



Est. 1897

*The Heath & Hampstead Society*

# NEWSLETTER

*January 2023*

*Vol 54 No 1*



*'Frosty seat, Kenwood'*

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**Front cover:** The Society runs a regular photographic competition on Instagram [#myhampsteadheath](#). Conan Hales' image is the Society's current winner. Find his Instagram at [c0nan](#). Professional photographer and author, Matt Maran, is the Society's judge for the competition. *"The painterly quality and stillness of this photo grabbed my attention. Such conditions are rare in London and the photographer has exposed for the light and dark tones perfectly, turning an ordinary scene into something special"*. See the Society's website for competition rules.

*by Marc Hutchinson*

**Martin Humphrey**

Just as we go to press, I have with great sadness to report the death of our former Vice-President Martin Humphrey on New Year's Day. Martin died of pneumonia following surgery for a severe fall. We send our deepest sympathy to his widow Angela and his family. An obituary will appear in the May 2023 Newsletter.

**Christmas party 2022**

It was a pleasure to welcome so many members to our Christmas party at Burgh House on 15 December 2022. Guests included Jonathan Meares (the Heath's Trees and Conservation Manager) and local journalists.

**New Members party 2023**

In a departure from tradition, last year we held our first post-Covid New Members party at Keats House in the spring rather than at Burgh House in late winter. The party was a great success, and we intend to hold the 2023 party at Keats House as well for two reasons: the likelihood of clement spring weather means guests can enjoy the pleasant grounds of the house, and we are allowed to do our own catering. New members will receive their formal invitations in due course.

**Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium**

Most members will have visited the Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium, one of Hampstead's most distinctive retail outlets. It has been gratifying to see it survive for so many years in the face of Covid and the general disappearance of London's small antique shops and historic markets. What a blow it was then, not only to the tenant stallholders but to Hampstead itself, to learn in November 2022 that the

## ***Chair's Notes (cont)***

new freehold owner had given stallholders notice to quit by January 2023.

Local ward councillors, with the Society and the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum, supported an application to Camden Council for the site to be declared an Asset of Community Value (ACV), which will confer a statutory right on interested parties in the community to bid for the site in the event of its future sale. ACV status was quickly conferred on 4 January 2023. In this Newsletter on page 12, the campaign leader, Alexandra Porter, has written a piece about the campaign to save the Emporium.

The new owner's intentions are opaque, but it is reasonable to assume the site is marked for development. The site is relatively small, quirky and totally unsuited to development but, as we know from past experience, such considerations have never deterred Hampstead's developers. The loss of the Emporium, a long-time participant in the Society's Hampstead Card scheme, would represent a further step towards the blandification of the High Street.

May I thank those members who, in response to our December email, signed the online petition.

### ***Talking "rubbish"***

This Conversation with Camden Council councillors, officers and rubbish collectors has been postponed to early 2023 to take account of new initiatives, led by councillors and local activists, to reform and improve the collection of domestic and commercial rubbish both in the High Street and at South End Green.

### ***Civic Voice***

13 years ago, this new charity was established as a national body to assist, coordinate and speak for local civic and amenity groups such as the Society. Helen Marcus, a former Society Vice-President,

was instrumental in setting it up. Its current mission statement reads: "We are the national charity for the civic movement. We make places more attractive, distinctive and enjoyable. We promote civic pride."

The Society itself is a founding member and your trustees believe that Civic Voice fulfils an important role, not least in the leading of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies (APPG), the cross-party group of MPs who campaign in parliament for the aims of Civic Voice's members. It is a clear achievement by Civic Voice that recent government policy, as announced by Michael Gove following abandonment of the unpopular Planning Bill, to give local residents greater control over the design of their environment, is at last aligned with Civic Voice's aims, as reflected in the new slogan Pride in Place which has been taken up by several new government-related bodies involved in this policy area.

For the Society, I attended the December 2022 Civic Voice face-to-face annual general meeting held in Birmingham, and it was very helpful to hear and discuss the plans for its future which will focus timeously on these three areas: heritage at risk in high streets; conservation areas at risk; and high-quality design.

This positive news has to be set against disclosure of the embezzlement (through a series of small thefts) during Covid of Civic Voice's financial reserves by one of its long-serving volunteers. Members at the AGM received a briefing from the new board of trustees in relation to the reforms which have been implemented to ensure such thefts cannot occur again, and Civic Voice is planning to take civil proceedings against the volunteer to attempt to recover the significant debt.

In the light of all the above, your trustees will, at their January 2023 meeting, review and decide upon the

Society's continuing membership and support of Civic Voice, and it is not for me in this Newsletter to anticipate those discussions.

### ***Boundary Commission changes***

In the October 2021 Newsletter, we reported how the Society had formally objected to the changes to the parliamentary electoral boundaries in Hampstead proposed by the Boundary Commission for England. The changes involved effectively splitting Hampstead Town into two, each to be part of a larger new constituency. I am very pleased to say that our objections were heeded in the revised proposals we saw in November 2022.

### ***Martin Thompson – a postscript***

The October 2022 Newsletter carried tributes to Martin Thompson, a former Chair of the Town Sub-Committee. Martin established and curated a Facebook page, with approximately 1,200 followers, called London Historical Ramblings. We are in the process of trying to facilitate the preservation and continuance of this Facebook page with the help of another London-based historical organisation, London Historians, of which Martin was also a founder: [www.londonhistorians.org/groups](http://www.londonhistorians.org/groups).

### ***Website and emails to members***

We have been spring-cleaning the Society's website, bringing the informational and Hampstead Card pages up to date.

A new feature of the site is a dedicated page entitled Community Notice Page where other Hampstead and Highgate organisations may post their notices, announcements and invitations. There has been a demand for such a page both from our members and from some of those organisations in circumstances

where the local press no longer carries a full page of free advertisements/listings of local events

Those organisations often ask us to email our members with their notices etc, but we generally refuse to do this because we believe, based on member feedback, that, in an era where most of us suffer from overflowing inboxes, most members do not wish to receive weekly, or even monthly, emails from us. Our email policy, as reflected in the newly worded notice on page 37 of this Newsletter, is only to email members with information that cannot await the next Newsletter (Newsletters are published in January, May and October) or asking them for timely campaign support such as December's email concerning the Emporium petition.

Members who wish to have regular information about local events etc can now go to this new web page.

Members who wish to receive a weekly emailed newsletter covering latest news and events in Hampstead should subscribe to the *I Love Hampstead* newsletter produced by one of our long-serving trustees, Jessica Learmond-Criqui. Details on page 37 of this Newsletter.

### ***Remembrance Day – 11 November 2022***

The Whitestone Pond Hampstead War Memorial Conservation Group has for years been chaired by Ward Councillor Linda Chung who also organises the annual Armistice Day commemoration at the War Memorial outside



*Society Chair Marc Hutchinson at the Interfaith Act of Remembrance*

## ***Chair's Notes (cont)***

Heath House. The Society, along with the Mayor of Camden, the City, the Metropolitan Police, the Conservation Group and Hampstead Hill School, lays a wreath as part of an Interfaith Act of Remembrance led by the Rev Kate Dean, Minister of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel.

### ***Christmas lights and tree***

Thanks once again to Ward Councillor Stephen Stark for organising the 2022 Christmas lights and tree in the High Street. The Society contributed to this celebration which began on 7 December with the New End School choir.



*Christmas lights and tree, with Councillor Stephen Stark and the New End School choir*

### ***Happy New Year***

As we look forward to a full year of Society events in 2023, I and the trustees take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy and (albeit against the odds) prosperous New Year.

## ***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](http://www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk)

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

## WHAT'S ON AT HAMPSTEAD THEATRE



### SONS OF THE PROPHET

WRITTEN BY **STEPHEN KARAM**  
DIRECTED BY **BIJAN SHEIBANI**

**3 DEC - 14 JAN**



### THE ART OF ILLUSION

WRITTEN BY **ALEXIS MICHALIK**  
TRANSLATED BY **WALEED AKHTAR**  
DIRECTED BY **TOM JACKSON GREAVES**

**17 DEC - 28 JAN**



### LINCK & MÜLHAHN

WRITTEN BY **RUBY THOMAS**  
DIRECTED BY **OWEN HORSLEY**

**27 JAN - 4 MAR**



### AKEDAH

WRITTEN BY **MICHAEL JOHN O'NEILL**  
DIRECTED BY **LUCY MORRISON**

**10 FEB - 18 MAR**



BOOK NOW 020 7722 9301  
[HAMPSTEADTHEATRE.COM](http://HAMPSTEADTHEATRE.COM)

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SWISS COTTAGE TUBE STATION, EXIT 2

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL THEATRE

### Become a Friend of Hampstead Theatre

Join as a Friend to make sure you never miss a show and support the future of Hampstead.

From £60 per year Friends receive exciting benefits such as:

- Priority Booking
- Regular e-newsletters
- Invitations to exclusive events at the Theatre
- 10% discount at Hampstead Theatre Café and more.

#### JOIN NOW ON:

[hampsteadtheatre.com/friends](http://hampsteadtheatre.com/friends)

Call us on **020 7722 9301**

or visit us on Eton Avenue, NW3



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
WELCOMING YOU SOON!**

# *Heath Report*

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*by John Beyer*

## ***Constable's Pond***

The initial scrape excavated by Heath staff on the site in August proved successful. There was enough water flowing down the hollow to establish a pond in the basin. Once the warm weather arrives, the pond will be emptied and puddling clay granules worked into the existing soil basin to improve water retention. Planting of reeds and other pond-edge plants can then begin.

## ***Swan news***

Ron Vester reports that sadly we have lost swans on the Highgate chain of ponds, most likely from HPAI, commonly referred to as avian flu. On the Hampstead

chain, there were seven cygnets, one of which died while the other sick one has survived. Our thanks to Heath staff for dealing with the problem so effectively.

## ***Events in 2023***

On Sunday 3, September 2023, we plan to hold another Natural Aspect concert at the bandstand at the bottom of Parliament Hill. This will be followed on Thursday, 28 September, by the Springett Lecture, when Jonathan Meares, the Trees and Conservation Manager for the Heath and Highgate Wood, will speak about climate change and the Heath. We are also considering a kite event in June.



*Swans breaking the ice on Hampstead No 1 Pond. Photo courtesy: Ron Vester*

Also in September, we are looking forward to working with the City and Heath Hands to bring sheep from Mudchute Farm back to the Heath as we did in 2019. Once again, these will be rare breeds who will help to control a large patch of creeping cinquefoil around the ant hills on the Heath Extension, which will improve plant and insect diversity in this area. The cinquefoil grows over the ant hills so there is not enough air circulation for the ants. In turn, the ants are a prime source of food for woodpeckers.

### ***Biodiversity Boards at the entrances to the Heath***

The Society will continue to fund the seasonal boards set up at entrances to the Heath to inform visitors of what they can do to help protect the Heath. This year, the boards have encouraged dog owners to let their dogs swim only in designated areas, to protect wildlife, and explained why there is brushwood or fencing around veteran trees to protect their roots. Professor Jeff Waage is working once again with partners, the City, English Heritage, Heath Hands, the London Natural History Society and the Marylebone Birdwatching Society, to create new designs. Scanning a QR code on each board brings visitors to the Society website, where they can access the websites of partners.

### ***Scottish wildcats are here***

Golders Hill Zoo received a pair of Scottish wildcats on 2 December 2022, from the Highlands Wildlife Park with the long-term aim of establishing a breeding programme. While the female, Fearn, is unable to breed, Ruthven, the male, will be able to breed in due course. The immediate aim is to see the shy creatures well established in their new location and to gain experience in their care. The move is part of a steady progression from a zoo with a number of exotic species to one which reflects the wildlife of the UK. The zoo also plans to bring native red deer.



*One of a pair of Scottish wildcats now at Golders Hill Zoo bewildered in their carrier. Photo courtesy: Laura Botelho*



*One of a pair of Scottish wildcats now at Golders Hill Zoo taking refuge amongst branches. Photo courtesy: Laura Botelho*

## ***Heath Report (cont)***

### ***Heath Extension Playground refurbished***

Thanks to persistent efforts of 12 year-old Olivia White, the playground on the Heath Extension has been renovated and improved. On 5 November 2022, an opening ceremony was held to mark the occasion. William Upton KC, Chair of the City's Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, opened the new facility, congratulating Olivia for her persistence and resolve. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Alison Moore, similarly commended Olivia. The project has been supported throughout by Chair Emma Howard and Colin Gregory from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association, which donated £7,500 to the project. The donation was supplemented by many contributions, including £7,500 from a City charity and £1,000 from the Society. Heath Sub-Committee member Lynda Cook also assisted the project.



*The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Alison Moore, and Olivia White*



*Fence and dead hedging protecting an oak on the Heath Extension*



*Olivia White and William Upton KC*

# Planning Report

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by David Castle

## **Revisions to planning law and regulations**

The proposed changes to planning law, which were originally extensive, have been reduced in the draft *Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill* now going through Parliament (referred to by the clumsy acronym LURB).

The proposal to enforce housing targets on local authorities by Whitehall has been dropped owing to Conservative opposition. The prevention of local people and groups objecting to planning applications also appears to have been left out. However, the intention of the Bill is still to increase central control over local authorities and make it easier and quicker for development to take place with fewer hurdles for developers to jump.

The proposed *National Development Management Policy* is a major introduction and centralising measure. This proposal will set national policies governing all local authorities when producing a local plan which will override what the local authorities may want to specify for their area. There is no mention of the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Presumably, this would need to be rewritten to accommodate the proposed changes.

In the proposed Bill, there is a section on enforcement, the regulation of which has long been slow, expensive and ineffective. The minor changes included in the Bill do not appear to improve the chance of quick or effective enforcement.

The Neighbourhood Plans and Conservation Area Policy, both very important to Hampstead, do not appear to be affected by the proposed Bill. They may, though, be affected by the new National Development Management Policy.

## **Improving Camden's Local Plan – request for comment**

Camden Council's planning department is revising the Local Plan, which is very important in controlling

development in Hampstead. The department has asked for suggestions for improving the Plan. The Society has been collecting your comments and will include them in its submission.

The Society will certainly be requesting a variety of improvements, including:

- more control of building in gardens on the fringes of the Heath;
- more restrictions limiting building in Hampstead gardens;
- more control of tree removal;
- more encouragement of improvement of existing buildings instead of demolition; and
- improved protection and encouragement of ecological networks.

## **The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies**

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies, which the Society has for a long while supported, is very active in challenging and attempting to improve not only planning issues but all other issues which affect London and its many neighbourhoods.

A typical example is the London Forum's attempt to introduce into the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill a section allowing, for the first time, the *right of a third party* to challenge a planning or appeal decision.

There have been many attempts over the past 60 years to redress the inequitable situation where a refusal of planning permission may be appealed numerous times, but an approval cannot. The only currently existing option is a judicial review. This method may only be used to challenge a decision in very limited circumstances, is very expensive and of uncertain outcome. The Society applauds and supports this action of the London Forum.

# Town Report

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by Andrew Haslam-Jones

## 2022 in review

It has been a busy year for the members of this Sub-Committee.

### *Plaques*

The Plaque Selection Panel continued its outstanding work of identifying places where noteworthy people lived in Hampstead and erecting plaques to inform and commemorate. Most recently, we unveiled a plaque to Jennifer Vyvyan, the famous soprano, at 59 Fitzjohn's Avenue (see page 32 of the Newsletter).

### *Fingerposts and buses*

We hope the work started by our Sub-Committee member, Robert Linger, on getting Camden Council to renovate the fingerposts that point the way (and sometimes, currently, the wrong way) to places of interest in Hampstead will be completed in 2023. We also hope Robert's proposal for solving the problem of moving the 168 bus stop from the slip road in South End Green to the terminal for the number 24 bus terminal on the other side of the Green, thereby freeing up the slip road for pedestrianisation, will eventually be carried out.

### *Street tiles*

Alexandra Lavery has taken over the monitoring of the historic street tiles from Juliette Sonabend. If any members notice a cracked or missing tile (though please do not report the Q used for an O in WILLQUUGHBY ROAD, I rather like it), feel free to drop an email to [info@heathandhamstead.org.uk](mailto:info@heathandhamstead.org.uk). As with much else, we depend on our members to keep us well-informed and up-to-date with what is happening in Hampstead.

### *Consultations*

Regular readers will know we have alerted them to various consultations carried out by Camden Council. However, we do not always spot what is relevant to Hampstead and we rely on Society members to alert us

to consultations where the Society's voice is relevant.

### *Hampstead shops*

Similarly, we are grateful to Society members who alert us to such things as garish shopfronts out of keeping with Hampstead's conservation area status, giving us the opportunity to contact the relevant Camden Council planning enforcement officers.

Since the demise of the Hampstead Business Improvement District (and, before that, the NW3 Business Association), we no longer have a single point of contact for communicating with Hampstead's shops. If any Society member is particularly interested in making contact with the shops and helping to administer the Society's Hampstead Card, which all Society members receive with their membership and which allows participating shops to offer discounts or other benefits to members, this Sub-Committee would like to hear from you via the email address above.

### *Looking ahead*

The perennial problem of waste management, whether uncollected bags on the High Street or food caddies raided by foxes, continues to be a problem. The Society expects to be sponsoring a meeting of as many interested parties, the waste management companies, the Council, local businesses and residents' groups, in the early part of 2023, at the very least to begin to find viable solutions.

### *Ward Councillors*

Finally, we would like, as a Sub-Committee, to thank both our Councillors, Linda Chung and Stephen Stark, for their assistance and hard work. Without them, we would not be able to get half the things done that we do, and they both make Hampstead a better place.

# Winter and Spring Musical Events

St John-at-Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row NW3

## *Friends of the Music Series:*

### *Organ recital Fridays*

**17 February**

James Johnstone, Organist for Monteverdi  
Choir and Orchestra

**17 March**

Kyoko Canaway, Gonville and  
Caius College Cambridge

**14 April**

Geoffrey Webber, Hampstead Parish Church.

*Organ recital Fridays from 6.30pm to 7.30pm*

*Free admission with retiring collection*

### *The Charmian England Recital*

**25 February, 7.30pm**

Sofie Elkjaer Jensen (soprano) with James  
Sherlock (piano). Music by Sibelius, Grieg, Heise,  
Poulenc and Bernstein.

*Tickets 020 7794 5808 or at the door*

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## *Church service music*

**Sunday 26 March, 6.00pm**

*St. Matthew Passion, J.S. Bach*

Choir and Orchestra directed by Geoffrey Webber

*Free admission*

**Sunday 23 April, 5.00 pm**

*Symphony Evensong – My Beloved Spake, Purcell*

Anthem with string accompaniment.

*Free admission*

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## *The Hampstead Collective*

**Monday 6 February**

*Small Matter for Wonder*

American and English Songs of identity, home and  
longing, with piano and string quartet

**Monday 6 March**

*From Nightly Fears and Fantasies – music for  
compline and vespers*

Works by Tallis, Sheppard, Gabrieli and Monteverdi.

Vocal Sextet directed by Malachy Frame

*Each Hampstead Collective concert is from 7pm to 8.30pm, doors open at 6.30pm.*

*Tickets are £15 and available from [www.thehampsteadcollective.com](http://www.thehampsteadcollective.com)*

***All enquiries to Jenny Macdonald-Hay 0207 794 1193***

# *The Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium under Threat*

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*by Dr Alexandra Porter*

*Since 1967, the Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium, housed in old Victorian stables, has drawn visitors from around the world to the heart of Hampstead. Although the iconic Emporium recently has been under threat, it has now been registered as an Asset of Community Value. Dr Porter led this successful campaign.*

The Hampstead Antique Emporium was opened with dignity at 12 Heath Street on 1 July 1967. The unassuming building had been a forge, then Roff & Son the builders, followed by the White Bear Garage. Mr Cyril Ellis, agent for the Emporium, recognised



*The unique alleyway leading to the Emporium*

the vacant building was “an ideal centre for an antiques market.” Just after the market opened, antique restorer Mrs Marian Burford said, “I think this market will be fine as long as a high standard is kept up. We don’t want it becoming another Portobello Road.”

The market currently comprises around 25 small businesses, and provides a livelihood for antique dealers, artists, vintage clothing sellers, jewellery specialists, repair and craftspeople, some of whom have called the market ‘home’ for 30 years. Jean Archer, a Hampstead resident, has had a thriving business in the Emporium for 15 years.

When, on 31 October 2022, the traders each received a call from the landlord, Mr Richard Jaffe, Director of Staplepine, and head of six businesses with an annual turnover of almost £90 million, the last thing they expected to hear was the market being closed.

The closure was due to occur on 7 January 2023! Traders had Christmas to sell off their stock and vacate the premises. Mr Jaffe blamed the closure on the cost-of-living crisis, but how that applied to the Emporium was unclear. He certainly did not give the traders, or the local community, any opportunity to save the market. Redeveloped, the Emporium would disappear into history without any discussion. The Christmas holiday, and surviving imminent unemployment during a cost-of-living crisis, would occupy the traders’ remaining time and the market would be silently swept away with the holiday wrapping paper.

However, after their initial shock, traders started to reach out for help. Tom Foot broke the story in the Camden New Journal. This got the attention of the market’s regular customers, among them, writer

## *The Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium under Threat (cont)*

Jane Fallon and comedian Ricky Gervais. Fallon, shocked at the news of closure, Tweeted: "I love the Antique Emporium!"

When the online petition, Save Hampstead Emporium, was set up, the number of signatures immediately sky rocketed and is now over 1,500. To add your signature please see [you.38degrees.org.uk/p/Savehampsteademporium](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/Savehampsteademporium).

A second petition, which was set up in the market, received over 1,000 signatures, including from a number of celebrities such as comedian David Baddiel and actress Tuppence Middleton.

Hampstead Town Ward Councillor, Linda Chung responded to the traders' direct appeals and growing local concern, as did Tulip Siddiq, our MP. Hampstead Town Ward Councillor Stephen Stark circulated leaflets, including news of the imminent closure. The outcry was such that Camden Council committed to helping save the Emporium by granting, on 4 January 2023, its application to be designated an Asset of Community Value (ACV), and supporting engagement with the owners to find ways to help the Emporium to continue to operate. Councillor Chung stated:

We must do all we can to help the Emporium survive – it has enormous potential and is a great asset to Hampstead. Its loss could also invite



*Inside the Aladdin's cave that is the Emporium*

developers in with an undesirable scheme, which could also impact badly on the neighbouring homes and shops.

People are being encouraged to write testimonials about why the Emporium is important to them in order to support the ACV application. For instance, Mr Stavros Perantonis, an early supporter, wrote:

The Emporium is a major landmark of great value to the community of Hampstead, an integral part of its flesh and spirit. It provides a unique focal point for the locals and visitors alike. It must be preserved at all costs.

The Society also supported the Emporium in its efforts to achieve ACV status.

Alexander Nicoll, Chair of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum said:

## ***The Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium under Threat (cont)***

The Emporium makes a unique contribution to the character of Hampstead's village. The Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan emphasises the importance of maintaining a broad range of retail outlets, including small and independent shops. Closure of the Emporium would narrow the range as it would remove a significant number of small traders and premises. It is important that Hampstead's centre remain a dynamic economic hub for this part of north London, especially as the Covid pandemic altered the work patterns of residents, many of whom now work at home.

Wanting to maintain their strong commercial links with Hampstead, traders are seeking legal advice from Robert Griffiths KC, a distinguished barrister and lifelong lover of antiques. A former resident of Hampstead, Griffiths is giving the traders advice and will represent them in any legal proceedings arising out of a dispute with their landlord. He commented, "This dispute certainly raises important issues of law relating to public and private interests".

The Emporium is one of the increasingly few affordable places in the community and provides a centre for locals to meet and an attractive destination for tourists. It provides affordable second-hand items and repair services, and showcases craftsmanship, quality and inspiring design, built to last. An ethos of re-use and repair should be encouraged and protected

for the good of the environment and not bulldozed for yet more unsustainable consumption. Linda Chung says, "Given the invaluable role the market plays in Hampstead, the community urgently needs to raise the funds to save it."



*The Emporium in the 1970s. Photo courtesy: Ingrid Smits, Local Studies and Archives Officer, and colleagues, the Camden Local Studies and Archive Centre,*

**The campaign has set up a crowdfunding page at:**

**[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/  
savehampsteademporium](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/savehampsteademporium)**

**or please scan the QR code to be taken to the website.**



# *Burgh House & Hampstead Museum*

*Those Remarkable Carlines*, featuring Sydney, Hilda and Richard Carline, Marie Louise von Motesiczky Art Gallery

until 10 April 2023

Mantelpiece by Josie and Madeleine Hunter, Drawing Room



Spanning over 100 years, four generations of the Carline family will exhibit together under one roof for the first time at Burgh House.

Work by siblings Sydney, Hilda and Richard Carline will be on show in *Those Remarkable Carlines*.

## *The Cutting Edge*

8 to 12 February 2023

John Ridley's exhibition will focus on life drawing but will also include portraits, of both humans and dogs, and abstracts. The exhibition will feature recent collages of cut and pasted coloured paper, as well as drawings and paintings.



**Burgh House**  
New End Square, NW3 1LT  
☎ 020 7431 0144  
[info@burghhouse.org.uk](mailto:info@burghhouse.org.uk)  
[www.burghhouse.org.uk](http://www.burghhouse.org.uk)  
[@burghhouse1704](https://twitter.com/burghhouse1704)

**BURGH  
HOUSE**

**House & Museum:** Open 12–5pm Wed, Thu, Fri & Sun

**Café:** Open 10am–5pm Wed, Thu & Fri, 9:30am–5:30pm weekends



*The start on Parliament Hill*

## ***Parliament Hill, the Home of Cross Country Running***

*by Paul Maskell*

*The Heath is home to a variety of sporting pursuits. But did you know it is the home of competitive cross country running?! In this piece, Paul Maskell, Leisure Events and Communications Manager for the Heath, recounts the history of cross country on the Heath and some of its early stars.*

Nationally and even globally, Parliament Hill Fields is renowned amongst the athletics community as the home of cross country running.

Over the 27 years of my career working for the City, it has been my privilege to have played a part in managing these magnificent and historic events. It all began in 1993 on a cold wet Saturday in February when I was living in a bed-sit in South Hill Park Gardens. I decided to venture out onto the Heath when I came upon thousands of runners almost



*The first three winners of the 1950 National Cross Country Womens' Championship. Miss Avery Gibson won first place. Ruby Smith came second and third place went to Joyce Heath. Photo courtesy: Shields Daily News*

## *Parliament Hill, the Home of Cross Country Running (cont)*



*The 2009 start on Parliament Hill*

knocking me down. Little did I know, a decade later I would be working for the City with the English National Cross Country, organising committee to host the 2003 English National event. Indeed, it is a funny old world!

Parliament Hill Fields and the Heath have seen some epic races take place over its great undulating surface. The variation of running up and down hills, through wetland, across ditches, through woodland and flat

areas, makes cross country running both challenging and thrilling.

The start of most races is usually up the iconic Parliament Hill, starting from the Lido at the bottom. This steep hill is a real challenge. Getting to the top is tough even for the most experienced runners. This is followed by a short section of downhill and then back up again. Although a race is not won during this section of the first lap, it is very often lost.

Athletes have been running around the Heath for a long time and currently the big events we host are the London Youth games held in November, and the Southern Counties in January. The latter comes to us annually, except every three years when we host the premier event: the English National Cross Country Championship.

The first National Cross Country Championship was held on the Heath in 1950, with the Women's Championship. The winner that year was Avery Gibson of North Shields Polytechnic. The Birmingham-based club, Birchfield, won the team



*1957 Men's race. Photo courtesy: The English National Cross Country Championship*

## *Parliament Hill, the Home of Cross Country Running (cont)*



*Boys racing up Parliament Hill in 2022*

event. The first Men's Championship at Parliament Hill was held in 1957, some 90 years after the first ever championship held in 1876 at Buckhurst Hill. The 1957 event was won by Frank Sando and the South London Harriers were victorious in the team race.

Through the 1960s, '70s and '80s the Men's Championship was held every three years at our great venue. During the years in between, it toured the rest of the country.

There were some great races during those three decades. Among the winners were Olympic Marathon silver medallist Basil Heatley in 1961. Local legend and ex-10,000-metre world record holder Dave Bedford won in 1973. During this period, as a Junior,

he did a double by winning the Southern Counties Championships Senior 9-mile. Subsequently, with only a 15-minute break, he won the Junior 6-mile title. This was an incredible feat of long distance running never before seen or since repeated. In 1977, Brendon Foster, another Olympic medallist, won the National over the formidable 9-mile race.

Perhaps, one of the greatest performances at the National at Parliament Hill happened in 1981 when Julian Goater ran a superb race to win by nearly two minutes. Also on that day, another great former 5,000-metres world record holder, Dave Moorcroft, missed the start with a kit problem. He was last up the hill and then passed over 1,000 runners to eventually finish fourth.

## *Parliament Hill, the Home of Cross Country Running (cont)*

I was incredibly lucky to witness a young Mo Farah running up Parliament Hill on his way to super stardom and gold medal-winning Olympic glory. He won the National Under 20 Men's title in 2003, and maybe the hard graft of the National played a role in his future success. I would like to think so!

The Women, having been the first to run their Championships in 1950, did not return until 1975, and, in 2003, Hayley Yelling won the Championship and went on to become European Cross Country Champion. Another cross country great was Paula Radcliffe who won the National in 1994, but not at Parliament Hill.

Young people have also been running on the Heath for many years. Over the years, Championships for Under 13s Boys and Girls, Under 15s Boys and Girls, Under 17 Men and Women and Under 20 Men and Women have all been added to this festival of cross country. However, it was not until 2003 – my first National – that all the age groups finally took place on the same day, with a ten-race programme and 3,279 athletes taking part.

I remember it was quite a challenge to organise the logistics. My team managed the course, put up the start and created the finish, liaised with first aid, wrote risk assessments, delivered food and carried out many other tasks. It was a glorious day and a huge achievement for the staff who delivered it.

The popularity of Parliament Hill continues to grow. In 2018, a new record was set when 6,444 competitors ran in the ten races, with 2,328 of these in the Senior Men's race.

The Heath now hosts a wide variety of cross-country events. Prior to Christmas 2022, the London Youth Games attracts thousands. Over thirty London boroughs send teams to the biggest youth sporting

event in Europe. This is where our next generation of sporting legends are being fostered. The event has been held for several decades and has races for Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s, and Under 17s. It is also a fantastic spectator event with parents, family, carers and friends taking the chance to visit the magnificent Parliament Hill. There are always many compliments to staff on what a fabulous show we put on.

The South of England Athletics Association also stages championships, usually in January, known as the *Southern Counties*. This event attracts many athletes including international and local participants from our resident running clubs, such as Highgate Harriers. It allows serious runners to test their stamina before the Nationals in February.

I am very proud of our unique and iconic venue, and I was incredibly happy when we were recently recognised by World Athletics as a World Heritage Site, celebrating the Heath as the ancestral home of cross country running. The plaque awarded to us will be put up by the staff yard at Parliament Hill after this year's National Championships in February at Chester.

Parliament Hill remains a popular place to run as a novice, improver, championship athlete or international. Over the years, being involved with this sport has been a rewarding part of my job and I had the honour to accept a rare award of lifetime membership to the English Cross Country Association.

This year, the South of England Championships will be hosted at Beckenham Green Open Space, but I am assured it will return to Parliament Hill in 2024 and the National will do likewise in 2025. In the meantime, the smaller event, the Middlesex Cross Country Championships, was held on 21 January 2023, celebrating 100 years of the Association.

# Quarterly Walk by Members of the Heath Sub-Committee: What will climate change do to the Heath?

by Jeff Waage

*If you visited the Heath this summer you will have seen the effects of record drought, and perhaps the impact of the torrential rains that followed. These weather patterns are no longer surprising; last July's record flooding was caused by a similar summer storm. They are features of the new British weather brought about by climate change. The UK Met Office forecasts that UK summers will become increasingly dry and hot, with more intense summer rain storms, and our winters will become increasingly warmer and wetter. What will these changes mean for the habitats and wildlife we enjoy in the Heath? Here are some insights from a recent Heath walk made by the Society's Heath Sub-Committee with the City, to discuss what Heath managers are expecting, and doing, to address the impact of climate change.*

The effects of a changing climate on plants and animals is complex, but a few patterns are emerging. This summer, we had quite a bit of dramatic summer



*The Society's President, Lord Mance, and Jonathan Meares, with Heath Sub-Committee members Rupert Sheldrake and Bianca Swalem. Photo courtesy: Ron Vester*

branch drop, where mature trees suddenly shed very substantial limbs, without the winds usually associated with tree and limb fall. This is a feature of droughts and may also be exacerbated by heavy rains, and its exact causes are unknown. It is expected a generally warming

climate on the Heath will affect the survival of tree species differently. Birch and beech will probably struggle more, while our two English oaks species will be fairly resilient.

The turkey oak, a non-native species widespread on the Heath, is

sometimes seen as an undesirable species because it supports the spread of a damaging, acorn-distorting condition on native oaks called knopper gall. In a warmer Heath, however, this species from central and southern Europe may now play a positive role in helping our woodlands adapt to a new climate.

As with plants, warmer temperatures will affect wildlife on the Heath in different ways. Over 50 British species have now been shown to be declining or increasing as a result of climate change. This includes some welcome increases on the Heath of largely continental species like willow emerald damselflies and Jersey tiger moths. On the other hand, increasing extreme weather events can threaten Heath species – volunteers who monitor the Heath's 25 butterfly species saw them all but disappear this summer as a result of summer droughts followed by downpours.



*Walk leader Prof Jeff Waage with Jonathan Meares, Heath Trees and Conservation Manager. Photo courtesy: Ron Vester*

## ***Quarterly Walk by Members of the Heath Sub-Committee: What will climate change do to the Heath? (cont)***

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Besides adaptation to climate change, the Heath plays a role in mitigating its effects. Plants capture carbon dioxide and play a critical role in reducing levels of this and other greenhouse gases which drive climate change. While our society addresses the climate emergency by reducing our fossil fuel and energy use and modifying our diets and other habits, we will also need to improve the carbon-capturing features of green spaces like the Heath. This is, in fact, part of the City's Climate Action Plan. Presently, all of the City's open spaces capture an estimated 16,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in their woodlands and meadows every year. This is equivalent to about 40% of the 36,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide produced directly in the City by its businesses every year. The Heath, in effect, offsets the City's carbon production, and to reach its Net Zero targets, the City will make changes to the Heath to increase its carbon capture.

Most of us probably think this means planting more trees, but perhaps not. Not only might turning our meadows into more woodland be unpopular with visitors, but increasing woodland comes at the expense of other habitats. The effect of reducing habitat diversity on the Heath would be to reduce biodiversity as well. With British biodiversity also in crisis, and the Heath providing homes to quite a few declining British species, this may not be the best climate change mitigation strategy. Planting trees in years of increasing drought also creates risks. During this summer's drought on the Heath, recently planted trees required watering up to three times per week, which is an enormous effort, difficult to replicate on a larger scale. Therefore, Heath managers plan to encourage a modest woodland increase, allowing naturally-established saplings along woodland edges to mature, as these are more likely to survive without

intense care. The major mitigation effort will focus on the Heath's grasslands.

Grasslands also capture carbon, and changing their management can also increase carbon capture. Amenity grasslands on the Heath, such as its playing fields, are mown weekly. By letting some of these revert to natural, long-grass meadows, more carbon is captured in plants and soils, and greenhouse gases production from lawn mowers is dramatically reduced. Over the next two years, some areas of amenity grassland will be allowed to convert to infrequently-mown long-grass meadows. This will be limited to parts of the Heath where it does not affect sports or similar recreation. Encouraging long-grass meadows is also a great example of how climate change mitigation and adaptation can be complementary. Amenity grasslands store less carbon and are prone to drying and compaction, making them prone to causing flooding in response



*Edges of this mown field on the Heath Extension will be allowed to revert to long-grass meadow as part of the climate change strategy*

***Quarterly Walk by Members of the Heath Sub-Committee:  
What will climate change do to the Heath? (cont)***

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to our increasing frequency of intense rain storms. They also support a greater biodiversity of plants and provide opportunities for establishing more wildflower meadows, which can increase the resilience of plants and animals to climate change. However, because they are more prone to fire, long-grass meadows will need to be carefully managed as we face hotter, drier summers.

One aspect we did not consider on our walk was how climate change will affect the way people use the

Heath. We have seen in recent years how hot days bring more and more visitors to the Heath, and also how Londoners are seeking more time in nature, with its proven benefits to well-being and mental health. The Heath can provide visitors with a wonderful way of coping with excessive heat, personal stress and eco-anxiety, but we will also need to find ways to help the Heath support more visitors without affecting the fabric and resilience of its natural spaces, particularly in the face of new climate change pressures.



*Autumn in August due to the drought. Photo courtesy: April Blaszak*

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*Right: Jellyfish, 2022. Courtesy of the artist and Modern Art, London*

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Atiéna R. Kilfa's (b.1990, France) first institutional solo presentation in the UK showcases the artist's use of photography, sculpture, video and installation to explore personal and cultural memories that conflict and overlap.

*Below: Untitled*



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# *Protecting the Veteran Tree Ecology of Hampstead Heath*

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*by David Humphries and Alasdair Nicoll*

***David Humphries and Alasdair Nicoll delivered the Springett Lecture 2022 on 29 September.***

*David Humphries is a Trees Management Officer for the City at the Heath and has been observing trees and their fungi associations at the site for over 35 years. His work includes overseeing the in-house tree team managing 30,000 trees, undertaking inspections, tree health care, safety and veteran tree management. David is the co-author of the Arboricultural Association Fungi on Trees: A photographic reference. In 2020, he was recognised for his work in receiving the London Tree Officers Association Individual Commitment Award, at the Forestry Commission's London Tree and Woodland Awards, "showing consistent dedication and commitment" to protecting London's trees.*

*Alasdair Nicoll is currently the Arboricultural Team Leader for the City at the Heath. He has worked as a conservation focused arborist for 20 years, specialising in ancient and veteran tree management and is recognised as a VETert practising arborist and consultant.*

*This is an edited version of their lecture.*

## ***What are veteran trees?***

Veteran trees are relics of an earlier rural landscape. The Woodland Trust states a veteran tree is a survivor that has developed some of the features found on an ancient tree, not necessarily as a consequence of time, but of its life or environment.

There are approximately 25,000 trees on the Heath and 470 of those are veterans. The composition of species is predominantly from the two British oaks, sessile and pedunculate, followed by European beech, field maple, lime, wild service, Scots pine, crab apple, ash, and hornbeam.

There are four main forms of veteran tree on the Heath: maidens, pollards, coppice and phoenix. Maidens are trees of seedling origin which have never been coppiced or pollarded. Pollards are trees cut when young at a determined height above ground level to keep clear from browsing animals. In addition, their crowns have been removed for fodder or product and then placed into a cyclical phase of re-cutting. The pollards on the Heath are lapsed and not been cut for



*Veteran oak maiden form*



*Veteran oak pollard form*



*Veteran beech coppice form*



*Veteran beech phoenix form*

## ***Protecting the Veteran Tree Ecology of Hampstead Heath (cont)***

over 70 years. Coppice trees are broadleaf species which were traditionally cut and harvested every five to 25 years for small-diameter rods and poles. Phoenix trees are where a tree regenerates, after decline or collapse, by growth from epicormic shoots or adventitious roots, at the point of the crown or from layering or suckering.

### ***Which animals use veteran trees?***

2,300 species including invertebrates, birds, mammals, and fungi are known to use native oak trees. 326 of these species are entirely dependent. Many birds, mammals, insects, fungi and lichen associate with the Heath's veteran trees. Some bird species rely on old tree cavities. A few of those which can be seen on the Heath include kestrels, tawny owl, greater spotted woodpecker, tree creepers and blue tits.

The Heath has recorded eight of the 17 species of bat in the UK, including all three pipistrelles (common, soprano, nathusius), natterer's, Daubenton's, noctule, leisler's, and brown long eared. All of these bat species rely on old trees for some of their life cycle.



*Kestrel in beech cavity habitat*

Saproxyllic invertebrates are dependent on white and brown rot decay. Other invertebrates are dependent on the fruiting bodies of tree related fungi. A survey (Dan Hackett 2010) assessed a limited number of old trees looking at saproxyllic species associated with dead wood on the Heath, this showed a significant Saproxyllic Quality Index with many species newly recorded to the site, including three Red Data Book species. This type of survey should be revisited regularly to assess change.

### ***What fungi are associated with veteran trees?***

There are several rare and threatened species of fungi associated with veteran trees on the Heath. These include the zoned rosette, *Podoscypha multizonata*, the rooting bolete, *Buchwaldoboletus lignicola*, and the bearded tooth fungi, *Hericium erinaceus*, the latter being one of only four species of fungi in the UK protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Undisturbed soil around old woodland and veteran trees support a wide variety of mycorrhizal fungi.



*Woodpecker on decayed oak tree habitat*

## Protecting the Veteran Tree Ecology of Hampstead Heath (cont)



*Zoned rosette fungi, Podoscypba multizonata*



*Bearded tooth fungi, Hericium erinaceus*

These make up the wood wide web, which is a complex underground symbiotic network of roots, fungi and bacteria helping to connect trees and plants to one another.

### ***Veteran tree surveys***

Inspired by the 1996 Veteran Trees Initiative, volunteers surveyed the Heath's veteran tree population. The survey used an 1870's ordnance map recording significant trees on the Heath. In 2002, 40 members of Heath Hands trained in Specialist Survey Method to assess veteran trees. Seven small groups surveyed nine areas. The 26 characteristics of each tree were recorded.

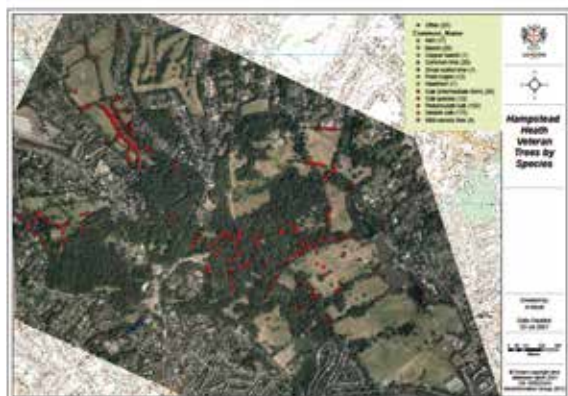
By 2004, the database of the Heath's veteran trees was completed. Metal tags were installed and photos taken of individual trees. In 2007, tags mysteriously started to disappear and between 2008 and 2009, pet microchips were installed instead.

Between 2017 and 2020, the in-house tree team led by Alasdair Nicoll revisited the survey: 841 of the original surveyed trees were resurveyed; 586 were identified as veteran trees; 471 of those were living, comprised of 18 species.

Some of the questions posed by the re-survey were: What species do we have? Why are they there? Are there enough trees to maintain a viable population?

<b>Veteran Trees by Species</b>	<b>Number</b>
Sessile oak	175
Pedunculate oak	155
Other (including Crab apple, Alder, Copper beech, Elm, Horse chestnut, Hornbeam, Goat willow, Black poplar, Mulberry)	25
Oak (intermediate form)	20
Common lime	20
Beech	20
Field maple	13
Oak species	12
Ash	11
Wild service	9
Hawthorn	7
Ancient trees (total)	23

## *Protecting the Veteran Tree Ecology of Hampstead Heath (cont)*



*Heat map showing veteran trees on the heath by species*

### ***The mortality rate of trees on the Heath***

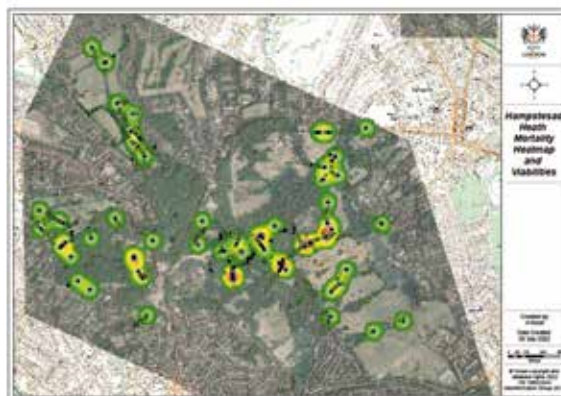
Based on the paper by Read and Bengtsson 2021, Alasdair spent time constructing heat maps of the ancient and veteran trees with an emphasis on showing viable populations of veteran trees and the location of alive and dead trees based on their viability scores. This enables us to calculate the mortality rate between 2002 and 2020 and come up with projections of what the veteran tree population might look like if these rates were to remain constant.

Currently, the site average is 0.67%, but ranges between 1.23% and 0.3%. Further analysis shows us which trees and which area of trees require a greater focus of management and intervention.

As a result of the survey, 178 trees were identified as requiring Individual Tree Management Plans drawn up to program and record works into the future. Of those, 75 trees were prioritized.

### ***Veteran tree mitigation works***

The following are examples of the mitigation works to some of the veteran trees on the Heath, including halo pruning, soil amelioration and crown reduction.



*Heat map showing veteran tree mortality*

### ***The hollow beech, in the Vale, one of the most iconic veteran trees of the Heath***

This tree suffered near catastrophic failure during the great storm of 1987 where it lost a significant percentage of its crown. Since then, it has defied expectations for its species and developed a secondary crown over the last 35 years. Its exposure to ongoing storms led to crown management which began in 2009 and revisited in 2014 and 2020, focussing on stabilizing the regrowth via height and lateral branch reduction.

In 2021, the focus shifted to the tree's vitality because there were signs of reduced vigour suspected from increased footfall in the area and successive drought conditions. We turned our attention to soil management because the immediate area was compacted bagshot sand. Water struggled to permeate through the soil and there appeared to be reduced soil nutrition. Work was required to de-compact the top surface soil pan via aeration.

We employed techniques including air spading vertical holes spaced at one metre centres, and back

## *Protecting the Veteran Tree Ecology of Hampstead Heath (cont)*



*Decompacting soil around veteran beech*

filling with wood chip material to increase the levels of organic matter. We also forked over the entire rooting area by hand to allow surface water to break through the surface. A thin layer of wood chip was spread across the rooting area surface to increase available nutrients as the wood chip breaks down. We also erected a subtle fence line with low posts and rope. We did that to highlight the rooting area without stopping all access to the tree.

Observations suggest this has reduced the level of footfall around the trunk area. The tree currently



*Mulch and low fence around veteran beech*

shows a full functioning crown in good health.

*In the same area are the Three Sisters, a group of veteran oaks*

These trees have suffered reduced light levels due to competing canopies of younger secondary woodland and there was also a well-trodden desire foot path running between the trunks, causing compaction.

The surrounding trees are being cleared back, a process known as halo pruning, to increase sunlight to the old oaks. This process will improve their health via increased photosynthesis which provides the



*Temporary fencing around veteran tree group*



*Halo pruning*

## *Protecting the Veteran Tree Ecology of Hampstead Heath (cont)*

trees with more energy to combat environmental stress. The area around these trees have had a temporary stock fence erected to divert the footfall, reducing the impact of soil compaction on their roots and the symbiotic communities that thrive in undisturbed woodland soils.

### *Two Tree Hill, Sandy Heath*

Two veteran oaks standing prominently on a hillock amongst younger oak woodland are similar to the Three Sisters. These trees are the sole survivors of the period where sand was extracted from the area.

The surrounding area was planted with oak around 1900. These younger trees are now overshadowing the veteran oaks. Since 2012, the trees have been halo pruned annually to provide more light.

A wooden fence has been erected around the two trees to stop a well-used desire path which had increased compaction and created soil erosion. It has been noted the enclosed area is very active with mycorrhizal species of fungi as a result of the reduced effects of compaction. This is in contrast to the immediate vicinity outside of the fenced area, where fewer mycorrhizal fungi have been recorded.

### *Standing Deadwood Habitat*

There is a void in the tree population between the veteran trees and the younger maturing specimens where there is less naturally formed decaying wood matter and habitat features. During our time here working at the Heath, we have witnessed the tidying up of dead wood, fallen and broken parts of trees. This is a Victorian ethos, where the site was managed like a park.

At the time, we did not realise how important dead wood is to the ecology on the site. To redress this, we now try and retain as much dead wood, standing



*Sandy Heath veteran oaks open grown*



*Sandy Heath veteran oaks in secondary woodland*

## ***Protecting the Veteran Tree Ecology of Hampstead Heath (cont)***



*Standing dead wood habitat*



*Habitat disintegrating*



*Habitat stabilising*

and fallen, where that is not prejudicial to public access. The increase in habitat provides home to many lifeforms associating with dead wood. This is a sign of an increase in biodiversity across the site.

Over the last 20 years we have created and managed 75 dead standing trees. Where these are in public access areas they are assessed for stability and incrementally reduced. Others in less frequented areas are left to disintegrate in their own time frame.

We also resurrect fallen sections of dead tree outer skin, as this helps retain wood mould within the tree to stop it falling out and being dispersed. This is essential for saproxylic habitat.

Other techniques we employ for retaining habitat include creating new features in younger trees, like slits and cavities. We also resurrect and secure sections of dropped habitat wood, back up into the neighbouring younger trees which may not have developed habitat features yet.

### ***Veteran tree management and practical skills training***

Since 2007, the Tree Team at the Heath have been honing veteran tree management and practical skills here on the Heath, on our sister site of Burnham Beeches, and in the Basque region of northern Spain.

This is part of a 15-year project sharing experience from the UK, Sweden and Spain, where the teams look at the ecology, cultural and heritage importance, and the vulnerability of ancient and veteran trees across Europe. The northern region of Spain and the Basque region, as well as similar sites in the UK, have many examples of where pollards left out of regular cutting succumb to dysfunction, decline and fungal colonisation by wood decay fungi leading to part or whole tree failure, resulting in the loss of important ecological habitat. This work has led to collaborations and work placements with Spanish, Belgian and Polish arboriculturist, sharing knowledge on veteran trees from across the continent.



## Spring 2023 Events in the Library

Tuesday 21 February 7.30pm

### Philippe Sands

#### *The Last Colony: A Tale of Exile, Justice & Britain's Colonial Legacy*

In the 1960s, Britain secretly offered the US a base at Diego Garcia, one of the islands of the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, created a new colony and deported the entire local population. One of those inhabitants, Liseby Elysé, then 20 years old, newly married, and expecting her first child, was expelled from the only home she had ever known. Philippe has been closely involved with her struggle for repatriation. Tickets £10



Thursday 23 February 7.30pm

### Dan Carrier: Untold Stories

Dan, the ever-inquisitive Camden New Journal journalist sets out to find lingering evidence of days gone by, reveals unexpected delights, triumphs and tragedies alongside plenty of skulduggery and scandal in the greatest city in the world from his book *Untold London: Stories from Time-Trodden Streets*. Tickets £10

Wednesday 8 March 7.30pm –  
International Women's Day

### Pamela Holmes: Hidden Lives

Pamela will talk about two women largely ignored by history, yet who deserve to be remembered: Mildred Holland, for the *angel ceiling* she painted over six years in her parish church, and Elizabeth Blackwell, Britain's first female botanical illustrator, artist and successful business woman. She will show their work and talk about the joy of finding these hidden stories and what they can tell us about ourselves today. Tickets £10



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# Hampstead Plaques: British Soprano Jennifer Vyvyan

by Juliette Sonabend

*Jennifer Vyvyan was a leading British soprano who lived in Hampstead. The unveiling of her plaque was a particularly bittersweet event for her family.*

*“Au revoir et ne m'appellez pas, s'il vous plaît,” were my parting words to Frank Harding before my rural French retreat last summer.*

*Plaqued out after organising two unveilings barely a month apart, I had little time for anything else. Moving out of my home of 27 years and becoming a grandmother in Santa Fe, New Mexico, had to be slotted in between plaque duties! In September, when I finally emerged from *le shuttle* and my inbox was already fermenting with messages, I was surprised because I thought I had left the *vendange* behind!*



*From left to right, the Society's Juliette Sonabend and Frank Harding; counter-tenor James Bowman; the Society's Chair, Marc Hutchinson; Josephine Crown, Jennifer Vyvyan's daughter-in-law; and Michael White, music critic. Photo courtesy: Matthew Maran*



*Unveiling of the plaque. Photo courtesy: Matthew Maran*

In 2017, Jonathan Crown, a local businessman and inexorable charity supporter, approached the Society to consider his mother for a plaque. She was the British soprano Jennifer Vyvyan. Sadly, by the time we eventually approved the plaque, Jonathan himself had died, leaving his widow particularly anxious to honour his wishes vis-à-vis his late mother. When the family announced Vyvyan's house, which they still owned, had been decorated and they wanted a winter unveiling, I knew I had to agree, despite numerous reservations, not least wintry weather and lack of an available plaque.

Years of schmoozing our plaque fabricators into submission paid off, as they agreed to produce our plaque in half the normal time. Nevertheless, 24 hours before the unveiling, there was still no plaque. Fortunately, when I awoke on the morning of Thursday, 8 December, with the plaque all cosy in my hallway, together with our little green curtains, I was bubbling with relief. As I was later scraping the hoarfrost off my car and Hampstead was sparkling with beauty, our handyman Tom was less than enthusiastic as he scraped the ice off his ladder in preparation for erecting the plaque.

## *Hampstead Plaques: British Soprano Jennifer Vyvyan (cont)*

Jennifer Vyvyan lived at 59 Fitzjohn's Avenue from 1962 until 1974 when her life was tragically cut short at the height of her career at the age of forty-nine. She was one of the leading British sopranos of her time. She was closely associated with the composer Benjamin Britten, who wrote major roles for her in his operas *The Turn of the Screw*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Owen Wingrave* and *Gloriana*. By extraordinary coincidence, on the night of the plaque unveiling, *Gloriana* had a one-off performance by the English National Opera at the London Coliseum.

That morning before the evening's curtain call at the Coliseum for *Gloriana*, the counter-tenor James Bowman, parted the curtains to reveal our newest plaque for Jennifer Vyvyan – her name elegantly displayed in black and white once again



*James Bowman.*

*Photo courtesy: Matthew Maran*

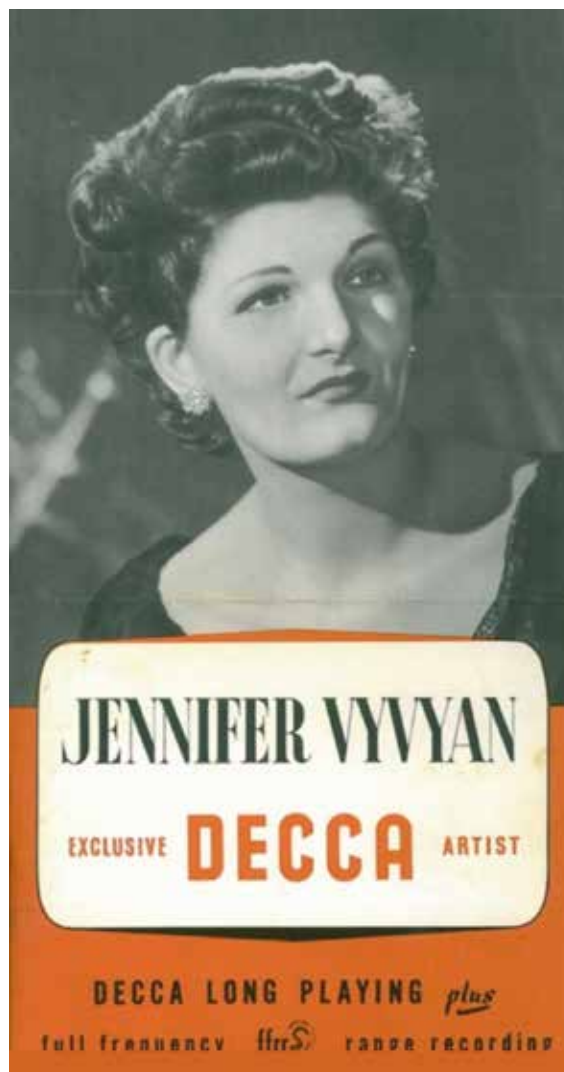


*Michael White. Photo courtesy: Matthew Maran*

for all to see. Among the guests were Josephine Crown, Jennifer Vyvyan's daughter-in-law, Sir Nicholas Kenyon and Michael White, the music critic and lecturer, author, columnist, broadcaster and documentary film maker, including *Opening the Boxes* on Radio 4, about

his rediscovery of the hidden life of singer Jennifer Vyvyan. He now curates a website dedicated to her memory: [www.jennifervyvyan.org/](http://www.jennifervyvyan.org/)

With the curtains parted, the assembled guests were delighted to venture uphill to the Heath Street Kitchen, where we all thawed out with coffee, croissants and conversation.



# *A Facelift on Heath Street: Heath Street Baptist Church*

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*by Gaynor Humphreys*

Some building works in Hampstead lift everyone. The refurbishment of the Heath Street Baptist Church is one such project, bringing renewed vigour to an often-overlooked Hampstead edifice. Gaynor Humphreys, church Deacon and Treasurer, and Chair of Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust, recounts the history of the church and details its refurbishment, along with making an appeal for support for the ongoing works.

Since September 2022, it has been very gratifying to hear sounds of amazement and pleasure and see beaming smiles from people visiting or walking past Heath Street Baptist Church as they realise a dingy building, which many previously passed without a glance, has been transformed into a graceful and, in the sunshine, rather dazzling adornment to Heath Street. A lot of expensive and technically demanding work has gone into this change from ugly duckling to swan, along with some helpful financial support from many people who love what goes on in the building or like the idea of further beautifying the streets of Hampstead. Although largely completed, the restoration work is not yet finished.

The church was planned and built in 1860 and opened for worship in 1861 and is now a Grade II Listed Building. We treasure its background story. A prosperous timber merchant, James Harvey, widowed and concerned for his sick son, Alfred, chose to move to Hampstead from Bloomsbury when he was advised to seek healthier, cleaner air. When prayer and improved environment resulted in his son recovering his health, Harvey undertook to provide a chapel for the Baptists of Hampstead, who previously worshipped in a nearby house.

Harvey bore much of the cost of building. He bought

the land on Heath Street, which at that time was a market garden, and levelled it for building. Charles Gray Searle, who was trained by Cubitt and was a fellow Baptist, was appointed architect. By 1860, Searle was busy with projects for the Bloomsbury estate of the Duke of Bedford and on projects in Covent Garden and Drury Lane. He seems to have appreciated the challenge of building on the hill of sand that is Hampstead Village and also being expected to keep an eye on economy. His solution to produce a neat, light and elegant structure was a cast iron framework, clad in brickwork and with a highly decorative Bath stone façade. He is recorded as contributing £100 to the building fund.



*Refurbished stonework. Full view of the church*

## *A Facelift on Heath Street: Heath Street Baptist Church (cont)*



*Scaffolding south wall*



*Freshly cleaned Bath stone*

Over the years, especially as motor traffic and coal-burning increased on Heath Street, the stone became very grubby. Some of the delightful stone-carved features eroded into illegibility – how ironic, given the origin of the building. Casual knocks and jolts degraded the ground level too. Higher up the edifice, moss, pigeons and polluted air all helped to darken and eat into the stone. By late 2021, crumbs of stone occasionally fell to earth and we had to work fast to plan essential repairs.

From February 2022, the church was shrouded in scaffolding and plastic screens right up to the tops of its two spires. Several good things happened right at the start. The scaffolders estimated six weeks to erect the scaffolding. To their own surprise, they achieved it in two. They completed the work and covered the scaffolding in sheeting by 18 February 2022. Later that night, storm Eunice swept the UK. The storm hit our building hard and no longer crumbs of stone fell, but chunks. Thankfully, they all collected inside the protective covering.

We were also fortunate in identifying specialised contractors, Permanens Limited, who operated carefully and efficiently. In no time at all, they gave us the impression they loved the building as much the

congregation does. Ewan King, the church's Minister, was the liaison with the contractors and learned more about building work than he ever expected.

We did not know how bad the situation was until the work started. Every part of the stonework was tested and the depth of London dirt and grime measured (a very unpleasant statistic). Every inch of the stonework had to be gently tapped to check exactly what was still in good condition and what needed to be cut out and replaced. The cleaning was done by the DOFF System, a gentle form of steam cleaning developed to remove dirt, grime and biological matter, using temperatures up to 150 °C without causing harm or shock to the fabric.

Our surveyor from Matthews & Son and the contractors re-examined plans at every stage of the work and helped us find the right solution to each challenge as cost-effectively as possible. We were shocked to learn the northerly spire had a very long



*Scaffolded spire*

## ***A Facelift on Heath Street: Heath Street Baptist Church (cont)***

split in it as a result of decay over the years. For safety, its top had to be removed and replaced with another, also carved of Bath stone. The exact composition of the stone to match the rest of the spire took some finding, deep in the quarry. A traditional blacksmith made the new copper finial to match its mate on the south spire.

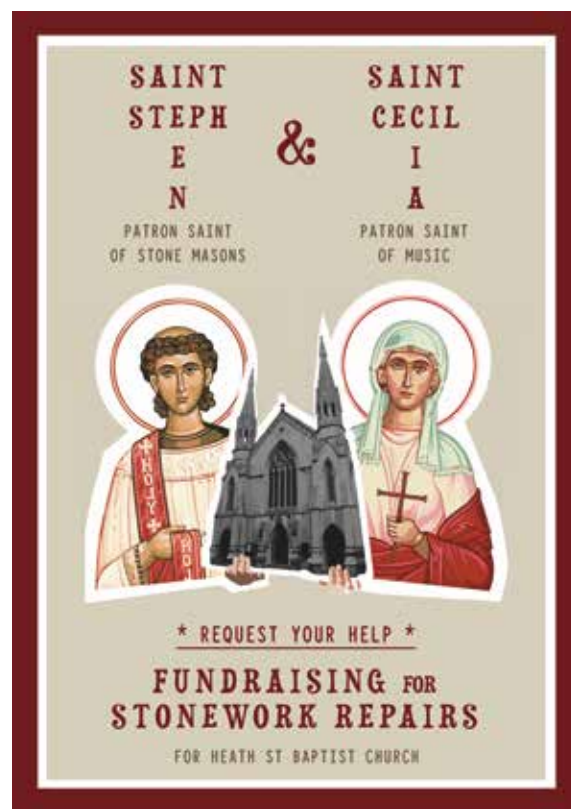
Even at this stage our helpful contractors found a way of simplifying and economising. They made the new section of spire in four pieces. This avoided having to hire a 75-tonne crane and the complete closure of Heath Street. They completed the whole job with an electric hoist from the pavement, binding the sections together at high level.

To raise support for the restoration works and save the church from depleting its reserves entirely, we enlisted the help of St Stephen and St Cecilia. Although they are not usual non-conformist allies, St Stephen, who was stoned to death, is the patron saint of stonemasons. St Cecilia is the patron saint of music, and the church is much used for concerts and as rehearsal space for musicians.

As a result, the church has received wonderful donations, whether large or small, from people who love the church or the music activities, but are not church members, and from the congregation. Friends in the USA, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands have all chipped in. Some of the money has come from fundraising, such as proceeds from concerts. The Brazilian and Korean congregations who worship at the church on Saturday and Sunday afternoons gave us generous help. The church has had a series of grants to cover VAT on the project from the Listed Places of Worship grants programme. So far, our biggest donation has been £10,000 and our smallest £10. With the grants, donations and Gift Aid, the total amount raised has been approximately £65,000, while the work has cost just over £200,000.

Because the church is facing cost-of-living issues just like

fellow churches and charities, we decided to halt works before completion. Despite the halt, we think we have a good solution. The whole façade has been cleaned. Just over the front door level above the lowest string course, the façade has been as faithfully and carefully restored in as much detail as possible. At ground level, the full restoration can be accomplished using just a scaffolding tower. If necessary, the works can be undertaken in several short campaigns. Our contractors are very willing to come back and tackle the remainder, piece by piece if required, so we are looking forward to Stage 2... or if our power bills go on rising, Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5 if we need to spread the load further.



*Heavenly assistance. Ss Stephen and Cecilia with an image of the church before the project began. Design courtesy: Micah Purnell*

## ***A Facelift on Heath Street: Heath Street Baptist Church (cont)***

Although safety considerations dictated the work, returning to Harvey's vision for the building has been quite a wonderful aesthetic improvement. It has also made a significant difference to Heath Street. We hope we can put finishing touches to the exterior before too long and welcome all support.

If you have already donated to restoration efforts – heartfelt thanks. If you have not yet helped us, please consider a contribution. Any additional funds will be hugely welcome and relieve the pressure on our income in covering all the other costs we have in running our many different activities and keeping the building warm and functioning.

Should you wish to help, either with the work so far or to help fund the remainder, the church bank account is: Heath Street Baptist Church, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00014178.

If you give direct to the account please add stonework to your name as a reference.

If you pay UK tax and would like us to claim Gift Aid on your donation, please contact me at [gaynor@candghumphreys.plus.com](mailto:gaynor@candghumphreys.plus.com). It is very easy to sign up, and at no cost to you it adds 25 pence to every pound you give.

The Baptist Church is an active community and music hub as well as a place of worship. There are weekly activities for children and young people, Old Time Nursery (traditional music) for babies and toddlers with their parents and carers, food and friendship for homeless, low income or lonely adults, a community choir, Sunday late afternoon recitals, and more. Find more information on the website [www.heathstreet.org](http://www.heathstreet.org) or ask [johnhenry@heathstreet.org](mailto:johnhenry@heathstreet.org) to add your name to the mailing list to hear about the great range of concerts and events at the church.



*Heath Street from on high. Photo courtesy: Edward Humphreys*

### ***Members – will you let us have your email address?***

We know that most of our members do not wish to receive regular emails from the Society, which is why we limit our emails to two or three a year. Their purpose is to provide information that cannot await the next Society Newsletter (e.g. changes to the Heath walks programme) or to alert members to campaigns, petitions etc which, for whatever reason, require an urgent member response. Even if we have your email address, you will still receive the Newsletter and annual financial statements in hard copy, unless you specify otherwise.

***So, if you have not already done so, please do send us your current email address by emailing:  
[info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk](mailto:info@HeathandHampstead.org.uk)***

And please include your full name and address so that we can be sure to identify you correctly.

**If you wish to receive a weekly emailed newsletter covering latest news and events in Hampstead, please contact Jessica Learmond-Criqui at [jessicale@lawles.com](mailto:jessicale@lawles.com). She produces the excellent local newsletter *I Love Hampstead*.**

# Heath Walks: 2023

Walks are normally held on the first Sunday of every month except January. Most start from Burgh House, New End Square, London NW3 1LT – 10 minutes walk from Hampstead Tube Station.

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

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

Starting times are either 2:30pm or 10:30am (9:30am for birds), depending on season and subject matter. Walks last approximately two hours. They do not necessarily follow made-up paths; you are recommended to wear suitable footwear as conditions may be rough or muddy. You will be invited to make a minimum donation of £5, to be collected at the beginning of each walk, to help support future walks programmes and to promote the Society's activities generally.

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

Further information from the walks organiser,  
Thomas Radice

mobile: 07941 528 034 or

email: [hhs.walks@gmail.com](mailto:hhs.walks@gmail.com)

**Sunday 5 February 10.30 am** (meet at **Burgh House**) *History of the Heath Ponds* Led by Marc Hutchinson, Chair of the Society and Secretary of the Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club.

**Sunday 5 March 10.30 am** (meet in **North End Way**, by entrance to Inverforth Close, NW3 7EX)

*The Pergola, the Hill Garden and Golders Hill Park* Led by Thomas Radice, Trustee of the Society and Member of the Heath Sub-Committee.

**Sunday 2 April 9.30 am** (meet at **Burgh House**)

*Bird watching* Led by Pete Mantle, Member of the Heath Sub-Committee.

**Sunday 7 May 2.30 pm** (meet at **The Old Bull & Bush**, North End Way, NW3 7HE)

**Note:** this walk to be confirmed when more details of the Coronation arrangements on Saturday 6 May become available.

*Laughter in the Landscape* Comedy, humour in science, films, music, local links to actors, writers, theatre and the landscape. Led by Lester Hillman, academic adviser, writer, accredited tour guide and lecturer.

**Sunday 4 June 2.30 pm** (meet at **The Bandstand, Parliament Fields**)

*From Parliament Hill to Highgate: History and Landmarks* Led by Jeska Harrington-Gould CTGA, Member of the Heath Sub-Committee.

**Sunday 2 July 2.30 pm**

Start point, subject of walk and leader to be confirmed.

**Sunday 6 August 2.30 pm** (meet at **Spaniard's End** by flower stall near the Spaniard's Inn)

*Sandy Heath and the Heath Extension* Led by Lynda Cook, Member of the Heath Sub-Committee.

**Sunday 3 September 9.30 am** (meet at **Burgh House**)

*Bird watching* Led by Pete Mantle, Member of the Heath Sub-Committee.

Details of remaining walks in 2023 to be announced in the May 2023 Newsletter and on the Society's website when available. Please note the following provisional dates and start times in your diary:

**Sunday 1 October 10.30am or 2.30pm**

**Sunday 5 November 2.30 pm**

**Sunday 3 December 2.30 pm**

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

🐦 @HandHSocHeath

