



# *The Heath & Hampstead Society*

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# *NEWSLETTER*

*May 2016 Annual Report*

*Vol 47 No 2*



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*Kestrel over Pryors Field*

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**Front cover:** The photograph was taken by professional photographer Matt Maran, the guest speaker at the Society's 2016 Annual General Meeting. Matt comments: "Unpredictable flight

Annual Report for  
the year 2015–2016

by Marc Hutchinson

My annual report covers the period since our 2015 Annual General Meeting. This is different from the period of our financial year (1 January – 31 December 2015) in respect of which you can read the trustees' annual report and financial statements enclosed with this Newsletter.

Overview

Looking at my annual report for the year 2014–2015 in the May 2015 Newsletter, I see that so many of the matters I covered there have continued to concern the Society this year. However, looking back over the last 12 months, it has been gratifying to note a variety of successes and some items of good, or at least promising, news.

Good news

Ponds Project

The Ponds Project is on track for its originally scheduled completion in October 2016. By then all engineering work will have ceased and replanting and re-grassing will have been substantially completed, in the hope that the protective fencing (or most of it) around the affected areas will be able to be removed by the ▷

Amended Date  
for your Diary

Springett Lecture by Thomas Pakenham  
7:30pm Thursday 27 October 2016

patterns make it difficult to anticipate movement when photographing kestrels. This one launched from a tree in Pryors Field and hovered just a few metres from the lens." □

# *Annual Report (cont)*

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summer of 2017. I have served as the Society's representative on the Community Working Group (established as a condition of Camden Council's planning consent) which has met monthly (sometimes more frequently) with the task of monitoring the Project from the perspective of Heath users, and ensuring that the City has responded to public concerns about the manner of execution of the works. I have been assisted in this by Lynda Cook of the Heath Sub-Committee who acts as my deputy on the Community Working Group and also acts, in succession to Jeremy Wright, as the Society's representative on the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group, the original public consultation group set up by the City – and which I briefly chaired, until it became apparent that the Society was going to bring a judicial review against the City – to comment on the design of the works, including the restorative work to be done to the Heath at the end of the Project. Tony Ghilchik has acted as Lynda's deputy on that Stakeholder Group.

As the City would be the first to recognise, the Community Working Group and the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group have undoubtedly contributed to the efficient execution and management of what continues to be a deeply unpopular and misunderstood project.

## *Open Spaces Bill*

The Society – principally myself, John Beyer (Chair of the Heath Sub-Committee and the Society's representative on the Hampstead Heath Management Committee), and Thomas Radice (the Society's representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and a member of the Heath Sub-Committee) – spent nearly four months in negotiation with the City over the drafting of this Bill, which is intended to enable the City to manage their open spaces,

including Hampstead Heath, on a consistent legal basis. The Bill is now proceeding through Parliament and I have written a commentary on it in this Newsletter.

## *Athlone House*

The saving of Athlone House is perhaps the greatest joint achievement of the Society and the Highgate Society. The owner, having exhausted his legal remedies to try and obtain the right to demolish the existing House in disregard of a binding section 106 agreement, recently sold the House to a London resident who has decided to restore it sympathetically as a private basement-free family home. This is the best possible outcome we could have hoped for and a just reward for the 17 years of campaigning by the Athlone House Working Group (AHWG) and its most recent leader Michael Hammerson, a Vice-President of the Highgate Society and long-serving member of the Society's Heath Sub-Committee. Members of the AHWG continue to meet with representatives of the new owner to comment on restorative design matters, with a view to supporting the eventual planning application.

## *Basements*

The best news on the continuing problems of basements this year has been the decision by Camden Council (following the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and other boroughs) to issue a so-called Article 4 Direction, the effect of which is that all basements for single dwelling houses in Camden will in future require specific planning permission and will no longer be authorised as "permitted development" (which does not require permission). The Direction will come into force in 2017.

The Society was centrally involved in the drafting of Camden's existing policy on

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basement development. The Direction will plug a serious gap in the enforcement of that policy: what now remains to be done is to achieve consistent policy enforcement in the course of the planning consent process itself. Members of the Society can assist by responding to our basement survey request in this Newsletter.

### ***Newsletter and Twitter***

We are very grateful to Martin Webster for taking on the role of Editor of the Newsletter, Martin is a life member of the Society and this Newsletter is his first.

The Newsletter is published three times a year. So much happens between editions that we have wanted to provide members with news on a more frequent basis. So the website now carries the Society's Twitter account, an initiative of the Heath Sub-Committee, which focuses on real-time news about the Heath. That is something that we may eventually roll out to cover other areas of the Society's work. I want to thank new members of the Heath Sub-Committee, Latoya Austin and Natalie Lawrence, for their time and efforts in bringing the Twitter project to fruition. Not the least of their tasks was to teach nervous members of the Sub-Committee, many of whom would not describe themselves as technophiles, how safely to use the system.

The Society has had an unpaid press officer from time to time in the past, but it has none at present. We would be grateful if a member would be prepared take up that role, which is described in a little more detail in the notice in this Newsletter.

### ***Traffic***

I referred in my last annual report to the proposed development of a traffic policy for the Society. By coincidence, our initiative coincided

with work by the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum on the increasing problem of traffic in Hampstead and the associated disruption and pollution. The problem is particularly aggravated by the presence of 55 schools in Hampstead and the fact that most of their pupils arrive and depart by car. Vehicle pollution in Hampstead, as Stephen Taylor's article in this Newsletter shows, is at a dangerous and illegal level. Fresh legal proceedings have just been launched against the Government over the continuing national failure to comply with EU law on traffic pollution and Camden Council now expressly recognise in their policies, including the draft Local Plan, that traffic in Hampstead must be reduced.

The problem has been thrown into relief by the proposed Cycle Superhighway 11. The inadequate public consultation (which omitted Hampstead) on this scheme has recently finished. I will not describe the scheme here other than to note that no one, not even Transport for London whose project it is, disputes that the consequence of the scheme is that traffic heading from north-west London to the centre of London will be diverted or, in the euphemistic language of the consultation, "re-assigned" into the residential streets of Hampstead. The design of the project takes no account of the facts that (1) these streets are already crowded or even grid-locked during the rush hour and school run, (2) many of these streets are due in any event to be adversely affected by heavy goods vehicles used in the HS2 project, the Royal Free Hospital extension, the new tower block at Swiss Cottage, the Kidderpore Avenue development and so on, and (3) the diversion of traffic will lead to a demonstrable increase in illegal local pollution. No-one I know objects to the promotion of cycling or steps to make cycling safer, but opposition is growing quickly to this scheme in its current form which is

# *Annual Report (cont)*

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*by Marc Hutchinson*

hopelessly flawed by reason of its wilful failure to consider the rights of local residents and pedestrians. The Society, with the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum and other local forums and residents' associations, intends to organise a coordinated opposition to the present scheme. There is already a petition launched:

<https://www.change.org/p/transport-for-london-stop-transport-for-london-s-ill-planned-cycle-super-highway-11-scheme-in-north-london>

## **People**

We note with sadness the passing of John Smithard, a long-serving former Treasurer of the Society, and Pamela, Countess of Listowel, a great local supporter of the Society and a former member of its Heath Sub-Committee. Tributes to them are included in this Newsletter.

## **Trustees and Sub-Committees**

We have welcomed the election of a new trustee, Dr Vicki Harding, who for many years has acted and continues to act as the Society's tree officer. We have also welcomed new members to our Sub-Committees: Anousheh Barbezieux to the Town Sub-Committee; Ron Vester, Latoya Austin and Natalie Lawrence to the Heath Sub-Committee;

and Mojgan Green, Andrew Dutton Parish and Jeremy Walker to the Planning Sub-Committee.

## **Conclusion**

The Society continues to be in good shape, financially and organisationally, and I want to record once more the Trustees' and Sub-Committee members' thanks to the Society's membership as a whole for its continuing support.

## **Late news – Heath cafés**

Members will have read about the City's recent invitation to tender for new licensees of its Heath cafés, the decision (which we voted against at the Hampstead Heath Management Committee) to award the new licences to the Benugo chain, the ensuing public uproar and 24,000-signature petition, and Benugo's subsequent withdrawal of its bid. At the time of writing, we do not know how the City proposes to proceed. Campaigning about the management of the cafés is outside the Society's charitable remit, but we have complained to the City about its apparent failure properly to consult the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on the terms of the tender invitation. Proper consultation we believe could have prevented this debacle. □

## ***The Springett Lecture***

***Thursday 27 October 2016 8:00pm Burgh House New End, Hampstead***

***Thomas Pakenham***

***"The Company of Trees: a Year in a Lifetime's Quest"***

Thomas Pakenham is a well-known historian and arborist who has written books on many subjects, including important books on trees. His most recent books are *Meetings with Remarkable Trees* (1996) which has been translated into several languages and made into 16 television episodes for BBC 2, *Remarkable Trees of the World* (2002) which has been translated into seven languages, *The Remarkable Baobab* (2004), *In Search of Remarkable Trees, On Safari in Southern Africa* (2007) and *The Company of Trees: A Year in a Lifetime's Quest* (2015).

**Doors open 7:30pm for a glass of wine    Non-members welcome    Admission free**

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## May to October at Burgh House

### Hobbs Style at Burgh House

Thursday 19 May, 7pm

A fashion show of Hobbs 2016 Spring collection in aid of Burgh House & Hampstead Museum, brought to you by the Friends of Burgh House.

Tickets to include champagne, goodie bag and prize draw. Limited seating available.

### An Evening with John Etheridge & Vimala Rowe

Monday 30 May, 7 for 7:30pm

Join us for a fabulous evening with renowned guitarist John Etheridge and singer Vimala Rowe, celebrating the launch of their new album 'Out of the Sky' in aid of the Burgh House Renaissance Appeal.

### Yeats and Maud Gonne: The Gulf of Love

Thursday 9 June, 7pm

Actor and playwright Colin Pinney portrays William Butler Yeats, who was forever obsessed by "a proud woman not kindred of his soul" - Maud Gonne, a fiery spirit ahead of her time.

These were two irreconcilable and passionate figures; Ireland's greatest poet and the revolutionary Maud Gonne.

### Lifelines with Zoë Wanamaker

Thursday 30 June, 7pm for 7:30pm

Zoë Wanamaker joins Piers Plowright for a conversation about her life and career as part of the ever-popular Lifelines series of talks at Burgh House.

### Piers Plowright with Richard Harries: Light and Dark

Thursday 13 October, 7pm for 7:30pm

Lord Harries of Pentregarth and former Bishop of Oxford joins Piers Plowright to discuss his new book and the whole question of religious faith in the modern world.

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**Burgh House**  
**New End Square**  
**NW3 1LT**

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[www.burghhouse.org.uk](http://www.burghhouse.org.uk)



# *Notice of the Annual General Meeting*

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Notice is given that the 119<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 2 June 2016 at 7:30 pm at St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 2PP

**The business of the meeting** will be as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 30 June 2015.
2. Election of Lord Hoffmann as President.
3. Chair's report for 2015–2016.
4. Treasurer's report on the Society's examined financial statements for the 2015 financial year and adoption of those financial statements.
5. Appointment of Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, as the Society's auditors for the current financial year.
6. Determination of membership subscription rates for the next financial year. The Trustees propose that there should be no change to the rates.
7. Election of Officers and other members of the General Committee.

## ***Officers***

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

<b>Vice President:</b>	Martin Humphery
<b>Chair:</b>	Marc Hutchinson
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Maureen Clark-Darby
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nigel Steward

## ***General Committee Members***

The following have been duly proposed for election for three-year terms: Jessica Learmond-Criqui, Douglas Maxwell and Peter Tausig.

Note: Tony Ghilchik, Vicki Harding, Gordon Maclean, Peter Noble and John Weston continue the terms for which they were elected.

8. Any other business

Information about the three candidates standing for election to the General Committee for three-year terms is set out on page 34.

Nigel Steward  
Secretary

25 April 2016



# *Annual General Meeting 2016*

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Est. 1897

*Please join us for our*

## ***Annual General Meeting***

*and*

### ***Reception***

***St. Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill***

London NW3 2PP

***Tuesday 2 June, 2016 7:00pm***

- 7:00pm**      **Reception** – Refreshments will be served. Trustees and Sub-Committee members will be present to talk about their work. Come and learn more about that work over the last year.
- 7:30pm**      **Annual General Meeting**
- 8:30pm**      **Guest Speaker** – Matthew Maran

### ***Matthew Maran***

Matthew Maran is an award-winning London-based photographer currently focusing on the wildlife and landscapes of Hampstead Heath. Working on a collaborative project with the City of London Corporation, he is showcasing the familiar and rarely-seen animals and habitats of the Heath. After four years photographing, the images and stories behind them will be published in a hard-cover book in June 2016 entitled Hampstead Heath, London's Countryside.

# ***Treasurer's Report for 2015***

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*by Maureen Clark-Derby*

## ***Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2015***

The Society is pleased to present its Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015.

The Society reviews its accounting policies each year. The Trustees are satisfied that the current policies meet the Society's needs and circumstances. These policies are disclosed on page 7 of the Financial Statements.

The operating deficit for the year was £3,967 (2014: £23,116).

In 2015 the Society made a small unrealised loss of £13 on its investments. The resulting deficit for the year was therefore £3,980.

Membership subscription income increased by 7% year on year: 2015: £20,957 (2014: £19,594). This percentage increase is due to new and renewed lapsed memberships during the year.

Dividend income slightly increased for the year – £227 (2014: £200). Interest income was down for the year – £207 (2014: £454).

During 2015 the Society conducted an appeal to raise funds for its legal costs incurred in connection with the Athlone House planning inquiry and High Court appeal. This appeal raised funds during the year of £1,812, which attracted £367 in Gift Aid. This gave a total received for the appeal of £2,179. The actual appeal legal costs were £8,834.

The Society's running costs, excluding exceptional costs, decreased by 9% in 2015 to £16,817 (2014: £18,503).

In 2015 the Society continued its efforts to increase membership and subscription income.

The Trustees believe that the Society's capital and reserves are satisfactory at £54,744, of which £21,042 is held in unrestricted reserves and £33,702 in restricted reserves.

The Society wishes to thank Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, for carrying out the independent examination of the Financial Statements for 2015. □

### ***Fisher Phillips Chartered Accountants***

Fisher Phillips is a proactive and forward thinking UK firm of Chartered Accountants based in North West London providing accountancy, taxation and business advisory services to individuals and businesses.

The Society is very grateful to Fisher Phillips for examining the Society's annual financial statements each year on a pro bono basis.

Contact: [info@fisherphillips.co.uk](mailto:info@fisherphillips.co.uk) T: +44 (0)20 7483 6100  
Address: Summit House, 170 Finchley Road, London NW3 6BP

# Heath Report

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by John Beyer and Lynda Cook

## ***Surveying the Ponds Project***

Entering the Heath at South End Green, the sounds greeting the visitor over the last months are those of trucks, generators, diggers and other heavy machinery. However, entering from Kenwood is still fairly tranquil as only gradually can one see and hear works on the Stock Pond. On Thursday 24 March this work was almost complete – except for the grass turf which will be planted on the spillway at the southwestern corner of the pond. A BAM Nuttall employee shared his appreciation of the beauty and unique qualities of the Heath which in troubled times throughout the world still provide calm and a sense of continuity – right in the middle of London; he has observed the cormorant and the grey heron as they visit this pond. He pointed out the new plantings of wild garlic and bluebells along the top of the dam and behind the newly restored iron fence.

Below the Stock Pond there are now two new small ponds or pools in which any surplus water coming from the culverts is retained prior to continuing down to the Ladies' Pond; these ponds will act as habitat for frogs, newts and other pond life. The Stock Pond will continue to be a "closed" pond protected from dogs, fishermen and humans.

Leaving the Stock Pond and walking on the path towards the Ladies' Pond, the veteran oak tree which fell over during the weekend of 19 March becomes visible. This large tree was very close to the path where there has been constant and significant heavy vehicular traffic; the question is whether this may have played a role in exacerbating pressure on the roots which were already in a weakened condition as a result of honey fungus.



*In the Model Boating Pond underneath the area of the new dam: 19<sup>th</sup> century oak revetments and, in the foreground, the remains of the entrance frame for the (still extant) underground pipe into the downstream Men's Bathing Pond.*

Work on the Ladies' Pond is intense at this time with preparations for the new changing room. From six in the morning until late afternoon on Tuesday 22 March, a stream of cement mixers made their way across the Heath from Parliament Hill and up to the Ladies' Pond where the new concrete platform on the dam was to be installed. Although the cement mixers travelled slowly and were preceded by warning vehicles, the amount of dust they caused was significant.

On Monday evening, 21 March, members of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group and the Community Working Group, attired in hard hats, steel-capped boots and luminous jackets, were able to walk down the slope to the drained depths of the Model Boating Pond and were able to see at close quarters the location for the foot of the new dam and to understand more completely the mechanics of the project. The temporary coffer dam separating the top two thirds from the lower part of the pond has been bolstered with a

## *Heath Report (cont)*

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clay bund which will be removed piece by piece; as each part is removed, it will be replaced by “good” clay to build the new permanent dam. The clay is obtained from the two fields above the Model Boating Pond where intense excavations continue. It was surreal to stand at the bottom of the drained pond and we were able to view and touch two ancient wooden structures (from the 19<sup>th</sup> century) which may have been used to collect silt to prevent it from going downstream – the ponds were originally dammed from the river to ensure a supply of drinking water. We also found some “ancient” mussel shells although other archaeological finds have already been removed.

The roadway above the Model Boating Pond constructed for vehicle movement has a noticeably permanent feel; it has been extensively used by HGVs and it needs considerable imagination to visualise the eventual removal of this path and restoration of the two excavated fields which are now deep borrow pits.

There are always onlookers who gaze with fascination at the ongoing works on the Model Boating Pond; they often include small boys who are brought there by their mothers so that they can enjoy the construction vehicles moving around at the bottom of the pond and making the perfect sounds.

Many visitors accept the upheaval with equanimity, particularly if they are not from London or are from abroad; one couple thought that the works were being conducted to improve the appearance of the Heath! However, local residents have been expressing frustration and concern and are accusing the City of a variety of wrongdoing, including “trying to destroy our Hampstead”.

Leaving the area around the Model Boating Pond and heading towards the Catchpit, an excavated field has been flattened in order to dry and store the silt from the Viaduct and Mixed Bathing Ponds. This silt will eventually be used to refill the borrow pits on the other fields. The Catchpit is located above the three major ponds on the Hampstead chain and is downstream only from the Viaduct Pond and indirectly below the Vale of Health Pond, both of which now have spillways and strengthened causeways. It is hard to imagine that, even in the nightmare scenario envisioned by the Panel Engineer, this huge new dry dam serves any genuinely useful purpose. Its construction has necessitated extensive excavations and borrow pits on Pryors Field, and on the adjoining field.

Below Pryors Field, the works on Hampstead No. 1 and No. 2 Ponds become visible. The steel pilings on Hampstead No. 2 will eventually be removed after the completion of the culvert. Work has commenced on restoring the bank of Hampstead No. 1; once the earth has been sufficiently turned over and aerated, Heath rangers will plant a variety of wild flowers and grass seed mixture. On the path exiting the Heath on to South End Green, it is possible to see the large labyrinth weir which is nearing completion. This weir alters the flow of any water coming towards it and will ensure that the water goes through underground culverts. The concrete is very visible at the moment but hopefully, once it has been covered with earth and grass, it will be less obtrusive.

The Hampstead Fair is in the process of setting up and the generators are, as usual, very noisy. As one leaves the Heath at South End Green and goes up Keats Grove, one is struck by the peace and calm of this street in striking contrast

to the present noise, dust and chaos taking place on Hampstead Heath.

### ***Kenwood Landscape Forum***

The Heath Sub-Committee is represented on the Kenwood Landscape Forum, and is involved through the Forum in advising English Heritage on how the grounds (and house) are run.

There has been a great deal of tree cutting this winter. We have been keen to understand the rationale for each piece of arboreal work (opening of views, health and safety, giving light for a specimen tree to flourish, coppicing) and to challenge judgements where necessary. We are also looking out for chances for judicious planting: the quarry area, which lost some trees to storm damage, has seen the addition of six scots pine saplings to join the mature trees already on the hillock.

Sadly, a fine oak on the House Drive had to be felled since it was considered to be at risk of losing a limb and thus injuring someone on the path.

At the Brew House, above the café garden, a Lawson cypress has been felled to let light into the newly planted bank; this completes the reworking of this garden, although there is a plan, funding permitting, to replace the wooden pyramids which stood there.

The mature oaks forming a backdrop to the Dairy have had their crowns reduced; there was a fear that, sitting as they do on the high point of the ridge, they would be vulnerable to wind damage. The crowning should stimulate lower growth and extend their lives. The crown reduction on the plane tree south of the Brew House seems to have benefited this magnificent specimen. □



*View from west to Stock Pond, showing new path and spillway (prior to grass seeding) which replace 23 trees (13 oaks)*

### ***Making & Unmaking***

**An exhibition curated by Duro Olowu**

18 June – 18 September 2016

This summer, celebrated fashion designer and curator Duro Olowu will fill all three galleries in the next in Camden Arts Centre's series of artist-curator shows. Including painting, sculpture, images, materials, costumes, objects and video that inspire Olowu's rich and eclectic approach to textiles, this group show presents colourful compositions alongside representations of costume and the body in portraiture. Including historic works by artists such as Meredith Frampton, Claude Cahun, Alice Neel and Anni Albers with new commissions by Glenn Ligon and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye as well as recent work by Caroline Achaintre, Alexandre da Cunha, Wangechi Mutu, Yinka Shonibare and David Hammons.

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since 1965

For further information  
on these exhibitions  
please visit  
[camdenartscentre.org](http://camdenartscentre.org)

**Camden Arts Centre**  
**Arkwright Road**  
**London NW3 6DG**  
**+44 (0)20 7472 5500**

# Planning Report

by David Castle

## Camden

We have received many comments agreeing with our critical view of the way that Camden's Planning Department does not take full account of local opinion and how the planning system is stacked in favour of development.

The enormous number of planning applications made each month to Camden, and the pressure to curtail the high cost of administering the system, must put an enormous pressure on those involved in Development Control.

The threat, each time an application is refused, that an Appeal will lead to large legal costs and an enormous amount of precious time in fighting an Appeal, must lead, as the Government intends, to a presumption in favour of approval, however many valid concerns are raised by those closely affected by the development.

Camden's administrative procedures keep both local residents and, in some instances, even their Councillors, at a distance, unable to get involved in the process of decision-making and influencing the decisions made. It does not have to be like that. There are large numbers of very well-qualified residents who would be willing to be involved in advising on and negotiating better developments or Section 106 agreements in Hampstead.



*"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

**The Society has now decided that, with other local groups, we will be campaigning to improve the ability of local people and groups to have more influence on all stages of Development Control.**

## Basements

Really excellent news. Camden have now decided to make an

Article 4 Direction making it necessary for all basements in all of the Borough to require planning permission. (Better late than never – the Society urged Camden to do this more than 5 years ago.)

## More Good News

Keats Community Library has just been awarded a Grade II Listing by Historic England. This, of course, gives protection from development – which is not surprising as it is in the most beautiful and historic garden of Keats House. Though a plain building, it does have an interesting history – the reasons for listing are worth reading (on Historic England's website).

## Pollution, Traffic Congestion and the Cycle Superhighway 11

The Cycle Superhighway 11 has already been discussed in the Annual Report in this Newsletter but I would like to add the following. We now know for certain that air pollution is a serious problem in all Hampstead

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but particularly in our roads – over-congested with cars and lorries. This pollution is a danger for all in Hampstead but particularly for young people, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers of cars and lorries etc.

The proposed Cycle Superhighway through Regents Park and Avenue Road will cause more congestion in surrounding streets, more rat-runs through residential areas, longer journeys for buses, lorries and cars, and more congestion on all our busy roads, all of which increase air pollution for everyone.

What we need in this part of North London is not a traffic plan that only considers cyclists' needs but a co-ordinated plan that considers the needs of all:

- to reduce congestion
- to reduce air pollution
- to encourage cycling and walking
- to improve conditions for cycling and walking
- to prevent unnecessary car and lorry journeys
- to increase the use of public transport
- to prevent rat-runs through residential areas or roads.

Not an easy set of inter-related problems – but worth solving.

Of course the best way to reduce dangerous and harmful air pollution would be to reduce or abandon the use of diesel fuel, which could be done by various means, though powerful vested interests, ignorance and inertia are at work.

### ***Improving the quality of new buildings in Hampstead***

Many of the new or altered buildings in Hampstead are of a mundane quality which do

not 'enhance' our wonderful Conservation Areas. In addition, the growing pressure by developers and applicants to insert as much as possible into every site or building leads far too frequently to buildings that are like 'cuckoos in the nest', dwarfing, over-looking and restricting sunlight to the surrounding gardens and houses. The planning Development Control officials often regard comments on the faults of a design as 'subjective' and consider that, in any event, such faults are acceptable when balanced against other planning gains.

The Society, together with the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum, is now amending the Conservation Area documents in order to strengthen the design policies and increase the power and content of the Design and Access Statement (required with all applications for planning permission); this will force designers to justify the decisions that have led to all aspects of the design and to show how the design both enhances Hampstead and has no unacceptable effects on neighbouring houses, trees, gardens or ecology. □



### **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](http://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.*

# Basement Survey

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## *Appeal to members*

Dear Members,

We need to alert Camden and the government that the current policies on basements and the way they are put into practice are not fit for purpose. Action is required!

Compiling evidence of damage that some basement construction is causing to our communal infrastructure, buildings and gardens is the best way to illustrate the serious issues that need to be resolved. We therefore urgently need to improve on, and build up, our evidence database.

In conjunction with CRAAC (Camden Residents Association Action Committee) who are canvassing all the wards of the borough of Camden on this matter, we would really appreciate hearing from you about any personal experience of basement problems in Hampstead.

Evidence that would be helpful to us would include:

1. Details of damage, including measurements and pictures of cracking and crack width that has occurred since basement work began, internal or external.
2. Where the damage actually caused exceeded the damage levels predicted before Planning Permission was given. These might include Burland Scale or crack width predictions.
3. Whether the damage occurred during the construction phase or after completion. Do you have dates of the start of digging out, when construction was completed, and when signs of damage appeared?
4. Details of doors and windows that no longer open or shut.
5. Evidence of partial collapse of extensions or parts of a building due to subsidence from basement digging-out or from foundation wash-out/erosion by released ground water.
6. Flooding of others' or your basement or ground floors.
7. Waterlogging of gardens; new appearance of springs or seeps following basement construction.
8. Damage, potholes or sinkholes appearing in the roadways nearby.
9. The collapse of drains, water mains or gas mains once newly diverted and constrained ground water washes out/erodes their foundations.
10. Trees ruined or killed despite assurances that they would be protected.
11. Cases where trees that were removed were not replaced.
12. Raised insurance premiums or refusal by your insurance company to reinsure your property.
13. Details of reluctance of a developer to make good any damage caused.
14. Legal costs and the expense of expert reports that left you out of pocket.



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15. Depreciation or difficulty in selling your property as a result of nearby basement work.
  16. Any other type of damage or severe nuisance (e.g. how long the noisy phase went beyond its permitted limits).
  17. Intimidation by the owner, the builder, or anyone else related to the basement work.
  18. If the developer was not part of the Considerate Constructors Scheme.
  19. Problems with your Party Wall Agreement.
  20. In the whole planning process, did you feel as well represented as the developer?

New basements also have problems themselves. Naturally, basement developers do not publicise them, but you may know of new owners or tenants who come across such problems.

It would be really helpful if you could send us details marking it 'Basement damage evidence' of your or others' experiences to:  
[info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk](mailto:info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk)

We would prefer to know the address where damage has occurred, but we also realise that some people want to preserve their anonymity. If this concerns you, please give us a number we can ring you on to discuss this in strict confidence and ensure that you are comfortable about what information we use, how it is shared and with whom.

We can reassure you that, if you request the evidence you give us



Photograph courtesy Andrew Morley

to be anonymised or limited with whom it is shared, we will strictly comply with your request.

We would also like to interview some of those who reply to us, but do understand that some people may find that recalling such past experiences can be traumatic. We do not wish to add to people's basement burdens, so please feel free to refuse us if we ask for clarification in response to any details you send us.

You may also be interested in signing this petition:  
<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/118471>

It is asking the government to impose a nationwide moratorium on basement applications and change planning rules. 100,000 signatures are required for this to be debated in Parliament, so any support you can give in signing and encouraging more signatures would be very welcome.

Thank you for in advance for any contribution you feel able to make.

Members of the Planning Sub-Committee of the Society □

*Photographs show some examples of collateral damage caused by basement construction*

# ***Town Report***

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*by Frank Harding*

## ***The Cycle Superhighway (CS11)***

No issue has, in my view, so galvanised the Hampstead community in recent years as the proposal to create a cycling Superhighway from Brent Cross through Swiss Cottage and down to Baker Street. It has generated much steam and anger; people who have never participated in demonstrations have joined groups making their views forcefully heard; meetings have been arranged and representatives of Transport for London (TfL) have been told in no uncertain terms how the people of Hampstead (and others in NW London) feel about the plans.

Whilst the Society supports the increased use of bicycles, it is particularly concerned at the increase in traffic that the CS11 will bring to the residential streets to which drivers are likely to resort to avoid the increased congestion and to the Village itself. Not only will those streets become bottlenecks themselves but there will be a significant increase in pollution in an area where the pollution levels are already too high and in many areas over the legal limit.

The Society is therefore in the process of rallying the local residents' associations throughout Hampstead to work together to object on behalf of their members to the scheme. It will participate in any submission to that effect and will support the residents of Hampstead in their fight.

## ***The Abacus School***

We continue to be concerned at the scheme to create a school in the former police station at the corner of Rosslyn Hill and Downshire Hill. At the time of writing, we are still waiting to see the relevant planning application which has still to be lodged and we shall comment on it when it becomes available. Meanwhile, we continue to express our concerns at the traffic and

parking issues the school would create in an already congested and polluted area of Hampstead. Whilst we acknowledge that there may be a need for an additional primary school of 210 pupils to serve the residents of the Belsize Park area, we believe that the new proposal for 420 pupils is overdevelopment and puts the school in the wrong place.

## ***Open Air Art Exhibition***

The arrangements for the exhibition to be organised together with the Hampstead School of Art are progressing. At the time of writing, we still await the input from Camden as to whether we can erect the screens to hold the artworks within the garden area in Oriel Place or, if not, in Oriel Place itself. The exhibition will be held on the following Sundays: 18 and 25 September and 2 October.

We encourage artists, local or from further afield, to submit works for display and sale.

Artists wishing to show their works, paintings, prints and sculptures will be invited to present them for selection to the Hampstead School of Art on the Tuesdays prior to the Sundays mentioned above between 10am and 3pm.

You will find a flyer with this issue of the Newsletter giving you more up-to-date information.

For the exhibition to be successful – and the Society certainly hopes and expects that it will be – we need not only the work of the artists but also the support and interest of our members and indeed all residents of Hampstead. So please make a note in your diaries of the dates and come along.

## ***Street Names***

For some years we have expressed our wish to Camden that the tiled road names which used

# Bye-laws of the Planning Sub-Committee

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*At a meeting of the General Committee on 21 March 2016, the Trustees approved a restatement of the first bye-law governing the Planning Sub-Committee. The restated bye-law, which defines the aims of the Planning Sub-Committee, is now as set out below. The restatement is notified to members in accordance with Rule 35(3) of the Society's constitution.*

## Aims

- 1) to consider all prospective developments and planning applications (including work to trees) made in the defined area of Hampstead\*, and take action\*\* as needed to cause improvement to, or refusal of, unsatisfactory proposals;
- 2) to consider any proposed changes in the visual and environmental qualities\*\*\* of Hampstead's buildings and spaces (if appropriate, in

conjunction with the Town Sub-Committee), and to take action as necessary;

- 3) to monitor Camden's Planning Policies and related administrative procedures which may affect Hampstead adversely and to take action which may improve those Policies or procedures;
- 4) to note changes in planning and environmental law, and changes in development trends, and report any changes of significance for Hampstead to the General Committee – with recommendation for action if appropriate. A summary report will be submitted to the General Committee annually.

The majority of the time spent by the Sub-Committee will be in the continuous attention required by objectives 1) and 2). Time spent on objectives 3) and 4) will occur as issues develop.

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*\* as defined by the General Committee.*

*\*\* whenever possible, "action" has to be limited to making objections and lobbying Camden, and encouraging and aiding local campaigns against unsatisfactory developments. Only when there is no local campaign should the Sub-Committee and the Society, with the agreement and support of the General Committee, lead a campaign against development.*

*\*\*\* "environmental qualities" include visual*

*matters, ecological issues, pollution and flooding but not traffic (except in so far as developments affect vehicle movement and parking, etc.). Of course, some issues (such as air pollution) affect Hampstead but can only be solved nationally and globally – though possibly ameliorated locally. These issues are included in Camden's planning documents and the Planning Sub-Committee automatically takes such issues into account when considering the potentially deleterious effects of developments.*

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to grace the streets in and around the Village be better maintained and that, where they are in need of replacement, they are replaced with tiles and not with the enamelled metal ones that are increasingly used. Camden has, we understand, included a provision for the replacement of the metal signs in its budget for 2016–17 and, although we do not expect them all to be replaced within the year, we are

pleased that a significant start on this programme has been approved.

## Plaques

Readers may have noted that we have recently erected a plaque to the late Sir Thomas Beecham, the conductor, on Bellmoor at the top of East Heath Road. □

# *The City of London Open Spaces Bill*

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*On 27 November 2015, the City of London Corporation deposited with Parliament a private bill to reform the law relating to the management of the City's open spaces, including Hampstead Heath. The Heath & Hampstead Society has been involved from the outset in the drafting of the Bill so far as it relates to Hampstead Heath and is pleased to support its enactment, which should take place in late 2017. Marc Hutchinson explains the legal and practical significance of the Bill for the Heath.*

In my Chair's Notes in the November 2015 Newsletter I sounded a warning over this important piece of private legislation since, as at the then time of writing, the final form of the draft bill (the "Bill") was not agreed. However I am pleased now to report that the trustees of the Society have resolved to support the Bill in its final form as deposited with Parliament. This article is a summary of the codification of, and changes to, the City's legal powers over the Heath contained in the Bill.

## **Background**

The City of London Corporation have been the owner and custodian of open spaces in or near London for over a century. Some open spaces were acquired by the City during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including Epping Forest in 1878, Burnham Beeches in 1880, and Highgate Wood in 1886; Hampstead Heath was vested in the City in 1989 following the abolition of the Greater London Council. At the present day, the City manages over 4,500 hectares of open space. As our President Lord Hoffmann has remarked, we are very fortunate to have such a financially beneficent and politically neutral body as the City to manage and protect London's greatest open space, the Heath.

The City wish to manage their open spaces on a consistent and rational basis but are handicapped in that endeavour by the anomalous, conflicting and piecemeal legislation which governs their various stewardships. The Bill, which is an attempt partially to resolve the City's predicament, applies to most of the City's

open spaces and, as a result of the Society's interventions in the drafting process, special provision is sometimes made for the unique situation of the Heath.

The Bill seeks, inter alia, to codify many of the City's (probably) existing implied or common law powers in relation to day-to-day management of the Heath. The plenary scope of those existing powers is an interesting legal question which was momentarily raised in the Dams Case, the judicial review brought against the City by the Society in the High Court in 2014. What were the legal constraints, if any, on the power of the City to manage the Heath according to their own subjective notions? Were they at liberty to do or authorise anything which a freehold landowner might do or authorise, subject only to the express restrictions in the 1871 Act? Or were they obliged to manage the Heath in a quasi-fiduciary capacity and exercise powers only consistent with the apparent intention behind the 1871 Act to preserve the Heath as an unenclosed and unbuilt-on open space? In the event, Mrs Justice Lang did not need to answer this (truly difficult) question in view of her interpretation of the Reservoirs Act 1975, according to which, as she held, Parliament intended to delegate to the statutory dam engineer the professional responsibility for specifying the mandatory standard of safety to be applied to the three Pond "reservoirs" on the Heath, a standard which Dr Andrew Hughes, the appointed engineer, ultimately decided was one of absolute (as opposed to reasonable) safety.

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**B I L L**

To make provision relating to the public open spaces under the management and control of the City of London Corporation; and for related purposes.

**W**HEREAS—

- (1) A number of open spaces outside of the City of London are vested in the City of London Corporation (“the Corporation”) for the public benefit as places of recreation and enjoyment, and under various Acts the Corporation has powers of management over those open spaces:
- (2) It is expedient to provide certain further powers of management in relation to those open spaces, with a view to clarifying in various respects the powers and duties of the Corporation, more effectually promoting and securing the objects for which the open spaces are held, and enabling revenue to be raised to be applied to those objects: 5
- (3) It is expedient to provide more effective powers of enforcement against persons who may act unlawfully in them: 10
- (4) It is expedient that certain of the provisions also be applied to open spaces within the City of London under the management of the Corporation:
- (5) It is expedient that the related provisions in this Act be enacted:
- (6) The objects of this Act cannot be attained without the authority of Parliament: 15

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

# *Open Spaces Bill (cont)*

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The Society agrees with the City that it is desirable, in the interests of certainty, transparency and conformity with current municipal practice, that the City's powers of management of the Heath should be expressly defined and relevantly codified.

## ***The Hampstead Heath Act 1871***

Most sections of the 1871 Act have been expressly repealed but certain key ones remain in force: section 12 requires the Heath to be kept "open, unenclosed, and unbuilt on"; section 13 prevents the Heath from being disposed of; section 14 prohibits the exploitation of its turf or trees for profit; section 15 empowers the City to "drain, level and improve," the Heath with a view to its use for "health and unrestricted exercise and recreation" and to plant trees; section 16 (whence the Society derives its primary charitable object) requires the Heath to be preserved in "its natural aspect and state" and to that end its turf and trees protected; and section 18 allows the erection of small "convenient or ornamental" buildings for the accommodation of Heath staff or "other public or useful purposes."

We like to think that the 1871 Act remains the primary and overriding legislation governing the Heath. It certainly remains the foundational piece of legislation but, alas, not the overriding one. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, various Acts were passed to facilitate the promotion of sport, recreation and entertainment on London's, and England's, open spaces, and many of these Acts were unthinkingly made directly applicable to the Heath, but without expressly repealing, or even referring to, the 1871 Act.

For example, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order

Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967 allows the owner/manager of an open space in London (which includes Hampstead Heath) to construct a vast array of facilities (and even permanent buildings) for public recreation and sport of all kinds. There are other enactments seemingly in conflict with the 1871 Act, such as section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 which authorises the promotion of every kind of entertainment on open spaces (including, for example, the construction of theatres and dance halls), and section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 which further provides for the creation, on England's open spaces, of recreational facilities such as camp sites, riding schools, golf courses, dance studios and facilities for water-skiing! The degree to which this later legislation has impliedly repealed the 1871 Act is a judicially unexplored and difficult question, and one which the Bill sensibly does not attempt to address. Lovers of the Heath should be deeply grateful that neither the City, nor the Greater London Council before them, have sought to exercise these post-1871 statutory powers in a way which would jeopardise the Heath's unique *rus in urbe* amenity.

At the Society's request, the new Bill (in clause 4(1)(a)) in effect repeats sections 12, 14 and 16 of the 1871 Act in order to remove any notion of their implied repeal by the Bill.

## ***Uncontentious clauses***

Most of the clauses of the Bill relate to management issues affecting every open space in the United Kingdom in this new century, and it is difficult to imagine why they should be opposed.



CHAP. lxxvii.

An Act for effecting a transfer to the Metropolitan Board of Works of the open space known as Hampstead Heath, and for enabling them to preserve, improve, and regulate the same; and for other purposes. [29th June 1871.] A.D. 1871.

WHEREAS there is in the parish of Saint John, Hampstead, in the county of Middlesex, an open space of large extent known as Hampstead Heath (in this Act called the Heath):

And whereas it would be of great advantage to the inhabitants of the metropolis if the Heath were always kept unclosed and unbuilt on, its natural aspect and state being as far as may be preserved, and if for that purpose the Heath were vested in the Metropolitan Board of Works (in this Act called the Board):

And whereas the Heath is situate within, and is, or is alleged to be, part of the wastes of the manor of Hampstead:

And whereas Sir John Maryon Wilson, Baronet, is or claims to be the lord of the manor of Hampstead, and he is or claims to be able, in conjunction with Spencer Maryon Wilson, Esquire, his eldest son, to make title in fee simple in possession to that manor, and they have entered into an agreement with the Board for the transfer of the Heath to the Board, subject to the sanction of Parliament, and it is expedient that the same be carried into effect:

And whereas it is expedient that the Board be empowered after the vesting of the Heath in them to purchase by agreement rights of common and other rights in and over the Heath, as far as they find the purchase thereof to be necessary for securing the benefit aforesaid, and to extinguish, limit, or regulate the same when purchased:

And whereas it is expedient that the Board be empowered to manage and regulate the Heath when vested in them, and that all proper powers for the several purposes aforesaid be conferred on them:

[Local.—77.]

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## *Open Spaces Bill (cont)*

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Clause 5 of the Bill allows for active land management of the Heath with a view to managing its characteristics and appearance as an open space with its flora and fauna: viz. the cutting or cultivation of trees, gorse, heather, grass or herbage, and the scraping of soil “for the proper management or husbandry of the [Heath]”. This probably only codifies the City’s existing common law powers.

Clause 8 of the Bill empowers the City to grant easements or licences in connection with utilities such as water, electricity or drainage, but always with a view to protecting the open space. This again codifies the City’s presumed existing powers. In its application to the Heath, the provision relates only to underground flood drainage pipes, electricity cabling, and gas, water and telephone connections.

Clause 9 empowers the City to enter into agreements with other highway authorities concerning the regulation (in every aspect) of vehicle traffic. The clause is directed principally at Epping Forest, where highways actually cut cross the open space. The clause is of minimal significance to the Heath itself but, by way of purely hypothetical example, the clause would allow the City to agree with the relevant highway authority the installation of traffic-calming measures on that part of Wildwood Road that divides Sandy Heath from the Heath Extension.

Clause 11 of the Bill allows the Heath Constabulary to issue fixed penalty notices for littering, for breaches of the Heath byelaws and for contraventions of certain provisions of the Bill once enacted. The Society very much favours this provision, which generally obviates the need for slow, procedurally expensive, evidentially cumbersome and

uncertain proceedings before local magistrates. The Heath has an ever-increasing annual number of visitors (currently 7 million) and the only way this pressure can be managed is by the prompt and consistent enforcement of the byelaws, the only purpose of which is, and has ever been, to protect the reasonable enjoyment of the majority of visitors. On-the-spot enforcement and associated fines are features of the management of most urban public open spaces in the United Kingdom.

Clause 12 empowers the City to issue community protection notices in relation to anti-social behaviour on the Heath in the same way as local authorities presently can in relation to such behaviour off the Heath.

Clause 13 compels suspected criminals to give their name and address to the Heath Constabulary.

Finally, clause 14 empowers the City to remove objects (e.g. motor vehicles) abandoned on the Heath.

### ***Possibly contentious clauses***

There are three clauses of the Bill with which the Society has been especially concerned.

#### ***Leasing out buildings***

Clause 6 confers revised powers to let out buildings. The buildings on the Heath potentially and in practice affected are the cafes, the five residential lodges for Heath staff, the bothies, and parts of the building at the Parliament Hill Lido not currently used in connection with swimming. As readers will know, the City already have power to, and in the case of the cafes (for example) do, let out Heath buildings on short term leases.

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Clause 6 confers two powers. The first deals with the case where the City have entered into arrangements for the provision of a public service or facility by another person or body (which the City have wide powers to do under existing legislation): the clause enables the City to grant leases of buildings in connection with those arrangements. The second deals with the case where a building is no longer required for the purposes of the Heath, in which case the City may grant a lease of it to, or permit occupation of it by, another person or body for some other use.

The Society was uneasy about the initial proposal to set the maximum permissible lease term at 21 years, given the absence of clear evidence as to why such a duration was commercially desirable. In its final form, the Bill provides a maximum of 15 years, save for exceptional and demonstrated circumstances which would justify a term of up to 21 years in order to secure investment in the building. All leases have to be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (see below).

### *Third party commercial use*

Third parties currently exploit the Heath for their own commercial purposes. Examples are commercial dog-walking and fitness class organisers. At present, it is unclear to what extent the City have the power to control this commercial use but, like the City, the Society believes that this must be formally controlled. Accordingly clause 10 of the Bill empowers the City to license commercial activity by third parties on the Heath. This power to license does not include the power to enclose parts of the Heath or otherwise limit public enjoyment of those parts in connection with the licensed activity.

The Society has received complaints from members and the public about the ever-increasing presence of commercial dog walkers, some of whom are purportedly supervising up to 10 animals at a time. One of our trustees recently accosted one such over her obvious inability to clean up after all her charges, only to be told: “I know I can’t catch all of them but I clean up after other dogs to compensate”. Indeed.

With the continuing increase in London’s and North London’s population and visitor numbers to the Heath, it is reasonable that the City should have power to regulate and, where necessary, prohibit third party commercial activity on it.

### *“Events”*

Clause 7 codifies the City’s power to stage, or authorise the staging of, events on the Heath. “Events” include ceremonies, celebrations, entertainments, conferences, exhibitions or filming. As I wrote in the November Newsletter, the Society’s paramount concern has been to prevent the possibility that this clause could be used to permit the staging of something like the Affordable Art Fair (currently held each summer in a large marquee on the East Heath Road fairground) in the core of the Heath. The Society’s apprehension was increased by the second recital to the Bill which 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”.

# *Open Spaces Bill (cont)*

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The City have confirmed that they have no intention to treat the Heath like a royal park and open it up to wholesale commercial exploitation (with rock concerts throughout the summer and a gigantic “Winter Wonderland” throughout the winter) and so have agreed a sub-clause, in relation specifically to Hampstead Heath, to the effect that no structure for an event can be erected on the Heath except on a part of the Heath which is already “built on”: essentially the car parks, fairgrounds and some sports areas. This is respectful of section 12 of the 1871 Act, which requires that the Heath remain an open space which is neither enclosed nor built upon.

## ***The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee***

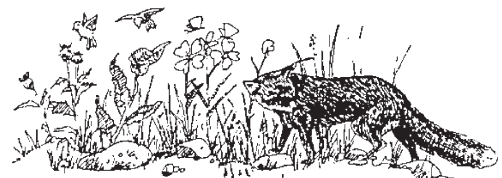
The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, a statutory committee constituted by an Order of the Secretary of State for the Environment made in March 1989, makes recommendations to the Hampstead Heath Management Committee, constituted by the same Order, for the management of the Heath, and the City is required under the Bill to consult with the Consultative Committee in relation to, inter alia, the leasing of buildings under clause 6, the licensing or activity under clause 10, and the authorising of events under clause 7. In relation to clauses 10 and 7 there are to be developed and promulgated policies regulating in detail the activities and events to be authorised. The Society is represented by Thomas Radice on the Consultative Committee and he will be liaising with the other Consultative Committee members to seek to ensure that the relevant policies are worded consistently with the spirit adopted by the City and the Society in relation to the wording of the Bill.

It is noteworthy that the Hampstead Heath Management Committee, the decision-making body for the Heath on which the Society is represented by John Beyer, almost invariably follows the majority view of the Consultative Committee, and the Society intends to rely on its influence on the Consultative Committee to ensure the ultimate delivery of satisfactory policies and the proper application of the Bill once enacted.

## ***Passage of the Bill***

It is not expected that the Bill will receive the Royal Assent until the autumn of 2017. The Society will support the Bill in its passage through both Houses of Parliament but there remains the possibility that its terms may be altered, either as a result of public objections to it (although the deadline for any formal petition against the Bill has now passed with only two petitions having been lodged by the Kennel Club and by a private landowner near Burnham Beeches, and we know that the Open Spaces Society, the Highgate Society and the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents’ Association, with all of whom we have been and continue to be in contact with respect to the Bill, will not oppose the Bill), or changes to it sought by members of Parliament themselves at the relevant committee stages.

We will keep the Society’s members informed of developments. The draft Bill and the Society’s supportive press release can be viewed on the Society’s website. □



## ***Air Pollution and Traffic – Part 2***

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*Stephen Taylor FRSA is a former trustee of the Society, Secretary of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum, and the Green Party candidate for the Barnet & Camden seat in the London Assembly. This is the second of two articles on a problem that directly affects us all. The views expressed in the articles are Stephen's own. He can be contacted at [stephen.taylor@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:stephen.taylor@greenparty.org.uk)*

The first part of this article described how two poisons in London's air – nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM) – are damaging our health. Nobody gets buried with a death certificate that cites air pollution as the cause of death. But the Kings College epidemiologists have shown that about 8% of all deaths in Camden – from strokes, heart attacks, respiratory disease – can be attributed to air pollution, which takes a year off every Londoner's life. (Not a decade, as the first article wrongly said.)

Not only do the poisons make us live shorter, less healthy lives, they also scar children, whose growing lungs are more vulnerable than adults'. A study has found London children with 10% smaller lungs than they should have, a capacity they will never recover, a lifelong vulnerability. This is of particular relevance to Hampstead: the Church Row Neighbourhood Forum counts twelve thousand school places in NW3.

The present levels of pollution have to come down. They break the law. Government has dragged its feet over this, both City Hall and Whitehall proposing to let the pollution continue a decade or more longer than the law allows. It is not hard to imagine why. Cleaning up the air will take work. While the poison is invisible and death certificates don't say "air pollution", it must have been tempting to treat the breaches as annoying technicalities. Now the Kings College studies reveal the cost of the poisoned air: 9,500 early deaths each year. A decade's "grace" in tackling this would shorten a hundred thousand lives in London alone. Last year legal charity Client Earth won a ruling

in the UK Supreme Court that the Government must present and implement a "credible plan" for reducing the pollution to lawful levels. And soon.

What does this mean for London – and for Hampstead in particular?

Begin at the source. Roughly half of the NO<sub>2</sub> is emitted by motor traffic, another quarter by domestic boilers. 80% of the particulate matter can be attributed to motor transport, a quarter of that to brake and tyre wear. (Even electric vehicles contribute.) Motor traffic is the source of most of the pollutants. This is illustrated well on the map of NO<sub>2</sub> levels shown on the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum's website ([hampsteadforum.org](http://hampsteadforum.org)). The highest level of NO<sub>2</sub> was recorded on Spaniards Road: a main road with woodland on both sides.

Rain falls and what the ground doesn't absorb must be drained away. It's tempting to think about traffic in the same way. Traffic exists and the roads must carry it. But the reality is that roads create traffic. In real terms, motoring has never been cheaper. Unless public transport is convenient and even cheaper, there will be as much motor traffic as the roads can bear.

The extent of the subsidy for motoring is little known. When the railways were privatised, a study was conducted to determine the entire costs of running the network. Railway campaigners applied the same principles to the road network and identified £50 billion a year in subsidies to motoring. For example, £7 billion a year in motoring-specific court and policing costs, paid by society at large.

## *Air Pollution and Traffic – Part 2 (cont)*

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Cheap motor transport has moulded the shape of our society. Long commutes for workers who can no longer afford homes in town. Startlingly high ‘food miles’ as produce is trucked around the country. Shopping malls: fantasy high streets marooned in vast car parks. And the school run, where faux-military vehicles like the Range Rover deliver children to schools through streets no longer considered safe for them to walk. All these features of contemporary life are heavily subsidised.

There are many actions to take to make the air safe, and we need to take most of them. Old and inefficient boilers are substantial

contributors; we should subsidise replacement. Also building insulation to reduce boiler use.

But the biggest emissions come from motor transport. While diesel engines produce less CO<sub>2</sub> than petrol engines, they produce 17 times more NO<sub>2</sub>. The last decade’s subsidies for diesels now look unfortunate at best! But we perhaps need another round of subsidies — this time for electric vehicles. (Electric cars also produce emissions, but at power stations, i.e. outside London.) 20 mph speed limits reduce PM emissions from tyre and brake wear. Categories of vehicles with high emissions – taxis, buses and HGVs – can be

targeted for improvements or replacement. (The expensive new Routemaster buses are bad polluters.)

London’s transport planners have another problem to solve at the same time. Back in the 1960s London’s population wasn’t growing. Planning a large role in transport for the popular and increasingly affordable private car must have looked smart. Half a century later we’re living with the results: choked roads and choking air. And the city’s population is now growing steadily.

How to keep the city mobile? The Underground network is jammed in commuting hours, and slow and expensive to expand. The Overground is making better use of suburban rail routes. Buses could carry more of us – if there were

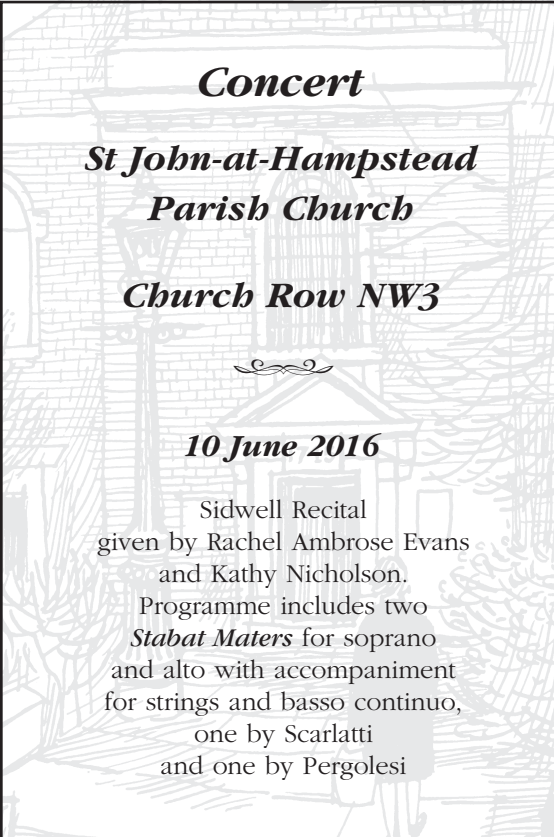


*Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels*

more road space for them. The fastest and far and away the cheapest way to free up road space is to help people use bicycles for some journeys. Which, according to surveys, is just what many Londoners would like to do – were the roads safer. Many more are already braving the roads even as they are. TfL studies show a quarter of journeys now made by car are under 2 miles. The best transport policy for reducing congestion and pollution is to tempt more people to make those journeys on bicycles. The Quietways and Cycle Superhighways are important parts of London's future mobility. Those of us who already use bicycles evidently can manage even without them; but more than anyone else, those of us who must use cars should be championing measures to reduce the number of other cars sharing the road with them.

In Hampstead the need to act on air pollution is particularly urgent. As a spokesman for the NW3 group pointed out at a recent public meeting to discuss the proposed Cycle Superhighway 11, schools are now a central part of Hampstead's economy. The Forum map shows NO2 levels 75% above legal limits at the top end of Arkwright Road, right next to three schools. That means children sitting, working and playing in the poisoned air all day long.

Grafton Road in Kentish Town offers some hope. Its north end is one-way at peak hours, preventing its use as a commuting rat run. Its NO2 levels are now no higher than the residential streets beside it. Highway engineers should look at some version of this for school-run hours on Arkwright Road and Fitzjohns Avenue and on other key roads, with compensatory cycle tracks and school buses to help schoolchildren and others into and out of the area.



**Concert**

***St John-at-Hampstead***

***Parish Church***

***Church Row NW3***

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***10 June 2016***

Sidwell Recital  
given by Rachel Ambrose Evans  
and Kathy Nicholson.  
Programme includes two  
***Stabat Maters*** for soprano  
and alto with accompaniment  
for strings and basso continuo,  
one by Scarlatti  
and one by Pergolesi

Camden describes Hampstead as poorly served by public transport. That could be changed, reducing reliance on private cars.

Online shopping generates many van deliveries. The logistics behind these are already remarkable. It should be possible to reduce the numbers of vans involved.

To improve mobility and make our air safe to breathe, the volume of motor traffic on London roads is going to have to fall. This is an opportunity to make London, and Hampstead in particular, healthier, quieter and more liveable. □

# *The Hampstead and Highgate Ponds*

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*In this appreciation Robert Sutherland Smith, a long-time resident of Dame Henrietta Barnett's Hampstead Garden Suburb, and founder and Chairman of the United Swimmers Association of Hampstead Heath, explains why he and thousands of people have delighted in swimming in the Heath's ponds down the years.*

The swimming ponds of Hampstead Heath and Highgate are both a physical reality and objects of history and imagination. As we know, they lie hidden between the green folds of the small hills of Hampstead's Heath which in turn, almost magically, itself lies hidden in full sight and out of mind in the midst of our great, bustling, motorised and pedestrian metropolis.

Their pure unadulterated waters spring from wells beneath the Heath, and swimming in them is, in my experience, an effective pastime for keeping both body and soul in sound condition. If questioned at the day of judgement, I shall hopefully plead mitigation on the ground that I was once involved, with many others, in

keeping them open to swimmers. Assuming that this answer proves heavenly sufficient, I expect to find Paradise looking uncannily like the swimming ponds of Hampstead Heath.

The fact that you can swim with fish and waterfowl a mere few miles from Oxford Circus is a kind of miracle. As you pull through the sparkling waters of a tree-shaded pond on a blissful summer's day, it is hard to imagine that, beyond the brims of the little hills surrounding them, a place called London actually exists – prompting you to wonder in reverie if the great, busy capital city may not simply be a mere hallucination or dream. It is as if you have been transposed into the watery landscape of a

different time in a painting by Constable or Poussin that is mysteriously hanging on a wall in the National Gallery: an imaginative leap which seems evidence of that observation by the once famous resident down below in Shoreditch, that “we are such things as dreams are made of...”. One's mind meanders as one swims the waters of the Highgate pond!



Photograph courtesy Ben White

*Highgate Men's Pond: morning mist*

Life at the swimming ponds of Hampstead is a rare surviving example of a long thread of social continuity in our capital city; a continuity that has vanished from much else in our constantly changing, dislocating, dehumanising and globalising world. For many of us over many years, the ponds and their denizens have been a constant presence in our lives. Swimming in them, as I have happily done, makes you aware of those other generations that have swum there before and causes you to wonder and care about those that will come long after you have gone. It is a 'club' – if that is not too defining a term – that anyone can join without ceremony or application; no little election balls like those used in a gentlemen's club two-sided wooden boxes, for a thumbs up or down: the kind of club which, because you do not have to join it, relieves you of the old Groucho Marx dilemma about not wishing to join a club that is willing to have you as a member. Joining the Hampstead and Highgate ponds micro-society takes no more than joining a crowd. You merely attach yourself, appearing unbidden and unnoticed, like another manifestation of nature.

Here, as people arrive and go down the years, you speculate about what has happened to them, when they disappear, not to be seen again: that thin, dark-haired man who once, years ago, used to lean silently against the upright support of the narrow corrugated shelter above the towel and clothes hooks; his eyes closed; quietly soaking up the warm sunlight; an insufficiently oxygenated cigarette hanging limply from between near somnolent and sagging lips. I used to spot him until, one day, he simply stopped coming. One wonders why and what happened to him, apart from vanishing into the ebb and flow of life that has



Photograph courtesy Oliver Perritt

*Highgate Men's Pond: roses in summer*

brought and taken people from these swimming ponds down generations? There are of course many such abrupt disappearances. Some individuals we know only through conversational hearsay recollection: Goldfish, the once much-talked-of individual who loved icy water so much that he was recruited by the Royal Navy for an investigation into the limits of human endurance when shipwrecked, happily sitting in tanks of freezing water for the empirical satisfaction of the Senior Service.

The notably youthful looking Rudi Strauss, Einstein's cousin, at a great age died blissfully one warm summer's day whilst contentedly asleep at the Mixed Bathing Pond after a good

## *The Hampstead and Highgate Ponds (cont)*

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swim. And the thousands of others who form the unbroken chain of humanity that has, down long generations, used and loved these blessed little swimming ponds of old Hampstead Heath. Some years ago, it was possible to see the then Lord Chief Justice of England as well as Camden's last 'rag and bone man' – a job description at variance with his aristocratic appearance – popping into the ponds for a swim on the same day; the only outward difference between them being the fact that Alf, the famous goatee-bearded rag and bone man, always wore a stylish Panama hat in summer and invariably smoked large cigars which made him look extraordinarily like King Edward VII. The similarity? They both came on bicycles.

As I pull through the sparkling waters towards the west bank of the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond in summer and the swaying willow trees that reach down to the cool waters there – where brilliant kingfishers perch and dart – thinking about some of those who have come and gone, I reflectively hum the tune of the grand and sad old hymn containing the words: "The ever rolling tide of time bears all its sons

away....". When I get to the bowing willows, my mood has lightened and I am humming the touching English music of George Butterworth's "The Banks of Green Willow"; you will know the lovely tune! He could have had this spot in mind. The changing beauty of these little ponds is central to their enchantment.

For those who swim here all year long there is the beauty of seasonal change. The sometime long, parching, hot summers, when Hampstead clay bakes as hard as rock and we worry for the lives of trees wilting for lack of rain – then the normally grassy hills turn into the gold of the Mediterranean. Next, by contrast, those early autumn mornings when the mist hangs swirling over the dark green waters of the ponds, as they are transformed into a scene more reminiscent of romantic Gothic, Arthurian legend; you almost expect to see an arm, fist clenching the sword Excalibur, suddenly appearing from the cooling waters. All is mystery and magic then.

And in deep mid-winter at dawn, the stark silhouette of bare and leafless trees, standing darkly skeletal against the streaming blood red crimson of early morning winter skies, the sun itself seeming to sometimes hang like a fiery cauldron caught amidst seemingly lifeless branches. The plunge into the cold waters at that moment, if not actually rendering it an almost near-religious experience, nevertheless makes it a personally spiritual one. Cold winter beauty at the swimming ponds of Hampstead is a challenging but life-recalling experience in which you remain not a refugee from winter but part of it, your emerging flesh a glowing rose pink in sympathy with winter's early morning heavens.

In the warm early morning air of high summer by contrast, the experience is different. Then,



Photograph courtesy Ben White

*Highgate Men's Pond: man and duck*

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the sheer summertime glory of the place makes it something else; almost an invocation of that other Eden and demi-paradise that Shakespeare's John of Gaunt proclaims England to be, in his final moments. The fish, the birds and the great trees along the banks amidst the little hills give these ponds a rare and intimate beauty to which only poetry, like that of Shakespeare, could do full and eternal justice. Is my appreciation of these little ponds going too far? I think not.

Where else in a great and seething city can you swim before breakfast, passing a grey heron fishing the same waters for his; or see one of those brilliant kingfishers dart across sparkling summer waters with laser beam intensity and speed, so fast as almost to defy the ability of the human eye to capture it? One of the great excitements of the swimming ponds is to feel the downbeat draft of the great wings of a mute swan as it passes just feet above your bobbing head, in one of its dramatic take-offs or landings. And of course, there are the crowds of ducks and ducklings in springtime, sharing bobbing space with you: coots, moorhens and their own offspring.

There are also the geese that visit these waters, croaking together like a chorus of garden gates with creaking rusty hinges in need of oiling – until the return of nesting swans who chase them away in scenes of vexed territorial disputation. The great mute swans are the autocrats of these waters; willing to suffer no creature to which they may, as they often do in the mating season, take exception; including us swimmers. To a swimmer, a ferocious, seemingly enormous spring-time swan bearing down on him or her at eye level, with injurious intent, is a little like being targeted by a man-of-war battleship in full sail, gun ports



Photograph courtesy Gavin Stannard

#### *Highgate Men's Pond in winter*

open. Then there are the elegant little arctic terns that come in darting flight, along with swallows and swifts in summer that weave and dive for insects. And in winter those untidy, wing-spread rope-perching cormorants that look not so much like birds as broken old umbrellas thrown into the ponds by passing vandals.

The easily-forgotten fish of these ponds also put in their appearances, but never on cue. Sometimes, when the water is particularly clear, you may glimpse dozens of small fish teeming around the jetty as you enter the water to join them. Sometimes a single fish will leap out of the water in front of your nose, presumably to escape a bigger unseen predator below. And sometimes a great carp will haul itself out of the deep, causing a momentary sensation of surprise and a second's sensation of alarm, before vanishing again below the surface, leaving you and the pond as if nothing had occurred.

If St. Francis of Assisi had been a swimmer, it is here, one suspects, that he would have chosen to swim, in this demi-paradise full of brother fish and sister duck. Although he probably never

## *The Hampstead and Highgate Ponds (cont)*

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Photograph courtesy Sarah Sands



*Kenwood Ladies' Pond: diver*

made it to the ponds for a swim, others may have done. William Blake may have known these ponds if, as legend says, his parents once ran a small school in Highgate Village. I like to suppose that his reference to those dark satanic mills and English hills might have been prompted by the scene of the mill and windmills from old Millfield Lane nearby. More certainly, it was on the banks of the old River Fleet that St. Augustine, sent by Rome to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons, built the first Anglo-Saxon church. Had he been able to navigate that far, he might have built it on Hampstead Heath and not in what is now Kings Cross. In any event, I think there is sufficient legendary evidence to name the ponds – really dammed rivers – as sacred – a bit like the Ganges!

And finally, of course, there are the literary associations to the Hampstead and Highgate ponds. Mr. Samuel Pickwick was accepted into his own famous Pickwick Society by industriously, and no doubt cheerfully, writing a paper on the sticklebacks of the Highgate ponds. Dickens, who grew up in poverty in Camden Town and eventually lived in Highgate

Village for a while, may even have been at the ponds when the idea of Mr. Pickwick came to him. I like to think so. The idea of Samuel Pickwick and Tracy Tuppan at the ponds seems an engaging one. And you wonder if, in the imagination of Dickens mind, he saw Bill Sykes in his flight from the City, after the murder of Nancy, crossing the Heath near the ponds on his way to catch transport along the Great North Road, out of Middlesex into Hertfordshire?

Famously, the poet Keats was introduced to the poet Shelley in Millfield Lane by Coleridge. They say that Shelley had floated paper boats in the ponds of Hampstead as a child. Could Keats, who lived across the Heath, have been for a dip that day? Probably not, given his sickly condition. However, his gravestone in distant Rome does carry the epitaph that his name was writ in water. Had Byron been in the party, then we could more safely assume that a swim in the ponds would have been something that he would almost certainly have had. Nor do we know whether the young John Betjeman was summoned by bells to swim in these, his neighbouring ponds. He probably did, knowing that all children like water, even Edwardian ones.

And did Ian Fleming, who once lived nearby, take a dip in these ponds? Eton, after all, teaches most things, including river swimming. If he ever did, then it may reasonably be concluded that his fictional Commander James Bond also did so by association; after all, Goldfinger, who was a real if only architectural villain, also lived nearby.

Bond would of course never have been allowed to swim in the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond because he was a man; but Rosa Klebb could easily have done so. I like to think she did! □



## ***Summer Events at Keats Community Library***

**Friday 3 June at 7:30pm**

**Michael Palin  
in A Celebration of John Betjeman**

*At the Peter Samuel Hall, Royal Free Hospital*

John Betjeman was born in Parliament Hill Mansions and grew up in Highgate West Hill. He had a lifelong attachment to the architecture of our lovely surroundings, founded The Victorian Society, became Poet Laureate and was much loved for his nostalgic television programmes. Michael Palin is a great admirer of his work and this evening celebrates Betjeman's life and his local connections, through Betjeman's own words.

Tickets: £15 from the library or online at [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)



**Saturday 2 July 2–4pm**

**Beatrix Potter Garden Party**

*A lovely family day in the Gardens of Keats House and The Library*

Celebrate Beatrix Potter's much loved characters, with rhyme-time, storytelling, colouring table and crafts, a Treasure Hunt with prizes, and delicious tea and cake provided by Gails. Sponsored by Goldschmidt and Howland, this is a Hampstead Summer Festival event.

Come and enjoy our beautiful gardens, and let us entertain the kids for you.

Entrance: £5 per child, adults free



**Children's Library**

**Every Tuesday and Friday at 10.30am: Rhyme-time for children 0–4 years. £3**

**Friday at 4pm: Story-time for 3–7 years old. Free**

**Saturday 2:30pm: Chess for children 6–12 years. £5**

To join our Family Mailing List and hear about our Art and Creative Writing classes for children, or our Events Mailing List for adults, email: [keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com)

**Keats Community Library, 10 Keats Grove NW3 2RR Tel: 020 7431 1266  
[www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk](http://www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk)**

# *Candidates for Election or Appointment*

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## **Elected**

**Jessica Learmond-Criqui** is an employment and immigration solicitor. She has lived in Hampstead for 28 years. She joined the Heath & Hampstead Society over 13 years ago and has served on the Society's Town Sub-Committee since 2007 and as a trustee on its General Committee since 2013. She has been involved in the planning work of the Society and is particularly interested in the independent shops in Hampstead; she spearheads the Hampstead Shops Campaign, a volunteer group, highlighting the importance of, and campaigning for, independent traders and retail diversity, to foster a sense of community for both residents of and visitors to Hampstead. The Campaign seeks to balance and bring together the interests of landlords, local traders and residents to keep the high street served by more independent shops that people really want and need. The Society's Hampstead Card scheme is part of this initiative. Jessica is a governor of Brookfield School and UCL Academy.

**Douglas Maxwell** is a chartered architect and runs a project management and consultancy business. He studied at Cambridge University and then worked in architectural practice before becoming a project manager working on major developments for Mace and Bovis Lend Lease, including the new Home Office. He was born in Hampstead and has lived here ever since. His family has a long-standing connection with the Society and his late father, John Maxwell, was the author of the annual report on the butterflies of Hampstead Heath. Douglas joined the Society in 2003 and became a life member in 2010. He became a member of the Planning Sub-Committee in 2008 and its chairman in 2010. Having stepped down from the role of

chairman in 2013, he has diversified into other Society activities relating to planning. Douglas has a broadly-based understanding of the town planning system and the planning, design and conservation of the built - and unbuilt - environment. His other interests include sailing and virtually anything to do with boats.

**Peter Tausig** After an initial career in the Australian Treasury and finance, Peter went to work in the area of international banking, primarily as a director of SG Warburg. He switched careers on retirement to become chairman of both medical Research Ethics committees for the Royal Marsden and Thames Valley hospitals. He has been a member of the Heath & Hampstead Society for over 20 years. He has served on the Heath Sub-Committee since 2003 and became a trustee on the General Committee in 2005. He is a founding member and trustee of Heath Hands - the volunteer conservation group for Hampstead Heath - and a committee member of the Downshire Hill Residents' Association and a board member of Hampstead Theatre.

## **Appointed**

**Robert Linger** is a chartered accountant by profession and was an audit partner in Arthur Andersen until his retirement in 1997. Born in 1941, he has lived in and around Hampstead all his life and, accordingly, has accumulated a considerable understanding of its ethos, history, architecture and literary and artistic associations. Since his retirement, Robert has been involved in a number of local community groups. He joined the Society's Town Sub-Committee in 2008 (becoming closely involved with the restoration of the Spaniards Tollgate House, and the new heritage signposts in the Village), and the General Committee in 2010, where his

responsibilities continue to include membership promotion and have included the staging of the Society's recent series of art exhibitions at Burgh House. His more general interests include architecture, current affairs and most sports, whilst his collection of local art and antiquarian books provides him with a wealth of valuable reference material. His wife, Angela, is also a lifelong local resident and their children and grandchildren live nearby too. □

### ***Appeal for Press Officer***

The Society would like to appoint, on a voluntary basis, a press officer. The Society needs occasional help with managing its public profile and reputation, particularly with non-members and the Press. The

Trustees would like to hear from any member with a professional background in journalism who might be prepared to help the Society generally and, in particular, with respect to controversial local issues. It is not intended that this be a full-time or onerous role. Any member who wishes to discuss the possibility of assisting is invited to contact the Society's Chair, Marc Hutchinson.



### ***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](mailto: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.

### ***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](mailto:info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk)**

## ***John Smithard***

3 February 1928 – 12 February 2016

John arrived in Hampstead relatively late in life. In 1996 shortly after his retirement from the International Planned Parenthood Foundation he decided to leave his flat in Knightsbridge and look for a relatively more rural life, a flat on one level with a garden and close to many friends in the area. He found all this in Buckland Crescent and lived here very happily until his death. A lifelong Tory, his liberal tendencies meant that he found Hampstead a most congenial environment and led to his involvement in the Heath and Old Hampstead Society (as it then was) where he held various offices and was an effective and valuable Treasurer for over 15 years. He was also a trustee on the board of Hampstead Wells and Campden Charitable Trust.

This was not John's original background. His father was an army officer who had died at the age of 46 when John was only twelve and when his older brother had been killed in the RAF and his sister Rosemary had joined the WRENS. Through his mother's efforts he gained a place at Wellington College on a scholarship for former army officers' sons and from there, after his military service, he went to Hertford College, Oxford, where he read Greats. Keen to begin an independent life he found a job in Bombay working for Forbes Campbell starting in 1952 and ending only when he came back to England in 1967.

John loved India and the opportunity it gave him to make many friends and to play an

important part in the cultural life of both the Indian and the expatriate community. He did this by producing, directing and acting in many theatrical productions, most importantly the annual Bombay Gymkhana Club Rugger Review, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and many others.

He joined IPPF as an international fundraiser when he came back to London. His convivial personality and love of travel worked well for him in this role. Gradually, however, his increasing disability began to hamper him. In 1962 John had contracted polio - endemic at the time in Bombay. It left him paralysed in his right leg and continued on its cruel, inexorable progress for the rest of his life.

John had an encyclopedic knowledge of film and theatre (he was runner up in the television "Film Buff of the Year" in 1986). This was the abiding passion of his life. It sustained and absorbed him and after his retirement he carried on going to the theatre, the opera and the cinema while he had enough strength to do so.

Most of you can only have known John in his disabled physical state, but he was certainly not disabled mentally. His mind stayed sharp and his opinions outspoken and provocative. His stoicism and courage in bearing and struggling against his disability will leave a lasting impression on all those who knew him. □

*Renate Olins*

# Bulletin Board

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## ***Pamela, Countess of Listowel***

17 November 1935 – 10 February 2016

*Pamela, widow of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Listowel, was a leading member of the Society who served for many years on the Heath Sub-Committee. In 2013, at the age of 77, she campaigned publicly against damaging basement construction in Hampstead. Her daughter, Diana Voss, writes:*

I am touched that the Heath & Hampstead Society wishes to bid farewell to my mother, Pam, a long-time supporter of the Society.

Mum lived by the Heath, whether the Garden Suburb or Hampstead, for 50 years and was never without a dog to walk daily. Mum, as do so many, valued and enjoyed the Heath: meeting and greeting fellow dog walkers, marvelling at the change in the seasons – the joy of the first greening, the exuberance of youngsters playing in snow, viewing London wreathed in mist from the top of Parliament Hill.

The Heath is also a healing place. As her Alzheimer's advanced, Mum was able to find calm in its openness & timelessness – walking familiar routes and becoming absorbed in nature's beauty – a "perfect" feather or an autumn-tinged leaf.

So thank you to all those who are striving to preserve the Heath for the benefit of us all. It is so much appreciated. □



**HAMPSTEAD  
SUMMER  
FESTIVAL**

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## **COME AND JOIN THE SUMMER FUN!**

The ever popular Hampstead Summer Festival returns in 2016 with even more arts and cultural events for all the family. All funds raised will be donated to Age UK Camden Henderson Court, Keats Community Library, and Hampstead School of Art - three very worthy causes that depend on the festival contributions to continue their vital work in our community.

**Art Fair** / Whitestone Pond

**Sunday 26th June, 12pm-5pm**

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**Keats Community Library Garden  
Party** / Keats Grove

**Saturday 2nd July, 2pm-4pm**

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**Big Fair Day** / Heath Street

**Sunday 3rd July, 11am-5pm**

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**Find out more at:**

**[hampsteadsummerfestival.com](http://hampsteadsummerfestival.com)**

# Heath Walks: June – November 2016

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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](http://www.burghhouse.org.uk)).

**NB:** *parking is extremely difficult locally, especially in spring and summer; the 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 (9:30am 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 £5, to be collected at the beginning of each walk, to help support future walks programmes 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.*

**Further information** from walks organiser, Thomas Radice,  
mobile: 07941 528 034 or  
email: [hhs.walks@gmail.com](mailto:hhs.walks@gmail.com)



**5 June 2:30pm** (meet at the Café, Golders Hill Park) Identifying trees in Golders Hill Park led by Bettina Metcalfe, local tree enthusiast and member of the International Dendrology Society

**3 July 2:30pm** (meet at Burgh House) The Ponds Project: what is it all about? led by Thomas Radice and Lynda Cook, members of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee

**7 August 2:30pm** (meet at the cattle trough and flower stall, Spaniard's End, near the Spaniard's Inn) The Hampstead Heath Extension led by Tony Ghilchik, Trustee of the Society and member of the Heath Sub-Committee

**4 September 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

**2 October 2:30pm** (meet on the South Terrace, Kenwood House) Identifying trees on the Kenwood Estate led by Bettina Metcalfe (see previous details)

**6 November 10:30am** (meet at the Flagstaff, by Whitestone Pond) The City of London's conservation work on the Heath led by Jonathan Meares, Trees and Conservation Manager (Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood), City of London

Details of walks between September 2016 and April 2017 are currently being finalised and will be available shortly on the Society's website

[www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk](http://www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk)

[@HandHSocHeath](https://twitter.com/HandHSocHeath)