



The Heath & Hampstead Society NEWSLETTER

September 2006

Vol37No. 3



The new playground at the Vale of Health is opened in honour of Peggy fay

photo: Angela Humphery

Chairman's Report

by Tony Hillier

The AGM

The AGM on 20 June in Rosslyn Hill Chapel was well attended and returning to this venue proved a popular success. Our Patron Sir John Tusa gave us an enchanting recollection of the pleasures the Heath gave John, his wife Ann and their two sons during the 34 years they lived at 21 Willow Road. More trees have grown, different birds are to be seen, it is not as safe for children as it used to be, but, as we all would agree, it remains a great privilege to be able to bring up a family near and on and around the Heath. We give the full text on page 16.

Garden House

The decision on our right to proceed to judicial review will be made around the time this goes to print. We shall have written to you individually about this, before this Newsletter is sent out.

Kenwood Concerts and That Pontoon

We were pleased that Camden's Licensing Panel placed some reasonable restrictions on the number, down from ten to eight, and attendance levels, down from 10,000 to 8,000, of the permitted concerts. We are still furious that English Heritage duped Camden's Development Control Sub-Committee into allowing by default the illegal pontoon that has so disfigured the lake this summer. There must be a better opportunity for due process next summer, either to ban this monstrosity or place planning restrictions on it which respect its sensitive setting.

Cycling on the Heath

This is a very serious and important matter, about which I have written at greater length following this report.

Is the Society Democratic enough?

A member wrote to me in June. She was not happy about part of our stance on the school

run question. She made a general point:

"Is it possible to please have a more democratic Heath and Hampstead Society with fair representation of the opinions of all the people of the area whether they are members or not? Indeed is it perhaps possible that many more might become members if they felt that they were being truly listened to and represented?"

The short answer is "we don't think so", but perhaps some more detailed explanation of the responsibilities and constraints would help. Firstly there is the practical issue that there is no obvious way for a voluntary society with limited resources to get access to so many diverse opinions, about so many rapidly changing issues, and then to try to produce some proportionally representative answer. Please remember, it is the nature of a civic society that we are entirely voluntary and, unlike a borough council, have no paid officers. The £10 membership fee certainly could not run to that!

This leads us to the principle of whether we should actually attempt to do so at all. Our actions are guided by our charitable objects which are to try to act in the best interests of Hampstead and the Heath. We have a Constitution* which sets out our three aims for the Heath and for Hampstead which are, briefly:

- To work for the preservation of the Heath in its wild and natural state
- To promote and maintain the amenities of the environs of the Heath and of old Hampstead.
- To promote public interest in the study of natural history, conservation, and the history of the areas.

We assume that members support the Society because they share these objectives, rather than

Chairman's report (cont)

because they expect the Society to "represent" them on any specific issue.

The Constitution provides a structure for members to vote for officers at the AGM and to hold them accountable at the next one. In between officers have delegated authority to get on with dealing with the myriad local issues as they see fit.

We take very seriously the obligation of spokespeople or letter writers to reflect a balanced position, which has been properly discussed by relevant experts in the Society. We also take note of precedent and rely heavily on our archives to guide us as to what policy our predecessors followed.

There remain I think two obligations on the members and the officers respectively to improve the opportunity for communication and consultation day to day.

Members can volunteer to participate in the Committees and activities of the Society. We hope that, if they care strongly enough about our area and can spare time to get actively involved, they will come and help us make decisions through the Committees. They can contact us at any time to let us know their views. That is by far the most effective way to influence outcomes.

Officers can strive ever harder to communicate their thinking to members: we have the

Newsletter and the website (which we are about to upgrade). We have repeatedly asked you all to send us your email addresses so that we can communicate with you more frequently. We still have only a small proportion of these. We talk to the local press and get quoted, sometimes accurately; we can call an EGM; and we can write direct. Each of these methods has its costs and limitations.

The suggestion that we should try to give a fair representation of the opinions of all the people of the area whether they are members or not cannot be answered so simply. To some extent we do this already: it depends on what is brought to our attention. Our objectives are to try to act in the best interests of Hampstead and the Heath. If a non-member brings an issue to the Society's attention which falls within our remit, we try to take it up, as we did with all those licensing hearings. We also encourage them to join the Society but we do not represent them. On this we are quite clear. We do not attempt to represent the views of members in detail. We are sensitive to the many diverging opinions. We try to get the general direction right, recognising that we will hear soon enough, if we don't. We welcome debate if members wish to write and disagree.

** available for anyone on request, preferably with an A4SAE*

Contacting you by e-mail

It really is useful to be able to consult you on certain issues by e-mail. We can keep you informed of important matters when they happen, such as the recent cycling on the Heath poll in the Ham & High, and committee members don't feel quite so on their own in making difficult or controversial decisions. About 25% of you have given us your email addresses - so, please let us have a few hundred more. Contact us through our website: **www.heathandhampsteadsociety.org.uk**

Should more cycle paths be allowed on the Heath? (cont)

By Tony Hillier

I am sure you know your Committee's answer. It is a resounding "no"! So why get all worked up about the problem again, so soon after the last major consultation by the Heath Management Committee a mere five years ago, which received extensive Newsletter coverage at the time? There is a very good reason.

The Immediate Problem

A worrying and well-funded campaign, entitled "Cycling Greenways Implementation Plan", was recently launched by Mayor Ken Livingstone under the direction of Transport for London's Cycling Centre for Excellence, and its message is being reinforced by the Camden Sustainability Task Force. They want more cycle paths in all London's open spaces, including the Heath. The final version of this "Plan" ignored our thoughtful, experienced and detailed advice and failed to consult any significant pedestrian group, including one sponsored by TfL itself. They even ignored a recent research report of the Cyclists Touring Club which reported that the overwhelming view of both cyclists and pedestrians was that shared-use paths were unsafe and unattractive.

In our Newsletter of September 2002 we set out arguments covering legal, safety, environmental, and engineering issues. This included evidence from government inquiries and reports, the Cyclists Touring Club, the London Cycling Campaign, Sustrans, the London Wildlife Trust, and the Pedestrians Association (now called Living Streets). Our assessment was that it made an overwhelming case against any increase in cycling on the Heath.

Yet it is clear from public statements that the cycling lobby still wish to make the Heath a "more useful and joined-up part of London's commuter cyclist network".

This is the sort of fanatical refusal to listen to a broader perspective that we are used to from

single issue lobbies, including the cycling one. Hell hath no fury like self-interest masquerading as a moral, or in this case, green principle.

Fortunately neither the Camden Cycling Campaign, the Camden Sustainability Task Force, nor London's Centre of Cycling Excellence has any jurisdiction over the Heath. Nor apparently do they show any appreciation of it.

Is Your Society Against Cyclists in General?

With its President, its Chairman and other members of your Committees clearly in the category of "keen cyclist", no one could accuse the Society of being anti-cyclist. We favour spending public money to increase safer cycling on the streets and welcome all sensible initiatives to increase safe facilities for both recreational and commuting cycling across London. We favour more tastefully designed and discreetly situated cycle rack facilities in Hampstead. We would support modifying the pavement along Spaniards Road for dual use and connecting it to safer cycle lanes to Highgate along Hampstead Lane. There may be other routes to be developed around the street edges of the Heath.

The Four Key Issues

What we deplore is a one-sided approach. Four fundamental points should be obvious to all, when looking at each individual proposal.

First, the safety of pedestrians is equally important: cyclists need to be protected from motorists, but also pedestrians from the cyclists. Second, the highway law's overall position, which we support, is that pedestrians are the most vulnerable and need greater protection: they cannot really be safely mixed with wheeled vehicles at all. Cyclists must therefore go on roads and not on pavements or pedestrian paths. Third, where exceptions are made, and mixed use is approved, the

Should more cycle paths be allowed on the Heath? (cont)

specifications must be looked at with great care and in detailed recognition of the specific locations and topography. These specifics may change dramatically every few yards. Fourth and above all else, however, since we are talking about public spaces, we need to look at the kind of public benefits each space is designed and preserved for.

All of us involved with Heath use and management are familiar with the juggling and compromises that need to be balanced to make it open to, and enjoyable for, as many as possible. There are, however, two prime considerations why, in this particular conflict, the pedestrians must take an indisputable priority. First is the safety issue, because of the hilly, wooded, rural, but relatively confined space that makes up the Heath. Second there is the tradition and the statutory basis on which the Heath has been preserved for the public. It is intended as a rural retreat, to which, it is widely accepted, the great majority of visitors come by foot.

Our case against the cycle lobby's proposals to increase cycling access to the Heath needs no further justification than that.

A unique public good

Heath lovers know that in 1871 the Metropolitan Board of Works purchased the original Heath, saved by Act of Parliament after the forty-year campaign to stop it being built on, to preserve its natural state for Londoners. All members of this Society know and value the right we have so fortunately inherited for quiet and peaceful escape on to the Heath. Millions of Londoners understand this as well as we do. We all cherish being able to step out of the urban and into the rural, to a safe haven of biodiverse green space. That is Hampstead Heath's *raison d'être*, the unique public good which it so gloriously fulfils for the whole of London.

The City of London have been guardian of this tradition since 1989- They are required by statute to ensure that visitors of all ages and states of fitness and alertness can go there to walk or run or wander on their own, or simply sit, relax and enjoy themselves with friends or with children or with dogs. Such visitors should under no circumstances be disturbed or put in danger by menacing wheeled vehicles, propelled by people who may claim the "green" mantle for themselves but too often show by their behaviour that they lack any real "green" instincts or understanding of why the Heath is uniquely preserved for Londoners to enjoy. For every considerate cyclist there are too many others who ride dangerously. Those of us who do care for what the Heath is really about have a duty to remind the City, through their Management and Consultative Committees, that preserving this public good requires the firmest possible resistance to any further increase in either cycle paths or cycle menace.

There is no safe or acceptable case for more cycling on Hampstead Heath. The cycle lobby appears to have no understanding of why the Heath was preserved for the public or what there is about it that gives pleasure to so many millions a year. They have forgotten that they can cycle on the Heath only by concession. It does not occur to them that the frequency with which a number of them have been abusing that privilege in pursuit of their pleasure already constitutes a serious degradation of the pleasure of the millions who walk on the Heath. They clearly need to be reminded that the onus is on them, and not on us, to show why, despite the widely recognised dangers of shared-use paths, they should be allowed on the Heath at all. They already harass pedestrians on paths where they are not permitted - for the very good reasons that

these paths are either not wide enough, or are too steep or do not have sufficiently clear lines of vision, to be safe for shared use. There is no excuse for this. They harm ecologically sensitive parts of the Heath by riding illegally across them, presumably out of ignorance. It is remarkable that they continue to try to increase their presence on the Heath in the face of clear evidence of the harm they already do and of public disapproval.

Where are the Cycle Paths?

Cyclists share access to four carefully selected, wide and relatively straight pedestrian paths:

- the path crossing the Heath by the athletics track - the "municipal park" side of the Heath, which is heavily used by pedestrians. Until a few years ago cyclists were restricted to use of it before 10am only;
- Sandy Road, a broad traditional horse vehicle track, also on the edge of the Heath, next to Golders Hill Park;
- the north-south route from opposite Downshire Hill up to the Jack Straws end of Spaniards Road. This branches off just above the mixed bathing pond to
- an east-west dual use path over to Millfield Lane in Highgate.

With this limited number, it ought in theory, to be possible for people to walk in safety undisturbed by cyclists. Pedestrians of course are supposed to retain right of way and the speed limit is supposed to be 8mph. Unfortunately, the fact is, that cyclists all too often do not observe these rules and it is not easy nowadays to get away from them anywhere.

Self-interest masquerading as green principle

The cycle lobby is rightly concerned about the build-up of greenhouse gases across the planet and about the dangers of cycling on the London

road system. But their arguments are muddled and inconsistent, cherry-picking what suits them and failing to address other important questions. They have been tempted to fall into the moral and intellectual trap of skating over the two key and more fundamental issues of the nature of the Heath and its importance to pedestrians. They simply trot out their "green" arguments, which work against cars, but are irrelevant to their case in opposition to the majority who walk on the Heath. They want, as a matter of principle, equality with pedestrians on the Heath, whether for recreational or commuting purposes, with an increase of mixed-use paths. They appear unable and unwilling to take the needs or wishes of pedestrians into consideration at all, whether on the Heath or anywhere else. Too many cyclists simply want to take the law into their own hands and cycle anywhere.

Their arguments show little understanding or regard for the "green" principle that green open space is a "public good" in its own right, not to be exploited for use by other services. Their suggestions that safety could be ensured with "proper signage" demonstrates this all too clearly. It is inconsistent with a real concern for the environment to wish to make the Heath part of the urban transport infrastructure, with wider asphalt paths and a plethora of signposts that will require, as a cheap and easy substitute for the expenditure needed to provide safe cycle paths on the roads.

Nor will degrading the Heath in this way make much contribution to safety. From some of the arguments used, one would think that increasing facilities for cyclists on the Heath would solve all the safety problems in one fell swoop. As one letter-writer to the Ham & High with a shaky grasp of local geography expressed it, "to cycle peacefully down over the Heath to work in central London". Cyclists will still have to rejoin the roads

Should more cycle paths be allowed on the Heath? (cont)

on leaving the Heath - central London is another two or three miles away. Cyclists claim that by using the Heath they will be avoiding danger on the road. In reality they would be importing road danger on to the Heath: for the sake of a mile or two of "safer" cycling they would create a major disadvantage for those on foot.

Finding themselves for once on lower moral ground seems to make the cycling lobby more aggressive. Too many cyclists almost seem to imply that people who resent, challenge and resist dangerous cycling on pavements and pedestrian paths must for that reason be in the thrall of the oil lobby.

What about those Primary School Children?

The recent publicity stunt by two Camden Councillors, a Green Party representative and a Liberal Democrat, escorting small children on an illegal ride across the Heath, received much coverage in the local press. They again made clear the commuting case in their comments to the press and these were echoed by the deputation through which the Camden Cycling Campaign offered their advice in July to Camden Council, at the request of the Camden Sustainability Task Force.

This may seem to be just a crude attempt to open up another direct route across the Heath from another part of Millfield Lane to Well Walk, and that therefore the case is not worth answering. But the arguments may have some superficial attraction to some and I think these claims have to be rebutted. Let us remember that the campaign to increase cycling on the Heath began with apparently innocent calls simply for more recreational cycling. Now, as we can see, it has grown into a concerted campaign to turn the Heath into a commuter network. Altogether nine routes are being asked for: six shared use paths within the Heath and three more on the Heath land on the edge of the Heath.

If it really is the case that a substantial crowd of primary school children and their parents wish to cycle daily from Millfield Lane in Highgate to Well Walk in Hampstead, they can do so perfectly legally and quickly on the existing dual use path from Millfield Lane, branching right above the mixed pond as far as the fountain at the northwest corner of the Sports Ground. At that point they can hop off and push along Lime Avenue. The reverse applies for their return journey. This mixed mode of excellent and green exercise for young and old will get them from their chosen A to their chosen B a lot more quickly than using either of the main road alternatives between those two points. However, to get from Well Walk to the Hampstead Parochial School or from wherever they live to Millfield Lane will still involve cycling on the surrounding roads, thus undermining the credibility of the safety argument.

We would also remind the stunt managers of some other permutations. The children in Fleet Road Primary or Hampstead Hill Primary could make the journey on existing shared paths from Millfield Lane to Downshire Hill (closer to these schools than Well Walk is to Hampstead Parochial) without having to hop off at all.

Thus a little detailed analysis shows that it is really all about increasing commuter routes for all cyclists. There is no justification for commuters of any age to have the right to degrade the rural qualities of the Heath enjoyed by millions as a pedestrian precinct. None of the proposed additional routes is long enough to justify or require cycling rather than walking with a bike. The commuter cycling lobby's case is as flimsy as their "green" arguments are irrelevant.

What about Recreational Cycling?

Should we do more to accommodate those who simply want to enjoy the Heath on the bicycle

saddle? If it were not possible to enjoy the Heath on foot, perhaps, but that is how most people enjoy the Heath. If increasing the cycle paths did not seriously degrade the quality of everyone else's enjoyment of the Heath, again perhaps, but doing so would without doubt degrade the public good for which the Heath is preserved.

Some make the argument that because the countryside is criss-crossed by cycle routes, then the Heath can be as well. This is specious and shows lack of understanding of environmental issues and of the unique setting and topography of the Heath. The Heath is not part of the open countryside; it is a precious piece of green space surrounded by a densely built-up area. It is too small to be used in this way without being destroyed.

Plenty of people with a balanced and open-minded attitude to how they can take their exercise and enjoy the Heath at the same time recognise the simple alternative of pushing your bike, where you are not allowed for the sake of others' safety or enjoyment to ride it, and remounting where you are.

In Conclusion What Do We Say?

We support more facilities for cycling on the roads. There may be scope for more cycle routes by canals and on disused railway tracks. The Heath is different because it is statutorily preserved as a public rural retreat, which the majority of people come to on foot. Also its topography means that increasing mixed-use paths is simply not safe. For these reasons the onus to prove the case for more mixed paths is on the cycle lobby, not on us foot soldiers. Even if there were strong objective reasons for modifying more Heath paths for this purpose - which there are not - it would simply be unacceptable to the majority of Heath users to

do so, because this would degrade the unique quality of the Heath as a primarily pedestrian and biodiverse countryside reserve for millions of Londoners. The cycle lobby wishes to open up more mixed paths on principle. When it comes to the Heath, it is "on principle" that they have no case at all.

We need to convince the City of London Heath Management and Consultative Committees to stick to their policy on cycling. At the same time we need to try to educate the cyclists to understand why the Heath is different. This entails exposing the irrelevance of their "green" arguments when applied to the Heath.

We say to the cycle lobby: "Please broaden your horizons and learn to appreciate the Heath for its unique qualities, which you seem intent on destroying, but which, given your "green" starting points, you should not be. Your "green" arguments may work against cars on roads, but against pedestrians on the Heath they are irrelevant".

To the City we say: "Please continue your good work and preserve the wild and natural state of the Heath primarily for those who enjoy it on foot. There is no case for more cycle routes. We would also be pleased to see more of your resources used to curb the excessive level of illegal cycling which already takes place. If this latter menace reaches a level where the cost of policing it effectively becomes prohibitive, then please bring before the Consultative Committee a proposal to ban cycling altogether from the Heath".



Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

The effects of the drought

The hot dry summer has taken its toll on the grasslands and ponds but, with little rain expected before October, it will be months until we know if much lasting damage has been done. I read that this summer's weather pattern will recur more and more frequently to become the norm in another 50 years.

This highlights the importance of keeping water on the Heath rather than letting it run off into the surrounding drains - a key aspect of the detailed hydrology study which the City of London has commissioned as a major input into the new Management Plan for the Heath. The study covers all four catchment areas (Vale of the Highgate Ponds to the south-east; Vale of the Hampstead Ponds to the south; West Heath and Golders Hill Park to the west, and the Seven Sisters Ponds to the north). Suggestions on how more water can be retained include action to roughen up the ground to encourage water absorption, and raising Sandy Road as it passes the Leg of Mutton Pond so that the pond's water level can rise (in flood conditions only) to prevent flooding of the houses below Golders Hill Park.

New Management Plan for the Heath

Three years ago I explained that the controversies over cycling and views from the Heath had reinforced our belief that we needed to do more to tell people of the reasoning behind our thoughts on how the Heath should be managed. The result was the Heath Vision booklet, sent to all members, covering its history; its wildlife; conservation management; the need for balance; and especially the consequences of lack of management.

This booklet was developed from our input into the Corporation's First Management Plan and now Heath Vision itself has been expanded into our

input into the Natural Landscape aspect of the new comprehensive Management Plan currently being developed by the City with contributions from numerous local organisations, including ourselves.

We have representatives on most of the sub-groups, which range from History to Natural Landscape, to Built Environment, via Sports, Access and Education, and Policy. Work by the various sub-groups is currently being welded together into a draft plan setting out the broad aims and strategies for the Heath, covering major issues for the next ten years. After agreement by the groups, it will go out for wider discussions later this year.

Cycling again

The controversy over cycling, one of the issues which prompted us to publish Heath Vision, is back in the news. All the paths wide enough to be shared by both walkers and cyclists are already cycle routes. Allowing cycling on the narrower and/or steeper paths would be a danger to many walkers who use the Heath and lead to demands for physical segregation between cyclists and walkers, including new cycling-only paths, which would destroy the very Heath as we know it.

We stand by the view we expressed four years ago, that:

- maintaining the Heath as a stretch of countryside for quiet enjoyment and contact with nature is incompatible with its use by cyclists as a substitute for the local highway network;
- the introduction of cycle through-routes into green open spaces would completely alter the tranquil atmosphere, and irresponsible cycling brings danger and anxiety to those who use the Heath on foot.

We therefore strongly resist any more cycle routes.

The Kenwood concerts

Over at Kenwood it has been crunch time for noisy concerts. English Heritage were left in no doubt by every member of the Kenwood Landscape Forum that both moving the stage and increasing the sound overspill were considered unacceptable, and that the concerts should be planned to fit in with Kenwood and its surroundings.

We would like to support English Heritage in their search for extra revenue, especially as their stated intention is to try to do this by various ways that won't harm Kenwood - but surely that means the concerts should take advantage of, rather than fight, Kenwood's magnificent setting in a residential area of London. Highly amplified concerts are not appropriate.

We objectors to this year's concerts - local residents strongly supported by both the Highgate Society and ourselves - did offer to withdraw our objection to this year's programme if IMG would agree to stick within last year's sound and capacity limits. But IMG insisted on pushing for higher volumes and ended up losing two concerts. I would have preferred the full programme with less noise overflowing the concert area.

Another bone of contention is the new stage floating on the lake. We are outraged that English Heritage, of all organisations, allowed its building to take place without planning permission. The new form of construction seems to have been effective in reducing the sound overspill during concerts, but it has failed in another important criterion - to be as unobtrusive as possible between concerts.

The Lake and Sham Bridge are now completely dominated by the stage for much of the summer

and we hope that, in future years, the stage will revert to its traditional position on the bank.

The opening of the new children's play area in honour of Peggy Jay

The project dear to the heart of our Life President, Peggy Jay - to re-equip the very bare children's play area by the Vale of Health has been successfully accomplished. We were delighted with the response to our appeal. New equipment has now been installed in the play area and Peggy's eldest great-grandchild helped her open it on 1st July (see picture on front cover).

Proud though we are of this area, it is small - and deliberately so - compared with the magnificently refurbished play area which opened recently next to the children's paddling pool below Parliament Hill. Criticism of this decaying facility had been growing over the years and we are delighted at the way the City has now transformed it.

Springett Lecture

Burgh House

Thursday 12 October 7:30pm

Finally another plug for this year's Springett Lecture: please join us for a glass of wine at 7:30pm in Burgh House on Thursday 12th October when Cindy Blaney will be talking at 8pm on *Finding and monitoring bats in Hampstead and Highgate*.

Cindy is North London's premier bat specialist and is a member of the City of London's team in Llighgate Wood.

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I hope to see you there.

Town Report

by Gordon Maclean

The heat is still on Planning matters...

The Garden House Judicial Review

The background to this crucial and deplorable matter was thoroughly set out by Martin Humphery in the last Newsletter in May.

After unexpected and largely unexplained delays, we were last month surprised and distressed to hear that our application to proceed to Judicial Review had been turned down. Having, however, overcome our shock, we learned that this decision could be appealed, and following the advice of our distinguished legal team, this was successfully done on 21 August. However we cannot proceed unless we raise sufficient money to cover the costs. An appeal has already been made. If you have not already done so please respond generously. This is a vital issue of principle which we must at all costs try to pursue.

Planning

The applications continue to pour in - over 400 during the past year- as property values fuel the appetite for more expansion and investment. Many new houses and flats; many proposals to enlarge properties. As all the lofts have already been converted, and all the physically feasible rear and side extensions have been built, attention is now directed to the underground potential of our houses. Burrowing down, swimming pools, gymnasias, multi-media centres, etc., are emerging. Largely invisible when completed, but during the months or years of construction the effect on neighbours of the noise, vibration, dust, foundation damage, subsoil and water table damage, tree loss and so on can be appalling. We object, but our Planners turn a deaf ear.

The character of our Conservation Areas is still being eroded...

A long list of serious concerns on the Planning process was presented recently to the new regime at the Town Hall. Among our requests were:

- Proper attention to be given to conservation matters. Camden's only Conservation Officer - the only officer qualified to deal with conservation issues - has left, and there is no sign of any action to replace him.
- More (or any) attention to be given to encouraging good architecture and refusing bad design, especially in the area of Listed Buildings.
- More and better enforcement. A disturbing number of people hold the Planning system in contempt, and demolish, build and alter without permission. There is little point in having a process if it can be ignored with impunity.
- More compliance with Camden's own Unitary Development Plan - the Planners' rule book. It's quite a reasonable Plan, but too often disregarded, for example on issues like neighbour privacy.
- Better and more up-to-date policies on urban trees. Our last Newsletter set out some of what our own Tree Group is proposing. No action yet from Camden.
- More resolution on Mobile Phone Aerial applications; the Planners are supinely accepting dubious Ministiy advice, and approving virtually every application.

Altogether 21 issues, with our reasoned proposals on each one.

We, and representatives from the Conservation Area Advisory Committees, the Camden Civic Society and the Highgate Society, had a sympathetic hearing. We will wait, and see if action follows.

Other Issues

The ever-resilient and enthusiastic Town Committee continues to make progress on many other issues important to us all:

Parking and Traffic

There seems to be some softening in the harsher areas of parking enforcement; the end of clamping seems to be in sight.

Policing and the Rosslyn Hill Police Station

Police strategy on many areas is changing, and good progress is seen on their Safer Neighbourhoods policy. We also hope that our contributions to discussions on several other issues will be heard.

Street Furniture

Our street nameplate work continues.

Whitestone Pond

We have proposed an imaginative plan to improve and upgrade this much neglected area, in practical and achievable stages. The first of these, for lighting, pavement and other smaller improvements, will be going ahead soon, in conjunction with Camden's Highways Department and the City of London.

Our work on other matters, such as the School Run Working Group, liaison with the Royal Free Hospital (see article on page 24), the long-awaited repairs to the Tollhouse on Spaniards Road, Tesco's garish shopfront, our successful licensing advice work, are all proceeding well.

Hampstead Fields, March 6th 1857

This charming picture from a bygone era, found in an attic, was sent to us by a new overseas member recently settled in Hampstead. He tells us he enjoys the Newsletters and looks forward to their arrival.



Toil in Troubled Water

by Julie Broivnbridge, Ecologist, Hampstead Heath

Will the summer of 2006 go down in the Heath's annals as that summer the ponds were in peril? Or could it be the shape of things to come?

Surveys of our ponds by AMEC Earth & Environmental Consultants in 2002-4 revealed that all our ponds are eutrophic. This means that nutrient levels in the water are excessive and more than enough for the pond's health. Some are even classified as "hypereutrophic". Think of hyperactive children and hyped-up engines and you won't need a definition.



Above and top right: clean-up of No.2 pond in process

Two mild winters have failed to kill off problem pond plants with hard frosts. This has of course been followed by a long summer heatwave, turning many ponds into a warm and nourishing soup for the plants to gobble up and multiply. The same problem is arising around

the country. In East London for example, British Waterways need to clear duckweed from the River Lee on a daily basis.

Water Fern on the Viaduct Pond.

Our troubles started with a bloom of Water Fern (*CAzolla filiculoides*) on the Viaduct Pond. No-one expected this to become a problem as the Viaduct is one of our more ecologically-balanced ponds.

Oxygen is a byproduct of photosynthesis and, during the day, any pond plant aerates the water. But a very large number of plants can cause a problem during the night. After the sun has gone down plants no longer photosynthesize, they merely breathe. And as with humans, they breathe in oxygen. By 4 or 5am in the morning, pond oxygen levels can have plummeted. Aggravating this phenomenon is the warmth of the water (the warmer it is, the less oxygen it can hold). The unfortunate result on the Viaduct Pond was a number of suffocated fish.

The Conservation Teams toiled for many days to remove the water fern. We were able to aerate the pond with our new mobile aeration unit, purchased last winter in response to summer fish deaths on other ponds. We are also looking into using a laboratory-bred weevil which only eats *Azolla* to control the weed.

Another new tool in our pond-rescue armoury is an oxygen meter. We are now able to test oxygen levels on susceptible ponds, detect



when they are dropping to critical levels, and bring in the oxygenating equipment.

Lesser Duckweed on Hampstead No. 2 pond

Attention then turned to Hampstead No. 2 pond which had been covered with Lesser Duckweed (*Clema minor*) for some time. This is an American species which over-winters better than native duckweeds. Although harmless ecologically, control was needed to prevent fish deaths due to low oxygen. There was also the issue of the pond taking on the appearance of solid ground.

As our attempt to remove the duckweed manually had been ineffective, we had been awaiting the trial of a newly-invented gadget, the "Gator Skimmer", to suck up the duckweed for us. There had been severe delays at the factory and by the time it arrived, the surface layer had

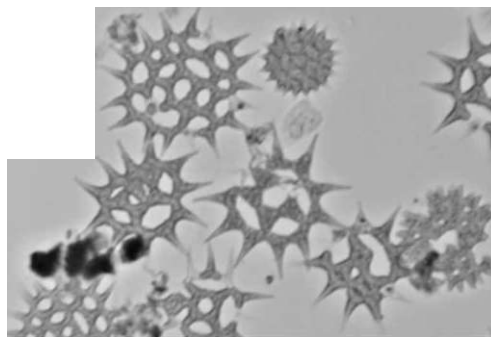
become a four inch mat which was beyond the Skimmer's capacity. Ultimately, what has reduced the weed to around 30% coverage has been a combination of pumping and a windy weekend which helped to blow the weed to one end of the pond.

More warm weather could mean more duckweed again, so we now have a boom being made for us. Originally designed to contain oil spillages, it will help us gather up any pond plant on any pond. We are also investigating the introduction of grass carp as a form of biological control.

Toxic blue-green algae on the Men's Pond

Meanwhile, swimmers on the Men's Pond have been enjoying a summer uninterrupted by closures due to toxic blue-green algae.

In previous years, the algae first formed on the Boating Pond and then were carried downstream into the adjacent Men's Pond. They are another species encouraged by high nutrient levels and warm temperatures. It is only when



The algae Pediastrum found in the Men's Bathing Pond this year. The plant is about 0.1mm in diameter.

LA

Photo: Mark Burgess

Toil in Troubled Water (cont)

they form a scum at the surface that their toxicity levels become dangerous to human health. On the advice of AMEC we have obtained two propeller-mixers for the Boating Pond and a suite of diffusers for the Men's Pond. The two different kinds of machine are effective for the different depths of water, shallow in the Boating Pond and deep in the Men's Pond. Although they aerate the water, this is not their primary purpose which is to mix the water and keep the algae moving and away from the pond surface.

There have also been scums on other non-bathing ponds, where we warn people to keep themselves and their dogs out of contact with the water. The Environment Agency estimates that only 1 in 2 scums are toxic but their advice is to assume that any scum is toxic.

We have been very lucky to find Mark Burgess, a local to the Heath who is an expert in algae identification. At the hint of a scum, he can come to the Heath and put our mind at rest as to whether the species are the toxic ones. The photos on page 13 are of *Pediastrum simplex*, a species we saw lurking menacingly in the Men's Pond earlier this year. It turned out to be harmless and like Mark, we now find it rather beautiful.

Green barley straw sausages

For the curious, mention must also be made of the large, green sausages of barley straw which have made an appearance in some ponds the last two years. These are another algae-prevention tool. As the straw decomposes, it releases hydrogen peroxide, a natural algicide. It also

seems to provide ideal breeding habitat for *Daphnia* (water fleas), whose favourite snack is algae. Jonathan Newman of the Centre for Aquatic Plant Management at the Natural Environment Research Council, Wallingford, Oxford, has pioneered this method of algae prevention and describes our scheme at the Heath as the largest in the country.

What of the future?

Will future summers imperil our ponds to the same extent again? With global warming now a household phrase, we are assuming this will be the case. We are likely to need more aeration equipment and hope to embark on the long-term task of reducing the offending nutrient levels. Bread fed to ducks, anglers bait, atmospheric pollution and dog doo washed into the ponds after heavy rain, are probably chief among several possible sources of nutrient enrichment. With the understanding and cooperation of Heath users, we may yet be able to restore the ponds to ecological health.



Viaduct pond after cleaning

The 75th Anniversary of the Heath Library

By Ruth Montague

The Heath Library in Keats Grove opened in 1931 and has just celebrated the 75th year of its existence.

Origins

The Branch library started as a Book Exchange in a shop at 21 South End Road opposite Hampstead Heath Station. It was open every weekday until 9 pm. Borrowers had to hand in a signed list of at least 10 titles, and a few

hours later a book or books, obtained from the Central Library in Arkwright Road would be waiting for them. The service was free for local rate-payers. In 1907 a library opened in Worsley Road but was superseded by the present building in Keats Grove, and Worsley Road was later incorporated into Pilgrim's Lane.

A special exhibition

The librarians have mounted an exhibition of newspaper cuttings referring to its foundation. There are also books published in that year, old publicity photographs of art exhibitions, songsheets, performers and films of 1931 - the Marx Brothers in "Monkey Business", Charlie Chaplin's "City Lights", and "Waterloo Bridge" with Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor, amongst many others.



The Anniversary was marked by a party for the librarians given by the Committee of the Friends of the Heath Library, an organisation formed thirteen years ago when there was a threat of closure to all the Branch Libraries in Camden. Amongst those who came were Deborah Moggach, Danny Abse, Cicely Herbert, previous speakers at the monthly meetings organised by the Friends, Councillor Flick Rea, and Sonia Winifred, the Deputy Head of Camden Libraries. In keeping with the period atmosphere, songs from Ivor Novello shows provided the musical background.

It was a great opportunity to cement the amicable relations which have been built up between the Friends and the librarians over the years. Glasses were raised to the prospect of the Centenary.

The story of one family and Hampstead Heath

by Sir John Tusa (from his talk to the Society AGM in June 2006)



No 21 Christchurch Hill faces the gardens of Gainsborough Gardens. A magnificent beech swoops across the road and provided fantastic autumn shades of copper. The first part of the Heath we used was what we called "The Triangle", the section that leads up to East Heath Road and the Heath proper. It has changed a lot. In 1966, its crest was crowned with a magnificent stand of elms, whose gaunt outlines against clear

This is the story of one family and Hampstead Heath. We moved into 21 Christchurch Hill in the summer of 1966. My wife, Ann, and I moved out in the summer of 2000. Our elder son and his family then moved into the house. In the intervening years, when the boys were young, we walked on the Heath almost every Sunday and sometimes on Saturdays as well. It is no exaggeration to say that a part of our two sons' education took place on the Heath. Certainly a good part of the preservation of my sanity as a journalist in those years came from the predictability and regularity of those essential forays onto the Heath.

From Ann's experience, the Heath was a regular, daily visit, after school. Those were innocent days, with little fear of child molesters and when it was possible to say to the young "Why don't you go out and play on the Heath?" without a moment's hesitation.

blue winter skies almost compensated for the rigours of the season. But Dutch elm disease took its deadly toll and for years the awful bareness of the sky was hard to take. Now other trees and bushes have grown back but nothing can match the glory of a stand of elms.

Lower down, where the triangle skirted Willow Road, there was a line of gnarled old weeping willows, shedding branches as the weeping willows do. I will always love them for their vulnerability. Once they had all broken down and had to be replaced.

The straight willow replacements did in time form a handsome fringe to the triangle. But it was never quite the same.

Sunday walks almost always started by the uphill path along the Gainsborough Gardens border, across East Heath Road, and plunged down across the meadowland to the dip

between the left of the swimming pond and to the right of the source of the Fleet, then as now an unlovely chained and gated concrete basin. We seldom used the path from Well Walk, preferring to swish through the knee high grasses on the sandy meadow.

The loss of almost all the trees lining the path from Well Walk in the Great Hurricane of 1987 was traumatic for any lover of the Heath. The speed of its recovery seems almost too good to be true.

We would pant up the steepish incline to the football pitch and John Le Carre's famous corrugated iron changing shed, crested the hill and then walked downhill towards Highgate ponds, bearing left towards Kenwood. This route took us through a sizeable valley densely filled with low and thick oak scrub. This was ideal for hide and seek: dense enough for cover but not so impenetrable that the small and young could get seriously lost. It was such a ritual that the sense of vandalism when the Heath managers grubbed up most of the scrub leaving it gappy, open and lacking concealment, was intense. Yet over the years, as the selected, remaining young oaks grew and matured into real trees and some of the sense of privacy in this sun trap valley was restored, we understood why the thinning out had been done.

We seldom went into Kenwood Wood, except as a quick route to Kenwood itself, because it felt - and feels - too much like Eeyore's "damp and gloomy place". Instead we turned left, going uphill along the edge of the wood before turning right into what was then a very well beaten track looking over to Kenwood House itself. At the top of a slope, crowned by a magnificent beech,

now lost, we crossed what we called "three streams valley". The line of each stream was thickly overgrown, each with its private environment of mystery, discovery, offering another chance to play games of concealment.

Once across the muddiest of the three streams, we were into the wide grassland of Kenwood House. Ice creams in the Coach House cafe, a coffee and the chance to read the paper were the appropriate rewards for what was a comparatively up and down hill walk.



The story of one family and Hampstead Heath (cont)



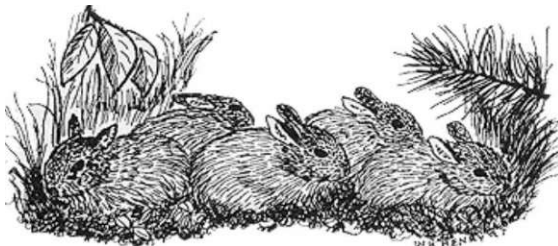
What about Parliament Hill, you may ask? Well, it's a view, a place to be got to and passed through to somewhere more interesting. For to us, the Heath was about imagination, about creating our own topography, our own places, and investing

them with our own meanings and experience. And the Heath richly repaid the time we spent there, constantly yielding another view, a different perspective, an unfound corner, and always changing its moods as the weather

changed. If it had real mysteries, they were not sinister. Its prevailing character struck us as benign but never sentimental. Its amazing variety allowed us to build our own pathways to suit the mood of the occasion, the feel of the season.



That was, is, the way I recall it. My constant companions were our sons, Sash and Francis, and I thought it would be interesting to ask them how they viewed those years. These are Sash's reflections:



"The Corporation of London has provided a relatively consistent management of the Heath, realising the need to make decisions, especially with regard to forestry and the fabric of the terrain, that are long-term, and require consistent application over years and decades.

"This is most apparent in terms of the judicious pruning of trees (such as the beautiful oak at the top of the Lime Tree Walk), the use of brush fences to protect new saplings and to enable some heavily worn paths to regenerate, and the management of the streams of the Heath. None of this occurred in the 1970s when the Heath gave the clear impression of being essentially unmanaged (this despite the presence of the Park Keepers who seemed to see their sole purpose as being to keep teenage boys out of the fenced-off areas of the Heath, especially the ponds). If I had one wish, but one that perhaps only our grandchildren would benefit from fully, it is that the Corporation would start now replanting saplings of black poplars, to replace those massive and beautiful trees, so many of which are now reaching the ends of their lives near-simultaneously across the Heath.

"Overall, my biggest impression of the Heath 25 years on is how much greener and more overgrown it has become: the oak scrub in the South Meadow is now maturing trees, and many of what I remember as defining views (from Parliament Hill, across from the Vale of Health play area towards the Viaduct Pond, and across West Heath from Whitestone Pond) are now obscured, while the Vale of Health pond has changed from an open pond on which we skated in a hard winter to a willow-surrounded vision. These are not complaints: (how could anyone that loves the Heath complain about its trees?), but the character has nonetheless changed.

"This appears to have changed the balance of wildlife on the Heath, too. I spent ten years of persistent birdwatching on the Heath before I saw my first Great Spotted Woodpecker. Now they are common. Against this where are the large flocks of ravenous greenfinches that could empty a nut bag in a day in winter? Or the house martins that I remember nesting regularly, especially in a colony under the eaves of the Wells Tavern? At least the swifts are as numerous, while the colonising of the Heath by parakeets provides a slightly bizarre sight and sound as they "commute" to roosts in the evening. I now see many more rabbits on the Heath than in the 70s, and Hampstead has at least its share of urban foxes. To anyone that wants to experience the increasing "wildness" of the Heath, I have to recommend the Extension, with its singing marsh frogs and kingfishers on a June morning."

Recently, our younger son, Francis, and I retraced our Sunday morning ritual. We found that the Heath has matured. It has not been ground down by numbers. It remains varied, even wild, with numerous private corners. Some of our private paths are gone, but the planned undergrowth looks marvellous. We concluded that over 30 years, it is in fact a



richer environment than the one we enjoyed so intensively.

As we returned past the Vale of Health ponds, there was a brawny carp and pike fisherman watching the carp turn and swirl. He was a former New End School boy whom we had not seen for a decade at least. He was a fisherman then, and remained a fisherman today. And that is what the Heath is about for all of us.



Hyelm

by Keith Douglas, Chief Executive of the Hyelm Group

For many years the Hyelm Trust has generously given the Society the use of its Conference room for Committee meetings. We last wrote about the work of the Hostel in our Newsletter in September 1997 when we gave a brief history. Next year will be a landmark year for the Trust as they open a new hostel in the City area.

The Hampstead-based charity and housing association, The Hyelm Group, provides high quality, affordable, furnished accommodation for London's key workers and young people in work or study.



The old house on the corner of Fitzjohn's Avenue and Prince Arthur Road

Hyelm was founded in 1926 by the late Arthur J. West who, realising the great need, decided to provide a personal service accommodation club for young people coming to London to work or to study.

It started life in Tufnell Park, North London, where several properties were occupied, and then moved to a Victorian property in Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead in the early 1950's after increasing repair costs and war damage made it necessary to consolidate.

Funded mainly by grants from the Greater London Council, the Hampstead property was demolished during the 1970's to make way for Arthur West House, a purpose-built development, providing more modern accommodation and facilities.

In 1996, Hyelm merged with The Ames House Trust, established in 1853, which offered housing with support for 25 young women in Netherhall Gardens. This property was sold during 2004 and Hyelm became the sole corporate trustee of Ames House with the two organisations retaining their separate legal identities under the group structure which was formed.

Arthur West House can house up to 222 young people. Weekly board charges range from £58 to <£109 for long-term stays and include breakfasts and evening meals throughout the week and additional meals at weekends; open plan communal lounges; licensed bar, satellite television room, conference and study rooms with free internet access and sports facilities comprising squash court, gym, sauna and pool table.

The Hyelm Group prides itself on providing caring and homely environments. Additional support is offered to its residents in the form of help and information on a broad range of issues in the following ways: advice on training or employment opportunities; work experience where there is scope to do this; direct financial assistance in cases of extreme hardship. All senior staff are trained in counselling, first aid, Health & Safety, general welfare, drug awareness and in other health issues.

All this, in addition to the excellent standard of accommodation, is about to be offered to more young people with exciting plans for a £15.43 million new hostel in the City area. It will be financed by a combination of Housing Corporation Grant, private finance and the Group's own reserves.

Letter to the Editor

From Skip Murphy

The new premises near Old Street will house 125 people on low to moderate incomes in a varied portfolio of housing types, including one bedroom flat and two, three, four and six bedroom cluster accommodation.

Additional facilities will include an internet cafe, gym, sauna, launderette, skyline roof terrace and courtyard gardens.

Construction has begun and the scheme is scheduled to open in the autumn of 2007.

This is a great move forward for our organisation and for key workers and young people within the capital as a whole. We know there is a chronic shortage of affordable accommodation for young teachers, nurses, policemen, public authority employees and other moderately paid workers whose contributions are vital to the success of the London economy. Our new scheme responds to this and has been designed to give our residents the best in urban living.

*Further information about the Hyelm Group's work and activities can be found on their website: www.hyelm.com
Telephone number 020 7435 8793-*



The Hyelm building in Fitzjohn's Avenue today

Benches on the Heath

Surely not more benches on the Heath?

Not exactly. Most are located in the busier parts, with inscriptions for past walkers. What would be welcomed, especially by those advancing into senescence, would be something to rest on briefly in the quieter parts of the Heath.

A stout plank supported on two wood offcuts would suffice, that being inexpensive and also 'rustic', so blending into the area. Some examples can be seen in Regent's Park.

Surprisingly few of the dedicated benches are vandalised, but some are, such as that for Mr Jo and his dogs - 'dead gloriously dead' as the dedication notes. The concrete into which the supports are set is being excavated by somebody. It is within the Paddock at North End. Also in need of attention is the 'Lawrence' seat overlooking the Vale of Health. This popular viewing point could do with more!

Hopefully the Heath managers will read this and check all the seats.



Photo: Miriam Reik

Hampstead Museum

by Carol Seigel, Museum Curator

As most readers will know, Burgh House has been undergoing refurbishment and renewal for the last year. The house reopened this summer

Hampstead is a uniquely beautiful and interesting area of London, with a fascinating history. Its story is told at the recently reopened Hampstead Museum in a series of appealing and accessible displays.

The Museum was founded in 1979 by local historian Christopher Wade and his wife Diana, who together with a group of willing volunteers began to collect, catalogue and exhibit objects relating to the history of Hampstead. The collection grew, and over the years exhibitions were held on a wide range of subjects from local artists and authors to Hampstead in wartime. The Museum was increasingly well regarded, but needing some updating.

In 2004 the Burgh House Trustees applied for and received a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to redesign and improve the Museum displays. This was a challenging and exciting project and earlier this year Hampstead Museum reopened to the public, almost unrecognisable from its earlier incarnation. The redesign and reopening has stimulated a new and exciting phase in the Museum's development.

The Museum tells the story of Hampstead from prehistoric times through to the present, from the time when a few hunter gatherers roamed the Heath, through its growth as a spa in Georgian times to today's Hampstead of boutiques, coffee shops and traffic wardens. The displays are beautifully illustrated with

photographs, postcards, models and works of art, many by local artists.

Highlights of the collection include the work of Victorian painter Helen Allingham; an original Isokon chair and display on Modernism in Hampstead; a display on John Constable and Hampstead; the Hampstead Mayoral chair and probably the earliest Scout's flag in the country; Hampstead at War which includes oral history memories; and a model penguin from High Hill Bookshop, signed by many famous authors. In

the spirit of many local history museums, this is a wide ranging collection, with something of interest for all ages!

As well as the permanent displays, the Museum holds three or four temporary exhibitions each year. These give the opportunity to bring items out of the collection that cannot always be on show, explore different facets of local

history, or mark relevant local anniversaries.

The current temporary exhibition is *For All Seasons: Fun and Leisure on Hampstead Heath*, and should appeal particularly to members of the Heath & Hampstead Society as it explores the fun to be had on the Heath, from the world famous Bank Holiday fairs to kite flying, swimming and skating. On display are evocative photographs from the 1950s and 60s by John Gay and Allan Cash and colourful fairground posters on loan from the National Fairground Archive in Sheffield. See also the skis used by Peggy Jay, who recalls in *Hampstead Memories*



the intense childhood pleasure of "skiing down the ice-covered cycle track from the Spaniards Road to South End Green".

For All Seasons is on display at Hampstead Museum until 12 November 2006. Thanks to the Heath & Hampstead Society for its generous donation towards the exhibition costs. The next temporary exhibition, to be held from November 2006 until January 2007, will be *Moving Pictures Come to London: the First Decades*, exploring early cinema in Camden. This exhibition has been produced by Birkbeck, University of London, and will have extra information added of particular relevance to a Hampstead audience.

As well as new displays, Hampstead Museum has also restarted its lively regular events programme with talks and walks on a range of subjects of local interest. On Friday 22 September a specially researched guided walk in the City, *The Hampstead Connection*, will explore the links between the City of London and Hampstead. For further information and to reserve places please call 020 7431 0144.

Children are well catered for at Hampstead Museum, with special displays in the permanent exhibition - for instance on life in World War Two, illustrated by local cartoonist Ken Pyne - and a newly designed children's trail. The temporary exhibition *For All Seasons* features a whole range of children's activities and a competition. School visits can be arranged during term time on different subjects, by appointment with the Curator.

Many regular visitors looked on the old Museum with great affection. Hopefully the new displays retain its old spirit, while moving the Museum forward into a more modern era. Comments in the Visitors Book have been very positive: local artist Ann Usborne wrote 'The Museum is a joy

- congratulations! No dust, no mustiness - people are happy and comfortable here!' A twelve year old visitor commented 'Wow, it's really cool' - which makes us feel we are doing something right!

So why not come and visit Hampstead Museum for yourself? It is in the heart of the village, sited on the first floor of Burgh House. The Museum is open from Wednesday to Friday, and on Sundays, from 12 noon to 5pm, and can be combined with a visit to the Burgh House Buttery or current art exhibition. Admission is free. Full details of opening times, temporary exhibitions and events can be found on the Museum's section of the Burgh House website.

The Burgh House Trust has published an illustrated guide to Burgh House by Christopher Wade. It tells the story of the house and its residents, the founding of the Museum, and touring the house as it is today.

Information about Burgh House Museum, Buttery and Bookstall

To find out about future events at Burgh House, or join the Burgh House Friends to receive a regular newsletter, or any other information see the website:

www.burghhouse.org.uk

or telephone:

020 7431 0144

*Burgh House
New End Square
NW3*

*Open: Wed - Fri, &
Sunday, 12 - 5.00pm
(Saturdays by appointment)*



Bulletin Board

New from The Royal Free

by Pamela Chesters, Chair of the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust

I'd like to begin with an apology to those of you who have been trying to reach us by phone recently and had difficulty in getting through.

Unfortunately the national IT programme supporting the 'Choose and Book' initiative does not yet enable patients to do this online while at the doctor's surgery. Our switchboard capacity and

staffing resource were overwhelmed and it has taken longer than we would have wished to find an appropriate solution. However we hope to have the problem completely cracked very shortly. We believe the new system will substantially reduce the number of "no shows" at clinics.

I know cleanliness is always an area of concern and I hope you are already beginning to see the benefit of our increased investment in the external cleaning team. One of the staff now drives the green monster around the grounds at least twice daily, sweeping and sucking up debris. We continue to tackle the persistent smokers who



Tloe green monster with driver

ignore the site's no smoking signs and support staff and patients alike who are trying to kick the habit.

Inside the building we have just instituted a new deep cleaning regime with more staff and equipment to augment existing efforts and enable a more effective 'spring clean' of whole areas at a time.

Infection control remains a high priority and we are making steady progress in addressing MRSA hotspots. The independent Patients Forum continues to make unannounced ward inspections, giving us a fresh pair of eyes on potential problem areas.

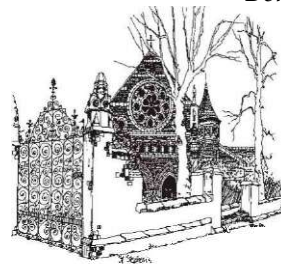
These are challenging times for the NHS. While the trust's spending trajectory has now been stabilised, we are continuing to work hard to improve our clinical efficiency while at the same maintaining clinical quality. We were therefore pleased to be recognised in the most recent survey as having the lowest mortality rates in the country.

Your help still needed at St Stephen's

Although ±2.45 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of St. Stephens has now been confirmed, the Trust still needs your support towards the last bit of match funding.

So please be generous

and give the Trust a further donation towards that new lease of life. Work will at last be able to start on completing the restoration for the the community.



Donations can be sent to

The St. Stephen's
Restoration &
Preservation Trust
St Stephen's
Pond Street
London NW3 2PP

For further information
telephone: 020 7433 1272



***Calling all dogs!
Sunday October 15***

2.30pm

***Sports Ground,
Hampstead Heath***

(cross East Heath Road at the end of Well Walk,
then continue along Lime Avenue)

The Society's popular annual free
demonstration day, with the support of

***The Heath Constabulary Dog Section
and
Hampstead Safer Neighbourhood
Dog Watch***

Dima Yeremenko of *The Good Boy Dog School*, will give free demonstrations of how to be an impeccably well-mannered dog. He'll show you how to obey simple commands, not to frighten ducks or swans, or leave messy litter behind you. And he'll also show your human how to be equally well-behaved.

No unaccompanied dogs
Please bring your human along with you

***The Hampstead Card
List of Traders***



nr/MVrbmplmJSmrH

***is enclosed separately with this
Newsletter***

Remembering Ian

Mozart



The Man the Myth and the Music

*An evening of readings and music
devised by*

The Reverend Stephen Tucker

Burgh House

New End Square NW3

Thursday 28th September 2006

7.30 pm

Tickets £15

to include wine

available from 020 7794 1193

*In aid of the Ian MacDonald Hay Memorial
Fund for Hampstead Church Music Trust
Reg. Charity No: 269427*

Heath Walks

Walks are arranged on the first Sunday of every month EXCEPT January. They are arranged by Michael Welbank who can be contacted on 020 7431 6789 or by e-mail at mwelbank@aol.com.

Starting point: Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead. There is one exception:

4 March 2007 2.30pm which will start from the entrance gate to the Kitchen Garden, Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane

Start time: 10.30 am or 2.30 p.m. as shown in the list opposite.

Donations, suggested as £2 per adult, will be collected on each walk and will be used in furtherance of the objects of the Society.

The Society does not organise any walks specially for children, but they are always welcome provided that they are accompanied by an adult who takes full responsibility for them, and that they can walk reasonable distances. Walks last approximately two hours and do not always follow paths, so stout footwear is advised.

2006

1 October 10.30am Birds of the Heath in Autumn, led by Alix Mullineaux

5 November 10.30am A Fungus Foray, led by Jo Weightman

3 December 10.30am Active Conservation, led by Rupert Sheldrake



2007

January: No Walk

4 February 10.30am Artefacts of the East Heath, led by Michael Welbank

4 March 2.30pm Hidden Heath, led by Michael Hammerson (starting from the Kitchen Garden, Kenwood House)



11th Annual Springett Lecture

Thursday 12 October Burgh House 8.00pm

Cindy Blaney

North London's premier bat specialist and a member of the City of London's team in Highgate Wood.

Finding and monitoring bats in Hampstead and Highgate

Doors open at 7.30

Refreshments

Non-members welcome