



Hampstead Village

*This pavement walk takes in some of the winding back ways of Hampstead*

### **Church Row**

The handsomest street in Hampstead. Nearly all the houses are of early 18<sup>th</sup>-century origin with flush-framed windows. Eight houses were built on the south side in 1713 as a speculation by Richard Hughes of Holborn. Plaques attest to many well-known residents from Giles Gilbert Scott to Bosie.

### **St John's Parish Church**

This building dates from 1747 and was designed by local resident John Sanderson. It has its belfry and tower at the east side. Enlarged and reoriented by Cockerell in 1878. It has some fine stained glass by Clayton and Bell.

### **Holly Place/St Mary's**

Includes St Mary's Roman Catholic Church. French émigré Abbe Morel raised the funds for the church, one of the smallest and most attractive in London. Prospect Place next door was also built by French émigrés.

### **Holly Bush Pub**

This pub started in the stables of the house built in the 1790s by portrait painter George Romney and subsequently used as the Hampstead Assembly Rooms. A favourite of Tony and Stuart, it still had gas lighting when they discovered it. Benskin's, since 1928 it is now Fuller's.

### **Fenton House**

dates from 1693 and passed from one owner to another. Lady Binning died in 1952 leaving it to the National Trust. It has a very pretty walled

garden and the house includes the Benton-Fletcher collection of early keyboard instruments as well as fine pictures furniture and porcelain.

### **Admiral's House**

was not actually lived in by Admiral Matthew Barton. Built originally in 1700 by a vintner, it was Captain Fountain North who adapted the roof to look like a ship's deck, complete with cannon.

### **Whitestone Pond**

is the highest point in North London, 440 ft above sea level and takes its name from the white milestone located nearby. It began as a small dew pond but was enlarged by the Vestry and artificially filled with water and arranged so horses could pass through it after their steep climb.

### **Jack Straw's Castle**

has no connections to Jack Straw or a castle. It became an inn in Charles II's time but the present building with its battlements dates back only to 1962. No longer an inn.

### **Vale of Health**

Despite its name this area started out as a malarial bog at the source of the Fleet known as Hatch's Bottom until the Hampstead Water Company drained it in 1777, making a reservoir. Squatters moved in and with the coming of the railway and day trippers the community grew to around 50 dwellings and became home to factories, tea-houses, boat rides, grottoes, arbours and a fairground. With time poets, authors and artists moved in. Building in the Vale was curtailed in 1872 when

the Metropolitan Board of Works bought the heath, limiting construction to the existing area.

### **Burgh House**

was built in 1704. It was one of the first large houses to be built in Hampstead, which at the time was flourishing as a fashionable Spa, known as Hampstead Wells. It was built on land recently reclaimed from the Heath. It now houses the museum and an art gallery.

### **Hampstead Ponds**

In 1692 the City Corporation leased the springs on Hampstead Heath to TWilliam Paterson and Partners, who formed the Hampstead Water Company. The company gradually made the string of four reservoirs known as the Hampstead Ponds. The lowest pond was filled in in 1892.

### **Keats House**

Keats House, originally Wentworth Place, was built in 1814 by William Woods, a local builder. Originally two separate houses, the larger side of the property was first occupied by Charles Wentworth Dilke and his family, while the smaller, eastern side was occupied by Charles Brown. It was to Brown's side of the house that John Keats came to live in 1818, staying here for just 17 months before travelling to Italy where he died. In 1838 it was bought by the actress Eliza Jane Chester. She removed the staircase in the Keats/Brown side of the house and knocked through the walls to create a single house. She also added the drawing room at the eastern end of the house. Miss Chester was famous during the 1820s for playing the lead roles in comedies

**THESE NOTES WILL BE EXPANDED**