

THE HIGHGATE SOCIETY LAUNCHES A HERITAGE GUIDE TO THE HOUSES ON NORTH HILL, HIGHGATE

OVER 400 YEARS OF DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE IN 800 YARDS

The Highgate Society, with funding from Haringey Council, has published a free full coloured fold out leaflet featuring 35 dwellings in North Hill, Highgate which illustrate different domestic architectural styles over 400 years. The leaflet also has a timeline identifying the 12 monarchs who reigned when these houses were built and highlighting major events which took place over the period between the King James Bible in 1611 and the launch of the world wide web in 1990.

Richard Webber, the Highgate Society's co-ordinator of the project, believes that no other road in London, the UK or even perhaps the world has such a variety of domestic architecture in an 800 yard stretch and has launched The North Hill Challenge to find another a street which exceeds that number.

The oldest surviving building is 41 North Hill which, according to a plaque on the house, was built in 1600 in the Stuart style (1620-1700). Other architectural styles include Regency (1800-1830), Arts and Crafts (1860-1910), International Modernist (1925-1939) and Neo-Georgian (1980-2010).

One side of the leaflet arranges the buildings in chronological order, the other side in walk order starting from iconic Highpoint (designed by Lubetkin and Tecton in 1935) at the top of North Hill and ending at the Esso Service Station at the junction with Archway Road.

Haringey Council has installed an interpretation board outside "The Bull" and the walk leaflets are available free from the pubs along the route – The Wrestlers, The Bull, The Victoria and the two convenience stores – North Hill Food & Wine and A S Food & Wine. Copies are also available from the Highgate Society, 10a South Grove, N6 6BS in person on a Saturday morning or by post on receipt of a sae.

By the middle of the 19th century most London streets were built by developers who would buy up a parcel of land and build an estate of similar looking houses mostly erected within a few years of each other. North Hill, Highgate, is very different. Perhaps because it formed part of the ancient coaching route from London to the north, individual plots along the hill had been built long before speculative developers existed

and since then many of them have been redeveloped on a piecemeal basis. Nowadays the buildings comprise flats and family houses in social and charitable ownership as well as ones which are leased or privately owned.

Richard Webber said, "North Hill presents an incomparable opportunity for local residents, schoolchildren and visitors to Highgate to see the variety of building styles that were popular over different centuries in this part of the country. We hope the leaflet enriches their knowledge of architecture placed in the context of interesting historical events".

North Hill can be reached on foot from Highgate Station or from Archway Station by the 143 bus which stops at both the start and the end of the trail.

For further information, copies of the leaflet, please contact Richard Webber on 020 8340 3034.

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www.highgatesociety.com