

2019 Events Programme Highlights

The Affordable Art Fair (AAF) The 9th edition of Affordable Art Fair Hampstead held on the 9 - 12 May saw visitor numbers increase to over 15,000 with over £3.5m worth of art sold. Collaborating with media partner, Balance Magazine, they explored a theme of 'Wellness' for this year's fair, with yoga and meditation workshops, curated art selections and talks on bringing harmony to the home through art.

This Girl Can Monday 10 - 16 June This Girl Can is a celebration of active women who are doing their thing no matter how well they do it, how they look or even how red their face gets. Funded by The National Lottery and developed by Sport England, we want to help women overcome the fear of judgement that is stopping too many women and girls from joining in.

This year's event incorporated nine sports/activities, increased from six the previous and first year of the event. All the sessions were delivered free of charge.

- Tennis coaching was supplied by our coach Rudolph Benjamin,
- Athletics Track and Field was run by Highgate Harriers,
- Rugby training was led by English Rugby and Hampstead Rugby club. Fencing run by Camden fencing club,
- Fitness sessions lead by British Military fitness
- Volleyball lead by Swiss Cottage Volleyball club,
- Women's Football lead by London Women's Football [LWF]
- Bowls and Croquet by our own clubs

The events were advertised by our local clubs and by the City of London Team through Social Media and posters. We also advertised and booked events on Eventbrite. Numbers for the week were better than last year.

Numbers of people participating:

- Tennis [Sat 10th June] 40
- Rugby school's session Wednesday [12th June] 45
- Rugby [Sat 15th June] 30
- Fencing [15th June] 25
- British Military Fitness [16th June] 25
- Track and Field [16th June] 25
- volleyball Sat and Sunday 15th and 16th June 50
- LWF 50

| Activity | Date | No. Participating |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Tennis | Sat 10 June | 40 |
| Rugby (school session) | Wed 12 June | 45 |
| Rugby | Sat 15 June | 30 |
| Fencing | Sat 15 June | 25 |
| British Military Fitness | Sun 16 June | 25 |
| Athletics | Sun 16 June | 25 |

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| Volleyball | Sat 15 & Sun 16 June | 50 |
| Football | Sun 16 June | 50 |
| Bowls and Croquet | Sun 16 June | 7 |

Overall there were 247 participants, which is an increase of 61 on the previous year.

Race for life took place on the 15 June. The event has been coming to the Heath for over 20 years and over the last 5 years numbers have continued to drop. At its peak it had over 5,000 runners, last year it attracted only 1,200. This year to help with race numbers they decided to add a second event to the 5k challenge and included 10k. This additional race did increase participants with 1,800 attending which is the biggest number for several years.

Queen's Park Book Festival is a weekend celebration of the literary arts in the heart of London. Authors, poets, actors, journalists and artists gather at the end of June 2019 for a weekend of events in the Park. The festival is a non-profit organisation with a commitment to engaging the local community and residents. It is run in association with the Queen's Park Area Residents Association (QPARA).

Shakespeare in the Squares is a not-for-profit touring theatre company that stages a Shakespeare play in London garden squares and parks for one night in each venue every summer. Shakespeare in the Squares took place in the Queen's Park Quiet Garden on 22 June 2019. The productions are tailored to the individual garden squares and parks, with the organisers working with the management team to create a unique community celebration around the play. Their aim is to provide a showcase for talented young theatre practitioners with the intention of introducing the audience to the stars of the future.

The Highgate Harriers' Night of the 10,000m PBs [Personal Best] 6 July again proved a remarkable success for this volunteer powered, world class athletics event, and yet another great success for Highgate Harriers. In the Times newspaper on the Saturday before the race, the whole back page was devoted to the event – pretty incredible for this type of distance race event - and was compared as the Glastonbury of 10k racing perhaps due to the fact it includes entertainment on a festival theme such as dancers, fire eaters, Q&As rock bands and also great food. It has an electric atmosphere. Entertainment aside the Athletics was first-class with 54 personal bests several which were Olympic and world qualifying times. And finally, this year's fastest women over 10k with a new PB achieved the Olympic qualifying time which gives her the potential to become an Olympian. So, from Parliament Hill to Tokyo this fascinating story continues with next year's 2020 event being the trial for the GB Olympic 10k team.

The **2019 Summer Music Programme** at the Parliament Hill, Golders Hill Park and Queen's Park bandstands included 27 performances from June until August. The highlight of the programme was the three Friday night concerts at Parliament Hill which included John Etheridge and Vimala Rowe, the Dig It sound system and the Stealers. All three bands are local to the area and bring a large audience to the events with over 2,000 people supporting these much-loved concerts.

The **Give It A Go! Festival** was held on 14 July, this wonderful event is part of the Olympic legacy encouraging people of all ages and abilities to try something new and 'give-it-a-go' to improve health, fitness and wellbeing. This year's event was a great success. An estimated 6,000 people took part, in over 30 types of sport including fencing, track and field athletics, tennis, volleyball, boxing Tai Chi and football to name but a few.

It was well supported by Heath sports groups including Little Foxes Football club, Hampstead Heath Rugby, Highgate Harriers and the armoury. We also timed the event to match up with the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) 'Great British Tennis Weekend' to provide free tennis coaching and courts. Other activities on offer were the NHS, providing free health checks and information on stopping smoking and Weight loss advice. This year for the first time the MHF Polo club were invited to the event. The day's activities included a Polo Match a chance to ride the ponies and some static exercises aimed at polo technique with mechanical horses as part of the activity.

The Give it a go was enhanced by two different bands Andalus and the good old boys offering Latin American and classic rock and Roll. As ever, this great, family friendly free event was a success due to the collaboration of many of the Heath's user groups, staff, volunteers and the London Borough of Camden.

21st Hampstead Heath Duathlon took place on 1 September. 329 people took part in the 21st Hampstead Heath Duathlon. The event is managed in partnership with the Hampstead Rugby Club and offers an opportunity for participants to run across the Heath and swim in each of the Heath's swimming facilities -The Lido the Men's Pond the Ladies Pond the Mixed Pond and finishing at the Athletics Track. This year's event had 59 teams and 329 competitors - a record turnout. The winning men's time was 31.36 beating last years' time by nearly a minute and the women's race won again by last year's winner 33.40, a few seconds down on last years' time. Finally, the winning team, Tri London 1, successfully defending last year's title in a combined time of 1.39.23 beating last year's 1.43.26. this is the 5th time Tri London have won the Duathlon Cup and the third year in a row.

Highgate Wood held its annual **Community Heritage Day Event** on 1 September with very good weather and slightly higher than normal visitor numbers. The innovative outdoor play installation provided by Monkey-Do was a big favourite with the kids and dog show was as popular as ever. Overall visitor numbers were around 500 over the course of the day.

The Jubilee Hall trust [JHT] Charity Run. 466 runners joined us on Hampstead Heath for the 5th annual Run for your Life event. The event includes three distances of 2k, 5k and 10k making it an inclusive event. The age of participants ranged from 2 – 74 years old of which 51% were male and 49% female. 330 were from London with other locations including Surrey, Hampshire, Oxford, Devon, France, Georgia and Philadelphia! The event aims to encourage and inspire local people to be more active by setting them a challenging goal.

The annual **Queen's Park Day** which is organised by volunteers from QPARA took place on 15 September 2019 and was a great success. With an estimated 19,500

people attending the event, the feedback on the day and in days following has been very positive and complementary. The event included food stalls community tables, demonstrations, a fun fair and lots of sporting activities

Zippos Circus 18-28 October. 2019 saw the best-attended opening night of all their 20 visits to the Heath, and the event proved popular throughout their ten-day stay. No horses were included in the programme and there were protest groups or anti-circus demonstrations.

The **London Youth Games** held on 16 November attracted over 2,000 entries, which for the second time came from all 32 London Boroughs. Chief Executive Officer of the London Youth Games, said: *“What an incredible way to start the 2019 London Youth Games season, with school children from every London borough coming together. Our thanks go out to the City of London, the South of England Athletic Association and our dedicated team of volunteers for their continued support in making this event such a great success.”*

Wedding & Civil Ceremonies A total of 13 Wedding & Civil Ceremonies took place on Hampstead Heath during 2019. The Hill Garden remains the most popular location, being the venue for seven weddings. Several larger weddings have been held there, as they can be easily accommodated in this location. The Rotunda has closely followed this, with five ceremonies taking place there, and the Belvedere had one small, intimate wedding for which the setting was perfect. Clients have provided valuable feedback, with many saying that the location was the highlight of their day and that the team have delivered something very special. High quality service remains critical to the continued success of the venue and the feedback received supports this being the case.