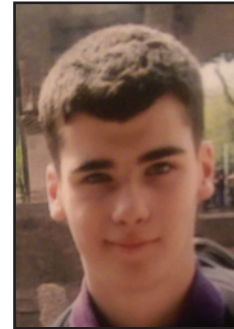
Fundraising and local support is now under way. Donations are welcome on the elgarinhampstead.com website.



▲ One of a number of sketches of Sir Edward Elgar produced for the NNA by sculptor Rob Krier in anticipation of his new work to be situated near the composer's former house in Netherhall Gardens

Life as an air cadet

Kieran Wilkins, now 15, joined the Hampstead squadron of the RAF's Air Training Corps, based at the Territorial Army centre in Fitzjohn's Avenue, at the age of 14. Already he has been named 'cadet of the month' and won a Jack Petchey Award for his services. He attends after school on two evenings a week and, all being well, will stay until he goes to university at 18. Here he tells NNA News what's involved and recounts some of the highlights



◀ Kieran has a long way to go yet but is currently contemplating becoming an engineer in the RAF after university. His father Andy Wilkins, a teacher and manager of

the NNA website, is on the civilian committee for the cadets' Hampstead squadron, which he describes as "a bit like being a school governor".

He claims one useful skill his son has acquired since being a cadet is shoe polishing, on which he spends about an hour a week! Kieran also helps with distributing *NNA News*.



THERE ARE not many people of my age who have been lucky enough to have flown in both a glider and a prop plane but I have and I was even allowed to take the controls!

Not everything we do in the Air Training Corps (ATC) is quite that exciting, but much is.

The TA centre on Fitzjohn's Avenue where our squadron is based has a firing range in the basement, and this has given me the chance to learn how to handle a rifle safely and to try my hand at target practice with a firearm.

Also each year we take part in the Inness Sword competition at Crowborough Training Camp, battling it out against 25 other squadrons from London Wing for this prestigious trophy. The competition runs all weekend and is a test of the team's core military skills, which include navigation, an assault course, drill, observation, first aid, shooting and speed marching.

However, one of the events I enjoyed most last year – and one which involved a lot of training! – was the Nijmegen march in Holland. This is the largest and most important walking/marching event on earth!

Participants include both military and civilian personnel and can opt to complete a

30, 40 or 50 kms a day course – in each case for a gruelling four days!

The march, which was first held in 1909, kicks off on the third Tuesday in July. A Dutch policeman attending the march last year discovered it was my birthday that day, and promptly ripped his badge off his arm and gave it to me as a present! I have it on the wall in my bedroom as a reminder of a great event.

One compulsory element of training for all ATC personnel is first aid. There

are three levels of training available to cadets and staff. Heartstart, a British Heart Foundation initiative, consists of basic lifesaving skills and should be completed by everyone joining within the first six months, while Youth First Aid and Activities First Aid follow the St John Ambulance syllabus; YFA is for all cadets after a longer period of membership and AFA is an optional course for older cadets to further their understanding and to assess YFA. **NNA**

JUNIOR CORNER

Netherhall wildlife (or Maresfield menagerie?)

by Jack Lipman, aged 9, and Hanna Lipman, 8, of Maresfield Gardens



Railways supremo who prefers riding his Vespa

Despite working for train companies for 22 years, the French Chief Executive of Eurostar claims he is no anorak and admits to favouring two wheels when it comes to commuting to his King's Cross office from his Netherhall Gardens flat



Not to be confused with Nikola Petrovic-Njegos, Crown Prince of Montenegro (Petrovic is a relatively common name in the former Yugoslavia), Nicolas Petrovic, Chief Executive of Eurostar, does in fact still have family in Belgrade, from where his parents escaped unemployment in Communist dictator Tito's regime in the 1960s. He says it is a really 'buzzy' city now with a much more entrepreneurial younger generation.

Nicolas, however, was born, in 1969, and brought up in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, a suburb of Paris, as were his two sisters, one younger and one older; their mother is French, father Yugoslavian.

When not travelling on Eurostar business, which he does a lot, he divides his time between Paris where, as well as his parents and sisters, his French ex-wife lives with their nine-year-old son, Tunbridge Wells, where his British partner lives with their three-year-old son, and Netherhall Gardens – which both boys visit from time to time.

When he first came to work in London in 2003, he took a flat in Holland Park

but he has also lived in Clapham, Kentish Town and even Carlingford Road, just off Pilgrim's Lane near Hampstead Heath – in all about seven homes in 12 years!

However, apart from the fact that his precious Vespa, which lives outside his current abode, has been vandalised about 10 times, he says he is very relaxed and happy in Netherhall Gardens and has no plans to move on again.

Parrot-spotting

He particularly enjoys running and green and yellow parrot-spotting on the Heath, reading the papers over coffee in Hampstead village, eating and drinking in The Wells and availing himself of our many local cinemas (though Hampstead Theatre currently remains on his 'to do' list).

On the afternoon I went to see him in his office opposite Kings Cross station, I bemoaned that day's Metropolitan line hiccup, expecting he too had been affected, but it turns out he uses the Vespa rather than trains to get to and from work.

Indeed, he's absolutely no anorak when it comes to trains, contrary to what you might expect from a man who preceded his 12 years at Eurostar with 10 years at the French national railways company SNCF; serendipity rather than passion took him into the industry and its challenges and opportunities have kept him there so far.

His father is an engineer but he designs and creates new patents for treatments to turn waste matter into energy – nothing whatever to do with trains! In fact Nicolas also works with his father in that business, albeit in a non-executive capacity.

Oldest business school

Educated in Paris, Nicolas had no particular career in mind but attended the École Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (ESCP), the world's oldest business school, where he majored in marketing, graduating in 1992.

As an alternative to otherwise compulsory army service, he opted for a two-year spell working overseas for a French water treatment firm, the Compagnie Générale des Eaux. He'd had short spells in Zaire and in Montreal while at college, but now he jumped at the chance to go to Taiwan, where the assignment was to find a business partner for the company and create a joint venture.

Twenty-plus years ago absolutely nothing in Taiwan was in English (let alone French), he recalls, but he had learnt some Mandarin in school and, thanks to daily language lessons and help from his co-workers, he was just about able to get by after a few months.

The importance of language proficiency is something to which he pays more than lip service even now, having become a trustee of the bilingual Collège Franco-Britannique in London, a supporter of the public/private partnership to create new lycées around

the city (Kentish Town and Wembley are already full as well as the original South Kensington site) and working with state schools in Camden to improve students' French language skills, including taking apprentices and interns into the business.

After his stint in Taiwan, however, it was back home for what was to prove a varied and educative decade with the French railways. He held various positions in SNCF business units and general management, culminating in the job of Secretary General of the entire TGV division and Operational General Manager for the Paris Saint-Lazare area.

A time of major change in the industry, the 1990s saw the complete overhaul of SNCF's TGV division, in a bid to make it more commercial. This involved introducing airline-style 'yield management' (variable pricing according to what the market will bear at any particular time) and creating customer service teams in stations. "I learned something new in each new job," says Nicolas – and not least how to manage large teams and change culture.

The only downside to the job was the lack of scope for international travel so, after the best part of 10 years, Nicolas decided to prepare for a new challenge abroad by taking himself off to INSEAD for a one-year intensive business programme leading to an MBA.

It is fashionable these days to pooh-pooh business schools but the key, he says, is to choose a good one – and there are few more highly rated or more international in outlook than INSEAD (along with Stanford, it ranks fourth in the global MBA ratings after Harvard, London and Wharton). "There were 50 nationalities represented during the year I was there," he recalls, "and I'm still in touch with many of them – people I'd never have met otherwise."

Major investment

Secondly, he says, you have to have a plan about what you want to achieve while there and/or what you want it to achieve for you. "These courses cost a lot of money, and the year flies by before you know it, so you have to treat it like a major investment: the more you put in, the more you get out of it."

He used the time to develop a plan for a new business based on a patent that belonged to his father. It took much longer than the INSEAD year to raise the funds, find premises and pilot the scheme, but by 2007 OP Systèmes had begun operations and a year later had broken even. Meanwhile on graduation



in 2003 the plan won him the INSEAD Business Ventures competition.

As reported in the INSEAD newsletter, his advice to budding entrepreneurs is "Just go for it... if you have the motivation and commitment. You have to realise though, you can't just switch off at 5pm and go home. You must have a high level of engagement. If it works out or not, it's all good experience." He suggests taking as many courses in entrepreneurship as possible and working in teams of people with different profiles to see if you have the right skills to start a venture. "And meet as many people as possible!"

On leaving INSEAD, London loomed. The city was booming, he says, and while he was not so keen to go back to trains, Eurostar was "a great brand in a turnaround situation". He joined in August 2003 as Director of Customer Services and in 2007 also took on responsibility for operations, rolling stock, safety and IT – and joined the main board.

He led the headquarters move from Waterloo to St Pancras stations in 2007, the procurement and financing of new trains and the more recent refurbishment of the current fleet.

In April 2010 he was appointed Chief Executive and led the transformation of the company from a partnership between the French railways, the Belgian railways and the UK Government into a single private company based in London; and he is now happily working with the backers who a couple of months ago brought the British Government's shares.

This year the company is investing £1 billion in more new high speed (320kph/200mph) trains with stylish interiors by Italian car designers Pininfarina (of Ferrari and Maserati

fame). It is planning to increase capacity by 20 per cent and to widen the range of destinations to include Lyon, Avignon, Marseille and then Amsterdam via Antwerp and Rotterdam.

Nicolas has no fear of competition from other railway companies (Deutsche Bahn is now competing for business through the tunnel), regarding the greatest challenge as getting people to take the train in preference to flying.

Not surprisingly, crisis management has figured highly among the skills he has had to develop and hone over the years – the serious Eurotunnel fire in 2008 which restricted Eurostar services for more than six months, the snow-related train breakdowns of Christmas 2009 and the more recent fire on a lorry in the tunnel which caused long delays being just the tip of the iceberg. "It is vital to get a plan in place as quickly as possible and to communicate it effectively," he says, "and then be generous with compensation!"

He adds: "We have had very good feedback about our staff following such

"... get a plan in place as quickly as possible, communicate it effectively and then be generous with compensation!"

incidents. They are seen as friendly and helpful." Staff training and development is something he places great store by, although he recognises there is no magic formula for getting employees engaged.

He also stresses the need for advertising and marketing to mirror as closely as possible what members of staff deliver and the passengers experience. "A mismatch between image and reality just breeds resentment," he says.

He himself is seen by staff as warm and approachable, good humoured and replete with those stereotypical French characteristics of charm and passion, but perhaps too just a touch temperamental!

As a neighbour he comes across very much as a 'what you see is what you get' kind of person. He loves his job, but also, by dint of meticulous organisation, makes time for sport – notably skiing and tennis, hiking and cycling; theatre, opera and not least world travel.

Notwithstanding his reassurances, one can't help but wonder how much longer London, Eurostar and even Netherhall Gardens will be able to hang on to him!

Susanne Lawrence, NNA

While the two and a half roads constituting the NNA are predominantly made up of private houses and flats, we do have a not insignificant number of institutions, notably schools and halls of residence. Some of them are well known to NNA members, others less so. For this issue of the newsletter we invited Peter Brown and Carol Seigel, the directors respectively of Netherhall House and the Freud Museum, to update readers

What IS Netherhall House?

Whenever we have a musical recital at Netherhall House, which we do every two or three months, I seem to have a similar conversation with one or more people attending the event. “What is this place?” they ask. “It’s a student hall of residence,” I answer. “Really? I’ve lived in this area for 20 years and never knew it was here. What else do you do here?” The answer to that question is ‘quite a lot’.

Netherhall House, now strictly speaking in Nutley Terrace, began life under the inspiration of the founder of Opus Dei, St Josemaría Escrivá (1902-1975), a Spanish priest, who saw the need to provide both home and overseas male students with good accommodation that would be conducive to serious study.

There is now in fact an associated hall of residence, Ashwell House based in Islington, which is for female students aged between 18 and 25.

In 1952, however, 18 Netherhall Gardens was opened as a hall of residence for about 25 male students. The building had previously been a private hotel owned in part by a Mr H. Neville who once lived at number 22.

Youth club

The following year 16 Netherhall Gardens was bought from the Diocese of Westminster, which had been using the property as a youth club since just after World War Two and was now keen for it to be used for student accommodation. This took the number of students to 50.

Then in 1966 with a combination of loans, donations and a grant from the Foreign Office the capacity was increased to over 100 students with the construction of a purpose-built residence in the grounds of 16 and 18 Netherhall Gardens. The building was formally opened by HM the Queen Mother.

The old Victorian buildings continued to be used – number 18 as living accommodation and 16 rented out



▲ Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie gave a talk at the House last month on ‘What Britain should spend on its defence’; (l to r) director Peter Brown, Pakistani student Bakht Baryar, Lord Guthrie and English student Edward Philipps

to a school (initially the American Community School and subsequently Hampstead International School).

The final development that brought Netherhall House to its current state was completed in 1994 with the rebuilding in Victorian style of the houses at 16-18 Netherhall Gardens. And so now Netherhall House is home to around 100 students from the UK and overseas who are studying at the University of London or one of the other institutions of higher education in the city.

What we are trying to do here is to create a Christian home where students are able to flourish – as St Josemaría, who himself spent the summers of 1958 to 1962 in Hampstead, envisaged back in the early 1950s.

Great emphasis is placed on study; we have an excellent library and study facilities and in the interview we have before a student arrives we stress that we want students here to see their studies as a way for them to serve society.

We then try and encourage them to ‘think outside the box’ and not confine their interests to the sometimes narrow field in which they specialise at

university. To that end we invite weekly guest speakers to talk about a whole array of matters from Napoleon to Large Hadron Colliders at Cern. Recently for example our guest was Douglas Hurd. The former Foreign Secretary spent 15 minutes talking about some of the people he had met in his career (Mao, Yeltsin, George Bush Senior), 15 minutes running through his political career and then half an hour answering questions about current foreign policy matters.

The chamber music recitals, which a good number of our neighbours attend, fit into this scheme. Learning to appreciate beautiful music is a part of that human flourishing that we promote.

Family atmosphere

The key component of life in Netherhall House, however, is the family atmosphere, something St Josemaría encouraged from the start.

The residents dine together each evening and at weekends. Those who wish can relax after dinner and get together in the main lounge.

There are opportunities to be involved in drama, sport or one of the social

projects we sponsor, such as mentoring children in schools, helping those who have fallen behind in their studies for one reason or another or joining one of the Catholic organisations in London that distribute food to the homeless.

Opus Dei plays a significant role here; the director and management board are Opus Dei members and try to run Netherhall House in a manner consistent with the vision St Josemaría had for such institutions. Having said that, however, a resident could easily pass a year here without knowing anything about the organisation, as we are open to students of all faiths and most of the world's religions can be found amongst the 30 or so nationalities that live here each year.

Catering college

Also on our property is the Lakefield Training College (see www.lakefield.org.uk), an associated institution that since 1962 has offered courses leading to qualifications for the hospitality and catering industry and also provides hospitality services for Netherhall House.

One of the college patrons is local resident Bryan Sanderson who was featured in the Spring 2013 issue of *NNA News*.

For further information about the House see www.netherhall.org.uk or telephone me, Peter Brown, on 020 7435 8888. For more information about Opus Dei please see www.opusdei.org.uk

Peter Brown

Unconscious at the museum

Exactly 100 years ago the publication of Sigmund Freud's momentous essay *The Unconscious* brought some of his most revolutionary ideas to a wider public. To mark the occasion, the Freud Museum, which was his final home and is dedicated to preserving his legacy, will be hosting a Festival of the Unconscious, intended to engage the public in thinking about the unconscious mind and how it influences behaviour.

This summer the museum will be transformed into a strange and mysterious place. We are asking artists, animators and designers to create representations of the unconscious, and inviting visitors on a unique voyage of self-discovery inspired by Freud's dictum 'being totally honest with oneself is a good exercise'!

Artistic works will weave through the house offering insights into unconscious experience, and visitors can delve into their own unconscious through unique interactive experiments, illusions and brain tricks developed by Julian Rothenstein and Mel Gooding, authors of the psychological games package Psychobox. They will also be able to contribute their 'Freudian slips', dreams, reflections and interpretations online.

In addition to the displays and games, the festival, which will run from June 10 to October 4, will offer some intriguing scientific and historical information and

feature performance and participatory events, talks, workshops and interdisciplinary conferences.

Not least there will be a unique opportunity to recline and to 'free-associate' on a specially-constructed replica Freudian couch right in the middle of the room which was once Freud's bedroom.

The festival is intended to stimulate a wider debate around the issues of knowing and not-knowing, wanting to know and preferring to stay in the dark, and to create an outlet for uncovering common phantasies and attitudes around the unconscious mind.

Anna's room

Freud and his youngest daughter Anna loved the green, leafy surrounds of 20 Maresfield Gardens, so different from the urban setting of the apartment they had left in Vienna in 1938. Anna died in 1982, but many people who live in the neighbourhood still remember her and, if you haven't yet visited the museum's refurbished room devoted to her, this year would be a good time.

As well as the regular house tour on the first Sunday of every month, we recently introduced a tour every Wednesday at 2pm, free with admission or to members of the NNA. These short tours give 'a closer look' at a Freud-related topic, such as the family's dramatic escape to England.

One of the highlights of any visit to the museum, which incidentally will be celebrating its 30th anniversary next year, is a look at the objects jostling for position on Freud's desk. We have just published a new book, *Sigmund Freud's desk: an anecdoted guide*, by Ro Spankie; also Michael Molnar, the museum's previous director, has just brought out a new book, *Looking through Freud's photos*, a fascinating exploration of what can be learnt from historic photographs.

On the anniversary of Freud's death in September we will hold our annual Freud Memorial Lecture, and launch a new fundraising appeal. Like many cultural organisations, the museum needs to be constantly seeking new ways to cover costs and develop its work. We really value our neighbours and hope that you will continue to support us and all our activities with such tolerance and interest, as you have in the past.

Carol Seigel



▲ A screening and discussion about the work that was carried out last year to restore Freud's couch was held at the museum this April between textile conservator Poppy Singer (above) and artist Jeremy Millar

► Street cleaning

continued from page 1

used to be ‘a tip’, are kept in better order; the weeds which infested Finchley Road have been mostly eliminated. Netherhall Way, which used not to be regularly cleaned, is now much better, with proper cleaning of drains. Netherhall Gardens, and adjacent roads, have also improved overall in the standard of cleaning.

However, there remain significant problems and not least the reduction to once a week of the sweeping of streets and removal of rubbish, except for Finchley Road which is swept daily.

Moreover, despite complaints, bags left by street cleaners are regularly left over the weekend and, along with domestic rubbish, ripped open by foxes and litter strewn across the pavements.

Street bins are often overflowing, and additional rubbish accumulates around them; also when the domestic bins are emptied, litter is sometimes dropped and not cleaned up. Everyone in the area is aware of these problems. Photographs are sent to Camden, and perhaps there is some slight improvement. But with the expected reduced grant to the council by the Government, things may get worse.

It is most unsatisfactory that an area as pleasant as ours should be despoiled by the council’s failure to keep it in good order. Continual pressure has improved the situation somewhat, but until Camden spends more or perhaps changes contractor, this pressure must be maintained. **NNA**

EVENTS

DURING THE year since the 2014 AGM NNA members have been invited once again to a number of concerts at Netherhall House (*see feature, page 6*) and talks and exhibitions at the Freud Museum (*see page 7*), as well as various events organised just for local residents.

The summer kicked off in May with the annual Freud Museum garden party, followed in June by Linda and Stephen Williams’ now annual ‘open garden’ afternoon and a ‘Blooming great tea party’, organised by Gina da Silva in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. The charity was a favourite of Gina’s father, former Freud museum caretaker Alex Bento, for whom the museum and family hosted a memorial event in September.

Two public meetings on rising crime in Hampstead were held by the local safer neighbourhood panel, and in October residents were invited to a joint Frognal & Fitzjohns with Hampstead Town area action group meeting.

On a lighter note the Belsize residents association invited NNA members to a guided walk round Belsize Park, and local events later in the year included a knitwear sale and the NNA’s Christmas drinks party at the Danish YWCA.

FORTHCOMING

Sunday 21 June: 2-6pm. Linda and Stephen Williams’ 10th Open Garden in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. Tea and cakes. Free admission to NNA members. 16A Maresfield Gardens.

Back to school for Bonham-Carter



▲ Actor Helena Bonham-Carter, a South Hampstead High School old girl and long-time local resident, was invited to unveil plaques to mark the official opening of the new Maresfield Gardens building in January.

SITS VAC

Volunteers are sought for the following positions on the NNA Committee:

Hon Sec: to prepare agendas for, attend and minute meetings (average four to six *pa*); notify committee of meetings and distribute minutes incorporating members’ written reports. Previous Hon Sec Ruth Stone is happy to discuss the role: ruthstone@gmail.com

Newsletter editor or assistant: duties encompass planning, commissioning, chasing and subediting or writing news and features, and laying out pages using Adobe Indesign (or similar). The current editor would consider sharing duties with someone not in a position to take on the whole job: susannelawrence@gmail.com

NNA MEMBERSHIP 2015

IF YOU HAVE NOT yet renewed your NNA membership, or are new to the area, please join now. It only costs £8 per person for a year or £10 for a family. The association works to maintain and/or improve the character of the environment, runs social events and provides a ‘good neighbours’ service. Please fill in this form and return it with your payment to the address below or join online at www.netherhallneighbours.com. And if you have a new neighbour, or there are other flats in your building, please encourage them to join or notify Pat Whitehouse: tel 020 7435 0798 or email patricia.whitehouse@hotmail.co.uk

Title: Forename: Surname:

Title: Forename: Surname:

Address:

Tel no: Mobile: Email:

Do you have any skills or interests that could help us?.....

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