



The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2013 Annual Report

Vol 44 No.2



Heath pond in the Spring

photo Andrew Morley

The Heath and Hampstead Society

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Founded in 1897

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Annual Report for the year 2012-2013

by Tony Hillier

The Overall Picture

The Society remains in a strong financial position with growing membership, and great strength across the General Committee and the Sub-Committees. I should like once again to pay tribute to the hard work and commitment of the various committee members and chairmen, who pursue our civic and environmental objects with such professionalism. I include many who help us and are not Committee members.

2012 Annual Accounts

As can be seen from the 2012 Annual Accounts, we maintain an excellent and highly liquid reserve position against the substantial demands we may soon face, particularly in defence of the Heath ponds. The main item of increased expenditure compared to the previous year were the printing costs of the very attractive Northern Heights walks booklets, organised by the Town Sub-Committee together with the Highgate Society. The Society expects to recover this cost out of a share of the sale proceeds of these popular publications in the local shops. Our revenue is down due to our not having been in receipt of a repeat of last year's generous legacy gifts.

Membership

While recorded membership numbers vary during the year, as new members join and we wait for current members to renew, I can report that, thanks to the excellent work of our Membership Promotion Secretary, Robert Linger, our membership from March 2010 to January 2013 has increased by some 400 to stand at 1756.

Annual Report for the year 2012-2013(cont)

Committee changes

During the year we have welcomed David Castle to the Planning Sub-Committee, Simon Briscoe to the Heath Sub-Committee; we have also welcomed Christine Pullen back to the Town Sub-Committee. I am sorry to report that Janet Langdon has resigned from the Town Sub-Committee; I would like to record the Society's gratitude to her for so much hard work on the School Run and other Town issues over many years.

Douglas Maxwell is to resign as Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee due to pressure of other commitments and David Castle will be appointed in his place. Douglas is, I am delighted to report, prepared to continue both as member of the General Committee and the Planning Sub-Committee. I should like to record the Society's great debt to Douglas for the clear-sighted leadership he has given to our Planning activities since taking over. We are also most fortunate to have a man of David's great architectural and planning experience to take over these responsibilities from Douglas.

Activities on the Heath

Our work here has of course been dominated by the many complex issues affecting the future of the chains of ponds. Based on the advice of a leading specialist QC, I have summarised in another article the Society's differences with the City on some of these legal and technical questions.

Members of the Heath Sub-Committee have played a leading role in the City's newly formed Water Management Stakeholders Group, now renamed the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group (PPSG), and continue to do so on the City's Consultative and Management Committees; none more so than Jeremy Wright,

who as a civil engineer himself and a member of the British Dam Society, has been invaluable in helping us to understand the professional standards and government guidelines which are the collective "bible" of the specialist Panel Engineers. As explained in the other article, we believe the City is incorrect in placing sole reliance on their specialist civil engineering advisers.

We welcome the wide and open consultation process which the City is conducting on this sensitive and potentially very costly, as well as potentially very damaging, project. We welcome the appointment of Peter Wilder as Landscape Architect to the PPSG and offer our good wishes to Ian Harrison, who recently resigned as Chairman of the PPSG for personal reasons.

Springett lecture

The other duties of the Heath Sub-Committee have not been neglected. We had another popular Springett lecture given in October by Bob Gilbert, Director of Environmental Sustainability at the London Borough of Islington, entitled "From Pig Keepers to Parakeets", in which he examined how local history has shaped landscapes, with examples from the Heath and other parts of London. (see page 18).

City's Annual Work Plan

We again contributed detailed comment on the City's Annual Work Plan for 2013, the document which sets the programme for the huge and costly amount of estate management to maintain the Heath as an attractive countryside retreat for Londoners. The national financial pressures are reflected in this year's reduction by some £635K in the City's gross budget of £8.25m for 2013.

East Heath car park

There have been two points to note at the site of the East Heath car park. The Society has been keen to support the recent capacity extension from 110 to 160 vehicles. This will add to the revenue collected by the City to help finance the substantial budget costs. We are also glad to report that the Affordable Art Fair, which was held on the fairground site in the autumn, was able to make a generous contribution to Keats Community Library, which had been its chosen local charity.

Society contribution to restoration of the Kenwood Dairy

The Society has agreed to contribute £5,125 to the restoration of the windows in Lady Mansfield's tea room in support of a separate local charity to restore the Dairy, alongside the extensive refurbishment of Kenwood House by English Heritage helped by National Lottery funding.



Planning Activities

We have been busily occupied with both local and national policy issues.

The Government has drastically simplified planning policies, and we believe weakened protection to local heritage, through the National Planning Policy Framework. This has been done in the name of economic stimulus, its

connection with which has little empirical support. Locally, however, we have a fair degree of protection, compared with many other parts of the country, thanks to the London Plan and to Camden's detailed Local Development Framework, to which the Society was able to make substantial contributions. We would also like to thank members who recently joined in the London Forum and Civic Voice campaigns to halt the proposal to add home extensions into gardens to permitted development. The Government has retreated and given decisions back to the local planning authorities.

The Society remains committed to work with other local amenity organisations to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Getting the right degree of independence from any one organisation has proved difficult; also, another shift in government policy may be trying to "re-bureaucratise" and "re-centralise" this particular experiment.

Basement development

Locally, our planning experts have also been busy. In light of the significant contribution made by the Society to formulating policies to control basement development, Camden has consulted the Society on proposed changes to the way in which Basement Impact Assessments (BIAs) are carried out. It is proposed to introduce four changes. In significant cases, an independent verification by suitably qualified experts will be required, to be paid for by the applicant. The write-up of the BIA will have to provide at each principal section a non-technical summary of what is being asserted, to help interested parties and Councillors and Officers without technical training to understand the BIA. It will now be a requirement to involve a qualified Structural Engineer to opine on the

Annual Report for the year 2012-2013 (cont)

estimated damage to neighbouring structures due to ground movement caused by excavation. It will also be mandatory to place 1 metre of soil on top of a basement outside the footprint of a house, to enable adequate planting. The Society supports all these proposals and has other recommendations, which we will submit when these four changes come out for consultation.

Protecting local trees

We are also grateful to Vicki Harding for her expert work in protecting local public and private trees, consistent with public safety, and often harmed by basements.

Other planning applications of concern

We remain vigilant on Athlone House, 29 New End, and Garden House. All these are controversial applications revising earlier rejections or withdrawals and causing concern not only because they involve basement excavation. We are also concerned in case the proposed massive excavations at South Hampstead High School, which do have planning approval, may nevertheless cause unforeseen damage to neighbouring structures, including two primary schools, the Phoenix and St Mary's.

Hampstead Police Station

Due to the internal disconnect between the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), responsible for operations, and the Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC), responsible for property asset disposals, we have been told only half the story, namely that our police station will be closed, while West Hampstead will remain open. However, no decision appears yet to have been made on what the local operational policing model will be for the Hampstead area. We therefore do not know whether facilities for

local-based patrols of any sort are planned, or for any public counter type of service.

Assuming something of this nature is decided on, the Society will be active in trying to ensure that local operations, whatever form they take, will be based in the building, when redeveloped by whoever purchases the site of the former Hampstead police station. Commercially there should be no reason why this cannot be negotiated, because on the seller's side the terms on which MOPAC and the MPS would otherwise have to rent a location locally would be greater than the advantageous terms for remaining at 26 1/2 Rosslyn Hill, that a 106 Agreement on the buyer could impose. Moreover, the emphasis in police planning must as ever be on achieving flexible accommodation, and this is more easily negotiated in a new build than trying to fit into a building which was not purpose built.

This speculation on our part is strengthened by the fact that English Heritage has written to the Society confirming that, in respect of its Grade II listed façade with a listed court house, the buyer will be expected to prepare a Statement of Significance showing how the heritage and public benefit value will be maintained. Also, Camden has confirmed that any planning application will be expected to show how public-benefitting activities can be maintained on this site. This would make sense in the event, for example, that a relatively modest percentage of the building can be redesigned for some local police presence, the latter to be defined when we learn of the next operational strategy for Hampstead.

Town Activities

The Town Sub-Committee has been especially active in carrying out their responsibilities for

promoting local cultural history. They have continued the programme of holding exhibitions at Burgh House of prints and paintings of Hampstead held in Camden's archive. The second of these covering Village Scenes was mounted in September. The third will open in June (see page 7)

A Society plaque to JB Priestley was unveiled at 27 Well Walk.

Work continues to mount a mosaic reproduction of the social realist painting "Work" by Ford Madox Brown destined for the Mount with generous funding from the Lund legacy.

As mentioned above the Town Sub-Committee and the Highgate Society have put together the successful and attractive series of Northern Heights walks booklets, which are on sale in local bookshops. A popular series of walks tracing the course of the Fleet river was also organised.

New members' party

Once again the Society is grateful to the Town Sub-Committee for organising this Spring our annual new members' party at which we welcome new members able to attend, to introduce them to Committee members and to each other. This is a valuable source of new talent for the Society's work.

Supporting local shops

We remain committed to supporting local independent shops through the Hampstead Card, which is issued to all members to enable them to show their support for local shops, so many of which have difficulty in facing high business rates and rents with falling footfall and generally lower spending power. We also try to help the Hampstead Shops Campaign run by Jessica Learmond-Criqui, a member of the Town Sub-Committee who is standing for election to the General Committee. We also support Hampstead NW3 who organise the very popular summer and winter festivals in the High Street. We are as always grateful to Ann Eastman for having created the Hampstead Card and for her continuing work with Jessica in maintaining it.

The social realist painting "Work" by Ford Madox Brown painted on The Mount in Hampstead in 1852



Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 116th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 20 June, 2013 at 7.30 p.m. at St. Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 2PP

The business of the meeting will be as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 115th Annual General Meeting held on 19 June, 2012.
2. Election of Lord Hoffmann as President.
3. Chair's report for 2012.
4. Treasurer's report of the Society's examined accounts for the 2012 financial year and adoption of those accounts.
5. Appointment of Messrs. Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, as the Society's auditors for the current financial year.
6. Determination of membership subscription rates for the next financial year.
7. Election of Officers and other members of the General Committee.

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

Officers

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

General Committee Members

- Jessica Learmond-Criqui
David Lewis
Robert Linger
Douglas Maxwell
Nigel Steward
Peter Tausig
Stephen Taylor

Frankie de Freitas, Janine Griffis, and Gordon Maclean continue the terms for which they were elected.

8. Any other business.

Information about the candidates standing for election as General Committee members is enclosed separately.

Marc Hutchinson
Secretary

15 May 2013



Representatives on external bodies:

- The City of London Hampstead Heath Management Committee:** Tony Ghilchik
- The City of London Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee:** Jeremy Wright

Annual General Meeting 2013



Please join us for our

Annual General Meeting

and

Reception

St. Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill,

London NW3 2PP

Thursday 20 June, 2013 7.00pm

7.00 pm **Reception** - 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.

7.30pm **Annual General Meeting**

8.30pm **Guest Speaker**

Philippe Sands QC

Practising barrister and Professor of International Law
at University College London.

Treasurer's report for 2012

by Maureen Clark-Darby

The Society is pleased to present its Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2012.

During the year the Society adopted an accounting policy for its reserves. This policy is disclosed in the notes to the Financial Statements under Accounting Policies, Note 1.5.

The operating deficit for the year was £7,468 (2011: surplus £17,821).

In 2012 the Society made an unrealised profit of £329 on its investment. The resulting deficit for the year was therefore £7,137.

Membership subscription income was down by 2% year on year 2012: £13,967 (2011: £14,724). This reduction is not due to a decrease in membership, but to the membership mix.

Interest income is slightly up year on year 2012: £972 (2011: £721).

Donations and legacies receivable were £1,967 (2011: £20,299).

The Society's running costs increased by 12% in 2012 to £32,224 (2011: £28,678). This is mainly due to an increase in administration costs.

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 £86,411.

The Society wishes to thank Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, for carrying out the Independent Examination of the Financial Statements for 2012.

The Accounts are enclosed separately.

AGM guest speaker Philippe Sands QC

Philippe Sands QC is a practising barrister and a Professor of International Law at University College London. His teaching areas include public international law, the settlement of international disputes (including arbitration), and environmental and natural resources law.

He was co-founder of FIELD (Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development), and established the programmes on Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

His publications include *Environmental Law, The Economy and Sustainable Development* (co-edited with Richard Stewart and Richard Revesz) Cambridge University Press, 2000; *Principles of International Environmental Law,*

Manchester University Press, 1995 (2nd edition Cambridge University Press 2003).

He has previously held academic positions at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, Kings College London, the University of Cambridge, and was a Global Professor of Law at New York University from 1995-2003. He has been a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Toronto, Melbourne and Paris (Sorbonne). He is a member of the Advisory Boards of the *European Journal of International Law* and *Review of European Community and International Environmental Law* (Blackwell Press).

Society events

Talk at St Stephen's

Reminder, don't miss:

A Glass in Hand

Heath and Hampstead Society Lecture

Thursday 23 May 2013 7.00pm

St Stephen's Church

Pond Street NW3 2PP

Michael de Freitas

Basement excavation in Camden

its relationship to geology and groundwater

Dr Michael de Freitas, Reader Emeritus in Engineering Geology at Imperial College London, a past Vice President of the Geological Society and former Chairman of its Engineering Group, is a specialist in geological processes governing geotechnical properties, groundwater flow, and the response of the ground to engineering.

As Director of First Steps Ltd. he has helped residents with formal alternatives for developments seeking Planning Permission from Local Authorities and has advised the Heath and Hampstead Society on how our local ground conditions can affect basement construction.

Drinks 7.00pm; Talk 7.30 pm

Non-members & new members welcome

**Tickets: £10 on the door
includes a glass of wine**

Exhibition at Burgh House

Old Hampstead Rediscovered

3: The Taverns Of Hampstead

Burgh House

7 June - 1 September 2013

This is the latest of The Heath & Hampstead Society's stunning exhibitions of old paintings, prints, and photographs from the collection of Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre in Holborn. Many of Hampstead's pubs have been in existence for hundreds of years but, as in many communities, there has been a roll call of losses in recent times - The Hare and Hounds, Jack Straw's Castle, Nag's Head, Coach and Horses, Horse and Groom, King of Bohemia, Bird in Hand and The Vale of Health Tavern. Lost, too, was Hampstead Brewery which stood just off Hampstead High Street.

And so, in addition to the pubs we now know so well, the exhibition will also chronicle some that have sadly been lost over time, together with some of the name changes and the different buildings used. Despite Heath Street being one of the highest parts of London, far away from the sea, one of the pubs was even called The Cruel Sea for a while - decked out in fishing nets and other shipping and sea paraphernalia! We do hope someone will be able to provide a picture of that incarnation.

Wednesdays-Fridays, Sundays 12-5.

Admission free.

Sponsored by Knight Frank

Ponds update

by Tony Hillier

We are finally approaching the point when the Society will have enough information from the City and its advisers for us to decide whether the legal framework and technical analysis, which will form the basis of their proposed works to the pond embankments and surrounds, are correct or not. We greatly appreciate the openness and the comprehensive consultation process which the City is undertaking to explain their proposals and reasoning to the public.

We accept the City has a statutory duty to prevent collapse of the three largest pond embankments in the event of an extreme storm, and in any event not to permit any structures which could cause preventable harm to the lives, limbs and property of those living and working downstream. However, we will challenge formally some key legal aspects of their approach, and of the explanation provided by their civil engineering advisers on the weather forecasts, on which they intend to base their designs.

The advice received from our distinguished QC, specialising inter alia in environmentally sensitive engineering works and reservoir legislation, broadly upholds the Society's approach to date on the correct legal framework. This should define the objectives of works and how to test and select the most appropriate set of measures to ensure the safety of those living downstream, while protecting the continuing environmental integrity of the Heath and the public's enjoyment of it, as required by the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act.

We believe that the City must by law look beyond the civil engineers' analysis, which they have solely relied on to date. This has concentrated almost exclusively on the

permeability of the Heath land catchment surfaces following heavy rainfall, the range of structures on the crests of the embankments, the downstream banks and spillways, and the pipes for carrying the water to Camden's surface water systems and the sewers maintained by Thames Water to carry the Fleet River down to the Thames.

While these considerations are undeniably central to the final solution, we believe legally they should be reviewed in the context of three prior tests.

What is the evidence to support the largely statistical calculations estimating the duration and intensity of the critical rain storms?

We have reviewed the professional and government department-recommended statistical methods for calculating the amount of rain in an extreme storm, which is then input into the professional software to predict the floods, which will form the basis of the designs for new works. We have found the answers given so far to the above question unconvincing and ask for a better explanation.

How much warning can be given of rain storms and dam collapse?

Downstream safety remains paramount, but insufficient attention has been paid to setting up meteorological and hydrological professional best practice systems to ensure that maximum practical warning can be given to the Heath managers about the approach of potentially dangerous storms. This should be followed, after the expected storm strikes, by effective monitoring of the build-up of potentially dangerous water levels through hydro-telemetry. Throughout the emergency responses undertaken by the City, the relevant information

should be passed to the civil contingency authorities so that public warning measures can be initiated. If the point is reached that there is judged to be a real risk of embankment collapse within, say, four hours, the civil contingency authorities can begin evacuation procedures. There are of course a wide range of warning and evacuation procedures to be considered, but they must be based on a technically robust system. False alarms may happen.

A duty expert engineer would need to be on call to attend the command centre to decide, for example, if the storm continues for say another four hours at the current intensity, or that sufficient water has already entered the catchment, that collapse could not be prevented. We understand the emergency authorities would welcome clear advance notice as the threat builds. We believe the City should do all that is professionally possible to supply that information.

The practical value of achieving maximum warning is clear. It should be thoroughly explored, but does not now appear to be central to the agenda of the civil engineers, who naturally focus on their area of expertise, namely dam collapse. The only relevant evidence so far comes out of the earlier 2010 studies, where an expert analysis forecasts that with 2 hours warning and even after completing the works recommended at that stage, but with no dam collapse, over 100 lives would be lost. This shows that more emphasis should be placed on achieving longer warning periods, especially as, at the time of any dam collapse, the sewers will already be overflowing.

Controlled diversion to “natural” storage sites

The valley known as the Catch Pit, in the Hampstead chain below Lime Avenue and above the mixed bathing pond, is a site for substantial emergency diversion of excess water flows, which can be created using “natural” landscaping. The same applies to the area beside the boating pond in the Highgate chain. There are other sites to be studied for this purpose. The City’s advisers are open to these suggestions. Our point is that, combined with a full scale early warning system, the mechanisms and management training should be established for controlled release at a very early stage into the sewers, and then into the largest areas of dry storage that can be acceptably landscaped. This should be hydrologically modelled, before the risks of overtopping on the three dams on a scale to cause collapse are considered.

What we Intend to do

Based on the above, we will urge the City to reconsider its approach. If the resulting plans, which may not be published for quite some time, appear to us to cause unacceptable harm to the wild and natural state of the Heath, due either to a technical analysis which does not make sense or to the wrong application of the relevant laws, we will consult our membership with a view to calling for a judicial review. If the plans are acceptable, we will not of course do so.

Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

When I sat down last April to write the Heath Report, a March heat wave in the driest start to a year since 1976 had brought an early hosepipe ban. A year later and we had late March snow showers in place of that heat wave and spring is about a month late with the trees on the Heath just starting to burst into leaf and April again looking to be the turning point.

The gas main

Little else has changed so dramatically – the work on the medium pressure gas main, which crosses the Heath from Parliament Fields to the Heath Extension, is finished but the final restoration work has been delayed by the wet weather.

The Pond dams

Progress is now quickening on the proposed work to be done over the next few years on the dams of the Heath Ponds. The Atkins design team, in their review of the fundamental data on which the project is based, have looked at different storm durations and used industry standards and methods for assessing hydrology and analysing hydraulic methods. As a result, their studies show lower run-off percentages and design rainfall depths resulting in lower flood peaks and potentially less intrusive work on Heath than from the original study. These results have been discussed in detail by the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group where Jeremy Wright is our representative and there are still some key technical queries outstanding. We believe it essential that both these technical issues and the haziness in some aspects of the underlying legislation are clarified before the project goes on to more detailed consideration of the options for each pond.

An earlier brainstorming session of the Stakeholder Group looking at the members' preferred options for each pond highlighted the different top priority of those living south of the Heath (prevention of any risk of flooding) from those on the north (minimal change). The Heath Sub-Committee has prepared our own individual views of what can, and what must not, be done at each of the ponds and have fed a summary of this into consultation process and to Peter Wilder, the Strategic Landscape Architect, for his Critical Review of Key Issues.

Kenwood

The other major project on our doorstep, Caring for Kenwood, is progressing well and work inside the house is on schedule for the house to be re-opened by 31 October, when we will again see the four Adam interiors (the Entrance Hall, Adam Staircase, Ante-Chamber and Library) as they were in 1796, in the time of the 1st Earl of Mansfield, with the South Front Rooms displaying the important paintings from the Iveagh Bequest and furnished in a more generic 18th century style.

Before then, the Kenwood Concerts will be back with six concerts over just two weekends (on Friday & Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon) probably over the August Bank Holiday weekend and the first weekend in September. Rouge Events, who have taken over running the concerts, will be using the site below the Henry Moore Statue but without any deckchairs so the maximum capacity will be up from 8,000 to 10,000. They are working to arrange a wide mix of concerts including classical and something for families and, by concentrating them into the two weekends, aim to minimise disturbance both within the grounds and to local residents.

Hampstead Affordable Art Fair

Last September's second Hampstead Affordable Art Fair was very successful with attendance and sales 9-10% higher than the previous year. The exhibitors had difficulties with it being so soon after the October fair at Battersea so this year's Hampstead fair will be a summer event on the East Heath Fairground site from 13-16 June. We hope it will prove even more successful and become fully established as a regular annual summer event.

By then the South End Entrance to the Heath should have been greatly improved and softened by removing the chestnut fencing, and replacing it with a far less intrusive fencing half hidden in the undergrowth.

The new information board

At the very top of the Heath the Society's logo is proudly displayed alongside that of the City on the new information board which gives the history of the Whitestone Pond and has been installed beside the milestone which gave the pond its name. (See more in the Town Committee report)

Golders Hill Park Walled Garden

Further north, over in Golders Hill Park, the final phase of the new planting scheme of perennial plantings in place of the seasonal bedding displays is taking shape in the Walled Garden and nearby a new stumpery is being created. Stumperies were a popular feature of 19th century gardens and at Highgrove Prince Charles created what is probably the largest stumpery in Britain using sweet chestnut roots. In Golders Hill Park the upturned roots of fallen oaks and other trees from around the Heath are being relocated into the woodland alongside the stream after it flows out of the pond. The roots

will be planted up to encourage ferns, mosses and lichens to grow on and around them to provide a home for wildlife, especially stag beetles, toads and small mammals, and become an interesting feature of the park.

Bob Gilbert's Springett Lecture

Finally, those of you who were at Burgh House last October for the seventeenth in our annual Springett Lectures heard Bob Gilbert on From Pig Keepers to Parakeets: how history shaped the wildlife of the Heath – his fascinating study of the links between local human history and landscape. For those of you who could not make it, there is an outline of Bob's talk later in this Newsletter.



The new interpretation board

Planning Report

by Douglas Maxwell

It is always wise to file your copy at the last minute in case events overtake you. In this instance, I had planned to begin with “The north wind doth blow, and we shall have snow” but fortunately the change to spring is now with us, and so I’m looking forward to one of my own favourite seasons amongst the spring flowers and budding trees of our beautiful corner of London. Incidentally did you know that ‘flushing’ is the term given to trees coming into leaf, and has nothing to do with the Netherlands, or the plumbing.

No man is an island

In spite of the best efforts of the Big Society, localism and neighbourhood planning, there remains, for better or worse, one planning system for the whole of England and Wales. This has to work in widely differing environments; those where there is a lot of development pressure, as in Hampstead and most of London, and also in remoter communities where there may be virtually none. Although difficult to believe, there are parts of the country with houses that literally no-one wants. The planning system has to deal with the whole range of these situations across the country, with the result that in a few areas such as ours, well-resourced applicants seeking to force through applications for profitable development strain the system to its limits, and beyond.

Invariably when this situation is challenged, as the Society does at regular intervals, the response is that the council has powers available to it to modify the national system. This is to some extent true, and the council has in the last few years made four new Article 4 Directions removing certain permitted development rights; as well as adopting new

policies covering basements and detailed supplementary guidance covering this and other matters; but the applications and appeals coming forward show that much still remains to be done. A welcome proposal which emerged from the council’s recent review of its basement policy was that, in certain circumstances, the council should be able to require an independent basement impact assessment, carried out by a consultant of its own choosing at the expense of the applicant.

Trees – a lifeline for all of us

It takes up to two years to construct all but the biggest and most complicated buildings, and up to six months to demolish ones that are no longer required. By comparison, a deciduous forest tree takes 10 to 30 years to grow to maturity, and can be destroyed in a single day. The Society is committed to protecting both the built and unbuilt environment and in particular the area’s many fine trees; not only on the Heath but in the streets of Hampstead, as well as on private property. We are very fortunate in having Vicki Harding as our honorary tree officer, who monitors all tree works proposals in Hampstead (the Heath Committee deal with the Heath) and objects where it is appropriate to do so.

The natural scientists among you will know that, but for tree and plant life, we would all eventually cease to exist. Trees and plants actually ‘breathe’ and also, in the presence of sunlight, replace the carbon dioxide exhaled to the air by you and me with oxygen. This process, called photosynthesis, is essential to life on the planet; and without our tree and plant life we’d all be doomed (be quiet, Fraser).

Town Report

by Frank Harding

He's got it on the list

Unnoticed by many, Camden has begun the process of establishing a local list of buildings and groups of buildings which are considered of importance. Ideally this would bridge the gap between the many buildings in our conservation areas which make a positive contribution to their character and appearance; and the statutory list of buildings of architectural and historic importance maintained by English Heritage.

The Society has long felt that, especially in an area such as Hampstead with a great number of important historic buildings, this additional designation controlled at a local level would be helpful. What actually seems to be happening is that the compilers of the local list – which covers the whole of Camden – are concentrating on buildings outside conservation areas; so-called 'non-designated heritage assets', and this is undoubtedly a disappointment.

The Society has compiled a schedule of buildings proposed for local listing – mostly of recent date – and also townscapes and views, and submitted this to the council for consideration. This remarkable oeuvre was put together by Gordon Maclean with photographs by Ian Birksted and will undoubtedly delight everyone with an interest in Hampstead's more recent architecture; not least for Gordon's witty and informed comments on some of the architects. We hope to put it on the website at a later date.

And last of all...

We benefit enormously from the help and support of many people; Society members, my colleagues on the planning and general committees, our ward councillors, the council's officers and other local and national societies and the key individuals that make the wheels go round. To all of you, thank you very much!

The Town Sub-Committee has had some significant achievements over the last twelve months

Old Hampstead Rediscovered

The second exhibition in the series Old Hampstead Rediscovered was held at Burgh House from June to September. It comprised a selection of paintings, watercolours, prints and photographs of Hampstead village scenes which Camden has in its archives. A third show of works from the Camden collection is currently being arranged; this one will feature "The Taverns of Hampstead" and will again be accompanied by contemporary photographs of the current view of the same aspects. The exhibition will open on 7 June and run until September. Knight Frank has once again generously agreed to sponsor this event.

Interpretation Board at Whitestone Pond

As part of the refurbishment of the Whitestone Pond, we agreed with the City of London that an interpretation board be erected beside the pond. It was installed in March. The board describes much of the early and more recent history of the area and adds interesting information and pictures for the interest of residents and visitors alike. There is a photograph of it on page 13.

Walks: the River Fleet

Once again Robin Michaelson, a City of London guide, led a pair of walks in April along the course of the River Fleet from the top of the Heath to the River Thames at Blackfriars. These walks were well supported.. If anyone would like to join a similar walk in spring next year, please let me know on frankaharding@btinternet.com
I have already opened the waiting list for 2014.

Town Report (cont)

Walks: Hampstead Plaques

Two new guided walks have been arranged; they are scheduled to take place in October. These “Walks of Hampstead Plaques” will be led by Julia Male, a Blue Badge London guide, who will explore Hampstead’s plaques, old and new, blue plaques and the Society’s plaques. She will speak about the lives of famous residents of the past and some of the older, more interesting public buildings. An application form for participation in these walks is on page 17 of this Newsletter. Please book early as places are limited.

North London Trails

The booklets containing self-guided walks and describing places of interest en route on the Northern Heights were published last summer. They provide fascinating information for walkers from Highgate across Hampstead Heath to South End Green, from there up to the top of the Heath, over to Temple Fortune and through the Garden Suburb to East Finchley and through Hampstead Village, down to Belsize and thence to Camden Town. The series of booklets is still available following successful sales last year.

Heavy goods vehicles in Hampstead

We continue to express our concerns at the number of heavy goods vehicles that needlessly pass through Hampstead, threatening the foundations of the streets and buildings in and close to the village. We have recently obtained the results of a traffic survey carried out by Camden and have analysed some of the data which confirms those concerns. We are in the early stages of discussions with Camden as to what measures might be taken to divert those vehicles which do not require access to the village and neighbouring streets; we hope to

agree solutions which are beneficial to our community, which are not unreasonable for truck drivers and which are enforceable.

Hampstead Shops Campaign

We have been strong supporters of the Shops Campaign launched and driven by Jessica Learmond-Criqui. The varied activities and campaigning events that Jessica has developed and the representations she has made to national and local politicians have drawn considerable attention to the state of the shopping streets that exist in Hampstead and the parlous state of many of its independent traders. Keep an eye open for Jessica’s emails. We wish her and her team of supporters success in their endeavours.

Parking issues

Camden, as you will probably be aware, has been consulting on amendments to parking arrangements for business permit holders in the CA-H area of Hampstead. It was proposing to allow holders of those permits to share the right to park their vehicles in residents’ parking bays.

We discussed this scheme with representatives of the Hampstead NW3 Business Association and, whilst sympathising with those who need their vehicles for business purposes, the Society decided to object to the plan as those business users already have many options as to where they can park and, in many parts of the area, residents’ bays are frequently fully utilised by residents and their visitors. The Business Association felt unable to support this objection but withdrew its previous support for the Camden proposal.

Secondly, we proposed that business parking permits should be restricted to those businesses operating in CA-H that can show the need for vehicles that can and do make deliveries from their premises to their customers and the collection of goods for delivery to their premises.

Guided Walks of Hampstead's Plaques

With Blue Badge guide Julia Male

Two walks with Blue Badge guide, Julia Male, exploring Hampstead's past, looking at plaques old and new and hearing about the lives of its many famous residents, from all walks of life: politicians and philosophers, actors, architects and artists, dancers and designers, scientists and statisticians, comics and cartoonists. Most of

these illustrious residents are celebrated by the well-known blue plaques while some are commemorated by one of the Heath and Hampstead Society's own plaques. Unusually, the Society also marks buildings associated with Hampstead's past such as watch houses, lock ups and old fire stations.

Guided Walks of Hampstead's Plaques

Saturday October 5

10.30 am and 2.30 pm

North Heath Street

Meet outside the exit of the Hampstead Tube. Finishes at Hampstead Tube.

This walk wanders through the elegant streets and narrow alleyways north of Heath Street.

Saturday, October 12,

10.30 am and 2.30 pm

South Heath Street

Meet outside the exit of the Hampstead Tube. Finishes at Burgh House.

This walk heads south, down the historic High Street and into the quietly grand roads south of Heath Street.

£10; reservations essential

Booking details

Group sizes are strictly limited. To reserve your place, please return this form to:

14 Denning Road, London NW3 1SU

Please reserve _____ places for the walk on **October 5,**

10.30 am or 2.30 pm

Please reserve _____ places for the walk on **October 12,**

10.30 am or 2.30 pm

Cost is £10 per person per walk. I enclose a cheque (made payable to the Heath & Hampstead Society) for £_____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

For more information, contact Janine Griffis
grifkohl@aol.com tel: 020 7435 2962)

Town Report (cont)

Thirdly we suggested, with the Business Association, that where the residents' parking restrictions end at 8pm, that time be brought forward to 7pm. This should benefit the visitors of residents and thus the residents themselves, and should enable those visiting Hampstead's

restaurants greater flexibility in their arrival times when eating out.

We have, at the time of writing, still to learn of Camden's reaction to our submissions.

From Pig Keepers to Parakeets

Bob Gilbert's Kate Springett Lecture, October 2012

Thank you for inviting me to give this year's Kate Springett lecture. When I looked at the list of my predecessors – and at their academic and scientific credentials - I found myself somewhat daunted. But I comforted myself with the knowledge that I might have one advantage that they lacked – that I actually once met Kate Springett. I joined her, as a young and distinctly amateur naturalist, on one of her famous bird walks across the Heath and I can still remember it clearly: I saw my first stock dove and learned the difference between its call and that of the wood pigeon.

My background was in sociology. It was the combination of this with a love of natural history, and the fact that I have almost always lived in towns, that gave me a particular interest in the ecology of urban areas, and in the ways in which human history and natural history have influenced each other. This is the approach behind my regular column in the *Ham and High*, and the new edition of my book, *The Green London Way*. It is also the idea behind this talk. I would like to provide a number of snapshots, taken at different times, and intended to illustrate the ways in which human activity and natural forces have interacted in shaping the Heath, both historically and as we know it today.

Geology and Flora

Geologically, London is described as a basin. I generally like to think of it as a soup bowl – or rather as two soup bowls, one inside the other. The outer bowl represents the chalk, with its rim forming the Chilterns to the north of London and the North Downs to the south. Within this is a layer of clay, forming the second bowl; up to 300 foot thick in places, blue or orange in colour and the London gardener's

curse. The rim of this second bowl forms the ridge on which Hampstead and Highgate sit, and on top of it lie some other thin deposits. These are the Claygate and Bagshot beds, a mix of sands and gravels laid down by shallow seas and producing a more acid soil than that on the surrounding clay. And in this lies the secret of the early history, as well as the longer term survival, of the Heath. The more fertile soils on the clay slopes, running down through Camden and Islington, underwent early development as pasturage. They became well known for their dairy herds and also for the fattening of cattle on their way to the London meat markets. By contrast, the infertile soils of the Heath escaped early agricultural improvement and the area was still, at the end of the 17th century, being described as 'wild heathland...the haunt of pig keepers and washerwomen'.

Being so close to London it was also the regular haunt of the early botanists, characters such as John Gerard and Thomas Johnson, and from them we know of its then flora of butcher's broom, cow-wheat, juniper, bilberry, butterfly orchid and of lily of the valley 'in great abundance'. The plant which most typifies these acid heathland soils today, however, is the birch, found unsurprisingly on the highest parts of the Heath. Regarded as a particularly protective tree it has a rich history in English folklore and it is always worth hunting beneath it in autumn for that archetypal mushroom, the red and white fly agaric, with which it has a particular relationship. Another plant which would have characterised the Heath's early history was, of course, the heather. Once abundant, it was cut by Romanies, dug up by Londoners, destroyed by trampling and eventually covered with blitz rubble - to the

point where it was believed to be extinct. It is good to be able to report therefore that, from a single plant discovered in the 1980s, heather has been returned to the Heath and is now flourishing again in a number of locations.

Springs and streams

Returning to the geological theme, those sandy beds sitting on top of clay had a further characteristic that was to shape another important chapter in the story of the Heath and of its natural history. The sands and gravels are porous, the clays beneath them impervious. The junction between the two, therefore, forms a spring line. On the north side of this watershed, the streams run down to feed the Silk Stream and Mutton Brook and, eventually, the River Brent. On the south side they feed the 'lost' River Fleet. The water in these springs is rich in iron salts and it was the discovery of the 'medicinal' value of these salts that was to lead to the development of Hampstead as a spa to rival even that at Tunbridge Wells. It began with the Honourable Susannah Noel granting, on behalf of her son, the 13 year old Lord of the Manor, six acres of land on the edge of the Heath for the benefit of the poor. These acres included the 'chalybeate' springs and the charitable Wells Trust was set up to exploit their proceeds. By the mid 18th century, however, it was no longer the poor that were the focus. During the early years of that century the growth of Hampstead as a fashionable spa had been so intensive that Daniel Defoe was able to describe it, in 1720, as having risen 'from a Country Village to a City'.

The early botanists knew about these spring lines and their adjacent damp areas and described their flora of 'cotton grass, water fern and broad-leaved water hyssop'. The most

obvious botanical reminder today is the area of sphagnum bog on the lawns below Kenwood House. Sphagnum bog is a rare commodity in southern England and this is the only place in London where you can find the particular community of sphagnum moss, horsetail and water pepper. It is an interesting footnote that sphagnum was used during World War One as an antiseptic wound dressing.

The springs arising from the Heath also provided a source of drinking water for London, with the Hampstead Water Company, founded in 1682, soon digging the reservoirs that today form the Highgate Ponds. These have become their own rich source of wildlife, including their recent colonisation by mandarin ducks. There can be few pleasanter sights on the Heath, however, than walking alongside Stock Pond on a summer's evening and seeing the Daubenton's bats –the 'water bat'- dipping and skimming over the surface in pursuit of midges and other aquatic insects.

The Chalybeate Well, Well Walk



From Pig Keepers to Parakeets (cont)

Incursions and 'parkification'

The Hampstead spa came and went – twice in fact - but Hampstead was to remain a fashionable place to live, its desirability increasing with improving transport links. A significant part of the 19th century history of the Heath became very much the story of incursions (or attempted incursions) and of increasing 'parkification'. Probably the main villain of this story is another Lord of the Manor, Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson who, between 1829 and 1866, introduced no fewer than 15 different parliamentary bills to legitimise development on the Heath. Failing in every one of them, he began to build anyway, was taken to court by the Quaker banker Samuel Gurney Hoare, and died whilst legal proceedings were still underway. Interestingly the remnants of what would have been his great 'East Park' estate today provide interesting spots for natural history. Bird Bridge is well known for the tameness of the birds that are regularly fed there, whilst 'Wilson's Folly', better known as the Viaduct, provides a high-level view of the bird life on Viaduct Pond below. During one winter this was the ideal site for viewing the extremely shy water rail which came and went from the reeds on the pond, seemingly unaware of the large gatherings of birdwatchers viewing it from above.

Maryon Wilson was also responsible for planting the grove of beeches that run up the slope from Bird Bridge towards Kenwood. Though this came well after the era of 'pig keepers' it is interesting to note that beech mast, the masses of fallen beech nuts and their cases, provided an important source of food for pigs and the right to graze this in certain months was fiercely protected as the right of 'pannage'. Perhaps one of the most interesting features of the beech,

however, is that words carved on its smooth silvery bark continue to grow as the tree grows –and an examination of the trees on the heath will provide some interesting examples of this, one of the earliest forms of graffiti.

There are many other examples of the park-style tree planting on the Heath in an effort to 'improve' it, and almost all of them with non-native species. They include the avenue of limes along Boundary Path, the large collection of Lucombe oaks just south of Spaniards Road, and the hybrid black poplars planted almost everywhere. Today the issue is not so much that of deliberate plantings as of the rapid self-spread of non-native species. It is one of the unintended consequences of global trade and has brought to the heath plants such as the Japanese knotweed,



the small balsam and even the salad rocket which I have found on various parts of the Heath. And among birds it has delivered the mandarin duck, already mentioned, and, of course, the ring-necked parakeet. The urban myths about its introduction

range from Henry VIII to Jimi Hendrix but, whatever the truth, this bird from the tropics has increased from being a curiosity fifteen years ago to being one of the most numerous – and clamorous - birds on the heath.

It is the parakeets that bring us up to the present in what has been something of a dash across the centuries. It has been possible only to scratch the surface of the subject, but I hope that I have, at least, encouraged you to ask questions of your own about the links between history and natural history as you walk about the Heath. These connections have run throughout the past history of the Heath and have formed its present – and it is the way we think about them now that will be vital in shaping its future.

Al Alvarez's Homage To Hampstead

by Gerald Isaaman

(Excerpts from an interview that appeared in The Camden New Journal)

Al Alvarez, poet, author, critic, and poker player, and long time Hampstead resident is nursing the effects of a stroke, at 84, still with once powerful arms that hauled him up sheer rock faces, and hands that gambled with his financial life.

Until now it was his daily swim in the mixed and men's ponds on Hampstead Heath that revived him, set the adrenalin racing and instilled a personal joy and purpose. "It's just lovely, a real pleasure," he recalls. "You go into the water feeling absolutely awful and you come out feeling reborn. It can't get better than that – really." But, he admits: "It's been almost a year since my last swim because I've been totally down with one health thing or another.

Between 2002 and 2009 Al kept a journal, an almost daily diary of his dips, whether the snow was blowing, ice covering the ponds or Indian summer mellow moments when the sun shone as he swam on his back in the silent afternoon. He savoured them all as sublime times.

Pondlife, *A Swimmer's Journal*, is a remarkable record that provides the temperature of the day, Al's recognition of the birds, insects and the flowers, the Heath's array of trees, his friendship



with the lifeguard who left school unable to read and is now studying George Orwell, the ex-

boxer and Kray brothers bouncer who cycles 25 miles a day to keep fit.

Interspersed with memories of diving into Finchley Road baths age 11 and his time at Oxford, are poignant quotes from celebrated poets and philosophers he either studied or knew – "Dying is an art, like everything else," his late friend Sylvia Plath reminds him – anecdotes about his Hampstead friends, including the pianist and fellow poet Alfred Brendel, David Cornwell, aka John le Carre, and Melvyn Bragg.

And also the camaraderie of the Hampstead swimmers as in this excerpt from the book describing how, after his debilitating stroke, they sought him out in hospital:

"A week since I arrived. Late in the afternoon, a deputation of lifeguards arrived from the ponds —Tony, Shane and Glyn — full of cheer and bearing gifts: a card signed by the whole gang, a joke book about geriatric forgetfulness, a dirty magazine 'for the over 50s' featuring obese nudes with gigantic t**s, and, best of all, a bottle of pond water, duly dated and certified.

"In other words, stuff they'd thought about, taken trouble with and had fun doing. It cheered me more than I thought possible in this disheartening place".

Pondlife a homage to Hampstead? "Yes, you're right, I hadn't seen it like that, of course it is", he confesses. "I've had a terrific life, a wonderful time, lots of fun, Hampstead always my base."

Pondlife, A Swimmer's Journal by Al Alvarez (Bloomsbury, £14.99), has received rave reviews.

Bulletin Board - Festivals, music and



Proms at St. Judes - 21st year

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

Summer Programme 22 - 30 June

Now in its 21st year, since 1993 the Proms have provided entertainment for thousands of people, bringing the community together, supporting young artists and celebrating top quality music and literature. It has raised over £600,000 for charity.

It takes place in the architectural splendour of Edwin Lutyens's renowned creations: the church of St Jude-on-the-Hill, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, and the Henrietta Barnett School, a Lutyens-designed Grade II* listed building.

Evening concerts programme: caters for a wide range of tastes, with a focus on classical and jazz with world class artists, including

John Lill, Lucie Skeaping and The Burning Bush, Vintage Jazz Night with the The Guildhall Jazz Band, The Sixteen with Harry Christophers, the Jack Liebeck Piano Trio and Willard White

Free lunchtime concerts supporting rising talent of the new generation

Kids' concerts on Saturdays are especially for children and families.

The LitFest - features Kate Atkinson, shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2013, Tim Smit, Susan Greenfield, Michael Holroyd, Antonio Carluccio, Sandra Howard

Guided heritage walks Throughout the Festival there is a licensed refreshment marquee; and a LitFest café with delicious home-made cakes.

Become a Friend and receive a regular e-newsletter and enjoy advance booking and full details of the programme

Booking information

Telephone Bookings –

Box Office 020 3322 8123

opens from Wednesday 5 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.

Supporting Toynbee Hall and North London Hospice

For more details, booking and how to become a Friend see Festival website : www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

Hampstead Arts Festival

Advance notice - Autumn Season

Nine wonderful concerts in Hampstead's crown-jewel venues, comfortably paced over nine weeks this autumn starting in September

Tai Murray, violin

The Brodsky Quartet

Sophie Bevan (soprano) with Sebastian Wybrew (piano)

Gwilym Simcock (jazz piano)

Literary events (to be announced soon)

Venues

St Stephen's Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead Parish Church, Burgh House

Tickets

In person from J M Pennifeather, Fountain & Designer pen shop 4 Flask Walk

Online

Telephone Call TicketSource on 0844 8700 887 (£1.50 per call booking fee)

Season ticket for all 9 Festival concerts available

For more information about the programmes and booking visit the website:

<http://www.hampsteadartsfestival.com>

Become a Friend of the Festival

Email: info@hampsteadartsfestival.com

Hampstead Arts Festival
c/o Ems Magnus
4 Falcon Lodge
Oak Hill Park NW3 7LD

Hampstead Theatre

We are grateful to those members of the Heath & Hampstead Society who have supported us since the January edition of the Newsletter by joining our Friends scheme.

We continue to enjoy sell-out performances and superb reviews. From 23 May we will be presenting *Race* by David Mamet, directed by Terry Johnson.

For further details please visit our website www.hampsteadtheatre.com

Hampstead Theatre Friends Membership

Avoid disappointment by becoming a Friend of the Theatre and taking advantage of our priority booking period.

For just £40 per annum Friends receive the following benefits:

- Priority Booking
- Guaranteed advance notice of forthcoming Hampstead Theatre productions
- Quarterly e-newsletter – Hampstead Backstage – featuring interviews with actors
- Invitations to exclusive events at Hampstead Theatre including breakfast with the Artistic Director
- 10% discount at Hampstead Theatre bar
- No Charge on ticket exchanges for the same production

For details of our membership schemes please visit us at www.hampsteadtheatre.com/support-us or contact Sally Wilson, tel: 020 7449 4155.

sallyw@hampsteadtheatre.com

We look forward to welcoming you soon

www.hampsteadtheatre.com

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. Email is invaluable for letting members know of important issues between Newsletters

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. The occasional extra flyers could also be sent via email, if wished.

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 at

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

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.



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

The White Bear Inn by J.Appleton, 1890; H&HS Exhibition: The Taverns Of Hampstead (see page 9)





Keats Community Library

10 Keats Grove

The volunteer-run registered charity, operated by the community, which took over from the Camden Heath Library when it was closed in March 2012.

Visiting the library is free and open to everyone. It is easy to register for a KCL library card to borrow books, DVDs and talking/audio books. We have over 20,000 items - adult & children's books, DVDs, large print & talking books adding new books weekly and free WiFi. New for 2013 - DVDS can be rented for 7 days.

Introducing: Basic Computer Training

Two free courses are being run as a community service offering a basic introduction to computers for people who have no experience whatsoever. Places are limited so register your interest early at the library front desk. Telephone: 020 7431 1266. The next takes place on 13th and 27th June

Events programme

The popular events programme continues:

6th June - Anthony Penrose on Picasso, family life in Downshire Hill from 1937-1947 7.30pm (doors 7pm)

Tickets £5 from the library in person, by phone or email

For more information about the Library, its events, and how to join, see the website:

<http://keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk>



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

Hampstead Film Society

**Hampstead Town Hall,
Tuesday evenings at 7pm:**

A wide range of world cinema

**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



Heath Walks 2013

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

2 June two walks, morning and afternoon
NB different start points

10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Spiders and other invertebrates led by Edward Milner, former BBC producer and National Spider Recorder for Middlesex and London; Member, Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

2.30pm (meet at the Gazebo near the old Kitchen Garden, east of Kenwood House; please note this is a change to details advertised in the last newsletter). The wildlife and management of Hampstead Heath led by City of London Ecologists

7 July 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) How local history shapes natural history led by Bob Gilbert, writer and broadcaster, author of The London Green Way and nature correspondent, Ham & High and other local papers

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

1 September: two walks, morning and afternoon – NB different start points

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

2.30pm (meet at the Gazebo near the old Kitchen Garden, east of Kenwood House) Fungus foray led by Andy Overall, Group Leader, London Fungus Group, and founder of 'Fungi to be With'. Limited numbers: booking opens 6 August (priority to H&HS members). £4.00 per head.

6 October 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) Trees of the Heath led by Lynne Leveson, official volunteer guide, Kew Gardens

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

