

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

Incorporating Alexandra Ward



ALL CHANGE

On The Exchange by John Crompton

Quite a lot of new possibilities are on the cards for the top of the hill and the roundabout – originally called The Exchange.

For example, 77 Muswell Hill, the former office block at the top of the hill is due to become flats. The owners want to build balconies, for which permission has been recently been granted, but on the basis of an amended scheme which means no new balconies on the elevation facing the street and on the north east corner, which can be most easily seen from the hill. The Council has additionally stipulated conditions concerning the materials to be used. There are also proposals for 30 Muswell Hill and the Green Man – which have already been mentioned in the Newsletter. The Village pub has been bought by J. D. Wetherspoon, who are due to open it later in the year after an extensive refurbishment. The notable thing about this chain is that they are not known as being a late night operator. This is all for the future – but there have been positive changes already. The pavement along the north west side of the Broadway, approaching the roundabout, has been extensively relaid. The large expanse of pavement near Boots has been improved out of all recognition. And, of course, you can inspect it whilst waiting for the

March/April 2014 Newsletter

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W7 bus from its new stop on the roundabout which was installed after several years of lobbying by the Association. There is an application for new timber window frames in the flats above the kebab shop and we hope that this will act as a spur to others to make much needed repairs to the upper floors of commercial premises.

The latest rather surprising but welcome news is that nationally the figures for the percentage of vacant shop units in town centres is getting better. This certainly seems to be the case with Muswell Hill Broadway and Fortis Green Road with several new businesses opening – or scheduled to open – in recent weeks.

And Committee member Brian Livingstone has rung the changes too. He has replanted the flower boxes around the roundabout with violas – these should brighten up the Broadway to the end of Spring.

MARCH MEETING

In association with the Muswell Hill & District Horticultural Society, we're delighted to announce the March meeting. John Hauxwell of the North London Beekeepers' Association will give an enlightened view of the behaviour of bees, including why they swarm and what are the impacts of weather on their honey yields. Plus some very useful advice about the pros and cons of keeping bees in London, not forgetting the neighbours.

Join us at North Bank Methodist Church in Pages Lane, Muswell Hill at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 19 March. Parking is not a problem.



European honey bee extracting nectar – Photo by John Severns

Important Dates for the Diary

March – Wednesday 19 March –
Keeping Bees in North London.
7.30 p.m. (see Page 1)

April – Wednesday 16 April. A talk
on Homelessness in Muswell Hill.
7.30 p.m. See Page 3.

May – Annual General Meeting 21
May – Full details and agenda will
be in the next Newsletter. Plus
news of a presentation and a
special offer from The Clissold
Arms.

*All Association meetings are held at
North Bank, Pages Lane, N10 1PP*



The Association welcomes contributions from members and always needs help with environmental projects. We also appreciate support in organising meetings, finding speakers, delivering Newsletters, dealing with the press and administration and not least recruiting new members. If you have any other thoughts about your involvement, please write to John Hajdu, Chairman, at hajdu.clarion@talk21.com, or come to our Members' Meetings – the next one is on Wednesday 19 March.

PLANNING UPDATE Nick Barr

There have been no new applications for major developments since the last Newsletter. Those that have previously been made are progressing in one way or another and below is an update on the current position of each of the significant projects that will affect members.

30 Muswell Hill

This application to develop a currently empty site on Muswell Hill into twelve residential flats and ten car parking spaces was granted permission on 16 January, subject to conditions including prior approval of landscaping and materials. The Association will be monitoring the applications relating to these conditions to ensure that the character of the area is maintained as far as is possible.

56 Muswell Hill (the Green Man and LCCCP School)

No decision has yet been made. In a Special Planning Report dated 19 December 2013, the proposed development (to demolish the existing LCCCP school and the night club behind the Green Man and part of the restaurant to create a new school with a frontage on Muswell Hill, and twenty-eight residential units consisting of six houses and twenty-two flats) was stated to be acceptable subject to a financial agreement being put in place. The Report also stated that the shortfall in affordable housing was acceptable given that a high quality specialist school will be provided.

10-27 Connaught House, Connaught Gardens

Members will recall from the last Newsletter that MHFGA strongly oppose this large and wholly unsympathetic application to refurbish and extend the current property to create twenty-eight residential units and nine car parking spaces. The site is prominent and the design brutalist in the context of the surrounding architecture and an objection has been lodged along with 80 others, the majority objecting. The Connaught Gardens Residents group has informed us that the planning case officer could find no grounds to object, despite the numerous negative comments on the web site, and would recommend approval. It seems that the final decision may have had to be delayed due to technical issues with the application and consequently this is not a lost cause. More information on the application can be seen on the Haringey planning web site / Applications Search / reference HGY/2013/2421. Geoff Hunt, co-ordinator, Connaught Gardens Residents can be contacted at hunt.geoff@btinternet.com.

LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES IN THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

There's still time to enter the Photo Competition. Prizes to be won! With the theme of "Hidden Muswell Hill", the judges are looking for your images of the unusual, rarely seen, out of sight or out of the ordinary in Muswell Hill.

Q: How to enter the Competition?

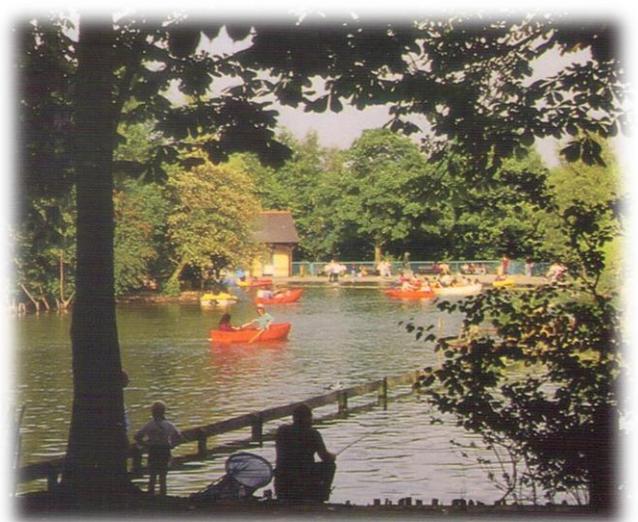
A: Upload your Images in jpg format to Anthony.wells@btinternet.com. Provide a title for your image/s. Maximum of 3 images per entrant. Provide your name, age (if under 17), email address, and a phone number.

Q: When's the deadline for entries?

A: The last date for entries is 31 March 2014 .

So get those shutters clicking – and let's find out how you see our great neighbourhood.

A photo tells a thousand words



APRIL MEETING

Homelessness in Muswell Hill and YOU!

Like it or loathe it – We can't pretend that homelessness is not an issue in Muswell Hill.

Lia Leonis, CEO of the All People All Places charity, will lead an informed evening which will include real life scenarios with a focus on practical solutions. What will **you** do – cross the road? Lia has an in depth understanding of these present issues and will welcome your interaction.

Level of intensity : Power packed, so buckle up!

Wednesday 16 April, North Bank 7.30 p.m.

Alex's Corner

Dear Members

Our warmest welcome to our new members and supporters: Tom and Jean Helke of Southern Road; Rosalind Davy of Collingwood Avenue; George and Mari Gomori of Windermere Road; Pauline Hudson of Tetherdown; Nigel Tattersfield of Connaught Gardens; and Philip McGuinness of the intriguingly named Tootoomoo restaurant in Crouch Hill.

Many thanks to all those who have sent additional donations and have offered to take an active role in the Association.

Please let me know if you want more copies of the Newsletter to distribute to friends and neighbours.

Finally, a plea to our long-standing members who have not updated their bank standing orders. Please check your bank statement and make sure that your order is for £8 per year (£20 for corporate members). If you need a new mandate, use the form at the back of this Newsletter, or download from http://mhfga.org/?page_id=45. Or drop me a line and I shall make sure you get the form in your letterbox.

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



MHFGA BOOK FORUM

ARE YOU A LOCAL WRITER OR A PUBLISHER? DOES THE IDEA OF LOCAL BOOK FORUM APPEAL TO YOU? THE SUGGESTION WOULD BE TO HAVE A REGULAR COLUMN IN THIS NEWSLETTER, AND MAYBE SOME SHAMELESS PLUGS FOR YOUR OWN BOOKS! EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST WELCOME — WRITE TO davidorme@aol.com

Geoff & Enid Hunt moved to Connaught Gardens on a temporary basis in 1975 from Belsize Park. They're still here – in the same house – 38 years later!

For the past ten years, Geoff has acted as co-ordinator for the residents and the Neighbourhood Watch. A busy role particularly when a planning application to build a huge block of flats on the Connaught House site was submitted just before Christmas.

'We are anxious to preserve the special character of the neighbourhood, which unfortunately is not part of the Muswell Hill Conservation Area,' says Geoff. Geoff and Enid organised support (including MHFGA) for an application for Conservation Area status for their neighbourhood. They produced a booklet, now deposited at Haringey Archives in Bruce Castle and Hornsey Historical Society, using many photographs and describing the history and special character of our area. Unfortunately Haringey Council for financial reasons was not able to progress that application. 'We remain ever-vigilant to try and prevent inappropriate development,' says Enid.

They're enthusiastic supporters of the Highgate Choral Society, and Enid sings with North London Chorus. Geoff runs an opera group and gives talks to Opera Circle members from the Highgate Scientific & Literary Institution. Both are members of the HSLI, as well as the Harpenden Area Decorative and Fine Arts Society, where Geoff checks on their finances. And, not forgetting, 'We also help deliver the MHFGA Newsletter!'

Homes for the 21st Century

Most houses in Muswell Hill weren't designed for 21st century lifestyles, so it's natural to want to make changes. And the choices one can make have a big impact on the appearance, the comfort levels and energy costs. Making the right decisions now will bring benefits for many years to come – yet sometimes it's hard to find out where to start, who to ask, or what things really look like. If you're thinking of improving your home this year, visit the 21st Century Homes Character Comfort Low Carbon weekend event on 15/16 March. More details on Page 7. The event combines a conference/exhibition with expert speakers on a range of topics from heating and lighting to insulation and renewable, as well as over fifteen exhibitors from local companies and organisations.

QUEEN'S WOOD

Suffolk horses –the oldest breed of heavy horses in Britain –arrived to help out with traditional coppicing in historic Queen's Wood in January. In the old-fashioned way, horses help to drag felled timber through the wood to encourage re-growth and allow more light. Horses cause much less compaction of soil and damage to the woodland floor than modern machines. The coppicing was organised by the Friends of Queen's Wood and Haringey Council. John Dorken, chair of the Friends of Queen's Wood, said: 'To have horses here in the woodland is just fantastic.' Residents near Coldfall Wood were delighted to see that heavy horses were coppicing there too in February!

(Photo: Michael Johns for FQW)



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

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), **Prohibition Wines** (Paul Shanley), **Robert Linsky Opticians** (Robert Linsky), **Storybookers Ltd** (Norman Bailey), **The John Baird** (Keith Nicholas), **Tim Moss Furniture** (Tim Moss), **Toffs of Muswell Hill** (George and Costas Georgiou), **Tootoomoo** (Philip McGuinness), **Tree Trust for Haringey** (Julia Edwards).

You may have eaten at Tootoomoo, the popular pan-Asian restaurant in North London, but did you know how involved they are in the community?

As well as attending major local events they regularly sponsor charities including Noah's Ark Hospice, Alexandra Wylie Trust Foundation and Action for Kids. They work with a different charity every month, raising money and awareness for good causes.

In just one year, this restaurant has centred itself at the heart of the community, whether it be donating seeds to the Whittington Hospital community garden, face painting at Rokesly school fair, or tree-planting with Manor House PACT in Finsbury Park, the team is always eager to get involved in local projects.

Tootoomoo also works closely with qualified educationalists and has developed its own Schools Programme to provide schools in Muswell Hill and the surrounding areas with free wider curriculum activities around health, nutrition, business, and knowledge and understanding of the world. They currently work with children and young people in schools in Crouch End, Muswell Hill and Highate, with a keen focus on helping young people to aspire and reach their full potential. This year they have already begun working with Coldfall School and 345 Nurseries, both Muswell Hill based, on cooking and literacy projects.

They love to meet people from the communities they serve and would like to offer members of MHFGA this voucher for 20% off their first visit to the Crouch End restaurant.



**20% off for all
MHFGA members.**

Simply cut out this coupon and present it when you eat-in at our Crouch End branch and order from our à la carte menu, Mon-Fri, 12-3pm.

Find us on line at tootoomoo.co.uk, call us on 0203 667 5111, visit us at 12 Crouch End Hill N8 8AA.



*Crime prevention tips
from the Safer
Neighbourhood Team*

Doors

Doors are the primary route of entry and exit for most burglars, so it's vital you secure them effectively. You can improve home security by making simple adjustments to your front door, for example, ensure you have adequate locks and security fittings.

This section contains advice and tips to help you improve security within your home.

Tips

- The door should be fitted with a 5 lever mortice deadlock.
- Ensure that the frame is strong and will support the door, hinges and lock.
- Make sure the door is suitable for external use and is a minimum of 45mm thick.
- Consider fitting a London Bar or Birmingham bar to provide additional support to the door frame.
- Letterboxes should have an internal cover plate.
- For additional safety and security fit a spy hole and door chain.
- Do not leave house keys in or near the door as they can get removed

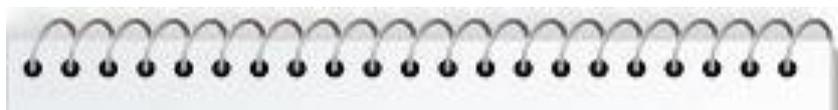
Total Policing is the Met's commitment to be on the streets and in our communities to catch offenders, prevent crime and support victims.

Our Chairman John Hajdu is in regular contact with the local Police, and he reports that 'I have spent some time with our local police inspector, and having complained that people could not get through to the local police, we now have an agreement and a number to call.'

The telephone number is 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.



Natalie Shaw, Inspector - Neighbourhood Policing, West Haringey, shares this insight into the extremes of local police work:

Late one Friday night recently, your local officers were completing a patrol on Dukes Avenue. As they passed an exit from Alexandra Palace, something caught their eye. They swiftly entered the park and heard a very loud scream and a woman shouting for help. The officers ran to the sound and saw a man on top of a woman. They hauled him off, and after a struggle, managed to handcuff him. The woman was crying, and extremely frightened. The officers took her to the mini bus and gradually calmed her down. She was able to state that the perpetrator had followed her off the bus and said he wanted to 'walk her home'. She said she was OK and he appeared to walk away in front of her. Suddenly he was there again, threatening to kill her, and he pushed her to the ground. That was when she screamed, and the police appeared almost immediately. Brilliant example of your neighbourhood officers spotting something that might be suspicious, reacting very swiftly and saving a woman from a violent attack which could have been much worse.

On a different level, the Fortis Green team was out on patrol with the aim of giving advice to builders about vehicle crime. In Elms Avenue, some workers told them there was a pet rabbit, obviously lost and away from home, on the site. The team managed to catch it and, after going door to door in three streets, a helpful resident gave them the information they needed - he belonged to a home in Wellfield Avenue. One very happy little girl was thus reunited with her rabbit, and she now knows the police are truly there to serve - even if a missing bunny could hardly be described as a major incident!

Since then, more recently, officers have been on standby with wellies and waders to assist in areas of flooding .

21ST CENTURY HOMES CHARACTER COMFORT LOW CARBON WEEKEND EVENT.



Visitors at last year's 21st Century Homes Character Comfort Low Carbon event.

Thinking of improving your home? Don't miss Muswell Hill Sustainability Group's weekend Conference and Exhibition: Saturday 15 March 1.30 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Hornsey Moravian Church, Priory Road N8 7HR. House tours Sunday 16 March (book online). Book Online at <http://mhsgroup.org/register-for-the-event/>

Hornsey Pensioners Action Group (HPAG) has been established in this area for over twenty years. HPAG campaigns for the Pensioners' Charter, regularly lobbying the local MP and bringing older people's concerns to decision makers. The members are 'young at heart' and certainly not 'old fogies'. Over 50s are welcomed at meetings. Subscription is very reasonable and members receive a notice with news for each meeting. Meetings are held at the Marian Centre, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH, on the third Wednesday of each month (except August), from 2 p.m. Coming up: 'What future for the NHS?' on 19 March and 'What do local council candidates promise us?' on 16 April. Contacts: Ann Anderson 020 8340 8335, Pamela Jefferys 020 8444 0732 and Janet Shapiro 020 8883 9571 janet.rmshapiro@gmail.com.

Will Todd's "Rage against the Dying of the Light" is a setting of one of Dylan Thomas's best-loved poems. This new Crouch End Festival Chorus commission marks the centenary of the poet's birth and receives its world premiere as part of CEFC's ongoing 30th anniversary celebrations. Plus Mahler's Symphony No. 2. (Full chorus, soloists, and tolling church bells join the orchestra in the tremendous climax to this masterwork) Crouch End Festival Chorus, with Forest Philharmonic Orchestra. Saturday 22 March, at 7.30 p.m., Barbican.

Support the North London Hospice on its Big Fun Walk, following a route from East Finchley tube station through Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Woods, Primrose Hill and Regents Park, and finishing near Parliament Square). Advance registration essential. www.bigfunwalk.co.uk for details. 9 a.m. Sunday 6 April.

MUSWELL HILL TOY LIBRARY

'We are now in our 28th year, and still going strong'. Open Mondays 2 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! Low subscription (£12 for a whole year, £8 for 6 months, or a tester sub £5 for three months). "Stories and Music" sessions during the Monday and Thursday sessions are FREE to all. 1st Floor – Muswell Hill Library, Queens Ave, N10 3PE.

Fill Your Boots!

Local environmental group En10ergy have announced a new date for another great Compost Giveaway – get your buckets down to the Paddock Car Park, Alexandra Palace on the morning of Sunday 6 April.



Join the Friends of Queen's Wood on 12 April for a Spring Walk, led by David Bevan, naturalist. 2 p.m. Meet at The Lodge off Muswell Hill Road. Plant sale including wild flowers. All welcome. Plus, working parties on the last Sunday of each month, walks and talks. Full information on www.fqw.org.uk or tel: John Dorken 020 8372 6213

Hornsey Historical Society – Returning to Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" – a talk by Dr Tony Williams. Wednesday 9 April, 8 p.m., at the Union Church Hall, N8 9PX, corner of Ferme Park Road and Weston Park. A donation of £2.00 is requested from non-members. Refreshments are available.

Highgate Choral Society will perform Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle on Saturday 17 May at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's Church, South Grove, Highgate. www.hcschoir.com

Farmers Market, every Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. usually at Alexandra Palace – Muswell Hill (bottom) Entrance, N10 3TG, alternatively at Campsbourne School nearby. Check at www.weareccfm.com.

Prudence recommends that you check all times and dates with the organizers. 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 April 15 2014.