

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

Incorporating Alexandra Ward

RETAILERS AND RESTAURANTS

The Committee's stalwart secretary John Crompton goes window shopping

A lot of research and observation is constantly being undertaken by the MHFGA. One of the enduring questions is 'why do we have so many charity shops?' Naturally, we'd rather see a shop in use, rather than closed, but most of the charity shops on the Broadway are granted 100 per cent business rates relief, despite most being part of big national enterprises, often run as regular commercial operations with paid staff etc. Whether this disadvantages local charities is something you may have a view on.

At the moment, on Fortis Green Road, the former greengrocer remains closed, as do two other shops. Progress on the flats and shops near the Odeon continues, still causing some controversy. The two pillar brands, Wagamama and Metro Bank, have now withdrawn from the 'piazza development'.

Phones 4u, at 189 Muswell Hill Broadway, has ceased trading. We considered that this shop had a particularly nasty fascia and it was to be hoped that this could be rectified by any new tenant. It is now trading under the EE brand, with a new fascia which is an improvement on the former one. So a good outcome.

LOOKING NORTH

On the northern arm of the Broadway, the former three unit furniture shop is currently being converted into premises for a new Cote restaurant. They have applied for permission to site tables outside. Again, I ask if any members have a view on these?

At 275 Muswell Hill Broadway, formerly Collins Jewellers, an application has been lodged for a new shopfront (HGY/2014/1947) which was granted, and in the last few weeks an application has been submitted for a change of use to restaurant. The main concern would be, if permission was granted, that there would be a long row of several properties of non-retail use which is contrary to policy. There is also the suggestion that a new restaurant site could be combined with the adjoining Midori restaurant to form a larger operation. This would mean that all the large restaurants were concentrated in one area, which is the furthest distance from the car parks. One of these restaurants, pizza favourite La Porchetta, has undergone substantial refurbishment and has been closed for a long time. It is far from clear what is happening – at the time of writing only half of it has re-opened.

Finally, number 229, formerly La Miel café, is to become a branch of Coffee Cup, an established part of the Hampstead scene complete with tables outside. The opening hours, stated in the planning application which was granted last year, are up to midnight.



November/December 2014 Newsletter

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The Association Needs You



New members Ruth Schamroth and her partner Jeremy Green, with the Association's Chairman John Hajdu (left), kindly helped to recruit more members. Lys de Beaumont and Pat Lott were also on hand to offer support. The Association hopes to make this stall event a regular Saturday feature on the Broadway by the notice board. If you would like to volunteer, contact John Hajdu (details on page 2)

Muswell Churches Soup Kitchen

Read about Martin Stone in our
Member in Profile on page 5

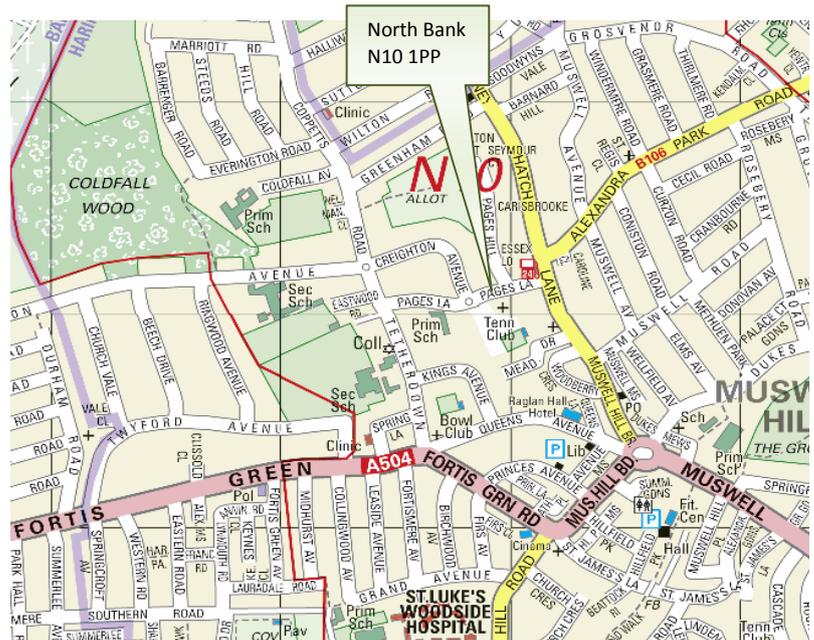
*Date for the Diary***WHERE ARE THE BOBBIES ON THE BEAT?**

The next MHFGA meeting is on Wednesday 12 November at North Bank, Pages Lane. The meeting will start at 8.00 pm. We're delighted to welcome Inspector Matthew Casey to tell us 'What does your local police actually do for you?'

The talk will cover local crime statistics, visibility of the police and will give burglary prevention advice. The Inspector will also talk about local ward promises. Our guest speaker will run the meeting with representatives of the three wards also present.

No doubt there will be many questions. Be there!

Advance Notice: Saturday 20 June 2015
Queens Wood walk - see five years of progress

***Wanted - Association helpers***

Following our appeal in the last Newsletter for support in our various activities, we were delighted with the response of those kind individuals who came forward. We will always need more volunteers to help in a number of key areas: Finding speakers and taking notes and photos at our four meetings, and contributing to this Newsletter. Keeping in touch with local organisations and encouraging them to use our Newsletter and the Notice Board to publicize their events. Sending press releases to the local press, covering our annual competitions, meeting, etc. Helping with recruitment, and working with the local traders.

If you would like to help with some/any of these important tasks, please write to John Hajdu, Chairman, at hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

ALEX'S CORNER

Welcome

A very warm welcome to our newest members: **Maryam Atakhorrani** and **Simon Tindemans** of Fortis Green Road; **Dawn Fernandez** and **Peter Bardsley** of Burlington Road; **Denise Haddon** of Goodwin Vale; **Catherine** and **James Graham** of Fortis Green; **Vassos Kyriacou** of Muswell Hill Place; **Mridu Thanki** and **Gordon Peters** of Alexandra Park Road; **Chris Roche** of Wilton Road; **Amir Eilon** of Firs Avenue; **Yasmin** and **Jonathan Gale** of Huntingdon Road; and **Nichola McKerrow** and **Mitchell Todd** of The Avenue. Thank you for supporting the Association.

Thanks

We are very grateful to all those who have sent donations with their membership subscription, and special thanks to John Sparrow of Fortis Green for the very generous donation which will be used towards the flower boxes at the Muswell Hill roundabout.

MHFGA Stands

On 11 and 18 October, organised by our member Ruth Schamroth, the MHFGA stands have been distributing information about the Association, and revised schedules and maps of the bus diversions. A big thank you to all who stopped by to talk to us and find out more about the Association. Both events confirmed the interest of the residents of Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra Ward in safeguarding the local environment and quality of life and the work we do to that effect. We are delighted that as a result so many new members are joining and supporting us in our campaigning and activities for our community. If you did not have a chance to come and talk and want to find out more what we do or apply for membership, visit our website www.mhfga.org.

Roadworks

Our local traders are complaining that Muswell Hill has been turned into a ghost town and are reporting heavy losses because cars, buses and the shoppers traffic are being diverted. The situation is likely to remain bleak for everybody until Colney Hatch Lane is reopened sometime in November 'weather permitting'. In the meantime, do keep shopping in Muswell Hill and support your local businesses.

As usual, I shall be emailing all members with the latest updates and links to find out details of access, refuse collection and parking.

Please send your comments, suggestions and requests to membership@mhfga.org or write to The Membership Secretary, MHFGA, 49 Halliwick Road, London N10 1AA.

Thanks! *Alex*

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

Ethical Edibles (Donatella Bernstein), **Victory Auto Services** (Mark Bharadia), **Woodland Tree Surgery** (Christopher Hill), **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), **Robert Linsky Optometrist** (Robert Linsky), **The John Baird** (Keith Nicholas), **Tim Moss Furniture** (Tim Moss), **Toffs of Muswell Hill** (George and Costas Georgiou), **Tootoomoo** (Philip McGuinness), **Clissold Arms** (George Kyriakos Karageorgis).

WEBSITE UPDATE

When did you last pay a visit to the Association's website, www.MHFGA.org? Our webmaster, Tony Wells, reports that the number of users to the website and the time spent looking and the page views, are all up by more than eleven percent, with visitors from as far afield – according to the analytics – as the USA, Brazil and Italy. Alex Vincenti has added most of the old Newsletters to the archive, a rich resource for anyone to learn more about the area and the activities of the Association.

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS!

Thanks to the efforts of Brian Livingstone, committee member for the environment, the flower boxes and troughs around the Broadway have been freshly replanted with a fine seasonal selection that should last until the new year.

Brian reports, 'We purchased the plants from Sunshine Garden Centre, who advised on the choice of plants. The planting was carried out by The Avid Gardener (Mark Falconer). I visited all the adjacent shops who help to keep an eye on the flower boxes and gave them a copy of our latest Newsletter to maintain their interest and to give them an opportunity to join the Association. Cara Jenkinson of the Muswell Hill Sustainability Group has indicated that they will make a contribution.' Thanks to everyone for their support.



Area Forum Bulletin...

Colney Hatch Lane/Alexandra Park Road junction. Ways of making things easier for pedestrians have been investigated by the council, but rejected on the grounds that each would cause unacceptable traffic tailbacks. Only some minor adjustments to timing and the positioning of traffic lights have been approved.... **20 mph proposals.** A map shows the streets proposed for the 20 mph limit. In our area it consists of all roads with the exception of Aylmer Road (which is a TfL road), Great North Road, Fortis Green, Queens Avenue, Muswell Hill, Priory Road, Park Road. Consultation starting soon... **Bus accessibility.** TfL has approved the proposal to add the 144 to the Muswell Hill Broadway stop. This will start in December... TfL is investigating the establishment of permanent stops for the 234 along at least part of Coppets Road. They are particularly influenced by the appeal for a stop near the top of Trott Road for the benefit of the residents of Gilson Place.

Have fun with this local music quiz – based on people with connections to Muswell Hill!

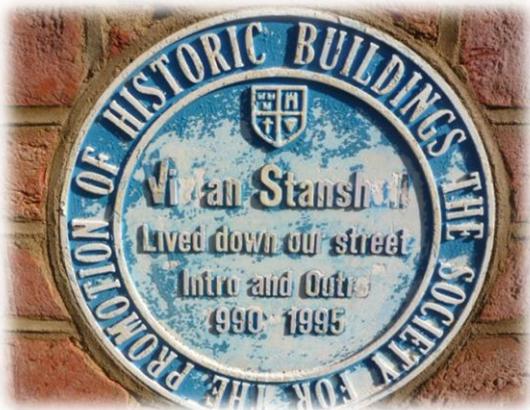
Maximum score 10 points, answers on page 8.

1. Curzon Road.



August Jaeger was an Anglo-German music publisher, working in London. To which great British composer was Jaeger a close friend and adviser? And, why Nimrod?

2. Hillfield Park.



Vivian Stanshall, gifted wit and Bonzo, was 'Master of Ceremonies' on which groundbreaking 1973 record (sales 2.6m copies)?

3. Muswell Hill.

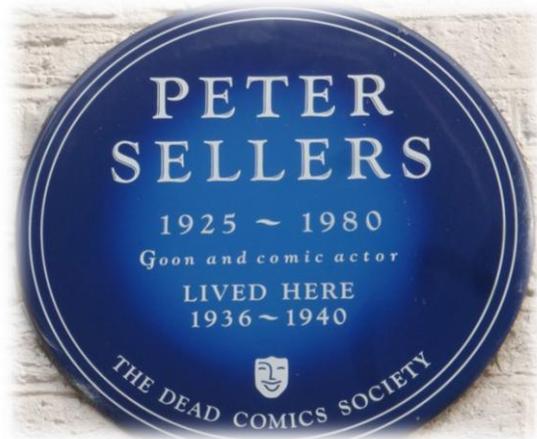
In 1982, who was "driving in my car, it's not quite a Jaguar.. to Muswell Hill"?

4. Fortis Green.



What type of meeting used to happen here in the late 1960s? And what is the name of the Oxfordshire village that annually hosts this influential group?

5. Muswell Hill Road.



Duetting with whom did this actor have a top five UK hit in 1960? And in 1965, which Beatles song was a solo top twenty hit for him?

6. Fortis Green.



This pub is famous for hosting the first gig in 1960 by a local band, who went on to enjoy recording success for three decades. What was their name?

7. Ally Pally.



A rare concert ticket stub, but in which year did Britpop band Blur host their Alexandra Parklife concert?

LOCAL CHARITY FOCUS

North London Hospice

North London Hospice provides emotional, spiritual and practical support to terminally ill patients, their families, friends and carers.

The vision is that everyone in our diverse community has equal access to the services and support they need to maximise their quality of life. The Hospice cares for more than 1,400 patients each year, in people's homes, in the inpatient unit and the day centre.

The services are provided by specially trained multi-professional teams, which include doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors and physiotherapists. The staff are focused on looking after the individual rather than the illness - understanding the human being, their family and friends and making the last days of patients' lives the best they can be - leaving family with the best memories they can have.

Director of Fundraising Robin Langrishe said: 'We value and promote an ethos of respect and we are proud of our identity as the UK's first purpose built, multi-faith hospice.

'We want to help our patients live life to the full. We treat people as individuals and respect their personal beliefs, lifestyle and culture.'

Mr Langrishe added: 'We could not do what we do without the support of our local communities in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. There is no charge for any of our services. The Hospice is a registered charity and we receive only 25% of our funding from the NHS. The Hospice relies on donations and legacies to help raise more than £7.5 million every year to ensure we are able to provide the excellent services our patients deserve.'

'The highest quality of medical care is a given – the humanity, kindness, safety and love is what makes us special.'



If you are interested in organising your own fundraising event for the Hospice, please contact the fundraising department on 020 8446 2288.

Member in Profile



Martin Stone is leader of the Muswell Churches Soup Kitchen (Charity no. 1136971). He has lived in Muswell Hill for eight years and has been involved in the soup kitchen for the last seven years. The whole project is voluntary and is supported by local schools and community groups. Martin also runs the Reflective Practice School for volunteers working in this sector.

The soup kitchen serves about fifty people a night from 7.45 to 8.45 pm, Sunday to Thursday. Muswell Hill Baptist Church kindly allows the use of their premises.

About 10,500 meals are served each year and 4,000 provided as takeaways. Local churches, schools and synagogues provide lots of food, especially at harvest time! As an indication of the scale of the requirements, Martin suggests that the annual food requirement looks something like this:

- 2500 cans of soup
- 1000 cans of tinned tomatoes
- 1000 cans of vegetables
- 200 cans of fish
- 600 packs of pasta
- 300 packs of rice
- 500 bags of sugar
- 2500 pints of milk
- 1000 loaves of bread
- 1200 lbs of meat

'Feeding people is very important,' says Martin. 'But many of our guests have complex needs which can include alcohol and drug problems, dementia, phobias, physical illness, learning disabilities and schizophrenia. So we also offer supportive services linked into statutory and voluntary organisations that can empower the guests to start new lives away from the street homeless culture.'

If you wish to volunteer or donate, please contact Martin on martinstone18@gmail.com

MUSIC AT ST ANDREW'S

Recital for violin and piano

Sebastian Muller (violin) and Nico de Villiers (piano)

Violin Concerto in D Major (Beethoven), October Musings for Violin and Piano (Hageman), Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major (Franck)

Admission by donation.

Sunday 2 November at 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DD

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

New London Orchestra, Mozart: Requiem and Corp: And all the Trumpets Sounded.

Saturday 8 November 7.00 pm

All Hallows Church, Savernake Road, Gospel Oak, NW3

And FAMILY CAROLS

New London Childrens Choir and HCS

Saturday 6 December 6.00pm

St, Michael's Church, South Grove, N6

Tickets £10.00 (£3.00 concessions), from

www.hcschoir.com

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society's HQ, the Old Schoolhouse, is open to the public, The shop opens 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday for the sale of the society's publications and local history enquiries.

Tel: 020 8348 8429. 136 Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, N8 7EL

Putting on a show? Got an exhibition coming up? Music group? Book club? Promote it to a wider audience on the MHFGA noticeboard, opposite St James's Church. Contact Jack Whitehead at Jack.Whitehead@btinternet.com

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

ALEXANDRA PALACE

War on The Home Front is a fascinating exhibition of local collectibles and stories, with a short video, on the role the Palace played in the 1914-1918 war. Tickets £1.00. www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/war-on-the-home-front/

"DANCING STRICTLY" IS BACK!

Sign up TODAY and become one of twelve couples to be in the running to take home North London Hospice's "Dancing Strictly" dazzling 1st prize trophy! Each couple will receive eight weeks of dance lessons culminating in a show-stopping performance at the Pentland Theatre, Artsdepot in Finchley on Saturday 7 February 2015.

To register or receive more information please contact Charlotte on 020 8446 2288 or email at cmatthews@northlondonhospice.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.

ACTION FOR KIDS 3k Christmas Sponsored Walk

Raising vital funds for local disabled youngsters, join in the fun for all the family. In association with Fortismere School. Meet at St James' Church, N10 10.45 am. To take part or for information contact Lucy on 020 8347 8111 or email: events@actionforkids.org

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

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. Alexandra ward has the next surgery on 5 November 4.00 pm to 4.30 pm at Alexandra Park Library, Alexandra Park Road, N10. Fortis Green has a surgery in Muswell Hill Library in Queens Ave N10 on 12 and 24 November, from 6.00 pm to 6.30 pm..

SINGING IN THE RAIN

17 December to 25 January 2015

Based on one of the world's best-loved movies, this fabulous production by Ovation features all the songs from the glorious MGM score including: Good Morning, Make 'em Laugh, Moses Supposes and the classic Singin' in the Rain.

Upstairs at The Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6 4BD.

Tickets £14/£12 concs. BOX OFFICE: 020 8340 3488

FROM POWER TO PRISON TO PEACE

An amazing evening with Jonathan Aitken.

This talk will cover his remarkable career, in books, newspapers, TV, politics, prison and rehabilitation. Followed by a Q&A. All proceeds to North London Hospice.

Tuesday 6 January 2015 at 8.00pm

Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BT

Tickets £25 inc. refreshments, available from Peter Kraushar on 020 8883 4736 or North London Hospice on 020 8446 2288.

Answers to the Music Quiz on page 4:

1. Sir Edward Elgar; Nimrod was the great hunter in the Bible, and Jaeger is the German word for hunter.
 2. Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells.
 3. Madness.
 4. Convention; Cropredy.
 5. Sophia Loren, with Goodness Gracious Me; It's Been a Hard day's Night.
 6. The Kinks.
 7. 1994.
- Scores: more than 7 – musical genius; 4 to 6 - you need a little help from your friends; 3 or less – keep on busking.

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 15 December 2014.

Write to editor@mhfga.org

Alexandra Palace and Park

Committee member, Duncan Neill, reports from the Palace

There have been public exhibitions and consultation on the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) design proposals for the East Court, the theatre and the BBC Wing. Over 1,600 responses have been received and a combination of phone interviews, email interviews and face-to-face meetings have also taken place with more than forty local groups. This is a positive sign of engagement by local residents and interested parties.

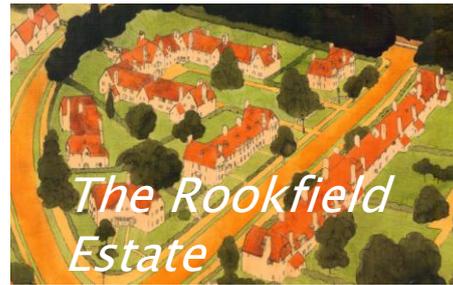
In terms of the HLF bid itself, the next review stage was passed with the HLF "strongly welcoming the overall design, interpretation and content concept and being solidly assured of progress in all areas to budget and programme".

Some members of the committees raised concerns that the planned designs for the BBC studios would miss the opportunity to conserve more of what the original fabric and set-up would have been. Chief Executive Duncan Wilson explained that a lot of these materials have already disappeared, deteriorated or would cost far too much to make safe. Further discussion between those with the strongest views and the Palace was agreed, but it seems unlikely that the designs will be able to incorporate much change. The timetable remains to submit planning and listed building applications in November followed by the Round 2 HLF funding application. The decision by the HLF cannot happen before planning consent, which should be determined in March or April 2015. This would allow work to start in winter 2015 and completion winter 2017.

In other matters, agreement has been reached for a new Urban Orchard project in the old railway field in the Grove with a planting day on December 3.

Income from exhibitions and events at the Palace looks to be growing. There apparently were no complaints about noise following the recent music concerts – with better management of the sound direction in the Great Hall cited as a possible reason.

Finally, you may have noticed that the new BBC Music ident film based on the song 'God Only Knows' was filmed in the Palace's theatre. Hopefully this will raise national awareness of Alexandra Palace at an important stage.



When David Frith took to the lectern at the Members' Meeting on Wednesday 15 October, the expectant audience rapidly became spellbound. David's knowledge of the architecture and the history of the Rookfield estate was all-encompassing. Once part of the Muswell Hill Common since olden times, three fine houses were built in the 18th century on land enclosed from the common: Avenue House, Rookfield and Lalla Rookh overlooked a lake and a brook (or chine).

After various ownerships and land transfers, at the beginning of the 20th century, W J Collins and his sons started the development that we can see clearly today. Through his own meticulous research, David was able to explain the subtle variations in architectural style, internally and externally, as the houses were built. Some enthusiastic questioning followed, including from a current owner of one of the Collins family's own homes.

For further reading, David Frith's lavishly produced and illustrated book, *The Rookfield Estate, Muswell Hill's Garden Suburb*, is published by and available from the Hornsey Historical Society, price £9.99, ISBN 9780905794471.

Happy to be in the audience – Geoff and Enid Hunt



FORTISMERE SCHOOL FIREWORKS NIGHT

order online: tickets.fortismere.org/fireworks

WED 5TH NOVEMBER 2014

GATES 6PM - 8.30PM FIREWORKS 7PM

CARTERS STEAM FAIR

HOT FOOD & DRINK STALLS

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY. £5 ENTRY, UNDER 5'S FREE

Last date for advance tickets 2nd November for delivery and by 12 midday 5th November to collect at the Twyford Avenue gate.

FORTISMERE SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS, ENTRY IS FROM TWYFORD AVENUE ONLY

Firework Display by Titanium Fireworks Ltd: London's New Years Eve 2014, Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014

Sensible footwear such as wellies must be worn on the school site.