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# *The Heath & Hampstead Society*

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# *NEWSLETTER*

*January 2024*

*Vol 55 No 1*



*'Snowy robin'*

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**Front cover:** The Society runs a regular photographic competition on Instagram #myhampsteadheath. Olly Johnson's image is the Society's current winner. Professional photographer and author, Matt Maran, is the Society's judge for the competition: "*The clean composition and crisp, sharp execution of this image captured my attention. The off-centre position of the bird is perfect with no distracting branches interfering. Who doesn't love a robin in the snow? Congratulations.*" See the Society's website for competition rules.

*by Marc Hutchinson*

**October 2023 Newsletter**

I wish to apologise to the significant number of members who either did not receive their October Newsletter at all or received it late, even as late as Christmas. This is entirely the fault of Royal Mail whose service in many areas of London has broken down. If we learn of delivery failures with this current Newsletter, we will circulate it to all members by email in due course.

**Jenifer Ford bequest**

Jenifer Ford, a local painter and lifelong member of the Society, bequeathed to the Society some 30 paintings for sale to raise funds for the Society. They comprise scenes of the Heath ponds, Heath trees, and street- and roofscapes of Parliament Hill where she lived. More than half of these have now been sold. You may view the unsold paintings on the Society's website and at my house where I hold the originals. They vary in size, and some are unframed. Prices range from £50 to £200, in the latter case for a substantially sized (c. 65 x 55cm) framed oil.

**Remembrance Day service**

Councillor Linda Chung, in her capacity as Chair of the Whitestone Pond Hampstead War Memorial Conservation Group, organises an annual Armistice Day commemoration at the War Memorial outside Heath House. As part of the Interfaith Act of Remembrance, led by the Rev'd Kate Dean, Minister of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, the Society participated, with the Mayor of Camden, the City of London Corporation, the Metropolitan Police and others, in the laying of a wreath on Friday 10 November.

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



*Society Secretary Evelyn Ellis lays the Society's wreath at the Interfaith Service of Remembrance*

### ***Bathing Ponds – disability access***

Even members who do not swim in them will have noticed building works going on during 2023 at the three Heath bathing ponds. These works are now reaching completion and represent a long overdue capital project to give full disabled access to the ponds, including by the installation of hoists for immobile swimmers to be let in and out of the water. The buildings have been thoughtfully designed for their purpose and aesthetic appearance.



*New disability building at the Highgate Men's Pond*

### ***Society noticeboard – Flask Walk***

The Society's noticeboard at Flask Walk has been damaged by tables and chairs put up against it by Paul, the bread shop on the corner. Paul has a pavement licence from Camden Council for four tables and eight chairs "in Flask Walk" with no site-specific condition governing where the tables may be placed. We are in touch with Paul and Camden Council to seek to resolve the problem.

### ***"Rubbish" Conversation***

This eventually took place at Keats Community Library on 16 October 2023. It was well attended, and Camden Council was represented by Rachel Bailey (Camden Head of Environment Services), Tim Gray (Environmental Services, Borough Monitoring Manager), Nicholas Hearn (Veolia Collections Contract Manager) and Manjola Lorenci (Senior Education and Enforcement Officer). Also present were Ward Councillors Linda Chung and Stephen Stark. Maddy Raman (a trustee of the Society), chaired the meeting.

Many aspects of the problem of the collection of commercial and domestic rubbish, and fly-tipping, were candidly discussed, and we and the representatives of many other local groups in the audience came away with a much better understanding of the applicable law and the challenges of enforcing it.

A summary of the Conversation will appear in the May 2024 Newsletter.

### ***Christmas lights***

The Society was represented on 28 November at the ceremonial switching on of the Christmas lights in Hampstead High Street, having made a financial contribution to this important annual event organised by Ward Councillor Stephen Stark.



***Planning Sub-Committee – new member***

We welcome a further new member onto this sub-committee, namely Leonardo Carpentieri, a solicitor and Hampstead resident.

***Christmas party***

Our self-catered Christmas party at a seasonally decorated Keats House on 13 December was a great success, with nearly 100 guests. The space coped very well with the large numbers, and members appreciated the ability to converse in a variety of smaller and quieter rooms. We are very grateful to Rob Shakespeare, the Manager of Keats House, and his team for hosting us that evening, and I am sure we will return there this year.

On behalf of the trustees and committee members of the Society, I want to thank you, the Society's

members, for your continued financial and moral support for the important conservation work of the Society, and to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.



*Children from the New End Primary School sing carols at the Christmas lighting ceremony*

## ***Annual General Meeting: 12th June 2024***

### **Elections to General Committee**

***Officers***

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

***Other members of the General Committee***

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

Existing members Frank Harding and Robert Linger complete their second three-year terms as elected members and therefore are not eligible to stand for re-election. The General Committee may, however, after the Annual General Meeting, resolve to appoint one or more of them for a one-year term as an appointed member.

The maximum number of members of the General Committee is 20. There is no constitutional requirement that these vacancies be filled

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

**Nominations for elections to the General Committee** must be received by the Society in writing **before 15 April 2024** in accordance with Rule 21(4) of the Society's constitution. The Society's constitution can be viewed on the Society's website.

*The Heath & Hampstead Society presents*

The 2nd Hunter Davies Lecture

***Hampstead Historical Treasures – In the Collections  
of Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre***

**An illustrated lecture by Tudor Allen BA DAA, Local Studies and  
Archives Manager – Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre**

**Thursday 23 May 2024**

**7.30pm for 8.00pm**

**Rosslyn Hill Chapel, 3 Pilgrim's Place, London NW3 1NG**

In this illustrated lecture, Tudor will present some of the highlights from the collections of Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, including manuscripts, photographs, maps, newspapers, art works, posters and objects, all with special reference to the Borough of Hampstead.

Born and brought up in Cumbria to Welsh parents, Tudor came to London to attend university where he read English. In 1996 he qualified as an archivist from University College London. Since then, he has worked as Assistant Archivist at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, as Archivist at the London Borough of Redbridge, and since 2007 as the Archivist at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre. He has lectured widely on various aspects of Camden's history and has published a short history of London's "Little Italy".

This event is free to Society members, who should  
RSVP to [info@heathandhampstead.org.uk](mailto:info@heathandhampstead.org.uk)

**Tickets will be available for non-members  
via Eventbrite for £15.**

The lecture will be live streamed. If you wish to attend  
online, please email [info@heathandhampstead.org.uk](mailto:info@heathandhampstead.org.uk).  
You will be sent the link nearer the time.



# Heath Report

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by John Beyer

## **Heath staff**

“TOM has outstayed his welcome”, a cry from many Heath staff about the management reorganization (the Target Operating Model) which has continued for the last 12 months. Problems have been exacerbated by changes in the senior management during that period. The Society is pleased there are now a Superintendent (Bill LoSasso) and his boss, the Director – Natural Environment (Emily Brennan), in place to provide stability and continuity.

The City has yet to appoint a business development manager to oversee the generation of funds for the Heath, but we welcome Charlotte Williams as the new Head of Operations and Parks for the North London Open Spaces. She will lead on Golders Hill Park. In December, the City approved a new pattern for the Constabulary. There will be a staff of six constables.

## **Running track completed ready for events this year**

The running track below Parliament Hill was finally completed in December. A soft opening on 12 December saw runners from Highgate Harriers enjoying the track. The project encountered a series of technical problems during construction, many of them because the underlying foundations of the track had deteriorated more than expected.

It was touch and go whether the work could be completed before winter set in. The final touches were still being made on the day before the soft launch. The new Head of Operations, Charlotte Williams, is to be congratulated for ensuring completion in time.

The track refurbishment will bring the running track back up to international standards. The City has invested £2 million in the refurbishment.



*Highgate Harriers on the new track. Photo courtesy: City of London Corporation*



## **Heath Report (cont)**



*Constable's Pond*

### ***“Constable's Pond”***

The City's Heath team has created a deeper area for aquatic species at the pond created at Branch Hill. The deepened section will reduce the chance of the pond drying out in summer months and increase the pond's climate change resilience. Hundreds of wildflower plugs have been planted around the pond, including wild garlic, gypsywort, snakes head fritillary and wood anemone.

Readers may recall the pond was created at the initiative of the Redington Road Frogna! Association (RedFrog), and supported by the Society following a desire by Society members (articulated at a Springett Lecture) to recreate the pond in the area of the site in one of Constable's paintings.

### ***Events programme***

We are planning to continue with the events which proved so popular last year. We are in discussion with the Kite Society of Great Britain about a kite display on Kite Hill on a date to be announced (check the Society's website).

We have provisionally lined up the Natural Aspect concert for Sunday 21 July 2024.

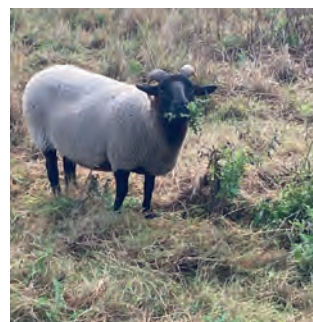
Later, we plan to bring sheep again to the Heath Extension, provisionally 6–16 September 2024, for

a slightly longer period of ecological munching to reinvigorate the ant hills which would otherwise be smothered. The project can only work with the presence, rain and shine, of enthusiastic volunteer shepherds. We will let you know how to register for a shepherding session in due course.

The 2024 Springett Lecture will feature Conor Jameson, whose book *Finding WH Hudson* examines the little-known life of one of the founders of the Bird Society (which went on to become the RSPB), and a champion of open spaces in the 1890s/early 1900s. The lecture will be on Thursday, 19 September 2024 at Rosslyn Hill Chapel.



*Orlando Beyer feeding sheep in 2023*



*Norfolk horn enjoying thistle*

# Town Report

by Andrew Haslam-Jones

## ***Maintaining the changing face of Hampstead***

*Ask not what your Society can do for you but what you can do for your Society.*

Members of the Town Sub-Committee have been busy on a variety of matters but, paraphrasing John F. Kennedy, we might occasionally benefit from your help. To be fair, members of the Society often contact us through the Society's email address, [info@heathandhampstead.org.uk](mailto:info@heathandhampstead.org.uk), notifying us of issues we might not know about had they not told us.

Despite our best efforts, there is always work to do and things need fixing. If you can help, even in a small way, with any of the following, that would be most appreciated by everyone who benefits.

## ***Rubbish***

You will have read in the Chair's report about the public meeting with Camden Council's waste management department and Veolia, the service provider contracted by the council, held in October. The conclusion of that meeting seemed to be, while the council is trying various small improvements, such as sea-gull-proof refuse bags in Church Row and the roll out of (hopefully) fox-proof food caddies, it will continue to rely on enforcement of the existing system.

On the High Street and where there are mixed commercial and residential buildings, the system allows for three rubbish collections per day, at



*Left: Rubbish in Flask Walk at 11.00 am on a Saturday morning, beneath the Camden Council sign that says it should not be there until 5.30 pm. It looks like bread?*



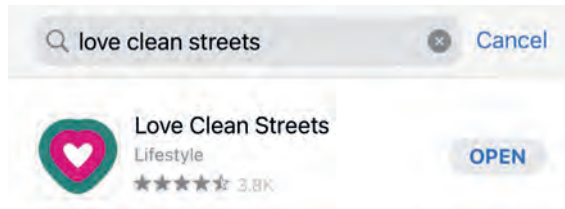
*Yes, it is bread, a chewable snack for a hungry dog*



*A small mountain of refuse on Hampstead High Street a good seven hours before the collection time*



## ***Town Report (cont)***



*This is what the Love Clean Streets app should look like on your smartphone app store*

6.00 am, 6.00 pm and 12.00 am. Shop owners and residents are supposed to leave their rubbish bags out, at most, 30 minutes before those collection times. However, as you can see from the photos accompanying this article, taken just before 11.00 am one Saturday morning in December, some shops do not comply with those regulations. Rubbish dumped at that time could sit on the street until the next collection time, in this case more than seven hours later, in the meantime attracting more rubbish and litter dumped by passers-by.

What is the solution? More reporting. You can download the Love Clean Streets app on your smartphone and report a variety of types of mess such as litter and graffiti. Any rubbish left outside the permitted hours would constitute flytipping.

### ***E-bikes***

The introduction of limitations on where e-bikes and e-scooters can park on some of the relevant apps last June have helped. However, there are still plenty of bikes (often vandalised to avoid the hire companies' detection) abandoned away from the permitted parking areas and obstructing pavements. The biggest problem appears to be with Lime bikes with which Camden Council has a contract. Unfortunately, there is no obvious or easy way to complain to Lime. There is nothing on the bikes themselves and you would have to search Lime's website to find the rather



*An abandoned e-bike on Hampstead High Street*

catchy web address: <https://help.li.me/hc/en-gb/articles/115004916388-How-do-I-report-illegal-parking>, although the Love Clean Streets app referred to above does also allow for the reporting of illegally parked vehicles. An e-bike is a vehicle, is it not?

### ***Street name tiles***

For years, the Town Sub-Committee members have been carrying out the endless task of monitoring Hampstead's distinctive street name tiles. We are constantly on the lookout for Camden Council surreptitiously slipping in the odd metal and plastic imposter, as well as chipped or missing tiles. Any help members could provide in reporting the interloping signs or damaged or lost tiles at the Society's email address mentioned at the beginning of this report would be gratefully received. We can then collate them and pass them on to Camden Council for attention.



*Damaged street name tiles: we know it's Hampstead*

### ***Potholes***

Hampstead, like the rest of the country, seems to be suffering from a surfeit of potholes. We understand from our sub-committee member and former deputy London mayor for transport, Isabel Dedring, councils usually designate certain roads as residential roads and then have a rolling programme of resurfacing for each road every 10 to 15 years. Willoughby Road is



*A lovely row of potholes in Willoughby Road (made slightly less deep with a gentle dusting of tarmac)*

only one example of a road that has not been resurfaced in that timeframe and is beginning to show many signs of wear and tear. If you are experiencing similar problems in your neighbouring roads, our councillors have asked us to let them know so that they can chase this up with Camden Council.

### ***Fingerposts***

In more news of council short-handedness, we eagerly await the renovation of the fingerposts the Society helped to have installed some years ago. The one on the corner of Hampstead High Street and Heath Street appears to suggest Fenton House is located in the Ritz Pharmacy. Town Sub-Committee member, Robert Linger, has been chasing Camden Council to sort out the fingerposts.



*That lower finger of this fingerpost is pointing towards Goldfinger's 2 Willow Road*



## ***Town Report (cont)***



*The fingerpost that locates Fenton House in Ritz Pharmacy*

### ***South End Green update***

The movement of the bus terminus for the former No. 268 (now the No. 1) service from the slip road in South End Green to the same terminus as the No. 24 bus on the other side of South End Green has been agreed in principle. However, Camden Council has now informed local residents of further traffic studies needing to be carried out before the change can be made. After the change, the slip road will be pedestrianised and should help to revitalise South End Green.

### ***Street trees***

At least last year, Camden Council managed to replace the damaged tree outside Dinny Hall jewellers on Hampstead High Street. The new tree is now growing straight and tall.



*The tree outside Dinny Hall on Hampstead High Street. Now straight, it will grow tall*



# Planning Report

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by David Castle

## **High buildings around the Heath**

The openness and unspoilt nature of the Heath have been threatened recently by the tall buildings proposed at Murphy's Yard and at Archway. The three tower blocks at Murphy's Yard, 19 stories high and clustered together, would have been close to the Heath and very visible. The much taller 36 storey high tower proposed at Archway would be further away but also very visible from the Heath.

The Society joined the successful campaign against Murphy's Yard towers. The Society has also joined the campaign against the high tower at Archway.

In the coming years, it is to be expected there will be more high towers proposed which will be very visible from the Heath. The southern parts of the Heath are open and overlooked, for instance, by the nearby 22 storey tower at Lismore Circus and by the massive Royal Free Hospital. These and any future high buildings could be masked by careful placing of indigenous trees on the southern part of the Heath. Amongst many benefits, such planting would also provide increased biodiversity (see *Conserving and improving nature in the fringes of the Heath in this Newsletter*).

## **A new proposal for the old Hampstead Police Station**

Presented recently for public comment, this yet-to-be-finalised new scheme seems to be much more acceptable than the previous proposal for a school. This totally new layout proposes flats on the top floors with office space below. The only changes externally would be a much welcome removal of external stairs and later additions at the back with a small extension.

We will await the formal application for planning approval before deciding our comments.

## **Good news about Queen Mary's House**

In 1921, Queen Mary's House was built as a specialist maternity home for war veterans' wives. Later, it became a part of the NHS. Now it is unused, apart from the top floor which is in use for low-rental flats.

The site and the existing building are important historically and because they are next to the Heath. Unfortunately, Camden Council recently approved the Site Allocations list including them as available for development at a very high density. The high density may not be achieved without demolishing the existing building and then building five or six storey flats. This would compromise the existing fine surrounding group of buildings and the Heath.

We have heard the very good news Camden planners intend to ensure the existing building is retained.



*Mama swan on an icy Hampstead No. 2 Pond. Photo courtesy: Ron Vester*

# *Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan – revisions, issues and survey*

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*by Alexander Nicoll, Chair of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum*

*How should we improve energy efficiency and sustainability in our homes while still protecting Hampstead's formidable heritage? This issue is at the heart of the revision of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan currently under way. See [link to survey at the end of this feature](#).*

Balancing energy, sustainability and heritage is not a theoretical question but a live one. An increasing number of planning applications incorporate technologies planning officials might previously have routinely rejected as damaging a conservation area; for example, some types of solar energy, insulation, heating and glazing. Now, depending on the circumstances, they might be approved.

Two forces are driving these developments. First, advances in technology. Second, the wave of recognition climate change demands widespread action. This no longer means simply trying to stop global warming, but adapting our way of life to preserve ourselves, manage our resources properly and maintain social cohesion in our beautiful neighbourhood.

Adaptation begins at home. The way we design or renovate our homes will, over time, heavily influence the types and amounts of energy and water we use as a nation. It will also determine the appearance of our neighbourhoods and the preservation (or otherwise) of our architectural inheritance.

Which brings us back to planning. Starting in 2014, the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum, helped by input from hundreds of residents, wrote the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan, which was

approved by 91% of voters in a referendum in 2018.

The Plan now sits alongside the Camden Local Plan as a statutory document, part of the overall development regime. Planning applications and decisions must take its policies into account.

A neighbourhood plan, under the Localism Act of 2011, reflects the particular vision of local residents. It gives them a greater role in shaping the future of their communities. It cannot contradict other statutory documents, such as planning laws, or the London Plan, or the local authority plan. But the scope it affords seems to justify the enormous amount of voluntary work involved. The Society was extremely supportive throughout the process.

Five years on, we thought we should make sure the Plan still reflects the wishes of residents. We were aware of areas in which the language could have been stronger or more precise. But most importantly, the climate emergency and the need for sustainable design seemed to have become even more pressing.

Therefore, in 2023 we launched a new consultation and held two public meetings. Views expressed by residents affirmed the urgency of writing policies both to encourage sustainable architecture and enhance the natural environment. We have now drafted a revised Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan, and we are issuing it for public comments. We very much welcome comments from Society members. After this, the draft will be subject to scrutiny by Camden Council, an independent examiner and, eventually, voters in a referendum.

The main changes to the Plan are as follows:

- A new policy on sustainable design supporting retrofitting over new demolition/new build. This is important because demolition and new construction are among the biggest contributors to air pollution, especially from particulates. Supported retrofitting includes steps to reduce heat loss, such as energy-efficient glazing; sensitive insulation of interior walls and roofs; and installing more sustainable heating systems to replace those that burn fossil fuels. The new policy backs net-zero carbon development and 'expects all development to meet the highest environmental standards, while preserving the significance of any heritage asset.' Also supported are the use and reuse of sustainable materials; increasing permeable surface areas; where possible, slowing water run-off with use of attenuation tanks; and boosting water efficiency, for example by harvesting rainwater or using greywater tanks. In cases where permission for a new flue is required, the policy would not support installation of wood-burning stoves, which are major polluters.
- A new policy on considerate construction addresses the inconvenience development causes neighbours by supporting efficient and timely construction methods, such as prefabrication and modular construction. The policy also calls for sustainable and respectful of neighbourhood amenities construction practices.
- Policies on the natural environment have been strengthened to bolster biodiversity – the web of ecosystems created by the flora and fauna in our area. The aim is development should not just protect the environment, but actually enhance it. The new draft Plan supports development creating a 10% net gain in biodiversity, as measured, for

example, in tree canopy cover, planting hedges and shrubs, green roofs, restrained lighting, and enhancing habitats and movement of wildlife. The existing Plan was innovative in establishing 'biodiversity corridors' within our neighbourhood. Now, the aim is to link these into a biodiversity network encouraging movement of natural life both within our area and with surrounding neighbourhoods, and especially the Heath. The Plan will also retain strong policies protecting trees, including veteran trees.

- A new feature of the Plan will be guidance on the potential development of two strategic sites identified by Camden: Queen Mary's House (QMH) at the top of East Heath Road, owned by the Royal Free Hospital; and the Royal Mail Delivery Office in Shepherds Walk. Should these sites be developed, the Plan strongly discourages significant demolition of QMH, protects views at what is in effect the gateway to the village, and seeks to ensure the application of the Plan's policies, especially those on retrofitting, sustainable design, affordable housing and energy and water efficiency. The new language suggests the Shepherds Walk site would be an appropriate location for 'live/work' units, replacing the many traditional workshops and studios lost during Hampstead's development.

These are the highlights of the changes we propose. Of course, they are far from being the entirety of the Neighbourhood Plan, which will retain existing policies on design, respect for conservation areas, basements, traffic and transport, the local economy and affordable housing. Both the new draft and the current Plan can be found on our website, [www.hampsteadforum.org](http://www.hampsteadforum.org).

We believe the Plan has proved effective in influencing development in the past five years.



Its policies are often cited by Camden's planners in their decisions. The Forum comments on a small proportion of applications.

We record our remarks and the outcomes on our Planning Watch page. Often, these remarks, as well as those from residents, other bodies and Camden itself, result in alterations that are then approved by Camden.

This seems a proper operation of the planning structure. Because planning can trigger long-running disputes, we think it is important the process treats all sides, including Camden's officials, with fairness, civility and compassion. After all, planning is not just a matter of whether someone is allowed to build a basement, an extension or a garden building. It is fundamentally about how we deal with the people around us and build a community. Recent national and global challenges have shown the potential for divisions in society. Climate change threatens more such difficulties, such as floods and shortages of energy and other resources. If we in Hampstead can address these as a community, we will be better prepared, more resilient and more able to effect change in our mutual interest.

In this spirit, we invite your comments on our draft Neighbourhood Plan. If you have questions or want to become involved, please email us at [info@hampsteadorum.org](mailto:info@hampsteadorum.org).

*The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum is inviting your comments on a draft revision of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan. Please take the Forum's survey via the QR code below or the Forum website, [www.hampsteadforum.org](http://www.hampsteadforum.org)*



Image by vecteezy

### ***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](mailto: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.



*A packed crowd. Photo courtesy: Susie and Morag Barson*

## *The Society's biggest event brought musical joy to the Heath this summer*

*by Jeska Harrington-Gould, Heath Sub-Committee*

*On Sunday 3 September 2023, the Society held the biggest event in its history.*

Approximately 1,500 people attended the Natural Aspect concert held at the Parliament Hill Bandstand. The free concert was a musical celebration of culture and musical styles from a variety of people living in the areas surrounding the Heath.

Joining the concert were: Bengali band, *Bangla Shur*; Jamaican Ska band, *The Estimators*; Irish folk players,

*The Spud Peelers*; and jazz and soul sounds from John Etheridge and Vimala Rowe. Dan Carrier, local DJ and *Camden New Journal* writer, played joyous music between acts. The Roundhouse Young Creatives provided circus skills fun, and the Parliament Hill Café laid on burgers, hot dogs and cocktails.

Wonderful sunny weather added to the whole occasion, and our enthusiastic volunteers on the Society stand chatted to lots of new members as they signed up.



## *The Society's biggest event brought musical joy to the Heath this summer (cont)*

### *Were you there?*

Did you go along to the event? We would like to get your feedback – email us at [jcsk@mail@gmail.com](mailto:jcsk@mail@gmail.com) to let us know what you loved and what you would improve.

All in all, it was a wonderful afternoon with lots of

dancing, picnics, children running around and dogs behaving nicely. One lovely woman told us it was the “happiest day of my life.” Roll on the next one!

We hope to run the next concert on Sunday 21 July 2024.



*Indie, Ivy and Caitlin cooling off for the concert*



*Jeska Harrington-Gould, compere and organiser. Photo courtesy: Ron Vester*



*The eight-piece Estimators in full swing. Photo courtesy: Ron Vester*



# *Cygnets on the Heath: Giving them a helping hand*

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*Simon, the team leader of Parks Patrol service*



*Veteran ranger, Scott, carries the large cygnet*



*New ranger, Hope, helps the rescue*

*by Ron Vester, Heath Sub-Committee*

*Once cygnets reach the age between eight and 12 months, their parents begin to chase them away from the area to prepare themselves for the new nest. Although their parents' behaviour is perplexing to the young swans, it is completely normal. The parents have taught the cygnets all they know and it is time for the cygnets to become independent adults.*

## ***Forced fledging***

Now in their eighth year on the Heath, the resident pair of swans on Hampstead No. 1 Pond had between seven and 10 cygnets in May. The parents will protect their young, including risking their own lives, until the new mating season begins. Much to the astonishment of the cygnets, their mum and dad will start to chase them out of the ponds the adults control.

In December, five cygnets remained in the ponds. By the end of the month, one cygnet had already been transported to the Swan Sanctuary (<https://www.theswansanctuary.org.uk>), while the other four were still living on the Heath. It was lovely to watch them. Things changed quickly from one day to the next when their parents walked over to the pond and raced after each cygnet. Things got serious.

The first cygnet we helped was almost the size of their mother. Unfortunately, they flew over the pond, into the bushes and got themselves in trouble. Plus, a crowd of concerned people began gathering. Thankfully, Heath rangers were alerted and a Parks Patrol service vehicle soon arrived.

Simon, the team leader, leapt into action. He found the cygnet with their head stuck between metal fencing. Simon began to try free the young swan. Despite chasing them off, the parent was also there trying to free their young one.

## *Cygnets on the Heath: Giving them a helping hand (cont)*



*A cluster of swans where the one cygnet got stuck*

The next ranger to arrive was Scott, who is a veteran ranger. He entered the water. Between Simon and Scott, they managed to free the young swan. They then placed them into the van with Hope, a new ranger. The Parks Patrol is new on the Heath. They began on 5 July 2023 and are funded by the City.

### ***Second rescue and relocation***

Later the same week, it became time to catch and relocate the three remaining cygnets.

Louisa from the Swan Sanctuary called me and said the rescue was set for 10am.

I met Louisa and rangers Scott and Tony at the appointed time. They had already saved one cygnet from the now aggressive parents. Tony showed me a reed bed where the coots nest in spring. It was flattened by the swan adults who were pushing and shoving to clear off the cygnets.

The team quickly sprang to action. Within a short time, Scott and Louisa secured both remaining cygnets. Louisa took all cygnets to ranger



*Lord Melvyn Bragg, Society Patron, witnesses the rescue*



## *Cygnets on the Heath: Giving them a helping hand (cont)*

headquarters and checked for injuries. They were all fit for release. Then, the three rangers placed each cygnet securely into IKEA bags. These are perfect to transport swans on the back seat of a rescue car.

In the eight short months since their birth, the cygnets are now off on a huge adventure away from their parents. Louisa took the three cygnets to the Swan Sanctuary. They joined a flock of approximately 30 other cygnets who had been relocated from other ponds.

I caught up with Louisa and she reported all was well with the Heath's cygnets. All the siblings would soon be linking as a family. She told me they were frisky and happy sounding.

From an anthropocentric perspective, it is sad to see such a short family life. But from a swan perspective, it is all natural. And having somewhere to relocate swans born on the Heath is a good end result.

*All photos courtesy: Ron Vester*



*Louisa carries a cygnet to be checked*

**Concerned about a swan? Please see the May 2022 Newsletter (Vol. 53 No. 2) for *Best practices for swan encounters*. Should you encounter a swan emergency or a swan in an unusual location, please contact Louisa Green at 07725 748099 or Gill at 07970 404866. You could also call the Constabulary, who will contact the rangers. In turn, the latter will contact immediately Louisa or Gill.**



*(From left) Tony, Scott and Louisa checking the cygnets*



*Three cygnets off to their big adventure in life...we wish them well*





*Long-tailed tits are abundant on the Heath and common in its fringes.  
Photo courtesy: Adrian Brooker*

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# *Conserving and improving nature in the fringes of the Heath*

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*by Jeff Waage, Jeska Harrington-Gould, David Castle, Vicki Harding, Gordon Curtis and Michael Hammerson*

*The Heath serves as a hub for nature and, as London continues to develop and expand, the authors set out concerns and possible solutions to integrate people and nature. The two are inextricably connected.*

## ***The fringes***

Many members of the Society live near the Heath and have an interest in nature, both on the Heath and in their own gardens and the green spaces around its fringes. If you are living near the Heath, have you noticed you see similar wildlife at home as you see on the Heath? Nature on the Heath extends well into its fringes. For instance, a recent Society project mapping hedgehogs in Camden revealed more sightings in neighbourhoods bordering the Heath, which is the central London stronghold for this endangered species. We also know gardens and public green spaces near the Heath are used by many kinds of bird regularly breeding abundantly on the Heath, like woodpeckers, sparrow hawks and long-tailed tits, but these birds are rarely seen further into urban London. At the same time, many birds breeding in our residential areas, like goldfinches, starlings and swifts, depend on the Heath for food. Thus, the benefits we enjoy from seeing nature around our homes owe much to the nearby Heath, while the green spaces we create around our homes make nature on the Heath richer and more resilient.

This close relationship is coming under threat. Developments in neighbourhoods around the Heath are making them less nature-friendly. Our Society's Planning and Heath Sub-Committees have come together to understand and address this problem.

## ***Development in the fringes will not only affect the Heath***

Our Planning Sub-Committee is concerned about the gradual decline of nature in gardens directly surrounding the heath. This seems to be the result of evolving trends to build over nature, with more hard landscaping, garden buildings and the replacement of lawns with artificial grass.

The concern with this is twofold. Firstly, there is the visual aspect: the gardens bordering the Heath are exposed to the Heath, and contribute to its overall appearance. Without them, the borders of the Heath would be urbanised. Secondly, a natural garden preserves biodiversity which is vital to the environment 'at large', affecting surrounding green spaces. Artificial grass, for example, blocks daylight to soils, inhibiting the wildlife thriving in that habitat, which in turn weakens the composition of topsoils. Further, if poorly installed, it does not absorb rainwater effectively, contributing to flooding.

Presently, there is scarce or no planning legislation which prevents gardens from being substantially built over. Our Planning Sub-Committee proposes this situation can be modified with an Article 4 Direction: to bring in a requirement for planning permission for alterations to gardens which border the Heath. This would not prevent developments or alterations. It would mean their effect on the Heath will be assessed and the ability to make excessive or harmful changes would be curtailed.

On an even larger scale, a current drive for new housing development poses a threat to nature around

and on the Heath. In 2023, a proposal to build homes for about 900 new families on the Murphy's Yard site south of the Gospel Oak entrance to the Heath. In the Society's view, this proposed development would have put the Heath and four other Camden Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) at risk of damage and overshadowing by its proposed tower blocks. Further, the developers proposed new residents, who would have been provided with little local green space around their homes, could simply use the Heath. Such a surge of new residents, and visitors from a proposed new foot and cycle path from Kentish Town Station, would put pressure on sensitive natural habitats in the south of the Heath. While the Society and the City welcome people to the Heath, in this case they objected to the lack of planning and consultation on mitigating the effects of so much new footfall, and to the height of the proposed buildings which would not only affect local SINCs but would change dramatically the local skyline and views from the Heath. The proposal was withdrawn, but a resubmission is anticipated.

### ***Developing guidelines***

The prospect of more dense, high-rise development in the fringes of the Heath has led our Planning Sub-Committee to consider developing guidelines for the height of new building around the borders, and then persuading local authorities to observe them. Again, there are two concerns. First, there is the visual aspect – the unrivalled sense of openness. Second, there is the ability of nature to cope with increased demands of occupation and use. Faced with growing and taller urban development, the spectre of the Heath becoming more like New York City's Central Park is no longer an exaggeration.

With increasing demands for housing in London, it is inevitable some new developments will have

local impact, both visually and in terms of nature on and around the Heath, as with Murphy's Yard. Every development is unique, and undoubtedly has attractions about which we need to be realistic. Further, there is usually a limited window of opportunity available to us to make representations on proposals as and when they arise. These time frames are challenging and much of the pressure could be alleviated by developing a strategy on issues that are always present, namely the height of buildings and their proximity to the Heath.

Our current thoughts are to set out our objectives to protect the amenities important to us, and to coordinate with Camden and other boroughs around the Heath, developing effective guidance. We think we can achieve this with a zonal approach: assessing the impact of higher buildings according to their position and impact on the Heath. In this, we would consider important views, the topography and the existing skyline, and potential impacts on local green spaces. We are mindful the current proposals for a tower at Archway – which is in Islington – will be very visible from the Heath, and with building height having impact from afar, these discussions are not limited to Camden. We are also mindful this will not be an easy task, either to produce the assessments or to have them observed.

### ***Positive initiatives***

Limiting development in the fringes of the Heath that impacts negatively on nature is only part of the solution. The Society is also developing positive initiatives such as creating room for nature in the fringes of the Heath and encouraging a less manicured and more rural feel within the surrounding gardens and green spaces.



## *Conserving and improving nature in the fringes of the Heath (cont)*

For instance, the Planning Sub-Committee is protecting historic tree lines by identifying still-existing trees within the gardens of Hampstead which had been accurately plotted in an 1866 survey and recorded onto the first edition of Hampstead's Ordnance Survey map. There are upwards of ninety '1866' trees (see the OS map portion in this Newsletter's *Sad loss of 300-year-old tree by Vicki Harding*). We are doing this with a view to protecting their survival and the rich wildlife and fungi associated with them. These trees, all of which are over 200 and some over 300 years old, include some associated with residential groves in kitchen gardens or the grounds of larger houses. In this context, groves means a line of trees and this word is preserved in several Hampstead road names. Originally, many grew in the hedgerows along field boundaries and appear in the 1866 map along with others still

standing on the Heath. The Society has submitted these farmland working trees to the Ancient Tree Inventory. Many have already been validated as 'veteran' or 'notable', with one designated 'ancient'.

By conserving these trees and the *Historic Tree Lines* designated in the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan, we can preserve not only corridors of connected tree canopies but also their associated insects, bats, birds and the soils below with their mycorrhizal fungi. Some wildlife associated with veteran trees are particularly rare and important. Also, the Society is exploring how old wood from veteran trees could be made available to local residents to create veteran tree log piles in their gardens, providing habitats for stag beetles and other rare insects and fungi, linking to others through gardens, along biodiversity corridors, into local green spaces and onto the Heath.



*Wildflower meadow planting at local school. Photo courtesy: Growing Green*

## *Conserving and improving nature in the fringes of the Heath (cont)*



*Mini-forest planting at Parliament Hill School. Photo courtesy: Growing Green*

In other projects, the Heath Sub-Committee is cooperating with a number of community groups which are creating green spaces in the fringes of the Heath. One of these is Growing Green, which transforms local urban areas and school grounds by planting trees and hedges, building ponds, creating wildflower meadows, orchards and log piles. At Parliament Hill School, for instance, they have planted a Miyawaki Mini-Forest – dense plantings of native saplings quickly establishing woodland in small spaces – plus native hedges, a pond, wildflower meadows, an

orchard and thousands of spring bulbs.

Continuing our hedgehog work, the Society is collaborating with Heath Hands and Growing Green on the “Hedgehog Friendly Heath Project” to help local community groups create hedgehog highways and habitats in residential areas. With the Murphy’s Yard development, mentioned earlier, the Heath Sub-Committee has developed with local landscape designers a green corridor plan which, for little additional space, would both protect and link up local SINC’s, including the Heath, the



## ***Conserving and improving nature in the fringes of the Heath (cont)***



*Mini-forest planting at Parliament Hill School.  
Photo courtesy: Growing Green*

community-led Mortimer Terrace Nature Reserve, the Kentish Town City Farm and rail side woodlands managed by Network Rail. This has been submitted to Camden Council in anticipation of a future Murphy's Yard development.

### ***Biodiversity net gain***

Fortunately, new 'biodiversity net gain' regulations in Britain require developers not only protect biodiversity on their development site but leave it "better than they found it". There is a wide range of nature-friendly interventions which can achieve this, from creating mini-forests, to wildflower meadows, ponds and even green roofs which support rich native plant and insect communities.

As part of new environmental legislation, London boroughs will be required to create "nature recovery networks". Camden's strategy for these networks is to improve and link up core wildlife sites, like its SINC's, through 'stepping stones' or corridors of natural habitat. The Heath, with its exceptional and well-protected biodiversity, could provide an anchor for these networks, allowing wildlife to move to and from



*Hedgehog highway in a garden near the Heath.  
Photo courtesy: Growing Green*

the Heath, for instance along canopy lines of veteran trees, or between SINC's connected by new green spaces, or even between gardens better connected by hedgehog highways. Based on its Murphy's Yard experience, the Society is now exploring with Camden an idea to create a nature recovery network deep into Kentish Town. This network would link the Heath and four other much smaller SINC's through new green corridors on sites now designated for the development of 2,000 new homes.

### ***Are you interested?***

Between improving nature in the gardens and green spaces around the Heath and challenging new development that threatens it, the Society is trying to keep both the Heath and its fringes green and nature rich for generations to come. If this article sparks your interest in improving your own green part of the fringes of the Heath, or in building a local green corridor, feel free to contact members of the Planning and Heath Sub-Committees who prepared this article. Each of their numbers can be found on the inside front cover of this Newsletter.





*The Oakhill Avenue oak in 2007*

## ***Sad loss of 300-year-old veteran tree***

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*by Vicki Harding, Planning Sub-Committee*

*Hampstead's largest veteran street tree, an oak on Oakhill Avenue, has fallen. Its growth spanned over 300 years, from pastoral lands to contemporary Hampstead Town.*

### ***Oakhill Avenue tree***

On 9 December 2023, Hampstead's largest veteran oak – a street tree in Oakhill Avenue – fell, fracturing at its base. This oak was probably at least 300 years old and is marked as a significant tree on the first edition 1866 Ordnance Survey ("OS") map for Hampstead.

The oak was a hedgerow tree, on a field boundary immediately north of the ancient footpath running from Branch Hill (the northern part is now Oakhill Way) and on to West End Green by the Cock and Hoop (a public house now long gone). There are four more veteran hedgerow oaks along the original field boundary line, now along the front

gardens of north Oakhill Avenue, with many more in other roads nearby.

Fortunately, no-one was hurt. The fallen tree damaged a car; the brick pavement will need re-laying; and the street tree opposite to it which was growing up into its canopy had some torn branches. There is now a huge hole in the unimpeded view southwest from Redington Road, as seen by thousands over centuries.



*Big hole in the view down Oakhill Avenue*

### ***Veteran tree survey***

The Society's Hampstead town veteran tree survey discovered more than 90 trees still existing and specifically marked on the 1866 OS Hampstead map. Many of these have been submitted to the Ancient Tree Inventory, where a good number have been recognised as veteran trees and one recognised as ancient. The fallen oak was the only veteran oak that was a street tree.



*Part of the 1866 OS map with existing trees marked*

### ***How development affected the tree***

In the 1960s, 3 Oakhill Avenue, diagonally opposite the tree, was the home of the soprano Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and her music impresario husband, Walter Legge (apparently also a keen gardener). This was during the time she frequently appeared at Covent Garden, so she would have known this tree well. It was very, very special.

Originally, the tree was a working tree along a line of others. It was regularly pollarded until the mid-to-late 1800s for its foliage as fodder ('tree hay') and its timber for firewood or small wood products. Pollarding would have been halted around the mid-to-late 1800s, from which time the branches growing from this pollard point became very much bigger. Quite a number have been subsequently removed, as could be seen from the scars up its trunk.

All its life this tree will have benefitted from full access to the sun on its south side and from being almost immediately southeast of the spring line between the Bagshot Sands and the Claygate Beds. It has thus received superficial groundwater all year round, the slope here allowing both rain and groundwater to drain downhill, avoiding flooding or boggy. Hampstead's geology means it is the source of four of London's rivers and a major reason for its 'green and leafy' description. This oak, a water-loving species, developed a spectacular canopy once allowed to do so.

The public footpath, with the passage of human feet, horses, donkeys and carts in the 18th and 19th centuries, would have caused some compaction to its feeder roots on that south side. If any cattle or sheep kept in the field behind the tree had stood under its shade or used its protection from the wind and rain, this would also have provided some compaction over its roots on that side. Compaction limits root access to oxygen and affects the symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi associated with them. To help with the nutritional and oxygen needs of both itself and its mycorrhizae, the tree would have generally adapted by focussing on other feeder roots, adjusting and expanding its rooting areas elsewhere.

In the early part of the 20th century with the construction of the wider roadway of Oakhill Avenue (named Barby Avenue initially but changed



## ***Sad loss of 300-year-old veteran tree (cont)***

soon after) for much heavier motorised transport, the hedgerow oaks now along the north side of a tarmaced road would have had a severe reduction of the nutrient-rich soil for their roots and further compression, having to make more adjustments to their rooting areas. It is known though for tree roots to grow under and beyond asphalt roads following the condensation that collects below the surface as well as any groundwater, and this may have occurred for the street veteran. This means it is likely to have managed to retain root and mycorrhizal contact until now with the tree in the rear garden of 37 Redington Road that can be seen opposite through the gap between 37A Redington Road (with its own veteran oak in its front garden) and 1A Oakhill Avenue.



*Base of tree with granites 'flowed over' and vehicle impacts (2018)*

The street veteran's closeness to the roadside would also have affected it. The large granite kerb stones were initially laid very near its trunk. This would have constrained, but not totally stopped, root expansion (they seem to have 'flowed' over and compressed them too!) and made it vulnerable to frequent damage to its roots from impact by vehicles while parking.

This oak did not suffer though as its fellow veterans a little further downhill did from severe feeder root removal. These four oaks in the front gardens of

numbers 8, 10A and 10 Oakhill Avenue would have not only been affected by house construction closer behind them. When the road had been cut through more deeply in order to reduce the steepness of the slope here, this would have caused severe and close root severance.

### ***Thinning the canopy***

Since the original neighbouring and light-competing hedgerow oaks to the street tree were removed while the other four pollard oaks were left more crowded together, the street tree's canopy was able to grow splendidly more expansive than theirs, as well as dense and green. It became apparent to Camden though that the street veteran's canopy was weighted more



*Tree post canopy reduction in 2019. Photo courtesy: Ann Eastman*



## *Sad loss of 300-year-old veteran tree (cont)*



*Vertical tree base with rot, and another of the base cut through*

towards the sun on the south, so in the winter of 2018-2019 its canopy was reduced on that side to improve the balance of the tree over its trunk. Canopies grow however, and already last year it was again weighted more onto that side again.

### ***Once the tree fell***

By this century its girth at breast height was 4.4 metres, and the trunk was tall (it was pollarded when young at around 3-4 metres but later encouraged to grow taller by the presence of its earlier neighbour oaks). The trunk was thus pretty massive, meaning that removing it following its fall was quite a task. Large cutting equipment and a special grabber lorry were required to help with removing it over the next few days. The road was closed for only a few hours however, and Camden's contractors soon chipped the small wood, and cut up and cleared the branches to one side. They then gradually removed the larger wood.

Once the fallen street oak had been cut through above its root plate, we could see that its trunk was only in the very early stages of hollowing out, as usually occurs with veteran trees. Such trees allow beneficial fungi

to rot out their – to them useless – heartwood so that they can re-take up the released nutrients with the aid of aerial roots growing down within these hollows. This process has the added benefit of making these trees more supple – a tube is more flexible than a solid pole – giving added protection in high winds. No veterans – or supple saplings – for example came down on the Heath in the 1987 storm, virtually all the uprooted trees being the stiffer, solid-trunked mature trees.



*Close-up of brown rot in tree pit*

## *Sad loss of 300-year-old veteran tree (cont)*

### *What contributed to the oak's demise?*

The tree surgeons who dealt with the tree after its fall thought this could be due to a raised water table here. I am not so sure because this was a species of high water use on a slope. Although there have been some phenomenally large basements built in Redington Road, these were built into sand so groundwater would naturally tend to flow beneath them. They would be too far away to have much impact here.

The tree fell at 8.20am when there was no wind and little rain, though by late morning it was raining fairly heavily, and although the deep hole of the exposed tree pit was beginning to fill with some water, this quickly drained when it stopped raining. The bracket fungi growing recently from near its base have been identified by the Heath's and the UK's fungi expert, David Humphries, as the annual fruiting bodies of *fistulina hepatica*, also known as the 'beef steak' fungus. It is also found on some veteran trees on the Heath. It is one of the special fungi species veteran trees use



*Fungal bracket*



*Fallen old fungal bracket*

to rot out their heart wood. He described it as a slow brown rot species likely to have been associating with this tree for decades.

His opinion about the tree's demise would be more to do with the sub-optimal growing environment of a roadside verge and the lack of structural roots, than with the decay fungi. He added it is all the more important to give all veteran/ancient trees the management and protection they deserve and need. There are now quite a few arboriculturalists who have had VetCert training in this.

The Society is hoping to make Hampstead town's veteran trees and their special and proper management more widely known and appreciated, if necessary, with the help of VetCert-trained arboriculturalists.

If you would like to be involved in this, please get in touch with me, the Society Tree Officer, at [vickiruthharding@gmail.com](mailto:vickiruthharding@gmail.com)

## 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 £70 per year Friends receive exciting benefits such as:

- Priority Booking
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or visit us on Eton Avenue, NW3



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

### *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](mailto: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:

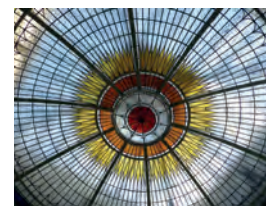
[www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk](http://www.HeathandHampstead.org.uk)

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



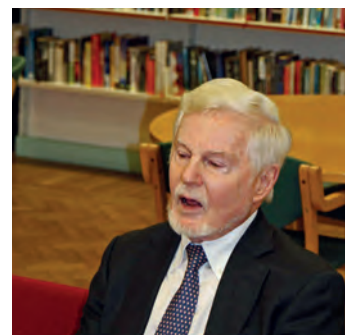


## *Keats Community Library is open to all*



- **The adult library** has a huge variety of books to borrow, from literary fiction to crime, biography, history, cookery, travel, and an amazing selection of books on art. Join our monthly reading group
- **Attend evening cultural events.** Previous events have included talks by Sir David Hare, Dame Margaret Drabble and Sir Michael Palin; celebrity conversations with Sir Derek Jacobi and Simon Russell Beale; talks by local artists; and readings by Dame Janet Suzman and Simon Callow
- **High quality used books** are always on sale. The giant spring and autumn book sales are legendary
- **The children's library** has a wide range of books for all ages, with regular activities such as Rhyme-time for under '5s on Tuesday and Friday mornings, ballet classes, and chess classes for '6yrs+ every Saturday afternoon
- **Other children's events** such as author readings, with Julia Donaldson for example, a magician, film school, and art activities

*The library is run by volunteers and an apprentice. It is truly a community library – run by the community for the community. Drop in anytime to our beautiful Grade II listed building*



### **Opening Hours:**

**Tuesday and Wednesday 10–6 • Thursday and Friday 10–7 • Saturday and Sunday 12–4**

To learn more, see our website: [keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk](http://keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk)

To join our mailing list, email: [keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com)

**Keats Community Library, 10A Keats Grove, NW3 2RR ☎ 0207 431 1266**

**KCL Events are generously supported by**





## *Spring Book Sale*

**Saturday 27 April 10–5pm**

**All at bargain prices: crime, fiction, history, art, biography, cookery, poetry and more – Free entry**

### **Spring Cleaning? Give Us Your Books**

If you plan to de-clutter this spring, please donate your books to the library. We take what we need into library stock and the rest we sell to help the library stay open.

**Thank you for your support**

#### **Opening Hours:**

**Tuesday and Wednesday 10–6 • Thursday and Friday 10–7 • Saturday and Sunday 12–4**

To learn more, see our website: [keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk](https://keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk)

To join our mailing list, email: [keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com)

**Keats Community Library, 10A Keats Grove, NW3 2RR ☎ 0207 431 1266**

**KCL Events are generously supported by**



# Heath Walks: 2024

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 10.30am or 2.30pm (earlier 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.

At the beginning of each walk you will be invited to make a donation (£5 is currently recommended) to help support future walks programmes and to promote the Society's activities generally. You will also be encouraged to become a member of the Society – one of England's oldest and most respected conservation societies – if you are not one already.

***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)

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

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

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

## No walk in January

### 4 February 10.30am (meet at **Burgh House**)

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

**3 March 10.30am** (meet at **Kenwood West Lodge**, Hampstead Lane, at the entrance to the English Heritage car park), *The Final Piece of the Jigsaw: Kenwood House and its grounds saved from developers* – Arthur Crosfield and the 1st Earl of Iveagh, led by Thomas Radice, trustee of the Society, member of the Heath Sub-Committee and Kenwood volunteer.

**7 April 9.30am** (meet at **Burgh House**) *Birds of the Heath in Spring*, led by Pete Mantle, member of the Heath Sub-Committee.

