

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

Photography Competition



The winning entry by Maximilian Haslinger-Hutter

In celebration of MHFGA's 70th birthday, the Association held a photography competition entitled 'Views of Muswell Hill'.

The competition ran from the end of June to 17th July. We shortlisted 6 entries and then asked for your votes in the form of 'likes' on Facebook. The winner with 315 votes was Maximilian Haslinger-Hutter, closely followed by Sarah Jane Palmer with 300 votes. Entries were of a very high standard and we would like to thank all those who took part. People are still 'liking' the entries!

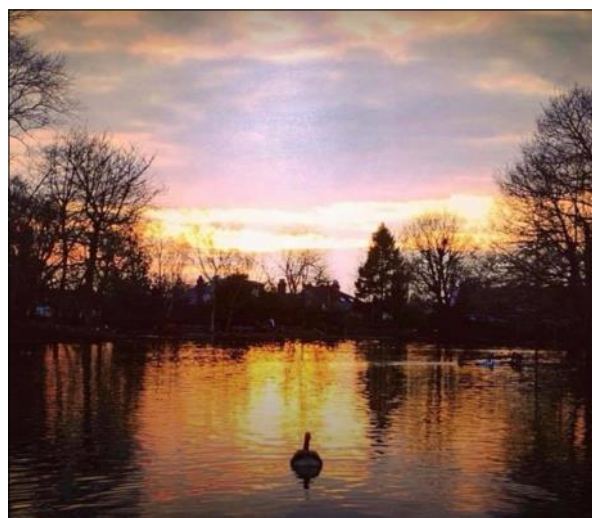
The success of the competition and the enthusiasm of local photographers has led us to believe that another competition at some point would be very popular.

Congratulations to Maximilian, and to Sarah for being a very worthy runner-up. Maximilian will receive a 12x18 print of his winning entry, courtesy of Snappy Snaps.

September/October 2018

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Runner-up - Sarah Jane Palmer

Safer Neighbourhood Teams:

Muswell Hill: 020 8721 2765 muswellhill.snt@met.police.uk
Fortis Green: 020 8721 2506 fortisgreen.snt@met.police.uk
Alexandra: 020 8721 2675 haringeyalexandra.snt@met.police.uk

If you have a local issue you would like to discuss, remember the Police Contact Point outside Planet Organic on Saturdays from 1-3pm.

The police rely on interactions with the public to do their job effectively. They are urgently in need of volunteers who live in Muswell Hill ward to join the Muswell Hill Ward Panel. This committee meets every few months to discuss local police priorities, trends in local crime and to act as a liaison between local residents and officers. Please email Brian Livingston, Chair of the Fortis Green Police Ward Panel, (cblivingston@btinternet.com) with your telephone number if you would be interested in taking part. Please also contact Brian if you live in another ward and are interested in joining your local Police Ward Panel.

If you love us, you have to 'like' us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MHFGA
Visit us on Twitter for regular updates: [@theMHFGA](https://twitter.com/theMHFGA)
Follow us on Instagram for beautiful images of Muswell Hill: [@mhfga](https://www.instagram.com/mhfga)
Visit our website: www.mhfga.org



Members' Meetings

Our meetings are open to the public and are free of charge. They take place at 7.30pm at North Bank, Pages Lane, N10 1PP.

Thursday 11th October - History of the Northern Line

Michael Burman, a well-known local speaker, will talk about the history of the development of the Northern Line, including sections that have closed, proposals that either never took place or were started but never completed, and the latest extensions. There will be lots of illustrations and maps. This will include Muswell Hill Station!

Michael spent over 30 years in teaching as a specialist geographer, the last 16 being as the Senior Deputy Head Teacher of one of London's largest comprehensive schools. He was also an accredited member of OFSTED School Inspectorate.

Thursday 8th November - Muswell Hill Odeon

A talk by Jeremy Buck on the history of the Muswell Hill Odeon (now Everyman), which had its 80th birthday last year. Jeremy has been a Wood Green resident all his life. By profession a bus recruitment consultant, his hobbies are cinema architecture and history. He is a committee member of the Cinema Theatre Association

Midsummer Muswell



Photo by Gary Bennett

Midsummer Muswell was a great success for the Association. Our stall was manned by Zoe Norfolk and George Danker (*pictured*) along with many other committee members - plus special thanks to Ros Abrams for helping out on the day!

If you have some time to spare....

.....could you help us with various activities such as attending to flower beds, reporting on local events for the Newsletter, finding speakers for our Members' Meetings or supporting the committee in other ways?

We are looking for a volunteer Independent Examiner to assist our Treasurer by checking and confirming our accounts before they are presented at the AGM (usually the second week of May each year). This is a simple task of comparing records kept on Excel spreadsheets against bank statements, payments in, cheque books and receipts. You will need to be computer-literate, accurate, reliable and trustworthy as the data is private and confidential. The task requires a few hours' work every year at the beginning of May.

If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please contact our Chairman, John Hajdu (contact details below).

MHFGA Committee

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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 www.facebook.com/MHFGA!

Jo and Richard Campbell



In 1976 we fell in love with a house. I was expecting our second child, and we needed more space. The London property market was hotting up, prices were rising, houses selling quickly, gazumping becoming common.

We had been searching unsuccessfully for some time when we came to Fortis Green. The house, part of a modest Edwardian terrace, delighted us with its big bay windows to the front, its wide welcoming hallway, the huge kitchen, the tall pine tree in the garden. Not normally very impulsive people, we made an offer on the spot – a decision we have never regretted.

I don't think we fully realised, when we made our hasty purchase, just how perfect the location was for a family. We had an easy walk to East Finchley station in one direction, and to Muswell Hill Broadway in the other, Cherry Tree Woods for the children to play in, Highgate Wood for Richard to jog in, a handy playgroup, delightful neighbours with children similar in age to ours, and a large robust baby-sitting circle to enable our social life (what a pity that these seem to have died out). These things became even more valuable when I returned to full-time work in the Civil Service after the birth of our daughter.

I can't recall exactly at what stage in the following years we joined MHFGA, but suspect it was after encountering a charismatic chap called John Hajdu, whose son was at school with ours. Under his persuasive influence we soon found ourselves on the Committee, helping out periodically with stuffing envelopes and "bundling" and delivering newsletters. The bundling sessions were great fun – sociable occasions at which the necessary jobs got done at top speed and with high efficiency. Later, Richard acted for some years as Membership Secretary – a rather more demanding job, where his book-keeping and IT skills came in handy.

Time passed, the children grew and went their ways, and I was lucky enough to be able to take early retirement. I trained as a counsellor and for several years worked as a volunteer with the Barnet Bereavement Service and Hackney Mind. I have also been able to satisfy a life-long ambition to write, with some modest success as a short-story writer. Richard's work allowed him scope for his passion for sailing. As well as adventures nearer home, he has been lucky enough to cross both the Atlantic and the Pacific. I am no sailor, but had the pleasure of joining him on separate occasions in Barbados, Panama and French Polynesia. Together, we have made several trips to India and Africa, most recently a mind-blowing tour of Namibia, and at home have enjoyed birdwatching with a local club.

The last decade has brought us three grandsons, and we are lucky enough to have them close – but not too close! – in North Finchley. Though we have been here for more than 40 years, and are now of an age for downsizing, we feel no urge to make changes. When the time does come, as it must in one way or another, our hope is that the cycle will continue, and our loved house will once again become the family home it is so well fitted to be.

Jo Campbell

Summer at Ally Pally

Many of our members make great use of Alexandra Palace all year round but this hot summer has brought even more visitors to the park than normal. Numbers have been boosted by various well-established indoor and outdoor events held at Ally Pally over the summer (though some have new names) - including the StrEATlife Street Food & Craft Beer Festival, The Beast (the world's largest inflatable obstacle course) and the outdoor Luna Cinema.

This summer also featured the brand new Kaleidoscope Festival - a one-day ticketed event with live music, comedy, kids shows, theatre, talks, food and drink. The atmosphere was great - very family friendly - and it was a huge achievement to organise such a big event for the first time. Hopefully the event will be back again next year.



The big news at Ally Pally of course is the September re-opening of the Victorian Theatre in the East Wing - please check out the wide range of events scheduled for the opening season.

I would love to hear from any members who have questions, concerns or ideas about the Palace and Park. There are two stakeholder groups that the MHFGA has a position on - the Statutory Advisory Committee and the Consultative Committee. Whilst the governance of the Alexandra Palace and Park Charity Trust (the APPCT) is fairly complex (and beyond the scope of this newsletter!), these two groups tend to meet three or four times a year, together with the senior management team and local councillors. For the coming year, I have been appointed to the Chair of the joint meeting and I look forward to making sure all represented groups have the opportunity to share their views and questions. And of course that means MHFGA members!

I have also been re-appointed to the APPCT Board as one of four non-voting members from local groups. It's a very exciting time for Ally Pally and I'm enjoying helping the Board shape the future of this wonderful attraction right on our doorstep.

Duncan Neill



Muswell Hill Flowers

The flower beds and flower boxes around Muswell Hill are maintained by volunteers whose work is much appreciated. We also receive donations from members towards buying the plants.

Thank you to the member who made such a donation at Midsummer Muswell.

Transport News

Chris Barker, our Transport Officer, met with Neil Goldberg, Haringey Transport Planner, and people from TfL at the beginning of July to discuss bus connections between Muswell Hill, Highgate and Hampstead. There are issues about the timing of the 603 because they don't coincide with the starting time of some of the schools, notably Highgate School. However, because of TfL's present financial crisis they see no prospect of pursuing the idea of a regular all-day route.

The idea of a hopper bus linking Highgate Village, Muswell Hill and Crouch End, championed by Highgate Neighbourhood Forum and Crouch End Neighbourhood Forum, has lit a spark and they are looking into it. It would require outside funding and could be a demand responsive service, with passengers probably calling the bus through an app.



Alex's Corner

Our Association covers Muswell Hill, Fortis Green & Alexandra wards, and works closely with our corporate members.

Welcome to our eleven new individual members since the last issue of the Newsletter. They are from Springcroft Avenue, Muswell Hill, Muswell Hill Broadway, Kings Avenue, Fortis Green, Princes Avenue, Crescent Road, Woodland Gardens, Cranbourne Road, Fortismere Avenue and Elms Avenue.

Welcome to our seven new corporate members: Misk Boutique, Fortis Green Road; Point 5 Kitchens, Muswell Hill Broadway; Muswell Hillbilly Brewers, Avenue Mews; Pure Nest Café, Fortis Green Road; Tatlers, Muswell Hill Broadway; Moe Design Studio, Crouch End Broadway; and Barron Salon, Muswell Hill Broadway.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION?

Some members' subscriptions for the year 2018/19, which fell due 1st May 2018, are still outstanding. We do hope that those concerned will continue with their membership as your contribution is vital in continuing the work of the Association. **Please be aware that individual membership has increased to £10 per annum so any existing standing orders will need to be amended.**

To make sure that we have your correct contact details, and to help us in informing you of our activities and events, could you please let us know if you have changed your e-mail address, phone number and/or postal address.

To pay your subscription please log into our website - membership@mhfga.org where you will find various ways to pay. If you do not wish to pay on-line by card or by other methods, we can arrange for you to receive your membership form and you can send a cheque (made out to MHFGA) to our Treasurer Jacqueline Servat, 52 Queens Avenue, N10 3NU.

If you do not wish to continue as a member it would be useful for us to know the reason why.

Corporate Members

Seventy-five local businesses and organisations support the Association. You can find the links to their websites on our Corporate page at www.mhfga.org and click **Useful Links**.

Acorn Property Group	Excel English Language School	Muswell Hill Bookshop	Sally Bourne Interiors
Aleion	Fagins Toys Ltd	Muswell Hill Bowling Club	Snappy Snaps
Alexandra Park Brazilian Jiu Jitsu	Feet	Muswell Hill Creatives	Sorbet Muswell Hill
Angela Rose	Flesh & Flour Ltd	Muswell Hill Methodist Church	St James's Muswell Hill
Baby Sensory	Fortismere School	Muswell Hill Pharmacy - Ravika	Studio Moe Ltd
Barnet Furniture Centre	Freehold Community Association	Muswell Hill Toy Library	Take Two Brothers
Barron Salon	Friends of St. James's Square	Muswell Hill United Reformed Church	Tatlers
Bob's Café	Greene & Co	Muswell Hillbilly Brewers	The Hampstead Butcher & Providore
Broadway Pet Stores	Hamptons International	North London Chorus	The John Baird
Broadway Pharmacy	Internet Express/PhoneRepairs4u	Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd	The Mossy Well
Can't Buy Me Love	Keats Estate Agents	Planet Organic	The Real Greek
Capital Gardens	Knidos Restaurant	Point 5 Kitchens	The Robin Kiashek
Cha Cha Cha	Mailboxes Etc.	Pret A Vivre Ltd	Osteopathic Clinics
Children's Bookshop	Misk Boutique	Principia Brand Consultants	Toffs of Muswell Hill
Clissold Arms	Moe Design	Pure Nest Café	Victory Auto Services
Cosi Homewares	Muswell Flyer	Rhodes Avenue Primary School	Walter Purkis & Sons
Crouch End Festival Chorus	Muswell Health	Robert Linsky Opticians	W Martyn
East Finchley Open Artists	Muswell Hill Bikes	RocketshipWP	Woodland Tree Surgery
Evelina's Patisserie			Yogamatters
Everyman Muswell Hill			Zebra Ceramics

Pure Nest Café

As someone who doesn't eat dairy or wheat I realised that, if I wanted to have delicious food without the ingredients I couldn't have, I would have to learn to prepare it myself. While trading at the Tufnell Park Farmer's Food Market selling spelt- and gluten-free desserts I did my best to come up with appetising 'free from' food. Most of the gluten-free food I tried was dry and sandy and tasted like cardboard. 'Free from' food had three things in common; grainy texture, lack of taste and xanthan gum.

Muswell Hill felt to me to be the best possible place for people to be aware of the health benefits and nutritional value of enjoyable 'free from' food. I was also able to realise my cherished dream of opening up a space where people can come and experience flavoursome foods and also gather as a community. My business partner, Mohammed Yousef, has been a tremendous support in starting and successfully operating Pure Nest Café. When we opened Pure Nest we served only cakes, but a few months later we decided to add savoury to the menu in response to customer demand.

We have had a lot of constructive feedback from our loyal customers over the past 18 months about how we could make improvements, from the décor to the layout. Thus we have recently revamped the café making it cosier and have also expanded our menu by offering more lunchtime food served straight from the kitchen to your plate. I come from a background that is all about healthy cooking, using blends of spices, with a passion for offering exciting healthy, nutritious and warm food. I love to see my customers' pleasure when they take that very first bite of cake, muffin, brownie or any of our savoury offerings and this is my raison d'être for Pure Nest Café. I aim to show that gluten- and dairy-free don't have to be ordinary.

Pure Nest aims to challenge the status quo by exploring, experimenting and engaging new ways to use 'free from' ingredients, thus providing nutritional knowledge and support to individuals and the community. So come and enjoy our warm vibes and hearty and tasty food!

176-178 Fortis Green Rd, London N10 3DU Tel: 020 3774 4269

Josie Peterson



The Twyford Practice (N2)



The Twyford Practice at 52 Twyford Avenue N2 was established in 2002 when Robin and his young family were fortunate enough to buy a house in need of much renovation. Having spent four years house hunting whilst living for over twenty years in Finsbury Park, finding No. 52 was the end of a long journey. The house had been lived in since its construction in the 1930s by the same family and whilst tired and unrenovated in appearance, seemed instantly what the young Kiashek family needed – a family home with space for a clinic. Converting the garage and room above into a self-contained clinic, Robin was able to provide Osteopathic treatments to his well-established patient list in a calm, quiet environment.

Robin graduated in 1996 with a BSc (Hons) degree in Osteopathic Medicine and diploma in Naturopathy from The British College of Osteopathy. Osteopathy is a validated, regulated and increasingly researched medical therapy which aims to address pain and other symptoms caused by a range of disorders including those incurred in the workplace, the sporting world and during pregnancy as well as general lifestyle-related conditions.

Robin went onto further post-graduate studies in:

- Western (Medical) Acupuncture- Western Acupuncture is a therapy which fuses traditional Eastern principles of acupuncture with a Western approach to medicine and science. Primarily known as a treatment which aims to relieve pain, the applications of Western Acupuncture have widened significantly as the practice has evolved.
- Low Level Laser Therapy/LLLT (aka Cold Laser Therapy in the USA) – LLLT has been used in the field of osteopathy for some time and is widely available for the treatment of pain, the healing of wounds and musculoskeletal conditions. Low Level Laser Therapy cannot harm or burn your skin and in addition to the direct healing applications, LLLT also provides a highly effective, needle-free acupuncture medium. It uses low power or 'soft' laser light to alter cellular function, improve outcomes and speed up your body's natural healing process safely and effectively.
- The Perrin Technique for CFS/ME - Robin is an Associate of osteopath Dr Ray Perrin, who has spent over 30 years working with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/M.E patients using an Osteopathic approach (last year's NHS research on The Perrin Technique was published in the BMJ: <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/11/e017521>). Please see www.theperrinclinic.com

With over 20 years' experience of Osteopathy and allied therapies, Robin offers safe, gentle and effective treatment for a wide age range of patients. Most patients are referred by GPs, Consultants and other patients, who have come to know and trust Robin.

For further information, please see www.robinkiashek.co.uk or phone 020 8815 0979



Highgate Cemetery Tour

On a lovely warm and sunny June afternoon twenty-one MHFGA members and guests were shown around part of the extensive Highgate Cemetery West by Eve Wilder. Eve has had a long interest in and association with the Cemetery and became a trustee last year. She proved to be a knowledgeable and engaging guide and happily agreed to lead another tour for the Association in the future in order to explore the area further.

The Cemetery has a detailed and comprehensive website at www.highgatecemetery.org.

Photos courtesy of Zoe Norfolk



The tomb of Tom Sayers, the Victorian pugilist, guarded by the stone image of his mastiff, Lion, who was chief mourner at his funeral.



The Circle of Lebanon, a magnificent structure of twenty sunken tombs built around the roots of an ageing and ancient Cedar of Lebanon tree, from which the Circle gets its name.



Nero the lion on the tomb of George Wombwell, travelling menagerist.

Muswell Hill Sustainability Group

Say no to single use plastics

The Muswell Hill Sustainability Group has been campaigning with food outlets around Muswell Hill Broadway to persuade them to phase out the use of single-use plastics such as coffee cups, drinking straws and cutlery. They have been pleasantly surprised by the positive response from most outlets.

At the same time, they have asked shops to sign up to the Refill London campaign in which shops agree to refill water containers without charge. Shops which agree are included on the Refill London app and given a sticker for their window. A growing number of stickers



can be seen around the Broadway.

www.refill.org.uk/refill-scheme/london

Barbara Huszty writes:

I would just like to take the opportunity to show appreciation of the people who continually refresh the flowers at P.C. Blake's memorial (outside Boots on the Broadway) which is now accompanied by the recent addition of a lovely poem.

A dolphin named Destiny



The Group has also been asking individuals to take a pledge to cut single-use plastics out of their life.

To reinforce the message they have been displaying a plastic dolphin stuffed with the kinds of plastic rubbish which real dolphins are found to have eaten. They launched a competition inviting children to provide a

suitable name for the dolphin and Destiny was the name chosen.

Here is Destiny with Chris Barker and Laila Hackforth-Jones at the Midsummer Muswell on 23rd June.

The group can be contacted at <http://mhsgroup.org/>

Local Organisations and Events

ST JAMES'S CHURCH

Tuesdays, 11.00am-1.00pm. Community Cafe - free coffee, cake and conversation.

Wednesdays 2.30-3.30pm - Tea Time for seniors in the Muswell Hill area. Tea, sandwiches and entertainment.

Mondays & Saturdays 10.00am-12 noon- free legal advice walk-in. Contact: anything.legal@dial.pipex.com.

Sundays 4:45-5:45pm, Monday-Thursday 7:45-8:45pm. Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen, located at the Muswell Hill Baptist Church. Donations of any non-perishable items would be welcomed. Contact: soupkitchen@mhbc.org.uk

10am on Fridays during term time Challenge Group: for families with a pre-schooler with additional needs.

THE FREEHOLD COMMUNITY CENTRE

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. 'Behave! Life Skills for Puppies', puppy training class 11.45 - 12.45 with Jane Robinson.

Saturdays - Showstoppers Performing Arts - 10am-4.30pm. Shree Depala - 7.30-10pm.

Sundays - Yoga - 10-11am.

Contact details: 07935 324578, freehold2003@gmail.com. Freehold Community Centre, 9 Alexandra Road, N10 2EY.

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The club meets at **7.45pm every Wednesday** at Jacksons Lane Community Centre. We show and discuss our photographs, and we have guest speakers, competitions, and practical activities. More details: www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk or email contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk.

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), or www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk.

POPCHOIR MUSWELL HILL

Wednesday evenings 8-9.30pm at the Royal British Legion in Muswell Hill Rd. 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.

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

23rd September at 2.00pm. Meet at the Lodge for a guided walk and talk on oak decline led by Jonathan Meares and Sarah Graham-Brown. www.fqw.org.uk. Contact Gemma Harris if you are free to help her do litter picking on a **Monday morning**. harrisgemma67@gmail.com or 07806 870505.

IMPORTANT! Please check all times and dates with the organisers.

FRIENDS OF COLD FALL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELD

www.coldfallwoods.co.uk/whats-on **The first Tuesday of each month** at Coldfall Primary School.

CROUCH END FESTIVAL CHORUS

West Side Story - to celebrate 100th anniversary year of Leonard Bernstein's birth. **Wednesday 24 October, 7:30pm** at Barbican Hall, Silk St, London EC2Y 8DS. With BBC Concert Orchestra, conductor David Temple.

Tchaikovsky – *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*

Ryan Latimer – *Frigates & Folly*

Bernstein – *Chichester Psalms*

Bernstein – *West Side Story Suite No. 2*

www.cefc.org.uk.

NORTH LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

A support group which meets on the **third Monday of the month** and has lectures, information and social events.

Contact Barbara Penney 020 8883 0010 or e-mail

barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Autumn Show - **Saturday 1st September, 3pm** at North Bank, Pages Lane, N10. Contact Jenny Kruss at jenny_starick@hotmail.co.uk or 020 8442 0031.

FRIENDS OF MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY

Saturday 8th September, 2pm at Muswell Hill Library.

'Community-Led Housing at St Ann's Hospital'.

Speaker: Ruth Moulton (St Ann's Redevelopment Trust - StART)

NORTH LONDON ESPERANTO GROUP

Free Esperanto lessons at beginners and advanced level. The group meets on **Monday evenings 7-8pm** in Muswell Hill Place. For more details (including the full address) contact anna.lowenstein@esperanto.org or phone 07943 137891.

NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL CHORUS

17 November 2018, 7.30pm at St James's Church, London N10 3DB. Nelson Mass (Missa in Angustiis); Joseph Haydn; The Company of Heaven, Benjamin Britten.

www.northlondonchorus.org

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 3rd November at 7.30pm at All Hallows Church, Savernake Road, NW3 2JP. Beethoven Missa Solemnis.

FORTISMERE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Next concert: **1st December, 7.30pm** at St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Rd, N10 2DD. Symphonie Fantastique (Berlioz) and Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor.

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NORTH LONDON for the

retired or those heading for retirement. www.nlu3a.org.uk.

Copy date for November/December 2018 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 1st October 2018.

Memories of old Muswell Hill

I arrived in Muswell Hill in May 1944, just in time for the first “doodlebug” V1, which fell at the foot of the hill where Dale Court now stands (on the corner of Park Road and Etheldene Avenue). I was promptly evacuated, but returned in September at the end of the V1 terror, whereupon the V2 greater terror was unleashed. The first to reach Muswell Hill landed that December in the Ritz cinema car park, behind what is now a block of flats below the Mossy Well; it devastated the adjoining streets. I can still recall the explosion less than 300 metres away, and precisely where I was standing in my house at the time; the blast dislodged a chimney stack, which smashed through the roof. My “tinpot” school was even nearer, but this pre-1914 temporary corrugated pre-fab style erection suffered less. Its four classrooms housed barely 100 pupils with five teachers, but slowly filled up as evacuees returned after the May 1945 victory.

A year earlier my family had moved from more dangerous N19 into the “village”, a mainly farmed area that had been slowly built up in 60 years, spreading over the hill’s upper slopes before the Broadway’s 1900-1910 development. Its Village Hall in Alexandra Gardens is nowadays rarely used, but it never attracted as much local attention and attendance as the picturesque 18th century Royal Oak pub, which remained unchanged for almost 200 years. This was the village main hub, affectionately known as “Jumpers” by its regular clientele.

As the village grew with rows of mainly terraced houses, it needed and acquired a dairy, a post office, an arcade of convenience food stores and artisan workshops; one of the latter was rented in 1944 by my father for a furniture repair enterprise, and it grew to four units in as many years. During the war years no new furniture was manufactured, but from 1945 new featureless “utility” furniture became available to newly married couples, albeit rationed by coupon; hence the pressing need for repair craftsmen.

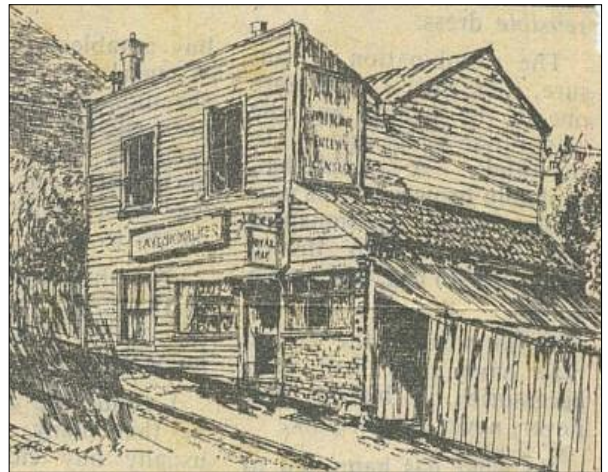
Ice cream arrived in the sunny summer of 1947; its first village queue built up hours before the midday sale time, when a block was chopped up on the spot and its slices sold between two wafers.

By the 1960s the area had lost its school, dairy, post office and iconic pub, while the arcade was replaced by a single convenience store: the village had merged into Muswell Hill proper.

Living in the same 1880s house since 1944 probably makes me the N10 resident going back the furthest, but I’m ready to cede the mantle to any denizen of longer continuous presence.

Peter Lack

PS The cramped 1790 wooden structure has been imaginatively replaced by the “Famous Royal Oak” restaurant-pub on the same site in St. James’s Lane: a modern building with ample space both inside and out.



National Garden Scheme



At the end of July Susan Bennett and her husband Earl once again opened their beautiful garden in St Regis Close as part of the National Garden Scheme. Beryl Lee provided delicious cakes for the event as well as homemade organic preserves. Also on sale were unusual south-east Asian crafts and lovely hand-crafted pottery, and plants nurtured by Susan.

Despite the gloomy weather, there was a great attendance and a total of £1,335 was raised, all of which went to support the educational, medical and humanitarian projects which the Karenni Student Development Programme runs for the Karenni people of Burma.

Since Earl and Susan first opened their garden for the National Gardens Scheme in 1996, they have raised over £80,000 pounds. The NGS are the main benefactors to many charities. Without the generous-spirited gardeners who are happy to share their creativity with visitors our charities would not survive.

If any reader has a lovely garden, large or small, wild or highly cultivated, please contact Susan, who is Assistant County Organiser, on 020 8883 8540 or suebearlh@yahoo.co.uk. The deadline for entries for 2019 is 24th September.