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- instant news and updates
- what we do, why and how
- our history
- special offers
- and other good stuff

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Founded in 1897

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Chairman's Report

by Tony Hillier

AGM

The AGM on 21 June was well attended and went with a swing. A strong phalanx of members enjoyed the setting of the Rosslyn Hill Chapel. Our Patron, Sir Simon Jenkins, stiffened our resolve as a century-old multi-protest movement. He entertained us with a fluent and entertaining account of how successful Hampstead residents had been since the nineteenth century in preserving the charm, style and qualities of this place. He warned us against complacency with a blistering attack on the latest threat to London's skyline as seen from Parliament Hill and other historic viewing spots.

Threat to London's Historic Views

The Government has now given huge legal discretion to the Mayor to allow skyscrapers to encroach on our views of St Paul's and the Palace of Westminster. This could do more than simply brutalise isolated chunks of our skyline, as blocks like Euston Tower, the flats on Adelaide Road and the rebuilt Royal Free Hospital did in the '60s and '70s. It could permanently damage our heritage not just of the magnificent views from the Heath, but the whole panorama of London that we and our predecessors have enjoyed from different parts of the Heath, the statutory protection of which has now been seriously undermined. With our encouragement and the support of many amenity societies around London, the City, the Greater London Assembly and some London Boroughs have registered strong, formal protests *ex post facto*. We must now ensure that it becomes a high profile issue in the forthcoming mayoral election. I see no other way of getting this philistine concession to big developers reversed.

Plus ça Change

Looking back over my report to the AGM and

the events since, I am glad to highlight some very positive developments. There are a lot besides, of course, which have a familiar chestnut aura about them.

Website

We launched our new look website at the AGM. We are fortunate in having four very skilled and dedicated newcomers who have combined with our earlier team to revitalise our site. John Weston, our website editor, gives more detail on page 4. Please visit it at www.heathandhampsteadsociety.org.uk and be proud. The intention is that members will benefit by having much more frequent updates of information about our latest policies and initiatives, as well as about events and issues, where registering your opinion with some official or unofficial body can help causes for which we all (or in any given case, many of us) stand. It is already proving a valuable source of new memberships. It will also help researchers and visitors who want to find more about the past and present of Hampstead and the Heath. My thanks go to all those who have worked so hard to make it happen.

Hampstead Plaques

Based on a research paper by Tony Diamond, two members of the Town Committee have set about restoring the black oval plaques marking where famous residents have lived. The current residents in those properties have been most co-operative and appreciative. We will publish a full account of this successful undertaking in the next Newsletter

Local Planning

I regretted having to report at the AGM that the developers of Garden House had lodged a request to the Appeal Court for leave to appeal

Chairman's report (cont)

the judicial review decision we won earlier in the year against Camden. Our advisers were surprised, because the judge had been so clear and convincing in his judgement and in his own refusal for them to appeal. Camden, which has now paid our costs for the High Court hearing, has not joined in this request to appeal. Naturally we hope for all our sakes that it will not be necessary to approach members once again for pledges of financial support, if this matter comes back to court.

Since then the Town Committee have been busy preparing and submitting highly professional comments to the Government's consultation on the threats entailed in the White Paper on possible changes to planning law. We are concerned that the protection currently given to Conservation Areas, such as our local ones, may be weakened or removed; also we are recommending that a tariff be introduced for planning applicants to pay towards the costs of administering the system.

The Town Committee has also made a formal request to Camden that they implement the clear policy already in place at Kensington and Chelsea, which severely limits all new basement excavations. We have objected to over 50 such local applications in recent months. Owners are expanding their living space downwards (in some cases by up to three stories), sometimes without regard to the structural integrity of their neighbours' homes or to the sloping ground conditions, the sand/clay layering and the many water courses below Hampstead. As so often there is a bureaucratic problem: planners do not consider building regulations, which leaves the neighbours with a costly structural engineering bill, and having to sort out the problems once permission has been given. Nor have the planners been trained to look at the hydro-geological long term dangers. We urge Camden to make an urgent policy change.

Street Trees

This is an area where we urged Camden to change policy two years ago. In the bright morning of the new coalition, I was naïve in believing and reporting to you our members, simply based on promises from Councillors and senior officers, that things were about to change for the better. That more sensible and reasonable risk assessment would be undertaken based on better informed tree disease diagnosis, before 100 year old trees were felled; that better and more responsible control of the contractors, employed by Camden to reduce canopies and undertake pruning and occasional pollarding, would be implemented; that earlier and more open consultation with local residents would take place before radical changes to any street tree scene were brought in. You will have seen the story in the local press in July about the tree cut down in Fitzjohn's Avenue. Our new tree officer reports on page 10. I can assure you that we have not given up. This issue is far too important to us.

School Run

There was a flurry of Camden Committee hearings during the summer. At these this Society and some of the bigger resident associations made it clear to Councillors that their electorate expects better regulated and enforced protection against the scourge of school run traffic and parking congestion. It is not yet clear that the local private schools for younger children have fully grasped their civic responsibilities to organise and finance, as part of their compliance with government guidelines for green travel plans, alternative means of transport through their parent bodies. Nobody has yet answered the question we have raised: by what legal authority does Camden issue any parking permits to non-resident car drivers bringing children to school at all?

Friends Old and New

We have sadly lost in recent months two exceptional people, who have made enormous contributions to preserving and enhancing not just the local scene, but the strength and vitality of the local community as a whole. We send our warm and grateful sympathies to their families.

Margaret Little had lived in Hampstead since 1947 and represented Town Ward as a Councillor from 1994 to 2006. She was a tireless supporter of her constituents throughout this time, and for many more years a good friend of the Society. We thank her for all that she did for us.

Brian Seddon joined the Society in the early 1980's, and became chairman of the Heath Sub-Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Society from 1991 to 1997. As the Society's representative on the City of London's Heath Management Committee from 1992 to 1998, his love of the Heath, his deep knowledge and persuasive tact enabled him to help preserve many of those characteristics the Society has aimed to protect and which we all still enjoy.

The General Committee welcomes three new members, elected at the AGM, who have already shown wise, well-informed and energetic support for the Society's aims and objectives: Marc Hutchinson, Frank Harding and John Weston.

Subscriptions

Finally, the AGM accepted the recommendation from the General Committee that the subscription levels be increased from 2008. I shall write to you separately with the details before the end of the year.

Seen From the Street

Prize giving

Sunday 14 October

2pm

at

Alexandra Palace

Guest of honour

Deborah Moggach



***Capital Gardens have again generously
donated the prizes***

The Hampstead Card

List of Traders

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



by John Weston

The Society's new website editor



The harrowing story of a family lost in their own vast new basement; the latest Heath consultation translated into English; Alastair Campbell's behaviour at the Litter Blitz on the Heath; the 'Rape of London's skyline'; the wayward timekeeping of the Hampstead town clock; Thierry Henry's departure from the Village football team; and a sobering vision of Hampstead in 2010 should the proposed new planning rules become law.

You'll find all these stories and more in a weekly diary offering opinion on matters of interest to society members at www.heathandhampsteadsociety.org.uk our new website launched at the last AGM.

It aims to provide members with more about what we are doing now, how we do it, and what we have achieved during our history. Provide more about what is going on in the community. Enable easy access to other sites that relate to the Society's many areas of interest and concern. And open up pathways for interactive dialogue.

As of today you can find campaigning articles on our Home page on the potentially devastating effects of the proposed new planning laws; the undermining of Hampstead by huge new basements; English Heritage's grossly distorted depiction of local residents; and the real story behind the pressure for cycle highways on the heath.

And behind that Home page you'll find whole sections on Planning, Trees, Cycling and Licensing.

There's a diary of events and activities: those sponsored by the Society like our new photo competition, our monthly walks, and other events that might be of interest to those living in or visiting Hampstead and the Heath.

A detailed section on the organisation of the Society and an insider's view of the committees: our treasured repositories of smooth talkers, smart thinkers and fully paid-up members of the awkward squad.

A growing section on the amazing history of the Society, and of Hampstead and the Heath, which will be linked to other historically relevant material on the web.

And a section on the benefits of joining the society, including information about special monthly offers for members using the Hampstead Card in local shops, and also a section on how you can help us.

You will be able to join on-line, pay on-line and donate on-line. And this is only the beginning as we work towards making the site ever more vital.

My thanks go to all those who have worked so hard to make it happen.

Please let us know what you think at info@heathandhampsteadsociety.org.uk

Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

Brian Seddon

Brian Seddon enjoyed his work on the Heath Sub-Committee; he had a strong love of the Heath and you can read Jeremy Wright's tribute to him later in this Newsletter. One of Brian's lasting contributions was his work when Chairman of the Heath Sub-Committee in developing the Society's input into the City's first Management Plan for the Heath. This later formed the backbone of our *Heath Vision* booklet of 2004.

The new Management Plan

Work on Part I of the City's new Management Plan for the Heath is now drawing to a close. The Vision and Mission in the Plan were built around its stated Primary Objective: to manage and preserve the Heath as an open space and maintain its wild and natural aspect.. We are delighted that the feedback from the wide ranging consultation shows that 84% of respondents were in favour of the Vision and Mission, with only 6% disagreeing overall. Although there was, not surprisingly, a range of differences in emphasis, the overall view which came out of the consultation reflects our own – that the over-riding vision of the Heath is as 'a piece of countryside in London'. This does not exclude events and activities so long as these are within the more developed parts of the Heath, as they are currently. For many respondents, these more developed parts of the Heath behave as a community space or a large village green in terms of form and function. This 'community use' is very important to many users. The greatest divergence of views related to dog controls and to cycling.

The consultation feedback is now being incorporated into the draft with the aim of having it finalised later this year. Work can then move on to Parts II and III. Part II will be a series of Topic Papers setting out the

management techniques and policies needed to implement the Plan. They will cover each of the eight key topic areas given in Part I: History; Natural Landscape; Hydrology; Designed Landscape; Built Environment; Informal Public Use; Sports, and Access and Education. This will then all come together in Part III which will set out how these techniques and policies will be applied for each of the main areas of the Heath. Finally, once agreed, these specifications will feed directly into annual work programmes.

A survey of Heath usage

You may have noticed some new short posts at 15 strategic points around the Heath. These are loggers set up to measure pedestrian flows on a continuous basis. Findings will form part of a more detailed survey of pedestrians and cyclists entering and leaving the Heath on two selected days in July and August. The results will help to determine the demographics of visitors to the Heath – where they are from, which parts they visit, whether with dogs or on bicycles and so forth. Its key function is to assess path capacities and the suitability of selected paths to become shared use pedestrian/cycle routes.

We welcome this scientific assessment of the carrying capacity of the paths. It may well confirm the impossibility of adding more routes without damaging the all-important natural qualities of the Heath and the ability to 'switch off' and wander without having to be on the look-out for wheeled vehicles.

On that other contentious issue, dogs, I am delighted that Camden has refocused their proposed dog control orders to encourage responsible dog ownership. The Heath Constables will be acting as agents for Camden when issuing fixed penalty notices to those

Heath Report (cont)

failing to remove dog faeces, not putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so, and permitting a dog to enter a children's fenced play area. These will be directed against irresponsible dog owners and those whose dogs are out of control or causing a nuisance. It looks as if Barnet will not be introducing any Dog Control Orders so the Heath Constables will be unable to act as their agent to issue fixed penalty notices on the Heath Extension or in Golders Hill Park. I believe this will make little difference in practice: serious offenders could still be prosecuted under the bylaws – a more onerous procedure but one which brings a criminal record as well as a fine.

Kenwood

Turning to Kenwood, we are still working with other local residents, English Heritage and IMG to find an acceptable basis for the return of the concerts. Our position remains that we believe the concerts should take advantage of, rather than fight, Kenwood's magnificent setting in a residential area of London and that highly amplified concerts are not appropriate. It is also essential that the stage should be as unobtrusive as possible between concerts.

IMG are working on two options. One is similar to the 2005 arrangement but with the floating stage parked in the south west corner of the pond between concerts. This would seem to satisfy our concern on the floating stage being so intrusive between the concerts.

However IMG's preferred solution is to have a lighter stage on the Pasture Ground in front of the Wood Pond, not directly in front of the house but more to the west, near the bottom of the slope descending from the Henry Moore statue. A stage here would be far easier to build, could be up for less time – just seven weeks to provide eight concerts with audiences

of ten thousand each, including two concerts on the final weekend. Although the grass under the stage and toilets would die off and would have to be re-seeded at the end of the concert season, sound modelling shows it is easier to stop sound overflowing from this location, so it too could be acceptable. We look forward to seeing fuller plans and, in particular, more on how IMG will prevent the hoped for 10,000 concert-goers causing chaos going to and from each concerts.

I am delighted that we can claim a little of the credit for the latest hectare of land recently added to the Heath. Our representatives on the Athlone House Working Group set the ball rolling and you can now go through gates in the new wooden fence to wander through the long thin strip of what was the southern part of the Athlone House garden. It includes the remnants of the formal ornamental garden, though much of it has reverted to woodland. The western parcel is being managed as a conservation area to become a bird nesting area and refuge for wildlife.

Walking down from the Orchard into Cohen's Field you will also see two new scrapes, which will fill with water in autumn but dry out during a normal summer, which the City have created to mitigate the loss of a small pond within the Athlone House development.

The 2007 Springett Lecture

Finally, this year's Springett Lecture will be on Thursday 25th October at 8.00pm, when David Leech from the British Trust for Ornithology will be talking on *Climate change and birds*. Please join us at Burgh House for a glass of wine at 7:30pm for what is always a most interesting and enjoyable evening.

I hope to see you there.

Town Report

by Gordon Maclean

Two Planning issues have occupied much of our attention in recent months: the Government's White Paper on Planning reform, and the increasingly prominent matter of basement excavations.

The White Paper

The conclusions arising from the Barker Report - on which I have previously written - have been transferred virtually verbatim into a White Paper, now out to public consultation. The Government's intention is to revise and add to legislation as soon as they can, so that the reforms can come on stream within a short space of time.

A good deal of the White Paper's content is well-directed, and deals with long-standing flaws in the system: delays in obtaining permissions, especially in the case of mega-developments such as rail or airport infrastructure, delays in the Appeals system, unnecessary bureaucracy, and other impediments to work of national importance. We have no quarrel with much of this; even if we did, our chances, as a small urban conservation society, of influencing such decisions would be minimal.

However, the reforms would also throw the baby out with the bathwater. In the interests of "streamlining" the Planning process, and saving money, they include proposals to relieve huge areas of building work from the necessity of getting Planning permission. It is here that we must draw the line; we have suffered enough from damage to the character of Hampstead as it is, without having to live with a development free-for-all. We must retain controls on work affecting the fragile character and architecture of our historic towns and cities, and particularly, of course, of our beloved Hampstead.

We believe we have something relevant to say about this, from our local experience. We have therefore put forward what we see as a reasoned range of objections to those parts of the White Paper which would cause the most damage. We have said that, however uninterested the Government may be in urban (and rural) character, it should at least exclude Conservation Areas in our cities and towns, which contain the best of our historic national heritage.

We have also said that, since the motivation for much of the White Paper's policies is saving money, there are many millions of pounds to be gained by making the fees that applicants pay to make applications calculable on an economic basis. The asset value of any Planning permission is great, with property values as they are, and enormous in the case of large applications such as the Kings Cross redevelopments. At present application fees are derisory, effectively providing a free service. This is unsustainable.

We have been told that our proposals are very similar to those made by Camden Council, so we have some friends. We will just have to wait and see what Government, in its infinite wisdom, decides.

Basements

It is clear that there is widespread concern in Hampstead and surrounding areas over the number of Planning applications involving subterranean excavations; we hear this from many of you.

For the record, during the past 12 months, there have been no fewer than 54 such applications in the Hampstead and Belsize Park areas. Some of these have been very extensive in size and depth, including several multi-level proposals, more than one even extending three floor levels below ground. Many extend under garden areas,

Town Report (cont)

thus sterilising them permanently from the planting of more than grass and small shrubs.

The short-term and long-term effects of these can be serious, causing damage to buildings, ground water, subsoil, trees and the green environment generally. We are especially worried about tree damage, extending over areas distant from the actual excavations.

This is apart from the truly dreadful effects of such excavation work on neighbours, which far exceed in noise, vibration, obstruction, dust, mud, traffic chaos and general nuisance what we have to put up with from ordinary building work.

Most of the proposals are not intended to provide useful habitable rooms, but swimming pools, gymnasia, entertainment centres and offices; most need airconditioning, involving plant rooms and the generation of carbon pollutants

Many of these applications have received permission from our Planners, who seem to have an “out of sight, out of mind” attitude, and are unconcerned about neighbour nuisance.

We have therefore prepared a paper detailing the nuisance and potential damage such excavations can cause, and drawing their attention to policies adopted by at least one other London borough (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) which recognise and deal with the problem effectively. What they can do, we can do, with the political will.

We have received a response from Camden, accepting our proposal to talk to them. We will put the case as strongly as we can.

School Run Traffic

The long-drawn-out process of Camden's Review of their policies to counter or alleviate

the intolerable effects of school run traffic has at last ended, concluding that the existing system of issuing special short-term parking permits to school run drivers should continue. The number of permits issued, on whose say-so, the actual format of the permits, and a number of other issues, have been revised.

It could be said that no-one has won this increasingly bitter and unrelenting war, between the largely uncooperative schools and their militant car-driving parents and carers, and us, who live here and have to tolerate this gigantic cuckoo in our nest. It is probably unwinnable.

We are increasingly unhappy about the fairness and even-handedness, even the legality, of giving privileges to one section of the community (many of whom do not live here) denied to others. Why should school run drivers have priority over hospital visitors, those caring for the elderly—or, indeed, shoppers or restaurant users, vital to the economy of our town centre? Whilst there are 32 schools in our tiny area of London, this question is unlikely to be answered honestly. One thing is certain: this show will run, and run.

Other things

Your Committee has continued to work on the monitoring and response to Hampstead Planning applications, to attend liaison meetings with bodies such as the Royal Free Hospital and the Police, and to attend to many other matters of concern.

Our Tree Group has been dogged in trying to protect our public and private trees from damage and destruction. We have won some skirmishes, lost some. We have been mortified to lose yet another big tree in Fitzjohn's Avenue, thought by neighbours to be probably to damage caused by bad lopping; we could only sweep up the

remains of this, it went so quickly. But Camden's tree officers are now in no doubt that we are passionate in defence of our "green canopy", and we hope that this will bear fruit in due course.

The first stage of our repair and refurbishment of the oval black Hampstead plaques, commemorating famous ex-residents, is now complete. Several more need work done on them; this work is now in hand.

Updates on two on-going planning issues

by Martin Humphery

Athlone House

Members will remember that negotiations have been going on over the last ten years about the future of this extraordinarily important site, which commands views over and from the Northern end of the Heath. The Society is represented on the Athlone House Working Group by Jeremy Wright and myself and also includes representatives of the Highgate Society and the Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

Planning permission was finally granted last year for a scheme including new apartment blocks and the retention and renovation of Athlone House itself, a red brick Victorian Gothic pile which has been a landmark on the Heath for some 100 years and fits snugly into its site. Its tower is a familiar and well loved-

feature familiar to all Heath walkers. This scheme was only finalised after lengthy discussions between Camden, the developers and the Working Group and we were satisfied with the outcome and proud of our contribution towards achieving it,

Recently, Athlone House has changed hands and the new owners propose to demolish the whole house and replace it with a very

large house in a neo-classical style complete with a tower and subsidiary buildings to house staff and guests.

So what we thought was all done and dusted has now assumed a very different aspect and we must start all over again! We have already had meetings with the developers and with Camden. We expect a formal planning application in early Autumn. It is too early to predict an outcome but – watch this space!

The Garden House

As we go to press we have heard that the Appeal Court has given permission to the owners to appeal the decision we won in the High Court. We are consulting our legal team, but, at this stage, it seems likely that we will be obliged to call on the kind people who pledged financial support. We will keep members informed.



*The
original
Athlone
House

(from an
old print,
Camden
Local
Studies
archives)*

Tree watch: Fitzjohn's Avenue

by Vicki Harding

Vicki has taken over from Bruce Kohler, who set up the Tree Policy Group, as the Heath & Hampstead Society's new Voluntary Tree Officer.

We have been contacted by several Members dismayed at the loss of yet another mature tree in Fitzjohn's Avenue. The tree had split down the middle and was leaning dangerously. Its emergency removal by Camden contractors at the end of July was the unfortunate end to a series of events.

This particular plane had been growing with a forked trunk, and Camden's Principal Arboriculture Officer and Corporate Services Manager of Parks and Open Spaces, Al Smith, reports there were serious concerns about its viability last year, including the possibility that the problem might be 'included bark' (see next page).

Camden had 2 options to try to save the tree: either reduce the weight of the canopies by severe regular crown reduction; or cut down one of the forks which might encourage the remaining fork to adjust to the new forces within the tree as the only trunk. The hope would be that it would be less susceptible to damage from

The damaged tree



gales. Neither option would enable the tree to grow up as one of the big majestic planes. Its form meant this would never happen.

Camden decided to go for the option of taking away one of

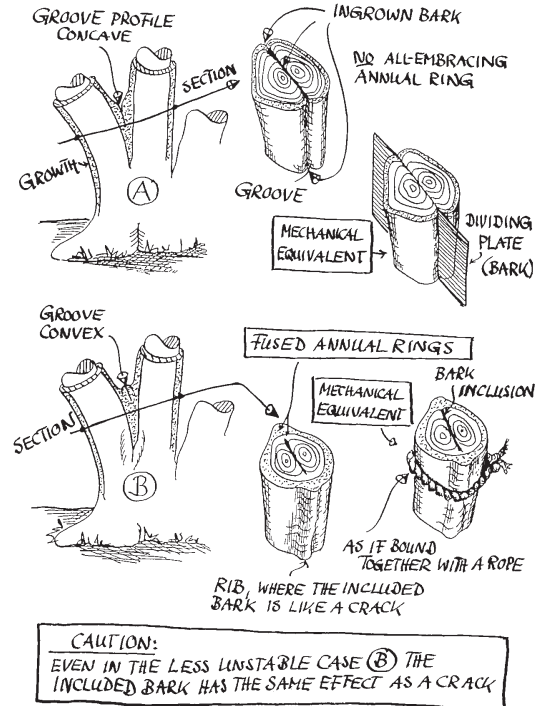


Diagram from Mattheck and Breloer [*The Body Language of Trees*] showing separate but touching stems, and stems covered with fused annual rings, characteristic of included bark

the forks. Unfortunately it transpired that there was included bark and that the tree had probably already been partly split inside. The high wind that day in July merely escalated the problem to the degree that the tree seriously split apart and it had to be taken down immediately.

Farokh Khorrooshi, who leads a group of neighbours in keeping an eye on this splendid avenue of trees and raising funds to replace them when they are taken down, described it as a "4th generation" tree. He has researched the history of the trees and has some interesting ideas for the future of Fitzjohn's Avenue.

I have met with Farokh and with Jo Konrad who is a member of the Tree Policy Group, and Gordon Maclean, and we are in the process of putting together a strategy document for Trees for the Society. This will be looking at various tree concerns, an important one of which is the Hampstead plane tree avenues.

There are many residents associations and individuals who care about Hampstead trees. I hope that eventually local people with an interest in their trees will take on a tree warden role for their area. They would help by surveying the trees they felt were significant for their area - both public and private – and then keeping an eye on them. By working together with us, local people could then encourage and support Camden's tree officers in making sure that planning applications for work on buildings, gardens or trees don't spoil the beautiful treescapes of Hampstead's roads.

Although this plane tree could not be saved, Farokh has requested that Fitzjohn's Avenue be a pilot for the new plans. The concern generated by this incident will hopefully help the Society improve acknowledgment, monitoring, protection and an increase of our trees.

Camden have promised that they will be replacing the lost tree in the late autumn with a plane.

Please keep Vicki informed about all local tree matters, whether good or bad so that she can follow up any problems.



Fitzjohn's Avenue at the turn of the century with its newly planted trees

Included bark

Our Veteran Tree expert, Jeremy Wright reports

There is a tendency, partly of genetic origin, for some plane tree trunks to suffer from a condition called 'included bark', described in Lonsdale's ***Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management***, as a weak junction caused by the stems on a young tree growing together in an acutely angled crotch causing the bark of the stems to touch at the crotch end for a distance. As the tree grows its annual rings progressively wrap right round the touching stems and bind them together, concealing that the stems are incompletely united. These weak junctions can suddenly split apart.

London Plane is generally one of the least failure-prone of broadleaved trees but there is at least one commonly propagated hybrid form which is prone to this condition on reaching semi-maturity. It could be that years ago an inappropriate cultivar was planted. It is clear that they need to check nursery stock very carefully to ensure that we don't get the wrong London Plane cultivar when replacements are selected.

Brian Seddon: an appreciation

By Jeremy Wright



Brian Seddon's death this June is a great loss to his family and friends, and to the Heath and Hampstead Society. Brian loved the Heath and walked there and at Kenwood almost daily over forty years. It was quite natural that he should wish to be an advocate for it. He was elected to the General Committee in 1989 and became chairman of the Heath Sub-Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Society from 1991 to 1997. He was the Society's

representative on the City of London's Heath Management Committee from 1992 to 1998. His knowledge was prodigious and his contribution to the Society and the Heath was immense.

Brian was a delightful person, gentle and modest, soft-spoken, kind and considerate with an engaging twinkle and a charming, slightly hesitant chuckle. He was loyal and true to his friends and colleagues and to the Society. When I followed him as Society representative on the Heath Management Committee, a member took me aside at my first meeting and told me that he had been a much valued member of the Committee, and was a very fine man and a gentleman - a view shared by many. "He will be a very hard act to follow", I was told!

Well organized, and diplomatic, his intelligence, patience, and tact made him an ideal chairman of the Heath Sub-Committee and representative of the Society. As an extremely conscientious and hard working chairman he gave much time to the Society. He regularly led walks on the Heath, and produced excellent sketch maps of areas of concern which greatly helped our discussions with the City staff.

His meticulous attention to detail, and calm common-sense approach, cemented our excellent relationships with both the City and English Heritage and were crucial to the Society's ability to influence their decisions concerning the Heath and Kenwood.

He made an invaluable contribution to the various consultation documents on the future management of the Heath and Kenwood. At the City's request he produced an excellent document containing guidance from him and from Society colleagues on what was important about the Heath, and what should go into the plan. This formed the basis for the Society's 'mission statement', updated and republished as the *Heath Vision*. It was a key source document for the City's emergent Management Plan into which its principles have been incorporated.

He enticed me on to the Heath Sub-Committee over a relaxed tea in the garden at Kenwood and was a constant source of advice and support when I took over from him as Sub-Committee chairman. We were both civil engineers but I was brought up in the more forceful regime of construction. When I drafted letters that were perhaps unduly direct, I much valued being able to pass them first to Brian, who invariably suggested more gentle ways of presenting them. It was at his suggestion that we carried out an initial survey of some veteran trees which led to a detailed survey of all the Heath's veteran trees.

Brian and Sheila were wonderful hosts at their home in Lawn Road, where Brian gained immense pleasure from his garden. They hosted many parties, to thank Heath staff or 'end of term' parties for the Sub-Committee. He earned our respect and loyalty, and when he retired, the Sub-Committee entertained him and Sheila to lunch in gratitude. We owe him much and shall miss him greatly.

Margaret Little – a life of dedicated service

by Helen Marcus

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of Margaret Little, who died peacefully in her sleep in July, aged 78 after a prolonged battle with cancer. She will be gratefully and affectionately remembered for her dedicated service as representative for Hampstead Town ward on Camden Council for 12 years.

Born Margaret Eberlie in Luton, Bedfordshire, in 1929, her father was a country doctor. She moved to London shortly after the war to find work and settled in Hampstead in 1947. She first worked as an advertising executive and then as a journalist on women's magazines. After marriage to city banker, Roger Little, in 1950, she settled down to the life of a full-time mother, having four children over the next 14 years.

In 1966 Margaret enrolled at the University of London to read history, and went on to qualify as a history teacher. Education became her great love and marked the beginning of her vocation as a public servant. After many years as a teacher, first at a school in Paddington and then moving to Highbury Hill High School, she turned to helping young people, working to develop schemes to get them into trades and work. She advised and brought businesses and schools together and her ideas were taken up by the Inner London Education Authority.

Described by her son Robin as 'not a particularly political person', it was her strong sense of civic duty and public service that prompted her to stand as a Liberal Democrat councillor for Hampstead in 1994. One of the most popular local councillors ever, respected by colleagues from all party-political shades, she was re-elected for three terms.

She was a tremendously social person – she loved a good party and gave frequent parties at home.

Her unique qualities enabled her to get on with everybody, always putting the interests of the people of Hampstead and Camden first. She also gave unstintingly of her time to work for charities, sitting on the committee of the Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust, among others.



Her great interest in history and culture took her around the world. She celebrated her 70th birthday among the peaks of the Himalayas; spent time in China, and went to South America on a trekking holiday in her mid-70s. She was a frequent visitor to the Verbier Music Festival, combining this with walking holidays in the Swiss Alps. She loved Hampstead and served it selflessly. She was a regular walker on the Heath, and a familiar face in Hampstead village.

Diagnosed with cancer three years ago, she decided to stand down from the Council in 2006, when frequent trips to hospital for treatment became necessary. Society committee members will cherish the memory of a special lunch to honour and thank her that summer.

Her grace, fortitude, undimmed humour and indomitable spirit through a long period of suffering were remarkable. It was these same qualities that made her such a superb local Councillor and friend. Her sparkling personality, ever ready with help, sympathy and good advice, will be sorely missed by us all.

Centenaries: Hampstead Garden Suburb

by David Lewis

How many of you Hampstead people really know much about Hampstead Garden Suburb, just up the road and across the Heath? I certainly didn't during the 23 years I lived in Downshire Hill. Indeed I can't remember ever visiting it or knowing anyone in my adult life who lived there. Whitestone Pond might well have been Check Point Charlie at the Berlin Wall.

If you read the Ham & High regularly, maybe you've noticed that there is something going on here this year: The Suburb celebrates its 100th anniversary. I use capitalisation advisedly: has



www.hgs.org.uk/centenary

anyone heard of any other suburb which actually has the name Suburb in its title?

Hampstead Garden Suburb isn't special just for the accident of its name. It is special

because most of the people who live here reckon it is the closest thing to an urban utopia anywhere in London, if not the world. This may seem an exaggerated claim, and I must declare my interest as chairman of the Residents Association, but I can assure you that the tranquil beauty you will find in many parts of the Suburb can be breathtaking. What's more we have a thriving community, more akin to a country village than an area of 5,200 households with a population exceeding many small towns

I won't waste your time explaining why things are so good here – you need to come and take a look for yourself. If you know someone who lives here ask them to take you for a tour; if you don't, join one of the guided walks organised by the Heath & Hampstead Society, the National Trust, the Proms at St Jude's, the North London Hospice or the Residents Association. I hope to put a complete list for the rest of the year on the Suburb Centenary web site by the time you read this.

Don't even think of making your tour by car – you will undoubtedly get lost. You may also feel a little intimidated – unfortunately some of our residents can be a little impatient, especially when they can't squeeze their BMWs or 4 x 4 s between parked cars on both sides of the roads and little Will is late for a birthday party. Nor can you appreciate the beauty at speed.

While I have no idea why Suburb is part of our name, I reckon that Hampstead is part of it because it was Hampstead people who inspired Hampstead Garden Suburb, rather than the fact that you are just down the road.

Hampstead Garden Suburb is the result of one woman's vision to put into practice the ideals of every Hampstead liberal - to help people worse off than themselves.

Artisans quarter today





Dame Henrietta Barnett

Henrietta Barnett was only different in that she decided to help out on her own doorstep. In those days she didn't even have the vote.

After 20 years working amongst the poor and deprived in the East End of London, with a

country cottage in Hampstead for weekends, she determined that her utopian vision would be an area where people of all classes can live together. She also reckoned that she might be able to subsidise the smaller houses by charging the richer people significantly more for their plots.

The idea of people of different classes living together being something new may strike you as strange. After all in Hampstead there are Council estates and housing association properties dotted about all over the place, cheek by jowl with private housing. Not so in 1907. The only way you were likely to be living near someone working class or indeed lower middle class at that time would be your servants. The likes of builders, shop assistants, clerks, train drivers and the unemployed would be somewhere else, usually to the East.

The planning and building of the Suburb was the genius of architect and town planner Raymond Unwin. Unfairly the credit is often attributed to Edmund Lutyens who was undoubtedly brought in for his celebrity status at the time and whose main lasting contribution is the distinctive St Jude's parish church, named for its namesake in the East End.

Well what about Hampstead Garden Suburb today? One of the traditions we have here is to perform Pageants; the first was performed in 1910. The Garden Suburb Theatre is still at it. The Pageant performed this year to packed houses at the Little Wood Open Air Theatre described the history of the Suburb and brought back the ghost of Henrietta Barnett to make her judgement on how we are doing. Her conclusion was: "It'll do." Actually I think we are doing a lot better than that but there is no harm in modesty.

Right: The first two cottages today



Below: An early view of the Suburb



Hampstead Garden Suburb (cont)

Now I come to the third word in our name: Garden. That was an integral part of the original concept. Before the Suburbs came about, few houses in towns actually had gardens. Every house in the Suburb has its own garden – surprisingly large by urban standards either before or afterwards. Two and three bedroom cottages with gardens 100 ft long are the rule, not the exception. There are blocks of flats here too - about 1,500 of the dwellings are flats; some look like houses and a few are larger scale and these too have large communal gardens. The Horticultural Society, still going strong after 100 years, attracted 400 visitors to its open gardens day in May.

Public open spaces abound, not least the Hampstead Heath Extension which is surrounded by the Suburb, Lyttelton Playing Fields, Northway Gardens, Big Wood, Little Wood and Willifield Green, designed like a traditional village green and adjoining one of the local primary schools. There are allotments, tennis courts and footpaths, called twittens, hidden all over the place.

Our Centenary Celebrations started on 2 May with residents Donald Sinden, Jonathan Ross and our MP Rudi Vis. On 17 June we attracted over 1,500 people to our Big Birthday Party and Picnic in Central Square with residents Robert Winston, Martin Bell and Claudia Roden participating. We have been visited by the Duke of Gloucester, the Chief Rabbi and the Bishop of Edmonton. More will happen in the Autumn.

In an enthusiastic message of support, former resident Elizabeth Taylor wrote: “The happiest days of my youth were when my brother and I would run through the woods...It was heaven for this child and her brother.” I’m happy to report that not much has changed.

St. Jude-on-the-Hill



The Garden Suburb Dairy

Three Centenaries

by Carol Seigel, Curator of Hampstead Museum

In 2007 a number of significant centenaries take place in Hampstead.

Hampstead Station

A hundred years ago London's transport system was being revolutionised, with the changeover from horse-drawn to motorised transport and the development of electrified underground trains. Hampstead became part of this radical change in



1907 with the opening of Hampstead Underground Station.

The Hampstead Tube Company was set up in 1893, with a plan to build a tube railway from Charing Cross to Heath Street. But no funding was found until American businessman Charles Tyson Yerkes bought the Hampstead Tube Company in 1900 for £100,000. Yerkes also saw the advantage of extending the line to Golders Green, which was then in open country and ripe for property development. Tunnelling on the Hampstead line started in September 1903

and finished in December 1905. The deepest point on the line is just north of Hampstead Station, where the rail level is 250 feet below the surface. Hampstead Station is the deepest station in the whole Underground network.

On June 22 1907 the whole of the new line from Charing Cross to Golders Green, and including Hampstead Station, was formally opened by David Lloyd George, then President of the Board of Trade. A ceremonial lunch was served in one of the railway sheds at the Golders Green depot, which the Hampstead Advertiser reported 'had been transformed into a flower decked hall gay with flags'. For the rest of the day the railway was open to the public free of charge, and 127,500 people travelled on the new line, apparently with great excitement.

University College School

A month after the opening of the tube line, there was further excitement in Hampstead at its first royal visit for many years. On 26 July King



The royal opening of UCS in 1907

Centenaries (cont)

Edward VII and Queen Alexandra and their daughter Princess Victoria performed the opening ceremony at University College School in Frognal, newly relocated from Gower Street. The royal party was greeted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and other dignitaries, escorted into the main hall where the king made a speech and declared the school open. There were celebrations all over Hampstead to mark the occasion.

University College School had been founded in 1830 as a feeder for the new University College, and with the same principles of education for all, regardless of religion. By the late nineteenth

century the need to find new premises outside central London had become acute, and in 1891 the Junior Branch moved to its present location in Holly Hill. A site for the senior school was bought in Frognal, and the new buildings designed by the architect Arnold Mitchell. Despite recent redevelopment, Mitchell's buildings still form the core of the Frognal site.

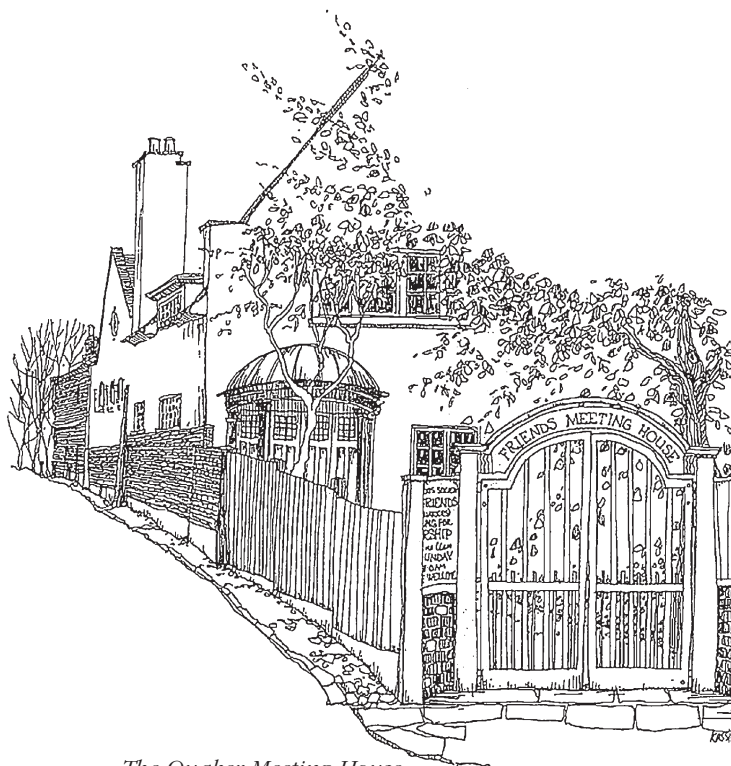
Quaker Meeting House

Another centenary of note this year is of the opening of the Quaker Meeting House in Heath Street, which provided the growing local Quaker community with a permanent home. Quakers had been meeting in Hampstead since 1898, first in the Vale of Health, and then at the YMCA in Willoughby Road.

The Quakers bought the site for £1000 in 1906, demolished Stamford House where Constable had once lived (the Heath & Hampstead Society would certainly not allow this today!) and the new Arts & Crafts Freestyle building, designed by Fred Rowntree, opened in November 1907. There were three opening ceremonies – one for local dignitaries and other churches, one for local Quakers, and one for the workmen and their wives, for whom a meat tea was provided. The House and its gateway are now listed, and it is still home to the Quakers' weekly gathering.

Hampstead Centenaries Exhibition at Hampstead Museum, Burgh House

The three centenaries outlined here are indicative of the changes and social development that took place in Edwardian Hampstead. Further information can be found in the current exhibition Hampstead Centenaries at Hampstead Museum, which runs until 30 September.



*The Quaker Meeting House
drawing by Kassie Fass from the Society's archives*

Bulletin Board

Letter and poem from member, Mrs Magda Jackson

Thankyou for the Newsletter; as always it is a joy to read!

Unfortunately, I live in far-away Wembley, and being also rather elderly, I cannot attend many of the events organised by the Society.

However, your Newsletter keeps me up to date with what is happening on the Heath. I am very fond of the place having spent many happy hours there in summertime over the years, and also because my husband proposed to me there (or was it the other way round- it was such a long time ago!)

Perhaps you would enjoy the enclosed poem. I wrote it last Spring in Golders Hill Park. (If you turn sharp right at the Cafe you come first to a duck pond, then a paved walled garden and an ornamental pond, and behind there is a sort of rock garden where this rock is right in front of a bench). Strangely enough, when I returned some months later sadly, the face was no longer there!

The Rock On Hampstead Heath

Chiselled, ridged, knife-edge sharp,
pummelled, dimpled, rounded, ribbed:
you are all of those,
integrating the stoneness of stone and the shapes
that rightly belong to the yielding waters of the Sea.
Sun, and the winds and rains of Ages
shaped you, marked you, marbled you
with the palest of creams,
the downy green of young leaves,
the sombre tones of dark Earth.
In your stillness, you are supremely alive.
And then I see it, the face, delicately traced,
a face beyond age, a face beyond gender,
eyes cast down and inward.
Was it this face all along
which drew me to you,
helped me to be still and focused?

Magda Jackson



Calling all dogs!

Sunday October 7th 2.00pm

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 on how to be impeccably well-mannered, obey simple commands, not frighten ducks or swans, or leave messy litter behind you. No unaccompanied dogs

Bulletin Board (cont)

St Stephen's Restoration And Preservation Trust

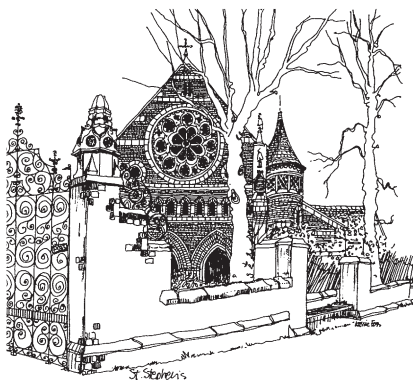
Great progress being made at St Stephen's

Phase 2 of the major repairs and restoration works have started, as those who pass St Stephen's will have noticed. Work is due to be completed in August 2008 and will include repairs to the damaged gate piers.

This second £3.5 million contract, is funded by a grant of £2.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, supported by £400,000 from the Wolfson Foundation and match-funding of nearly £0.5 million raised from the generosity of local people. Phase 1 (£1 million) was funded by £400,000 from English Heritage and public donations. Without this practical support from the local community, to all of whom the trustees owe a deep debt of gratitude, this project would not have got off the ground.

Much work will remain after Phase 2 is completed: cleaning and stonework repairs to the exterior, the boundary walls and the tower,

and a host of other tasks. Therefore the Trust is still actively fund-raising and the trustees invite those who have not yet donated to associate themselves with this great project, and become part of the great family of donors who have shown goodwill.



Phase 2 completion will make the building operational enabling the Trust to open it to the public. The lower ground floor will provide commercial income and the main body of St Stephen's will be opened for

plays, concerts, recitals, exhibitions, conferences, wedding receptions and other social events.

Please help the Trust to give St Stephen's back to 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

Free Public Lecture Series, Autumn 2007

***Birkbeck,
University of London,
in conjunction with the
Ecology and Conservation Studies Society***

Friday evenings,

12th October to 16th November 2007

18.00 for 18.30

Booking and venue details

contact: tel: 020 7679 1069

e-mail: environment@fce.bbk.ac.uk



British Wildlife and Climate Change: What is happening? Can we do anything?

Climate change is causing a significant and increasing impact on UK wildlife. What new species will arrive in Britain and what will be the consequences for conservation and management?

This lecture series of six free public lectures by national experts will inform that debate. They will discuss and examine the way that climate change is currently impacting on British plants and animals, and on terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

Music in Hampstead

The New Professionals Orchestra

2007-2008 Hampstead Concert Season

Opening concert

Friday 28th September

7.30 pm,

Hampstead Parish Church

programme includes

Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony

Elgar's Cello Concerto

with Gemma Rosefield

The New Professionals Orchestra was formed to provide performing opportunities for outstanding musicians at the start of their careers. It began giving concerts in Hampstead two years ago at the suggestion of Hampstead resident Jenny Macdonald-Hay.

Further concerts this season will take place at Hampstead Parish Church and University College School on:

Thursday 15 November 2007

Thursday 21 February 2008

Saturday 7 June 2008

Tickets, £15 & £12, available at the door
For more information or to book in advance call: 020 8202 9289



The Friends of Burgh House

present two fund raising
evenings with



Musica Petropolitana

the leading early music quartet from St.
Petersburg, in a rare London appearance

Burgh House

October 17 & 18 2007

at 7.30

Tickets £20

to include canapes & wine

from: 020 7435 1034 or 020 8455 5764

Support the Friends of Burgh House

The Friends has been actively relaunched following the refurbishment of the house.

For more information about the Friends please contact the Chair of the Friends on 7435 8460, or phone Burgh House

Information about

Burgh House

***Museum, Buttery, Bookstall and
Friends of Burgh House,***

can be obtained from

Burgh House, New End Square NW3

Tel: 7431 0144

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

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. **For further information** contact the walks organiser, Thomas Radice, on 020 8455 1025 (mobile: 07941 528 034) or email: thomas@radice.clara.co.uk.

2007

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



2008

3 February 2008 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Ecology of the Heath led by Dr Meg Game, Ecologist for Hampstead Heath

2 March 2.30pm (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

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

12th Annual Springett Lecture

Thursday 25 October Burgh House 8.00pm

Dr Dave Leech

Head of the Nest Record Scheme at the British Trust for Ornithology and deeply involved with studies on the impact of climate change on birds, will talk on

Birds and Climate Change

Doors open at 7.30 for a glass of wine

Non-members welcome



The Pied Flycatcher