

# Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

(Founded 1948)

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2011

## Spotted in Muswell Hill – the Zone Ranger

### Electric bicycles for hire are on their way to our area

MUSWELL HILL may get its own version of Mayor Boris Johnson's cycle hire scheme with the introduction of a newly stocked electric bike dock in the region of Planet Organic's shop near the Odeon.

The Muswell Hill Sustainability Group (MHSg) has been in talks with Colney Hatch Lane resident, Va Hua, inventor of the Spencer-Ivy electric bicycle, who has expressed interest in setting up a bicycle hire scheme locally. Initially, it would cater for round-trip journeys with the new docks being used both as pick-up and return points on a day hire basis. Decisions are yet to be made about charges.

#### **Ideas promotion**

Mr Hua is keen to organise the scheme in Muswell Hill as it is a low carbon zone. However, he is adopting a business-like approach and is currently investigating levels of interest. While similar in principle to the Boris bikes scheme, his venture would not be connected to it.

The idea came about at an MHSg transport event held in June this year when it transpired that local public transport inconveniences were being successfully overcome by some commuters through the use of electric bikes. Peter Thompson, Secretary of the Muswell Hill Sustainability Group and, of course, our own Committee member, then helped to shape the proposals as part of the MHSg's function as 'ideas promoters'.

#### **Controlled assistance**

Spencer-Ivy electric cycles use a Panasonic crank motor system which includes a torque sensor to detect the power a rider is applying to the pedals. This, in turn, dictates how much assistance is delivered through the chain. In this way the rider remains in control and can stop the electric motor assisting simply by stopping pedalling. Gears are used in the normal way.

### **Our next event**

#### **Indian cookery talk and demonstration Wednesday 16 November 2011, 8pm**

Local Indian food expert, Zahda Saeed, will show us what makes India's cuisine so special and internationally renowned. Food tasting will follow. More details are on page 2.

#### **Venue: The Garden Room, North Bank, 28 Pages Lane, N10 1PP**

North Bank is easy to reach by foot from most parts of the area but there are parking spaces available for those who need them. The 234 bus passes the door and there are stops nearby on Colney Hatch Lane for the 134 and 43 buses and on Alexandra Park Road for the 102 and 299 buses.



Peter says, 'These bikes are a wonderful innovation for getting commuters around the city without emitting carbon. They are perfect for the hills and vales of north London as well as for accelerating easily from junctions and roundabouts'. He also claims they look 'pretty cool' after spotting the mysterious Zone Ranger (pictured, sporting something of a resemblance to Peter himself) riding one in Muswell Hill.

If you wish to express your support for the proposed scheme, contact Peter – his details are on the back page.

See page 3 for more about cycling in Muswell Hill.

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**Working for a cleaner, greener, safer environment**



# Saima's Membership Column

## Dear member,

Firstly, I want to say thank you to everyone who has been writing in with very supportive comments – it is greatly appreciated. Now for some special news...we recently achieved a grand total of **702 members** in our Association! The term 'strength in numbers' is so very suitable here. However, let's not rest on our laurels. Carry on recruiting your friends and neighbours and please do let me know how many there are in your household so that we can update our figures to reflect our strength more accurately.

## New members

A very warm welcome goes to our newest members: **Ruth Schamroth** of Muswell Hill Road, **Peter Petzal** of Woodside Avenue, **Mr and Mrs Koster** of Queens Avenue, **Gillian Clabburn** of Queens Avenue, **Daniel Freedman** of Queens Avenue and **Alan Trott** of Collingwood Avenue. Thank you for supporting our Association and making it stronger.

## Member of the month

Our member of the month is Miss Vivienne Parry OBE of Dukes Avenue and a Muswell Hill resident for 30 years. Her remarkable CV includes working as a television presenter, radio broadcaster and newspaper columnist. She was awarded her OBE in 2011 for services to the public understanding of science. Each year, she opens her garden to raise money for charity under the National Gardens Scheme. It's wonderful to have you on board Vivienne!

Keep those 'member of the month' nominations rolling in please! I'm always astonished at the huge range of interesting people we have among us and it's great to be able to share it.

## Members' topic

Some members have requested standing order forms to help arrange annual bank payments and I thought it might be useful to add the link here for anyone who might be thinking about setting up this convenient payment method:

<http://www.mhfga.1to1.org/standord.html>

If you need to update your standing order to the current rate of £8, you can also use this new mandate and take the completed form to your bank or send it to me if that is more convenient.

I also want to say a BIG thank you for your very generous donations – this, and our membership subscriptions, are our only means of income and they help us to carry out various local activities including the printing of this Newsletter.

## My details

Please keep your comments and feedback coming in. You can get in touch with me by post: MHFGA, PO Box 56960, London N10 9BA or email: [saimawilliams@live.co.uk](mailto:saimawilliams@live.co.uk)

Feel free to post in the Association Facebook group at: [www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!group.php?gid=56250985945](http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!group.php?gid=56250985945)

## Bulletin board

 WE HAVE TWO exciting meetings already planned for next spring. The first will be a police presentation on counter terrorism that will relate to our everyday local lives. Recent news items have proved how difficult it is for local people to spot a terrorist cell operating in their own neighbourhood. It is, additionally, an increasingly likely occurrence. Our presenters will show us how to be aware of the signs and will urge us to upgrade our vigilance. It promises to be an altogether riveting event.

The second meeting will deal with local history. Our speaker, Joyce Rosser, has been involved in Tottenham heritage and conservation issues for five years, both as Tottenham Civic Society events organiser and Conservation Area Advisory Committee secretary. She will tell us about some of the wonderful buildings to be found in Tottenham and give us an insight into some of the interesting issues arising in relation to them. This meeting is certainly a must for all of us who have noted the grandeur of some of Tottenham's architecture and wondered about its origins.

 THE SEARCH IS STILL ON for a meetings organiser to help our Chairman, John Hajdu, arrange future Association events. This is an interesting role that involves making local contacts and ensuring the smooth running of the meetings. If you would like to discuss this do get in touch. John's details are on the back page.

 OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS have compiled their own list of priorities for our area following Haringey Council's exercise in seeking such opinions as part of its development of a local Area Plan for each of the seven area forum committees across the borough. Everyone online is invited to give the Council a view on the four most important issues for his or her area. To submit your own list go to [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk) and navigate to Council and Democracy, then Area Committees and then Your Area – Your Priorities.

The Committee's, in order of preference, are:

1. *conservation and use of green and open spaces*
2. *anti-social behaviour (for example, road related, youths, town centres)*
3. *transport and infrastructure (provision, links, alternatives)*
4. *support to local businesses.*

What are your priorities? Send your views to Chris Barker. His details are on the back page.

## Curry on Zahda

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING (*details on the front page*) will give us a special insight into Indian cuisine thanks to Zahda Saeed, our speaker. She plans to introduce us to the aromatic spices and richly exotic flavours that make Indian cuisine so rich and varied.

Firstly, she will talk about the origins of this cuisine and then will show us some clips on the subject from her own DVD entitled 'How to Cook Authentic Indian Dishes' and featuring her favourite recipes. It demonstrates the simplicity and ease of preparation of traditional Indian recipes and seeks to inspire audience members to try the recipes for themselves. Zahda will also offer samples of the food corresponding to the DVD clip being shown together with recipe sheets.

Our speaker originally trained as a teacher of biology but gave up her work in this field to raise her family. She has since then run Indian cookery classes from her own home showing her students how to cook authentic dishes using quick and easy preparation tips. These inspired the DVD we will be shown at our meeting. She is currently writing a cookery book.

# Alexandra Palace

## news and views



*OUR REPRESENTATIVE, Denis Heathcote, gives us his update on the most recent news to emerge from Alexandra Palace and Park.*

In September a joint informal meeting of the Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committees, followed by a formal meeting of the Statutory Committee, was held, but was not attended by the newly-appointed Chief Executive.

Works to the cricket clubhouse to allow use by Heartlands School were about to begin, but proposals for a large MUGA (hard playing surface area) would now be subject to further public consultation before a planning application was submitted.

The Board of Trustees accepted the urgings of previous meetings regarding Coronation Sidings and entered objections to the planning application. However, the application was later approved anyway by the Planning Sub-Committee.

More musical events, including an 'all-nighter' on 25/26 November ending at 6am, were booked at the Palace. Cllr Cooke, Chair of the Board, announced an imminent shift in public consultation over future events and, in passing, confirmed that there would not be a fireworks display in November on cost grounds.

### **All night disturbance**

A complaint made after the Swedish Mafia music event on 31 May had triggered a review of the premises licence. Palace management sought and generally received support for efforts to deal with issues of noise and litter, and possible disturbance to local residents. The existing licence needed revision in respect of the obligation placed on the Palace to publicise contact numbers to be used in the event of problems. It was confirmed that the Palace website was regularly updated just before each event, with a contact number for the Designated

Premises Supervisor who is the person to complain to about noise, disturbance and other such matters.

It was reported that every Trustee had now signed a Trustee Code of Conduct and declaration of interest and had understood his or her responsibility to act solely in the interests of the charity.

Plans to mark the 75th anniversary of the inauguration of public service television broadcasting at the Palace in November were outlined but were not sufficiently advanced to allow publicity.

### **£4 million 'lost'**

From September regular meetings of a new public stakeholder forum would be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.00pm at the Palace. They will be open to the public and will allow local residents to learn about future plans and to question Palace and Park management.

Removal of dog faeces disposal bins in the Park was discussed at some length. Some members felt strongly that they should be retained or replaced even though dog faeces were no longer classified as 'dangerous waste'.

There followed a protracted discussion on the matter of the legality of the Firoka licence and the possibility of recovery of £4M 'lost' to the charity before the licence was revoked. Serious concern about the conduct of the Board of Trustees at that time was expressed. Had 'independent' legal advice been taken in respect of the alleged £4m 'loss'? Had the trustees been in breach of their responsibilities or not? Did they intend now to take independent legal advice on whether legal advice was given at the time by the legal adviser to the Trustees?

### **Objection ignored**

A confused and awkward discussion included three very broad hints that the Board had sought legal advice on the possibility of recovery of the sum 'lost' but was unable for legal reasons to confirm this or to enter open discussion on the subject. Cllr Cooke and others appealed to the meeting to accept that a great deal of work had taken place to improve corporate governance and to look to regeneration rather than seeking reparation for mistakes in the past.

The formal meeting of the Statutory Advisory Committee (SAC) which followed resolved to enter an objection to the Haringey Heartlands developments on the same grounds as those entered in respect of Coronation Sidings, that is, impact on views from the Palace and Park and interference with Metropolitan Open Land status. The planning application was later approved regardless.

The SAC also supported the premises licence, and asked that the Board of Trustees respond formally to questions previously submitted and obtain independent legal advice on the Firoka licence.

## Local cyclists win support

OUR ASSOCIATION has been offered the opportunity to take part in a choice of cycle training activities in Muswell Hill. This could be anything from a one-off drop-in session to a regular course for a small, committed group of adults or families.

Cycle Training UK, a workers' cooperative, provides cycle training in order to support people to travel by bicycle. The company works with

Haringey Council to provide training in the borough's primary schools and directly to individuals who live, work or study in the borough.

The Council has recently allocated funding for the company to deliver cycle training projects directly with communities. The activities must be community based and either after school, at weekends or during the school holidays.

The activities and courses are free but would have to be completed by March 2012. If you are interested, contact Peter Thompson. His details are on page 8.

## Bicycle parking galore

OUR AREA is well served with cycle parking facilities. Haringey has now produced a map showing the sites. The following is a local summary including numbers of Sheffield stands and hoops: Muswell Hill Road (21); Roseberry Road (1); Alexandra Park Road (3); Fortis Green Road (8); Summerland Gardens (2); Queens Avenue (1); Princes Avenue (1); Hillfield Park (1) and Dukes Avenue (2).

# New planning policy breeds concern

*John Crompton, our Conservation Officer, has written to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) section of the Department for Communities and Local Government, to express our Association's views on recent changes to planning policy.*

*Some extracts from the letter appear below.*

We do not share the thinking behind the NPPF that the present planning regime is an inhibitor of development as, in fact, the vast majority of applications are approved. This is especially true of domestic applications where the quality of the decisions made is very important.

This is particularly valid in an urban area like Muswell Hill where relatively affluent people live in terraced houses and where there are plenty of householders with the resources to fund substantial extensions to their houses.

The planning system is necessary to ensure that a householder's right to carry out development is tempered, where necessary, by the right of near neighbours to not suffer a severe loss of residential amenity by the development.

## **Community consultation**

Last year there was a lot of talk in relation to the Localism Bill about changes to the planning process so that applications would be dealt with using a new and undefined process involving neighbours and (undefined) neighbourhoods making the decision, rather than the local authority.

The other stated aim of this part of the localism agenda was that there would be new ways for people to get involved in the planning system and to make their comments known. Again it was not specified what this would mean in practice, although realistically it was

difficult to see why anyone who wished to make a comment on an application should find the present arrangements at all inhibiting given that local authorities also accept comments by email and via their websites.

It would appear that the NPPF seems to have far less emphasis on community consultation and this would be a wholly retrograde step.

## **Balancing rural and urban**

We are aware that there is concern that the Framework may lead to the loss of rural land and we are concerned that it appears to downgrade the 'town centre first' policy enshrined in PPS4. The opportunity has not been taken to look at how planning policies can prompt sustainable development in town centres and to promote them as places in which people might wish to live.

There is a lot to be gained by having a settled residential population in town centres and we think the planning system should be used to bring this about by, for example, having a presumption in favour of the granting of permission for self-contained residential units above commercial premises. (This is essentially a particular aspect of what should be a general drive towards reducing the number of empty properties.)

To make town centres an attractive place for developers and to bring empty units back into use may require some sort of pump-priming.

## **Low carbon future**

There are other sound reasons to have a settled residential population in a town centre, for example, people can avail themselves of local shops and schools and possibly some people will also find employment locally.

All of this means fewer journeys by road, a hugely significant element of our low carbon future.

## **Open spaces in urban areas**

The desirability of town centres as places to live does depend on the continued existence of adjacent open spaces: both formal spaces, such as parks, where people can go for recreational purposes, and also less formal spaces and undesignated spaces that act as a welcome break in the built environment. These can be large back gardens and small vacant plots of land which sometimes occur between rows of houses, and so on.

We are concerned at what seems to be a dilution of controls to prevent the development of such sites and would welcome a robust statement that the changes will not have this effect.

## **Retrospective applications**

One aspect of the present regime where there is scope for improvement is in connection with retrospective applications. We find it odd that, for example, a wildly inappropriate new shopfront can be installed overnight and permission sought only afterwards.

If the Council refuses permission and this is upheld on appeal, there can then be a very long drawn out process before any change to the offending shopfront is made. Too often the Council loses the will to take the enforcement process all the way with the result that a garish and utterly inappropriate shopfront seriously harms the appearance of the core of the conservation area.

We therefore suggest that there should be certain categories of development for which permission must be obtained before works can commence.

## **Change in land status paves the way for Pinkham Way plant**

ALTHOUGH PLANS for a large new waste processing plant at the Friern Barnet sewage works site near Pinkham Way are currently 'on hold', the new six-week re-consultation by Haringey Council regarding the redesignation of the site, brought about considerable activity as the deadline of 3 November grew close.

The first consultation dealing with the change of designation of the site from employment use to industrial use was carried out last year, but the Independent Planning Inspectorate raised serious concerns about the way it was handled and forced the Council to repeat it.

The Pinkham Way Alliance and our local councillors were all active in urging members of the public to respond to the re-

consultation with their views, and the results are keenly awaited.

In the meantime, member and talented cartoonist, Andy Williams, has sent in his view of what the proposed development would do to our area.



## Synagogue celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

OUR ASSOCIATION was represented at the Muswell Hill Synagogue's special Civic Centenary service on 10 September to mark the continuation of a community that had started in 1911. The Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, was present as was the Mayor of Haringey and other local dignitaries.

The Chief Rabbi's address concentrated on the importance of community and how a successful one is developed. Members of the wider community, such as the local residents' associations received a formal welcome.

The Muswell Hill Synagogue community is part of the United Synagogue, whose spiritual leader is the Chief Rabbi. When it was first founded, prayer meetings took place in a room at a house in Coniston Gardens. For High Holydays, however, the room was too small and the Athenaeum, where Sainsbury's is now, was hired. Then the Athenaeum was used weekly, until the present building, designed by Joe Mendleson, was built in 1965.

A celebratory tea and dance took place on 11 September. It was attended by Bob Segal, 99½, who spoke about his grandfather, one of the 11 founding members.

## Gails of laughter at our meeting

THE OCTOBER MEETING at which Muswell Hill Councillor Gail Engert spoke, was attended by an appreciative audience who greeted her fascinating and entertaining life story with rapt attention. Amusing anecdotes featured in her account and she also shared with us a number of family pictures including ones of herself as a youngster.

Gail traced her life from her early years through to the first part of her career in printing and then when she set up her own business. She described how she entered politics, her motivations and the local issues that spurred her on over the course of the seven and a half years she has been a councillor.

As Gail has lived in Muswell Hill for over 23 years, she gave the talk a local flavour and a good appreciation of why she has enjoyed living here so much.

### **Garden maintenance in Muswell Hill**

*Our Association community project, the planting and maintenance of the Colney Hatch Lane beds, is to be the recipient of £750 following our successful bid for 'Making the Difference' funds. We are now seeking a paid helper to plant and maintain the area. Contact John Hajdu if you know of a suitable candidate. His details are on page 8.*

## Snippets corner

\* Our stall at the Muswell Hill Festival held in September at Cherry Tree Wood, was popular with visitors and four new members were recruited.

\* A regular series of Stakeholder Forums is being started at Alexandra Palace. They take place on the last Thursday of every month and local people are invited to come and give their views on the further regeneration of the Palace.

If you wish to attend, contact Amanda Sears on 020 8365 4366 or email her at [amanda.sears@alexandrapalace.com](mailto:amanda.sears@alexandrapalace.com)

\* Haringey's Citizens' Advice Bureau is running a recruitment campaign for volunteers to work in the bureaux. It is particularly keen on volunteers from the local community and will provide full training and support as well as travel expenses. To apply, phone 020 8347 3103 or email [jane.townsend@haringeycabx.org.uk](mailto:jane.townsend@haringeycabx.org.uk)

\* The London Ambulance Service runs first aid courses for adults and would be happy to lay on a two-hour course for a group of friends or colleagues. If you are interested, phone 020 7783 2534 or email [resustraining@londonambulance.nhs.uk](mailto:resustraining@londonambulance.nhs.uk)

\* Further to the request for information about helicopter noise during the night (see September issue, Letters), we can now report that it occurred because of a burglary in progress at the bottom of Muswell Hill with the suspects being disturbed. The helicopter was being used to guide officers searching the surrounding streets for the suspects.

## Vehicle crossovers – should we object?

AS HARINGEY COUNCIL continues to receive applications for crossovers in our area, Committee members are considering whether to revise the Association policy not to object to them on the grounds that applicants may also be members. They would like to hear what you think – contact John Hajdu with your views. His details are on the back page.

The following points are facts that may help to shape your opinion. In order to ensure that vehicle crossings are properly constructed, all domestic vehicle crossings are built by the Highways Maintenance Team, part of Haringey Council. The team deals with the provision of estimates and receives payments before the work is carried out.

### **Planning permission is required if**

- the property involved has the frontage directly on to a classified road;
  - the property involved is a listed building;
  - the property involved is other than a house for a single family such as a flat, maisonette, commercial or industrial premises.
  - the new hard standing to be constructed is more than 5 square metres in area;
  - traditional, impermeable surfaces that do not control surface water is to be used;
- Conservation Area consent is needed if the works for a vehicle crossover include the demolition of a front wall which is more than one metre in height.*

## Library gets some new friends

**Member Wolfgang Kiernan writes about the latest developments at Muswell Hill Library.**

THE RUMOURED THREAT to reduce and even close some local library services has been replaced by the possibility of increasing use of the libraries to meet social needs. Libraries have always contributed to the life of their local communities and not just because of their physical resources.

Muswell Hill library is no exception; some excellent initiatives have been ongoing there for many years. However, Alexandra Park library is an outstanding example of what can

be achieved over time. It has had the support of a Friends Group for 20 years organising events and initiatives. The library and local community are much the stronger for it.

A fledgling Friends Group now exists at Muswell Hill library, where a recently appointed manager, Lorna Thomson, is in charge. Membership is £2 annually. MHFGA members are especially welcome and are asked to lend their support. Ideas are needed, as well as practical help. The Library desk has membership forms - please consider joining this most worthwhile and very necessary enterprise. The more our libraries are seen as an integral and invaluable aspect of the local social fabric the less likely are we to see them close.

## Too many plastic bags

The 99p shop in Muswell Hill is particularly wasteful in its use of plastic bags. Staff never ask if customers want one but goods are packed into large plastic bags as the price is tagged up. Perhaps the manager could be asked to tell staff to ask if a bag is needed.

*Alison Watson  
St James's Lane*

## Local shops work together

As I am one of our Association's newest members, I thought I would introduce myself. I am a member of the family who has owned and run Frocks Away on Fortis Green Road for nearly thirty years and more recently I set up The Muswell Hill Traders Group (MHTG).

Back in January 2010 the MHTG was brought to life by a group of traders concerned with making a difference on our high street. With a focus on community matters, we set out to make shopping locally an exciting and inviting prospect.

### Family fun

Two successful events ensued, The Muswell Hill Festive Weekend 2010 and Taste Muswell Hill in June 2011: they drew together community groups such as local schools and faith institutions, as well as offered some great special offers and family fun!

Of course, we also fight causes such as the raised parking charges and tackle recycling issues, but our main concern is bringing vibrancy to our wonderful high street in a positive and exciting way. Naturally, as the MHTG loves Muswell Hill, it seems only fitting that we have teamed up with Muswell Hill's Low Carbon Zone and along with implementing our environmental policy we also strive to ensure all our endeavours are as green as possible.

### Festive event

Look out for the MHTG's Festive Magazine this Christmas. It highlights some of the wonderful things about Muswell Hill and also showcases some

# members' letters

of our fantastic local talent! It is available in MHTG members' shops from the end of November.

This year the MHTG will also be repeating our successful Muswell Hill festive event on Saturday 10 December, with lots of family friendly fun, entertainment, food and drink and, of course, some fantastic special offers. So why not walk to your local shops and soak up the festive atmosphere.... and maybe the odd glass of mulled wine too! And whilst you are wondering around Muswell Hill over the festive season, check out the lovely festive lights the MHTG have Funded!

*Emma Whittlestone  
Frocks Away Partner  
MHTG Chair*

[emma@frocksaway.co.uk](mailto:emma@frocksaway.co.uk)

## Unappreciative landlords

There are two properties, numbers 45 and 47 Colney Hatch Lane (two doors away from the Auto Link car dealers), that illustrate the mockery that some landlords and property developers make of our Conservation Area. In one property the period wall has been hammered and just a remnant left: a lack of appreciation if ever I saw it.

This is a common culture amongst those proprietors coming into the Muswell Hill area for a quick fix and hefty bucks from tenants, without any thought of residents' living environment and far less consideration or respect for the Conservation Area.

This type of behaviour causes great concern to residents who care about the area and their environment. Something really needs to be done about this! I would like to hear from other residents with similar sentiments.

*Jane Thompson  
Colney Hatch Lane*

## A community story for our times

I have been organising exhibitions at Sable d'Or in Muswell Hill for over six years, bringing the work of both professional and emerging artists to its walls for the customers' pleasure and their continuing education in art as many people just don't get to our wonderful museums and galleries.

### Growing popularity

Now I'm also the exhibitions organiser at the recently opened Boulangerie Bon Matin in Stroud Green. The exhibitions at both venues change monthly throughout the year and have become very popular. Many of my artists have sold their work through the exhibitions.

One of them, Annalou Oakland, a photographer and sketch artist whose work has been exhibited in both venues, then came up with the idea that we could host a new event called 'Spoken Words' which she organises.

### Weekly gigs

This takes place every Thursday upstairs at Sable d'Or in Muswell Hill. Although we never know who will show up to entertain or to be an audience member, the event is growing.

All the Entertainers are from the jazz world here in London: musicians, poets, writers, rappers, and more. There is no charge for this event and whoever wants to visit is welcome. Annalou takes out her jazz portfolio of her wonderful sketches and her jazz postcards and has these on display on the long communal table at these weekly gigs. She is also a fantastic hostess/mistress of ceremonies.

### Charity

I think this is a wonderful and timely community story as Annalou donates a percentage of her income from sales of her jazz sketches and jazz postcards to a variety of important charities.

Mohamed Ladjassa, proprietor of Sable d'Or, takes no income from any of these art exhibitions or special events; he is doing this from his heart and for our community.

*Joan Podel  
Sable d'Or, Muswell Hill*

## Craft fair raises funds for North London Hospice

THE MUCH-AWAITED annual craft fair run by the North London Hospice is to be held on Saturday 12 November at Tetherdown Hall between 10am and 4pm. Entry is £1 and children go free.

Local artists will fill their stalls with handmade and individual gifts with an eye on the rapidly approaching festive season. Home-made refreshments will be available with Fairtrade tea and coffee.

All the proceeds will go direct to North London Hospice, a local charity providing specialist end-of-life care to local people living with a terminal illness in the London Boroughs of Haringey, Barnet and Enfield as well as support to their friends and family.

All stalls are booked for 2011 but if you would like to be on the mailing list about next year's event, contact Anita 020 8446 2288 or email [abrien@northlondonhospice.co.uk](mailto:abrien@northlondonhospice.co.uk)

# PLANNING MATTERS – a round-up from Pat Bloomfield

## **Applications Approved**

### **Eden Primary, 79 Creighton Avenue**

The application for the new school was approved unanimously by the Planning Sub-Committee on 12 September. Reasons given for approval were that it will provide a high quality education building with benefits for the community. Transport and access was considered satisfactory.

Conditions attached to the approval include:

- a) a Section 106 Agreement at the sum of £82,000 to be made for a highway safety scheme to improve local pedestrian and cyclist conditions;
- b) limitations on extended hours of use outside normal school hours which are 9am to 3pm;
- c) provision of a landscaping plan and an outdoor management plan;
- d) details required of visual and acoustic barriers to protect residents of adjacent properties in Ringwood Avenue.

(Application Ref: HGY/2011/1166)

### **135 Alexandra Park Road**

After a long delay, the application for a 2 storey community hall immediately adjacent to the listed converted church was approved. This replaced an earlier approved application for a single storey building. There is no indication in the Planning Officer's report that the many objections on the grounds of increased parking problems or the effect on the listed building and its setting and/or the flats, had carried much weight in arriving at the decision, although there were amended drawings submitted showing a reduction in overall height of the building.

(Application Ref: HGY/2011/0447)

## **Planning Appeals**

### **85 Woodside Ave, rear of Lauradale Road**

The appeal against Haringey's non-determination of the application for three new detached houses was dismissed on 29 September and planning permission for change of use from a builder's depot to residential was refused.

Reasons the Planning Inspector has given include the increased prominence of the development over and above that of the existing single storey building in the Significant Local Open Land (SLOL). The proposal is not sensitive to the open character of the SLOL, which includes the allotments to the South and the covered reservoir to the West.

The harmful effect on the living conditions of the residents of 12 Lauradale Road due to overlooking was given as the other deciding factor.

Additionally, the Inspector stated that there was no evidence that the applicant had marketed the site for employment use over the required minimum period of 18 months.

The only access via the Lane from Woodside Avenue was not thought to be an adequate reason for dismissal of the application because it is in use to serve the house already built and any new building on the site would need to use this access.

The Council's transportation department had raised no objection to the access.

The outcome is a tribute to the well-organised opposition of local residents including some of our members, particularly as the Inspector states that he has considered all matters brought to his attention. His detailed decision notice is worth reading and can be seen on the Council's website under Planning - Application Search after all the comments listed.

(Application Ref: HGY/2011/0474)

### **Land at the rear of 76 St James's Lane**

The appeal against the Council's refusal of the application to demolish 20 garages and build three, three-bed houses on the site at the rear of a modern multi-storey building towards the lower end of St James's Lane was dismissed in August.

The Planning Inspector stated that it was a poor and cramped design which would adversely affect the living conditions of properties in The Chine and Cascade Avenue by reason of overlooking. These roads are in the Rookfield Conservation Area and are at a considerably lower level than the development site.

This decision was made despite the Council's statement that there is a shortfall in this type of family accommodation.

(Application Ref: HGY/2010/1994)

## **New Applications**

### **Land at rear of 10 -12 St James's Lane**

As anticipated in the July Newsletter, a new application has been submitted for a house on this backland site just below St James's church. This follows the refusal of an application in 2004. The new scheme is for a two-storey house partly sunk into the sloping ground and less obtrusive than the earlier proposal. Nevertheless there is still cause for concern about the effects of the new building and I submitted an objection on the grounds that the scheme failed to maintain or enhance the open nature of this part of the Conservation Area and it would affect the outlook of houses in St James's Lane which are at a lower level and back onto the site.

To some extent houses in Church Crescent looking down on the site would also be affected.

(Application Ref: HGY/2011/1550)

### **Could you be the one?**

*Attractive Association seeks a male or female with GSOH and enthusiasm for planning matters for friendship and fun and maybe a long-term relationship.*

*Yes, we continue the search for a special someone to help Pat in her work with a view to eventually taking over the role. It is an interesting and rewarding job that involves liaising with the local Conservation Area Advisory Committee as well as various Council officials, checking planning information and attending six Committee meetings a year with a planning report.*

*Contact Pat for more information. Her details are on page 8.*

## **St Luke's Hospital goes on sale**

THE FREEHOLD SALE of St Luke's Hospital, with part vacant possession and part leaseback, went on the open market on Saturday 15 October. The 6.3 acre site is in Woodside Avenue, one kilometre from Highgate tube station and is to be sold for re-development. The bid date is noon on Friday 9 December. The sale is being conducted by Knight Frank. The company has set up a dedicated website:

[www.inst.knightfrank.com/view/stlukes](http://www.inst.knightfrank.com/view/stlukes) If you enter the website you will automatically be updated with any further information and viewing details.

This part of the St Luke's site features listed buildings, landscaping and mature trees. Following Pat Bloomfield's intervention, the latter are protected by an Area Tree Preservation Order which covers this part of the site and all the trees, not just specimens or the mature. This means that future development proposals must take all the trees into account.

# Other people's events

**ALEXANDRA PALACE ORGAN APPEAL:** the next event is a silent movies with organ special. The films feature Laurel and Hardy, Monty Banks and Buster Keaton, and the organist is Donald Mackenzie. It will take place on MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER at 7.30pm in the Great Hall at Alexandra Palace. Admission is £7; Friends pay £5. The supper at 6pm is £24 – call 01753 868992 by 16 NOVEMBER to book. Find more details of this and forthcoming events at [www.allypallyorgan.org.uk](http://www.allypallyorgan.org.uk)

**ALEXANDRA PARK WARD DROP-IN SURGERIES (Met Police):** drop-in surgeries are taking place on THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER from 1.30-3pm at The Pavilion, Albert Rec and THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER from 5-7pm at Alexandra Park Library.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - HORNSEY AND WOOD GREEN GROUP:** the group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm at the Friends Meeting House, Church Crescent, N10 3NE, in the Rainforest Room in the basement (ring the top bell). For more details email [jane.bywaters2@hotmail.com](mailto:jane.bywaters2@hotmail.com) or call on 0777 6230182.

**FARMERS' MARKET:** the Alexandra Park farmers' market takes place EVERY SUNDAY at the Hornsey Gate entrance, from 10am to 3pm. Ring 8302 9010 for more information or see [www.weareccfm.com](http://www.weareccfm.com)

**FORTIS GREEN WARD DROP-IN SURGERIES (Met Police):** there are drop-in surgeries on FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER from 10-10.30am in Jenny's Restaurant, on MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER at Muswell Hill Library from 6-6.30pm and on FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER from 1-1.30 at Costa Coffee.

Visit [www.met.police.uk/teams/haringey/fortisgreen](http://www.met.police.uk/teams/haringey/fortisgreen) for more information.

**FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD:** a BTCV work day takes place on TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER from 10am to 3pm. Meet at the bottom of Queenswood Road at 10am. The working group next meets at 10.30am on SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER at The Lodge off Muswell Hill Road, to carry out conservation work. Tools are provided but bring protective gloves. Ring

Lucy Roots on 8883 8875 or visit [www.fqw.org.uk/events/](http://www.fqw.org.uk/events/)

**MUSWELL HILL FRIENDS OF THE EARTH:** the group meets at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Church Crescent, N10 3NE. For more details contact Tim Root on [tim@timroot.net](mailto:tim@timroot.net) or call him on 8340 7764 or 07726 793265.

**MUSWELL & HIGHGATE PENSIONERS' ACTION GROUP:** Members of the group meet regularly at Hilldene Court, 11 Alexandra Park Road, in the lounge on the first floor. A lift is available. Phone Janet Shapiro on 8883 9571 or email her at [janet.rmshapiro@btopenworld.com](mailto:janet.rmshapiro@btopenworld.com) for more details.

**MUSWELL HILL TOY LIBRARY:** upstairs in the Library, it is open on MONDAYS 2-3.30pm and THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS 9.30-12 noon.

**MUSWELL HILL WARD DROP-IN SURGERIES (Met Police):** drop-in surgeries are taking place on WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER from 7-7.30pm at Starbucks and MONDAY 5 DECEMBER from 3-30pm at Royal Palace Café, Park Road. Visit [www.met.police.uk/teams/haringey/muswellhill](http://www.met.police.uk/teams/haringey/muswellhill)

**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 (if recommended by the instructor) and the General Fitness class is at 11.45-12.30pm. There is a 'meet and chat' slot with refreshments provided at 11.15 – 11.45am. Sessions are £2. For more information phone David Restarick on 8365 2466 or email [community@mhmc.org.uk](mailto:community@mhmc.org.uk) Age Concern Haringey advice and help sessions take place on the last FRIDAY of each month from 10.30am - 12.30pm. Call the number above for more details.

North Bank's address is 28 Pages Lane, N10 1PP. Visit [www.mhmc.org.uk](http://www.mhmc.org.uk)

**NORTH LONDON CHORUS:** the next concert is on SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER at 7.30pm in St James's Church. Music by Durufle, Britten, Tavener and Messiaen will be featured. Tickets can be obtained from Les Aldrich music shop in Fortis Green Road. Alternatively, call Ticketline on 3468 1213. For more information visit [www.northlondonchorus.org.uk](http://www.northlondonchorus.org.uk)

## A letter from John Roots, Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields

Coldfall Wood is one of Haringey's ancient woodlands. The Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields have volunteer days on the first Saturday of every month. We meet at the middle entrance to the wood in Creighton Avenue – the one nearest to Ringwood Avenue – at 10am and usually finish at 12.30pm.

The wood needs careful management to keep it as a growing, healthy environment where all kinds of natural life continues to grow and flourish. So, for example, we are clearing back undergrowth and generally opening up the area known as Lovers' Lawn, in the north-western corner of the wood, so that meadow grass and plants can thrive again as they used to.

Hornbeam and oak are the most common trees in Coldfall; but as an ancient wood it also has hazel, birch, hawthorn and other trees and shrubs which were part of our earlier forests. We have a management plan which aims to revive these traditional trees and shrubs. One of the traditional sights of an English woodland in the spring is the fresh green of hazel thickets and their catkins, so during the winter we shall be opening up hazel thickets by the streambed, coppicing them carefully to let in more light and air.

We are lucky to have a stream running through our wood, but the streambed needs to be kept clear of undergrowth. Goat willow grows thickly along the banks and is a valuable resource for all kinds of insects and birds, but a programme of selective coppicing is needed to control its growth before it completely takes over.

We work closely with Haringey's Conservation Officer, with its Parks Department and with local residents who want to achieve these aims. Even without the financial cuts, volunteers are essential if we are to support the regeneration of our wood. So we want all the help we can get from anyone who would like to join us for this valuable work. As anyone who has been a volunteer knows, we get a great sense of achievement from giving some of our time to these tasks – but beware, it can become addictive! For more information please go to [www.coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk)