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The Heath & Hampstead Society **NEWSLETTER**

January 2018

Vol 49 No 1

'Tree Reflections in the Sandy Heath Pond'

by Marc Hutchinson

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Front cover: ‘Tree Reflections in the Sandy Heath Pond’ was taken by Inna Alden, the latest winner of the Society’s #myhampsteadheath photo competition. □	

New website

The construction of our increasingly sophisticated new website took longer than we expected. The launch date is now Friday 2 March 2018. We are intending, over the next 12 months, to add a significant amount of new material to it, including making available some sections of the website to Society members only. Perhaps the feature of which we are most proud is the inclusion of an interactive map of Hampstead Heath (based on the Google map). You will be able to take your smartphone on to the Heath and, by accessing the map via the app, receive information on points of interest of all kinds: historical, ornithological, ecological, social, sporting etc. We are very grateful to the City of London Corporation who have allowed us to use some of the material from their existing visitors’ map.

We would welcome feedback from you in relation to the new site, not least because one of its particular features is the ease with which we can make changes, including to its format, accessibility and search functions.

The site also enables members to join the Society, or renew their annual subscriptions to it, by debit or credit card using the PayPal platform.

Recruitment

We had a very successful recruitment drive at the Hampstead Christmas Fair when we signed up 25 new members and handed out over 250 application forms. At the time of writing, I do not have reliable numbers for the overall increase in membership since that event or indeed about new members recruited via the estate agents’ scheme to which I referred in the October 2017 Newsletter. However, I shall report on these numbers in the May 2018 Newsletter.

Chair's Notes (cont)

South Fairground site – Vale of Health

Camden commenced formal enforcement proceedings in December 2017 requiring the owner of this site (which is Metropolitan Open Land) to demolish the buildings which she has erected on it. On a related matter, along with the Vale of Health Society, we protested at the peremptory removal of the trees on the site. The owner of the site gave notice to Camden of her intentions, as she was bound to do given that the site is in a conservation area, but Camden's tree officer did not feel able to issue tree preservation orders in relation to the particular trees. We and many others were disappointed with this outcome, but we have had from the officer the courtesy of an explanation as to why he was unable, in accordance with existing law and practice, to preserve the trees in question.

North Fairground site – Vale of Health

At the time of writing there has not been a decision from Camden in relation to this application, which is universally opposed, for a certificate of (proposed) permitted use of the land to allow the erection upon it of up to 12 "static caravans".

Open Spaces Bill

The passage of this Bill through Parliament was delayed by the last year's general election. However, the Bill has now proceeded unopposed through its House of Lords reading and is expected to receive the Royal Assent this year. The Society was instrumental in drafting the Bill in relation to its application to Hampstead Heath, and is currently working with the City to prepare policies in relation to events on the Heath and the licensing of commercial activities on the Heath such as dog-walking.

You can go online to one of the committee hearings in the House of Lords to hear the City Remembrancer explain and comment on the Bill: <http://parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/d3b6428b-d2cb-4e2e-a99d-5c984359b03b>.

St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill

The construction by the Royal Free Hospital of the new Pears immunology building has always posed a potential threat to the stability of the Grade 1 listed Teulon church adjoining the construction site. The technical disagreements between the respective experts advising the two parties have been serious and long-running. Because the latest disagreement, over the soundness and credibility of the construction management plan, is in essence one of distinguished expert opinion, the Society has not been able to support the position of one side rather than the other. However, throughout the planning process and the campaign of objection to the proposals, the Society has attempted to play the role of honest broker between the parties, and was, at the end of last year, instrumental in persuading Camden, as the planning authority, to ask its independent reviewer, LBH Wembley, to analyse the competing claims of the parties' experts and expressly to comment upon them. This was beyond LBH Wembley's original brief and not in accordance with usual practice in this situation.

Thus, LBH Wembley, on Camden's instructions, issued a revised independent review of the detailed basement construction plan in December 2017, and in it LBH Wembley have concluded that the plan does indeed satisfy the requirement in the applicable section 106 agreement, that the plan demonstrate that there will be *no* material damage to St Stephen's from the works. The revised review devotes seven additional pages to responding to the concerns and challenges of the

objectors and their experts. If Camden councillors are in due course satisfied that the relevant requirements of the section 106 agreement have been met, construction is likely to begin this Spring. The Society would not support any proposed judicial review to challenge the decision of Camden in this context because judicial review is not a forum for a judge to rule on the relative merits of the differing technical views of experts. You can read some more on this matter in the Planning Report.

Hampstead Card

We have been attending working groups convened by the Business Improvement District (BID) for Hampstead and, as a result, hope to be able to expand significantly the number of traders who participate in our Hampstead Card scheme. We expect that additional outlets will be ready to have their addresses and details included in the next list of participants which will be issued in with the May 2018 Newsletter.

Legacies from members

We have received legacies from the estates of the late Alison Mary Bolton (£2,000) and Jean Papworth (£5,000). Legacies are an important source of income for the Society and we are very grateful to these late members for remembering us in their wills.

Sub-Committees

Heath Sub-Committee

I need to note the retirement from the Heath Sub-Committee of two very important figures in the life of the Society.

John Hunt, a former chairman of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society, served on our Town Sub-Committee from 1997 to 1999 and then

joined the Heath Sub-Committee in 1999, on which he has served ever since. He also served as a trustee of the Society on its General Committee from 1999 to 2005. From the beginning of his involvement with the Society in its centenary year, John has been one of its stalwarts. Apart from regularly leading birdwatching walks on the Heath for the Society, he has also been always available to contribute his expert knowledge on ecological matters generally. John ceased to live in London some years ago and, partly for that reason, he felt it was time to step down. We marked the occasion by holding a lunch for him in Hampstead at which we presented him with a painting, by local artist Jenifer Ford, of the Mixed Bathing Pond.

The other retirement from the Heath Sub-Committee is **Peter Tausig**. Peter is a founder of the charity Heath Hands, the large volunteer body who assisted the rangers and other Heath staff in maintaining the Heath in its wonderful condition as a wild and open space. Peter has served on the Heath Sub-Committee since 2003 and, since 2005, has been a trustee on the General Committee, a position in which he will continue to serve as an elected member. The Society is very grateful to Peter both for his initiative in the creation and enlargement of Heath Hands and for all his other work to protect, and educate people about, the Heath. The lunch mentioned above was also in Peter's honour.

John is replaced by Professor Jeff Waage OBE who, having trained as an ecologist, has had a career in international development, agriculture and environmental science. He is an amateur naturalist and a volunteer for Heath Hands.

Peter is replaced by Pete Mantle, a professional gardener specialising in wildlife-friendly gardens

Chair's Notes (cont)

and their restoration. He has 40 years' experience as a bird recorder.

We extend a warm welcome to Jeff and Pete.

Town Sub-Committee

Martin Thompson was appointed to chair that committee as from last year's annual general meeting but, with great regret, has had to step down from that role owing to work and other commitments both in England and overseas. The trustees are very grateful that another member of that committee, Anousheh Barbezieux, has agreed to serve as acting chair of that committee until the 2018 annual general meeting.

Springett Lecture

A date for your diary: Thursday 25 October 2018 at Burgh House where the guest lecturer will be Lindy Guinness on the subject of Constable's paintings of the Heath.

Christmas party

We held another very successful Christmas party on 7 December at Burgh House and it was a pleasure to welcome over 120 members and guests to that event.

On behalf of the trustees and committee members of the Society, may I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year. □



Photograph courtesy: Marc Hutchinson

Lunch for John Hunt and Peter Tausig to mark their retirement from the Heath Sub-Committee

Annual General Meeting: 13 June 2018

Elections to General Committee

Officers

The existing President, Vice-Presidents, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer propose to stand for re-election.

Other members of the General Committee

If the above Officers are elected, there will be four vacancies on the General Committee.

Tony Ghilchik (former Chair of the Heath Sub-Committee), having completed his first term of three years as an elected member of the General Committee, wishes to stand for a second term of three years as an elected member of the General Committee.

Dr Vicki Harding (Tree Officer and member of the Planning Sub-Committee), having completed her first term of three years as an elected member of the General Committee, wishes to stand for a second term of three years as an elected member of the General Committee.

The maximum number of members of the General Committee is 20. If the above persons proposing to stand for re-election are both re-elected, there will be two vacancies on the General Committee. There is no constitutional requirement that these vacancies be filled.

Any future resignations or changes to the above election proposals will be promptly announced on the Society's website.

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, this is now 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

Nominations by Society members for elections to the General Committee must be received by the Society in writing before 15 April 2018 in accordance with Rule 21(4) of the Society's constitution. The Society's constitution can be viewed on the Society's website.

Guest speaker: our guest speaker at the AGM is Piers Plowright. □



Heath Report

by John Beyer

City of London Heath Vision

The City formally adopted the Community Vision for Hampstead Heath in November 2017, which we published in the last Newsletter. The City's next step is to look at ways to implement the Vision, turning the "poetry" of the vision into the prose of action plans. The Heath Sub-Committee intends once again to be fully involved in the process (involving consultants New Philanthropy Capital). We aim to ensure that the implementation of the Vision does not allow any departure from our desire to keep the Heath wild.

Open Spaces Bill: Policies

As outlined in the Chair's Notes, the Open Spaces Bill is on its way to receiving the Royal Assent this year. When the Bill comes into effect, the City will need to have a range of policies to implement its provisions. The Heath Sub-Committee has already provided initial thoughts on what policies should be adopted for the regulation of professional dog-walkers. (We are for example suggesting that the maximum number of dogs for any walker be six.) We have also provided ideas on what would be appropriate for an Events Policy for the Heath. (We favour the status quo in terms of

the type, number and location of events, and the need to restrict activity to specified areas.) We are now participating in a consultation run by the City on what sort of new events (if

any) might be permitted in the future, how applications for events might be made, and who would have to agree to them.

Quarterly walks

Our quarterly walks with the Superintendent and Heath staff continue to look at the Heath, section by section. We examine what the City intends to do in its Annual Management Plans and specialised Compartment Plans. On-site debate helps to build a working relationship with the City on Heath issues, a relationship which complements our comments in more formal gatherings such as the Consultative Committee and Management Committee.

In October we walked Preacher's Hill and Pryor's Field. To give some examples of the questions we address, the Sub-Committee suggested planting willows along Willow Road so that the area lives up to its name (although suspected changes in the water table may account for the deaths of some willows along the road). It was agreed to clear the bramble along the banks of Willow Road to enable better access, and to keep the area open for children to play. On Pryor's Field, we deliberated in detail the area of bramble which we think should be preserved, attempting to strike a balance between ensuring sufficient bramble cover to enable Common Whitethroats to nest successfully, and control of bramble to preserve open space and control scrub.

Kenwood concerts

There will once again be concerts in the grounds of Kenwood during the weekends of 15–17 June and 22–24 June. For details, see <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenwood/events> □

Photograph courtesy: GardenBird



Common Whitethroat

Planning Report

by David Castle

The reduction in the number of planning applications during last year has been dramatic. This is probably due to the fall in the value of the pound and concerns about the effects of 'Brexit'. The number of foreign buyers of houses and flats has apparently reduced, house prices are stable or falling, and developers are more cautious.

Good news for the existing fabric and community of Hampstead – but probably just a temporary lull.

Possibly not good news for Heath House though, which is still covered in scaffolding and plastic. It is a disgrace that this house has been unoccupied for at least forty years. The interior has deteriorated almost totally during that time. All original fire-surrounds, plaster and mouldings, and fittings have disappeared. Only the shell is left. The present owner/developer is now considering extending it and bringing it back to use – but will the current situation delay such building work, and leave this prominent Listed house with such an interesting history unused and encased in scaffolding?

Jack Straw's Castle - application to build two houses

This application is for two small houses with no external space; they could be labelled 'cramped vertical flats'. What is more, they are



"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

built in the service yard and parking area for Jack Straw's Castle and can only be approached across a car park – both unpleasant and dangerous.

It could be that the current lull in development is causing the applicant to think twice, and we have heard that Camden will recommend refusal.

It is a great pity that the Jack Straw's Car Park site was not designated as 'Metropolitan Open Land' (MOL) when many of the gardens and spaces adjacent to the Heath have been so designated. It certainly should have been. 'MOL' is a very positive and helpful designation giving protection to the Heath and its fringes, as it prevents the construction of new or further building on the designated land and gardens.

Campaign to designate more land on the fringes of Hampstead Heath as MOL

The application to build on what should be MOL at Jack Straw's Castle has highlighted the fact that there are other sites on the fringes of the Heath which, if developed, would seriously and adversely affect it. The Society, together with the Highgate Society, is now considering how best to persuade Camden to add further sites to the MOL register. This will take some time and success is unfortunately not guaranteed.

Planning Report (cont)

Camden's assessments of BIAs and CMPs

My apologies – yet more acronyms: BIA stands for ‘Basement Impact Assessment’ and CMP for ‘Construction Management Plan’ – though many will know this, and will know too that both can be required for planning applications. They are important for attempting to protect those people and buildings threatened by the proposed construction.

Camden Planning officials are in a difficult situation when it becomes necessary to judge the BIA or CMP made by the professionals employed by the applicants, and the often totally different and contradictory statements made by those employed by those campaigning against the proposed building. As Camden has no in-house experts, they have to employ a ‘referee’ to make a judgment – having assessed all the objections – about whether the BIA or CMP is satisfactory, and that planning permission can be finalised. The referee often asks for further or revised information before agreeing that all is satisfactory.

The proposed Royal Free Hospital Immunology Unit and St Stephen's Church

The Society is very concerned about the possible severe damage which could be caused to St Stephen's Church (Listed Grade 1) and the other adjacent buildings by the vibration and excavation during the building of the Immunology Unit (the Pears Building). During a very long process, the first BIA and CMP were considered to be inadequate and a further full ground investigation, analysis and construction management plan were demanded. After another long delay, the plan was finally placed on Camden's website, and drew further severe criticism from the experts employed by the campaigners against the proposal.

The Society, concerned that this criticism was not going to be considered by Camden's referee expert, arranged emergency meetings with Camden and with the Royal Free to ensure that the concerns raised would be taken into account.

A revised assessment has now been placed on Camden's website and concludes:

“It is considered that the Detailed Basement Construction Plan meets the requirements of the S106 Agreement and that it has been reasonably demonstrated that the development can be constructed safely in the light of the ground and water conditions and that ground movement can be controlled such that impact on the neighbouring properties is limited to ‘Category 0 (negligible)’ in accordance with the Burland Scale.”

These words are the conclusion of a lengthy process. Even so, it is good to see that the Detailed Basement Construction Plan includes emergency provisions in case the monitoring of the Church and neighbouring buildings shows that, contrary to the prediction, structural movement is taking place.

Of course, a Party Wall Award, which is not an issue dealt with under the planning system, also gives neighbours some limited control over building work which could affect their own buildings.

Appeal refused at 28 Redington Road

This is very good news.

28 Redington Road is a fine detached house with a large garden containing mature trees. Crucially, it is designated as ‘contributing’ to the Conservation Area, which should give it protection from demolition. However, many such houses have been demolished because the developers have successfully argued that, on

balance, more is to be gained by, for instance, building more dwellings on the site.

Gradual demolition of houses in a road eventually erodes the special qualities for which the area was originally designated a Conservation Area.

In this case, the developers withdrew the planning application before Camden could make a decision and appealed, as is their right, on the basis that it was taking too long for a decision to be made. Camden then decided that the application would have been refused and consequently fought the appeal.

The house was saved by a well-organised campaign led by Harlan Zimmerman with the help of neighbours and local groups including the Society.

We hope that this success will help save the next such house which developers attempt to destroy.

The Society has drawn Camden's attention to this problem of gradual demolition in a Conservation Area and Camden have said they agree that it is a problem, and that they are preparing a document to give more protection against demolition of individual houses in Conservation Areas. □

Guided Walks of Hampstead's Historic Plaques

12 and 19 May 2018

With Blue Badge Guide Julia Male

The Society is repeating the historic Plaque walks of last year through and around Hampstead Village to discover where some of its most famous residents lived and worked. They are commemorated by the English Heritage blue plaques and the black oval plaques of the Society, some of which are on Hampstead's landmark buildings.

Blue Badge guide Julia Male will be leading the latest in her series of popular and entertaining walks taking in the plaques which mark the homes of, amongst others, the politicians Ramsay MacDonald and General de Gaulle, the artists John Constable and George Romney, the pioneer for womens' rights Marie Stopes, and the writers Daphne du Maurier and John Galsworthy.

The walks will be on 12 and 19 May: morning walks cover the area to the west of Heath Street and afternoon walks the east and south of Heath Street.

The meeting point for both the morning and afternoon walks is at the entrance to Hampstead Underground station at 10:30 and 2:30 respectively. Each walk will take approximately two hours, the morning walks ending close to the station and the afternoon walks at Burgh House.

The cost of each walk is £10 per person, and group sizes are strictly limited.

To reserve your place(s), please email: frankaharding@btinternet.com
and send a cheque for £10 per person for each of the walks,
made payable to The Heath & Hampstead Society, to:
Frank Harding, 11 Pilgrim's Lane NW3 1SJ

Please include your **name, address, telephone number** and your **email address**,
and **note which walks** you would like to book.

Town Report

by Anousheh Barbezieux

A police presence in Hampstead

At the time of writing there has been no change in the position from the previous report regarding the submission of a revised application for planning for Abacus school. The former police station therefore remains empty whilst various suggestions have been made regarding a police presence in Hampstead. There continues to be much concern at the rise in moped crime and the lack of policing on the streets which, due to budget restrictions, the police are unable to address satisfactorily. We understood that new “crime” cameras, in replacement of mere “traffic” cameras, are to be installed in 2018.

Traffic

The flow of heavy traffic through Hampstead continues to be of concern. Reports in the press have indicated that, although the overall CS11 scheme has not been approved, major changes to the Swiss Cottage gyratory system are going to go ahead thereby increasing congestion and traffic through residential streets and through Hampstead Village. This could be made even worse when, as seems increasingly likely, the demolition of 100 Avenue Road and the erection of a new building take place there. Whilst there has been no further progress on this matter since the previous report, we will continue to canvass the support of residents’ associations in the area and monitor any progress.

A letter has been sent to the Mayor of London regarding the 168 bus terminus and South End Green Traffic Survey. The response suggested that Transport for London is satisfied with the current arrangements for the buses.

Environment

Further to the previous report, largely due to the efforts of Town Sub-Committee member Robert Linger, Camden has agreed to plant four new London plane trees in the High Street. Locations have been identified and mapped. This should take place by March 2018.

Slow progress on the re-opening of the garden area of Oriel Place is being made and, following meetings last summer, the local interested parties continue to press for a satisfactory design. Local councillor Stephen Stark will be following up progress with Camden.

Camden have taken delivery of traditional ceramic tiles to be used in repairing and replacing Hampstead street names. A previous survey of damaged and missing tiles will be updated so that Camden can receive the information to complete the project.

Pressure is being applied to Camden to introduce additional electric car charging points, as Camden appears to be the London borough with the smallest request for government monies to fund the expansion of charging stations for electric cars.

There are still problems with refuse collection, and this has been raised again with Camden. In the meantime, the situation is being monitored.

Plaques and plaque walks

Julia Male, an authorised London Guide, conducted four very successful historical walks in October 2017 along some of Hampstead’s streets, pointing out both English Heritage and Heath & Hampstead Society plaques whilst commenting on the lives of those commemorated. Further walks are being held in the Spring of 2018: see page 9.

A paper is being prepared for consideration by the Town Sub-Committee following a suggestion that a plaque, or some other listing, be erected on the South End Green Railway Bridge or in the Station, listing notable people who had lived on or near South End Green.

Membership drives

The Heath & Hampstead Society stall at the Hampstead Christmas Fair in the High Street was very successful in signing up 25 new members on the day. Many more membership application forms were handed out, many of which have already been returned.

A membership promotion stall was established at the Saturday Hampstead Food Market which has brought in one new life member. A meeting with the market manager will be held to discuss his plans for the future and how the Society can best support the amenity.

Toll Gate House

There has been no real progress in finding a tenant for the Toll Gate House. A surveyor from Camden has reported that the building is in good condition. However, confidential discussions are taking place with a local church with a view to finding a viable use.

Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum

The Town Sub-Committee has been asked whether it thought the Forum should continue in existence beyond October 2018, when its role is due to be formally completed. It was agreed that the groups involved with planning matters (Society Town and Planning Sub-Committees, the Neighbourhood Forum itself, the Hampstead Business Improvement District and Camden councillors) should get

together to decide how best to continue their collective work in ensuring that Hampstead remains a lively, contemporary neighbourhood whilst retaining its cultural heritage and unique open spaces. They would, among other things, have to monitor actions taken by Camden to implement the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan, once agreed. □

Members' email addresses

Are you missing out?

Keeping you informed of the latest news and events.

The Society is increasingly using email, to let members know of vital issues that crop up between Newsletters.

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

If we do not have your email address you may be missing out on important local and Society news and initiatives.

So, if you have not already done so, please do send your email address to the Society at:

info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk

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

This will also enable us to update our membership records and simplify our communications with you.

Photographing Hampstead Heath

Matthew Maran, award-winning wildlife photographer and publisher of “Hampstead Heath – London’s Countryside”, was the speaker at the Society’s 2017 Springett Lecture at Burgh House. On these pages he shows a few of what have become his best-known photographs of Hampstead Heath and its wildlife.

I had a wonderful and warm welcome in the perfect setting to present my talk at Burgh House for the annual Springett Lecture.

It was a joy to present to a packed room and the audience helped me through with a fantastic response and great questions at the end. It was also a good opportunity for me to share some work from my latest projects in Devon and urban foxes close to home where I live in South Tottenham.

Of course it wouldn’t have been right not include some Hampstead Heath images. Many of the Heath & Hampstead Society members have seen the photographs from my book on Hampstead Heath but it was nice to share some of the stories behind these pictures.

Sharing some video clips was also a treat, and telling the behind-the-scenes stories about my efforts as a wildlife photographer shows what goes into capturing great images. □

Hampstead Heath Calendar

A brand new calendar for 2018 featuring the best images throughout the seasons from Matthew Maran’s hardback book

“Hampstead Heath, London’s Countryside”

Available from: www.matthewmaranshop.com



Lime Avenue, Hampstead Heath

Saving Trees In Hampstead

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

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

info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk



The woodlands can be a magical place to shoot, especially in autumn. The Heath has so many deciduous trees, and the colours at this time of year are amazing

Up to my neck in my wetsuit in the Highgate Men's Pond: the great crested grebes were a joy to photograph and the timing was fantastic as they just raised a second chick and accepted my presence



Photographing Hampstead Heath (cont)

The Heath presents so many familiar scenes and fantastic views, so getting up early before dawn is such a treat when the light and misty foreground combine to give atmosphere to the picture



Kestrels soaring high above Pryor's Field. These birds presented the greatest challenge when photographing for my book as their unpredictable behaviour meant I needed to spend many hours in the field



Lime Avenue is one of the most iconic walkways on Hampstead Heath and creates depth when photographing from either end. Of course, nice light and beautiful colours add to the composition



The Mallards at Hampstead No.1 Pond – the quintessential urban wildlife image from the Heath

Photographing Hampstead Heath (cont)

*The robin
photographed
on the Bird
Bridge was
crowd favourite!*



*I wanted to also
illustrate how so
many of us
connect with the
Heath. Seven
million visit the
Heath every
year, so it was
important to tell
the story that this
is a place where
animals and
people can
cobabit*

Hampstead Shops, Caffe & Characters

Broadcaster and writer Piers Plowright reminisces about life in Hampstead in the years 1945 to 1995, with additional memories from Alan Byrne who lived in Hampstead in the '60s and Anthony Skyrme who still lives here.

I was born at 9A Church Row in 1937 but my Hampstead memories really begin when my mother, sister Susannah and I were brought back by my just-demobilised doctor father to live at 21 Church Row in 1945. Not many cars, lots of small shops and independent cafés and restaurants often run by idiosyncratic owners and staff. Here are some random memories.

At the east end of Church Row, where it meets the main road (Fitzjohn's Avenue) and opposite, was *Fords* the

greengrocers, presided over by jolly Jack, small, white-coated, and sporting an Arthur English spiv moustache. My mother ordered all her fruit and veg there, always on account, which was delivered to the house, and eventually paid for. Moving north past the *Three Horseshoes* (now reduced to One), was *The Two Blues Bakery And Café* – in the '60s this became (and still is) *Louis Patisserie* – run by the two Miss Birketts, soft-spoken women who always wore brown. The ginger cake here was mouth-watering and my father, not a greedy man, couldn't get

enough of it. Opposite – where Tesco now is – was first, *The Express Dairy* (you can still see the stone inscription on the wall and there was a machine outside which gave you a pint of milk for six old pennies) and, later, *Macfishbertes*, a branch of the fish chain, whose fishy smells drifted out across the tarmac. (Incidentally, I only remember tarmac but my father said the roads in Hampstead Village were all soft surface when he first came there in the '20s).



Photograph courtesy: Piers Plowright

My christening 1 March 1938; my doctor father, Oliver, and my mother Molly

Hampstead Shops, Caffe & Characters (cont)

On the same side of the road as Macfisheries, the last shop before *The Everyman Cinema*, was a sweet-shop, crammed with great jars of gob-stoppers, liquorice allsorts, butterscotch and mints. Sweets, like most things, were still rationed, so we'd go up with our ration books to see what we could get from the large and terrifying woman with arms the size of other people's legs who frowned behind the wooden counter. Her husband, much smaller, scurried around her. Near it, in the '60s, was a dry-cleaners, *Achille Serre*, with a picture of the Eiffel Tower in the window and – until recently – Hampstead's only Greek Taverna, *Mykonos*,

where most dishes seemed to cost 6/6 – six old shillings and six old pennies.

The Everyman, which had opened as a theatre in 1920 (Noel Coward's 'The Vortex' had its premiere there), became a cinema in 1933 – it was opened by Sir Gerald du Maurier. After the Second World War it was taken over and run by the Fairfax-Jones family who lived in the Vale of Health. Mr F-J, a solicitor and film-fan, made it a legendary art-house cinema which showed Italian neo-realistic masterpieces like 'Bicycle Thieves', German classics – I particularly remember 'The Blue Angel' –, the films of Satyajit Ray, every great French film you can

think of – by Jean Renoir, Jean Cocteau, René Clair, Jacques Tati and Max Ophüls –, Japanese cinema including everything by Olmi and Kurosawa, the Ingmar Bergman canon – 'The Seventh Seal', 'Wild Strawberries', 'Summer With Monika' –, and whole seasons devoted to American comedy, in particular the Marx Brothers, which left my father insensible with laughter. He took me to everything – I think it cost about one old shilling (5p) when we first went – and I can remember a slide coming up in the middle of a love-scene or a shoot-out or a dance-routine which had written on it in green letters: **WILL DR PLOWRIGHT PLEASE RETURN HOME AT ONCE!** A medical emergency. I can't remember if I had to leave with him.

The staff at The Everyman were splendidly eccentric, or seemed so to me; the man who stood by the



Photograph courtesy: Piers Plowright

In the garden

box-office checking the tickets had only one arm, the woman behind the glass wore gypsy-style shawls and lots of beads, and the projectionist was a transvestite who sometimes came to work as a man and sometimes as a woman. It was a magic place.

Outside Hampstead Tube, Bob the newspaper-seller (cap, muffler, and gloves in winter) was a large and convivial presence who suddenly disappeared one spring (cancer, I think) – and everybody missed him. Newspaper-sellers in those days still called out the names of the papers, in particular in the evening when there was a choice of three papers whose names rang round the street corner, in a rising and falling cadence: “*STAR* (up), *NEWS* (down), *STANDARD* (down then rising sharply on – *DARD*)!”. Inside the station, past where the ticket offices are, was a public loo with handsome copper pipes and a couple of cigarette machines.

A little above the tube station and past Back Lane was the very popular burger restaurant, *Maxwells*, where all my family ate. It had a series of descending eating areas which gave diners the exciting feeling that they were going into a benevolent ‘Underworld’.

If you carried on up Heath Street you passed several busy pubs: *The Nags’ Head*, *The Cruel Sea*, *The Coach And Horses*, and at least two more I can’t remember (actor Peter O’Toole drank in most of them – he lived in easy drinking distance at *Guyon House* on the right opposite *The Mount* – see Ford Madox Brown’s iconic painting ‘Work’, now replicated in the courtyard of Burgh House).

On the right on the corner of New End was *The Cresta Restaurant* run by an idiosyncratic

Polish count and his English wife. The food was good but erratic and, when the Count had had a bit to drink, he could lose his temper, draw an ancient cavalry sword and drive customers from the premises.

Coming back down the hill, if you turned left into New End, *The New End Hospital* was on the right – it had a full A&E service in my childhood and teenage years. Opposite was a greasy spoon caff which did an excellent Full English but whose proprietor was a bit odd and, a little further down *The Duke of Hamilton* pub (still there) and *The Morgue* (where the New End Theatre used to be and where a Jewish study centre now is). *The White Bear* pub –



Fowler's hardware shop and The Bird In Hand

Hampstead Shops, Caffe & Characters (cont)

another of Peter O'Toole's drinking holes (though he was often banned from it) – stood, where it still stands (but empty now) almost opposite the studios, one of which (before my time) had belonged to the painter Mark Gertler. (Gertler also worked at Penn Studio at 13A Rudall Crescent, off Willoughby Road lower down the hill.)

Carrying on down New End, *Burgh House*, Hampstead's noblest building, on the left, was a shabby set of Council offices until rescued for the community in the '70s. Lower down, on the junction of Gayton Road and Willow Road, *The Well Walk Pottery* opened sometime

in the '50s, taking over from a corner stores that must have been there from before the Second World War. The Magarshack family who lived over the pottery shop – David, the translator from the Russian, his characterful wife Elsie (a Yorkshirewoman, whose birth was attended by the same doctor who'd been at Charlotte Brontë's death-bed) and Christopher the son, a brilliant potter. The shop flourished until the end of the '90s but then Chris became ill and now the **SHUT** notice hangs on the door and dust settles on the pots and stained-glass inside.

Turning left into Flask Walk – a step or two back from the pottery – you passed a heavy studded double door set into the brick wall (it's still there). This is supposed to have come from Newgate Prison. Just round the corner is the grand gateway to Gardnor House. For a while, after the war, this was a small and genteel hotel. I remember visiting a friend there and being served afternoon tea in the garden by a white-aproned, white-capped maid. Quite a bit later, in the '70s and '80s, Kingsley Amis and Elizabeth Jane Howard lived there and coming home from work on my way back to Well Walk (where I lived from 1976 to 2013) I would see KA at his desk in a wine-red smoking jacket.

Opposite Gardnor House, the Wells and Campden Baths and Wash Houses did brisk business until the early '60s. Very few houses in Flask Walk or New End had bathrooms – it was a poor area until gentrification began in the '60s – so people came along for their 3d (old pennies) hot baths, harsh towels and chunky soap provided.

When our boiler broke down in Church Row, my sister and I would be sent to be washed, steamed and dried in the bath houses. Now two very elegant flats lie behind the old exterior.



Photograph courtesy: Piers Plowright

My father leaving 21 Church Row for the last time in 1980, carrying his doctor's bag

On the left as you went up Flask Walk towards the High Street (before the shopping precinct), a bow window marks the spot where *Hawkins Bakery* was until, I would guess, the late '50s. Mrs Hawkins, another enormous woman, did the serving – I think Mr Hawkins was out back doing the baking – and a very fat ginger cat would sun itself in the window, sprawling amongst the loaves!

More or less opposite the baker's shop lived the Pearly King of Hampstead, Bert Matthews and family. Bert had two jobs: rat-catcher – he used to come round to us in Church Row because we kept chickens in the garden and the rats were always stealing the eggs and sometimes killing the chickens – and jellied-eels salesman. He would set up his wheeled-stall at the corner of Back Lane on a Sunday.

At the top of the hill as you reached the pedestrian bit, *Head's The Butcher* was on the right opposite *The Flask* pub (it's a nail-parlour now). Mr Head was tall, pale, with a shock of black hair, powerful eyebrows, a jaw like Laurence Olivier's, and enormous hands. He and his shy and gentle son, and assistant, Sid, were purveyors of meat to rich and poor. If you were rich, you could run up a tab – most shops did that for wealthier clients – and your meat would be delivered by the shy and gentle son on his bicycle. When Mr Head retired, in the '60s, the shy and gentle son disappeared, and Sid took over. Sadly, Sid had a head for drink but not for business and ran the shop into the ground. One morning, he was found hanged in the room above the shop.

Another suicide ended the life of another tradesman, *Mr Knuckle* (have I got his name right?!) the fishmonger, whose shop was on the right, a little past The Flask pub. I'm not sure

what the cause of *his* downfall was, but his body was found, weighted down with stones, in the Mixed Pond on Hampstead Heath sometime in the '50s.

In the same row of shops there was at least one greengrocer/fruiterer, a hairdresser – *Kiki* (where *'Enery 'Iggins* now is), two second-hand book-shops (*Keith Fawkes* still survives), and a strange shop run by an elderly woman who sold second-hand clothes – including school uniforms – for children. Everything was clothes pegged onto clothes lines and you had to rummage about in the half-dark to find anything.

When you reached the High Street, you could turn right to a luxury grocers (where Ryman's now is) and a branch of Sainsbury's, or left past a tobacconists and *Fowler's*, an old fashioned hardware shop – one of the pottery urns that stood in a wall niche over the shop front is still there – and go past (or in if you were of age and liked a good old sawdust floor, horseshoe bar, pub), *The Bird In Hand*. It's Café Rouge now (after being *The Dome* for a while) but



Photograph courtesy: Piers Plowright

My sister Susannah and I in the living-room of 21 Church Row, Christmas 1949

Hampstead Shops, Caffe & Characters (cont)

you can see the Truman Brewery symbol and a medallion of said bird and hand on the wall. Many years later, when I was running the BBC Radio 2 soap *Waggoners' Walk*, the script-writers and I wanted to run a story about an alcoholic pub landlord in the Hampstead area. Groping about for a name, we came up with Charlie Payne. And blow me down, I get an indignant call from the landlord of The B in H one day. His name was Charlie Payne and he was not best pleased. I made a point of not going in for a pint. A friend remembers that Charlie never went behind the bar but always sat on a stool in front of it with the customers.

Still on the same side of the road, where a newish flat development stands, was *The Blue Star Garage* with petrol pumps – plus attendant – and then a run of wonderful shops: *Stamps* *The Chemist* – you can still see the name in a

mosaic floor design as you enter today's boutique and Mr Hill, the manager, used to see us off personally at the door (I suppose my doctor father gave him a lot of business); and *Knowles-Brown Watches, Clocks – Jewellers*. In the elegant bow window, happily still there, were things to amaze, including a small brass dog that told the time and stuck its tongue out every second, and a slightly larger painted man with a Jeremy Bentham hat and a working pendulum in his stomach. There was old Mr K-B, usually in the back room with an eye-shade mending or adjusting clocks and watches, and young Mr K-B, who was small and smooth and struck a hard bargain.

On the corner of Gayton Road and the High Street was a chippie and, next door to it, a greengrocer. A strange tousled man who slept rough on the Heath throughout the year would wander in every morning for his breakfast and, sometimes, a change of clothes. The other side of Gayton Road was *The High Hill Bookshop*, run by the very well-read and rather irascible Ian Norrie, who sold wonderful books, including a marvellous selection of children's books – though he seemed to dislike children and could be fierce if one of them made a noise. When he closed in the '70s as Waterstone's opened, I decided to stage a one-man protest and marched up to Waterstone's (it had been a *Woolworths* all my childhood, smelling of floor-polish and plastic) intending to shout out: *WE HAVE A PERFECTLY GOOD BOOKSHOP DOWN THE HILL AND DO NOT WANT YOU THANK YOU VERY MUCH!* Of course, I did nothing of the kind, and deserted, with many other High Hill customers, to the new glamorous emporium. Just past the bookshop, across Willoughby Road, was *The King of Bobemia* pub with a lovely sign



Photograph courtesy: Heritage-explorer

The greengrocer's shop at 76 Hampstead High Street with The Bird In Hand public house and Hampstead Underground Station in the distance

showing King Wenceslas and his page stepping out into the winter cru-u-el.

Down the hill, a bit further on the right in Shepherd's Walk, was and is the *Postal Sorting Office*, where a young Alan Byrne worked as a Christmas student postman amongst the banter and not saying 'no' to a glass of sherry at 8am offered by a nearby cottage.

On the corner of Willoughby Road where it meets Haverstock Hill, Maggie the redoubtable had her flower-stall – she was there for 60 years and, since she died in 1974, must have started at the beginning of, or just before, the First World War. There's a plaque in her memory on the wall. With a face like a rock-carving, heavily shawled and mittened, she was out in all weathers. I have a feeling she was related to Bob the newspapers and, like him, she just vanished one day. Opposite her, across Willoughby, was a launderette (one of two, the other one being next to the Coffee Cup – see below). Snappy Snaps photography and camera shop is there now. And, a little further down the hill, on the left, *The United Dairy* premises, on a smaller scale than the Express. Lower still was *The Rosslyn Arms* which changed shape several times, becoming *The Bar Room* – now closed.

Coming back up the High Street and crossing over, where Prince Arthur Road curves in, was *The Stansfield House Subscription Library* which my mother belonged to. It was a wonderfully shabby old place with not much in the way of modern fiction and run by

several rather nervous old ladies. One day I went in and said to one of them: "I wonder if you have a book..." I got no further. "Oh, a book!" she quavered as if I'd asked for something quite outrageous and started flapping around the desk. I can't remember if she found one.

Next to the subscription library were a couple of restaurants that kept changing their names – at one point one of them was called *Fagin's Kitchen*, and there was *Cyrano's* and, later, *Zen NW3* in the new glass building where *Côte* now is. Next door, where the post office now is, was *Rowland Hill Car Showroom*. Two long plate-glass windows full of handsome cars: Lagondas, Humbers, Bentleys. And a salesman or two in double-breasted suits lounging among them. I was rather car-mad in the '40s and '50s, so used to press my nose against the windows, dreaming of speed and ownership.

The William IV pub is still where it always was, flying the rainbow flag nowadays. And the



Photograph courtesy: Piers Plowright

My father in the garden of 21 Church Row in the late '50s

Hampstead Shops, Caffe & Characters (cont)

Crepe Caravan outside must have arrived in the late '60s/early '70s. I can remember queues snaking around the corner, winter and summer. Rather exotic French crêpières (is there such a word?) used to make the pancakes and I was fascinated by them and the process.

Crossing Perrin's Lane, you passed, and still pass, arguably Hampstead's oldest surviving café – Louis Patisserie may just take that title – *The Coffee Cup*. Both our daughters were waitresses there. Peggy Jay, champion of Hampstead rights vowed to lie down in the road in front of it when developers threatened to move in, and solicitor, historian and wreck hunter, Rex Cowan, led the troops against them. It survives, under new management, but with wooden panelling, outside canopy and many clientele, intact.

A greengrocer and fruiterer operated where *Maison Blanc* now is; next to it, the *Swift'N'Neat Shoe Repairs While You Wait* shop; then The Coffee Cup with its (recently restored) striped awning.

Just past The Coffee Cup, in the alley on your left (Perrin's Court), lived *Mr Kippen The Sweep*. His sign hung outside and his cart on which he put his brushes leant against the railings. It's now in Burgh House Garden, beautifully restored. A little further up were the offices of the Ham&High newspaper, edited by the brilliant Gerry (Geraldo) Isaaman, who managed, almost weekly, to scoop the Nationals. In the mid '60s, a brilliantly named knick-knack shop, *That New Shop*, arrived and stayed that way till it closed (in the late '90s?). Nearer the High Street was *The Spinning Wheel* restaurant where *Villa Bianca* is now. The resident pianist, for a while, was Dirk Bogarde's official stand-in.

Going on up the High Street you pass the large shop-front that is now Waterstone's and was Woolworths. The biggest fire I can remember in Hampstead happened here in the late '50s/early '60s when the High Street was full of fire-engines, flames roared from the roof and the children of the neighbourhood clustered on the opposite pavement, never having known such excitement.

Just before the corner of Oriel Court, the alley that runs up to Fitzjohn's Avenue and the Horseshoe Pub, was *Gaze's Haberdashery*. Such a shop is inconceivable today (alas): ladies in black and a gentleman in grey with gloves stood behind wooden counters serving cotton-reels, elastic, thread, laces and sewing needles, and measuring cloth and other fabrics, while an overhead railway of wires sent the money in small golden tubes out of sight and brought them back with the correct change. All was hushed and discreet and no purchase was too small. I would stand behind my mother, quiet as in church. It's a luxury sweetshop now.

Slightly up Oriel Court, just past where *Gail's* is now, was another bakery run by the *Cordingly* family. Jill the daughter was a friend, Mrs Cordingly was in the shop and Mr Cordingly, as I remember, was as white as his flour. A delicious smell of newly-baked bread wafted across to the cavernous council flats opposite. And just beyond, on the right, the tiny *Pentameters Theatre*, opened in 1968, over the Three/One Horseshoe(s). Run by the redoubtable Léonie Scott-Matthews without any government or council funding, it's still going (celebrating its 50th anniversary in August 2018), mixing new work with (particularly Irish) classics.

These are the things I remember – readers are welcome to add their memories – and I haven't mentioned the street-cries that went on into the

'60s: the lamplighter (am I imagining this?), the violet-posy seller, the knife-sharpener – he used to come to us in Well Walk into the '80s – and the rag-and-bone-man. He can still be heard from time to time, but I don't think he uses a horse and cart anymore. And the weekly rattle and shouting of the coalmen who came to Church Row every Tuesday wearing Alfred Doolittle hats, and emptied their sacks through the pavement coal-holes into the cellars – now more likely to contain wine than coal.

Of course, it's no good lamenting the departure of much of this, and some things – quality and range of food and drink, good pavement cafés, the end of privileged treatment for the rich – are big improvements. But it was a colourful world, that world of small things and odd people that I grew up among, and I'm happy to remember some of them. □

Hampstead Theatre

Eton Avenue NW3 3EU

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Forthcoming Concerts

St John-at-Hampstead Parish Church

Church Row NW3

***18 March 2018
at 7:30pm***

***Bach's
St. John Passion***

***performed by the Professional Choir
and Soloists***

of Hampstead Parish Church

Doors open at 7.00pm

Tickets at the door

Further enquiries ☎ 020 7794 5808

'Appy 'Ampstead

by Rebecca Lodge, curator, Burgh House & Hampstead Museum

This winter, Burgh House & Hampstead Museum held a temporary exhibition on the emergence in the 19th century of 'Appy 'Ampstead: the destination for Londoners to play. Devised, researched and curated by Burgh House intern and UCL Museums Studies MA student Emily Spary, the exhibition 'Appy 'Ampstead: Celebrating London's Playground spun together the history of the Heath and its development, and the founding of the Heath & Hampstead Society 120 years ago, created to preserve and protect this popular public space.

Using objects from the Burgh House collection, as well as loans from photographer Matthew Maran and Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, the exhibition led visitors around its themes in a visual and immersive way, explaining the way the Heath became a centre for leisure and enjoyment through the efforts of those dedicated to its conservation.

The 'Appy 'Ampstead, popularised through Phil May's cartoons of the Heath fair and singer Albert Chevalier's music hall song of 1893 ("Why 'Ampstead, 'appy 'Ampstead/ Is the place to 'ave a spree"), grew quickly, owing to the emerging railways linking London together, and the Bank Holidays Act of 1871, that provided people with the opportunity to enjoy the fun of the fair. The painting by Frank Edward Burnham Hughes of *Hampstead Heath Fair at Night* in 1946, shown in the exhibition, captures the magic and fun that enticed so many thousands to the fair.

The pubs and stalls selling stewed eels and baked potatoes, and the fairground rides and games, drew around 100,000 by the 1880s, and the convivial atmosphere and expanse of the Heath provided the freedom and opportunity for friends and lovers to meet and enjoy the celebrations.



Photograph courtesy: Hampstead Museum

Hampstead Heath Fair at Night

Over the years prior to 1871, as the fair was gathering momentum, the Heath was threatened by the efforts of Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson Bt. to build on and enclose the land. After years of chancery proceedings relating to the legality of his proposal, with conservation campaigners stalwartly defending the Heath as a public open space, the struggle came to an end with Wilson's death in 1869. His brother, Sir John Wilson Bt., sold the Heath to the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1871 for £47,000 and the Hampstead Heath Act of 1871 confirmed the



Toby Jug

which developed in 1897 into the forerunner of the Heath & Hampstead Society.

In the 1890s the Society was formed specifically to prevent the London County Council's attempts to 'parkify' the Heath, thus protecting its celebrated natural state and wild and varied landscape. In its protection of the Heath, the Society in turn facilitated people's enjoyment of it; the '*Appy 'Ampstead*' exhibition featured skis used on the Heath's snowy hills by the father of Peggy Jay (a Society President), tiny medals given for figure-skating on the frozen ponds, and photographs and postcards showing families and friends enjoying themselves, picnicking under trees and playing in the ponds. A pearl brooch made by Hampstead jeweller Knowles-Brown (based at 27 High Street, Hampstead for almost a century until 1984) originated on the Heath; the pearls were found in the Leg of Mutton Pond. Displayed alongside the brooch in the exhibition, a mass-produced Pearly Queen Toby Jug bearing

victory for the Heath defenders. In 1866, the Hampstead Heath Protection Fund Committee had been formed in an attempt to buy the land at risk from development, and fresh challenges to the status of the Heath later led to the resurrection of the Committee,

the words 'Happy Hampstead' underscored the popularity of the phrase.

A pearly king and pearly prince came to the launch event of the exhibition on 1 November 2017, and were accompanied by traditional music hall songs that would no doubt have been sung at the Heath fairs in their heyday. The success of the launch, and the exhibition as a whole, showed the enjoyment the Heath has engendered in Londoners and visitors alike for more than 120 years. The exhibition also commemorated what has been achieved through the Heath & Hampstead Society.

In the words of the Society's Heath Sub-Committee Chair John Beyer, "The Heath is a place of magic, a place to escape from the city and lose yourself in the country, a place of inspiration, a space for fun. A snowy walk on the Heath conjured up in CS Lewis the idea for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We owe it to the early pioneers of open spaces, and to future generations, to do all we can to preserve the magic of the Heath..." □



Don't forget to use the
Hampstead Card

The current list of businesses taking part in the scheme can be found on the Society's website, and can be downloaded from there:
www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk

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



Spring 2018 Events in the Library

Saturday 24 March 10am–4pm

Spring Book Sale

Thousands of bargains. Donations welcome. Free entry.



Sunday 8 April 12–4pm

Antiques Valuation with Lyon and Turnbull Auctioneers

£5 per piece, maximum three pieces. Booking required to ensure you meet the right valuer and have plenty of time.
(Email the library: keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com)



12 April and 3 May 7:30pm

Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Singers Recitals

A superb opportunity to hear two young singers at each recital, who already perform on the main stage and will undoubtedly be opera stars of the future, with a programme of songs and arias. *At Rosslyn Hill Chapel.* £10



16 May 7:30pm

Lyndell Gordon and Ruth Rosen: 5 Women Writers

Lyndell Gordon will discuss her new book with readings by performer Ruth Rosen (as performed last year at the National Theatre). £10



Tickets from the library ☎ 020 7431 1266 or online at www.wegottickets.com

KCL events are supported by U3A in London



The New Year at Burgh House & Hampstead Museum

'The Making of an Englishman': Fred Uhlman, A Retrospective

Wednesday 24 January – Sunday 27 May

Supported by Arts Council England, *The Making of an Englishman* is the first UK retrospective of Uhlman's work in 50 years and the first exhibition of the artist's work in Hampstead, where he lived for many years and was so influential in establishing a refugee community. The exhibition brings together paintings and drawings dating from 1928 to 1971, including previously unseen archival material and objects of personal collection including a number of items from Uhlman's seventy-two-piece collection of African sculpture, as well as representations of the artist by celebrated Dadaist, Kurt Schwitters, fellow Hampstead resident, Milein Cosman, Polish-Jewish painter and printmaker, Jankel Adler and sculptress of luminaries, Karin Jonzen. We will be holding an illustrated talk with art historian Monica Bohm-Duchen on **Thursday 15th February, 6:30pm** for free at Burgh House, exploring the important role that Fred and Diana Uhlman (and their house) played in the refugee community of the 1930s. Join Marilyn Green on **Sunday 25th March** for **Walking in the Steps of Fred Uhlman** – a free walk inspired by the artist.

Lifelines with Piers Plowright

Thursday 4 March 7pm

Legendary BBC broadcaster, Piers Plowright, has been questioning and obtaining delightful stories from all his Lifeline guests over the years; now, by popular demand, the spotlight will turn on him. Join us with a new interviewer, Clare Lynch, delving into the life and mind of Piers Plowright himself.

Tickets £12 (£10 FoBH & U25s) additional buffet with wine available after the talk for £12.

Lifelines with Keir Starmer

Thursday 22 March 7pm

Barrister and Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras, Sir Keir Starmer QC, will be chatting with broadcaster Clare Lynch on his life and interesting career thus far.

Tickets £12 (£10 FoBH & U25s) additional buffet with wine available after the talk for £12.

Burgh House

New End Square, NW3 1LT

☎ 020 7431 0144

info@burghhouse.org.uk

www.burghhouse.org.uk

@burghhouse1704

House & Museum

open 12–5pm Wed, Thu, Fri & Sun

Café

open 10am–5pm Wed, Thu & Fri,

9:30am–5:30pm weekends



Heath Walks: 2018

Walks are normally held on the first Sunday of every month except January. Most start from Burgh House, New End Square. London NW3 1LT – 10 minutes walk from Hampstead Tube Station (for map see www.burghhouse.org.uk).

NB: *Parking is extremely difficult locally, especially in spring and summer; 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 the walks organiser, Thomas Radice

mobile: 07941 528 034 or

email: hhs.walks@gmail.com

4 February 10:30am (meet at Burgh House) **The history of the Hampstead Heath ponds** led by Marc Hutchinson, Chair of the Heath & Hampstead Society and Secretary of the Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club.

4 March 10:30am (meet in North End Way, by entrance to Inverforth Close) **The Pergola, the Hill Garden and Golders Hill Park** led by Peter Tausig, a trustee of the Society.

1 April 9:30am (meet at Burgh House) **Birds of the Heath** led by John Hunt, life-member of the Society and former Chairman of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society.

6 May 2:30pm (further details of where to meet to be announced on the Society's website) **Nature and wildlife of Hampstead Heath** led by Lynda Cook and Melissa Fairbanks, members of the Society's Heath Sub-Committee.

Further walks will be announced in the May 2018 Newsletter. Details of walk programmes will be available on the Society's website:

www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk

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