



The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

Annual Report May 2011

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The view of St. Paul's from Parliament Hill destroyed *photo: Miki Yamanouchi*

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Destruction of a three-century-old view

Our front page photograph shows how the Shard, rising on London Bridge Street, has dramatically compromised views of London's greatest landmark, St Paul's Cathedral, from Parliament Hill. It is one of six views supposedly protected by statute but the building was enthusiastically supported by Ken Livingstone when he was Mayor.

The excuse for introducing tall buildings in the centre of London was the proviso that they are sited at major transport nodes. The then government was warned by English Heritage about the “unequivocal, major and detrimental impact” it would have on protected views and intrusion on two World Heritage sites, the Tower of London and Palace of Westminster, but it was approved by John Prescott after a public inquiry. Martin Stancliffe, Surveyor to the Fabric of St Paul's Cathedral, said: “We raised our concerns about the effect of the scale of the Shard on St Paul's in this iconic view at the public inquiry but our objection was over-ruled.”

With several more towers to come, Londoners will soon see the extent of the betrayal by the politicians tasked with preserving our heritage. As our patron Sir Simon Jenkins wrote last year: “The rules governing city views and open spaces are meant to apply to everyone, not just those who cannot afford fancy architects and lawyers. Allow any exception and a planning rule is defunct. One blot spoils the picture. A new rule is thus established, that there is no rule”.

The Shard has indeed established a new rule which will set the precedent for further breaches until there is nothing left. A cityscape held dear by millions is being destroyed.

Annual Report for the year 2010 - 2011

by Tony Hillier

How Big is our Society?

In preparing this year's annual report I have been puzzling how, if at all, we fit into the Big Society debate about the right and wrong mix of ways to contribute to community well-being. The answer is that we don't quite fit any of the stereotypes. The unspoken emphasis is that the debate is primarily about the well-being of people. The Heath and Hampstead Society's concerns are for the protection and improvement of local amenities and by this we mean spaces, buildings, and abstract ideas about how best to enjoy them. While amenity is not excluded from the debate, we haven't yet followed the example from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, which apparently now looks to platoons of residents to pick up street litter.

A second distinction concerns money. Unlike some local charities which contribute to people's welfare, our income is entirely independent of state grants or contracts, whether central or local, and this leaves us crucially free to criticise. This financial distinction is, however, not so clear-cut when we consider how in fact we spend much of our energies, and where the majority of the funding for carrying out the improvements to Hampstead and the Heath comes from. They are mostly funded out of "public" budgets.

Influencing How Public Money is spent on Local Amenities

A crucial part of the Heath Committee's work is to influence how the City spends its considerable annual budget to preserve the wild and natural state of the Heath. Our input is especially important in the current financial year when 10% cuts have been approved. We have contributed to the details of the 10-year Management Work Plans so far published for

the Upper Vale of Heath, the Viaduct Pond, Seven Sisters ponds on the Extension, Tumulus fields and Springett Wood. It is of course an important distinction that funds used by the City on the Heath are "private", in the sense that they are charitable assets managed by elected officials from the square mile with neither party political affiliation nor Departmental budget control.

Town Committee successes

The Town Committee succeeded this last summer, after many years of lobbying, in influencing the City, Camden, English Heritage and TfL to apply their various budgets to such wonderful effect in the restoration of Whitestone Pond and its surround. We wish them the same success in their even longer standing efforts to work with Barnet and Camden Councils to restore the Toll House opposite the Spaniards Inn.

A quicker result was achieved in having Camden set up the attractive new sign posts directing visitors around Hampstead.

The Town Committee continues to work with Camden, schools and residents on the still challenging problems of the school run.

The local Group known as Hampstead 2020, who are independent of the Society and whom we support, continue to work hard to persuade TfL to fund dramatic improvements to the streetscape and pedestrian amenity in the centre of Hampstead.

Libraries

The above are all examples of very friendly co-operation with the relevant authorities. This is not so with proposed library service cuts and closures. The Society has sent a detailed formal challenge to the Executive Member for Culture

questioning the lawfulness of the Cabinet decision in December 2010 on which the Library Consultation is based. In summary we argue that it was and is irrational to fix disproportionate cuts this year amounting to £1.6mn over 2012-4 (cumulatively £2mn), when central Government has made it clear that no reliable forecast over the three financial years to 2015 can be made in respect of over 80% of revenue (grants and Council tax) for the Camden's Annual General Fund expenditure, which is currently at £868mn. We were also granted a deputation to speak at the Special Cabinet Meeting on 27 April calling for a drastic rethink to keep all libraries open by making Camden's service at least measure up to the efficiencies of best practice in other Boroughs.

Direct Amenity Funding

Obviously the resources at our disposal to improve local amenities are much more limited. We can however be proud of the benefit that the Society's Hampstead Card scheme, managed by Ann Eastman, has had in the High Street and Heath Street in softening the impact of the general downturn in retail trade, which has hit harder in so many other areas of London. We urge members to continue to show support for local independent traders and service providers by shopping locally and using your Hampstead Card.

Protecting our Built Environment

This is primarily the work of the Society's Planning Committee. It has two strands: trying to thwart or amend what we consider to be damaging developments; and influencing the policies and practices adopted by Camden in exercising its duties as the local planning authority. In both these areas we have been extremely active in trying to control basement activity.

The Local Development Framework

In November 2010 Camden adopted new local planning policies known as the Local Development Framework. This contains two development policies known as DP 27 and DP 23, which give local residents important new protections against unacceptable damage from excavation by developers. On April 6 2011 Camden adopted Special Planning Guidance applicable to basements and light wells, which incorporates the important technical guidelines prepared for Camden by Arup. This sets out the detailed technical data and assessment procedures which developers must present to Camden to enable an informed decision to be made whether or not to grant permission safely.

With the hugely generous financial support from Members to the Basement Appeal, we have been able to ensure that those new policies are the most neighbour-friendly in the country. However, the rather obscure geotechnical and structural engineering knowledge needed to interpret correctly the impact basements may have on neighbouring properties and local flooding risks means that progress still needs to be made in enabling Camden officers to apply these excellent policies correctly. Bad decisions are still being made.

Gordon Maclean, with support from the Committee, reviews and where necessary challenges the 40-50 applications submitted per month to Camden in NW3. Where a controversial decision goes before the Development Control Committee, we often combine forces with immediate residents to try to persuade Councillors in a spoken deputation to follow our advice; this is more often than not asking them to vote against the planning officer's recommendation. The third leg can be

Annual Report for the year 2010 - 2011 (cont)

to join Camden in defending an Appeal, where we obtained a favourable decision, but where the developer has appealed.

There are two notable examples of the latter. Athlone House and 9 Downshire Hill were both cases where we, as Rule 6 Parties at a Public Enquiry, supported Camden, and in the case of Athlone House, the City of London as well, to defend their decisions. We felt these involved crucial issues of policy principle and the protection of an important landmark and a street with 48 listed buildings respectively.

Downshire Hill

While the Inspector allowed the Downshire Hill developer to proceed, the challenges we had mounted during a three-year campaign ensured that the risks of serious neighbour damage had been significantly reduced and the hurdle level of technical assessment needed to get approval was significantly raised for the benefit of the wider community. This precedent was helpful in persuading Camden to add neighbour-protecting conditions to the approval eventually given to South Hampstead School for its underground sports hall.

Athlone House

For Athlone House we joined forces with the Highgate Society. The issues were in part to prevent the unwarranted destruction of the existing Victorian, slightly eccentric country mansion so well settled as part of the view from the Heath, and its replacement by a “bombastic Xanadu”, the words of our patron Sir Simon Jenkins in the Evening Standard. In part we were keen to reinforce the important judgement protecting private Metropolitan Open Land against erosion by “salami cuts”, which the Society established in the Court of Appeal over the Garden House.

The decision, announced while I was writing this report, has been we are pleased to say in our favour. We wait to see if an appeal is lodged. All those who worked so hard to prepare the Society’s case are to be congratulated on this result. Thanks are also due to the many Society members who took the trouble to write in with letters of objection.

A number of other potentially damaging basement applications have come forward and been sent back for further impact assessment to be carried out. Regrettably some very damaging excavations have been allowed to go ahead and neighbours have suffered grievously. The only good that comes from the latter is that our structural engineering adviser has prepared cogently-argued case histories on three of the most extreme cases, to support the case we make to Camden for policy changes.

Preventing Public Nuisance

In recent years the Society has been able to assist groups of residents to resist late night opening for alcohol sales. We did this by using the considerable opportunities created under the Licensing Act 2003 for residents to club together to produce the evidence to persuade Camden’s Licensing Panels to refuse opening during anti-social hours. The message has generally registered with intending owners and managers of licensed premises in Hampstead. We value genuine traditional local pubs, although many across the country have been forced to close by the changing economics of drinking. We hope for example that the Duke of Hamilton can remain open. We recently worked with local residents to obtain important changes to the licence conditions sought by new owners of premises at the top of Pond Street, which have been re-opened with an

attractive new formula, but which still needed thoughtful controls to make life bearable for close neighbours.

Lines of Collective Communication

In all these activities the Society must be “big” in its communication skills, both listening and putting across a thorough understanding of the legal and technical knowledge needed. We need this to punch above our weight and to be receptive to current opinions both among and outside our membership. It also helps to have the right friends.

Wider representations

We have joined the Civic Voice, which has replaced the defunct Civic Trust as the national voice of civic societies like ours, to lobby central government. They have a powerful team headed by Tony Burton, who will be our guest speaker at the AGM. We are delighted that Helen Marcus became a Trustee.

We remain enthusiastic members of the London Forum, which does a remarkable job of lobbying the GLA on behalf of around 130 London amenity societies. Again Helen is a member of their executive committee and news editor.

We held our second annual get-together at Burgh House with representatives of local residents’ associations and trade bodies. Many of our fifty or so active committee members are of course also members of their local RAs, but taking time to sit together and talk through shared issues, problems and solutions on a regular basis is agreed by all to be useful.

Camden Councillors now hold local area forums covering sets of Wards and attended by Camden officers with expertise on topics on the agenda. These help them to maintain a constructive dialogue with us their constituents.

Promoting an Appreciation of Hampstead and its History

The Heath Committee organised a particularly successful and high quality Springett Lecture given this year by Professor Oliver Rackham analysing the historic impact of becoming what he called an urban island on the ecology of the Heath. We held this in the Rosslyn Hill Chapel. It was an excellent promotional event for the Society appreciated by an audience of over 200.

The Town Committee has obtained house owners’ agreement for us to install Hampstead plaques to commemorate Sir David Low and Daphne du Maurier.

In addition to our very popular Heath Walks, the Town Committee has now launched two new programmes: one will take visitors and members around the houses with our and English Heritage plaques commemorating distinguished earlier occupants; the other has started with a two part-walk to trace the route of the Fleet River from its source on the Heath down to the Thames, particularly timely in view of the current discussion of flood dams at the Heath ponds. (see page 11)

People

We have invited Stephen Taylor to join the General Committee. His name will go forward for election at the AGM. Stephen has done sterling work in organising the residents on the Parliament Hill spur to form an RA group called Hillsiders. He has been a member of our Web Committee since it was formed and is highly valued on that for his technical skills.

The Society AGM

Notice of our AGM on June 27th at Hampstead Town Hall is given on page 7. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Elections to the General Committee 2011

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: | Marc Hutchinson |

Representatives on other bodies:

The City of London Hampstead Heath Management Committee: Tony Ghilchik

The City of London Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee: Jeremy Wright

General Committee Members

Frankie de Freitas, Tony Ghilchik, Frank Harding, Robert Linger, Douglas Maxwell, Nigel Steward, and John Weston continue the terms for which they were elected.

Marc Hutchinson has kindly agreed to put his name forward for election as Hon Secretary.

The following have been nominated:

Janine Griffis

Having retired in 2009 Janine now offers herself for election having been proposed and seconded.

Stephen Taylor

Stephen Taylor is a computer programmer. Born in 1952, he first came to Hampstead in 1970, to study at Westfield College. He has since lived and worked in Switzerland, Denmark, Australia, Korea and the United States. In 2001 he returned and settled in Hampstead.

Stephen is the editor of his professional association's journal, and the Heath & Hampstead Society's webmaster. In 2009 he was the London venue manager for the Convention on Modern Liberty. He is a keen walker and cyclist.

He and his partner Miki Yamanouchi are active members of their street association, South Hillside, and of the local Transition Town movement.

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 7 June.



Annual General Meeting 2011



Please join us for our
Annual General Meeting
and
Reception
Hampstead Town Hall
Monday 27 June 2011

- 7.00 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.
- 7.30 Annual General Meeting and Elections of President, Officers and
Members of the General Committee.

Following the business part of the meeting

the Guest speaker will be

Tony Burton

Geographer, town planner,
Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Director of

Civic Voice

Treasurer's report for 2010

by Maureen Clark-Darby

The Society is pleased to present its Financial Reports for 2010.

The loss for the year ended 31 December 2010 is £459 (2009: loss £8,373). In 2010 we have a paper profit of £235 on our investment. There is therefore a total loss of for the year of £224.

Membership is down by 9% in 2010 and our subscription income is down year on year 2010: £18,430 (2009: £19,620). General donations are up in 2010 £3,128 (2009: £886). Interest income is also down year on year £644 (2009: £1,359)

During 2010 the Society conducted an appeal to challenge a series of planning applications and appeals for basement excavations in the Hampstead area. This appeal raised funds during the year of £33,720, which attracted £7,752 Gift Aid. This gives a total fund for the year of £41,472.

The total legal, geology and other costs including the 9 Downshire Hill Public Enquiry Planning Appeal for which The Heath & Hampstead Society agreed to pay 50% of the costs, the balance being met by local residents, was £43,081 for the year.

The Society's running costs have slightly reduced in the year £22,732 (2009: £22,740).

In 2010 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 £75,910.

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.

Tony Burton of Civic Voice - AGM guest speaker

We are delighted that Tony Burton, the Director of Civic Voice, the new national charity for the civic movement, is to be our guest speaker at this year's AGM.

Tony is a geographer, town planner and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He worked for the Campaign to Protect Rural England for 13 years, becoming Deputy Director, and then moved to the National Trust as Executive Board member responsible for Strategy and External Affairs

He has a strong track record in national campaigning and lobbying with over 20 years experience in voluntary conservation and environmental organisations, and community campaigning. Tony has been Chair of Wildlife

and Countryside Link and a founder trustee of Heritage Link – the two main voluntary sector liaison bodies – and was a member of Richard Rogers's Urban Task Force. Tony is a member of the Government's Planning Sounding Board.

Civic Voice lobbies Government and influences Parliament on changes to the law and policy which shape decisions. Its high profile on the national stage raises awareness of the civic movement for the benefit of everyone. Its President is Griff Rhys Jones.

Civic Voice is organising a week of events starting with Civic Day on 25 June 2011 for civic societies across the country to showcase their work. The Heath & Hampstead Society AGM on June 27th will be part of this.

Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

Flood defences on the Heath

After what was probably the driest March since records began, and early glorious weather in April, it seems strange that one of the key concerns at the moment is the need to strengthen the dams on the Heath Ponds.

Our weather pattern is getting more variable and we do not want a local disaster. But we also remember the excessive fuss made about the 'Millennium Bug' which reminds me of the person on a train who kept jumping up and throwing bits of paper out of the window to keep the wild elephants away. When told there were no wild elephants rampaging around the English countryside, his response was: 'effective isn't it'.

The City are under legal constraints to take action to improve Flood Risk Management on the Heath Ponds and Dams. It is important that we help probe the issues involved with an open mind. Unfortunately at the moment there is some uncertainty surrounding the proposed action. On page 11 we give a summary of the issues so far as we know them.

Hedge management at Parliament Hill

The City has been steadily working away over the last year or two on hedge management around the Parliament Hill area. They have laid a lot of scrub, particularly on the islands above the bandstand, and have staked some out as proper hedges. Of particular note are those on the east side of the First Hedge, from halfway up Parliament Hill and running down to the Highgate ponds, and also at the eastern end of the Third Hedge, near the cycle path. These are really thick now, bursting into blossom, and giving a real country feel.

Champion Wild Service Tree

Last year I reported on wild service trees on the Heath. We are delighted to hear that a Wild Service tree on the West Heath has been declared the Champion Wild Service Tree of the British Isles.

Budget problems and priorities

The cost of managing the Heath comes mostly from the charitable funds the City has accumulated over the centuries (the income from the original endowment now covers less than a quarter of the net cost) and which is used for many other public benefits including other open spaces, such as Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches, and the Barbican Centre. Income from these funds has fallen over the past few years so the other key issue for the Heath is the need to achieve a 10% reduction in costs.

Michael Welbank, Chairman of the City of London Corporation's Hampstead Heath Management Committee (and a former member of our Heath Sub-Committee) and Simon Lee, Supervisor of Hampstead Heath, came to hear our priorities for managing the Heath and to listen to our views on where savings might best be achieved – we emphasised the importance of maintaining the wild and natural aspect of the Heath, and of increasing income where possible, e.g. by increasing the size of the East Heath Car Park.

They have had similar meetings with many other local groups and ended up with four criteria for developing the proposals, namely: income generation; reversibility; the level of subsidy provided, and whether there was potential for self-help/shared services. The City is also seeking external funding to cover the educational and biodiversity elements of their annual plans for the Heath.

Heath Report (cont)

Cycling and improving safety

The search for acceptable improvements to the Highgate Road entrance to the Heath is on hold due to the need for budget cuts and the higher priority of reinforcing the dams to prevent flooding, but the final elements of the Greenways funded work to improve safety on the existing pedestrian and cycling share routes has started. This includes two chicanes on the route from the Viaduct Path across to the Highgate Ponds, and the design for a temporary trial speed hump/chicane, made from preformed rubber, has been agreed. If this design proves effective, the trial hump will be replaced with a more rustic permanent version, a second hump built, plus another three on the Viaduct Path.

Camden has erected 'no cycling' signs on the south ramp of the Savernake Road Bridge, and the City are now designing a suitable cycle barrier for the north ramp so that the short path below it can safely become shared use, linking with the main shared use path between Nassington and Highgate Roads. However, there is no funding for anything other than very minor future changes to the shared routes.

Northern Height Circuit Walks

On the Highgate Society's website - www.highgatesociety.com - are the excellent Northern Height Circuit Walks which they have recently developed, with some input from us on the Heath sections, to encourage more people to visit Highgate and the Heath. The five walks make a circuit from Highgate Village to Parliament Hill Fields; on to South End Green; up to Golders Hill Park; on to Kenwood House, and back to Highgate Village. The full circuit of all five walks cover nine miles with over 220 points of interest giving equal balance

to distinguished people, distinctive buildings, the natural environment and social history. Many people know their own corner of the Heath and it is hoped that these walks will encourage them to visit parts of the Heath and its borders that they don't normally go to, and would be a useful guide for new visitors.

The Zoo at Golders Hill

The Zoo at Golders Hill Park is especially well loved by young children and they can now adopt an animal, any one of six species from £20 for a White Faced Whistling Duck to £50 for a Ring Tailed Lemur or for a Donkey, and receive a thank-you pack and certificate, a photograph of their animal and a fact sheet about it – an ideal gift for a grandchild. The Zoo was created in 1905 and today plays an educative role in the interpretation of the ecology. It is registered with BIAZA (the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and is free for all visitors to enjoy. Full details and an application are on the City website at: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/goldershillpark



Members' Email addresses

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

info@heathandbampstead.org.uk

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

Thank you.

Flood Management works for Heath ponds

This article has been compiled by the Editor in consultation with the Chairman and Heath Sub-Committee members

Following the Chairman's Report in our January edition and recent press publicity, members of the Society will be aware of proposals announced by the City of London for a project of major engineering works to be carried out on Heath ponds in the next four years. The project is to ensure that the retaining structures of the larger ponds are adequate to prevent possible fatalities from flooding in the event of exceptionally heavy rain.

Your Committee had hoped to report to you in more detail in this Newsletter on these proposals and the reasons for them. We are not, in fact, in a position to do so at the time of going to print, not least because of genuine uncertainty over the status of the applicable legislation and the present unavailability of essential technical detail. The facts such as we know them to be are as follows.

Historical background

The Hampstead and Highgate Ponds are artificial man-made reservoirs created in the seventeenth century. Against a background of growing problems surrounding water supply in London, the City Corporation first obtained an Act of Parliament in 1543 - the London Conduit Act - giving them the necessary powers to tap springs outside the City. However it was another 100 years before the springs on the Heath were developed further. In 1692 the Corporation leased them to William Paterson and his partners who formed the Society of Hampstead Aqueducts, later known as the Hampstead Water Company.

Two sources of the Fleet River were dammed: the Hampstead brook which rises in the west near the Vale of Health gave rise to the Hampstead Ponds. On the Kenwood side they acquired Millfield Farm below Parliament Hill on a long lease and made three of the six Highgate Ponds by damming the Highgate brook, the

eastern stream, which rises near Kenwood. The two streams merge north of Camden Town to form the Fleet river which joins the Thames at Blackfriars. The only sections which can still be seen above ground today are those on the Heath. The Vale of Health Pond was added in 1777. The Hampstead Water Company was taken over by the New River Company in 1859.

The reservoir legislation

Safety legislation for reservoirs was introduced in 1930, after various breaches that resulted in loss of life in other parts of the country.

A new Reservoirs Act was passed in 1975 specifying a safety regime for any reservoir with a capacity of over 25,000 cubic metres above natural ground level. Only three of the Heath ponds are in this category: Hampstead No 1 (29,000) Highgate No 2 (36,000), and Highgate No 3 (46,000). The 1975 Act was amended by the Water Act 2003 and in 2009 an EU Floods Directive was introduced requiring Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments and identification of Flood Risk Areas.

Following the severe floods in Boscastle, Cornwall in 2004 and in many other areas of the UK in 2007, an urgent review was commissioned as a result of which new legislation, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, was drawn up. It introduces new arrangements for reservoir safety based on risk rather than the size of the reservoir. For the first time individual reservoirs with a capacity between 10,000 and 25,000 cubic metres, and all ponds in a chain with a combined volume greater than 10,000 cubic meters will be brought within the scope of the Reservoir Act 1975. All ponds in both the Hampstead and Highgate chains will therefore come under this Act. In particular it aims to reduce the flood risk associated with extreme weather.

Flood Management works for Heath ponds (cont)

An independent 'Panel Engineer' has to be appointed (from a panel nominated by the Secretary of State) with powers to ensure that all necessary work is carried out within a reasonable timescale.

Factors that have to be taken into account on the Heath include compaction due to heavy footfall by the millions of visitors. This means that heavy rainfall cannot be absorbed by the ground quickly enough and run-off may be so fast that the ponds overflow. It is thought that compacted areas, including the footpaths and even some "wild and natural" areas, now cover about 40% of the Heath.

Another issue raised by the inspection of dams is the vegetation growing on them, which includes trees. These could weaken them, especially should trees fall pulling a section of the dam away in the process. Shrubs and other low vegetation are not a problem, and trees growing beside and below the dams also help screen them safely, but not those on them. A start has been made in removing trees, including those on the Highgate No. 1 Pond's dam.

The Highgate chain of ponds is the most critical, but the Hampstead chain is also of concern, and current proposals include raising the height of the dam at Highgate No 4 (Bird Sanctuary Pond) by 12 feet.

The DEFRA website states:

"Regulatory and other burdens will be proportionate to the risk; where a reservoir does not represent a risk to public safety, routine supervision and inspection requirements under that Act will not apply".

"A reservoir which presents no risk to the public (even if very large) would be subject to lighter regulation than a smaller reservoir which

does represent such a risk. While some reservoirs will be regulated for the first time, others will benefit from a lighter form of regulation than they are currently subject to".

"Ministers will have the power to amend the proposed 10,000 cubic metres threshold figure upwards or downwards in light of the evidence to be collected as the first stage in the implementation of the Act as it affects reservoirs".

However the 2010 Act has not yet come into force and awaits a ministerial order to bring it into effect. There is no certainty as to when this will happen; the latest proposed commencement date in April has passed and previously proposed dates have not been followed for reasons which have not been clearly disclosed.

Importance of the Hampstead Heath Act

Members should be assured that the Society takes the view that any works on the Heath must be carried out with due regard to the requirements of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act, including the requirement that the natural aspect of the Heath be preserved. Your Committee will, in its dealings with the City, act according to this governing principle which in the Committee's view must guide the decisions of the Panel Engineer and hydrologists in designing changes to the structure of the safety features of the ponds. We will report to members as soon as the current uncertainties have been resolved.

More information, including maps, and photographs can be found at:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/damsandponds

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/the-pitt-review/interim-report.aspx

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/legislation/implementation-approach/

Town Report

by Frank Harding

As I write this report in mid-April, the weather is beautiful as is Hampstead – blossom on the trees, spring flowers in the gardens, deep blue skies above. We are indeed fortunate to live in this part of the world.

Although this report is somewhat shorter than usual the committee has had much discussion about plans and preparation for the future.

Heavy goods (and other) vehicles

We have become increasingly concerned at the number and size of heavy vehicles passing through Hampstead which are doing so only to avoid the volume of traffic on other routes. These vehicles shake and no doubt damage the old foundations of the streets and the buildings. We believe that a weight limit should be put on the roads approaching the village and the Whitestone Pond in order to reduce the numbers coming through Hampstead, confining them to buses, taxis, emergency vehicles and those requiring access to houses, flats, shops and offices in the area.

We have spoken to Councillors and hope that some progress can be made. Meanwhile, following a discussion with Brian Coleman, GLA member for Barnet and Camden, he met the Chief Executive of National Express who agreed to instruct the company's coach drivers not to pass through Hampstead. Should anyone see a National Express coach in the village, please contact National Express to report that sighting.

Hampstead art

Camden has in its archives a large number of paintings, watercolours, prints and old photographs of Hampstead and the Heath. We are proposing that some of these works be put on show at Burgh House and it is possible, if the exhibition proves popular, as we think it will, that we shall organise more than one show; the first is scheduled for November 2011.

Planning Report

by Douglas Maxwell

It is surely appropriate with the coming of summer after a cold winter that we have a companion article on trees in this issue by our honorary tree officer, Vicki Harding. Too often, trees are cited as the cause of problems with buildings or structures that are poorly understood and may have quite different causes. Moreover removing the tree that is the alleged cause of the trouble may actually make things worse. There is room here for a greater level of understanding of the actual structural and geotechnical effects that are at work before rushing into precipitate complaints or action.

Athlone House

As I was writing this report the news came that the appeal on Athlone House had been dismissed. The decision document is a long one and will repay study as we consider what may follow. But for now, a great triumph for the Athlone House Working Group and Jeremy Wright and Martin Humphery of the Society. Congratulations to them all.

I accompanied Jeremy Wright, the inspector and the appellant's advisers on the site visit at the conclusion of the inquiry. This was my first visit and I found the house in better condition than I expected, with – on the face of it – few problems that could not be put right.

Some More Good News

We have recently reviewed the first three draft volumes of the new Camden Planning Guidance which accompanies the Local Development Framework. These are more detailed than the supplementary guidance they replace, and include improved treatment of basements and construction management plans.

We have also been encouraged by a well-reasoned refusal by Camden for an application in Pilgrims Lane which included a basement.

Planning Report (cont)

The refusal included specific reference to policies on sustainability, water and the impact on adjoining properties and the neighbourhood generally.

This new guidance, and the precedents set by this and other decisions, will assist us in the future when objecting to inappropriate planning applications. Camden too deserve recognition for their significant policy-making work in this area.

BT Telecommunications Cabinets

Following the appearance of several of these cabinets on our streets, we have now been able to obtain some guidance from Camden on the planning position, thanks to Martin Humphery who took the matter up with the council. In essence, the installation of cabinets in conservation areas is subject to a modified planning process under which the council can control or influence the siting and appearance but not the development itself.

A few cabinets were installed without BT going through this process with the council. These are supposed to be removed, including the one illustrated here, which was erected in front of a listed house on Downshire Hill. Committee member Nigel Steward, who is standing next to it, is 5'9" tall.

The Society was recently contacted by property journalist Mira Bar-Hillel who has taken up the issue – which has parallels in other conservation areas across London – and we provided a piece for publication.

The Localism Agenda

We've all heard of it by now, but no-one quite knows yet what it means for them. The society has met with Camden council to explore how it might apply to the society's work. One theme which has started to emerge is that localism is about facilitating development in rural areas, rather than controlling it in towns and cities. So perhaps not for Hampstead, then!

The decision was taken with Camden not to seek pathfinder status but to keep the situation under review as the bill passes through the legislative process. Since then, the government has announced 17 initial schemes, of which only one is in London. We have also looked at one or two individual planning and conservation matters for consideration under the new powers – when they are enacted.



Membership and Planning

If you are reading this in the Newsletter you are probably already a member of the Society, and we thank you again for your support. If not, we hope you will consider joining. We receive a number of requests for information from those who are not yet members, and hence we are starting to ask for membership details with enquiries.

Occasionally the Society is asked to advise in specific cases. Unfortunately this is something we are not able to do, as formal advice is quite properly the sole preserve of professionals in the respective fields; law, surveying, architecture or whatever. We may be able to suggest firms who can provide such advice, and of course in most cases they will charge a fee.

We are looking at the possibility of providing factsheets with information on the more commonly encountered issues in planning and conservation. If this project goes ahead it will be announced here, and the factsheets will then be available to our members on request.

New Planning Committee Members

We welcome two newcomers to the planning committee. Gesine Junker is an urban designer and planner who works for a firm of consultants in central London; Stephen Stark is a chartered structural engineer in private practice in Hampstead. The society is very fortunate to have qualified and experienced people who are willing and able to help in its work.

The Daily Round

In the last three months, the planning committee has reviewed some 125 planning applications and objected on the Society's behalf – that is, on your behalf – to around 40. These range from multi-million pound developments to relatively

small proposals which nevertheless have the potential to harm our conservation area and – this is the important bit – can have a cumulative effect just as great as the headline making cases. We are indebted to Gordon Maclean who continues to lead on this important work, and to Vicki Harding who does the same for tree applications.



Don't forget to use the Hampstead Card

The current list of businesses taking part in the scheme is enclosed with this Newsletter and 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*



A London Forum Event of interest Tony Travers

Expert on local government; Director of the Greater London Group at the London School of Economics; visiting professor at LSE's Government Department
will speak at a

**London Forum Open Meeting
5th July 6.30 pm
The Gallery**

70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

To book a place tel: 020 8450 8864

Hampstead street tree pollards

by Vicki Harding

At the Society's Springett Lecture last year, (reported in our last newsletter), Professor Oliver Rackham discussed historic forms of woodland management, in particular, coppicing. Here Vicki Harding discusses the history and use of another ancient tree management technique with reference to the management of street trees.

Many people in Hampstead are concerned about Camden Council's practice of regularly removing all young growth from the tall trees that line our streets and avenues. Called pollarding, this is done on a 2- or 3-yearly cycle. These tall forest trees - the limes, London planes and robinias - are reduced from beautiful lush green canopies to just bare branches. They look awful when first cut and several choice descriptions have been applied to them: "lavatory brushes", "stunted amputees", "skeletons".

There are reasons for this management practice however, and for the moment, we have to tolerate this ghastly but temporary and necessary situation to keep our trees at all.

Historical methods of pollarding

Pollarding is an ancient tree management technique that starts early in a tree's life and involves two different contexts. Traditionally it involved pruning back all branches to the same point on a regular basis, once the young growing tree had reached the desired height, to form 'pollard heads' which store energy. This pollarding method went out of use at the turn of the last century, resulting in growth from the lapsed pollards maturing into what are essentially trees themselves, growing from the original pollard point atop the existing trunk.

Another method is the regular (annual or biannual) pruning back of small branches to the same point forming a 'pollard head'. This

method of cutting trees occurs annually over much of the continent.

As with coppicing, the pollards were used in a variety of ways from livestock feed to fencing, posts, and boat construction. Pruning intervals for fodder pollards were 2-6 years; larger wood pollards were pruned at longer intervals of 8-15 years.

Pollarded trees (pollards) tend to grow slowly, with narrower growth rings in the years immediately after cutting. They may attain a greater age than normal, because the canopy is maintained in a partially juvenile state. Beech trees for example survive up to about 120 years, but a beech pollard can live for 300 years or more.

Pollards have less weight and sail-effect (windage) in the canopy, and older pollards often become hollow making them much more flexible. During the severe storm of 1987 it was the mature but younger trees on Hampstead

*Lapsed
Hampstead
Heath
oak
pollard*





Looking up into the canopy of a London plane to show the 'star-burst' effect

Heath that mainly fell. The much older, hollow and more supple pollards with smaller crowns survived. We still have several hundred veteran pollards that are 300-500+ years old. The oldest trees are the boundary trees such as those around Hampstead Gate by the old 'Saxon ditch'. They go back to medieval times before maps could be drawn accurately or man-made structures survive for a significant time, being the most stable and lasting way of marking a spot or boundary.

Pollards are identified by the numerous branches, originating at the same point on the tree in a 'star burst'. These shoots emerge from dormant buds, the new branches initially held weakly in place as they grow from under the bark rather than from within the tree. As annual rings are laid down the union strengthens often forming a thickened base where the shoot meets the trunk. Over time a noticeably swollen 'pollard head' forms where new shoots spring up each year. Shoots growing from pollard heads are removed while the wood is young close to the base of the new growth.



Ferncroft Avenue trees

Large tree species in urban areas were often planted by the Victorians due to their pollution tolerance. With the coming of double-decker buses and lorries, tall trees were also required adjacent to main roads to provide a tall clear trunk for their passage. Pollarding prevented these tall trees outgrowing their allotted space.

Pollarding went out of favour in the 1970s and 80s. Street trees formed huge crowns obstructing telephone wires and streetlights or blocking gutters, and were sometimes damaged by passing tall traffic, until it was once again accepted that pollarded trees are a traditional part of the townscape.

Subsidence risk and the insurance industry

The Council runs a 3-year cyclical maintenance programme whereby each year one third of its street trees are either re-reduced in size, or receive general maintenance such as removal of low branches, pruning back from property and public lighting. However, a more radical pollarding regime has been prompted by the need to reduce

Hampstead street tree pollards (cont)

subsidence risk. The insurance industry looks for the nearest tree to blame for cracks in buildings situated on London clay. Trees certainly use water, and desiccated (dried out) clay shrinks quite considerably, just as it swells even more so when wet. If the soil is drier, tree roots are found under or near the subsiding wall and the building movement is seasonal, this is deemed sufficient evidence that the tree is to blame. By warning tree owners (Camden where street trees are concerned) and demanding tree removal, action has to be taken or the underpinning bill is passed to the tree owner.

Legal precedents

The case of Delaware Mansions v Westminster Council (2001) highlighted the problem for trees and council coffers. Westminster Council had refused to remove a mature plane street tree that was said to be causing subsidence. The claimant spent over £570,000 carrying out underpinning works and claimed the cost from the council. The House of Lords held the council liable for that sum. It was argued that if the tree had been removed the need to underpin would have been avoided and the total building repair costs would have been only about £14,000.

The consequence of the Delaware Mansions ruling has been that all London Councils, including Camden, maintain regular pollarding regimes to lessen the risk of insurance companies blaming council-owned trees for causing subsidence.

Camden has a biennial tree re-reduction regime to more rigorously pollard those tall trees growing close to buildings on shrinkable clay soils, considered at issue for subsidence, reducing their canopies to reduce water demand.

The Hipps, Atkinson & Griffiths (East Malling Research and University of Cambridge) study

underlined this by recommending:

- For consistent soil moisture conservation, severe reduction 70–90% of crown volume.
- Reduction up to 50% crown volume is not always effective for decreasing soil drying.
- Crown reductions should be repeated on a regular managed cycle with intervals based on monitored re-growth.

Challenging the received wisdom

Several individuals and organisations however, including some members of the London Tree Offices Association and the Heath & Hampstead Society, query the role of trees as the primary cause of building subsidence. We acknowledge that trees do take moisture out of clay, but ask several questions:

- Why would tree roots want to go under a dry house?
- Why in a terrace of identical houses with street trees at frequent and regular intervals are not ALL houses having a problem?
- Why after many decades of houses and trees living happily together through dry and wet years, do significant cracks suddenly appear?

We believe the answer can be found in leaking drains or swimming pools, and in differential subsidence where extensions were built deeper into stiffer clay than the houses they were attached to.

The Heath & Hampstead Society also believes that Hampstead's particular hydrogeology also plays a part. Digging basements and deep foundations can divert ground water under other buildings and services, causing subsidence as foundations are washed away or heave as the clay swells. We believe that trees actually stabilise the ground by limiting heave until the real cause



*Before and
after -*

*Gayton Road
tree at
pollarding time
and 2 years
later*



is found. Taking trees out neither helps nor solves the problem. More details on our argument can be found on the Heath & Hampstead Society website.

The subsidence industry however is not of this mind, and to reduce the risk for now, Camden must be seen to follow accepted practice until firmer evidence is available. One thing we can be thankful for is that while reducing canopies, London Tree Officers (Camden's included) ensure tree heights are maintained. We should also remember that the trees recover very quickly.

Advantages of tall trees in cities

An important advantage of tall trees in cities is the shade they provide. Dr Roland Ennos's team at Manchester University calculate there is likely to be a temperature rise of 3-4°C in the next 30 years. Maximums will be even higher, with drier

summers, wetter winters and larger storms.

Currently, the maximum surface temperature of woodlands is 18°-13°C cooler than town centres, which can reach 31°C in summer.

A 10% increase in tree canopy can reduce surface temperature by 3-4°C. This could effectively climate-proof cities until the 2080s. Large tree canopies also hold massive quantities of water, slow run-off and reduce flooding. The Hampstead area has had 2 significant floods (1975 and 2002), with one drowning in a south Hampstead basement. We cannot however grow tall trees quickly. By retaining pollard tree height now, then when subsidence is better understood by the insurance industry, pollard canopies can quickly grow out, providing us with the shade and water holding capacity we need for the future.

Project Parakeet

by Mike Doherty

The office at Imperial College's research facility at Silwood Park in Berkshire is an unusual office. On the linoleum floor and on top of the long white desks are boxes, files, reports and occasional stationary – which is normal, if a bit untidy. What is unusual are the discarded bird feeders, the bags of bird food - some sealed, some half empty - and the crunch of sunflower seeds underfoot as you walk in. On one desk there is a computer. On its screen is a portrait of a lime-green parakeet with a shimmer of a rose-pink ring around its neck. It is glaring out with its black button eyes and its scaly dark-red hook of a beak is snarling open in mid-squawk. It's also alarmingly cute in a bolshie and chipper sort of way.

The avian accessories and the parakeet on the computer screen reveal that this is the headquarters for Project Parakeet. Hannah Peck, the PhD student who leads Project Parakeet, is studying the noisy, screeching flocks of Rose Ringed Parakeets that are incongruously



colonising the parks, woods and heaths in London and the Home Counties. "I should be neutral but I've got two which I use in garden feeder experiments and they are so lovely to watch. The way they use their hands is incredible – and the way they play - I've grown quite fond of them," says Ms Peck. It is that reaction to the charismatic birds that could well be a headache for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) if the numbers of wild parakeets keep rising and the scientific evidence points to a clear threat to British wildlife, plants and crops – and they decide to sanction a cull.

Parakeets on Hampstead Heath

Observant visitors to Hampstead Heath will have noticed the parakeets and be aware of the increasing numbers of them. "It's a controversial issue, they are quite in your face birds," says David Bentley from the City of London, the municipal authority that manages Hampstead Heath. He adds that the Hampstead Heath team will not act unless there is clear evidence that the parakeets are causing problems to local wildlife and plants – such as competing for nesting sites and food with native birds.



These concerns have been growing alongside the obvious rise in numbers. Originally escaped pets that have been breeding in the wild since the 1960's, the parakeets have established a series of enormous roosts

where they sleep and from which they fly up to 25km to forage for buds, nuts and other plant material. During the day the birds – being creatures of habit – tend to gather in flocks, choosing parks and heaths because of the old-established trees and abundance of food.

Although the parakeets visit the Heath to forage and play, Ms Peck says that they do not roost there, although some females do nest on the Heath during breeding season. She adds that the parakeets are either returning at night to a roost in Wormwood Scrubs or to a mystery roost to the north, possibly around the M25. This would then account for the flocks of parakeets that regularly visit parks as far out as St Albans. “I have tried to find a roost there and I haven’t had any luck, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t one,” she says.

The packed sleeping roosts - incredibly noisy as dawn breaks and the thousands of inhabitants wake up - are quite impressive. At Hersham gravel pits in Surrey there is a roost with 15,000 birds, another in Stanwell, also in Surrey, has 5,000 birds and there is a 6,000 birds roost at Hither Green Cemetery in south London. “Those are the three biggest roosts and they are all pretty spectacular when you visit them,” says Ms Peck.

Defra risk assessment

It was the obvious rise in numbers that prompted Defra to commission a risk assessment in the summer of 2009. The risk assessment predicts that the population of parakeets will continue to grow. It also describes the damage to crops that the parakeets cause in Sub-Saharan Africa and in India – their country of origin, and says that the parakeets could cause similar damage here. Finally the report recommends looking at

population management by “gassing, shooting or netting” and states that further research is unnecessary.

Ms Peck questions that last point. “I think they made the best assessment they could with the available academic literature but I do not agree with the conclusion. It is clear that further research is needed as so little is currently known,” she says. “Defra are receiving copies of our reports,” says Dr Alex Lord, Ms Peck’s supervisor, “I am sure Defra would not act without clear scientific evidence,” she says.



Project Parakeet (cont)

Defra itself seems to have backtracked from the conclusion of the risk assessment itself and has commissioned further research by the British Trust of Ornithologists into nest competition, the results of which are still being analysed.

Ms Peck is keen to emphasise that Project Parakeet is independently funded and not guided by Defra. “The decision to start the research was made in June 2009. I had funding for a PhD and I had grown up in Richmond where there are loads of parakeets and I was really intrigued by them. I discussed this with my supervisors and we realized that there had been very little research in the UK.” says Ms Peck. “We were unaware of the ongoing risk assessment by Defra or the plans for the BTO research project,” she says.

So are the parakeets a pest? – or will they become one? Volunteer roost counts organized by Project Parakeet have found that the population is rising by 25% a year. Already the number of birds has grown from 5,000 in 2002 to 32,000 at the last count in 2010. The current rate of population growth means that the number of parakeets will treble in less than five years.

Project Parakeet is also looking at whether the parakeets compete for food with native birds using experiments with garden feeders. “We are looking at whether the other birds stop feeding because of the parakeets or whether they are just not bothered by them,” says Ms Peck. The study is ongoing but Ms Peck says that preliminary results suggest that feeding parakeets do drive off some native birds.

An area of research that Project Parakeet has completed is a survey of the public reaction to the parakeets. “The results were pretty polarized, with some people hating them and some people liking them. But what was clear was that people wanted more education. The majority was not

happy with the idea of killing them. They all wanted to know more facts,” says Ms Peck.

Hard evidence of the parakeets causing significant harm to native birds and plants is lacking, and only the tiny proportion of the public who live near the enormous roosts experience the noise and the mess of thousands of boisterous parakeets in one small space. However the evidence is clear that the numbers will continue to rise. “There will come a point – we don’t know when yet - where the rise in the population of feral parakeets levels off. This is where they become food-limited or nest site-limited and that would be the point at which you would have the greatest concern about competition with native species,” says Dr Lord.

The story may well develop.

The results of the research will be made public in the summer and Defra has just sanctioned population management for the Monk Parakeet, which is far less numerous than the Rose Ringed Parakeet described in the feature. I will be in the area for a while and I will keep tabs on what happens next.



Mike Doberty is a mature student studying for an MA in Investigative Journalism at City University. He was given Highgate and Hampstead as his 'patch' to research, and write stories on, for the journalism practice module. He contacted the Society's Jeremy Wright to discuss his research for this article and Jeremy encouraged him to submit it for publication.

Keats love letter returns to Keats House

The City of London Corporation, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has bought a love letter written by the poet John Keats to Fanny Brawne at Wentworth Place (Keats House) in 1820. The letter was bought at auction in London in March for £80,000. With fees the amount paid was £96,000.



Tim Harris, Head of Access and Buildings at Keats House said: "Everyone connected with Keats House was excited when this letter came up unexpectedly at auction. We knew we had to put together a strong bid as it was a once in a generation opportunity. In addition to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the City also received support from the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of the National Libraries, and the Friends of Keats House, in the joint effort to save this important literary treasure for future generations to enjoy. It brings the letter back

home to the place where it was written nearly 200 years ago.

It was thought that, although they were engaged, he kept Fanny at arm's length because of his condition, knowing her life would be at risk if he was too close to her. This fragile and brown-stained letter provides the evidence for that, poignantly revealing how Keats deliberately separated himself from Fanny as he lay dying, a "prisoner" of tuberculosis:

"I shall Kiss your name and mine where your Lips have been - Lips! why should a poor prisoner as I am talk about such things." He said his "consolation" was "in the certainty of your affection". "You had better not come today," was scribbled on the outside of the letter.

Chairman of the Keats House Management Committee at the City of London Corporation Michael Welbank said: 'We are absolutely delighted that our bid was successful. Keats is a hugely important part of our cultural landscape, and it is thrilling to know that we will now be able to display the letter where it was written.' It joins the twelve already held in the Keats House archive



Keats died in February 1821; Fanny's last letters to him were buried with him.

Bulletin Board

Local arts events

Hampstead & Highgate Festival

Sir Georg Solti 100th Birthday Anniversary Concert

launching a year of celebrations of Sir
Georg Solti's birth

hosted by Lady Solti

Tuesday June 21st 2011 at 7.30pm

Hampstead Parish Church

Church Row

A unique concert bringing together gifted
musicians who are recent Solti Foundation
award winners

Artists include

Sam Armstrong piano,

Alicja Smietana, violin

Works for violin, viola, flute, voice & piano

***A vibrant showcase of extraordinary
young musical virtuosity.***

Tickets £15 New End Theatre Box Office
Tel: 0870 033 2733 (Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun
12-6pm)

or online at www.newendtheatre.co.uk

Further exciting events this year include a
concert with **Stephen Kovacevich** on
November 2nd and a literary series.

If you would like to support the Festival
please contact Sue Broomhead at
susan.broomhead1@btinternet.com.

To be kept informed about the Festival,
please email your email address to Ems
Magnus (Trustee) (and H&HS member) at
emsmagnus@btinternet.com

Proms at St. Judes Summer Programme 18th-26th June 2011

This year's nine-day midsummer festival
offers a wide range of music, from classical
to jazz, with international artists and rising
young professionals.

Saturday 18 **Opera Gala**

Sunday 19 **Jazz with Stacey Kent**

Monday 20 **Felicity Lott & Thomas Allen**

Tuesday 21 **Alessandro Taverna piano
recital**

Wednesday 22 **The Greenwich Trio**

Thursday 23 **The Wihan String Quartet**

Friday 24 **Maria Friedman**

Saturday 25 **Carmina Burana**

Sunday 26 **Last night of the Proms**

Free lunchtime concerts every day

Guided Heritage Walks including:

**Friday 24th June 10am 'Appy 'Ampstead
London's Northern Heights**

led by Simon Lee, the Heath Superintendent
*starting at the flag pole, next to Whitestone Pond
taking in Lord Leverhulme's garden and pergola,
Golders Hill Park, Anna Pavlova's house, Wylde's
Farm and the Heath Extension, ending at the Free
Church in time for the lunchtime organ recital.
Advance booking necessary see Festival website
for details:*

For more information about programmes
and booking: Tel: 020 8455 8687
or see website: www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

*The Festival gives all its surplus to charity:
75% goes to Toynbee Hall
and 25% to the North London Hospice.*

Hampstead Film Society

Hampstead Town Hall,

Interchange Trust, 213 Haverstock Hill.

Tuesday evenings @ 7pm:

A wide range of world cinema, documentaries and must-see movies throughout the year.

The Summer season continues with

Ace in the Hole (1951) Billy Wilder, 7th June @ 7pm

Magnificent Obsession (1954) Douglas Sirk, 21st June @ 7pm

Membership fee: £15.00 Adults
£10.00 Concessions/ Students/ Over 60
£6.00 for one day membership

Admission fee: £3.00 per film for members/ £5.00 for their guests.

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

Christopher Kellerman

We are deeply saddened to report the death in January, aged 66, of Chris Kellerman, manager of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust for many years.

Educated at King Alfred's School and LSE he started his career in banking and then worked for Tate and Lyle.

He served as Vice-Chairman of the HGS Residents Association and then became the Trust's first full time manager in 1984. He was instrumental in arranging the transfer in 1989 of leases held by Ashdale Land and Property Company, which had been sold off decades before by the Church Commissioners, to the Trust, giving it unified control over all the Suburb's leasehold and freehold properties. These included allotments, tennis courts and other communal spaces.

An enthusiastic supporter of community life and local causes, he was also a governor of local schools and a Council member of the Institute. He will be greatly missed.



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)*

Support the Friends of Burgh House

Honorary President Piers Plowright

For more information or to join the Friends
tel: Burgh House on 020 7431 0144

or contact Dawn Somper at
dawn@somper.co.uk

Heath Walks 2011

Walks are normally 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 Tube Station (for map see www.burghhouse.org.uk)

NB: parking is extremely difficult, especially in spring and summer. West Heath car park (behind Jack Straw's Castle) is more likely to have spaces than the East Heath car park.

Starting times are either 2.30pm or 10.30 am (9.30 for birds), 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 £3.00 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.

Children 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: thomas@theradices.co.uk

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



3 July 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) Caring for the Heath: the work of the City of London led by Richard Payne and Meg Game

7 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 Heath & Hampstead Society and Chairman of the Heath Sub-Committee; represents the Society on the City of London Heath Management Committee

4 September: two walks (morning and afternoon) – **NB: different start points**

9.30am (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath in Autumn led by John Hunt and Sash Tusa, members of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee.

2.30pm (meet at 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: limited numbers: booking open from 1 July (priority to H&HS members). £4.00 per head.

2 October 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) Spider foray led by Edward Milner, former BBC producer and National Spider Recorder for Middlesex and London; Member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

6 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

4 December 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Houses and Landscapes of the Northern Heights led by Thomas Radice, member of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee