

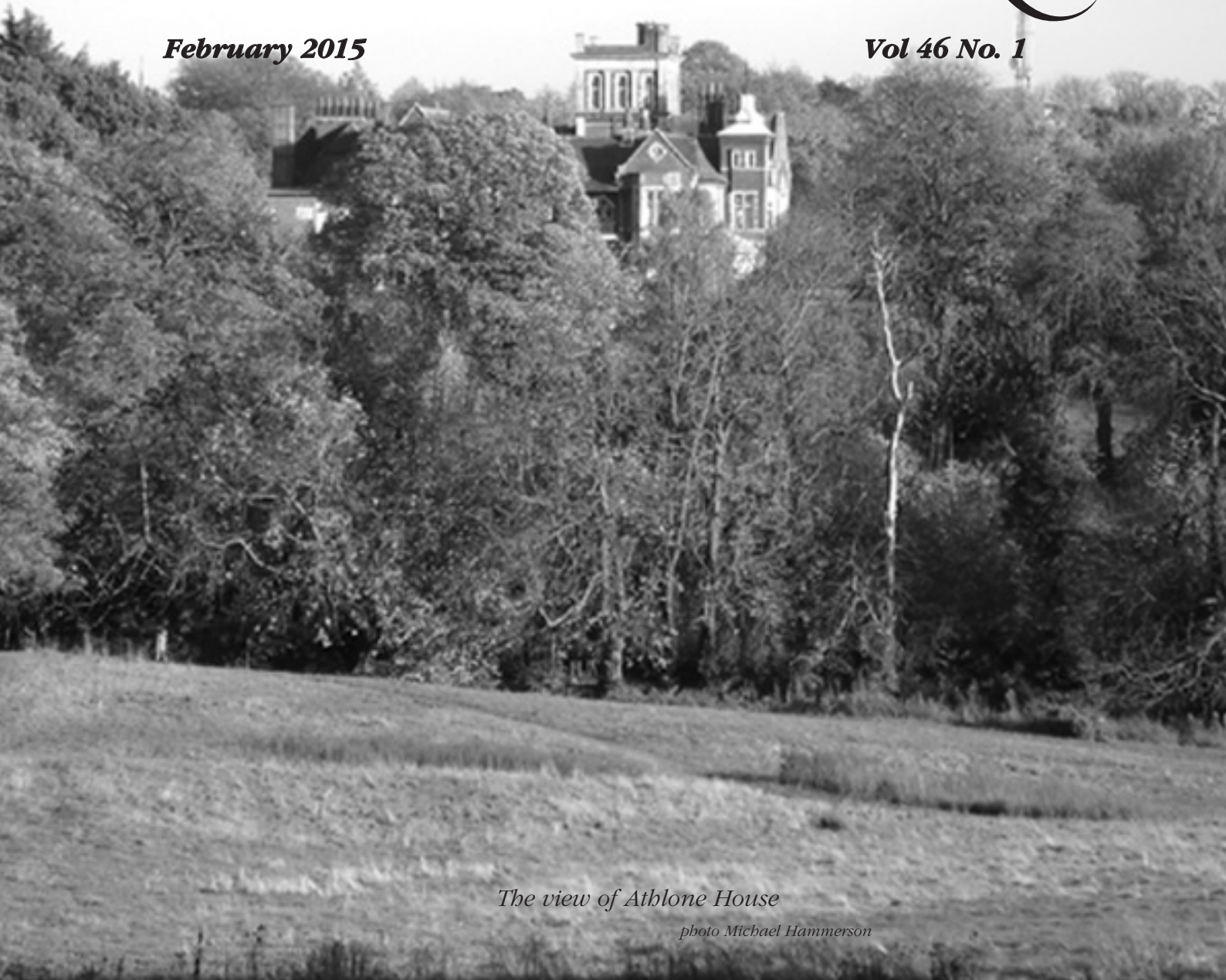


The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

February 2015

Vol 46 No. 1



The view of Athlone House

photo Michael Hammerson

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Chair's Notes

by Marc Hutchinson

May I take this opportunity of wishing all our members and patrons a very happy New Year and to apologise for the lateness of this edition of the Newsletter due to our wish to give you the latest news on.....

The Ponds, the Ponds, the Ponds

Reprinted on page 4-5 is the letter I sent to members on email to thank them for their moral and financial support for the Society's challenge in the High Court to the lawfulness of the City's Ponds Project.

In my view, the Society was right to bring the challenge and was the only organisation with the legal, financial and reputational resources to do so. The ruling of Mrs Justice Lang was not, so far as we were concerned, the end of the matter because she made clear at the trial that, her ruling being confined to the Reservoirs Act (RA) and the Hampstead Heath Act, it was open to Camden Council, as the planning authority, to require changes to the designs in accordance with planning and development laws. So the focus of our challenge moved to the public hearing on the evening of 15 January 2015 in front of Camden Council's Development Control Committee (DCC). Along with seven other objectors, I was allowed to address the councillors on the DCC and you can view the webcast of the proceedings on www.camden.gov.uk/webcasting (DCC meeting on 15 January 2015).

The objectors spoke after the presentation by Jonathan Markwell (the case officer) and AECOM (the Council's independent expert) and I spoke last, on behalf of the Society, the Highgate Society and the Highgate CAAC, urging the DCC to reduce the scale of the proposed works in light of their many contraventions of existing planning policies (as

Chair's Notes (cont)

noted by Mr Markwell and other statutory consultees) and the paramount need to preserve the historic landscape of the Heath. But councillors voted six to three (with one abstention) to approve the application subject to various conditions, one of which, importantly, is the establishment of a Community Working Group of 12 local representatives, for the duration of the Project, on which the Society expects to be represented.

It is to the eternal credit of the three councillors who voted against - Councillors Sue Vincent, Jenny Headlam-Wells and Flick Rea - that they, like the 900 authors of written objections and the 12,000 signatories to the DamNonsense petition, remained unconvinced of the merits of the application. Following the approval of the application, I, as a truly last resort, wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking her to declassify as such the three statutory reservoirs on the Heath, since it is this classification which has been the foundation of the project in a way that Parliament would never have foreseen when it passed the Reservoirs Act.

The City are now proceeding apace and, if the project goes according to timetable, tree felling will begin in February 2015 and the works proper in April 2015. The Society's website will include a page where the updated schedule for, and location of, the works can be seen. What a shame it is that informed

and overwhelmingly hostile public opinion has counted for so little in the entire decision-making process, and that nearly £20,000,000 is now to be spent on works that will in practice do nothing to protect the downstream residents from the flooding they have suffered, and will continue to suffer, each time their municipal and inadequate drainage fails to cope with a local storm.

I cannot leave this topic without drawing members' attention to a small moral victory we achieved in relation to our celebrated DamNonsense campaign postcard. In circumstances where at the time (November 2013) the City had not produced any mock-up photos, the Society felt obliged to do its best to produce one in order to alert the public to the scale of what was coming. In the High Court, the City and Atkins forcefully attacked our mock-up "after" photo - reproduced below - as inaccurate and "not a true likeness" of the new dam on the Boating Pond, although they did not produce their own "after" photo from the same close-by viewpoint.

The Society mock-up "after" photo



The Camden DCC councillors however asked them to do precisely that, and the photo you see below, the one then prepared by Atkins and shown to councillors at the DCC hearing, shows just how prescient we were.

29 New End and Athlone House

The planning inspector's public hearing on the 29 New End development, to which the Society vigorously objects, took place in early December 2014 and we hopefully await the result. The Society contributed £10,000 to the costs of the large group of objectors (including residents, nearby schools and Christ Church) who were represented at the hearing by a well-known planning barrister.

As foreshadowed in our last Newsletter, we now launch, with the Highgate Society, an appeal for funds to enable our and their representation by specialist planning counsel at the inspector's public hearing concerning the proposal to demolish Athlone House. The hearing is planned to run for 12 days commencing on 10 February 2015. Page 7 of this Newsletter contains details

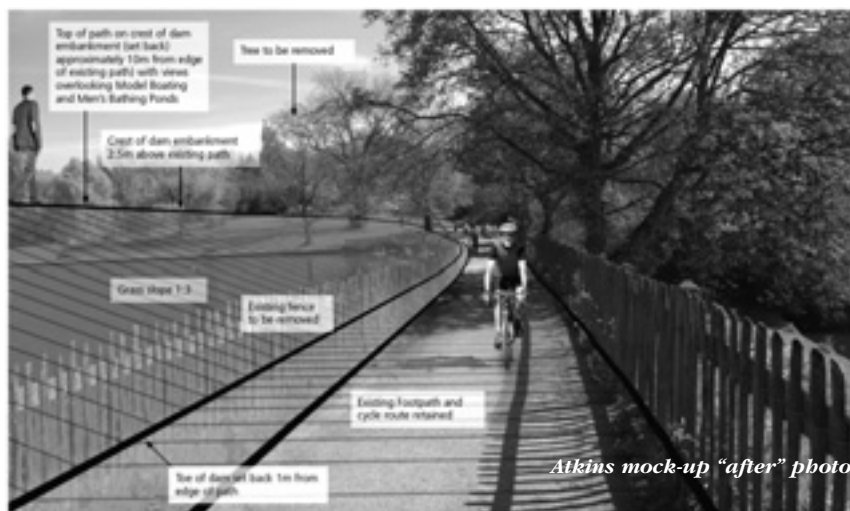
of the appeal and I am asking for contributions from those members who care about preserving the building (as the original developer was legally required to do) and preventing the construction of a bling-encrusted palace in its place on the edge of the Heath. We are fortunate that the City of London and Camden Council are devoting real resource and expertise to join us in opposing this development.

John Beyer, new Chair of Heath Sub-Committee

I am delighted to confirm that John has accepted this position with effect from 1 January 2015 and, as such, will become the Society's representative on the City of London's Heath Management Committee and a vice-chair and trustee of the Society. We welcome John to this very important and onerous position and are confident he will prove a worthy successor to Tony Ghilchik who served in the position for so many years. Tony will stand for election as a trustee to the General Committee in June 2015.

Christmas Party

We had over 150 guests at our Christmas party in December 2014 at St Stephen's and it was splendid to see so many of our new members there and to have the chance to meet them. As always, we must thank Helen Marcus, Frankie de Freitas, Nigel Steward and their team of helpers for the success of the event.



Ponds Project - letter to Members

From the Chair of the Heath & Hampstead Society

12 December 2014

Dear Member,

You will have seen from the press and from our website that the High Court recently decided against the Society in the judicial review proceedings brought by the Society to halt the City of London's Ponds Project. The Society applied to the trial judge for leave to appeal against her decision, but this was refused. Since then, your Trustees, with their legal advisers, have been considering whether to seek leave to appeal directly from the Court of Appeal.

Your Trustees have been advised, both by their counsel and their solicitors, that an appeal is unlikely to succeed, even though, as the trial judge found, we had an arguable case, and even though we still feel that the merits of the case are on our side. However the law appears to be against us, something at which we remain deeply dismayed.

I will summarise the main reason why we lost the case. We had argued that the Reservoirs Act does not entitle, let alone require, the expert engineer to reach a formal opinion that a standard of absolute safety should be applied to the "reservoirs" on the Heath, and that, even if the Act did entitle such an opinion to be reached, an exception should properly have been made in the case of the Heath given its unique nature and legal status.

On this point, the judge decided that the Reservoirs Act did indeed delegate to the single expert engineer the decision as to the safety standard; on this he was entitled to form his own professional view; and the question of allowing an exception to the absolute safety standard was likewise a professional one for him alone.

It is fair to assume that the judge was influenced on this question by the last minute intervention of the Government, in the form of the Environment Agency, who supported the City in its arguments against us, notwithstanding that we had lobbied Defra at the earliest stages of the Project in an attempt to have them support a proportionate response to the alleged risk of dam collapse. In particular, the Environment Agency told the judge that, so far as their records showed, an exception to the standard of absolute safety in the case of Category A Reservoirs (which is the status of the three largest "reservoirs" on Hampstead Heath) had never been made, even in the case of disused reservoirs in sensitive landscapes. No doubt the Environment Agency would make the same emphatic point to the Court of Appeal if this case went there.

Accordingly, and with great reluctance, your Trustees have decided not to seek leave to appeal from the Court of Appeal. The costs of seeking leave would require the Society to raise significant further funds from its members and we do not feel entitled, in all the circumstances, to ask members, who contributed so promptly and generously to the £100,000 fundraising appeal for the initial proceedings, to contribute further funds when the prospects of success are not favourable.

The Society intends to continue to oppose the planning application for the Project and to be formally represented at the Camden Council Development Control Committee hearing which it is now expected will consider the application early in the New Year. We hope that members will turn out to support us at that public hearing, the exact date of which will be notified by Camden at least a week in advance. The date will be 15 January 2015. One of the matters which clearly emerged from the trial was that Camden Council as local planning authority have the power to consider the effect of the works on the Heath in planning terms, and we will be urging them to do just that.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our representatives on the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group, the designs currently proposed by the City have been significantly modified from the initial designs in order to reduce so far as possible the adverse impact of the works on the historic Heath landscape. The Society will continue to work with the City - directly and through the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group - in order to seek to ensure that result in the final designs.

I must repeat the thanks of the Trustees to all the members of the Society who have contributed in so many ways to the campaign, whether through donations, delivering leaflets or writing letters. The campaign is not over yet.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Hutchinson

Chair



Appeal to save the Heath Landscape

To save the Heath skyline for future generations we need your help.

In 2004, Athlone House - a historic mansion that directly overlooks the Heath - was sold. The property developers who bought it signed an agreement to restore the House in exchange for planning permission to build a low-rise block of luxury flats in the grounds. However, after making huge profits from selling the flats, the developers reneged on the agreement and sold the house to an anonymous billionaire.

The super-rich new owner has been trying to get permission to demolish Athlone House ever since. So far we have successfully fought to stop him, but he has very deep pockets.

Continuing to defy public opinion

He continues to seek permission to replace the historic house with an ostentatious new house, designed perhaps to rival Kenwood House. The proposed new building is far larger than the existing house; the elevation facing Kenwood is 70% larger! Described by its critics as “a mix of Stalinist palace and Victorian asylum” it will destroy the time-honoured skyline of the Heath and Kenwood, protected for over a century by the work of this Society.

Furthermore, should the owner choose to cut down trees on his land to improve his view, the new house’s overwhelming presence in the

landscape would be still greater.

We are grateful that Camden has held firm so far and refused permission. This matter has already been through one appeal that threw out the owner’s plans. But he persists.

As this Newsletter goes to print there is yet another public enquiry into the latest proposed demolition. We continue to work closely with Highgate Society and other local groups, including the Athlone House Working Group, in organising opposition to plans for demolition.

Following our members’ extraordinarily generous response last year on the issue of the Heath Ponds it is with reluctance that we now ask you to consider contributing to the costs of another case, but we do so because the outcome of this case will shape the landscape of the Heath for generations. The Heath & Hampstead Society’s share of the cost of the legal and expert representation at this critical enquiry is expected to be not more than £10,000. The Highgate Society is also launching a funding appeal since we are sharing the overall costs with them.

It cannot be right that one person can be allowed to damage a historic landscape beloved by millions of people for his own personal interests.



The original Caen Wood Towers - now Athlone House. Designed by architect, Edward Salomons, it was built in 1870 for Edward Brooke, a dye manufacturer, on the site of an 1830s house, Fitzroy Farm, and Dufferin Lodge, (formerly the residence of Lord Dufferin).

Athlone House Appeal

***Please give as generously as you can to our
'Appeal to Save the Heath Landscape'.***

If each member of our Society gave £5,
we would easily cover our share of the enquiry costs.

Please make your cheque payable to
The Heath & Hampstead Society
and send it, with the Gift Aid form that can be downloaded from our website, to

The Treasurer
The Heath & Hampstead Society
PO BOX 38214,
London NW3 1XD

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

*Right: The proposed 'Stalinist palace' -note particularly
the increased height of the tower*

Below: the house in 1909



Annual General Meeting June 2015

Elections to General Committee

Officers

The existing Officers of the Society who are elected annually (President, Vice-Presidents, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) propose to stand for re-election.

General Committee

If these Officers are elected there will be three vacancies on the General Committee.

Frankie de Freitas (Newsletter and Events) who is currently an appointed member of the General Committee under Rule 21(2)(b) will stand for election for a first term of three years.

Tony Ghilchik (former Chair of Heath Sub-Committee and Society's representative on City of London Heath Management Committee) who is currently an appointed member of the General Committee under Rule 21(2)(b) will stand for election for a first term of three years.

Gordon Maclean (Planning Sub-Committee) will have completed his first term of three years as an elected member of the General Committee and will stand for re-election for a second term of three years.

The maximum number of members of the General Committee is 20. If the above persons are elected as described, there will be no vacancy on the General Committee. Any unforeseen resignations or changes to the above election proposals will be promptly announced on the Society's website.

Nominations for elections to the General Committee must be received by the Society in writing before 15 April 2015 in accordance with Rule 21(4). The Society's constitution can be viewed on the Society's website.

Glass in Hand Lecture

Thursday 23rd April St Stephen's 7.00pm for 7.30

Michael Eldred

Hampstead Geology, Basements and Engineers; an incompatible threesome?

*"The time has come," the engineer said,
"To talk of many things:
Of ground—and spoil—and basement holes*

*—Of party walls—and springs—
And why some digs will ne'er go right
— And what regulation brings."*

Michael Eldred MSc CEng FStructE MICE is a civil, structural and geotechnical engineer with 45 years experience of structural and ground engineering, giving him a unique insight into

the problems, constraints and solutions for digging basements into Hampstead's unusual geology. He has advised the Society on Camden's planning guidelines.

Tickets: £10 on the door; £8 in advance, £6 full-time students/unemployed. (Includes a glass of wine or soft drink). **For advance bookings** (tickets held at the door) please send a cheque for £8 payable to 'Heath & Hampstead Society' to: Vicki Harding, Heath & Hampstead Society, Garden Flat, 19 Frognal Lane, London NW3 7DB.

Generous offer of exceptional interest to H&HS members

Barratt's Annals of Hampstead

A member of the Society has, over the years, collected original 1912 editions of Barratt's Annals of Hampstead.

He has now most generously decided to make a number of them available to the Society to help boost the Society's funds.

Not only will you be acquiring something of extraordinary historic value but you will be helping The Heath & Hampstead Society to continue guarding our treasured environment on behalf of all of us.

An early member of the Society, Barratt paid tribute to its work in the Annals:

"It is still necessary to keep a watch over this great breathing space. From time to time even now encroachments are attempted, and but for the safeguarding vigilance of the Hampstead Heath Protection Society, the Heath, in spite of its Act of Parliament, would not long be permitted to remain intact."

Thomas Barratt (1841–1914) was the chairman of the soap manufacturer A&F Pears and a pioneer of brand marketing. He has been called "the father of modern advertising". He knew and worked with all the leading campaigners for the Heath and was instrumental in helping to raise the funds to buy Golders Hill Park and the Heath Extension. His *Annals*, packed with fascinating eye-witness stories and anecdotes about Hampstead and its people as they were 100 years ago, are an endless source of interest.

The Spectator reviewed the original 1912 edition:

".....none has a richer local history than Hampstead. Literary and artistic memories form its most important parts, and ample justice has been done to the record by Mr.

Barratt in these finely produced volumes. Hampstead already owes much to Mr. Barrett, who has been among the keenest champions of the "open spaces" which are its chief glory, and the debt is now greatly increased."

These volumes are a must for anyone interested in the history of our beautiful area. Very few are now available to buy on the open market. They are available for a donation of at least £350 to The Heath and Hampstead Society - a very special offer that is below the current market price, and available only to Members of the H&HS. There will be no deductions from this donation.

The sets consist of 3 volumes each, copiously illustrated with beautiful prints and drawings of Hampstead and the Heath from Barratt's own collection - which is now in Camden's Archive. There are also many maps including large folding maps in pockets.

If you would like obtain a set please contact Marc Hutchinson or Helen Marcus for more information - contact details on the inside front cover.

Bellmoor - opposite Whitestone Pond, Barratt's home. It was replaced by the present-day block of flats.

A drawing by A. R. Quinton



Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

The Ponds Project

In my previous Heath Reports I have reported on our work with other members of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group, and the City, to ensure the detailed designs for the proposed work to the dams minimise their impact on the Heath. In addition, we have challenged the City's understanding of the meaning of 'in the interest of safety'. We considered their proposals to be more than is legally required, and more damaging to the Heath than necessary. Although disappointed that the Judicial Review did not uphold our understanding of what is needed to make the dams safe, I am pleased that our underlying disagreement has been resolved. As the programme moves from the planning to the construction stage, we will continue to work with the City and in the Stakeholder Group to ensure the work is as little as necessary and that it blends as smoothly as possible into the Heath we all cherish.

Praise for City management

It is a measure of how well the City of London manages their Open Spaces that they have once again retained their Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards for Hampstead Heath, for Highgate Wood, and indeed for all other Open Spaces. This was the 16th annual flag award for Hampstead Heath. Highgate Wood has won the award for all the 18 years since the inception of the scheme. For the first time, Golders Hill Park was entered into the London in Bloom Awards and received a Gold Award as the 2014 Category winner for Large Parks of over 25 acres.

New Heath Superintendent confirmed

Bob Warnock has been Acting Superintendent of Hampstead Heath for the last nine months,

getting to know the more intricate variety of habitats on the Heath, and we are pleased that he has been confirmed in his appointment as Superintendent. We look forward to continue working with him and his team over many years.

An important ingredient in years past has been the regular quarterly walks undertaken by the Heath Sub-Committee with the Superintendent and key members of his team. We have visited in rotation different areas of the Heath in order to discuss, and usually agree, how each area is being managed within the Annual Work Plan and what more, or sometimes less, should be done. This year a new hay-baling machine has been brought in. There is the intention to provide an extra Rugby football pitch on the Heath extension bringing the total to three, and there are also the cricket fields and nets there, diminishing in number, and the three football pitches beyond the changing rooms. A number of local schools stage their sports days on the Heath extension.

Our Heath Vision

Ten years ago we set down our thoughts on how to deal with the various pressures and expectations that impact on the preservation of the Heath, particularly with regard to conservation issues that are so important for the benefit of all who care about the Heath; they were set down in our Heath Vision booklet distributed to all members, and are as relevant today as then. They can be found and read on our website in the bottom right hand corner of the Heath section. That booklet was the work of the whole Heath Sub-Committee who shared a love of the Heath and the desire to maintain it in its wild and natural state. Paradoxically, this requires careful management. Doing nothing

would just let the whole area drift into woodland and scrub. Sometimes however there are different emphases and controversial opinions on what needs to be done. Walkers for example want a minimum of bramble encroaching on to grass and paths and under the trees, whilst the bird lovers want as much bramble as possible to provide essential protection for ground-nesting birds. The booklet describes a balanced mix of policies which hold good today, though some of the wording in the vision statement may need updating – a task we plan to do during the year.

Vistas and views

The main area of failure relates to vistas and views, both those outwards toward the buildings of the City, Harrow and Highgate, and those within the Heath and Kenwood. A list of what we considered to be the most important views – 3 strategic, 12 distinctive outward, and 4 distinctive internal views – is given on page 8 of the booklet. Many of these views were diminishing then and are now lost; for some, like that from the Grille in the Kenwood fence by the Toll House over to Witanhurst and St Michaels, the number of mature trees now blocking the way make re-opening this view a lost cause. However not all have been lost and one of the distinctive internal views on this list is from Kenwood Dairy to the ponds, where the recent work that English Heritage has done around the Dairy has done much to restore that view. A little more work planned for the Pasture Ground this year is to remove a couple of small trees near the ponds which will complete the job by restoring the view to the Sham Bridge.

Kenwood

There will not be any Kenwood concerts this summer as Rouge Events, who staged them last year, have not taken up their option to stage them again this year. We live in hope that the concerts of unamplified music drifting across the Concert Pond might one day return. Regular visitors to the ever popular Brewhouse café will know that other changes at Kenwood include the catering where Searcy's have taken over from the Company of Cooks.

The Springett Lecture

Those of you who were at Burgh House on 26th November for the eighteenth in our annual Springett Lectures heard Edward Milner on Native trees of the London area in an era of Climate Change – his fascinating study of their role in making possible the diversity and success of life on land, and his understanding of how self-seeded trees have the innate ability to overcome threats from new diseases. For those of you who could not make it to the lecture, Edward has written a report of it for this Newsletter - see page 16.

Farewell

Finally, by the time you read this report, I will have handed over the role of Chairman of the Heath Sub-Committee to John Beyer. Looking back, I see that this last report is my 38th and I shall now look forward to reading his.



Town Report

by Frank Harding

This report, written shortly after the successful Hampstead Christmas Fair, comes with best wishes of the Town Sub-Committee to members of the Society for a happy and healthy New Year.

Police and Crime in Hampstead

As anticipated in the last issue of the Newsletter, a follow-up public meeting was arranged by Jessica Learmond-Criqui with representatives of the Metropolitan Police on 12 October. Although not as well attended as the previous meeting in June, possibly due to the weather that evening, there was considerable discussion and concern expressed by local residents at the lack of follow-up by the police when matters were raised with them. The acting borough commander and his staff responded positively and undertook to chase up the particular issues raised. It was generally felt to have been a constructive meeting and the police were thanked for their attendance and their increased presence on the beat in Hampstead. Jessica was also thanked for having organised the two meetings and for the improvements she had engineered in local policing.

The Royal Free Hospital expansion

Concern was expressed at the proposals to erect a seven-storey building alongside the existing hospital. The plans allow for the development of a new Immunology Research Unit, a hotel suite to house relations of patients and an administration unit for the Royal Free charity and car parking. This would also lead to some reorganisation within the hospital itself, including expansion of the Accident and Emergency facilities. Whilst the creation of a leading research unit was to be welcomed, the overall impact on the area and the environment was of

concern. The increase in traffic was of particular worry in the already-congested roads in and around South End Green and Pond Street. Members were encouraged to object to the planning application and generally to make their views known to those developing the scheme.

Art on Heath Street

Arrangements are progressing for the first exhibition of art on Heath Street on summer weekends for many years. The Hampstead School of Art is taking the lead in developing and managing the event, initially over three consecutive Sundays, from mid-July; if this proves successful, we would hope to increase the number of days of the exhibition in future years.

We anticipate and hope that a number of local artists will wish to exhibit their works in addition to former and current students of the Hampstead School of Art.

Old Hampstead Rediscovered V

The fifth in our series of exhibits of artworks of Hampstead and the Heath will be held at Burgh House this Spring.



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

Planning Report

by David Castle

The rapid increase in the prices of houses and flats in Hampstead over the last few years have unfortunately made this area extremely attractive for developers.

So much money can be made by adapting existing buildings and even more by constructing new flats and houses that every house that goes on the market is under threat of demolition or, even worse, from multiple basements built at vast environmental cost to the planet and to neighbours. In addition, so much profit can be made from changing the use to housing that other buildings such as offices, public houses, etc are under threat.

Parts of Hampstead are being threatened with a loss of vitality and community by being changed into an area of partially empty luxury housing for the very rich.

Absurdly, at a recent Planning Inquiry we were told that the luxury flats being provided would help solve London's housing crisis. What nonsense! What's even more unacceptable is that many of these luxury houses and flats are bought as investments and left empty.

The situation is made even worse by the ridiculous VAT rules which increase the cost of alterations, renovations, or repairs by a hefty 20% and yet levy no VAT on new buildings. Developers therefore find it much more profitable to demolish an existing building and rebuild another (much larger of course), again bringing chaos to the area firstly by the demolition and then during the construction period - using vast amounts of unnecessary carbon at a time when we are supposed to be reducing carbon use.

Conservation Areas

We are fortunate that almost all of Hampstead is within Conservation Areas and is therefore partially protected from unfortunate development. We are currently engaged in revising conservation area policies and we hope to increase the protection that we receive from these policies.

If you wish to help in these revisions we would be very pleased to hear from you.

29 New End

The overlong Inquiry has now ended and we await the decision of the Inspector.

The Royal Free Hospital – Proposed Immunology Unit

This has now been submitted to Camden for planning approval. The Royal Free propose to demolish the double storey garage with the roof garden adjacent to Hampstead Green and build a seven-storey building in its place. Interestingly this is the site of the original main building of the hospital, and fortunately the proposed building is no deeper than the existing garage.

We have sent our objections to Camden which can be seen on Camden's web-site.

A very vigorous campaign against the proposed building is also being organised by a large group of local people.

Basements – (again)

Camden Planning Department are in the process of re-writing/revising current planning policies. They have stated that they are considering amendments to the policies affecting proposals to construct new basements. We, and others, over the last few years have urged Camden to be very much more restrictive than the current policies.

Planning Report (cont)

The good news is that both Kensington and Chelsea and also Islington Councils are in the process of restricting basements to only one storey deep - among other requirements. We hope that Camden will take note of the more positive anti-basement stance of adjacent Councils and also become more rigorous in drastically restricting the depths of basements that are permitted to one storey and reducing the extent of basements under gardens.

Finally

For further information about the way that the construction of basements affect adjacent properties please consult our web-site at: www.heathandhampstead.org.uk

Society notices

Delivering the Newsletter by email

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email in the form of a PDF so that you can read it on screen?

It is environmentally more friendly, saving paper, unnecessary waste and cost.

With postage costs increasing enormously this is now becoming a major consideration.

The occasional extra flyers could also be sent via email, if wished.

PDFs of the Newsletter can be seen on the website. If you would like to try this please let the Editor know at:

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

Members' email addresses - Are you missing out?

Keeping you informed of the latest news and events.

The Society is increasingly using email, to let members know of vital issues that crop up between Newsletters. The letter from the Chair in this Newsletter is an important example.

It is also an invaluable way to bring you other useful information, such as walks, talks and events that do not fit in with the Newsletter timetable.

If we do not have 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.

The Vandervells of Hampstead

By Angela Humphery

Martin Humphery (vice president of the Heath & Hampstead Society) and his wife Angela are keen supporters of the Mayhew Animal Homes, a local animal shelter charity. In the course of fundraising for the charity they discovered local family connections which led to a generous donation to the charity.

Wonderful news for the Mayhew. A year ago I discovered that my father's cousin, racing motorist Tony Vandervell, had set up a charitable Trust. Not only that, but its offices are actually in the Old Town Hall right next to the old Vandervell's garage in Haverstock Hill, founded by my grandfather and his brother.



1958 Vanwall Formula 1 racing car

business from premises in Notting Hill, acquired a large house and garden in Haverstock Hill then known as Bellevue House. The house became showroom and offices and the surrounding garden and tennis court were eventually developed as a service workshop, parking garage and petrol station.

Percy and Frank were the sons of Charles Vandervell, the pioneer of dynamo ignition and lighting sets for motor cars, whose initials still live on in the name CAV Lucas who manufacture diesel equipment. Their nephew, Tony Vandervell, became a manufacturer of motor bearings and achieved fame as the owner of the Vanwall Formula 1 racing team.

Later the brothers were joined in the business by Percy's son Kenneth Vandervell, my father.

As a young man Martin also worked for the firm which is how we met.

The garage, which boasted a 24-hour petrol station long before such things were common, was a prominent feature of Haverstock Hill until it was demolished in 1967 and redeveloped as a Hotel.

These premises are the neighbours, on opposite corners of Belsize Park, of the old Hampstead Town Hall. It is a curious and entirely fortuitous coincidence that the Town Hall now accommodates the offices of the Vandervell Foundation, a charity established by Tony Vandervell's estate. So the remnants of two Vandervell enterprises now find themselves cheek to cheek in Hampstead. By yet another coincidence another member of the Society, Guy Wilson, is a trustee of the Vandervell Foundation. Following a request he was able to arrange for a gift to the Mayhew Animal Homes, one of the most effective animal welfare organisations in London. It rescues thousands of dogs and cats from a life of abandonment, neglect and cruelty each year. It is based in Kensal Green, NW London.

If you would like more information about their work please contact Angela or Martin.

Angela has recently written a book, 'Memoirs of a Party Animal – My Seven Decades in Animal Welfare' which can be bought online at lulu.com or Amazon. It costs £10 and profits will go to Angela's animal welfare fund to help the 50 charities mentioned in the book



Native Trees in an age of climate change

by *Edward Milner*

Edward Milner is an award winning TV producer on environmental issues and is the author of 'Trees of Britain & Ireland', a book celebrating native trees. Edward knows the Heath well and has led the Society's spider walks for many years.

Much of the discussion and press coverage of the likely effects of climate change on trees is devoted to those with commercial value – planted by the forestry industry for timber, or found in urban streets and gardens. By native trees I mean wild trees, unplanted, which have established themselves naturally during the last ten thousand years or so since the ice-sheet melted.

What was left behind was rock and pure mineral soil containing no organic material at all. There are places where similar conditions can be seen; in parts of the Cairngorm Plateau, and the screes on the east side of Wastwater in Cumbria. Such places are slowly colonised by a

Birch sapling growing on a 'cliff' in Crouch End



few very slow-growing tiny trees like juniper and dwarf willow (*Salix herbacea*).

Scots pine soon follows; its featherlight seeds blow in the wind and can germinate and become established in cracks in the rock. Birch soon follows. From the birch's point of view London is just a big rocky outcrop.

Seedlings arise on railway sidings, bridges, roofs and windowsills. They are acting as pioneer species, and if they are allowed, in time they will cover an area of virgin rock or scree. Scots pine forms mature woodlands which extend in northern latitudes from Scotland to Kamchatka – the biggest single species forest in the world. Birch, a deciduous species drops its leaves which 'sweeten' the soil making it suitable for other species to succeed. Birch a fast-growing, short-lived tree is gradually overtaken and shaded out by taller denser trees such as oak except on very exposed northern slopes.

From the pollen record we know that oak soon followed the spread of birch, surprisingly it did so at a similar speed, spread by birds such as jays and by mice, as far north as Sutherland. The highest oakwoods in Britain are in the Lake District; at Birk Rigg there is a small oakwood on a steep slope ascending to 550m – though the trees are small and spreading, not tall and straight.



Oak seedlings Queen's Wood: start of the natural selection process

As soils developed other trees like lime, ash, hornbeam and beech all spread so that after a few thousand years much of lowland Britain was covered with mixed deciduous woodland.

In wet places and along streams the earliest colonisers were willows and alder – a tree that thrives in waterlogged conditions with the help of nodules on the roots associated with a bacterium *Frankia* spp.

Like other plants, trees have close associations with a range of other organisms. Mycorrhizal fungi interact with the roots, a relationship that is essential for the health of the tree. Many animals browse on tree foliage from deer to caterpillars; fruits and seeds are predated by others. Weevils often attack nuts like acorns; their populations vary enormously from year to year – occasionally they can destroy the entire crop. Birds feed on fruits, distributing the seeds in their droppings – for some trees like rowan this may even be a necessary process for normal germination.

Trees like pine, oak and birch are wind-pollinated but the rosaceous trees like rowan, whitebeam and hawthorn depend on pollinating insects, with which they have co-evolved. Other insects such as leaf miners and gall-insects depend on trees but generally don't have a lasting effect on native trees, although they may gradually overwhelm some introduced species – perhaps this is happening now to horse-chestnuts.

More influential than any of the animals and insects mentioned above are our own species. Humans have interacted with trees, cutting, planting, managing and even revering them for millennia. In Britain two of the oldest traditions are associated with the ancient Fortingall yew near Aberfeldy, and the Glastonbury Thorn, supposedly descended (by cutting after cutting)



Curculio glandium Moccas - Acorn nut weevil; these insects can be so abundant that they destroy the entire crop but usually are found in small numbers. This could change if climate alters

from Joseph of Arimathea's staff planted on Glastonbury Tor around 60AD. Other traditions are more recent in origin. At Great Wishford, villagers assert their right to cut wood once a year by processing for the ceremonial shout at Salisbury Cathedral on Oak Apple Day 29th June; on Barnes Common there is a shrine to the pop star Marc Bolan where his mini hit a tree in 1975 killing him instantly.

Some of the trees we now regard as native were brought here by human migrants. The sweet chestnut is thought to have been brought by the Romans along with the walnut; only the former has become naturalised in the sense that it regenerates and can establish itself in natural woodland. The walnut, though it thrives when planted, only rarely produces viable seedlings in the warmest parts of the country. English elm is thought to have been brought as cuttings from southern Europe; for centuries it flourished as a tree but only rarely sets any viable seed.

Native Trees in an age of climate change (cont)

However, because of its origin it has an extremely uniform genetic make-up making elm extremely vulnerable to pathogens. Dutch Elm Disease carried by Scolytus beetles decimated English elms in the 1960s and 1970s. Small populations do survive in a few relatively isolated places – for example in the Brighton area.

Other trees such as decorative box, juniper and the rare Plymouth Pear also show very little genetic diversity (for the same reason – they originated as selected cuttings) making them especially susceptible to pathogens that often originate from imported saplings in tree nurseries. (Dutch Elm Disease arrived on imported elm timber.)



Spangle galls on oak; very abundant but the trees appear not to suffer any damage

True Service fruits; St Anne's Hospital grounds



Wych Elm on the other hand is a genuine native, genetically diverse and much less susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease. It reproduces normally; fine specimens can be found especially in the north of Scotland.

This may all sound a bit technical, with references to genetic diversity and selected varieties, but it is through this diversity maintained by wild breeding that plants adapt to changing climate change and the shifting array of browsers and pathogens. After all, climate change has been here before!

So what can we expect? The weather is likely to become more turbulent; the frequency and intensity of storms and droughts may increase. Some trees like beech are susceptible both to windthrow and drought, while saplings are particularly susceptible to attack by grey squirrels. In exposed places beech may retreat, but along with others such as small-leaved lime, whitebeam and wild service, it may at the same time spread northwards. Potentially this is exciting; northern woods would definitely benefit from adding some of these trees. Even the true service, *Sorbus domestica*, recently discovered growing naturally in coastal woodland in south Wales, may spread; certainly its tasty fruits would be an excellent novelty for hedgerow foragers human or otherwise.

Some introduced trees may become naturalised; both Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) succeed well in urban areas producing abundant seedlings. Both of these may spread to the countryside to compete with native trees.

There are also some surprises; more than one monkey-puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*) seedling has been noted in Coldfall Wood, and others

have been reported as far north as Scotland. At Coldfall the site is next to a cemetery where there are both male and female trees, essential for this and a few other dioecious tree species.

Other incomers may be less popular; reports of new pests and diseases threatening our trees are frequently dramatized in the press. The hysteria associated with the arrival of Ash Die-back in 2012 was partly caused by the claim that it had decimated ash in Denmark where 'over 90% of trees were affected.' Ninety-three million British ash trees were claimed to be at risk. Enquiries to the Forest Department in Copenhagen confirmed that the diseased trees were almost entirely plantation trees being grown for timber. Ash die-back affects the terminal bud; very damaging for plantation trees, almost irrelevant for wild trees, especially when it turns out that the disease is rarely fatal. The distribution-map (December 2013) showing the incidence of the disease in the UK is more or less a map of tree nurseries and places where their stock has been planted.

At Paradise Wood in Oxfordshire, set up by an environmental charity, the range of response by ash trees from different populations is being studied and natural resistance sought –as it is belatedly now in Denmark, and even by the Forestry Commission for whom ash has never been a priority species. In Denmark ash trees have been selected for reliable seedling establishment, early leaf emergence and rapid straight growth. When conditions are right this restricted genetic base makes commercial sense; unfortunately conditions are not right and this may be a long-term problem for commercial plantations. However the threat to our wild populations of ash may well have been exaggerated.

Many trees produce large numbers of seed and while most will die those that survive are the ones best adapted to current conditions. A wild population is better able to withstand changing conditions; some trees survive even the most virulent attacks of pathogens – in time.

Scientists know that our best policy is to protect as wide a range of natural populations as possible; it is there that natural resistance to any future threats will be found. The oaks of Birk Rigg are twisted and diminutive – but they may hold genetic resources that even timber growers may need in the future.



Above: Oak tree, February, Little Langdale

Below: Inverfarigaig: ancient broadleaved woodland



An exciting future for the Hampstead

by Helen Marcus and Isabel Langtry

How it all began

Hampstead of course has always been a magnet for artists. In the early 20th century the Carline family became a focus of attraction. Their home from 1916 was 47 Downshire Hill and it was here that many artists would meet and discuss art, politics and religion.

Richard Carline (1896-1980) formed a group in the 1920s known as the Downshire Hill Circle who regularly met at Carline's home to sketch and discuss and exchange ideas. They included Stanley Spencer, Henry Lamb, John Nash, and Mark Gertler.

In the pre-Second World War years they were joined by many rising avant-garde artists. Henry Moore took a studio in Parkhill Road and, shortly afterward, Barbara Hepworth and her second husband Ben Nicholson moved into a studio nearby. The area was also a stopping-off point for many refugee artists, such as Uhlman, and architects and designers from continental Europe en route to America.

The Hampstead Artists' Council

The Hampstead Artists' Council (HAC) was founded by Richard Carline in 1944 as a regional society of the Artists International Association with colleagues Fred Uhlman, Jeanette Jackson and Bernard Gay amongst other post-war artists. Early patrons included Sir Kenneth Clark, Henry Moore, Sir Colin Anderson, Sir Leon Bagrit, Lord Cottesloe, Sir Philip Hendy, Oswald Milne, and Sir Alan Bowness.

The aim of the HAC was to provide support and exhibition space for the many local artists. In its early days it had a temporary home in the Studio House, 1 Hampstead Hill Gardens, home of the poet William Empson, where its first exhibition was held.

In 1953 under the chairmanship of Patricia Angadi it moved to Burgh House.

It held exhibitions across the UK and abroad including Japan, France and the USA. But its best remembered venture is the annual Open Air Exhibition at the top of Heath Street opposite Whitestone Pond, where exhibitions ran for three months every summer from 1949 -1983.

The Hampstead School of Art

The Hampstead School of Art (HSoA) grew out of the Hampstead Artists' Council. It was founded by Jeanette Jackson in the 1950's as a Community Art Education Charity, under the aegis of the HAC, with the patronage of Henry Moore.

In 1965 the new Central Library was built at Swiss Cottage leaving the old Library building in Arkwright Road vacant. At the same time the amalgamation of the three boroughs – Hampstead St. Pancras and Holborn - into Camden gave the HAC an extraordinary opportunity to establish a permanent arts centre there for both classes and exhibitions.

The Arkwright Road building, now Camden Arts Centre



School of Art

Led by Jeanette Jackson, then Chairman, the Arkwright Road premises were turned into a new arts centre as a joint venture between the HAC and Camden Council under the name of the Camden Arts Centre.

It was an immediate success, with over 1,000 applications for places in arts classes. The first exhibition mounted there was a high-powered event as part of the last St. Pancras Festival in 1966 (after that it was renamed the Camden Festival) called *The Artist at Work, from the Renaissance to the present day*. Works were lent by the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, the Tate and the Victoria and Albert Museum as well as a number of provincial galleries, and required one million pounds worth of insurance. It was opened by Sir Anthony Blunt, Keeper of the Queen's Pictures and Director of the Courtauld Institute, (who, many years later, achieved notoriety and was stripped of his title after the revelation of his spying for Russia).

Camden decided eventually that it wanted full control of the building and the art school moved in 1990 to new premises at 19-21 Kidderpore Avenue where it still works today.

The open air art exhibition in the 1950s



Isabel Langtry, Principal of the School today takes up the story

The School continues to be a centre of great artistic activity, encouraging the appreciation and enjoyment of art by individuals of all ages and abilities. The School facilitates the public showing and sale of work produced by its students and also exhibits and sells work by members online.

It is led by practising artists, in the rich and historic tradition of Hampstead, providing a range of art classes for all ages across the community. There are 57 staff offering 100 learning places a week for its 750 students, and costs are kept to a minimum.

Amongst its programmes are after-school childrens' classes and weekend classes, a Sunday art school and 'walks with the pushchair'. There are free 'Open Invitation Lectures'; a Film Club; guided exhibitions, and museum visits; day trips and location drawing. It is a partner of local Arts & Crafts Fairs, of the annual Hampstead Summer Festival, The Hampstead Christmas Festival, St. Stephens Church, Keats Library, St Lukes and St. Margarets local Schools and the Hampstead Artists Council, who coordinated monthly art exhibitions at the Royal Free Hospital for 40 years.

HSoA works with local businesses, and provides art tuition to vulnerable people through charities such as the Seven Dials Art Group, and Henderson Court and the HSoA's own programme, 'Drawn Together', which supports people living with stroke and Parkinson's, who come together in 'drawing conversations'.

Hampstead School of Art (cont)

Many of the Foundation students go on to promising careers in the commercial art and design world and the school offers work experience opportunities.

We are currently working with the Heath & Hampstead Society and others to re-establish the weekend art exhibition, traditionally displayed on Heath Street and enjoyed by generations of local people.

Exciting future plans - can you help?

The School now has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have a purpose-built new school built by Barratt London as the heart of their exciting redevelopment on Kidderpore Avenue. The art school building is being designed by local architects Allies & Morrison and we have a target figure that we need to raise. Completion date is June 2016.

We will be organising a series of fundraising initiatives. If you have ideas that could help this local legacy project, please get in touch.

If you can fill the boots of our previous Patrons, Henry Moore and Kenneth Clarke, please join us for a preview of the building plans.

Be part of Hampstead's bright creative future.

For more information Tel: 020 7794 1439
<http://www.hampstead-school-of-art.org>

If you are interested to know more about Hampstead's artistic life in the early 20th Century, and see some of the paintings that were produced, the Exhibition at Burgh House, advertised on this page, on until April 19, is highly recommended.



Bright & Brilliant: Hampstead and the Slade School

**BRIGHT &
BRILLIANT**

Hampstead and the Slade School

Examining the lives, relationships and Hampstead associations

of Slade School artists, this exhibition features work from Burgh House's own collection, including Phyllis Bray, Sydney Carline, George and Daphne Charlton, Duncan Grant, CRW Nevinson and Margaret Rowney.

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

Keats Community Library news

Memories

A new venture at Keats Community Library

Do you often think about the past?

Keats Community Library is starting a small circle where you can share your memories and, if you like, write them down for family and friends.

Meetings in the Library

**Every 2nd Thursday of the month
4 - 6 pm.**

This will be an intimate group so you can feel free to share stories about your family, changes in your neighbourhood, your work or even your experience of major events.

Your personal story is interesting!

This group will be led by Nella Marcus
Please let us know if you would like to join

Email: keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com

Phone: 020 7431 1266



Events for your 2015 diary - hold the dates:

Feb 12 Sir David Hare

March 10 Geoffrey Marsh* on David Bowie

March 12 Paddy O'Keeffe on GB Shaw

**March 14 Spring Book Sale-
You can start donating now!**

April 16 Prof. Michael Wood

* Geoffrey Marsh is Director of Theatre and Performance at the Victoria and Albert Museum and curated the iconic David Bowie exhibition which has transferred to Paris.

All talks start at 7.30

Tickets: £8 from the Library or online.

Hampstead Summer Festival 21st June – 5th July 2015

Planning for the Hampstead Summer Festival is in full swing and this year the theme will be:

Alice comes to Hampstead

Events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the publication of Alice in Wonderland

Big Fair Day 5th July

featuring 100 stalls along Heath Street, the sport and fitness zone, the chess café, music and entertainment on stage, a funfair, circus performers, falcons, pony rides, and a balloon race. Something for all the family.

Keep the dates in your Diary

keatslibrary.events@gmail.com

Bulletin Board

Obituaries

Richard Wakefield

Richard Wakefield, former chairman of Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and founder of the quarterly newsletter Suburb News in 1983, has died after a long illness.

He served also as a trustee on the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust for several years and set up the Garden Suburb Gallery in 2006. He will be remembered for his long and dedicated service to the HGS community.



Monicas Caterers

would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide the canapes for the

Society's Christmas Party

Monicas Caterers

freshly prepared, sensibly priced quality food for all private and corporate events, at any venue.

Web: www.moniscaterers.co.uk

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Jack Newbury

1919 - 2014

Jack Newbury, our much valued and ever helpful printer of many years, has died aged 95.

Jack followed family footsteps into the printing business – his father worked on the Evening News and two of his uncles on the Financial Times. He joined the Dispatch Press in Cricklewood as an apprentice in 1935.

He was called up in 1941 and, on return from war service in the Far East with the Royal Corps of Signals, he set up his own printing press in 1947 which eventually became the Hillary Press.

Both he and his wife Dorothy have been stalwarts of the local community and provided excellent and reasonably priced services for many small charities like ours. Dorothy was made an MBE for her work with Hendon & District Archeological Society in 2004. One of the pleasures of visiting the Hillary factory in Hendon was Jack's extraordinary collection of historic printing presses which he took great pride in explaining to visitors.

In 2010 we were all deeply dismayed when he was hit by a car on a pedestrian crossing, suffering very serious injuries. But, after the best part of a year in hospital he made a remarkable recovery and was still going into work in his 95th year until late last year.

Jack - and his wonderfully drier than dry sense of humour – will be affectionately remembered by all of us who dealt with him. We send Dorothy and their son Chris and their family, and all at Hillary Press, our most sincere condolences.

Bulletin Board

Belsize Park Film Society

Tuesday evenings at 7pm

Hampstead Town Hall

213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP.

Entrance £5 at the door

The Society aims to show a wide and diverse range of world cinema, documentaries and must-see movies thorough out the year.

The Past

A film by Asghar Farhadi Director of
A Separation
3rd February 2015

Z

A Costa-Gavras film
Winner of 2 Academy Awards
10th February 2015

Gett

The trial of Viviane Amsalem
Winner Israeli film festival
10th March 2015

4 Months 3 Weeks and 2 Days

Winner Palme D'Or Cannes Film Festival
24th March 2015

All welcome

for more information

Email: filmsocietyhampstead@gmail.com

Hampstead Theatre

Eton Avenue NW3 3EU

Support your local Theatre

Become a Friend of Hampstead Theatre

Avoid disappointment by becoming a Friend and taking advantage of our priority booking period. For just £40 per annum Friends receive the following benefits:

- Priority Booking
- Advance notice of forthcoming productions
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Invitations to exclusive events at the Theatre
- 10% discount at Hampstead Theatre bar

For more details see

www.hampsteadtheatre.com/support-us

tel: 020 7449 4155.

We look forward to welcoming you soon

www.hampsteadtheatre.com

If you missed last year's talk

How the Heath was saved

by

Helen Marcus

The talk was filmed by David Percy and can now be seen as a video on

http://www.belsizestory.com/heath_saved.htm

The link can be found on the Society's website

Heath Walks 2015

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.burghouse.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 March 10.30am (meet in North End Way, on Hampstead side of Inverforth House) The Pergola, the Hill Garden and Golders Hill Park led by Peter Tausig, member of the H&HS Committee and Heath Sub-Committee

5 April 9.30am (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath led by John Hunt, former Chairman of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society and member of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee

3 May 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) Preserving Hampstead Heath in 'its natural aspect and state': the reservoir owner's dilemma led by Thomas Radice and Lynda Cook, members of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee

7 June 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; author of '*Trees of Britain and Ireland*'

5 July 2.30pm (meet outside the Parliament Hill Café, near the Lido) Treasures of the Heath: clues to the landscape and its history led by Deborah Wolton, co-author with David McDowall authors of '*Hampstead Heath: The Walker's Guide*'

