

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

Exploring our local history

A Secret History of the Northern Line



On Thursday 11th October we set a new record attendance of over 75 people at our talk on the Northern Line, held at North Bank.

Our speaker, Michael Burman, treated us to a fascinating and at times farcical history of how our favourite tube line has evolved over more than a century. We found out why Muswell Hill station no longer exists, and how the Second World War put a stop to plans to extend the line even further North.

The Northern Line had only been formed in 1937, four years

January/February 2019

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after the formation of London Transport. It was the result of amalgamating the City and South London Railway (C&SLR) and the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway (CCE&HR or 'Hampstead Tube') which ran to Golders Green when it opened in 1907 and was extended to Edgware in the 1920s.

Michael treated us to mind-bending facts about former names of tube stations. For example, the current Tottenham Court Road station was actually named 'Oxford Street' when it opened in 1907, while the station we now know as Goodge Street was confusingly named 'Tottenham Court Road' when it opened in the same year. Closer to home, we found that Archway station has changed its name four times, and was originally named Highgate!

History of the Muswell Hill Odeon

On Thursday 8th November we had the pleasure of welcoming cinema historian Jeremy Buck to deliver his captivating talk on the history of the Muswell Hill Odeon (now Everyman). Jeremy covered everything from the Pathe Newsreel of the opening night on 9th September 1936 right through to the present day rebirth as the Everyman.

Some highlights were the photographs of the Athenaeum (now Sainsbury's) and a detailed analysis of how the interior of the cinema building has changed over time. The Association itself also got a mention, having successfully led the campaign for the cinema building to be given listed status when it was under threat of closure in the 1980s. Jeremy's book, *Cinemas of Haringey* (2011) was available for purchase at the event and sold out almost immediately. It can also be borrowed from Wood Green Library or purchased from the Big Green Bookshop in Wood Green (or possibly the Muswell Hill Bookshop - you could give it a try!)



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:

[@muswellhill.london](https://www.instagram.com/muswellhill.london)

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. Refreshments are served after the talk.

Our next meetings will be on:

14th March - tour of Lauderdale House in Highgate
11th April - a talk by Sunshine Garden Centre
16th May - AGM at 7.45pm at Woodside Square Common House
9th June - a walk around Alexandra Park, led by Julian Woodfield

Booking details will be announced nearer the time.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams:

Muswell Hill: 020 8721 2765, Fortis Green: 020 8721 2506, Alexandra: 020 8721 2675

The police are urgently in need of residents 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 are 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 have a local issue you would like to discuss, the Police Contact Point is at Planet Organic on Saturdays from 1-3pm.

A Very Merry Muswell



George Danker and Zoe Norfolk

On Saturday 1st December the Association took part in the Very Merry Muswell festival in St James's Square. We took the opportunity to hold another Charity Tombola given the extraordinary success of last year's endeavours.

Committee member Zoe Norfolk organised the event which was very well received by the people who visited our stall. We are delighted to announce that we raised £210 for this year's MHFGA charity, WAVE, a locally based charity which helps people with learning disabilities integrate into the community.

Our tombola prizes were very kindly donated by a wide range of local businesses, almost all of whom are also corporate members. The full list can be found on our website and on our Facebook page.

The event culminated with the illumination of the Muswell Hill Christmas Tree, with the switch-on itself conducted by the cast of the Jacksons Lane Christmas Show.

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?

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

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!

Our New Helpers!

Patricia Pearl is the new independent examiner of our accounts.

I have lived in Muswell Hill since 1975, first renting a flat above a shop in the Broadway, then moving to a flat in Tetherdown, and eventually to my current house in Cranley Gardens about 30 years ago. I was secretary of the MHFGA for a short time in the 1980s and worked on various other projects..



At that time, the main concern of Muswell Hill residents was the proposed redevelopment of Ally Pally following the fire. Ideas for the future of the Palace ranged from leaving it as a 'Noble Ruin' to an ambitious development with a state-of-the-art swimming pool

and a luxury hotel. I served on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and helped out with the Association's activities. I stopped my work with the Association to concentrate on the campaign to keep the Odeon from closing and then my attention turned to my career and family.

I worked as a solicitor in Central London until 1998 when I was appointed a Judge. That second career kept me busy in courts in Watford, Barnet and finally as a Circuit Judge at the Central Family Court in Holborn. I retired in June 2018, which is how it came about that I had time to volunteer to help with the work of the Association again. I saw the notice in the Newsletter asking for a volunteer to be independent examiner and put my name forward.

Relieved of the pressures of work, I have been enjoying the Lido at Park Road Pool, going for long walks, and taking photographs. My daughter teaches locally and I spend one day a week caring for my granddaughter. I have also taken on the role of chair of the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Muswell Hill Ward Panel.

Hilda Watson will be supporting the Treasurer and Membership Secretary



My last husband and I both worked in the aircraft industry and we were used to travelling in our Company aircraft or by helicopter to the Farnborough and Paris Airshows to work.

We retired to Charmouth in Dorset, the village next to Lyme Regis famous for its fossils. We both volunteered to help at the beach Heritage Centre, an information centre for the fossils of the area. Of course we met many like-minded folk and it wasn't long before my husband became a Trustee and was instrumental in obtaining Lottery Funding and I had been

Alex Vincenti will retire from the position of Membership Secretary at the AGM in May. Until then he is supporting Loretta Mitchell who is taking over this demanding role.

Loretta Mitchell

My parents moved from Brighton to Muswell Hill when I was 5 months old. I have vivid memories of Muswell Hill in the early 1950s and it really hasn't changed significantly. The Victorian and Edwardian architecture still gives a sense of well-being and permanence. Some of the shops I remember as a child are still there.



We moved to Ringwood Avenue just before my fifth birthday. I spent a very happy childhood in the area along with my parents, Russ and Nancy Mitchell, and my brother and sister, attending school in Highgate and going to college in Hampstead. I lived in Ringwood Avenue until I married at the age of 22.

My husband, Dr Salim Mahmud, was a doctor who ran an NHS Practice in West Hampstead from 1970 to 2012. We brought up five children, four girls and a boy. I eventually took on the role of Practice Manager and worked with my husband and a wonderful team of people for many years. Sadly, Salim passed away in 2013. I decided to move from West Hampstead and found myself looking at a charming Regency villa on Fortis Green, which I bought, renovated and where I hope to spend the rest of my life.

It has been a very nostalgic and happy experience coming home to Muswell Hill. I love the area and have the most wonderful neighbours. Very luckily my children, who have been so supportive after the loss of their father, and grandchildren still live in West Hampstead and I am happily involved in their lives.

I have many interests which keep me very busy. Fortunately, there are two cinemas within walking distance to choose from, I go to concerts and the theatre, travel, love to cook, walk, do Pilates and study Italian with a wonderful local tutor. I also volunteer as a guide at the Whittington once a week, keeping a connection with the medical world in which I was involved for so many years.

A recent article in The Times stated that Muswell Hill was voted the best High Street by The Royal Society for Public Health (Health on the High Street study). MHFGA can take a great deal of credit for that. I look forward to being part of the team and to meeting other members in the future.

persuaded to run the local Horticultural Show after joining the local Gardening Club.

What a time we had - Gordon brought the Centre up to date, installing computer touch screens and each summer I was enjoying organising the Flower Show. To open the doors of the two village halls and see and smell the flowers and the baking aromas gave me such pleasure. After 14 wonderful years in Charmouth my husband died and I moved to Muswell Hill in 2008 to be close to my family and to help with small children.

I immediately joined the North London U3A where I met John Hajdu, and didn't take much persuading to join the Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association where I hope to be of some help.

Pinkham Way

Haringey Cabinet has put back its date for deciding whether Pinkham Way stays in the North London Waste Plan (NLWP). The decision has been moved to the Cabinet meeting on **Tuesday 22 January 2019**. Your support on the night will be invaluable.

Since 2011 the Pinkham Way alliance has been fighting plans to build a huge waste processing plant on an ecologically valuable area of land just to the north of Muswell Hill, where Colney Hatch Lane meets the North Circular Road (A406). If the plans go ahead, it would be one of the largest waste processing plants in Europe, just 80 metres from the nearest house and with as many as 14 schools within a mile radius of the site. On top of this, there would be thousands more vehicles entering and exiting this junction - it is possible that many of them will end up bringing toxic waste through the centre of Muswell Hill.

We know that the amount of waste produced in North London is reducing over time due to better re-use and recycling rates. The Pinkham Way alliance suggests that existing local plants could be used much more efficiently, and smaller local plants could be built to expand capacity if ever needed.

As a result we would like to ask you to consider signing the petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/remove-pinkham-way-nature-conservation-site-from-the-north-london-waste-plan> asking Haringey Council to follow the official recommendation they have been given to drop the plans.

Stephen Brice, Chair, Pinkham Way Alliance



Membership Matters

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

Welcome to our new household members: Gabriela Awad, Anoja Neill, Marie Otigba, Gill Whitney and Rob Syers.

Welcome also to our new corporate members: Muswell Hill Methodist Lawn Tennis Club and Woollyland.

Please be aware that household membership has increased from £8 to £10 per annum and corporate membership from £20 to £25 per annum, so any existing standing orders will need to be amended accordingly to take effect on 1st May 2019. If you do not wish to continue as a member it would be useful for us to know the reason why.

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.

New members joining in the period January to April will get up to 4 months free as their membership will run to the end of April 2020.

Corporate Members

Sixty-eight 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**.

11.04 Architects	Excel English Language School	Muswell Hill Methodist Lawn Tennis Club	Sally Bourne Interiors
Alexandra Palace Farmers Market	Fagins Toys Ltd	Muswell Hill Pharmacy - Ravika	Snappy Snaps
Alexandra Park Brazilian Jiu Jitsu	Flesh & Flour Ltd	Muswell Hill Toy Library	St James's Muswell Hill
Angela Rose	Freehold Community Association	Muswell Hill United Reformed Church	Studio Moe Ltd
Baby Sensory	Friends of St. James's Square	Muswell Hillbilly Brewers	Tatters Estate Agents
Barnet Furniture Centre	Greene & Co	North London Chorus	The Hampstead Butcher & Providore
Barron Salon	Husen Moda	Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd	The John Baird
Belmeis Jazz Club	Internet Express/PhoneRepairs4u	Picture Framing Muswell Hill	The Mossy Well
Broadway Pet Stores	Mailboxes Etc.	Planet Organic	The Real Greek
Broadway Pharmacy	Misk Boutique	Point 5 Kitchens	The Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics
Capital Gardens	Muswell Flyer	Pure Nest Café	Victory Auto Services
Cha Cha Cha	Muswell Health	Rhodes Avenue Primary School	W Martyn
Children's Bookshop	Muswell Hill Bikes	Robert Linsky Optometrist	Walter Purkis & Sons
Clissold Arms	Muswell Hill Bowling Club	RocketshipWP	WAVE Café
Cosi Homewares	Muswell Hill Creatives	S&D Express	Woodland Tree Surgery
East Finchley Open Artists	Muswell Hill Methodist Church	Sable d'Or	Woollyland
Evelina's Patisserie			Yogamatters
Everyman Muswell Hill			Zebra Ceramics

Studio Moe

Studio Moe is a design business working across print, digital and video. Luciane has many years' experience in editorial design, and David as a filmmaker. By combining those skills we create beautifully designed content including promo videos, websites, virtual tours, leaflets, books, posters etc.

One of our products we're particularly proud of is Village Raw – a hyperlocal magazine which covers Crouch End, East Finchley, Highgate, Muswell Hill and the surrounding areas. It's a positive celebration of our unique local culture, featuring the most exciting stories about the community's makers and doers, writers and thinkers, art and culture, food and drink, health and well-being and sustainability.

The writers, photographers and illustrators who contribute to the magazine all live locally, and it is printed locally at Bryson's. The fourth issue is currently doing the rounds and features Muswell Hill model maker and educator Valerie Charlton, the soup kitchen, and a sustainability column by local resident Emma Ross (@mamalinauk). Past issues have included features on Ben the Chewing Gum Man, Chriskitch's Chris Honor, and a whole host of local makers such as jeweller Katherine Bree; shoe designer Adriana Conde Betts; brewers The Muswell Hill Billies; storyteller Nell Phoenix; writing guru Nichola Charalambou; social entrepreneur Rickardo Stewart; sustainability foodies Nati Morris and Dorothy Barrick; herbalist Ola Nwakodo; Flora Nell's Walk & Talk; and musicians Gabriella Swallow, Luke Eira, and The Woods – and that's just N10!

We've got lots of ideas and plans for what we'd like to do with Village Raw and look forward to meeting you in the coming months. The print magazine is free to collect from local cafes, businesses, and community spaces and if you'd like to subscribe you can have six issues delivered to your door from as little as £20 per year.

www.villageraw.com/subscribe
connect@designstudio.moe // hello@villageraw.com



Muswell Hill Methodist Lawn Tennis Club



The Muswell Hill Methodist Lawn Tennis Club, one of our newest corporate members, is a successful and popular club with a full membership and long waiting list. It was founded in 1919 by wealthy benefactor Guy Chester in the grounds of North Bank House, and is preparing for its centenary celebrations in June this year.

Guy Chester was born in 1887 and died in 1973. In the early 1920s he acquired what is now known as The North Bank Estate, which included the land on which were subsequently built Chester House - a young persons' Hall of Residence, The Meadow - a nursing home, and The Paddock Sheltered Housing

Although the Club was originally managed by the Methodist church, it is no longer connected with the church in any way, though it retains the name for historical reasons, and because the Methodist estate continues to be its landlord. The original courts were traditional shale and moved to

their current site in the mid-80s to allow the sheltered housing to be built.

Set in a unique wooded clearing in the centre of Muswell Hill, this friendly club combines a good standard of general play with teams ranging in ability up to the Middlesex Premier League and extends a warm welcome to any tennis player.

The Club is run entirely by a small team of volunteers whose dedication ensures that the Club maintains its position as one of the most successful London tennis clubs of the last decade.

The tranquil landscaped grounds continue to provide a wonderful setting for tennis in North London. Added to this, top quality floodlights, a Doe Olympus astro-turf surface on the three main courts, along with newly laid Tiger Turf on the fourth court illustrates why the club has been called the best little tennis club in North London. The club stays true to its local roots whilst catering for all standards of player from beginners to premier league level. See for yourself at Meadow Drive at the top of Colney Hatch Lane in Muswell Hill.

Our coaching programme caters for beginners, juniors, returners, improvers or those aspiring to league standards, with a wide range of group or individual coaching options.

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/MuswellHillMethodistLTC

The Wellness Café opens its doors at Ally Pally Transmitter Hall

Every last Monday of the month, a free café pops up at Alexandra Palace inviting older people to enjoy tea, coffee, cakes and a creative activity with an artist. Alexandra Palace is proud to partner with The Good Care Group and Home Instead, two companies that are committed to providing high quality care services to elderly people living at home.

Raya from the Good Care Group says:

"The Wellness Café first started when we were looking for somewhere to take clients that wasn't institutionalised, safe and kept our clients active mentally and physically."

Dale from Home Instead Senior Care says:

"The Wellness Café is a great opportunity for local older people to enjoy the Palace and meet new people."

Louise Stewart, CEO of Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust says:

"Alexandra Park and Palace is here for the enjoyment of people of all ages and walks of life, so it's wonderful to see this historic part of the building being used for The Wellness Café. Through our Creative Learning programmes, the work of the Charity is reaching a more diverse range of people than ever before."



Join us from 2-4 pm in the Transmitter Hall:

January 28: The Persistence of Memory

February 25: Love in Art

March 25: Celebrating Women in our Lives

April 29: Spring has Sprung

May 27: All That Jazz

June 24: Ready, Set, Go! Tour de France

community@alexandrapalace.com, 020 8365 4187



Summer Footfall Survey

The Friends of the Parkland Walk carried out a survey on the footfall on the Walk during last year's summer months.



FRIENDS OF THE PARKLAND WALK

Its findings, taken between 8.00 in the morning and 8.00 in the evening, were that weekends are busier than weekdays. The period from sunrise to 8.00am and from 8.00pm to sunset were not recorded so missed all those early birds and late-night runners and dog walkers. With that in mind, the findings were much lower than the actual numbers are likely to be. **Muswell Hill** (northern section) has a weekly average of **7,983** journeys by people and **1,460** by dogs. **Finsbury Park to Highgate** (southern section) has a weekly average of **11,504** journeys by people and **1,212** by dogs.

Allowing for unrecorded time periods that indicates at least **20,000** journeys are made by people on the Parkland Walk (north and south combined) each week and **2,672** journeys made by dogs. That means over **262,857** journeys by people over the 3 months of June, July and August.

Winter in Muswell Hill *Images by Zoe Norfolk*



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 and Tuesdays - Freehold Community Men's Shed - 10.30am-3.30pm. Showstoppers Performing Arts - 5-7pm.

Mondays - Yoga - 7-8pm.

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.

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

Contact Gemma Harris if you are free to help her do litter picking on a **Monday morning**. harrisgemma67@gmail.com or 07806 870505.

FRIENDS OF COLDFALL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELD

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

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

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.

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.

CROUCH END FESTIVAL CHORUS

Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

Sunday 10 February 2019 7:00pm at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London SE1 8XX. London Mozart Players, David Temple conductor, Kitty Whately mezzo-soprano, Robert Murray tenor, Ashley Riches baritone.

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

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lectures take place at the Union Church Hall, Weston Park, N8. A donation of £2 is requested from non-members.

Refreshments available from 7.40pm. The doors close at 8.00pm and latecomers unfortunately can't be admitted for security reasons.

Wednesday 9th January, 8pm *More Music Hall and Vaudeville on Film* - Keith Fawkes and Richard Norman.

Wednesday 13th February, 8pm *The History of the Regent's Canal* - Roger Squires.

First Saturday of the month, 10.30-2.30, Local History Surgery in the Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL. To book an appointment, phone 020 8348 8429 or email hornseyhistoricalsurgery@gmail.com with a brief outline of the problem.

MUSWELL HILL WEA

'The Surrealists' - a new course on **Thursdays 1.45-3.45, 6 sessions from 10th January** at North Bank, 28 Pages Lane, N10 1PP. Fee £51.60 (free to those on certain benefits). To enrol please quote course reference C2420403 either online at WEA.org.uk or by ringing 0300 303 3464. Enquiries: call Ruth Kissin on 020 8202 9500, or 020 8883 4873.

NORTH LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

This support group meets on the **first Wednesday of the month** for coffee and chat 2.30-4.00 at Costa Coffee, East Finchley High Street. Those with epilepsy or living with someone with epilepsy welcome. Please contact Barbara Penney at 020 8883 0010 or barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk for details.

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.

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.

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

Useful online information service

Haringey has an online directory for adults who need care and support, where you can search local organisations to find the right services. <https://haricare.haringey.gov.uk/>

ALEXANDRA PARK BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU

We are running a 4-week introductory martial arts course on **Saturdays in January 2019** at Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue, London, N22 7UT covering all the basic skills and movements of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Open to anyone over the age of 14. We are offering a limited number of free places for women as part of This Girl Can. For the duration of the course, attendees will be able to attend **Monday and Thursday** sessions at no extra charge.

<https://bit.ly/2KLbmDD>

Arthur Humphreys, Complete Outfitter

Penknife engraved 'Arthur Humphreys Complete Outfitter Muswell Hill'

I have been custodian of this knife for almost fifty years but knew little about its history. It came into my possession upon the death of Miss May Leoniede King-Morgan who was a protected tenant in the large, late-Victorian house in West Hampstead where I lived with my wife and children. She was a reclusive spinster who had been a friend of the original owner.

After her death in 1968, two of her nephews came over to search for anything of value. After they had gone they left piles of discarded items, including miscellaneous documents, letters, newspapers, photographs, military badges, theatre programmes and bric-a-brac which she had hoarded over the years. I was fascinated by this ephemera. We went through the remaining piles of 'rubbish' and discovered a treasure trove of intriguing memorabilia from which we were able to piece together some of her family history.



Miss Morgan (b. 1889) was the daughter of Mr George King-Morgan. He was a flamboyant Irish entrepreneur who hailed from Dublin but lived in Liverpool for a while and was involved in various business ventures. At one time he was well-known as an operatic singer and performed in theatres and variety halls. He also toured with the original 'Biograph' from the Palace, London, showing animated pictures of the first South Africa War and also managed/owned the St. James Picturedrome -(an early cinema). He was business manager for George Hackenschmidt, the great Russian wrestling champion, with whom he spent nine years touring the world.

Miss Morgan lived in Liverpool around the time of the First World War and she helped to care for wounded soldiers and raised funds for them through charitable concerts at the Empire Theatre. Her 1915 National Registration document states her profession to be actress.

Moving to London in the 1920s she was keen to do her bit when WW2 erupted. But her offer to the Air Ministry to assist with managing barrage balloons was declined. She was advised that 'women are helping with the balloon barrage, though possibly not in the militant way that you have in mind.' In May 1940 a letter from the Director of Home Defence at the War Office thanked her for "the interest you are taking in the defence of the country. [but] I am to say that it is not proposed to train women in the use of firearms." Not to be deterred, amongst her effects was a small booklet 'Simplified Marksmanship' which gave instruction on the 'ability to kill an enemy with the first round that he fires.'

But what about the knife? Miss Morgan had a brother Patrick and lots of military gentlemen friends who would send her notes and letters from their foreign postings. As Arthur Humphreys was a gents' outfitter, her brother or friends might have been customers and the inscribed knife may have been a promotional gift, like the customised pens which are now common. Having been denied a firearm, perhaps she settled for a present of the knife!

George Rooker

CPZ starting on 7th January



Two new controlled parking zones will come into operation on 7th January. One will cover Muswell Hill and will be called the St Luke's CPZ and the other one is an extension of the Fortis Green CPZ. These restrictions will mean that parking will be restricted to permit holders, residents and residents' visitors, between 11am and 1pm on Mondays to Fridays in a number of residential roads around Muswell Hill Broadway and Fortis Green. On the main roads themselves and on some side roads short-term paid parking will be permitted. There will be a limited number of paid for parking permits for businesses. Residents affected should have been informed about the streets to be incorporated but a map showing the area can be seen at the following website: https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/20180629_statconstlukescpz.pdf

Copy date for March/April 2019 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 February 2019.