



Est. 1897

The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Vol 52 No 1



'Bombus pascuorum, or common carder bee, with pollen laden leg sacks'

Annual Report for the year 2020-2021

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Front cover: The photograph was taken during the first lockdown in Hampstead village by John Weston. John comments: "Pollutants break down scent molecules emitted by plants, making it harder for bees to detect food. Lockdown quietened the roads of Hampstead like everywhere else. The result: gardens abuzz with bees."

by Marc Hutchinson

By the time you receive this Newsletter, we will be looking forward to the imminent relaxation of social distancing rules – and all the restrictions and prohibitions that they entail – and a return to normal life after 21 June. On behalf of the General Committee, may I express the hope that Society members have been able to keep safe and well and to get vaccinated.

Annual General Meeting

As you know, we had planned to hold a delayed 2020 AGM in the spring of this year but the third lockdown put paid to that. Therefore, trustees have decided to consolidate the relevant business of the 2020 AGM into the 2021 AGM which is now convened for 21 July 2021 at the customary venue of St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill. The venue is so large that attendees wishing to keep a social distance will be readily able to do so.

We shall, amongst other things, approve two years' worth of financial statements. We do not need to ratify the continuation in office for an 'extra year' of the Society's Officers because their terms of office are expressed not in terms of calendar dates but in terms of holding office until a particular AGM (when they can be replaced or re-elected); if the particular AGM is delayed, their terms of office just continue accordingly. However, we do need to ratify the continuation in office for an additional year viz 2020-2021 of the elected members of the General Committee.

I hope that as many of you as possible will attend this meeting as we say farewell to Lord Hoffmann, our

President of 17 years, and welcome our new President Lord Mance.

New Patrons

The Society is fortunate to have a most distinguished list of Patrons. I am delighted to announce that Lord (Melvyn) Bragg, a long-time Hampstead resident and Society member, has agreed to become a Patron of the Society. Lord Bragg is so well known in the public life of this country that further introductory words from me can only appear superfluous, if not impertinent.

We are also very grateful that Lord Hoffmann, following his retirement as President, has agreed to become a Society Patron.

Temporary Closure of Society's PO Box

We recently learned that, at some point in 2020, Royal Mail closed our PO Box. They did this without any notification to us, despite the fact we pay for its annual renewal by direct debit. We had no reason to suspect the closure at the time because, despite the closure, Royal Mail continued to forward to our Secretary *some* of the mail being sent to the PO Box. Following discussions with Royal Mail who, owing to staff turnover and lack of records, have been unable to give us a precise date of the closure, we understand that most mail addressed to the closed PO Box would have been opened and 'returned to sender'. Those of you who renew your membership of the Society annually and by post will most likely have had your renewal form returned to you. We very much regret the inconvenience and confusion this has caused and can confirm that the PO Box address, under the old number, has now been reopened. The closure has obviously had an adverse effect on the renewal process and current membership numbers. We are seeking compensation from Royal Mail.

Hampstead Card

We continue to operate our Hampstead Card scheme. However, we are not yet in a position to publish an updated list of participating retailers because of the many closures and openings of Hampstead's retail outlets over the last 18 months. We will publish an updated list as soon as we can.

Eric Gordon

We note with sadness the passing, at the age of 89, of Eric Gordon, founder and editor of the independently-owned Camden New Journal. Gordon was a good, if occasionally critical, friend of the Society and the paper, under his long editorship, supported the Society on many of its campaigns to protect Hampstead and the Heath. All Hampstead residents owe him a debt of gratitude.

Abacus School

The Planning Inspector delivered his ruling, earlier than expected, on 17 December 2020. He forthrightly upheld the objections to the new school at the Old Police Station on three of the four grounds argued - namely the adverse effect on immediately adjoining residents, the poor air quality at the school location, and the harm to the listed building - but not the ground of the increased traffic the school would bring. Every Hampstead resident knows how bad the traffic is in the High Street and Downshire Hill during the school rush hours but the Inspector remained unconvinced by the visual and other (as we thought) compelling evidence on this problem submitted by the objectors. For example, he observed that the photographs of (we said) a typical traffic gridlock were not necessarily representative of the usual situation. So we have learned the lesson for future planning appeals: demonstrate that the gridlock is a daily Hampstead term-time occurrence.



Damage to the courtroom after the rave. Courtesy: Jill Furmanovsky via rockarchive.com

Nevertheless, we are very gratified that Camden Council's decision was upheld and we congratulate Andrew Neale, the Hampstead Committee for Responsible Development (who were supported by many local groups, including the Society), the Committee's barrister and solicitor, and the experts, all of whom undertook the huge task of appearing at the full appeal inquiry.

The Department of Education, the listed building's owner, is now looking to sell it. We hope that, while some of it may be converted for residential

use, the major part will be for mixed use and able to accommodate local businesses, workshops and studios.

The listed courtroom was seriously vandalised in an illegal rave held in the building during lockdown (as reported by Harry Taylor in the *Camden New Journal*). Partygoers smashed their way in and, although they were eventually ejected by the Metropolitan Police, we join with local residents and councillors in condemning the disgraceful decision of the Metropolitan Police not to prosecute the vandals.

South Fairground Site

Enforcement action against the owner has been successfully continued by Camden Council and the eyesore of the industrial-style metal spiked fencing has now been concealed by the erection of high solid timber fencing around most of the site periphery.

North Fairground Site

The site was sold to the owner of Knightsbridge Parks LLP (a caravan park operator) in November 2020 for £1.83m and more residential caravans have recently arrived at site. So comes to an end the unbroken ownership, since the 19th century, of the site by the Abbott family of travelling fairground operators. With the Vale of Health Society we shall continue to monitor developments at, and usage of, the site.

Jack Straw's Castle

The Planning Report at page 16 refers to this planning appeal, by the developer Albany Homes, in respect of Camden Council's refusal of this the fourth attempted application to develop the listed building's small car park, in this case by the construction of two mock-Georgian townhouses. The Planning Inspector conducted a virtual appeal hearing over two days in April. This was a 'hearing' as distinct from an 'inquiry' (like Abacus), which meant that the procedure was essentially inquisitorial, the parties present required only to answer the Inspector's questions rather than state their full cases by oral argument followed by witness examination. The Society joined the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum to object and we were represented by David Altaras of counsel. The City of London Corporation was also represented by counsel.

At the time of writing, we have no ruling from the Inspector but we hope this fourth and – we hope

– unsuccessful attempt to build on the inherently unsuitable car park site will mean an end to these ridiculous applications.

The Heath after Covid

The Heath Superintendent and his staff have been fearfully stretched during the past year, managing and protecting the Heath at the same time as complying with, and seeking to enforce compliance with, numerous Government rules; the exceptional footfall, illegal cycling, fires, drink-and-drug-fuelled raves, illegal encampments and vandalism have cumulatively put unprecedented pressure on the staff and Heath Constabulary. Thus we have invited the Superintendent to write in this Newsletter a happier and forward-looking piece as we emerge from the pandemic and, as we hope, leave behind some of the lockdown-related problems mentioned. A celebratory theme is provided by the 150th anniversary, in June 2021, of the passing of the Hampstead Heath Act of 1871. The City and Keats House are organising several commemorative outdoor events and the Society is promoting or joining in some of those, including the kite-flying event as mentioned on page 25 and a dawn bird watch on 27 June (see page 38). We have already started our biodiversity board project (see page 20) as part of the commemoration.

We wish the City and Heath management every success in their programme of events and hope that you will be able to attend many of them. Up-to-date and confirmed details can be found in due course on the City's website.

Committee Issues at the City of London

In the December 2020 Newsletter, I mentioned the Society's concern to establish the proper working relationship between the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the Hampstead Heath Management Committee as well as the proposal, by

Lord Lisvane, to abolish all but one of the City's open spaces committees. At the time of going to press, there is nothing further to report on these ongoing matters.

Licensing

The Town Sub-Committee and its Licensing Officer, Maddy Raman (who incidentally is, at my invitation, standing for election to the General Committee), continue to monitor and object to new alcohol licences in the Village and South End Green. We have been in direct contact with the new Sainsbury's opening in Hampstead High Street, at the premises currently occupied by GAP Kids, in connection with their alcohol licence application and the problems of drunken raves on the Heath and street drinking in the Village. They have applied for the same licensing hours as Tesco and Mag One.

Although, like local Ward Councillor Stephen Stark, we would welcome shorter evening hours, we have to recognise that the Metropolitan Police withdrew their objection to the application after Sainsbury's accepted further sales restrictions on alcohol, and that the licensing hours sought viz. 8am-11pm (10am-10.30pm on Sundays) are within Camden's so-called "Framework Hours". All we can generally hope to do is try to stop new alcohol licences extending beyond the Framework Hours.

Incidentally, we are pleased to report that the new store will be open only from 7am to 11pm (not 24 hours) and will not have the garish orange and purple frontage of the style at the Chalk Farm branch. Indeed the planned frontage and signage are discreet and modest as befits the building and location. We believe Sainsbury's will be a much better local corporate citizen than the local Tesco store, which continues to flout operating conditions and traffic rules.

Events

As advertised in this Newsletter, we are holding the

postponed Springett Lecture on 30 September 2021 at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, and a Glass-in-Hand lecture at the same venue by our Patron Sir Simon Jenkins on Tuesday, 26 October 2021.

Margaret Rodgers

Margaret Rodgers, the longest-serving member of our Planning Sub-Committee, has decided to step down. Since she joined the Society in 1975, Margaret has held many offices in it, including that of its first Honorary Membership Secretary in 1985. She served with distinction as a Vice-President from 1995 to 1999. She joined the Town Sub-Committee in 1998 and moved to the new Planning Sub-Committee when it was formed, where she has remained a member ever since. In recognition of her exceptional service to the Society, not least in its length, and to express the Society's gratitude to her for all her work, the General Committee has resolved to make her an Honorary Member of the Society.

Peter Tausig

Peter Tausig, currently an appointed member of the General Committee, will be stepping down from the Committee at the AGM. Peter has done many things for the Society in his time, was a founding member of Heath Hands and, until 2018, was the Society's representative on that body. From 2003 to 2017 he was an active member of the Heath Sub-Committee and from 2005 to the present he has served as a trustee of the Society. We acknowledge very gratefully the services he has rendered to the Society and the Heath over so many years and wish him well for the future.

Conclusion

My thanks go to all the Society's committees who continued to meet and carry on their work throughout the past year, and to you, our members, for your continuing support. I hope to greet as many of you as possible that our forthcoming AGM.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 123rd Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 7.30 pm at St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 2PP. Doors open at 7.00 pm.

The business of the meeting, which will include business which would have been transacted at the 2020 Annual General Meeting had it been able to be held, will be as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 122nd Annual General Meeting held on 19 June 2019.
2. Chair's report for 2019-2021.
3. Treasurer's report on the Society's examined financial statements for the 2019 and 2020 financial years and adoption of those financial statements.
4. Appointment of Fisher Phillips LLP, Chartered Accountants, as the Society's auditors for the 2020 and 2021 financial years.
5. Determination of membership subscription rates for the 2021 and 2022 financial years. The trustees propose that there should be no change to the rates.
6. Determination of the limit on free/discounted memberships. The trustees propose that there be no change to the current limit of 200, approved by members in 2019.

Note: this relates to the figure of 200 specified in Rule 10(4):

"10(3) Notwithstanding Rules 10(1) and (2), the General Committee may determine, with effect from 1 January 2017, that the applicable annual subscription for a new member shall, for the member's first year of membership only, be less than the applicable annual subscription determined under Rule 10(1).

10(4) The General Committee may make such a determination only as part of a particular scheme designed to

increase the paid membership of the Society, and so that the amount of subscription income thereby forgone in respect of such new members does not exceed, in any year, an amount equal to the aggregate of subscription income (for a standard annual individual membership) that would be payable in that year by, subject to Rule 10(5), 200 members.

10(5) The number of members specified in Rule 10(4) may be changed by resolution of the members of the Society at any general meeting of the Society."

7. Amendment of the Society's constitution

The General Committee, with the support of the Charity Commission, recommends the adoption of a new Rule 27A in the Society's constitution to permit members and committees of the Society to meet virtually. The text of the new Rule is as follows:

"Rule 27A Virtual Meetings

- (1) If the General Committee decides that it is unlawful or impracticable to conduct a general meeting of the Society involving the physical attendance of members of the Society, the General Committee shall be entitled to decide that such a general meeting shall be conducted by electronic audio-visual means.
- (2) If the Chair of the General Committee or the Chair of any Sub-Committee decides that it is unlawful or impracticable to conduct a meeting of the General Committee or, as the case may be, the relevant Sub-Committee, in either case, involving the physical attendance members of the committee, that Chair shall be entitled to decide that the relevant meeting shall be conducted by electronic audio or audio-visual means.
- (3) At a meeting conducted under paragraph (1) or (2) of this Rule 27A, no member shall have the

Notice of the Annual General Meeting (cont)

right to attend the meeting in person and votes may be permitted to be cast at the meeting by electronic or any other means.

- (4) The provisions of this constitution have effect subject to this Rule 27A.”
8. Ratification of the continuation in office of elected members of the General Committee for the year 2020-2021 and the extension of their term of office by one year.
9. Election of Officers and other members of the General Committee.

Officers

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

Vice-President: Martin Humphery
Chair: Marc Hutchinson
Treasurer: Maureen Clark-Darby
Secretary: Evelyn Ellis

General Committee Members

The following have been duly proposed for election for

a first term of three years: Latoya Austin, Dafydd James-Williams, Jessica Learmond-Criqui, Maddy Raman and Jeff Waage.

The following have been duly proposed for election for a second term of three years: Frank Harding and Robert Linger.

Note: Tony Gbilchik and Vicki Harding continue the terms for which they were elected. The Chairs of the three Sub-Committees are trustees and members of the General Committee, but they are appointed from time to time by the General Committee, not elected. It is the intention of the General Committee to appoint John Weston (currently an elected member serving a second three-year term) to the General Committee as an appointed member for the year 2021-2022.

10. Any other business.
11. Retirement of Lord Hoffmann and election of Lord Mance as President.

Evelyn Ellis, Secretary
30 May 2021

Candidates for Election

Information about the candidates, save Mr Raman, standing for election to the General Committee was set out on pages 8-9 of the last Newsletter, December 2021, Vol 51, No. 2. Information about Mr Raman can be found below.

Madhavan (Maddy) Raman

Maddy is a television editor and has worked on some of the UK's most popular TV shows such as *Have I Got News For You*, as well as some programmes Stateside. He and his future wife first moved to Hampstead almost two decades ago and now live here with their three children. Maddy serves on the Town Sub-Committee

and has helped the Society defeat or at least restrict many licensing applications that have not been in the interests of Hampstead residents. He is also the Chair of Governors of Beckford Primary School in West Hampstead, soon to be renamed West Hampstead Primary School.

Treasurer's Report for 2020

by Maureen Clark-Darby

The Society is pleased to present its Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The Society reviews its accounting policies each year. The trustees are satisfied that the current policies meet the Society's needs and circumstances. These policies, which have not changed, are disclosed on pages 9 and 10 of the Financial Statements.

The operating gain for 2020 was £4,148 (2019: deficit of £21,489).

The Society made an unrealised loss of £864 on its investments. The resulting total gain for the year was therefore £3,284.

Membership subscription income increased by just under 8% year on year – 2020: £28,371 (2019: £26,325). This increase is due to new memberships and a catch-up in renewals.

Dividend income decreased for the year to £150 (2019: £249). Interest income was also down for the year to £274 (2019: £508).

The Society's running costs, excluding exceptional

costs, decreased in 2020 to £16,387 (2019: £21,354).

The decrease is due to the printing of only two newsletters in 2020 rather than the customary three.

The Society's exceptional costs for the year were for the design and erection of a series of information boards on the Heath during 2021 to mark the 150th anniversary of the passing of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871. The Society expended £6,000 from its reserves for this project.

During 2020 the Society continued its efforts to increase membership and subscription income but was hampered somewhat in this by the pandemic restrictions.

The trustees believe that the Society's Capital and Reserves are satisfactory at £47,793, of which £20,613 are held in unrestricted reserves and £27,180 in restricted reserves.

The Society wishes to thank Fisher Phillips LLP, Chartered Accountants, for carrying out the Independent Examination of the Financial Statements for 2020.

Fisher Phillips LLP, Chartered Accountants

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

The Society is very grateful to Fisher Phillips LLP for examining the Society's annual financial statements each year.

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- Public access computers are available.
- We ask all visitors to wear a face mask and observe social distancing.
- Sorry, no study space or newspapers yet.
- Please check the website for news; we plan to open on more days soon, and to hold our not-to-be-missed *bargain book sale in July*.



Can you help us please?

Over the last year we have been unable to fundraise through our usual programme of literary events and book sales. We rely on the generosity of our community for donations as we are an ***independent library run by volunteers*** and receive no support from the Council. Our aim is to get back to our full six days a week opening, and to offer an opportunity to a new apprentice. If you can support us with a contribution, however modest, we would be so grateful.

To donate, please see our website:
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&



Heath Report

by John Beyer

150th Anniversary of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act

March saw the erection of the Society's spring signs encouraging visitors to look after the birds, flora and fauna of the Heath. The boards were the idea of Professor Jeff Waage, who worked with the City, English Heritage and Marylebone Birdwatching Society as partners on the project. The seven boards are located at: Hampstead Heath Overground plane avenue entrance, Parliament Hill Yard, Lime Tree Walk, Millfield Lane, Kenwood, the Heath Extension Café, and Golders Hill Park. Each board fits one season of the year (see *Biodiversity Interpretation Boards* in this issue).

The Society has its website address on the boards. The website then provides links to the City and other partner websites. The City will hold a small party on 29 June, the exact anniversary of the 1871 Act, to celebrate the erection of the boards and to launch the City's monolith exhibits which will also be positioned along the plane avenue. Although the boards were



Ranger Richard Payne erecting the Society's biodiversity interpretation board near Hampstead Overground

erected without fanfare, there has already been a positive response from the public. The Society will hold events to mark the anniversary, with a watchful eye on Covid19 conditions.

Recalling the regular visits to the Heath by the King's Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery which would occur until 2012, the Household Cavalry visited the Heath on 27 April and marked the anniversary year with a splash.



Household Cavalry wades through Whitestone Pond, which was deliberately designed to permit horse crossing. Courtesy: Ron Vester

"Constable's Pond"

When Covid19 restrictions eased in April, the Heath Sub-Committee facilitated a site meeting bringing together the Redington Frognaal Association (Redfrog), who have proposed the pond, and Heath Superintendent Bob Warnock, together with his colleagues Jonathan Meares and Adrian Brooker. The site meeting, the first many of us had experienced in twelve months, outlined where the pond would be and agreed the dimensions (around 6 by 13 metres).

Funding sourced by RedFrog has paid for the specialist hydrological and design work. RedFrog was awarded grants from both The Mayor of London and the City Bridge Trust. From now on, Heath staff will work on the project, mainly using in-house resources. All the partners in the project are optimistic that a pond can be created for this 150th anniversary year.

The pond will need to be lined with puddling clay to stop it completely drying out in the summer. It will be well-planted with reeds and other vegetation to encourage frogs, dragonflies and other wildlife. Wild hedging around the edges will protect it from dog disturbance. While the pond will not replicate the paintings of Constable, it will add an attractive feature to the area and increase biodiversity.

The idea for creating a pond stems from a RedFrog meeting in 2015 between the late Dr Stephen Myers, author of *Walking on Water: London's Hidden Rivers Revealed*. Following this meeting, RedFrog commissioned Arup to map previously unidentified historic rivers in the Redington Road/Frognaal area. Historical sources indicate the source of the River Westbourne (or Cannon) as the green space below Whitestone Pond, close to Branch Hill. This observation led to RedFrog's ambition to reinstate the pond at Branch Hill.

This initiative happily coincided with a call to recreate the pond from attendees of the Society's 2018 Springett lecture. The response concluded the inspiring talk featuring Constable's paintings (including one of the pond) given by the late Lindy Guinness (see Newsletter, Vol 50. No. 1). The Society has since enthusiastically supported the project.

The RedFrog Association has worked with the RedFrog Neighbourhood Forum (there is over-lap in the leadership of these two organisations) on making the area more wildlife-friendly. The Forum's



RedFrog's Nancy Mayo with visualisation of the pond by Adrian Brooker

Neighbourhood Plan has recognised gardens in the Redington Road/Frognaal area as part of the local ecological network forming a wildlife corridor to the Heath. There will be a referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan proposed by the Forum on 17 June.

RedFrog chair, Rupert Terry, and Treasurer, Laurence Bard, have been strong supporters of the plan, which has been championed by Nancy Mayo. Nancy has recently had a new partner in the project in Juliette Sonabend, who pioneered the transformation of Whitestone Pond with its distinctive reed bed in 2011.

Bird nesting survey year two; fencing

In the spring, Jeff Waage and colleagues started the second year of a systematic survey of nesting birds. Measuring the changes year on year will indicate how well species are doing, and whether there is a need to manage visitor access to maintain habitat. As the Society, we have traditionally resisted any new fencing on the Heath. However, the Heath Sub-Committee has concluded that the rise in visitor numbers (estimated at over 15 million a year) means it will be

Heath Report (cont)



Fencing on Pryors Field to restore vegetation south of Lime Walk

necessary to cordon off of certain areas of the Heath to protect nesting sites. The volume of visitors has meant multiple new “desire” paths have been created through ancient hedge lines, destroying the vegetation (see *Quarterly Walk by Members of the Heath Sub-Committee* in this issue).

Sandy Heath

The Sub-Committee has been working closely with the Heath Superintendent to prevent degradation of

Sandy Heath caused by off-road cycling. For a period in March-April, it was arranged that rangers were at work in the area with the Heath Constabulary on standby. This seemed to have a positive effect. The City also persuaded Transport for London to remove the indication of a cycle route across Sandy Heath from TfL’s cycling app.

Commercial dog walkers

The Sub-Committee continues to work with the City to devise a scheme to license commercial dog walkers. The current focus is on issuing a questionnaire to gauge interest and the number of dog walkers who may wish to obtain a licence. The next step will be to devise criteria for granting licences, for example: Do the dog walkers walk to the Heath? Do they use electric vehicles?

The plan is to have a system in operation by October. The City will meanwhile work on licensing for professional fitness trainers, and forest schools. Unfortunately, although the spirit of outside learning for children is to be commended, it is difficult to see how such schools can operate without further degradation of the wildlife habitats of the Heath.

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.



HAMPSTEAD SUMMER FESTIVAL

HAMPSTEAD, GET READY TO PARTY!

*The Hampstead Summer Festival is happening
Four events over two weekends in the beautiful gardens of Keats House*

Art Fair

26th June 12-5pm

There will be paintings and sculptures, an exhibition of the Annual Children's Art Competition, craft stalls, delicious freshly-cooked food, ice cream, and a wine bar. *Free Admission*

Twelfth Night

27th June, two shows 1pm & 5pm

Drama Impact will perform an open-air, family-friendly production of Shakespeare's popular comedy.

Tickets £25/£20/£15, see website

Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady

3rd July 2-4pm

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Edith Holden's birth with readings and a cappella folk songs. Tickets: £10, see website

Family Garden Party

4th July 2-5pm

Rhyme-time, storytelling, art activities, giant chess set, birds of prey demonstration, giant chess set, tea and delicious cake and wine bar. *Free Admission*



For ticket links and latest information visit www.hampsteadsummerfestival.com

All current COVID precautions will be followed

All Festival proceeds will benefit two popular and vital local charities: Hampstead School of Art & Keats Community Library

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Town Report

by Andrew Haslam-Jones

Even before lockdown began to ease, much had been happening in Hampstead.

Dockless Bikes

Camden Council has begun to roll out its proposals for parking locations for the dockless electric hire bikes run by Jump, which has merged with Lime bikes, the other company to which Camden had given a contract last year. We were alerted to this by a Council consultation for one location to replace a parking bay in Church Row. The Society objected to that consultation because we believe a location as congested, and with such visual amenity, as Church Row would be inappropriate for locating the hire bikes. We understand that, in future, the bike hire companies' apps will only allow their bikes to be parked in the designated parking locations and not, for example, in the middle of the Heath. Camden has not yet rolled out its proposals for Hampstead Town, but has agreed to consult with the Society when it does so.



Dockless bike abandoned on the Heath

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

On the theme of environmental improvements, Camden Council has also announced the rollout of electric vehicle charging points in various locations, including Willow Road and Willoughby Road. The design of the charging points is meant to avoid intrusive street furniture and unnecessary obstructions on the pavements and, we hope, will contribute to the reduction in levels of pollution in Hampstead.

Pollution Survey

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum, with the Society's fund-raising assistance, has announced a scheme to repeat the pollution survey it carried out five years ago. Readers may recall the shockingly high levels of pollution the previous survey detected (see Newsletter Vol. 47, Nos 1 and 2). This time, the intention is to carry out a more detailed survey of pollution levels to assist Camden by providing robust data on which decisions to limit pollution can be taken. Here is a link to an explanation of the survey on the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum's website: <https://www.hampsteadforum.org/airquality2021>

No. 168 Bus Stop

You may recall, during the pandemic the terminus bus stop for the No. 168 at South End Green was temporarily relocated to Fleet Road to make way for a streater. This move met with objections mainly on the grounds of the congestion it caused. Since then, one of our committee members, Robert Linger, came up with a suggestion to reconfigure the No. 24 bus terminus on South End Green to allow the No. 168 to use the same space, and thereby free up the slip road, where the No. 168 currently stops, to be pedestrianised. Camden Council have drawn up plans

and are discussing this with Transport for London who are responsible for the buses. We are hopeful Robert's innovative plan might provide a solution to the No. 168 bus terminus conundrum.

Trees

When he is not redesigning bus routes, Robert is also responsible for liaising with Camden Council to find more locations for the planting of trees in and around Hampstead High Street. We can report that several new spots have been found for the current planting season.



Robert Linger with one of the new trees, opposite Oddbins on Rosslyn Hill

Sainsbury's

Some readers may have noticed that Sainsbury's has applied for an alcohol licence in connection with its planned new mini-supermarket on Hampstead High Street where Gap Kids and Baby Gap are currently located. While many may welcome the competition with Tesco, this does raise concerns about the possibility of the increased availability of alcohol and the anti-social behaviour which may follow. The Society, as any community group, is not in a position to dictate what commercial activity is conducted on the High Street, but we can encourage compliance with Camden Council's own guidelines on alcohol sales and make representations to the businesses involved. In this case, we are pleased to report, Sainsbury's appears keen to engage with us and other community groups. We hope it will address our

concerns about rubbish collection and deliveries to its new store, given the poor example of the congestion often caused by Tesco when deliveries are made to its Heath Street store.

Hampstead Business Improvement District

Whilst the Society has no preference on who should represent the shops in Hampstead, we value being able to work closely with whoever carries out that important function. We appreciate the willingness of Hampstead Business Improvement District (the BID), which currently fulfils that role, to work with us over the past several years. The BID's five-year term is up for renewal this year and will be put to the vote between the end of June and the end of July.

Over recent years, the BID has been the focus of criticism for several aspects of its composition. As a result, the BID has restructured its offering to be put to the business community in the ballot. This includes removing state schools, charitable shops and NHS surgeries from the list of hereditaments, which is the word used to describe rate-paying locations eligible for inclusion in a business improvement district area. Also, the BID has raised the threshold for payments to the BID to cover businesses with a minimum rateable value of £35,000 and the multiplier used for calculating BID contributions has been reduced from 1.5% to 1.25%. These two adjustments reduce the number of businesses that would contribute to the BID and that are, therefore, eligible to vote. It would also reduce the amount the BID would collect. We understand the BID would absorb any loss of income by reducing its administrative costs.

If the BID were to fail to be approved for a new five-year term, the Society would equally hope to be able to work closely with whatever organisation might rise to fill its place.

Planning Report

by David Castle

Two houses attached to Jack Straw's Castle

The developer's planning appeal against Camden Council's welcome refusal for two new houses to be attached to Jack Straw's Castle and built in the rear of its small carpark, has now been heard by the Planning Inspector, as described in the Chair's Annual Report.

Camden refused the application but, as reported in the December 2020 Newsletter, only did so on the grounds that the design harmed the existing Listed Building – which it certainly would. All who objected, including the City, the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum and, of course, the Society, also raised the equally important issue that the proposed two tall houses on the boundary would cause harm to the environment and the openness

of the Heath, which is protected not only by Camden's Local Plan, but also by its designation as Metropolitan Open Land. We await the Inspector's decision. It would be a serious setback if the two houses are approved.

Protecting the openness of the Heath and preventing any building which reduces it are crucial objectives of the Society. Therefore, both the Heath and the Planning Sub-Committees have agreed to collaborate in order to evolve policies which limit development that could be seen from the Heath or its close vicinity and could damage trees and the Heath ecology.

Worrying changes to Permitted Development

In the December 2020 Newsletter, I mentioned the two Government White Papers on housing and on planning



View looking west. Walking north in front of Jack Straws Castle, the view to the left opens and one can see across to the trees and sky beyond. Courtesy: Janine Griffiths



View looking south. Jack Straw's Castle rises ahead, visually distinct from any other edifice. Courtesy: Janine Griffiths

law. Both papers have been severely criticised. We await the final versions with some trepidation.

Not satisfied with the drastic changes proposed in the White Papers, the Government has also introduced further changes to the legal definition of “Permitted Development”, the ability of an owner of land to “develop” it without planning permission. The Secretary of State, of course, can introduce these sorts of changes to planning law without any input or approval by Parliament. Until last year, it was necessary to obtain planning permission for a change of use of premises from and to shops, offices, small workshops, etc. Such planning permission was required to prevent loss of shops and similar local facilities. Now, such change of use has been designated Permitted Development (Class E). This means a change of use of a shop to an office and vice versa can be made without planning permission and is virtually unrestricted.

Even more problematic is the latest change which allows all user types in Class E to be changed to dwellings, usually flats over shops, without planning permission so long as the application meets a few limited, basic requirements. These relaxations in planning law have

been introduced to enable so-called shopping areas to adapt to the threat of on-line shopping – but in many areas will only hasten their demise.

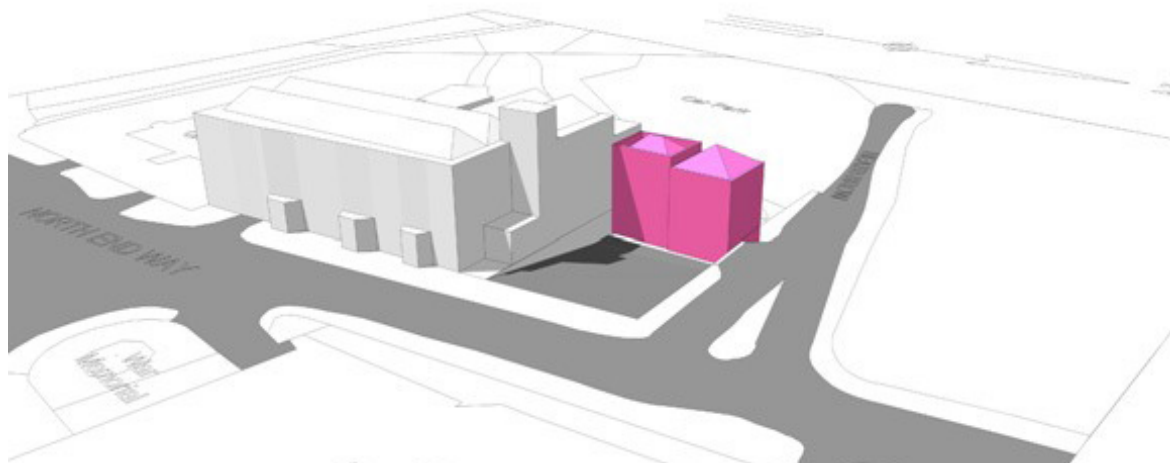
Another threat to the Heath

Finally, yet another expansion of Permitted Development! Will it ever end?

A *consultation* has just been announced about allowing taller and wider telecommunication masts and equipment without needing any local authority approval. The proposed changes would allow the following without requiring planning permission:

- existing masts to be increased in height to 25 metres (equivalent to a building eight storeys high) and in width to two metres;
- installation of cabinets at the base of the masts; and
- slimline poles up to 15 metres high (the equivalent of five storeys).

Land designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are exempted, but Conservation Areas and Metropolitan Open Land, such as the Heath, are not.



Scaled mock-up of the two houses (in magenta) at Jack Straw's Castle. Courtesy: metropolis pdg ltd, planning consultants to the City

Quarterly Walk by Members of the Heath Sub-Committee

by Jeff Waage

Erosion and compaction on the Heath are problems which have intensified during the Pandemic. Here, Prof. Waage reports on his visit to the Heath to view damaged areas and illuminates how experts are protecting and restoring them.

The problem of expansion and erosion of footpaths and its consequences for tree health was the subject of the Heath Sub-Committee's October 2020 Quarterly Walk. Its timing was opportune, as the pandemic has led to much more intensive use of the Heath, including the widening of paths and the creation of many new ones. City experts took us on a tour of damaged areas and showed us how they protect and restore meadows and woodlands damaged by paths.

On Heath meadows such as the several fields behind Parliament Hill above the Highgate ponds, bare and muddy paths can develop quite rapidly. To address this problem, walkers are encouraged onto new paths cut in the long grass adjacent. Walkers tend to avoid long grass, so these mowed desire lines become attractive, and the worn path can be temporarily fenced or covered with branches.

Woodland paths pose greater challenges. They get widened as walkers avoid mud, and in the past year, other walkers! To make woodland paths more resilient, particularly in areas with clay soils prone to muddiness, Kentish flint pebbles are rolled into the path. This makes a path firmer and allows water to run off rather than sit. Using such stone creates a natural look, similar to the appearance of better drained paths which sit on sandy parts of the Heath. In a very few places on the Heath, paths into woodland are fenced to direct walkers down single route. These fenced, *sacrificial* paths prevent creation of multiple paths and degradation of woodland. With main paths across the Heath, such as the one from

the Hampstead ponds over Viaduct Bridge to Spaniards Road, other strategies are needed. Here, with intensive use by walkers and cyclists, a natural look is not as important as a good surface, and stones like Norwegian granite, various gravels and hoggins are used because they are very tough and hard-wearing.

In 2021, Heath managers face the challenge of narrowing paths broadened in the pandemic, and closing the many new paths that have been created in woodland. This is needed to protect vegetation and wildlife, and particularly veteran trees, as we shall see. Small paths can be closed off by dead hedging, that is, building a fence-like hedge from fallen branches. This is appropriate, for instance, in hedgerows which tend to get *hollowed out* by new paths across them or running through them. However, individuals who have now developed a habit of using these new paths will frequently remove these barriers as fast as they are put in place. This situation is even more extreme with the growing number of cyclists who have opened routes on the Heath. Here, fences



*A path beside a veteran tree closed by dead hedging.
Courtesy: David Humphries*

and large logs have been used to close new paths, but again, users have removed or even sawed through logs to gain access. While barriers may be only temporary, it is hoped that their constant renewal will win a war of attrition with those determined to degrade the Heath in this way. For cycling, the longer-term solution involves increased surveillance and stiff fines, which are now being implemented.



Fungi, a sign of healthy soils and trees. Courtesy: David Humphries

Perhaps the most striking discovery in our walk is the dramatic effect of busy paths on trees. Tree health is directly related to the health of the soil. Near paths, a key problem is compaction by footfall, which crushes roots and reduces water absorption by the soil, causing rain to wash off and not be absorbed. As a result, soil biology changes, with a loss of active mycorrhizal fungi and invertebrates important to tree nutrition and health. Trees along paths may then receive less water or nutrients through their roots, becoming less able to defend themselves against decay and tree-weakening fungi. We saw many examples of large trees dying and dead along paths – such as the *dead tree alley* that runs along the top of Tumulus Hill field. Large beeches, being thin barked and shallow rooted are particularly vulnerable.

There are a number of ways to address compaction, including use of air shovels that break up the soil and applications of wood chips, but these are costly and not sustainable, long term solutions. The preferred approach is to move paths away from the roots of trees at risk, and we saw how this has been done for several large and veteran trees in recent years. Dead hedging around these trees is often a first step. Growth of brambles in and behind the hedge can reduce traffic near the tree, or additional planting around the tree can be done. The famous twin oaks on Sandy Heath are protected by a wooden fence, which is particularly effective. On that site we saw how the soil was visibly deeper and less compacted, and were told it supports a larger Autumn mushroom flora, which indicates a healthy mycorrhizal community below ground. Besides protecting root systems, veteran trees may also receive canopy trimming to make them more stable, and surrounding tree canopies may be cut back to give them more light.

Another way to manage compaction around large trees is to lay cell web on the path near the tree, which is a deep synthetic honeycomb matting that absorbs the shock of footfall and holds the soil layer. This has also been used on muddy paths. For some areas, the City is now considering the creation of boardwalks next to trees, again, to reduce compaction.

Our Sub-Committee concluded we need to increase public appreciation of the damage caused by widening and adding paths on the Heath, and encourage more responsible walking and cycling. With respect to the dramatic effect of nearby paths on our spectacular veteran trees, the autumn panel of the Society's new biodiversity interpretation boards (see *Biodiversity Interpretation Boards* in this issue) will include a story entitled *Death by a Million Footfalls*. The panel will encourage walkers to respect dead hedging and related measures and to enjoy the attractive and diverse fungi that are a sign of well managed soils and pathsides.

Biodiversity Interpretation Boards

by Jeff Waage

For the first time on the Heath, seasonal interpretation boards are erected to educate visitors about the Heath's biodiversity.

The Society has worked with the City, English Heritage, Marylebone Birdwatching Society and Heath Hands to produce interpretation boards which promote appreciation and conservation of biodiversity on the Heath.

Placed at seven entrances to the Heath and Kenwood, they will be changed every season to reflect the diversity and seasonality of nature on the Heath. Our boards place emphasis on birdlife, in memory of Kate Springett (1906-1995), a champion of birds on the Heath, and Founding President in 1981 of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society.

This display is part of #Heath150, a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act of 1871. This marked the beginning of the protection of open spaces as sanctuaries for nature, people and communities, which are still important to us all today. Find out more using #Heath150 on social media or by visiting the Society's website at <https://www.heathandhampstead.org.uk/heath/biodiversity/>

The stories selected for these displays introduce birds and other wildlife that you can easily see in a visit in different seasons, and show you how to recognize them by sight and sound.

We have intentionally excluded our most familiar wildlife, such as Mute Swan, Wren, Robin, Grey Squirrel or Fox. Rather, we introduce interesting species you may not know so well, and emphasize wildlife and habitats which are potentially under threat from our growing use of the Heath.

Our aim is to further enjoyment of all of the Heath's distinctive biodiversity, and thereby to increase interest in its conservation. We propose simple and easy actions that visitors can take to protect fragile habitats and these species. If we all take these actions, we are confident that we can continue to enjoy a truly nature-rich experience when we visit the Heath.

We would like to thank our project partners for their contributions to this collaboration, and particularly the City for building and installing the display stands for this project.

Special thanks to Matt Maran, Adrian Brooker, David Humphries and Duncan Chapman who contributed photos of wildlife taken on the Heath itself.

The two most recent panels are spring and summer, reproduced here for your enjoyment if you are unable to see them on the Heath.



The Harlots of Haverstock Hill

'Moll' King and her Belsize Houses

by David S. Percy

A compelling, illustrated account of the remarkable life of 'Moll' King, an 18th century madam and an ambitious woman. Painted by Hogarth, Moll King rose from humble beginnings in the streets of London to become one of the first settlers in Belsize Park. She became a wealthy landowner with several properties on Haverstock Hill in the days when there were no more than a handful of houses along this country road to Hampstead. Her legacy remains there to this day. This account of her life includes never before published information.

"David Percy has homed in on an amazing tale of sex and scandal in Georgian Belsize. This is more than a local history, painting a vivid and at times jaw-dropping picture of sexual mores in Georgian London. Framed as Moll's autobiography this is as breezily engaging as a picaresque novel."

Michael Wood, historian and BBC broadcaster

"This is an important book because it gives substance to one of the legends of Georgian London and brings to life one of the city's fascinating and enigmatic characters... it tells the story of this [Belsize] building enterprise in unprecedented and riveting detail."

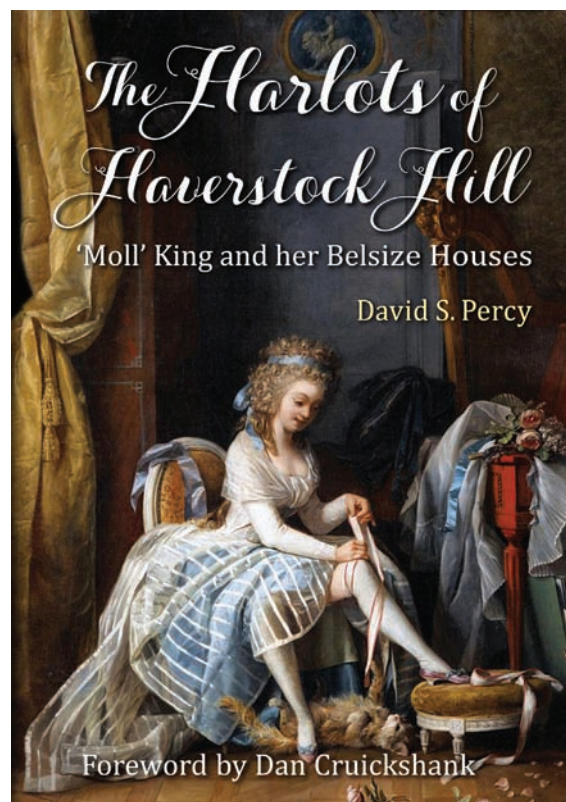
Dan Cruickshank

"David Percy's lively account of the life of an 18th-century brothel-keeper focuses on the importance of the sex trade to the wider economy. It stimulates one's curiosity about what was really going on at various Hampstead

establishments at that time. Beautifully designed and illustrated as one would expect from a distinguished award-winning media professional."

Helen Lawrence, former Chair, the Society

Available from 1 September in all Daunt bookshops and Waterstone's in Hampstead, £10.99.



The Heath 150 years on during one of its most remarkable years

by Bob Warnock

Bob Warnock, Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, joins this issue of the Newsletter. He reflects on meeting the extraordinary challenges of this past year; enlightens us about the current work happening on the Heath and marks the 150-year anniversary of the passing of the Hampstead Heath Act.

As we hopefully come to an easing of what has been one of the most challenging periods of managing the Heath, certainly in my time as Superintendent and probably in the 32 years the City of London Corporation has cared for the Heath, there is much to look forward to and important programmes of work to help the Heath recover following the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Heath Team have worked tirelessly, and I am proud of their collective effort to ensure the Heath remained safe and welcoming at a time when it was needed most by the communities around it. It has

been positive to see so many people using their local park or green spaces whilst socialising indoors was not permitted. However, this has brought a series of challenges for the Heath.

In the last 15 months, we have seen a huge increase in anti-social behaviour, such as littering, verbal and physical abuse towards staff, as well as fires and unauthorised cycling. All of these behaviours have been extremely difficult to manage and we are not alone. Open spaces across the country have seen the same issues, as more people are using their local open spaces to meet outdoors and exercise. I would like to extend a huge thanks to the Heath Team for their resilience and endurance, including the volunteers who went the extra mile to help us and the wider community who continued to share their appreciation and support.

The Heath has suffered from erosion, compaction and habitat disturbance associated with the high volume



Veteran Tree on the Heath. Courtesy: David Humphries, Hampstead Heath Tree Officer



Veteran Tree on the Heath with fencing installed. Courtesy: David Humphries, Hampstead Heath Tree Officer

The Heath 150 years on during one of its most remarkable years (cont)

of visitors. The history of the Heath has demonstrated that the landscape will recover, but it may take some time and will require carefully planned interventions. To this end, the Annual Work Programme has been adapted to focus on the restoration of the Heath's habitats. We commenced the first phase of ground restoration works this spring and you may have seen the fencing installed to protect veteran trees and reseeded areas of grassland. Dead hedging is being constructed to protect path edges and to encourage

natural regeneration. This also presents opportunities to increase the biodiversity of the Heath.

Heath Hands, our volunteer partner, have provided invaluable support throughout the pandemic. Volunteer sessions have restarted and will be expanded as the lockdown measures continue to ease. Heath Hands work closely with the Heath staff and provide a wide range of opportunities, including conservation, habitat management and wildlife monitoring, as well as leading education and interpretation events to



Soil decompaction works at the Hollow Beech. Courtesy: David Humphries, Hampstead Heath Tree Officer

The Heath 150 years on during one of its most remarkable years (cont)



Hollow Beech following soil decompaction works with mulch and rope fencing installed. Courtesy: David Humphries, Hampstead Heath Tree Officer

increase community understanding of the Heath. To find out more about the range of volunteering opportunities provided, please visit: www.heath-hands.org.uk. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who help us care for the Heath.

Aside from volunteering, there is a variety of ways to support the Heath, such as supporting the Hampstead Heath Charity (Charity number 803392) by making a donation. We are currently seeking contributions towards two conservation and wildlife projects. You can find out more and support the Heath by visiting: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/donatehh. All donations are gratefully received and will go directly towards these projects.

Current work on the Heath

Alongside the first phase of the Coronavirus restoration works, the Heath's Conservation Team has been busy implementing the recommendations of the Ponds and Wetlands Conservation Plan. The team is focusing their works on wildlife protection, reducing erosion and increasing biodiversity. We are improving signage at the ponds to make it clearer where the designated dog swims are located. We know that many dogs like to swim in the ponds, but it is important that we maintain a balance and take active steps to limit the impact this activity has on wildlife and biodiversity.

The Heath 150 years on during one of its most remarkable years (cont)

We have just finished works to install new play equipment at the Adventure and Vale Playgrounds. In addition to the new equipment, natural play elements have also been introduced. Accessibility has been improved, to ensure all children are able to play and enjoy the Heath. We understand how important these play spaces are, and we will shortly begin similar works at the Preachers Hill Playground. We are also working with the local community to develop plans to improve accessibility, extend the age range and incorporate natural play opportunities at the Heath Extension Playground.

The Heath has also grown in popularity with Forest Schools in recent years. The Heath's Learning Team work with primary schools and provide an excellent programme of outdoor learning opportunities, using dedicated education gardens and across the wider Heath. However, despite its size, the Heath is unable to facilitate a large number of Forest Schools. We have placed a cap on new applications for the time being and will re-evaluate this as the Heath gradually recovers.

An increasingly important part of protecting the Heath involves making representations on planning applications in the local area and across London, which may affect the Heath's character or strategic views. Our recent successes include applications for two imposing mobile phone masts that were dismissed at appeal. We are currently awaiting the outcome from the appeal hearing that relates to the construction of two town houses at Jack Straw's Castle. As with the recent Jack Straw's planning appeal hearing, we greatly value the opportunity to collaborate with the Society to protect and conserve the natural aspect, openness and character of the Heath.

Celebrating 150 Years of the Heath

2021 marks a very important year for the Heath as it is the 150th anniversary of the passing of the Hampstead

Heath Act of 1871. The Act marked the beginning of the protection of open spaces as sanctuaries for nature, people and communities, which are still important to us all today.

The celebrations are already off to a great start with the installation of the biodiversity boards in partnership with the Society. These educational boards, which will change seasonally, have been welcomed by visitors. The boards provide an opportunity for visitors to learn more about the biodiversity of the Heath and encourage everyone to play an active part in caring for it.

We have a number of events coming up to mark the anniversary, including an outdoor exhibition which will run from Wednesday 23 June to Sunday 8 August 2021 at East Heath, near the entrance to Hampstead Heath Overground Station.

On Sunday 27 June, a Community Fun Day is being organised by Heath Hands. Activities will be based at the Parliament Hill Bandstand and will include a kite-flying event organised by the Heath & Hampstead Society.

On Tuesday 29 June, which marks the 150th anniversary of the actual coming into force of the Act, visitors will be encouraged to visit the areas of the Heath which were saved in 1871. On social media, *#Heath150* will be used for all events which make up the 150th anniversary celebrations. For more information on the *#Heath150* events programme please visit: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath.

We have so much to look forward to as the summer approaches, with a wide variety of events and activities taking place across the Heath. We look forward to continuing to work with the Society to care for and celebrate this very special place.

Hampstead's 'rarified air' Gets the Last Laugh

by Dafydd James-Williams

Hampstead has been a beacon for many writers, some thriving therein while others not. In this piece, we glimpse a few through the fraught relationship D.H. Lawrence had with the village.

In his *Tour of London and the Provinces*, written between 1724 and 1726, Daniel Defoe would write rather begrudgingly of Hampstead, complaining of its 'uneven surface' and that 'there's no walking twenty yards together, without tugging up a hill, or straddling down a hill'. Even the ostensibly complimentary 'tis so near heaven' is undone by the subsequent comments that only 'a race of mountaineers' could survive the 'rarified air'. Defoe seems genuinely shocked at how populous Hampstead had become, expressing incredulity at the 'rate of lodgings'; and yet, towards the end of his entry on Hampstead, despite asserting that 'in winter nothing that I know can recommend it', Defoe acknowledges that 'a warm house, and good company, both which are to be had here, go a great way to make amends for storms, and severity of cold.'

Perhaps it is this promise of 'good company' or indeed the promise of being removed from the overwhelming 'company' of the city, or maybe even the elevated perspective over the city that proved so attractive to the array of writers and thinkers who have been residents of the village. It is tempting to draw a parallel between the literal elevation, which Defoe found so unappealing, and the more figurative elevation of thought that seems to be something that unites many of the literary minds that have been denizens of the area. Church Row is often referred to for its literary associations, be this as the street on which Wilkie Collins was brought up, a temporary residence for the scandal-strewn H.G. Wells or, even more infamously perhaps, the sometime home of Lord Alfred 'Bosie' Douglas, who served as the

inspiration for one of Oscar Wilde's most heartfelt pieces of writing, *De Profundis*, his letter to Bosie from Reading prison.

Something similar can be said for Well Walk, where at various times John Keats and his two brothers, John Masefield, J.B. Priestley and D.H. Lawrence have resided. More so than any of the other luminary literary residents of Hampstead, D.H. Lawrence perhaps seems to have shared Defoe's ambivalence towards Hampstead. Lawrence, something of a nomad when it came to residences and, perhaps, his thinking, never stayed anywhere for very long; as well as the house on Well Walk, he also lived on Heath Street, Byron Villas in the Vale of Health and Willoughby Road, in which he would spend his final night in England in 1926.

D.H. Lawrence's relationship with Hampstead is a rather convoluted one and his attitude to the area was a rather ambivalent one. He and his partner and eventual wife, Frieda Weekley, lived in the lower half of the small terraced house on Byron Villas from August to December 1915. Lawrence had met Frieda Weekley, the then wife of his former modern languages professor at University College, Nottingham, with whom she had three young children, in 1912. Her husband's parents lived at 40 Well Walk (now marked with a plaque commemorating Constable's earlier occupancy of the house), and it is with them that she left her children to elope with Lawrence to Germany, remaining away from England until their return in 1915, after Frieda had secured a divorce from her husband and she had married Lawrence.

The flat in 1 Byron Villas in the Vale of Health was ideal for Frieda as a base for her attempt to see her children who, after the elopement, were brought up

Hampstead's 'rarified air' Gets the Last Laugh (cont)



Blue plaque erected in 1969 by Greater London Council at 1 Byron Villas, Vale of Health, Hampstead. Courtesy: Spudgun67, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

by Ernest Weekley's parents and sisters. Despite having no great liking for London, Lawrence was nonetheless quite productive in the short time that they lived in Byron Villas. He revised the essays for *Twilight in Italy* and started work on *The Signature* with John Middleton Murry. On returning from dinner with friends, the couple would also witness the Zeppelin L-13 attack on London on 8th September 1915, a raid which killed 22 people and caused tremendous damage in areas such as Smithfield, St Paul's and Liverpool Street. Lawrence would recount witnessing this event in a letter as follows:

'Then we saw the Zeppelin above us, just ahead, amid a gleaming of clouds; high up, like a bright golden finger, quite small, among a fragile incandescence of clouds. And underneath it were splashes of fire as the shells fired from the earth burst. Then there were flashes near the ground – and the shaking noise. It was like Milton – then there was a war in heaven. But it was not angels. It

was that small golden Zeppelin, like a long oval world, high up. It seemed as if the cosmic order were gone, as if there had come a new order, a new heaven above us: and as if the world in anger were trying to revoke it. Then the small long-ovate luminary, the new world in the heavens, disappeared again.'

Lawrence would also go on to reflect on this incident in his 1923 semi-autobiographical novel, *Kangaroo*.

It was also whilst at Byron Villas that Lawrence heard news in November of 1915 of the suppression of his novel *The Rainbow* for obscenity, as a result of which copies in circulation were seized and burnt and the book was banned for the next 11 years. News of the suppression of *The Rainbow* solidified Lawrence's sense of alienation towards England and, in December



German Graf Zeppelin flies over St. Paul's Cathedral while on a press visit to London, circa 1930. Courtesy: The National Archives

Hampstead's 'rarified air' Gets the Last Laugh (cont)

1915, he and Frieda gave up the flat on Byron Villas. However, it would not be until after the first world war had ended that Lawrence would enact the permanent self-imposed exile that he had long threatened.

On leaving Hampstead, Lawrence and Frieda moved to Higher Tregerthon, near St Ives. But Lawrence's reputation for the salacious, his open contempt for militarism and Frieda's German heritage led to them being viewed with great mistrust in Cornwall. The couple were accused of spying and signalling to German submarines from the coast and, in late 1917, after ongoing harassment by the armed forces, they were forced to leave Cornwall at three days' notice under the terms of the Defence of the Realm Act.

Having few choices, the Lawrences sought refuge with Dollie Radford, a long-time friend of the couple who lived at 32 Well Walk, making her a near-neighbour of Frieda's first husband's parents (who were still raising her children). But their stay at 32 Well Walk was short-lived; Radford was not well, was nursing an ailing husband and was nervous about hosting a couple that had to regularly report to the police station which, at the time, was on Willoughby Road. Thereafter, the couple became increasingly itinerant, leaving Well Walk to stay briefly with the American poet Hilda Doolittle on Mecklenburg Square near Coram's Fields and then living in villages in Berkshire and Derbyshire in 1918 and 1919, before returning for a brief period to stay with friends on Heath Street.

Following the end of the war, Lawrence would begin what he referred to as his 'savage pilgrimage', casting himself and Frieda into a self-sought exile which took them to Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), Australia, Mexico, France and the United States. Leaving England in November 1919, they first headed to central Italy and travelled across Italy and Germany, never staying in one place for any great length of time. Early in 1922, they left Europe for Australia, where Lawrence would

complete *Kangaroo* which, as well as being about fringe politics in Australia, also documents experiences from both Hampstead and Cornwall. But their stay in Australia was short-lived and, in September, they left for Taos in New Mexico, believing it to hold the promise of bohemian egalitarianism.

The Lawrences returned to Hampstead in 1923, staying at 110 Heath Street, the home of the Scottish novelist, biographer and journalist, Catherine Carswell. Frieda had come in August, with Lawrence joining her in December, only to find London more detestable than he had done hitherto. He wrote to a friend in New Mexico, 'London – gloom – yellow air – bad cold – bed – old house – Morris wall-paper – visitors – English voices – tea in old cups – poor D. H. L. perfectly miserable, as if he was in his tomb.' Unsurprisingly, it was not long before they returned to Taos; but within two years, whilst travelling in Mexico, Lawrence suffered the near fatal combination of the very English tuberculosis and the very un-English malaria. He survived; but the decision was taken to return to Europe where these diseases could be managed.

The return to Europe entailed a final brief return to England and Hampstead. Lawrence was in the process of writing his play *David* and was in negotiations about its staging. Mark Gertler, a longstanding friend whose painting 'Merry-Go-Round' Lawrence deeply admired, helped the Lawrences find their final London lodgings for a fortnight or so at 30 Willoughby Road, and 27th September 1926 proved to be their final night in England. They left on the morning of Tuesday 28th September for Paris, after which Lawrence wrote his first draft of his notorious novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, strongly influenced by having witnessed the General Strike during his time in the French capital. The novel would be initially published in private editions in Florence and Paris. A story about

Hampstead's 'rarified air' Gets the Last Laugh (cont)

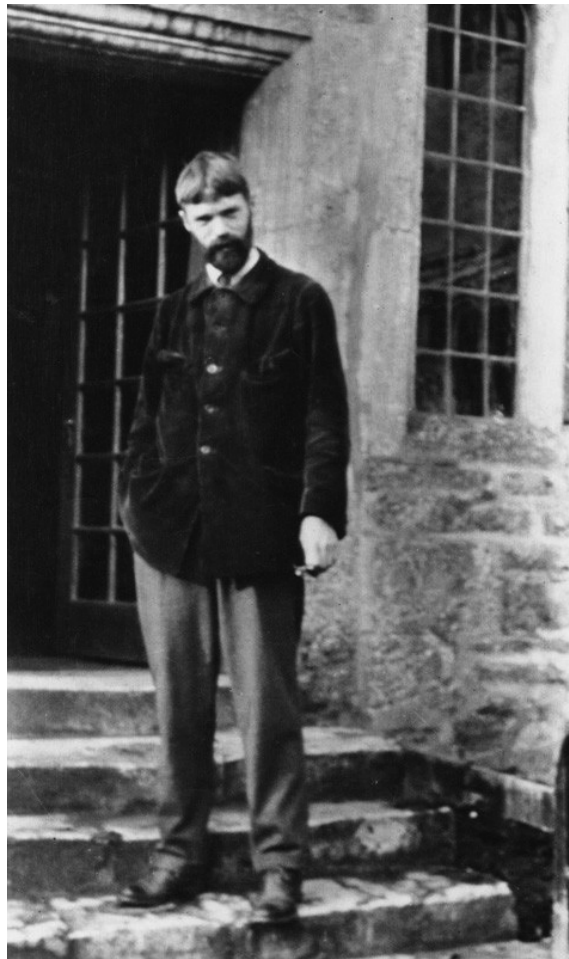
a cross-class relationship between a Lady and her gamekeeper, it broke new ground in describing their sexual relationship in explicit yet literary language, challenging ingrained British taboos around sex.

Lawrence died of complications with tuberculosis on 2nd March 1930 at the Villa Robermond in Vence, France. But it would be another 30 years before Lawrence's reputation for notoriety would make him a household name across the UK. *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was finally published here by Penguin Books in 1960, and the publishing house was subsequently prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act of 1959, with the trial taking place at the Old Bailey. This Act provided it was only possible for publishers to escape conviction if they could show that a work was of literary merit. As such, luminaries of the literary world including E.M. Forster and Raymond Williams were called as witnesses for the defence and, eventually, a verdict of not-guilty was delivered. This acquittal resulted in a far greater degree of freedom for publishing explicit material in the UK and the prosecuting counsel was ridiculed for being out of touch with changing social norms.

The only piece of writing that Lawrence set in Hampstead itself was a rather disturbing short story called 'The Last Laugh', in which the god Pan emerges in modern-day Hampstead (well, 1928 Hampstead) to wreak havoc on its residents with their quotidian concerns. The way in which the Heath presses-up against civilization seems to serve the questioning of received wisdom regarding morality, social etiquette and what being 'civilized' means.

The challenging of social orthodoxies is something common to many of the literary luminaries that have resided in Hampstead. J.B. Priestley, H.G. Wells, George Orwell, William Empson and none more so than Lawrence sought to question and challenge the established order. Defoe's observations

in his *Tour of London and the Provinces* perhaps fail to take account of what the 'good company' of Hampstead could generate in terms of intellectual, social or political thought; but as a thinker of the late eighteenth-century who himself challenged orthodoxies, his begrudging compliments to the area, like those of Lawrence, are perhaps evidence of the acknowledgement of a cultural richness that has long characterised the neighbourhood.



D.H. Lawrence by Lady Ottoline Morrell, vintage snapshot print, 29 November 1915. Courtesy: National Portrait Gallery

Photographic Competition #myhampsteadheath

The Society runs a regular photographic competition on Instagram.

Conan Hale's image (@c0nan on Instagram) is the Society's current winner.

Hampstead dawn



Matt Maran is the Society's judge for this competition. "The atmosphere in this photograph catches the attention immediately. The beautiful pastel colours, birds flying overhead and mist in the foreground gives the image depth and a lovely sense of space", says Matt.

Since 2000, Matt has travelled the world photographing wildlife and landscapes, from Alaskan bears and South-East Asian primates to soda lakes, glacial rivers and primeval forests. His images are represented by Nature Picture Library and have featured in films, books, conversation journals and magazines, including BBC Wildlife, Outdoor Photography and National Geographic. His work has also been awarded in the European Wildlife Photographer of the Year, the Wanderlust Travel Photographer of the Year and the British Wildlife Photography Awards.

See the Society's website for competition rules

Sir Simon Jenkins on “Traumas in London’s History”

The Society presents this Glass-in-Hand lecture

***at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, 3 Pilgrim's Place, Hampstead NW3 1NG
on Tuesday, 26 October 2021 at 7.30pm***

The welcome guest speaker will be long-time Society Patron Sir Simon Jenkins, best-selling author and former editor of the Evening Standard and The Times, and former Chair of the National Trust.

The background to his topical talk is his most recent book,

A Short History of London: The Creation of a World Capital.

Entry is £12 payable on the door, or you can book and pay via Eventbrite, the link for which will appear on our website nearer the time. If you wish to attend, in order that we may anticipate numbers, please email info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk

Refreshments will be available and copies of the author's books will be available for sale.

Proms 2021 at St Jude's returns live and in person 26 June to 4 July

by Kate Webster

Excitement is building ahead of the return of the music and literature festival based in the iconic setting of Lutyen's ecclesiastical masterpiece, St Jude-on-the-Hill, in the centre of Hampstead Garden Suburb.

This year, the Proms at St Jude's will run from Saturday 26 June to Sunday 4 July, with the Lit Fest on 26-27 June, and two evening concerts every day. The superb music line-up includes acclaimed baritone Roderick Williams, award-winning saxophonist Jess Gillam, Braimah and Konya Kanneh-Mason, as well as a Jazz Night, an Opera Night, and our own *Last Night*. There will be a world première, commissioned by Proms at St Jude's. The piece, composed and conducted by Patrick Hawes and performed by VOCES8, commemorates the sinking of the SS City of Benares, which was carrying child evacuees to Canada.

There will also be concerts for children with a Teeny Prom and an afternoon family concert on Saturday 3 July. The Magnard Ensemble, who specialise in making classical music accessible to children, will present *Revolting Rhymes and Marvellous Music*, a Roald Dahl musical extravaganza for all the family.

Proms at St Jude's also includes a full programme of Heritage Walks. These include two walks in Hampstead. Julia Male, blue badge guide and local resident, will introduce *Punks, Priests and Poseurs – the Hampstead set*, whilst Marilyn Greene, professional guide and former curator of Hampstead Museum at Burgh House, will lead a walk through *The Alleys and Lanes of Hampstead*, regaling participants with stories of the history and development of the village. Other walks venture into central London and to Kenwood, but most are in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Founded in 1907, the Suburb has a world-wide reputation for its planning and architecture and was described by the architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner as "that most nearly

perfect example of the English invention and speciality, the Garden Suburb". If you have never ventured across Hampstead Lane to the Heath Extension and the Suburb beyond, these walks, several of which are led by experts from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, are an ideal opportunity to visit hidden corners of the Suburb and find out more about its planning, preservation and architecture. Other walks focus on people and history, including a look at some recent research on the Suburb's suffragists and suffragettes and their activities; several were of national importance in the fight for Votes for Women and all have intriguing stories to tell. There will also be two virtual walks available online.

Huge efforts have gone into planning to make the venue and performances Covid19 secure. Due to restricted audience capacity, we expect tickets will sell quickly. Public sales begin on Saturday 29 May, with a Friends' priority booking period during the preceding five days. The full programme for all events is available at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk. All tickets must be booked in advance.

Proms at St Jude's is a charity. All surplus proceeds are donated to our two partner charities: Toynbee Hall in the East End, founded by Samuel and Henrietta Barnett, where we support provision for young people; and the North London Hospice. Last year, despite having to produce a virtual festival, we passed the huge landmark of £1million pounds donated to charity since the inception of Proms.



Under Ken Wood: The Secret Life of a London Pub

by Neil Titley

A new book about Hampstead focuses on a variety of its residents, taking the reader on guided walks and highlighting one of the village's storied pubs, the Magdala. Written by Neil Titley, best known for his solo theatre show on Oscar Wilde, which toured for over forty years on five continents. Titley also writes the syndicated column, Camden Victorians, for the Camden New Journal and Islington Tribune. All proceeds for the book benefit Keats Community Library.

Where could you find Adolf Hitler's sister-in-law, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and Sid Vicious? The stories of all three disparate characters, and three hundred more, can be conjured up either on a stroll around NW3 or more concisely in the pages of *Under Ken Wood: The Secret Life of a London Pub*.

This new work has two parts. The first, 'Rambling Around', describes three walks with glimpses of past and present residents: the Heath, then Hampstead Village, then Belsize Park and South End Green. Although histories of Hampstead and surrounds abound, this book makes a point of emphasising the



Magdala Tavern, 1977



Magdala Pub sign

extraordinary diversity of residents, from politicians and pop stars, artists and tramps, to spies and actors, all jumbled together in a kaleidoscope of strange facts, jokes, and outlandish anecdotes. The second, 'Under Ken Wood', consists of stories concerning the denizens of the Magdala Tavern in South Hill Park.

The guided walks leap the centuries, pointing out that in 1662, the Parliamentarian Sir Harry Vane was arrested at his house on Rosslyn Hill and taken to his execution on Tower Hill. His name is preserved by the modern-day cul-de-sac called Vane Close. Then in 2010 and literally across the road, the pop star George Michael drove his car into the front of Snappy Snaps and was also arrested. His sentence was a rather more lenient one month's imprisonment. After a graffitist scrawled the word 'WHAM' over the shop's damaged brickwork, this juncture of Willoughby Road and Rosslyn Hill has been known since as 'Wham Corner'.

Under Ken Wood is stuffed with such oddities, including details like the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian's delight in the film 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. While Mondrian was lodging in Belsize Park in 1940, he described listening to a record of 'Heigh



60 Parkhill Road, Mondrian's lodging.

Ho, Heigh Ho, It's Off to Work We Go' while the German bombs rained down on the street outside.

The 18th century playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan, author of *The School for Scandal*, came to grief one night after a drink-fuelled session in Heath Street. He managed to walk down the hill as far as South End Green before collapsing in a heap. The local watch arrested him and marched him back to the lock-up in Hampstead Village. When they demanded his name, Sheridan announced loftily that he was *William Wilberforsh*.

There are many fading memories recorded here, not least the extraordinary 1960s midnight concerts promoted by Camden Council when such bands as the Jefferson Airplane, Fleetwood Mac and Pink Floyd played for free in the Parliament Hill bandstand.

The book revels in the proximity of creative activity separated only by time spans – Mick Jagger composed 'Satisfaction' at Holly Hill, while at Mount Vernon just up around the corner the seeds of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* were fermenting, and slightly farther up the hill at Admiral's Grove, PL Travers was writing *Mary Poppins*.

Then there is what the book claims to be the most celebrity stuffed graveyard outside of Westminster Abbey – Hampstead Parish Church Additional Burial Ground. Within a few square yards you will find the tombs of the Labour Leader Hugh Gaitskell; the film stars Kay Kendall and Anton Walbrook; the great cartoonist Sir George Du Maurier, his son the actor Sir Gerald, and his grandsons (all five of whom became the proteges of James Barrie and famous as 'Peter Pan' and the Lost Boys); the mother of novelist Jackie and actress Joan Collins; the comic genius Peter Cook and his wife Lyn; and the Victorian actor-manager Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, with his actress daughter Viola Tree. Viola was a marvellously precocious infant. When reproved for misconduct by her father with the words: "This, child, is wickedness!", the five-year-old retorted, "No, father, this is heredity."

The Magdala Tavern reopened in April 2021, after a lapse of six years. The pub was infamous as the venue for Ruth Ellis's murder of her lover, a crime for which she became the last woman to be hanged in Britain. Despite this notorious event, the real story of the Magdala lies in the tales connected to the all-weather hard-core regulars, the foot soldiers of history perhaps, but nevertheless vast personalities within the confines of the bar. This history is found in such yarns as those concerning the rival poets duelling in increasingly vituperative verse; the saloon bar magazine that ended up being sued for libel by a Prime Minister; the pub cricket team that allotted the position of 'third man' to the son of a renowned spy; and the dog who had been raised in Prague and therefore required its new owner to carry an Anglo-Czech phrase book.

It is the *only in Hampstead* quality that adds flavour to these scenes. For example, the sight of a diminutive Indian poet pursuing a hungover Oxford graduate along the street, while waving a book of verse and screaming: "It WAS A.E. Housman, I tell you!!

Under Ken Wood: The Secret Life of a London Pub (cont)

It WAS A.E. Housman!!” Or the two Cockneys bickering over who had undergone the most violent upbringing with one man growling: “I grew up in one of the toughest parts of Walthamstow, pal” and the other sneering back, “Walthamstow? Walthamstow!!! We used to go for our ‘olidays to Walthamstow!” And the perfectly serious declaration by one bar regular that, “I don’t mind doing any job as long as it doesn’t require sobriety”.

There are also some glorious stories concerning the Roundhouse in its hippie heyday, the transition of Camden Town’s Black Cap from Irish bar to gay citadel, and memories of such great landlords as

Henry at the Rosslyn, Baxter Mitchell at the Falcon, and John Rety’s poetry regime at the Torriano. Maybe the crowning point of this packed book is the intriguing theory that John Constable’s ‘The Haywain’ was not a rural Suffolk vehicle at all but was painted in situ at Whitestone Pond in Hampstead.

Under Ken Wood is available from the Keats Community Library or online at <http://www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk/> for £10 at the library desk or for an additional £2.80 for postage online and from Daunt’s Bookshop at South End Road.

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.

The Springett Lecture

*To be given by Dr Merlin Sheldrake on
Thursday 30 September 2021 at 8.00pm
(doors open at 7.30pm for refreshments)
at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, 3 Pilgrim's Place NW3 1NG*

*Admission is free for members of the Heath & Hampstead Society
and Marylebone Birdwatching Society.*

Please RSVP to info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

Non-members please book via Eventbrite

Entangled Lives: Fungal Networks, Ecology, and Us

Thinking about fungi makes the world look different. Most fungi live out of sight yet make up a massively diverse kingdom of organisms that support and sustain nearly all living systems, including Hampstead Heath. The more we learn about fungi, the less makes sense without them. Fungi throw our concepts of individuality and even intelligence into question. They can change our minds, heal our bodies, and even help us remediate environmental disaster. By examining fungi on their own terms, Sheldrake reveals how these extraordinary organisms – and our relationships with them – are changing our understanding of how life works.

Dr Merlin Sheldrake is a biologist and a writer. He received a Ph.D. in Tropical Ecology from Cambridge University for his work on underground fungal networks in tropical forests in Panama, where he was a predoctoral research fellow of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. He is a musician and keen fermenter. His book, *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds, and Shape Our Futures* was published in May 2020. Find out more at merlinsheldrake.com



A New Dawn for the Ham&High

by André Langlois, Editor of the Ham&High

Big changes are afoot at this north London news institution. The paper needs our support now to continue its important work in our community.

The vast majority of readers of the Society's Newsletter will be more than familiar with the *Ham&High*. In fact, you'll likely have read it more times than I.

I returned to north London to take over as editor in December 2019 after years away at papers in Surrey and Devon. On December 2, I started work, on December 12 there was a general election (remember that?), on December 25 it was Christmas (obviously) and then there were a couple of months of winter before it became clear that the world was going to change in very significant ways, very rapidly.

So, it was in something of a maelstrom that I really got to know the area. What was clear, even before I started, was the heritage of the *Ham&High* as a north London institution.

The question was how to serve the communities around the Heath, while ensuring the newspaper can have a prosperous future. Let's not beat around the bush – that's no straightforward task in these times.

The nature of media has changed so much in recent years, and we have to keep up.

The first job was to look at our editorial and make decisions about where our priorities lay. During the first few months of the pandemic, on a local level, one of the most important things was to support our health workers and those doing such amazing work in the community.

And as restrictions eased (each time...), we pulled out the stops to support businesses with our Shop Local campaign. The pandemic aside, we also wanted to refocus geographically on our key centres around the Heath – Hampstead, Highgate etc (it's in the name, after all).

There is so much news in north London that I felt it important to focus on our communities, and what matters to those families and individuals.



André Langlois, Editor of the Ham&High. Courtesy: Polly Hancock

Ham&High



Highgate viewed from the top of Parliament Hill. Courtesy: Polly Hancock

That was last year

In recent weeks, many of you will have seen the newspaper has had a redesign and we've brought in news features sparking debate about the broad issues for our area: *How should the Heath be managed? What should the future be of our high streets? How green are our authorities, really?*

We also want to play an active role in promoting the wellbeing of the people around us, and on May 21 put on "Ham&High: Our Community's Mental Health," a free day of online events.

But the other thing we need to do is ensure we have a business model that is sustainable in a world where the internet has changed the advertising landscape. That's why we're asking our readers to take out subscriptions to the *Ham&High*. To make receiving local news more

convenient than ever, we've launched a mobile phone app – and new subscription packages to go with it.

A digital subscription is priced from just £2 per month, while print is from £3.99 and combined package is from £4.25 (a bargain, in my opinion!). Details can be found via hamhigh.co.uk/subscribe

We've had so much backing from our communities over the years, and the truth is we need it now more than ever. By joining us and taking out a subscription, you will not only be on top of the latest news, but you can help ensure that quality local journalism and the institution that is the *Ham&High* can continue for many years to come.

Thank you for your support.

Heath Walks: 2021–22

We continue to plan for resumption later this year of our monthly programme of educational walks on the Heath, led by experts from the Society's membership and from outside. These had to be suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic and the various restrictions on social gathering, including organised outdoor activity.

As things stand, we will resume the normal pattern of walks on the first Sunday of each month, beginning 6 June.

On this basis, we recommend members keep the following dates (with provisional details where known) in their diaries and continue to monitor the Society's website for updates. We apologise for the inconvenience of access to online information for some members.

Please note the starting point for the walks indicated below.

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.*

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

www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk

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

2021

6 June 2.30pm (meet at **Burgh House**)

Heavenly Herbs and Wondrous Weeds.

Melissa Fairbanks and Lynda Cook, members of the Heath Sub-Committee

27 June 6.00am (meet at **Staff Yard, Parliament Hill**)

Dawn bird watching. Pete Mantle, member of the Heath Sub-Committee

4 July 2.30pm (meet at **Burgh House**)

Spiders and other invertebrates (tbc)

1 August 2.30pm (start point and topic tbc)

5 September 9.30am (meet at **Burgh House**)

Bird watching. Pete Mantle, member of the Heath Sub-Committee

3 October 2.30pm (start point and topic tbc)

7 November 2.30pm

Walk led by senior member of the City's team (probably starting from **Whitestone Pond**)

5 December 2.30 (meet at **Kenwood**)

Old Kitchen Garden. The hidden Heath and its archaeology. Michael Hammerson

2022

No walk in January

6 February 10.30am (meet at **Old Bull & Bush**)

Laughter in the Landscape: (to celebrate 'Grimaldi Sunday')
Lester Hillman

6 March 10.30am (meet at **Burgh House**)

History of the Heath Ponds. Marc Hutchinson, Chair of the Society

3 April 9.30am

Bird watching (probably starting from **Burgh House**).

