

Heath Walks 2015 – 2016

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 10:30am (9:30 for birds), depending on season and subject matter.

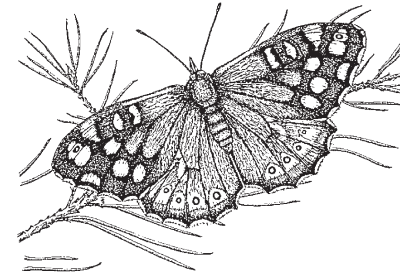
Walks last approximately two hours. They do not necessarily follow made-up paths; you are recommended to wear suitable footwear as conditions may be rough or muddy.

You will be invited to make a minimum donation of £4.00 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



6 December 2015 10:30am (meet at Burgh House) The history and topography of the Hampstead Heath ponds led by Marc Hutchinson, Chairman of the Heath & Hampstead Society and Chairman of the Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club

2016 (No walk in January)

7 February 10:30am (meet outside the Brew House Café, Kenwood House) The Heath and Kenwood: how they relate to each other led by Thomas Radice, H&HS Trustee and member of the Heath Sub-Committee

6 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, H&HS Trustee and member of the Heath Sub-Committee

3 April 9:30am (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath in spring, led by John Hunt, former Chairman of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society and member of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee

Details of future walks in 2016 will be available on the Society's website
www.heathandhampstead.org.uk
from December 2015 onwards



The Heath & Hampstead Society NEWSLETTER

November 2015

Vol 46 No. 3



Reproduction of "Work" unveiled at Burgh House & Hampstead Museum

The Heath and Hampstead Society

postal address: PO BOX 38214, London NW3 1XD
email: info@heathandhampstead.org.uk website: www.heathandhampstead.org.uk

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Founded in 1897

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Front cover: “Work” by Ford Madox Brown was painted between 1852 and 1865 in The Mount, Hampstead. The buildings in the painting can still be recognised today. The reproduction on tiles shown in the photograph (published here by kind permission of Polly Hancock and the Hampstead & Highgate Express) was funded by a generous legacy for this purpose from the late John Philip Walmsley.

Chair’s Notes

by Marc Hutchinson

A lot has happened since our last Newsletter in May.

Annual General Meeting decisions

At our June Annual General Meeting, members unanimously resolved to accept the trustees’ recommendation to increase, from 2016, all subscriptions by reference to a baseline increase of approximately £5 per member per year. The last increase was nine years ago and the trustees had recommended this increase principally to fund the Society for its anticipated campaigns to protect the Heath from commercialisation and Hampstead Town from inappropriate development. The new rates are [in £]:

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Annual | 20 |
| Annual joint | 30 |
| Senior annual | 15(Y) |
| Senior annual joint | 25(Y) |
| Life | 335 |
| Life joint | 410 |
| Life senior | 225 |
| Life senior joint | 300 |

“Senior” currently denotes 50 years of age and above; for the new rates, it will denote, for new members only, 65 years of age and above. In other words, existing annual members currently qualifying as “senior” will continue to qualify as “senior”.

It was unveiled on 6 July 2015 in the Sullivan Garden, Burgh House, by Ray Walmsley (far left in photograph). Next to Ray (left to right) are Frank Harding, Chairman of the Town Sub-Committee of the Society, Juliette Sonabend, a member of that Sub-Committee who leads on the Hampstead Plaque Scheme, Oliver Soskice, great-great-grandson of Ford Madox Brown, and Cllr. Lorraine Revah, the Mayor of Camden.

(Y) denotes that persons under 25 years of age will qualify for these same reduced rates as senior members

May I ask those of you who pay by standing order to give instructions to your bank now to increase your annual payments accordingly.

Members also voted to re-elect the Society's officers, to re-elect Gordon Maclean and Tony Ghilchik as trustees, and to elect a new trustee, Dr Vicki Harding, the Society's Tree Officer and a long-serving member of the Planning Sub-Committee.

Athlone House – a victory

I am delighted to broadcast the utter failure of the owner and intending developer of Athlone House to appeal against, and to have set aside, the decision of the planning inspector given in June 2015, which upheld Camden Council's refusal to grant planning permission to demolish the House. In the High Court in late October, Mr Justice Dove dismissed the appeal and refused leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal. The Society had sought, but was denied, leave to be joined as an interested party. In the event this did not matter because the defence was very ably conducted by counsel for the Secretary of State and for Camden Council. The judge, like the inspector, also alluded favourably to the enforceability of the so-called "section 106 agreement", which requires that the existing House be restored. We look forward to the fresh legal proceedings now intended to be brought by Camden Council to enforce that agreement.

We owe a great debt to the many campaigners who, for 17 years now, have fought to preserve Athlone House. Michael Hammerson of the Highgate Society has taken the lead in recent

years and, but for his tireless efforts as Chairman of the Athlone House Working Group (the group comprising our Society, the Highgate Society and the Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee), I doubt the Group would have achieved what it now has. Our thanks also go to Jeremy Wright, Gordon Maclean, Martin Humphery and David Altaras (our counsel) who likewise have fought in the recent rounds of the campaign. The Mayor of Camden (pictured on our front cover) is to hold a tea party for the campaigners.

Another fight with the City of London?

I wish I could report that we were not anticipating any further dispute with the City, now that the Dams Project is less than a year away from its completion, but I have to alert members to a new private bill – the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill – which is due to be presented to Parliament by the City in November 2015. The Bill applies to most of the City's open spaces and does many things, and confers many powers, which should improve management of those open spaces including the Heath e.g. stronger powers of law enforcement, licensing of third parties who exploit the Heath for commercial purposes, and clearer powers of land management and removal of dumped motor vehicles. To this extent the Bill is supported by the Society.

However, the second recital to the draft Bill presently states: "It is expedient to provide certain further powers of management in relation to those open spaces, with a view to ... more effectually promoting and securing the objects for which the open spaces are held, and *providing further opportunity to raise revenue* to be applied to those objects." Clause

6 of the Bill empowers the City to lease out buildings on the Heath for up to 21 years (at present the legal limit is three years). While there may be a case for extending the three-year maximum in some instances, e.g. the cafes, we believe that the need for an extension to 21 years has not been demonstrated.

Clause 7 of the Bill allows the City to license on any part of the Heath "events" such as ceremonies, celebrations, entertainment or similar events, as well as conferences, exhibitions and filming; and to seal off the relevant part of the Heath for that purpose. So what is there to stop the City erecting one or more marquees, three times the size of that used by the Affordable Art Fair on East Heath Road, in the core of the Heath and staging a large number of events there for most of the year? There are presently three ostensible protections in the Bill: the events must be "temporary" (so, not permanent); the City must have regard to the "character" of the open space affected; and the event must not cause "material injury to the amenity" (including visual appearance) of the open space or "significant impairment" to the "public enjoyment" of the open space. We consider that these vague and essentially subjective criteria are an unacceptable qualification upon section 12 of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act, which requires the Heath to be kept "uninclosed and unbuilt on": in other words, the public must be free to walk all over the body of the Heath as an open space, with its "natural aspect". This is the primary charitable object of our Society. The Society is presently urging the City to re-draft clause 7 to restrict those events to the existing fringes of the Heath where such events have typically been staged e.g. the fairgrounds and car parks.

We are hopeful that our views will prevail but the policy of the Society is that, if we cannot achieve the necessary protections in the Bill before the Bill is submitted to Parliament, we shall oppose the Bill, as we have standing to do, by way of a petition to Parliament. For this unwelcome task, we shall need your moral and financial support.

Newsletter

We have sorely missed the services of Helen Marcus, the recently retired editor of the Newsletter, but, while we continue to seek a replacement editor, an editorial committee has produced what you are now reading with the help of typographer Andrew Morley (long-time provider to the Society of pre-press support), and proofreading by Frankie de Freitas (a former trustee), to both of whom we are very grateful. This edition is slightly longer than usual to enable the inclusion of tributes to three key figures in the life of the Society who recently passed away: see Obituaries.

People

Honorary life member

The trustees have decided to appoint Ray Walmsley as an honorary life member of the Society in recognition of her support for the plaque project described on our front cover.

Trustees

I mentioned at the beginning of this piece the newly elected or re-elected trustees on the General Committee. Helen Marcus stood down as a trustee and vice-president at the Annual General Meeting, and the text of Martin Humphery's full tribute to her from the Society is in the minutes of the AGM on the Society's website. She rendered exceptional service to the Society over many years for which we are very grateful.

Sub-Committee members

The process of replenishment of our Sub-Committees continues, and we welcome on to the Planning Sub-Committee new members Mojgan Green and Andrew Dutton Parish, on to the Heath Sub-Committee new members Latoya Austin, Natalie Lawrence and Ron Vester, and on to the Town Sub-Committee new member Anousheh Barbezieux who replaces John Zieger (the latter nevertheless having kindly agreed to continue to advise the Society on licensing issues).

We also say farewell to Tatyana Stefanova who assisted the Society in the establishment of our new membership and financial database: we thank her for her hard work on and dedication to the project, and wish her well for the future.

Christmas party

This year's Christmas party will be held at Burgh House on Wednesday 9 December. We want members to see for themselves what a valuable and unique Hampstead building the House is, and to hold the party there seemed one way of enabling this. We hope to see you there. □

Society notices

Delivering the Newsletter by email

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

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

With postage charges 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 us 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.

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 that 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.

Planning Report

by David Castle

This cartoon appeared in the September 2012 Newsletter and we will repeat it as our 'logo' until Camden restrict the size of lorries and the use of diesel fuel for the constant construction traffic in our narrow roads and lanes.

This may take a while but I understand that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have restricted lorry size in some areas – so there is hope.

In fact, Camden already have the power to insist on a CMP (Construction Management Plan) which can be one of the required 'Conditions' attached to a planning approval. The CMP can control the procedures, equipment, timing, etc that can be used whilst the building work takes place – this could include lorry size, etc.

When objecting to future planning applications we suggest that a CMP should be requested and that improvements to it are fought for before a planning decision is made.

Critical Comments about Camden's Planning Department.

We, for a long time, have been critical of the over-frequent 'Recommendation to Approve' issued by Camden's Planners to Councillors sitting on the Development Control Committee before they discuss and decide the fate of a planning application.



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

Acknowledgement to Punch, 1979

Now, due to an ill-considered 'Recommendation to Approve', a planning approval has been overturned by the High Court – at a very large financial cost to Camden.

The full details can be found in a very forthright letter by Councillor Claire-Louise Leyland published in the Camden New Journal on 17 September 2015.

Together with other adverse comments, the Judge noted that Councillors had been "significantly misled".

We emphatically agree with the concluding remarks in the letter which states that: "it is not right that local businesses and people should be let down by Camden Council in this way. We need proper processes for gathering feedback from residents and CAACs (Conservation Area Advisory Committees). We need this feedback to be given proper weight by Camden in making recommendations".

Camden's draft Local Plan

We have made many suggestions for amending and improving the draft Local Plan and now await publication of the revised draft.

Grove Lodge, Admirals Walk

A slightly reduced application has now been made with respect to this important listed building. It still includes a large basement

under the garden and the house plus alteration above ground, and we have again sent in a strong objection to Camden.

Metropolitan Open Land

We have just been notified that Camden have received a request that Metropolitan Open Space (MOL) designation be removed from some land in North End at 2–3 Heath Passage – in order to allow a planning application for development. MOL designation prevents development and is similar to Green Belt designation

This is a very worrying development as MOL (and Conservation Area) policies are our main protection from those developments that might spoil Hampstead. We are working with the local residents to defeat this loss of MOL and are considering making an application to Camden to designate more gardens bordering the Heath as Metropolitan Open Land.

King’s College Site, Kidderpore Avenue

An application to redevelop this site as “market housing” has been made. It includes a large double basement car park, new housing on the large garden which is “Designated Open Space”, and loss of trees. Once again a large amount of student, low rent, housing will be lost. Details can be found on Camden’s website, reference no. 2015/3936/P where you can also send in comments and objections.

Athlone House – the power of money

The long saga continues – at the time of writing, the Inspector’s decision to refuse the proposed new “palace” (replacing the existing house) is being challenged in the High Court at enormous legal cost.

Trees and Biodiversity – Report by Vicki Harding

Members of the Planning Sub-Committee continue to check on Notices of Intent to do tree work in our Conservation Areas, and the Tree Officer keeps an eye on work to Street Trees in addition. We are keen that the development at Mount Anvil KCL, Kidderpore Avenue which is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation should not be allowed to go ahead without contributing anything towards biodiversity. Currently the plans involve felling many trees, removing bat habitat already decimated on the other side of Kidderpore Avenue, and replacing these with more sterile formal gardens.

The Planning Sub-Committee have also worked closely with both the Hampstead and Redington/Frognaal Neighbourhood Forums in investigating mapping the important trees in our area, with the idea of forming a tree local list. We are at the stage of discussing a mapping system with Camden, though finding the right mapping tool for us is taking some time. We also plan in the future to map basements, wells and conduits, borehole data, bat flight paths and other features of interest to nature and biodiversity.

If anyone would like to be involved in mapping the trees in their area – veteran and historical trees, trees adding particular amenity to a road or area of rear gardens viewed by many neighbours, or just well-loved trees – please get in touch with Vicki Harding or Penny Davis.

The Planning Sub-Committee have also noticed that a number of local people wish to be involved in projects related to trees and biodiversity – as well as basements! We are at

the very early stages of considering whether a group of people with an interest in biodiversity might appreciate meeting regularly to focus on the planning aspects of:

- Energy efficiency and energy reduction in new developments and older buildings, including renovations or alterations
- Water efficiency
- Flood risk
- Use of sustainable materials and recycling in construction
- Renewable energy
- Biodiversity – including trees, habitats, green corridors, etc – all of particular concern to Hampstead.

This would not be a formal committee but a way of involving more members who would like to gain more experience in planning and tree matters as well as biodiversity, and do this as a shared experience. We will be advertising this to members once it is more developed, but do contact Penny Davis and Vicki Harding if you would like to be involved. □



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.heathandhampstead.org.uk

Benefits offered are granted at the traders’ discretion. The Society is not responsible for changes in terms or availability of any discounts or offers.

Appeal for new Newsletter Editor

At present the Newsletter is edited by a committee.

We hope that among our many members, existing and new, there may be someone familiar with publishing who might enjoy editing the Newsletter and be willing to spare a few hours three times a year.

Marc Hutchinson would be very grateful to receive a call from anyone who feels they would enjoy taking on this task for the Society.

Contact details on inside front cover.



Town Report

by Frank Harding

In recent months the Town Sub-Committee of the Society has focussed its attention on a few new projects which inevitably take some time to come to fruition. It has also brought some to completion. These include:

Art Exhibition on Heath Street

After a gap of some 30 years, the Society, in conjunction with the Hampstead School of Art (HSoA), organised the open air art exhibition at the top of Heath Street. It was held on the last Sunday in June and the second and third Sundays in July. Unfortunately all three dates coincided with poor weather resulting in disappointing numbers of people attending and viewing the art on show. Nevertheless there was sufficient activity to provide confidence that we can have a bigger and better show next year with, we hope, more support and more buyers, thus encouraging even more artists – local and others – to submit their works to be hung.

“Work”

Readers may remember that in the last issue of the Newsletter I reported that the Society wished to record the fact that Ford Madox Brown lived and worked in Hampstead with a plaque, and we decided that we would reproduce his best known painting, “Work”, which was finished in 1863. “Work” is set in The Mount, Hampstead and, if, today, you were to stand on the spot where he painted it, you would recognise the buildings in the painting. Shortly after taking that decision, we learned that the Society had been left a significant legacy by John Philip Walmsley “for the purpose of commissioning a coloured reproduction of a Hampstead scene or by a Hampstead artist to be erected on or near the



artist's viewpoint. A suggestion is the Heath Street picture “Work” by Ford Madox Brown”.

The manufacture, erection and unveiling of the reproduction of “Work” took place on 6 July. It is now permanently attached to the wall of the Sullivan Garden at Burgh House & Hampstead Museum.

The reproduction and the associated plaque were unveiled by Ray Walmsley, the widow of John Philip Walmsley, before the Mayor of Camden, and several members of the Society. As was expressed at the unveiling ceremony, we are extremely grateful for this legacy and delighted with the work of Samantha Richardson, the artist who produced the reproduction on tiles.

Old Hampstead Rediscovered V

The fifth in our series of exhibitions of artworks held in Camden's archives, this under the title “Changing Scenes”, was held at Burgh House over a period of some three months in the summer. Knight Frank again generously sponsored the exhibition. Thought is now being given to arranging a sixth such exhibition in 2016. □

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 4–6pm

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

Telephone: 020 7431 1266

Thursday 3 December

Jette Parker

Young Artists Recitals

We are thrilled that the Royal Opera House has organized a recital at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel by tomorrow's stars of the opera world.

See website keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk for details of the programme.

Tickets £8

Tuesday 8 December

Seasonal Quiz

Our hugely popular quiz night returns with general knowledge questions as well as literary ones.

Bring your own team or just come along, join a table and make new friends.

Prizes and seasonal refreshments.

Tickets £8

These events are organised in support of the Library

Tickets from the library or online at: wegottickets.com

Heath Report

by Lynda Cook and John Beyer

Ponds Project

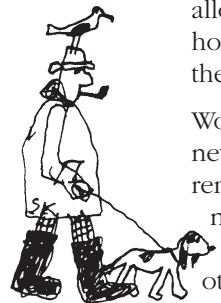
The temporary dam on the Model Boating Pond has not been entirely successful. Several leaks became apparent after the lower third of the Pond was de-watered (or drained), the leaks were repaired and the Pond drained again. The second attempt revealed dramatic discoveries: a bronze eagle and a rusting Ford Cortina, as well as gigantic colourful crayfish (invasive species). The pleasant weather and new, pungent smells and interesting views attracted many observers who engaged in conversation with BAM Nuttall and the City of London rangers and took selfies, videos and photos. Subsequent to the fish rescue (removal of fish to the upper part of the Pond), further problems with the pilings became apparent: water pressure from the upper part of the Pond where there was no counter-balancing pressure beyond the pilings was causing the dam to lean forward into the lower third, making it likely that the structure would collapse and allow the water from the top part of the Pond to gush into and out of the Pond. The engineers then installed nine new and longer pilings, each measuring up to 20 metres in depth. The silt at the bottom of the Pond turned out to be deeper than expected. When this work is complete, the lower third of the Pond will be drained again and work will commence on constructing the new dam. The engineers had allowed for an overrun on this Pond, and still hope to finish work there in October 2016 when the whole project is due for completion.

Work on the Viaduct Pond is complete and the new grass spillway planted with wild flowers remains fenced off until growth is secure. The new culvert and outfall below the Pond will gradually be concealed by bramble, grass and other vegetation. Work on the Vale of Health

Pond is near completion with a fenced-off grass spillway as above. The City of London and BAM Nuttall responded to concerns expressed by members of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group and the Community Working Group with regard to plans to build a new path diverting walkers from desire lines and agreed to abandon the idea. The roots of the trees on the causeway have been protected and the overhanging branches on the causeway were not clipped back, thus preserving as far as possible the sheltered and natural look of this Pond.

The volume, disruption and extent of the work on Hampstead No. 1 Pond has been more than expected and will not be complete until the end of 2015. The new inlet pipe into the Pond is quite large and it will take 2 to 3 years before it becomes obscured by vegetation. Work will soon start on raising the dam by one metre on the lower part of this Pond. Work on Hampstead No. 2 Pond was expected to start in October and was likely to create similar disruption. Members of the PPSG and CWG have urged the City of London and BAM Nuttall to ensure that a path for the swan family would be protected from intrusion since the parents and cygnets travel back and forth over the path twice daily. The City has agreed to take all precautions to protect the tree roots of the London plane trees on the path between the two Ponds.

Work began on the Stock Pond and the Ladies' Pond in early October; the tree stumps of the 15 oak trees on the Stock Pond will be dug up to allow the spillway to be constructed. It now appears that the size of this spillway will be significantly smaller than originally planned, making the loss of the large number of mature and healthy trees seem even more poignant and unnecessary.



Substantial areas of Pryor's Field may be excavated to obtain sufficient clay for the new dry dam on the Catchpit. If this is not sufficient, there are plans to obtain more clay from the Sports Field; however, rather than dig into (yet) another field, several people have suggested using silt obtained when the Ponds are desilted.

It is hoped that the work on the Bird Sanctuary Pond will not be disruptive beyond the temporary rerouting of the path along the causeway which will be raised by not more than 100 mm. A new 400 mm overflow pipe will be installed from this Pond and lead into the new island on the Model Boating Pond. The old pipe from this Pond and the concrete apron will be removed.

The Vale of Health and Viaduct Ponds are tranquil again, but substantial and disruptive works are taking place on and around the Ponds as noted above, and on the central parts of the Heath it is difficult to ignore the large excavators, lorries, vans, noisy generators, huge mounds of earth and significant dust. We lost the battle to prevent this enormous and unnecessary project; however, the City of London and BAM Nuttall are doing their utmost to minimise the harshness of the project and to restore the natural and wild look of the Heath as quickly as possible.

Open Spaces Bill

The City intends by the end of November to bring to Parliament the City of London (Open Spaces) Bill. The City has presented the Bill as bringing a clearer legal framework to the 14 open spaces it controls, but the Society has concerns that the Bill might grant the City increased powers (for example in revenue generation) which might be to the detriment of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act.

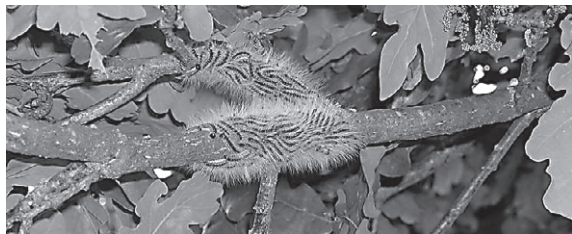
The Society has therefore queried the thinking and drafting behind the proposed legislation, in correspondence and through meetings with the Remembrancer (the City official responsible for the Bill) and other City staff. At the Society's suggestion, the City agreed to hold an additional meeting of its Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in late September so that opinions on the Bill could be voiced. The Society has continued to engage with the City as the draft Bill has developed.

The Bill will first be agreed by the Court of Common Council in October before being brought to Parliament as a private Bill. There will be an opportunity for members of the public to give their views during the committee stage of the Bill (probably in January/February). The City expect the parliamentary process to be completed in November 2016 with enactment in 2017.



Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*).

Fears that Oak Processionary Moth would advance from Regents Park to the Heath were realised when infestations were discovered in June after a jogger found he had unusual skin rashes. Thirteen trees were identified as having moths and were cleared of nests in July. The trees are mostly in the East Heath area. Nests on two trees were also identified at Kenwood and removed by English Heritage.



Oak Processionary Moth

Heath Rangers have been briefed to watch out for telltale signs. However the nests on the trunks and branches of the trees are not easy to spot. The nests resemble silky cotton wool which is white at first but soon goes brown to match the bark. Trees in a 100 metre radius of the affected trees have been checked. There will be spraying of suspect trees next spring to prevent the spread of the moth. Areas of the Heath will have to be fenced off while this is being done. In the meantime, during the winter, there will be further inspections in conjunction with the Forestry Commission. Caterpillars emerge in April from eggs which were laid the previous summer. The most effective treatment is to spray insecticide during the spring and summer when the caterpillars are about.



An infestation on an oak tree

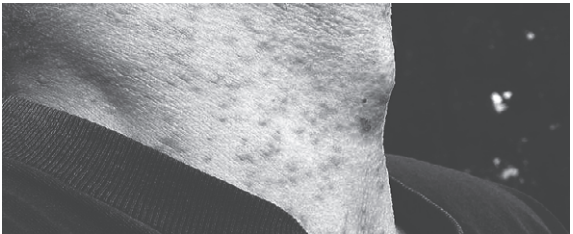
The Oak Processionary Moth is so named from the behaviour of the caterpillars in late spring and early summer: they proceed nose to tail along the ground and in the trees. The caterpillars feed almost exclusively on oak leaves. While a small number of caterpillars can be sustained by an oak without harm to the tree, a major infestation can destroy the

tree by making it more vulnerable to other pests and diseases. The moth can be seen in July and August.

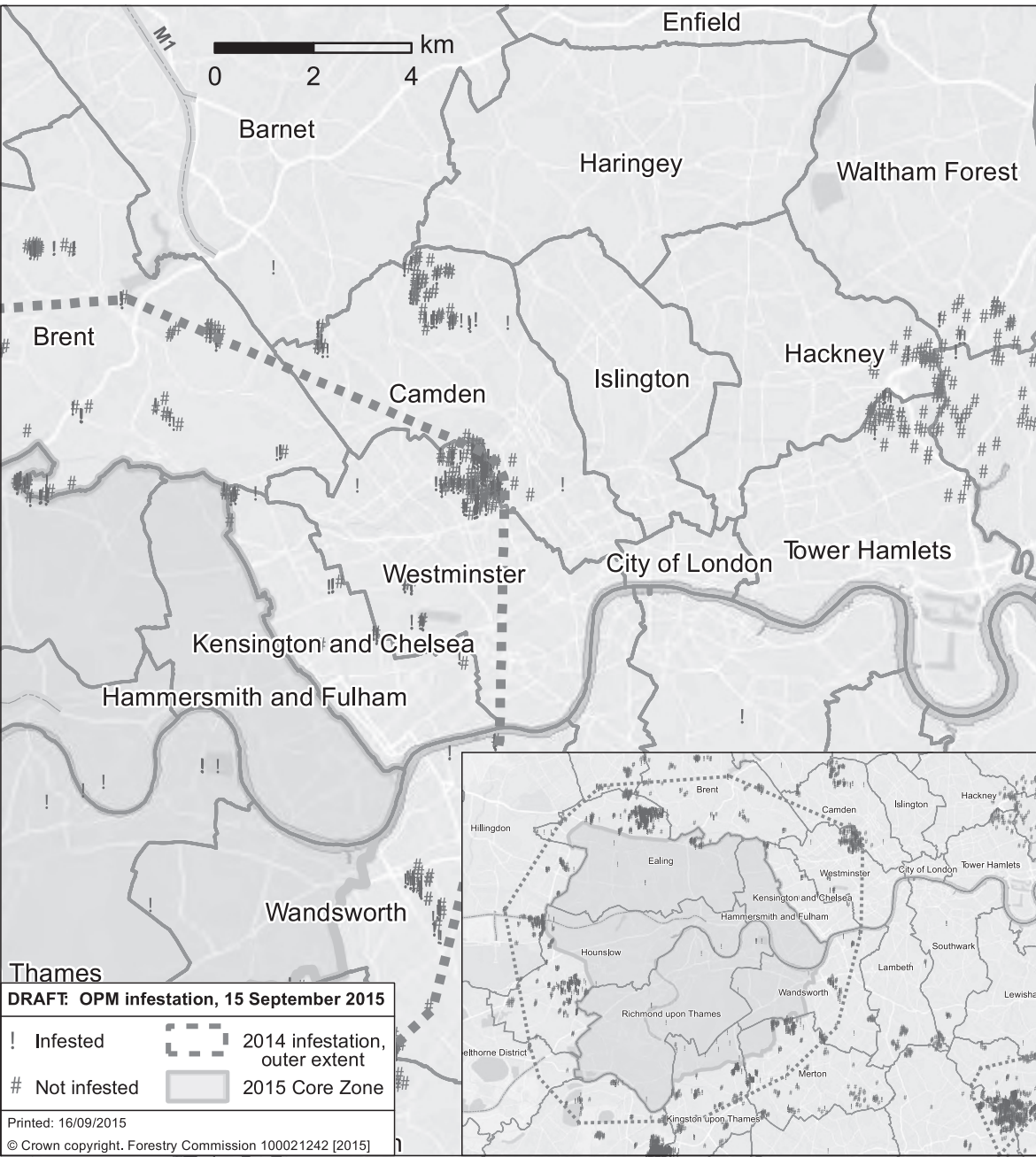
The danger is mainly to humans and dogs. The long hairy spines on the caterpillars (whether still attached to the caterpillar or floating in the air) can cause a rash on humans and are dangerous to dogs since the irritant (thaumetopoeia) causes their tongues to swell up.

The Oak Processionary Moth is native to southern Europe, where there are natural checks to its expansion. It is believed to have spread through the trade in live plants. It has become established in Germany and the Netherlands, and arrived in the UK in 2005. It was identified in southwest and west London in 2006 and Bromley in the south in 2012. If it is not controlled, the Oak Processionary Moth is likely to be able to breed and survive in England and Wales. Especially given that detection is difficult, borough councils in London need to assign sufficient resources to check for infestations and to control them.

For further information on the moth, see: forestry.gov.uk/opm.



A rash on humans



Heath Report (cont)

For health information, see:
www.nhs.uk/livewell/bites-and-stings

If you suspect an infestation on an oak tree, send an email (if possible with a photo) to hampstead.heath@cityoflondon.gov.uk; phone the Heath staff on 020 7332 3322; or phone the Forestry Commission on 0845 367 3787.

Weddings at the Hill Garden

Wedding ceremonies at the Hill Garden, the Pergola and the Belvedere are likely to increase following a successful pilot. There will have been 18 weddings in 2015–6, with more expected in 2016–7. (The first ceremony was in July 2014.) The venues are used only for the ceremony itself, followed by a toast. There is no catering at the events, partly to minimise disruption and also because the logistics of catering (even from Golders Hill Café) have proved difficult.

Ceremonies can only be held on two Saturdays in any month, and on weekdays. The period of hire is two hours, during which time there are signs to tell the public what is happening. There have apparently been few complaints; there was one about a parking problem, but more complaints about parking had been expected given the limited amount of parking space available nearby.

The Society is happy for events such as wedding ceremonies to be held in areas associated with the built environment, whereas it would question any proposal to use other areas on the Heath.

Sub-Committee developments

Our sincerest thanks to Jeremy Wright for all his work for the Society over many years and best wishes for his life in Lincoln.

Joining the Sub-Committee are Latoya Austin, Natalie Lawrence and Ron Vester. □

Saving Trees In Hampstead

a new initiative

The Society, in a new initiative, is planning a specific campaign to preserve trees in Hampstead in circumstances where they are under threat of felling by reason of technical misunderstanding (which is widespread) about their causing subsidence and the current (and frequently prejudiced) protocols of buildings insurers.

The Society possesses much knowhow on this subject and, under the leadership of its Tree Officer, needs assistance from one or two members who have an interest in it.

The initiative will not start until the new year, but we wish to identify now members who might be prepared to help.

If you would like to learn more about the initiative, please email us in the first instance:

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk



Lime Avenue, Hampstead Heath

Beware the New Inclosure Movement

by Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary of The Open Spaces Society.
Members who were unable to attend the Society's Annual General Meeting on 30 June will have missed the address by our guest speaker, Kate Ashbrook, who was invited to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of The Open Spaces Society. This is a brief summary of her address.

Kate warned that 'our open spaces are as threatened now as they were during the inclosure movement 200 years ago'.

The Open Spaces Society and the Heath & Hampstead Society, formed as the Commons Preservation Society and the Heath Protection Society respectively, were founded at the end of the inclosure movement, at a time when Victorian people were enjoying their open spaces for informal recreation and when open spaces were being filched for development. The two societies shared many important figures of the time, including Lord Eversley, Octavia Hill and Robert Hunter.

One of the societies' early victories was to save Hampstead Heath from being exploited for sand and gravel, and for building development. Kate said that she had walked over the Heath in glorious sunshine on her way to the AGM, and seen thousands of people enjoying its magnificent, varied features – from the cool wooded avenues to the unparalleled views from Parliament Hill. She felt immensely proud to be part of the organisation which had saved it for the nation.

Kate continued: 'Now open spaces are needed

more than ever yet are under increasing threat. The Government has made it easier to build on green spaces by making it harder to protect them as village greens; the pressures of development are ever increasing; and the severe cuts in public spending mean that local authorities are seeking to sell or commercialise green spaces.

'It is essential that organisations like ours remain vigilant and are prepared to champion our green spaces, which are of such immense value to people's health and happiness.

'The Open Spaces Society has campaigned for open spaces for 150 years, and intends to carry on, working alongside organisations such as the Heath & Hampstead Society, for another 150.' □



The Devil's Punchbowl and Hindhead Common, Surrey, bought by the Open Spaces Society for the National Trust in 1906

Credit: alexandersphotography.co.uk for the National Trust

Ancient Trees

by Dr Helen Read MCIEEM, CEnv., Conservation Officer, Burnham Beeches NNR & Stoke Common (City of London open spaces) The following is an edited version of the 2015 Springett Lecture given by Dr Read.

What are ancient trees and why are they important?

Young trees have a relatively simple structure, with a strong dominant stem and a similar root structure. As trees mature the roots spreading sideways gain greater relative importance and the original vertical root may start to die back.



CIMG – young ash pollards cut for the leaves in northern Spain (Navarra)

Above ground, all the woody parts of the tree gain a coating of wood annually, including the branches as well as the trunk. The optimal shape for a tree is wide and spreading, maximising the number of leaves that can get sunlight. Many trees however are constrained by others nearby, all competing for sunlight so they are drawn up tall and are less spreading in shape.

The limit to a tree's height is determined by the ability of the tree to draw water up to the highest branches. As the trunk and branches thicken there may also be a limit to its ability to coat the entire woody area with a complete layer of wood. As a consequence the tree may stop supplying water and wood to some of the uppermost branches which start to die back (a process also known as retrenchment). At the same time dieback of the principal root starts decay processes at the base of the trunk and hollowing commences. Retrenchment and hollowing are entirely natural processes and a part of the natural ageing process of the tree.

Wood in the centre of a large tree does not contain living cells. Wood is a hard material, poor in nutrients and hard to break down. Fungi play a crucial role in the decay process. In living wood trees have natural defences against fungal decay as it is saturated with water which inhibits fungal growth. As cells die, either naturally as they age or as a result of damage, air penetrates and fungal hyphae can start to grow and break

down wood, assisted by microorganisms such as bacteria. Once the wood softens and starts to break down into its constituent parts, other organisms can begin to make use of it. The tree can recycle its own nutrients through the production of roots which grow into the decaying material in the trunk. These roots are not usually seen but when a branch falls from a tree they may be exposed and are referred to as aerial roots. Old trees provide homes for a wide variety of organisms, from flies and beetles to mosses and lichens. Such a tree may have a wide range of micro habitats including water filled pools, wood in a variety of stages of decay and other features like sap runs. Invertebrates in particular may have very precise requirements in terms of micro habitat such that only a small number of trees in a larger population may be suitable for the survival of a specific species.

Ancient trees are often revered because of associations with particular people or events and were often incorporated into designed landscapes because they added an air of antiquity. They can also be found as formal elements in landscaped gardens, for example as avenues. Ancient trees are also common as remnants of past culturally important landscapes, and pollards are a particularly good example of this.

Pollarded trees

A pollard is a tree that has been managed in a particular way. Cut between two and three



Beech pollards in Burnham Beeches

meters above the ground the tree yielded a supply of wood or leaves at regular intervals. Cutting well above the ground enabled the land underneath to be cultivated; frequently as grazing land for livestock but could also include the growing of crops or hay. Pollarding became frequent in times and places where there was intense pressure on the productivity of the land.

Two types of pollarding can be distinguished. In high latitudes or altitudes where grass hay production was uncertain, leaf hay can either replace it or supplement it. Leaf hay was cut from tree species such as ash and elm in the late summer while the leaves were still on the trees. Cut branches were often made into bundles, dried and stored for winter livestock feed. Large numbers of fodder pollards were cut in Scandinavia and they can also be seen in many mountainous areas of Europe as well as the Lake District.



Gorbaia – beech pollards in northern Spain (Alava)

Pollards for wood production were cut in the winter. Trees species such as oak, beech and hornbeam were cut for use as wood fuel or for charcoal making. Hornbeam was particularly important in the London area for bread making as it burns very hot.

Pollarding was an extremely important practice in the past, widely carried out on wooded commons across the UK where local people needed wood for heating and cooking. Around London there are especially large concentrations

of such trees remaining although their management has been abandoned for many years. Referred to as lapsed pollards, the legacy of past management followed by neglect has resulted in large heavy branches on top of fragile and decaying trunks. Sites with concentrations of old pollards are now designated as nature reserves of European Importance for their biodiversity value. The City of London owns and manages two such areas within 25 miles of the City (Epping Forest and

Burnham Beeches) which have been acquired since 1878 for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. Through this protection they have become extremely important nature reserves.

Pollarding at Burnham Beeches

Restoration of ancient beech pollards at Burnham has been carried out since around 1984. Initially there were strong reservations about working on ancient trees (the pollards at Burnham are between 400 and 500 years old). Lack of historical written records about how to pollard, coupled with the new situation of lapsed pollards with very large heavy branches, hindered this process. Initially some experimental work was done on younger trees and from this two principles were established. First, despite beech being a shade-tolerant tree species, recently-cut trees need more light than might be expected. Secondly, removing all the branches from even a very young beech tree is rarely successful and generally leads to death or, at best, poor trees. These principles were then applied to the old pollards and have proved successful in reducing the overall mortality rate. The current work programme aims to clear competing trees from around the old ones by forming a ring or 'halo' around the tree. Then reduction work is carried out, removing 3–5m from the crown in a series of stages, each cut being made 5–10 years after the previous one. In this way tree height is reduced and the centre of gravity brought down which makes the tree more stable and less likely to collapse or fall apart.

Evaluation of responses by looking at which factors have a positive or negative impact on the ability of the tree to produce new shoots after cutting, together with information about the amount of dieback of branches, has helped refine the work.

Pollards in northern Spain

During a European study tour to look at pollarding in a variety of different countries, the Basque Country of northern Spain was found to be very rich in beech pollards. Originally cut for charcoal production and subsequent use in iron foundries, the production of wood from pollards was on a massive and industrial scale while the land underneath the trees was important pasture for sheep. The growing conditions are better than in the south of England, with higher moisture levels; but the large number of trees has enabled experimental work to be carried out that would not be feasible in the UK. In addition, the still strong axe culture in this area coupled with elderly charcoal makers who cut the trees in their youth has provided a very interesting opportunity to look at trees with a short lapse time since last cutting and talk to people about their traditional management.

Cooperation between the City of London and various tree surgeons and site managers in northern Spain enabled some experimental cutting work to be carried out there in 2007. Trees cut using axes or chainsaws were compared and traditional (hard) cutting of pollard branches close to the bolling compared to the more gradual restoration cutting. Revisiting the trees after three growing seasons enabled a detailed evaluation.

Traditional cutting methods can stimulate production of more clusters of shoots than gradual reduction but greater dieback results; and some trees cut hard have subsequently died. This method when used on old trees is therefore a high risk strategy which may be successful but is often detrimental to the tree.



Beech pollards in Burnham Beeches

Axe cut branches had more clusters of new shoots relative to those cut with a chainsaw; but this result is confounded by a relationship with stub length which differed significantly between the two cutting types (longer stubs have been shown in several studies to be important for the production of plentiful new shoots). This potentially interesting result needs more research in order to establish if there is a true difference between tool types.

Ancient and pollarded trees provide interesting but challenging subjects for study. Of immense importance for wildlife and with a high cultural value they are a part of our heritage as much as, for example, listed buildings. Trees such as pollards with a long history of active management have an especially high wildlife value. Managing these trees can present difficult problems but learning from other countries enables the refinement of restoration and management techniques. □

A View of the Heath

Jeremy Simons recently completed his term of office as Chairman of the City of London's Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Management Committee, the principal decision-making body for the management of the Heath. The following is an edited version of the speech he delivered at a dinner at Trinity House on 12 October to mark the end of his term.

Chairman, Aldermen, Your Worships, Chief Commoner, Ladies and Gentlemen – my task this evening is to offer a few reflections on the events of the past three years.

However, before doing so, could I draw your attention to section 24 of the Hampstead Heath Act of 1871: “No byelaw which shall extend to the prohibition of military drill on the Heath shall have any force until it has received the sanction of the Secretary of State for War”. Those that framed the Hampstead Heath Act in 1871 clearly envisaged that the Heath might be used for military drill. This section is still in force.

Havergal Brian's Opera “The Tigers” is a satire on British military inefficiency in preparing to send men to war. It was completed in 1919. The score was subsequently lost until rediscovered in the 1970's in the basement of a Japanese restaurant in Denmark Street. It has never been staged.

The first two scenes take place on Hampstead Heath on the Sunday of August Bank Holiday 1914, one day before the UK declared war on Germany. The scene is the Heath's famous Bank Holiday Fair, with a vast array of characters: a toy seller, a sweetmeat seller, an old clothes seller, a fruit seller – even a large elephant and its keeper. To my knowledge it is the only opera ever to have been set on Hampstead Heath. Perhaps one day an opera house will stage it. Although I've only once seen a live elephant in an opera house.

Three years ago, Geoff Martin, the Editor of the Hampstead & Highgate Express, wrote a column under the headline “Being Heath boss isn't for

the faint of heart”. Geoff wrote: “I've always thought that being chairman of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee might be one of those ‘jobs to avoid’”. Being Chairman of the Management Committee is, in my view, one of the best jobs in London – despite being unpaid and with perks that are few and far between, this dinner excepted.

No two weeks are the same. The sheer range of issues that come the way of the Chairman is enormous. Where else would one get involved with Diving Boards, A Beacon that refused to Light, Memorial Benches, An Inflatable Stonehenge, Cycling, Not One but Three Dinosaurs, A Six Way Ping-Pong Table, Blocked Lavatories, Cross Country Races, Conker Competitions, even Lemurs... ? The list is endless.

A Chairman needs to be resilient as well as reasonably fit. I don't drive a car, so usually get about on a bicycle. As Chairman, I made 183 visits to the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. When coming from Central London, one must scale the Northern Heights. During my three years, I cycled uphill a height equivalent to Mount Everest! A sense of humour also comes in useful at times, as does not taking oneself too seriously.

I have been extremely fortunate to have worked with two really excellent Superintendents: Simon Lee and Bob Warnock. Both are complete professionals. Both have the managerial ability coupled with an amazing amount of horticultural and arboricultural knowledge, and, most importantly, the temperament necessary to balance the not

A View of the Heath (cont)

inconsiderable task of running three open spaces, together visited nine million times a year, within the constraints imposed by the resources offered by the Corporation of London: resources in excess of what could be afforded by other local authorities.

At the same time the City is under the closest of scrutiny by the local community. The people of North London can be hard taskmasters. They care deeply about the Heath. They take a great interest in the Heath. They examine everything in the minutest of detail. And they offer advice and guidance on every subject. Rightly so. But, at the end of the day, it is the Superintendent who is responsible for the management of the Heath. Management that is generally well regarded.

At times, the lot of a Superintendent is not a particularly easy one. He must balance all the suggestions, requests and advice, demands even. Sometimes conflicting: should there be more bramble on the Heath, or should there be less bramble on the Heath? Should there be more cycling routes on the Heath, or not? Should the protected view from Parliament Hill be protected, or should trees be allowed to encroach upon the view?

The Superintendent must be available morning, noon and evening to meet people. To discuss issues on site, to engage with what today are known as “stakeholders”. The Chairman’s job, is by comparison, far less demanding. He or she is not – contrary to what many correspondents of the Hampstead & Highgate Express or the Camden New Journal may think – the “boss” of Hampstead Heath. The Chairman may face the occasional challenge. He or she may chair meetings and attend events on the Heath, handing out prizes to the



person who runs the fastest, or who has the best conker. But it is the Superintendent and his staff who do the real work.

And there is an awful lot of it that goes on, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year, in managing the Heath. To keep the show on the road. So that everyone visiting the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park can enjoy themselves – whether walking the dog, playing sport or simply enjoying being there. For this we must thank both Simon Lee and Bob Warnock. I move on after three years. Superintendents dedicate a fair chunk of their lives to the Heath.

Returning to that occasional challenge I mentioned a moment ago: the one that has occupied so many people for the best part of the last five years. The one that is now well on the way to being resolved. The one that, following a decision of the Court of Common Council, took three years and nine months of planning, debate, engagement, consultation, design, and above all teamwork before work actually started. Many people: City Officers, Hydrologists, External Consultants, Landscape Architects, Ecologists, Lawyers, Surveyors, Civil Engineers, Contractors and the public at large were involved. Could I say a few words about

all the local civic societies and other groups that assisted? Your help has been invaluable. I know it has not always been easy. However, I do believe that without the sometimes difficult road we have all trod, and all those hours spent in the Parliament Hill Conference Room, we would not be where we are today.

Open spaces are one of the jewels in the City of London’s crown. Some would say that Hampstead Heath is THE jewel in the City’s crown! That the City invests coming on for £20m a year of its own resources – not public money – in the stewardship of open spaces is a measure of its commitment. Speaking personally, I would like to see more people sharing this commitment over the coming years, whether through sponsorship, regular or legacy giving or volunteering. ‘Heath Hands’ and the ‘Wild about Hampstead Heath’ volunteers give generously of their time. I would like to see others give generously in other ways. There should be a real sense of ownership by the community. This sense of ownership can already be seen at Queen’s Park, through the local community’s support of the children’s play area. It is sometimes said that, when something comes free, people do not value it. This is certainly not the case with Hampstead Heath.

Could I end by expressing my appreciation for all the staff that work at the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park. For your hard work, knowledge and skill, and for your love of the Heath. You make the North London Open Spaces what they are. A resource for all Londoners and for all communities. A resource that brings people together. A resource of immense importance for the health and wellbeing of society. And a resource that we all care very much about. □

Hampstead Theatre

Eton Avenue NW3 3EU

Support your local theatre

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

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For more details see:

www.hampsteadtheatre.com/support-us

Tel: 020 7449 4155

We look forward to welcoming you soon

www.hampsteadtheatre.com

Date for
your diary

The Heath & Hampstead Society Annual Christmas Party

Wednesday 9 December 7–9 pm

Burgh House
New End Square

Tickets £13

Your invitation is enclosed
with this Newsletter

Burgh House: A Renaissance Project

Burgh House, one of the most important buildings in Hampstead and one with which the Society has a long and close connection, is launching a funding appeal for essential works. Mark Francis, the Director of Burgh House, explains the background.

Burgh House, one of the priceless treasures of Hampstead, urgently needs the community's support. Not for the running costs – because this splendid House itself raises every penny it needs to keep open to the public as a vibrant community arts centre, meeting place and local history museum. The support is needed for the latest programme of essential works on the fabric of this Grade 1 listed building, required to keep the House open – free of charge – to the public. It is work that is also required by law.



Built in 1704, Burgh House is a fine example of a Queen Anne mansion, with a fascinating history that has played an integral role in the development of Hampstead. Its residents have ranged from artisans, bankers, politicians and clergymen to Hampstead's most famous spa physician and Rudyard Kipling's daughter – and it even experienced a brief spell as a militia headquarters and barracks.

The House was saved from a sale into corporate oblivion by a huge public campaign and fundraising effort in 1979. The Burgh House Trust was established as a registered charity and, 36 years later, we are still going stronger than ever.

Today, the House is a dynamic arts centre, meeting place, museum, gallery, private hire venue and home to many long-established local Hampstead societies. The House and Museum now welcome nearly 1,000 visitors a week through their doors, with activities and events for all ages, and working with local schools, residential homes and education centres.

The House and Museum now hold a collection of nearly 4000 documents, objects, photographs and artworks relating to the local area, and have a permanent two-room display that charts the history of Hampstead from the prehistoric to the modern day.

With two beautifully panelled temporary exhibition rooms, the House is able to show an ambitious programme of exhibitions using not

only our own collection, but also working with other local organisations such as The Heath & Hampstead Society and, currently, Hampstead's Gaia Foundation.

The House is in constant use by the community. There are multiple workshops for children and babies every week, bridge and scrabble clubs, as well as choirs and art tutorials. The Buttery cafe set in the basement of the house, and throughout the charming Gertrude Jekyll-designed garden terrace, is buzzing with chatter from both tourists and locals alike at weekends, but Wednesday to Friday you can still find a quiet corner to read a book or enjoy a catch up with delicious homemade fayre, loose-leaf teas and great wine list.

The beautiful music room, panelled with honey-coloured stripped Scandinavian pine from the now demolished Weatherall House on Well Walk, hosts multiple talks, plays and recitals including the ever popular Lifelines



series that has seen interviews with the very best of Hampstead's glitterati.

The modern Peggy Jay Gallery at Burgh House hosts regularly changing contemporary art exhibitions from both local and international artists, so visitors to the House always have new and fascinating shows to see.

The Burgh House Trust has embarked on many projects to save, restore and improve the House over the years.

The early days saw the battle to create a building fit for public use, the fight against dry rot, and holes in the roof. As we brought the House into the 21st century, the Trust took on an ambitious extension and refurbishment project, creating modern toilets, accessible entrances, an accredited museum and the much-loved Peggy Jay Gallery.

Today we face an equally tough job to future-proof



Burgh House (cont)

the House and keep the doors open, free of charge, to the community. As with all buildings, but particularly ones of this age, maintenance is expensive and there is always something new to do. The House requires rewiring from top to bottom; not a glamorous task, but absolutely essential if we are to stay open.

Alongside these major electrical works, we are repairing our beautiful early 18th century gates and gate piers in November 2015, a £15,000 project that will see the iconic gates returned to their original splendour. We have decided to keep the House open while the various



works are carried out as we recognise just how many people in the community rely on the Trust's services.

With these repairs, we will also be able to increase our capacity to work with volunteers and interns, increase the amount of outreach we do in the community, particularly in local schools, and restore and showcase the wonderful original features inside the building.

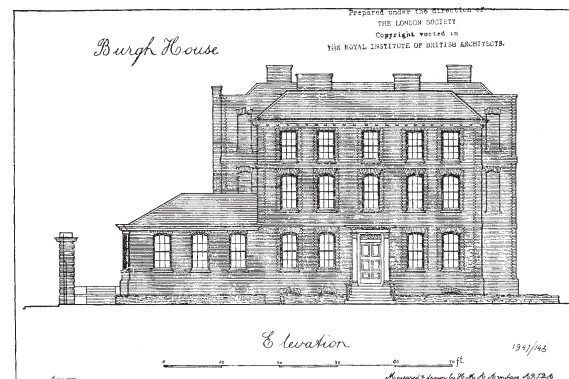
The Trust has already spent £18,000 on repairs to the roof this year and we have made good headway raising the money to complete the rest of the essential maintenance. But we need to



raise another £120,000 to secure the future of Burgh House and Hampstead Museum – and we won't be able to do this without the support and generosity of the community that saved the House in the first place.

Burgh House and Hampstead Museum are an essential and much-loved part of the Hampstead Community. This 'Renaissance' project will allow us to keep it that way for generations to come. If you can make a donation, help in any way, or would just like to find out more, please get in touch. We really do need your support. □

Contact Mark Francis, Director
Telephone: 020 7431 0144



Christmas at Burgh House

An Evening of Carols & Christmas Cheer
Wednesday 2 December, 7pm

Join the St Genesius Chamber Choir at Burgh House for an uplifting traditional carol concert. Tickets £12/10 (FoBH) including a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Give us a call, drop in or visit our website for tickets

Christmas Art & Craft Fair
Sunday 6 December, 11am – 4pm
FREE ENTRY

Get into the festive spirit and start the Christmas season with a bang with our annual Christmas Fair. There'll be fantastic arts and crafts stalls from London makers and designers, plus carol singing, kids' lucky dip, mulled wine, mince pies and a whole lot of jollity.

We also have a stunning array of handmade and vintage card designs in our Burgh House shop, not to mention scrummy Damson Tree goodies, natural cosmetics and an extensive collection of books. Burgh House has got original Christmas gifts covered.

Burgh House & Hampstead Museum
Historic house, museum and independent charity for arts and the community.



Burgh House
New End Square
NW3 1LT
☎ **020 7431 0144**

www.burghhouse.org.uk
Open: Wed, Thur, Fri & Sunday 12 – 5:00pm

Hampstead Christmas Festival

On the 29 November Hampstead High Street will be turned into a magical Christmas scene with a Christmas market run by clevercreationsevents.com



Selling gifts, delicious international food and drink there will be a funfair, live music, a Christmas grotto, reindeer, film show, children's activities and lots more.

The festive fun kicks off with a free screening at the Hampstead Everyman Cinema of a children's movie. There will also be fantastic musical acts including Björn Again on the main stage and WAC Arts performing on the second stage. Fairground attractions including a Big Wheel, a Santa's Grotto, reindeer, petting zoo, street music, face painting and a Christmas novelty cake competition.

Our chosen charity this year is the Hampstead Community Centre it provides a range of support services and activities including a Christmas day lunch event for older people on their own.

We are delighted that BBC's Fiona Bruce will be switching on the Hampstead Christmas lights.

<http://www.hampsteadvillagelondon.com/christmas>



Christopher Wade

1921–2015

Society General Committee: 1976–1978 Society Patron: Since May 2004

Christopher Wade, the eminent local historian who was one of the great champions of Hampstead and one of the “magnificent seven” who saved Burgh House, died on 24 August. He was 95 years old.

Hardly a week went by in the '70s, '80s and '90s when Christopher was not quoted in the Ham & High or simply provided reporters with background information. Whenever anyone needed to know anything about Hampstead, the cry would go up: “Ask Christopher Wade!” Once, having hurt his back, he was confined to bed. He later wrote: “Lying bored in bed and longing for some mind-grabbing, pain-relieving project, I asked Diana to search the shops for an up-to-date history of Hampstead. She returned to report that there was no such thing.” The rest was history. He knew where every famous person had lived, and the history of their streets and houses. His card index revealed, too, where all the artists, musicians and writers had lived and worked, complete with relevant dates. “His skills as a researcher developed to the point when he could answer just about any question about Hampstead known by man and woman,” his daughter, Joanna, wrote.

And it was knowledge that he shared with the world by publishing, in 1972, *The Streets of Hampstead* – which was much revised and is still in print. That was followed by *The Streets of Belsize*, *The Streets of West Hampstead* and even *Buried in Hampstead*, which listed the

last resting places of local celebrities and politicians. Many other publications were to follow, including *Constable’s Hampstead* and, *For the Poor of Hampstead, Forever, a history of the Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust*. In the foreword to that history, the then chairman of the Trust wrote: “Christopher probably knows more about the history of Hampstead than anyone alive today.”

Christopher was born in Bradford in 1921 and at the age of seven he was packed off to a boarding school in Margate and later to Shrewsbury School – not a happy experience, he later told his own children, Joanna and Harry. He was much happier at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read modern languages and became fluent in French and German. During the war he was a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF. His poor eyesight meant that he couldn’t fly, so he was sent to Sierra Leone to look after an airstrip. But at the end of the year he was in Brussels, where he chased around gathering important papers and debriefing German airmen. Then he joined the BBC and rose to become head of the television script unit, where he developed an encyclopedic knowledge of actors, directors and writers. He was proud to have helped to develop the careers of the likes of Dennis Potter and Jack Rosenthal. It was here that he met Diana, his secretary at the BBC, whom he married and lured to Hampstead in 1956 with a promise of finding her “a house on a hill”. They bought a house in

Willoughby Road, where he lived for nearly 60 years until his death. Sadly, Diana died suddenly in 1991 at the very young age of 61.

He had jumped at the opportunity of taking early retirement from the BBC in 1975 – happy to escape the growing tensions in the organisation between the advocates of high culture and those who pressed for a more populist approach. And from then on he devoted his time to local history.

Then in 1978, the news broke that Camden was planning to sell off Burgh House, and he was one of the heroes, with Peggy Jay and others, who set out determinedly to save the magnificent Grade 1 listed Queen Anne house in New End Square. A big public campaign led the following year to the establishment of the Burgh House Trust, under the then chairmanship of David Sullivan QC. Then he and Diana founded the Museum on the first floor, and became joint honorary curators, initially with little more than some documents and photocopies, but later with many impressive exhibits. Asked once by the Ham & High whether there was a collective noun for curators, he thought long and hard and finally telephoned his response. “It should be a ‘curiosity’ of curators,” he said. He was for many years an active member of the Burgh House Trust and the Camden History Society, but when his eyesight, and particularly his hearing, deteriorated, he withdrew from meetings but continued to work as a steward at the House and to take a close interest in its work. With enormous generosity he funded the acquisition of many paintings, artefacts and documents,

many of which have been exhibited in important Burgh House exhibitions.

“The immense popularity of the Museum today pays tribute to the hard work and foresight of Christopher Wade,” said Martin Humphery, former chairman of the Heath and Hampstead Society.

Christopher used to hold lively Wednesday morning sessions at Burgh House when residents and would-be house buyers could come and ask about any aspect of Hampstead history, its houses and streets. More recently he became frail and was confined to a wheelchair. Five weeks ago he had a fall and was admitted to the Royal Free where, unfortunately, pneumonia took hold. “As a father he was hugely supportive,” his daughter Joanna told the Ham & High. “He believed that we should all be empowered to do whatever we decided to do.”

In my view, Christopher was one of the priceless treasures of Hampstead. He not only played a vital part in saving this magnificent house, but also started the museum and went on to mentor the professional curators who followed him in that post.

A small, private family service was held, followed by a public gathering at Burgh House on 18 October to celebrate his remarkable life and contribution to the area. The family asked that instead of any flowers people should make donations to the Burgh House Trust.

Taken from an obituary for the Ham and High by Matthew Lewin, Chairman of the Trustees of Burgh House and former editor of the Ham and High. □

David Sullivan

1926–2015

Society General Committee: 1973–1981 Sometime Chair (Society) Heath Sub-Committee

David Sullivan Q.C., historian, and community activist, died, 9 July, aged 89. When David Sullivan was a young man, reading Classics at Oxford, he heard the great Whig Historian, G.M Trevelyan, lecture. Trevelyan described the joy a historian feels in trying to “breathe a spark of new life into the men and women who had formed a past society or culture”. Sullivan remembers him as likening it to “peering into illuminated houses, in an effort to see the occupants revealed against the background of the dark outside”. Which, in a way is what David Sullivan, lawyer, historian, community champion, landscape painter, and passionate defender of tradition, did in his own life.

He was born in Nakuru, Kenya, where his father was a rural farm manager. The freedom of a Kenyan early childhood was abruptly ended when, aged 7, he was sent as a boarder to Haileybury School, which, at that time, had strong military and imperial connections. A rough experience for a young boy and one which marked his life for good and bad. A positive result was an interest in imperial history and, in particular, a fascination with the life of Warren Hastings, about whom he later wrote a play. But the wrenching away from his parents, particularly his mother, left him, at least for a while, emotionally damaged. He survived this by becoming an excellent cricketer, representing the school and playing at Lord’s, and by academic success, winning a

scholarship to Christ Church Oxford in 1943 to read Classics.

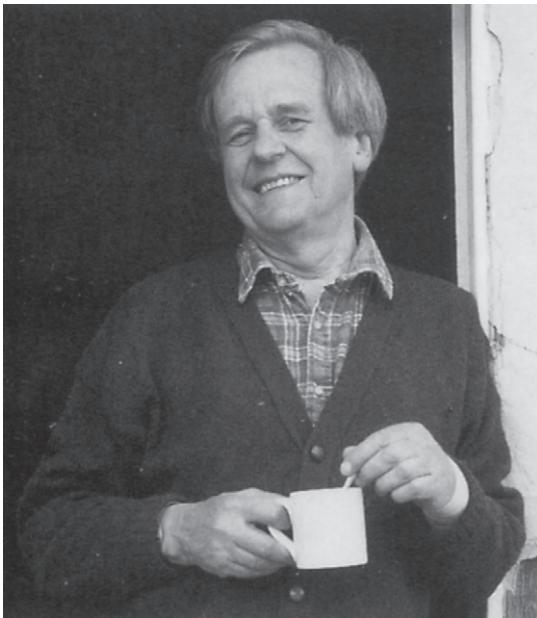
The Second World War interrupted and from 1944 to 1946, Sullivan served as a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, patrolling Scottish waters, and once being asked to guard a number of captured German U-Boat sailors on his own. No one, it seems, got away.

Back at Oxford, he graduated in Classics in 1948 with a First Class degree and began to read Law, being called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1951. This was the beginning of a distinguished career, in which he first specialised in Contract Law, representing, among others, the Beatles and Frank Zappa, and then became an Insurance Law expert, working for the Malaysian and Saudi Arabian governments. He also played a prominent part in the 1968 Thalidomide drug compensation case, where he appeared for the drug company and helped hammer out the details of a settlement. He took silk in 1975, became a Bencher in 1984, and, for three years, was chairman of the Central Policy Committee for the Mental Health Act of 1983.

Sullivan finally retired from legal work in 1988. But the historian in him had never gone away. In 1962, he and his first wife, Sheila – he’d married her in 1953 – bought a Suffolk cottage, in the heart of John Constable country, and Sullivan began a deep involvement with Constable’s landscape painting. The fact that

the couple mainly lived in Hampstead, close to the painter’s London home, encouraged this fascination. Sullivan made a close study of Constable’s cloud paintings, about which he lectured, and, in 1986, wrote a BBC radio feature, titled, quoting Constable, ‘Shadows Are Realities To Me’.

Sullivan had also begun work on two detailed pieces of historical research on the medieval abbey and town of Westminster, which took him more than a decade to complete and which were published in two volumes: *The Westminster Corridor* [1994], and *The Westminster Circle* [2006]. These two closely researched and beautifully documented books brought together Sullivan’s interest in, and knowledge of, topography and geology, as well as his eye for, sometimes hilarious, detail. This last was



delightfully illustrated by his 1991 radio play, *A Right Royal Burglary*, a vivid account of a 1303 smash and grab raid at the Abbey.

Probably Sullivan’s proudest achievement, one which allowed him to use his eloquence, mastery of detail, and knowledge of legal intricacies, was his part in saving Burgh House from a Council sell-off in 1978. Sullivan was one of ‘The Magnificent Seven’ – which included the formidable Peggy Jay, Hampstead’s historian, Christopher Wade, and the then editor of the Hampstead and Highgate Express, Gerry Isaaman – who fought a two-year battle to save the house and garden and to turn it into the Hampstead Museum and Arts Centre, which it still is today.

David Sullivan was a man of great personal charm and, once a certain shyness had been breached, a warm and affectionate friend and father. He had three daughters by his first marriage, Oriel [born 1957], Theresa [born 1959] and Jocelyn [born 1962]. His second marriage, in 1981, to Ann, brought him a stepson, Mark, and stepdaughter, Harriet. He loved Hampstead and Suffolk equally, but was perhaps most contented in the thatched Suffolk cottage he and both his wives had cared for so lovingly. A 1989 radio documentary Straw and Steel celebrated the place and its history. It was, in the end, his ‘illuminated house’.

Piers Plowright, journalist, broadcaster and Burgh House supporter, from an obituary for The Times.

There was a celebration of David’s life at Burgh House on Sunday 22 November. □

Ray Softly

1915–2015

Three former committee members pay tribute to Ray Softly who passed away peacefully in June, eight days before his 100th birthday

Ray Softly made an immense contribution to the Society and the Heath. During his 25 years as an H&HS General Committee member (1978–2003), he was Chair of the Heath Sub-Committee and Vice-Chair of the Society (1981–1986), using his expertise on flora and fauna to urge the GLC to improve their management. He was also Editor of the Newsletter between 1979 and 1986, organising a team of people who delivered the newsletter by hand.

Following war service with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (working with the new radar systems), Ray joined the National Westminster Bank in the City, where he rose to become head of the Foreign and Documentary Department.

After separating from his wife, he met Mary Maclean (obituary, H&HS Newsletter January 2013) and moved to Hampstead in the mid 1970's. His many articles for the H&HS Newsletter, both about the politics of Heath management as well as its ecology and natural history, form a most valuable element of the Society's Archive. His quiet authority, charm and humour made it a pleasure to have him as a colleague and he will be fondly remembered. *Helen Marcus*

A very gentle and private man, Ray was a stalwart of the Heath & Hampstead Society's

Heath Sub-Committee for many years and was its conscience in all matters concerning the Heath's natural history and wildlife. He was also active in the Hampstead Scientific Society, and was an Honorary Vice-President of the London Natural History Society.

From 1973 to 2008 he operated two moth traps from his flat in South End Green and



kept meticulous records, filling 53 notebooks and several thousand slides which were passed to the Herts Moth Group. His knowledge of moths and butterflies was legendary and he was always most generous in sharing this knowledge such as when he showed me his discovery of a tube web spider colony near the Ladies Pond which he feared was endangered; on another occasion he showed the Heath Superintendent a tiny patch of Heath Bedstraw on East Heath which might otherwise have been destroyed. He recorded the first English sighting of a rare species of moth which was named in his honour as the 'Softly Shoulder-knot' (*Lithophane consocia*). He also appeared on ITV in 'London Wildlife Challenge'. *Jeremy Wright*

A most sincere and dedicated man, Ray was always a good friend during my years on the South End Green Association committee with him. He loved the Heath and his work of monitoring and observing its Lepidoptera was untiring. We had many discussions about finding the balance between opening up corridors between the trees to enable butterflies to move to different habitats and the need to manage the flora for the benefit of other wildlife or people.

His expertise in working the transects on the Heath and the fact that he was always there to give advice whenever an unusual moth or butterfly had been spotted is greatly missed, as is his light but professional dissemination of his knowledge to all who had the privilege of knowing him. *John Hunt* □

Civic Voice
in a new project to conserve
First World War Memorials

Civic Voice, the umbrella body for civic societies, of which our Society is a member, is to be part of a nationwide drive announced by Prime Minister David Cameron in July, to conserve and protect war memorials over the four year period of the First World War Centenary.

Details of the £5 million fund for the project include £3 million for the War Memorials Trust to boost support for their grant schemes and expand their team of specialist Conservation Officers. Imperial War Museums will receive half a million pounds to develop a website to help communities find out where information about war memorials can be found. English Heritage will receive half a million pounds to provide better protection for war memorials, deliver a larger pool of skilled and trained specialists to repair them, and develop an education toolkit for schools to allow pupils to research their local memorials.

Civic Voice will be given half a million pounds to create a national network of volunteers involving civic societies and amenity groups, over the four year centenary period, to help build skills to assess the condition of war memorials and encourage their conservation.

For more information see:

<http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/war-memorials/>