

Highgate Neighbourhood Forum Committee 2025-26

Gaëlle Choppé has been enjoying the peace and greenery of Highgate for the last 16 years, plus 11 years in nearby neighbourhoods. For 20+ years, she assumed various roles with some of the biggest global news and entertainment TV channels. More recently, after training at the Co-active Training Institute, she has provided life, career and wellbeing coaching. She is the Secretary of the Archway Road Action Group and a member of the Miltons Residents Association. She is a firm believer that our immediate environment greatly impacts our quality of life. She is keen on making the Archway Road area a cleaner, greener space, and fostering a greater sense of community.

Don Grubin is a semi-retired Professor of Forensic Psychiatry who moved to Highgate with his wife five years ago. He is a member of the Miltons Residents Association, as well as the Highgate Society and a keen litter picker and guerrilla gardener with the HS. He is also currently Chair of the Archway Road Action Group. His interests are criminal justice, health and mental health, and allotments. Being relatively fresh to Highgate he has been learning about its various niches and oddities, and is keen to see them preserved.

Katherine Ives has worked in Highgate at Lauderdale House since 1998, where she is Director having guided the organisation through a £2.5million refurbishment and also the Covid crisis. Over the years she has felt privileged to be part of the committed and active Highgate community and very proud to have established, and continues to coordinate, the local 'Breakfast Network' of 25+ Highgate venues and organisations which has initiated many new local partnerships. She has also introduced the local Heritage weekend giving local organisations and venues a chance to share and celebrate the history and heritage of Highgate and its neighbours. In addition she has produced theatre and cabaret shows at Upstairs at the Gatehouse, and has been involved with the Waterlow Park Trust Advisory Group since its inception. Katherine started out as a solicitor in the City and West End, and having 'served' eight years, decided arts management was a more interesting career. She is excited at the potential the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum offers for bringing together arts, cultural, educational and heritage organisations and local businesses to benefit Highgate and improve the lives of local people.

Peter Jacobs and his wife have lived on the Holly Lodge Estate for 49 years, his daughters starting their education at St Michaels. He was a Marketing Researcher and on retirement in 2000 busied himself for 12 years as the treasurer of an international sports federation. He has been a member of the Holly Lodge Estate Committee for some 20 years, having served as its treasurer from 2008 to 2019 and as a trustee for ten years until 2020 when he retired on term. He has been a member of the Holly Lodge Consultative Conservation Committee for over a decade and represents the Holly Lodge Estate on the HCSNP (Highgate Camden Safer Neighbourhood Panel). He is a current member of the HNF committee.



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Maria Kramer has lived in Highgate for 15 years and is a director at the local award-winning architecture and design studio Room 102 with primary focus on education, community and private projects. Furthermore, Maria is a senior lecturer at the University of Westminster where she leads an ecologically and community driven Master Architecture studio. She is also the driving force behind the Live Design Practice, an innovative initiative she founded to promote engagement projects and applied making. Through this platform, Maria brings together diverse stakeholders, leveraging action research and knowledge exchange to create tangible social value while pushing the boundaries exploring innovative architectural practices. Maria has helped launch local initiatives such as the Pink Plaques project celebrating the cultural heritage of Highgate and has collaborated with Haringey Council and the HNF on design and engagement projects. She is a proud social allotment holder, creates art and cycles everywhere.

Jennifer Kung has worked at Channing School for six years and has been involved exclusively in partnership work as Director of Impact for the past three years. Working with State schools as well as local organisations has been exciting and rewarding. She also teaches History and has done so for over 20 years but not all that time in London! She moved over from Sydney, Australia after meeting her English husband and has lived and worked predominantly in North London for the last two decades. She has two daughters who are in local independent secondary schools but they both would happily move to a sunnier climate!

Louise Lewis has lived in Highgate for 18 years. She loves the area and the atmosphere and is keen to preserve the best aspects and enhance it where she can. She is an active member of the Friends of Waterlow Park and Highgate CAAC. She was involved in producing the Neighbourhood Plan and has been involved in responses to the new Haringey Local Plan (and in particular submitting suggestions on cycling and walking in Highgate). She works to provide community input into significant areas with the HNF, such as Highgate Wood, Queen's Wood, Waterlow Park and Highgate Cemetery. She is conscious of the Camden/Haringey divide, working to bring both 'sides' together where she can. She monitors all tree applications in the area and is trying to preserve existing trees and ensure replacements are planted if necessary. She is also part of the HNF Biodiversity Network, mapping the Ecological corridors and Stepping Stones in the area.

Maggy Meade-King is a former journalist and broadcaster, who ran her own successful small publishing business, as well as undertaking senior roles in the public and voluntary sectors. She has lived in Highgate for 25 years, was the founding Chair of the HNF and led it through the consultation on and production of the Neighbourhood Plan. She is a member of a number of local organisations and an active member of the Highgate Allotments Association Committee. She currently leads North London forums groups campaigning for greener transport, as well as running the HNF Biodiversity Network.



Alicia Pivaro has lived in Highgate for more than 15 years and has been chair of the HNF since 2017. After training as an architect, she has spent the last 30 years working in the field of architecture and urbanism in several key roles at organisations including the Arts Council, RIBA and the Architecture Foundation and as an independent cultural producer and writer. Her career has focused on initiatives that engage the public in issues about the built environment and supporting community involvement, including Architecture Week. She is an advocate for the importance of community-led regeneration and is a convenor for Neighbourhood Planners London. As well as making art, she teaches architecture at the Bartlett School UCL and the London School of Architecture. She helped to establish the Highgate Festival in 2018, and is involved in other local initiatives including Pink Plaques, Highgate Stories and the Highgate Eco Network.

Dan Stranescu is a founder member and chair of the Goldsmiths Court Residents Association, set up to ensure future development plans take into account the needs of elderly and vulnerable tenants. A qualified architect with over 45 years experience on a large range of UK and overseas projects and as property development manager. Currently, pro-bono work on residential planning appeals, mainly in Camden. Interested in the history of traditional building techniques and in the detailed design and sustainable manufacturing of consumer products.

Francis Wilkinson retired as a barrister in 2020, and for the previous 20 years he specialised in family law. Before that he was a police officer for 30 years. He has particular interests in licensing, the regulation of drugs and the effects of air pollution on health. He is Secretary of the Highgate Society and previously chaired the community organisation which saved what is now Whitehall Park School. His interests include pollution, climate change, licensing, traffic and walking and cycling.

Siri Zanelli is a Norwegian architect and partner with Collective Works, an award winning RIBA chartered architecture and design studio. She became a Londoner in 2006, and has lived in leafy Highgate since 2014, and can often be seen running in Highgate Woods and Hampstead Heath. She is a member of the Highgate Society Council, is involved with the planning committee and runs the Society's Instagram account. Her local passions centre around the quality of the built environment as well as the green spaces, sustainability and community engagement. Her architectural practice worked closely with the Highgate Society and the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum to support the Contractor Yard scheme for Omved Gardens through planning, and she is currently working with Haringey Council on a CIL funded HNF project for an outdoor playspace along Parkland Walk. She has two boys attending local Highgate schools.