

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

Incorporating Alexandra Ward

ALLY PALLY PLANS GET THE OK

Plans to refurbish and redevelop parts of Alexandra Palace have been approved.

On February 16, the planning sub-committee of Haringey Borough Council unanimously gave the go ahead to planning permission which will see changes to the East Court, the Victorian theatre and controversial changes to the former BBC Studios.

The removal of brick infills on the south colonnade and some internal walls which form part of the old BBC studios were objected to by a number of councillors and members of the community.

The majority of objections centred on whether or not the changes were detrimental to the historical importance of the BBC studios but councillors passed the proposals unanimously after supporters including English Heritage outlined the reasoning behind the removals.

Chief executive of Alexandra Palace and Park Duncan Wilson said at the meeting: "This is by far the best chance of providing a sustainable future for the palace."

As Haringey is trustee of the building, the application has to be forwarded to Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, who will make the ruling on the plans to grant listed buildings consent for the changes. This could take several weeks.



... AND DUNCAN WILSON MOVES ON

Sir Laurie Magnus, Chairman of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage), recently announced the appointment of Duncan Wilson as the first Chief Executive of Historic England. Historic England will come into being on April 1 when the Commission licenses the operation of the National Heritage Collection to an independent charity, the English Heritage Trust. The Trust will retain exclusive use of the English Heritage name. Historic England will remain a government service championing England's heritage and providing expert and constructive advice.



PUT OUT MORE FLAGS

Read about our Member in Profile's fascinating experiences with the Buddhist community in northern India on page 5



March/April 2015 Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Association News & Diary Dates	2
Membership Forum and Letters	3
Alex's Corner for Members	4
Member in Profile	5
Membership Application Form	6
Round & About –	
Events & Organisations in our area	7
Safer Roads, Safer Cars and	
Safer Neighborhoods	8

MARCH MEMBERS' MEETING

SENSITIVE QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

None of us knows what special care we might need in later years, so our March meeting will focus on "**End of Life Care in North London**", a special collaboration with the North London Hospice. We will discuss the many options in care that the Hospice provides, and may have to provide in the future, in response to the needs of the residents of Barnet, Haringey and Enfield at a time of financial restraint and new thinking about the care of the terminally ill.

The speakers will be John Bryce CBE, Chairman of NLH, who will outline the work of the Hospice locally. CEO Pam McClinton and Dr Christopher Baxter, the highly experienced Medical Director, will discuss new thinking about the role of the hospice movement and palliative care and support that you, or perhaps a parent or a friend or neighbour, may need at some time - whether at the Hospice, its day centre or at home. The ongoing debate is about future care for any one of us, so come with friends or relatives and get an answer to the questions you may have thought about but never asked.

BE THERE, 8.00 p.m. Wednesday 18th March in the Garden Room, North Bank (Methodist Centre), Pages Lane, N10 1PP

(There will be a Hospice 'bucket' collection, and coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk)

WHAT MAKES NICK BARR CROSS?

Read his important article on page 4

OUR LOCAL LIBRARY FOR SALE?

See page 4

WHEN IS SAFETY LAST?

When it's on the back page, see page 8

Members' Meetings

Wednesday 18 March
8.00 p.m. at North Bank, N10
End of Life Care in association with the North London Hospice. See front page.

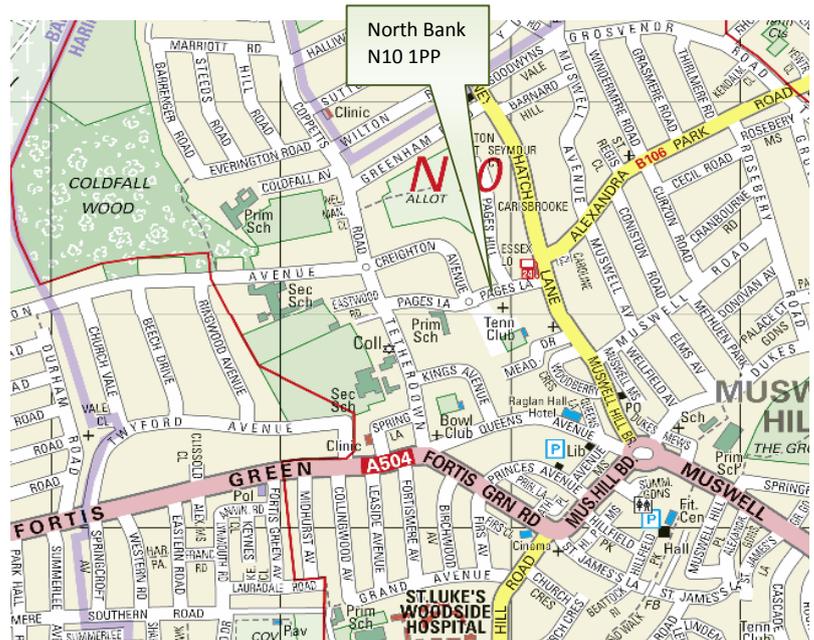
Wednesday 15 April
8.00 p.m. at North Bank, N10
ALLOTMENTS
In association with the Muswell Hill & District Horticultural Society, a look at the potential of allotment culture. See page 3.

Conducted Walk

11.00 a.m. Saturday 20 June
Queens Wood walk – a return visit to see five years of progress in this wonderful setting.

Annual General Meeting

8.00 p.m. Wednesday 20 May



Wanted – Meetings Coordinator

Are you working from home, recently retired or at an occasional loose end? Would you be interested in being the MHFGA's meetings coordinator? Working with the Committee, finding speakers and taking notes and photos at our four meetings each year, and contributing to this Newsletter. If you would like to help, please write to John Hajdu, Chairman, at hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

CATERING SUPPORT

The Annual General Meeting in May is looking for some help with the catering. Would you be interested in helping out with supplying or serving the food & drink?

Please write to John Hajdu, Chairman, at haidu.clarion@talk21.com.

MHFGA Representative on the Consultative Committee

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association has an important seat on the AP Consultative Committee. The Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee provides an opportunity for discussion between the Alexandra Palace and Park Board and appropriate local/national organisations on general matters affecting Alexandra Palace and Park.

As a result of illness, we are looking for an interested person to represent the Association - on a temporary basis - at the four evening meetings in 2015, and report back to our Committee.

At this very interesting phase in the Palace's history, this is a great opportunity for a local person. **Will you help?** Contact the chairman John Hajdu or any member of the Committee to discuss. Details on page 2.

April Members' Meeting

'How to turn a plot of solid clay, old carpets and couch grass with liberal helpings of broken glass into one with easy to work soil which can produce all kinds of vegetables and ornamentals'.
Suggested title!

George Dunnion and his partner Serge Charles work two large allotment plots together. Serge has constructed wonderful supports for rampant rambling roses and other prodigious climbers. George has worked as a gardener for several pop stars and they have appeared on *Gardeners World*, which led a thousand people to turn up on their Open Day. They have an Alpine raised bed and a pond flanked by carnivorous plants.

People usually refer to their site as a garden. They are experts in growing old roses and the very latest ones, and will provide advice about rare and exciting vegetables for all the year round.

'We actually grow around thirty different kinds of fruit and veg. The 130 different kinds of roses tend to distract people as does our enormous Exotic Border. There are also around thirty different kinds of ornamental grasses and a wide range of herbaceous perennials', says George, adding, 'Serge will not be involved in the talk. He will be hiding behind a chair'.

Don't miss this fascinating talk, on Wednesday April 15. Put the date in the diary now.



LETTERS & COMMENTS



Dear MHFGA

Robert Coleman (letters Jan/Feb 2015) wants to see foxes eliminated as vermin. As a fox, I can't help but wonder how the damage to the environment done by me and my fellow foxes compares with that done by you humans.

Kind regards,

Mr Fox (writing through his amanuensis, Ms Joyce Rosser)

Dear MHFGA

I was shocked to see the letter about foxes! Vermin indeed!!!! NO NO NO. We welcome the fox in our garden and watch him from our bedroom. He had the remains of our turkey this year A few years ago a vixen had cubs in our derelict shed, and we were thrilled to see her leading three cubs across the lawn to pastures new, a bigger space I think. What possible harm can a fox do? The local cats have not been harmed, surely none. In fact, the large rat we used to see in the garden has long gone. Children benefit from seeing wildlife, especially an animal like a fox. By the way, my nearest relatives are sheep farmers, so I know the problem foxes could be if we had lambing ewes nearby, but there are none in Muswell Hill that I know of!
Liz Luxmore

Association chairman, John Hajdu, recently wrote to local businesses soliciting their support. 'The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association is proud of the Broadway, its special architecture and its continuing present day appearance. We try to accomplish this in many ways, such as arranging flower displays, tree planting, the maintenance of street furniture and so on, working closely with local businesses, shopkeepers and councillors. An important but rarely noticed part of our efforts is carried out by volunteers who go out on a weekly basis to remove disfiguring graffiti, fly-posting and general unsightly mess. We need hardly emphasize the importance of maintaining the Broadway's attractive appearance for those coming to shop, do business and socialise. As an important business in Muswell Hill, may I ask you to join us in our constant campaign to maintain as welcoming an appearance as possible for the Broadway, especially immediately outside your entrance where your customers throw away cigarette ends and other rubbish?' The Newsletter is happy to publish the first reply.

Hi John,

Thanks for your email.

Muswell Hill is a special place for us too and we take great care in maintaining all the same principles as yourselves on a daily basis. We are also part of the community watch committee, meeting here at The Church once a month.

We regularly check our outside areas, mainly our front entrance for rubbish and cigarette ends etc, so rest assured we are doing all we can and will continue to do so.

Best, Ben Allan, Assistant Manager, O'Neill's, Muswell Hill

Expressions of support have also been received from The John Baird and Barclays Bank. Keep 'em coming.

Dear Mr Crompton (Conservation Officer),

I picked up the latest MHFGA newsletter at the Area Forum last week and noticed the mention on page five around the Alexandra Public House.

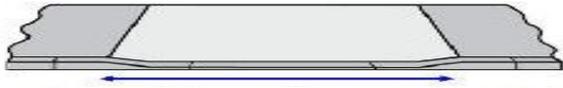
Just to update your readers - we defeated the planning application at the council in December, where the Haringey conservation officer overruled her planning department in supporting our local campaign to retain the building's use as a pub.

The latest is that the developers have appealed (not a surprise) and that appeal will be heard by the National Planning Inspectorate in March, and we will be making representations to that in order to try and protect the pub.

I will keep you posted,

Best Regards

Patrick Berryman, Labour councillor, Fortis Green Ward



CROSS ABOUT CROSSOVERS

By Nick Barr, Planning Officer

If you live in the MHFGA area the chances are that your home is in either a late Victorian or Edwardian building. It is likely to have been built speculatively to a cohesive design that hints at a semi-rural environment - in short a classic suburb of London.

An essential element in the cohesion was the front garden that 'grounds' the building, setting it back from the road, creating a feeling of intimate space and linking it with neighbours to create a visually harmonious community. Such buildings were designed when motor transport was in its infancy and no one could envisage mass car ownership and the issues that flow from it - including vehicle parking.

For many years car parking demand could be accommodated on the street. With increased prosperity and properties being converted into multi-occupational dwellings, pressure on street parking has become an issue particularly near retail hubs. People want the convenience of parking near where they live or shop. This desire for convenience and the sheer number of cars on the streets inevitably means that we are trying to impose a twenty-first century lifestyle on an early twentieth-century townscape. While this can often be discreetly achieved, the degradation to the built environment caused by turning front gardens into car parks and creating the concomitant crossovers is not discreet and not acceptable. As stated in the 2008 Conservation Area Character Appraisal for Muswell Hill, 'the effect is to disrupt the visual continuity and enclosure of the street frontages, eroding its character and appearance'. Consequently when I become aware of a planning application to convert a front garden into a parking space, I lodge an objection on behalf of the Association.

Each application has to be looked at separately but there are few that have any merit and I generally object on the following grounds: the loss of valuable green space and consequent degeneration of the street environment; that the creation of a crossover results in the loss of an on-road parking space which in reality gives no net increase in parking provision, amounting to an exclusive parking area for the applicant at the expense of the community at large; and the proposal is in conflict with Haringey's policy on parking in front gardens. There are other issues such as noise and pollution, and pedestrian and road safety concerns.

The council policy referred to is Policy SPG 1b (updated 2008) which states that 'Parking in front gardens is generally unacceptable and will not normally receive planning permission'. This seems clear. However this appears to be a draft policy that has not been formally adopted, and consequently it is uncertain what weight it carries in the planning process. The planning picture is further muddled by the fact that Haringey is in the process of formulating a Development Management Policy that will be out for public consultation in early 2015 which will not contain the SPG 1b policy, and that the turning of a front garden into a parking space often does not require planning consent.

Although the level of applications for crossovers and parking in front gardens is relatively low compared with a few years ago, the lasting damage to the built environment caused by those that have been created is clear particularly where there is more than one in the same road and especially grouped together. I am not aware of any instances where a parking space has been reinstated as a garden.

Whilst I appreciate that home owners may feel that they have the right to deal with their property as they wish, irrespective of the consequences to the wider community, we each have a duty not to degrade the communal environment and to preserve what is best in it for future generations. So if you see that an application has been made for a crossover or converting a front garden into a car park, please object and when Haringey make the Development Management Policy available for public consultation make your views known.



ALEX'S CORNER

Dear Members,

What are the plans for the Muswell Hill library? Should Muswell Hill become a 20 m.p.h. zone? What about controlled parking? What is happening to shops and retailers? What's next for the Alexandra Palace? From planning applications to Council cuts in spending, from traffic pressure to the demands of business, there are changes ahead and the people of Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra wards must have a say in the choices to be made. Please let us know your views on any local activity.

Last month many attended the Muswell Hill, Alexandra, Fortis Green, and Highgate Area Forum on conservation areas and planning policy and development. And February 13 was the deadline for submissions relating to the roads where Haringey intends to impose a 20 m.p.h. limit. The MHFGA Newsletter and email updates will always try to give you advance notice of the meetings and events where decisions are influenced or taken - and report back to you on relevant developments.

A very warm welcome to **Angela** and **David Davies** of Summerlee Gardens and **Carol** and **Tony Watts** of Princes Avenue. Thank you for supporting the Association.

Also thanks to 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). Give them your support if you can.

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



The future of the Muswell Hill Library is in doubt after the council announced plans to relocate it. The plans are due to go ahead even though the council admits in the budget report that the library is very well used by the community and popular.

No alternative location for the library has so far been identified, raising fears that the library - established in 1931 - will close with no replacement in place. Local groups cannot think of an alternative site that offers the same convenient location and equivalent space. The Labour council's draft budget only makes vague reference to alternative sites and suggests the library site could be used for development. The building is Grade-II listed which means that it would always be preserved even if the Council did sell it.' What do you think? Write to editor@mhfga.org.

FROM THE HILL TO THE MOUNTAIN

After living and working as an architect in Muswell Hill for thirty years, Graham Parkinson decided to prepare for retirement by doing something completely different: he would fulfil an ambition to experience the Himalayas. He spent three months as a volunteer in a tiny village school outside Kalimpong, on the border with Sikkim in north-east India, teaching English, a bit of painting, and singing with the children: 'Old MacDonald had a farm . . . and on that farm he had a yak . . .'

A year later he returned, to the mountains of Ladakh, in the far north of India, between Pakistan and Tibet. There, he taught in a Buddhist school in Choglamsar, a village of mud-brick homes, populated principally by refugees from Tibet. He fell in love with Ladakh. The stunning, barren landscape and colourful monasteries rekindled Graham's interest in photography so, on his return home, he joined the Muswell Hill Photographic Society, where he is now President.

Graham's two closest friends in Ladakh – Lobsang, a Buddhist monk, and Wangmo, a Buddhist nun – dreamed of opening a free winter school, when the sky is blue but the temperature drops to minus 20. This now runs for five weeks, when the normal schools

are frozen and closed, with 140 children. Funded entirely by charitable donations, which Graham collects in the UK, the charity also cares for elderly Tibetan refugees living in the village.



He has been back to Ladakh five times, and is allowed to stay in the nunnery where Wangmo teaches the youngest nuns, aged six to twelve. To his great delight he discovered they love cricket and spend their breaks in their long red robes chasing an old ball round the rocky mountainside at 14,000 feet. One day he found that Wangmo and all the older nuns had left for an important prayer ritual. Alone in charge of fifteen eager shaven-headed girls, and a personal inability to teach them in Tibetan, Graham founded the world's first and only Himalayan Nuns' Rugby Club (fixtures sought, away games problematic)!

Ladakh is facing challenges from melting glaciers, too many tourists, and how to take the benefits but not the problems of new technology. At present it retains some balance since, for seven winter months each year, the villages and, in fact, the entire country, are isolated – ten feet of snow covers the famous roads from Manali and Kashmir. Whole families live and sleep in the kitchen, the old stove fuelled with dung that has dried on the roof all summer; while Grandfather tells stories of the Buddha.

Membership of the photo club and his life in Ladakh have interacted to inspire Graham's photography. He exhibits his work to camera clubs or to anyone who is interested, raising money for the school.

When he is in the Buddhist nunnery, with the prayer flags flying and the River Indus flowing deep in the gorge below, Graham forgets the leafy Edwardian suburb where he spends most of his life. But when he's here he never forgets the mountains.

Muswell Hill Photographic Society meets every Wednesday at Jacksons Lane Community Centre at 7.45 p.m. Further details at www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk.

For more information about donating to the school, contact Graham at grahamp@me.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 Ruth Schamroth at ruth_schamroth@yahoo.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

BEST FOOT FORWARD FOR NORTH LONDON HOSPICE

The Big Fun Walk is back again on Sunday March 22. Be a part of the biggest fundraising event in the calendar. Walk eight-and-a-half miles through London's beautiful parks, enjoy a complimentary lunch in Regents Park and finish with tea and cake in Storeys Gate, Westminster. To register, go to: <http://www.bigfunwalk.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.

HARINGEY FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM

Fascinating Ally Pally to Bruce Castle Walk, Sunday March 15. Meet at BBC Tower 11.00 a.m., arrive Bruce Castle 1.00 p.m.. <http://haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/>

RETIRED, OR HEADING FOR RETIREMENT?

University of 3rd Age North London can help you on a whole new path of discovery, learning new skills and subjects or teaching your own special skills. 'We believe learning need never stop and should be a pleasure.' Come along to one of their meetings, at St Paul's Church, Long Lane, N3 2PU to find out more, details on the website, visit www.nlu3a.org.uk

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.

COLD FALL NATURE WALKS

Great fun! Meet at the East entrance to the wood on Creighton Avenue (N10 1NT), opposite Fortismere School. Free, though a donation of £3 per adult is appreciated.

Woodland bird walk (prior booking essential)

Saturday March 14, 8.00 a.m. There is a lot of bird activity in Coldfall Wood. Catch their calls and see what you can spot with the help of Cindy Blaney, woodkeeper at Highgate Wood.

Medicinal plant walk

Saturday March 28, 2.30 p.m. Explore the wood and find out the medicinal properties of plants that grow there. Led by Krishna Ramamurthy, local herbalist.

Become a Friend! Help the friends to protect and enhance Coldfall Wood. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:30p.m. at Coldfall Primary School. www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The club meets every Wednesday at Jacksons Lane Community Centre at 7.45 p.m. We show and discuss our photographs, and we have guest

speakers, competitions, and practical activities. Visit our website, www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk, for more details. We welcome new members. If you would like to join or come along one evening as a guest, please email contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk.

FRIENDS OF QUEENS WOOD (www.fqw.org.uk)

Bird Walks April 18

Dawn Chorus walk 5.00 a.m. Main walk 8.00 a.m. with David Darrell-Lambert (Ornithologist). Children over 8 welcome.

£10 per head adults, £5 children, 10% of ticket cost will go to FQW. To book a place email david@birdbrainuk.com or ring 07977407550

GERMAN BIER FESTIVAL at Ally Pally

An Oompah band, Bavarian waitress service, German food, Queen tribute band and much more.

Good Friday, April 3, 5.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

Details: www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/spring-fest/

THE FORTISMERE COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Based in the heart of Muswell Hill at Fortismere School, the orchestra is made up of talented enthusiastic members of the local community, including students, instrumental teachers, composers and highly skilled amateurs. Conducted by Thomas Gregory, the playing is at an impressively high standard, rehearsals are genial and fun and the repertoire has so far included Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, Brahms and Beethoven. The next concert is at St. Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road on March 21 at 7.30 p.m. with a luscious programme of Strauss *Die Fledermaus* Overture, Rachmaninoff *Piano Concerto No. 2* and Dvorak *Symphony No. 7*. Please come along and support your local orchestra! Tickets available on the door.

Contact details: Katie Lang klang@fortismere.org.uk

<http://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk>

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, write to editor@mhfga.org, by 12 April.

POLICE CONTACT POINT

Planet Organic, 111-117 Muswell Hill Road London, N10 3HS



Contact Point

You can meet your local police here on:

- **Wednesdays between 6pm and 8pm.**
- **Thursdays between 6pm and 8pm.**
- **Saturdays between 1pm and 3pm.**

At the Contact Point you can:

- Report a crime.
- Obtain crime prevention advice or advice on other police related matters.
- Discuss community concerns.
- Make an appointment to speak to a local officer.
- Make an appointment to give a statement if you would prefer for the police not to visit you at home or your place of work.
- Hand in self-reporting forms for road traffic accidents.
- Report lost property or hand in found property.
- Collect your found items by appointment.

You can report crime online at www.met.police.uk

If you need to speak to the police call 101.
Always call 999 in an emergency.

MUSWELL HILL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

21st Century Homes event

Renovating or extending your home? Replacing a kitchen or thinking of new windows? Wondering how to cut the draughts (or your fuel bills)? Intrigued by the idea of a 'greener' home? Let the architects, technical experts and exhibitors at our free weekend event provide inspiration and the answers you need!

Conference and Exhibition: Saturday 21 March 12.30 – 5.00 p.m.

Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue entrance, London N11 2AZ. Talks from ecorefurbishment experts and over 20 stalls, covering architecture, building, insulation, draughtproofing, windows, energy-efficient heating, lighting and renewable energy. One to one advice sessions with experts and local householders. Admission free, refreshments available.



Nick Barr updates us on what's happening at 107-143 Muswell Hill Road (the Odeon piazza). Two Ginkgo biloba 'maidenhair' trees are to be planted outside Planet Organic. One replaces a dead tree and both are Haringey's choice, following representations. Under each will be at least two benches.

There is to be a bicycle stand, and, opposite the roundabout, two market stalls with an electricity supply. These will be for public use and controlled by the owner of Feast. This could be a very useful resource for our community, so more details will follow. The benches, two trees, cycle racks and bin storage should be in place by mid March.

Nick says, 'I got the impression that the piazza will be less green than expected and it looks as though the idea of a sculpture has also been abandoned. Haringey will have the opportunity to put planters on the piazza if they wish - the majority of the piazza land is owned by the Highways Authority - however in the current climate I think it unlikely.'

The bollards that are immediately adjacent to the roads have recently been repainted. Local businesses, the launderette and the newsagent, are not currently leaving. The flats above the retail parade will not be sold on long leases but let on short leases with a management scheme.

Committee member John Crompton reports that, despite carrying out a marketing exercise over the last twelve months, the applicant at 150 Fortis Green has been unable to secure a health clinic operator for the basement. Instead, interest has been shown by Magic Daycare Nurseries who wish to occupy the basement in the form of a children's day nursery. With regards to the use of the basement, the Council did impose condition 10 which states: *The ground floor and basement clinic/community use shall be permanently retained as such. Reason: In order to compensate for the loss of the existing clinic/community use on the site.*

The Association is yet to comment formally on this new proposal, pending further information about opening hours, environmental arrangements, etc.

FORTIS GREEN/TETHERDOWN

The Association has been told that the Council has agreed to do something to help pedestrians/school kids crossing at the junction of Fortis Green and Tetherdown. Chris Barker, our traffic officer, reports that the Council confirmed on January 14 that they will launch an investigation over the next few months into how to make the junction safer. Further details will follow.

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, in Alexandra Park Library, N10 and Muswell Hill Library in Queens Ave N10. Future dates March 9 and March 16 in the Muswell Hill Library from 6.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Follow our new Twitter account

@theMHFGA

or visit www.twitter.com/theMHFGA

We tweet regularly on Association and local news - so please follow and spread the word!



SAFER VIADUCT

Concern has been expressed by the community, particularly by stalwart citizens Peter Thompson and Simon Olley, about the precarious state of the brickwork on the viaduct on the old railway line and the dangers caused by the buddleia which have rooted there. Back in 2012, the Council commissioned a brief structural survey of the Viaduct to establish the stability of the Arches. The under arch area over St James's Lane has in the past all been netted and so has some of the high level brickwork on the south elevation, to prevent brick pieces from falling onto the public. The north elevation walls to the west of St James's Lane have also in the past been repointed.

Admittedly, the report was only a brief review of the issues with the viaduct at the time. Acknowledging that it has been some years since that report, the Council has stated that it will within the next four to eight weeks commission a more detailed report to assess the stability and condition - and the plan to undertake any required immediate remedial works.



SAFER ROADS

Members of the Cross Safe N10 campaign group attended a meeting with Haringey Council to discuss a way forward following the disappointing outcome of the modelling report. At the meeting they presented topline findings from the survey undertaken before Christmas and re-emphasised the point that the report was commissioned in response to the Cross Safe N10 campaign, the objective of which is to improve pedestrian safety at the junctions. The main findings were as follows: 81 per cent consider the second traffic light as you turn right from Alexandra Park Road onto Colney Hatch Lane to be dangerous; 94 per cent consider the lack of green men where Pages Lane and Alexandra Park Road meet Colney Hatch Lane to be dangerous; 91 per cent consider HGVs left-turning of Colney Hatch Lane to be dangerous; 63 per cent have witnessed HGVs mounting the kerb at the corner of Colney Hatch Lane and Alexandra Park Road; 56 per cent have witnessed first-hand a near miss at the junctions

A spokesperson said, 'We will be receiving more detailed proposals in February and will be meeting with Haringey Council again after half term. We will keep you updated of progress'.

SAFER CARS

The Metropolitan Police have issued the following message to our members. Your motor vehicle could be at risk if it is controlled with an electronic key. Organised criminals are able to steal some of these vehicles in less than thirty seconds, by using specialist equipment to programme a blank key that is compatible with the vehicle. They do not need the original key, which means that they do not need to steal your key in order to steal your motor vehicle.

To reduce the chances of becoming a victim of keyless vehicle theft, please consider additional security measures: consider using an approved car alarm, steering wheel lock or gearstick lock in addition to your vehicle's own security. Consider having an On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) lock professionally fitted to the OBD port, and whenever possible, park your vehicle in a well-lit area, a garage, a staffed car park or an area covered by CCTV.

For more information on vehicle security and keyless vehicle thefts, please see: www.met.police.uk/keylessvehicletheft



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www.MHFGA.org