

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

Incorporating Alexandra Ward

J M W Turner meets L S Lowry

The results of the photo competition provided a suitable climax to the events of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 May (full report on page 4). The judges were Muswell Hill professional photographers Zoe Norfolk, Matt Humphrey who runs theLOCAL gallery in Avenue Mews, and Committee stalwart Tony Wells.

Tony introduced the presentation by saying, 'Long gone are the days when photographic competitions were the preserve of adults with expensive film cameras and access to dark room facilities. Photography moved into the Digital Age with the introduction of digital SLR's, and then a step further with the introduction of good quality cameras built in to mobile phones. Today, many people, and especially youngsters carry their own smartphones and imaginatively and spontaneously capture impressive images'.

This was reflected in the results of the Competition, where teenagers did extremely well, with some using iPhones. The Committee originally introduced a children's prize but came to realise that it was a rather dated view of photography as it is today.

The Judges agreed and thought it was fairer to simply have four straight prizes when they were informed of the breakdown of the



July/August 2014 Newsletter

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entrants and the quality of the entries. The winner was fifteen-year-old Cameron Wells, the unanimous first choice of our two professional photographers who were entranced by the ethereal and impressionistic *Football in the Fog at Fortismere*. 'It captures the fog's battle with the sun beautifully, and the matchstick figures are positively Lowreyesque'. Many congratulations to Cameron. See the runners up on the back page.



SALVE ATQUE VALE

The Committee welcomes Duncan Neill to be our representative on the Alexandra Palace & Park Statutory Advisory Committee. He and his family have lived in Muswell Hill for a number of years, after making the move from Highgate. Duncan's professional background in hospitality, tourism and finance will ensure an objective eye is kept on such an important local institution.

The new appointment is made because, after fifty years in London, including forty in the same house in Muswell Hill, Denis Heathcote will soon be returning to his hometown, Southampton, to live near his daughter and her family, and close by where he went to school.

Highlights of his life in Muswell Hill are largely concerned with Alexandra Palace which perhaps goes some way to explain his valued role in representing MHFGA on the AP Statutory Advisory Committee. On 10 July 1980 (the night of the second great fire), he stood on the Palace slopes below the terrace, with his eleven-year-old son, watching the largest conflagration either of them are ever likely to see, eating fish and chips, and listening to the explosions of the spirit bottles in the bar. On the same date, his daughter was admitted to hospital with a severe asthma attack (where she watched the fire on TV), but happily in a few days regained the usual energy and bustle of an eight-year old!

Little did Denis think that more than thirty five years on, he would contribute to discussions about the current Heritage Lottery Fund Round 2 bid, and the real prospect of the Palace becoming once again a centre of entertainment and leisure for so many people. The community and the Association have benefited from his enthusiasm and diligence. Like so many others who leave Muswell Hill, he will remain a member and watch with interest how the Association will continue to work for the distinctive character of the area to be maintained and enhanced.

Photo: Denis receives the Chairman's thanks

Wanted – Public Relations Officer

The Association needs help in a number of key areas, such as finding speakers and take notes and photos at meetings. Work with local organisations and get them to use our Newsletter and the Notice Board to publicize their events. Send press releases to the local press, covering competitions, meetings, photos of green sites, etc. Help with recruitment. Keep in touch with local schools. Organise AGM. Work with the Traders' Group. Attend Assembly meetings and report back to the Committee. If you would like to help with some/any of these important tasks, please write to John Hajdu, Chairman, at hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.



THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME – A 'POTTED' HISTORY by Susan Bennett

In 1859, long before a National Health Service, industrialist William Rathbone engaged a private nurse to care for his dying wife. Philanthropic, well-connected and persuasive, he suggested creating a public fund to provide 'Community Nurses'. Soon afterwards, Florence Nightingale and Queen Victoria gave their support, and on the death of the monarch, The Queen Victoria Memorial Fund was set up to raise money for the provision of District Nurses. The fund became the Queen's Nursing Institute.

Queen Alexandra became a staunch supporter, and when she died, the Women of England donated towards a memorial in her honour, much of which went towards training nurses. To ensure continuing support, committee member Elsie Wagg suggested opening private gardens to the general public. And the idea was born.

By 1927, the list included Blenheim and Sandringham. Visitors enjoyed the work of Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll for just one shilling (5p), the cost of *Country Life* magazine, a major sponsor. King George V, seeing how popular it was, suggested making the scheme permanent. Early support came from the RHS, the AA, Sainsbury's, Hambros, the BBC, and leading figures from the press. Winston Churchill opened his home Chartwell in 1928, but not again until 1948 after the war.

The war brought about great changes. Grand gardens were neglected, great houses requisitioned, cabbages replaced roses, but visiting continued as part of the War Effort.

With the introduction of the NHS, community nursing became the responsibility of local authorities, but the scheme supported their welfare. In 1980, it became the National Gardens Scheme Charitable Trust, with the Queen Mother as Patron. After she died, HRH Prince Charles, a keen gardener, took over. By 1984, funds were sufficient to donate to Macmillan, and in 1996 to Marie Curie, Help the Hospices and other caring causes.

Now, the official Yellow Book guide and the NGS website list over 3800 private gardens, including many that opened in 1927.

Susan Bennett is a garden opener, with her husband Earl Hyde, and as Assistant County Organiser, she is always on the lookout for new 'Gardens of Quality' - be they tiny courtyard, allotment or suburban back garden, displaying passion, knowledge and generosity of spirit.



Visit their unique colourful garden (pictured) at 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DE on SUNDAYS 20 July for KSDP and 27 July for NGS from 2.00 to 6.30 pm. Admission £3.50, Children Free. More info suebearlh@yahoo.co.uk. Delicious homemade teas. MEGA Plant Sale . Open Studio.

THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918

2014 marks the centenary of the beginning of the Great War. Throughout Europe, communities and institutions are commemorating the events.

Not many people know that Alexandra Palace (Ally Pally) played its own part from the early months. After Germany invaded Belgium, between August 1914 and May 1915 nearly a quarter of a million Belgian refugees fled through Holland and across the channel to England. In October 1914, to deal with this major influx of refugees two camps were opened in London, the first at Alexandra Place and the other at Earl's Court.

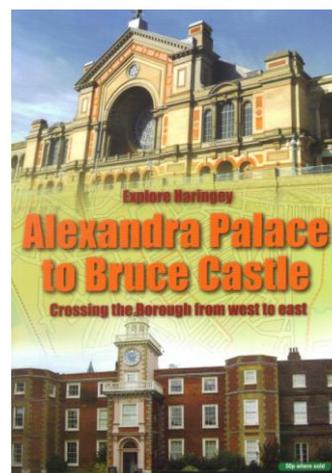
It is reported that 3000 Belgians were looked after at Ally Pally – helping refugees became a significant part of local people's contribution to the war effort.



*Belgian Refugees in the Great Hall at Alexandra Palace
(image from www.allypallycollectibles.com)*

Later this year, Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust's (APPCT) First World War commemorative learning programme will reveal to schools across the Borough of Haringey the little known story of the People's Palace's First World War history, first as an encampment for displaced Belgian refugees and later as a German and Austrian internment camp.

Do you have any stories or photos of Muswell Hill during those years, for the next Newsletter? Write to the Editor at davidorme@aol.com



WALK THIS WAY

Recently published, *Alexandra Palace to Bruce Castle* is a clear and well-illustrated five-mile walk through some of the Borough's most interesting parts. Points of interest along the way are highlighted.

Distribution is largely through residents' groups and at events and libraries. It is also available at a few independent bookshops for 50p – Muswell Hill Bookshop is one.

Published by Haringey Federation of Residents Associations and Haringey Friends of Parks Forum.

ALEX'S CORNER

Dear Member,

It's membership renewal time.

If you pay by Standing Order, your membership will automatically be renewed - you do not need to take any further action. If you have paid by cash, cheque or bank transfer for a single year, this is the time to fill in the form on page 6 and send your subscription fee (£8 for ordinary membership and £20 if you are a business) to our treasurer, Jacqueline Servat. Donations are always welcome.

If at all possible, consider paying by standing order. It helps enormously our administration and planning, and saves you some inconvenience.

If you do not want to cut up your Newsletter - I know many like to collect them - get a copy from the MHFGA website at http://mhfga.org/?page_id=45. Or drop me a line and I shall send you a form.

New Members

This month our new members include **Dorothy Hughes**, of Grand Avenue; **Stephen Middleton**, of Albert Road; and our new corporate member, **Donatella Bernstein**, of Ethical Edibles and Drinkitaly (read Donatella's letter on page 5). A warm welcome back also to **Edward Fox**, of Birchwood Avenue.

Please send your comments, suggestions and requests to membership@mhfga.org or write to The Membership Secretary, MHFGA, 40 Halliwick Road, London N10 1AA.

Thanks! *Alex*

... and a big hand for our corporate members!

Robert Linsky Optometrist (Robert Linsky), **Storybookers Ltd** (Norman Bailey), **The John Baird** (Keith Nicholas), **Tim Moss Furniture** (Tim Moss), **Toffs of Muswell Hill** (George and Costas Georgiou), **Tootomoo** (Philip McGuinness), **Tree Trust for Haringey** (Julia Edwards), **Clissold Arms** (George Kyriakos Karageorgis), **Excel English Language School** (Judy Loren), **Feast** (Roger Ward CBE), **Fortismere School** (Helen Anthony), **Muswell Hill Bowling Club** (Paul Chapman), **Muswell Hill Toy Library** (Liz Luxmore), **Norfolk House School** (Samantha Habgood), **Odeon Cinema** (Dee Neal and Mark Mannix).

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VOUCHER

Valid for one year's
membership

**10% DISCOUNT
ON ALL 120 WINES**



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Unit 2, Mews House, Princes Lane, London N10 3LU
020 8444 4628 - info@drinkitaly.co.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chair John Hajdu delivered his annual 'State of the Association' speech to a large gathering in North Bank on Wednesday 21 May.

Thanking all the members of the committee, present and past, for their valuable contributions to the workings of the Association, John was emphatic about the vital role played by the committee members in protecting the environment and quality of life for the community, through constant scrutiny of planning applications, traffic proposals, and transport issues. Citing several examples (the new W7 bus stop on the roundabout, the flower boxes, the constant evaluation of planning applications, the watchful eye on the Palace, the protection of the Conservation Area, etc), John could only emphasize the benefits of the Association. Other officers were also thanked: Jack Whitehead and Bill Jago for their vigilance on graffiti and the maintenance of the noticeboard. The relationship that all these members have with the Council and associated organisations serves to fulfil the Associations' objectives. Sandra Howell valiantly converts the committee's wide-ranging discussions and occasional differences into clear minutes that truly reflect the business of the day.

Treasurer Jacqueline Servat presented the accounts to the meeting, noting the benefits (and occasional difficulties) of having so many long-term members. With a membership approaching 700, there are funds available for new projects and suggestions will be welcomed.

Under Any Other Business, George Karageorgis of the Clissold Arms described how his connections to north London all his life led him to the ownership of the famous pub on Fortis Green, with a Kinks 'museum' and where community activities seem to take place every day – morning, noon and night. Not content with the success at the Clissold, George is extending to outside catering - the members attending the AGM were very fortunate recipients of an excellent spread.



Tony Wells (left) and John Hajdu (right) with photo competition winners Hannah Beskine, Cameron Wells and Sophie Lauber. The fourth winner Francine Cronin was away.

The Chairman and the Committee continue to be very grateful to those who deliver the Newsletters in their respective neighbourhoods, including Florence Marriott, Ann Elliott, Sandra Howell, Anne & Chris Ruff, Richard & Jo Campbell, Dawn Miles, Eugene Myerson, Keith Kirby, Jack & Pat Whitehead, Christine Perelman, Barry White, Peter Stevens, Peter Freeth, Enid Hunt, Peter Thompson, Vivien Parker, Jacqueline Servat. In addition, copies are given out by Joan Podel and the Newsletters can be found at the following establishments: La Miel, Clissold Arms, Sable D'Or Restaurant and Delicia. Thank you all.

Dear Friends,

We have had an update from Haringey Council regarding the safety improvements you helped petition for at the junctions of Colney Hatch Lane/Alexandra Park Road and Pages Lane. Part of our campaign/petition was to get improved safety signage installed at the junction. Haringey has confirmed that the signs have been ordered and will be erected within the next two weeks.

With regards to repairs to the guard railings and kerb, we have been informed that this work will be delivered with the resurfacing of Colney Hatch Lane programmed for July for a period of six weeks. Due to the deterioration of the road it will require full reconstruction and therefore a road closure. Repairing the guard railings and kerb at this time will minimise disruption.

As you may have already seen, traffic/pedestrian counts and video surveillance of the junctions have commenced. This will provide consultants with the baseline information to model and hopefully identify improvements at the two junctions. The remodelling study will be undertaken in July/August and Council representatives will report back at the October Area Forum. Thanks for your continued support. Things are moving in the right direction.

Regards

Dear Members,

Ethical Edibles imports naturally-made wines from family-run estates in Italy. Wines are selected for quality, distinctiveness and purity. We promote the richness of Italian viticulture, with emphasis on local, autochthonous varieties. Our winemakers spend nothing on marketing and stake their bets on quality, which means the value is all inside the bottle. Their wines reflect the love and respect for the environment of committed wine-makers.

Come and see our wine selection at our wine club on www.drinkitaly.co.uk or pay us a visit at 2 Mews House, Princes Lane, N10 3LU (behind John Baird Pub on Fortis Green) T.0208 444 4628. Cut out the voucher on page 4 and we shall give you free membership, for you to choose - online or from our local stock selection - with a 10 per cent discount.

Donatella Bernstein
Ethical Edibles/Drinkitaly
info@drinkitaly.co.uk
/donatella@ethicaledibles.co.uk

TREE WORKS

All the trees in N2 and N10 are scheduled to be inspected for planned works during July or August, with any necessary pruning taking place in the autumn. Here is a list of roads in the MH&FG area that will be surveyed. In N2, Annington Road, Bancroft Avenue, Beech Drive, Church Vale, Creighton Avenue, Francis Road, Ringwood Avenue, Southern Road, and Springcroft Avenue and, in N10, Barranger Road, Colney Hatch Lane, Coppetts Road, Creighton Avenue, Eastwood Road, Everington Road, Greenham Road, Hill Road, Marriott Road, Pages Hill, Pages Lane, and Steeds Road.

Regards,

Alex Fraser,
Arboricultural and Allotments Manager,
Haringey Council

ALLY PALLY from Denis Heathcote

Members can expect to be consulted about the next phase of development and renewal of the Palace as a period of public consultation about the Heritage Lottery Fund Round 2 bid is about to get under way.

Three areas will be under discussion; the activity plan for the "visitor experience" in the renovated TV studios and theatre; the concept design or basic design proposals; and lastly the Developed Design which will be the basis for the HLF submission in December.

The level of interest in the Palace and its history remains high. 480 people were conducted around the building on guided tours in April; tickets were sold out in forty-eight hours, and the current waiting list for future tours stands at over 200.

The fireworks will return on 1 November but with a number of changes which should avoid a repeat of the shortcomings of last year, and take account of complaints made.

COP SHOP from John Crompton

For the former Muswell Hill police station in Fortis Green (HGY/2014/1333), there is a proposal to convert to nine residential units: seven flats to be accessed from Fortis Green via the existing front door and two houses with gardens to be accessed from Fortis Green Avenue. There will be changes and extensions at the rear elevation and three of the flats will have a roof terrace which will look out over Annington Road.

The Fortis Green elevation will be repaired and will appear much as it does today –even down to the retention of the flag pole. There are changes to the Fortis Green Avenue elevation, sensitively designed and in keeping with the other houses in this vicinity. There will be more substantial changes at the rear with the demolition of most of the existing structure (e.g. the cells), but these are of little architectural merit or interest. The applicant is Station House (Muswell Hill) Ltd, but is not based locally. Objections concerning parking have already been raised and there is the question about affordable housing.



FORTISMERE SCHOOL'S 'Fortitude' Summer Fair

5 July 12.00 noon to 8.00 p.m.. Big Top, sound stage, raffle, kids' shows, market stalls, licensed bar, food vendors and a dog show judged by Rowland Rivron. What more could you want? Fortismere School Playing Fields, Twyford Avenue, N10.

THE CLISSOLD ARMS

On Sunday 6 July, a fantastic event to honour Ray Davies's 70th birthday (in June) and to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the KINKS' first No. 1 Hit "You Really Got Me". An evening of young local singers/songwriters who will be performing KINKS COVERS and original music. 8.00 p.m. FREE ENTRY. Kinks Room at Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, Fortis Green, East Finchley, N2 9HR 0208 444 4224 clissoldarms@googlegmail.com

Friends of Alexandra Park will be holding a Family Bug Hunt, Sunday 20 July, 1.30 pm. See the Friends of Alexandra Park website for details on how to book a place: www.friendsofalexandrapark.org

BILL TYLER'S WALK

This merry band enjoyed the guided walk round East Finchley on 7 June, pictured here outside Holy Trinity in Church Lane. For other MHFGA events, check future newsletters and the website (www.mhfga.org)



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

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

HPAG campaigns for the Pensioners' Charter, bringing older people's concerns to decision makers. Meetings are held at the Marian Centre, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH, on the third Wednesday of each month, from 2.00 p.m. Contact Ann Anderson 020 8340 8335, Pamela Jefferys 020 8444 0732 and Janet Shapiro 020 8883 9571 janet.rmshapiro@gmail.com.

MUSWELL HILL TOY LIBRARY

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

Farmers' Market, every Sunday, 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. usually at Alexandra Palace - Muswell Hill (bottom) Entrance, N10 3TG, alternatively at Campsbourne School nearby. Check at www.wearccfm.com.

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

Brahms - A German Requiem

14 July at 7:30 p.m in Milton Court Concert Hall, Barbican.

Berlin's Cantus Domus choir and the North London Chorus celebrate their partnership 100 years after the outbreak of WW1 with Mendelssohn's rare and lovely plea for peace, *Verleih uns Frieden*, Brahms's beautiful *Nänie* and ending with his great, humanitarian, *German Requiem*. Tickets from www.barbican.org.uk

MUSWELL HILL BOWLING CLUB

Through the blue gates, next to 36 Kings Avenue, Muswell Hill, N10 1PB. This year the Club is offering introductory bowls evenings. So, if you fancy a taster session with an experienced player on hand, followed by a cuppa or something stronger, come along on any Tuesday or Friday evening of the season April to September between 6.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. The club welcomes players of all ages and experience.

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

CHARCOAL BURNING - CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the date for charcoal burning in the Witches Coven has been changed and will now be 1 to 4 August 2014.

Iain Loasby, Woodman will be making charcoal in a retort from timber kept from the coppicing carried out over the past two winters. Volunteers will be welcome to help cut and split the timber and load/unload the retort in exchange for refreshments and a bag of Queen's Wood charcoal. Come and learn about traditional and modern methods of charcoal making. Contact Iain iain@rivenwoodcoppice.com or 07812 367480 for more details. Saturday 2 August is the Family Fun Day, so put both in your diaries

You can't not be moved by the sound of a brass band, playing live. Enjoy Muswell Hill Brass in The Grove, Sunday 3 August, 2.00 pm

Fortismere Community Orchestra is a new project that aims to bring together players of all ages to create high calibre music. The Orchestra includes students, parents and teachers from Fortismere School as well as members of the wider community. They perform three concerts a year at St Andrews Church. Next concert is on Saturday 12 July 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road. For more information, please get in touch. <http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/> 07528 482 671 fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

The next HCS concert is on Saturday 5 July at 7.00pm.

Vaughan Williams Overture, The Wasps, Five Mystical Songs, The Lark Ascending, and Walton Belshazzar's Feast

All Hallows' Church, Savernake Road, Gospel Oak, NW3

Book on line at www.hcschoir.com or Les Aldrich, Fortis Green Road, N10



Telephone number 020 8345 1858

All calls will be answered by a Neighbourhood Police Officer and voice mail messages will be checked twice a day. Don't forget: call 999 if you are reporting a crime that is in progress or if someone is in immediate danger. Call 101 to report crimes that are not an emergency.

Both Met police teams hold regular drop in surgeries where anyone can speak to an officer. Fortis Green has a surgery in Muswell Hill Library in Queens Ave N10 on 7 July, from 6.00 pm to 6.30 pm. Alexandra ward has the next surgery on 2 July 5.00 pm to 5.45pm at Hobarts Estate Agents in Crescent Rise N22.

Prudence recommends that you check all times and dates with the organisers. If you have an event or activity that might be of interest to the Association's members, for inclusion in the Newsletter, the deadline for the next issue is 12 August 2014.

PHOTO COMPETITION – Runners Up



The second prize in the photographic competition went to Hannah Beskine with her superb *Reflection Fortismere School*.



The third prize was awarded to Francine Cronin for the 'delightful, lively and vibrant' *Seagulls Over the Lake at Ally Pally*.



St James's Church from a most unusual angle won fourth prize for thirteen-year-old Sophie Lauber.

MEMBERS IN PROFILE - Meet the Hutchinsons

Jane and Gordon Hutchinson have lived in Grove Avenue since 1979, apart from a few years in New Zealand and Kuwait. Throughout their time in Muswell Hill, Jane has been a behind-the-scenes supporter of local organisations: on the committee of the Alexandra Residents Association, helping the late Doris Long set up the first Muswell Hill Street Festival in 1995, working with STEPP to prevent some of the unacceptable proposals for development of Alexandra Palace, and fifteen years as a volunteer with Muswell Hill Abbeyfield Society.

In 2006, Jane was instrumental in setting up the Friends of Alexandra Park, which with support from Gordon, as Chair, and an enthusiastic committee, now runs a variety of walks and talks in the Park, covering its many strands of plant and wild life as well as the Park's varied history.

After retiring from an engineering and management career in BP, Gordon helped adults learning maths at Barnet College, promoted engineering to young people and developed his interest in sustainability through involvement with the leading sustainability charity, Forum for the Future. This led to teaching annually at Bristol University on a sustainable systems course.

When their two girls were growing up, Jane and Gordon enjoyed lots of time in Alexandra Park, the Parkland Walk and the Woods. Now they walk in them regularly with a group of friends, for pleasure and as training for occasional marathon charity walks in which the group takes part around the country. Jane and Gordon have seen many changes in Muswell Hill over the last thirty-five years but the community and the friends they have made here over that time are what matter most.

