

www.netherhallneighbours.com

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Neighbourhood plan - it's now or never!

Do you want to have a greater say in local affairs?

Do you want to influence local planning policy?

Is there something you feel needs doing to improve your neighbourhood?

Now is your once in a lifetime chance to have a real say in the future of your neighbourhood!

THE NEW Localism Act, still in its early days, was set up to help people influence planning and develop a shared vision for the area in which they live.

It provides for local communities to register a neighbourhood forum within boundaries defined by them and then establish a 'Plan' which will give them a real say on future developments in their locality, enable them to identify issues and needs, protect and enhance their streets and green spaces, and influence the local environment for the better.

Each forum, of at least 21 local people, must represent the area within its boundaries and include all constituents from residents to businesses including shops, schools and other institutions.

After extensive discussion and consultation, the forum will formulate a detailed neighbourhood plan and then seek the community's approval for it by way of a referendum in which all residents have a chance to vote. Once adopted, the plan can be placed alongside the Council's local planning controls,

where it will have significant weight in the consideration of future developments.

In Camden a large number of areas are in the process of establishing neighbourhood forums. Locally, Redfrog, Heath and Hampstead, Highgate, West Hampstead and Church Row (the smallest) are well on their way.

The NNA is also moving forward in a measured way, sharing information and holding discussions with Camden and also others nearby about the setting up of our own forum.

Unique character

We are a very distinctive part of Hampstead with a particular and unique character, concerns and needs, and the NNA takes the view that this demands that the Netherhall neighbourhood – almost a 'cul-de sac' – should avoid being subsumed by a forum for a larger area such as Hampstead Village with its own but quite different issues.

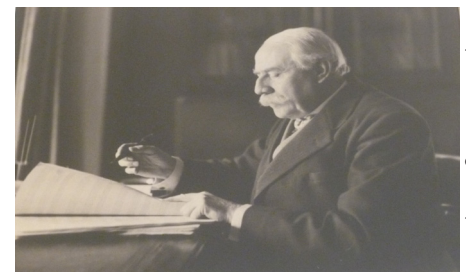
The Netherhall area is primarily residential, though we also have the

Freud Museum, South Hampstead High School, the Danish Hostel and Netherhall House. There are no shops but there are schools with the inevitable traffic and parking problems.

We formed a steering group about a year ago, which includes local ward councillor Gio Spinella. Since then we have appraised our area, often by means of walkabouts, looking at what we love about the area and also germinating thoughts on what needs to be done to

continued overleaf

Elgar trust set up



▲ 1933 bromide print of Sir Edward Elgar by Herbert Lambert on show at Fenton House until 29th June

THE AIM of the NNA to have a bronze statue of Sir Edward Elgar erected near his former home in Netherhall Gardens reached one major step nearer fruition in February when the newly created Elgar in Hampstead Memorial Trust was granted charitable status by the Charity Commission. Donations can now be made online at www.elgarmemorialtrust.com

Next steps for the Trust are to apply for planning permission from Camden Council, liaise with celebrated sculptor Vivien Mallock over details of the proposed statue and to prepare marketing materials for fundraising.

To get involved or for more information email susannelawrence@gmail.com

Hampstead's Village People: Portraits of Cultural Icons' exhibition at Fenton House

NNA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 2nd April 2014, 43 Maresfield Gardens

7.00pm RECEPTION: drinks and buffet supper

7.30pm AGM overview of 2013, election of officials, questions and any other business

8.15pm GUEST SPEAKER

Helen Pike: 'Teaching history and writing harlots'

Helen Pike is the new headmistress of South Hampstead High School and author of 'The Harlot's Press', which is her first published novel. (For more about Helen and progress on the school rebuilding project, see article on page 6)



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JUNIOR CORNER

Somewhere over the rainbow
by Kasper Nicholson, aged 6, of Netherhall Gardens



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

continued from front page

protect and enhance its future. We have taken photographs which we will be posting on a new website.

We have had meetings with other local neighbourhood forums to discuss progress and common problems, as well as with officers at Camden Council. We are also in touch with support organisations set up after the Localisation Act was passed; these offer help and guidance but no funding, although grants may possibly be available further down the line.

During our walkabouts, it became apparent that the west side of Fitzjohn's Avenue between the bottom of Maresfield Gardens and the top of Netherhall Gardens ought to be included, as it not only borders our streets and shares garden spaces but experiences common problems.

In discussion with the Council it became clear there was considerable merit in also considering including the east side of Fitzjohn's Avenue so that the streetscape and activities along this important street for both Hampstead in general and our neighbourhood in particular could be looked at in the round. This is continuing to be investigated, but it is proposed to canvass the views of Fitzjohn's Avenue residents and it will be for them to decide whether they want to be part of our forum.

'Local economic activity', 'Open spaces and public areas', 'Social and community issues', 'Traffic and transport' and 'Development and heritage' are key areas to be addressed. Within these themes will be included the local housing mix, basement developments, loss of green areas, loss of front gardens, back garden developments, tree planting and maintenance, local environmental issues, street furniture, community activities and the recognition of important assets.

While the NNA has been very much involved in the initial gestation of a neighbourhood forum, the forum itself will be a distinct body, the members of which will be self-appointed through their interest in the neighbourhood's future and their desire to take part in guiding that future.

This is an opportunity for residents to address local issues that concern them and to work closely with our schools, businesses and institutions to form a greater sense of community and co-operation. It is also an opportunity for money to be channelled into the area: if a neighbourhood plan has been adopted by the Council, 25 per cent of the community investment levy collected by the Council has to be spent within the area of the plan. Otherwise it is spent within the general ward and will not necessarily benefit our neighbourhood.

What happens next? Get involved!

It is clear that to get a plan off the ground will take a tremendous amount of work. We need to formulate the final issues to be covered by the plan; consult with all the local bodies in our area; hold public meetings and workshops to involve locals and identify what is needed for the future; draft a plan which will be acceptable to the Council; and then call a referendum (with the Council's help) to get the plan adopted. This is a huge undertaking and one that can only be embarked on with the support of and practical help from residents.

We therefore need to know whether you are in favour of us trying to formulate a plan, if you have relevant expertise and can help us and if you are willing to volunteer to help in any way. This is a unique opportunity for our community.

Please let us know your views. We want to hear from you.
Email me at linda@osbandpress.co.uk or drop in a note to 16A Maresfield Gardens. *Linda Williams, NNA Chair*

A kid's eye view of Hampstead

Netherhall mother Christina Cadogan reviews the local amenities for children

I HAVE BEEN living in the Hampstead area on and off all my life, and in Netherhall Gardens for 15 years, but since having a child (a little boy, now 17 months), I am discovering a new dimension to the neighbourhood.

I had never previously paid much attention to what Hampstead had to offer kids – and their parents – other than being aware of the abundance of schools in the area.

Now I am gradually learning the extent of what is available for wee ones.

Getting through the first exhausting six months with a new born is tough and it's important to get out of the house.

A saviour for me was NW3 Swedish mothers, who meet once a week for 'fika och lek' – 'snack and play'. Each mother takes it in turn to host a morning of coffee and cakes at her home while the babies play. The mailing list amounts to over 40 people but on average around seven adults plus children show up, and it is a relaxed, civilised way to meet people with children of a similar age and will hopefully help my son to grow up bilingual. On va voir...

Hampstead being as international as it is, I am sure there are many similar informal arrangements for mothers and babies of several other nationalities.

There are numerous classes available to children in the Hampstead area from small babies onwards. I didn't want to go too over the top on this front, having seen mothers exhaust their children by rushing them from one thing to the next. However, I was very keen for Hugo to attend a music class as he seems to respond enthusiastically every time he hears music in the house.

Bach to baby

So I tried 'Bach to baby' with him when he was eight months old. Then held at Hampstead Parish Church, this involved listening to various pieces of classical music targeted at little ones.

I can't say it was a huge success – Hugo largely ignored the music and was far more interested in crawling around and checking out the fellow children. However, we tried again when he reached 15 months. This time 'Bach to baby' was held in the elegant concert



▲ **Monkey Music at Friends Meeting House: fun, interactive, entertaining, lively**

room at Burgh House and far more successfully from our point of view, with Hugo smiling, bopping away and clapping emphatically at the close of each piece.

For more fun interactive music, Hugo attends 'Monkey Music' at the Quaker Friends Meeting House once a week. I can't claim that these classes involve a huge amount of music and am not convinced as to how pedagogic they are, but they are entertaining and lively and both Hugo and I enjoy them.

I have friends who attend classes at Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre, and the Hampstead Community Centre has fun and engaging activities for kids such as baking and face painting.

Hampstead Heath is of course wonderful for children and a huge privilege to have close by. I am happy to let Hugo run around there without a harness without worrying hugely that he will pick up fag ends or condoms - problems my friend encountered when letting her two year old loose in Holland Park; 'never again' she claimed emphatically.

In terms of playgrounds, we are now regulars at the one at the bottom of Downshire Hill. There is another big one with a paddling pool on Parliament Hill and, although a bit of a walk, Golders Hill Park offers a good playground plus animals for kids.

Friends with older children have complained, however, that there aren't any playgrounds in the area that are fun for the over-fives.

And, while I am on the negatives, for working parents there seems to be a shortage of day care centres for the under-twos in the area, the nearest option being JW3, the Jewish Community Centre on Finchley Road.

Reeking of popcorn

For older kids (five plus), Hampstead's paradise appears to be the O2 Centre on Finchley Road, somewhere I have hitherto, with the exception of a fleeting gym membership, avoided. Why would you want to go to a glaring multiplex cinema reeking of popcorn and strong cleaning products, when you can snuggle up with a glass of wine on a cosy armchair at the intimate Everyman?

My views are not, however, shared by the average six year old in the area; one Netherhall Gardens resident said to me 'the O2 Centre has everything!' and indeed there are some great restaurants for little ones, a good, spacious Waterstones and of course the cinema. For tinier ones, Gymboree at the O2 includes play and learn classes, art music and theatre classes.

As with much else in London, we mothers are spoilt for choice. I look forward to exploring and learning more. **NNA**

Principal cellist, Royal Opera House

With links to the likes of Jacqueline du Pré and Britain's best known conductors, Chris Vanderspar's life has been dominated by music from birth. Local pianist Ruth Stone talked to him for NNA News

CHRIS VANDERSPAR welcomes me into his lovely Arts and Crafts house that stands proudly at the head of Nutley Terrace. He and his wife, Cathryn, who is a corporate tax lawyer with Berwin, Leighton and Paisner, and their sons, William and Benedict, moved there from Muswell Hill nine years ago. We exchange enthusiasm for the neighbourhood where his father was born (Vanderspar is a Flemish name but the family have been here for several generations), and particularly for the wonderful transport links. Chris says that it is especially good being so close to Lord's Cricket Ground, as his son William is a talented cricketer who plays for the MCCU team at Leeds University.

Above all, however, this is a musical family. Chris is a principal cellist with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, his brother plays viola with the Royal Philharmonic and his sister is a violinist in New York. Their mother, Elizabeth, was a leading figure in Dalcroze Eurythmics, a method of teaching rhythmic awareness through movement to children and students. One of her pupils at the Royal College of Music, incidentally, was Annie Lennox, which is how Eurythmics got its name.

Pride of place

A week after Chris and I met, I had lunch with my music teacher from South Hampstead High School in the 1960s, Jean Middlemiss, who is another Dalcroze devotee. She remembered Elizabeth with great affection, and had attended her memorial concert at Netherhall House. Chris retains Elizabeth's piano, which has pride of place in his music room, even though he does not play himself.

The gift for music continues down the generations. Chris and Cathryn's son Benedict, who now works at McKinsey, was a music scholar at Westminster School and is also a fine violinist.

I ask what first drew him to the cello and he tells me that Elizabeth was



great friends with Iris, the mother of renowned cellist Jacqueline du Pré. Iris, herself a talented concert pianist, and Jacqueline often came to stay in his childhood home, a farmhouse in Berkshire. He remembers as a five-year-old watching Jacqueline play, and saying, "I want to play like that!"

He was given every support as a child and studied at the Central Tutorial School for Young Musicians, which later became the Purcell School of Music. His principal teachers as a student were Maurice Gendron and Jacqueline's celebrated teacher, William Pleeth.

Relatively soon afterwards, at the youthful age of 24, Chris was appointed Principal of the cello section at the Royal Opera House, where he has remained for the past 36 years.

I ask him what has kept him there, apart from a love of opera. And the answer is enlightening. "Most orchestras," he says, "spend a great deal of time touring away from home.

"This job allowed me to commute to work each day, and spend time with my two boys as they grew up. In fact I was around a lot more than my wife.

"There aren't many orchestral jobs with that luxury." And, of course, another luxury in Covent Garden is the

generous rehearsal time allowed for each production. Compared with symphony orchestra musicians, players have much longer to get to know the music, as the production gradually takes shape.

During his long career he has played under many of the world's great conductors. At the beginning he remembers Stokowski conducting in old age. He was of the old school and demanded silence and complete respect. One day he walked up to the orchestra and told one unfortunate individual: "You, sir, must go or I go." The rehearsal could not continue until the poor player had been removed without any reason given.

He remembers Carlos Kleiber as a strange character, but one of the greatest. He would come to the opera house whenever he had run out of money, and they would put on whatever opera he requested. Other conductors that Chris admires are Bernard Haitink, the late Colin Davis, Simon Rattle and present Music Director, Antonio Pappano, who has a deep knowledge of opera. Pappano is another Hampstead resident.

Chris is presently working with John Eliot Gardiner, who has come from an Early Music background. He demands

This job allowed me to commute to work each day, and spend time with my two boys as they grew up

no vibrato and different ways of bowing from the strings. The orchestra uses period horns and trumpets, but standard woodwind. "It can be difficult to get the whole thing to sound right," he says, "but very satisfying when you do."

I ask which era has in his view produced the greatest conductors. He replies with an interesting insight. In the past most young opera conductors trained as repetiteurs in an opera house,



◀ (left and below) Chris with cello in his Netherhall Gardens music room

rehearsing with singers at the piano. This meant that they were very competent pianists and knew the operas inside out. A shining example was Sir Georg Solti who retained his excellence as a pianist right through his career.

Nowadays, young conductors are more likely to have worked with symphony orchestras first, and are sometimes less familiar with singers and their ways.

Prima donnas

This may be one of the reasons that he thinks there are fewer great opera conductors these days. The emphasis on the conductors at the helm is justified, as they alone can hold all the different elements of an opera or a ballet together, and deal with such hazards as prima donnas flying in at the last moment. “Generally speaking,” says Chris, “the quality of the conductor will determine the quality of the performance.”

The talk turns to favourite operas. Chris says that usually working on an opera deepens his liking for it, no matter what period it is from. As he gets to know more challenging contemporary works, they grow on him. This season he has been immersed in *Sicilian Vespers* by Verdi which is currently receiving its first British performance.

A ballet later in the season will present him with a particular challenge. It is called ‘Sweet Violets’ and the score is a Rachmaninov Piano Trio (for piano, violin and cello). Even though the three performers will play on a raised platform, it is not easy to project chamber music into such a large house.

“And,” says Chris, “there’s a rape and a murder before you’ve even got through the first 20 bars!”

I wonder how well he gets to know productions visually. He says that it depends on his position in the pit. If the cellos are near the pit rail then they usually have quite a good view. However, with some productions it can be better not to see the stage. He remembers one staging of the Ring Cycle where all the characters seemed to wear paper bags over their heads. It was probably an advantage not to see what was happening on stage!

I ask about life at ‘The House’. Many of us remember the television series which gave the impression of a rather fraught enterprise. “Yes,” he says. “I declined to be interviewed for that. It was a bit of a disaster. Things sound so different by the time the programme is made. I think that some colleagues regretted taking part.”

Somewhat exotic

How much does the orchestra get involved in the life at Covent Garden? Chris says that it is a bit like the BBC, with lots of departments doing their own thing. “In fact we were run by Tony Hall, the chap who is now the BBC’s Director-General.” There have been attempts to bring people together, but it is difficult.

Chris numbers among his colleagues wig masters and someone involved in the armoury, and that gives a flavour of the huge enterprise that is the Royal Opera House. However, everyone will join in

a party at the end of a new production, and there is always a Christmas party, generally themed, which makes it “fun and somewhat exotic”.

I ask Chris whether he gets involved in music outside Covent Garden. He replies that he does not play in any other orchestra, but there is scope for quite a lot of chamber music with musicians drawn from the Covent Garden Orchestra. This provides him with a completely different repertoire and even with some occasional concerts away from home.

A recent memorable event took place at Buckingham Palace, hosted by the Prince of Wales. It was made up of scenes from Shakespeare’s plays and from opera settings. A black actor played Othello and was followed by a black singer in a scene from Verdi’s *Otello*.

Our interview was over and I made my way back to Maresfield Gardens, delighted to have met a musician who clearly continues to get pleasure and satisfaction from his work. There was a mixture of calmness and excitement that has sustained him through a long career at Covent Garden, and looks set to carry on well into the future.

Readers who would like to see and hear Chris in action should type his name into You Tube, where they will find him accompanying Placido Domingo in ‘None but the Lonely Heart’ by Tchaikovsky. **NNA**



South Hampstead's Jean Brodie

With the redevelopment of South Hampstead High School nearing completion, NNA News talked to new headmistress Helen Pike

THE REBUILDING of South Hampstead High School is currently on target for completion this autumn and new headmistress Helen Pike hopes to be able to move staff and pupils back from their temporary portakabin homes in the playing fields over the October half-term holiday.

Progress was held up by the unexpected discovery of what had been intended to be temporary metal piles cast into concrete when the 1987 Waterlow building was put up; these had to be broken out below ground before the new dig could continue. However, good weather last summer helped move things back on track and in early February builders Wates were reporting that no time had been lost due to the unusually wet winter weather.

Roofing work had begun and steelwork had been installed to both what will be the new sports hall and the main entrance atrium linking the existing Waterlow building with the Maresfield teaching block. Progress could best be viewed from College Crescent while scaffolding and monarflex sheeting was obscuring the Maresfield Gardens view.

Community benefits

By next January or February (2015), Pike told *NNA News*, the school's "long-suffering neighbours" should be able to see inside the new building as well as out, as the intention is to open it up for local events. Not only does section 106 of the planning permission require the school to "do something for the community", she explains, "but I really want people to feel the school is part of their Hampstead lives."

"After all the inconvenience they have had to live with from the building work, it would be nice if something of benefit could come out of it."

The school's redevelopment, the plans for which were significantly amended following consultation with the NNA, has seen the total demolition of one of its original Victorian buildings and this is in the throes of being replaced with a modern glass structure, while continuous corridors are intended to overcome what Pike calls the former (rabbit) "warren ethos".



Photo: Wates

▲ A view of the school taken from College Crescent in February (2014) which shows the entire project along with the new sports hall

In fact, she says, the girls have grown very fond of the portakabins, where facilities are actually "an improvement on those in many a converted classroom". Also parents, who have been able to attend open mornings, have been pleasantly surprised.

They should have been pretty impressed too by Pike herself: tall, striking in appearance and a veritable dynamo, she comes over as an ideal bridge between traditional and modern, both in her views on education and in her awareness of the potential roles and challenges for young women today.

Exuding more than a touch of the Jean Brodies, she strongly espouses what she calls 'gold standard' academic excellence that will equip 'her girls' for the top flight universities; but at the same time she intends to explore the benefits of a diploma-style enrichment to the curriculum and is also committed to preserving the school's reputation for providing a liberal education, with its focus on arts and culture.

A published novelist and editor as well as teacher, Helen was born in 1973 and grew up in Preston, Lancashire. She gained an MA in modern history from Oxford, where her partner is now a don (actually a tutor in medieval history at St Hugh's). She then spent three years in the United States at the University

of Michigan teaching history, literature and helping overseas students get their English up to speed.

Her first full-time job back here was teaching history and politics at the City of London School, where she spent five years. There then followed six years at St Pauls as head of politics, during which time she undertook a part-time degree course in creative writing at Birkbeck College. Most recently she spent another four years at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, where she was director of studies.

Single sex education

South Hampstead is the first exclusively girls school she has worked in and, not surprisingly, she has strong views on single sex education. Yes, of course, she understands that the world of work and life generally is mixed sex. However, she argues that single-sex schools give girls a far fuller spectrum of experience and opportunities, with many more excelling in science, technology, engineering and maths than in mixed schools and, for example, playing traditionally male brass instruments in school orchestras.

A key challenge, she says, is preparing girls for jobs that have not yet been invented, "so we try to develop attributes like mental flexibility, presentation and

communication skills and emotional intelligence.”

Another important aspect of school responsibility, she feels, is in the pastoral area: the pressure on girls to be women before their time (the age of grown-up party-going starts in Year 8 now rather than Year 9, she says), and the need to think before doing anything silly – whether in respect of road safety, internet safety or simply choice of friends – and how they spend their weekends. Parents particularly look to schools to give advice on contemporary issues such as cyber-bullying, she adds.

Making a difference

Her ambition for South Hampstead is to make it “the most interesting school in London”. That means taking the girls out into the world – trips, internships, charitable work, and bringing the outside in – inviting in top-flight speakers, musicians, artists in residence.

Her aim is to help pupils to understand what ‘making a difference’ in the world actually means. “We look at any ideas from staff and students that will inspire the girls.”

Her enthusiasm for the job (“If it’s the last job I ever have, I’ll be happy”) is unquestionable, if not exhausting; terms like fun, spirited, high octane, enrichment, creative energy and passion pepper her comments and transmit themselves in her delivery.

Staying put

Despite continuing to write, she says she has given her commitment to the stability that the school now needs after the turmoil of the last couple of years.

She declined to comment on the unexpectedly early departure last Easter of her predecessor Jenny Stephens on grounds of confidentiality, but one advantage of this timing was that Helen was able to be around for the 2013 summer term much more than if Jenny had still been there.

This gave her an opportunity to appoint a new senior team – finance and marketing managers and two deputy heads – during that time, as well as meeting students and parents.

She is currently working on her second novel (“I tried short stories and radio plays but everything turned into a

novel”), but insists it is unthinkable that she would give up the headship for writing, albeit we didn’t discuss the possibility of her coming up with a new Harry Potter.

Her first book, ‘The Harlot’s Press’, is set in the summer of 1820 and narrated by a 17-year old printmaker whose job is to colour in the ‘rather voluminous behind’ of Caroline Brunswick, the estranged wife and would-be queen of George IV. Her publisher claims she was inspired by her years of teaching history and politics, a passion for 19th century literature and a love of London.

She actually moved to London in 1997 and initially lived up the road in Kilburn. However she recently bought a house in Harrow on the Hill – just a few stops from Finchley Road on the Metropolitan Line.

History and harlots

On 2nd April she will be speaking at the NNA’s 31st AGM (*see notice, page 1*) on ‘Teaching history and writing harlots’. The latter is a reference to her novel ‘The Harlot’s Press’, which was published by Short Books in July 2011. **NNA**

NNA 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



AS PART OF its 30th anniversary events in 2013, in May the NNA co-hosted, with Netherhall House, a piano recital given by the very talented and prize-winning young Mexican pianist, Bruno Ferrari (*pictured above*).

His mixed programme, which included Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninov and Scriabin, was played with great flair and passion and the audience was enthralled by his performance.

Over 30 NNA members attended, plus Netherhall House guests and students, and a very enjoyable reception was held afterwards with drinks and canapés. The conversation was so animated that no one wanted to go home.

NNA Chair Linda Williams expressed her thanks to the pianist for his wonderful performance and to Peter Brown of Netherhall House for arranging the concert and helping make the event a great success.



GUEST SPEAKER at the NNA’s 30th AGM last March was journalist Victoria Brittain (*above right, with chair Linda Williams*). Her theme was ‘The forgotten women of the war on terror’, many of whom she had encountered during her career as a foreign correspondent.



PAT WHITEHOUSE, one of the NNA’s founder members, cut the 30th anniversary cake at the annual general meeting, aided by co-founder Mayer Hillman. The meeting and party were held at the Anna Freud Centre, which was made suitably festive with balloons, streamers and plenty of food and wine.

Later in the year rain failed to deter residents, and not least the children, from enjoying the annual street party.

Photos: Steve Williams

Photo: Steve Williams



▲ NNA Chair Linda Williams welcomes the audience to the special piano recital by Bruno Ferrari at Netherhall House in May to celebrate the association's thirtieth anniversary.

DURING 2013 NNA members enjoyed a number of events to celebrate the association's thirtieth anniversary (see page 7), including the Netherhall street party organised in September by Andy Wilkins, David Caden and Giorgio Broetz. In addition members were invited to other concerts at Netherhall

House; an Open Garden and tea party hosted by Linda and Stephen Williams; and a range of talks, events and exhibitions at the Freud Museum, including the launch of Richard Stone's book *Hidden Stories of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry*. Richard was also in discussion with QC Keir Starmer at Swiss Cottage library in February.

Members were invited to the 2013 Hampstead Arts Festival; to theatrical productions from the Hampstead Players; by Camden Community and Police Consultative Group to meet new Borough Commander Chief Superintendent B J Harrington; to Camden's transport liaison meeting and this January to a meeting of the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies where the NNA's Mayer Hillman was speaking on the theme of climate change.

Forthcoming

Wednesday 2 April: 7pm. Annual NNA reception and AGM with guest speaker Helen Pike, novelist and new head of South Hampstead High, on 'Teaching history and writing harlots'. At the Danish YWCA, 43 Maresfield Gardens.

Sunday 22 June: 2-6pm. Linda and Stephen Williams' Open Garden in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. Tea and cakes. Free admission to NNA members. Little House, 16A Maresfield Gardens.

July: Netherhall street party (*tbc*)

Volunteers are sought for the following positions on the NNA Committee:

Honorary Secretary: to prepare agendas for, attend and minute meetings (average four to six *pa*); notify committee of meetings and distribute minutes incorporating members' written reports.

Newsletter editor or assistant: encompassing planning, commissioning and subediting or writing news and features; and, most importantly, laying out the pages using Adobe Indesign (or similar) software.

Licensing: to attend and comment on local licensing applications and appeals.

Police contact points

FOLLOWING THE closure of Hampstead Police Station, the nearest place to visit the police currently is **Ground Floor, Station House, 9-13 Swiss Terrace, Swiss Cottage NW6 4RR** *Weds 7-8pm, Thurs 7-8pm, Sat 2-3pm*

However, reports NNA police liaison representative **Keith Lipman**, this is likely to change in the near future with the old Hampstead Town Hall, 7-8pm three times a week, becoming our closest contact point. To check, visit www.met.police.uk and type postcode in section 'Find your local police'.

Residents interested in attending local Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings should contact keith.lipman@gmail.com

NNA MEMBERSHIP 2014

THE NETHERHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION works to maintain and improve the character of the environment, runs social events and provides a 'good neighbours' service. If you have not yet renewed your membership, or are new to the area, please join now. It only costs £8 per person for a year or £10 for a family and you can join/renew online at www.netherhallneighbours.com. Alternatively please complete the form below and post it through the letterbox of either 18 Maresfield Gardens or Flat 3, 22 Netherhall Gardens along with your subscription. And if you have a new neighbour, or there are other flats in your building, please spread the word and encourage them to join or notify Patricia Whitehouse: tel 020 7435 0798 or email patricia.whitehouse@hotmail.co.uk. Queries can also be emailed to membership@netherhallneighbours.com

Title: Forename: Surname:

Title: Forename: Surname:

Address:

Tel no: Mobile: Email:

Do you have any skills or interests that could help us?.....

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