

Highgate: A History

The history of Highgate has always been associated with nature and growing. Indeed, according to the Hornsey Historical Society, the first syllable of Highgate was derived from 'haeg', the Saxon word for hedge, which formed part of a private deer park. Originally farmland and woods, in the 15th century, London's great and good began buying land and building fine houses with local farmers and cottagers serving landowners. Over the centuries, Highgate's many pubs were established to meet the needs of travellers and drovers taking animals to market in London.

Until the mid 19th century Highgate was still a rural community, as shown by the creation of St Michael's Model Farm School in 1852 and the Highgate Horticultural Society in 1859. Harry Chester, St Michael's first Headmaster leased land for local workers allotments and many of the great houses hosted the shows of the Highgate Horticultural Society. In the 20th century, the fields were developed but large areas of open space in the form of parks, woodland and allotments were left.

Since then the residents of Highgate have fought many campaigns to protect these spaces including Hampstead Heath, various allotment sites and the Highgate Bowl (now OmVed Gardens). In the Highgate Neighbourhood Plan the policies that

protect these vital spaces can be found at www.forhighgate.org/local-issues/open-spaces.

In Highgate our major green spaces are;

Highgate Wood

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/

Queens Wood

www.fqw.org.uk

Parkland Walk

www.parkland-walk.org.uk

Waterlow Park

www.waterlowpark.org

Highgate Cemetery

www.highgatecemetery.org

Hampstead Heath

www.hamsteadheath.net

Kenwood

www.english-heritage.org.uk

*All our growing spaces are located on the map on the back of this leaflet.

Today our parks are protected but are suffering from reduced funding, our allotment sites have huge waiting lists and our trees are constantly under threat from development. Highgate's past has left us a precious legacy on which to build a future as a pioneering, sustainable, green community.

Let's get Highgate growing!

Some local projects in development include;

Herbs on the High Street

Mapping our biodiversity corridors

Tree pit planting

Guerrilla gardening (some going on already)

Wildflower planting in various spaces

If you are interested in GROWHighgate and helping to develop some of the projects listed above please email info@forhighgate.org.
www.forhighgate.org

Other useful organisations include;

Highgate Horticultural Society

www.highgatehorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Heath Hands

www.heath-hands.org.uk/cms

The Conservation Volunteers

www.tcv.org.uk

Capital Growth

www.capitalgrowth.org

London National Park City

www.nationalparkcity.london

Social Farms and Gardens

www.farmgarden.org.uk

The Woodland Trust

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



GROWHighgate

GROWHighgate is a growing and mapping project that celebrates all the green spaces in Highgate our wonderful trees and hopefully inspires everyone to get growing too – whether fruit and veg to eat or flowers for our wildlife.

Our Growing Spaces

- 01 Harington Scheme –Charity, founded in 1980, providing horticultural training for young adults with learning disabilities.
- 02 Queen’s Wood Community Garden –Started in 1998 and is run by volunteers. Located behind the cafe.
- 03 Waterlow Park Kitchen Garden –Plots are run by various local groups. Located next to LUX and also where you’ll find the Community Orchard.
- 04 Omved Gardens –Beautiful new landscape in the old ‘Highgate Bowl’ with wildflower meadows, a new vegetable garden and fruit trees.

Our Allotments [all have waiting lists]

- 05 Fitzroy Park
- 06 Highgate
- 07 Shepherd’s Hill Railway Gardens
- 08 Shepherd’s Hill
- 09 Aylmer Road

Our Schools [all have growing or foraging spaces]

- 10 St. Joseph’s Primary School
- 11 St. Michael Primary School
- 12 Highgate Primary School
- 13 Highgate Pre-Preparatory School
- 14 Channing Junior School

Open Gardens films www.highgatefestival.org

- 15 Southwood Lodge, Kingsley Place, N6 5EA
- 16 Ruth Benton’s Garden, Dukes Head Yard, N6 5JG
- 17 Mona Abboud’s Garden, 33 Wood Vale, N10 3DJ

Great Trees of Highgate

It is easy to take our wonderful street trees for granted but many are under threat from development or disease. We have selected some of the best examples of 10 locally-found species which are located on the map so please look out for them! If you are concerned about works to local trees please contact your council tree officer.

We are also very lucky to have wonderful examples of hornbeams, oaks and wild service trees in Highgate Wood and Queen’s Wood. At Kenwood and on Hampstead Heath you can find willows, magnolias and huge beech trees.

If you are interested in joining the HNF Tree Group please email info@forhighgate.org.

Great Trees of Highgate is a project by Maria Kramer and Alicia Pivaro. With many thanks to Louise Lewis, John Evans, Michael Hammerson and Stephen Middleton for their Great Trees suggestions.



A Oak



B Ash



C Copper Beech



D Dancing Limes

E Arbutus Tree



F Sweet Chestnut

G Hollow Oak



H Wild Black Poplar



I Plane



J Holm Oak