

Barnet Healthy Heritage Walks

Welcome to Barnet Healthy Heritage walks. These walks are designed to provide a gentle stroll of about 5-10 kilometres or 3-6 miles, approximately 5,000-10,000 steps, taking in a few buildings and sites of interest and, where possible, using green spaces and footpaths.

Golders Green and Hampstead Garden Suburb

This circular walk is in and around Hampstead Garden Suburb and Golders Green, starting and ending at Golders Green Tube and bus station. There are 20 points of heritage on the walk and it is approximately 5.5 kilometres or 3.4 miles plus a couple of optional detours.

To set the scene, we suggest that you begin your walk close to the Tube and bus station on the grassy area behind the station café and shops, looking on to Finchley Road. In front of you will be a semi-circular area with bus stop GW used by the local H2 and H3 services. You can reach Golders Green Station, by tube via the Edgware branch of the Northern Line or by a number of bus routes. For full public transport details please visit the Transport for London [website](#). Before you set off on the walk, there are a number of cafés and newsagents near the front exit of Golders Green Tube Station where you can find refreshments.

Audiotour Part 1 – Golders Green

The modern expansion of Golders Green was stimulated by the arrival of the Charing Cross, Euston & Hampstead ('CCEH') underground railway in 1907. In fact, Golders Green is said to be the first suburb in the world to have been developed as a direct result of the arrival of an underground railway line. Bus, coach, taxi and other public transport services helped make Golders Green one of north London's principal transport hubs. The green fields and mostly agricultural settlements that characterised the area began a rapid transformation into the metropolitan suburb we see today.

London's convenient, affordable, integrated public transport network became the backbone for suburban development as a rapidly growing population moved out from overcrowded, often unhealthy inner-city areas into semi-detached and detached homes with gardens. Later becoming the Northern line's Edgware branch after the CCEH combined with the City & South London railway (today the Bank branch), the



bridge on your right carried rail lines over Finchley Road towards Edgware from the 1920's. Plans to extend further towards Bushey Heath were halted by the outbreak of the Second World War.

The semi-circular road in front of you enabled trolley-buses to turn around to travel back along the Finchley Road. London's electric-powered trolley-buses were in service into the early 1960s. Apparently conductors would attract late-arriving passengers in central London with a cheery cry of "Any more for the cornfields?" before setting off for this green outer suburb. A tram service on to Finchley began in 1910.

Looking to your left behind the roof of the station's café and shops, notice the four-faced clock on the war memorial standing at the intersection of Golders Green's principal road arteries: Finchley Road (north-south, constructed in the 1820s), Golders Green Road (north-west towards Hendon) and North End Road (east towards Hampstead). More about this local landmark at the end of our tour.

To the right of the war memorial on a shop that now has a truncated triangular shaped roof front, you may see in decorative plasterwork script the letters E, O and W. This indicates the former site of the Golders Green branch of local developer and estate agent, Ernest Owers & Williams.

Note too the cosmopolitan variety of local restaurants and shops – from Jewish, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Indian and Chinese to Lebanese, American, Polish and Italian.

Turn right and walk north along Finchley Road under the rail bridge. On your left you are passing The Refectory, a bar and casual dining venue opened in 1916 that was said to be the country's first restaurant with a fully electric kitchen. In the 1960s it was a venue where as-yet-unknown rock legends Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton played some of their early gigs. On your right is the station's rear exit and bus interchange opened in 1911, now no longer in use.

Listen to audiotour part 2 on your way. Pause at the junction with Rotherwick Road.

Audiotour Part 2 – Architecture

Pause by the gateway into the Northern line's engineering depot and train sidings on your right: Golders Green Traincare Centre. Plentiful availability of undeveloped land for rail facilities was an important factor in CCEH's decision as a private company to



invest in costly tunnelling beyond Hampstead through to this side of the Northern Heights. More about these hills during this walk.

Look across Finchley Road to your left on the Golders Green side. Note the style of architecture of these relatively large suburban family houses built in the interwar period. In many cases there have been miscellaneous additions such as loft conversions in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Now look to your right along Rotherwick Road into the Hampstead Garden Suburb ('HGS'). Note its more controlled, harmonious, natural style that characterises one of the Borough of Barnet's most beautiful conservation areas. HGS now is regarded as an internationally significant contribution to town planning. Do you see the semi-circular brickwork laid into the pavement as a kind of welcoming gateway? We shall explore more of 'the Suburb' later on this walk.

Continue along Finchley Road towards the traffic lights. When safe, cross Finchley Road using the pedestrian refuge island, and continue on across Hoop Lane in front of you, then turn left down the gentle slope along Hoop Lane. Now Pause the audiotour until you reach 31½ Hoop Lane, the Unitarian Church to your right.

Audiotour Part 3 – Unitarian Church

Completed in 1925, this Grade 2-listed building is the place of worship and communal centre for a congregation dedicated to freedom and enquiry that advances social justice, animal rights and supports good causes. Golders Green Unitarians are a welcoming community tracing their international roots to open-minded, dissenting Christians of the 17th and 18th centuries, while striving to reflect the diversity of values and beliefs in Britain today.

In the 1860s, Unitarians appointed the first female minister of any religion anywhere in the world and in 1904 appointed the first such woman in Britain. Notable British Unitarians include writer and social campaigner Elizabeth Gaskell, chemist and political theorist Joseph Priestley, 1930s Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, pioneering nurse Florence Nightingale and inventor of the worldwide web Sir Tim Berners-Lee.

Notable artwork includes a memorial mural by Ivon Hitchens. Check the church's website for opening hours.



Now retrace your steps back up Hoop Lane towards Finchley Road. On your left, the last white building before the junction (now Central Hotel) is notable as the first new house built in Golders Green shortly before the arrival of the Underground railway.

Turn left along Finchley Road and cross carefully at the pedestrian refuge island to the other side of the road, walk to your right, along the other side of Finchley Road towards the tube station to St Edward the Confessor church on you left. Now pause the audiotour until you reach the St Edward the Confessor church.

Audiotour Part 4 - St Edward the Confessor church

The next religious community we encounter is Roman Catholic. The congregation comes from many cultural, national and ethnic backgrounds, which shows the diversity of people living and working in the area today.

The church is named after the Saxon king whose death in 1066 triggered the Norman invasion of England. A very pious Catholic - 'Confessor' - Edward enlarged Westminster Abbey (later rebuilt in the 13-14th centuries in the Gothic style) where his shrine is found today. He is venerated as a saint, making the Abbey an important site of pilgrimage until the 16th century Reformation created the Protestant Church of England.

The parish was created by the Diocese of Westminster (Cathedral) in 1909 to serve the rapidly growing communities in Golders Green and Hampstead Garden Suburb. Fund-raising was slow but the building went up between 1915 and 1931 in the revivalist style of medieval Perpendicular Gothic. Re-modelling took place in 1960 and 1996. Its interior includes several notable works of art and statues of 10 English saints including Alban, Thomas More, Margaret Clitherow and Thomas Becket. There is a memorial to local resident Lt. (Acting Capt.) Michael Allmand, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry during the Second World War.

The Catholic congregation has grown considerably while being subject at various times to political decisions affecting comings and goings of citizens from Eastern Europe, Ireland, sub-Saharan Africa or East Asia, for example.

Please visit the [church website](#) for details of opening times, services and events.

Continue back along Finchley Road and cross Hoop Lane again at the junction, then head left towards the Crematorium and cemetery.



Taking advantage of both local farms and a growing number of potential customers, the building on the opposite corner that is now an estate agency was formerly a dairy shop and door-to-door delivery centre for Express Dairies. This company grew into one of London's leading producers and retailers of dairy products from the late 19th until the late 20th century. It owned a model farm north along the Finchley Road near Henly's Corner; its field and farm survive today. Now pause the audiotour until you are standing under the 'IN' sign to Golders Green Crematorium on the right side of the road.

Audiotour Part 5 – Golders Green Crematorium and Mausoleum

Look through one of the gateways at the large red brick complex. Visitors are usually welcome; please respect the sensitivity of the whole site particularly when a service is taking place.

Burial customs needed to adapt as Britain's population was growing rapidly in the 19th century, putting pressure on both traditional belief systems and church graveyards in sprawling cities. Christian funerary practice was influenced too by science, culture and religion of communities around the British Empire, notably in South Asia, as well as by increasingly secular views. After cremation became legal in the 1880s the success of Britain's first crematorium in Woking, Surrey encouraged the London Cremation Company to acquire this large greenfield site in north London.

This Lombardic-style brick complex was built between the turn of the 20th century and the outbreak of the Second World War as finances allowed, with some contemporary additions. The principal architect was Sir Ernest George with Alfred Yeates. The gardens of remembrance were laid out by William Robinson. Many of the architectural structures and memorials are listed as Grade 2 or 2* and the gardens are Grade 1.

The crematorium is secular, providing burial facilities for people of all faiths and of none. As you may expect from Britain's leading crematorium where more than a third of a million cremations have taken place, there is an impressive roll call of celebrated names – whether their ashes remain here or have been taken elsewhere, including:

- Dame Barbara Windsor (d. 2020), actor
- Peter Cook (d. 1995), comedian, satirist
- Amy Winehouse (d. 2011), singer
- Sigmund Freud (d. 1939), psychoanalyst



- Alice Hargreaves (d. 1936), eponymous heroine of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- Sir Rudyard Kipling (d. 1936), author, Nobel Prize laureate
- Neville Chamberlain (d. 1940), Prime Minister
- Dame Millicent Fawcett (d. 1929), suffragist
- Sophia Duleep Singh (d. 1948), suffragette, daughter of the last Maharajah of the Punjab
- Anna Pavlova (d. 1931), ballerina
- Bud Flanagan (d. 1968) music hall and vaudeville comedian
- Peter Sellers (d. 1980), actor, comedian
- Enid Blyton (d. 1968), author
- King Prajadhipok (d. 1941), sovereign of Thailand

Now walk a little further along Hoop Lane and, across the road on your left, look through the gateway into the cemetery.

Audiotour Part 6 – Golders Green Jewish Cemetery

This part of north-west London is home to one of Britain's largest Jewish communities. Also known as Hoop Lane Jewish Cemetery, the burial ground across the road is maintained by a joint burial committee representing members of the West London Synagogue ('WLS') and the Spanish & Portuguese Jews Congregation ('SPJC'). It opened in 1896 in what was then rural farmland.

Founded in 1840 as Britain's first Reform congregation, West London Synagogue is recognised as a pioneer of this major branch of Judaism. WLS had grown into a thriving community in central London's West End and by the late 19th century needed more space for burials. On the far side of the cemetery in Alyth Gardens you may see the building of a local Reform synagogue, the North Western.

A royal edict in 1290 had expelled all Jews from the British Isles. It was members of the Amsterdam synagogue in the Netherlands who led a formal resettlement of England's Jewish community in the 1650s under the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. The congregation's name 'Spanish & Portuguese' refers to the heritage of many of these Jews from the Iberian Peninsula (also known as 'the Sepharad'), where Jews had been suffering persecution and forced conversion since the late 15th century. As a relatively open-minded, multi-faith trading nation that recently had fought successfully for independence from Spain, the Netherlands became a safer refuge for



Sephardi Jews in northern Europe. The SPJC at first buried its dead in cemeteries in London's East End – the Velho and Novo – before buying a share of this larger plot from the WLS just before it opened.

Notice how this cemetery is divided into two parts. On the West side graves of members of the WLS are marked with upright stones. The East side used by the SPJC is a traditional Sephardi cemetery with gravestones laid horizontally, as burial grounds often were too unstable for an upright stone. It is customary for visitors to Jewish graves to place a small pebble as an act of remembrance rather than leave flowers or other offerings.

Just inside the gateway to the right is a wall with memorials to Righteous Gentiles, non-Jews whose quiet bravery and concern – often at the risk of their own life - ensured the safety of Jewish people during the Nazi era, whether it be a single person, a family, hundreds or even thousands. Notable people buried here include:

East

- Nathan Saatchi (d. 2000), father of (Lord) Maurice and Charles, founders of Saatchi & Saatchi and later of M&C Saatchi, two leading global advertising agency networks

West

- Jacqueline du Pré (d. 1967), cellist
- Rabbi Hugo Gryn (d. 1996), Auschwitz survivor, rabbi, broadcaster
- Marjorie Proops (d. 1996), Fleet St. newspaper agony aunt
- Jack Rosenthal (d. 2004), playwright
- Sir Sigmund Sternberg (d. 2016), philanthropist, interfaith campaigner
- Sir Leslie Hore-Belisha (d. 1957), politician, ministerial sponsor of the eponymous road-crossing safety beacon

Continue up Hoop Lane. The small pergola and garden on the roundabout ahead comprises Meadway Gate - another example of a thoughtfully designed, welcoming access point into the Hampstead Garden Suburb. *Cross back over Hoop Lane when safe into Temple Fortune Lane on your left and cross to continue on the pavement along the opposite side to the cemetery. Note the fine architecture and landscaping of houses to your right along the edge of the Suburb.*



When you reach the driveway into 40 to 46 Temple Fortune Lane on your right, locate towards the back, the 'No Cycling' sign by an alleyway (locally called a 'twittern' or a 'snicket') that takes you uphill. When you reach the next paved road (Hampstead Way) cross when safe and continue uphill passing a pocket park on your right. Carefully cross Willifield Way before taking a few steps to your right to the metal railing. Follow the twittern up the hill, passing tennis courts on your left. Now pause the audiotour until you emerge in Central Square by a stone plinth under metal arches.

Audiotour Part 7 – Central Square

Turn around to take a good look at your surroundings in all directions. This is the heart of the Hampstead Garden Suburb - its village green, so to speak. Immediately in front of you is a Portland stone block with a laurel leaf above the inscription *'In fond memory of Dame Henrietta Barnett DBE 1851-1936, Founder and inspirer of this suburb'*.

Henrietta and her husband Canon Samuel Barnett were the guiding force behind the creation of this remarkable neighbourhood. More about this dynamic couple in a moment.

Inspired by pioneers such as Ebenezer Howard's Garden City Movement that created the first garden city at Letchworth in Hertfordshire in 1903, and the Cadbury development at Bournville outside Birmingham, the HGS was conceived as a radical, self-contained community combining the best of town and country lifestyles into 'a garden suburb for all classes.'

Briefly, implementation of a model garden suburb concept here was triggered by the advent of the Underground railway that the Barnetts feared – correctly – would encourage speculative development that might destroy Hampstead Heath, which they considered to be an essential part of London's green heritage. As Henrietta said regarding a proposed station nearby *"It would result in the ruin of the sylvan restfulness of that portion of the most beautiful open space near London. The trains would bring the builder, and it requires no imagination to see the rows of ugly villas such as disfigured Willesden and most of the suburbs of London."* In place of such arguably brutal transformation, the Barnetts and their supporters envisaged a scheme that would protect a portion of the Hampstead Heath Extension hand-in-hand with a more sympathetically planned community.

Let's take in several of the core buildings laid out around this hilltop plateau.



First, the church with the spire to your right. This is St Jude-on-the-Hill, the Anglican parish church serving HGS. Its distinctive spire is a landmark visible from many parts of north-west London. Designed by one of the leading architects of the day, Sir Edwin Lutyens, the church was consecrated in 1911 and continues in use today. You are welcome inside when the building is open, the interior has several notable decorative features such as murals by Walter Starmer. The Father Willis organ came from St Jude's church in Whitechapel where Canon Barnett had been vicar. St Jude's is the principal venue in an annual music and cultural festival, Proms at St Jude's, that supports local good causes as well as Toynbee Hall's youth programming in Whitechapel.

Reminding us that the early 20th century was a time when faith was a more central part of many people's lives, to your left is another place of worship. Also designed by Lutyens and opened in 1911, the Free Church serves non-conformist Christian denominations and today has affiliations with Baptist and United Reform congregations. Its impressive interior is a contrast with St Jude's.

Just off the square's north-western corner - hidden from view at this location - is a third local house of worship, Friends Meeting House. Quakers have met here since 1913.

Looking directly in front of you across the green space we see the impressive architecture and cupola of Henrietta Barnett School. Opened in 1912 to a design by Lutyens, a school for girls was a core element in the community infrastructure envisaged by its founder, who was a strong advocate for women's education and welfare and after whom the school was later named. Today it operates as a voluntary-aided state grammar school, performing well in annual league tables of exam results and many of its 745 pupils progress to top universities and successful careers. This building was also home formerly to an adult education institute opened in 1909 - another important element of communal life. An updated school masterplan with new extensions by leading contemporary architect, Sir Michael Hopkins has been completed within the past ten years.

As you look around, note the elegant Queen Anne Revival-style homes set around Central Square. Many were designed by Lutyens before he became occupied with his masterplan for New Delhi.

Proceed to your right along the paved path that passes St Jude's. Stop outside the first house on your right, which used to be the home of Dame Henrietta Barnett.



Audiotour Part 8 – Dame Henrietta Barnett’s home

As the plaque explains, 1, South Square in the heart of ‘her’ suburb was Dame Henrietta’s home from 1915 until her death in 1936.

This remarkable lady overcame considerable male resistance to her vision of creating this model suburb. Her ambition had been shaped by her progressive upbringing and by working with redoubtable social reformer Octavia Hill – co-founder of the National Trust and pioneer of social housing. After marrying Anglican curate Samuel in 1873, the young couple encountered deeply entrenched social issues and economic hardship among deprived parishioners in Whitechapel.

After leaving Whitechapel, the Barnetts lived in Heath End House by the Spaniard’s Inn at the top of Hampstead Heath. Sensitivity to the benefit of such an essential open space nearby motivated her to protect it from what some saw as unsympathetic suburban development typical of the late Victorian/Edwardian period. Leading urban planners, Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker, who had worked together to develop Letchworth garden city were brought in to design the masterplan.

Samuel died in 1913. Making her home on this carefully chosen spot - where she could enjoy the fine view across to Harrow-on-the-Hill - places Henrietta physically and spiritually at the heart of her greatest legacy.

Follow the pavement around the square, turning right into Heathgate. Take care crossing Meadway and continue on Heathgate towards the entrance to the Heath Extension. You may be interested to know that you are now walking in the footsteps of young wizard Harry Potter on his way to his muggle born friend Hermione Granger’s parents’ house, as seen with St Jude’s in the background in the 2010 film Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1.

Now, pause the audiotour until you have reached the end of Heathgate, walked between 2 wooden posts, along the paved path and down some steps. Pause at the grassed area on the edge of the Heath Extension to listen to audiotour part 9, Heathgate and the great wall.

Audiotour Part 9 – Heathgate and the Great Wall

The open spaces and forested areas stretching up the Northern Heights in front of you form part of one of London’s largest historic heathlands that covers approx. 800 acres.



Hampstead Heath Extension and surrounding land used to be farm fields next to a wild heath, as we shall discover later. Land was acquired in stages early in the 20th century from the trustees of Eton College and the Church of England to develop this garden suburb and, in turn, to be protected by the suburb's relatively low-impact development.

Where you are standing is, as the street name suggests, another gateway into the suburb. Although it remains incomplete due to the impact of the First World War, this 'charming boundary' as it was called is a handsome red brick barrier called the Great Wall. It was inspired by German medieval walled towns admired by Parker and Unwin. This scenic section is called Sunshine Corner. Ahead of you spreads out a rural landscape that is virtually unchanged since the 19th century.

Follow the dirt path along the Great Wall to your right until you reach Hampstead Way, then continue to your left on the pavement until you reach Heath Close. As you round the bend, note across the Way an opening between two hedges. This is Wild Hatch, an ancient track that once connected with the path heading across the Extension to your left. Pause the audiotour until you reach Heath Close

Audiotour Part 10 – Waterlow Court

Architecture of the rows of connected houses in Heath Close reflects Germanic medieval style; note the harmonious addition of open balconies along this narrow side-street. Although failing to anticipate the need for parking for motor cars, located so near to public transport and bordering green open space these handsome homes are still highly sought after.

At the end of the Close is an impressive-looking entrance into Waterlow Court in the form of a lych-gate (a traditional gate covered with a roof, often found at the edge of an English-style churchyard). It suggests a special space. Indeed, this block of more than 50 small flats around a monastic-looking, arcaded quadrangle made of lime-washed brick was designed as serviced accommodation exclusively for single professional women. In a similar spirit, another development in the Suburb called Queens Court was designed exclusively for working women.

At that time unmarried, professional women were an emerging force in London's employment market and some people thought their moral welfare was to be protected by suitable single-sex living arrangements. For this reason Waterlow Court has been



described as ‘*an Adamless Eden*’. Later in the 20th century as attitudes changed towards employment of married women, the community was opened up to men and couples. Shared facilities such as the dining room and staff accommodation were converted to additional living space.

Designed by Baillie Scott in the Arts & Crafts style using brick with timber-framing, this model scheme was a development for the Improved Industrial Dwellings Company (‘IIDC’) founded in the 1860s by wealthy printer, philanthropist and future Lord Mayor of London, Sir Sydney Waterlow. The IIDC was active in several pioneering housing schemes in London as well as being one of several private developers working within Unwin and Parker’s masterplan for HGS. The landscaped grounds and planting scheme are thought to have been inspired by the noted garden designer, Gertrude Jekyll. Original facilities include fruit trees and vegetable patches, lawn for sports and recreation, and a bicycle shed – bicycles being a popular form of transport for independent-minded women at the time.

Now retrace your steps down Heath Close, cross Hampstead Way carefully and proceed diagonally to the right across the playing field on the paved path that heads towards a line of trees. Enjoy the views, especially behind you towards St Jude’s! As its name suggests, Gravell Hart sits on a bed of gravel probably deposited by glacial melt-waters during the last Ice Age. Continue past the first opening between two ancient trees until you reach the second gap. Take the gravel track to your right that leads uphill towards a small group of brick buildings where you will find toilets, a water fountain and a framed plan of the Heath showing pathways and natural features.

If you need a firmer surface, do not come onto the Extension, but proceed on the pavement up Hampstead Way to the junction with Wildwood Road for part 12 of this tour.

Audiotour Part 11 – Hampstead Heath Extension

Enjoy this beautiful countryside just four miles from central London as you proceed along the central gravel path up the slope towards ‘the horse-shoe’ at the top (south) end of Wildwood Road. You are crossing a complex pattern of ancient forest and farmed fields. We shall reach one of the farmhouses shortly. Note the impressive houses and blocks of flats along both perimeters of the Heath Extension, especially in front of you on the east side.



Today's playing fields and open spaces on the Heath Extension were cleared centuries ago from native forest covering Hampstead Heath in order to harvest timber or to create animal pasture and arable farmland. There remain several very ancient ditches, banks, lines of trees and hedgerows that are 'ghost' traces of one-time boundaries. When farming declined - replaced by suburban housing and leisure amenities ranging from football, Frisbee, cricket and rugby to horse-riding and dog walking - certain types of trees, bushes and wildlife re-established their presence. Such a delicate conservation balance is managed these days thanks to staff of the City of London Corporation. Look out for trees such as wild service, various types of oak, beech, ash, maple, apple, elder and London Plane, as well as blackthorn and hawthorn.

As you see of the framed map, you are offered several paths that take a variety of scenic routes up towards 'the horseshoe' at the top (south) end of Wildwood Road. Continuing uphill you are passing fields with such evocative names as Upper Cart Field, Children's Enclosure Field - now a playground, where, up to the Second World War locally-grazed sheep were kept overnight in folds - and Lower Weild Pightle ('pightle' being an ancient name for a small piece of land enclosed by a hedge).

This ancient landscape has borne witness to the ups and downs of our country's history. For instance, extraction of commodities such as sand, gravel and timber for reconstruction after the Great Fire of 1666, or brushwood for everyday tools and firewood over the centuries. During the First World War on the night of 8 September 1915 Zeppelin airship LZ13 flew overhead on its way to delivering the first deadly strike on the City of London; and during the Blitz in the Second World War these fields were a base for London's defences with barrage balloons, four 3.7" anti-aircraft guns and soldiers' huts.

Notice several small ponds that indicate the geology of the Northern Heights. Sand has been extracted, leaving dips that drain off rainwater that could be used to water livestock and horses. Wildlife abounds and you may spot a heron on one of the ponds. Elsewhere along the Heights, areas of sand and clay channel groundwater to emerge as springs that grow into no less than four 'lost' (that is to say, now mostly covered-over) tributaries of central London's mighty River Thames: the Rivers Fleet, Tyburn, Westbourne and Brent. As you approach Wildwood Road, you may spot a stone fountain dedicated to the memory of 19th century artist and local resident, Walter Field, Associate of the Royal Watercolour Society (ARWS). The fountain was erected by his



sister Emily, a founder of the Hampstead Heath Protection Society and joint founder of the Heath Extension Council.

As you approach the parked cars on Wildwood Road you cross a dirt track laid out for exercising horses. You are leaving farmland and the Heath Extension - and briefly also leaving the Borough of Barnet – and stepping onto Sandy Heath. Cross the road safely then turn right along the pavement until you reach a mud track on your left by the first house. Follow the path up the slope and round the bend, keeping the houses to your right. Stop in front of the last building painted white.

Alternatively, you are welcome at this point to make a detour to explore more of the semi-wild Sandy Heath. Proceed to the left uphill along the network of tracks, where you will discover natural delights including ancient and secondary woodland, heathland gorse and birds. Also, ducks on Ironpan Ponds. These ponds are rare features that collect rainwater in gullies left by extraction, where unusually high iron oxide content in local sand creates a natural, non-porous crust preventing water from draining away. The far side of Sandy Heath is separated from East Heath by Spaniard's Road. When you have finished your ramble, head back down the slope and re-join the tour route.

Pause your audiotour until you reach Wylde's Farm.

Audiotour Part 12 – Wylde's Farm

You are now on Sandy Heath, a large area of sand on the uppermost section of the Northern Heights and Hampstead Heath. The former farm building in front of you gave its name to the estate in various forms – Wylde, Weild, Wild etc. Parts of the structure are believed to date back to the 17th century and as the plaque says, was home in the 1820s to painter and engraver, John Linnell. As Linnell's friend the artist and poet, William Blake stayed here on several occasions we may be sure (to quote Blake's famous poem 'Jerusalem') that his feet truly did '*...in ancient time walk upon England's mountains green*'. Author and social reformer, Charles Dickens also recovered here after the death of his beloved sister-in-law.

Wylde's Farm was the first parcel of land to be acquired in 1907 by Henrietta Barnett and her associates on the Hampstead Heath Extension Council. Eton College had held this land since 1449 – shortly after the college was founded – and had rented parcels out to tenants since the 17th century. In the 16th century a tenant called John



Slannying felled several acres of trees to create cattle pasture, with the result that now only a few hedgerow lines indicate the extent of former woodland. Constructing the main farm buildings here, as opposed to farther north on the large estate that eventually extended to modern Temple Fortune, suggests access was from what is today North End leading up to Hampstead's Whitestone Pond, one of London's highest points.

Incidentally, Wylde's was one of the local farms supplying Express Dairies, as did the herd nearby on the grand estate of Kenwood House.

Wylde's was both home for Sir Raymond Unwin between 1906-40 and the office in which he worked with Barry Parker as they laid out their masterplan for the HGS.

Continue to your left along the dirt track, noticing on your right a row of four red brick terraced houses with an official blue plaque showing that 20th century architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner lived here. Emerging into Wildwood Terrace, on your left is another official blue plaque on the self-designed, mid-20th century home of Michael Ventris, who helped decipher an ancient Cretan/Mycenaean script known as Linear B, the oldest known form of Greek. Pause the audiotour until you reach the junction of Wildwood Terrace and North End.

Audiotour Part 13 – North End

North End is a 17th century hamlet once populated by agricultural labourers and laundresses, who took advantage of pure local water and gorse bushes (for drying) to provide a service to inner-city residents.

Stretching ahead of you up the hill, North End Avenue is a grand setting bordered by lime and chestnut trees that leads into woodland and heath. The avenue was the main road from Hampstead until North End Way (now Road) was constructed about 1730. It is thought to have continued past Wylde's then down its farmland (today's Heath Extension) to join Wild Hatch and eventually on to Hendon.

In the 1760s, William Pitt the Elder, 1st Earl of Chatham, who served as Prime Minister between 1766-68 convalesced from a breakdown as the guest of the owner of a grand house that stood once in the garden of modern Pitt House on your right.



Turn right along North End. Pause your audiotour until you have reached the junction with North End Road and have turned right to stop in front of the Bull & Bush public house.



Audiotour Part 14 – Bull & Bush

Claiming a licence back to 1721, this is one of London – even England’s – most famous pubs. Some say that 18th century artist William Hogarth, who frequented this alehouse, helped lay out the gardens. The bull in its name probably refers to cattle on the local farms.

Set in the clean air and leafy surroundings of the Heath, this pub increased in popularity in the 19th century thanks to railways that brought so many people out to enjoy the leisure amenities of “appy ‘ampstead”. Then, in the early 20th century Australian-born music hall star, Florrie Forde ensured worldwide fame with performances of a song with the saucy invitation to ‘Come, come, come and make eyes at me down at the old Bull & Bush (...da, da, da, da...).’

Pause the audiotour as you continue on the pavement into Hampstead Way opposite Golders Hill Park. Proceed to the bend and locate a green door with the number 2 on it, to your right. On the other side of the road, through the trees you see green metal railings in front of a low, white structure.

Audiotour Part 15 – North End Station

Under your feet is one of the deepest sections of London’s underground network. The CCEH railway company intended to open a station between Hampstead (1736 yards away) and Golders Green (1074 yards) to serve what was expected to be considerable residential development on the sites of Wylde’s Farm and Golders Hill Park. However, the prospect of a lucrative commuter revenue stream quickly vanished. First, a large plot of land was gifted to the nation to form Golders Hill Park (more about that later on our walk), then the Heath Extension was saved from the level of development that had been anticipated.

However, platforms and stairways to the surface had been constructed before the decision reluctantly was taken not to complete a station. The buildings you see are a secure entrance into a site that has been used at various times as a war-time deep-level command centre, an operations room for London’s flood control, storage space for records and an access point for safe removal of asbestos.

Today, North End station (also known as ‘Bull & Bush’) has acquired a new lease of life as a trivia question in quizzes and as a ‘hidden secret’ loved by connoisseurs of London’s Tube history and subterranean explorers.



Pause the audiotour while you retrace your steps to North End Road, turn right and cross on the pedestrian crossing. Continue a few yards down the hill until you reach Ivy House at 94-96 North End Road.

Audiotour Part 16 – Ivy House

An elegant house has stood on this site thanks no doubt to its vantage point across once beautiful countryside. In the early 19th century JMW Turner, considered by many to be England's finest artist, is said to have stayed here and painted it.

Between 1912 and her death in 1931, Ivy House was home to one of the great ballerinas, Anna Pavlova. An international star who toured extensively, her home included a rehearsal space and there were swans on a pond in her garden that evoked one of her most celebrated roles in Fokine's *Swan Lake*. Pavlova danced with Nijinsky in Diaghilev's celebrated Ballets Russes and helped develop the modern ballet shoe.

Her glamour and talent inspired many tributes, perhaps none more enduring than the eponymous meringue-based creamy dessert that, it is claimed, was invented either by a New Zealander or an Australian chef.

Pavlova's final performance in this country took place in Golders Green (more about that at the end of our walk). After her death in Amsterdam, her cremation took place in Golders Green Crematorium where her ashes remain to this day in spite of an attempt to return them to Russia, her native land.

Blue plaques on the side facing the road confirm her enduring presence, along with the memory of a previous notable resident, ophthalmic surgeon, Sir William Bowman.

After a variety of other uses and several years as the London Jewish Cultural Centre, today the buildings house St Anthony's School for Girls.

Retrace your steps up the hill and turn right through the gateway into Golders Hill Park.

Audiotour Part 17 – Golders Hill Park

The car parking area and grassed terrace to your left are the site of a grand house destroyed by enemy action during the Second World War. The panoramic views are impressive.

Here, on the border of West Heath, attached to the house were extensive gardens that had been carefully designed over the years by celebrated landscape gardeners



'Capability' Brown and Humphry Repton in the 18th century and Robert Marnock in the late 19th. In the 1890s the estate was acquired by a wealthy local benefactor who was Chairman of the Pears Soap Co. and generously gifted for public enjoyment.

Thanks to support from the City of London Corporation the grounds are maintained as one of our loveliest local parks. A wide range of amenities provides something for people of all ages to enjoy: grassed open spaces for picnics or informal leisure, sports facilities, a deer enclosure, a small zoo with birds, donkeys, lemurs and wallabies, a walled horticultural garden, a pinetum, duckponds, a water garden, a stumpery, sculpture, a café, a children's playground and a butterfly house, as well as occasional children's activities and music on the bandstand. Notice on top of the bandstand the weather vane installed in 2012 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

This may be an excellent opportunity to pause for refreshments or to use the toilets behind the café.

Pause the audiotour while you consider the following route options.

Take the tarmac path down the slope, curving to the right past the walled garden and lily pond. For the shortest route, keep going slightly to the right along the path towards the tennis courts where is located the exit onto West Heath Avenue. To see the deer and zoo animals follow the central path down and round to the left, then head to the right through the zoo until you see the tennis courts by the exit to your right.

Alternatively, you are invited to make another optional detour to see the Pergola and Walled Garden of Inverforth House that overlooks West Heath. This section of the tour adds a good 20-30 minutes. Reach this hidden gem by following the park's main path as it loops to the left past the deer enclosure. Exit onto the Heath through a brick gateway next to where mulch is kept and composting carried out by the park-keepers. Cross the first gravel path, continue ahead and bear right until you see on your left an impressive brick wall that surrounds the estate of Inverforth House (formerly the Hill). Keep the wall on your left until you come to a gap between two large holly bushes with a track leading up to the wall. A section of the pergola is visible above. It is well worth going for a walk along sections of this surprisingly long 'hidden gem'. After enjoying the pergola and gardens, retrace your steps down the hill through the trees back into Golders Hill Park, or if you prefer a different route, head right towards North End Road then down to the main entrance to the park where we entered earlier.



After exiting Golders Hill Park by the tennis courts proceed down West Heath Avenue, then turn right into West Heath Drive. Continue to the junction with North End Road.

Audiotour Part 18 – St Alban the Martyr & St Michael

St Alban's is the local Anglican parish church named after the first English saint, who was martyred in the 3rd or early 4th century.

Situated like a sentinel guarding one side of this main road into Golders Green, the solid brick building was designed in a modern Gothic style by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. His legacy includes Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, Battersea and Bankside Power Stations and our iconic red telephone boxes.

Constructed in phases between 1909 and 1930 as a chapel-of-ease (a secondary church in a parish), it is now Grade 2 listed. On the side closest to North End Road is a rare example of an outdoor pulpit used during construction to lead services and now used occasionally to preach to a very large gathering. In 1979 the congregation combined with St Michael's to form the new parish of Golders Green.

Future Bishop of Johannesburg and of Cape Town, and Nobel Prize laureate, South African theologian, anti-apartheid campaigner and human rights activist Desmond Tutu served this community as curate between 1962-65. He relates with his trademark humour memories of the relative freedom and respect accorded to him and his family in Britain, away from the discriminatory apartheid laws of that time in his native land; for instance, being addressed courteously by a London 'bobby' and leading a service for a mostly white congregation.

Originally site of the Anglican community's first place of worship while its own church was being built, from 1913 St Alban's church hall generously was shared with the incoming Jewish community as its prayer hall while Golders Green Synagogue was being built on Dunstan Road.

Now turn around to look at the large white building across the street.

Audiotour Part 19 – Golders Green Hippodrome

A sense of the scale of suburban residential development and transport connectivity conceived for Golders Green in its early days is reflected in this 3000-seat music hall opened in 1913. It forms with St Alban's a pair of impressive 'gateway' buildings into the heart of Golders Green from the east.



As we learned earlier, the ballerina Anna Pavlova gave her last performance in Britain on this, her local stage. Later the Hippodrome was converted for use as a theatre, putting on plays heading into the West End and a popular Christmas pantomime. The annual *Gang Show* was put on here by Scouts and Guides for many years. The BBC took it over as TV and radio studio space and also made it home to the BBC Concert Orchestra from 1969 to 2003. Among its roll call of well-known productions a few early episodes of the ground-breaking comedy series *Monty Python's Flying Circus* were recorded here. When its distinguished life as an entertainment venue ended, it became a prayer hall for an evangelical Christian community, then was taken over by a Muslim community and is now the base for a global charismatic Christian megachurch based in Australia.

Pause the audiotour while you cross North End Road at the traffic lights, then turn left past the taxi rank to the junction with Finchley Road.

Audiotour Part 20 – War memorial

The last item to bring to your attention is the four-sided clock tower in the road in front of you. This war memorial acts as a strong focal point here in the commercial heart of Golders Green. It commemorates on a bronze plaque names of locals who died on active service in the First World War – ‘*the war to end all wars*’ that so affected this suburb while it was still taking shape, as it did the whole country. Two decades later names were added of those who died on service during the Second World War.

Our lengthy tour has brought us back to our starting point at Golders Green Tube, bus and coach interchange.

This is the end of the audiotour. We hope you are enjoying discovering more about the Borough of Barnet and will check out other ‘Healthy Heritage Walks’ on barnet.gov.uk Please send us your comments and share your experiences on social media using the tag #BarnetHealthyHeritageWalks

