

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

Incorporating Alexandra Ward

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Your Association – Your Voice Wednesday 20 May 8.00 pm

The MHFGA is concerned with everything contributing to the environment of and quality of life in Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra wards, including roads, buildings and open spaces.

The Association represents local views on such matters as planning applications, traffic and transport. It provides a voice for local opinion on many areas of wider interest and is represented on the committees of several amenity and public bodies. Representatives of the Committee work hard throughout the year, in response to requests from members for support or advice. The flower troughs on the Broadway enhance the 'town centre' and the flower beds on Colney Hatch Lane and elsewhere are regularly tended.

The Association's Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 20 May at 8 pm in the Garden Room at North Bank, Pages Lane, N10 1PP. See the map on page 2, if you're not sure where the meeting will take place.

Would you like to help in any way? The Committee needs help in a number of areas – organizing our speakers & meetings, helping with our PR and communications with local organisation? Introduce yourself to any member of the committee, or come along to the AGM, where you'll be warmly welcomed. Nominations for Officers to sit on the Committee should be sent to the Chairman, John Hajdu. They can also be put forward at the AGM itself.

THE AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM on 21 May 2014
- 3 Chairman's Report
- 4 Treasurer's Report
- 5 Election of Officers
- 6 Election of Committee
- 7 Election of Independent Examiner
- 8 Any Other Business, including questions from Members

Afterwards, enjoy the customary Association social gathering with a presentation and an appetising spread laid on for us by Planet Organic (see the profile on page 4). We do hope to see you on 20 May.



May/June 2015 Newsletter GARDENING SPECIAL!

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Alan Titchmarsh, Ludwig Van Beethoven and Muswell Hill... read all about it on page 5



CINEMA NEWS

Everyman, the independent cinema chain (already in Hampstead and Belsize Park), is raising £20m from investors in a plan to buy four new cinemas, Gerrards Cross, Esher, Barnet and **Muswell Hill** - at a total cost of £7.1m and a further £6.1m will be spent refurbishing them to existing Everyman standards. Muswell Hill's Odeon was built in 1936, and is grade II listed; the interior is the most elaborate of any original Odeon cinema to survive. It was converted into three screens in 1974.

Follow our new Twitter account

@theMHFGA

or visit www.twitter.com/theMHFGA

We tweet regularly on Association and local news - so please follow and spread the word! And there's lots more about our area and its history at

www.mhfga.org



Members' Meetings

Annual General Meeting

8.00 pm Wednesday 20 May

See front page for details

Conducted Walk – *NEW DATE!*

11.00 am Sunday 28 June

Queens Wood walk – a return visit to see five years of progress in this wonderful setting. Meet at the Lodge Cafe for a fascinating tour conducted by members of the Friends of Queens Wood.

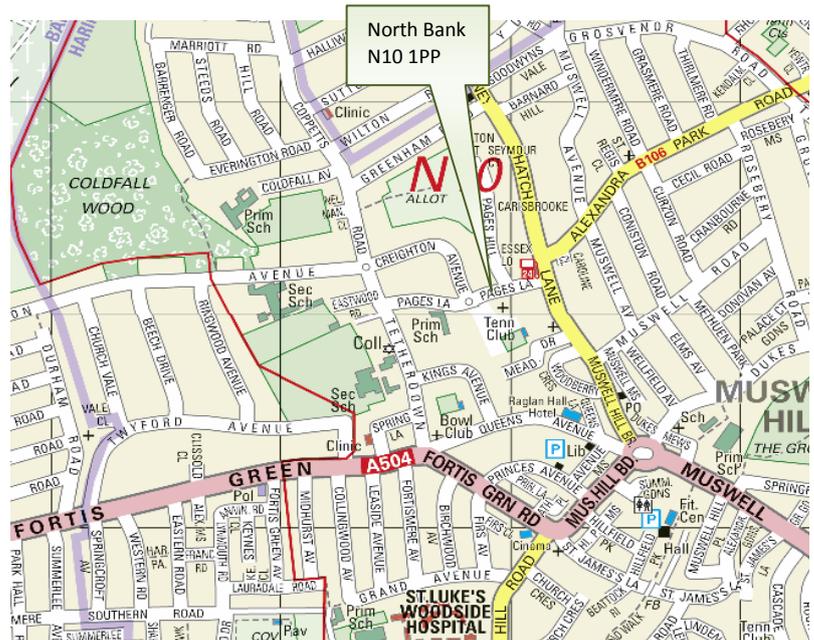
Members Meeting

October – details to be announced in the next Newsletter, or check www.mhfga.org for details

Members Meeting

8.00 pm Wednesday 11 November

Graham Parkinson, president of the Muswell Hill Photographic Society shows *Life in Lhaka*, plus Tony Wells announces the winners of the Photography Competition (see panel, right).



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Brush off your Brownies, clean up your Canons, dust your Daguerreotypes, charge up your iPhones... the 2015 MHFGA Photography Competition is back.

Organiser Tony Wells, the Association's web manager, will be announcing details in the next few weeks on the website (www.mhfga.org) and in the next Newsletter.

Welcome our new representative on the Alexandra Palace Consultative Committee

Chris Roche is an award winning architect, and founder of Muswell Hill based, 11.04 Architects. He has lectured at universities in the UK and Brussels and is a former Design Manager at Manchester Airport.

His project experience includes multi-million pound projects in the UK, USA, Europe and Africa. In 1992 he initiated an International Music Event in Manchester which ran for 18 years, and other special projects include a proposal for the Football Association for a Museum of the World Cup at Wembley Stadium.

In 2014 he published a home-owners, self-help guide, to property development – 'The Property Developer's Handbook'.

Chris has over 20 years experience as a local community activist, putting his knowledge and expertise to use for the benefit of his local community.



CLOCK O' THE NORTH

The Association recognises the invaluable support of John Kendall, clockmaker of Denmark Terrace, by making him an honorary member. John was instrumental in the full restoration of the 'Langton's Clock', dating from 1899 and restored by the MHFGA in 2009, that watches proudly over the Broadway.



John anticipates looking for a successor in the next year or so, so would welcome any interest (sonoflugg@yahoo.co.uk). We also acknowledge the assistance of the long-suffering resident of the flat where the 'clock works' are housed!

KEN GAY 1923 – 2015

Many members knew, or knew of, local historian Ken Gay who died recently aged 91. Ken's contribution to the historical knowledge of our locality has been immense: he was closely involved with the Hornsey Historical Society, becoming Chairman and latterly President.

Ken and his late wife Teresa settled close to Alexandra Palace in 1953, Ken then working for the Coal Board as a documentary and training film maker. These films became exemplars of their kind and it was almost inevitable that Ken developed a keen interest in the area he had moved to.

Ken was an enthusiastic walker and started researching and writing books that have become definitive histories and descriptions of our locality; four were published by Tempus Publishing Ltd (one co-written with Joan Schwitzer) and seven by the Hornsey Historical Society, one written jointly with Bridget Cherry. The Society also published Ken's wonderful, pocketable, *A Walk Round Muswell Hill*, a must-have for anyone who walks the pavements of Muswell Hill and Fortis Green

For many years Ken was the HHS's representative on the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green CAAC and he also served on the Alexandra Palace and Park Advisory Committee, somehow finding time to complete, in 2009, his memoir *Hand in Hand with Time*.

Bill Tyler

LETTERS & COMMENTS

Dear John,

I would like to say a big thank you for the cheque that was presented to North London Hospice at the recent residents meeting, it was most kind.

It was good to meet you and the group, it was a very enjoyable evening.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support of the hospice and we look forward to working with you further.

With kind regards,
Pam McClinton

Chief Executive
North London Hospice

ALEX'S CORNER

Dear Members,

WELCOME

A very welcome to our new members: **Peter Marsh** and **Amit Fridman** of **Planet Organic**, **John Kendall** (see this page) and **Nigel & Pat Taylor** of Fortismere Avenue.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The new subscription year starts on the 1 May and it's time for membership renewal. If you paid by cash, cheque or bank transfer for a single year, you will get a reminder either by email or in your letterbox.

This year you also have the option (at last!) to pay by card. Please go to www.mhfga.org and click on the **Become a Member** tab.

Please consider setting up a Standing Order in favour of the Association: it helps us budget our projects more effectively and simplifies our administration. Please complete the Application & Standing Order Mandate form in this Newsletter or download it from our website www.mhfga.org and click on the **Become a Member** tab.

Or email me at membership@mhfga.org and I shall make sure you get the form through your door.

Many thanks to all those who have sent additional donations and have offered to take an active role in the Association. A special thank you for a kind donation from **Patricia Peppiatt** of Woodside Avenue. At this moment we need help to organise meetings, including finding speakers, and dealing with the press. If you are available, please write to John Hajdu, Chairman, at hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

Also, please let me know if you want paper copies of the Newsletter to distribute to friends and neighbours.

Please send your comments, suggestions and requests to membership@mhfga.org or write to The Membership Secretary, MHFGA, 49 Halliwick Road, London N10 1AA.

Also thanks to our corporate members.

Ethical Edibles (Donatella Bernstein), **Victory Auto Services** (Mark Bharadia), **Woodland Tree Surgery** (Christopher Hill), **Excel English Language School** (Judy Loren), **Feast** (Roger Ward CBE), **Fortismere School** (Helen Anthony), **Muswell Hill Bowling Club** (Paul Chapman), **Muswell Hill Toy Library** (Liz Luxmore), **Norfolk House School** (Samantha Habgood), **Odeon Cinema** (Dee Neal and Mark Mannix), **Robert Linsky Optometrist** (Robert Linsky), **The John Baird** (Keith Nicholas), **Tim Moss Furniture** (Tim Moss), **Toffs of Muswell Hill** (George and Costas Georgiou), **Tootomoo** (Philip McGuinness), **Clissold Arms** (George Kyriakos Karageorgis). Give them your support if you can.

Planet Organic's flagship store in Muswell Hill

Working at Planet Organic in Muswell Hill over the winter we have become used to the sounds of hammering and drills, and at times it felt as though we should have been selling hard hats in the haircare section, but finally the building works have finished and our new store has re-emerged as an ocean of calm on the corner of Fortis Green Road.



The newly remodelled store has been a long time coming, starting with negotiations between ourselves, Haringey Council and Henderson our landlord in 2013, and nearly a year of building works as the service road was closed off, the rear of the building knocked down and the inside completely remodelled. 'Challenging, but worth it' is how store manager Amit Fridman describes it, going on to praise his store team for dealing with trading throughout the works and to thank the customers who have stuck with us despite what he now admits was at times a 'small degree of chaos'.

Walking through the doors now it certainly feels worth it. There are still organic fruits, vegetables and fresh bread, the grocery aisles still specialise in gluten free and vegetarian/vegan alternatives, as well as raw foods and super foods, but at the same time the whole store feels brand new. The juice and coffee bar has an inside seating area which is even being used as a Customer Contact Point by the Safer Neighbourhood police team with officers present on three days every week*. The Health & Bodycare department has been moved and expanded with yet more of a focus on natural fitness foods and nutritional supplements, and new to this store is our first Unpackaged department, where customers can refill their own containers with grocery staples such as grains, dried fruit and even chocolate buttons, eliminating all food packaging. There is also a new event space, where we have already started a programme of workshops ranging from DIY natural skincare and making a tasty raw food menu.



'We wanted to do something special with this store' explains CEO Peter Marsh. 'Muswell Hill has been our most community-minded store since we opened it in 2009, and the building development gave us the opportunity to really give the local residents something out of the ordinary. This is now our biggest store, and will act as a flagship for new store openings across the capital. And we're pleased to offer members of the MHFGA ten per cent off purchases until the end of June 2015 – just bring in the coupon.'

There is still work to do on the rest of the development of the cinema complex, with new retail units to be opened and external seating added in the piazza in time for summer, but for Planet Organic the work is done. It's time to sip a green juice in the sunshine, enjoy the newly pedestrianised piazza, and the quiet, leafy calm that this part of London does so well.

**hours for the Police Contact Point at Planet Organic are*

<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>18:00-20:00</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>18:00-20:00</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>13:00-15:00</i>

FOR OUR FELLOW MEMBERS

PLANET ORGANIC

10% OFF

MUSWELL HILL & FORTIS
GREEN ASSOCIATION

Terms & conditions: Valid until the end of June 2015 in all our London stores.

MEMBER IN PROFILE

Jenny Kruss was born in Australia in 1951 and lived there for the next 24 years, first in Wodonga, Victoria, then in Melbourne, until choosing to travel. She left in 1975 and spent the next year travelling, first to Bali, then through Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, finally flying to India and on to Nepal. Nepal was wonderful – she spent a magical six months there, before finally leaving to join friends in London, arriving for the hot summer of 1976.

Jenny remembers, 'London was a revelation – such a huge place, so much happening all the time, so near to the rest of the world and work and cheap flights available. For the next four summers I worked at Camden Lock and flew to Nepal for the winters. I loved North London and when I married in 1980 we decided to look for a house in Crouch End – but the house we wanted fell through and the estate agent mentioned a huge garden flat in Alexandra Park Road. That was it – I fell in love with Muswell Hill with its lovely old houses, trees and parks and the sense of community

'I've lived here ever since, moving only once, to Wilton Rd in 2012. Originally my husband (now ex) and I ran a small jewellery and gift company, but when my two sons were small I retrained as a gardener and have worked locally ever since. I belong to several local organisations, including the MHFGA and the Muswell Hill and District Horticultural Society, help out with NGS garden openings and have worked a plot at the Golf Course Allotments for the past 30 years.'

After 35 years, Jenny still loves living in Muswell Hill and still appreciates the sense of community here. Unfortunately she notices that many of the lovely original shops have gone, submerged under a tide of charity shops and restaurants, and the onward creep of driveways has changed many roads to a series of paved forecourts. The parks and trees remain, however, and the strength of resistance to Pinkham Way shows that Muswell Hillites still value their environment and are willing to fight for it.



A LOT OF ALLOTMENT

At the members meeting on 15 April, in association with the Muswell Hill Horticultural Society, a gratifyingly large audience heard from George Dunnion and his partner Serge Charles who have transformed a pair of humble allotments into a showcase of horticultural talent.

While members may not have the time or energy to grow 130 different roses, the wide assortment of ornamental grasses or even some carnivorous varieties, there was some enthusiastic buying of many plants after the talk.



George looks relaxed while the audience looks rapt.
(Photo by Jacqueline Servat)

Britain's Best Back Gardens ITV 2015

As an Assistant County Organiser for the National Gardens Scheme, one of Sue Bennett's remits is to find NEW gardens of interest. In April 2014, the tables were turned when Alan Titchmarsh announced that, to celebrate fifty years in horticulture, he was seeking Britain's best private back gardens to feature in a TV series. Sue recalls, 'I sent some photos of our garden to the production team. They liked them but warned us not to be disappointed if we were not chosen'.

Weeks later, a request came through from Holly in the production team, asking to see the garden. 'When she arrived, I liked her immediately,' says Sue, 'she "got" our garden, its humour, quirky architecture, and unique atmosphere. She took some photos and notes and returned to her office. Many phone calls and emails later, on 30 June the director came with a camera. He did some filming, talked to us at length, and mapped out how he was going to present our garden. Then another phone call "Can you think of something Alan could do apart from walking round the garden?"

'Earl (Hyde, Sue's partner) was working on a bust of Beethoven to scowl at another of Liberace for the mirrored candelabra clad wall we call "Liberace Terrace". Beethoven was having a bad hair day. I suggested that, if he didn't mind getting his hands dirty. Alan might give Earl a hand! He was thrilled at the prospect. Art was the only O-level he took at school.'

At 7.30 am on 4 July, in brilliant sunshine, the crew arrived with Alan Titchmarsh. Seeing the unprepossessing 1960s end of terrace home in a cul de sac, it is hard for a visitor to imagine anything spectacular behind it. But, as if he had passed through a Narnia like wardrobe, Alan's surprise at encountering the magical place beyond was totally genuine.

From 600 gardens he had whittled his choice to thirty, to feature in three, hour-long, themed programmes. Sue and Earl's was first in his "Flights of Fantasy". He admired the fact that, as artists, they had created almost every element themselves, from Earl's Bates Motel garden shed, largely constructed from recycled materials and topped with palings from the Pound Shop, to his Baroque Temple with gas pipe columns and 22 carat gold ceramic capitols, carp pond and oriental raku tiled enclosure. 'He even gasped at the prolific propagation of plants to sell at our openings, proclaiming the prices VERY reasonable. His parting shot was, "No one can hold a candelabra to this garden!" Do come and see if you agree.

Sue and Earl's garden at 5 St Regis Close N10 2DE is open under the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 3 May from 2.00pm to 6.30 pm, (admission £3.50, children free; plants for sale and refreshments. Disabled access) and again on Sunday 21 June.



Mr T, Earl, Sue and Ludwig Van B (Photo by Nigel Sutton)

Since its foundation, the National Gardens Scheme has given more than £43 million to nursing and caring charities. More information from www.ngs.org.uk

THERE'S A GUY WORKS DOWN THE CHIP SHOP SWEARS HE'S ELVIS
16 May to 28 June. Gatehouse Theatre, N6. BOX OFFICE: 020 8340 3488

A memorable date for rock 'n' roll fans as Elvis sets foot in Great Britain for the first and only time. Follow the members of the Elvis Presley Fan Club (Kilmarnock Branch) on an intriguing journey from the sixties to the eighties. Devised and directed by John Plews.

FRIENDS OF QUEENS WOOD (www.fqw.org.uk)

Sunday 31 May 10.30 am Working group. Meet at The Lodge off Muswell Hill Road. Tools provided but please bring protective gloves.

MIDSUMMER MUSWELL

From 2.00 pm on Saturday 20 June on the new Piazza. Celebrating the new community space with stalls, performance, music and food. Fun for all the family. For details, contact becky@beckybeach.net

CYPRUS WINE FESTIVAL

Throughout this two-day extravaganza, experience the best Cypriot wines, traditional food, plenty of entertainment and exhibitors! 27 and 28 June, in the Great Hall at Alexandra Palace, N22.

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ivy-Mantled Tower - A history of the church and churchyard St Mary Hornsey, Middlesex by Bridget Cherry

The author is a Vice President of HHS and a founder member of the Friends of Hornsey Church Tower. In this most readable, meticulously researched and lavishly illustrated hardback book, the author tells the story of a succession of church buildings which formed a significant focus for local society in the centre of the village of Hornsey over five centuries, and concludes with the recent regeneration of both the surviving church tower and its churchyard. The title of the book is taken from Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*; the illustrations demonstrate how the eighteenth century image of the romantic view of rural life continued to be cherished as Hornsey was transformed from village to suburb.

Tel: 020 8348 8429. 136 Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, N8 7EL

Putting on a show? Got an exhibition coming up? Music group? Book club? Promote it to a wider audience on the MHFGA noticeboard, opposite St James's Church.

Contact Ruth Schamroth at ruth_schamroth@yahoo.com

ST JAMES CHURCH, Muswell Hill, N10 3DB

Lunchtime concerts, 12 noon to 1.00 pm on 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September

Plus Matt Brown photography exhibition - one day only 26 June 7.30pm

NORTH LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION is a support group for those with epilepsy or with an interest in epilepsy. The group meets on the third Monday of each month and has lectures, information and social events. For more information, contact Barbara Penney 020 8883 0010 or e-mail barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

HPAG campaigns for the Pensioners' Charter, bringing older people's concerns to decision makers. **Next meetings:** 20 May and 15 July in the Marian Centre (17 June is an outing), Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH, on the third Wednesday of each month, from 2.00 pm Contact Ann Anderson 020 8340 8335, Pamela Jefferys 020 8444 0732 and Janet Shapiro 020 8883 9571 janet.rmshapiro@gmail.com.

RETIRED, OR HEADING FOR RETIREMENT?

University of 3rd Age North London can help you on a whole new path of discovery, learning new skills and subjects or teaching your own special skills. **'We believe learning need never stop and should be a pleasure.'** Come along to one of their meetings, at St Paul's Church, Long Lane, N3 2PU to find out more, details on the website, visit www.nlu3a.org.uk

MUSWELL HILL TOY LIBRARY

Open Mondays 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, Thursdays 9.30 am to 12 noon, and Fridays 9.30 am to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4 pm Toys, DVDs and music CDs. Children must come with an adult carer! 'Stories and Music' sessions during the Monday and Thursday sessions are FREE to all. 1st Floor - Muswell Hill Library, Queens Ave, N10 3PE.

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The club meets every Wednesday at Jacksons Lane Community Centre at 7.45 pm We show and discuss our photographs, and we have guest speakers, competitions, and practical activities. Visit our website, www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk, for more details. We welcome new members. If you would like to join or come along one evening as a guest, please email contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk.

THE FORTISMERE COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Based in the heart of Muswell Hill at Fortismere School, the orchestra is made up of talented enthusiastic members of the local community, including students, instrumental teachers, composers and highly skilled amateurs. Conducted by Thomas Gregory, the playing is at an impressively high standard, rehearsals are genial and fun. Contact details:

Katie Lang klang@fortismere.org.uk
<http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk>

The next concert will be at St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road, Muswell Hill, on 4 July at 7.30 pm with a programme of Rossini Overture to L'italiana in Algeri, the Brahms Violin Concerto (soloist: Rebekah Allan), and Beethoven Symphony No. 1. Tickets available on the door.

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME (NGS) OPEN GARDENS

Viewings, as follows:

At 5 Regis Close off Alexandra Park Road N10 2DE on Sunday 3 May 2-6.30pm Admission £3.50, children free; plants for sale and refreshments. Disabled access.

At 27 Wood Vale N10 3DJ on Thursday 7 May 6 - 9pm Admission £5, children free; plants for sale and refreshments.

At both No.15 and No.28 Princes Avenue N10 3LS on Sunday 17 May 2-6pm Admission £4, children free; plants for sale and refreshments. Disabled access and dogs welcome.

Check all times and dates with the organisers. If you have an event or activity that might be of interest to the Association's members, write to editor@mhfga.org and patriciajlott@aol.com by 15 June.


TOTAL POLICING


Contact Point

You can meet your local police here on:

- Wednesdays between 6pm and 8pm.
- Thursdays between 6pm and 8pm.
- Saturdays between 1pm and 3pm.

At the Contact Point you can:

- Report a crime.
- Obtain crime prevention advice or advice on other police related matters.
- Discuss community concerns.
- Make an appointment to speak to a local officer.
- Make an appointment to give a statement if you would prefer for the police not to visit you at home or your place of work.
- Hand in self-reporting forms for road traffic accidents.
- Report lost property or hand in found property.
- Collect your found items by appointment.

You can report crime online at www.met.police.uk

If you need to speak to the police call 101.
Always call 999 in an emergency.

ALLO ALLO ALLO

The former Muswell Hill Police Station

John Crompton reports that the Council has refused the application for the nine units at the former police station at 115 Fortis Green. There is just the one reason given for refusal: 'the lack of any off street parking provision will significantly exacerbate pressure on on-street parking spaces in surrounding streets which already suffer high car parking pressure resulting in the obstruction of the surrounding streets by vehicles waiting or looking for parking spaces, prejudicing the free flow of traffic and conditions of general safety along the neighbouring highway and would be detrimental to the amenities of local residents.'

The officer's original report to the planning committee was rather supportive of the scheme and recommended granting. In their report the officers dismissed the parking concerns but the Planning Sub-Committee evidently placed greater weight on the representations which had been made by the Association and local residents and refused the application on this aspect.

The Association had shared some of the local concerns, but was generally supportive of a proposal that would bring an empty building of some historical significance back into use, and with the restoration of the interesting architectural detail on the Fortis Green elevation. We await the outcome of any appeal with interest.



MARCH MEMBERS MEETING

Difficult questions, sensitive answers

Alex Vincenti, our membership secretary was there...

The joint meeting of the MHFGA and the North London Hospice was chaired by MHFGA's Bill Tyler (2nd from left), who has been involved in the charity for more than ten years.



The lead speakers were the Chair of the organisation, John Bryce CBE, who outlined the work of the Hospice and the enormous changes he has seen over the last 15 years; Dr Christopher Baxter, Medical Director, who spoke about the challenges faced by the charity; and CEO Pam McClinton, who described how the North London Hospice is dealing with the challenges and increasing demand for palliative and end-of-life care also by joining forces with other hospices and health organisations.

The meeting touched not only the work and the challenges of the North London Hospice, but also on what end-of-life care should offer: how we can afford it, both nationally and individually; whether we have the time, specialist expertise and the resources to support those in need; how do we allocate support - does it come from an individual pocket, from the state, more home care, more hospices; and what is the future at a time of financial restraint and new thinking about the care of the terminally ill.

Your Association - where we're at

