



# *The Heath & Hampstead Society*

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# *NEWSLETTER*

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*January 2007*

*Vol 38 No. 1*



*Winter scene on the Heath - the skating rink*

*photo: Jeremy Wright*

# *Chairman's Report*

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*by Tony Hillier*

I should like to begin by once again wishing all members a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year. I am also delighted to report that this year's Christmas party at Rosslyn Hill Chapel on 20 December was a great success. The venue was exactly right for us: warm, friendly and spacious enough for the 260 members who came and, judging by the many enthusiastic reports which have been fed back, enjoyed themselves enormously. It was an ideal setting for the recital of carols given by the Highgate Choral Society, who were in fine voice despite the cold wintry fog outside. I am very grateful to Maureen Clark Darby, Jo Konrad, Ann Eastman and Janine Griffis for organising everything so well.

## ***Our Mission in Life***

Societies are not in the business of making New Year resolutions. We have, however, recently found ourselves having to contemplate our mission in life. This is because we have commissioned a new notice board to go up in Flask Walk and recognised the need to put a mission statement on it. After a certain amount of debate and analysis of the semantic minutiae, we came up with: 'Founded in 1897 the Society fights to preserve the charm of Hampstead and its wonderful Heath'.

There are some important gaps in this statement. We do not for example identify "the enemy", for the very good reason that the threats come from a number of different directions: the source can be commercial developers, or late night pubs or restaurants. It can be a local or government authority. It can be a special interest group wanting to use the Heath in an inconsiderate way. Groups we find ourselves opposed to one day, can be our allies the next day.

We also imply that we alone are the proper guardians of the quintessential tradition that stays, but at the same time moves through changing architectural expression, life styles, climate conditions, traffic congestion and all the other forces that impose themselves on our neighbourhood. There is of course a certain arrogance in setting ourselves up as the arbiter of what to preserve and how to do so. But Hampstead is as attractive as it is largely because of the efforts, expertise, good judgement and great vigilance of our predecessors in the Society. Your committees continue to stand up on these matters. It is for you the members to count on us.

## ***Challenges in the New Year: Heath Management Plan***

The New Year will not lack challenges. A huge exercise is under way setting up a Management Plan for Hampstead Heath for the years 2007 to 2017. The general principles are set out in a policy document which runs to nearly 100 pages. It has been prepared by the staff of the City of London Open Spaces Department, supported by Land Use Consultants and advised by six specialist working groups, drawn from mainly local interested experts. These groups have reported on the Natural Landscape, Access and Education, the Built Environment, History, Sport and overall Policy. In addition a Hydrology report has been prepared by specialists, which is of great importance to understanding the sustainability, under all the pressures of ever increasing numbers of visitors, of the ecology of the natural Heath.

This document will go to extensive public consultation, although the exact mechanics and timetable for this have not been set at the time of writing this report. It will determine the

## ***Chairman's report (cont)***

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policies under which the more controversial debates over the control of Heath usage, such as those about cycling, unhygienic litter, dog walking and charges for swimming will be resolved. It will significantly influence the setting of budget priorities. The first public airing will be its consideration by the Heath Consultative Committee towards the end of January. Two further volumes will be published later, one setting out specific management targets for all aspects of the Heath, and the other a series of three year and annual work plans.

The points I should like members to note are first that the City of London is to be warmly congratulated on undertaking such an expert and comprehensive piece of policy setting and management planning. This builds on the earlier management plans and marks a major extension of their commitment to public consultation. Second, a number of officers of the Society have given generously of their time and expertise in contributing to this very professional document. Thirdly, and we shall do our best to help involve all members in the public consultation phases, please take the time to give your opinions to the City both individually and through the Society in your collective name.

### ***More challenges discussed at the Ham & High Forum***

We are most grateful to the Ham & High for organising a public meeting in the Town Hall on 27 November 2006, and to John Thane for chairing it. This gave local residents, around 100 attended, a chance to air their feelings on two subjects: cycling on the Heath and local disappointment on Hampstead Town Hall. It is clear that many residents in the north of the Borough feel ignored by the narrow focus of the way the Town Hall has been run, since it

was restored and re-opened as a result of local pressure and fundraising and the granting of a lease by Camden to Interchange Trust.

The debate on cycling was, unlike the one on swimming pond charging a year ago, a civilised one. The majority expressed views against extending the cycle paths and the meeting gave the Heath for Feet Campaign an opportunity to get publicity.

The statements made on the subject of the Town Hall were virtually unanimously critical of Interchange. It is to be hoped that these criticisms will be met with a genuinely co-operative response, and indeed a change of heart, from the Trustees of Interchange. We urge the Friends of Hampstead Town Hall to take encouragement from the obvious strength of local feeling and to continue the fight to restore a proper degree of local representation in the management of the under used facilities of the Town Hall.

### ***Licensing***

There will be no place for complacency in 2007. The Society will continue to work with teams of local residents to persuade the Camden licensing panels, and in some cases the magistrates, to restrict the unremitting attempts by pub, off-licence and bar owners and managers to extend their hours into anti-social times. The William IV in the centre of Hampstead has applied for an extension of hours and a late live music licence, much to the concern of the neighbours who live only feet away. The Freemasons Arms in Downshire Hill is appealing Camden's decision to deny these huge premises a large and obtrusive licensed extension to their dining facilities. These are just two examples of the continuing need for the vigilance we all need to exercise to keep our homes quiet at night time.

# Consulting You

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## *An unexpected policy change at Camden?*

You may have noted over the past year or so that we have asked for your views on various issues, generally on proposals made by our Local Authority, Camden,

It is of course vital for a Society such as ours to keep in touch with what members think about local affairs. The Society's committees are made up of members, part of whose job is to keep a 'finger on the pulse' of the membership as a whole, and we believe we are able to reflect what you feel about most issues.

However, it seems that this is now not good enough for our political masters at Camden. It would appear that opinions expressed by us, or by other local resident associations and groups, may not be accepted in future without further evidence and weight of numbers. We have known for some time that our comments on, for example, planning applications carry more weight if backed by letters from individual residents, the more the better. To an extent this is fair enough, but we know that most members look to us to express the views of the community as a whole. This after all is why we exist, and why you join us. In any case many of these issues should be decided on points of law and technicalities, not on the weight of the postbag.

Matters came to a head during the recent controversial 'consultations' on Camden's proposals for one-way traffic in College Crescent; these were initiated in order to facilitate safer and more convenient car travel to the school there. School parent groups produced a petition seemingly signed by hundreds of school run drivers, many of them plainly having, no connection with this particular school, and many living outside Camden. It was put to us that if we wanted to counter this, we needed signatures too; it was not enough for us, as the

Heath and Hampstead Society, to express opinions on behalf of our members.

This is why we had to ask you for your views directly. Since we had only a few days notice, this had to be done by e-mail. We had a good response, overwhelmingly in agreement with our position. However that raises some important matters of principle:

1. Are we now to be presented with the necessity to get hundreds of signatures on questionnaires every time Camden comes up with an important proposal? If so it is a major policy change over which the electorate have not been consulted. It is almost approaching some sort of skewed referendum system and has been introduced without warning. Is there a legal basis for this?
2. This issue calls into question to whom Camden are answerable and whom they should consult. Surely it cannot be right put the interests of people who do not live in the borough above those of residents who are the local electorate and rate-payers.

### ***Do any of you have legal expertise in the matter of local government accountability and procedure on consultation?***

We feel this merits further investigation. It is worth remembering that the Primrose Hill judicial review, 10 years ago, hinged on this very matter of the way in which Camden had consulted the residents. It delivered a damning indictment of Camden's conduct.

3. We don't think you would welcome being pestered for your signature on a regular basis. But if that is now to be the price of ensuring that a strong body of local opinion is not ignored, what would be your view?

*continued at bottom of next page*

# *The cycling debate - an apology from the BBC*

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During last year's controversy about cycling on the Heath, Jeremy Wright was asked by BBC Radio London to be interviewed about the views of the Society. He was somewhat dismayed at what he considered was the unprofessional way the interview was conducted. He was scarcely allowed to make any points without interruption, so that it was the interviewer's view rather than the Society's point of view that was put across and the studio presenter was very biased towards cycling.

Jeremy complained about his treatment and received an apology. However we later discovered that he was not the only one who complained. Another listener, not connected to this area at all and therefore disinterested in the particular subject matter, had also complained. This resulted in the BBC publishing an apology on their website. We thought readers might be interested to see it:

## ***BBC Web Site Apology Text***

ECU ruling: Saturday Breakfast with Joanne Good, BBC London

Publication date: 21 Dec 2006

## ***Complaint***

A listener to Saturday Breakfast with Joanne Good (BBC London, 2 September 2006)

complained about an item on the regulation of cyclists on Hampstead Heath.

In his view, the representative of the Hampstead Heath Society had been interviewed in an unjustifiably aggressive manner by the presenter, and not given a proper opportunity to put his points.

This, in combination with critical comments by others in the studio, resulted in unfairness to the interviewee and a one-sided treatment of the issue.

## ***BBC Editorial Complaints Unit's ruling***

The interviewee had not been treated with due courtesy or given due opportunity to state his case. This resulted in unfairness to him and a degree of one-sidedness in the treatment of the issue.

## ***Further action***

Independently of the ECU investigation, the Editor of BBC London had written a letter of apology to the interviewee, and the apology had been accepted.

He has also spoken to the presenter and the programme team and reminded them of the need to adhere to the BBC's editorial guidelines on fairness to contributors.

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## ***Consulting you - continued***

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4. However we do have a real problem in communicating with you at short notice. Only about 25% of you have e-mail, or wish to let us have your e-mail addresses. We would like to have more, but of course respect your feelings of privacy.

This is therefore an awkward matter, which we

will have to deal with as best we can, but it seems inevitable that we will have to call on you for your opinions more often, and by whatever means available. We hope you will forgive this intrusion.

More e-mail addresses would help!

Let us know your views.

# ***Heath Report***

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*by Tony Ghilchik*

## ***The effect of drought on the Heath***

At the end of the warmest year on record we can look back on a gloriously hot, dry summer. Most of the ponds on the Heath have now refilled after repeated heavy rainfall in the autumn and muddy areas are starting to re-emerge.

The summer drought had a dramatic effect on virtually all the horse chestnuts on the Heath, by both weakening the trees and allowing the leaf minor moth to flourish. The leaf minor loves nothing better than horse chestnuts' leaves and the weakened trees started dropping their leaves in late summer; their conkers also fell early whilst still quite small. The long term effect will depend on the future summers – a wet year will enable the trees to recover, but a string of dry summers will progressively weaken the trees.

More serious, though less common, is that the weakened horse chestnuts are also susceptible to attack by a bleeding canker which causes pussy sap lesions on their trunks – those trees affected will not recover.

## ***Soil compaction***

As if this was not enough, when the rain eventually came in September, the ground was so hard that the water flushed the fallen horse chestnut leaves into the ponds where the water quality was reduced as they rotted away. This highlighted the findings of the hydrology study which the City commissioned. The study was made to determine how the water flows through the Heath and its ponds and to review the water quality in the ponds in order to find the best way to manage the ponds and watercourses, to enhance their nature conservation value, to reduce flood risk, and to improve water quality. One of the study's findings was how compacted are many areas of the Heath. During the hot weather there is little rain and pond levels fall;

then, when the rain does come, the ground is so hard that the rainwater flushes leaves and other debris through the waterways, which silt up and further increase the nutrient levels in the ponds.

The soil compaction is particularly high in the amenity (sports) areas because of their short tractor-mown grass and constant pounding by running feet. A likely solution here is regular verti-draining, deep aeration of grass root zone by a machine which blows air down through hollow tines, to break up the compaction and allow water to sink through the surface. In rougher areas other measures are needed to slow the flow of water and reduce the speed at which water and sediment enter the ponds.

The study also found a high level of nutrients in the soils on the Heath. Heathland has been left as such in the past because its soil was too poor for growing good crops, but the nutrient levels now are equivalent to well-fertilised farmland. There are numerous causes from acid rain to bird droppings, but a major one is dog faeces. Although most dog walkers are now conscientious in clearing up their dog's faeces from the short grass and paths where others walk, many leave it to nature to deal with in the woodland and long-grass areas where fewer people walk and it can easily be covered by leaves. Unfortunately nature takes too long and the sheer number of dogs has 'improved' the soil too much for the good of our heath plants. It is now a matter of education – since learning of the problem I have been far more thorough in clearing up after my own dog and I'm confident that so will most owners.

## ***Draft Strategic Heath Management Plan***

This and other inputs into the City's draft Strategic Management Plan were highlighted at a September meeting of all the work groups.

## ***Heath Report (cont)***

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Each work group gave a short presentation on their conclusions and, encouragingly, there was virtually unanimous agreement on priorities. Interestingly, when the main key issues were ranked, the greatest concern was the effect of planning decisions on applications bordering the Heath.

These presentations have now been combined into an initial draft which will have been discussed in January, firstly at a special meeting of the Consultative Committee and then at the Management Committee. More general discussions will follow thereafter, leading to a final approval in July. Changes to the draft could be made after each discussion to incorporate important points raised.

Then the more detailed planning will begin, as this over-arching Vision is developed over the next couple of years into medium-term and finally annual work plans.

### ***Cycling***

Consideration of the extent to which cycling should be allowed on the Heath will be tackled after the Vision stage has been agreed. It is an issue which needs a thorough and professional study of the pros and cons – to which we will be arguing the cons. It is likely to be an expensive study and must not be used as a reason for further delays to essential repair work such as that needed to the shelter in the Hill Garden. There are many other examples of essential structural repair works needed and, as another input to the Strategic Plan, the City surveyors department have completed a survey of all the built structures on the Heath which highlights how much repair work needs to be done. I believe it essential that funding for this work is forthcoming before more of the structures actually fall down.

### ***Put out more Green Flags***

On a more cheerful note, we are delighted that the City's hard work on all their open spaces has been rewarded with another fistful of Green Flag Awards. This is the ninth consecutive Year for the Heath whilst Highgate Wood and Queens Park have received an award in all ten years since the scheme started, and Highgate Wood was also awarded a Green Heritage Award.

### ***Kenwood***

The rumpus over IMG's disastrous planning for the 2006 Kenwood concerts resulted in Camden reducing the number of concerts and, together with the cost of floating the stage, left the season losing a considerable amount of money. We continue to believe the concerts should be chosen to fit in with the wonderful setting at Kenwood and that there should be neither highly amplified concerts nor a floating stage which so spoils the environment between the concerts. IMG are working on their plans for 2007 and we would prefer to work with them to make the season a success but if, as seems likely, they propose to float the stage again we will be vigorously opposing their necessary planning application.

Landscape work this autumn/winter will include removing some of the laurel growing up to the handrail for the Brew House steps, softening the profile of the plantation and possibly planting some wild roses inside it to dissuade children from playing there.

2007 will see the bi-centenary of the abolition of slavery with a special event in April linked around the 1st Lord Mansfield's role on the road to abolition.

### ***Springett Lecture***

A report of Cindy Blaney's fascinating talk for the Springett Lecture follows.

# *The Springett Memorial Lecture*

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## *Finding and Monitoring bats in Highgate & Hampstead by Cindy Blaney*

*Cindy Blaney has worked as a woodkeeper at Highgate Wood for 14 years. She has also monitored bats on the Heath from the Kenwood Dairy Cottage over the past 9 years. Last year her work was recognised when she was one of five people shortlisted by CABI for their Parkforce awards scheme celebrating the valuable work being done by thousands of park workers across Britain. Cindy is a member of the Bat Conservation Trust, the London Bat Group and a licensed bat handler.*

With the help of a powerpoint presentation, focused mainly on the bat species (Noctule, Leisler's, Natterer's, and both species of Pipistrelle) I talked about the work I have been doing for bat conservation. Bat roosts have been found within oak trees in the wood, and bat boxes have been put up and monitored over 10 years.

I discussed the location, design, and successes of some of the boxes. I tried to convey how



*Noctule bat*

much bats are reliant on the whole ecosystem of an ancient woodland. From the heart-rotting fungi to the nest-building woodpeckers to the rich insect life, woodlands provide a unique niche for a very unique creature; the only mammal with true flight.

Woodlands in close proximity to other habitats, such as tunnels in which bats can hibernate, and grasslands and ponds which provide rich feeding areas, are even better.

This led on to a discussion of habitat enhancements within the disused railway tunnels adjacent to the wood, including the incorporation of bat bricks and roosting units. Tunnels and other underground structures are





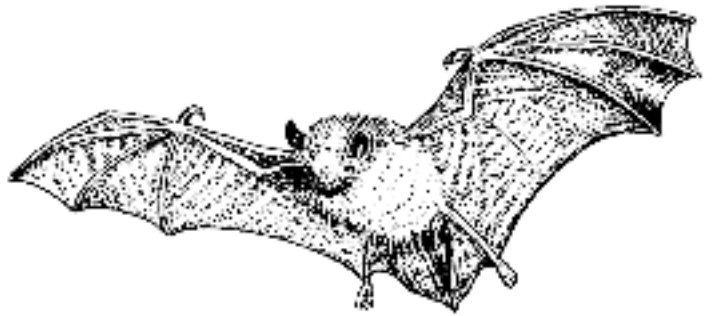
## *The Springett Memorial Lecture (cont)*

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important sites where bats from different populations gather to meet up and mate.

I also discussed monitoring work I have done on the Heath and highlighting the fluctuations in foraging densities, and numbers of pipistrelles present in the large maternity roost in the roof of Dairy Cottage. I always enjoy answering questions, of which there were many interesting ones from the group. I give many bat walks in the wood and on the Heath every year, and encouraged members to join me on one to really put bats in perspective and to delight in observing them in action. This obviously sparked some interest, because I hear you are booking a bat walk for

the society in July, so I'll see you next summer, with bat detectors at the ready! Thanks so much again for your generous donation to the London Bat Group, which will go towards our many conservation and monitoring projects.



*Natterer's bat*



*Noctule bat*

### ***Further opportunities to hear Cindy Blaney***

There are two further opportunities to hear Cindy talk this year.

***May 16: Bats about Kenwood*** - walk across the Heath. The Hampstead & Highgate Festival in association with the Bat Conservation Trust. Booking details will be available with the Festival brochure in March (see Bulletin Board).

### ***July 1: Bat conservation on the Heath***

An evening walk and practical demonstration; a special late evening addition to our normal programme. As Cindy's previous walks have been so popular, the numbers are being restricted to just a small pre-booked group – see Walks programme on the back page for details.

# Town Report

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by Gordon Maclean

There is little doubt what the big topic of the moment is: the traffic on our roads, and in particular the effects of school run traffic.

## **School run Traffic**

You will not need reminding of the continuing congestion, often amounting to gridlock, which occurs in Hampstead every school term day. Thirty one schools in an area of less than two square miles; not less than 8000 schoolchildren arriving and departing during the morning and afternoon time slots. A significant percentage of them are car-borne. No wonder there is no room for them, or anyone else.

The orderly calm that transforms our roads in school holidays is proof of where the responsibility lies.

You may know that, following local pressure, Camden instituted a new Schoolrun Policy in 2003, based on a model devised jointly by the Society and the Belsize Residents Association. This was intended to produce real and sustained reductions in car travel. It required all schools to produce School Travel Plans, approved by Camden, and encouraged all non-car modes of school travel. It also introduced a system of schoolrun parking vouchers, issued annually to schools for distributing to drivers, giving 15 minutes of free parking privilege on single yellow lines and in our residents parking bays. These vouchers are designed to be reduced in number by 20% each year, to zero in 2008. Their number has now been reduced to 40% of the 2003 figure.

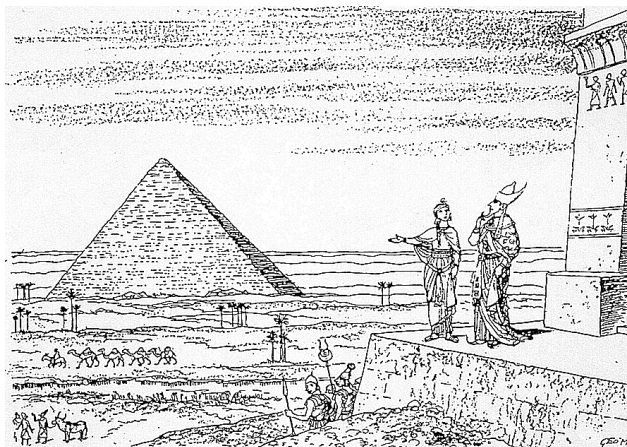
This policy has so far succeeded in reducing the volume of school run traffic by a small amount. It can never solve the problem entirely—the weight of numbers ensures that. Although imperfect,

therefore, it is in your Committee's view the best chance we have of containing the dangers, congestion and pollution.

The Policy is now up for review early in the New Year, and there are powerful and sustained pressures from schools and school parent organisations to modify - i.e. soften or abandon - the Policy. Camden will be considering a number of options, extending from maintenance of the Policy unchanged to abandonment and return to the pre-2003 situation. It will also consider whether vouchers should be paid for or replaced by scratch cards. We hope that the issue of parking enforcement - effectively suspended during school run times - will be addressed.

We must and will express the Society's views on this vital issue. We are minded to support the continuation of the present Policy - initiated, after all, by us. But we do need to know what you think. We will be questioned on this by Camden.

A questionnaire is enclosed with this Newsletter; it is important that you complete it and let us have it.



Must it stay just there? It ruins the view  
*With acknowledgements to Punch, 1949*

## ***Town Report (cont)***

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### ***College Crescent***

A skirmish in this war of school traffic attrition occurred last month. Camden's Highways department proposed a traffic management alteration in College Crescent, making it one-way, with the expressed intention of assisting safer car travel to the Phoenix School. As many of you will know (because we had to consult you at short notice by e-mail) this caused uproar, and pressure had to be exerted, supported by an overwhelming vote by you, to defeat the objectionable components of the scheme. The Camden decision, made on November 21, was a classic political compromise: the one-way traffic flow was to be reversed, allowing uphill flow, but not downhill, for a "trial period" of 6 months. We protested that this needed further local consultation, but this was rejected.

Then we heard that, following expressions of dissatisfaction by a number of Councillors, the decision has been "called in"; that means the debate has to start again, early in the New Year, with an unpredictable outcome.

Whatever now happens, we remain concerned that the proposal does nothing to support the objective of discouraging car travel to schools; rather the reverse.

### ***Other Matters***

The Town Committee, although preoccupied with traffic affairs, has of course continued with its usual jobs: examining and commenting on the never-ending stream of Planning applications, promoting our schemes for improvements to street nameplates and the appearance of the area around Whitestone Pond, giving the Society's views in liaison groups on policing and community safety, and so on.

### ***The Garden House, Vale of Health -***

#### ***Date for Judicial Review***

#### ***Martin Humphery reports***

Members will know that, for the first time in the Society's history, we are taking Camden to the High Court, for a Judicial Review of their decision to grant planning permission for a vastly larger replacement of this unassuming house. With your support we are fighting this very important threat to the fringes of the Heath, which goes to the heart of the Society's founding principles.

As we go to press, we have heard that a date has been set for the hearing, which will be on 2nd April 2007.

Although the outcome of such proceedings can never be certain, we are going ahead, buoyed by good legal advice and greatly heartened by the magnificent response of our members to our request for pledges of financial support. We are hugely indebted to those of you who have supported us so generously.

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



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

# ***Action on climate change***

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*by Councillor Alexis Rowell, Chair, Camden Council Sustainability Task Force*

## ***A new cross - party Camden Task Force***

Scientists now say we probably have just ten years to make the societal changes needed to prevent climate change from wreaking havoc on our world. That's why Camden Council under its new Liberal Democrat-led administration has set up a cross-party Sustainability Task Force with a remit to think the unthinkable. The aim is to come up with radical but practical ideas to enable Camden to play its part in the battle against climate change. As chair of the Task Force, I would like to explain why I think this new role is so important.

## ***A personal commitment***

The day I decided I had to change my life was when The Independent newspaper reported that leading scientists believed that the world was heating up so fast that the North Pole was going to melt whatever we did. That simple statement shocked me into action – both on a personal and on a political level.

Since then I've been trying to reduce our household's carbon footprint. We now recycle about 80 per cent of our household waste. We've changed to a renewable energy electricity provider. We use an organic fruit and vegetable box scheme. We never accept plastic bags in shops. We've installed a device that diverts our bath water on to the garden during dry periods. We are about to sell our car to join one of Camden's excellent car clubs. And - the really hard thing for us, as professionals working in global industries - we have cut down dramatically on plane travel and pay into a carbon offset charity for the flights we do have to take.

Two and half years on from that Independent article I'm Chair of Camden Council's new Sustainability Task Force, a cross-party group of

councillors concerned about Climate Change. Our aim is to encourage Camden's businesses, residents and organisations to move to a lower carbon lifestyle.

## ***Focus on practical measures***

The Task Force has been set up to act as a proactive advisory body, operating across council departments, across political parties and across the community. We will work with Council officers, outside experts and the local community to explore ways to promote the sustainability agenda. The focus will be on identifying ideas and putting practical measures in place to make life in Camden more sustainable in the long term. We need to change our mindset, our behaviour, our systems and our values. It won't be easy and we obviously can't do it overnight.

The Task Force will produce Quarterly Sustainability Reports (starting in Jan 2007) which will outline ways we could make Camden a more environmentally friendly place. For example, we believe we need to recycle smarter, make our homes more energy efficient, produce more energy locally, and eat less fresh food that has been flown in from the other side of the world. But how can we make it easy for residents, the Council, businesses and organisations to do the right thing for the planet? That's the sort of thing our Quarterly Reports will address.

Here are a few of the things we'll be looking at:

***Energy efficiency audits*** of households and small businesses that give personalised information about what action can be taken, what companies can install energy efficiency measures, what grants are available, and what the payback period would be in the case of a significant investment.

## ***Action on climate change (cont)***

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***Emissions-based parking permits*** (the larger the engine the more you pay) and incentives for residents to move to electric cars including on - street provision of charging points.

***Installation of energy efficient Combined Heat and Power systems*** (CHP) on all larger housing estates (with meters and heating controls so residents have incentives to reduce energy use) as well as on-site production of renewable energy.

***A comprehensive review of our recycling practices*** to make it more environmentally friendly e.g far more extraction of food waste from the waste stream via individual and communal (but local) composting, especially on all our housing estates.

***A long-term Zero Waste strategy*** involving reduced packaging, better recycling, more re-use of products, and recovery of energy from residual waste.

***The creation of Zero Carbon Buildings*** as role models, with ideally every ward having a zero carbon Victorian semi.

***A "Revolving Energy Fund"*** which invests in energy saving projects and returns the money saved to the Fund thereby creating a virtuous circle.

***Measuring the carbon produced*** by all Council departments – carbon accounting – and then setting demanding targets for reductions in carbon use.

***Separated cycle lanes across Camden*** (as in much of northern Europe) to encourage residents to stop using their cars – especially parents on the school run - and to get cyclists off the pavements.

Tangible evidence of success will come if a majority of residents, businesses and organisations say they support our approach, if carbon emissions are significantly reduced in the short to medium term, and if sustainability in terms of climate change is considered as a factor in all levels of decision-making in the community.

### ***Public meetings***

The Task Force meets once a month in the Town Hall. Our meetings are open to the public. You can see our agendas on our website: [www.camden.gov.uk/susforce](http://www.camden.gov.uk/susforce).

I believe we can make a huge difference, but only if we work together as a community. Please join us if you can.

***Email: [alexis.rowell@camden.gov.uk](mailto:alexis.rowell@camden.gov.uk)***



### ***Conservation and Sustainability Lectures at Birkbeck College***

For those interested to learn more about this important subject, Jeremy Wright member of the Ecology and Conservation Studies Society (and HHS Society Committee member) has organised a series of six free weekly lectures at Birkbeck College starting on February 9th.

Details are on the Bulletin Board, page 20.

# ***Cavatina Chamber Music Trust***

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*by Simon and Pamela Majaro*

Can one 'sell' Chamber Music to the young? This is exactly what the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust, based in Hampstead, has been trying to do since its inception in 1997 and with some success.

Cavatina was founded by two Hampstead residents, Pamela and Simon Majaro (long time members of the Heath & Hampstead Society) who live in Maresfield Gardens. As chamber music lovers they were getting worried at the absence of young faces in public concerts of this wonderful form of music.

They set up the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust with the mission 'to take Chamber Music to young people and young people to Chamber Music'. Cavatina is trying to develop young 'listeners' rather than 'players'. However, many

primary school children are stimulated to take up an instrument as a consequence of a Cavatina visit.

Initially working for about 3 years with the Wigmore Hall, it has since grown into a charity embracing a myriad of interrelated activities:

## ***School concerts***

About 50 school concerts a year are organised by Cavatina, the vast majority in State Schools. Since the start of the project in 1997, more than 57,500 young people have attended our School Concerts. The aim of these concerts is to introduce children to chamber music and to sow a seed for the future. The demand for these school visits is increasing in many parts of the country.

Cavatina employs first class professional musicians and pays generously for their time

and skills. (We abhor the way musicians in some quarters are expected to give 'free' concerts.)

We choose groups which have a special affinity with young people and can hold their attention with their skills and presentation.

## ***Cavatina initiatives:***

### ***Free tickets for students aged 8-22***

are available for Chamber Music concerts in 20 venues affiliated to the Cavatina Ticket Scheme.



*The Galeazzi Ensemble in action at a local school*

## ***Cavatina Chamber Music Trust (cont)***

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The number of young people attending concerts under the scheme is growing steadily.

**Annual Cavatina Competitions** take place in two music colleges: the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff and Trinity College of Music in Greenwich. (The Finals at Trinity College take place on Sunday 29th April 2007 at 2.00 pm. for those of you who might be interested). The quality of and interest in chamber music in both conservatoires has improved dramatically as a result of these initiatives. Winners receive a monetary prize and an opportunity to give a public concert.

**Cavatina Junior Friends:** Children and young people who demonstrate an interest in Chamber Music are invited to become FREE Cavatina Junior Friends. It gives them an opportunity to attend Cavatina music events and meet other young people interested in chamber music.

**Ambassadors in UK Universities:** There are now 3 Ambassadors in UK Universities (Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol), promoting local concerts to their fellow students. For more details, contact Simon Majaro.

Cavatina is currently planning to mount 'Family Concerts' with Chamber Music Societies in order to attract young audiences together with their parents. It is hoped that this will help to motivate parents and children to take an interest in chamber music.

The Cavatina project has evoked great interest in both Switzerland and the Czech Republic. The first of the Prague Cavatina concerts takes place on January 25th with the Zemlinsky Quartet, winners of the 3rd Prize and Audience Prize, (donated by Cavatina CMT) at the 2006 London

String Quartet Competition. We are delighted at this development.

### ***Friends of Cavatina***

Cavatina Friends, which currently numbers close to 300 members, has become a vibrant 'Club' of like-minded lovers of chamber music. Is it a coincidence that a large proportion of these Friends live in Hampstead and Highgate? Various functions are organised for Friends every year. The membership fee is modest (£25 for single membership and £35 for couples) and the Cavatina Friends Scheme has become the lifeblood of the whole project and provides the Trust with a significant part of its resources.

If any reader wishes to join as a Cavatina Friend, please contact Simon Majaro on 020 7435 8479 or email [majaro@cavatina.net](mailto:majaro@cavatina.net) for further details.

The whole project is very challenging. In an age in which one hears so much about animals facing extinction it is important to remember that cultural treasures can also disappear if allowed to do so. Join the battle to save the Chamber Music heritage.

[www.cavatina.net](http://www.cavatina.net)



*Two of the winning drawings from Cavatina's annual selection of best school concert drawings*



# Peter Barkworth 1929 - 2006

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by Helen Marcus

We have all been deeply saddened to hear of the death of the actor Peter Barkworth. His long and distinguished career on the stage and film is well known and through his many television roles he became a household name. His film

credits range from *Where Eagles Dare* in 1969 to Stephen Fry's *Oscar Wilde* in 1997. His many West End stage appearances from the 1950s onwards included his first big success in *Roar Like a Dove*, to his last roles in the 1990s in Simon Gray's *Hidden Laughter* and *The Winslow Boy* at the Globe. Twice voted Best TV Actor he was often referred to by his peers as the actor's actor. He was also a fine teacher and taught at RADA for many years.

But more than that he was an active member of the local community in Hampstead where he came to live more than forty years ago, when he bought his cottage in Flask Walk. He was a member of this Society, and Patron of both Burgh House and of the Friends of Hampstead Town Hall, and always willing to spare the time to give of his services for local causes. His delightful evenings of poetry readings were an enormous contribution to the fundraising for the restoration of Hampstead

Town Hall. As a lover of gardens he willingly played his part as a judge for the Society's 'Seen from the Street' competition, as well as entertaining us at various Society events. His 'smiling enthusiasm, quiet charm and charisma',

in Gerry Isaaman's apt description, graced every occasion.

His interests were wide ranging: he wrote several books, and was a keen pianist and art collector. He has bequeathed his collection, which included a Constable, to Fenton House. He was also an astute businessman, being one of the first to set up a small private production company to launch his new ideas such as his highly successful television series *Telford's Change*.

He loved the Heath and the friendly atmosphere of the village. And he in

turn was loved and admired by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be long and affectionately remembered and much missed.



*Peter in conversation with Prince Charles at the opening of the restored Hampstead Town Hall*



# ***London Governance - issues of concern***

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*News round-up from the pages of Newsforum, the newsletter of the London Forum, by Helen Marcus*

## ***London Plan update***

Mayor Livingstone's London Plan, the blueprint for the governance of London, has been under review throughout 2006. The London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies which monitors and responds to all these consultations on behalf of over 120 London Societies, registered its concern about the government's conclusions, particularly at the proposal that Ken Livingstone should be able to give planning permission for major developments. The Forum raised the question as to whether the Mayor can be relied on to operate in an open, transparent and accountable way.

## ***The Mayor's new planning powers***

The government's proposals will increase the Mayor's power to interfere with local planning decisions, by allowing him to call in certain planning applications thus enabling him to permit developments which a borough and its communities do not want.

David Lewis wrote in a recent edition of the London Forum's newsletter:

'The overall proposal threatens to undermine all the efforts governments have made to establish development control as a quasi-judicial procedure which commands public confidence, based on full consultation and subject to codes of conduct at all levels. At present the Mayor and his officials often act as advocates for major development schemes, and even brief counsel to appear at public inquiries in support of developers - often, in the London Forum's view, in disregard of policies in the Mayor's own London Plan. There are appalling dangers if in future the ultimate decision on such cases were to be taken by the Mayor himself behind closed doors at City Hall, possibly without even an opportunity for any other party to make representations'.

Mayor Livingstone's possible approach might be deduced from remarks he is reported to have made last year about Kings Cross. Under the headline 'Mayor says preservation concerns curbed Kings Cross revamp', the Camden New Journal reported that he claimed that 'attempts to save old buildings ... led to a drop in the number of cheap homes'. However, according to local people, the real issue at Kings Cross is the large number of profitable office developments, rather than any demands by conservation groups.

## ***Community Strategies***

Another government initiative is Community Strategies. The following impenetrable jargon from a report by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) gives you the flavour: 'The relationship between LAAs and Community Strategies is complex and is throwing up a range of new issues that are worthy of further examination. There is a need to focus on the added value of Community Strategies, in particular to move beyond process outcomes and start to investigate some of the harder outcomes from Community Strategies and how they have added value at the local level.'

Last year the *Together We Can* action plan was launched (see Camden Council's website). It sets out the government's commitment to 'empower' citizens to work with public bodies to set and achieve common goals. There is also a 'Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities' programme.

## ***The (latest) Local Government White Paper***

Barely 5 years since Local Government Act 2000 the government is proposing yet more changes to local government structure. *Strong and Prosperous Communities* is the title of the Local Government White Paper published in October. It seems to be another attempt to force mayors

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*For more information the Mayor's website is: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)*

on an unwilling public. Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, speaking at the Development Trusts Association Conference in September said:

‘When people come together voluntarily because they care about something and want to make a real difference, this can be a powerful agent for social change. More powerful in many cases than the government acting alone.

‘The White Paper is about more than local government; essentially it is about people and communities. It is about ensuring that, wherever possible, communities and individuals themselves have control over the decision that affect their lives’. [Can she possibly mean decisions such as that of the Garden House? Ed]

It includes a proposal that communities in London will be given the same right to establish parishes as exist elsewhere, subject to consideration of community cohesion.

Apart from that, its nine chapters are simply a rehash of all the familiar clichés to be found in the disastrous Local Government Act 2000 which so undermined any semblance of local democracy. The full text can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

### ***Threatened London Views***

Unesco's World Heritage Committee has raised concerns about developments around London's World Heritage sites at Westminster and the Tower of London and has criticised the failure to implement the London Plan. The Unesco Committee considers the Tower's status as one of the world's most important buildings is under threat from plans for skyscrapers in the capital. It has expressed concern about Lord Foster's 'Gherkin' block and plans for four other buildings. These include the proposed 306 metre

Shard of Glass Tower at London Bridge and the 324 metre Bishopsgate Tower.

Unesco's UK Culture Committee spelt out its concern about the Tower of London: 'The London Plan policies to protect the World Heritage property and its environment do not seem to be applied effectively' and there is a danger that statutory protection for views to and from the castle.....could be diminished. The Unesco monitoring team....gave warning that it could be put on the 'Heritage in Danger' list.

### ***Threat to back gardens***

The Royal Horticultural Society recently held a meeting at which environmental experts attacked the government's housing policy which classifies urban gardens as brownfield sites, thus opening the way for developers to apply for planning permission to build over them.

Conservative MP Greg Clarke has attempted to introduce a bill to remove gardens from the brownfield classification on three occasions. He now has an online petition in advance of the bill's fourth hearing.

According to a report by the Communities and Local Government Department the practice of 'garden grabbing', where family homes are pulled down and replaced with flats, is rife in the South East. Despite objections, local authorities appear reluctant to turn down planning applications because they regularly lose on appeal. Under constant pressure to find more land for building, there is a presumption that planning applications should be approved because the Government has classified homes and gardens as brownfield sites.

To find out more about Greg Clarke's bill visit [www.gopetition.com/online/9231.html](http://www.gopetition.com/online/9231.html)

# *The Westminster Circle*

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*A new book by David Sullivan*



The Westminster Circle uniquely presents the reader with a fascinating and detailed history of how Westminster was transformed, during the 250 years after the Norman invasion, from an early medieval rural village around the abbey into the administrative centre

for the nation which it has since remained.

It is of particular interest to Hampstead because the Abbey at Westminster was for many centuries lord of the manor of Hampstead, 'its little manor on the hill'.

Its author, David Sullivan, barrister and QC, has lived in Hampstead for over forty years. A long-standing member of the Heath and Hampstead Society, he has been an active campaigner for local causes. In the seventies when he lived at Wyldes in North End, right on the Heath, he was the first Chairman of the Society's newly established Heath Sub-Committee and later assisted the HHS Branch Hill sub-committee in saving Branch Hill from development. He was involved with the campaign to save Burgh House, helping to set up the Burgh House Trust, and becoming its Chairman. During the seventeen years he was Chairman of the Trust it was able to double its capital finances to give it a secure footing for the future. David also took a close interest in the campaign to save Hampstead Town Hall.

The Westminster Circle is a sequel to David's earlier book *The Westminster Corridor* (1994) which described the wooden abbey in

Westminster during the Anglo-Saxon era and examined in depth the history of the relationship of the Abbey to Hampstead. People in Hampstead had strong personal connections with the development of Westminster as it became the seat of government in England.

This new book delves further into the early Westminster history, and also examines more of the close link with Hampstead in two separate chapters about the authentic history of the manor of Hampstead, remote on its hill, and with a very different fate during these crucial two and a half centuries. It is very much about people and their occupations, and breathes new life into the records of their work and other occupations.

The story is made more vivid with a number of David Gentleman's wood-engravings (two of which are shown here) and coloured paintings, and with 20 other plates in colour. These include three new coloured maps of 13th Century Westminster, drawn at the Museum of London. Amongst 12 black and white plates there are some showing medieval drawings (which are rarely seen in print) made by the monk-historian Matthew Paris.

*Published 2006  
by Historical  
Publications  
at £25  
ISBN 1-905286-15-5  
448 pages*

*The book is available  
at Burgh House  
which will be a part-  
beneficiary if  
members buy it there.*



# *News from members*

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## *Letter to the Editor*

### ***Remembrance of times past by Jill Whittard***

We are delighted when members contact us, especially when their letters give us fascinating glimpses of the old Hampstead community.

#### ***Mrs. Whittard, who now lives in Mill Hill, writes:***

We were very disappointed not to attend the usual Christmas Party last year but understand that Burgh House was too small for all the members.

We may not live in Hampstead now but we remain very interested in the area. Our family lived there from the late 1800s and still own property in the High Street. My father, Francis Cordingly, was a member for years until he died age 95 and I took over his membership.

I was born and educated in the area, as were my parents. Married to the organist of Christ Church, we found we could not afford to buy a house so hence the Mill Hill address. My great-grandfather was the licensee of the Flask; one of my grandfathers owned Zwanzigers Bros – later called the Hampstead Bakery; the other owned Charles Reed, Bespoke Tailors, Heath Street. He was also a local borough councillor around 1900. An uncle owned Knowles Brown the jewellers, and a great aunt was married to the brother of Hampstead's historian, Thomas Barrett (The Annals Of Hampstead, published 1912)

So you can see why we are still members!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year

Jill Whittard

*We are delighted to say that Mrs Whittard was able to get to the recent Christmas Party at Rosslyn Hill Chapel and we hope to persuade her to write more about her recollections of Hampstead past for us.*

## *A new venture by Matthew Lewin*

### ***Matthew's Table***

#### ***A restaurant review web-site you can really trust!***

Matthew's Table is an independent restaurant review website specialising in North London.

It is owned and written by Matthew Lewin, former award-winning editor of the Hampstead and Highgate Express, who, for many years, was also the newspaper's acclaimed restaurant critic.

Reviews are carried out anonymously by Matthew, together with his Chief Culinary Adviser, famous friends and various scroungers, and all meals are paid for in full - no freebies are ever accepted.

#### ***Reviews, news and food talk to your email inbox every week***

The new website offers subscribers a fully searchable archive of around 250 authoritative (and often hilarious) reviews of restaurants, gastropubs and food shops in North London -and, unlike just about every other restaurant website, **none** of them have paid to be listed on the site.

#### ***Special offers and discounts***

Subscribers will receive a weekly newsletter containing a brand new review together with news about new restaurants and food shops in North London. Future plans include enabling subscribers to book tables through the website, special offers and discounts from selected restaurants, and possibly even an annual restaurant award scheme.

### ***Matthews-Table.com***

***Contact: info@ Matthews-Table.com***

***Or 020 7424 0159***

# Bulletin Board

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## ***Free Public Lecture Series Spring 2007***

### ***Conservation and Sustainability***



The lectures will be held in  
***Room B04 in 43 Gordon Square, WC1H 0PD***

***For any queries, please contact e-mail: [wright@britishlibrary.net](mailto:wright@britishlibrary.net); tel: 020 7485 7903,  
or contact e-mail: [h.atkinson@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:h.atkinson@bbk.ac.uk) ; tel: 020 7679 1069***

***Join the debate. All welcome. Free admission***

***All lectures are from 6.30 to 8.30 pm.***

***Doors open at 6.00pm.***

#### ***Living within our Environmental Limits***

A series of Lectures by Birkbeck, University of London in conjunction with the Ecology and Conservation Studies Society

Sustainability and conservation are of literally vital importance to our future. Mankind's needs impact on Earth's resources to create uncontrolled pressures from population growth or lavish lifestyles. The significance of climate change is increasingly recognized. These complex, interlocking issues force us to consider urgently how best we can live within environmental limits; but the right strategic actions are hotly debated.

This lecture series will inform that debate. An introductory overview of global warming and world issues will be followed by lectures describing aspects of particular relevance for the UK: energy use; fresh water resources; land use; urban waste; the sea around us. Problems will be posed and solutions proposed.

***The Ecology and Conservation Studies Society welcomes new members. Details of the Society and application forms will be available at the door, and are on our website at:  
<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/ce/environment/> [follow the link]***

#### ***9 February: 'Solving Global Warming?'***

Professor Mark Maslin, Director of University College London Environment Institute

#### ***16 February: 'Secure Energy and a Stable Climate – how possible is it?'***

Professor Jim Skea OBE, Research Director, UK Energy Research Centre

#### ***23 February: 'Balancing Water Resources and the Principles of Sustainable Development'***

Trevor Bishop, Head of Water Resources Management, Environment Agency

#### ***2 March: 'Soils, Land Use and Development Policy'***

Professor Mark Kibblewhite, Professor of Applied Soil Science and Head of the Department of Natural Resources, Cranfield University

#### ***9 March: 'London's Waste Strategy: Problems and Solutions'***

Peter Daw and Wayne Hubbard, Principal Policy Officers - Waste, Greater London Authority

#### ***16 March: 'The Marine Bill: Cornucopia or Pandora's Box?'***

Dr Peter Jones, Lecturer, Dept of Geography, University College London

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### ***Your help still needed at St Stephen's***

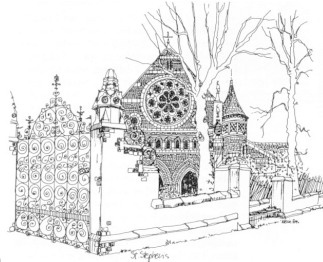
Work will soon be starting on the restoration of St. Stephens for the community

#### ***But donations are still needed.***

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.



#### ***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

### ***Hampstead and Highgate Festival***

Another attractive and varied programme will take place from

***May 9 to May 19***

Highlights include

***Gala opening concert in aid of the Royal Free Hospital with guest artist John Lill***

***The Wiban Quartet***

***Celebrity Recital by Imogen Cooper***

***Highgate Choral Society***

***La Voix Humaine by Poulenc***

***Piers Plowright in conversation with Tracey Chevalier, Claire Tomalin, & Deborah Jaffe***

***Night Skies with Doug Daniels at the Hampstead Observatory***

***Bats about Kenwood with Cindy Blaney***

***Centenary Walk in Hampstead Garden Suburb with Chris Kellerman***

***Children's Composition Competition***

***Village walks, cabaret, poetry, childrens events, film, jazz and much more***

Brochures giving full details of the programme will be sent to members of the Society in March

# Heath Walks

Walks are held on the first Sunday of every month except January. Most start from Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead Village. Starting times are either 10.30 am or 2.30pm, depending on season and subject matter. Walks last approximately two hours. They do not necessarily follow made-up paths; you are recommended to wear suitable footwear as conditions may be rough or muddy.

You will be invited to make a minimum donation of £2 per adult, to be collected at the beginning of each walk, to help support future development of the walks programme and to promote the Society's activities generally.

*The Society does not organise walks specifically for children but they are always welcome so long as they are suitably shod, can walk reasonable distances and are accompanied by an adult taking full responsibility for them.*

Please note starting times and meeting points below. For further information contact the walks organiser, Thomas Radice, on 020 8455 1025 (mobile: 07941 528 034) or email: thomas@radice.clara.co.uk.

## ***Revised details of walks previously advertised***

(NB dates reversed and starting points corrected)

**4 February 10.30am** (meet at the entrance to the Kitchen Garden, Kenwood, off Hampstead Lane N6) Hidden Heath: a look at historical and archaeological features of the Heath, led by Michael Hammerson, Chairman of the Highgate Society Environment Committee.

**4 March 2.30pm** (meet at Burgh House) Artefacts of the East Heath, led by Michael Welbank.



## ***New Programme 2007***

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

**1 April 10.30am** (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath in Spring led by Alix Mullineaux,

**6 May 2.30pm** (meet outside Heath End House, Spaniards Road, next to the Spaniards Inn) The Heath Extension led by Tony Ghilchik

**3 June 2.30pm** (meet at Burgh House) A Spider Foray led by Edward Milner, National Spider Recorder for Middlesex and London

**1 July 2.30** (meet at Burgh House) How the Heath and Kenwood were saved from development, led by Thomas Radice, member of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee and former Department of the Environment official  
*For optional visit to the Hampstead Museum, Burgh House assemble in entrance hall at 2 pm*

## ***Additional evening event - booking essential***

**1 July 9.15pm** (meet at Burgh House) Bat conservation on the Heath led by Cindy Blaney  
Advance booking opens 1 June 2007 (see contact details above) **N.B. Group size limited to 10;** Society members have priority

**5 August 2.30pm** (meet beside the ornamental pond in the Hill Garden) The Hill Garden led by Ian Greenwood, Head Gardener

**2 September 10.30am** (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath in Autumn led by Alix Mullineaux (see April for details)

**7 October 10.30am** (meet at Burgh House) A Fungus Foray led by Jo Weightman

**4 November 10.30am** (meet at Burgh House) Trees of the Heath led by Jeremy Wright, Heath Ancient Tree Survey Organiser

**2 December 10.30am** (meet at Burgh House) Artefacts of the West Heath led by Michael Welbank