

The Flask Walker is the newsletter of the Flask Walk Association, representing the interests of residents and businesses in the area of Flask Walk: Back Lane, Boades Mews, Flask Walk, Gardnor Road, Lakis Close, Lutton Terrace, Mansfield Place, Murray Terrace, New Court and Streatley Place.

Issue No. 24: April 2008

Murray Terrace

We would like to offer our abject apologies to residents of Murray Terrace: in recent issues of the Flask Walker, we omitted your street from the names of those represented by the Flask Walk Association (FWA). We would like to reassure you that in the past you have been ably and articulately represented on and by the committee; and that, as with other areas of the FWA, we will continue to do our best to represent your own best interests.

AGM and Winter Party at Burgh House

The Annual General Meeting of the FWA was held in Burgh House on 1 February 2007. Julia Simkins chaired, and opened the meeting by summarizing our many activities and successes of the previous year (reported in the previous issue of the Flask Walker). This was followed by the election of officers and committee members for the next twelve months, as follows: *Chair* – rotating (committee members will serve as Chair for two-month periods); *Secretary* – Marianne Colloms; *Treasurer* – Simon Marshall. *Committee members*: Janet Balmforth, Mel Hampson, Michael Lee, Paul Moody, Mark Nevard, Laline Paull, Julia Simkins and Ann Stewart.

The Treasurer, Simon Marshall, presented the draft accounts (the final accounts were to be prepared once the end of year balance had been obtained in March – see the Provisional Accounts on the next page). The bank balance had been boosted by sales of the book *Flask Walk N.W.3*. The summer party receipts had also increased compared with 2006.

It was agreed the minimum level of subscription should remain at £5 per household. Some members, however, suggested that we should have a subscription drive. The committee will consider and follow up some of the specific proposals made at the meeting. Among other things, it was suggested that, since we represent a wider area than just Flask Walk itself, perhaps a more inclusive name could be adopted for the Association, which might encourage more residents to join.

Several residents of New Court attended the meeting and expressed gratitude for residents' forbearance during the rebuilding works, which had been very disruptive for those living close by.

The meeting closed at 8.15, but the proceedings continued with the Association's Winter Party.

We would like to express our very warm thanks to several individual members, and to the following local businesses who open-handedly provided generous raffle prizes for the party:

Everyman Cinema
Humla Childrens Shop
Judy Green's Garden Store
Mystical Fairies
Simply Scrumptious
Social
Unique Professional Tailoring
Zara

The FWA Committee is happy to extend honorary membership of the Association to these businesses for 2008. Do, please, continue to support these businesses, by way of saying thank you for their support of us.

I felt welcomed...

A new neighbour of ours writes:

I felt welcomed to 'The Walk' almost as soon as I moved in when, through my new letterbox, slipped the *The Flask Walker* with its gentle hint that I might care to become a member by coughing up a fiver, and its helpful bulletin board list of approved traders and journeymen. So thank you Flasker committee.

Being requested to pen some words on my impressions of my first association AGM and party I would like to say I imbibed much red wine, dipped numerous carrot batons into homous, and made lots of new friends. So I thought it was great.

'Ah Annie perhaps you could introduce a serious note'
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Flask Walk Association

Provisional Accounts 2007

Year ending	31/12/2007	31/12/2006
	£	£
Opening balance 1/1	2440.47	1071.94
CREDITS		
Subscriptions paid into bank	355.00	340.00
Contribution from street party	712.22	657.45
Sale of neighbourhood maps	28.00	79.00
Surplus - Flask Walk book		722.64
Book sales	1,910.50	
Total credits	3,005.72	1,720.09
DEBITS		
Subscription to HCAAC	50.00	50.00
AGM expenses	41.20	70.70
"Flask Walker" stationery & printing	87.49	125.86
January party at Burgh House		95.00
PO Box	57.85	
Flask Walk Website	275.00	10.00
Bottle of wine for Kevin O'Connor	9.99	
Marie Curie Hospice	150.00	
Total debits	671.53	351.56
Credit balance	4,774.66	2,440.47
Closing balance at 31/12 - per Barclays Bank statement	4,999.84	9,228.21
Balance of receipts & payments not cleared at 1/1	-225.18	-6,787.74

I imagine the Flask Walker press-gang cry. Well I did note how many more people attended the post-AGM party than the AGM itself – which is a shame as the efficient committee raised and sought our views on some important issues such as impractical and despoiling planning applications, options on widening association membership, local trading and crime.

I have known this area all my life and finally live on the loveliest street in London in a house from which I hope never to move. As a newcomer I am impressed by the active voluntary committee and grateful for their efforts to keep this area special. Thank you for making me so welcome.

Lady Eyre

Membership of the FWA

This is now the time to pay your membership dues for the Flask Walk Association (FWA). Subscriptions have been pegged at the same level as in recent years - £5 per household or business. This is an increase from the original membership fee of 10p per family in 1974, but we believe it still offers good value for money.

Your subscription helps pay for the work your committee does throughout the year to keep the neighbourhood safe and pleasant; to encourage a community spirit through regular parties; to pay for certain improvements that cannot be met from Camden's budget; and to provide information through the *Flask Walker*, on our notice board in Flask Walk and on our website, www.flaskwalk.org.uk. At least as important is our work in representing your views to the police, Camden, the Planning Advisory Committee and other organizations. These organizations often ask how many homes we represent: the more members we have, the more authority we have to speak on your behalf.

Please pay your £5 (or more if you can afford it) by cash or cheque. Complete the form on the last page of this *Flask Walker*, and drop it and your subscription into the letter box of our Treasurer in 73 Flask Walk, or mail it to PO Box 59217, London NW3 9FD. Thank you for your support.

Joanna Richardson and Flask Walk

Joanna Richardson died on 7 March 2008.

Joanna was not always the most popular inhabitant of Flask Walk but in the nearly fifty years she lived there – and I can never remember the door of No 55 being anything but blue (*Cambridge* blue at that) – she became one of its most colourful and forceful characters. A cross between Betsy Trotwood and Miss Marple, she terrified

as many as she charmed and was not usually the first to rally in support of neighbourhood causes. On the other hand she could be wonderfully generous: to friends in trouble, to her nephew and niece, to the great-nephew and great-niece she adored, and to neighbouring children, like Marina Petsalis, who used to spend hours in her company, loving the beautiful and intriguing things that Joanna surrounded herself with and keeping in touch with her long after she grew up and moved away. To visiting friends and scholars too, particularly from her twin loves, Oxford and France. The Walk really suited Joanna, intimate, private, but with a window on the passing world and close to shops like Steele's (Hélas!), Maison Blanc (Hélas!) and the fishmongers next to the community centre (Still with us, Grace a Dieu!). National and Local Obituaries have paid tribute to her scholarship, to her awards and honours – none more cherished by her than the 2005 DLitt from Oxford University – to her sharp and discriminating tongue and eye, and to her wit. Good neighbours who helped her in the last years, have also been – justly – praised; none more so than Mark (Bath House) Nevard who pushed her in all weathers to the shops and back. She was a difficult, often contrary, woman, but time spent with her was never dull and I think Flask Walk is the poorer for her passing.

Piers Plowright

Peggy Jay

Peggy Jay died on 21 January 2008. She was devoted to Hampstead, and a good personal friend to many of us in the Flask Walk Association. Ellen Emerson writes:

In 2002, when she was nearly 90, Peggy Jay called me on the telephone one afternoon, out of the blue. "My dear," she said, "You must come right over, I've something wonderful to show you." So I dropped whatever it was I was doing and rushed around to Gayton Crescent. There was Peggy in her snug drawing room, surrounded by David Sullivan's colour photos of Hampstead Heath. They were indeed stunning, and a few minutes later, over a cup of tea, we came up with the idea for the postcard book *The Light of Hampstead Heath*.

That day marked the beginning of a weekly tradition of tea at Peggy's, a tradition that lasted until Bruce and I moved to Italy last spring. We talked of whatever came into our minds - family news, local and national politics, books we were reading, spiritual beliefs, summers by the sea. She was a gifted storyteller – the apt word, the timing, the set jaw, the lifted eyebrow, the twinkle in the eye often made me burst out laughing. Her firsthand accounts of Hampstead history, the battles to save Burgh House for community use and to protect the Heath from development, taught me much about the community we

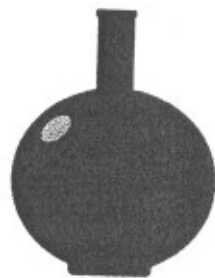
both greatly loved. She was courageous and compassionate, determined and tenacious, generous and witty, and she used all those attributes and more to champion causes she believed just.

After Peggy's death in January, just before her 95th birthday, the Heath and Hampstead society noted it would dedicate its next newsletter to Peggy's extraordinary life and work. It will make great reading, and surely her legacy will live on through all those who continue to fight the good fight to preserve this remarkable town of Hampstead.

Ellen Emerson

New flask or old?

We should have noticed earlier. There is a striking similarity between the sign for the Flask Walk Pharmacy, 1 Flask Walk, in the 1940s, and the sign that currently announces the availability of fine food and drink at The Flask, 14 Flask Walk in the 2000s. We give no prizes for spotting which is which. Plus ça change...



flask

pub & dining

Local services

Some services recently recommended by local residents:

- **Alexander Technique:** Mel Hampson, tel. 020 7794 1538
- **Builder (large and small jobs):** Stapleton Builders (a family firm), tel. 020 8348 2059

- **Builder (e.g. creative refitting):** Filipe Matos, tel. 020 8962 0190, 07939 159284 or 07817 301517
- **Electrician:** Mark Winston, tel. 07813 046 253; Peter Dighton, tel. 07944 855529 or 020 8292 6071
- **Gardeners:** Caroline Egan (garden design), tel. 020 8340 2706; Vickie Parker / *Muddy Boots* (garden maintenance and design), tel 020 7433 1016 or 07706 624 392
- **Heating/plumbing:** Edward Hurst (and Steve Parkhurst), tel 020 8808 1282 or 07984 707 753; Noel, tel 020 8360 3533
- **Locksmith:** Newman & Son, tel. 020 7284 1002
- **Massage therapy:** Rose Sawkins, tel. 020 7433 1322 or 07790 900430
- **Osteopath:** Daniel Stuttard, tel. 020 7730 1179
- **Physiotherapist:** Hampstead Physiotherapy Practice, 12 Church Row, tel 020 7794 9078
- **Piano Teacher** (all ages, levels): Gemma Green, tel. 07863 549524
- **Piano Tuner:** Steve Robson, tel. 020 7232 2434 or 07905 451131
- **Plumber:** 1-2-1 Services, tel. 020 8343 1918
- **Tailor:** Unique Tailors, 15 Flask Walk, tel 020 7431 3314
- **Vacuum Cleaner Service:** London K.B.E., tel. 020 8889 9709
- **Web and Graphic Design:** LondonPop Design Group, tel. 020 7431 5645
- **Window Cleaning:** Elite Windowcleaners, tel. 020 8371 9655

Useful numbers

Police: 999 (emergencies)

020 7404 1212 (non-urgent incidents)

020 8721 2779 (Safer Neighbourhoods Team)

Contact the Safer Neighbourhoods Team with any concerns of local community safety, by phone or email on HampsteadTown.SNT@met.police.uk

Graffiti removal: 020 7974 6914 or 6915

Noise nuisance: 020 7974 2090

Noise nuisance, Fri/Sat 10 pm-4 am: 020 7974 6955

Refuse collection: 020 7974 6915

Faulty street lighting: 020 7974 8922 or 8929

Environment complaints: 020 7794 2385

Street cleaning: Darren Tomlinson: 020 7974 3982

The Flask Walker is the newsletter of the Flask Walk Association (PO Box 59217, London NW3 9FD; www.flaskwalk.org.uk).

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Yes, I would like to be a paid-up member of my local neighbourhood association – the Flask Walk Association (FWA).

I/We enclose a cheque/cash for £_____ (minimum £5 / household) as my/our subscription to the Flask Walk Association for 2007. Please return this form with your payment to Simon Marshall, FWA Treasurer, 73 Flask Walk. Thank you for your support.

Name and contact details (address, email, phone):