

MUSWELL HILL & FORTIS GREEN ASSOCIATION

JULY 2012



Ally Pally rings the changes

Palace breaks with tradition to consult local people

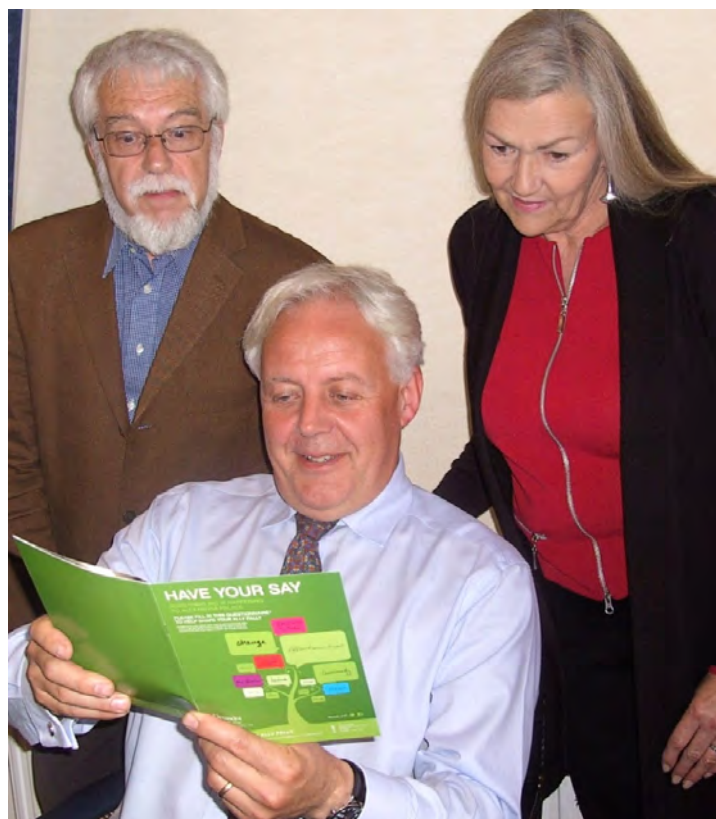
AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY to comment on the proposed redevelopment of Alexandra Palace has been given to us by its new Chief Executive, Duncan Wilson. The consultation, which ends soon after 6 July, heralds a new episode in the Pally saga in which Haringey Council's stranglehold has been loosened sufficiently to allow for plans that may have a chance to result in its regeneration.

Impressed

Our Ally Pally representatives, Denis Heathcote and Denise Feeney, have been busy monitoring the progress of the plans and most recently have met with Duncan specifically to discuss the impact of the proposed redevelopment on our members. They report that they have been impressed with his desire to gain the support of local people and they urge us all to take part in the consultation. Members should not be put off by previous experiences of Pally 'consultations'. As, this time, the Trust will remain in control of the redevelopment, our responses may have some impact on decisions made.

Special report

An exhibition presenting a set of plans and design concepts is currently taking place in the foyer of the ice skating rink. The details on show allow visitors to gauge the affect the proposals will have on them. If you are unable to visit the exhibition you can view the plans online. For details of this and a special report supplied by Ally Pally for our members, see page 3. Denis Heathcote's Pally 'news and views' is there as well.



From left: Denis Heathcote, Alexandra Palace Chief Executive, Duncan Wilson and Denise Feeney

*** COMPETITION ***

Our Association is running a special promotion to engage you in the recruitment of new Association members. Help us to become an even stronger force working to make our area greener, cleaner and safer, and win yourself a handsome book token into the bargain! The offer ends on 30 October 2012.

Recruit 3 or more new members and you get a

£10 book token

Recruit 5 or more and you get a

£15 book token

All participants will be entered into a draw for a

£25 book token

Winners will be announced in the November Newsletter. Make sure your recommendations mention your name on the membership form so that you are in the running!

**The Noble Sage Art Gallery,
specialists in Indian, Sri Lankan and
Pakistani contemporary art.**

We are pleased to make an exclusive offer to members of MHFGA - a 10% discount on any work in the collection. Just bring along a copy or print out of the July edition of the Newsletter and get your free discount as a neighbour!



The Noble Sage

The Noble Sage's Managing Director, Jana Manuelpillai, will be giving a free tour of the current exhibition to MHFGA members on 21 July 2-3pm. If you are interested in joining, drop the gallery an email on reception@thenoblesage.com



Saima's Membership Column

Dear Member,

I wanted to thank so many of you for your positive and encouraging messages. It is always nice to know that our efforts are appreciated. I introduced our members' promotion and competition in the last issue and wanted to remind you that the deadline is **30 October** to get your nominations in. See the panel on the front page for all the details.

New members

Our warmest welcome goes to our new members: **Nick Rylance** and **Fermin Garcia-Romeu** of Ellington Road, **Anthony** and **Vicky Joseph** of Southern Road, **John Martin Power** of Etheldene Avenue, **Tony** and **Rose Brown** of Linden Road and **Nicla Di Palma** and family of Church Crescent. Thank you all for your support and please do get your neighbours to join us as well.

Member of the Month

Our distinguished member of the month is **Ken Gay** who has been a long-standing resident of Muswell Hill and an active member of our community for over 40 years. He has sat on numerous Committees and was a founder member of both the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee and the Muswell Hill Conservation Area Advisory Committee. He continues to provide the latter with invaluable detailed local knowledge and insight. He is the current President of the Hornsey Historical Society and has had four fascinating books published by the History Press, all which are the result of detailed original research and make good use of contemporary photographs and postcards.

Ken has also produced booklets on Alexandra Palace and other aspects of local history, such as suggested walks in the area; many of us have enjoyed his talks or guided walks. The Hornsey Journal ran Ken's illustrated column for years and he was often sought out by the press for his local knowledge. Ken's friends describe him as a charming and good humoured man who is always happy to help and share his enthusiasm for the history of our area. Ken, thank you for being an inspiration!

Members' Topic


It is that time of year when I chase the remaining few members whose annual subscriptions are outstanding. Those friends who pay by cash/cheque, and haven't already done so, please do remember to send me your membership fees which was due at the end of April. Please do get in touch if you would like me to send you a standing order form or print one from our website <http://www.muswellhillandfortisgreenassociation.co.uk/>

My details


Please keep your comments and feedback coming in. My contact details are: MHFGA, POBox 56960, London N10 9BA or email: saimawilliams@live.co.uk


Don't forget our Facebook group. Leave a post at: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/group.php?gid=56250985945>

Bulletin board


 **WE HAVE A NEW TREASURER**, Jacqueline Servat, previously a 'floating' member of the Committee who took on a range of responsibilities. We know she will be an excellent treasurer as she has proved her dedication and keen eye for detail on many occasions.

If Jacqueline can work the same magic with the Association finances as she did with the wonderful spread we enjoyed at our recent AGM (see page 4) our coffers should soon be filled to overflowing! Jacqueline has also written a letter which appears on page 6.


 **WE ARE FORTUNATE** to be able to welcome Elisa Kaczynska-Nay onto our team of Association helpers. She will be taking on a range of tasks including representing our Association at the meetings of the Pinkham Way Alliance. (See page 5 for an update on Pinkham Way matters.) It's good to have you on board, Elisa!


 **OUR NEXT MEETING** is not until the autumn, but for those members who need to organise their diaries well in advance, here are the details. The subject of the meeting is Exposure, Muswell Hill's charitable youth media enterprise. It takes place on Wednesday 17 October, 8pm, at North Bank.


The speakers from this multi-award winning charity will tell us about how it enables young people to thrive in the media. The charity runs a flagship youth magazine and has diversified into design and print, advertising, photography, branding, video and web-based media.

 **OUR FRONT PAGE** continues our new style special offers voucher scheme, started in the May Newsletter. It was launched to bring our corporate members to the forefront of your attention: in each Newsletter you will be invited to take up a special deal or money off offer. It's a win-win situation!

Share your views about the scheme with other members – they can be posted, emailed or phoned directly through to the Newsletter office. Short comments are as welcome as longer ones. Newsletter contact details are on the back page.

 **A MYSTERY IS UNFOLDING** in the Newsletter office where an empty envelope has been sidled into the Editor's in-tray. It had arrived addressed to MHFGA at the address of our Chairman, John Hajdu, and had been sent on 7 June from the Romford area. Could the unsealed empty envelope have been destined to contain a membership cheque? Could the neat block capitals have been written by a busy commuter who posted it before filling it? If you can shed any light on the mystery, please let John know.

 **DO YOU HAVE** any news items of interest to our members that you would like the Newsletter to publish? If so, the deadline for contributions to the September Newsletter is Sunday, 19 August.

 **NOT CONTENT** to harry you, on pages 6 and 7, on the subject of members volunteering some time to help with Association matters, Chairman John is pinning up a message to the same effect on the bulletin board. Please do contact him to discuss the range of vacancies available. They can be customised to suit your skills and availability. Contact John - his details are on page 8.

Tomorrow's Ally Pally: have your say

Some words to our members from the Pally people

'Alexandra Palace could become a major international hub for cultural and community events, learning and recreation in the future if there is support for current plans to regenerate the People's Palace,' says Duncan Wilson, OBE, Chief Executive of the Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust. 'In much the same way as the South Bank has carved a cultural niche for itself in London over the last few years, we have a vision to create a vibrant cultural destination north of the river at the People's Palace.'

The Palace already stages a comprehensive programme of live music, entertainment and sporting activities, attracting visitors from around the world, but half of the building is currently in a poor state and is closed to the public.

The Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust brought in world-renowned architects Terry Farrell & Partners earlier this year to create design concepts based on the vision of

Alexandra Palace's Trustees. Their vision is to regenerate Alexandra Palace and Park 'in the pioneering spirit of our founders, creating a proud, iconic destination for the local community, Londoners and visitors from around the world.'

The Trustees would like to:

- establish the Palace firmly as a major entertainment destination;
- realise the community and learning potential of the Palace and Park;
- make the Palace more financially self-sufficient and reduce its dependence on public subsidy;
- conserve the Palace and Park sympathetically for future generations.

The proposal's six 'big ideas'

1. Improving your first impressions and reducing the impact of the road;
2. Upgrading the entrances to the Palace;
3. Making it easier to move around inside the Palace;

4. Upgrading the Main Halls including the Great Hall;
5. A Hotel in the Palace;
6. Opening up derelict spaces such as the Theatre, BBC Studios and basement.

Contact details

Duncan Wilson was previously responsible for the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich and Somerset House. Under his stewardship, the Trust has appointed Donald Insall Associates, the historical buildings architectural specialists, to develop a conservation management plan for the Palace. This has now been delivered and urgent repairs are being carried out (both funded by grants from English Heritage).

For the exhibition opening times, go to www.alexandrapalace.com or view the designs and plans online by visiting www.alexandrapalace.com/regeneration

Add your comments and opinions about the plans by filling in the online survey. Paper copies are also available and these can be requested by emailing: tomorrowsallypally@alexandrapalace.com or by telephoning 0208 365 2121.



Regeneration

The most important news is the six week extensive consultation now running on the six key ideas that form the basis of the master-plan proposals for the Palace. They are improving first impressions; upgrading entrances to the Palace; easier movement inside the Palace; upgrading the main halls; a hotel in the Palace and opening up derelict spaces.

Work has started on the South Terrace to secure the structure of the colonnade. A wider package of repair work, funded by English Heritage, to the South Terrace, theatre roof and east end wings, will start in the autumn.

Tenders are being undertaken to appoint specialist advisers for the theatre and Heritage Lottery Fund, with a view to a submission later this year

Alexandra Palace news and views from Denis Heathcote

for capital investment for the theatre, supporting public areas and BBC studio.

Park Activities

The joint meeting of the Advisory and Consultative committees on 22 May received a report on the

Red Bull TMX dirt bike event of 19/20 May, which had attracted a large number of young people and their families into the Park. Red Bull had proved to be 'a superb client' despite some difficulties with an over-loud commentary broadcast. A review will be carried out to assess any damage to the grassland of the south slope.

Cricket clubhouse

Committee members were distinctly underwhelmed by a lack of detail presented in support of an amended proposal for a water storage tank adjacent to the cricket clubhouse and were unhappy that the proposal was due to go to the Board and for planning approval at the same time. They declined to offer any advice to the Board and requested that a site visit

take place so that Statutory Advisory Committee members could judge for themselves the impact of the proposal before formulating advice for the Board to take into account.

No invitation has yet been made by the Building Schools for the Future team, which is responsible for all the plans for improving the Club grounds for the benefit of pupils of Heartlands High School.

Independent security advisers had compiled a report on procedures and management of an event held in November last year when two people attending had died. Employees, management and directors of the Trust, event organisers, Lock 'n' Load, and other contractors were exonerated from responsibility. Nevertheless the review had provided opportunities to improve services and procedures at the Palace.

Committees

Colin Marr was elected chair of the Consultative Committee and will also chair the informal joint meetings for the next year.

Denis Heathcote was elected Chair of the Statutory Advisory Committee.



Our AGM photo album

OUR MAY AGM enjoyed a large turnout with members coming to hear all about the progress of our Association, to bid farewell to our retiring Planning Officer, Pat Bloomfield (*pictured on left*), to vote in the Committee members and then to enjoy the social, with delicious food prepared by our part-time Association French chef and new Treasurer, Jacqueline Servat (*pictured below*). There was a team of helpers to clear up afterwards, amongst them Environment Officer Brian Livingston, who has also organised our ongoing community project, the Colney Hatch Lane cultivated verges, and Sandra Howell, our Minutes Officer, both pictured on the right busily wielding tea towels.



At the start of the meeting, our Chairman, John Hajdu, stated that this was our 64th AGM. He reported that we had had a challenging and busy year and reminded his audience that we are non-political and that our role is to protect and improve the quality of life and environment in Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra Ward. He went on to say that we are also making every effort to work more closely with the Muswell Hill Traders' Association and we cover among other issues; traffic, parking, conservation, planning, shop fronts, recycling, litter and graffiti, trees, flowerbeds and pocket parks.

He followed this by running through the work of each Committee member and then by outlining aspects of our outreach work. This includes the



maintenance of our Muswell Hill notice board, our graffiti clean-up team and our attendance at Haringey Area Forums.

As well as voting in the Committee members, we sadly said goodbye to both our Planning Officer, Pat Bloomfield, and Peter Thompson, our Officer for the Haringey Federation of Residents' Associations, Muswell Hill Festival and the Sustainability Group representative. They were thanked for their excellent work on our Association's behalf.

John continued, 'To all my colleagues on the Committee and to all our many supporters, I extend my warmest thanks for their contributions towards making the past year such a productive and successful one.' His report is available on request. All contact details are on page 8.

Snippets corner

* Volunteers are being sought to help with our community project, the maintenance of the Colney Hatch Lane verges. While we have gained some Making the Difference funding for planting, it is essential to ensure that watering and weeding are carried out when necessary. If you can offer any help, please contact Brian Livingston. His details are on the back page.

* Can you help us with our stall at the Muswell Hill Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on 9 September? If so, contact John Crompton whose details are on page 8.

* The Hornsey Historical Society has published a series of new heritage trail booklets linking Alexandra Palace to Camden Town. Booklet E details a walk from East Finchley to Alexandra Palace. It has 44 illustrated pages and is the last in the series. Buy it for £4.50 from 136 Tottenham Lane, London N8 7EL but call 8348 8429 first to check opening times. Alternatively, p&p is 60p. There will be more details about the booklet in the September Newsletter.

* A new brochure with details of a walk along the Moselle, Haringey's river, through a number of our parks, has been published by the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum. It is available free through Friends groups, residents' associations

and local libraries and it will also be available online. Contact Chris Barker (details on page 8) for more information.

* Thanks to MHFGA intervention, Veolia has provided the Vallance Road members featured in the May issue, with all the facilities they asked for...yet another happy ending!



From left: John Hajdu, George Karageorgis of the Clissold Arms and June walk leader, Bill Tyler

Members clamour to join June walk

OUR CHAIRMAN, John Hajdu, has spoken of his surprise at the unprecedented numbers of members who applied to join our June walk, led by popular retired architect Bill Tyler. Places were limited to 30 but within 24 hours of John's email advising members to book their places, more than twice that number had put their names forward.

The lucky few were conducted around Fortis Green by Bill, having started off from the Clissold Arms where they had enjoyed a warm welcome from owner George Karageorgis (pictured on page 4) as well as teas, coffees and a variety of hearty snacks.

Bill interspersed his comments with a historical background. This ranged from the Ice Age geology of the area, Medieval pilgrimage routes, a hog market and an ancient brewery, to more recent local landmarks such as the birthplace of The Kinks' Ray Davies.

Fortis Green's architectural variety was covered with Bill explaining how several periods and styles had come to take their place in the area, some of them notable examples of their type. Additionally, he told us how historical developments had shaped some of the changes made to the houses we passed.

We found out about influential past and present residents, some of whom designed and constructed the buildings we looked at and such well known architects as Colin and Jennifer Jones who also left their mark on the area.

The one and a half hour walk proved so engaging and informative that many members approached Bill to ask if he would run another one next year. At the end, to cap what had been a wonderful event, the Red Arrows did a flypast in V formation on their way back from marking the Queen's Jubilee.



Bill (third from right) points out notable architectural features during our June walk

Pinkham Way plant plans hit a snag

THE PINKHAM WAY ALLIANCE is running a spirited campaign against plans for a giant industrial plant in Pinkham Way. Susie Holden of the Alliance has written in to update us on the latest news.

The past few months have been dominated by exhaustive - and exhausting! - preparation for the public examination of the North London Waste Plan (NLWP). In addition, the Pinkham Way Alliance (PWA) has continued spreading awareness, and concentrated on an extensive fund-raising campaign.

Questionable

The NLWP is supposed to lay the planning framework for the waste strategy of seven north London boroughs (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest) until 2027. At a final public consultation on the plan in July 2011, the PWA (and others) highlighted some major problems:

- the manipulation of selection criteria for the site;
- highly questionable calculations of future waste flows and present treatment capacity.

Since February, a small group of local volunteers with appropriate expertise, have been expanding on these objections and preparing for the public hearings of the NLWP, which started on 12 June. They have had limited but important input from paid experts in waste, law and planning.

Planning principles flouted

Their conclusions show that instead of being a 15-year planning strategy for north London's waste, the NLWP was primarily developed to encompass North London Waste Authority (NLWA) strategy which is to try and procure waste services for its seven member councils for a 30 year period.

Simply put, what should be a plan-led process is being driven by longer-term financial needs - directly contrary to key principles of the UK planning system.

After the five and a half years - and the spending of millions of our pounds - on the NLWP's preparation, the hearing was suspended by the inspector after only 90 minutes. In his view, the plan appears legally unsound. He is concerned that the NLWA councils failed in their duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities outside London, which have historically accepted North London waste into landfill sites.

Abrupt halt

The inspector has given NLWA a short period to persuade him that it has met its obligation to co-operate. If this happens, the hearings will continue in the autumn. If not, it seems that the NLWP is irretrievably damaged. More should be known shortly. From our own extensive work on it, we know that the plan is a mess, but we weren't expecting such an abrupt halt.

The NLWA is still proceeding in its aim to put a colossal plant on Pinkham Way. We are taking advice all the implications if the NLWP is found unsound. For updates on a fascinating - and, for this area, hugely significant - situation, keep an eye on www.pinkhamwayalliance.org and join our mailing list.

Village green status

In the meantime, the Freehold Community Association (FCA), whose hall is right next to Pinkham Way, in Hollickwood Park, has applied for the site to be made a Village Green. The FCA is asserting that, since local residents have - as of right - used the site as an amenity for over 20 years, that use should remain. Their case will initially be assessed by an independent adjudicator. In the meantime, Haringey Council is gathering information by sending letters to all who live within 1km of the site. We are still a few months away from a final decision.

Fundraising Concert

The PWA is pleased to announce another fantastic chamber-music concert in St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road, at 4pm, on Sunday 8 July. The Galitzin Ensemble will play, among other things, Schubert's Trout Quintet. All proceeds go to the campaign; we still require as much financial assistance as we can get. Please come along if you can.



Planning does matter

If Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association is still submitting representations on audacious planning applications please would you forward this email to the committee member dealing with this kind of thing?

MHFGA might not be aware that there are currently two more planning applications pending decision for 1 Treeside Place on the site of the former garden centre at the top of Cranley Gardens, both of which relate to a case which was approved by Planning Committee last November (HGY/2011/1292):

- HGY/2012/0410 is for non-material amendments
- HGY/2012/0931 is to vary the schedule of conditions

I'd like to enlist MHFGA's help if possible as it would be supportive and possibly effective to have a representation against HGY/2012/0931 from a local stakeholder group.

Refused

The background is that over the past six years there have been loads of applications for the former garden centre site. Most recently permission was obtained from Planning Committee to have a narrower access where there had been the temporary HGV construction access.

That had been refused many times previously but was granted due to a range of applicant concessions on main issues (for example, he agreed to narrow the access by the former HGV crossover and most significantly perhaps to replace the hardstanding in front of the integral garage with soft landscaping including one proper tree).

Claw back

The problem now is that following the granting of that permission more applications have been submitted to effectively claw back the concessions. If granted, HGY/2012/0931 would effectively negate loads of the previous decisions!

Elizabeth Sutton-Klein
Cranley Gardens

(Chairman John Hajdu replies:

Thank you for your message. As you have seen in our Newsletter, our planning officer, Pat, has retired and despite asking members several times

we have not been able to find a replacement. Pat has done a fantastic job but until we can find somebody to help us I am afraid we will not be able to represent our members and fight such applications. Each member of the Committee is working very hard and cannot take on any more work.)

Green space under threat

Having lived in a house backing onto the Muswell Hill Bowling Club (MHBC) for over a quarter of a century and seen it in its prime over the '80s and '90s, I am very saddened to see its beautiful green void of the buzz of its members of yesteryear.

Flag hoisted

I remember the show they provided in their pristine white outfits whenever a match was taking place, the flag being hoisted up the post for the occasion. I could see, at the time from my lounge window, the preparations taking place in the pavilion and admired their eagerness to play: even when the skies had opened, games continued with umbrellas opened.

What a joy it was to chat with Alf, Arthur, Ernie, Harry, Pat, only to mention a few, I knew them all then! I had placed a step against the garden fence that gave onto the green so that I could watch them at leisure, my head appearing between two bushes of honeysuckle.

Dedication

How proud I was too, to have planted a *Montana* along that fence; it did its best to start flowering on that very Saturday in late April when the club outdoors season opened!

The satisfaction my visitors and I felt, seated in my garden and hearing the excitement of a gentle game of bowls (as opposed to backing a football ground!)

I have so many wonderful memories of MHBC. I could not join as a playing member at the time, as I was still fully employed, but I admired their dedication to games such as the ones I saw them play, not only for afternoons on end, but every day during the season.

However, my social membership covered at least two decades and I never missed an occasion, whenever

possible, to join in at the bar. I even celebrated my 50th birthday in the Pavilion, which can easily accommodate 80 guests or more!

Now, members have gradually dwindled to the point that the club is thinking of closing, later this year, in September. What will become of it then? I can only try to campaign with you all, Muswell Hill and Fortis Green residents, and defenders of our environment.

Monstrous cranes

Please help MHBC survive for at least, another year, by joining, even as a social member (it will only cost you a tenner). Otherwise, who knows how long it will be before monstrous cranes start appearing on the horizon. I'm almost pleased to have let my neighbours grow these huge trees that now block the beautiful perspective I used to have, from my lounge windows, all the way to the other side of the green...

The club is open every Friday evening to whoever is interested. It is located in Kings Avenue: the first blue double wooden doors on the left, when you come from Queens Avenue. Please come!

Jacqueline Servat
Queens Avenue

A community party for Fortis Green

A very successful community party, attended by about 200 people, was held on the afternoon of 5 June in the hall of Tetherdown Primary School on Grand Avenue, Muswell Hill. The party was organised by a small group of local people. The abundant food and refreshments were brought by local people, while more than 40 raffle prizes were generously donated by many businesses in Fortis Green, Muswell Hill and East Finchley.

The party was a good opportunity to catch up with neighbours and to make new friendships, while being entertained by a jazz quartet, playing free of charge. Everybody had a great time. The proceeds of the raffle, after expenses, are being donated to two local charities.

Emilia Dowling
Lynmouth Road

WANTED!

Your Editor wants your letters for this page. Post, email or phone them through and make your voice heard! Newsletter office contact details are on the back page.

Planning matters collapse thanks to apathy

THE PROUD ASSOCIATION TRADITION, upheld for so long, of monitoring and responding to planning applications in our area, has ceased after continued pleas for a volunteer to step forward and continue the work of our retired planning officer, Pat Bloomfield, brought little reaction.

Page 7 of the Newsletter has, for all these years, carried updates of the applications and the action taken by our Association with regard to them. The forewarning of 'a blank page' in the May issue if Pat's replacement did not make him or herself known, has now come to fruition.

Battles fought

Chairman, John Hajdu, offers his comment on this, and joins to it a plea for more help, not just in the planning area but in recruitment, with the Muswell Hill Festival, with members' meetings and with the Colney Hatch Lane beds project:

'Your Association needs you! As those of you who came to our AGM heard (*see page 4 for more on this*) your Committee has worked very hard; we have fought many battles, as we do every year, to stand up for your rights, to help you when possible and to make sure that Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra ward are pleasant places in which to live.

Tailor-made

'We could do so much more if we could have some help! Surely among our 720 members, there must be somebody who is willing to give up some time and join us on the Committee. We can tailor the job to your availability and to your field of expertise; you do not need a specific skill to be able to help.

'I know everybody is busy and so are we. Each member of your Committee has other responsibilities and is involved in

many things, apart from working for the Association, but they still do an outstanding job for you, our members. Please do call me to discuss what you can do to help your Association.

'A message I received recently from member Elizabeth Sutton-Klein and my reply to her is published on page 6 in the letters section. I hope you will agree that it underlines my message to you.'



Do you know who will be buying your health care?

Long-standing Association member, Patrick Morreau, who is also a member of the West Haringey Patients' Panel, has written in to tell us about the recent West Haringey Residents' Meeting which dealt with Health Commissioning in Haringey.

Association members may be interested to know about a meeting for west Haringey residents, convened by NHS Haringey, that took place on 17 April. The purpose was to bring residents up-to-date on the development of the Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group, the body that will, from next April, take over from the Primary Care Trust responsibility for purchasing health care for Haringey residents, one of the changes arising from the recent Health and Social Care Act.

Urgent questions

The original agenda included workshop discussions in which residents could suggest ways forward for communication and engagement with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). However, the pressure for information on the complex health reforms did not allow time for that; the packed room had many people wanting to ask urgent questions and it was agreed these should have priority over the workshops.

Borough-wide

Dr Helen Pelendrides, chair of the CCG, explained that the CCG includes not only GPs but also representation from secondary care (the acute hospitals such as the Whittington), a nurse, Council representatives responsible for public health and

adult social care, and patient representatives from the east and west of the borough. This breadth of representation means that everyone involved with health care in Haringey is represented on the CCG. The CCG also works with the Haringey Health and WellBeing Board to address health issues across the borough. The CCG has been a 'shadow' group since July 2011 but expects to be fully authorised by the Department of Health and become a statutory body in April 2013.

Value for money

Dr Pelendrides went on to say that this new commissioning arrangement offers great opportunities for 'achieving more through working together'; to, for example, improve outcomes and reduce inequalities, improve prevention and increase early intervention, and to integrate health and social care more closely.

It also offers patients a greater voice in commissioning decisions through practice and area patient panels. She expected residents to start to see decisions about their services happening locally and in partnership with the Health and WellBeing Board, and that they will also see good quality, efficient and value for money services, designed in partnership with the local community and meeting local needs.

More meetings

Dr Pelendrides's presentation gave rise to many questions which I do not have space to report. This is clearly the start of an ongoing dialogue between the CCG and patients, and I expect another meeting will be held before too long. Anyone interested in being a member of a patient panel or just in being kept informed of future meetings should contact Clare Hodgson, NHS Haringey, email:

Clare.Hodgson@nclondon.nhs.uk, or me at: patrick.morreau@blueyonder.co.uk, tel 07726 738 097.

MUSWELL HILL & FORTIS GREEN ASSOCIATION

(affiliated to the Haringey Federation of Residents' Associations)

OTHER PEOPLE'S EVENTS

AVENUE MEWS COLLECTIVE: there will be a Summer Mews Fest on SATURDAY 7 July. It will feature the opening of the July Summer Exhibition at the LOCALgallery, open studios at Mews Studios, late night shopping at the vintage clothing & furniture shop, Cha Cha Cha and the retro vintage shop Can't Buy Me Love. A number of special offers will be featured.

CROUCH END FESTIVAL CHORUS: a concert is taking place on SATURDAY 7 JULY in St James's Church at 7.30pm. Bruckner's and Stravinsky's masses will be performed as well as songs by Eric Whitacre. Book tickets and get the concert flyer from www.cefc.org.uk

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA: the next recital will be held on SATURDAY 14 JULY at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road. Admission is free. Contact office@alexandrapark.org or phone 8444 6898 for more information.

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY & NEW LONDON CHILDREN'S CHOIR: it is performing Fanshawe's African Sanctus and L'Estrange's Zimbe on SATURDAY 7 JULY at 7.30pm in St. Michael's Church, Highgate. See www.hcschoir.com for tickets or go to Les Aldrich Music Centre in Muswell Hill.

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: the next outing is to Wrest Park, Luton, Bedfordshire and takes place on SATURDAY 4 AUGUST. See www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/wrest-park for more about Wrest Park, one of Britain's largest and most important 'secret gardens'. Cost is £20 (adults) and £19.50 (concessions). Depart from North Bank, Pages Lane at 9.45am. Contact Kit Greveson on 8340 0557 or email her on n10gardeners@googlemail.com to book your place.

NSG OPEN GARDENS: local gardens are open as follows:

SATURDAY 9 JULY, 27 Wood Vale, 1.30 -6pm

SUNDAY 10 JULY, 27 Wood Vale, 1.30 -6pm; 33 Wood Vale, 2-6pm; Railway Cottages (2, 14, 20, 22 Dorset Road), 2-5.30pm SUNDAY 17 JULY, 79 Church Lane, N2, 2-6pm; 66 Muswell Avenue, 2-6pm

SUNDAY 15 JULY, 12 Rookfield Avenue, 2-5.30pm (a cottage garden – homemade cakes, teas and plants for sale) *MHFGA members' garden*

SUNDAY 24 JULY, 5 St Regis Close, 2-7pm *MHFGA members' garden*

SUNDAY 31 JULY, 19 Hillfield Park, 2-6pm; 29 Woodberry Crescent, 2-7pm

SUNDAY 7 AUGUST, Alexandra Park Gardens

(272, 279, 289, 300 Alexandra Park Road) 2 -6pm

SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, Golf Course Allotments, Winton Avenue, 1-4.30 pm; 5 Russell Road, N13, 2-6pm

NORTH BANK: weekly exercise classes for the over 60s take place in the Garden Room on FRIDAYS. The Fitness Plus class is from 10.30-11.15am and the General Fitness class is at 11.45-12.30pm. Sessions are £2. For more information phone David Restarick on 8365 2466 or email community@mhmc.org.uk

MET POLICE DROP-IN SURGERIES: our local Safer Neighbourhood Teams' next drop-in surgeries take place on WEDNESDAY 11 JULY (3-3.30pm, Jenny's) TUESDAY 17 JULY (8-8.30pm, Planet Organic) MONDAY 6 AUGUST (9-9.30am, Costa Coffee). Street briefings are on SATURDAY 14 JULY (10.30-11.30am, St Andrew's, Alexandra Park Road) and SATURDAY 21 JULY (1-1.30pm Muswell Hill Broadway roundabout).