

Autumn Walks and Talks  
by Christina Nolan

We had two really interesting house walks this autumn. As always, we looked at a variety of periods of houses, and a variety of interior styles. It's a great privilege to be allowed into someone's home, and we are very grateful to our host families - Peter and Ruth Benton, Maggy Mead-King, Susan Hall, Graham Stirk and Susie Le Good.

In September we toured a beautiful four story Georgian town house with a fascinating history. Built in 1730 on the site of an older cottage, it was later used as a school. One of its pupils was John Betjeman.

Then came a dramatic contrast as we went round the corner to see a very modern house. This was built by Sterling Craig in the sixties that has been lovingly renovated and rethought by its current architect owners working with Duggan Morris architects. The home opens up to its delightful garden in a particularly striking way, and the green roof was another admired feature. The house has recently received RIBA's Manser Medal for the best home design; it was the fourth house in Highgate to be so honoured and the only London entry. We finished the September walk with tea in my 1800's converted coach house. It was very good for me to experience being a house-walk hostess since now I know first hand what we're asking of participating families. Pictures of the tea are included in the centre spread of this Buzz.

October saw us touring a wonderful example of an art-deco block of flats and enjoying one of the best views in the village from its roof. This was followed by a visit to one of the oldest private houses in Highgate. It dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and boasts a surprising number of original features. This walk was followed by a delicious tea at Lauderdale House.

We will retreat inside for the winter and offer a number of talks at 10a. Watch for posters and announcements of dates on the Highgate Society website, [www.highgatesociety.com](http://www.highgatesociety.com). Next spring we'll be out and about again with a walk around Hampstead Garden Suburb being planned amongst others. We do maintain a contact list for those interested in our walks, so if you would like to be on it, send your email address to [chrisnolan3@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisnolan3@btinternet.com).