



The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

October 2014

Vol 45 No. 3

Autumn on the Heath

photo Andrew Morley

The Heath and Hampstead Society

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City of London Ponds Project Stakeholder Group: Lynda Cook

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Chair's Notes

by Marc Hutchinson

AGM

Our well-attended Annual General Meeting took place on 19 June 2014 at St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill, where our welcome guest speaker was one of our patrons, Sir Simon Jenkins. The timely theme of his address to us was the need for conservation organisations, such as ourselves, to fight constant battles in order to preserve the quality of life in London, a city which, unlike so many other great cities, has always lacked an overall and enforceable plan controlling development. He reminded us that continuous legal and political battles to preserve attractive areas and buildings of London have been a feature of the city since the 19th century.

Committee changes

After 11 years in the office, Tony Hillier retired as Chair of the Society and I was elected as his successor. Tony's commitment of time and energy has achieved so much for the Society which owes him a great debt of gratitude. You can read a summary of Tony's retiring remarks, and the tribute paid to him by Helen Marcus (one of our Vice-Presidents), in the minutes of the meeting which are now on the Society's website. I am delighted that Tony has agreed to continue as a trustee of the Society and, during what is inevitably a transitional year, I will be relying on him for support, guidance and know-how in those areas where he is more expert than I.

Following my resignation as Secretary, I am very pleased that Nigel Steward, currently a trustee of the Society and a retired solicitor, has agreed to become the Society's Secretary. We also welcome a new elected trustee, Peter Noble, a retired doctor and long-time Hampstead resident. Frankie de Freitas who, as members will know, helps in many varied ways

Chair's Notes (cont)

with the day-to-day running of the Society has agreed to be appointed for another year as a trustee, following expiry of her second three year term as an elected trustee.

Sub-Committees

The changes in the Society's officers has coincided with some significant changes on the composition of the Society's sub-committees.

On the Heath Sub-Committee, Tony Ghilchik, who has served as Chair of that sub-committee (and therefore as the Society's representative on the City of London's Hampstead Heath Management Committee) for many years, has decided to step down in early 2015. I am pleased to announce that his successor, recommended unanimously by the sub-committee and approved unanimously by the trustees, is John Beyer, a long-serving member of the sub-committee and a retired diplomat. The Society will be particularly fortunate to have John's diplomatic skills at its service in the aftermath (whatever the outcome) of the Society's judicial review against the City of London. I must, in anticipation of his stepping down, record the thanks of the Society for the work which Tony Ghilchik has done for the Heath Sub-Committee over the years. The position of Chair of that sub-committee is particularly onerous in terms of time commitment, and we are very grateful for Tony's service. It is expected that we will in due course appoint him to a vacancy on the General Committee.

The Planning Sub-Committee has also seen two important retirements. We congratulate Stephen Stark on his recent election as a councillor in the London Borough of Camden. Stephen will be a member of the Council's Development Control Committee and therefore a most

important decision-maker with respect to planning control in Camden. I have written to thank him formally for his extensive and valuable work as a member of the Planning Sub-Committee. Martin Humphery, a Vice-President of the Society, has also decided to retire from the Planning Sub-Committee on which he has served since 1994, sometime as its Chair. Martin could not have done more towards the work of that sub-committee and the Society is very grateful to him, including for his agreement to continue as a trustee on the General Committee. The Planning Sub-Committee is currently looking to recruit new members.

Ponds Project

The Society issued legal proceedings against the City of London on 5 September 2014, challenging the legal basis of the Ponds Project, the construction work on which is due to start in the spring of 2015. The trial is set for 13-14 November 2014; we hope that a judgment will be delivered before Camden Council reach a decision in respect of the planning application. Separately from the judicial review, the Society has lodged an extensive objection to the City's planning application. This objection, and hundreds of objections from members of the Society and the general public, can be seen at the **Camden planning website**:

www.camden.gov.uk/planning
Planning Application Reference 2014/4332/P.

In addition, over 12,000 people have now signed **the online objection petition** at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/damnonsense>.

I thank all those members who took the time and trouble to sign the petition and write individual letters of objection.

As we know, the Council takes particular note of individually written objections.

When it is known, members will be notified of the date of the trial in the High Court. The trial is scheduled to last two days and the only parties appearing will be the Society and the City of London. Various other “interested parties” who were invited to appear (including Defra, the Environment Agency and Camden Council) have confirmed that they will not.

I want to thank all those members (and non-members) of the Society who have contributed so generously and promptly to our fund-raising appeal. We have reached the figure of nearly £90,000 which means that, even if we are unsuccessful in our case, the Society is not financially at risk.

2,000 Members

On Sunday 14 September, I was fortunate enough to be on the Society’s stall in Hampstead High Street when the Society signed up its 2,000th current member. We now have the largest membership in the Society’s 118 year history. Robert Linger, a trustee on the General Committee and our Membership Promotion Secretary, must get much of the credit for this achievement. We believe that a major factor in the recent huge rise in our membership is the public’s backing for the legal proceedings which we are bringing against the City. The public is appalled at the scale of the proposed works and the related disruption, and realises that the Society is taking the lead in organising the legal and political opposition to the Project.

Athlone House

The campaign to save Athlone House is now in its 16th year. Despite repeated successes by the opponents of its demolition over this time, the

immensely wealthy owners and developers of the site continue to seek permission to demolish the house. The Society is represented on a body known as the Athlone House Working Group and this group, which is led by the Highgate Society and Highgate CAAC, is organising representation at the public enquiry into the proposed demolition in January 2015. The estimated costs of funding legal and expert representation at this critical enquiry are thought to be in the region of £20,000 - 25,000, and it is the intention of our Society to seek to fund part of that. So it is with some hesitation that I now ask our members to consider whether they would be prepared to contribute funds to our Society with a view to funding a portion of these costs, particularly in circumstances where they have already given so generously to the legal costs of the Ponds Project. However, your trustees believe that there are many members of our Society who feel strongly that Athlone House must be preserved and that we must support the Highgate Society in their continuing campaign. Nearly 500 people have written planning objections and the petition against demolition has passed 5,000 signatures. Further details about how you can contribute will be announced at a later date.

29 New End

The proposal to demolish and rebuild as luxury apartments what used to be the nurses’ hostel at 29 New End in Hampstead Village has been taken to appeal by the developers, and is to be the subject of a public enquiry in December of this year. A group of well-organised local residents are taking the lead in representation at that public enquiry and we will be supporting them, logistically and financially. You can read the Society’s objection to this development at the Camden planning website (see above)

Chair's Notes (cont)

Planning Application References

2012/3089/P and 2012/3092/C.

Not only is the scale of the development utterly inappropriate to that narrow street and its adjoining houses but there is, by reason of the conditions of the site, a very high risk of serious damage to adjoining buildings, including Christ Church and the local primary schools. As part of its support, the Society has joined as a "Rule 6 participant" at the enquiry.

Some Campaign Successes

Not all is gloom on the conservation front since our last newsletter. The Society has joined in supporting South End Green Association (SEGA) in successfully opposing the opening of a Sainsbury's store in place of four local shops at South End Green. Sainsbury's withdrew its proposal within a couple of weeks of the start of the campaign which was also led by one of our trustees, Jessica Learmond-Criqui, and her Town Team. We congratulate her and SEGA on the coordination and leadership of the campaign. We have also successfully opposed the extension of late-night opening hours for a local general store in South End Green on the ground of the likelihood of the sale of cheap alcohol in an area which is already troubled by drunken vagrancy.

On 11 September, Camden Council rejected the advice of its planning officers and threw out the application to build the "Swiss Cottage Tower", another harmful project to which the Society formally objected.

What these successes show is that prompt and well-organised local opposition linked to media coverage can sometimes defeat proposals for extended licensing and unwanted development. The only certainty is that there will be no end to these proposals given the economic

challenges for independent high street shops and the value of property in Hampstead.

Christmas Party

Our Christmas party has been organised for December 15 at St Stephen's, and I look forward to welcoming you in person to that event.

***Date for your
diary***

***The Heath & Hampstead
Society***

***Annual Christmas
Party***

***Monday 15th December,
7 - 9pm***

***St. Stephen's
Pond Street***

Tickets £12

***Your Invitation and reply slip
are enclosed with this
Newsletter***

Society events and notices

Communications

The Springett Lecture

Wednesday 26th November

8.00pm Burgh House

Edward Milner

*Native trees of the London area in an era
of Climate Change*

Edward Milner, award-winning TV producer on environmental issues, was scheduled to give his lecture last year but had to cancel due to illness

Doors open at 7.30 for a glass of wine

Non-members welcome Admission free

Delivering the Newsletter by email

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email in the form of a PDF so that you can read it on screen?

It is environmentally more friendly, saving paper, unnecessary waste and cost.

With postage costs increasing enormously this is now becoming a major consideration.

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

PDFs of the Newsletter can be seen on the website. If you would like to try this please let the Editor know at

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

Members' email addresses

Are you missing out?

Keeping you informed of the latest news and events.

The Society is increasingly using email, to let members know of vital issues that crop up between Newsletters

It is also an invaluable way to bring you other useful information, such as walks, talks and events that do not fit in with the newsletter timetable.

If we do not have your email address you may be missing out on important local and Society news and initiatives.

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

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

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

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

Are your postal addresses correctly recorded?

The Society's database has recently been reorganised. If you find anything in your postal address label on this newsletter that is not correct, or that you want changed, please let us know.

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk

Thank you.

Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

It is now twelve years since I wrote my first Heath Report, for our September 2002 Newsletter, after taking over from Jeremy Wright as Chairman of the Heath Sub-Committee. They have been enjoyable, sometimes fraught, years ably supported by others on the Heath Sub-Committee and I am delighted that John Beyer, an active member of the Sub-Committee for the past couple of years, has agreed to take over from me at the end of the year and we welcome new Committee member Melissa Fairbanks.

I said in my first Report that:

‘our task is what it has been for over 100 years – to keep the Heath in its original wild state so far as possible. This becomes more and more difficult as the Heath is used by ever more people with many different criteria for how the Heath should be managed. The pressures are particularly acute from single interest pressure groups. We are not, and do not want to be thought to be, against change. Our sole criterion is whether any proposal would erode the wild and natural state of the Heath and, where we think it does, we will continue to fight to protect the Heath for the benefit of all Londoners against the vested interest of minorities, however well meaning.’

This remains true and I have been pleased that we have been able to work with the City and their staff on the Heath to help achieve it. Over these years the City’s Conservation Team have been developing Annual Work Plans and increasing the number of detailed long-term Management Work Plans to cover more and more areas of the Heath. The most recent of these is for Preachers Hill where two Heath Sub-Committee members living nearby provided some input into the plan, which we believe will improve the conservation value, appearance, and enjoyment of that part of the Heath.

However the biggest threat to the Heath as we know and love it has come from the advice given to the City on their legal obligations associated with the scale of work needed ‘in the interests of safety’ under the Reservoirs Act 1975. Our differing understanding of what has to be taken into account within these legal requirements will be decided in the forthcoming Judicial Review by the High Court, as covered elsewhere in this Newsletter. When this has been determined we will continue to work with the City to ensure that the work is, indeed, the minimum needed and the least intrusive visually.

The Oak Processionary Moth

This year’s mix of warm wet weather produced a great deal of plant growth all over the Heath, with a fine early crop of blackberries but with the brambles and saplings pushing into the grasslands, where it must be cut back. There are remarkably few acorns this year in contrast to last year’s bumper crop. More worrying is that Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) have spread northwards from South West London.



An Oak Processionary Moth caterpillar infestation

Efforts to kill the caterpillars by various methods, including spraying from the air, have slowed the spread but not yet stopped it completely. They were thought to be moving away from us but have recently been found in Regents Park Zoo. These caterpillars move about at night from April until June, head-to-head, in a procession, hence the name, in order to feed on foliage in the crown of the tree. The adult moth has a wingspan of around one inch, is brown and white in a pattern hard to see against oak bark; they fly during July and August. The caterpillars feed together in groups, make and then congregate in communal nests of white silk spun under a branch or on the tree trunk. They feed on the oak's leaves and cause the tree to shed its leaves. In large numbers, the caterpillars can cause the tree to shed all its leaves and make it vulnerable to attack by other pests and diseases and less able to withstand adverse environmental events such as drought and flood. When the caterpillars hatch in April they are brown with a dark head and as they grow their body lightens until they end up with a single dark stripe down their back and a whitish line along each side. The older caterpillars have thousands of tiny hairs (setae) which contain an irritating substance so that touching the caterpillars or their nests, or having the hairs blown into you by the wind, can cause itching skin rashes and allergic reactions. The Forestry Commission is leading the drive to eradicate the caterpillar, working with local authorities and various other organisations to achieve this.

More welcome things to spot around the Heath are The Good, The Bad, The Ugly – Jake & Dinos Chapman's dinosaur sculptures which were installed in Golders Hill Park, to the east of the Tennis courts, in late May for a year.

Table Tennis at Parliament Hill

At the other end of the Heath, near the tennis courts at Parliament Hill Field, there is now the 'World's First Outdoor Triples Table Tennis Table' where six people can enjoy a game of table tennis together in two teams of three around a circular table. The game originated in Wollongong in Australia and is now being pioneered in London. Just near this new table, the area around the Boules pitch has been opened up by removing the hedge by the path parallel to Highgate Road, and about 12 heritage orchard trees have been planted. A second hedge, on the opposite side of the pitch, will be removed this winter.

The Springett Lecture

Finally, this year's Springett Lecture will be on Wednesday 26th November at Burgh House when Edward Milner will talk about 'Native trees of the London area in an era of Climate Change'. Edward was scheduled to give his lecture last year but that had to be cancelled at the last minute when he fell ill. I am delighted that he is now recovered. Edward knows the Heath well. He has led our spider walks for many years, and is an award-winning TV producer on environmental issues. He is the author of 'Trees of Britain & Ireland', a book celebrating native trees including their history, ecology, management, products, folklore and their place in the ecosystem, which brings together research by tree scientists and historians to build a present-day account of tree knowledge and understanding. Doors will open at 7:30 for a glass of wine with the talk starting at 8pm; please join us in Burgh House for what is expected to be another most interesting and enjoyable evening.

I hope to see you there.

Planning Report

by David Castle

Applications for planning permission continue to flood into Camden Council at the rate of about forty applications each month for the Hampstead area. The Planning Subcommittee considers each application and sends a carefully worded objection to approximately a quarter of the applications.

Unfortunately there continue to be a large number of applications for permission to construct basements under existing houses and flats. In addition most applications to build new houses (usually as replacements to existing houses) include a basement or two (or even three) in order to dramatically increase the size of the proposed house.

The sub-soil and water movement conditions in Hampstead are very complex and difficult to survey and, as most houses in Hampstead are near to each other, any excavation below the level of the adjacent houses (and trees) will possibly cause changes in water movement, sub-soil shrinkage, expansion and movement in adjacent properties.

The problem is even worse if a basement (lower than one that already exists) is proposed in a terrace house or one half of a semi-detached property. In these cases a property that has a basement with modern engineered foundations is likely to settle and move differently from a house built before circa 1910 - causing cracking and damage in the adjoining property, possibly made worse by changes in water movement and sub-soil conditions caused by the new deeper basement.

Any neighbour who has had to live through the worries of having a basement built next to them and anyone nearby who has experienced the constant noise, fumes and deliveries caused

by removing tons of clay and delivering concrete, steel, etc. over a long period will agree that basements are “bad news”.

If you find out that your neighbour intends to build a basement that affects you or the neighbourhood, do not assume that, without considerable pressure from neighbours, Camden Planning Department or the Party Wall Act will prevent its construction.

It would be much better for us all if those considering adding a basement kept them to the minimum or, better still, find some other way of increasing the size of their property.

Loss of Pubs

A widespread problem, but the closure of The Old White Bear has been followed by the closure of The Magdala, a much loved `local`. Rumour has it that the new owner wants to create flats upstairs, but intends to re-open the “improved” pub at some unspecified date.

We must wait and hope.

Athlone House and 29 New End (the Nurses Home) – an update.

Both these appalling developments have now been refused or recommended for refusal by Camden.

Inevitably, however, the developers of both proposals have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate (for the second time in the case of Athlone House).

The dates of the Inquiries have now been decided. The Inquiry for 29 New End is due to start on 2nd December, lasting 8 days: and that for Athlone House on 10th February, for 12 days. The excessive length of time, requested by the Developers, with virtually unlimited

Town Report

by Frank Harding

means, is a ploy to intimidate and overwhelm the more limited means of the local objectors. However, we hope to persuade the Inspector of each Inquiry that considerably less time will be required with a consequent saving of cost.

The Society, in association with others, is intending to persuade the Inspectors to emphatically refuse the Appeals with as many reasons as possible, so that further Applications and Appeals by the Developers cannot be made without dramatically reducing and improving the proposed developments.

Finally

For further information about basements, trees, etc., please consult our web-site at:

www.heathandhampstead.org.uk



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, and can be downloaded from there

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 Town Sub-Committee has continued to work on various programmes through the summer, participating in the Hampstead Summer fair; following up on the developments relating to HS2 as they might affect north-west London and thus Hampstead and its residents; and supporting local groups concerned with licensing applications.

HS2

We continue to monitor developments relating to the current plans of Government for HS2. It is now anticipated that further consultation opportunities will be available towards the end of the year or early in 2015 for any revisions to the existing proposals following the input on the previous plans earlier this year.

Police and crime in Hampstead

It has been noticeable in recent months that the number of police on the beat patrolling the streets of Hampstead has fallen. That, the closure of the police station in Rosslyn Hill, and a number of crimes in the area had led to concerns at the adequacy of policing in the village and neighbouring residential areas. As a result committee member and chair of the Frognaal and Fitzjohns Safer Neighbourhood Group, Jessica Learmond-Criqui, called a public meeting on 22 June to raise these issues publicly in the presence of the Metropolitan Police Borough Commander and his team. Over 200 people attended the meeting.

The comments made and questions asked demonstrated the current depth of feeling, fear and lack of confidence in the Met. The Borough Commander assured the meeting that he and his officers would do their best to address the situation in Hampstead given the comments they had heard because they are committed to eradicating crime in our area.

Town Report (cont)

The recent impression generally felt by the members of the Sub-Committee is that there has been an increase in the numbers of police on the beat; their presence has been noted and welcomed.

A follow-up meeting with the Borough Commander and members of his team was arranged on 12 October at St Stephens, Pond Street which we hope will further impress upon the Met that we appreciate their efforts to improve safety on our streets and that we need them to keep up that improved service.

Sainsburys

As most readers will no doubt be aware, Sainsburys proposed to open a supermarket in the parade of shops at the northern end of South End Green. It would have replaced four existing retail units. The Society supported the efforts of local residents and the South End Green Association to stop them from proceeding with its plans; and those efforts were successful, the company withdrawing its application to Camden.

Plaques

Arrangements are now in place to create a reproduction of Ford Madox Brown's 1865 painting, "Work". This was painted on The Mount just above Heath Street and the buildings that are still there can be clearly seen in the picture. The reproduction, which will be on tiles, will be fixed to a wall in Sullivan's Garden in Burgh House, an appropriate home for it, being also the home of the Hampstead Museum. The creation of the reproduction by tile maker Samantha Robertson is funded by a legacy from the late John Philip Walmsley who specified that it be "... for the purpose of commissioning a coloured reproduction of a Hampstead scene or by a Hampstead artist to be erected on or near the artist's viewpoint.

A suggestion is the Heath Street picture "Work" by Ford Madox Brown."

Hampstead Rediscovered

The fourth in our series of exhibitions of artworks of Hampstead at Burgh House closed on 29 June. It comprised paintings by Patrick Lewis Forbes and was very well received.

Work has now begun to prepare a fifth exhibition in the series which will take place early in 2015.



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)*

Regular clubs and classes

include the Bridge and Scrabble clubs; Drawings and Water-colour classes; Choir with Patrick Allies; and The Garden Historians at Burgh House.

Support the Friends of Burgh House

For more information or to join the
Friends,
tel: 020 7431 0144

Neighbourhood Forum - The Vision

By Alex Nicoll



More than 700 people have

joined the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum since it was set up a year ago. The Forum has taken big steps towards building a vision for the future of Hampstead that will form the basis of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Localism Act of 2011 enabled communities to have a stronger role in shaping development policies in their areas by creating neighbourhood forums. Both the forums and the plans that they write require approval from local councils, and plans must also be submitted to a public referendum. Councils then have to pay attention to them when taking planning decisions. Several forums are at different stages of establishment in the Hampstead and Highgate area.

At the time of writing, the Hampstead Forum was awaiting approval from Camden, which has already held a six-week public consultation. To win formal designation, a forum must show that it has engaged intensively with the community in order to ascertain the views of local people and businesses. This has been done through a series of public meetings and stands at local festivals, as well as through leaflets, the forum's website and multiple efforts to engage local bodies and business groups. This work will continue.

From these engagements, the Forum has been able to build a picture of the issues that are most important to local people. These have been captured in a vision document that is being distributed to all households in the Forum area. This sets broad objectives under five themes: homes and heritage, streets and movement, local economy, open space and landscape, and building community.

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that the objectives do in fact match the wishes of the community – in other words, that the Forum is on the right track. Therefore, all who live and work in the Forum area are urged to fill in the questionnaire that accompanies the document, either on paper or online at the website, www.hampsteadforum.org

Janine Griffis, Forum chair and until recently a member of the H&HS General Committee, said: "The Forum has brought together people of many talents who have worked incredibly hard as volunteers gathering views. The legislation requires that we base our neighbourhood plan on solid evidence of what people want. The stronger the evidence, the better chance our planning policies will pass approval."

The current consultation is an important step in building this evidence base but the entire process could take up to two years or more. There will be more public meetings and consultation exercises as the plan becomes more concrete. The bulk of the plan's contents will relate specifically to planning issues, but it will also address topics that are not strictly covered by planning regulations, but form an important part of local residents' vision of the Hampstead of the future.

The core of the Forum area consists of Hampstead village and South End Green. It comprises all of the Hampstead and South Hill Estate conservation areas and the surrounding Heath. It also includes a small part of Gospel Oak around South End Green and the northern part of the Frognal and Fitzjohns conservation area. Separate forums have been proposed for the Redington Frognal Conservation Area, as well as for Church Row with Perrin's Walk.

The Hampstead Forum area, and much more information, can be seen on a map on the website, www.hampsteadforum.org. And do follow the Forum on Twitter @hampsteadforum

Writers and Resisters

Walking with women's suffrage in Hampstead by Jill Liddington

*Dr Jill Liddington, Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, is author of **Vanishing for the Vote: suffrage, citizenship and the battle for the census.** This article is based on a walk she led in Hampstead in September for Friends of The Women's Library*

Hampstead had always been a Votes for Women heartland. Political arguments raged, and most suffrage organizations supported a flourishing local branch. The Pankhursts' Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) even ran its own shop, up Heath Street.

So it is small surprise that, when suffragettes urged women ~ all still unenfranchised ~ to boycott the 1911 census, local campaigners responded enthusiastically. The WSPU Heath Street shop even displayed census resistance cards. And, as the dark of census night Sunday 2 April loomed, many suffragettes planned to evade the enumerators.

Meanwhile, reformers in the Liberal Government, notably Chancellor Lloyd George then pushing his ambitious National Insurance Bill through Parliament, wanted detailed information about families upon which to base future health and welfare improvements. The 1911 census therefore included new questions about married women: how many children born alive, how many still living and how many had died. These completed census schedules, made available by the National Archives in 2009, can now be read in the head of family's own hand, allowing us to peer right inside the private domestic spaces of Edwardian households.

The Brailsfords, 32 Well Walk

The first home we paused at was the Brailsfords' 32 Well Walk. Here in 1909, radical journalist Noel Brailsford thundered against the hypocrisy of a Liberal Government that denounced torture

in Czarist Russia - yet forcibly fed suffragette prisoners on hunger strike.

Noel's wife Jane was equally appalled by forcible feeding. When Lloyd George addressed a large meeting in Newcastle attacking the hereditary basis of the House of Lords ('you would not choose a spaniel on these principles'), Jane and other WSPU suffragettes tracked him north. Concealing a hatchet in her bouquet of flowers, she attacked a barrier. She was arrested - along with Lady Constance Lytton, sister of the eminent Conservative peer. Both were given a month's imprisonment, both hunger struck and both were forcibly fed. Two such well-connected women! There was public outcry - and both were released within three days. To the WSPU this was a propaganda gift. Not only were Asquith's ministers torturers, they were also hypocrites!

So it is small surprise, then, that in 1911 both Jane and Noel Brailsford boycotted the census.

32 Well Walk



Clementina Black, Pilgrims Place House

From Well Walk we wound our way downhill to Rosslyn Hill and Pilgrims Place House. In this modest three-roomed house (with joint use of the kitchen), Clementina Black lived with her sister and niece. Best remembered for her writings on working women and the sweated industries, Clementina was a leading figure in Mrs Fawcett's National Union (NUWSS), so opting for constitutional tactics, and opposing the census boycott. With a suffrage bill coming up in May, Clementina believed there was no propaganda advantage in skulking around in the dark on census night ~ nor in denying welfare reformers the information they desperately needed.

Hampstead Town Hall,

We stopped outside Hampstead Town Hall, the key public space in which to argue out the meanings of citizenship and democracy. Here, on 21 March 1911, local suffragettes held a 'Women and the Census' meeting. Jane Brailsford told her audience: her husband was the householder and he promised he would have his house packed with suffragettes on the night of April 2nd.

Six days later, also in the Town Hall, the People's Suffrage Federation held its meeting. As adultists, they opposed Votes for Women ~ which they saw as narrowly property-based, preferring full democratic adult suffrage. Speakers included Margaret Llewelyn Davies, leader of the large



Women's Co-operative Guild; Marian Ward of the Women's Labour League; and two MPs passionate for Lloyd George's welfare reforms ~ for which they were encouraged to 'dream dreams' but to base them on reality, notably detailed census data.

The Stracheys, 57 Belsize Park Gardens

We then paused at 57 Belsize Park Gardens, home of the great Strachey family, with its 18 rooms and five domestic servants. Here, widowed Lady Jane Strachey (71) and her daughter, Phillipa (38) were leading NUWSS suffragists. Pippa commanded the giant London Society for Women's Suffrage; by 1911 she was well-practised at deft stone-walling of lobbying by impetuous suffragettes. Lady Strachey rebutted one such approach with: "I am strongly of the opinion that nothing but harm can result to our Cause from the proposed boycott." They naturally supplied the census enumerator with a fully compliant schedule (including Lytton, 31, author).

*Below left:
Hampstead
Town Hall;
R: 57 Belsize
Park Gardens
and below, Lady
Strachey painted
by Dora
Carrington*



The Nevinsons, Downside Crescent

The walk ended at 4 Downside Crescent, home of the Nevinsons. Henry was a radical journalist and, like his friend Noel Brailsford, had resigned over forcible feeding. His suffragette wife Margaret was a leading member of the Women's Freedom League, the break-away from the WSPU. So when Henry Nevinson filled in his census he included himself, his son and two female servants. But of his wife and daughter he remained silent. Indeed his schedule states: 'Other women were staying in the house but they refused consent to the Census on the ground that Women have no representation in this Country's Government'. So, while Henry joined the central boycott entertainment at the Aldwych roller-skating rink, Margaret apparently hosted her own mass evasion at home.

Hampstead, site of fierce political argument, certainly supported a rich array of census boycotters.

***Vanishing for the Vote:
suffrage, citizenship and the battle for
the census***

published by Manchester University Press,
2014 ~ £16.99

*More information and census schedules
are available at
www.jliddington.org.uk/1911-census.html*

***To find out more about
The Women's Library and the Friends,***
visit

<http://friendsofthewomenslibrary.org.uk>

Hampstead Heath from the Thomas Barratt Collection. Helen Marcus reports on a new book by Michael Hammerson

A rare collection

Michael Hammerson has produced a unique and charming look at the history of Hampstead Heath, through pictures from the original

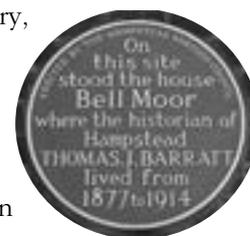


collection of Thomas Barratt. Michael had privileged access to this rare collection, unpublished until now.

Thomas J. Barratt (1841–1914) was the first chairman of A & F Pears, the famous soap manufacturer. He was known as the 'the father of modern advertising' and due to his innovative promotional methods Pears Soap became a household name.

He was also a keen conservationist and a lover of local history. In 1912 he published the three-volume "Annals of Hampstead" – the local 'bible' for Hampstead Historians.

To complement this history, Barratt took a series of beautiful photographs of Hampstead Heath and the surrounding area which provide a new source of information about our precious Heath.



As an archaeologist, Michael worked for a Museum of London team focusing on Greater London. He is vice-president of the Highgate Society, and has been chairman of its planning group for twenty-five years. He is also a member of the Heath & Hampstead Society's Heath Sub-Committee.

Available from Amberley Publishing: £12.99
sales@amberley-books.com
tel: 01453 847 800

Chess Renaissance in Hampstead

By Vicky Bobasch

For many years there was a coterie of chess players in Hampstead who could be seen huddled over their boards, through the windows of a café in South End Green. Sadly the old café in Pond Street, on the corner which bears the famous George Orwell plaque, closed down and the chess players moved away.

Now there's something of a revival of interest in chess in Hampstead. For the last four years the Hampstead Summer Festival has included a chess tournament and a chess café.

As a result of meeting the organiser of the tournament in the spring, Keats Community Library decided to offer chess classes for beginners and these have proved a great success. The classes are aimed at novices aged 6-12 years of age. There is one class for beginners and another for "advanced beginners" who know how the pieces move and want to learn more about the strategy. The classes are run by a lovely young tutor called Phil Makepeace who was England Under 18 Captain in 2007 and has been Bucks Senior Champion three times. Phil has an infectious enthusiasm for chess, making it fun and competitive for the children.

The classes take place in the children's library on Saturdays and parents are asked for a £3 voluntary donation per child to cover expenses. This is a great opportunity for your child to try chess and see if they like it.

To register a child for a class, and for times and dates of chess classes, or for any other library information or forthcoming events, visit the library's website:

www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk
email: keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com.

Keats Community Library
10 Keats Grove NW3 2RR-

A community library run by volunteers.

Thanks to Hampstead Summer Festival

Keats Community Library and Age UK Camden are very grateful to the Hampstead Summer Festival Committee, the Festival sponsor Shakib and Co, and all those who contributed to the great success of the 2014 Festival. This lovely event is not only great fun for local people to attend but raised the fantastic sum of £21,000 which was shared between the two local charities. These funds enable Age UK Camden and KCL to continue to provide essential services for our community.

Henderson Court Resource Centre provides a range of activities and classes to keep our older neighbours active, and provides over 7000 fresh lunches a year. Keats Community Library not only offers a free lending library, but also children's activities, literacy classes, free access to computers and computer classes for the elderly, and a safe quiet place for students to work.



New Chapter in the Story of Keats House

by Diana Gore

In 2013, the Corporation of City of London made an application for a wedding licence for Keats House. The application arose from a need to increase income for the House in an era of deep budget cuts across the board in the Corporation. As a result of reasonable objections from more than a few local residents, the decision was taken by the Cultural Heritage and Library Committee to abandon the application and to work with the most outspoken local residents to explore new avenues of fundraising.

My husband Robert Gore, Michael Sternberg QC and I were among those local residents and we created a small committee within the Keats House Charity to generate ideas and a plan of action.

Short-term fundraising and long-term goals

Since December 2013, we have had an excellent working relationship with Vicky Carroll, the Curator of Keats House, David Wight, Visitor Development and Services Director and several other members of the Corporation to work on a short-term fundraising plan with long-term goals in mind. Keats House is managed in a department that includes the Guildhall Gallery, Monument and Tower Bridge. Income generated at the House only covers ten per cent of its operating budget.

200 years of Hampstead life

Keats House is a small museum of worldwide significance. But it is more than a small House Museum as its structure is not only redolent of Keats's story but

also of 200 years of Hampstead life. John Keats only lived in one segment of the House for 2 years but these were his most productive years and the place where he met the love of his life, Fanny Brawne. The original developer built it cheaply and poorly, ensuring future problems. Bought two decades later by the actress, Eliza Chester, it was converted into a single house and was enlarged with a sizable drawing room now known as the Chester room. By the early 20th century the House had deteriorated to such an extent that it was threatened with demolition but was saved by the efforts of the American poet Amy Lowell. The Keats House Trust was created and was held by Hampstead Borough Council and subsequently Camden Council. The Corporation took over management in 1998 and has done a remarkable, painstaking job with repairs and restoration. The colours, the materials and the plants in the garden are true to the customs of the times.



A splendid array of events

Keats House has a splendid array of events the majority of which are free. The ethos is to continue to reach new audiences, to make poetry accessible to all, to enhance a connection to the House and its story. The events are broad ranging and include many sessions for students, family days, workshops, poetry readings and guided walks.

Rebuilding the supporter base.

Our current aim is to rebuild a healthy supporter base. As Keats House is in Hampstead, we are focusing our initial efforts on the local community. The garden is an amenity to all and



is used extensively by people seeking a quiet place to read, eat, talk or play with children.

Keats House is also an important reminder of Hampstead's history.



Keats's study

Once we have a strong enough base we will extend our efforts nationally and internationally. Being local residents we can see how many visitors from America, Korea, China and Japan seek out the House.

How you can help

We are ambitious but cautious. We have prepared a fundraising leaflet that will be delivered to local residents in October. There are three levels of membership: Patrons, Champions and Supporters. This will provide funding for more events, a small PR campaign and maintenance of the House itself. We are planning to hold Supporter-only events as well.

The formal launch of the 2014-15 fundraising campaign will take place on 26 November. It will be held on the walkways above Tower Bridge. Tower Bridge is currently installing glass walkways to enable visitors to see the bridge and river below. There will be a large amount of publicity associated with this new feature and we are hoping to hold one of the first events on the Bridge after installation. Tickets will be priced at £125 and will include a tour of Keats House to be arranged at a later date. Apart from other raffle prizes we will be holding a silent auction for the right to open Tower Bridge.

For more information have a look at the following site:
<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/keats-house>

For information or any offers of assistance with any aspect of this worthwhile endeavour, please feel free to contact us:

Diana Gore: diana@igore.org
Robert Gore: robert@igore.org
Michael Sternberg: mvs@4pb.com

We will welcome your input.

The musical life of Hampstead Parish Church

By Jenny Macdonald-Hay

It is August and we still have these bright summer days but by the time you read this in the October issue, the weather will have changed and you will probably not be anticipating warm evenings sitting in your garden. You will be thinking of Autumn events so I will tell you something about what goes on just up the road at St. John at Hampstead, the Parish Church in Church Row.

Hampstead Parish Church maintains a professional choir which sings two choral services every Sunday – at 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. (4.30 in the winter). At any of these times throughout the year, you will hear magnificent singing and organ playing but there are many other events too. There is also a lunchtime recital in church at 1.00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. These recitals are free but there is a retiring collection for the musicians. The recitals are given by talented musicians mostly young and at the beginning of their professional career.

We also have a very active organisation called The Friends of the Music; the Friends support the choir and the music generally. They warmly welcome all who enjoy music to join them – including those who are not members of the congregation but simply wish to see local music flourish.

We have a very distinguished Director of Music, James Sherlock, who is becoming more and more well-known not only as a brilliant organist and pianist but as a conductor too. Our Junior Choir Director is David Moore. The Junior Choir is made up of boys and girls from the local area and David has brought the children to a very high standard of singing. The Junior Choir sings Evensong on the first Thursday of every month at 6.30 p.m. They also sing at The Eucharist at 10.30 on Sunday mornings. David is a very fine organist too.

*The
Church
Choir*



Finally, perhaps you don't know that it is possible to hire Hampstead Parish Church for musical events – recitals, orchestral and choral concerts. Indeed, a number of the local choral societies choose to give their performances there.

For more information on the musical life of the Parish Church, and details and timings do refer to the website :

www.music.hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk
or please contact me:: 0207 794 1193,

Autumn programme

Saturday 8th November 'Come and Sing'
Brahms Requiem with James Sherlock conducting

Sunday November 23rd
Choral Evensong for St. Cecilia

Sunday November 30th
Advent Carol Service by candlelight

Thursday December 4th
Schubertiad II with Paul Robinson (tenor) and
James Sherlock (accompanist)

Sunday December 21st
Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Obituaries

Two Society members who made immense contributions to Hampstead's community

Ian Harrison 1943 – 2014

Ian Harrison, and his wife Janet lived in Hampstead for nearly four decades, moving to the Vale of Health in 1976. Ian spent his career working in finance for Unilever and Courtaulds, as well as 14 years lobbying for the Banking trade organisation, the Association for Financial Markets in Europe.

Ian was a truly public-spirited man who gave generously of his time to community organisations and charities both locally and further afield, and will be remembered as an energetic committee member who brought his negotiating skills to a host of organisations.

He was chairman of the Vale of Health Society, a trustee of Heath Hands, and a trustee of the Hampstead Wells & Campden Trust from 1991 and later chairman. He served on the City of London's Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee from its inception in 1989.

Ian co-founded the Hampstead Heath Croquet Club in 2008, the only fully public croquet facility in London, where any member of the public can turn up and play for a small fee. The club started out in Golders Hill and due to Ian's tact and negotiating skills now shares a green with Parliament Hill Bowls Club.

Beyond Hampstead, Ian was a non-executive board member of Barts Hospital and NHS London where he chaired the audit committee; a governor at Westminster School and a trustee of the Scoliosis Association UK, a charity that his mother Ailie co-founded in 1981.

Ian was a keen walker and opera fan, and enjoyed cricket being a member of Marylebone Cricket Club.

His enormous contribution to local life will be long remembered and sorely missed.

Lilian Brafman 1932 - 2014

Architect and urban planner Lilian Brafman, a long-time Hampstead resident, was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she qualified as an architect. She came to London in 1960 and after completing a town planning course at University College London, she joined the Greater London Council as a town planner working particularly on traffic issues.

In her retirement she obtained a PhD at University College London with a thesis on Public Participation in a Conservation Area:

What Happened to Democratic Management of Social Conflict from 1829 to 2002.

She served on the Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee, for many years, representing the Redington Frognaal Association, and was recently helping to set up a new neighbourhood forum.

She died aged 82 on June 7 after a long and painful illness. Her kindness, honesty, and passion were greatly valued by all those who knew her.

Bulletin Board

Remembering those who fought in the wars

Civic Voice

in a new project to conserve First World War Memorials

Civic Voice, the umbrella body for civic societies, of which our Society is a member, is to be part of a nationwide drive announced by Prime Minister David Cameron in July, to conserve and protect war memorials over the four year period of the First World War Centenary.

Details of the £5 million fund for the project include £3 million for the War Memorials Trust to boost support for their grant schemes and expand their team of specialist Conservation Officers. Imperial War Museums will receive half a million pounds to develop a website to help communities find out where information about war memorials can be found. English Heritage will receive half a million pounds to provide better protection for war memorials, deliver a larger pool of skilled and trained specialists to repair them, and develop an education toolkit for schools to allow pupils to research their local memorials.

Civic Voice will be given half a million pounds to create a national network of volunteers involving civic societies and amenity groups, over the four year centenary period, to help build skills to assess the condition of war memorials and encourage their conservation.

For more information see:

<http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/war-memorials/>



Winter Fair in aid of Combat Stress

Veterans' Mental Welfare Society

Saturday 1st November

11.am – 4pm

To be opened by

Martin Bell

**Free Church Hall, Northway,
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 6PB**

*Collectables, China, Jewellery, Crafts, Cakes &
Home Produce, Plants, Tombola,
Combat Stress Christmas Cards*

All day Refreshments & lots more

Entry £1.00 (children free)

Free parking

Reg. Charity No. 206002

Memories 1914-18

Keats Library big event for 2014!

an evening of readings, songs and much more
with

***Michael Palin, Lee Montague &
Robert Powell***

13th November 7.30pm

Peter Samuel Hall at the Royal Free Hospital,
Pond Street

Tickets will be on sale in the library
www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk

Bulletin Board

Hampstead Arts Festival November 2014

HAMPSTEAD
arts
FESTIVAL

Music - St John's Downshire Hill

Sat 1 - 7.30 pm Natalie
Clein Bach Cello Suites Part 1

Tues 4 - 7.30 pm Natalie Clein Bach Cello
Suites Part 2

Thurs 6 - 7.30 pm Wihan Quartet - Josef Suk,
Mozart & Dvorak

Mon 10 - 7 pm Angela Hewitt Pre-concert
talk - Bach 'The Art of Fugue'
8 pm Angela Hewitt (piano) - Bach 'The Art of
Fugue'

Thurs 13 - 7.30 pm Mahan Esfahani
harpsichord - Rameau & Couperin lecture &
recital

Sat 15 - 7.30 pm Freddie Gavita Jazz Quartet -
(part of London Jazz Festival)

Thurs 20 - 7.30 pm Ben Johnson (tenor) &
Sebastian Wybrew (piano) - Programme
including Schumann 'Dichterliebe'

Sat 22 - 7.30 pm Gwilym Simcock (piano) &
John Etheridge (guitar) - first ever
collaboration (part of London Jazz Festival)

Words - Burgh House

with Piers Plowright

Mon 10 - 1 pm Yasmin Alibhai-Brown - Mixed
Blessings: Immigration & Multiculturalism

Tues 11 - 7.30 pm James Roose-Evans & Sian
Thomas - Dylan Thomas centenary

Wed 12 - 1 pm Peter Stanford - Winds of
Change: Pope Francis & the Catholic church

Mon 17 - 7.30 pm Michael Berkeley
(composer & broadcaster) - Words & Music

Tues 18 - 7.30 pm Melvyn Bragg & BBC
Producer Thomas Morris - 'in Our Time'

Thurs 20 - 1 pm Glenda Jackson - Changing
Scenes: Showbusiness, Parliament & beyond

Tickets

Music £25, £15, £5 (students) **Words** £10

Series & season tickets - reductions offered

Online: www.hampsteadartsfestival.com/tickets

In person: Gary Ingham Salon & Spa, 63-67
Heath Street Mon-Fri 10am-8.30pm, Sat 9am-
6.30pm, Sun 11am-18pm

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (£1.50 phone
booking fee)

Enquiries Phone 020 7794 1193 email: info@hampsteadartsfestival.com

Hampstead Theatre

Eton Avenue NW3 3EU

Support your local Theatre

Become a Friend of Hampstead Theatre

For details of membership schemes see

www.hampsteadtheatre.com/support-us

Belsize Park Film Society

Tuesday evenings at 7pm

Hampstead Town Hall

213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP.

Entrance £5 at the door.

for more information

Email: filmsocietyhampstead@gmail.com

Heath Walks 2014 - 15

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 November 10.30am (meet at the entrance to the Old Kitchen Garden east of Kenwood House). The Heath and Kenwood - how they relate to each other. (Walk leaders to be announced)

7 December 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) The history and topography of the Hampstead Heath ponds led by Marc Hutchinson, Secretary, Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club; Chairman of the Heath & Hampstead Society and member of the Heath Sub-Committee.

2015 (No walk in January)

1 February 10.30am (meet between the Old Kitchen Garden and English Heritage staff yard, east of Kenwood House) The Hidden Heath led by Michael Hammerson, Highgate Society representative on the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee and member of Highgate Society Environment Committee

1 March 10.30am

[To be arranged; look out for information in the January newsletter and on the website]

5 April 9.30am (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath led by members of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee, John Hunt (former Chairman of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society), and Sash Tusa

