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The Heath & Hampstead Society **NEWSLETTER**

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Vol 52 No 3



Sulphur tuft fungi on Sandy Heath

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Chair's Notes

by Marc Hutchinson

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Front cover: Sulphur tuft fungi photographed on Sandy Heath on the Society's October guided walk 'Trees and associated fungi' led by the Heath's Tree Manager, David Humphries. The Society organizes monthly walks led by experts throughout the year covering many aspects of life on the Heath. For more details see the back cover of this Newsletter or visit heathandhampstead.org.uk

With this, the third Newsletter of 2021, we have got back to our pre-Covid regime of three Newsletters per year. It is shorter than the previous two and, I hope, no less significant.

Annual members

Owing to an envelope-stuffing mishap at our printers, members who renew their subscriptions annually were sent an out-of-date renewal form and no invitation to our Christmas Party. They have now been sent the latter. In fact, the out-of-date form could in practice be used for 2022 membership and most annual members did so use it. Those who did not renew will be sent a correct renewal reminder with the first Newsletter of 2022. There has been no cost to the Society of remedying the mishap.

Springett Lecture

On 30 September the Society hosted the annual Springett Lecture (postponed from 2020) given by Dr Merlin Sheldrake at Rosslyn Hill Chapel. The lecture is funded by a legacy from the late Kate Springett, founder of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society.

Dr Sheldrake spoke about his past and continuing work on fungi, the subject of his 2020 bestselling book *Entangled Life – How fungi make our worlds, change our minds, and shape our futures*.



Dr Merlin Sheldrake addressing the Springett Lecture audience. Courtesy: Ron Vester

Chair's Notes (cont)

The lecture was streamed live and was available online to members of local civic groups for a week afterwards. I cannot here in a summary do justice to the extraordinary nature of the subject matter and so many of its as yet unexplained phenomena. The increasing understanding of fungi is changing the very understanding of how life on our planet works. Suffice it to say, Dr Sheldrake took his fascinated audience into another lively world lying just beneath our feet. We hope a précis of the lecture will be available in our next Newsletter, and we are very grateful to Dr Sheldrake for giving it.

Glass-in-Hand Lecture

Sir Simon Jenkins, who has been a Society Patron since 2004, kindly agreed to give Society members and the public our 2021 Glass-in-Hand Lecture on 26



Sir Simon Jenkins giving the Glass-in-Hand Lecture. Courtesy Ron Vester

October at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, topically entitled *Traumas in London's History*. In 2019, Sir Simon wrote the popular book, *A Short History of London*, which provided the background to his illustrated talk.

In Sir Simon's view, there have been three great traumas in London's history. First, the collapse of the Roman Empire in Northern Europe in 410 AD. This resulted in the sudden decline and decay of Londinium, the distinct and proximate causes of which are not really known.

Second, the Great Fire of London in 1666. The fire destroyed most of the Square Mile, which was then urgently rebuilt by the City Corporation. For the most part, the City was rebuilt according to its previous street pattern and general style of building rather than (as powers outside the City wished) to a new and contemporary pattern of urban design.

The third and final trauma was the consequence of the post-war town planning profession with Sir Patrick Abercrombie, unchallenged at its head. After the Second World War and with the exception of small "villages" like Hampstead, the town planning profession tried to rebuild the whole of bomb-damaged London with high-rise towers and pedestrian walkways raised above the surging ground-level road traffic. The Barbican is a surviving representative example of what was envisioned. Sir Simon's thesis is that, regardless of Covid, we are, as a city, still emerging from this third trauma.

As expected, the lecture was insightful, surprising, informative and amusing, and we are most grateful to our Patron for this memorable evening.

Christmas lights in the Village

Since its establishment over five years ago, the Hampstead Business Improvement District (BID) undertook the Christmas lighting and other decorations in the Village with funds from the local BID levy. The cost of this project in 2019-2020 was around £35,000. With the unexpected and sudden winding up of the BID (see Newsletter Vol 52 No 2), no leftover funds, and no emerging organisation to replace the BID, it became apparent there would be no lights or decorations this Christmas unless an organiser and fundraiser quickly stepped in. Hampstead Ward Councillor Stephen Stark is, therefore, to be congratulated for his against-the-clock organisation of the project this year. He personally corralled the potential sponsors, organised design meetings with the sponsors and the lighting providers, and raised the necessary funds (Camden Council agreeing to act as bank/stakeholder), meeting the October deadline by which the project had either to be started or abandoned. Inevitably, the display will be smaller this year, but there will be lights on Hampstead High Street, Heath Street (lower), Oriel Place and Perrin's Court. Flask Walk will be using the lights already in place. There will also be a Christmas tree outside Barclays Bank. The lights and tree were put up on 14 November. The total cost was around £25,000.

Hampstead residents and visitors will be very grateful to those local businesses (or businesses to be, e.g. Sainsbury's), some of which are in the Society's Hampstead Card scheme, who generously gave funds for the project to succeed, in circumstances where many of the local outlets of wealthy national businesses (e.g. Tesco, HSBC) declined to contribute anything. The Society made a modest donation and is proud to have played its part in helping Councillor

Stark get the momentum of the project going.

Licensing

We continue to oppose all new off-licences in the Village and South End Green as well as restaurant on-licences outside Camden's "framework hours". The latest applications to which we have objected are: Mimmo La Bufala at 45a South End Road (on- and off-sales outside the framework hours); New York Cafe at 84 Heath Street (on-sales outside the framework hours); Planet Organic at 6 Hampstead High Street (off-sales outside the framework hours); and Rossodisera at 70 Heath Street (on-sales outside the framework hours).

After my last Newsletter piece on licensing, a member wrote to say our generally excessive opposition to applications might jeopardise our objections being taken seriously by the Licensing Committee in truly egregious cases. In its own terms, that is a relevant consideration of which we are well aware. However, the fact the licence is ultimately granted does not necessarily represent a defeat for us. More often than not, our initial objection provides the basis for the imposition of more restrictions and conditions on the licence granted. As a result, the real mischief posed by the application in the first place is reduced or removed.

Christmas Party

I look forward to greeting as many of you as possible at our Christmas Party at Burgh House on 8 December. Everyone should have received an invitation; if any of you has not, please email us at info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk.

On behalf of the Trustees may I thank you sincerely for your support during the past difficult months and wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Heath Report

by John Beyer

Springett Lecture fathoms fungi

Dr Merlin Sheldrake was the speaker for this year's Springett Lecture, given annually in memory of Kate Springett. Merlin grew up in Hampstead and was often to be found on the Heath. He has become a successful author with his *Entangled Life – How fungi make our worlds, change our minds and shape our futures*. The book has topped the Sunday Times and other best seller lists. For the first time, the Society live-streamed the event; the audience of 100 in the Rosslyn Hill Chapel were joined by about 80 people watching from their homes.

Professional dogwalkers licensing scheme

As we noted in the last Newsletter, Heath staff are planning to divide the Heath into six zones for purposes of licensing professional dogwalkers based on present usage. Licences would be issued to dogwalkers to use a specific zone. We are continuing to work with Heath staff to define where professional dog walkers will not be allowed to exercise dogs, in particular where such activity would disturb bird nesting. There needs to be a 30-day period between the announcement and implementation, but it is hoped the scheme will be in operation by the end of this year.



Audience attention at the Springett Lecture on 30 September. Courtesy: Ron Vester

Events in 2022: dates for your diary

The Society organised a series of events with Heath partners to mark the 150th anniversary of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act. The popularity of these events has persuaded us to organise further activities next year. We hope to bring a return of the Kite Society of Great Britain to Kite Hill (Parliament Hill) on Sunday, 26 June 2022 (the nearest date to the anniversary of the Act on 29 June). We would then round off the

summer with another Open Aspect concert, the name derived from the wording of the Act. The concert is pencilled in for Sunday, 4 September 2022.

This year, the concert attracted approximately

800 people, and resulted in 20 new memberships for the Society. The two events brought the name of the Society and knowledge of its preservation work to a wide audience of Heath users. Lastly, we may support a film evening during the week of outdoor cinema (5-11 September 2022) in the field above the Lido, with the showing of a film related to the Heath.

Biodiversity Boards will continue to spread the message

Professor Jeff Waage is once again discussing with partners (the City, English Heritage, Marylebone Birdwatching Society and Heath Hands) a further



150th Anniversary logo. Courtesy: Ron Vester



Soaking up the music at the Open Aspect concert. Courtesy: Ron Vester

round of display boards to encourage visitors to respect the need to do what they can to encourage biodiversity on the Heath. The message that we need to protect ancient trees with dead hedging, and occasionally close off areas to allow low-nesting birds, still needs to be conveyed.

Golders Hill Zoo: timely review

The City is reviewing the future of the Golders Hill Zoo. The Heath Subcommittee has been giving its views. We think the emphasis should change.

We would like to see the introduction of farm animals to support biodiversity grazing on the Heath. In 2019, we brought sheep to the Heath to graze the Tumulus Mound. The idea was to see if sheep would be effective at controlling unwanted vegetation instead of using a strimmer. Longer-term grazing would help diversify

plant types. The sheep were provided by Mudchute Farm in the Isle of Dogs. Next year, we hope to re-establish that partnership, which was suspended because of Covid. In the long term, keeping livestock at Golders Hill would mean they could be available to munch and mow in temporarily-fenced areas of the Heath which could benefit from grazing.

A second aim would be to refocus the animal collection towards native species, with an emphasis echoing the Biodiversity Boards and educating people, especially children, about conservation and wildlife. In an ideal scenario, the zoo might even look at breeding programmes for native species under threat. There could be linked events, such as falconry displays, to attract families. In whatever way the zoo is to be redesigned, any animals must have far beyond the minimum legal space.

Town Report

by Andrew Haslam-Jones

Society members will have noticed quite a few changes in Hampstead recently.

Free-standing electric hire bikes and e-scooters

Free-standing electric hire bikes have been available in the borough for a couple of years. The more observant will see the two original companies given contracts by Camden Council have now merged. The bikes were



Ranks of dockless electric hire bikes on Hampstead High Street, a thing of the past

originally placed anywhere the bike hire companies thought convenient. We met the Council officer responsible for the relationship with the bike hire companies at the time to suggest where the bikes would be least obtrusive. They generally kept to those locations. However, there were instances of rows of bikes narrowing the pavement left sitting there all day. Now, the Council has begun to convert more than a dozen parking spaces, both residents' and paid parking places, to dockless electric hire bike parking bays. We have asked the Council whether the bikes will only be enabled to park in the same spaces or we may continue to suffer the inconvenience of the occasional bike left blocking the pavement, a nuisance especially to prams, mobility scooters and those who suffer from sight loss.

In addition to the hire bikes, Camden has agreed to take part in the government's e-scooter consultation. While it is still illegal to use private e-scooters on public carriageways, there is a special dispensation for dockless e-scooters for hire in participating boroughs. The scheme in Camden will run from the end of October until June 2022. You may already have seen designated parking areas for the e-scooters for hire. More detail is available on Camden Council's website (news.camden.gov.uk/council-approve-tfl-e-scooter-trial-in-camden/).

Noise annoyance

The Society has received a couple of complaints about buskers in Hampstead High Street. While it may be pleasant to listen to the virtuoso performances of some the artists, there were reports of some musicians playing the same song ad nauseam. This was especially a problem during the more comfortable weather of late summer when prolonged outdoor seating at one of Hampstead's many cafés was more attractive.

The local councillors tell us that buskers are required by Camden to have a licence (for a £30 annual fee) and should display it. Bolder members may ask the street musician if they have this licence. Alternatively, the councillors would appreciate if objectors could make a call to the non-urgent police number, 101, so that an incidence of such monotonous playing can be logged. A higher volume of calls to that number will make it easier for councillors to attract the resources.

Licensing

There has been quite a lot of activity on the licensing front. The refusal to grant a licence to Heath News at 41 South End Road, which the Society had supported, was successfully appealed in September, albeit with a long list of conditions attached, such as the installation of CCTV and staff training. Given the proliferation of premises selling alcohol for off-site consumption, and the attendant anti-social behaviour both in South End Green and on the Heath itself, the Society is considering applying for the area to be declared a Cumulative Impact Zone. That would create an assumption against granting new licences. Currently, as long as licence applications comply with Camden's guideline hours for the sale of alcohol, they are likely to be approved. There have been a slew of new licence applications in Hampstead recently, many of them including early or late hours, requesting permission to sell alcohol before the guideline start of 8.00 am or later than the Sunday end time of 10.30 pm. Maddy Raman, who monitors licence applications for the Society, said, "it feels increasingly like businesses are just going to try and get away with anything and everything."

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.

Planning Report

by David Castle

The recent decision to scrap the proposed drastic changes to planning law is not unexpected, but the revised or new proposals may be worse. We live in difficult times. Certainly, the housing situation should urgently be addressed, along with all the other even more difficult problems.

The Secretive Pre-Application Advice process, part 2

In the previous Newsletter, I related how the Pre-Application Advice process can delay the planning process because, up to now, Camden has refused to consult with local residents and societies. This means the advice given by the Camden planning officers frequently is objected to by those most affected when the proposals are revealed by the formal application.

We intend to persuade Camden it is in everyone's interest to inform local people *during* the Pre-Application Advice process, which would make it possible to influence the comments given to the

prospective applicant.

We have discovered government advice actually recommends such consultation. So, it is surprising Camden ignores such good advice.

In a recent case relating to a new house, the planners' comments made during the Pre-Application Advice process were very questionable. This led to a very poor design. Thanks to the intervention of the Society and the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum, the house has been totally re-designed.

With respect to this application, Camden has overruled its own Pre-Application Advice. This is a good sign perhaps, but time-consuming for the objectors and applicant.

The number of planning applications in the Hampstead area is back to the pre-Covid level of about 25 each month, of which most are minor changes, dormers, or rear single storey-extensions. On average, we object to about three each month.

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.



Give back to your community – become an HWCT Trustee

Did you know that North Camden has some of the most disadvantaged areas in London?

The Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust (HWCT) is a long-established charity which makes grants to individuals and organisations to help alleviate poverty and improve the health and wellbeing of local people. We are currently looking for several new trustees to help us in this vital work.

Our trustees are people who live or work in, or have other connections with, our area of benefit. We cover north Camden from Kilburn High Road to Hampstead Heath. (See map on our website.)

We encourage applications from a broad range of ages, and from underrepresented groups, including those from BAME communities and people living with disabilities.

With assets of £16.5 million, we are especially interested in new trustees who have skills and experience in the following:

- Investment management
- Financial management
- Fundraising

We would also like to hear from people who have experience of working in poverty alleviation or health provision or who have been involved in grant making.

The Board meets four times a year and trustees also sit on one of the Trust's sub-committees (Grants or Finance & Investment) which involves an additional quarterly meeting, usually in the daytime. Trustees are not paid, but travel expenses are reimbursed. There is more information about HWCT on our website **www.hwct.org.uk**

If you are interested in applying, please send a copy of your CV together with a cover letter describing your interest in the Trust to our Director, Stuart Woltkamp-Moon stuart@hwct.co.uk. Stuart, or one of the Trustees, would be happy to talk further before you apply – just email Stuart with your contact details.

Registered charity no: 1094611; Registered company no: 0451031

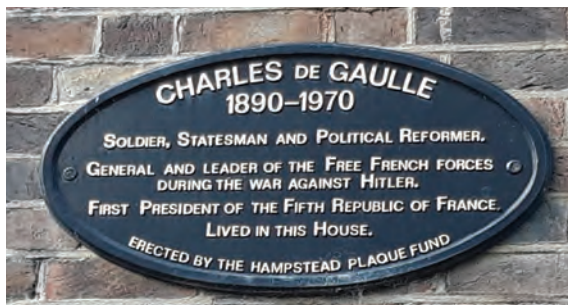
Hampstead Plaques: History, la Résistance and Journalism

by Juliette Sonabend

The Hampstead Plaque Scheme has been surprisingly busy of late, adapting, like everyone, to new ways of doing things. From honouring Hampstead historian Christopher Wade, to editor and journalist Gerald Isaaman, and General de Gaulle, the Scheme keeps history in Hampstead alive.

In 2006, Frank Harding and I, on behalf of the Society, took over the further development of the Hampstead Plaque Scheme established by Ralph Wade in the 1980s. Since then, we have been well supported and assisted by the other members of the Society's Plaque Selection Panel. The plaques are erected on Hampstead buildings where former residents made significant contributions to the arts and literature, commerce and industry, politics and society generally, and also on buildings of particular historic interest. There are currently 34 black oval Hampstead plaques.

In March 2019, on a gloriously sunny day, a plaque for Christopher Wade was unveiled at 28 Willoughby Road. There were speeches followed by afternoon tea at Burgh House. That charming celebration of our treasured Hampstead historian would seem like a dream a year later. When we erected the next plaque,



The first plaque to de Gaulle at 99 Frognal



Juliette Sonabend with Comte Edouard de Guitaut

for Gerald Isaaman at 9 Lyndhurst Road, there were no celebrations, no glass of wine and no speeches. We had just one builder, some scaffolding, two screws and a drill! Covid-19 had arrived and we were now living in a new reality.

Several months later, Frank and I were having a very quiet time and then one day a curious email arrived in our inboxes from Comte Edouard de Guitaut. Edouard asked for our guidance and assistance with the erection of a plaque to commemorate the only official event taking place at the home of General Charles de Gaulle (his great uncle) during his time in Hampstead.

General de Gaulle and his family lived at 99 Frognal between 1942 and 1943, whilst in exile during the War. The location was most recently the home of

Hampstead Plaques: History, la Résistance and Journalism (cont)



99 Frognal. Courtesy: the French Embassy to the UK



French Ambassador Colonna and Sister Paula from St Dorothy's Convent. Courtesy: the French Embassy to the UK

St Dorothy's International Student Residence and St Dorothy's Convent. The building is now for sale, with the vendors thinking it would make a perfect school. But on 14 February 1943, it was the site of a secret ceremony.

On that day, General de Gaulle decorated Jean Moulin, the president of the Conseil National de la

Résistance, with the Croix de la Libération. Five months later, Moulin would be dead. He was captured, tortured and killed by the Nazis. Moulin was a hero of the French Resistance, uniting the scattered elements of spontaneous activity against German occupation.

I helped Edouard with advice on the plaque location. I found him a builder to erect it and I even lent him our official unveiling curtains. He was delighted with those because our curtains are the same shade of green as the Croix de la Libération. The sisters at St Dorothy's Convent were also happy to help with the event. They prepared food, ironed the table cloths and served wine.

One guest remembered the first unveiling of the Society's plaque to de Gaulle in February 1983, when more than 700 people attended. At the time, the road was closed, enabling the British Legion to march down Frognal from Whitestone Pond. They lead a procession of veterans from Britain, France and Belgium, and played La Marseillaise and God Save the



The plaque dedicated to de Gaulle and Moulin

Hampstead Plaques: History, la Résistance and Journalism (cont)

Queen at the high point of the ceremony. Among the guests on that occasion were the French and Belgian ambassadors. The family of Charles de Gaulle was represented by the Comte and Comtesse de Guitaut, the parents of Edouard!

At the recent unveiling, Tulip Siddiq MP and Sabrina Francis, the Mayor of Camden, were in attendance, along with the French ambassador, Catherine Colonna, and the French Military Attaché. Maureen Clark-Darby joined me in representing the Society.

Frank and I felt Covid-19 provided a good time for some housekeeping. I revisited some plaques I knew needed attention. I sought consent to remove and restore the plaque for Robert Louis Stephenson in Mount Vernon. This project was successfully concluded within a few weeks. I am now trying to contact the management company of Inverforth House in North End Way, where we have a plaque for John Gurney Hoare which is in need of refurbishment.

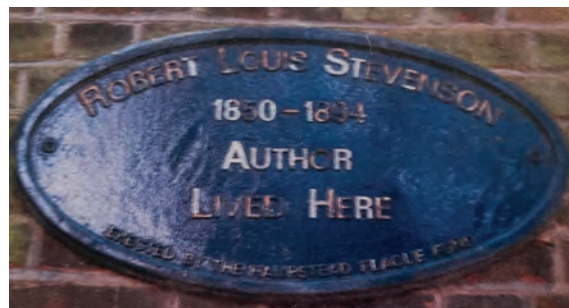
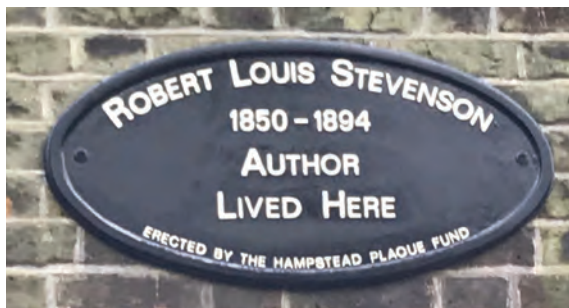
Looking forward, we are now waiting for listed building consent for a plaque to Sir Isaiah Berlin at 49 Hollycroft Avenue. We are very grateful to Jeremy Walker for his invaluable help with the application. We are also collaborating with Burgh House on a plaque for the artist Marie-Louise von Motesiczky and the author and Nobel Laureate Elias Canetti on a joint plaque at 6 Chesterford Gardens.



Juliette Sonabend with the French Military Attaché

Of course, we always welcome suggestions for additional plaques to those meriting such commemoration.

I thoroughly enjoy my time working with Frank as I feel that I learn something new every day!



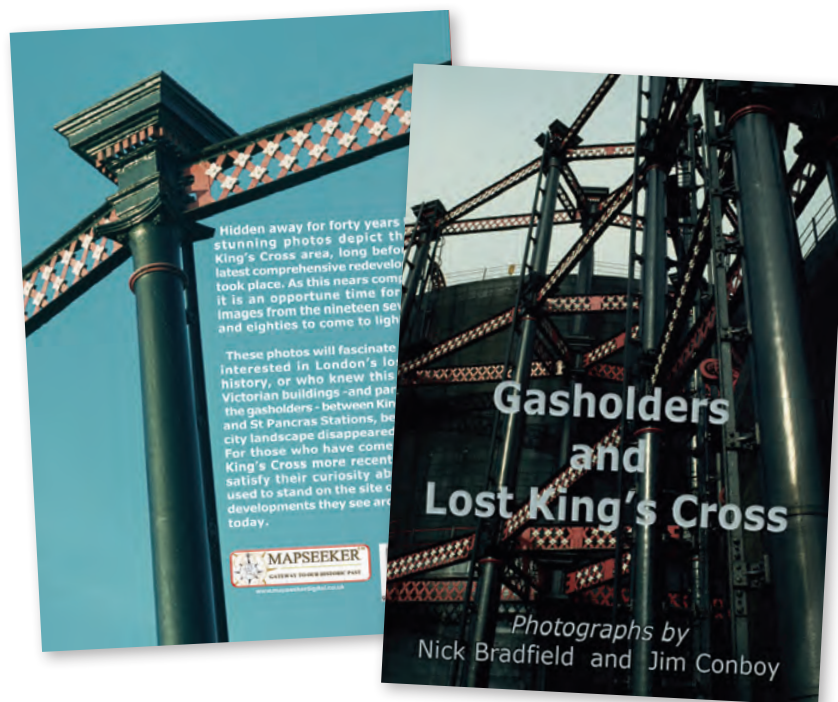
The refurbished Stevenson plaque and the Stevenson plaque before refurbishment

Gasholders and the Lost King's Cross

by Nick Bradfield and Jim Conboy

Many will remember the area between King's Cross and St Pancras stations before it was completely redeveloped. *Gasholders and Lost King's Cross* is a comprehensive depiction of the area as photographed by Nick Bradfield and Jim Conboy between March 1976 and August 1985. The scene was dominated by gasholders to the north. Camley Street was a scrap yard. Stanley Buildings, originally a Victorian tenement for railway workers, was licensed by Camden Council on a short-term basis to single people.

This stunning A4 format book is a unique and fascinating record of this urban landscape now lost forever. Available wherever you buy books.



Above left: Gasholder, 4 April 1981. Courtesy: Nick Bradfield and Jim Conboy
Right: Stanley Passage from Culross Buildings. Courtesy: Nick Bradfield and Jim Conboy

FOX: Neighbour Villain Icon

Featuring photographs by Neil Aldridge, Matthew Maran & Andy Parkinson. Edited by Keith Wilson. Foreword by Chris Packham. Published by Hemisphere Publishing



A unique new photo book documenting the life and behaviour of red foxes in the UK will be released in spring 2022. *FOX: Neighbour Villain Icon*, features the work of three award-winning photographers: Neil Aldridge,

Andy Parkinson and friend of the Society, Matthew Maran, whose work we know well in this Newsletter, whether through his annual Heath calendar, beautiful photographs gracing the cover over the years or judging of the *#myhampsteadbeath* photographic competition. Collectively, they have been photographing foxes for over 20 years.

Now, they are combining their talents to produce the most comprehensive photo book about the nation's largest predator. Their powerful and sensitive images shed light on the truth about foxes, and seek to dispel many of the myths blighting society's attitudes towards these enigmatic animals.

Photographer Andy Parkinson says, "I have a genuine passion for foxes. I have worked with them for the last 10 to 15 years, and a huge motivation for me is to show the beauty, show the worth, and show the value of these incredible icons of our countryside." Parkinson's photographs, together with those by Aldridge and Maran, illustrate the lifecycle of foxes in both rural and urban settings, captured with innovative field craft and camera techniques.

FOX: Neighbour Villain Icon also examines the fascinating and contradictory relationship the British have with the fox, told through revealing images of rescue and rehabilitation work, fox hunting with hounds, and those working on the ground to protect them. Says Neil Aldridge, "I love the fact that we have been able to collaborate with a whole series of writers: people who are studying foxes in our towns, or saving them from hunts, or living alongside foxes on our farms and in our countryside. These are real stories from all across the country."

FOX is available for pre-order now, with delivery in May 2022, from www.matthewmaranshop.com/product/fox-neighbour-villain-icon



2022 Heath Calendar

The 2022 calendar shows the very best of the Heath's diverse landscape and its wildlife throughout the seasons. The range of images reflects the work City staff and Heath Hands volunteers do to help protect the Heath for future generations. It is produced in partnership with the City, Heath Hands and Matthew Maran.

Available from matthewmaran.com, selected local shops and Amazon.



Hampstead Theatre

Eton Avenue

Support your local theatre – Become a Friend of Hampstead Theatre

Avoid disappointment by becoming a Friend and taking advantage of our priority booking period. For just £50 per annum Friends receive the following benefits:

- Priority Booking • Advance notice of forthcoming productions • Quarterly e-newsletter
- Invitations to exclusive events at the Theatre • 10% discount at Hampstead Theatre bar

For more details see www.hampsteadtheatre.com/support-us ☎ 020 7449 4155

We look forward to welcoming you soon

The Heath: My Year on Hampstead Heath

by Hunter Davies

Hunter Davies' new book, *The Heath: My Year on Hampstead Heath*, is an engaging and supremely well-observed portrait of the Heath – a place rich not just in natural wonders but in history and monuments, emotions and memories, people and places.

Hunter has lived within a stone's throw of the Heath for more than sixty years and has walked on it nearly every day of his London life. For him, it is not just a place of recreation and relaxation – as rich in history and monuments as it is in natural wonders – but also a treasure-house of memories and emotions. In *The Heath*, he visits all parts of this, the largest area of common land in the Britain's capital city: from Kenwood House to the Vale of Health, from Parliament Hill to Boudicca's Mound, and from the Ladies Bathing Pond to the fabulous pergola – wonder of the remote West Heath.

As he walks, Davies talks to the diverse array of individuals who frequent the Heath: regulars; visitors, dog-walkers; stall-holders at the weekly farmer's market; famous faces having their morning stroll; 21st century hippies spreading peace, love and happiness. Engaging, informative and supremely well-observed, *The Heath* is an affectionate portrait of one of London's – and the world's – iconic urban green spaces.

HSBC 

12, Hampstead Heath
NW3 1PY

Date 11th November 2021

Pay The Heath & Hampstead Society £ £10,000
Ten thousand pounds only

Hunter Davies
 Signed Hunter Davies

Cheque No. _____ Branch Sort Code _____ Account No. _____

Hunter's cheque



Hunter Davies sitting on the bench commemorating his silver wedding anniversary

Hunter Davies is a prolific author, journalist and broadcaster who has written for *Punch*, the *New Statesman*, *Guardian* and *Sunday Times*. He is the author of more than 100 books, including the only authorised biography of The Beatles and biographies of Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter and Alfred Wainwright. He spent every summer in the Lake District for nearly half a century and his *Lakeland: A Personal Journey* was published by Head of Zeus in 2016. He now divides his time between north London and the Isle of Wight.

The Heath launched on 11 November at Keats House. Hunter has generously presented the Society with a cheque for the entire £10,000 advance for his book.

Praise for
Hunter Davies

'Affable, curious, unpretentious, never dull, Hunter is one of the most agreeable egomaniacs I know.' **Michael Palin**

'Brilliantly funny.' **Daily Mail**

'He cannot write a boring line.' **Jilly Cooper**

'Easy-going, humorous and a natural journalist, Hunter Davies comes across as a thoroughly nice man.' **Sunday Times**

'Our own national treasure.' **Helena Kennedy**

'Davies is a wonderful companion, leading readers down memory lane with great chumminess.' **Express**

THE HEATH

My Year on Hampstead Heath

HUNTER DAVIES

Non-Fiction Memoir



9 781838 934798

www.headofzeus.com

ALSO AVAILABLE IN EBOOK

Camden Art Centre
Arkwright Road
London NW3

Phoebe Collings-James: A Scratch! A Scratch!

**Adam Farah: WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM YOU AND MYSELF
(PEAK MOMENTATIONS / INSIDE MY VELVET ROPE MIX)**

Zeinab Saleh: Softest place (on earth)

10 September – 23 December

Phoebe Collings-James (b. 1987, London) has spent the last six months in the facilities at Camden Art Centre developing work for this exhibition as the third recipient of the Freelands Lomax Ceramics Fellowship. Collings-James'



Phoebe Collings-James

practice encompasses sculpture, video, sound and performance and the new work created for this solo exhibition – her first in a UK institution – includes a new group of sculptures, held in a sensual environment combining bodies of water and an audio work composed and recorded by the artist with sounds of horns and the recital of texts, enveloping listeners in a moody atmosphere – lugubrious and elemental. Supported by Freelands Foundation

Adam Farah (b. 1991, London) – also known as freeyard – is an artist, composer and sauce-maker. Farah's exhibition at Camden Art Centre is a presentation of their emotional journey through the chaotic depths of heartache and layers of trauma and desire, against the backdrop of a rapidly mutating city during a pandemic. The artist has spent years roaming the streets of London – dwelling on, searching for and enacting their desires – and their new commission works through healing processes that involve acts of connection, Mariah Carey, the North Circular, iPods, 'magic' mushrooms and WhatsApp intimacy. Supported by Arts Council England



Adam Farah



Zeinab Saleh

Zeinab Saleh (b. 1996, Kenya) is a London-based artist whose interdisciplinary practice takes the form of painting, drawing and video. Drawing on VHS tapes of home video footage and music that has personal significance to her, Saleh's work offers a glimpse into a past world and places personal histories at its core. Drawn to working in charcoal, quick lines evoke fleeting and transient memories, whilst acrylic attempts to hold the intangible in form. A softness and tenderness imbue her paintings, using muted colours and fluidity of

line and form. For Saleh, love is at the core of her working process

Farah and Saleh are recipients of Camden Art Centre's Metroland Studios Residency, a 6-month studio residency forming a new partnership between Camden Art Centre and Metroland Cultures. Supported by Metroland Cultures project in partnership with Brent Council and Arts Council National Lottery Heritage Fund.

For your safety and the safety of our staff, everyone must book a complimentary slot in advance.
See our website for all details.

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 6DG
Nearest Station: Finchley Road (Underground); Finchley Road and Frognal (Overground)
T +44(0)20 7472 5500 E info@camdenartscentre.org W www.camdenartscentre.org



Autumn 2021 Events in the Library

Thursday 2nd December 7.30pm on Zoom

Emilia A. Leese on *Think like a Vegan:* *What everyone can learn from vegan ethics*

***Do you have a vegan relative or are you
thinking of becoming vegan?***

According to the latest figures, the number of vegans in the UK has more than quadrupled since 2014, now representing over 1 per cent of the total population.

With the rise in plant-based foods showing no sign of stopping, Emilia will talk about the book she co-authored, *Think Like a Vegan*. The book shows how vegan ethics can be applied to every area of our daily lives and what non-vegans can learn from its practice, exploring a variety of contemporary topics related to animal use: from the basics of vegan logic to politics, economics, love, environment and other aspects of being human. Emilia will draw you into a thought-provoking – and possibly controversial – conversation about daily ethical decisions.

Emilia is a Hampstead and Highlands based author, lawyer and rewild.



There will be time for discussion

Book online at www.wegottickets.com £5

All proceeds go to support the library. Instructions on how to log in will be sent near the time. *Think Like a Vegan* is available to buy at Daunt and anywhere books are sold.

KCL Events are generously supported by



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280 Hampstead High St, NW3 1QA

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Burgh House & Hampstead Museum

Knots: Jonny Briggs x Burgh House **Contemporary Interventions into an Historic House** **until 6 March 2022**

Burgh House is delighted to present *Knots*, an experimental site-specific exhibition of new work by young British artist, Jonny Briggs. *Knots* features multi-media interventions, interacting with the exterior and interior of Burgh House, encouraging visitors to reinterpret their surroundings and reconsider roles of familiar objects. Surreal, staged photographs and sculpture will be presented overtly and covertly in dialogue with the museum collection and located throughout the House and garden in a game of hide-and-seek.

Working collaboratively with a contemporary artist for the first time will see Burgh House's Marie Louise von Motesiczky Gallery transformed into a dazzling cage-like playpen as Briggs attempts to deconstruct his past and reconstruct it – in the context of another home. Reflecting not only on Briggs's own familiar familial history within a pine forest in rural England, but also on the human history of Burgh House, this exhibition of contrasts and surprises will include limbs bursting through photographs, absurdly shaped shoes, animatronic sock puppets that speak to visitors, and masks that close around Briggs's body, restricting his movement.

In generating new perspectives on Burgh House and its collection, the exhibition connects with Hampstead's significant place within the developmental history of psychoanalysis and Surrealism, taking its title from psychiatrist and mental health campaigner, R.D. Laing's

1970 book of collected poetry. Briggs states:

My work looks at the constructed reality of the family through the constructed reality of photography. This exhibition attempts to make sense of a time when I was unable to connect with my father, while simultaneously discovering my queer sexuality and the social restrictions this came with. Now, my father has difficulty walking, and is restricted in his movement. The work is an opportunity to give a shape to nonsensical experience, double binds, and seeks to voice experiences once held silent.

I like how humour can question societal norms, helicopter above situations, and address difficult themes that may otherwise be too hard to talk about.

A work commissioned by and created within Burgh House will be included in the exhibition and added to the Burgh House collection.



Burgh House front, by Jonny Briggs

Burgh House
New End Square, NW3 1LT
☎ **020 7431 0144**
info@burghhouse.org.uk
www.burghhouse.org.uk
@burghhouse1704

**BURGH
HOUSE**

House & Museum: Open 12–5pm Wed, Thu, Fri & Sun
Café: Open 10am–5pm Wed, Thu & Fri, 9:30am–5:30pm weekends

Heath Walks: 2021-22

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

NB: *Parking is extremely difficult locally, especially in spring and summer; the West Heath car park (behind Jack Straw's Castle) is more likely to have spaces than the East Heath car park.*

Starting times are either 2:30pm or 10:30am (9:30am for birds), depending on season and subject matter.

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

You will be invited to make a minimum donation of £5, to be collected at the beginning of each walk, to help support future walks programmes and to promote the Society's activities generally.

Children are always welcome so long as they are suitably shod, can walk reasonable distances and are accompanied by an adult taking full responsibility for them.

Further information from the walks organiser, Thomas Radice

mobile: 07941 528 034 or

email: hhs.walks@gmail.com

Further walks will be announced in each future Newsletter. Details of walk programmes are also available on the Society's website:

www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk

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

2021

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

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

2022

No walk in January

6 February 10.30am (meet at **Old Bull & Bush**, North End Way, NW3 7HE)

Laughter in the Landscape: a walk to celebrate 'Grimaldi Sunday' a re-run of the walk held on 2 February 2020. Explore 'Appy' Ampstead with accredited guide Lester Hillman, academic adviser to Camden Tour Guides Association and Islington Archaeology and History Association

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

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

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

Birds of the Heath led by Pete Mantle, member of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee

