

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

Incorporating Alexandra Ward

Founded in 1948

Is Queens Avenue the dirtiest road in Muswell Hill?



Brian Livingston, our committee member for the environment, together with Councillor Martin Newton, organised a site visit to discuss the regular problems of rubbish dumping and overflowing bins in some parts of Queens Avenue, which have been problematic for many months. Also in attendance were local residents, Haringey Council's Neighbourhood Action Team, Veolia's Outreach Team and Homes for Haringey.

The rubbish dumping is taking place on a daily basis at the junction of Queens Avenue and Queens Lane. Unfortunately there is insufficient space in Queens Lane to provide bins for all residents above shops and instead they have a designated bag collection point on the Broadway with collections twice a day. It appears that some local residents and commercial premises are ignoring this collection point and are placing their rubbish at the Queens Avenue/Queens Lane junction. At the site visit Haringey agreed to display more prominent anti-dumping signs (and fines), to continue leafleting and door knocking to educate the residents and shops to dispose of their waste in a responsible manner, and to carry out some special operations and searches of the rubbish to identify the culprits.

The problem of overflowing bins is occurring at either Homes for Haringey hostels or at a small number of privately owned buildings with multiple occupancy. There

January/February 2017

Inside this issue:

- 1 Dumping area Queens Avenue/Queens Lane
- 2 Notices, MHFGA contacts
- 3 Member in Profile, Pinkham Way
- 4 New Corporate Members
- 5 Ally Pally Collectibles, Italian Wine Tasting
- 6 Alexandra Palace and Park, Everyman Cinema
- 7 Diary Dates
- 8 Alex's Corner, Membership Application Form



are a variety of issues including a high turnover of residents, no interest in re-cycling, insufficient bins and difficulty storing the bins on the property due to stepped access coupled with building restrictions in the Conservation Area. The site visit proved fruitful and Homes for Haringey identified a number of potential solutions for the hostels. Similarly a plan of action was agreed for Haringey to approach the private landlords to discuss the resolution of the waste collection problems at their buildings.



If you love us, you have to 'like' us on Facebook.



Visit us on Twitter for regular updates.



Follow us on Instagram for beautiful images of Muswell Hill.



We wish all our members a happy, healthy and peaceful year in 2017

Date for Your Diary

Members' Meeting

Refreshments will be served after the talk

All our meetings are open to the public and are free of charge

8.00pm, Thursday 16 March 2017 at Flesh & Flour, 162 Fortis Green Road, N10 3DU.

Lewis Slayden, proprietor of Flesh & Flour

Lewis will talk about the rise in the production of British Charcuterie. Up until recently charcuterie was only associated with trips abroad to Italy and Spain. This is slowly beginning to change. Why is this?

The main reason that Britain is hotly becoming a contender is because of the abundance of high quality meat being produced in the UK using the highest welfare standards, alongside a growing number of skilled people who complete the salting, drying and smoking process.

Lewis will also talk about the different styles of charcuterie available at Flesh & Flour.

REMINDER

If you would like to use the MHFGA notice board outside Rymans to advertise your community event, please contact **Pat Lott** (patriciajlott@aol.com). We also list local events on page 7 and on our website.



Auditor

Our Independent Examiner, Hugh Garnsworthy, has now retired. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank him for his support and for his work for many years. It is therefore necessary to find a replacement and I would like to hear from any member who can take on this job, to approve our accounts once a year for the AGM in May.

*John Hajdu, Chairman
MHFGA*

A Very Merry Muswell!

Our stall at the Merry Muswell event on 3rd December attracted some new members thanks to the efforts of our volunteers.



Christmas at St James

From Monday 28th November to Friday 2nd December, St James Church was transformed into 1st century Bethlehem using an elaborate set made by church members. They welcomed hundreds of children from 8 primary schools to go on a tour to meet the characters from the nativity story and some of the animals in the stable! It was also open to the public on one afternoon which proved very popular for young and old alike.

Children's Minister at St James, Ashley Nichols, said "It was wonderful to see people immersed in the story, to experience it with all their senses and almost to become part of the story. For many of the children, this is not a familiar story, and it was a delight to see their eyes light up as the characters told them about the events of that first ever Christmas." It is hoped that this will happen again next year, so they'll be another chance to see it for yourself in 2017.

Visit our website www.mhfga.org for lots of information about the local area including old photos and John Hajdu's history of the Association. If you have a photo or news item, why not share it with our members on Twitter @theMHFGA or visit www.twitter.com/theMHFGA. We tweet regularly on Association and local news, so please follow and spread the word. And don't forget our Facebook page!

Member in Profile - Stella Roche



I was born in Crouch End, the youngest of six children. I attended St Mary's School until war broke out in September 1939, when my brother and I were evacuated to Brampton in Huntingdonshire where there was a house which had belonged to Samuel Pepys.

At 11 I sat the scholarship exam in the Old School House in Huntingdon, where Oliver Cromwell had studied. I returned to London once during the war but was so frightened that I went back to Huntingdon until the war was over.

In 1951 I went with a friend to the Hammersmith Palais and it was there that I met my future husband. He was a Sri Lankan businessman who had come to London for the Festival of Britain. When he went back to Sri Lanka we corresponded for a long time and he would send me food parcels. Eventually he persuaded me to go to Sri Lanka and he booked my passage on the Orontes. I was really nervous about making such a long journey on my own. My father, brother and best friend accompanied me to Tilbury and I cried all the way! However, I became friendly with a girl on the ship and we had a wonderful time, stopping off at Naples, Aden and Port Said en route.

Joe and I were married in 1954, and I lived in Sri Lanka for 14 years. At first his mother was unhappy about the marriage as she had lined up several potential brides for him, but eventually she accepted me.

I had two daughters in Sri Lanka, my son was born in London (in a house in Bishop's Avenue which had belonged to Gracie Fields), and then I had two more daughters in Sri Lanka.

In 1968, because of the unsettled political situation, the children and I came back to the UK and would visit my husband for holidays. He died in his fifties but we continued to visit Sri Lanka. In 2004 we were caught in the tsunami and my grandson went missing, but luckily he was found by a Dutch couple whom we then visited in Holland.

I have had an idyllic life but am now happily settled in Muswell Hill. I work part time at a counselling centre and still work on the allotment.

Pinkham Way update

Mixed news on the future of Pinkham Way, following on from the hearing in front of the Planning Inspector in August. In a packed public session at the Civic Centre, the Inspector examined aspects of Haringey Council's Local Plan. The Council had included Pinkham Way in its 'Site Allocations' (SA) – meaning that the Council argued that the site was important in helping to deliver its employment strategy.

The good news is that the site has been deleted from the 'Site Allocations' as it was shown to do nothing to implement Haringey's employment policies. The bad news is that the site's underlying 'employment' designation still remains. This means that this remarkable nature conservation site is still at risk of being used in a way that could damage its ecological value.

A consultation on the latest draft of the 'Site Allocations' (called the 'Main Modifications') has started, and will end on 13 January. The Pinkham Way Alliance's response to Haringey will object strongly to their refusal to recognise Pinkham Way as the open green space the real evidence shows it to be. They will be asking the public to sign up in support of their response, so do keep an eye out for their newsletters in the New Year. As ever, huge thanks go to local residents and members of the MHFGA for their continued support.

Susie Holden



This photograph of Stella and her grandson was taken at the Friends of the Earth allotment in Muswell Hill in June 1993.

Future of Muswell Hill library

The Council has announced that 71% voted in favour of retaining the library use at the present site. A further announcement will be made in the Spring on the next steps.

The Real Greek restaurant

In the last newsletter I asked if anyone could recall what the original use of the premises was. Thank you to Peter Lack who has informed me that it was the Co-op.

John Crompton

New Corporate Members

CLARKE & PARKER FISHMONGERS

We are the new fishmongers and seafood bar on the Colney Hatch Lane side of Muswell Hill Broadway. Some of you may already have had the chance to meet us and we have been very pleased to meet all of you.

We have been overwhelmed with the level of support from our customers. Nothing gives us encouragement and determination more than being told many times that we are a very welcome addition to the area. We thank you so much for all your support and kindness.



So, a bit about ourselves. We are two young family guys blessed with five incredible children between us and married to two wonderful sisters. After 21 years of working with many other establishments we have built a vast network of knowledge and contacts that has given us the great opportunity to be able to invest in opening our very own fishmongers and doing things our way. After years of working in cold, wet and not so good-smelling environments, we believe in transforming the way in which fishmongers operate. By providing a clean, dry and fresh-smelling environment with the most extraordinarily sustained produce, we are sure your visit will be one well worth it.

By demanding such a high standing of cleanliness and quality produce we can also offer a fantastic 'seafood bar' where you can relax inside or out and enjoy all your favourite dishes from the sea accompanied with a cold glass of prosecco wine or champagne. We make sure our prices are very competitive and stay extremely affordable for the quality we sell.

If you have not had a chance to visit us yet, then please pop in as **we would love to offer MHFGA members a 10% discount on their first visit.** We also offer a free delivery service, within a 2.5 mile radius. Simply telephone us on 020 7018 2530. (Minimum spend of £30 applies for delivery).

Please also have a look at our website (www.cpfishmongers.co.uk). We have a selection of cooked platters to take away for those wonderful family get-togethers and entertaining occasions.

We would like to say thank you to the MHFGA for their fantastic support and to wish you all a very happy new year.

Jack Clarke and Andrew Parker

DUO KLIER

We started our Muswell Hill Violin Studio adventure in September 2015. After many years teaching violin we know that all children, regardless of their level, benefit enormously from playing in an ensemble.

Although it is known that individual lessons are essential for a good technical development, there are many other skills to be acquired in order to become a rounded musician: singing, sense of pulse and rhythm, inner ear, memory, sight-reading, just to name a few! Learning from your peers is sometimes the best way to challenge yourself and all these musicianship skills are most successfully developed in a group.

Apart from these practical reasons, there is something even more important: enjoying music-making along with children of the same age creates a strong feeling of team-work. It is wonderful to see children helping each other instead of fiercely competing.



Music is a powerful social activity that brings people together and we try to create this idea from the first contact with the instrument. We emphasise the importance of sharing the work done every term and children have the opportunity to play concerts regularly from the very beginning. Most of our students are genuinely excited to perform in front of an audience! We believe that focusing on long term goals and appreciating the quality results that come from sustained work helps to raise not only good musicians but better human beings. This, sadly, is often ignored at a time when instant gratification is the norm. Learning an instrument, and perhaps an instrument as challenging as the violin definitely helps.

What makes us different from other orchestras/ensembles?

- Small groups, up to 8 children per class coached by two teachers.
- Ensemble playing and musicianship (based on the Kodaly and Dalcroze's Eurythmics methods) integrated in one session.
- Apart from standard music, we use simplified notation, enabling every child to join in from the beginning regardless of their reading skills.
- Children grouped by age rather than level as we specialise in working with mixed abilities. We arrange the music to suit each student individually and they always have challenges according to their level.

Pablo Castro and Talia Ramos

duoklier@gmail.com or 07415 796595 or 07415 796600

Ally Pally Collectibles

A remarkable collection of Alexandra Palace memorabilia has been put together by long-term Muswell Hill resident (and MHFGA member) David Orme.

Most of his collection, which includes several donated items, is on display at www.allypallycollectibles.com. It has attracted thousands of visitors since it was set up a few years ago. David has also recently started using Twitter (@Ally Pally Museum) to widen the coverage. One day, he'd like to see the items on permanent display somewhere – 'or even in a pop-up'!

Talking to this newsletter, David says that many of the items in the 'museum' are unique or very rare. From the Palace's earliest history, there are documents relating to the tale of two Holloway residents who went to visit the smouldering ruins of the first Palace in 1873 – a trip that ended tragically. In 1875 the 21st anniversary of the battle of Balaklava was celebrated with a dinner and fête at the Palace; David acquired the menu and the programme after some keen bidding at an auction in Somerset. In 2014, he lent postcards and personal letters from refugees and internees held at the Palace during the First World War to the Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust to support their educational programme.

In a recent feature in the *Hampstead & Highgate Express*, David said, 'I'm particularly interested in the human angles, because if a postcard has got something written on the back, it's much more interesting than a blank one.' For instance, Dr Barton's airship, a pioneering attempt at dirigible flight, took off from Ally Pally in July 1905: the museum has a postcard dated 31 July 1905, a fairly standard view of the Palace, but on the reverse it reads, 'This is the palace the air-ship went up from last Saturday week.' A handwritten card from an eyewitness to an extraordinary event.

Many of the collectibles are souvenirs of the Palace from the early days, such as photo albums, plates, letter openers and boxes. Flyers and programmes of concerts, from Gounod's *Faust* in 1908 to Barry Manilow in 1988 and Blur in 1994, bring the collection more up to date, while race cards and images of the racecourse (nicknamed the Frying Pan for its shape) remind many of the popular facility that closed in 1970. Large corporate and consumer exhibitions have always provided a rich source of memorabilia too.



The first palace 1873



Christmas card from the refugee camp 1914

Although nothing happened at the Palace during several decades, events throughout its history have ensured that many people regard Alexandra Palace with great affection. The launch of broadcast television in 1936 from the iconic East Wing is just one landmark in the timeline – and broadcast history has become another specialist area of collecting.

David believes that the current restoration of the original theatre will create national interest in the Palace and hopes that people will remember – or discover – they have old handbills or programmes. 'Donations to the collection gratefully received,' says David. 'But there is a tiny acquisitions budget . . .'

www.allypallycollectibles.com Twitter @Ally Pally Museum

MHFGA November Meeting

Italian Wine Tasting

The MHFGA November meeting was a unique opportunity to learn in theory - and very much in practice - about Italian organic and biodynamic wines and unusual Italian grapes.

In the comfort of the Clissold Arms, Ethical Edible's owner, Donatella Bernstein, spoke with knowledge and passion about some of the sparkling, white, red and dessert wines of note that she imports from Italy. Starting with not one but two types of Prosecco, the members were then treated to Insolia, Iscadoro, Aglianico, Sinodo and Friularo - just a handful of the almost 600 officially recognised Italian wines.

We have been asked to make this a recurring yearly event, in which case it would take us about 100 years to go through the whole range. We could toast to that.

For more information about Donatella's wines, see the Corporate page on our website, www.mhfga.org.

Alex Vincenti



Alexandra Palace and Park



Just over 80 years ago, on the 2nd November 1936, the first British television service was launched by the BBC with the words "This is direct television from the studios at Alexandra Palace."

The history of broadcasting from Ally Pally is fascinating. Two studios were used to produce material that was broadcast from the transmitter mast constructed on the eastern tower. Although war interrupted service, Ally Pally had a monopoly on BBC TV broadcasting until 1949, from when other transmitters were built around the country. In the early 1950s, a new high power transmitter was built at Crystal Palace, replacing Ally Pally, and the TV studio headquarters also moved to Hammersmith. However, the main BBC Television News studio remained at the Muswell Hill base until the early 1970s and Open University TV show production continued until 1980.

Whilst work on the east wing restoration is underway, and this will include the creation of a new BBC Studio experience, there were various events held at the Palace to mark the 80th anniversary in November 2016.

If you missed the opportunity to attend these, or see them on BBC4, you will find some very interesting material that has been put online as part of the 80th celebrations.

The newly launched Alexandra Palace Google Arts and Culture platform showcases some of the archives that have been digitised:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fB5G7bwB61I>

The archives have been used to create online exhibitions available at:

https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/3wJCLw9Ah9_wLA

The BBC have also created a microsite on the history of TV broadcasting:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/historyofthebbc/birth-of-tv/ally-pally>

Whilst Muswell Hill can no longer claim to be the home of BBC TV, our local landmark, Alexandra Palace, will always be the birthplace of British TV broadcasting.

We would love to hear from any members who worked at the Ally Pally BBC studios and would like to share their memories.

Duncan Neill

Everyman Cinema

Nick Davey, Venue Manager writes:

We've been working so hard on stripping the grade II listed Everyman Muswell Hill back to its former Art Deco glory and the doors finally reopened on its 80th birthday. In January we will move onto the last phase of the refurbishment with the works commencing on reinstating seating at the front of the gallery and also the creation of two cinema-pods at the rear of the gallery. These pods will raise the number of screens at Muswell Hill to 5 and allow us to offer a greater variety in our schedule.

We would also like to offer members of MHFGA a complimentary hot drink if they are seeing a film before 5pm on weekdays until the end of March 2017. Just speak to the staff member at the bar and present your ticket in order to redeem this offer.



How you can help to support the MHFGA

We are always very grateful to receive donations from our members, either of time or money. If you would like to support a specific project, for example plants or flowers, please do specify this when making your donation.

We also need more 'posties' to deliver our Newsletter. Please contact Alex Vincenti, our Membership Secretary, if you can help us in any way.

ST JAMES CHURCH

Community Cafe - **Tuesdays**, 11.00am-1.00pm. Free coffee, cake and conversation. Venue: through the main doors, just turn up. **Wednesdays** 2.30-3.30pm -Tea Time for seniors in the Muswell Hill area. Tea, sandwiches and entertainment. Contact: gebrazier@gmail.com 020 8883 6453. Venue: St James Centre.

Mondays & Saturdays - Free legal advice walk- in service from 10.00am-12 noon. Venue: St James Church, contact: anything.legal@dial.pipex.com.

THE FREEHOLD COMMUNITY CENTRE is managed by the Freehold Community Association, a registered charity, and is entirely self-funded and run by volunteers.

Mondays - Freehold Community Men's Shed -10.30am-3.30pm. Showstoppers Performing Arts - 5-7pm. Yoga - 7-8pm. **Tuesdays** - Freehold Community Men's Shed - 10.30am-3.30pm. Showstoppers Performing Arts - 4.30-7pm.

Wednesdays - Pensioners Lunch Club - 12.30-2pm. Pensioners Bingo - 2-4pm. North London Woodturners - 7.30-10pm (**3rd Wednesday of month**). **Thursdays** - Open Shed - 10.30 to 3.30pm. Open Bingo - 7.30-10pm. **Fridays** - Baby Rhyme Time - 9.45-11am. **Saturdays** - Showstoppers Performing Arts - 10am to 4.30pm. Shree Depala - 7.30-10pm. **Sundays** - Yoga - 10-11am. Contact details: 07935-324578, freehold2003@gmail.com. Freehold Community Centre, 9 Alexandra Road, Muswell Hill, N10 2EY.

THE CLISSOLD ARMS, 105 Fortis Green, N2 9HR.

New kitchen and opening times

We are now only open for lunch on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays although we are open for community events, children's groups and coffee mornings from 9am as usual. The kitchen can also be open by advance request for private meetings and functions. Please look on our website for full details. www.clissoldarms.co.uk

FRIENDS OF PARKLAND WALK

Saturday 7th January, 10.00 - 12.00 and Sunday 15th January, 10.00 - 12.00. We will have a concerted effort to grub out bramble root from the grass embankments between Stapleton Hall Road Bridge and Upper Tollington Road Bridge in Stroud Green.

Thursday 19th January, 10.30 - 15.30 Islington Nature Conservation Team are coppicing hazel and elder along the path. We will manage the ivy in certain trees. For this event meet opposite Ella Road by the entrance to the Walk. For more information contact ecologycentre@islington.gov.uk or phone 020 7527 4374.

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 the month** and has lectures, information and social events. For more information, contact Barbara Penney 020 8883 0010 or e-mail barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk

POPCHOIR MUSWELL HILL

Wednesday evenings from 8-9.30pm at the Royal British Legion in Muswell Hill Rd. Singing everything from ABBA to Muse, Lady Gaga to Take That and Olly Murs. No experience, no auditions, no need to read music. Book a free taster session at www.popchoir.com or email info@popchoir.com. 020 8659 5464.

MUSWELL HILL AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Contact Jenny Kruss - jenny_starick@hotmail.co.uk or 020 8442 0031.

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

Visit our new website www.fqw.org.uk.

Working parties **last Sunday of month**. 10.30-12 meet outside Café in Queen's Wood. Please bring gloves and mobile phone if available.

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

We meet to discuss local and national issues with visiting speakers on the **third Wednesday of the month**. Our meetings are held in the main church hall of Hornsey Parish Church, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH. Contact Ann Anderson (020 8340 8335), Pamela Jefferys (020 8444 0732), Janet Shapiro (020 8883 9571) or www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk.

FRIENDS OF COLD FALL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELD

www.coldfallwoods.co.uk/whats-on Thanks to Coldfall School for hosting our meetings at 7.30 pm on the **first Tuesday of each month**.

CROUCH END FESTIVAL CHORUS

12 February, Barbican: Vivaldi *Gloria*, Holst *Hymn of Jesus* and Prokofiev *Alexander Nevsky*.

1 April, St John's Smith Square: Bach *St John Passion*, sung in English.

www.cefc.org.uk.

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The club meets every **Wednesday** at Jacksons Lane Community Centre at 7.45pm. 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.

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 Hall, Long Lane, N3 2PU. To find out more, visit www.nlu3a.org.uk.

WEA, MUSWELL HILL

New Art History course in 2017: *The Golden Age of Dutch Painting Tuesdays 2-4, 10 weeks from 10 January*.

For details and fees see www.wea.org.uk or ring 020 8883 1483.

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 14th February 2017.

Copy date for March/April edition of this Newsletter

If you would like to submit an article, letter or diary date for our next edition, please send your copy to editor@mhfga.org by Wednesday 14th February 2017.

Alex's Corner

A very warm welcome to our new members: Sally Eichner, Grasmere Road; Alan Keenan, Church Crescent; William & Susan Richardson, Western Road; Tanith Withers, Dukes Avenue; Crouch End Festival Chorus; Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics; and Clarke & Parker Fishmongers.

Thirty-nine local businesses and organisations support the Association. You can find the links to their websites on our Corporate page at www.mhfga.org.

1104 Architects, Barkers for Dogs, Bill's Restaurant, Clissold Arms, Clarke & Parker Fishmongers, Crouch End Festival Chorus, Duo-Klier, Elsa, Everyman Cinema, Excel English Language School, Feast, Flesh & Flour, Fortismere School, House of Nails, Knidos Café Brasserie, La Dinette, Mossy Hill, Muddy Boots, Muswell Hill Bowling Club, Muswell Hill Toy Library, Muswell Hill United Reformed Church, Norfolk House School, North & Ten, Planet Organic, Poppy Rose, Pret A Vivre, Rhodes Avenue Primary School, Robert Linsky Optometrist, Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics, St. James Church Muswell Hill, The John Baird, The Mossy Well, Tim Moss Furniture, Toffs of Muswell Hill, Topps Tiles Boutique, Victory Auto Services, WAVE, Woodland Tree Surgery and Yien Chinese Restaurant.

INVITING NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We wish to encourage active involvement from all members of the Association and we are seeking nominations from MHFGA members to join our Committee and help with Press & PR, organising meetings and talks, planning, architecture and environment. All members of the MHFGA are eligible to join our Committee.

We are a non-political amenity society concerned with everything that contributes to the environment and quality of life in Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra wards, including facilities, roads, buildings and open spaces. Being a Committee member is your opportunity to make sure that your views are reflected in the Association's decisions, plans and activities. You will meet new colleagues and make new friends with members who share your interests and aspirations.

If you feel you could contribute and are interested in joining the Committee, please contact John Hajdu, MHFGA Chairman, hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

