



**A guided walk around fashionable Hampstead
and a visit to Two National Trust houses**

Thursday 6 July 2017

Hampstead has more blue plaques than anywhere else in London. It has been home to the rich and famous for generations, and on the walk we will find out why. It was once the place to escape London's plaque-ridden streets and then a spa to which the rich flocked. The walk begins after coffee (self-purchased) in one of the best preserved Georgian streets in London. From there we visit an atmospheric church and churchyard and see the tombs of the painter Constable and John Harrison, whose invention made life at sea safer. We will also hear about Jane Austen's aunt who, along with other women, was so desperate to find a husband that she took part in "the fishing game."

Our last stop before lunch will be at Fenton House, which is famed for its glorious garden; it contains a fine collection of paintings and early keyboard instruments.



After lunch (at own expense) we visit the remains of the spa and catch a glimpse of the Heath. A short walk will take us to one of the famous bathing pools. Where we can go inside and see what lures swimmers into its murky depths. Next will be a tour of 2 Willow Walk, a Trust property uncompromising in its modernity. It was here that architect, Erno Goldfinger, clashed with James Bond writer Ian Fleming.

The afternoon ends with a visit to the garden of the nearby Keats' museum which has been planted in tribute to his most famous poems. We will hear about his short life and his romance with Fanny Brawne.

We will travel to Hampstead by train and tube. Please buy a travel card and catch the 9.23 from Leatherhead (Bookham 9.18, Ashted 9.27). Rona Roach will be seated in the front carriage. NT members bring your membership cards. Non-members will have to pay £11 (without gift aid) for a combined Fenton House and 2 Willow Walk ticket.

The outing is free to members but only book if you are sure to go as numbers are limited. It will be guided by Rona whose telephone on the day will be 07570 807359.

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Please complete and return form to Rona Roach.

I understand I will have to purchase my own National Trust tickets if I do not have a Trust card.

Name(s).....

Address.....

Postcode.....home telephone.....mobile on day.....

Name and contact number of relative/friend in case of emergency

Name.....contact number.....