



The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2014 Annual Report

Vol 45 No. 2



The Model Boating Pond

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Annual Report for the year 2013-2014

by Tony Hillier

The Overall Picture

It is with a mixture of pride and relief that I present the last of my annual reports, since being accorded the honour by members at the AGM on 23 June 2003 of election to the Chair of this remarkable and distinguished Society. Pride, because with the huge and knowledgeable commitment and hard work of so many members both from within and outside our Committees, the Society has covered a lot of important ground during the past eleven years. Relief, because in Marc Hutchinson you have an extremely capable and committed candidate to elect as my successor on 19 June 2014.

The Society remains in a strong financial position with growing membership, and great strength across the General Committee and the Sub-Committees. I should like once again to pay tribute to the hard work and commitment of our many committee members and chairmen during the past twelve months.

While recorded membership numbers vary during the year, as new members join and we wait for current members to renew, I can report that, thanks to the excellent work of our Membership Promotion Secretary, Robert Linger, our membership reached a record average of 1803 during the past twelve months.

As can be seen from the 2013 Annual Accounts, prepared by our Treasurer, Maureen Clark-Darby, we maintain a highly liquid reserve position against the substantial demands we now face, particularly in defence of the Heath Ponds. Our unrestricted reserves have nevertheless seen a decline of 18%, due to a reduction in unrestricted donations and an increase in administration expenses. The latter

Annual Report (cont)

are a one-off representing exceptional, but much needed, expenditure to introduce a more streamlined and combined database and accounting system. We are extremely grateful to the anonymous donor who has contributed £21,000 in the form of a restricted donation towards our legal expenses to date in challenging the City's proposals to build substantial and disfiguring dry storage dams across both chains of Heath Ponds.

During the period since the last AGM we have with great regret accepted the resignations of Janine Griffis and Stephen Taylor from the General Committee. Both have left in order to devote more time to the very important task of building, and gaining official recognition for, the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum (see Planning Activities below). Janine is their new Chair and we are delighted that her huge local civic experience, energy and abilities will now be directed to getting critical new planning policies adopted for Hampstead. The Society continues to be ably represented on the Neighbourhood Forum by David Castle and Vicky Harding.

We are enormously grateful to Janine and Stephen for their contributions to the work of the General Committee over so many years. We are delighted that Janine remains a member of the Town Sub-Committee and that Stephen remains our webmaster. I would also like to thank Gesine Junker, who has left London, for her valuable contribution to the work of the Planning Sub-Committee.

The Ponds Appeal

We find ourselves in the regrettable position of having to appeal to members and the wider public for a targeted sum of £100,000. This is needed to fund our own anticipated legal

expenses to launch a judicial review of the City's decision to press ahead with their final selection of designs to build protection against embankment collapse in the event of what can only be described as a "biblical" storm. We are confident that the subject matter of the decision we wish to be reviewed, i.e. because it is an environmental matter in the public interest, means that we would have legal protection limiting to £10,000 the amount of our opponents' (the City of London's) costs, which could be awarded against us.

Any form of litigation is of course a risky and unpredictable business. We are, however, encouraged to proceed by the words of our President, Lord Hoffmann, that we have an "arguable case" (see the January Newsletter). And we have consulted Stephen Tromans QC, a leading Counsel in environmental and reservoir safety law, who, after an extensive review of all the papers, including the civil engineering case prepared by the City, our technical challenges to these, and our legal exchanges with the City, endorses that view.

The nub of the argument is that the City is not correct in its interpretation of the meaning of the phrase "in the interests of safety" in Section 10 of the 1975 Reservoirs Act. In consequence their current proposals go beyond what is legally necessary.

We are also convinced of three other vital reasons for embarking on this potentially costly action: -

- We are with the majority of those members of the public who have seen and appreciated the damaging impact the City's proposals will have on the visual enjoyment future generations will have of the wild and natural

state of the Heath. Two thirds of those responding to the City's recent formal consultation rejected all the Options proposed by the City.

- We are sure that the City should be persuaded to take more effective steps with the other authorities to warn and evacuate downstream residents, if the “biblical” storm builds to the danger point, because this will save more lives than the proposals as currently designed. If this was accepted, the legally necessary engineering safety measures could be reduced and their visual impact mitigated.
- Finally, protecting the Heath from this sort of damage is the core objective for which the Society was formed in 1897 and why we believe our members continue to support us. We ask all members to contribute as generously as they are able.

Activities on the Heath

Members will wish to join me in paying tribute to Jeremy Wright, who has stood down as the Society representative on the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group (PPSG). This has been the vital official forum for the Society and other stakeholders to comment on the technical civil engineering, safety and environment issues raised by the progressive sets of proposals put forward by the City to improve the safety of the Ponds. Jeremy is a civil engineer himself and a member of the British Dam Society. His comprehensive understanding of the professional standards and government guidelines, which are the collective “bible” of the specialist Panel Engineers, has been invaluable in helping all members of the PPSG, as well as the Society's Heath Sub-Committee and General Committee, to understand and critique the City's proposals. Jeremy remains a member of the latter two Committees. The Society is now ably represented on the PPSG by Lynda Cook, a member of the Heath Sub-Committee.

Farewell party for Simon Lee

On 6 February 2014 we gave a farewell party at Burgh House jointly with the Highgate Society to thank the

retiring Heath Superintendent, Simon Lee, for the exceptional skill and understanding he has shown during his 12 years in this important post. Warm compliments were exchanged during the formal addresses: Simon wisely reminded us, mindful of the “elephant in the room”, that disputes about the management of the Heath are best discussed on the Heath. We wish Simon well as Chief Executive of Wimbledon and Putney Commons. We welcome Bob Warnock as the new Heath Superintendent from his previous role in charge of the extensive City Commons in South London. (For the full text of Simon's farewell speech see page 19.)

This year's Springett lecture was due to be given on 23 October 2013 by Edward Milner on “Native Trees of the London area in an era of Climate Change but unfortunately could not take place owing to the speaker being indisposed at short notice. He has kindly agreed to present this instead in the autumn of 2014.

The completed restoration of Robert Adam interiors of Kenwood House was opened to the public in November 2013 as was the Dairy at the eastern end of West Meadow, to which the Society contributed £5,125 for the restoration of the windows in Lady Mansfield's tea room.

Planning Activities

We have been busily occupied with both local and national policy issues.

The Society is active with other local amenity organisations in developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The resignations of Janine Griffis and Stephen Taylor noted above were needed to help achieve the right degree of independence from any one potentially dominant organisation, such as the Society. But we will keep members regularly informed of this important new body.

We remain vigilant on the matter of planning control of basements and, when the opportunity arises, we try to persuade Camden to modify their Core Strategies and

Annual Report (cont)

Development Policies to give much more effective protection to residents against developers.

We have seen two major long-running basement over-development proposals in particular unanimously rejected by Camden's Development Control Committee against Planning Officers' recommendations. This has been in response to the strong objections submitted by the Society and very well-informed and professionally-advised local groups. These were 29 New End, the former Nurses Home, and 8 Pilgrims Lane. Other over-developments are in progress as this is written.

We are seeing a revival of the local fighting spirit on the subject of tightening local basement control through the planning system. We had the benefit of this year's Glass-in-Hand lecture from the Society's geotechnical and hydrology adviser Michael de Freitas warning again of the need to make scientific predictions in professionally prepared Basement Impact Assessments about the short term impact of excavation in areas with the geology of Hampstead, and to worry about the long term effects.

We were disappointed that we did not have greater influence in getting more changes to the Planning Guidance on Basements, when consulted by Camden. We are now putting together a well informed and experienced working group to continue this strategy to change the local guidance. We are hopeful we can at least gain greater basement protection through the Neighbourhood Plan, which is being put together by the Forum.

We remain vigilant on Athlone House, and concerned about the eventual outcome of the

latest Garden House application approval. We are pleased that our pressure finally to enforce the approved restoration of Heath House appears to be having some effect.

Hampstead Police Station remains empty and whether or not it has been sold, to whom and on what development expectation remains a mystery. Policing operational cover of Hampstead remains unsatisfactory.

Town Activities

The Town Sub-Committee has been especially active in carrying out their responsibilities for promoting local cultural history. They have continued the programme of holding exhibitions at Burgh House of prints and paintings of Hampstead held in Camden's archive. The third of these, covering Taverns of Hampstead, was mounted in the summer of 2013. Knight Frank again generously supported this event. The fourth in the series, comprising works by Patrick Lewis Forbes, a painter who lived and worked in Hampstead at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century, is on until the end of June.

A series of walks led by Julia Maes, who speaks about the lives of historic figures commemorated by plaques, who have lived in and close to the village, have been well attended and popular.

Work continues to get owner's consent for a site to mount a mosaic reproduction of the Victorian social realist painting "Work" by Ford Madox Brown destined for the Mount with generous funding from the Walmsley legacy.

A new and immensely important campaign has been taken up by the Town Sub-Committee alongside many others nationally and locally to reduce the local damage from HS2. We are

Society Appeal for Funds

grateful to Richard Price and Jessica Learmond-Criqui for their hard work on this topic. We delivered a petition to 10 Downing Street with over 700 signatures asking for the branch link to St Pancras and HS1 to be either scrapped or put in a tunnel; we particularly seek much tighter controls to reduce or prevent the HGV traffic over a ten year period coming through the vulnerable streets of Hampstead. We also asked for greater use of rail and canal for removing spoils from tunnelling and works to reduce reliance on HGVs. The Society has subsequently entered into direct correspondence with HS2 Ltd to see what further steps can be taken to prevent the huge amount of heavy traffic doing permanent damage to Heath Street in particular.

We remain committed to supporting local independent shops through the Hampstead Card and through the Hampstead Shops Campaign run by Jessica Learmond-Criqui. We are as always grateful to Ann Eastman for having created the Hampstead Card and for her continuing hard work in maintaining it. We also support the Hampstead Business Group who organise the very popular winter festivals in the High Street.

My final comment is to wish the Society continued strength and inspiration to protect the Heath and the marvelous amenities of Hampstead for many, many decades to come.

Please give generously to our Appeal to Save the Heath Ponds Landscape

The Society considers the City's proposals to build massive structures on both chains of the Heath Ponds "in the interests of safety" to be the most serious threat to the wild and natural state of the Heath since the Society was formed over 100 years ago. We believe these plans are a grossly excessive response to any perceived danger, and have been based on an incorrect interpretation of the law.

Despite three years of discussion on the technical and legal details the City has not changed its position.

We therefore find ourselves in the regrettable position of having to take the matter to judicial review. But we can only proceed if we have sufficient financial support and we rely on you, our members, to help us.

We have written to every member of the Society appealing for financial support to fund the legal costs which will be £100,000. Many of you have already responded generously. If you have not already replied, please consider helping us. We ask you to be as generous as possible. To give you some idea: an average contribution of £75 per member would allow us to proceed. Some may wish to give more, and all contributions however small will be gratefully received.

Please make your cheque payable to

The Heath & Hampstead Society
and kindly complete and send it, with the Gift Aid form that will be sent to you, to 22 Maryon Mews, London NW3 2PU.

If you need another Gift Aid form, please contact an officer of the Society.

If you have any queries contact
info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

We are truly grateful for your continuing support.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Elections to General Committee

Notice is given that the 117th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 19 June, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at St. Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 2PP.

The business of the meeting will be as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 116th Annual General Meeting held on 20 June, 2013 and the Special General Meeting held on 25 November, 2013.
2. Election of Lord Hoffmann as President.
3. Chair's report for 2013.
4. Treasurer's report of the Society's examined accounts for the 2013 financial year and adoption of those accounts.
5. Appointment of Messrs. Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, as the Society's auditors for the current financial year.
6. Determination of membership subscription rates for the next financial year.
7. Election of Officers and other members of the General Committee.

The following candidates have been duly proposed for election to the following positions:

Officers

Vice Presidents:	Martin Humphery Helen Marcus
Chair:	Marc Hutchinson
Treasurer:	Maureen Clark-Darby
Secretary:	Nigel Steward

General Committee Members

Tony Hillier
Peter Noble
John Weston

Jessica Learmond-Criqui, Robert Linger, Gordon Maclean, Douglas Maxwell and Peter Tausig continue the terms for which they were elected.

8. Any other business.

Marc Hutchinson
Secretary

15 May 2014

Notes on Candidates for Election

Tony Hillier is a life member of the Society and retiring Chairman having been re-elected annually since June 2003. His association with Hampstead began in 1945 as a pupil of University College School, where he retains membership of the governing Council which he joined in 1977. He has lived in NW3 since graduating in "Greats" from Oxford University in 1961, until moving to Highgate in 2013. He was non-executive Director of the Royal Free NHS Trust from its formation in 1990 until 1998. His

business career began as a banking and monetary economics trainee at the Bank of England. After obtaining a Masters degree in Business Administration from Harvard University in 1968, he subsequently worked for many years as an Executive Director and Department Head at N M Rothschild & Sons Ltd and subsequently as Managing Director of GEC Finance Ltd. He continues to act from time to time as a shareholder and director in small businesses. *(continued on page 8)*

Annual General Meeting 2014



Please join us for our

Annual General Meeting

and

Reception

St. Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill,

London NW3 2PP

Thursday 19 June, 2014 7.00pm

7.00 pm **Reception** - 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.

7.30pm **Annual General Meeting**

8.30pm **Guest Speaker**

Sir Simon Jenkins

Distinguished author and journalist; Chairman of the National Trust; former deputy Chairman of English Heritage. Sir Simon was formerly editor of The Times and the London Evening Standard and now writes regularly for The Guardian, The Evening Standard and The Sunday Times. He has written several books on politics, history and architecture, including England's Thousand Best Churches and England's Thousand Best Houses.

Notes on Candidates for election (cont)

Marc Hutchinson is a life member of the Society having joined when he moved to Hampstead in 2001. He has been a member of the Society's Heath Sub-Committee since 2005, a trustee on the General Committee of the Society since 2007 and Secretary of the Society since 2011.

Marc is a solicitor and partner in the City firm of Slaughter and May. He holds degrees in law from University College London and the University of Sydney and specialises in finance law.

Marc is a keen swimmer and is Secretary and a founding member of the Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club, the club that was set up after swimmers won the legal right to swim in the Heath Ponds without lifeguards. Marc lives in South Hill Park and is married to Nica Burns, the owner of Nimax Theatres.

Peter Noble qualified as a doctor, after study at Cambridge University and St Thomas' Hospital London, and then specialised in psychiatry. His main career was as an NHS consultant at the Maudsley and Bethlem Royal Hospitals and the Institute of Psychiatry, London.

He is married with two children and has lived in Hampstead for over 20 years. Involvement in charity work includes a period of over 10 years as secretary and treasurer of the Institute of Social Psychiatry. Interests include sailing and writing about sailing. He has been a member of The Heath & Hampstead Society since 1999.

Membership of local groups reflects other hobbies and includes: Highgate Golf Club, The Globe Tennis Club (Belsize Park) and the Acol Bridge Club (West Hampstead). He strongly supports the work of The Heath & Hampstead Society and their intervention on local issues, such as the City's Ponds Project.

Nigel Steward has been a life member of the Society since 1980 and first joined the General Committee in 2006. His contribution has focused on policing (Safer Neighbourhood Chair for Hampstead Town panel from 2005 – 09, and before then Sector Chair) and also library matters, presently Vice Chair and Treasurer of the Camden Public Library Users Group committee. He was closely involved in the campaign to establish the new Keats Community Library of which he is a director.

He has also served on the Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee, advising as a solicitor on local planning applications. He represented the Society on the City's Keats House Consultative Committee for many years and now represents the Society on the Sexual Awareness Working Group, set up by the City of London, to tackle security and other issues on Hampstead Heath.

John Weston has lived in Hampstead village for 15 years and one of his children remains at junior school locally. He is a Creative Director (Advertising) by profession.

He has served on the H&HS Planning Committee 2003 -10, General Committee 2007 to present, and has been the editor of the Society's Website since its inception in 2007 to the present.

He has also served on the Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee 2003 to present; Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee 2003 to present; and he was Safer Neighbourhood's Vice – Chairman for Hampstead Town 2005-2009. He studied Modern History at Oxford University and is locally interested in architecture, history and birdwatching.

Treasurer's report for 2013

by Maureen Clark-Darby

The Society is pleased to present its Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2013.

The Society reviews its accounting policies each year. The trustees are satisfied that the current policies meet the Society's needs and circumstances. These policies are disclosed on page five of the Financial Statements.

The operating deficit for the year was £5,287 (2012: surplus £7,468).

In 2013 the Society made an unrealised gain of £718 on its investment. The resulting deficit for the year was therefore £4,569.

Membership subscription income was down by 2% year on year 2013: £13,723 (2012: £13,967). This percentage reduction is due to the membership type mix, rather than a reduction in membership. Actual membership for the year increased.

Interest and dividend income is slightly down for the year - dividends £142 (2012: £183), interest £622 (2012: £787).

During the year the Society received a legacy from the estate of a local resident of £10,000 with no special conditions attached. The Society received a donation of £21,000 which is ring fenced for the Society's legal costs for the Dams Project, of which it expended £16,710 during the year.

The Society's running costs, excluding exceptional costs, increased by 7% in 2013 to £23,463 (2012: £21,866). This is mainly due to an increase in administration costs.

In 2013 the Society continued its work to increase membership and subscription income.

The Trustees believe that the Society's Capital and Reserves are satisfactory at £81,842. The accounts are enclosed separately with this Newsletter and Annual Report

The Society wishes to thank Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, for carrying out the Independent Examination of the Financial Statements for 2013.

Delivering the Newsletter by email

You can receive your Newsletter by email in the form of a PDF so that you can read it on screen if you prefer.

For those of you who do not keep your Newsletters, it is environmentally more friendly, saving paper and unnecessary waste. The occasional extra flyers could also be sent via email, if wished.

It would also save the Society a great deal of cost. With postage costs increasing enormously this is now becoming a major consideration.

If you would like to try this please let the Editor know at info@heathandhampstead.org.uk You can be sent a PDF to try out, to see if you like it. PDFs of the Newsletter can also be seen on the website.

Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

After an unusually mild and incredibly wet winter punctuated with storms that caused damage to trees in particular, the Heath is rapidly returning to normal with beautiful white may and other blossom. The St Jude's storm of last October, although not comparable with the 1987 hurricane, was the worst since 1990 and left the Heath with over a hundred damaged trees. Forty of these were too damaged to save. Although Heath staff were quick to fell those most badly damaged and to remove broken limbs, some of the largest trunks had to be left lying on grassland until the ground was dry enough to support the heavy vehicles needed to drag them into the woodlands where they will not hinder the grass mowing.

The Parliament Hill Lido was another casualty of the winter storms when part of its outer wall collapsed in mid-February.

News from Kenwood

Over in Kenwood, English Heritage responded well to the consultation on their proposal to restore lost views to and from the Dairy by modifying their plans so as to leave the three well-loved Copper Beeches in West Meadow and only remove the self-seeded trees between the beeches and the eastern edge of the meadow. Although it was sad to see so many trees removed in one fell swoop, over the next few months the old farm pond will be reinstated and the grassland will recover to restore the pastoral setting around the Dairy to look as it was in the early 1950's before the effect of the change from grazing by sheep to inefficient mowing finally took hold. The hedge around the meadow is to be replanted and will take a few more years to be re-established but, controversial as it was, I am delighted that this pastoral setting, so rare in London, is being restored.

There will be no concerts at Kenwood in 2014 as last year's series was not a financial success and Rouge Events will not be arranging more. We have fond memories of the old classical concerts playing, without loud amplification, from a stage across the Thousand Pound Pond and would be delighted if it proved possible to create something similar in future years.

Ponds update – the City consultation

Less satisfactory is the City of London Corporation's reaction to their Information Giving and Consultation exercise over the 12 weeks to 17 February on their Ponds Project. Of the two parts to the process, there was plenty of information to raise awareness on the engineering aspects of the proposals but little on the fundamental legal basis for them or on the scientific or technical aspects, and offered comparatively minor variations between the options being consulted on. The original concept was to add water storage in the middle of each chain in order to have to do very little work down-stream. Each of the two options presented for the Highgate and the Hampstead chains has not only enlarged this central storage but with only a small reduction, a very long way from eliminating, work elsewhere. We cannot support any of the options as we believe them based on incorrect legal advice on the meaning of 'in the interest of safety' and are thus more than is legally required, and more damaging to the Heath than necessary.

During the consultation over 4,000 people visited the displays on the Heath and talked with staff there, and over 800 people talked to staff at other spots in the surrounding area; there was a direct mailing of almost 80,000 postcards to local households and businesses plus information in the local press, via websites and social media.

From this about 1,000 comments were recorded at the Heath displays plus over 1,000 people completed the more detailed questionnaire with little preference for any option but over 60% of responses being marked 'extremely dissatisfied' – ranging from 60.36% to 66.55% for each of the different options – with a majority of the comments expressing concern over the excessive scale of the project and/or on the legal basis on which it was based.

The City went for quality over price when choosing a contractor for the construction and BAM Nuttall are now working with Atkins in developing the scheme which will be going for planning approval in early summer. For this, BAM Nuttall have been drilling some 20 bore holes around the ponds to investigate the soil structures and digging around 30 trial pits to find suitable soil for doing the work with the minimum of disruption.

Improvements at East Heath

The lower fairground site opposite Downshire Hill consists of old bomb rubble and ash from Battersea Power Station and, as a result, has always looked a drab, unloved, area. As part of the improvements to the area it was hydro-seeded by spraying with a mixture of grass seed and mulch and the initial effect has been an excellent greening of the area. This process will be fully evaluated later in the year, after the summer weather, the fairs and the Affordable Art Fair have all taken their toll, to see if it needs repeating. When reworking the site to fit more cars into the East Heath car park by evening out its shape, it proved not to be possible to fit the lower fairground into the area excluding the car park, as originally proposed. So, to avoid still needing to remove the car park's back fence completely when the fair was

on, this dividing fence has been redesigned to include 'pole gates' which can just be opened to allow the fairs to spread into the car park area.

The Springett Lecture

Finally, it has not yet been possible to fix a date for a re-scheduling of last October's Springett Lecture, which had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the speaker's illness. Edward Milner, an award-winning TV producer on environmental issues who knows the Heath well and has led our spider walks for many years, is keen to give his talk about 'Native Trees of the London area in an era of Climate Change'. We are in the process of arranging for him to give the 2014 Springett lecture this October.

Dick Bristow

1929 - 2014

We were sad to hear that Dick Bristow died earlier this year. He served on the Heath Sub-Committee and on the Main Committee for many years in the 1990s and represented the Society on the City's Heath Consultative Committee in 2001-2.

His family were builders, and long established residents in Golders Green, where Dick was born. Dick's professional career was in banking and he lived in Hampstead Garden Suburb opposite the Heath.

He was a man of great charm and humour and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. We send our most sincere condolences to his family.

Town Report

by Frank Harding

I write this report with Spring very much in the air; the blossom is on the trees, gardens are showing off their early colours – and it is not raining. In Hampstead we have been fortunate to have avoided the excesses of the recent winter flooding but continue to sympathise with those who were directly affected.

HS2

The major concerns of the members of the Town Sub-Committee since the end of 2013 have been the impact on North West London in general and Hampstead in particular of the Government's plans for the development of the High Speed Rail line to Birmingham and beyond. In my last report I explained the preliminary view we had taken on the proposals insofar as they affected the stability of period buildings in Hampstead itself from the passage of heavy goods vehicles over the Heath, the traffic flows in Camden and to and from NW London to the West End and the City, and the environmental pollution that would be caused over the 10 year construction period. In recent weeks we have submitted a petition to the Prime Minister and our thoughts on the scheme to Government, have had meetings with local Councillors and discussed our views with Camden and made proposals as to changes which might be made to the scheme – we have suggested that the delivery of materials to and spoil from the construction site should be by rail or the canal.

We have noted with relief that it is proposed to remove the link between HS1 and HS2 at Primrose Hill and trust that that change will not be overturned as development of the overall scheme progresses.

We continue to monitor developments and are pleased that other groups in the area are taking a similar line to ours, namely that, if HS2 proceeds, the arrangements for the removal of spoil should be such as to avoid the lorries coming through Hampstead and should take account of the needs of residents, their visitors and those who pass through Camden by road to be able to continue to do so during the extended construction period.

Plaques

Progress is being made to arrange for additional plaques to be put up to commemorate well-known people who have lived in Hampstead. We would hope to be able to unveil two or three new plaques over the next few months.



One of the Society's plaques

A pair of walks around Hampstead to note the plaques already in place and to learn more about those to whom they are erected was lead last year by Julia Male. These were repeated in April and were very well received by those who participated in them.

Hampstead Rediscovered IV

The fourth in our series of exhibitions of artworks of Hampstead which opened at Burgh House in April will continue until 29 June so there will still be time for you to go and see it. This show contains paintings by Patrick Lewis Forbes. Knight Frank has again generously provided sponsorship. More information on the opposite page.

Patrick Lewis Forbes - exhibition

Old Hampstead Rediscovered IV – A True Hampstead Artist.

Burgh House until 29 June 2014

Open Wednesday-Friday and Sunday, 12-5pm, admission free

The fourth exhibition by The Heath & Hampstead Society with paintings from the collection of Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre.

Kindly sponsored by Knight Frank.

In each of the previous exhibitions the paintings by Patrick Lewis Forbes attracted a great deal of interest and praise and it was considered he deserved an exhibition of his own, selected from the large collection of his works held by Camden.

He painted his first watercolour of Hampstead in 1890 and later lived and worked as an artist in six addresses in Hampstead from 1892 to 1920, capturing so attractively many local Hampstead scenes. For a period he was the Secretary of the Hampstead Art Society and exhibited 11 paintings at the Royal Academy. He was born in Calcutta in 1860, brought up and educated in Aberdeen and died in Worthing in 1939.

However, even locally, little has been known about him and any art reference work has only the briefest of mentions.



This exhibition has redressed this as a result of further research into his life and work, including contacting his descendants and relatives. We do, however, appeal for any information anyone may have about him to help provide a fuller picture of his life and works.

We are most grateful to Knight Frank for their generosity in sponsoring this exhibition.

For more information, see info@burghhouse.org.uk

Planning Report

by David Castle

Over the last three months since the previous Newsletter the Planning Subcommittee have carefully scrutinised 135 applications for planning permission for building-work or change of use in the Hampstead, Redington-Frogna, Fitzjohn's/Netherhall, and South Hill Park Conservation Areas. Of these we have objected to Camden for the 33 applications which we consider to adversely affect Hampstead or neighbouring properties.

There are so many applications in both our area and the rest of Camden that Councillors, who only meet in the Development Control Subcommittee for one evening meeting at three week intervals, can only consider about 4% of all applications and obviously these would be the large, important, or difficult cases.

It is important to note that planning development control officers have delegated powers to approve or refuse planning applications. They are also able to negotiate changes to a planning application (which they do less frequently than we consider they should) and it is at this time that objectors have a chance to affect the outcome of a decision if they act quickly enough.

However, there is a weekly Members Briefing Panel made up of three Councillors (one each from the main political parties) and Development Control officers (who consider those applications which have been recommended for approval) which can decide that a case go to the Development Control Committee for determination at a public meeting. The Development Control Officers will then publish a lengthy summary of the issues involved in the development and the objections received, and make a firm recommendation to the Councillors to approve the application.

The Weekly Members Briefing Panel is held in private and does not publish its considerations. It is not clear if Local Councillors can have any effect on the decisions made in this Panel.

With a few exceptions the strategic objectives and policies of Camden's Local Development Framework (L.D.F) - the latest name for Camden's planning policies - are well considered. What is unfortunate is that these sensible objectives are frequently ignored, because, and I quote: "an application may be approved if the overall benefits of a scheme outweigh the possible negative impacts".

Does this mean that a large development that has negative affects on an area will be approved because it provides more dwellings, or a larger Council Tax annual income, etc.? Surely the purpose of the planning system is to prevent any negative effect caused by building work (particularly in Conservation Areas). It would be very sensible, but not very likely, if the- shortly to be revised- Camden Planning Policies categorised those objectives which had to be maintained and those which were negotiable.

It must be added that local Councillors are frequently willing to give advice to objectors on how to make progress and achieve changes or even a refusal to the many unacceptable applications that are made. However, the majority of the quite considerable effort needed to fight a planning application must be made by the neighbours and those affected.

Trees

Despite a very wet 2013, applications for felling trees are still being made by insurance companies when cracks, even a small as 1mm., are being reported by home owners. It appears that certain companies employed to advise

insurance companies automatically advise felling of all garden, neighbouring and street trees prior to investigating whether the cracking is of concern, and what the real causes of cracking are. Hampstead is automatically assumed to be on “London Clay” with maximum safe distance of tree species from buildings being employed. If only it were so simple! The Society is working with Camden Tree Officers to ensure that applications to fell or pollard trees are refused in unproven cases.

We believe that trees are an important part of what makes Hampstead special and beautiful, enhance our environment and contribute to biodiversity.

Trees are also an important anti-flooding measure. The risk of flooding is increased by the presence of hard surfacing, removal of large volumes of water-absorbing soil for basement construction, particularly outside the footprint of an existing house, and blockage or diversion of the flow of groundwater. These add to run-off and increase the pressure on public drains. Trees, however, capture rainwater in their canopies and root systems, thus slowing its transfer to the ground and to the drains.

Trees also help balance the surface and the ground-water, preventing building heave and soggy gardens. This is why those who originally built Hampstead’s streets and houses planted willows, oaks and poplars along the old stream and spring lines, and over marshy ground. Applications for large basements and extensions are therefore additionally scrutinised by our tree officer Vicki Harding for their effect on flooding and on trees, with objections made as necessary.

Heath House.

This listed house, which has been unused for as long as most of us can remember, has now been covered in scaffolding and protective plastic and is undergoing repair. This is only weeks after our campaign to make the owners repair the house and we feel justified in claiming that we played a part in ensuring that this listed house is now being repaired.

The Old White Bear Public House

Camden are to be congratulated for refusing an application for change of use of this popular (and very old) pub to a single house. However the story is not over as the owners have closed and locked the doors. Probably they intend to appeal.

15 Gayton Crescent

Building work has been taking place on this prominent detached house for some years without planning permission. The Heath and Hampstead Society and many neighbours have been pestering Camden for a long time and, if the national press are to be believed, Camden have at last issued an Enforcement Notice to make the owner remove the rear extension. At the time of going to press we were not able to obtain information from Camden or establish whether the enforcement included the reinstatement of the railings on the corner and the removal of the parking area. Ridiculously, the owner can appeal against enforcement.

Finally, for those of you who would like more information about the role of the Planning Subcommittee and information about the planning system, trees, basements, etc. please consult our web-site at www.heathandhampstead.org.uk.

Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum

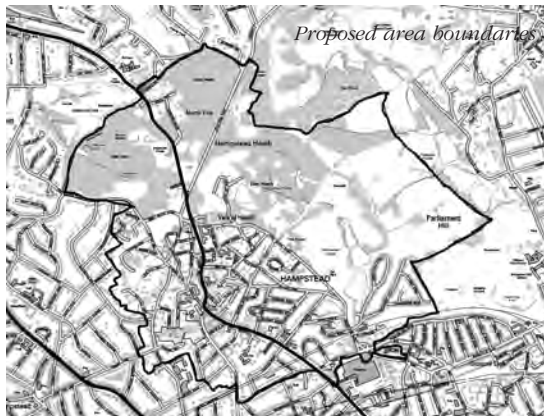
By Alex Nicoll

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum has rapidly gained momentum in the past few months. It has held a series of public meetings intended to raise awareness and gather opinions about the issues that are important to local residents and businesses. It is now going through the necessary steps to obtain designation from Camden Council.

Membership of the Forum is open to all who live and work within its boundaries, which include Hampstead Village and the South End Green area. The body is being set up under the Localism Act of 2011, which gave local communities the ability to have more influence over designing their futures, and in particular over planning policy in their areas.

The Neighbourhood Plan

The principal purpose of the Forum will be to write a Neighbourhood Plan, which will sit alongside Camden's own strategy documents and will carry more weight than Conservation Area statements and other planning guidance. However, many communities are taking the opportunity to write broader plans that seek to crystallise local aspirations on issues that are not strictly planning matters, such as traffic and transport.



Involving the whole community

The process will take several years, and the key to success will be engagement with all parts of the community in order to capture the vision of local people about the future of the area. Unless Camden is satisfied that there has been a very high level of engagement, it will not approve the eventual Plan. Ultimately, the Plan must be approved by an independent planning inspector and be backed by local residents in a referendum.

The new Committee and first AGM

The Forum was formally incorporated at its first Annual General Meeting on 6 March, attended by about 80 people at the Hampstead Community Centre. The committee was elected, and a constitution and proposed area boundaries were approved.

Janine Griffis, a former member of the H&HS General Committee, has been elected Chair of the Forum, and the Vice-Chair is David Castle, who chairs the H&HS Planning Subcommittee. Stephen Taylor is Secretary, Stuart Flude is Treasurer and Alex Nicoll is Communications officer. Other elected members are Carissa Bub, Bob Buhr, Vicki Harding, Fiona Reeve, Melissa Remus Elliot, Kimry Shlacter, Ellen Solomons, Ben van Bruggen, Laurie White, Sebastian Wocker and Jeremy Wootliff. Local Councillors are ex-officio members, and the committee also benefits greatly from the advice of a number of people with particular areas of expertise.

Hampstead is far from alone in North London in embarking on this journey. The Highgate Neighbourhood Forum was designated by Camden and Haringey Councils in 2012 and is now in the final stages of preparing its Plan. The Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Development Forum has

published a final draft of its Plan. Closer at hand, efforts are under way to create separate forums in the Redington Road/Frognaal, Fitzjohns/Netherhall and Church Row areas. Councils are required to initiate formal consultations before agreeing to designate individual forums.

Finding out what people want

So what sort of future would Hampstead people design for themselves? The Hampstead Forum is still in the very early stages of finding out the answers to this question. However, we have gathered some strong initial opinions. We held an intense Sunday afternoon gathering of about 50 people at Burgh House, followed by another brainstorming session after the AGM.

We found that a top priority is to maintain the atmosphere of a living village. This does not mean just keeping it the same. All communities depend for their vitality on embracing change. For example, many residents think it is very important to encourage greater diversity among Hampstead's shops and businesses. They say that businesses that are not part of national chains need to be given a fair chance to thrive.

Three central themes of 'Living Hampstead' have emerged:

- enhancing and preserving a beautiful environment;
- developing a sharing, caring community;
- dealing sensibly with traffic and transport issues.

Environment: intelligent planning

An important part of the Forum's role must be to preserve the beauty of the area. The fact that Hampstead is a Conservation Area, with the planning disciplines that this involves, means

that the environment already has significant protection. Nevertheless, residents have concerns.

Some issues are already well rehearsed, particularly that of the addition of basements to properties. Another issue that has been with Hampstead for more than a century has been that of encroachments on to the Heath. If there is any issue that has long been able to mobilise opposition to construction projects, it is this one. And the Forum will not take a different position: the Heath is widely seen as a vital and wonderful part of our neighbourhood.

Many residents feel strongly about trees. They believe regulations should be more strongly enforced, and that more attention should be paid to renewal and mapping. On housing, while protecting the area's heritage is crucial, a larger amount of affordable homes is needed. Public spaces could be better cared for and de-cluttered. Some people want to encourage more street life, with stalls and markets. Some would like real 'play streets' for children.

Community: share and care

A sense of being connected is seen as important to Hampstead's future in several ways. The word implies being linked through digital networks, but it also means ordinary human contact. Building more connections within the community – both residents and businesses -- will help people to look out for each other, to build better services for each other, and to know each other better as customers and providers.

For example, in some streets residents have grouped into email networks that help them to communicate if neighbours are ill or in need of help. A further example is the recent creation

Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum (cont)

of smart-phone apps that enable local people to exchange information and opinions.

One section of the community that needs particular attention is the elderly, especially those who live alone. The view was expressed that there needs to be better care for those with Alzheimers/dementia.

Business is a vital element of the local community. Residents strongly want to see a greater variety of shops and businesses. To help this happen, it is necessary to consider what would help them to flourish. Lower rents and taxes would be an important element, but not the only one: they also have to be able to take delivery of their goods, and customers and staff have to be able to reach them easily.

More broadly, the area needs to ensure that it contains centres of excellence that provide services for all, such as Camden Age UK's Henderson Court resource centre. Another important element of community life is a sense of security, and this requires confidence in the presence and accessibility of the police. The closure of Hampstead police station – something that the community fought for many years – has highlighted the fact that this issue remains unresolved.

Transport and traffic: a smart approach

Hampstead is part of one of the world's biggest, most visited and most cosmopolitan cities. It is a distinct neighbourhood and village, but it is not isolated from the rest of London – and nor should it be. Public and private transport, as well as commercial traffic, are essential lifelines.

This issue provokes strong and diverse opinions. Some people would like to see roads pedestrianised, or reserved for residents. Others

see transport as a normal part of life – and of a neighbourhood's vitality. There are two issues on which there is general concern: heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), and the school run. HGVs are seen as damaging streets and trees, and unsuitable for Hampstead's small roads: deliveries should be made in smaller vehicles. The school run is viewed as contributing an inordinate amount of traffic – suggested remedies include staggering school opening times, encouraging school buses and cooperation between parents.

Among more specific ideas to come from brainstorming sessions were: a network to connect local young people with employment opportunities; encouragement of vacant shops being used as pop-ups; a place for skateboarding; better and safer pedestrian crossings; encourage enforcement of the laws on dog mess; be clearer about what styles, methods and materials are acceptable for basement excavation and what are not; open up the space around the plane tree in Oriel Place; generate guidelines for successful street parties; establish an artist/writer-in-residence scheme.

Though the ideas put forward so far represent a great start, there will need to be much more engagement and evidence-gathering before even the broad lines of a future Neighbourhood Plan can emerge. We are still in the process of analysing the results of our last event, a lively community tea party held at St Stephen's on the 27th of April with treats supplied by Gail's Artisan Bakery. There will be more events to come.

Learn more about the Forum at our website, www.hampsteadforum.org. If you have questions or would like to help, email us at info@hampsteadforum.org

Follow us on Twitter @HampsteadForum and look out for our leaflets.

Simon Lee's farewell

Simon Lee's farewell speech to the Heath & Hampstead Society after twelve years as Heath Superintendent

I recall that my first ever visit to Hampstead Heath was before I started working for the City Corporation when I was invited to meet the then Chairman of the H&HS Martin Humphery along with Jeremy Wright for a coffee at Martin's house. Our conversation covered a wide range of topics, not least the absence of a Management Plan, but I sensed a slight reticence about my "parks" background in Cheltenham.

What did this "parkie" from Cheltenham know about managing one of London's most iconic open spaces! Many of you may not be aware that my formative years were spent at Merrist Wood Agricultural College, where as a child I helped on the farm, spent many a day climbing trees, swimming in the many lakes and helping my father care for this large rural estate.

After leaving Martin and Jeremy I made my way to East Heath and pulled into the car park, a rather dejected looking area, somewhat removed from the Grade 1 Listed parkland setting of Pittville Pump Room that I was then managing. It was early evening time and a hot day the area was bustling with people.

I remember walking down to the Mixed Pond causeway and watching the swimmers bathing in the pond. I walked up across Parliament Hill Fields, through Lime Avenue and back across Priors Field taking in that view with the sunning sinking down looking across London to St Paul's (with no Shard). I'm sure many of you recall your first encounter with the Heath, for me it immediately felt like a very special place, not a Hyde Park or Bushy Park, but a real piece of countryside in the City.

I read Farmer's book about the history of the Heath that the Society had kindly given me, it was revealing to learn about the East Park proposals and the "parkification" of the Heath



by the LCC. I had an inkling of why there was concern about this fairly young and very enthusiastic Parks Manager!

In my early days as Superintendent there was much to do, not that there ever isn't, clarifying staff roles and responsibilities, together with meeting a host of local people all eager to share their knowledge and of course their particular concerns.

One of person who gave up many hours to walk me through the site was David Sullivan. I owe him a great debt, before the days of GPS he had meticulously recorded the advance of secondary woodland across the site, he wrote with Kit Ikin a series of papers, for each distinct area of the Heath giving a clear account of its particular merits followed by detailed management prescriptions. His work was sadly thwarted by the lack of action by the GLC.

These ideas helped me start to frame the basis of how the Heath needed to be managed compartment by compartment, but with an

Simon Lee's farewell

overarching plan. Of course I was ably assisted in bringing forth proposals, particularly by Meg Game (who I was delighted to have poached from Ken's Greater London Authority) and David Bentley.

I soon learned that managing the Heath requires something of a diplomatic role. As Churchill once said this is the "art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions". I'm not sure I could ever be said to have mastered such an approach, but, people their passions, idiosyncrasies and sometimes singular view is what makes Hampstead what it is and it requires a certain approach to be able to try and get people to reach a consensus.

It is a fascinating quirky place, where else can you go to listen to a bag-piper blowing forth stood on an empty bandstand, while you enjoy a cup of coffee surrounded by dog walkers whilst admiring the iconic views of London's sky-line. Who else would drink only iron drenched water taken from Goodison fountain! The great people of Hampstead have some strange habits! Diving into a freezing pond on Christmas Day is another quite unusual custom!

Managing the Heath is actually relatively easy, managing the passion and diametrically opposed views that exist on almost every subject of Heath management is the tricky part. From cross country running to croquet, from bathing to brambles, everyone has a view!

But I've been fortunate in having support from one of the most knowledgeable groups of local people, all of whom sit on the Heath statutory Consultative Committee. Your wise counsel has been invaluable in helping me to reconcile the divergent views and to always seek to take a

common sense approach in the best interest of the Heath.

When I look back at some of the issues we have worked together on, the diversity and breadth of work is startling. At the Lido we ensured that the primary function of this listed building was preserved for future generations to enjoy, our stainless steel liner has improved the swimming experience. At Whitestone Pond we transformed this neglected gateway to the Heath, thanks must go to Juliette for spurring us on. We robustly reviewed cycling – twice! We started a programme to restore the Hill Garden Pergola and we refurbished play areas for the benefit of children. Together we implemented difficult budgetary reductions.

Above all you supported and encouraged us to implement our ambitious work programmes to ensure that the woodlands, grasslands, hedges and scrub of the Heath is retained.

You joined me to represent various constituencies in numerous Groups and Forums, not least Heath Hands, one of the great success stories, a Group I am enormously proud to have been associated with. I still miss Bobby, how could anyone ever say No to her!

Through pedestrians, cyclists, fisherman, athletes, bowls players, cricketers, footballers, swimmers - or should it be bathers - on issues from flag raising to support on the Sexual Activities Working Group (I've dined out on this Group a few times) you have been there. Your passion and energy to be involved in the Heath is your greatest attribute, even though at times it can feel a bit daunting. Thank you for all your support. I am delighted that Bob Warnock has picked up the mantle in managing the Heath, please do give him your continued support, I know he is eager to meet you.

I've also been privileged to work for the City Corporation, its custodianship of the Heath has in my opinion to be admired. My Chairmen have all been total stalwarts, giving of their time and helping to pick up the baton in defending the Heath both internally at Guildhall and also when needed amongst the local communities. What other organisation devotes so much money to the upkeep and good governance of public open spaces.

But my greatest thanks has to go to my team, not just my managers, whose loyalty, patience and endurance has been tested on many occasions, but also seeing staff develop and realise their full potential. Last night I was sat in the office drafting out some ideas on what to say and I wandered into the front office.

The Tree Officer David Humphries was poring over some old photographs, some of Michael's postcards, and some TfL posters. He challenged me on where they were. I thought Limes Avenue, but it was actually at the top of Judges Hollow, showing a triple row of planted trees. What are they for I enquired? Well, he said, I have to go and see someone tomorrow about a Beech tree and concerns they have about it overhanging their boundary and I want to take these along to try and impress upon him how important these veteran trees are in terms of the Heath landscape. He then showed me some paintings by Constable of the same area that he had researched. Sadly he advised that of the triple row of trees that once existed only one row now exists, including this ancient Beech.

This not only demonstrated to me the passion with which he seeks to protect the landscape of the Heath which is so apparent in all staff, but

also the ever changing face of the Heath. If we stopped worked today and walked away in 50 years the Heath would be all secondary woodland. Intervention is critical and this landscape is forever changing.

My father a simple man, a grower, a gardener and a man who loved the outdoors, he taught me one critical thing in life, accept and embrace change, don't be afraid of it. Setting things in aspic is a dangerous route, conservation is vital, preservation of a landscape is its ruin.

Finally ladies and gentleman, none of what I have undertaken in helping with the custodianship of this wonderful landscape would have been possible without Alison. [Simon's wife] I'm a very fortunate man to have such her support, particularly bringing up my three lads.

It is has been a fascinating and rewarding journey, so in moving to Wimbledon and Putney Commons, where interestingly we share almost the identical Foundation Legislation (of course the Heath Act was passed first on the 29th June 1871 and W&PC in August that year), I take with me an enormous amount of learning. Being slightly older and hopefully, a little wiser, help leave that site richer in its diversity, both ecologically and socially.

My mantra, stolen from Mr Welbank, will be the same as that on the Heath: this is not a park, it is not a park!



Hampstead Summer Festival

By Vicky Bobasch



Hampstead Summer Festival will be even Bigger and Better....

If you were around for last year's Festival you'll know what a great day it was. This Summer it will be even bigger and better and completely unmissable.

Save the date

The Big Day is July 6th when stalls on Heath Street will waft the smells of delicious foods from all around the world to tempt your taste-buds. A chess tournament takes place at Henderson Court. Then as you progress up the hill there will be donkey and unicorn rides, falcons, circus performers and musical entertainers. And, at the top, at the highest point in London, the famous Art Village, a Sport and Fitness Zone and a small funfair.

A popular family attraction will be the balloon race. You can buy a biodegradable balloon for £2, attach your name on a card, and the card that is returned to Hampstead from the furthest destination wins a prize. Last year the winner's balloon drifted all the way to France!

If you are anxious to see the Wimbledon Final, you don't need to miss the fun to stay at home in a darkened room. On the contrary, you can watch with other enthusiastic fans as the tennis will be shown on a giant screen with all the atmosphere of Hampstead's own Henman Hill.

Festival Events continue throughout the week, including Poems on the Underground in the Library on July 9th, and other fun evenings such as a pub quiz, which will be listed in the Festival programme.

Important funding for two charities

The purpose of all this fun is quite serious though. The Fair brings in thousands of visitors to Hampstead to support our local traders, and all the profits from the Fair go to two local charities, Age UK Camden Henderson Court Resource Centre and Keats Community Library. These two amenities provide vital services for all our community, from literacy classes to computer classes for beginners, and activities to keep the elderly active. The Festival is an important source of funding for these two charities. Last year the tireless organisers raised £20,000 and this year the target is to do even better.

Keats Community Library is organising a raffle for the Festival with over 40 prizes donated by local shops and services. Tickets cost £1 each and you could win a voucher for a meal in Cote, or Aubaine, a hamper from Melrose and Morgan, tickets for a wine-tasting evening from Hampstead Providores, a £50 voucher towards air tickets from the Flight Centre, a manicure from the Beauty Boutique, a magnum of champagne from Jeroboam's.....and lots more lovely prizes.

To buy tickets call in at the Library, Keats Grove NW3 2RR .



Bulletin Board



Keats Community Library

10 Keats Grove NW3 2RR
Tel 0207 431 1266

Library Events Calendar Summer /Autumn 2014

- May 30th** **Susanne von Laun**
early music recital
Fenton House
- July 6th** **Hampstead Summer Festival**
Heath Street
- July 9th** **Poems on the Underground**
Library
- Oct 2nd** **Diana Brekalo** - Piano Recital
Rosslyn Chapel
- Oct 11th** **Autumn Book Sale** Library
- Oct 16th** **Neil Titley** – a dramatised talk
on Oscar Wilde Library
- Nov 13th** **‘Never Again; First World War**
Readings and Poetry Library
- Dec 18th** **Festive Literary Quiz**
Library

Tickets will be on sale in the library.

The library is open to everyone. It is easy to register for a KCL library card to borrow books. We have over 20,000 items.

For more details about events, or volunteering, look at the website:
www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk
keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com
www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk

Hampstead Theatre

Eton Avenue
London NW3 3EU

Become a Friend of Hampstead Theatre

Amongst the many benefits Friends receive are:

- Priority Booking
- advance notice of forthcoming productions
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- 10% discount at Theatre bar

For details of membership schemes see
www.hampsteadtheatre.com/support-us
or contact Sally Wilson, tel: 020 7449 4155.

sallyw@hampsteadtheatre.com

For more information contact:

ian.vallance@hampsteadtheatre.com

Tel: 020 7449 4161

www.hampsteadtheatre.com

www.hampsteadtheatre.com

Belsize Park Film Society

(formerly Hampstead Film Society - Please note change of name - everything else remains the same)

Meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm

Hampstead Town Hall,

213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP.

Entrance £5 at the door.

Find out more about forthcoming programmes

on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/socfilm>

Email: filmsocietyhampstead@gmail.com

Bulletin Board - Society news

Royal Gold Medal for Joseph Rykwert

Congratulations to Society member, Joseph Rykwert - celebrated architect, critic, historian and writer - who has won the RIBA Royal Gold Medal 2014,

Given in recognition of a lifetime's work, the Royal Gold Medal is approved personally by Her Majesty the Queen and is given to a person or group of people who have had a significant influence 'either directly or indirectly on the advancement of architecture'.

Joseph Rykwert has written numerous influential works of architectural criticism and history, published over a sixty-year period and translated into several languages. His work has changed the way modern architects and planners think about cities and buildings, and how historians view the architectural roots of the modern era.

The Society is fortunate and privileged that he kindly wrote several articles for this Newsletter on houses of architectural interest in Hampstead.



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, and can be downloaded from there

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*

Members' email addresses Are you missing out?

Keeping members informed of the latest news and events.

Email is invaluable for letting members know of vital issues between Newsletters. It has been particularly important in recent weeks, with campaigns:

- to save Athlone House,
- the Old White Bear Pub
- the Pond Landscape on the Heath
- the new Neighbourhood Forum

And to bring you other useful information, such as walks, talks and events.

If you did not hear about these it is because we do not have your email address.

The Society is increasingly using email, especially with the spiralling cost of postage. If you have not given us your email address you may be missing out on important local and Society news and initiatives. So, if you have not already done so, please do send your email address to the Society at:

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

Make sure you include your name and street address so that we can identify you.

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

Thank you.

Bulletin Board

The Proms at St Jude's 2014, June 21 - 29



Music Programme: the opening evening concert on Saturday 21 June will be Puccini's *La Bohème*, performed by Nevill Holt Opera.

On the Last Night, Sunday 29 June, soprano Lesley Garrett takes the stage. Other highlights include Handel's *Esther*, Tasmin Little violin with Piers Lane piano and the Endellion String Quartet with Michael Collins.

The Litfest takes place over the weekend of 21 and 22 June, featuring the redoubtable Lynn Barber and multi-award winning Edna O'Brien, among other fascinating authors.

There are lots of great guided walks around the Suburb and the City. Plus the popular free lunchtime concerts and family events specially suitable for children.



Lunchtime events: Doors open 12 noon Concerts start 12.45pm

Evening concerts: Doors open 7pm Concerts start 7.45pm

Refreshments, Wine and beer, hot and cold drinks and a tempting range of food are available from noon and from 7pm. in the licensed refreshment marquee, beside St Jude's Church.

Support the Festival as a Friend or Benefactor

Find out more about supporting the Festival by becoming a Gold, Silver or Bronze Friend, or a Benefactor, and about the whole nine-day programme, online. Box office is now open.

www.promsatstjudes.org.ukh

Raising Funds For Toynbee Hall And North London Hospice.



Burgh House Museum, Buttery, Bookstall

Exhibitions, talks, concerts and classes
Burgh House, New End Square NW3 1LT
www.burghhouse.org.uk
Tel: 020 7431 0144

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

Regular clubs and classes

include the Bridge and Scrabble clubs; Drawings and Water-colour classes; Choir with Patrick Allies; and The Garden Historians at Burgh House.

Support the Friends of Burgh House

For more information or to join the Friends,
tel: 020 7431 0144

Heath Walks 2014

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 locally, 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,
mobile: 07941 528 034 or
email: hhs.walks@gmail.com



1 June 2.30pm (meet at the Flagstaff, by Whitestone Pond) Identifying trees on West Heath led by Bettina Metcalfe, local tree enthusiast and member of the International Dendrology Society, who has been leading tree walks for the Friends of Kenwood

6 July 2.30pm (meet between the Old Kitchen Garden and English Heritage staff yard, east of Kenwood House). The wildlife and management of Hampstead Heath led by City of London Ecologists

3 August 2.30pm (meet at the cattle trough and flower stall, Spaniard's Road, near the Spaniard's Inn) Sandy Heath and the Heath Extension led by Lynda Cook, member of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee

7 September 9.30am (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath led by John Hunt (former Chairman of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society), and Sash Tusa

5 October 2.30pm (meet at the Café, Golders Hill Park) Identifying trees in Golders Hill Park led by Bettina Metcalfe (see previous details)

2 November 10.30am (meet at the entrance to the Old Kitchen Garden east of Kenwood House). The Heath and Kenwood - how they relate to each other. (Walk leaders to be announced)

7 December 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) The history and topography of the Hampstead Heath ponds led by Marc Hutchinson, Secretary, Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club; Secretary of the Heath & Hampstead Society and member of the Heath Sub-Committee.