



The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2012 Annual Report

Vol 43 No.2

**TOLL GATE HOUSE
SPANIARDS GATE**
THIS EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BUILDING
WAS ERECTED TO COLLECT TOLLS
FROM THOSE PASSING THROUGH THE
WESTERN ENTRANCE TO THE ESTATES
OF THE BISHOPS OF LONDON
ERECTED BY THE HEATH & HAMPSTEAD SOCIETY

The Mayor of Camden unveils the restored Toll House

photo: Nigel Sutton

The Heath and Hampstead Society

Founded in 1897

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Cover photo: The Mayor of Camden with Society Committee members, l. to r: Robert Linger, Frank Harding and Juliette Sonabend

Annual Report for the year 2011-2012

by Tony Hillier

Another Busy Year and Much to Recall Finance and Legacies

The Society remains financially strong and we are most grateful for the continuing support of the many members who have renewed and the many new members, who I am glad to report, outnumber those who have moved on. The mix and timing of fees has resulted in a slight drop in total subscriptions compared to last year and our operating costs have risen slightly. We have nevertheless been able to increase our reserves for the financial year to 31 December 2011 by almost £20,000, and they now stand at £93,549, thanks to two most generous legacies.

Generous legacies

I should like to record our gratitude to the estates of the late Peter Anthony Lund and the late Philip Walmsley and their respective executors from the local firms of solicitors, OGR Stock Denton and Solomon Taylor Shaw for supporting the Society in this way. We have benefited greatly over many years from the generosity of members remembering us in their wills and I hope we will continue to live up to the wishes of those who do so.

The Philip Walmsley legacy stipulated that it be used to commemorate a Hampstead scene or a work by a local artist. We are commissioning a ceramic reproduction of the remarkable mid-Victorian social and political painting known as "Work" by Ford Madox Brown, which shows a lively scene of workmen, watched by members of every other social order, digging pipework into the road on the Mount above Heath Street.

Annual Report for the year 2011-2012(cont)

The Sub-Committees (for the period to April 2012)

While it remains a popular national sport to watch other people working, especially those digging holes, I am glad to report that the members of your General Committee and Sub-Committees, over 50 at the last count, continue as very active and remarkably successful guardians of Hampstead and the Heath.

The Heath

The Heath Sub-Committee retains the authority and expertise to exercise considerable influence on the way the City of London manages the Heath through our attendance at the regular Heath Consultative and Management Committees of the City's Open Spaces Department. Our advice is recognised as particularly insightful during the quarterly walks with the Superintendent and his senior staff: estate management is not a desk-top job. Their expertise and good judgement is especially important now when financial constraints have forced at least a 10% budget cut on the City's c. £7mn annual budget to April 2012 and beyond.

The annual Springett Lecture, made possible by the generous legacy to the Society from Kate Springett, founder of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society, was given by David Bevan, a former President of the London Natural History Society with a distinguished career in conservation. He spoke of the changes over the centuries in the flora on the Heath in response to changes in habitat and land management: for example, the Heath is no longer a heath and heather no longer grows there.

The Heath Sub-Committee organised with the City the very attractive Christmas tree by Whitestone Pond, which gave a lot of pleasure to passers-by in the wintry December weeks.

Planning (including basements)

The Planning Sub-Committee continues to review all the 50 or so monthly planning applications in Hampstead. Among these there have been too many basement applications which do not pay sufficient attention to the local ground and water conditions and the attendant risks to neighbouring structures. We are still very frustrated that Camden Councillors and Officers have not yet been sufficiently briefed in the admittedly technically challenging policies which Camden has between November 2010 and April 2011 adopted, with a lot of pressure from the Society. The result is that some irresponsible applications have been approved.

Members who gave so generously to our earlier basement appeal should not despair, however, for a number of reasons. Camden's policies clearly set out rules for the developer to prove, with a professionally prepared Basement Impact Assessment, that neighbours and the environment will not be harmed. These are the toughest Assessments and most professionally written in the country for protecting neighbours. These policies have clearly raised the bar for properly prepared applications to be submitted, even though some developers cut corners and Camden sometimes fails to see or understand when this is the case. These policies enable those neighbours who can afford a few thousand pounds of their own professional advice to challenge inadequate Basement Impact Assessments. There are some grounds for confidence that over time Camden will develop the expertise to apply them correctly.

Finally, there is one example of a major, high-profile application, which was apparently "lost" as far as neighbours are concerned (which I do not want to identify for reasons of commercial

confidentiality). The developer is having difficulty selling this site with its planning approval for a three-storey basement. In part this is because the construction conditions, requested by the Society and imposed with the planning approval, frighten potential buyers; and in part, the offshore company that owns the development cannot source adequate insurance to protect the neighbour (in case the Basement Impact Assessment is wrong and the damage actually caused is greater than “slight”), and so a new purchasing developer would be obliged under any party wall award to post a very substantial cash indemnity. The market will not take long to understand the implications of this. Hopefully local and national planning authorities will not be far behind. The lesson is: only apply for safe and sensible basements in Camden!

The Planning Sub-Committee is also grappling with how to make best use in Hampstead of the Localism Act, which obtained Royal Assent in November 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework, which became law shortly after the 2012 Budget. These represent a significant attempt by the Coalition Government to reform the national Planning System in favour of developers, in the belief, for which a detailed Parliamentary Committee Report in 2003 stated there is no evidence, that this will stimulate the economy. The legal, and still less the local, implications of these reforms and their “presumption in favour of sustainable development” are far from clear. We are reasonably well protected by Camden’s Local Development Framework and the London Plan. We have in addition lodged a pre-emptive request to Camden to establish a Neighbourhood Plan for Hampstead within the scope of the Localism Act, although our aims are conservationist rather than the intended blue-print for development.

Town

The Town Sub-Committee has followed up its success in helping to break the log-jam, which held up for decades the improvements to the Whitestone Pond, with more good news. In 1967 the Society was able to help rescue the Toll Gate across from the Spaniards Inn and received a plaque from English Heritage to commemorate our efforts. The building has since deteriorated. With the help of Barnet and Camden Councils the Toll Gate has now been fully restored and we have erected our own plaque to mark the occasion, which the Mayor of Camden kindly unveiled for us. While the Bishop of London is of course no longer entitled since the mid 18th century to collect a toll from travellers into his former hunting grounds; we are not sorry to preserve a bottle neck for traffic crossing the Heath between Hampstead and Highgate, although some in more of a hurry may be less enthusiastic about this particular act of heritage preservation.

A plaque was placed in Well Walk to mark the house where Daphne du Maurier lived. Her daughter, Lady Montgomery, who was born there and who is the widow of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, kindly unveiled it for us.

Two new walks have been established. Robin Michaelson guided two walks to trace the course of the river Fleet. An ambitious series of walks entitled “Northern Height Circuit Walks” have been initiated in conjunction with the Highgate Society and descriptive booklets are available in local bookshops.

Two members of the Planning Committee organised a very successful talk in April by the distinguished water engineer Stephen Myers, who kept an audience of some 180 people fascinated by his scholarly and illustrated

Annual Report for the year 2011-2012 (cont)

account of why Hampstead's three rivers, the Fleet, the Tyburn and the Westbourne, have disappeared from London and how they might be revived.

Birthdays and Milestones

During the year we celebrated the 90th birthday of our Patron and distinguished Hampstead historian, Christopher Wade. We reminded members of his many contributions to the collective enjoyment of Hampstead: the historic walks maps and booklets, and the role he played in establishing the High Street Community Centre and in rescuing Burgh House.

At our well-attended Christmas party we marked the tenth anniversary of Simon Lee's tenure as Heath Superintendent. Simon has managed to balance being a very competent servant of the City Open Spaces Department with being a sensitive friend of the Society and all who love the Heath, and we hope to continue working with him for many more years.

In April City Deputy Michael Welbank stood down from three years as Chairman of the Heath Management Committee. It is several years since Michael resigned his membership of our General and Heath Committees to avoid conflicts, while he remains a member of the Society, and we like to think that his deep familiarity with local concerns and conditions has helped to inform the excellent ten-year Management Plan for the Heath published in 2007. He has certainly shown himself to be fair and open-minded in the current controversial plans to strengthen some of the pond structures, while ensuring that the City observes its statutory duties and concerns for public safety. We thank Michael for his very effective chairmanship of the management of the Heath.

Keats Community Library

The Keats Community Library (KCL) Board, a company limited by guarantee and a newly registered charity, which is managed by Steven Bobasch, has had remarkable success in negotiating the transition from Camden's closure on 31 March 2012 of the Heath public library in Keats Grove, to its opening as a private amenity for the public on 17 April, under an occupation licence from the City in their capacity as guardians of Keats House.

Two members of our General Committee, Tony Hillier and Nigel Steward, who is now Chairman of the Friends of Heath Library, continue to be active members of the KCL Board. The other members are: Lionel Aitman, Carol Goldblatt, Vicky Joel, Lee Montague, Jonathan Nakouzi, and Nicky White. I would like to register the Society's congratulations and thanks to this very competent and hard-working group of people, who with one exception live within a few hundred yards of the library, for achieving on time and to budget everything that was promised and planned! Many other local volunteers have helped us reach this important milestone.

As our President, Lord Hoffmann, himself a regular user, said when handing the first user cards to Tess and Jack, Nicky White's seven and three-year-old children, "If Hampstead cannot rescue a library, who can?" That said, KCL will need solid and on-going support from all of us, to cover operating costs of around £500 per week. It is vital that we keep the library open and responsive to the changing needs of future generations.

The Ponds

The Society held a well-attended meeting on 31 January 2012 at the Rosslyn Chapel to brief

members on this troubling topic. Presentations were given by Lord Hoffmann on the legal difficulty of interpreting what is meant by the phrase “in the interests of safety” in the 1975 Reservoirs Act; Jeremy Wright gave a summary explanation of the technical civil engineering issues and Tony Hillier summarised the Society’s policy and approach in responding to the City’s proposals for rebuilding some of the structures to strengthen the ponds against potentially catastrophic local downstream flooding.

There were a large number of questions and comments from the floor, all of which the Society has taken careful note of.

During the course of the year the Newsletter has given members detailed commentary on all three topics presented during the January meeting and it is not necessary to repeat them here. I hope to be able to bring members up to date at the AGM on 19 June, by which time we shall have some more concrete understanding of how the City’s legal and civil engineering advisers intend to proceed, and what opportunity the Society will be given to see and comment on the actual design plans, as they emerge, and to interact with the team preparing the proposed designs. Only then can we decide whether the proposals are compatible with the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act and compliant with our interpretation of how the downstream public should be protected from precisely what levels of risk. Until now, this has not been possible.

The AGM

The AGM will be on 19 June. Please note the slightly earlier time of 6.45pm at the Town Hall. This to allow time for our rather unusual and interesting Guest Speaker and film showing.

Members will be asked to adopt a new Constitution which has been prepared by our Secretary, Marc Hutchinson, to meet the new guidelines from the Charity Commission and to reflect the broadening responsibilities, and organisation to meet them, which your General Committee has taken on in recent years. These will be available to members in advance of the AGM if members wish to comment before the meeting.

Our highlight event will be a shortened version of the highly acclaimed film “The Belsize Story” introduced by our Guest of Honour, the local resident who made the film, David Percy. I look forward to welcoming all members on that occasion.

The New Constitution

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting members will be invited to adopt a new Constitution for the Society. Copies of the new Constitution (and the existing Constitution) can be downloaded from the Society’s website:

www.heathandhampstead.org.uk,
or obtained from the Honorary Secretary Marc Hutchinson:
telephone 0207 090 3063; email:
marc.hutchinson@slaughterandmay.com

Copies of the new Constitution will also be available at the Annual General Meeting. It will not be possible to propose changes to the new Constitution at the Annual General Meeting. Members who wish to comment upon the new Constitution before the Annual General Meeting should contact Marc Hutchinson directly before 31 May 2012.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 115th Annual General Meeting of the Heath and Hampstead Society will be held on Tuesday 19 June at 6.45pm at Hampstead Town Hall Centre, 213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP

The business of the meeting will be as follows:

- Approval of the minutes of the 114th Annual General Meeting held on 27 June, 2011.
- Election of Lord Hoffmann as President.
- Adoption of the Society's new Constitution.
- Chair's report for 2011.
- Treasurer's report on the Society's audited accounts for the 2011 financial year and adoption of those accounts.
- Appointment of Messrs. Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, as the Society's auditors for the current financial year.
- Determination of membership subscription rates for the current financial year.
- Election of Officers and other elected members of the General Committee.

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

Vice Presidents: Martin Humphery
Helen Marcus
Chair: Tony Hillier
Treasurer: Maureen Clark-Darby
Secretary: Marc Hutchinson

Gordon Maclean has been duly proposed and seconded for election as an Elected Member of the General Committee

- Any other business.

For information

Vice Chairs:

Tony Ghilchick
Frank Harding
Douglas Maxwell,

Representatives on external bodies:

The City of London Hampstead Heath Management Committee: Tony Ghilchik

The City of London Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee: Jeremy Wright

General Committee Members continuing the terms for which they were elected or appointed

Frankie de Freitas, Janine Griffis, Robert Linger, Peter Tausig, Stephen Taylor and John Weston



Annual General Meeting 2012



Please join us for our
Annual General Meeting
and
Reception

Hampstead Town Hall Centre

213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP

Tuesday 19 June 2012 at 6.45 pm

6.45pm **Annual General Meeting**

8.00pm **Interval.** Wine and light refreshments will be served.
Committee members will be on hand to talk about their work.
Come and learn more about the Society's activities over the past year.

8.30pm ***Guest Speaker***

David Percy

will introduce his film

The Belsize Story

and show excerpts from it

Award-winning filmmaker David Percy is a long-time resident of Belsize Park. Belsize Story is a fascinating full-length documentary about the history and development of Belsize Park.

Treasurer's report for 2011

by Maureen Clark-Darby

The Society is pleased to present its Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011.

The operating surplus for the year was £17,821 (2010: deficit £459). The major contribution to the surplus was the exceptional receipt of two donations amounting to £20,000. In 2011 the Society made an unrealised loss of £182 on its investment. The resulting surplus for the year was therefore £17,639.

Membership subscription income was down by 2% year on year 2011: £14,724 (2010: £15,081). Interest income is slightly up year on year 2011: £721 (2010: £644).

Donations and legacies receivable were £20,299 (2010: £3,128). The two legacies, each of £10,000, were from the estates of the late Peter Lund (which had no special conditions

attached), and of the late John Philip Walmsley which is for the commissioning and displaying of the reproduction of a Hampstead related piece of art.

The Society's running costs increased by 7% in 2011 to £24,433 (2010: £22,732).

In 2012 the Society will continue its work to increase membership and subscription income.

The Trustees believe that the Society's capital and reserves are satisfactory at £93,549.

The Society wishes to thank Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, for carrying out the Independent Examination of the Accounts.

David Percy, AGM guest speaker

Award-winning filmmaker David Percy is a long-time resident of Belsize Park. Although semi-retired, he is still very much involved in the film business.

His most recent project is a full-length documentary on the history, architecture and people of Belsize Park. It traces the development of the area to the south of Hampstead from the time when there was little more than Pond Street, Belsize Lane, Belsize House and grounds, and England's Lane. It covers many of the architectural details of Belsize Park, and includes high quality, genuine antique prints, mostly hand-coloured, which have been specially assembled for the project.

David has also made other films about the area including the highly praised feature film *Three to Tango*, shot in Belsize Park and Hampstead. In 1975 he filmed a documentary on the history of Hampstead Garden Suburb for European Architectural Heritage Year; it is still available on DVD from the HGS Residents Association.

We are delighted to be able to give members the opportunity to see excerpts from the *The Belsize Story* at our AGM this year. DVDs of the complete film will be on sale

Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

This year has started along a path very similar to 2011, both with a dry, hot, early spring and with the key issue being the need to strengthen the dams on the Heath Ponds. This year, the driest start to a year since 1976 has brought an early hosepipe ban which caused concern over in Golders Hill Park where the new plantings often need watering to get established. Let us hope the very different early April marks a change which will negate those fears.

The dams on the ponds

The proposed work to be done over the next few years on the dams of the Heath ponds has been outlined in previous Newsletters and was discussed more fully at the Society's Members' meeting on 31st January. We are fortunate in having amongst our members a number of experts in various fields fundamental to various aspects of the proposals. Those voicing their concerns at that meeting were, like us, sceptical of some of the theories and data behind the draft proposals but backed the Society's stance of working with the City to minimise the final impact. This approach is welcomed by many at the City who find the Society's informed input and challenge very helpful. It will continue.

Heath Extension meadow

Those of you who walk on the Heath Extension will have been impressed last summer by the magnificent meadow of annual wild flowers planted on the silt which been dredged from three of the ponds and deposited on the adjacent meadow. This area has again been rotavated and seeded with a cornflower mix which should be equally impressive this summer. This year it is the turn of the large iron pan pond on Sandy Heath to be de-silted by very careful dredging to prevent damage to iron pan – formed after the sand was dug from Sandy Heath 150 years ago.

The Bagshot Sand on the Heath has a very high iron content and, as water drained through some of the hollows left from the extraction, the iron oxide coalesced the sand into a hard crust of sandstone about a metre below the surface. I remember long ago when most of these ponds were so silted up that much of the area was marsh, with notices to warn people not to walk there. This largest pond is now one of the most beautiful on the Heath and the new careful dredging should keep it that way.

Pitt's Arch

Also on Sandy Heath, at its western edge above the cutting of North End Way, is the Grade II-listed Pitt's Arch, the archway to (or in) what was then the garden of Pitt House -- all that is left of Pitt House, the house which Charles Dingley of Golders Hill lent to William Pitt the Elder in 1766 and again in 1767 as a refuge during Pitt's breakdown. The house suffered bomb damage during WW2 and was demolished in 1952. A magnificent beech, as old or possibly older than the arch and growing next to it has been pushing gently at the side wall for many years. This wall has now been given a metal buttress to shore it up – a temporary solution, but good for the next 20 or so years. The fence erected a few years ago to keep people away from the danger zone will be going soon.

Repairs to the Pergola

Another of the listed building on the Heath being repaired is the Grade II* Pergola on the West Heath behind Inverforth House. This was originally designed by Thomas Mawson for Lord Leverhulme when he created a garden where parties and fetes could be held that would retain privacy without losing the panoramic views westwards over the Heath. He achieved this by raising the garden with spoil from the

Heath Report (cont)

tunnel being built for the new tube railway line extension to Golders Green, and surrounding it with the Pergola. The Pergola was later extended in both directions as Lord Leverhulme bought adjacent properties and combined their gardens. Two of the three sections of the Pergola were restored by the City only 18 years ago, but the French Oak used has not weathered well and some of the broken timbers are currently being replaced. The third section (which was the first extension of the original Pergola and built to reach what is now the Hill Garden) has yet to be restored. The wall of the Hill Garden is also being repaired in stages with a 39m section underway and work on a further 35m to start in November.

East Heath Car Park

When, last year, the City asked to hear our priorities for managing the Heath and our suggestions on where savings might best be achieved to reduce their spend on the Heath – we emphasised the importance of maintaining the wild and natural aspect of the Heath, and of increasing income where possible, suggesting a modest increase in the size of the East Heath Car Park. Other local groups had similar priorities and the City found that making it a more rectangular shape would take over very little extra space but would allow one extra row of cars and so increase the capacity by 45%. A planning application for this change has now been submitted to Camden. At the same time the City is giving a more countryside feel to the South End Green entrance to the Heath by removing the fence along the avenue of planes reducing the holly and elder and lifting the planes to let in more light. We welcome all these changes.

Gas main

The medium pressure gas main which crosses

the Heath from Parliament Fields to the Heath Extension was installed in the 1960s to carry coal gas. Since then the gas supply has changed from coal to natural gas. As natural gas is much dryer, the seals between the pipe sections are no longer kept moist and have dried out, causing leaks. This medium pressure pipe is being taken out of action, but not removed. This change will require work in late summer by Great Wall at the northern end of the Extension and in Cut Through Lane at Kenwood to connect the high pressure main to the local distribution network, and then by the Parliament Hill Bandstand, for about four months starting in October, to disconnect the gas supply to the old pipe.

Heritage Lottery funding for Kenwood

We are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has approved English Heritage's application for a grant of £3.3m towards their Caring for Kenwood project. The task now is to help raise the £1.2m needed in matching funds to complete the restoration of those internal parts of the house remodelled by Robert Adam to look as they did when originally built for the 1st Earl of Mansfield in the C18th and, in particular, the restoration of the neglected Dairy above the eastern end of West Meadow.

The House closed at the end of March and will be cleared during April and May before work can start. The Rembrandt is already on display, to great acclaim, in New York and the other paintings in the House are being assessed to check that they are fit to travel – some to join the Rembrandt on a tour of four venues across the States, some to go on loan to various UK sites, including the V&A and the Museum of Wales, and some for restoration. When the House reopens at the end of October 2013, the paintings will be repositioned to help tell the full story of the house.

Planning Report

by Douglas Maxwell

The spring brings news of a significant change in the town planning system ... but what is it going to amount to in practice? Plus the Society raises a hand in support of a balanced community ... and the tragic story of the construction project in Hampstead that cost a life.

The Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning

Last year, the Localism Act passed into law and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 came into effect on 6 April allowing the Council, as local planning authority, to 'designate' Neighbourhood Areas and Neighbourhood Forums.

The Society has made an application to Camden to establish the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum, initially under the auspices of the Society. The forum area is provisionally the conservation areas of Hampstead; Redington Frogal; Fitzjohns Netherhall; and South Hill Park. This area corresponds closely to the ward boundaries of Hampstead Town and Frogal and Fitzjohns and is the area which the Society already covers in its reviews of planning applications and appeals.

By the time you read this, the application will be out to consultation, and the Council's decision can be expected from early June onwards.

The Subterranean Developments Bill

Perhaps someone was looking over my shoulder when I wrote Basements Go Viral for the last Newsletter. At the end of last year, the Subterranean Developments Bill was introduced as a private members bill in the House of Lords by Lord Selsdon. In his commentary on the Bill, its sponsor makes some comments that are sure to resonate with our readers:-

"Feelings [about basement development] can run high, fuelled by suspicion, rumour, bad communication, poor controls and lack of consideration for others.

"Inevitably the developer may be less concerned about neighbours than is the owner-occupier who must live with the consequences of inconsiderate development methods."

The prevailing view is that the Bill is unlikely to make it into law, due to lack of legislative time. However such Bills sometimes set a marker for subsequent government legislation which incorporates their provisions. We hope that this will turn out to be the case.

A Community in Balance?

When we look at proposals, we try and consider – in the well-worn phrase – the preservation of the character and amenity of the area; but also the wider implications of a trend towards one type of development such as high value residential. Recently two proposals for developments in Hampstead that would result in the loss of existing hostel accommodation coincided with an invitation from the editor of the Ham and High to put pen to paper on this subject.

The result was a tour de force written by my colleague Gordon Maclean and unanimously approved for publication by the Society's General Committee. Under the title "Do we need more luxury properties, or is it time to look after the poor and needy?" it puts forward the view that the planning system consistently allows luxury housing to replace affordable housing and low-cost hostel accommodation; and asks whether it is therefore a help or hindrance to the community it serves.

A Construction Tragedy

During the construction of a new house with a basement in Denning Road in 2009, a mobile crane overturned and fell into the excavation, killing one of the site workers, Craig Page. Three years later, it has been reported (in the Camden New Journal) that a court has fined the main contractor and one of its directors a total of £87,500 plus costs of £66,244. The Health and Safety Executive were quoted as saying that:-

“From the start of this project the defendant failed to control even the most basic of risks on the construction site. These failings ultimately resulted in the tragic and entirely avoidable death of Mr Page”.

Applications

The Society continues to review every planning application in the four conservation areas that comprise Hampstead, and great credit is due to Gordon Maclean who continues to lead on casework. One of the more visible cases this spring has been the planning application made for demolition of a house in Templewood Avenue, and the building of a new house for footballer Thierry Henry.

In the twelve months to March, we looked at 482 applications relating to the built environment and commented or objected in 129 cases, or about 27% which is consistent with past figures.

Last Word

A big thank you to all our members, supporters, to our ward councillors for their interest and support, and to my colleagues on the planning committee.

by Frank Harding

I am pleased to report that our planning in 2011 continues to bear fruit.

The Toll Gate House

The refurbished Toll Gate House in Spaniards Road now has a Hampstead plaque on it which records the fact that the house was built in the mid eighteenth century and marked the entrance to the Bishop of London's estates; those passing through had to pay a small toll to enter. The plaque was unveiled at a short ceremony in March by the Mayor of Camden. The challenge now is to find a tenant who would use the building and have responsibility for its maintenance.

Old Hampstead Rediscovered II; Village Scenes

Following the successful show last year of a selection of the paintings, watercolours, prints and photographs of the Heath which Camden has in its archives, a second exhibition has now been arranged. This will comprise a selection of Hampstead village scenes and will again be accompanied by contemporary photographs of the current view of the same aspects. The exhibition will open on 29 June and run until early September. Knight Frank has once again generously agreed to sponsor this event.

Art Exhibition on the Heath

Unfortunately the arrangements for holding an art show at the top of Heath Street on summer weekends has not progressed far enough to ensure that such an exhibition can take place this year. It is hoped that further progress can be made with the intention of holding one in Summer 2013.

Fleet River walks

The two walks along the course of the River Fleet (from the top of the Heath to St Dominic's

Priory and from St Pancras Old Church to the River Thames at Blackfriars Bridge), which were trailed in the last Newsletter, will have taken place by the time that this issue of the Newsletter is published. At the time of writing, they are fully booked, with a waiting list growing such that a further series of walks later in the year may be justified. Those wishing to be informed of the dates of those additional walks should contact me on 020 7435 3728 or frankaharding@btinternet.com. Numbers for each walk will be limited to 25; the cost will be £5 per head for each walk.

North London Trails

The booklets containing self-guided walks and describing places of interest en route on the Northern Heights are progressing well. The first two booklets, published by the Highgate Society, are available, and the next three, completing the circuit of Highgate, Hampstead Heath, South End Green, Golders Hill Park, Kenwood and back to Highgate will be available in June.

The Heath and Hampstead Society has developed two further booklets for the series covering Hampstead, Belsize Park and down to Camden Town and, together with the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, a route from Hampstead, over the Heath and through the Heath Extension to Temple Fortune. The Trust has also created a booklet covering the area from Temple Fortune, through the Garden Suburb to East Finchley. These four booklets should also be available in June.

The booklets will cost £3 or £4 each and will be available at local retailers and other outlets, as well as at events of the sponsoring societies.

Heavy goods vehicles in Hampstead

The Committee continues to work towards the

exclusion of heavy goods vehicles in Hampstead. We shall never achieve complete success, as emergency and delivery vehicles and buses will no doubt continue to need access to serve the residents, traders and visitors in and around the village. A degree of success has however been achieved in that National Express has instructed its coach drivers not to pass through the village. Unfortunately the odd, stray coach can still be noticed and it may be that there is a good reason for it to come our way. If anyone spots a stray, please let me have details (time, direction of movement and if possible the route or registration number) and I shall report such sightings to the Managing Director of the Coach Division of National Express.

Exhibition

Old Hampstead Rediscovered II Village Scenes

***29 June until early September
Burgh House***

Following the successful show last year of a selection of the paintings, watercolours, prints and photographs of the Heath from the Camden archives, the second exhibition will focus on

Hampstead village scenes

and will again be accompanied by contemporary photographs of the current view of the same aspects.

Knight Frank has once again generously agreed to sponsor this event.

Toll Gate House restored

by Robert Linger

Members will know that the Heath and Hampstead Society has, over many years, fought endless battles to protect the Toll Gate House at Spaniards Gate from the many threats that it has faced.

When the Society was founded in 1897, the House had already existed for more than 100 years, initially, as its name suggests, to collect tolls from those passing through the gate into the estates of the Bishops of London, which lay between Hampstead and Highgate. When the tolls were eventually discontinued the brewery which owned the Spaniards Inn continued to use the House for general storage purposes.

This carried on without significant change until the advent of the motor car and the significant increase in the amount of traffic passing along Spaniards Road. In 1922, there was the first of several proposals over the ensuing decades, to widen Spaniards Road and pull the House down.



All these plans are chronicled in the Society's archives as it fought them doggedly, year in, year out.

By 1963 when the little House was hit by a lorry its condition was starting to deteriorate and by 1965 it had lost its roof. Seeing that the local authorities were not prepared to do anything about it, the Society took a decision in 1966 to raise funds themselves to get the House rehabilitated.

Their work, completed in 1967, was recognised with a Civic Trust Award, marked by a small triangular plaque which can still be seen attached to the south-facing wall of the House. In 1974, the House was granted Grade II listed status.

Unfortunately, over many succeeding years the House again became the victim of poor maintenance and neglect and was regularly damaged by passing vehicles. It was eventually placed on the English Heritage At Risk Register.

The Society felt compelled to act again, cajoling Camden Council and English Heritage to agree a plan to once again rescue the House. Happily, this was eventually agreed and the remedial work was finally carried out in the latter part of 2011. The result is first class, and a gathering, graced by the Mayor of Camden, assembled on 21 March 2012 to mark the Refurbishment and unveil a Heath and Hampstead Society plaque. We are most grateful to Nigel Sutton of the Ham & High for allowing us to use his photograph of the ceremony for the front cover.

The Society would like to thank Camden, its councillors and officers for undertaking this work, and English Heritage for its help and practical guidance throughout.

The Hampstead Heritage Trail

Author Richard Webber introduces the Guides to London's Northern Heights, a new Heath and Hampstead Society Publication

The Northern Heights Trails, an initiative of the Highgate Society, has grown to become a collaborative project between the Heath and Hampstead Society, Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, and Highgate Society.

Members will soon be able to buy a series of five new booklets, each covering a three mile section of a newly designed "Hampstead Heritage Trail". The Trail of self-guided walks starts at Camden Town and ends at Alexandra Palace, taking in Hampstead, Belsize Park, Chalk Farm and the Garden Suburb along its route.

The booklets give information on 500 points of interest along the 15 mile route, one every fifty yards. Photographs, maps and details of how to reach the start and end by public transport are also included in the £4 DL size booklets designed to fit in a pocket.

The format is based on that of the Highgate Society's companion series, a five section, nine mile circular walk passing a further 350 points of interest between Highgate, South End Green and Golders Hill Park. Together the booklets cover the Northern Heights of London. The guides have been written for the benefit of locals as well as visitors. They could be of greatest value when a friend or relative who has come to stay suggests a walk in the local area as a change from a visit to the familiar landmarks of central London.

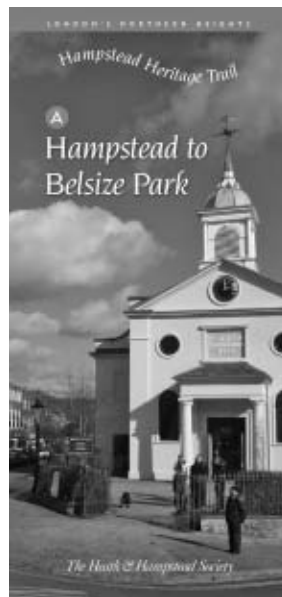
Tourism is London's second largest revenue earner. Yet many visitors are understandably nervous of venturing outside the tourist honey pots. Even people who know that Hampstead has a Heath or a Garden Suburb do not always know what to look for, how to interpret what you see or where to move on to once you have seen some point of interest. Imagine the plight of a visitor to the Garden Suburb exiting the tube

station at Golders Green! Travel through in a car and you notice hardly anything of what makes it special. Many points of interest along a route are above eye level so even when walking it is easy to overlook (or underlook?) much that is memorable.

If London's "Northern Heights" were in any other part of Britain its attractions would surely be better promoted. What other area can compare with the Northern Heights' associations with Keats, Coleridge and

Constable or with Marx and Freud; with its landscaped gardens of Kenwood, the Hill Garden pergola and Golders Hill Park; with the peerless designs of Nash's Regency Regents Park, of Unwin's Arts and Crafts Hampstead Garden Suburb or Edmondson's still intact Edwardian Muswell Hill; with the range of philanthropists, reformers, philosophers and artists who have lived in and around Hampstead.

The two sections of the walk between Camden Town and Hampstead are published by the Heath and Hampstead Society; the Garden Suburb Trust is publishing the section between Temple Fortune and East Finchley and the Hornsey Historical Society the section between East Finchley and Alexandra Palace. Hampstead to Temple Fortune via the Heath Extension, is a co-operative venture between the Heath and Hampstead Society and the Trust. We hope they will be available to buy at the AGM in June.



Keats Community Library Opens its Doors

by Steven Bobasch

At last after months of uncertainty, the former Heath Library in Keats Grove reopened on April 17 2012 as Keats Community Library.

When Camden Council announced its decision to close Heath Library, the Heath and Hampstead Society, along with the Friends of Heath Library, were instrumental in setting up a new charity to bid, successfully, to take it over.

This is a new model of library and will require the participation of all of us if it is going to work. It will be run by the community and can be the library the people of Hampstead and the surrounding area want.

Camden have given Keats Community Library some transitional funding to buy a new library system, set up a website and buy some new books, stationery etc. They have also “gifted” all the books and furniture.

The City of London, who own the building, intends to use some of the space, particularly the Children’s Library, for their own meetings and events. Negotiations were tough but from the outset the City of London talked about partnership and this helped this project to succeed.

While the KCL operation has slightly less space and fewer opening hours than Heath Library, the City will manage the building and the KCL will not be responsible for building maintenance. The Trustees are satisfied that this is a good deal under the new circumstances and could be a sound base for a long term library.

It has been hard work to have got this far. But the library is open! Now, as a community, we need to join the library and use it, and volunteer to work in it. Even if you do not borrow books from it, it is there for everyone, so as neighbours we must support it financially.

Support from the Business Community

Hampstead’s Business Community is also backing the project, recognising how important and popular this cause is locally. At this early stage, Blue Daisy has very generously donated some delightful coloured beanbags to liven up the children’s area. Goldschmidt and Howland immediately stepped up to support the library management system for the first year. And TK International is sponsoring the Grand Opening Fair on 26 May in the library and gardens of Keats House. Very many individual volunteers have helped with services such as designing stationery and photocopying. This has really brought the community together.

Volunteering

KCL needs your participation. There is a range of things you can do to help, whether you have a specialist skill or just want to meet some lovely local people:

- working in the library for a day a week, or a morning or afternoon
- helping to manage the staffing rota
- fundraising and events
- organising a reading group

Funding

KCL is a charity.

To secure its future the Trustees need to build up a fund and are asking everyone who can afford it to make a donation or set up a regular payment.

See the website:

www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk
or send a cheque to
Keats Community Library,
c/o 5 Keats Close, NW3 2RP

Events

The Library will continue their popular literary evenings. On 9 May at 8pm, Emily Woolf will be *In Conversation* with Piers Plowright. There is no advance booking and the suggested minimum donation is £5. She will talk about her acting career, her semi-autobiographical novel *The Whole Wide Beauty*, and her late father, the Director of the Wordsworth Trust.

Grand Opening Party 26 May

Come and join us on 26 May for our Grand Opening Party: 11-4pm in the Library and the garden of Keats House. Fun for all the family, especially for children, a story-telling tent, picnics on the lawn and visiting celebrities throughout the day.....come and join the fun.

Services on Offer

Keats Community Library will continue to offer the same services:

- An adult fiction, nonfiction and reference library
- An exciting children's library with rhyme-time sessions and activities
- Use of PCs with internet access
- Free use of Wi-Fi with quiet space for students to study
- Free use of newspapers and periodicals

KCL has bought a lot of newly-published books, so the choice is even better than before. We are delighted to say that there is money in the budget to keep the books up to date.

Joining

To borrow books, which will be free from Keats Community Library, you need to bring in a proof of address, and pick up a library card. There is a £5 administration charge per household, and anyone can visit the library to read the papers or use the Wi-Fi.

Note: Camden library cards are only valid in Camden Public libraries.

The opening hours are:

Main Library:

Tuesday & Wednesday:	10-6pm
Thursday & Friday:	10-7pm
Saturday & Sunday:	12-4pm

Dedicated Children's Area:

Tuesday & Friday:	10-5pm
Saturday:	12-4pm

For more information

see the new library website:
www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk

Patrons

KCL has been privileged to have the support of a fantastic team of Patrons. They are:

Melvyn Bragg
David Baddiel
Simon Callow
Margaret Drabble
Alan Hollinghurst
Anthony Horowitz
Jeremy Karpel
Deborah Moggach
Andrew Motion
Michael Palin
Sue Perkins
Janet Suzman

*This library now
belongs to all of us.
We encourage you to
come and use it, and
tell KCL what you
want it become.....*



The Hampstead Heath bittern

by John Weston, who kept a blog record of sightings on the Society's website; with additional information from David Bentley, Information Officer at the City

One of the UK's rarest and most secretive birds caused much excitement in February this year for Heath visitors, and demonstrated the benefits of the City of London's policy of planting reeds at several Heath ponds in recent years; the bittern, is a bird exclusively of reedbeds.

I was away when it was reported and as soon as I got back from the Peak District I raced down to the Sanctuary Pond hoping to get a brief glimpse of our new friend in the reeds.

I was not alone! As our photo shows enthusiasts were assembling from all over London and further afield, cameras at the ready, as the astonishing news went round in a flurry of email communication.

From 4 until 5.30 in the afternoon I stood peering into the reeds with a small group of equally keen and cold enthusiasts towards the

now famous 'blue' ball near to which it had been seen. But with the temperature descending with the sun, and bittern-shaped phantasms ghosting through my binoculars in the failing light, it looked like the brief glimpses of the reed-shrouded bittern I saw at Minsmere would have to sustain me for another year.

And then it happened, just like it had on the day before.

At 5.40 pm up out of the reeds it flew in full view of the naked eye, landed on the lower limb of a willow overhanging the pond, and before the beaming faces of the assembled, this exquisitely-marked, long-legged heron began a prehistoric slow-motion clamber up to its roosting perch. I could have cheered! What a view! And still in full view it fluffed up on its perch and settled down for the night. Quite something for our little corner of London to attract a bittern when you consider there are only 100 of these birds in the UK!

Out and about later in February

'Our' bittern is still with us and has been attracting throngs of birders and interested others. The bird is generally at the Bird Sanctuary Pond, but has also made excursions to most of the other ponds in the Highate chain. It is fascinating to see the crowd of watchers. People come and go, some delighted with a good sighting, others frustrated that the centre of attention refuses to make his way to the stage, maybe indulging in a backstage wardrobe-and-makeup hissy fit. Most people, thankfully, have left satisfied. The atmosphere among the birders is convivial, a sense of teamwork takes over and when the bird is seen a round of handshakes and back slapping is generally in order.



Once bittern 1 March 2012

We can't be certain, but it looks as if 'our' bittern is gone, but not forgotten. This is no surprise. In winter bitterns can be a little catholic in their taste of places to live. But, come the breeding season a pair of bitterns needs a large chunk of reedbed in which to establish a territory to successfully bring up a bittern brood. The reedbeds on the Heath are not big enough for that purpose. Bitterns will start to think about procreation around about now, so we would have expected the bird to be on its way.

To see and hear bitterns breeding (the males emits an extraordinary, far-carrying, 'boom' - think foghorn and you're in the right area) you would need to head to East Anglia or to sites fringing Romney Marsh on the Kent / East Sussex border.

On the face of it, the bittern is like a brown heron. But, not just any old brown; the plumage is a complex configuration of different shades, including a beautiful, warm buff-fawn, that allows the bird to merge into reeds so that it becomes invisible even from just a few feet away.

It was never a common bird in the UK and drainage of wetlands in the C19th led to its UK extinction. It returned in the C20th, but barely scratched out a decent living for decades, nearly disappearing again in the 1990s.

However, the last few years have seen something of a resurgence and as many as 75 males may now be present in UK in the breeding season.

Bitterns are more common as winter visitors, particularly in severe weather when continental birds seek the relative warmth of our island.

David Bentley says "Without having been through old reports we are pretty confident that in fact this is the first sighting in living memory. However we will look up some old reports to check".

The Heath Bittern - as photographed by one of its admirers in February and circulated by email



Friends of Hampstead Town Hall update

by Helen Marcus

The Committee of the Friends of Hampstead Town Hall are pleased to announce exciting new plans for Friends of Hampstead Town Hall.

We have felt for some time that a stronger Friends organisation is now needed. Having seen through various problems over the years as the new management at the Town Hall settled in, we now feel confident that the time is right for a change.

At the Friends' AGM in February it was agreed that the organisation and management of the Friends should be moved into the Town Hall and be run from within the Town Hall through the Hamden Trust, rather than externally.

Support from Interchange management

The current Interchange management led by Celia Greenwood want to build a Friends scheme to engage the many regular users, members of the local community and local businesses in supporting the Town Hall as a vibrant centre for community activity.

Community activities of just the sort we all hoped for are now flourishing there (for example the film club and the choir), and of course U3A itself offers a wide range of opportunities, both educational and social.



An old print of the Town Hall

The management are keen for the Friends to feel they are stakeholders in the organisation and that their membership makes a real contribution to the sustainability of the programmes. This would enable the Friends to enjoy new support and resources and offer a much more attractive and interesting package to the members. It is hoped that this would enable the Friends to widen its reach in the local community, raise the profile of the Town Hall and all its activities, and enable a greater role in fundraising by the Friends towards the upkeep of this lovely building.

Some members of the current committee are staying on to oversee the move and they hope that the current Friends will continue their membership - it is their input that has led to the success of the Town Hall as the valuable community asset that we all now enjoy, and support from the wider community will continue to be vital to future success.

Safeguarding the future

On the important question of the safeguarding of the building, which was the original reason for the founding of the Friends, the local societies - the Heath and Hampstead Society, the Belsize Residents Association and the two Conservation Area Committees - will continue to keep watch, and will be able to step in at any time, should circumstances demand, just as they did before. (It was from a combined working party of these various groups that the Friends originally emerged.)

If you have not already visited the Town Hall to sample the activities on offer, do go. Some of the activities are advertised on our Bulletin Board, such as the popular Film Society, but there is so much more on offer and if you sign up as a Friend you will be kept regularly informed.

Bulletin Board - New books of interest

Taking the Waters - A Swim Around Hampstead Heath

Ruth Corney introduces the book by herself and Caitlin Davies

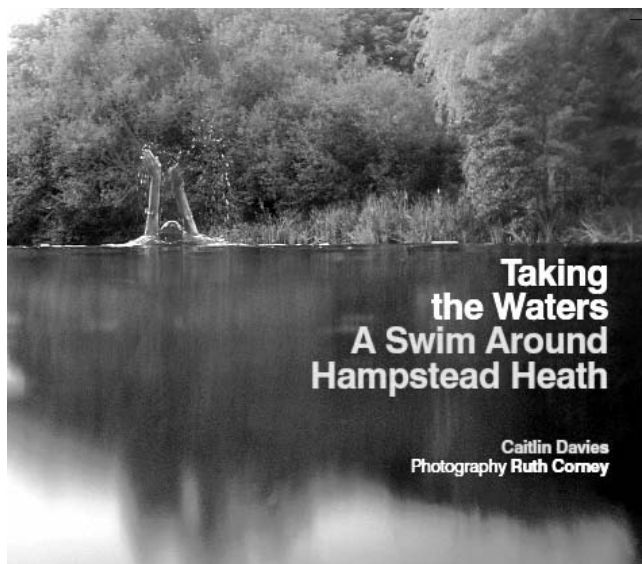
When I first moved to London from Manchester in 1993 I had the great luck to find myself living and working for a spritely elderly lady who I only ever called Mrs Murray. She was Diana Murray, a fantastic, indomitable woman, wife of Jock Murray, of John Murray publishing. It was at our assigned elevenses that she would regale me with stories of writers, New York and the Heath. On one such occasion she told about her night visits to the Kenwood Ladies' Pond on Hampstead Heath and how Katharine Hepburn loved a quick dip there.

It was Mrs Murray that I must thank for instilling in me such an interest and love for the ponds. Over the years, the ponds, not just the Ladies' but the Men's and the Mixed, as well as the Parliament Hill Lido, have continued to be a source of inspiration to me. I had wanted to do a book about the places to bathe on the Heath for some while and I was so pleased when Caitlin Davies, a writer, swimmer and journalist, agreed to chronicle the history of these wonderful places.

Caitlin spent over a year on research and interviewed around 100 people who shared their personal memories and photographs, some from as early as 1908. Additional help and support came from the Highgate Life-Buoys, the Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association, the United Swimmers Association of Hampstead Heath, the Parliament Hill Lido Users Group, the Heath and Hampstead Society (of which she is a member) and the City of London Corporation.

In addition to the modern and archive photos, the book also has a selection of paintings and images from various sources, ranging from artists' memorabilia, and old advertisements to the Victoria and Albert Archives - all of which I hope makes for an interesting and enjoyable read!

The book, published by Frances Lincoln, is available from all good bookshops and Parliament Hill Lido.



Poems of Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park

by Dinah Livingstone

Dinah Livingstone has lived in Camden Town since 1966. She loves both Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park and often walks and writes in them. The book offers poems about Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park for each month of the year.

KATABASIS

ISBN: 978-0-904872-46-0

£7.95

Bulletin Board - Festivals and Summer music

Proms at St. Judes

St Jude-on-the-Hill, Central Square, London NW11 7AH

Summer Programme

23 June -1 July 2012

A nine-day midsummer festival offering a wide range of music, from classical to jazz, with international artists and rising young professionals and Free Lunchtime Concerts

Evening concerts at 7.45pm

- Saturday 23 June** *A Night at the Opera*
Sunday 24 June *The Orion Orchestra*
Monday 25 June *Piaf - The Songs*
Tuesday 26 June *All Star Jazz Night with
The Julian Joseph Quintet*
Wednesday 27 June *Nicola Benedetti and
Friends*
Thursday 28 June *Benjamin Grosvenor
Piano Recital*
Friday 29 June *The Academy of
St Martin-in-the-Field*
Saturday 30 June *Diamond Jubilee
Choral Concert*
Sunday 1 July *Last Night of the Prom*

Family Concert

Saturday 30 June 12.45pm *Chariots of Fire!*
A concert to be enjoyed by all the family.

Ticket prices from £10 to £22

Proms Heritage Walks

Guided walks include

29 June led by Simon Lee, the Heath Superintendent, taking in the pergola, Golders Hill Park, and the Heath Extension, ending at the Free Church in time for the lunchtime organ recital

27 June and 1 July a tour of the East End and Toynbee Hall

Tickets are £7.50 and must be booked in advance

For booking information

Telephone Bookings –

Box Office 020 8458 8798

opens from Wednesday 6 June

2-6pm every day except Sunday.

Outside these hours, please leave a message.

Online booking –

Please go to

www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

and click on booking, then follow the instructions.

Tickets will be posted to you.

For more details see Festival website : www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

Supporting Toynbee Hall and North London Hospice

Hampstead Arts Festival

Tuesday, 22 May

Hampstead Parish Church,
Church Row,

Allegri Quartet

7.30 pm. Doors open at 6.30 pm.

**Beethoven String Quartet Op 18
No 5 in A Major**

**Shostakovich String Quartet No 8
in C minor, Op 110**

**Borodin String Quartet No 2
in D Major**

The Allegri Quartet is Britain's longest-running chamber music ensemble, sustained over six decades by successive generations of the finest international performers. Their reputation for distinctive and stimulating interpretations is rooted in tradition yet alive to contemporary trends.

Tickets £15 £25

Booking: online through the website:
www.hamandhighfest.co.uk

or

[www.hampsteadandhighgatefestival.ticket
source.co.uk](http://www.hampsteadandhighgatefestival.ticket
source.co.uk)

*A small booking fee will be added to each online
booking*

For more information, tel: 07900 971 950

Sponsored by TK International

2012 Autumn season

Events planned for the 2012 autumn season:

27 November Concert

Matthew Trusler (violin)

Hampstead Parish Church

1-29 November

*Thursday lunchtime series
with Piers Plowright*

Burgh House

“Writers Talking”,

interviews with authors Deborah Moggach,
Nick Harkaway, Margaret Drabble CBE, Kate
Summerscale and Howard Jacobson

4 December Concert

*Stephen Kovacevich
and friends*

Hampstead Parish Church

6 December

Burgh House

Charles Dickens Celebration

with Diana Bishop, Piers Plowright, Valerie
Sarruf and Stephen Tucker

**For booking information for these events
see the Festival website**

Bulletin Board - Society notices

Members' email addresses

If you have not given us your email address you may be missing out on important local and Society news and initiatives

So if you have not already done so please do send your email address to the Society at:

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

Make sure you include your name and street address so that we can identify you.

This will enable us to update our Membership Records and simplify our communications with you.

Thank you.

Delivering the Newsletter by email

We can send your Newsletter by email in the form of a PDF so that you can read it on screen if you prefer.

For those of you who do not keep your Newsletters, it is environmentally more friendly, saving paper and unnecessary waste.

It would also save the Society a great deal of cost. With postage costs increasing enormously this is now becoming a major consideration.

If you would like to try this please let the Editor know: you can be sent a PDF to try out, to see if you like it. PDFs of the Newsletter can also be seen on the website.



The Heath & Hampstead Society

Don't forget to use the

Hampstead Card

The current list of businesses taking part in the scheme can be found on the Society's website

www.heathandhampsteadsociety.org.uk

Benefits offered are granted at the traders' discretion. The Society cannot be held responsible for changes in terms or availability of any discounts or offers

Flower and Arts Festival

21- 24 June 2012

St John's Parish Church

Church Row

June 2012 will be the bicentenary of the consecration of the Additional Burial Ground (ABG) in Church Row. The Church is holding a Flower and Arts Festival in June to celebrate. The theme will be people buried in the ABG (both famous and not so famous).

The Society is contributing a flower arrangement in memory of Sir Walter Besant, one of the Society's first committee members.



**Burgh House Museum, Buttery,
Bookstall**

Exhibitions, talks, concerts and classes
Burgh House, New End Square NW3 1LT
www.burghhouse.org.uk
Tel: 020 7431 0144

*Open Wed - Fri, & Sun, 12 - 5.00pm
(Saturdays by appointment)*

Support the Friends of Burgh House

Honorary President Piers Plowright

For more information or to join the
Friends tel: Burgh House on 020 7431 0144

Changes at Civic Voice

After a highly successful two years at Civic Voice, Tony Burton, the Director, has left to join the Design Council. Tony's work has put Civic Voice firmly on the map and raised its profile at the very top of government.

The programme of meetings, workshops, Civic Day and AGM continues in the capable hands of Ian Harvey, the Coordinator, who remains in post. The trustees of Civic Voice are taking this opportunity to review current priorities and needs.

www.civicvoice.org.uk

Hampstead Film Society

Hampstead Town Hall,

Tuesday evenings at 7pm:

A wide range of world cinema

29 May Paradise Now

Nazareth-born director Hany Abu-Assad
Israel 2005

12 June Udaan

Vikramaditya Motwane, India, 2010,

26 June Wings

William A. Wellman, USA, 1927,

Membership fee: £15.00 Adults

£10.00 Concessions;

Day Membership £6.00

Admission fee: Members £3.00 per film;

£5.00 for their guests.

For more information about the

Autumn Season

and how to join:

Tel: 020 7692 5811

Email: hfs@interchange.org.uk

www.interchange.org.uk/movies

Interchange Trust,

Hampstead Town Hall Centre

213 Haverstock Hill, London, NW3 4QP

A not for profit group

Heath Walks 2012

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

***NB:** parking is extremely difficult locally, especially in spring and summer. 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 10.30 am (9.30 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 £3.00 per adult, to be collected at the beginning of each walk, to help support future development of the walks programme 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.

Please note starting times and meeting points

Further information from walks organiser, Thomas Radice, mobile: 07941 528 034 or email: hhs.walks@gmail.com



3 June 2.30pm The Heath Extension (meet at the cattle trough and flower stall in Spaniards Road, near the Spaniards Inn) led by Tony Ghilchik, Vice-Chairman of the Heath and Hampstead Society and Chairman of the Heath Sub-Committee; represents the Society on the City of London Heath Management Committee

1 July 2.30pm The wildlife and management of Hampstead Heath (meet at the Gazebo near the old Kitchen Garden, east of Kenwood House) led by City of London Ecologists

5 August 2.30pm Flora of the Heath (meet at Burgh House) led by David Bevan, Conservation Officer and Past President, London Natural History Society, and Fellow of the Linnean Society of London

2 September: two walks (morning and afternoon) – **NB: different start points**

9.30am Birds of the Heath (meet at Burgh House) led by John Hunt and Sash Tusa, members of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee.

2.30pm Fungus foray (meet at the Gazebo near the old Kitchen Garden, east of Kenwood House) led by Andy Overall, Group Leader, London Fungus Group, and founder of 'Fungi to be with'.

NB: limited numbers: booking opens 6 August (priority to H&HS members). £4.00 per head.

7 October 2.30pm Spiders and other creepy-crawlies (meet at Burgh House) led by Edward Milner, former BBC producer and National Spider Recorder for Middlesex and London; Member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

4 November 10.30am Habitats of the Heath (meet at the Gazebo near the old Kitchen Garden, east of Kenwood House) led by Linda Dolata, official volunteer guide, Kew Gardens

2 December 10.30am The Hidden Heath (meet at the Gazebo near the old Kitchen Garden, east of Kenwood House) led by Michael Hammerson, Highgate Society representative on the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee and member of Highgate Society Environment Committee