



The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

Annual Report May 2015

Vol 46 No. 2



Boating Pond - the work begins

The Heath and Hampstead Society

Founded in 1897

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Contents

	Page
Annual Report	1
<hr/> <i>Marc Hutchinson</i> <hr/>	
Society Notices	5
<hr/>	
Notice of the AGM, Elections to General Committee	6
<hr/>	
Annual General Meeting June 2015	7
<hr/>	
Treasurer's Report	8
<hr/> <i>Maureen Clark-Darby</i> <hr/>	
Notes on new committee members	9
<hr/>	
The founders of the modern conservation movement	10
<hr/> <i>Helen Marcus</i> <hr/>	
Heath Report	12
<hr/> <i>John Beyer and Lynda Cook</i> <hr/>	
Planning Report	15
<hr/> <i>David Castle</i> <hr/>	
Town Report	17
<hr/> <i>Frank Harding</i> <hr/>	
The Barratt offer	18
<hr/>	
Update on the London Forum	19
<hr/> <i>Helen Marcus</i> <hr/>	
A Summer of Festivals in Hampstead	20-23
<hr/>	
Bulletin Board & Heath Walks	24

Annual Report for the year 2014-2015

by Marc Hutchinson

I knew when I was elected at the 2014 AGM that I would have a busy year ahead but even I underestimated the number of tasks and challenges that would face the Society. You can read the trustees' annual report together with the financial statements for 2014 which accompany this Newsletter.

Overview

Looking back to the start of 2014, I personally think the main endeavours of the Society have been in relation to: the Ponds Project; 29 New End; Athlone House; basements; a membership drive; traffic policy; and re-establishing a Hampstead Art Exhibition. Internally, we have been improving the Society's website, revising the paperwork relating to membership and the systems for joining and payment of subscriptions, reviewing the subscription rates (last changed in 2007), and verifying the correctness of the members' register.

Ponds

Having been unsuccessful at the judicial review and in opposing the grant of planning permission, the trustees decided in March 2015 that the Society would no longer publicly oppose the Ponds Project and would devote its efforts, on the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group (set up by the City) and the Community Working Group (set up by Camden), to ensuring that the works comply with the approvals governing them and that the execution of the works does the minimum of damage to the Heath landscape and wildlife.

The announcement by Defra in April 2015 that, in a complete volte-face, the government did not now intend to bring into force the relevant

Annual Report (cont)

provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (which would have extended the application of the Reservoirs Act 1975 to nearly all the Ponds on the Heath) unfortunately does not affect the legal basis of the Ponds Project which remains required under the 1975 Act in its application to the “reservoirs” at Hampstead No.1 Pond and Highgate Ponds Nos 2 and 3. It is to limit the disfiguring effects of works otherwise required at, and confined to, those three Ponds that the overall works have, with the agreement of the Society, been spread across the two chains. Had the works been confined to those three Ponds, the works – legally required to eliminate the risk of dam collapse in the theoretical 1 in 400,000 storm - would have entailed large concrete structures and the most terrible disfigurement of the three Ponds themselves.

I am still in contact with the Secretary of State for Environment about the possibility of exempting the Ponds from the 1975 Act, which she has power to do. She is considering our proposal but I would not be expecting a response until after the election.

The works have now started and will continue until the end of 2016. Members of the Society can follow the progress of the works via the Society’s website which will be regularly updated to advise of path and swimming pond closures and other matters affecting Heath users.

29 New End

We were very disappointed to lose at the appeal to the inspector over this demolition and development, which, when it starts, will bring misery and danger to local residents and schools. We and the objectors were represented by experienced counsel but the hurdle we could not overcome was the published decision

of Camden Council, some years ago, that the existing nurses’ home on the site did not of itself ‘contribute’ to the locality. Since Camden could not oppose their own decision on that point, it was much easier for the developer to argue there was no reason, in planning terms, to save the home.

Athlone House

After these two defeats, I hope to be able to report a success in June 2015 when the inspector on the Athlone House appeal delivers his verdict. With the Highgate Society, we have opposed the demolition of Athlone House in circumstances where the owner had previously agreed to preserve it as a condition of being allowed to build a block of flats in its gardens. We have had the clearest legal advice that the proposed replacement house, which is much larger than the existing building, is not permitted to be built on metropolitan open land (“green belt”) , and we hope to succeed on this ground and possibly others. We are very grateful to our several expert witnesses and our counsel, David Altaras, all of whom gave their services for a nil or nominal fee.

Basements

Those of you who attended Michael Eldred’s Glass in Hand Lecture on this topic on 23 April at St Stephen’s will be aware that the problem of basement developments in Hampstead is getting worse. The Society is preparing for an appropriate test case to challenge the proposition that (most) basements are “permitted development” by obtaining fresh and up-to-date legal advice in the context of changing, but still inconsistent, council policies in this area. If there is a chance in the future to clarify the law with a view to limiting the legal scope for the construction of basements likely

to damage adjoining properties, the Society intends to be ready to exploit it.

Membership drive

We now have over 2,000 members and the rates of annual membership renewal have been extremely good. We have been writing to lapsed members (going back five years) and have been gratified to find how many of them are willing, and even enthusiastic, to re-join.

Traffic policy

For the first time in my life, I have recently needed to try to drive (as opposed to walk) around Hampstead during certain weekday hours. I have been shocked at the routinely gridlocked traffic in the narrow streets. So I am pleased that the Planning and Town Sub-Committees of the Society have been working up a traffic policy for Hampstead in the context of developments requiring planning consent. With ever-worsening pollution in London, there is a serious threat to the environment and to public health posed by increasing traffic, and this is something which Camden Council must now actively seek to control.

Hampstead Art Exhibition

The Town Sub-Committee is to be congratulated on two important achievements. First, on behalf of the Society it is producing, with the Hampstead School of Art, a new open-air art exhibition on Heath Street, to be held on 28 June and 12 and 19 July 2015. This has taken much planning and thoughtful budgeting, and we are hopeful it will prove as successful as the famous Hampstead art fairs which took place decades ago. Secondly, it has arranged for the placing, in the Sullivan Garden at Burgh House, of a large reproduction in tiles of a Hampstead painting entitled "Work" (1865) by Ford Madox

Brown, which will be open to public view from 6 July.

Ave atque vale

I want to note some arrivals and departures over the relevant period.

Trustees

We have two new trustees. John Beyer took over in January from Tony Ghilchik as our representative on the Hampstead Heath Management Committee and Thomas Radice took over in March from Jeremy Wright as our representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. In those capacities John and Thomas became trustees and welcome members of the General Committee

Tony Hillier, our esteemed former chairman, stands down as a trustee with effect from this year's AGM, as does Frankie de Freitas. As noted by Helen Marcus who chaired last year's AGM, Frankie has been a constant and cheerful help to the Society in so many and varied ways, including in managing our events, in administration, and as a member of the newsletter editorial team. We thank them deeply for their work for the Society over many years; we shall miss them both and wish them well.

Jeremy Wright has stepped down as a trustee following his retirement from the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in March. The Society was pleased to present Jeremy with a camera in gratitude for, and recognition of, his devoted work for the Society and the Heath over many years. Jeremy's greatest contribution, in my view, was his representation of the Society on the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group, where his engineering knowledge gave him de facto leadership of the Group in areas where we were trying to get the City to modify

their initial plans. Those who have followed the detail of this four-year saga will know that the works being carried out now are materially less intrusive than those originally proposed, and that in many cases this is due to Jeremy's persistent interventions. And I am personally indebted to him for the hundreds of hours of technical help he gave me on the judicial review.

Sub-Committee members

We welcomed Melissa Fairbanks to the Heath Sub-Committee following the resignation of Sash Tusa. Sash played a full part in the work of the Sub-Committee for many years, in particular organising the Sub-Committee's quarterly Heath walks with the City, and we are very grateful for his service.

We also welcomed Penny Davis and Tom Brent as new members of the Planning Sub-Committee and John Zieger as a new member of the Town Sub-Committee. Matt Leach recently resigned from the latter and we thank him for his work on it.

Conclusion

I am completely confident about the Society's well-being and future. We have good, if not improved, working relations with Camden Council and the City, an increasing membership, and a sound financial position. Your trustees are very grateful for the support that they continue to receive from the Society's membership at large.

Art Exhibition Old Hampstead Rediscovered

The fifth exhibition in
**The Heath & Hampstead Society's
series**

displaying rarely seen Old Paintings of
Hampstead (together with current day
photographs of the same scenes) will
open on

**Thursday, 11 June
Burgh House**

New End Square, NW3 1LT.

Members and friends are warmly invited
to visit this lovely exhibition, which will
run until 13 September.

Open Wednesday - Friday & Sunday
12.00 – 5.00pm

Please note that entrance is FREE.

**Generously sponsored by
Knight Frank**



Society Notices

Appeal for new Newsletter Editor

Helen Marcus has edited the newsletter for 20 years and would like to retire.

We hope that among our many new members there may be someone familiar with desk top publishing who might enjoy editing the newsletter and be willing to spare a few hours 3 times a year to produce the newsletter.

At the moment it is put together using a QuarkXPress programme.

Helen Marcus would be very grateful to receive a call from anyone who feels they would enjoy taking on this task for the Society.

Contact details on inside front cover



Saving Trees In Hampstead a new initiative

The Society, in a new initiative, is planning a specific campaign to preserve trees in Hampstead in circumstances where they are under threat of felling by reason of technical misunderstanding (which is widespread) about their causing subsidence and the current (and frequently prejudiced) protocols of buildings insurers.

The Society possesses much know-how on this subject and, under the leadership of its Tree Officer, needs assistance from one or two members who have an interest in it.

The initiative will not start until the autumn, but we wish to identify now members who might be prepared to help.

If you would like to learn more about the initiative, please email us in the first instance:

info@heathandhampstead.org.uk



Fitzjohn's Avenue a century ago

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Elections to General Committee

Notice is given that the 118th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday 30 June, 2015 at 7.30 pm 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 117th Annual General Meeting held on 19 June, 2014.
2. Election of Lord Hoffmann as President.
3. Chair's report for 2014.
4. Treasurer's report on the Society's examined financial statements for the 2014 financial year and adoption of those financial statements.
5. Appointment of 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. The trustees propose that the rates be increased as described in the paper which accompanies this Notice
7. Election of Officers and other members of the General Committee.
8. Any other business

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

Officers

Vice President: Martin Humphrey

Chair: Marc Hutchinson

Treasurer: Maureen Clark-Darby

Secretary: Nigel Steward

General Committee Members

The following have been duly proposed for election for three year terms: Tony Ghilchik, Vicki Harding and Gordon Maclean.

Note: Jessica Learmond-Criqui, Robert Linger, Douglas Maxwell, Peter Noble, Peter Tausig and John Weston continue the terms for which they were elected.

Information about the three candidates standing for election to the General Committee for three year terms and about Thomas Radice, who takes over from Jeremy Wright as the Society's appointed representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, is set out on page 9.

Nigel Steward

Secretary

12 May 2015



Annual General Meeting 2015



Please join us for our

Annual General Meeting and Reception

St. Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill,

London NW3 2PP

Tuesday 30 June, 2015 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**

Kate Ashbrook

of the Open Spaces Society which this year marks its 150th anniversary

Kate Ashbrook has been the general secretary of the Open Spaces Society since 1984. A former member of the Countryside Agency board, she is President of the Ramblers, a trustee of the Campaign for National Parks and the Dartmoor Preservation Association and member of the Institute of Public Rights of Way and Access Management. She was a member of Natural England's stakeholder group on public rights of way, and is patron of the Walkers Are Welcome Towns Network.

Treasurer's Report for 2014

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2014

The Society is pleased to present its Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014. These are enclosed with this Newsletter.

The Society reviews its accounting policies each year. The trustees are satisfied that the current policies meet the Society's needs and circumstances. These policies are disclosed on page 5 of the Financial Statements.

The operating deficit for the year was £23,116 (2013: £5,287), mostly attributed to the legal costs referred to below. In 2014 the Society made a small unrealised loss of £2 on its investment. The resulting deficit for the year was therefore £23,118.

Membership subscription income during 2014 increased by 21%: £19,594 (2013: £16,223). This increase is due both to new memberships and to a significant renewal of lapsed memberships. In 2014 the Society made particular efforts to increase membership and subscription income.

Dividend income slightly increased for the year: £200 (2013: £142). Interest income is down for the year: £454 (2013: £622).

During 2014 the Society unsuccessfully brought legal proceedings against the City of London to challenge the proposed dams engineering works on Hampstead Heath. The Society's appeal for funds to cover its legal costs raised £102,553 during the year, of which £8,098 attracted Gift Aid. This gave a total received of £110,651. The Society's total legal costs in this respect for the year were £124,267.

A significant disbursement from the Society's reserves in 2014 was £10,000 towards the legal costs of representation of the Society and other objectors at the planning appeal enquiry in relation to the proposed demolition of the nurses' home at 29 New End.

The Society's running costs, excluding exceptional costs, decreased by 31% in 2014 to £18,503 (2013: £23,578).

The trustees believe that the Society's Capital and Reserves are satisfactory at £58,724.

The Society wishes to thank Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, for carrying out the Independent Examination of the Financial Statements for 2014 at no charge to the Society.

Fisher Phillips Chartered Accountants

Fisher Phillips is a proactive and forward thinking UK firm of Chartered Accountants based in North West London providing accountancy, taxation and business advisory services to individuals and businesses.

The Society is very grateful to Fisher Phillips for examining the Society's annual financial statements each year on a pro bono basis.

Contact: info@fisherphillips.co.uk; T: +44(0)20 7483 6100;
Address: Summit House, 170 Finchley Road, London NW3 6BP.

Notes on Candidates for Election

Tony Ghilchik is a retired Chartered Accountant who has lived all his life in the Suburb and, for the past 39 years, next to the Heath. Shortly after retiring he became a Trustee of Burgh House and Chairman of their Committee of Management, and is still a Trustee and their Treasurer. He also became involved in numerous other local organisations including the Heath & Hampstead Society, joining the Heath Sub-Committee in 2001 and has enjoyed being their Chairman for 12 years until the end of 2014. During these 12 years he has served on the General Committee and as the Society's representative on both the City of London Corporation's Heath Management Committee and English Heritage's Kenwood Landscape Forum, and kept you all informed on their activities in his Heath Report for the Newsletters.

Vicki Harding worked in the NHS as a Chartered Physiotherapist throughout her career, including in Athlone House and New End Hospital. She helped set up St Thomas' Hospital's chronic pain management unit 'INPUT', led its physiotherapy team for 25 years, and gained a PhD in psychology and measurement.

She has lived in and around Hampstead since 1975 and been a keen Heath Hands member for 15 years. She particularly enjoyed surveying 138 veteran trees as part of the Hampstead Heath veteran tree survey with Jeremy Wright, and as a result was recruited in 2007 as Tree Officer to the H&HS Planning Sub-Committee. For this post she liaises with Camden's Tree Officers concerning their husbandry of Hampstead's splendid street trees, examines Notices of Intent for work on trees and planning applications that might influence trees

or flooding, is about to lead a survey and mapping exercise of Hampstead's town trees. She has an interest in the area's hydrogeology and believes this and its interaction with basement development - along with leaking drains - is responsible for many cases of reported subsidence, other than trees. Vicki organises the Society's annual 'Glass in Hand' lecture.

Appointed member

Thomas Radice is a retired civil servant. He and his wife Jennifer - a former diplomat - live close to the Heath Extension and have been Society members for over 20 years. Born in 1940, (the son of Penguin Classics editor Betty Radice) he grew up in Highgate and has known the Heath since childhood. After Westminster School and Magdalen College Oxford he worked in the Inland Revenue, the Lord Chancellor's Department, the National Enterprise Board, the Departments of Transport and Environment, where as Head of Heritage Division (1986 to 1991), he was responsible for policy on ancient monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas and for relations with grant-aided bodies such as English Heritage, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Royal Fine Art Commission. From 1995 to 2003 he worked in the House of Lords as Clerk to the Environment and Agriculture Sub-Committee of the EU Select Committee, and also Clerk to the Law and Institutions Sub-Committee, (chaired by fellow-cyclist Lord Hoffmann).

He joined the Heath Sub-Committee in 2006, and organises the Society's programme of monthly walks on the Heath. He is a keen musician and he and Jennifer are Trustees of the Proms at St Jude's festival, as well as members of several other local societies, and are keen walkers.

The founders of the modern conservation movement

As the H&HS welcomes Kate Ashbrook of the Open Spaces Society to the Society's AGM this year, Helen Marcus looks at the close links between the two Societies

The 40 year battle to save Hampstead Heath from the threat of development by the Lord of the Manor is a famous one, culminating in triumphant victory with the 1871 Act of Parliament. It has been dubbed the first great conservation battle of modern times.

What is less well known is the importance of this battle in the wider context of national conservation movements. A group of remarkable people emerged during the campaign who went on to be at the heart of what became the new conservation movement. They were responsible for the founding of two great national bodies whose creation was intertwined with the saving of Hampstead Heath as we know it today, and subsequently with the founding of the Heath Protection Society - today's Heath & Hampstead Society.

Two key Hampstead figures, John Gurney Hoare and Philip Le Breton, were joined by George Shaw Lefevre MP, and Sir Robert Hunter in the 1860s campaign to save the original Hampstead Heath; and by Octavia Hill in the 1884 campaign to buy Parliament Hill.

The Commons Preservation Society



Shaw Lefevre set up the Commons Preservation Society during the 1865 campaign to save the Heath. It is now the Open Spaces Society, Britain's oldest national conservation body. Shaw Lefevre had a distinguished political career, sitting in several cabinets under Gladstone and Rosebury, and was enobled as Baron Eversley in 1906. His long life – he lived to be 97 – was primarily devoted to the rescue of

open spaces. He was for many years President of the Heath and Hampstead Society and was concerned in every campaign for the Heath, from the 1860s, through all its major additions: Parliament Hill, Golders Hill, the Heath Extension and Kenwood.

The National Trust

In 1876 Octavia Hill and her sister Miranda had founded The Kyrle Society. Now long forgotten, it was the forerunner of the National Trust.

Its Open Space committee was a prime mover in the campaign to add Parliament Hill to the Heath and Octavia Hill was the treasurer of the Hampstead Heath Extension Fund Committee set up in the 1860s to raise money to buy the land from the Earl of Mansfield.

Hill was also prominent in the 1896 campaign to stop the LCC “parkifying” the Heath that led to the foundation of the Heath & Hampstead Society.

Sir Robert Hunter was Solicitor to the Post Office from 1882 to 1913. Like Shaw Lefevre, he devoted large amounts of his time voluntarily to rescuing for the use and enjoyment of the public the large tracts of common which otherwise might have been enclosed and built over.



Octavia Hill

Sir Robert Hunter



And like Shaw Lefevre, his work is too little known and appreciated. He was Vice-President of the Commons Preservation Society, and its Honorary Solicitor from 1868 to 1882. He and John Gurney Hoare were the key figures in preparing the Hampstead case to take to the Court of Chancery in 1869, to determine just what were the rights of the Lord and the copyholders of the Manor. In the event the matter was settled in a most unexpected way: as historian Thomas Barratt delicately put it: “another mediator intervened”. Or as a Hampstead vestryman remarked, rather more unkindly, “the hopes of Hampstead people were brightened by the death of Sir Thomas”.

Later it was Hunter who suggested the name for the National Trust, which he co-founded with Octavia Hill in 1895.

Although he did not live in Hampstead he maintained a connection with the H&HS until his death in 1913. He was President of the Society, took a lively interest in its work, and attended committee meetings whenever possible. He was advising the Society on their attempts to buy Telegraph Hill a few months before he died.

The 19th century saw a remarkable reversal of attitudes towards the preservation of open space. In 1800 it would have been unthinkable to spend public money on anything so frivolous as creating a public park or open space. But with appalling slums caused by industrialisation, access to open spaces began to be seen as important to improving living conditions. The movement to create public parks was already underway by the 1840s. Primrose Hill was the first open space to be bought by government, secured by an Act of Parliament in 1842. And by the 1860s the preservation of natural and open landscapes, such as the remaining commons,

came to be seen as just as important as the creation of parks.

In 1865 a select committee was set up to look at the best means of preserving open spaces for the public and their recommendations became the Metropolitan Commons Act in 1866. Shaw Lefevre played a leading role.

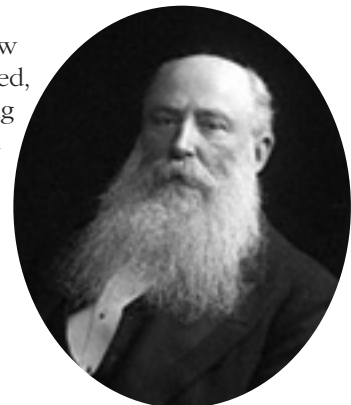
Thus since it was founded in 1897, the Heath & Hampstead Society’s membership and its committees have been a veritable Who’s Who of the arts, politics and conservation world. The Duke of Westminster, who had lent his support to several of the campaigns to enlarge the Heath, was its first Patron and for two years Shaw Lefevre and Hunter served as President and Vice President together. The first civic society in London, it was, as its Chairman said in 1936, a pioneer. It is the only society that has the Heath’s protection as its main objective, and has played a vital role in watching over the Heath and defending it.

The words of Thomas Barratt, Chairman of Pears Soap, Hampstead resident, devoted Hampstead historian, and saviour of Golders Hill Park, written a hundred years ago, are a prescient warning from history and still ring true today:

“It is still necessary to keep a watch over this great breathing space.

From time to time even now encroachments are attempted, and but for the safeguarding vigilance of the Hampstead Heath Protection Society, the Heath, in spite of its Act of Parliament, would not long be permitted to remain intact.”

*The Annals of Hampstead 1912
(see ongoing offer on page 18)*



Heath Report

by John Beyer and Lynda Cook

Dams on the Ponds

The City of London received planning permission for the Ponds Project on 15 January 2015 and subsequently undertook the planned felling of 170 trees, completing this work by 1 March (bird nesting season). Although expected, the felling caused concern; in particular the felling of the 13 mature oak trees on the Stock Pond, despite united opposition by the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group, and a broken promise finally to consult them before the actual felling, caused dismay and mistrust.

This said, the City and BAM Nuttall are presently proceeding with due care and consideration, meeting with the newly established Community Working Group (CWG) on a monthly basis, and the Stakeholder Group every three months, as well as organising periodic walks to view ongoing works now concentrated on the Model Boating Pond. Fencing on the western slope has been erected. Sheet pilings will then be inserted into this pond dividing the lower third from the top two thirds, and subsequently the lower third will be drained prior to building the dam. Great care has been given to ensuring that wildlife do not nest in this bottom area. BAM Nuttall engineers enter the pond in wet suits and remove branches favoured for nesting. Subsequently fish will be transferred to the top third prior to the draining process.

Following requests from the CWG, the City has insisted that BAM Nuttall lorries are preceded and followed by banksmen to ensure safety of Heath users. Large explanatory notices are displayed at all the ponds and BAM Nuttall workers give out cards on request. Dust monitors are now in place and the results will be published on a weekly basis.

Open Spaces legislation

The City has plans to deposit a Private Bill in Parliament, perhaps in November 2015. The Bill would seek to create a clearer legal framework under which the City Corporation administers the 14 open spaces under its control. The City believes that the legislation is needed to clarify its powers, to provide more flexibility for revenue collection and more efficient crime control.

The City seeks clarification because in its view it frequently has the responsibility to “protect” open space but this may conflict with the need to carry out tree and plant management. The City would like to have the ability to offer leases to refreshment providers beyond the three year limit currently permitted (under 1930s legislation).

New legislation could also permit the City to look for new sources of revenue in an environment where other income is likely to continue to be reduced. The City finds that sometimes even cordoning off a small area is legally fraught under present arrangements. The City has offered reassurance that the use of public space by commercial activities would be “occasional and [on a] strictly limited basis”.

The City would like the clear authority to charge fitness instructors and commercial dog-walkers (as do other public spaces like the Royal Parks). It would like to be able to lease buildings which are currently unused. The City would like to bring Heath Constabulary enforcement powers into line with other bodies. There is no scope at present to issue fixed penalty notices; currently the only means of enforcing bye-laws is to carry out a full prosecution in the magistrate’s court; the maximum fine is currently £200, fixed in the

1970s. The City would like to issue fixed penalties for littering and have a clear legal basis for removing items such as camping equipment left in open spaces.

The proposal rings warning bells, but what will be important here is the detail of the legislation, and preservation of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act. Some commercial activity is acceptable; the use of the Pergola for weddings is a good example, as are the traditional fairs and the more recent Affordable Art Fair. The Sub-Committee will work to ensure diligent and detailed scrutiny of the proposal as it develops and intervene with the City as appropriate.

City of London Sexual Activities Working Group (SAWG)

The City of London Sexual Activities group brings together City staff (including the Heath Constabulary), the Met Police, the Camden Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT) Forum, the Terence Higgins Trust (THT) and the Heath and Hampstead Society (represented by Nigel Steward and myself).

The SAWG was set up in 2002 following complaints from the public, about litter but also concerns about visible sexual activity. Activity is concentrated on the West Heath, but is also at times encountered elsewhere.

It had been thought that the activity would die away as men had more access to partners in venues such as clubs and through encounter sites online. The Heath is however well-advertised on gay websites, and has a long tradition. It is not clear whether the numbers of men involved in sexual activity is increasing or declining or staying the same.

The SAWG has encouraged a three year programme of outreach activity by the THT funded by the City. The outreach takes the form of THT staff handing out “Bin it” cards to discourage littering, advising men about the need to respect other Heath users, and urging them to report crime (including introducing the Heath Constables who regularly visit the area). There were 30 sessions in 2014, usually on Friday evenings. Camden LGBT forum also do outreach sessions. The approach has been to win the confidence of punters and reinforce their need to respect other users of the Heath. The campaign has resulted in less obtrusive littering. It would appear that there are now few complaints to the City about sexual activity on the Heath; the programme will be extended for a further three years.

The SAWG believes it is better not to cut down or disturb the holly “rooms” which are used for sex. Cutting down would lead punters to go elsewhere on the Heath, which would make it more difficult to do outreach. Heath bye-laws in essence outlaw any visible sexual activity.

While the general litter problem may be contained, the amount of drug-related rubbish seems to be increasing. There are fewer needles but more containers left from “legal highs” (sourced at Camden Lock or environs; there is no evidence of any drug dealing on the West Heath). Drug use on the Heath is mainly associated with sexual activity; gay saunas and clubs are very strict on drug control, so there is displacement to the Heath.

The area is cleaned carefully each morning by two dedicated Heath keepers who are assigned to the West Heath and well-briefed on the issues. There is a continuing need to monitor activity and ensure that the rights of dog-walkers

Heath Report (cont)

and others are considered at the same time as those engaged in (private) sexual activity.

Kenwood Landscape Forum

The Forum brings together Phil Wright (Kenwood General Manager), Paul Jackson (Head Gardener) and representatives of local groups, including the Heath and Hampstead Society Heath Sub-Committee.

The work programme has included severe coppicing on the East Drive and the restored views from Beech Mount to the Dairy and to the House. Cyclical pollarding and coppice work along the West Drive is being left until 2016 or 2017 so the East and West Drives do not both look bare at the same time.

Nine limes have been planted on Stable Field to fill in gaps in the historic avenue, and scrub on the Earth Dam has been cleared along the view line from the Dairy to the Sham Bridge. Work to be done this year (funds permitting) includes relocating the Flamme sculpture from West

Meadow into the quarry area and in the West Meadow reinstating a farm pond, or perhaps more than one.

Kenwood House Update

English Heritage have managed to recruit 77 new room volunteers since January but, as 60 have dropped out from the old list, the current total of 243 is still about 30 below target. However recruitment is continuing and, with improved rotas, this should be sufficient to keep the house open without resorting to paid helpers. The total volunteer force, covering Garden, Events, Education as well as the house rooms, is now over 300. The small permanent management team is up to full strength.

Plans for a carved interpretation stone of the protected view from the pagoda site on Stable Field are currently being prepared (and will be circulated when available, within the next few weeks). It is hoped that there will be sufficient year-end funds available for Portland stone to be used this spring.



My thanks to Tony Ghilchik for effecting an efficient handover of the Sub-Committee chairmanship, and thanks to Sash Tusa who has left the Sub-Committee, for his support and for his passion for birds and the Heath.

Planning Report

by David Castle

Camden draft Local Plan

Camden have now issued their draft Local Plan for public observations and comments. This Local Plan will eventually take the place of the existing Local Development Framework (LDF) which remains policy until the new Local Plan is approved by an Inspector, probably in 2016.

The proposed new policies and guidelines are similar to those in the present Local Development Framework but there are some significant and potentially disastrous changes suggested. In fact, unless changes are made, parts of the proposed Local Plan are dangerously like a “Developers Charter”.

Property developers must be rubbing their hands in glee!

The Society has already made clear to Camden how concerned we are at some of the proposed alterations to policy and also how many of the other proposals could be improved by slight changes.

Pressure for housebuilding

All Councils in London and the South-East are under pressure to increase the number of dwellings constructed year by year.

Quite sensibly rather than building on Greenbelt or precious agricultural land it would be better to build those dwellings on land that has already been used or developed in some way, so-called “brownfield Land”.

Camden, therefore, are under pressure to increase the number of dwellings constructed each year and have consequently commenced their proposed draft Local Plan with Policy G1 titled ‘Delivery and Location of Growth’. This states that growth and high density of development will be expected not only in

specified growth areas near to good transport facilities (Swiss Cottage is mentioned as one possible growth area) but it also states specifically that in all areas, including Conservation Areas, high density development will be encouraged and expected.

We all know from bitter experience that developers will use this clear requirement for high density to build as high and large as possible and will be able to convince an Inspector on appeal that the developer is providing high density dwellings as required by Camden.

Unfortunately there is now no definition of what used to be called “over-development”, with the result that developers apply for approval for the largest possible building that they think they can obtain approval for. Camden’s insistence on high-densities will enable developers to justify such proposals.

We have proposed to Camden that the draft Local Plan must make it clear that the expectation of high-density development does not apply to Conservation Areas, or near listed buildings, etc.

The proposed Local Plan is available on Camden’s website (Camden.gov.uk) and we urge all members concerned with what might be built in Hampstead to read it – particularly the sections on basements, growth and density. Please then inform Camden of your opinions and if you do please also send a copy to us.

An Update on Basements

On a happier note Camden have proposed a stronger policy on basements - namely that only single-storey basements that are not more than 3.5 m high will be permitted under existing houses.

Planning Report (cont)

They are also proposing that no basements will be permitted under listed buildings and gardens.

Unfortunately they are keeping to the policy that would allow as much as 50% of any garden to have a basement under it. This percentage which appears to copy the Kensington and Chelsea plan is probably not unreasonable in small town gardens but in parts of Hampstead there are large gardens - the trees and greenery of which are an important part of the character of the Conservation Areas. It would be absurd and totally unnecessary to allow half of these gardens to have basements underneath them. We will be negotiating with Camden for a sensible formula to restrict the size of basements allowed in our Conservation Areas.

More good news is that Camden are accepting an interpretation of “permitted development” which means that basements under existing dwellings will require planning approval as such basements are “engineering works”.

Grove Lodge, Admiral`s Walk

An application to construct a large basement, extend the first floor and even construct a garden house with a basement at Grove Lodge (a listed building in an attractive, historic part of Hampstead) has fortunately been withdrawn – due to a vociferous campaign by neighbours against the proposal.

This over-large proposal is typical of many planning applications in Hampstead – people buy small houses and attempt to turn them, regardless of the effect it may have on the area or on the neighbours, into very large dwellings.

Finally

For more information on trees, basements and the planning system please consult our web-site at www.heathandhampstead.org.uk.

Grove Lodge [18th century] is attached to Admiral's House and is thought to be older - possibly once a farm house. John Galsworthy lived here from 1918 to 1933 - his years of fame, when he completed The Forsyte Saga among many other works. In 1932 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature but, as he was too ill to collect it, a delegation came to Grove Lodge to deliver it.

The Streets of Hampstead
by Christopher Wade



Town Report

by Frank Harding

As I write this report, Hampstead is again looking at its best. Beautiful Spring weather has brought out the blossom and the flowers. The village and the Heath are a joy to behold. With luck, by the time this article is in print, the lengthy roadworks on Heath Street and Rosslyn Hill will have been completed and we shall all be able to enjoy the ambiance, the peace and the services that Hampstead has to offer.

The Town Sub-Committee has focussed its discussions recently on a few ongoing issues and also some possible new projects. These include:

Art Exhibition on Heath Street

As previously reported, arrangements to resuscitate the exhibition at the top of Heath Street are progressing well. The exhibition, being arranged jointly by the Society and the Hampstead School of Art (HSoA), will be held on Sundays 28 June and 12 and 19 July. Opening times will be midday to 5pm.

Artwork will be available for sale and members are encouraged to attend this revival of the annual open air exhibition held on summer weekends from 1949 to 1983. If the event proves successful this year, we would hope to expand it in future years.

The HSoA is calling for artists to submit their work for consideration by the selection committee

“Work”

Ford Madox Brown finished perhaps his best known piece of work in 1863. “Work” is set in The Mount, Hampstead and if, today, you were to stand on the spot where he painted it, you would recognise the buildings in the painting. The Society wished to record the fact that Ford Madox Brown lived and worked in Hampstead

with a plaque and we decided that we would reproduce his best known piece. Shortly after taking that decision, we learned that the Society had been left a significant legacy by John Philip Walmsley “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”.

We are now in a position to complete this project which has been generously funded from that legacy. On 6 July, a reproduction of “Work” on tiles, will be unveiled in the Sullivan Garden of Burgh House, the home of the Hampstead Museum. We are extremely grateful for this legacy and also thank Ray, the widow of JP Walmsley, for her patience and support. We are also delighted with the work of Samantha Richardson, the artist who has produced the reproduction on tiles.

Old Hampstead Rediscovered V

The fifth in our series of exhibitions of artworks held in Camden’s archives, this under the title “Changing Scenes”, opens on 11 June at Burgh House. Knight Frank has again generously sponsored the exhibition.

New projects

We have been considering a number of new projects which will we hope lead to an even more delightful Hampstead and one whose history is better known to the younger generation. These will take time to realise and indeed some of them may not see the light of day due to other pressures. I shall keep readers posted as they come to fruition.

Meanwhile if any readers have constructive and practical suggestions as to how we might contribute to improvements to the village, I would ask them to contact me.

The Barratt offer - still open

Generous offer of exceptional interest to H&HS members

A reminder of this exceptional opportunity to acquire an original 1912 edition of

Barratt's Annals of Hampstead

from a collection which a member of the Society has, most generously decided to make available to the Society to help boost the Society's funds.

The offer is still open.

Not only will you be acquiring something of extraordinary historic value but you will be helping the Heath & Hampstead Society to continue guarding our treasured environment on behalf of all of us.

An early member of the Society, Barratt paid tribute to its work in the Annals:

"..... but for the safeguarding vigilance of the Hampstead Heath Protection Society, the Heath, in spite of its Act of Parliament, would not long be permitted to remain intact."

Thomas Barratt (1841–1914) was the chairman of the soap manufacturer A&F Pears and a pioneer of brand marketing. He has been called "the father of modern advertising".

He knew and worked with all the leading campaigners for the Heath and was instrumental in helping to raise the funds to buy Golders Hill Park and the Heath Extension. His *Annals*, packed with fascinating eye-witness stories and anecdotes about Hampstead and its people as they were 100 years ago, are an endless source of interest.

The Spectator reviewed the original 1912 edition:

".....none has a richer local history than Hampstead. Literary and artistic memories form

its most important parts, and ample justice has been done to the record by Mr. Barratt in these finely produced volumes. Hampstead already owes much to Mr. Barrett, who has been among the keenest champions of the "open spaces" which are its chief glory, and the debt is now greatly increased."

These volumes are a must for anyone interested in the history of our beautiful area. Very few are now available to buy on the open market. They are available for a donation of at least £400 to the Heath and Hampstead Society - a very special offer that is below the current market price, and available only to Members of the H&HS. There will be no deductions from this donation.

The sets consist of 3 volumes, each copiously illustrated with beautiful prints and drawings of Hampstead and the Heath from Barratt's own collection - some of which is now in Camden's Archive. There are also many maps including large folding maps in pockets.



If you would like to obtain a set please contact Marc Hutchinson for more information - contact details on the inside front cover.

Update on the London Forum

by Helen Marcus

The London Forum was set up in 1988 to enable amenity and civic societies to work together to protect and improve the quality of life in London. It has over 100 member societies, of which the Heath and Hampstead Society is one. It provides an invaluable service by monitoring the activities of the Mayor of London, the GLA and Central Government initiatives which affect London, keeping member societies up to date on every aspect of London governance.

What the Forum does

The Forum responds to a variety of Government consultations on behalf of members. These are based on regular surveys of member societies' views to ensure that they are accurately represented.

The Forum also participates in scrutinies conducted by committees of the Greater London Assembly; these have included Police & Crime, Transparency, Upgrading the Underground and the 2012 Transport Legacy, New River Crossings and World Heritage sites.

How it works

Its committee is drawn from member groups all over London - Michael Hammerson of the Highgate Society and Helen Marcus of the Heath and Hampstead Society are both on the executive committee – and its Planning and Transport Sub-Committee includes several retired civil servants and Heritage experts.

The Forum's Chairman, Peter Eversden, of Bedford Park Society, is a member of the Mayor of London's Outer London Commission – a mark of the esteem in which the Forum is held as a result of its expert and well informed submissions.

London Forum celebrated its 25th anniversary with a Reception hosted by the Mayor at City Hall.

Keeping you informed

The Forum publishes a Newsletter three times a year which keeps members up to date with planning and environmental issues and gives information about Forum activities. There are regular public meetings with expert speakers on a wide range of subjects such as the environment, open spaces, transport and housing.

If you are interested in the Forum's work you can become an individual subscriber.

For a small subscription you can be on the mailing list and on an email list to receive newsletters and information.

Information about the London Forum and how to become a member can be found on its website

www.londonforum.org.uk

or contact Helen Marcus



A Summer of Festivals in Hampstead

Hampstead Summer Festival: 21st June – 5th July 2015

The 2015 Hampstead Summer Festival

will take place over two weeks,
Opening on the 21st June

Events include

**Art Village and art competition by
Whitestone Pond,**

Pub quizzes and children's activities
throughout the fortnight.

Big Fair Day 5th July - A Great Day Out

HSF culminates on 5th July with Big Fair Day, featuring 100 stalls along Heath Street, the sport and fitness zone, the chess café, music and entertainment on stage, a funfair, circus performers, falcons, pony rides, and a balloon race. Something for all the family.

Raising money for two local charities

Apart from supporting local businesses and being a lot of fun for everyone, HSF raises much needed funds for two vitally important local charities – Age UK Henderson Court Resource Centre and Keats Community Library.

Join In

The Festival organisers need volunteers on the 5th July, to rattle buckets for an hour or two, and if you have any fundraising ideas – Alice themed or otherwise - or would like to sponsor one of the attractions and benefit from the great publicity, do get in touch - see KCL details opposite.

We'd love to hear from anyone who would like to organise a Mad Hatter Tea Party!



Art Competition for Local Schools and Individuals

Magic on the Heath

Alice comes to Hampstead

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the publication of Alice in Wonderland, the Hampstead Summer Festival is arranging lots of exciting events featuring this well-loved classic. A recently republished edition of Alice, published by Walker Books, is illustrated by Hampstead resident Helen Oxenbury, who was awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal for this book, and is internationally lauded as one of the greatest illustrators of our time. So it seems a fitting theme for a Festival which celebrates our beautiful village and its illustrious residents.

A theme which gives scope for all ages.
An opportunity to produce art work for exhibition and sale at the

Art Village on Sunday June 21

Let the characters inspire you to produce art work that reflects our world in 2015. Reinterpret the characters placing them in the Hampstead area including the Heath!

Closing date for entries
15 June 2015

For more information contact

Hampstead School of Art:
020 7794 1439
or Ann Mir: annmir@lissak.com
keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com



Affordable Art Fair & Grow London

In the big marquee on the East Heath Fairground site

Hampstead Affordable Art Fair

11 - 14 June

The popular Affordable Art Fair returns to Hampstead Heath for the fifth year. 110 local and international galleries will showcase original painting, sculpture, photography and limited edition prints by 1,100 exceptional artists all under one roof. All artwork is priced from £100 - £5,000 so, whatever your budget, you're sure to find a piece that's perfect for you! Enjoy a family day out, with an education programme packed with workshops and activities for all ages.

Grow London

19 - 21 June

Returning to Hampstead Heath this June for the second year, and presenting over 100 exhibitors offering an unrivalled selection of contemporary and classic garden furniture, rare and hard-to-find plants from some of the country's finest nurseries, fine garden sculpture, covetable pots, planters, accessories and tools. An inspiring day out with ideas on how to transform your garden or outdoor space, no matter how large or small.

**Special offer for Heath & Hampstead Society members for both these shows
Show your Hampstead Card to gain free entry during public opening times.**

Charity Private View in aid of the Hampstead School of Art Wednesday 10 June, 5.30 – 9.30pm

Hampstead School of Art has been chosen as the Charity Beneficiary of the Affordable Art Fair, Hampstead, 2015. Enjoy an evening of art and wine (and hopefully some sunshine!) whilst supporting Hampstead School of Art in funding its new home in the heart of Hampstead

Buy a 'Secret Postcard' at the event, at the HSoA Charity stall, surprise yourself when you read the artist's name on the back of your new artwork!

By purchasing a Charity Private View ticket you are helping fund an ambitious new art school building, designed by architects Allies & Morrison. The school's new home will be built

looking out on to beautiful gardens, with light pouring into its studios as part of a fantastic new development on Kidderpore Avenue, with the art school building at its heart. The new building will mean that HSoA can continue making a difference for generations to come.

Tickets cost £25.00 and are available from the school office. All proceeds go to the school's new building fund.

Please ring us on 020 7794 1439 or **email** on info@hsoa.co.uk.

Please tell all your friends and bring your family.

Summer Art Soirée Thursday 11 June, 5.30 – 9.30pm

Summer Art Soirée visitors will be able to view the art before the weekend rush whilst enjoying a complimentary drink.

Tickets and Booking information on the website: <http://affordableartfair.com>

A Summer of Festivals: Proms at St Jude's

20-28 June 2015 23rd Season



Proms at St Jude's is a nine-day midsummer music and culture festival offering a wide range of music, from classical to jazz, to opera, with international artists and rising young professionals;

Raising funds for charity Run almost entirely by volunteers, the Festival gives all its surplus to charity: 75% goes to Toynbee Hall and 25% to the North London Hospice.

Highlights include

Saturday 20 June *Carmen*

Monday 22 June *The Brodsky Quartet With Gemma Rosefield*

Saturday 27 June *Clare Teal and Her Mini Big Band*

Sunday 28 June *Last Night favourites with full orchestra*

LitFest weekend 20th-21st June

authors include

Gill Hornby

Bill Browder

Stanley Johnson

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

Alan Johnson



- *regular free lunchtime concerts*
- *family friendly events*
- *a programme of Heritage Walks*



Become a Friend

Support the Festival and its two charities, by becoming a Friend –benefits include Priority booking for the best seats. More information on the website.

You can also sign up for the regular e-newsletter with updates on all that's going on at the Proms at St Jude's

Booking information

Tickets can be booked online at the Proms website: <http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk/>

Telephone: Box Office opens from Monday 1 June 020 3322 8123

Refreshments

LitFest café at The Henrietta Barnett School open throughout the first weekend of the festival offering fresh sandwiches, delicious homemade cakes, tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Licensed refreshment marquee beside St Jude's for a snack, sandwich or drink before a lunchtime or evening concert or in the interval.

The Summer Open Air Art Exhibition

last held in 1985, at the top of Heath Street
will take place on

***Sundays 28 June and
12 and 19 July –
opening hours
midday to 5pm.***

Works by local and other artists
will be on sale.

You are encouraged to view the work and
perhaps to purchase.

**The exhibition is a joint event put on
by The Heath & Hampstead Society**

and

The Hampstead School of Art.



The Open Air Art Exhibition in the 1950s



Wild Swimming Walks

This summer Keats Community
Library has teamed up with
Stanfords Travel Bookshop to
present something a bit
different.

The Ladies of Kenwood Ladies
Bathing Pond have produced a book called
Wild Swimming Walks which leads you on
28 adventures into the beautiful countryside
of southern England. Discover swimming
meadows along the Thames, secret coves of
the Sussex seashore and hidden islands of
the Essex coast. All the walking routes are
accessible by train and each comes with
ideas for places to visit and refreshments
along the route.

There will be a talk in the library on
Tuesday June 16th at 6.30pm.

Tickets £8 inc a complimentary glass of
wine.

Phone: 020 7431 1266 Call in at the library
or book online at wegottickets.com

Keats Community Library
Keats Grove NW3 2RR
General Email:
keatscommunitylibrary@gmail.com

*Keats Community Library is a registered
independent charity (1146702) which runs
the community library. We are a company
limited by guarantee (07889559)*

www.keatscommunitylibrary.org.uk

Bulletin Board

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.



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 Society know at:

info@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

Belsize Park Film Society

Tuesday evenings at 7pm

Hampstead Town Hall

213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP.

Entrance £5 at the door

The Society aims to show a wide and diverse range of world cinema, documentaries and must-see movies thorough out the year.

All welcome

for more information

Email: filmsocietyhampstead@gmail.com

Hampstead Theatre

Eton Avenue NW3 3EU

Support your local Theatre

Become a Friend of Hampstead Theatre

Take advantage of our priority booking period. For just £40 per annum Friends receive the following benefits:

- Priority Booking
- Advance notice of forthcoming productions
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Invitations to exclusive events at the Theatre
- 10% discount at Hampstead Theatre bar

For more details see

www.hampsteadtheatre.com/support-us

tel: 020 7449 4155.

www.hampsteadtheatre.com



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



Heath Walks 2015

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



7 June 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) Spider foray led by Edward Milner, former BBC producer and National Spider Recorder for Middlesex and London; member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management; author of '*Trees of Britain and Ireland*'

5 July 2.30pm (meet outside the Parliament Hill Café, near the Lido) Treasures of the Heath: clues to the landscape and its history led by Deborah Wolton, co-author with David McDowall of '*Hampstead Heath: The Walker's Guide*'

2 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

6 September 9.30am (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath led by John Hunt, former Chairman of the Marylebone Birdwatching Society and member of the H&HS Heath Subcommittee

4 October 2.30pm (meet at the Café, Golders Hill Park) Identifying trees in Golders Hill Park led by Bettina Metcalfe, local tree enthusiast and member of the International Dendrology

1 November 10.30am (meet in East Heath Road Car Park, opposite Downshire Hill) Trees and the historic landscape led by Jonathan Meares, Trees and Conservation Manager (Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood), City of London