



## It's Highgate Festival time!

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### New HNF Committee

The Highgate Neighbourhood Forum Committee for 2026-7 was elected in OmVed Gardens' impressive Barn on Monday 18 May. You can find out who we are [here](#). We also heard from our new Haringey Green councillor Cllr Eva Bell that her priorities aligned with those of the Forum's (as expressed in the [Chair's Report](#)) i.e. empowering communities, increasing biodiversity and protecting nature and our heritage for a more sustainable future. In answer to questions, she also stressed that she was already working with our Haringey Lib Dem councillors, as well as her Labour and Green colleagues in Camden.

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It won't have escaped your notice that it's Fair in the Square time on **Saturday!** There will be lots to see and do but do come and visit us on the HNF stall, where you will be able to pick up a Festival programme, add your knowledge to our Nature North London wildlife corridors and stepping stones map or just talk to us about what you think we should be doing in the coming year.

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# HIGHGATE FESTIVAL 2026

And that's only the beginning of June festival fun as the Highgate Festival runs **until 21 June**. We are aware that a certain sporting event kicks off at much the same time, but with walks and talks and an eclectic mix of events that celebrate all things Highgate, you will want to clear your diary next week.

As ever, there will be music all over the neighbourhood, including some special events in Pond Square (looks like the weather will co-operate this year) with Festival favourites Vikas and Bob on **Sunday 14 June** at 5pm, the George Michael Community Sing-a-long at 6pm on **Saturday 20 June** and our very own Archway Mountain Boys at 5pm on **Sunday 21 June**.

Too much more to list here, so check out the [Festival website](#) for the full programme.

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## Cemetery wins £6.7m grant to begin masterplan



Highgate Cemetery has been awarded a £6.7million grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to begin Phase 1 of their 25-year plan - Unlocking Highgate Cemetery. This will enable the Cemetery to safeguard the site as an active burial

ground and sanctuary, tackle the impact of time and climate change and expand their work with local groups, involving more people in the life of the Cemetery and opening it to a much wider range of people. You can find out more and watch a new film about their plans [here](#).



Two more festivals this summer: Hampstead Heath's annual Kite Festival on **Sunday 28 June** and the Go Green Eco Urban Festival **all summer**, bringing together hands-on workshops, outdoor activities and specialist demonstrations designed to help residents understand local climate risk and take meaningful action - find out more [here](#).

### Camden nature events



There's still time to take part in the [BTP Birds in Green Spaces Survey](#) and then from **22-28 June**, it's [National Insect Week](#). You can find out more about moths at Capital Growth's Big City Bug Hunt Workshop at Kentish Town City Farm on **Wednesday 24 June** from 18.30 - book your place [here](#).

And there are **Bat Walks** in Highgate Wood on **Wednesday 17 June** (book [here](#)) and on Hampstead Heath on **Wednesday 29 July** - book [here](#). More about all of these events and much more in Camden Council's monthly Nature News. Contact [NatureConservation@camden.gov.uk](mailto:NatureConservation@camden.gov.uk) to subscribe.

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## **Brendan the Navigator has closed**

Sadly, we have to report that the Brendan the Navigator pub (opposite St Joseph's on Highgate Hill) has suddenly closed. It seems that issues with the owners of the building over repairs, as well as the developers next door, have resulted in the landlords repossessing the bar. The Brendan's friendly atmosphere and its great Irish music will be much missed and we wish the team luck in finding new premises.



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## **Highgate Neighbourhood Forum**

The HNF provides an opportunity for everyone in Highgate to get involved in local issues and have a say. We want to hear your ideas and here are some ways for you to join in;

- Join the HNF committee - only four meetings a year to discuss key issues
- Biodiversity group - help support the HNF Biodiversity Network and promote local green initiatives
- Traffic/transport group - help us develop a community-led vision of what the future of travel in the area might be
- Highgate Festival - offer your skills or organise part of the programme or an event

Contact us on [info@forhighgate.org.uk](mailto:info@forhighgate.org.uk)

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**Alicia Pivaro**

**Chair, Highgate Neighbourhood Forum**