



The Heath & Hampstead Society **NEWSLETTER**

Annual Report May 2010

Vol 41 No 2

The Heath in Spring

photo: Andrew Morley

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*Annual Report for
the year 2008 - 2009*

by Tony Hillier

I am pleased to present the Society's Annual Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2009, the period covered by the Society's Accounts and the Treasurer's Report, which will come to the AGM on June 14th 2010. In keeping with last year, this is combined with a summary of the Society's main business up to mid-April 2010.

General State of the Society and our Finances

Our financial position remains strong and we ourselves in good spirits. Your General Committee and its Heath, Town, Web and Planning Sub-Committees continue, we believe, with the support of all our members, but especially a number of very active members who do not sit on any committee, to make lasting contributions to the charm and amenities of Hampstead and the rural attractions of the Heath, as well as to the historical appreciation of both. These forty or so activists work hard to meet these, the Society's charitable objects. If their time was paid as contracted consultants, my guess is it would represent an annual cost of at least £750K.

I refer you to the audited accounts and the Treasurer's Report. A back of the envelope summary shows that, in addition to benefitting so greatly from the work of our volunteers, we were able to contribute £15,771 to a wide variety of local causes. Some involved negative action, such as legal and geological professional fees fighting basements (sharing costs with local residents); some were positive actions, such as commissioning and installing more of the Society's historic Hampstead plaques, introducing finger direction signs, promoting local shops through the Hampstead card, and donations to

Annual Report for the year 2008 - 2009 (cont)

various local amenity preservation causes. We financed 53% of this from our net current surplus of £8420, with the balance coming from reserves. The current surplus is arrived at by deducting the overhead cost of £15,599 for running the Society, (which comprises mainly membership promotion and renewal, the Newsletter, and members' events) from the income of £24,019, being a combination of subscriptions, and event and investment income.

Closer links with local societies

We have started a dialogue with a cross-section of other local societies and associations, whose aims are close to our own, to see how we can improve the level of communication between our various organisations and the effectiveness of our collective voice. The launch meeting early in 2010 was well received and the General Committee is keen to progress this during the course of this year.

Civic Voice

A new initiative to co-ordinate the lobbying power of all civic societies across the country was also launched in April 2010 by the Civic Voice, replacing the Civic Trust, which went into administration. We offer our congratulations to our Vice-President, Helen Marcus, for her election as a Trustee. We have been encouraged by first impressions, but we will watch carefully to see that their mission and budget are focused on creating a professionally effective and strong lobby to central government for the benefit of all societies, before we pay up fully. It needs to replicate at the national level what the London Forum does so effectively in London.

Possible additional financial exposure from the basement campaign

We continue to lodge numerous objections to specific basement planning applications, where

we consider them to be dangerous, because they are too deep and too close to neighbouring property, but where the developer has not shown them to be safe. Camden is required under the legislation to put this onus of proof on the developer, but denies this. In three egregiously outrageous cases, where Camden officers have recommended approval, we have succeeded in getting one developer to go back to his geotechnical consultant and in two cases we have persuaded members of the Development Control Committee of the Council to reject the applications. All may cost further substantial funds during an appeal process and other cases may need to be judicially reviewed. It is therefore appropriate to warn members and indeed all Hampstead residents that the General Committee may feel it appropriate once again to ask for pledges of financial support for further legal action.

Together with the Highgate Society, we continue to put in a huge amount of behind the scenes work lobbying Camden, trying to get them to revise their unjustifiable treatment of deep basement applications. We do this in order, if possible, to avoid further serious damage from ground settlement or groundwater flooding, as well as the serious waste of time and money, whether as rate payers underwriting Camden's legal mistakes at Appeal or as residents challenging them. We are most grateful for both the professional and the *pro bono* advice we receive on the geological and hydrological aspects of these quite complex issues, where we have greatly appreciated the help from Michael de Freitas, which in turn needs to be integrated with fairly obscure aspects of the planning system, where a member, David Altaras, continues on this as with other planning issues to help us. We also

take great comfort from the close interest and guidance we receive on these and other issues from our President, Lord Hoffmann.

New Patron

During the period under review we have welcomed Tom Oliver as a Patron of the Society. Trained as a landscape designer, Tom has had a very distinguished career as an environmentalist with senior positions with the National Trust, the Campaign for National Parks and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. He gave us an inspirational talk at Burgh House last autumn entitled “Hampstead Ruminations” and has kindly accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at the AGM this year.

Committee changes

Robert Linger, a member of the Town Sub-Committee, has joined the General Committee and made an immediate impact in galvanising us to redouble our efforts to increase membership. With so many threats to both the physical safety and the charm of our neighbourhood, we should all try to strengthen the weight of local opinion and the subscription income behind the Society.

It has been with great reluctance and almost disbelief that I have recently accepted the resignations of Janine Griffis as Honorary Secretary and Gordon Maclean as Chair of the Planning Committee. It is hard to believe that the Society can survive without the services of two such dedicated, reliable, hard working and experienced senior officers as Janine and Gordon.

Janine became Honorary Secretary of the Society in 2001 and also served on the Town Sub-Committee. She has worked tirelessly for the Society and contributed immensely to its recent success. In thanking her for all her meticulous

work as Secretary, which included writing the membership programme, and her masterly management of catering and general planning of the Christmas Party, New Members Parties and the AGM, we should also extend our thanks to all members of the Griffis family, who have always attended as a highly competent army of support for Janine at these events.

Gordon joined the then Town Sub-Committee in 1998 and became Chairman in 2004. He remained as Chairman of the newly designated Planning Sub-Committee, when the many responsibilities were split between the Town and Planning Sub-Committees. A distinguished architect, Gordon not only scrutinized every planning application in NW3 for all the years he has been on these Committees, but also exercised, with consummate good judgement, the role of arbiter for the Society, of architectural taste in commenting to Camden’s planners, on which buildings would stand the design test of time and which would not. We thank Gordon for all the hard work, knowledge of planning law and fine judgment he has exercised as the Society’s Chair of Planning. We are delighted that he has agreed to continue to monitor all planning applications for the Society. His role as Chair of the Planning Sub-Committee, which role carries with it *ex officio* the responsibility of Vice-Chairman of the Society, will be taken by Douglas Maxwell, also a qualified architect and a professional Project Manager. We welcome Douglas as an experienced member of the Planning Sub-Committee and recommend that his appointment be confirmed at the AGM.

During the period under review we welcomed Sash Tusa, a long term and knowledgeable enthusiast for the Heath to the Heath Sub-Committee; Jenny Alderman, Addie Godfrey-

Annual Report for the year 2008 - 2009 (cont)

Faussett, and Margaret Rodgers (returning) to the Planning Sub-Committee; and Andrew Morley to the Web Sub-Committee taking the place of Diana Cortes, who resigned. We thank Diana for giving us the benefit of her professional expertise in helping with the infrastructure design of our revised web. We are grateful to the new Committee members for their expertise and commitment.

Selected Highlights

I would like to pick out a few highlights. The most stimulating new initiative has come from a small group of members who have put together a Vision for de-cluttering the streetscape, taking further steps to stop Whitestone Pond from being an isolated traffic island, and removing more traffic from the centre of Hampstead. We fully support the vision and will work with "Hampstead 2020", Camden, TfL and the other authorities whose co-operation and financial support will be needed to make this happen.

In Hampstead, following the taking down and cleaning of the Society's existing black plaques, a new one has been put up in Heath Street to Sir David Low, the cartoonist. Others have been planned. The exciting renovation project at Whitestone Pond started in December 2009 and is due to be completed in July 2010. After many years of prevarication by Camden and Barnet, across whose boundaries the Toll House lies on Spaniards Road, a restoration plan has been prepared by Camden in consultation with the Society and English Heritage. We must hope that next year's budget cuts will not intervene. We have worked with two Camden Councillors and, following a generous anonymous gift stimulated through the pages of the Ham & High, a plan is in hand to restore the War Memorial opposite Jack Straw's.

The Springett Award is now incorporated into the Environmental Education on Hampstead Heath Project run jointly by the City of London and the RSPB, and delivered by RSPB staff with a Heritage Lottery Fund award. This year's Award went to Brookfield Primary School for a Sensory Garden near Highgate Road; and the Gospel Oak Primary School for some beautiful sculpture, paintings and other work inspired by the birds on the Heath. Each school was presented with a cheque for £500 and will continue to work with the Education Centre in the regular educational visits on the Heath. The Society's role is credited on the RSPB website.

This year's Springett Lecture, given on Thursday 29 October by Colin Tudge entitled "Consider the Birds", a very popular topic, was well received. Colin is a biologist, broadcaster and author of the recent book of the same title. He gave us a fascinating account of the importance and biology of birds, from the original development of flight to their songs, migrations and the current threats to their survival. A brief account can be found on page 16.

Kenwood

On the Heath we remain critical of the failure of English Heritage to ensure that the grass in the area below the Henry Moore sculpture was quickly and effectively restored after last summer's concerts; the problem has only been tackled shortly before the 2010 season begins. We are disappointed also that the general quality of the Kenwood gardens has deteriorated.

The Heath

We were pleased to be able to assist the City with the original wording to restore the memorial to the distinguished open spaces preservationist, Sir Lawrence Chubb, overlooking the South Meadow on the edge of

Kenwood. Work to widen and make the Viaduct Path, up from the Highgate ponds past Tumulus Hill, safer for shared cycling and pedestrian use has gone ahead in keeping with the extensive consultation on Heath cycling conducted last year by the City.

Planning

We have been busy on many aspects of planning in addition to the challenges with basements referred to above. We began a campaign in 2000 to persuade Camden to introduce a legal requirement, known as Article 4 Directions, that a wide range of “minor” (but still crucial to the look of our neighbourhood) works, such as parking in front gardens, can in local conservation areas only be carried out with planning permission. This has now received approval following extensive consultation, for which we thank members’ support, in Hampstead Conservation Area - Belsize and Swiss Cottage were also successful pilot areas - and we hope and expect it will be extended to all the other Conservation Areas in Hampstead as soon as possible.

Local Development Framework

Our extensive comments of the draft Local Development Framework received broad support from Camden and have to a large extent been included in the final version, which has gone forward to the Inspectorate for final review in May 2010, before going to the Minister for full enactment later this year. There are some vital policies covering Metropolitan Open Land, Conservation Areas, basement and flood risk, which we are standing by to defend before the Inspector, if necessary.

Preserving the Fringes of the Heath

Three very important developments on the fringes of the Heath have been turned down as a result of representations from ourselves and others. The two biggest stand in the area of the Highgate Society: Athlone House (subject of an eleven year Working Group) and Witanhurst are going to appeal. A second application for Garden House was also turned down on grounds of material increase in size, as before, and a design which is inappropriate for the Vale of Health setting.

Tree Commissioner for London

Our representation to the GLA to initiate a special role of Tree Commissioner for London was well received, but appears to be blocked through lack of funding.

Your email addresses - stay in the know!

You will have noticed in this, and past newsletters, appeals from Committee chairmen for you to send us your email addresses.

Keep yourself up to speed with all the latest Society news, urgent appeals and updates to events.

Letting us have your email address will enable us to update our Membership Records more easily and generally simplify our communications with you.

Please email your name and street address to the Society at:

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

Thank you.



Elections to the General Committee 2010

Officers

The following are candidates for election having been duly proposed and seconded.

President:	Lord Hoffmann
Vice Presidents:	Martin Humphery Helen Marcus
Chairman:	Tony Hillier
Vice Chairmen	Tony Ghilchik Frank Harding Douglas Maxwell
Hon Treasurer:	Maureen Clark-Darby
Hon Secretary:	to be announced

Representative on the City of London Hampstead Heath Management Committee:

Tony Ghilchik

Representative on the City of London Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee:

Jeremy Wright

General Committee Members

Frankie de Freitas, Frank Harding, Marc Hutchinson, Nigel Steward, Peter Tausig, John Weston and Jeremy Wright continue the terms for which they were elected.

Note to members: Any other nominations for election as officers or committee members should be notified to the Hon Secretary in writing not later than 1 June.

The following have been nominated:

Robert Linger is a Chartered Accountant by profession and was an audit partner in Arthur Andersen until his retirement in 1997.

Born in 1941, he has lived in and around Hampstead for the whole of his life and, accordingly, has accumulated a considerable understanding of the its ethos, its history and architecture and its literary and artistic associations.

Since his retirement, Robert has been involved in a number of local community groups and has been a member of the Society's Town Sub-Committee since 2008. His more general interests include architecture, current affairs and most sports, whilst his collections of local art and antiquarian books provide him with a wealth of valuable reference material.

His wife, Angela, is also a lifelong local resident and their children and grandchildren live nearby, too.

Douglas Maxwell is a chartered architect and runs a project management and consultancy business. He studied at Cambridge University and then worked in architectural practice before becoming a project manager working on major developments for Mace and Bovis Lend Lease, including the new Home Office.

Douglas was born in Hampstead and has lived here ever since. His family has a long-standing connection with the Society, and his late father, John Maxwell, was the author of the annual report on the butterflies of Hampstead Heath. He joined the new planning sub-committee in 2008. Douglas has a broadly based understanding of the town planning system, and the planning, design and conservation of the built – and unbuilt – environment. His other interests include sailing and virtually anything to do with boats.

Annual General Meeting 2010



Please join us for our
Annual General Meeting
and
Reception
Hampstead Town Hall
Monday 14 June 2010

7 - 7.45 Wine and light refreshments will be served.
Committee members will be on hand to talk about their work.

Come and learn more about the Society's activities over the past year.

7.45 Annual General Meeting and Elections of President, Officers and
Members of the General Committee.

Guest speaker

Tom Oliver

Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts

The Society's new Patron

Tom has worked for the National Trust at Croome Park, the Campaign for National Parks and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England where he held the position of Head of Rural Policy. He is a winner of the BBC Natural History Unit national broadcasting competition.

Tom will be our guest speaker following the business part of the meeting.

Treasurer's report for 2009

by Maureen Clark-Darby

The Society is pleased to present its Financial Statements for 2009.

There is one main change in the Society's 2009 Financial Statements in comparison with the 2008 Statements. In prior years governance costs were deemed to include certain administration costs. The recommended practice for 2009 is to include only overall governance costs of the Society in this classification on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities. All administration expenses for 2009 are shown as directly attributable to the Society's activities.

The loss for the year ended 31 December 2009 is £8,373 (2008: loss £1,878), although in 2009 we show a small unrealised profit of £263 on our investment. There is therefore a net reduction in the Society's reserves of £8,110.

Membership is slightly up and the subscription

income is up year on year - 2009: £19,620 (2008: £17,353). The other main difference in income is that the Society's interest income is down for the current year £1,359 (2008: 5,089).

Expenses for 2009 increased due to exceptional legal and geology costs of £9,183 attributable to basement excavations in Hampstead (2008: Garden House legal costs £4,605). Running costs of the Society reduced slightly in the year.

In 2009 the Society will continue its work to increase membership and subscription income.

The Trustees believe that the Society's capital and reserves are satisfactory at £76,134.

The Society wishes to thank Mr. Neville Pollard, Mr. Vic Dimitri and Mr. Robert Ward of Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, for carrying out the Independent Examination of the Accounts.



Members' Email addresses

If you have email, please email your name and street address to the Society at:

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

This will enable us to update our Membership Records and simplify our communications with you.

Thank you.



***Don't forget to use
the
Hampstead Card***

The current list of businesses taking part in the scheme can be found on the Society's website

www.heathandhampsteadsociety.org.uk

Benefits offered are granted at the traders' discretion. The Society cannot be held responsible for changes in terms or availability of any discounts or offers

Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

A few days of glorious spring sunshine and the very muddy Heath, especially on the lower slopes that over lie London Clay, becomes just a memory. One of the results of all the winter rain has been a delay in remaking the path shared by pedestrians and cyclists going from the Viaduct Path across to the Highgate Ponds and Millfield Lane. Work was due to start in mid February; however, not only was the ground too wet then but also the contractor refused to guarantee that the proposed rolled aggregate surface, designed to discourage cycling at speed, would not be washed away by further heavy rainfalls. An alternative hoggin surface, more durable yet still avoiding the very artificial look of bonded gravel, has been chosen, the work has now begun and, by the time you read this, should just about be completed.

Progress on the Heath Management Plan

Work continues on the Topic Papers within Part 2 of the new Management Plan for the Heath. These will set out the policies and management techniques that need to be employed to implement the objectives agreed for each area. The draft for Natural Landscape including suggestions by ourselves and other members of the Consultative Committee has now been agreed by both the Heath Consultative and Management Committees. The same format is being used for the other six papers which are to be completed over the next three years.

We are already seeing some of the benefits of the effort that has gone into developing the full plan. I mentioned in my January report the work already started to implement the ten-year area plans for the Upper Vale of Heath and for the Viaduct Pond. These themes have continued with recommendations, now agreed,

on what needs to be done for Wild Service trees, and to encourage amphibians in the Heath ponds.

Wild Service trees on the Heath

The Wild Service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is one of our rarer native trees which arrived in Britain some 10,000 years ago and is now usually confined to pockets of ancient woodland, especially oak and ash woods, or growing in old hedgerows. It prefers clay and lime based soils. The fruits need open sunlight to ripen and our summer temperatures are often too low for the seeds to mature. This, combined with the seeds then needing several weeks of freezing temperatures to germinate, means that its principal method of propagation is by suckers. The fruits or 'chequers' are edible and, when over-ripe, taste rather like dates; they were an ancient remedy for colic (hence the *torminalis*, meaning 'good for colic', in its Latin name). Before the introduction of hops they were used to flavour beer.

A 1996 survey by the London Natural History Society recorded thirty-two Wild Service trees of various ages on the Heath. Although some of the older larger ones have been lost (one of a pair growing beside the Seven Sister Ponds on the Extension fell a few years ago) there are also some groups of developing young trees – including a group of young saplings growing beside the Cart Path on the Extension. A recent survey by the Hampstead Heath Tree team came up with a total of eleven mature trees (those with a diameter of 30cms at 1.3 metres above ground level) on the Heath, and with another eight in Kenwood. Of the mature trees on the Heath, five are Veterans located within the historical field boundaries on the Heath and Heath Extension. Two of these Veterans have

Heath Report (cont)

lost substantial main limbs within the past couple of years and individual management plans are being drawn up to extend the life of each of the five Veterans. The Tree team have made a start on the essential work needed on two of the magnificent Veterans beside the path between the Hollow Beech and the Bird Bridge, and plans are underway for transplanting some of the young saplings into

The Wild Service Tree



suitable locations along the old hedge boundaries, where they will be able to produce their own suckered progeny.

Pond life

You will also see work around the ponds to encourage amphibians. This will be aimed at increasing the amount of light to the edges of ponds by coppicing and lifting bank-side trees.

The Men's Pond has suffered the most serious decline in amphibian numbers and although it is particularly important to lift its bank side vegetation, the prolific plant growth on the Heath side of the pond is an unusual bird habitat so we have asked that the lifting is done in sections to retain some of the cover and that more ramps are formed along the bank to make it easier for waterfowl to leave the ponds. Other work will include planting emergent and floating vegetation, creating more new small ponds or pools, and removing vegetation from overgrown ponds to maintain some open water.

All this follows from surveys of the larger Heath ponds over the past ten years which, although showing an overall gradual increase in frogspawn and decrease in toad spawn, the trend



patterns of the different ponds vary enormously with reductions caused, it is thought, from a combination of a lack of emergent and aquatic vegetation, from shade from overhanging trees, by hungry fish or, at the other end of the scale, by the clogging up of a pond by too many plants.

Kenwood

Over in Kenwood the historic Inner Circuit Path in South Wood, going along the south of the Wood Pond, has been closed for some months for safety reasons because a veteran oak in the centre of the path was severely decayed.

Kenwood is famed both for its ancient trees, which gave the South Wood its Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status, and for its historic walks. The options were to retain the tree and keep the path closed, or either to reduce the tree to a safe monolith or to fell it, leaving the dead wood in the wooded area. Ecologically, felling is thought to be better for beetles, though not so good for woodpeckers, and felling would allow the re-opening of the path with its continuous views of the House across the pond. There were good arguments for either option and English Heritage staff were divided on the best course of action.

This internal dilemma was apparent in the responses they received on consulting members of the Kenwood Landscape Forum, and members of the Heath Sub-Committee were also very divided on the issue. English Nature was consulted and considered there were sufficient other veterans in the wood for this one not to need to take precedence over the historic path. English Heritage, therefore, took the decision to re-open the path after doing the minimum work to the tree to make the path safe. The tree was too unsafe for the arboreal work to be done

from the tree itself and it is hoped that the contractor will be able to use coronet cutting, a technique often now used by the Heath's tree team, which leaves a monolith looking as if it is the result of storm damage rather than a chain saw. By the time you read this, you will be able to walk the re-opened path and see how successful the work is.

This year's Springett Lecture October 7

Finally, please make an advance note in your diary for this year's Springett Lecture at Rosslyn Chapel on Thursday 7th October when we are delighted that Oliver Rackham will be the speaker. We expect him to attract an audience too big to fit into Burgh House so will be hosting his talk at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

Professor Rackham is a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and an authority on the British countryside, especially trees, woodlands and wood pasture. As usual, the doors will open at 7:30 for a glass of wine before the talk starts at 8pm. We are expecting a very full audience so please plan to arrive early.

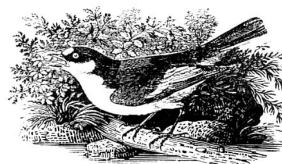
Date for your diary

Springett Lecture 2010

Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

Thursday 7th October 7.30pm

Oliver Rackham



The Pied Flycatcher

Town Reports

Town Sub-Committee

by Frank Harding

It seems to me that the recent concentration of activity of the Town Committee on traffic and related issues in and around Hampstead might suggest that the Town Committee be renamed the Hampstead Streets Committee but fortunately there are other matters that have held our attention. However, on this occasion, my report will mainly deal with "street" issues.

Fitzjohns Avenue area and the School Run

On 16 February the Executive (Environment) Sub-Group of Camden Council approved proposals to implement a local safety and school travel plan. These proposals include the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on Fitzjohns Avenue which will be enforced by eight average speed cameras, the creation of bus bays in the area to allow school buses to drop off and collect children and the consequent changes to the affected residents' parking bays without the net loss of the number of bays available. The Society had long been involved with the discussions leading up to these proposals, supported them and encouraged its members to do likewise.

It is hoped that as a result of the above proposals the pilot scheme introduced in March will develop into a sustainable scheme for the bussing of pupils from north, north-west and west London to and from the schools in the area. This would lead to a significant reduction in the volume of traffic in and around Fitzjohns Avenue at school opening and closing times. I trust that the parents will avail themselves of the scheme and that it will prove sufficiently successful that it can be fully implemented over the long term.

Heath Street and through traffic

We have recently witnessed again the closure of Heath Street due to subsidence. The foundations for the road and surrounding buildings are built on Claygate beds and Bagshot sands; this has led to instability and is no doubt at least largely to blame for the problems. However the increasing use of Heath Street by large coaches, buses and commercial vehicles must also be in part responsible. The Society has therefore proposed to Camden that coaches and heavy goods vehicles be denied access to the centre of Hampstead and thus to Heath Street except if they have business in the village.

If such a restriction is introduced, the law of unintended consequences must not be allowed to follow. Thus those vehicles banned from access to the village must not be allowed to worsen the existing travel bottle necks of East Heath Road and West Heath Road. This will



"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

entail putting restrictions on a number of roads for such heavy vehicles at, for example, Swiss Cottage on Fitzjohn's Avenue, Chalk Farm on Haverstock Hill, South End Green on East Heath Road, Golders Green on North End Road, Highgate on Hampstead Lane, the West Heath on West Heath Road, Finchley Road at various junctions and no doubt a number of other intermediate places.

Sign-posts

During the summer, you are likely to see the new sign-posts that are to be erected in and around Hampstead pointing the way to particular houses and points of interest. These have been developed in partnership with Camden and NW3 Hampstead with a view to those locations being more easily accessible to visitors to the area. It is hoped that visitor-friendly tourist maps of the area will follow shortly thereafter.

Cleaning the pavements

In the Town report of the previous Newsletter, I mentioned that Camden had agreed to undertake a "deep clean" of the pavements around Hampstead Underground station. This work has since been carried out on the east side of the road and its effect is noticeable. I would hope that Camden will also appreciate the difference the process has made and extend the cleaning to the other side of the High Street and more widely so that the whole area can be rid of what is largely discarded chewing gum.

Whitestone Pond

Juliette Sonabend continues to monitor developments on the refurbishment of the pond and its immediate surroundings. She meets regularly with the Camden and City of London project teams. At the time of writing (April), the

work is on schedule for completion in the early summer. Much of the work to the foundations and base of the pond has been completed, the new lamp standards are in place and some of the planting has been done. Once the project is completed it will, I am sure, create a much enhanced environment for those visiting or just passing through the area.

The Northern Line

I recently attended a public meeting in West Hampstead called by Councillor Chris Philp for a discussion with representatives of those working on and responsible for the current refurbishment works on the Jubilee Line. It was quite apparent that, as has been widely reported in the local press, residents and traders in the area have been hard hit by closures of the line and curtailments in its service. With similar work now starting on the Northern Line, we must try to ensure that the effects of that work do not lead to the same problems in and around the Hampstead area. The early signs are not good but various groups are monitoring what is happening and planned with a view to ensuring the minimum possible disruption to services.

Email addresses

I would ask all those members who have not registered their email addresses with the Society to do so as I have recently been able to warn those members who have done so of impending road works and closures in the Hampstead area. If you would like to receive these and other communications from the Society, I would invite you to email

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk so that your address can be added to the existing listing.

Town Reports (cont)

Planning Sub-Committee

by Gordon Maclean

The committee continues to be preoccupied with the major Planning issue of the day; the impact of basement construction in Hampstead. But there have also been other issues to keep us on our toes.

Basements

Tony Hillier set out in our last Newsletter many of the technical and legal implications of this complex matter in meticulous detail. Since then, there has been a series of increasingly inconclusive and irritating discussions and arguments with Camden officers on the subject. We continue to present a professionally prepared case on the clear hazards inseparable from deep and/or extensive basement excavations in Hampstead, why this needs control, and why this justifies urgent action. The hydrogeological and legal facts are plain. Our Planners do not, it seems, accept this, and continue with what to us is a complaisant stance on dealing with applications for basement excavations.

This is puzzling to us, especially in view of the new Planning policies set out by Camden themselves - with our support - in their new Planning Policy document, the Local Development Framework (LDF), now going through its ratification process with the Ministry. As we have explained previously, these new policies present a reasonable control system on basements, which will prevent at least the more outrageous proposals we are now seeing. But Camden will not take account of these policies, and say they won't until the last i has been dotted and t crossed in the Ministry ratification process, despite legal opinion insisting that these so-called "emerging" policies must be considered.

Meanwhile another eighteen basement applications have been made in the Hampstead area since our last newsletter - of which we have objected to 10, and have accepted that eight complied with the new "emerging" policies.

However, we must emphasise that all is not universally black on the basement front. It is becoming clear that our Councillors, particularly in the form of the Council's Development Control Committee, do not always see eye to eye with their officers. Two recent decisions, in respect of potentially extremely damaging applications for basements in South Hill Park, close to one of the Heath ponds, and in Kidderpore Avenue, have resulted in refusals. This has pleased us considerably - but one has already gone to Appeal. We will be presenting our evidence to the Inspectorate.

Athlone House

Following the long-running and widespread campaign of opposition to this dreadful proposal - see our last newsletter - this application was recently refused; this time, on officers' recommendation. Thus, good news - but an Appeal is likely to follow.

Article 4 Directions

These proposals, for use in Hampstead, Belsize and Swiss Cottage Conservation Areas, have now been approved by Camden, and are at the Ministry for ratification - expected in a month or two.

We of course welcome this - we did after all campaign for them ourselves - but now have proposed that more of our local Conservation Areas are added, in particular Fitzjohns/ Netherhall and Redington/Frognaal. Camden are sympathetic, but money is involved and, as you may know, there is not much of this around just now.

Heath House

You will have noticed the large, obtrusive and vulgar estate agents hoardings around this important listed house opposite Jack Straw's Castle. Estate agents boards have been forbidden in our Conservation Area for several years, and we called for their removal by Camden's Enforcement department. Although a separate application for more, illuminated, displays was refused, Enforcement have declined to take action. So these offensive advertisements, directly behind the War Memorial, remain. We are trying to get the decision reversed.

Trees

Our Tree Commissioner proposal was presented to Boris Johnson's Environmental Advisor at the GLA, Isobel Dedring, and received a serious and sympathetic hearing. However, we were, not surprisingly, told that there is no money in the kitty at the moment for such expenditure - small though we believe this to be. We were advised that GLA would be likely to support voluntary action with the same objective, and we are considering this.

Heath House



A different view of birds - and of life in general

by Colin Tudge, biologist, broadcaster and author

I am working on a new way of looking at life. Or at least it's new to me. For humanity at large it is as old as the hills. For I have been studying biology for more than half a century and of course I love it, and the creatures it helps to illuminate. But I always felt that the underlying assumptions, the "paradigm" of mainstream biology and of science as a whole, was and is deeply unsatisfactory. Mainstream western science is ultimately hard-nosed – minimalist and materialist. In its virtuously "parsimonious", cut-to-the-bone fashion it rejects any appeal to any entities or forces that cannot be immediately observed or measured (apart from a few like dark matter which have to be inferred even if they can't be seen). The intuitive idea that has run through all traditional cultures is rejected

out of hand. This traditional idea is essentially animist -- that there is more to the universe than meets the eye; and specifically that we need to acknowledge that "mind" is not an add-on but is a component of the universe; and that the universe may have purpose and a sense of direction.

---Animals have suffered from the minimalist outlook of conventional science – and we, in turn, have sadly underestimated our fellow creatures and misconstrued their nature. Rene Descartes set the tone in the 17th century when he declared with Gallic logic that animals are just machines, like the clockwork mannequins of his day. The behaviourists like B F Skinner who dominated most of 20th century animal psychology worked on just this basis – scorning any notion that animals may think, or be

devious, or feel the range of emotions that humans feel – love, depression, jealousy, tranquillity, and all the rest. Such ideas, the professional sceptics said, were simply anthropomorphic; fine for Chekhov, but not for science.

But in recent years the idea of the mindful universe has been gaining strength. There are good reasons, from physics, psychology, and anthropology, at least to take it seriously. By the same token it is now beyond reasonable dispute that we cannot understand animals simply by comparing them to machines. More and deeper field studies and more subtle trials in the laboratory reveal layer on layer of behaviour that cannot be explained without appealing to concepts that were deemed to apply exclusively to humans – including thought, and the whole spectrum of emotions that are the stuff of literature. Birds illustrate this beautifully – cliff swallows; swans; robins; crows of many kinds. Yet birds (unlike mammals, apart from human mammals) are easily observed day by day. You don't have to be a professional to watch birds.

Put the two ideas together – the mindful universe and the universal intelligence of animals – and we have a quite new "paradigm"; far more benign and encouraging than the ruthless mathematicization of science; far closer to intuition and traditional beliefs; and – a considerable bonus – surely far closer to the truth.



Swans on the Heath



Above: Crow

Below: Cliff swallow



A Hampstead painter rediscovered

by Helen Marcus

An intriguing request for information came in via our website, from Louise Williams. She asked for help in identifying this reproduction of a painting which she inherited from her father. He had told her it was of Hampstead, by an artist called Ken Law, but she was unable find any trace of the artist, despite having several contacts in the art world, and asked if we could confirm whether the scene depicted was indeed of Hampstead.

We were able to identify the buildings and, with the help of the ever invaluable Camden Local Studies Archive at Holborn, send her information about the artist, thus piecing together another little bit of Hampstead history.

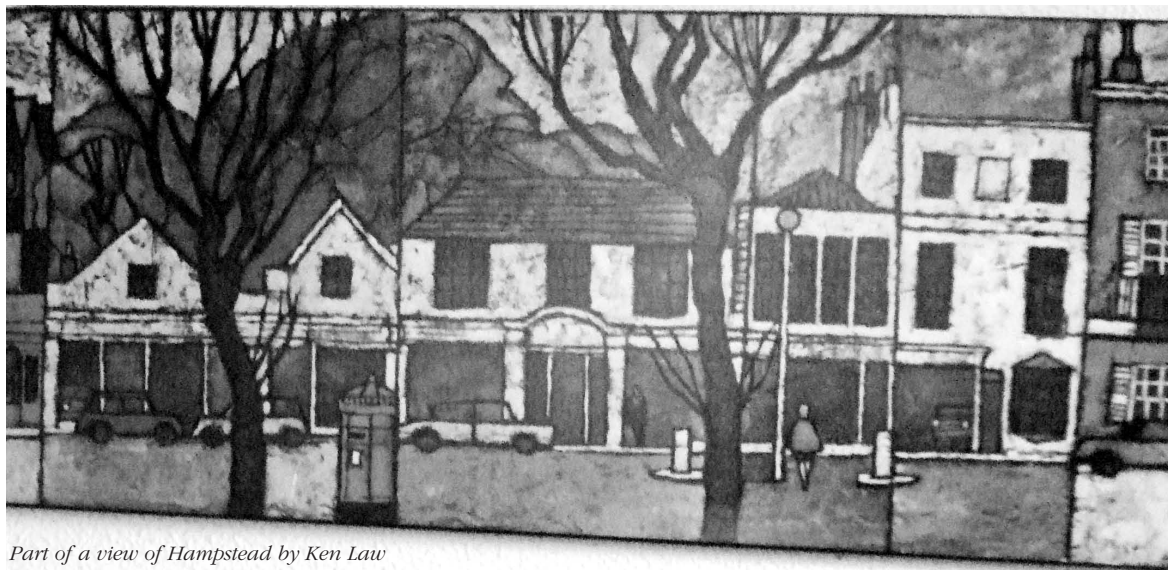
Ken Law was a musician and artist who lived for many years in Pilgrims lane in Hampstead. Born in Brixton, he studied cello, first with his uncle Frank Leonard who lived in Willoughby Road and then at the Royal Academy of Music. After service in World War Two War he joined

the London Symphony Orchestra in 1946 and played with them for over forty years.

During in the 1960s he developed an interest in art, and began sketching and painting the places he visited on world tours with the orchestra, using water colours and also gesso and oils.

He often painted views of Hampstead, including the scene partly reproduced here, which shows the stretch of the High Street from the William IV pub going towards Prince Arthur Road.. The low buildings in the middle, once the offices of the Ham & High, were pulled down to make way for the post office.

He developed a particular technique of “texture painting” putting oil directly on to gesso, which he etched deeply with the outline of his subject giving a three-dimensional look. Several of his pictures, including this one, were reproduced by Athena in their Prints for Pleasure series in the 1970s. He died in 1988.



Part of a view of Hampstead by Ken Law

Calling all swimmers!

A project to celebrate the swimming places on Hampstead Heath, by Caitlin Davies

How lucky we are, the users of Hampstead Heath, and especially the swimmers. Where else can you swim in an art deco Lido, one of the few remaining Lidos still open today, or stroll down Nightingale Lane beneath the spreading chestnut trees to the magical seclusion of the Ladies' Pond?

And yet, like many occasional swimmers, I have never known much about the history of these unique bathing places on Hampstead Heath: the Men's' Pond, the Mixed Bathing Pond, the Ladies' Pond and the Parliament Hill Lido.

I've been swimming at the Lido for forty years, although this still makes me a youngster compared with many. The ice creams on sale have barely changed, but gone are the days when you could play in the fountain or dive off a board.

A lot of my teenage years were spent at the Ladies' Pond. I was always struck by how comfortable the women were with themselves, how strange it was to swim with the ducks, how daring it seemed to climb over the railings on a bitter winter's morning, clutching a thermos of tea, ready to break the ice in order to get in. And how well I remember surfacing from the water with a ring of muck on my neck.

But until recently I'd never thought much about the history of these bathing places or the stories they had to tell. I didn't know that the Lido was opened in 1938 with glamorous fanfare, thanks to the presence of the swashbuckling American movie star Tyrone Power. The matinee idol was the biggest box-office draw, after Mickey Rooney, and here he was opening our Lido, the second most expensive of all the Lidos then built by London Country Council.



photo Ruth Corney

I never knew, either, that the ponds were officially opened to the public by King George V on a summer's morning eighty-five years ago this year.

As a teenager I never thought to ask about the backgrounds of the lifeguards at the Ladies' Pond, some of whom were champion swimmers.

I only tried to avoid getting a telling off. I never knew that film star Katherine Hepburn used to go there; I never thought to wonder whether there was any other place in the country that still had segregated swimming for women, and, just as importantly, staffed with only women lifeguards.

This has to be why women trek from miles away for a refreshing dip in the still waters. Just the other week British singer Paloma Faith told the Evening Standard that her favourite London discovery was swimming at the Heath ponds at one o'clock in the morning in the rain.

It's less surprising that I know so little about the Men's Pond – having never swum there (although there have been times when women have) – except that pop star George Michael has been stalked nearby by over-eager paparazzi.

But it was here that the first diving stage in England was built in 1893, according to the Great Britain Diving Federation, and two years later it was here that the Royal Life Saving Society staged the first National Graceful Diving championships

The first British diving club was established at the Men's Pond too, in 1928, and divers (men only) faced creaky boards, rusty iron ladders and murky water teeming with pond life.

Similarly I don't know much about the Mixed Pond, where I've never swum but where bathers have been enjoying the waters since 1825, if not earlier. And although I believe in the right to outdoor swimming, I only vaguely followed the case in 2005 when Heath swimmers went to court for the 'right to take risks' by using the ponds in winter.

They won, and the ruling was reported internationally. After all, the Men's and Ladies' Ponds are the only life-guarded open-water swimming places in the UK to be open every single day of the year, and they are well known both home and abroad.

And all of this is why, along with photographer Ruth Corney, we wanted to come up with a project to document and celebrate the swimming places on Hampstead Heath, having never before been written about in one book.

Our plan is to document each unique swimming place, through photographs and text. The book would include archive and modern illustrations, maps, and newspaper reports, as well historical background and contemporary interviews.

The purpose would be to educate, but also to entertain, so that an occasional swimmer like myself would come to know more about, and further appreciate, the wonders we have on our doorstep.

Ruth is a professional photographer whose "Rus in Urbe" exhibition in 2000 documented life at the Ladies' Pond. She was commissioned by the Lido to document its refurbishment in 2005, and in 2008 held a 'Taking the Plunge' exhibition, capturing life at the Heath's watering holes.

I'm a professional writer, author of two non-fiction books and three novels, and a freelance journalist working mainly for The Independent.

If you're interested in knowing more about the project or suggesting ways of funding, then please contact Caitlin at caitlind1@aol.com or Ruth on ruth_corney@yahoo.com.

Launch of the Civic Voice

by Helen Marcus

After a year of intensive work and consultation, a new organisation has risen from the ashes of the Civic Trust: the Civic Voice. It was launched on Saturday 17 April at London's Building Centre, Store Street, attended by nearly 200 representatives of Civic Societies from all over the country. Griff Rhys Jones spoke eloquently, in particular emphasising how important it is to have a national voice to speak on our behalf to the politicians. Sir Terry Farrell gave an interesting address about various projects with which he has been involved.

Tony Burton, who was seconded from the National Trust, and Ian Harvey, have done a splendid job in steering it through to a successful launch.

The consultation findings were published in the report *Own the Future*, and societies have been kept informed of the progress through an excellent website, a helpful series of email bulletins, and regular Civic Society live-discussion forums over the internet. Summaries of the main decisions and plans were regularly posted on the website. This all made interesting reading and gave an idea of what a valuable role a new organisation could play.

Applications were invited through the website for people to put themselves forward as the new trustees of Civic Voice. There were over 20 expressions of interest, and the 922 civic societies who registered with the Civic Society Initiative last year were eligible to vote.

One might not agree with all the decisions that have been taken during the year, but one cannot fault the dedication with which Tony and Ian worked to get it done. They deserve our thanks.

A framework has been established; it is now up to the new Board of eight trustees to make it work.

News from London Forum

Judicial Review challenges to increase of flights over London

Is Judicial Review now the only recourse for citizens trying to hold government to account? The H&HS has had success recently and now groups concerned about the unbridled expansion of airports in London, in complete disregard of the misery that increased noise causes millions of Londoners, are also using this means.

The Judicial Review findings in March, on the third runway at Heathrow, may have profound implications, not just for Heathrow but for government policy generally. Lord Justice Carnwath ruled that the government's position that policy that had been decided could not be changed was "untenable in law and common sense"; ".....no policy can be set in stone. It must be open to reconsideration in the light of changing circumstances".

Evidence is mounting that air industry lobbying of government ministers has unduly influenced policy, even to the extent of ignoring climate change issues. Peter Mandelson, and former ministers Clive Soley and Geoff Hoon, have been the subject of press comment. The Information Commissioner's Office has been asked to investigate missing emails between the Department for Transport and BAA.

Controversy has now spread to London City Airport. The campaign group Fight the Flights has won the right to apply for Judicial Review to challenge a new flight path and increased flights. Newham Borough Council failed to submit a Noise Action Plan in respect of the changes and admitted that they didn't fulfil their duty to record noise data for eight years.

More about this and many other London-wide issues can be found in the latest edition of the London Forum newsletter, Newsforum. If you would like to receive this online in PDF form please contact Helen Marcus.

Letters to the Society

Praise for our website and appreciative letters from two people with whom the Society worked closely in the past.

From a former Treasurer of the Society

A. A Lindsell was Hon Treasurer of the Society for nine years until his retirement from Lloyds Bank, Rosslyn Hill in 1990. He recently wrote from Suffolk, where he now lives, to express his appreciation of the Newsletter over the last twenty years: "It is always good to know the current events and concerns in Hampstead. The Society has obviously grown so much and has helped to maintain the many good things in Hampstead that I remember. Working with Peggy Jay was always a pleasure and the Society is indebted to her for all she achieved. Please pass on my good wishes. I wish the society further success in its valuable work".

Lloyds Hampstead Branch has provided the Society with its banking facilities for over a century, since the Society's foundation in 1897. In those very different days the bank also acted as the Society's Honorary Treasurer. Mr. Lindsell took on the role in the 1980s and it was only with his retirement in 1989-90 that the Society appointed its Hon Treasurer, Peter Gorb, from within the committee for the first time. Peter also later served as Chairman. John Smithard then took on the role serving for nearly twenty years.

Thank you Mr. Lindsell. We much appreciate hearing from you and send you our warmest good wishes.

From a former General Manager of the Heath

Allan Tyler worked for the GLC Parks and Recreation and Arts Department and became General Manager of the Heath in 1986. He wrote from Sussex of his continuing pleasure on receiving the Newsletter: "I shall always be grateful to the Society for making me an Honorary Member and keeping me in touch with the Heath and its activities".

The picture of Lime Avenue on our new membership leaflet reminded him of how it "was almost totally destroyed in the great gale of 1987. I arranged for the fallen trees to be removed and new saplings planted in their place. Sir Godfrey Taylor, who was then Chairman of the London Residuary Body, reopened it in company with Mrs. Peggy Jay. It is good to see they have matured well".

He also remembered the ski jumping contest in 1950 (see story Newsletter May 2008)

".....snow was imported from Norway. I have a copy of the programme for that event. It was organised by the Central Council of Physical Recreation and the Ski Club of Great Britain."

The 1989 Society Annual report carried an article by Allan reminiscing about his time in Hampstead when he retired.

Warmest good wishes to Allan – thank you for keeping in touch.

Appreciation for H&HS website

The Chairman of the Spitalfields Society emailed us asking for our help in setting up a borough-wide conservation website in the Borough of Tower Hamlets: "We have been looking at your wonderful and very professional website and

wondered if we could use some of your material on ours such as the articles on how to object to planning applications etc".

All praise and thanks to our dedicated web committee!

Bulletin Board - Proms at St. Jude's

Thomas Radice gives the highlights of this year's programme, 19–27 June

Now in its 18th year, the Proms festival is one of the leading cultural events in the area. We hope that Society members will come and enjoy the festival in the delightful semi-rural setting of Hampstead Garden Suburb and help to raise funds for two important charities – Toynbee Hall, founded in Whitechapel in 1884 by Canon Samuel Barnett [a founder member of this Society. Ed.] and his wife Henrietta as one of the first of the Victorian university settlements and to this day at the cutting edge of social and welfare policy; and the North London Hospice, which provides care for those living with a terminal illness in the Boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

The late David Sonin, music critic of the *Ham & High*, described the Proms in 2004 as 'an event that has grown in stature and musical quality over the years as well as generating tens of thousands of pounds for the two charities. The Proms are devised, managed and staffed by volunteers in what is best described as a model of community action and one that offers a broad spectrum of quality musical entertainment in the relaxed and amiable traditions of a summer English house party. Despite an inevitable need for increased professional back-up, we have carefully maintained the atmosphere and tradition that David so aptly described.

Demand for Sir Willard White's song recital has beaten all expectations, but tickets for other evenings remain (as at mid-April) in good supply. If your taste is for jazz, you might care to savour a sophisticated evening with Clare Teal and her band on Saturday 26 June; or you could indulge in movie nostalgia with the BBC Elstree Concert Band on Wednesday June 23.



On the classical front, the Grand Opera Night and the piano recital by John Lill will be firm favourites. Chamber music lovers will be richly rewarded by the Endellion String Quartet, while the Choir of Clare College Cambridge will present an exquisite programme of French choral music under their Director, Timothy Brown, making an exclusive final London appearance before retirement. And don't forget the programme of free lunchtime concerts, featuring many talented young musicians.

Fringe activities include expert-led walks in the Garden Suburb and other places associated with the Barnetts, including 'Dame Henrietta's Neighbours' – a walk from Golders Hill Park to St Jude's led by staff of the Heath Superintendent's team, City of London.

Finally there is the concert venue itself, the church of St-Jude-on-the-Hill, described by Heath & Hampstead Society patron Sir Simon Jenkins as Edwin Lutyens's 'ecclesiastical masterpiece'. St Jude's and its sister church at the other end of Central Square, the Free Church (also by Lutyens) are the only Grade I listed buildings in the London Borough of Barnet.

The brochure is enclosed and there is more information on the website: www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

There is still time to apply for tickets and you can receive preferential allocation by becoming a Friend (call 020 8455 1025 or emailfriendspsj@gmail.com)

Hampstead & Highgate Festival

24 September to 3 October 2010

Inspired by Diaghilev

A feast of arts events has been assembled for this year's Festival including music, theatre, film, spoken word, dance and the visual arts. New initiatives include a full week of free lunchtime concerts at Hampstead Parish Church, an art competition for local schoolchildren sponsored by the Catto Gallery, a Festival exhibition focusing on dancer Tamara Karsavina and film at the Everyman.

All this alongside re-invigorated Festival staples: classical music, including a special family programme; Night Skies at the Hampstead Observatory, jazz and walks on the Heath. A stellar line-up of artists includes Dame Felicity Lott and Simon Callow, and all programmes are influenced by Sergei Diaghilev who transformed the world of dance, theatre, music and the visual arts as no one had ever done before (or has done since).

Details will be on the Festival website at the end of May.
www.hamandhighfest.co.uk for details

The Hampstead Film Society

Summer season

This welcome initiative had a most successful launch in March with packed audiences. It is the brainchild of Tim Wilmott, Building Manager at Hampstead Town Hall Centre, with funding from Camden's Learning and Transformation Fund.

Regular Tuesday night screenings will present seasons of world cinema with classic movies and documentaries at Hampstead Town Hall.

The season began with *Into The Wild*, with Sean Penn, which was followed by a lively discussion presented by film lecturer Walter Howard.

The programme continues with:

8th June *Umberto D* Vittorio De Sica (1952),

22nd June *The Return* Andrei Zvyagintsev (2003),

6th July *Everlasting Moments* (2008),

20th July *Sullivan's Travels* Preston Sturges (1941)

All start at 7.00pm Bar available

For more information: Tel: 020 7692 5811

Email: tim.wilmott@interchange.org.uk

www.interchange.org.uk/movies

Hampstead Town Hall Centre, 213 Haverstock Hill, London, NW3 4QP

What price your identity?

Many people are unaware of the impact identity cards will have on the services provided by our local borough councils.

Last year it was reported that ID cards were being scrapped. Alan Johnson said the government would not introduce legislation to make the cards compulsory.

But the truth is that the Identity Cards Bill with its National Identity Register (NIR) became law in 2004. So far from being "voluntary" there are powers to require registration, and penalties for

non-compliance if you do not provide the required 49 categories of details for the NIR.

Kept well out of the public eye is the power to make public services conditional on identity checks: eventually you won't be able to renew a passport, driving license, register to vote or with a doctor, or even have your rubbish collected unless you are on the Register.

On April 20 in an interview for BBC Radio 4's programme *"Biometrics: an identity crisis"* Meg Hillier, Home Office Minister responsible for identity cards said categorically that: "Identity cards are here to stay".

Bulletin Board

The City of London website

The City of London website has excellent information about Hampstead Heath.

Have your say

It has established a *Hampstead Heath - have your say!* section to record feedback and provide local residents with the opportunity to comment on how open spaces nationwide are managed and maintained. It will use this information to compare results on Hampstead Heath with other open spaces up and down the country.

They invite and welcome your involvement. Visit www.greenstat.org.uk and click on the London region, where you will then see a list of organisations – please chose ‘City of London’ which is conveniently located at the very top of the page. You will then be asked to select whether you wish to comment on the Service provided by City of London, or to comment on a specific Open Space. If you select option 2 ‘Park or Open Space’ you will be given a list of City of London open spaces to comment on – please select ‘Hampstead Heath’ from this list and you will then be taken through an online survey.

Other website pages and downloads

they offer are:

A recently established *Hampstead Heath e-newsletter*:

Seasonal wildlife and conservation updates on Hampstead Heath

A leaflet about the programme of work towards more natural Heath paths to soften the appearance, improve safety and enhance the habitats along the existing shared use (pedestrian/cycle) route that links Millfield Lane and the East Heath Road / Spaniards Road shared use route.

Reports of past meetings of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

The Hampstead Heath Diary for the year April 2010 to March 2011 providing information on all Heath facilities and management.

Information about how to contact Heath Hands.

All this information can be found on the City’s website at:

http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGN_L_Services/Environment_and_planning/Parks_and_open_spaces/Hampstead_Heath



Hampstead Heath has received the Green Flag Award and the Green Heritage Award in recognition of achieving the required standard in managing sites with historic importance.



A book of interest

Guardians of the Heath

Another society and another heath!

Is there another Heath ? Blackheath Society has published a book celebrating its first 70 years, ***Guardians of the Heath***. Members may be interested to read the triumphs and travails of our south London counterpart and compare notes.

The book itself has an interesting history. The witty and accomplished original manuscript was written in 1987 by Felix Barker, distinguished theatre critic and Blackheath resident, supposedly for the Society's 50th anniversary. But some of its comment was not to the taste of the then committee and it was never published. Barker died in 1997 and a dusty brown envelope containing the text was re-discovered by Blackheath secretary Wendy Shelton, in the run up to the 70th anniversary in 2007. Society vice-president, Tony Aldous, himself a distinguished journalist, took charge: "His neglected text for the Blackheath Society was a revelation: elegant, witty, perceptive and as fresh as a daisy." Tony covers the last 20 years of the story in a diary-like notebook form.

Guest speaker at the launch, Philip Davies - Director for London & S.E. English Heritage, - praised the work of the Blackheath Society toasting "your 70 years of success." He called the Society "a relative newcomer" compared to its sister society in Hampstead, to several light-hearted boos from the audience!

For more information about how to buy this charming and interesting book telephone 020 8297 1937 or email blackheath.soc@lineone.net Blackheath Society office and postal address is:

Chapman House, 10 Blackheath Village,
London SE3 9LE

News from Burgh House

Burgh House garden

a new eNews feature letting you know what is going on in the Burgh House garden. Christopher Coll and his team of volunteers work hard behind the scenes to keep it looking beautiful year round. All the bulbs are out now and they have just taken delivery of five stunning bamboos for the Sullivan Garden.



Museum News

Wednesday 12th May - Sunday 15 August:

Museum exhibition: Percy Smith. Typographer, calligrapher and printmaker, who lived in Hampstead in the 1930s and '40s. From sketching the WWI trenches to designing book covers, Smith's was a singular and varied talent.

Wednesday 19th May, for six weeks:

Return of the oral history course: Recording Life Stories - Capture the hidden past. £180, concs. £140. Bookings and enquiries to Verusca Calabria, Oral Historian, verusca@oralhistorymatters.co.uk, Tel: 07791 092 850.

Support the Friends of Burgh House

For more information tel: 020 7435 8460

Burgh House Museum, Buttery, Bookstall

Exhibitions, talks, concerts and classes
Burgh House, New End Square NW3
www.burghhouse.org.uk

Tel: 020 7431 0144

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

Heath Walks 2010-11

Walks are held on the first Sunday of every month except January. Most start from Burgh House, New End Square, London NW3 1LT - (for directions see www.burghhouse.org.uk). The house is 10 minutes walk from Hampstead tube station, but weekend closures will apply to this part of the Northern Line for much of the period covered by these walks – please check the latest position with Transport for London (020 7222 1234 or ‘live travel news’ on www.tfl.gov.uk). Parking in the immediate area is 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

Further information from walks organiser, Thomas Radice, Tel: 020 8455 1025; mobile: 07941 528 034 or email: thosradice@gmail.com

6 June 2.30pm (meet in North End Way, on Hampstead side of Inverforth House) The Pergola, the Hill Garden and Golders Hill Park led by Peter Tausig, member of the H&HS Committee and Heath Subcommittee

4 July 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) Flora of the Heath led by David Bevan, Conservation Officer and Past President, London Natural History Society, and Fellow of the Linnean Society, London

1 August 2.30pm (meet at the cattle trough in Spaniards Road, near the Spaniards Inn) The Heath Extension led by Tony Ghilchik, Vice-Chairman of the H&HS

5 September: a choice of two walks, held concurrently (NB different start points)

10.30am from Burgh House Birds of the Heath in Autumn led by John Hunt and Sash Tusa, both members of the H&HS Heath Subcommittee

10.30am from the Kenwood Kitchen Garden entrance, Hampstead Lane; Fungus foray led by Andy Overall, Group Leader, London Fungus Group, and founder of ‘Fungi to be with’. **NB Booking essential** opens 1 August (**H&HS members have priority**)

3 October 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) Practical Conservation led by Rupert Sheldrake, biologist, author and advisor to the H&HS Heath Subcommittee

7 November 10.30am (meet at the Kenwood Kitchen Garden entrance, Hampstead Lane) Habitats of the Heath led by Linda Dolata, official volunteer guide, Kew Gardens

5 December 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Hampstead Heath Management led by Meg Game, Ecologist, City of London

2011 (No walk in January)

6 February 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Ponds of the Heath led by Marc Hutchinson, Secretary, Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club; member of the H&HS Committee and Heath Sub-Committee

