

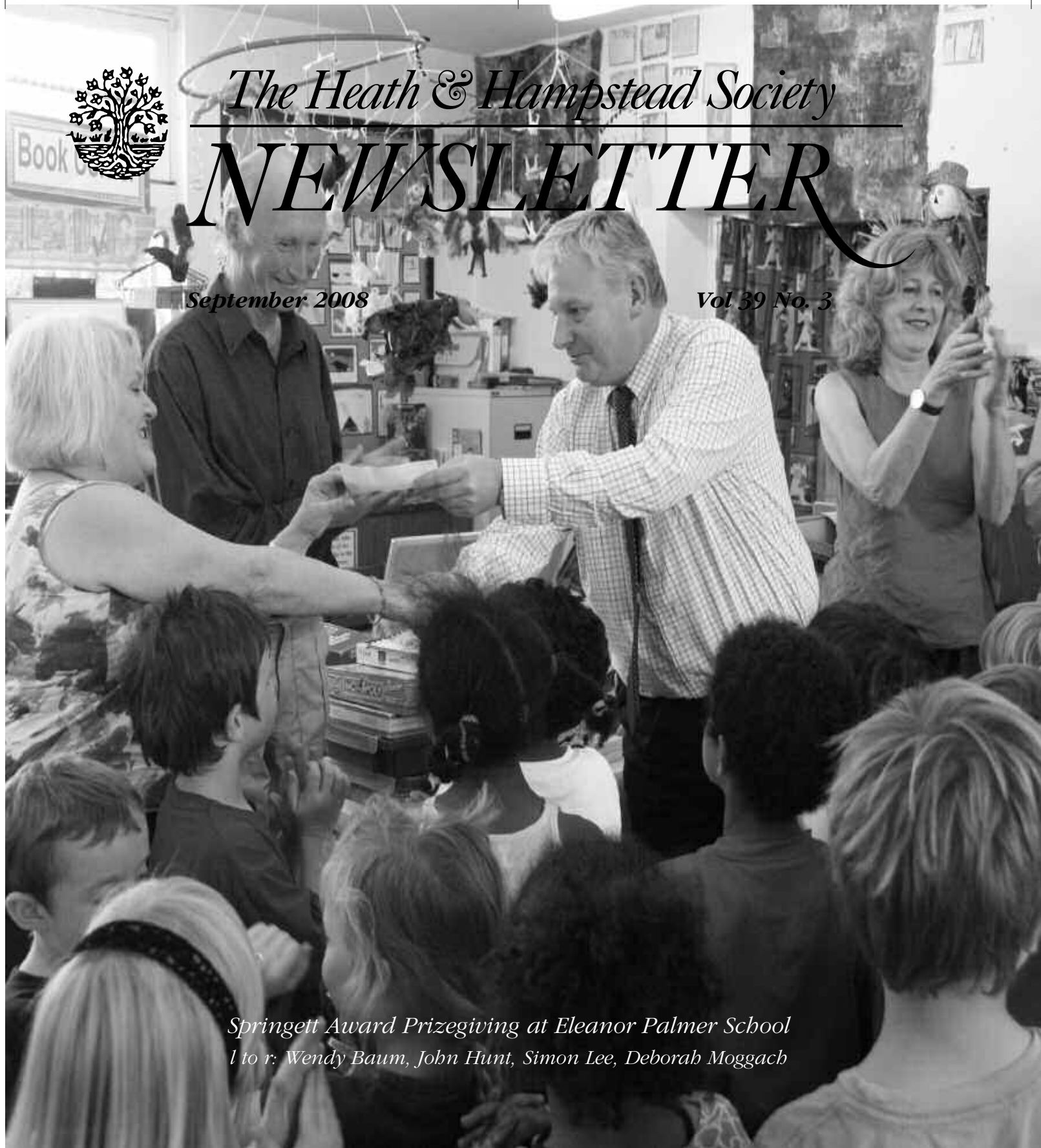


The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

September 2008

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*Springett Award Prizegiving at Eleanor Palmer School
l to r: Wendy Baum, John Hunt, Simon Lee, Deborah Moggach*

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Front cover: *Wendy Baum of Eleanor Palmer School receiving the Springett Award from Simon Lee, Heath Superintendent, with Society committee members John Hunt and Deborah Moggach*



Chairman's Report

by *Tony Hillier*

AGM

The AGM in the Rosslyn Hill Chapel on 24 June was well attended and once again I should like to thank Janine Griffis and her family for organising and managing the event with such smooth aplomb. Our President began by reminding us to be proud that the Society's successful defence at the Court of Appeal of the judgement we had won in the High Court, to prevent the Garden House development going ahead, had made it to the 18 June edition of The All England Law Reports. Carnwarth LJ concluded that "the council misunderstood and misapplied MOL policy": it is gratifying to know that the enormous effort that Martin Humphery and his team of advisors put in to this case has set an important national precedent.

I am also delighted to report that nearly all our costs have now been settled by the losing developers and Camden and it will not be necessary to ask for any contributions from all of you who have so generously pledged your support.

Deborah Moggach was our guest of honour. She delighted us with her own and her grandmother's reminiscences of Hampstead. She took the principle we all hold so dear, that the Heath is *rus in urbe*, a stage further by concluding that the countryside has become so dominated by tractors including the Chelsea variety that the Heath is nowadays actually more relaxing than much of the countryside.

Retirement of John Smithard

We paid affectionate tribute to our retiring Honorary Treasurer, John Smithard, who has done so much for the Society since taking office in 1992, and were pleased to express our appreciation with a case of fine claret.

Chairman's report (cont)

Other Business

I am not quite sure whether it is a sign that we are doing our job of keeping an eye on local issues well or badly, but there are no great dramas for me to report on this time. The work of our committees goes on quietly, tirelessly and it would appear effectively.

We particularly commend to you the offer, advertised here, from the Ham & High, which we are pleased to have secured for members.

The Town Committee, as you will read later, has taken a considerable burden from what was the combined Planning and Town Committees. This has enabled us to move more into aspects of promoting a wider appreciation of local history, which is one of our three charitable objects. You will also, I am sure, read with huge satisfaction Juliette Sonabend's article about the progress she and others have made in planning for an upgrade to the whole layout and setting of Whitestone Pond. Many people have worked on this for years and in particular I should like to remind members of David Christie's past work on this. This project is now nearer to realisation.

Changes at the City

I should like to congratulate Bob Hall on his re-election as Chairman of the Heath Management Committee and to welcome Michael Welbank, a long-standing former member of our General Committee, as Deputy Chairman. We are indeed fortunate to have them, together with the Heath Superintendent Simon Lee, to work with as we strive to realise our vision of the Heath, all in the context of an unusually thorough and professional series of public consultations.

Parliament Hill Triangle

The Heath Committee is responding to the City of London's consultation on changes to the

Parliament Hill Triangle. In the main we have supported the proposals put forward.

Fitzroy Farm and Athlone House

After a great deal of recent behind-the-scenes meetings, letters and discussions with Camden, the City and our friends and colleagues in Highgate, the Heath and Planning Committees are waiting to see the next set of proposals for the development of Fitzroy Farm and Athlone House.

Society events: Seen from the Street; the Springett Award

Finally I should like to thank two committee members for their work on behalf of the Society. John Hunt has worked hard to set up a new partnership with the RSPB and the City which is huge step forward for the Springett Award. He reports on page 5.

And Christine Winterburgh and her panel of judges for again taking on the hard work of looking at all the front gardens of NW3 and choosing eight deserving winners. We are most grateful to Capital Gardens who have again most generously donated the prizes of eight £50 Capital Gardens vouchers. Christine reports on page 4.

Christmas Party

Save the date

for the Heath & Hampstead Society

Annual Christmas Party

Thursday, 18 December

Hampstead Town Hall

7 to 9 pm

Festive music, food and drink.

Please save the date in your diary - invitations will be posted in November.

Welcome to the Committee

by John Weston

who dispels some myths and encourages you to get involved

So you've been made up.

You've kissed the ring; you've been accepted on to a committee of the Heath and Hampstead Society.

How did you manage it, people ask?

Did you foot the bill for their Christmas party?

Did you pay to have the grass trimmed on Hampstead Heath?

It certainly makes a good story.... but the truth is quite different

Plans, Charades and Shenanigans

Joining one of the Society's Sub-Committees couldn't be easier. Providing you have a genuine interest in the committee's purpose – it's mainly a matter of turning up! Just phone the Chairman and tell him you'd like to join. You will be welcomed with open arms.

I joined the Planning Sub-Committee a couple of years ago. It meets at 8pm, once a month, at the home of one of its members. (A good chance to take a sneak peek into some lovely local homes!)

Our Chairman and Tree Officer share their views on the latest plans, charades and shenanigans of our local developers: we then debate them and send our committee's comments to Camden's Planning Department.

And with 1800 members behind us, our views demand to be heard.

Townies and Heathies

I joined the Planning Committee because I wanted to try and do something to help preserve the wonderful and varied architecture of Hampstead, to promote good new architecture where possible, and to protect Hampstead's many fine mature trees.

Your area of interest might be different. You might prefer to join the Town Committee, presently engaged, among other things, in promoting a new scheme to improve Whitestone Pond; restoring historic street signs; considering which former residents might next be commemorated on our plaques; defending the local police station and supporting local business.

Or perhaps you might have expertise to bring to the Heath Committee, which deals with one of the primary aims of the Society:

To preserve the wild and natural state of the Heath

We also have a web committee that looks after our award-winning website.

The serious business of the sub-committees is helped along with liquid refreshment and local gossip, and it is also an opportunity to meet your neighbours and make new friends.

A new social events committee

The Society is also looking for anyone who'd like to pull a sub-committee together to organize our social events: Christmases Party, New Members Party etc.

The newsletter

And if there is anyone out there with Mac desk-top publishing skills and a few hours to spare three times a year, Helen Marcus would be delighted to hear from you. She's been in charge of the newsletter since 1995 and would be grateful for some back-up, particularly with the technical side.

White Smoke

And of course should you do well on a Sub-Committee you might see the white smoke rising over the roof tops of Heath Street, announcing that you've been invited to join the

continued on page 4

Society News

Ham & High offer

Get your Ham & High for half price - a special offer for Heath & Hampstead Society members

The five main newsagents in the Hampstead area have all agreed to a half price deal on the Ham & High to H&HS members when they show their membership card or confirm their membership numbers.

This is for counter sales bought in the newsagents and is on-going.

The agents are:

Mag One, 66 Roslyn Hill
Village News, 14 Heath Street
Hampstead News, 3 Holly Hill
Heath News, 41 South End Road
Heath News, 1 Elm Terrace

Members may have seen the article about the Society in the Ham & High by our Chairman, Tony Hillier, earlier this summer. The editor will be publishing Society news on a monthly basis

Welcome to the Committee - continued

Lords and Ladies of the General Committee. Now that's where the rolled-up trouser legs and funny handshakes really begin...

I jest.

But membership of the General Committee can wait.

There's plenty to do on the Sub-Committees.

So, if you'd like to get involved do please contact us at

info@heathandhampsteadsociety.org.uk

Seen from the Street

Prizegiving Sunday October 5th, 2pm

Capital Gardens Centre, Alexandra Palace,

Joe Swift

well known from the BBC TV programme
Gardeners' World,
has kindly agreed to present the prizes

There were fewer entries this year but despite that the judges found some very attractive front gardens and window boxes. Fortunately, each year there are different things to delight the eye.

The winners are:-

52 Belsize Avenue
1 Belsize Avenue
1b Denning Road
14 Downshire Hill
34 Willoughby Road
15 Nassington Road
West side of St. Peter's Belsize Square

Highly Commended:

17 Lindfield Gardens
32a Willow Road
Ye Olde White Bear Pub, New End
Members of the Society will be most welcome to attend the prize-giving



The Springett Award 2008

by John Hunt

The Springett Award was set up some years ago with the fund left by the late Kate Springett, the well known and much loved Bird Recorder for Hampstead Heath. Her wish was to encourage the appreciation of bird life on Hampstead Heath, and the award has been targeted towards local schoolchildren.

This year has seen a remarkable advance in its distribution and organisation, drawing in the City and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), in a collaboration with the Society.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has given a grant to the RSPB for a three year education project which will fund RSPB Field Teachers on the Heath from spring to autumn to teach and advise local primary schools about the Heath wildlife, including birds, using such invaluable Heath resources as the Secret Garden and the Wildlife Garden. Sam Crosby of the City and Carolyn Maxwell of the RSPB have been spearheading the initiative.

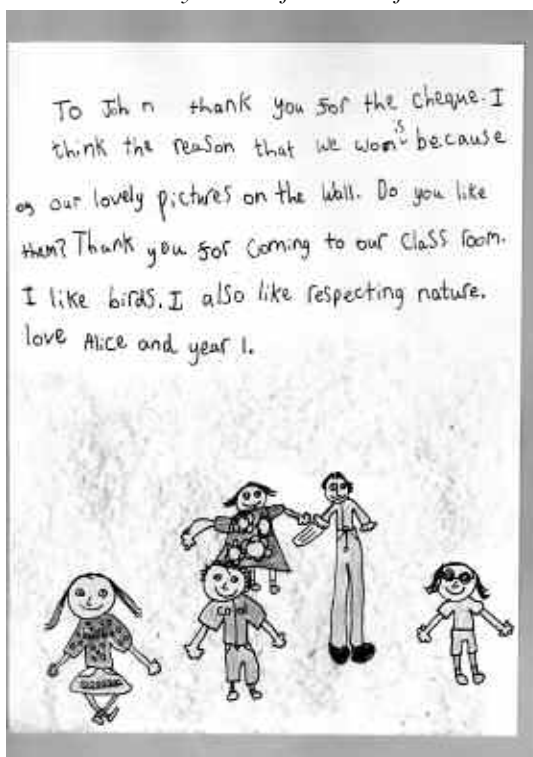
The partnership with RSPB and City has worked extremely well and the Field Teachers chose a very enthusiastic and creative school to receive the 2008 award. The Eleanor Palmer School in Camden is the first recipient under this new scheme for the award and it was the love of learning about the natural world as represented on the Heath (the school had made four trips to the Heath) and the pictures and other creative works which Year 1 had produced, that convinced the judges that they deserved the prize.

A cheque for £500, funded by the Society, was presented to the School by Heath Superintendent, Simon Lee - pictured on our front cover - and a tour of the school led by the pupils themselves was enjoyed by members of the Society's Heath sub-committee. The head teacher, Kate Frod, and the inspirational teacher in charge of the

pupils, Wendy Baum, will talk to the children about how they would like to spend the £500 and will consider bird books, binoculars and bird feeders for the school. Wendy Baum has taught at the school for over thirty years and her work has been recognised by the award of an MBE.

Future Springett awards will not necessarily be limited to £500 and any individual or school is invited to apply. Criteria for receiving an award include all artistic, literary, creative or other endeavours which show an appreciation or understanding of the bird and wildlife on or relating to the Heath. Schools which are part of the education outreach of the RSPB/City partnership will automatically be entered for the award.

A thankyou card from one of the children



Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

The unusual mix of cool wet and hot dry spells has given us an especially beautiful Heath this year, and very early blackberries. The grasslands are normally cut from mid-August but the growth has been so lush that, coming after last year's wet summer, this year's mowing regime was brought forward with a few areas cut in late June or July.

As you walk around the Heath you will spot more and more examples of where trees have had to be cut back and the limbs left with a 'coronet cut' – a ragged edge to simulate a natural break. Tree management, including the conservation of the veteran trees (and we are fortunate to have so many on the Heath) is another area where the management teams are at the forefront in pioneering work to improve working practice, tree management and the science aspect of tree biology and ecology.

Pond survey

A recent dragonfly survey commissioned by the City has shown that whilst the number of species on the Seven Sisters Ponds (on the Heath Extension) has risen over the past 10 years, the actual number of dragonflies has probably fallen a little, due not to the marsh frogs there but to excessive shading by bank-side trees and shrubs, and to the silting up of some of the ponds.

The situation on the Sandy Heath ponds is more serious as the number of species has halved over the 10 years. This survey was extended into a more general pond survey, involving some of the Conservation Rangers, and came up with a number of recommendations for improving the ponds, including expanding the reedbed in the bird sanctuary so that it can be managed on an 8 year rotation, and replacing the pond rafts on the various ponds with fewer 'floating reedbed' style rafts. You will see these changes as they are implemented.

One of the implemented changes which walkers around the Vale of Heath Pond will have noticed is the repair work done to its western bank where some simple timber steps have been made to help prevent further erosion to the bank, and a flat fishing table made. The repair work to the bank was needed but I think the fishing area would have been better left as a gentle sandy slope into the water rather than being built up into the flat platform. You may also have noticed that there have been fewer cygnets this year – 10 against 15 last year. This is thought to be normal annual fluctuation and not caused by the recent changes to the fishing regulations.

We are not alone in appreciating all the skill and effort which goes into managing the Heath and 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 eleventh consecutive year for the Heath whilst Highgate Wood and Queens Park have received an award in all twelve years since the scheme started, and Highgate Wood was once again awarded a Green Heritage Award.

The Lido restoration

The City is working on a Masterplan for the triangle of land at the southern tip of the Heath, south of Parliament Hill, which will form the framework of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for help in implementation. A number of local groups, including ourselves, have been working with the design team preparing this plan to satisfy four key objectives for the Lottery bid: to complete the next phase of the Lido restoration – improving the surrounding buildings; to improve access and entrances to the area, including separating the pedestrians and vehicles routes; to reduce the municipal feel of this area by restoring a more rural character, and to

provide a new Interpretation Centre to improve understanding of the Heath and its heritage.

It is also hoped to find a way to provide an all-weather floodlit facility for football and other sports in the area, but it is not easy to do this and at the same time restore a more rural character to the area. As the two additional cycle routes requested by the Camden Cycling Campaign which are still being considered are both in this area, the plans for possible upgrading of paths to allow cycling are being considered within the Masterplan and with the design for a new vehicle route.

Kenwood

Over in Kenwood, it was good to see the concerts back. The new concert stage went up very quickly and we were delighted that the speakers were far smaller and less intrusive than we had expected from the artist's impression. Less satisfactory was the effectiveness of the screening around the toilet block, and the stage colour was far paler than expected as no suitable dark green material was available so English Heritage advisors chose the one used as the less garish of the two green colours which could be obtained.

More serious was the problem that English Heritage had to keep non-concert goers outside the South Terrace and Flower Garden area and, after the first concert, they closed the South Terrace from 5pm to all without a concert ticket. We think this was far too early for a 7:30pm concert start and that the area should not be closed off before about 6:30pm. English Heritage claim that the decision was determined by Camden's licensing conditions, and we will be bringing this and our other reservations up at the Camden sponsored meeting to be held between IMG and local residents, including us, after the concert season is over to discuss if any changes are needed for future years.

English Heritage sites are under continuing pressure to reduce operating costs and Kenwood decided to shorten the house opening hours. The new time of 11:30am to 4pm throughout the year is slightly longer than the minimum of four hours a day required by the Iveagh bequest and gives a significant reduction in working hours, especially during the summer which used to have a later close for the house than in winter. The most recent saving is that dog walkers will need to purchase dog bags for their 'responsible scooping' (biodegradable ones will be available from the Garden Shop) as there will be no more free bags after the current stock is used up.

Kate Springett prize

We are delighted that this year the Springett Prize has been incorporated into the City's Hampstead Heath Education programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, in a partnership with the RSPB Living Classrooms scheme. You can read John Hunt's account of the award on page 5. Those of us at the Eleanor Palmer School in Kentish Town for the award were very impressed with the winning class's enthusiasm and love of the birds and other wildlife on the Heath and the range of places they visited.

Springett Lecture

Finally, another plug for this year's Springett Lecture – the 13th in our annual series in memory of Kate Springett. It will be on Thursday 23rd October when Andy Overall will be 'Putting the fun into fungi: the Fungi of Hampstead Heath'. Andy is London Group Leader for the British Mycological Society, and organiser of fungi workshops on the Heath where he has identified well over 400 species. Please join us in Burgh House for what is expected to be a most interesting and enjoyable evening. Details on the Bulletin Board. I hope to see you there.

Town Reports

Town Committee

by Frank Harding

Since I last reported on the activities being pursued by the Town Committee there has been a degree of progress in respect of some of the projects being considered although most of them take time to come to fruition and the hoped-for satisfactory conclusion. Let me briefly refer to some of them.

The school run

For many years the residents in and around Fitzjohns Avenue and the users of that key connection between Hampstead and Central London have suffered the inconvenience and delay caused by the heavy use of private cars of parents delivering and collecting their children from the many schools in the area. The Society has sympathised with those parents who need to use their own cars or share the driving with other parents on a pooled basis but nevertheless has been working with Camden Council and representatives of parents and the schools to develop some improvement to the situation.

A voucher scheme was introduced some years ago but this has not resolved matters. More children are cycling or walking to school but the traffic on Fitzjohns Avenue remains congested at delivery and collection times.

Better news may however be imminent. Many of the schools involved are working together under the leadership of Jane Simmonds and the Traffic Development Group to establish a coordinated bus service from the areas where the pupils live to bring those children to the schools and to collect them later in the day. Two of the schools already operate such a scheme. It is now hoped to introduce more schools to expand it.

There are however a number of hurdles still to overcome but these are being actively worked on with the support of the schools.

The Society is very supportive of this approach and has offered to provide that support in the discussions currently taking place with the Council, with the schools and, if practical, with the parents.

Whitestone Pond

Juliette Sonabend, on behalf of the Committee, has worked tirelessly over many months with representatives of Camden and the City Corporation to develop a scheme to improve the surroundings of Whitestone Pond. Her story is set out on page 11.

Plaques

I had hoped that I would be able to disclose in this report the names of four former residents of Hampstead who would be commemorated by the erection of plaques under the Hampstead Plaque Scheme. The decision as to who should be honoured has been made. At the time of writing we are in the process of seeking approval from the various house owners for three of them. The fourth nominee is being held back as English Heritage is considering the possible erection of one of its blue plaques to that person and, were it to do so, a Hampstead plaque would not be needed; if, however, it decides against doing so or if it decided to erect a plaque to that person elsewhere, we should be in a position to put up four plaques later this year.

Preliminary work is being undertaken to develop a new series of Hampstead walks centred on the existing Hampstead plaques, those honoured and their historical connections with Hampstead. It is hoped that these will be initiated in the Spring or Summer 2009.

Closures

Unfortunately the battle over the local post offices was lost some weeks ago. In retrospect

this was always going to be a political decision; it showed no concern for the wishes of local people. We must now wait to see if any commercial concern will provide an alternative source for mail services.



The police station battle is however not yet lost. The Society continues to believe that front

line policing services in the centre of Hampstead are required.

Art exhibition and farmers' market

The committee continues to work on the reintroduction of the former art exhibition at the top of the Heath and on a possible farmers' market in or close to the village.

Membership

Maureen Clark-Darby has recently resigned from the Sub-Committee after lengthy service and a substantial contribution to its work, particularly on the subject of licensing, on becoming Treasurer of the Society. I thank her for her contribution and wish her well in her new role.

We have added one new member, Christine Pullen, and there are three other local residents who have put their names forward and who will, I hope, shortly become members of the Committee. We would nevertheless still have one or two vacancies, particularly if there were someone keen to be interested in traffic issues in and around Hampstead. As John Weston says on page 3 any new volunteers would be welcome! They should initially get in touch with me.

Planning Sub-Committee

by Gordon Maclean

Good news for once from Camden Planners; they are at last responding to our eight-year campaign on Article 4 Directions.

Not such good news on basements.

And we want you to plant more trees.

Article 4 Directions

Long-standing and patient readers of this Newsletter will recall our campaign, started in June 2000, to combat the damaging loophole in national Conservation policies allowing some householders to carry out a range of developments without the need to obtain Planning Permission.

The rules on "Permitted Development" are not only harmful to our Conservation Areas, but also inconsistent; they apply to owners of houses, but not flats. It has long been apparent that they were originally devised to apply in low-density suburban areas, where much building of this sort is hardly noticeable. In historic high-density areas such as Hampstead, they are disastrous. The rules, of course, are based on a "one size fits all" principle, so we have suffered.

Article 4 Directions were devised to overcome this. They remove Permitted Development rights in the areas where designated. This does not mean that householders are prevented from carrying out such work; they just have to obtain Planning Permission, the same as the rest of us. Until recently, Local Authorities have been reluctant to make these Directions, for a variety of reasons - despite our pleadings.

Now, since the outcome of the recent Planning Act has for once gone in favour of conservation policies, the difficulties have been removed, and Camden are taking action. They have all the facts from us, via our campaign submissions!

Town Reports (cont)

Planning Committee (cont)

Over the next few months, there will be public consultations on the matter, and you will hear more. So, a sort of result for our persistence.

Basements

Our multi-stage correspondence with Camden on this disturbing issue - which you will have also read about in previous Newsletters - continues. We have been stone-walled by the Planners on all the issues we have raised: subsoil instability, ground water damage, tree damage, overdevelopment, neighbour nuisance, traffic congestion etc, not to speak of architectural considerations. We are much encouraged by the support you, our members, give us, especially in providing facts and figures. We are not giving up; we continue to press for effective action.

Meanwhile, the applications keep coming; most of them are given permission.

Trees

Our indefatigable Tree Officer Vicki Harding has found the time, between going into battle on tree crises, of which there continue to be many, to attend a conference on tree care and the vital role trees take in combating global warming.

Amongst the many fascinating and practical ideas she heard, the fateful facts on global warming could not be ignored: unless we take action over the next few years in a number of ways - but especially on retaining our tree cover, and planting new trees - our average temperatures are going to rise by between 3 and 7 degrees C. This would be disastrous for us all.

An increase in our overall national tree cover of at least 10 % is essential in reversing this. At the moment we are losing trees - mainly to building development. Hampstead is still a comparatively green place, but we have taken our share of tree loss.

We all have heard facts like this over the past several years, but perhaps have not known what we can do about it.

We want to take some responsibility here, and are therefore devising plans to encourage members, and everyone else, to plant trees here in Hampstead, or enable others to do so elsewhere. We will also be urging Camden to play its part with street and park tree planting. Watch this space...

Planning Applications

There is no sign yet that the present unsatisfactory economic situation, or the shortage of mortgage finance, has discouraged people from wanting to build, build, build. The flow of applications continues unabated.

The magnificent trees in Fitzjohn's Avenue



Whitestone Pond

by Juliette Sonabend

Glancing back at the minutes of the first Town Committee meeting of the Heath & Hampstead Society I attended in March 2005, I note that there is an entry that reads as follows: “Whitestone Pond, no news, but leak seems to have been fixed. Owned by the Corporation, but managed by Camden”. No news! How could that be - surely this pitiful mess should demand more attention? I bided my time for a year, sitting quietly at Town meetings, sipping the Merlot and passing the crisps, then happily taking on the Tesco challenge and helping wherever I could.

Whenever I raised the pond question I was gently informed that this was a really tough project to undertake and no-one had ever managed to progress it. Being a woman who likes a challenge, I was sold and decided to re-brand myself as the Lady of the Pond!

I did my homework, breakfasted with David Christie several times and started to forge relationships with the various officers of Camden and the City of London. I have actually lost count of the coffees and croissants I have consumed in Louis, all in the name of what? I don't know, but what I do know is that I can't and won't stop.

I have fond childhood memories of donkey rides, balloons, and the weekend art exhibition, of gently meandering down Heath Street, all rounded off with tea and cake in Louis. Reading the books and surfing the internet I learnt that Whitestone Pond began its life as a naturally occurring dew pond: ramps were later added to allow horses to enter and leave the pond to wash their hooves

before going down to the village. Later it became affectionately known as Hampstead-on-Sea as local residents used the pond for paddling, floating model boats and skating in winter. Following a brief spell as a local speaker's corner, it became a popular spot for donkey rides.

Today there are no speakers, bathers, donkeys or boats. Instead this potentially glorious pinnacle of



Historic views of Whitestone Pond



Whitestone Pond (cont)

London located at the peak of Hampstead Heath and the gateway to Hampstead Village has been allowed to deteriorate into a shameful civic mess.

After much careful thought and consideration I compiled and circulated a proposal which addressed the primary focus areas: lighting, paving, railings, road signs, benches, re-cycling and public art: I was not even happy with the flag!

Demanding? Yes. Successful? Time will tell. The majority of the road signs that I identified as requiring replacement have already been replaced. The flag has been changed twice! The flag of the City of London now flies proudly where once a grubby green dishcloth flapped reluctantly in the wind. The post and rail fences under the flagpole were removed last summer and I have been truly amazed at

The Pond's bleak modern appearance



the huge difference that this small barrier, more psychological than physical, has made to this area, I now see far more people sitting on the grass and enjoying the far-reaching views.

So what next? At the time of writing, the public consultation, which includes all my proposals and more, is now in place. The full plans and proposals can be viewed at www.camden.gov.uk/consultations.

Sadly the plans for a public work of art were shelved for the present. But the Lady of the Pond likes to eat her cake and have it, and I was still looking for cake. Then one night, I found it whilst reading the a report written for the City of London. A popular song of 1863 epitomised the zeitgeist when proclaiming that "Hampstead is the Place to Ruralise"... and it

still is. I am now proposing that those ever pertinent words are carved into the stones around the perimeter of the pond to remind us why we are there and how fortunate we are to live in this charmed corner of London.

I then realised, in hindsight, that this project is the cake, and the words will be the icing...I am now looking for a sous-chef!

English Heritage At Risk Register

by *Helen Marcus*

English Heritage launched a new Heritage At Risk register in July which reveals that nearly a thousand of London's most historic buildings, parks and monuments are at risk of decaying beyond repair. The list has been expanded to include threatened landscapes and monuments for the first time. 572 buildings, 153 scheduled monuments and 148 parks and gardens in London are in danger of loss through neglect and decay. Local ones include Witanhurst and its gardens and parts of Highgate Cemetery.

Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, speaks out

In an era when people are made to feel guilty if they throw away a beer bottle rather than recycle, it seems odd that equal concern is not shown by the authorities for our built heritage. As Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage pointed out, in an article in the Evening Standard, when old buildings are cleared for demolition they too end up in landfill sites:

“When everyone is decrying the lack of housing, it is shameful that 210 of these are residential buildings. Of these, 140 are vacant and 42 partly vacant. Worse still is the fact that 21 per cent of London's listed buildings at risk are publicly owned. Public bodies still seem to think it acceptable to walk away from older buildings in favour of new, purpose-built premises. Traditional town halls, schools, fire stations, swimming baths, court houses and police stations are symbols of public service, of authority, of status and civic pride. They help to unite communities, encourage a sense of belonging and give character and identity to the streets in which they stand. It is astonishing how often local protest is pushed aside in the name of modernisation and efficiency. Culturally, it has always been an act of

barbarism to allow a historic building, park or monument to fall into ruin.

“Each year more than 100 million tonnes of construction and demolition materials and soil end up as landfill - roughly half of Britain's total waste. Corporate owners argue that historic buildings cannot be adapted to modern requirements. Not so. The Old Bailey, Swiss Cottage Library, Pentonville Prison, the Royal Chelsea Hospital and Harrow magistrates' court - these are all examples of listed buildings in public ownership which have been successfully updated for use in the 21st century. Let's not throw any more of historic London into the skip. Let's rehabilitate it, remake it and give it a new life - and by doing so enrich our streets and protect our environment.”

The Society endorses these sentiments and has played its own part in putting them into action – in the following pages we list some of the buildings and give the history of our efforts to preserve the Tollhouse on Spaniards Road, which regrettably now features on the Register.

Other local buildings and open spaces on the register

Parish churchyard to St John's Church Church Row Listed Grade I, many of the structures, and the boundary walls and ironwork, are in need of repair. Members will



English Heritage At Risk Register (cont)

know from reports here that the Society has been involved with, and donated funds towards efforts to keep these in good repair. Camden Council has prepared a conservation plan as the basis for a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for funding to repair the historic landscape and structures. The war memorial has been repaired with funding from English Heritage.

9 Downshire Hill, an Early C19 villa notorious now for the recent murder of its owner. The property is in a very poor and deteriorating condition with dry rot and fire damage. Listed Building Consent has been granted for partial demolition of the rear wall, rear wing and side wing in order to stabilise the majority of the building. Applications for the redevelopment of the site are under consideration.

Good news at St Stephen's Church, Rosslyn Hill. Although the Church, built 1869-71 to an early French Gothic style design of SS Teulon, is still on the list, restoration work is well under way. We have appealed for local people to help with funds several times through this newsletter. The Trust would still appreciate donations - for contact details see Bulletin Board.

Over in Highgate ***The Elms, Fitzroy Park***, built in 1838-40, and ***10 Fitzroy Park***, 1932, are both cause for considerable concern, as are both the house and magnificent gardens, including an Italianate Garden, at ***Witanburst***.

At ***Highgate Cemetery*** a programme of repair and conservation of principal monuments has now been completed at the Western Cemetery with English Heritage and a Heritage Lottery grant, and works are under way to repair the Cuttings Catacombs, a row of fifteen mid-19th century mausolea. However the boundary walls, railings and gates to the Eastern Cemetery are in need of major repairs.



Above: St. Stephen's, drawing by Sydney King

*Below: Witanburst
from the Society's archives*



The Tollhouse - a preservation case history

From our archives

The Society has watched over the Tollhouse opposite Spaniards Inn for decades, fending off all attempts to remove it, and was responsible for its restoration in 1967. Now it is deteriorating again and is on the 2008 English Heritage At Risk Register.

These excerpts from our archives give some idea of the sort of battles that were waged to defend Hampstead's heritage.

Annual Report of 1922 (when it was feared that the Kenwood Estate was going to be sold off and developed)

'This may necessitate widening the road in front of the Spaniards Inn, and your Committee learned with regret that it was proposed for that purpose to pull down the old building opposite.it is hoped that the widening will be carried out with as little alteration of this charming bit of old Hampstead as is possible. It is suggested that the old building may be kept, and a new road made on the East side of it over a strip of the Kenwood estates to be acquired for that purpose.'

Annual report 1930

'A resolution was passed stating that the Committee were unanimously against any alteration of the roadway and copies of the resolution were forwarded to Hampstead Borough Council.'

Newsletter of Winter 1975

'1931. At the Tollhouse the footway was taken round the back following our successful fight against demolition' (*article by Kit Ikin*).

Annual report 1960

The Society's Chairman at this time was Sir Colin Anderson

'At the time of writing a plan to remove the Tollhouse has appeared in the Press, although no notification has as yet been received by

Hampstead Council, on whose boundary it stands. The Society lost no time in fighting this proposal and letters were sent to Finchley Council and to all the authorities likely to be concerned. Finchley, however, voted in favour. In response to an invitation from the B.B.C., the President gave an interview for TV News at the Tollhouse stressing that the accident record at this point is negligible. A letter from a member started a correspondence in The Times and paragraphs deploring the suggestion appeared in Peterborough's London Day by Day.'

Annual Report 1963

'The Tollhouse suffered again towards the end of the year when a lorry hit it.



"Smash the next lamp on the left, flatten the pavement by the pub, nudge the sweet shop, scrape the Market Cross, then just follow the skid marks to London."

Acknowledgements to Punch, 1979

'The Wenlock Brewery Company have now offered it for a "nominal" sum to Finchley Council, whose Highways Committee has recommended its

The Toll house (cont)

acceptance for road widening, and to that end the Borough Surveyor is conferring with the London and Middlesex County Councils. Hitherto, however, the L.C.C. has shared the Society's view that the widening at this spot would merely provoke more traffic trouble at the Whitestone Pond, where it is already bad enough.'

Annual Report 1964

'Two threats have continued to hang over this lorry-scarred relic of quieter days. One is that it might just be allowed to disintegrate, the other that ...it be left isolated as a sort of super-bollard with a highway on each side and the Spaniards Road thus become a race track. If it did, the present chaos at the Whitestone Pond - which some now suggest should be filled in and made a traffic roundabout! - would be doubled. This, surely is a matter of social

values. The Society feels that there are greater goods even than traffic and is confident that the £600-odd it would take to save the Tollhouse would soon be forthcoming.

'In 1965 the G.L.C, replaced the LCC and Hampstead and Finchley became part of the new Boroughs of Camden and Barnet.'

Annual Report 1965

'We return again to this hardy perennial, wiser in the ways of democratic processes but not thereby much encouraged. We have been publicly misrepresented as wishing to preserve the Tollhouse solely for architectural and antiquarian motives. In fact, we have never pretended that it had any aesthetic distinction. But we have considered it an inherent part of a composition just as important: an attractive,

homogenous group of buildings. What has steadily grown clear, however, is that the Tollhouse means much more than that to very many Hampstead residents. It has become a symbol of our battle against traffic and our desire not to have our environment brutally destroyed in the interests of cars and lorries that ought to be diverted elsewhere.

'The GLC endorsed the wish to preserve, while the new Camden Borough Engineer was more or less predictably reported to favour the widening of the road. More recently the pace quickened to an almost perceptible crawl. The Wenlock Brewery

A view of the Tollhouse by E. Wade

from the Society's archives



was taken over by Bass Mitchells & Butlers, who were kind enough to inform Finchley's successor, Barnet, that they proposed to transfer the Tollhouse to the Society. That is, for us to undertake its restoration before, possibly, handing it over to the G.L.C. for future care.

'This sounded very promising. But alas, Barnet replied that the G.L.C. had written to it urging that no change be made "at present". Barnet supported a stay of any action until the local authorities concerned had decided whether any road "improvement" was needed. The brewers, of course, had little option but to postpone any further move. The Tollhouse has lost its roof and is gradually crumbling into sad and disillusioned decay. Nevertheless, we would organize its rehabilitation if we could secure possession, and the latest news is more cheerful. The G.L.C. has decided against widening the road, and in favour of keeping the Tollhouse. It now remains for Barnet to agree that the brewers may present the building to us.'

Annual Report 1966

Tollhouse Climax and Anticlimax

'Most of our members must know the old Tollhouse serial story by heart.....
It was when the whole matter seemed to have been decided and ownership had passed to the G.L.C. that farce rushed in. Barnet suddenly decided to slap a compulsory purchase order on that two-thirds or so of the Tollhouse which is within their boundary. This extraordinary piece of what appeared to be petulance involves a Ministry of Transport inquiry, which is pending. However, a number of our members had already contributed a preliminary £550 towards the building's rehabilitation and work is already in hand. The total estimate for putting the Tollhouse to rights is £1000 and we

are hoping that all like-minded citizens will help us to raise that sum.'

Annual Report 1967

'Our members will no doubt be as relieved as the Committee is that the fifth successive year in which the 18th-century Tollhouse has been prominent in the annual report is - or should be - the last. The long fight to save this small but vital symbol of civilisation has been won.

'Restored at the Society's expense, it is now in the care of the Greater London Council, to which the brewer-owners transferred it - and then made the happy gesture of contributing to the cost, about £ 1,000, of the reconstruction.the builders who did the work, charged only their costs and, to round everything off properly, the Civic Trust gave the Society one of its 1967 awards. The citation is worth quoting because it so well expresses our own point of view:

'Though of no great architectural distinction in itself, the Spaniards Inn Tollhouse is an inherent part of an attractive and homogenous group of buildings in a famous landscape setting. It is significant that people fought for and saved the quality of this area for traffic as well as for aesthetic reasons -- preserving a bottleneck in order to slow down traffic.

'The Annual Report 1989-90 makes mysterious reference to a new use for the building by "a one-woman data-base firm" who was to take up residence. But nothing seemed to come of this.'

Now in 2008, the Society is actively trying to get the authorities to do something about the current state of disrepair. The plaque recording the Civic Trust award fell off a couple of years ago and was given to Camden for "safe keeping" - it is said that they now cannot find it. Watch this space!

It's all change at InterChange! - News from

by Celia Greenwood

Members have followed the saga of Hampstead Town Hall on these pages over many years. Celia Greenwood, Director of WAC, and now also Chief Executive of InterChange, updates us with the latest news

A new Chairman and Board of Trustees

Since the beginning of the year there have been a number of big changes at Interchange Trust. For many months the Board had been considering the demerger of *WAC Performing Arts and Media College, the largest Interchange department. WAC had already registered as a separate charity and built its own Board. However, following extensive talks between all board members, in April Interchange invited ten WAC Board members to join the ten Interchange Board members to form a new Board with a new vision for the Town Hall. In May the Board elected a new chair, local resident, Peter Kysel, and the work began in earnest.

On his appointment Peter Kysel said, "We are in a process of a positive transformation, with a great opportunity to turn our organisations into an exciting and nationally respected cultural institution with a unique mission. We now have a united, democratic, responsive and above all experienced board willing to contribute. Our task now is to build on our resources - our strong management team, our landmark building at Hampstead Town Hall, and our relations with the local community. "

A new programme for the community

So now the real work begins! We have completed a significant amount of work on the building, repairing the heating and air handling systems so everyone can enjoy the space in comfort. We have also updated our website so that visitors can get up-to-date information from a more vibrant and interactive site. We have

trimmed all the trees on our site to promote healthy growth and were advised to remove a diseased cherry tree, which we will replace with three new trees in the autumn. We are planning an exciting programme of events as part of our Tuesdays at the Town Hall programme. We invite Camden residents to use our Main Hall from 5.30pm – 9.30pm for free to showcase the arts, hold meetings or even have a party. So far we have hosted theatre performances, screenings, music and stand up comedy nights and we look forward to many more community events.

Conservatoire status for Diploma in Musical Theatre

We have wonderful news regarding our Professional Diploma in Musical Theatre which was validated in June by Trinity College as a level 6 qualification. We have been developing this course for five years and training very talented but disadvantaged young people to a professional standard in dance, drama and vocals. This gives us Conservatoire status as we can now deliver the same qualification as the elite stage schools such as Mountview, Arts Educational and Italia Conti.



Hampstead Town Hall - and a funding appeal

Help needed with funding

However, although we can now apply for government funding to support our students, we will not be able to access funding until September 2009 because contracts are issued on three-year cycles. If we are not running the course we will not be eligible to apply and will lose our Trinity qualification and have to start all over again. It costs £5,000 per year to train a student and we have 30 students on the programme so we need to raise £150,000 by the end of September. Anyone interested in sponsoring a student or finding out more about the course please contact Stephen Medlin (steve@wac.co.uk)

Open House at The Town Hall

This year we were part of Open House for the second time. The Town Hall was open to the public on September 20th, with tours of the whole building.

We recruited volunteers to be trained as tour guides to help us share the building with all our visitors. This is just one of our volunteering options. We now have a volunteering policy and offer lots of opportunities to get involved. We are also talking with our neighbours about developing an Arts Festival for Belsize Park in the Spring.

A centre for all sections of the community

We want our building to serve all sections of the community and are looking forward to developing new partnerships and special events to achieve this. To help us realise our vision we welcome suggestions or new ideas for events or activities at the Town Hall.

Come and talk!

**WAC stands for Weekend Arts College. Originally classes were held only on the weekend but over the years it has expanded to daily classes.*

Support the Town Hall by joining the Friends of Hampstead Town Hall

The Friends' Committee maintains its watching brief. Its main objectives are:

to preserve Hampstead Town Hall as a building of special architectural and historic interest

To act as the representatives of the community and foster the Town Hall as a centre for the community

Despite the recent problems, the Friends have always maintained excellent working relations with the senior managers and have made clear our unaltered support for all the good work achieved by WAC and the various branches of Interchange.

The 10th anniversary

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the re-opening of the Town Hall. The Friends hope it will be possible to stage some interesting programmes and events to raise interest in the local community and attract new support.

Fundraising

There will always be a need for fundraising and the new Board have created a fundraising committee. The Friends' will contribute to their efforts in whatever way they can. There is a particular and urgent need for funds at the moment to get the new course going – as explained by Celia. If any Society members could help with this, or would like to show your support by joining the Friends, do please contact us.

The Friends Office

22 Lyndhurst Gardens, London NW3 5NN

Tel: 020 7435 7475

Fax: 020 7794 1898

email: corinnegibbons@hotmail.com

Letters to the Society

***From: Mr. Michael Lerner, Israel.
March 2008***

Long Lost Memories.

You are most probably wondering as to why you have just received a letter from Israel, so let me throw some light on the reason for this letter.

For most of my life, I have lived in Israel, except for my very early childhood years.

My wife and I are planning a trip down "Memory Lane", and this, for me, includes Hampstead Heath Extension.

So, lately I have been surfing the Internet, in order to refresh my memories, but NOWHERE, absolutely NOWHERE, can I find any mention of the fact that during World War II, Hampstead Heath Extension was the home of a British Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery (ack-ack] base, which the German Luftwaffe tried to bomb, unsuccessfully, on a regular basis.

My parents and sisters, having escaped Nazi Germany, settled in Golders Green, first in Rotherwick Road and then No.7 Heath Close, a cul-de-sac off Hampstead Way, right opposite the Heath Extension.

One morning, in June 1942, my late father opened the dining room window, and saw to his horror an unexploded German bomb right in the middle of his beloved geranium and lavender flower beds!!! There and then, it was decided that the family should evacuate (my Mother was 5 months pregnant and we moved to Welwyn Garden City.

After the war, we all returned to 7 Heath Close, which had survived the bombings, but the long porch of the old age home at the end of the road had suffered a direct hit. By then I was about 4 years old, and I was befriended by the

two sentries guarding the entrance to the Army Base. I was even allowed to play with the not-so-unfriendly "Guard-Dog".

For me it was a sad day when it was decided to dismantle the corrugated iron Nissen barracks and move the Base elsewhere.

My Mother – now 96 - still recalls that on the day prior to the move, all the families in Heath Close and Hampstead Way brought the Soldiers homemade cakes and biscuits.

My memories of that period include piano lessons given to me by one of our neighbours, Michael Flanders of the Flanders & Swann Musical Duo.

I also vividly remember my father and Michael Flanders' father dividing the "spoils" left by the Express Dairy delivery horse, for use on their respective tomato patches.

I even remember the telephone number of No 7 Heath Close, because my parents taught me that when I answer the phone, I must say, "Hello, this is Speedwell 7396, who's speaking please?"

Memories of long ago, which I hope to relive on my wife's and my UK holiday, in the not too distant future.

Yours faithfully.

Michael H. Lerner



***From Mr. A. P. Mackenzie, Chessington,
March 2008***

Green Belt Developments

On a rare visit to Kenwood last year, I picked up a copy of your newsletter, which was placed in the restaurant there, and was particularly

interested to read about your success in the Garden House judicial review case. During a search for other things I was even more pleased to read of the recent Judgment in the Court of Appeal where their Lordships agreed with you.

As this judgment appears to have wide implications for Local Authorities' policies regarding green belt and metropolitan open land, I have today written to Kingston, my own council, asking whether their policy has changed as a consequence. Of course, I may or may not get a reply!

This matter has some significance for me living in a green belt area because a commercial development was placed across the road from me which was much larger and that which had existed before. It has blighted my view of open lands and sky. This judgment will not change that now but it might make councils re-appraise their rather cavalier approach to these developments.

Good work and best wishes to your Society. I trust you got your costs back, but of course you have some of your own judges in the association!

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Mackenzie



From the Chairman of the Vale of Heath Society March 2008

We who live in the Vale are immensely grateful to the Heath & Hampstead Society, and particularly to David Altaras, Martin Humphery, John Hunt, Gordon Maclean and yourself, for

the unstinting efforts you have put in to fighting this critical battle over a period of almost four years, and for your readiness to commit substantial amounts of H&HS funds.

The result is satisfying not only because the Garden House will not now be replaced by such a wildly inappropriate building (although there will doubtless be other, lesser, arguments before the future of this site is finally resolved), but because any other outcome would have had potentially very serious adverse effects for other MOL sites around the Heath, and indeed for Green Belt sites across the country.

Once again, many, many thanks from (almost) all of us in the Vale.

With kind regards

Ian Harrison



From Sir George Russell, CBE

A very brief note to thank you for giving us such a delightful evening at the recent event.

It was a pleasure to see inside the Town Hall now that it has been renovated, to have a chance to talk with quite a few familiar faces and also to hear from you on how much effort has gone in the past year to protecting our interests in the area. You are to be congratulated on what has been achieved. It is not an easy task but, as a preservation society, I congratulate you and your committee on what you are achieving.

With best wishes for next year.

Yours sincerely

George Russell

Town House Music

by Robert Boas, whose beautiful Adam house at 22 Mansfield Street is becoming increasingly well known to Hampstead music lovers.

When our youngest son Nicholas died we decided to endow a Trust in his memory. Nicholas was a student at The Architectural Association and the first project for this Trust was to give travel scholarships to young architectural students to spend the month of July at the British School at Rome. The scholarships seem to be very popular and the Trust currently gives some five a year.

In 2000 we decided to leave our old house, so full of sad memories, and find somewhere in the centre of London with a room big enough for an occasional string quartet to play to friends. Soon after briefing an excellent house finder she said, "You did mean a big room?" and took us to see the ground and first floors of an Adam house that was about to be converted back to residential use, having been offices for 60 years. It had a spectacular first floor drawing-room some 52 feet by 22 feet and 18 feet high, which has luckily turned out to have an almost perfect acoustic for chamber music. It seemed an extraordinary opportunity.

I developed the idea that we should have concerts by young musicians in aid of the Trust: the audience donations would help young musicians by sponsoring them for masterclasses, such as those given by International Musicians Seminar Prussia Cove.

The demand from young musicians, even if they are not paid directly, has been much greater than we ever expected. We now have three "seasons" - autumn, winter and spring - of some ten to twelve concerts per season. We can accommodate an audience of 60 plus with ease, but organising an audience is in fact a greater challenge than arranging a programme. It is done by a mailing list, largely e-mail based, of friends

who are welcome to bring friends. Fortunately there is also a dining-room on the ground floor which can seat about 60 for dinner.

Neither of us are musicians but we love a wide range of classical music from baroque to 20th century, and we try to achieve in each season a good mix of singers, pianists and chamber music ensembles. The space is also made available to musical organisations, particularly those which are involved with younger musicians such as the Hampstead and Highgate Festival, English National Opera, IMS Prussia Cove, London String Quartet Foundation, British Youth Opera and so on.

These concerts have now rather taken over our lives but they are far and away the most rewarding thing we have ever done. The combination of the extraordinary talents of the young performers and the intensity of communication between them and the audience in such intimate surroundings is hugely satisfying. Having supper (£40) or drinks (£15) afterwards helps to create a special feeling for us and our guests of closeness to the musicians. It has also helped to widen our circle of friends who really enjoy music, and to create friendships with many exceptional young artists.

Three years ago we also began masterclasses during the day with the Florestan Trio, now an annual event. Sally Burgess now does the same for young singers with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and more recently Gabor Takacs Nagy teaches young string quartets.

Email is the best method of booking a place. We do not send out tickets

For more details of programmes etc
e-mail:
boas22m@btinternet.com



Bulletin Board

Elgar and Alice

by Peter Sutton

Script of the acclaimed 150th anniversary play now in print

The widely praised play, *Elgar and Alice*, first performed at the Swan Theatre, Worcester, on 5th June 2007 to mark the composer's 150th anniversary, has now been published as a book. It includes a personal account by Gerald Harper of his creation of the role of Sir Edward Elgar.

It can be ordered, price £7.50, from
Severnpix Publishing
Dovecote Barn,
The White House
Suckley,
Worcester WR6 5DF

Add £1 for post and packing

Or buy online from www.severnpix.co.uk



Illustration by E Wade showing Elgar in front of his Hampstead home

from the Society's archive



43 Gordon Square, WC1

Free Public Lecture Series Autumn 2008

in conjunction with the Ecology and Conservation Studies Society

"What is Land for?"

Have we enough? Can we reconcile competing demands? What is our long term vision for land use in the UK, and how can we achieve this? Seven prominent speakers in this series will provide new insights and suggest possible solutions for the management of this key resource

Tickets free - but booking essential

For details, contact tel: 020 7679 1069, or
e-mail: environment@fce.bbk.ac.uk

Lectures start at 6.30pm. Doors open at 6.00pm.

17 October Professor Philip Lowe OBE, Director of the Rural Economy and Land Use Programme

24 October Dr Chris Stoate, Head of Research, GWCT: 'Farming futures: will there be room for wildlife?'

31 October Pam Gilder, Marine and River Basin Management, Environment Agency on 'Integrated River Basin Management'

7 November Matt Shardlow, CEO, Buglife and Pete Massini of Natural England on Brownfield and Urban Issues

14 November Professor Sir Peter Hall, President, TCPA, on Eco-Towns

21 November Tony Burton of the National Trust: 'What does the nation need from land?'

Next Series 13 Feb - 20 March *All About Water*

Bulletin Board (cont)

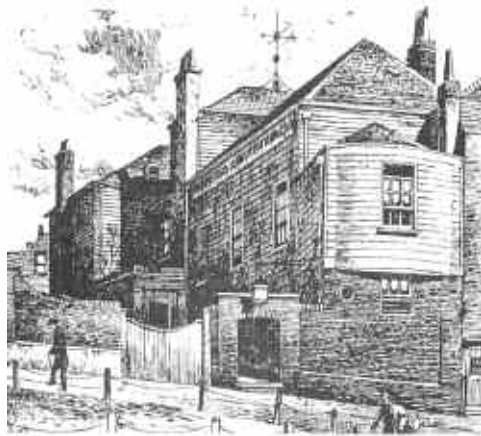
Camden History Society Hampstead Town Trail

by Christopher Wade

The 5th (revised) edition of this extremely useful pocket size map.

Illustrated with drawings by Frederick Adcock.

Designed by Ivor Kamlish



*Romney's House -
one of the illustrations*

***Available at
Waterstones
Hampstead High Street,
price £1.50***

*Published by Camden History Society 2008
ISBN 978-090491 - 75-3*

News from Burgh House



New General manager appointed

Kate Streeter took over from Helen Wilton as General Manager at Burgh House this summer. She brings valuable and varied experience of museum management to the role. She graduated in Archaeology and Anthropology and has a Masters in Heritage Management. She previously worked for Batemans, Kipling's home; a company which designed museum exhibitions; and the Development Department at Shakespeare's Globe. She has also volunteered at the British Museum and the Museum of London.

Burgh House

Museum, Buttery, Bookstall

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

Exhibitions, talks, concerts

Support the Friends of Burgh House

For more information contact the Chair of the Friends on 7435 8460

Burgh House, New End Square NW3

Tel: 7431 0144



***11th Annual Springett Lecture
Thursday 23rd October***

Burgh House 8.00pm

***Putting the fun into fungi:
the Fungi of Hampstead Heath***

Andy Overall

London Group Leader for the British Mycological Society, who has been recording fungi on the Heath for the past 10 years

Doors open at 7.30 for a glass of wine

Non-members welcome

***London Forum of Amenity
and Civic Societies***

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15th October 6pm

The City Temple Conference Centre
Holborn Viaduct
*(halfway between St. Paul's & Chancery tube
stations)*

Guest speaker

Philip Kolvin

the new chairman of the Civic Trust

***A good opportunity to hear about the work
of the Civic Trust and the London Forum,
two important organisations to which the
Society is affiliated***

For more information
email@londonforum.org.uk



***Donations are still needed at
St Stephen's
so please be generous***

and give the Trust a further donation
towards that new lease of life.

Work is well under way on the restoration
for the community but fundraising continues

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

Heath Walks 2008-9

Walks are held on the first Sunday of every month except January. Most start from Burgh House, New End Square, London NW3 1LT - 10 minutes walk from Hampstead Underground Station: for directions see www.burghhouse.org.uk (NB parking is extremely difficult, especially in spring and summer). Starting times are either 2.30pm or 10.30 am, 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.

2008

5 October 2.30pm (meet in North End Way, at approach to Pergola entrance)
The Pergola and the Hill Garden
led by Peter Tausig

2 November 10.30am (depart Burgh House)
A Fungus Foray led by Jo Weightman

7 December 10.30am (depart Burgh House)
Trees of the Heath led by Jeremy Wright

2009

No walk in
January



1 February 10.30am (meet at Burgh House)
Environmental Arboriculture led by David Humphries, Tree Supervisor of Hampstead Heath and North London Open Spaces (City of London)

1 March 10.30am (meet at Burgh House)
Reading the Landscape led by Deborah Wolton and David McDowall, authors of Hampstead Heath: A Walker's Guide

5 April 10.30am (meet at Burgh House)
Birds of the Heath in Spring led by John Hunt



Don't forget to use the Hampstead Card

The current list of businesses taking part in the scheme can be found at www.heathandhampsteadsociety.org.uk

Benefits they offer are granted at their discretion.

The Society cannot be held responsible for changes in terms or availability of any discounts or offers