



Invitation to ALS AGM 2021

We hope and trust that the coronavirus will be under sufficient control to allow the 2021 AGM to go ahead in person, not only on paper.

Proceeding on that assumption, the Hopkins Society and the Betjeman Society jointly invite you to the weekend of 21-23 May. Gerard Manley Hopkins and John Betjeman? Don't they sound like poetry's Odd Couple? Indeed – that will be the theme of the Saturday morning presentation. Despite the obvious differences, there are surprising overlaps. Such as their education at Highgate School (50 years apart, of course).

So, the venue will be Highgate in North London, full of literary associations. After the morning, lunch and the AGM, there will be four afternoon options to choose from:

- 1] A guided walk round the sites and memorials of Highgate's other literary figures: Andrew Marvell, ST Coleridge, Christina Rossetti, AE Housman, TS Eliot; with Keats and Dickens not far away.
- 2] A guided walk round John Betjeman's childhood homes and haunts, and readings of the poems he wrote about them.
- 3] A tour of the school's Hopkins, Betjeman and other literary archives, and its attractive museum.
- 4] Non-walking alternative: An illustrated presentation of Hopkins' and Betjeman's views on church architecture.

The Friday and Saturday dinners will be in Highgate restaurants. And there will be directions for self-guided tours of literary London on the Sunday.

We imagine that many will have their own ideas where to stay for a weekend in London. But for those who want to be near at hand, the London Archway Premier Inn is at the foot of Highgate Hill.

The Hopkins & Betjeman Societies