



The Heath & Hampstead Society **NEWSLETTER**

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Reflections at Sandy Heath

by Marc Hutchinson

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Front cover: The photograph was taken by professional photographer Matt Maran. Matt comments: "Sandy Heath is a special part of the Heath, a little off the beaten track with a fascinating history. With so many deciduous trees, autumn is spectacular and I took this photo on a still day. The pond provided a perfect foreground reflecting a rich array of colours."

I have a lot on which to report since the May Newsletter. We have been active in recruitment of new members, taking advantage of the wonderful summer weather for our street stalls, with the result that our membership now approaches 2,200 and continues to rise. With a further mail drop to be done in Hampstead this autumn, we are looking forward to a further material increase in membership. I would ask annual members who receive their renewal forms with this Newsletter to consider, if they have not already done so, completing the Gift Aid declaration. Gift Aid represents a significant source of extra "income" for the Society.

Newsletter

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter, which has been produced under a new regime. First, Martin Webster, who has edited the newsletter for the last three years, has stepped down and his position has been taken by Society member Emilia Leese. We are very grateful to Martin for his past editorship and likewise to Emilia for taking on the role. Secondly, we have decided to move to a digital production system with Lonsdale, a firm now based in Wellingborough, who have for many years met our other printing needs. In fact, Lonsdale used to produce our newsletters until the 1990s. The new system allows us to produce the newsletter more quickly, to have colour wherever we want it, and to make very significant future savings in production and distribution costs. I wish to record the sincere thanks of the trustees to Andrew Morley and to Hillary Press of Hendon who have handled the non-digital newsletter production so well for us since they took over, in pre-digital days, from Lonsdale.

Chair's Notes (cont)

Harry's Land

The fate of this plot of land (7,000 ft.²) on Hampstead Heath, near Athlone House gardens, has not, we hope, been finally determined. The story of this plot was the basis of the film "Hampstead", released in 2017, which fictionalised some aspects, including Harry's love life and the alleged hostility of his "toff" resident neighbours of Hampstead and Highgate (see Harry's obituary in Newsletter vol 47 no 3, November 2016). Harry legally acquired the freehold of the plot, by 20-year adverse occupation, at the time when it was part of the derelict gardens of derelict Athlone House with its absentee owner. When Harry died in 2015, we believed he would leave the plot to Hampstead Heath (itself a registered charity), but instead he left it to Centrepoint and Shelter, two leading charities for the homeless.

Perhaps Harry thought the City and/or the Society would then buy the plot to add it to the Heath. After all, when he died, the plot was surrounded by the open Heath, and Lord Mansfield's 1923 covenants and current planning law effectively prevent its use for any purpose other than a garden. The "relocation" of the plot came about when, years ago, a part of Athlone House gardens, including the plot, was transferred to the Heath as a planning condition to the erection of a new block of flats in another part of the gardens.

We and the City negotiated with the charities to attempt to buy the plot but they insisted on putting it up for public auction in order to obtain – and be seen to obtain – the maximum sale price. The City and the Society bid at the public auction, which was held by



Savills' Auction Room – Marc Hutchinson (Chair of the Society), Karina Dostolova (Heath Management Committee Chair), Bob Warnock (Heath Superintendent) and Warren Back (City Surveyor)

Savills on 18 June, but we were outbid by a Mr Chowhan of Wanstead who purchased the plot for £154,000. He was the only bidder apart from us, the underbidders at £152,000.

We have written to and subsequently met Mr Chowhan asking what his purpose was in buying the plot and what his future intentions are for it. He has so far refused to disclose these, although he has been made aware that it remains the wish of the City and the Society to acquire the plot in order to add it to the public Heath where it properly belongs. In the meanwhile, he has undertaken to remove from the plot the spreading Japanese Knotweed.

South Fairground Site – Vale of Health



The new house on the South Fairground Site

The site owner has unlawfully erected a house on the site and is appealing against the order issued by Camden Council to demolish it. Her appeal will be heard at a public inquiry before an inspector on 11 and 12 December. She claims, incorrectly, that she has merely restored a house which has been on the site since 2005; we can refute that.

In support of the Council, we and the Vale of Health Society will be represented by David Altaras (of counsel) and the City of London will likewise appear with counsel.

North Fairground Site – Vale of Health

Camden Council having refrained from making a determination on this application for a permitted use certificate to allow the erection of a number of static “caravans” (in effect, bungalows – the application mentioned various numbers but the appeal documents now seem to treat the relevant number as a minimum of seven), the application will be determined by an inspector at a public inquiry scheduled for 12 and 13 February 2019. Camden Council will oppose the application and will be supported by the Society, the Vale of Health Society and the City. A central issue is the Council's existing designated permitted use of the site, namely occupation by members of the travelling fairground community and the storage of their equipment, not permanent residential use.

Abacus School at the Old Police Station

It is likely that a new planning application for this school at the listed Old Police Station will be made. After the last one was rejected by Camden Council, it was believed that Abacus would search for another site. It is unclear to us and many other objectors whether that search has in fact been diligently made, but in any event the school is now proposing to re-apply for planning permission, albeit for a smaller school. As we said in our original objection, the centre of Hampstead is already plagued with school-run traffic and the associated pollution, and the proposed site, on the corner of Downshire Hill and the High Street, and on the very edge of the school's Belsize catchment area, could scarcely be more unsuitable. The Hampstead Committee for Responsible Development has already written to the Secretary of State for Education to alert him to the extent of local opposition to the new proposal.

CS11

On 13 September, Mr Justice Cranston, on the application of Westminster City Council, issued an injunction to prevent Transport for London commencing work on an isolated section of Cycle Superhighway 11 at Swiss Cottage. TfL do not yet have approval, or the necessary cooperation, from the Royal Parks, Westminster City Council or Camden Council to commence the whole project and so had decided to proceed for the time being with the small section at Swiss Cottage. The judge found that TfL had not done the necessary traffic-modelling and related consultation for this isolated work and ruled that, until TfL had done those, the injunction would remain in place. We and other interested groups will in due course be meeting Camden councillors and officers to discover Camden's current, but as yet undisclosed, position on the changed project.

One of the Interested Parties in the legal proceedings who provided critical evidence about traffic flows was a group led by one of our trustees, Jessica Learmond-Criqui, and we congratulate her and her group on the outcome.

Eruv

On 20 September, Camden Council approved the application to erect an eruv in parts of Hampstead. We joined the widespread opposition to the application (originally made in 2016) principally on the ground that we oppose all inessential street furniture in conservation areas. However, the applicants' claimed legal rights under the Equality Act 2010 seem to have tipped the balance in favour of approval. As you will know, there has been a recent trend, in adjoining boroughs, to approve eruv applications.

Glass In Hand

On 19 September, we hosted, with Osbornes Law (a leading Camden firm of solicitors), a Glass In Hand lecture on basement construction entitled "Can the laws of nature and the laws of the land cohabit in a basement?" Our speakers were Dr Michael de Freitas, Emeritus Reader in Engineering Geology at Imperial College, and Shilpa Mathuradas, Head of Property Litigation at Osbornes Law.

It was, as expected, a lively, entertaining and well-attended evening, with national and local press present, and I wish to thank both our speakers and Osbornes Law who sponsored the event. Osbornes Law opened a branch office in Hampstead this year at 28A Hampstead High Street (tel 0207 485 8811; www.osborneslaw.com), are members of the Hampstead Card scheme, are a corporate member of the Society, and have kindly offered us (and other local amenity groups) the free use of their meeting room. Members wishing to receive the handout should, unless they have already notified the Society of their wish, email the Society at info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk.

"Street Somewhere"

In July, I, Vicki Harding, Piers Plowright and other locals participated in the making of a travel programme for the Japanese TV network NHK (the Japanese equivalent of the BBC) about Hampstead and the Heath. The programme was broadcast in Japan under the title "City Walk" on 18 September and will in due course become viewable outside Japan under the title "Street Somewhere" on NHK World.

Trustees

We welcome Andrew Haslam-Jones as a new Vice-Chair and trustee of the Society, positions he assumed when he was appointed in July as Chair of the Town Sub-Committee. We thank Anousheh Barbezieux for acting as Chair pending his appointment.

Sub-Committees

We welcome Bianca Swalem as an additional member of the Heath Sub-Committee. Bianca is very much a Heath user and activist, and has ideas for additional Heath walks.

We also welcome two additional members to the

Planning Sub-Committee: Ellen Solomons, a retired barrister and Chair of the Vale of Health Society; and Liz Wright, who has a particular interest in trees and will be working with our (overburdened) tree officer Vicki Harding.

Christmas Party

You should find with this Newsletter an invitation to our Christmas Party on Monday 10 December at Burgh House. This year we will save ourselves the cost and effort of issuing printed tickets – in practice, many guests fail to bring their tickets to the event, and so we will just keep guests' names at the door. We look forward to seeing you there. □

Hampstead Heath 2019 Calendar

Back for 2019, featuring brand new images and the best of the rest from the hardback book – Hampstead Heath, London's Countryside.

The calendar is a collaborative production between Matthew Maran Photography, Heath Hands and the City of London.

Available from
www.matthewmaranshop.com,
selected local shops and Amazon



Heath Report

by John Beyer

Model Boating Pond “Island”

The Heath Sub-Committee has worked over the last 18 months to have the “island” on the Model Boating Pond reserved as an area set aside for wildlife and for the conservation of the seven mature trees on it which make it so attractive. The City’s Heath Consultative Committee recommended at its meeting on 16 April that the “island” be designated as a wildlife sanctuary with no public access. However, at the City’s Heath Management Committee on 23 May, the question was raised as to what the legal basis was for what might be seen as “enclosing” an area of the Heath. The City Management Committee, on 5 September, accepted legal advice which stated that such a move was lawful, and therefore agreed that the “island” would be dedicated to wildlife. While the “island” has been in temporary isolation, wild flower planting has increased the numbers of invertebrates, including nine species of dragonfly and damselfly. The plan is now to plant shrubs such as hawthorn to attract non-aquatic birds.

Putting the Heath Vision into practice

Last summer the Heath Sub-Committee engaged with the City in the formulation of the City’s Heath Vision, which was published in the October 2017 Newsletter. The next stage was a series of workshops, attended for the Sub-Committee by Thomas Radice, which considered the outcomes which might embody this Vision.

This summer we have been involved again in the next piece of work, which is the Ten-Year Strategy 2018-2028. The Strategy (which was at one stage called the Ten-Year Management Plan) is a bridge to the more practical documents and plans to implement the Vision, such as the Annual Work Plans and Compartmental Plans.

The Strategy builds on the work of the Heath

Management Plan 2007-2017, which was a comprehensive document on the issues facing the Heath and how they should be addressed. Heath & Hampstead Society members were closely involved in the project. Given the comprehensive nature of the 2007-2017 Plan and the fact that so many of the issues addressed in it continue to be relevant, the City and the Society believe that the document should remain an important guide to management of the Heath.

New approach for Quarterly Walks

In April, Professor Jeff Waage took over organisation of the Sub-Committee’s Quarterly Walks, which bring together Sub-Committee members and Heath staff. Both parties find the walks valuable, both in addressing specific issues and concerns, as during the Ponds Project, and as an opportunity for a more general discussion on how the Heath is managed. In future the walks will address broader themes of interest to enable more structured advice and comment to be shared with the Heath staff on important issues. Current topics include: woodland management, including the creation of glades; maintaining views; the balance between open spaces and woodland; management of hedgerows; waste collection, management and disposal on the Heath and encroachment by buildings around the edge of the Heath.

Making the Heath greener

It is somewhat surprising in the era of *Blue Planet* that the Heath is not associated with “green” management of the waste, some 500 tons of which has to be removed from the Heath each year. The Sub-Committee has been discussing with Heath Superintendent Bob Warnock and colleagues how to introduce a more sustainable approach to rubbish on the Heath. At present most of the rubbish left in bins is a mixture of all types of

materials. The Sub-Committee commended the idea of separating rubbish as people leave it, with bins being changed to receive separately recyclable material, landfill, and dog waste. One of the main problems has been that dog faeces bags are sometimes thrown into general waste bins, which contaminates the other rubbish. It is thought that this problem can be overcome by placing dog bins alongside other bins, with some (modest but clear) signage and a publicity campaign. □



Heath staff Bob Warnock and Jonathan Meares talk about rubbish with Sub-Committee member Rupert Sheldrake



Autumn 2018 Events in the Library

Thursday 1 November 7.30pm

Gemma Jones and Mark White: *With Great Pleasure*

An opportunity to meet this much-loved actor in an intimate setting and in conversation about her career. With readings.



Thursday 8 November 7.00pm

Jeremy Reed & Ginger Light

Poetry with musical accompaniment. A joint event with Keats House in *Keats House, Chester Room*.



Sunday 11 November 7.30pm

The War to End All Wars: An Armistice Commemoration

With Michael Palin, Robert Powell and Lee Montague, at the Peter Samuel Hall, Royal Free Hospital.



Thursday 29 November 7.30pm

Kipper Williams: *Talking Cartoons*

Kipper Williams draws cartoons for the *London Evening Standard*, the *Spectator* and *Private Eye*. He will be spilling the beans (and the ink) about being a cartoonist.



Thursday 6 December 7.30pm

Seasonal Quiz

With refreshments. Individual seats or team tables available.

Book tickets by calling the library ☎ 0207 431 1266 or online at www.wegotickets.com

KCL Events are generously supported by



&



Planning Report

by David Castle

The Planning Report in the previous Newsletter referred to both the sale of Queen Mary's House for luxury housing and to the imminent vote on the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan produced by the many people of Hampstead.

Neighbourhood Plan

The vote was an overwhelming "yes" to our new Neighbourhood Plan which is now in operation. If you are considering an objection to a proposed development you will find the new Neighbourhood Plan well worth reading as it extends and adds to Camden's main Local Plan. It is on a par with the Local Plan and must be considered by the planners when judging an application.

Queen Mary's House

The situation with Queen Mary's House, at the top of East Heath Road next to the Heath, is that the owners

(the Royal Free Hospital) have had secret Pre-Application meetings with Camden planners, but have not yet made an application.

They have commissioned a design for the site which proposes demolishing all of the existing interesting and worthwhile buildings in order to build luxury flats in a six-and-a-half storey building that will be packed into the site. A deep basement for cars is proposed and the bottom storey of flats will be in a semi-basement.

We have formed a Campaign Group to fight the proposal with the aims of:

- 1) retaining its present use as low-rental housing or, for instance, as accommodation for older people, and
- 2) retaining and enhancing the existing buildings and trees.

The site has an interesting history as well as being



View from East Heath Road



View from within Courtyard

a successful set of buildings and trees around an entrance court, so we have decided to apply to Historic England to “Spot-List” Queen Mary’s House. If successful, the listing would help save the existing building from demolition. In support of the application, we have sent the photographs of Queen Mary’s House that you see here.

The site was used as a maternity hospital from 1921 to about 1986, and after that as a “Care of the Elderly Unit” by the Royal Free Hospital.

Its early history is interesting. During the First World War, Queen Mary’s Needlework Guild was established to make and distribute clothes and other items to servicemen. At the conclusion of the War, a considerable sum of money collected by the Guild was left unspent and Queen Mary decided that the

funds should be used to endow a maternity home for the benefit of the wives and children of servicemen.

The wonderful site was charitably donated to the proposed maternity home by Lord Leverhulme and the brand-new Maternity Hospital was opened in July 1922. The Hospital was taken into the NHS in 1946 by the London Hospital and in 1972 by the Royal Free Hospital.

We understand that the Royal Free used the proceeds from the sale of New End Hospital to build the large extensions added to Queen Mary’s House in 1986 for use by the aged. They now propose that these well-built and designed buildings, which have only had about 30 years use, be destroyed. What a waste – when they could easily be adapted for use as low-rental housing – much needed in London. Furthermore, as

Planning Report (cont)

a sop to obtain planning permission, Royal Free are proposing that an expensive seven-storey building be built at Lawn Road for so-called “affordable” housing.

What a crazy financial situation when one perfectly adequate set of interesting and worthwhile buildings is demolished and an expensive new building has to be built – in order to enable developers to make a substantial profit in providing luxury housing which does not help solve the housing crisis. I wonder how much the Royal Free will receive from this dubious initiative.

We hope to ensure that the site remains as originally charitably intended – for the public good.

We would welcome any information that you may have about the site and buildings, and your confirmation of support, if you are concerned about the prospective loss of the existing buildings and the consequent provision of luxury housing

Another application to over-develop – five houses in 55 Fitzroy Park

A planning application has been made to demolish an existing house and build five houses on a site designated as “Private Open Space” and, therefore, protected from development. The site is on the edge of the eastern side of the Heath and highly visible from the ever-popular Millfield Lane.

Camden’s recent Local Plan clearly states that no development should take place on designated “Private Open Space” and, furthermore, that development on the edge of the Heath should not compromise the openness of the Heath.

We shall be encouraging Camden to keep to their own policies and refuse the application. □

Delivering the Newsletter by email

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email in the form of an 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



Remember 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.

Town Report

by Andrew Haslam-Jones

First, as new Chair of the Town Sub-Committee, I would like to thank the members of the committee and previous Chairs for their kind support and assistance in making the transition from member of the committee to chair so smooth.

A police presence in Hampstead

There is still no concrete news on a permanent base for the police presence in Hampstead, which we discussed in previous Newsletters. You will have read in the Chair's Notes of this Newsletter of the ongoing saga of the Old Police Station and the possibility of a further planning application for a school there which the Society has opposed for a variety of reasons. There is a suggestion that a new application might include the proposal to set aside some space in the building for an office for the police. Crime continues to be a problem in Hampstead, with burglary, theft and interference with motor vehicles high on the list. Many of you will recall the departure of PC Edward Bromilow to join a counter-terrorism team in April and his replacement by PC Naomi Palmer in April. She joined PC Safwan Karim ("Saf") and PCSO Tony Alexis who will have returned from parental leave by the time this Newsletter is published. The Metropolitan Police provide neighbourhood newsletters with crime reports for the local area and, if you have not already done so, you can sign up via this link: <https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/snt-newsletter-subscription/?cid=27153>

Traffic

On HS2, diversions and ground investigations, particularly around Euston Station, will continue until spring 2019. Once construction begins in earnest, Finchley Road has been designated as a route for lorries removing spoil, but Englands Lane and

the High Street have not been. You will have read in the Chair's Notes of the injunction successfully obtained against the commencement of work on Cycle Superhighway 11 in Regents Park and the Swiss Cottage gyratory. This will at least postpone disruption and construction traffic related to that scheme. At the same time, a new traffic management plan is being produced in connection with the delayed development at 100 Avenue Road next to Swiss Cottage. The Society will seek a meeting with the relevant cabinet member, Councillor Adam Harrison, to find out what mitigating steps are to be taken if and when construction proceeds.

Separately, the London Ultra Low Emission Zone, currently covering the same area as the Congestion Charge Zone, is to be extended, with effect from October 2021, to the much larger area bounded by the North and South Circular Roads. This means that, for example, cars used in the zone that do not meet certain standards will incur a charge of £12.50 per day. You can check whether your vehicle complies with the standards on the Transport for London website by using the following link: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone>

Environment

Following the successful planting of four trees in the High Street, we are working with Camden Council officers to identify further plots on the High Street where more trees can be placed, as well as the replacement of the damaged tree near the Post Office.

Refuse collection continues to be an issue, especially in the centre of Hampstead, and we are in contact with the Hampstead Business Improvement District (the "BID") with whom we have a very good working relationship to try to see how the various problems,

Town Report (cont)

such as refuse stacked up on the pavement in the evening, can be resolved.

The BID has commissioned a report on the future streetscape of the centre of Hampstead and it is hoped that that report will form the basis for Camden Council to put work relating to the reopening of Oriel Court out to tender.

Plaques and Plaque Walks

There are currently no plans for further Plaque Walks. However, there are plans for four new plaques to be installed for Jim Henson, Peter Cook, Christopher Wade and for three part occupants of Capo di Monte, including Marghanita Laski.

Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan was overwhelmingly approved in a referendum on 21 June. There were 1,484 votes in favour of the Plan, and 138 votes against. Two votes were rejected. This meant that 91.5% of voters supported the Plan, while 8.5% opposed it. The turnout was 20.5%, the highest so far in Neighbourhood Plan votes in Camden. We would like to congratulate its Chair, Janine Griffiths, and the rest of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum committee on their hard work in drafting the plan and steering it through the approval process over the past several years. The plan was formally approved at a meeting of Camden Council on 8 October 2018. However, even prior to formal approval, the Plan was already being referred to by Camden Council planners in response to planning applications in the Forum area and the Forum itself has taken on a new role of reviewing and commenting on applications. The full Plan and the Forum's continuing work can be seen at: <http://www.hampsteadforum.org/> □

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.

Visit by Members of the Heath Sub-Committee to Epping Forest

by Thomas Radice and Jeff Waage

A visit to Epping Forest to exchange experiences with, and learn from, staff of the City of London's Open Spaces Department will enhance and inform practices on the Heath.

A group of members of the Heath Sub-Committee (Thomas Radice, Jeff Waage, Janis Hardiman, Michael Hammerson and Tony Ghilchik) visited the Chingford area of Epping Forest on 4 May 2018. Our visit was hosted by staff of the Epping Forest division of the City of London's Open Spaces Department – Jacqueline Egglestone (Head of Visitor Services), Sophie Lillington (Museum and Heritage Manager) and Geoff Sinclair (Head of Operations). The purpose of the visit was to learn about conservation and management practices in the Forest and the extent to which they paralleled or differed from practice on Hampstead Heath.

We met near Chingford Station and Chingford Golf Course (established in 1888 and owned by the City), where there is a golf shop, a bike hire shop and a café



Typical landscape in Chingford area



Members of the Heath Sub-Committee setting off on walk from The View visitor centre

run by concessionaires. From there it is a short walk to the new (2012) main visitor centre ("The View"), next to Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge – a historic building which the City has a specific statutory duty to preserve and maintain.

Epping Forest is one of 14 open spaces owned and managed by the City of London, whose statutory powers and duties in relation to the Forest derive principally from the Epping Forest Act of 1878. Rather as in the case of Hampstead Heath a few years earlier, the saving for future generations of one of London's most important landscapes was the culmination of a long and complex battle to save it from destruction; but, unlike the present day Hampstead Heath, it came into public ownership essentially en bloc, rather than being assembled piecemeal by acquisitions at various times from different landowners.

Historical background

As part of the Royal Forest of Essex, Epping Forest was one of 60 forests across England where forest law gave the Crown the right to hunt game across largely privately-owned land. Hunting across forest landscapes was an important demonstration of royal and aristocratic power and a necessary practice for war. Forest laws recognised the earlier tradition of shared “common” rights for forest dwellers to graze livestock and to cut firewood and turf.

Changing royal interests and the rise of a professional army during the Georgian period saw royal participation in hunting and the power of forest law dramatically decline. Parliamentary scrutiny of royal finances following the Restoration led to sales of royal forest hunting rights across private land, known as forestal rights. In 1851, the Crown Lands, including Epping Forest’s forestal rights, were transferred to the body that later became the Crown Estate Commissioners.

Between 1760 and 1870, the enclosure movement saw seven million acres of English countryside change from shared common land to more profitable private enclosed land, with many commoners losing their traditional rights. In royal forests, the release of the Crown’s forestal rights emboldened landowners to enclose forest land and evict their commoners. At Epping Forest, London’s continuing growth stimulated pressures to release land for development rather than for agricultural improvement.

From 1817, attempts were made through a series of private parliamentary bills (all of which failed) to enable the disafforestation of Epping Forest. In 1851, following the sale of forestal rights, 3,000 acres of nearby Hainault Forest, another fragment of the Forest of Essex, were felled within six weeks. Six years

later, the Commissioners sold half of the royal forestal rights at Epping Forest, encouraging the illegal enclosure of some 4,000 acres of Epping Forest by 1865.

The loss of Hainault Forest and the sale of Epping’s forestal rights created a broad coalition of different interests who fought to save the Forest, including the Forest’s Verderer – an ancient administrative and judicial post preserved by the 1878 Act that still exists today – who pointed to the Forest’s 500 years of use by Londoners for recreational benefit. Political radicals and non-conformist churchmen also stressed the importance of the Forest for freedom of assembly and worship. Social reformers with the newly-formed Commons Preservation Society fought to retain places like Epping for their beauty and public amenity and as a necessary refuge from a growing and polluted metropolis.

Commoners also fought to save their rights and livelihoods. Thomas Willingale of Loughton was the most famous of those championing the common right of lopping new growth from trees for firewood. With the financial backing of local landowner and brewery heir, Sir Fowell Buxton, Willingale sued the Lord of the Manor of Loughton for illegally enclosing over 1,300 acres of the Forest for sale to developers.

John Bedford, a member of the City of London Corporation, recognised that the City was the only body with sufficient resources to save Epping Forest and persuaded the City to become involved through a commission of inquiry in 1871. As the owner of the City of London Cemetery in Aldersbrook, the City itself was a commoner; this enabled the City Solicitor and the Commons Preservation Society’s solicitor to stop the enclosures through a single lawsuit, based on the rights of intercommonage – the right to graze animals throughout the Forest. This meant that one

case could be brought against all the lords of the manors and, in November 1874, the enclosures were declared illegal.

Besides lawsuits, more practical demonstrations took place against the enclosures. Antonio Brady MP, of the Epping Forest Fund, gave fiery speeches to crowds on Wanstead Flats, which resulted in new fences being taken down. Similarly, local industrialist George Burney, a leading member of the Epping Forest Preservation Society, paid to have fences removed in 1874 and defended his actions in a subsequent court case.

Between 1874 and 1878, the City of London purchased the remaining unenclosed land, some 5,531 acres, paying compensation to the manors for loss of enclosures and to commoners for the necessary loss of some rights. The Crown agreed to relinquish their remaining forestal rights and in 1878 the Epping Forest Act was passed, establishing the City of London as the Conservators of Epping Forest.

On 6 May 1882, Queen Victoria was invited to open the Forest to the public. In his speech of welcome, the Lord Mayor of London celebrated the substitution of royal privilege for popular right, with the Forest being dedicated to the enjoyment of the people forever. The Queen declared, "It gives me the greatest satisfaction to dedicate this beautiful forest to the use and enjoyment of my people for all time." It became known as "the People's Forest".

The Forest today

Epping Forest covers 2,450 hectares or 9.2 sq miles – about nine times the size of Hampstead Heath. It runs north to south for some 11 miles ending in Wanstead Flats (home of the largest complex of football pitches in Europe). 1,728 hectares of the Forest are designated sites of special scientific interest and 1,605 hectares as Special Areas of Conservation, mostly for fungi and beetles. There are 101 lakes and ponds scattered around the Forest, many of the smaller ones being former WW2 bomb craters.



One of the many small ponds

Epping Forest is part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy ("QCC") – a unique network (the brainchild of Frank Field MP) of forest conservation initiatives involving all 53 countries of the Commonwealth. The QCC was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in 2015.

The City has its own herd of red poll and longhorn cattle. These are raised mainly in "buffer" areas around the middle and northern parts of the Forest, with invisible fencing to regulate grazing. These areas (not open to the public) serve to mitigate the environmental and visual impacts of development around the Forest. Beef from the herd is sold in the visitor centres.

The City's mission statement for the Forest (captured from wording in the 1878 Act) describes it as a place to be "conserved and protected as an open space for recreation and enjoyment of the public". Some similarities can be found (perhaps not surprisingly, given its date) between the Act and the earlier Hampstead Heath Act of 1871. For example, Section 7(1) of the Epping Forest Act requires the City to "maintain (it) as unenclosed and unbuilt on"; while Section 7(3) imposes a duty to "preserve a natural

aspect". There has been debate over the years on how to interpret this concept. The current strategy seeks to balance a conservation mission with making the Forest available and attractive to visitors. The City also sees itself as a major stakeholder in that it can argue that, by providing green spaces for residents in this part of London, it is providing an attractive home environment for City workers.

The City's procedures for monitoring and responding to development proposals affecting the Forest seemed to us (compared to the situation around the Heath) somewhat hit and miss. Work is carried out from time to time to mitigate the impact of local plans. There is an overall target of meeting Natural England's "good condition" status.

Epping Forest gets an annual budget from the City of £2.5 million and raises about £1.5 million from other sources. Its costs are about £4 million, so it runs at a very slight deficit. As funding is not increasing with inflation, the strategy is to attract additional funds from grants and other sources. There are about 75 staff members, including legal and enforcement staff dedicated to issues of encroachment and taking rapid action on violations like fly-tipping. Keepers have limited police-style powers – less than those of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary.

In the view of our host, Jacqueline Egglestone, Epping Forest is just starting to develop relations with voluntary public groups such as those enjoyed by Hampstead Heath. The value of having bodies like the Heath & Hampstead Society she felt were threefold:

- We can say things that the City cannot, and champion causes more easily;
- Interacting with groups like ours allows the City to anticipate potential problems and address them early; and



Looking north across Chingford Plain towards Bury Wood

- Groups like The Society and Highgate Society bring a great deal of expertise on local history and natural history which can benefit the City's work.

Bringing visitors into Epping Forest is the focus of Jacqueline's work, and much of our discussion, therefore, concentrated on users. The View visitor centre was built in 2012, with space for meetings, school visits and a shop (that even sells deer food). The Forest gets about 4.2 million visitors a year. This ranges from the northern woodlands with about 100,000 visitors, to Wanstead Flats in the south with over 1 million. The City has done quite a number of user surveys, both online and by catching visitors with questionnaires. It has a good understanding of users and their interests, and perceives this as important because user conflicts are a major issue (e.g. between cyclists and walkers).

A comprehensive visitor strategy, informed by conservation strategies, is due to be published shortly. One of the main objectives is to avoid crowding in a few key spots where roads make it easy to access the Forest. The City has an idea for redirecting visitors with clever use of signage, concentrating interpretation and visitor engagement at forest entry points. There are plans to introduce software that allows visitors to follow forest maps on their phones. There is a team of volunteer rangers, although the City currently lacks a dedicated volunteer manager.

Issues discussed on the visit

We noted (among others) the following issues and challenges facing the City in relation to Epping Forest:

- User issues and conflicts – making dedicated bike paths (many of them following existing desire lines) to reduce conflict with walkers; restricting professional dog walkers (four per person in Wanstead Flats, 10 per person in northern parts of the Forest); and charging personal trainers with more than 10 clients.
- Horse-riding is in decline, because of closure of liverys in the surrounding areas.
- Population growth – anticipated rapid growth of housing and populations around the middle and northern part of the Forest, which are partly protected by the buffer zones mentioned earlier.
- Managing antisocial behaviour.
- Managing health and safety and third-party liability – this has been somewhat overlooked. On the positive side, opportunities are being created for improved access by the disabled.
- Improving communications – at present, a mere 1% of budget is to build understanding, respect and advocacy for the Forest; interpretation is still underdeveloped compared with the Heath.
- An events policy has been published, which excludes circuses and funfairs.
- Reducing overcrowding of certain areas by distributing people better.
- Waste – 10% of budget is spent on waste. The City's view is that, if you took away bins, people would leave litter anyway.
- Oak Processionary Moth – current practice is to remove nests; no spraying.
- Developing a stronger volunteer group like that on the Heath.

We got the impression that, until recently, conservation policy had been based largely on traditional land management practices without systematic codification. The development of management planning by the City's Open Spaces Department has led to closer assimilation of policies

Visit by Members of the Heath Sub-Committee to Epping Forest (cont)

and practice in older City of London spaces compared with those inherited from the Greater London Council. For example, a structure of governance on similar lines to that of the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park has been established only recently. The Forest's "conservators" (set up by the 1878 Act), serve the same purposes as the management committee for those three areas, whose consultative committees have provided the model for a similar committee for Epping Forest. So far (at the time of our visit), this committee had met only once.

After the presentation and discussions at The View, Geoff Sinclair took us on a walk through the attractive surroundings of the centre and Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, starting with the area known as Barn Hoppitt, where secondary woodland has been cleared to free up ancient oaks,

creating some delightful glades, and then through a varied landscape of open grassland and small areas of woodland back to the golf course entrance where we had begun the visit.

Visits of this kind to other wild open spaces – not necessarily ones managed by the City of London (see report on the Sub-Committee's visit to Wimbledon Common in the October 2017 Newsletter) – are of great value to us; we hope to make them regular events in our calendar. It is most instructive to be able to compare experience, on the spot and face to face with management, on the challenges of maintaining such important public spaces in their natural state and at the same time encouraging recreational use and public enjoyment. The visits help to inform future thinking in our relations with the Hampstead Heath Superintendent and his team. □



Barn Hoppitt

Parliament Hill Lido Turns 80!

by Eleanor Kennedy, Chair of the Parliament Hill Lido User Group

A period costume celebration for the 80th anniversary of the Lido.

The 1920s to 1930s were the golden age of public pools, known as lidos, when 169 were built across Britain. The Lido on Parliament Hill was opened on 20 August 1938. It was designed by Harry Rowbotham and TL Smithson and built under the auspices of the London County Council Parks Department, which eventually became the Greater London Authority. The Lido's construction cost £34,000 and it was the most expensive of the lidos built during that time-period. The Lido is currently owned and operated by the Corporation of London. It is open all year-round and is only one of three unheated winter-swimming venues in London.

Saturday 25 August saw the 80th anniversary of the Parliament Hill Lido and the Lido's user group organised an evening event to celebrate this. Over

170 people came along to celebrate this important milestone for the beloved Lido.

There was a lively, celebratory swim followed by a barbecue and delicious Lebanese-inspired mezze supplied by Hoxton Beach who run the Lido Café. This was all accompanied by Pentagon Brass, a quintet playing music of the 1930s and 1940s. Specially created cocktails, named after Esther Williams films, were also available.



Ian and Jo Smith, the judge's favourite best-dressed man and woman.

Photo courtesy: Adrian Pope

winners. Husband and wife combo, Ian and Jo Smith, picked up the prizes for the best-dressed man and woman.

After another very successful summer season, we are looking forward to the next 80 years of outdoor swimming at the Lido. □

Although it was not mandatory, we encouraged 1930s and 1940s inspired outfits with prizes awarded to the best period-dressed guests. And the innovative effort that people put into their costumes was very well received.

Guest of honour, Tom Parkinson, who swam at the Lido when it first opened, was on hand to judge the best-dressed



Guest of honour and judge, Tom Parkinson. Photo courtesy: Katy Ferguson



Bank holiday at the Lido. Photo courtesy: <http://www.ruthcorney.com>

Autumn Musical Events
St John-at-Hampstead Parish Church
Church Row NW3

Saturday 10 November

Come and Sing the Brahms German Requiem

Everyone welcome to join members of the Church Professional Choir
Rehearsal in the afternoon with performance at 6.00 pm

Sunday 11 November

Special event for Remembrance Sunday

Friends of the Drama
Music and Readings at 4.30 pm

Saturday 17 November

Verdi Requiem

In conjunction with The Hampstead Arts Festival directed by
Peter Foggitt, Director of Music at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 21 November

Silent Movie – Buster Keaton

Hampstead Arts Festival at 7.30 pm

Saturday 24 November

Elgar Cello Concerto; Dona Nobis Pacem

Gemma Rosefield cello, conducted by George Vass and Vaughan Williams; Hampstead Parish Church
Professional Choir and Soloists, conducted by Peter Foggitt Hampstead Arts Festival at 7.00 pm

Friday 7 December

Community Christmas Lights concert

at 6.00 pm

Sunday 16 December

Carol Service

at 6.00 pm

All enquiries to Jenny Macdonald-Hay 0207 794 1193

Retirement of Heath Ecologist Meg Game

by John Beyer

Meg Game retired in April after 25 years working on the ecology of the Heath. She first became involved with the Heath when she was working for the London Ecology Unit. She was at the time an active member of the Society's Heath Sub-Committee but, after the Heath was transferred to City custodianship and she became a full-time employee, she felt she had to resign to avoid any conflict of interest.

In the late 1990s, the Heath Sub-Committee was urging the City to develop coherent management plans for the Heath, to take account of the different demands upon the open space. As the City's dedicated ecologist for the Heath, Meg responded with a ground-breaking Woodland, Scrubland and Hedgerow Report in 2001. This report set out the basis for an active policy of management of the Heath. Meg took the example of the way a hedgerow in the early stages provides a rich habitat for birds; however, if left alone, over the years it becomes a line of trees with little food for birds. Meg argued that to foster wildlife there needed to be intervention, at times cutting some trees to create more bird-friendly

habitat by planting hawthorn, rowan and sloe, which would then be coppiced or cut and laid to form rough hedges. Meg also looked at compaction around ancient trees and the management of ivy: good feeding for blackbirds but a threat if it makes a tree top heavy.



Lynda Cook looks at the Hampstead Heath volume with Meg Game

The report was well received by both the City and the Society and was followed by a series of reports on specific areas of the Heath (Compartmental Plans), which championed the idea of the Heath as a mosaic of different habitats which needed individual attention. Policies needed to be developed and implemented to differentiate boggy areas from acid grassland, meadows from stands of mature trees. More recently Meg was particularly commended for her work on the new planting which followed the Dams Project.

The Sub-Committee organised a farewell party for Meg and, to thank her for her contribution to the Heath, presented her with a copy of *Hampstead Heath: Its Geology and Natural History*, published in 1913. □

Hampstead Whitestone Pond War Memorial – A Restoration Project

by Linda Chung, Councillor for Hampstead Town, 2008-2014

Former Hampstead Councillor Linda Chung recounts her experiences with the restoration of the Hampstead War Memorial.



At the rededication service on 25 August 2010. Pictured: Mounted Officers of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. From left: Brian Keys, Mayor of Camden, Councillor Abdul Quadir, Councillor Linda Chung and Alex Rudelhof. Photo courtesy: Nigel Sutton

Memorial, even local people ask me where it is. In 2008, the year that I became a Hampstead councillor, the Mayor of Camden was invited to attend the service on Armistice Day, Tuesday, 11 November. The driver took him to the wrong place – to the memorial at Hampstead Cemetery in Fortune Green, which is considerably grander and more well-known.

That occasion was forlorn. The main attendees were an angelic group of young children, charges of Andrea Taylor, Head of Hampstead Hill School. Every year, her staff would shepherd a large group of four to five year olds up the hill from Pond Street to bow their heads solemnly and say a prayer. When I asked why they attended so assiduously, she said it was important that children understood the recent history of the two World Wars and

the sacrifices made to defend their freedom.

Why was that first service so poignant to me? Because the War Memorial and its meaning had been forgotten. Behind it was Heath House, resplendent at one time, but after years of being left empty it became a dilapidated shell, with its myriad of smashed windows. The site was neglected and overgrown. The children were bowing their heads against the splintered and rotten wood of the monument's plinth surround, against a backdrop of gloomy decline. A woman came to lay some flowers to remember her grand-uncles. A small, white-haired man was also there. He berated me that, as a councillor, I could allow the Memorial to get into such a state. He did not allow for the fact that I had been elected to office only a month or so earlier. I felt ashamed and resolved there and then: the Memorial must be restored.

I delved into its history. The architect was Sir Reginald Blomfield and it was originally located in the middle of the intersection of three roads, acting as a sort of mini roundabout. It was first dedicated on 4 May 1922, to mark the deaths of local individuals who died fighting in World War I. An additional stone was laid to mark those who died in World War II, at which time the memorial was moved to the front of Heath House and dedicated on 23 April 1953.

In searching for funds needed for the restoration work, Camden Council was not forthcoming and neither were other possible grant sources. I was



Armistice Day Remembrance service. Pictured: Baroness Sue Garden of Frognal, the Reverend Monsignor Pbelim Rowland and children of Hampstead Hill School. Photo courtesy: Nigel Sutton

rather disconsolate that, by the time of the Armistice Remembrance service in 2009, no progress had been made. If there was to be any sort of action to get any results for the following year, a volunteer team was needed to help fundraise. I thought of people who had strong roots and connections to Hampstead life and who would be sympathetic to the project.



From left: Alex Rudelhoff and Brian Keys as young soldiers

I turned first to Alex Rudelhoff, a former church warden of Christ Church, and Brian Keys, both of whom had exhaustive knowledge of Hampstead, having lived here for over 60 years. Many of you may remember Alex. He was formerly the manager of Mr Alex, gentlemen's outfitters on Heath Street. He prided himself on being told by John le Carré (local resident, David Cornwell) that the character of the tailor of Panama was based on him. Most importantly, I knew that Alex and Brian were veterans. Alex had served in the Royal Medical Corps and Brian in the Gurkha Division of the Royal Engineers. Both men greatly cared about the significance of the Memorial.

When I told Alex about Camden's lack of interest, he sympathised and asked what was needed. To my surprise and delight, he offered to fund the restoration, based on the legacy bequeathed by the late Richard Waller, who had owned Mr Alex as well as a string of other shops and properties in Hampstead. Richard Waller was a respected local citizen, born in Queen Mary's Hospital, East Heath Road, in 1924. He had served in the Royal Air Force for several years.

Others willingly came forward to be part of the project: Michael Welbank MBE, chairman, at the time, of Hampstead Heath Management Committee, City of London Corporation; Father Paul Conrad of Christ Church, in whose parish the memorial stood; Christopher Wade, Hampstead historian; John Goldsmith, church warden of Christ Church; and Baroness Sue Garden of Frognal, a Forces wife, having being married to the late Air Marshall Lord Garden of Hampstead, a senior commander in the Royal Air Force.

We thus formed the Restoration Committee and held the first of several meetings in Alex and Brian's Heath Street home. We sought quotations from recommended restorers and contractors and settled on a small, family company, used by Camden for conservation work, and who knew the finer intricacies of using the right type and mix of mortar on the old brickwork.

At the beginning, we envisaged it was sufficient to renew the wooden plinth and carry out repairs to the brickwork and clean the Memorial, but soon after we decided this was simply not good enough. A fitting restoration to the highest standards meant having Portland stone reinstated in place of the wooden plinth that had obviously been a cheap repair option in previous years. The original cost estimate mushroomed from £12,000 to upwards of £30,000.

By June 2010, the project was complete. The new white Portland stone looked pristine, the brickwork had been cleaned and repointed, the small open space properly defined, turfed and planted, and the iron railings painted. The rededication service, led by Father Paul, took place on 25 August 2010. We were memorably supported by the presence of the County Standard Bearer and officers of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, whose horses galloped along Whitestone Pond at the start of the ceremony, to then stand in smart attention throughout.

It was a glorious, bright day, and we were humbled to

Hampstead Whitestone Pond War Memorial – A Restoration Project (cont)



*The Hampstead War Memorial.
Photo courtesy: Andrew Tatham (WMR-11067)*

see so many distinguished representatives of the community present, including Councillor Abdul Quadir, the then Mayor of Camden; the chair of the North West Region of the Royal British Legion; the director of the War Memorials Trust; as well as members of the Metropolitan Police, the Heath Constabulary, and the Heath & Hampstead Society. The Restoration Committee had quietly achieved what it set out to do, purely on voluntary efforts, without great bureaucracy. The Remembrance service has been a regular and well-attended feature of the Hampstead calendar ever since then.

In researching the history of the Memorial, we noted that the Chief Rabbi had been part of the fundraising appeal committee in 1953, and that the Rev Levy, Jewish senior chaplain to the armed forces and minister of the Dennington Park Road Synagogue, read a passage of scripture during that dedication service. In remembering that individuals of all faiths and none took part in the World Wars, and inspired by the interfaith work undertaken by Lady Daniela Pears in Camden, the first interfaith service at the Memorial took place on 11 November 2014. Rabbi Yisroel Weisz of the Hampstead Shul attended, as did Imam Sheikh Dr Muhammad Al-Hussaini, an Islamic scholar who sang passages from the Quran in his powerful voice. In recent years, we have also had the pleasure of attendance by Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg and Cantor Jason Green. The local clergy take turns to lead the service, including Monsignor Phelim Rowland, Vicar General for the Army between 2002 and 2006.

The worry for the Restoration Committee is who will

carry on the vigilance and work in future? Having brought it to the attention of Camden Council, the grounds of the Memorial are now regularly maintained and its border of flowers is seasonally planted. Although some Section 106 monies were secured from development work at Heath House, it has been an exhausting business trying to extract those funds from Camden for future regular maintenance. Further work will be needed to restore the stonework, which gets more frangible every year. Furthermore, the Memorial is in a vulnerable position, directly in front of Heath House, sandwiched between its two wide driveways either side. Though the Memorial is Grade II listed, this is not enough to prevent it from threat of damage, or even worse, demolition, dependent on the aspirations of developers.

Why should we care? In the words of Dr R F Horton, the then Bishop of Willesden, who gave the address at the unveiling of the Memorial on 4 May 1922, the war, “was an event in the history of the country never to be forgotten, when the whole country, as it were, rose as one man to battle on the side of a just cause for Liberty and Right”. He believed that the Memorial would be a place of reconciliation and he asked those at the ceremony “to try with all their might to be worthy of the men who died, and worthy of the country to which they belonged”. My hope is that Hampstead citizens will not forget and that there always will be future generations ready to protect the War Memorial and its heritage.

There is an abundance of history about Hampstead at war – interwoven stories of local places, events and people – and it is full of personal accounts that may be found in the Camden Local Studies Archives in Holborn and at Burgh House & Hampstead Museum. □



*Trumpeter, King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, at the rededication service on 25 August 2010.
Photo courtesy: Nigel Sutton*

Events of Remembrance during the week of the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice

In this 100th Anniversary of the Armistice, Hampstead is commemorating with a series of events during Remembrance Week and throughout November (also see listings elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Friday 9 November 10.30am

Remembrance Service at Hampstead War Memorial

All are welcome to attend

Sunday 11 November various times

Christ Church Hampstead

In honour of the fallen, bells will be rung half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday between 10.15am and 11am and again from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Churches across the country have been taking part in a national campaign to recruit 1,400 new bell ringers, to ring in memory of the 1,400 bell ringers who lost their lives in the Great War.

Christ Church has acquired two new recruits to add to its already 12-strong band and who will be performing for the first time on November 11. In addition to ringing the traditional “call-changes” and methods, the bells will be rung in minor to major scale progression, a concept unique to Christ Church and that captures both the mourning and the commemorative sentiments of this event.

Keats House

Keats House invites friends and neighbours to join together in the garden to observe the two-minute silence at 11:00am.

The garden will host two of the “There But Not There” statues for the charity, Remembered.

There will be readings throughout the day, including “Lest We Forget” from 2:00pm to 3:00pm, featuring readings by the Keats House Poetry Ambassadors of some of the most powerful poetry describing the tragedy of human conflict.

Remembrance Sunday in 2018 will be a uniquely special event, falling, as it does, exactly 100 years since the Armistice that brought an end to the First World War. As many people’s impressions of the experience of fighting in that war are shaped by the poetry to which it gave rise, Keats House is privileged to act as a meeting point for the local community during this special act of commemoration.

Throughout November

Burgh House Exhibition: *Hampstead and the end of the First World War*

Domestic and political life changed irrevocably in Great Britain with the outbreak of the First World War. The horrific reality of the war forced communities to come together and help each other, sacrificing their time, money and lives for the good of their country.

These invaluable contributions were celebrated by Burgh House & Hampstead Museum in their 2014 exhibition, Fellowship & Sacrifice: Hampstead and the First World War, which focussed on the effect of the war on Hampstead and its residents. During November, in the Christopher Wade Room, there will be a mini-exhibition based on the 2014 exhibition.

The mini-exhibition will commemorate the end of the war and reflect upon its effect on the local community. The display will include postcards, trench art, and photographs from the military auxiliary hospitals based in Hampstead.

Heath Walks: 2018-2019

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

***NB:** parking is extremely difficult locally, especially in spring and summer; 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 per adult, 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, ☎ 07941 528 034
✉ hhs.walks@gmail.com

4 November 10.30am (meet at the bandstand, Golders Hill Park)

Trees of the Heath led by David Humphries, Trees Management Officer, Hampstead Heath (City of London Corporation)

2 December 10.30am (meet at the **Kenwood Walled Garden** entrance, off Hampstead Lane)

The Hidden Heath: signs of the Heath's past led by Michael Hammerson, a Vice-President of the Highgate Society and member of the Heath Sub-Committee

2019 (No walk in January)

3 February 10.30am (meet at **Burgh House**)

The history of the Hampstead Heath ponds led by Marc Hutchinson, Chair of the Society and Secretary of the Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club

3 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, Trustee of the Society

7 April 9.30am (meet at **Burgh House**)

Birds of the Heath led by John Hunt, member of the Society and former Chair of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society

