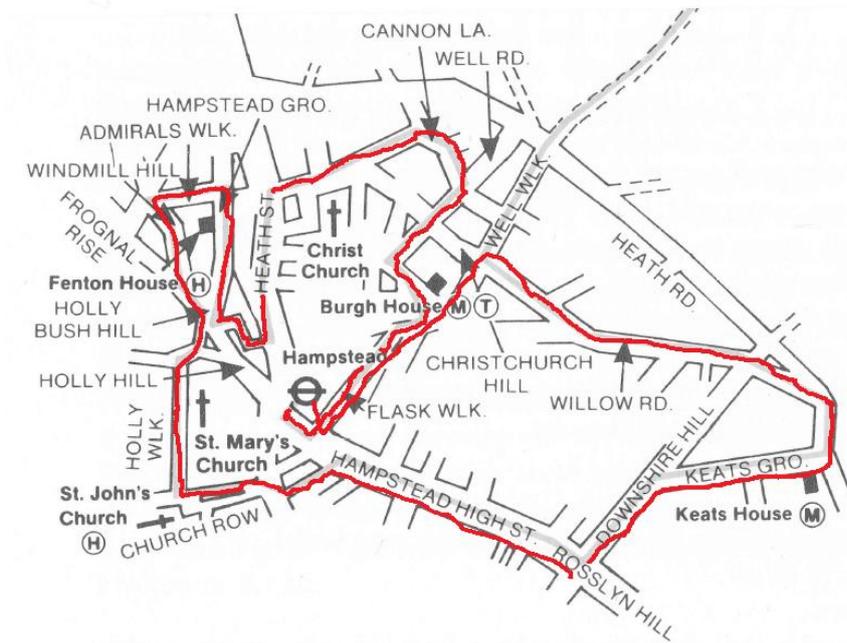


Fetcham U3A

Hampstead Village.

This walk starts & finishes at Hampstead Underground Station. (London's deepest station with 300 steps! The tile work is typical of stations designed by Leslie Green 1907)



Turn left out of the station down Hampstead High Street. Take the first left into the part-pedestrianised Flask Walk, named after the old Flask Tavern where spa water was bottled for sale in London. Funnily enough, the street is shaped rather like a bottle, wide at the bottom and narrow at the neck where it joins Hampstead High Street.

There is a pleasant mixture of buildings here, with cottages contrasting with the larger terraces and town houses.

At the junction, continue forward past the Victorian Wells and Campden Baths and Wash Houses of 1888 (now housing).

Burgh House dates from 1703 and is now a museum and arts centre. Burgh House is a Queen Anne Grade I listed building, erected in 1703 for a Quaker family, the Sewells. Located in the heart of old Hampstead, it was subsequently home to many professional men and their families also at one time as an officer's mess for the Hampstead Militia until just before the war. After falling into disrepair and a successful campaign by the local community to save it from the developers, it was reopened as a Community Arts Centre in 1979.

Spa Water made Hampstead a popular spa resort in the early 1700s. After about a century the craze for drinking the waters died out and Hampstead was left to the artists, writers and intellectuals who had already begun to settle there in search of peace, solitude and fresh air.

No. 40 Well Walk was the family home of the painter John Constable who moved to Hampstead in 1821 in the belief that the air would be beneficial to the failing health of his wife and died here in 1837. Constable also lived at No 2 Lower Terrace where he made endless studies of the clouds and atmospheric effects of the big Hampstead skies.

Cannon Hall was the home of the actor-manager Sir Gerald du Maurier, son of George and father of the late Daphne du Maurier, author of *Rebecca* and other famous West Country

tales, who grew up here. Long before, Cannon Hall was a magistrate's house with its own gaol built into the garden wall.

Fenton House (NT) This charming 17th-century merchant's house has remained virtually unaltered during more than 300 years of continuous occupation, while the large garden is also remarkably unchanged.

Grove Lodge - was the home of John Galsworthy who wrote most of the Forsyth Sagas here in 1931.

Admirals Walk - The house was built in about 1700, and Fountain North, a naval officer who bought it in 1791, constructed the quarterdeck on the roof where Admiral Barton has long and wrongly been supposed to have fired salutes on special occasions.

Other residents of the house have included Sir George Gilbert Scott and Sir John Fortescue turn into Holly Walk where Robert Louis Stevenson, author of Treasure Island lived.

Churches. - St Mary's Catholic Church, with a statue of the Virgin Mary in the blue niche above the door opened in 816 for the use of French émigrés. It was tucked away in this remote spot because Catholics did not enjoy full freedom of worship at this time.

The Hampstead's parish church of St John's was reconstructed in 1745. John Constable the painter is buried in the churchyard along with and John Harrison of the Longitude fame.

Keats House From 1819 until 1821 John Keats, the Romantic poet, lived in the white house on the left and wrote some of his best work here, including his famous Ode to a Nightingale.

No 2. Willow Road. (NT) This building is considered one of the most important Modernist houses in Britain, and was built as a family home by Ernő Goldfinger in 1937-9. It contains a number of innovations. It was not appreciated by everyone, however. Ian Fleming, the author of the Bond books, lived locally and objected to the concrete house and named the James Bond adversary and villain Auric Goldfinger after Ernő.

Return to Hampstead Underground Station.