

**Keats House and Burgh House, Hampstead
on Thursday 21 February 2013**

This visit has been organised by Kate and Mike Quinton

John Keats lived at what is now called Keats House from 1818 to 1820. The setting of the house and Hampstead Heath inspired some of his most memorable poetry. There are pictures of his family and friends and many other artefacts. We shall probably split into two groups to have a guided tour led by their Clive Jones of the ground floor and either afterwards or beforehand the opportunity to visit the whole house.

After lunch we plan to walk uphill to Burgh House to be introduced by Ashley Hannebrink to the exhibition of seven John Constable sketches, on loan from the V&A, just steps from the views that inspired them. REMS has met there before. It is a good place for tea and a cake in the buttery.

Meeting

We meet either for coffee at the Hampstead Tea Rooms in South End Road, nearly opposite Hampstead Heath Station or, if time is pressing, at Keats House.

One can get there by Overground to Hampstead Heath Station. By Underground on the Northern Line there is a choice. From Belsize Park Station either walk 10 minutes uphill or catch the 168 bus to its terminus at South End Green. Alternatively, walk 10 minutes downhill from Hampstead Station or catch the 46 bus to South End Green. If you have an hour or so, another possibility is that the 24 bus will take you all the way on its scenic route.

Keats House is in Keats Grove, left off South End Road, 5 minutes walk from Hampstead Heath Station.

Lunch will be at the Freemasons Arms at the bottom of Willow Road, a few minutes walk from Keats House.

Timetable

10.30 - 10.50 Meet for coffee in Hampstead Tea Rooms.

10.50 - 11.00 Walk to Keats House and pay at the desk.

11.15 - 12.45 Take the guided tour (40 minutes) and view Keats House.

12.45 – 13.00 Walk to the Freemasons Arms.

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch at the Freemasons Arms.

14.00 – 14.15 Walk to Burgh House.

14.30 - 14.10 Introduction to the Constable Exhibition

14.10 - View the Exhibition and stay on for tea (at own expense).

Size of party

The rooms at Keats House are quite small and so they can cope with a maximum of 30 in 2 groups of 15 and the minimum for a guided tour (by a volunteer enthusiast at no extra charge) is 15 to make it worthwhile.

Cost

We should pay individually at Keats House: £2.40 for concessions and the ticket will be valid for a year or if you are a National Trust Member £1.50 for just the one visit.

Contacts – on the day only - Mike's mobile 07715 172922 or Kate's 07908 156160.

Late arrivals – Go straight to Keats House