



## Grace Adam

On an icy December day, walking with a friend in Queen's Wood in north London, Andrew Stuck came across an intriguing set of pedestrian signs on which were written lines of poetry, lyrics, and instructions. His curiosity got the better of him, and when he got home, he tracked down who had been responsible. Returning to the wood in January, when the muddy ground was as slippery underfoot, he interviewed **Grace Adam** to find out what had been her motivation, in creating the installation called "**Out of the Woods...Words to navigate by**". 20'05" 9.5MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded on a walk in Queen's Wood, north London in January 2018 Published in February 2018 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Queen's Wood [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen%27s\\_Wood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen%27s_Wood)

Friends of Queen's Wood <http://www.fqw.org.uk/>

Queen's Wood has a number of elderly 'finger posts' that give directions to places beyond the wood. Grace has created signs for these posts, providing thought provoking quotes from literature, observations and instructions, in an artwork called "Out of the Woods - words to navigate by." [http://www.graceadam.com/out\\_of\\_the\\_woods.html](http://www.graceadam.com/out_of_the_woods.html)

Amongst the quotes used by Grace is one from Virginia Woolf [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia\\_Woolf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_Woolf)

London Borough of Haringey Parks Department: <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces>

Priory Park <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/z-parks-and-open-spaces/priory-park>

Friends of Priory Park <http://www.fopp-n8.org.uk/>

Grace Ada's work was called "Views and Vistas" [http://www.graceadam.com/views\\_vistas.html](http://www.graceadam.com/views_vistas.html)

Queen's Wood Community Cafe <https://www.queenswoodcafe.co.uk/>

'Ally Pally' as Alexandra Palace is affectionately referred to by Grace can be seen from Priory Park <http://www.alexandrapalace.com/>

Grace is talking to Camden Borough Council <https://www.camden.gov.uk/theme/camden-bremen/ccm/navigation/leisure/outdoor-camden/parks-and-open-spaces/> about undertaking similar project in

Bloomsbury's garden squares <http://www.bedfordstates.com/london-garden-squares/>

The Bloomsbury Set <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/features/bloomsbury-set-love-triangles-suicide-and-communism-1923871.html>

Grace teaches at Chelsea College of Art Interior and Spatial Design <http://www.arts.ac.uk/chelsea/courses/undergraduate/ba-interior-spatial-design/> and works for Tate <http://www.tate.org.uk/> and with her colleague Joshua White, they together produce The Art Channel on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPG0hEaDXZU>

Highgate Wood is run by the Corporation of London <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/highgate-wood/Pages/default.aspx>

Queen's Wood is close to Highgate tube station <https://tfl.gov.uk/hub/stop/940GZZLUHGT/highgate-underground-station/> and the High Barnet branch of the Northern Line [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern\\_line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_line)



Amongst the quotes used by Grace is one from Shelley's Ode to the West wind <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/ode-west-wind>

'After dinner sit a while, after supper walk a mile' <http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780199539536.001.0001/acref-9780199539536-e-24>

Queen's Wood is a local nature reserve <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/z-parks-and-open-spaces/queens-wood-local-nature-reserve>

In the summer of 2017 the Museum of Walking <http://www.museumofwalking.org.uk/>, of which Andrew Stuck is the founder, was commissioned by the Mayor of London to run a haiku composition walkshop in Queen's Wood as part of London Tree Week: <http://www.museumofwalking.org.uk/about/events-archive/london-tree-week-2017/haiku-woods/>

'The moon is my mother...' from 'The Moon and The Yew Tree' by Sylvia Plath <http://www.sylviaplathforum.com/thread.html>

'Hallmark Moments' - here Grace is referring to the phrases used in Hallmark greeting cards <https://www.hallmark.com/cards/>

Episodes of Talking Walking include interviews of artists trying to be lost for example, Jennie Savage <http://www.talkingwalking.net/jennie-savage-talking-walking/> and others who are designing wayfinding systems, for example, Martin Foessleitner <http://www.talkingwalking.net/martin-foessleitner-talking-walking/>

Grace claims not to be a 'Luddite' - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luddite>

**Grace's recommendation for a walk:**

1. Go for a walk in a public space but think about whether it is public or privately owned for example Granary Square in Kings Cross <https://www.kingscross.co.uk/granary-square>
2. Walking from Tate Modern to Tate Britain [https://walkit.com/walk/?city=london&from=Tate%20Britain&fuid=452702\\_483913&to=Tate%20Modern&tuid=428433\\_453806&rta=old&direct=1](https://walkit.com/walk/?city=london&from=Tate%20Britain&fuid=452702_483913&to=Tate%20Modern&tuid=428433_453806&rta=old&direct=1) or <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/picture/2011/jun/17/london-walks-tate-britain-tate-modern>  
Walking through Parliament Square <http://www.walklondon.com/london-walks/westminster-walk-london.htm>

***If you are reading this before the Spring Equinox (20 March) 2018 then you will still find Grace's work in Queen's Wood.***