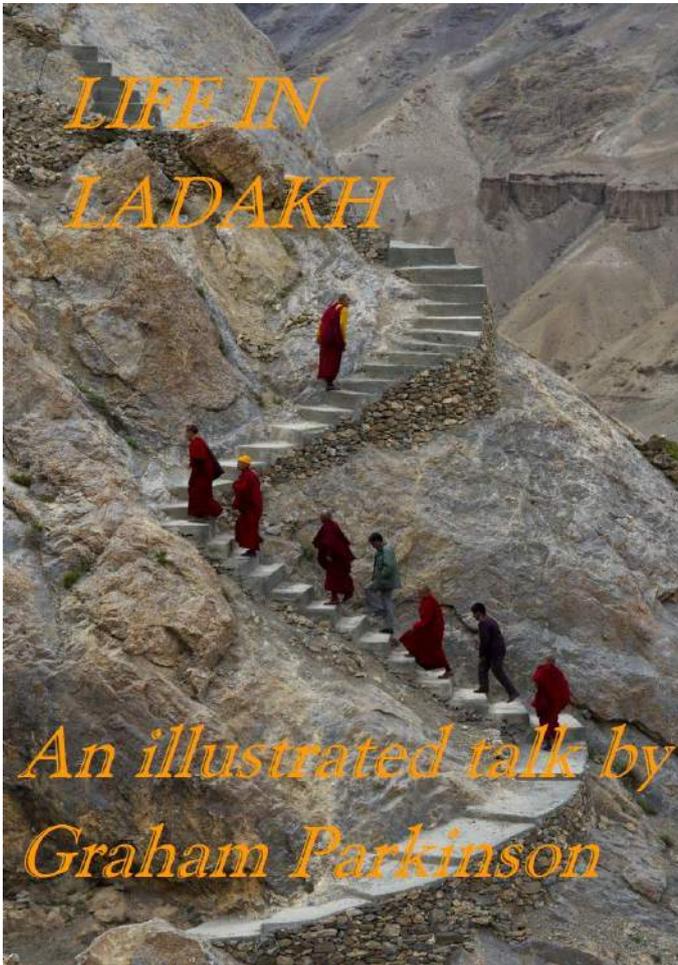


Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

Incorporating Alexandra Ward



November/December 2015 Newsletter

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CALL THE COPSE



See page 8 - what's your view?

The Members Meeting on 11 November (full details on page 2) is a great opportunity to hear about Graham Parkinson's experiences in the Buddhist communities in the mountains of northern India. Plus Tony Wells introduces more local talent with the announcement of the winners of the MHFGA Photography Competition. Come along and enjoy yourselves.



Our Chairman John Hajdu (right) officially opened The Mossy Well - the new J D Wetherspoon pub - in Muswell Hill in October. With him are launch manager Michal Glowacki (lef), and shift manager Shannon Lechna (centre).

SMART WATER

The new solution to domestic burglary?

See page 3





Members' Meeting

8.00 pm Wednesday 11 November
North Bank, Pages Lane, N10 1PP
Graham Parkinson, talks about *Life in Ladakh*
plus Tony Wells announces the winners of the
Photography Competition.

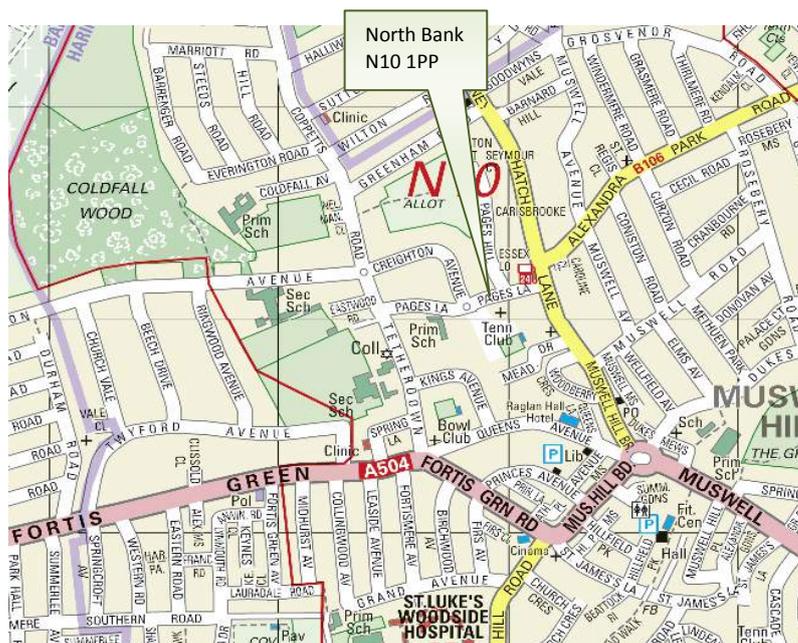
Future Dates for the Diary

Members' Meetings

8.00 pm Wednesday 16 March 2016
8.00 pm Wednesday 13 April 2016

Annual General Meeting

18 May 2016 at The Mossy Well, N10
More details in a future Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN TO Mr JOHN SPARROW

Dear John.

It was very nice to see you at our members' meeting.
On behalf of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association
I would like to thank you for your generous donation. The
money will go towards plants in the Colney Hatch Lane
beds and flowers in the flower boxes at the roundabout.
Your continued support is much appreciated.
Kind regards, John Hajdu

YOUR ASSOCIATION - YOUR NEWSLETTER

*Would you like to be responsible for editing and
designing this Newsletter? Imaginative publishing
type, with an eye for detail, wanted to take over this
important task. You will work with the Committee,
local businesses and the membership to present local
opinions and issues. Full support will be offered.*



Write to editor@mhfga.org



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METTRACE with SMART WATER **The New Police Burglary Initiative**

The members' meeting in October saw a presentation from PC Ryan Davies describing how Haringey Police launched its new MetTrace initiative, targeting burglary, in May 2015.

Police officers have been calling at addresses identified using crime figures from a three-year period, offering free MetTrace burglary deterrent packs with the aim of significantly reducing burglaries in Haringey.

The Met Trace kits include a vial of 'SmartWater'. This non-hazardous liquid can be applied to any valuable item and cannot be seen by the naked eye but will glow once placed under UV light; it is almost impossible to remove. Every vial has its own unique trace pattern, similar to DNA, making this a valuable tool in deterring theft, restoring property to the rightful owner, and convicting those responsible.

According to PC Davies, 'We are delivering to 13,500 addresses across the whole of Haringey during year 1 of the project. The addresses have been pre-identified to me by our central project team. They have used the last three years of crime data to establish the best areas to run the project.

'We are delivering to most of Fortis Green Ward, but not every house in it, and not yet to Muswell Hill. There are also registration forms to fill in when the kits are delivered, these are the base of the evidential chain, and as such have a legal disclaimer that both the resident and the Police Officer sign at the point of delivery to say certain facts are true and accurate'.

Due to the success of this initiative, there will be a new phase starting in spring next year, with more addresses being visited and offered this fantastic product. As it is not possible to include every home in this initiative, the SmartWater Company is offering a special discount to Neighbourhood Watch members. The discounted price is £25, reduced from £75!

To take advantage of this offer please visit www.smartwater.com/shop or call 0800 521 669 and use discount code NHW25HGY. Please be aware that if you do purchase SmartWater in the near future, there is a chance that your address may be offered Smart Water in a future phase of the MetTrace initiative.

Now read about the Neighbourhood Watch organization on page 6

And a further helpful idea from the Metropolitan Police: the Little Book of BIG SCAMS, can be read or downloaded here http://www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf

AWARDS CEREMONY

We all know how important our green spaces are, but now they're officially recognised – again. In the *London in Bloom* awards for 2015 the following results were announced: Queen's Wood won the Gold Medal and overall winner for the category of Large Conservation Areas (First out of 12) and Alexandra Park also got a Gold Medal and won their category of Large Parks (over 25 hectares). Good to see Haringey doing so well and also the AP Trust .

ALEX'S CORNER

Dear Members,

As from this issue, the Newsletter is introducing a new Corporate Members' page for the growing number of local businesses and organisations who are supporting the Association, many offering community facilities and events.

This month we are delighted to welcome Ralph O'Beirne, Muswell Road; Sarah and Mike Purdy, Ringwood Avenue; Adrian Pilbeam, High Road; Talia Ramos and Pablo Castro, Duo-Klier, Muswell Hill Road; Saliha Demirel, Elsa, Fortis Green Road; Genevieve Gardiner, The Mossy Well, Muswell Hill Broadway; Chris Honor, Kriskitch, Tetherdown; Adrian Stannard, Muswell Hill United Reformed Church, Tetherdown; and Bill's Restaurant, Muswell Hill Road.

Below is the complete list of our corporate members and you can find the links to their websites at www.mhfga.org.

Bill's Restaurant, Clissold Arms (George Kyriakos Karageorgis), Delicia (Bob), Duo-Klier (Talia Ramos & Pablo Castro), Elsa Fashion Boutique (Saliha Demirel), Ethical Edibles (Donatella Bernstein), Everyman Cinema (Will Green), Excel English Language School (Judy Loren), Feast (Roger Ward CBE), Fortismere School (Helen Anthony), Kriskitch (Chris Honor), Muswell Hill Bowling Club (Paul Chapman), Muswell Hill Toy Library (Liz Luxmore), Muswell Hill United Reformed Church (Adrian Stannard), Norfolk House School (Samantha Habgood), Planet Organic (Peter Marsh), Robert Linsky Optometrist (Robert Linsky), St. James Church Muswell Hill (Chris Green), The John Baird (Keith Nicholas), The Mossy Well (Genevieve Gardiner), Tim Moss Furniture (Tim Moss), Toffs of Muswell Hill (George and Costas Georgiou), Tootoomoo (Philip McGuinness), Topps Tiles, Victory AutoServices (Mark Bharadia), Woodland Tree Surgery (Christopher Hill).

MY DETAILS

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

HEADING TO THE PALACE?

from Chris Barker, our Transport Officer



Is it easy for visitors to find their way to Alexandra Palace? The only bus to take you right there is the W3. If you are on any bus serving Muswell Hill you have to get off somewhere and walk. If you're on the W7 or 144 you are advised to get off at the bottom of the hill – the stop is somewhat misleadingly called Alexandra Park for Alexandra Palace. Other routes serving Muswell Hill don't mention it all.

What can be done? Better signposting from Muswell Hill might be one improvement with waymarking signs directing you along Dukes Avenue and under the old railway arch, or along the path by Muswell Hill School and through the Grove. Better and more explicit maps on the bus stops would help.

We would like to know what suggestions you might have. Write to editor@mhfga.org.

ANOTHER AWARD for a local business

The Clissold Arms has been named Family Pub of the Year 2015/2016 (London & South East) for the second year running. Well done! Owner George Karageorgis says, 'We are proud to have been voted family pub of the year. We were also one of the six finalists for the national competition. This achievement, of course, goes to the team here for all their hard work and support to make this a great destination for a variety of regular and one off family events.' There are now over 15 weekly family/community events from baby yoga to an elderly coffee morning, and a film show in the "Oscars terrace" is a further development of the modernization of the Clissold Arms, since George took over six years ago. 'Our annual Kinks convention - Friday 20 November - is yet another roaring success, attracting Kinks fans from all over the world, with a tribute band playing all 62 songs from Muswell Hill's finest rockers.'

Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, East Finchley, London N2 9HR



Pablo Castro and Talia Ramos are local violinists and violin teachers living in Muswell Hill Road. They've just started a violin after-school club: Thursdays after school, Meeting House - Muswell Hill N10 3NE, group sessions of 45 minutes to complement individual lessons, integrating ensemble playing and musicianship. All info here: <http://duo-klier.com/muswell-hill-violin-studio>

Charmingly named after the owner's daughter, ELSA is a delightful designer boutique, with exclusive designer-look outfits for women and children of all ages and sizes. The wide range of clothes on the rails falls into three categories. The Elsa Party Collection caters for children aged eight and upwards and provides Elsa couture clothes designed by Tulay for parties and special occasions such as weddings, parties and bat mitzvahs.

The second collection, "I Am Different", comprises around 30 individual labels from international designers, chosen for women in a range of popular sizes, for fabric, design and sheer pizzazz.

The third collection, affectionately known as "Love My Body" collection" caters for the larger lady and dynamic celebration of day smart, special occasion and evening clothes.

'Whichever section fires your fashion passion, you can't help but be impressed by the sheer quality and of the clothes on offer - and even more impressed by the price tags!' says owner Tulay. 'We also offer an in-house tailoring service, plus shoes, bags and accessories to add the finishing touches to any outfit or provide perfect presents'. Tulay could be the perfect combination of host, fully qualified fashion person and every girl's impartial best friend!

*Elsa Fashion Boutique, 230 Fortis Green Road, N10 3DU
Tel: 0208 883-9794*

Join the hundreds of visitors to our website -
click on www.mhfga.org for a wealth of information, archive photographs and news.

AN UPDATE FROM CAFE DELICIA

We are very proud to say Delicia has now been running for 24 months, and wonder where has the time gone. The last couple of years have been a whirlwind of a journey which has seen us steadily grow in popularity, fine tune our menu and really find our feet in the Muswell Hill community. The attention to detail is apparent in our food, style and customer service.

So what do we have planned for the next 24 months? We have become the hosting place for various classes including Muswell Hill mums, sewing, singing, art as well as the perfect venue for events from birthdays to wedding receptions. We offer catering services and will be looking to expand into lunch deliveries to local workplaces. We also plan to work with local charities to host coffee mornings and events.

The café itself will be undergoing a few interior changes; a comfy area to relax, also will be working with local artists who wish to use Delicia as platform to showcase their work - We will of course keep our signature yellow and our lovely kids corner!

Café Delicia, 4- 5 Cheapside, Fortis Green, N2 9HP

THE MOSSY WELL PUB

The Mossy Well is open from 8am until 12midnight Sunday to Thursday and 8am until 1am on Friday and Saturday. Food is served throughout the day, from opening until 11pm, every day.

The new pub specialises in real ales, as well as craft and world beers, serving a wide range of different draught ales, as well as bottled beers, including those from local and regional brewers.

It is open for family dining, with children, accompanied by an adult, welcome in the pub up until 9pm, throughout the week.

The pub is wheelchair accessible and has a specially-adapted 'Changing Places' WC for people with disabilities, as well as those who are unable to use standard accessible toilets.

The new-look pub, which is set over two floors, features two bars, bespoke carpet design, lighting and reclaimed furniture. There are also two reclaimed Victorian fireplaces, uncovered on site, restored and in use again.

There is a terrace area to the front and rear of the pub, as well as a landscaped courtyard garden, to the rear, incorporating the external 'milk float' bar. There is a secret woodland, with several semi-mature trees, covered areas, a water feature and bespoke lighting.

The pub offers many food deals throughout the week, including steak club (Tuesday), curry club (Thursday) and Fish Friday. Sunday roast & a drink is also £8.99

The Mossy Well, 258 Muswell Hill Broadway, N10 3SH

WEB'S WONDER

When did you last visit our website, www.mhfga.org? Thanks to committee members Tony Wells and Alex Vincenti, the whole site is evolving splendidly. Photographs of new shops and the Piazza have been taken for use on the site, and the Muswell Hill Today and Shopfront Survey galleries have been reconstructed, with some old and some new photographs.

The Google Analytics Report for the period since August 3 2015 shows that the percentage of visitors immediately leaving the site after accessing the Home Page has gone down! Visit sessions were fewer, but that may be down to holidays and schools being closed. However, the quality of the sessions was much better with more page views and longer durations. There were visitors looking at the site from a total of 30 countries – an international marvel!

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

John Crompton, our Association's Hon Sec, reports that, for the St Luke's Redevelopment (Woodside Avenue, HGY/2013/0061,) the developer submitted an application seeking to reduce the number of co-housing units specifically for older people - and for these to be made available to families instead. The application was very technical, but naturally it attracted a lot of objections pointing out the implications for schools etc. It turns out that this change only relates to four units out of 132. So good news, but the way this was handled was a bit of a PR disaster for the developer.

Our transport officer, Chris Barker, reminds us that the borough-wide 20mph signs are to be unveiled on 15 February 2016 - apart from those where the tape has already fallen off!

Brian Livingston, our environmental champion, has been able to clarify who does what on the St James/cinema development. Haringey (Veolia) is responsible for the cleaning of St James Square; developer Henderson has appointed a managing agent (Lambert Smith Hampton) to manage all aspects of the car park (parking, lighting, cleaning, maintenance, planting maintenance, graffiti removal, CCTV etc). We hope to have contact details soon. While everyone acknowledges the improved overall style and benefits of the open plaza, outstanding snags are the responsibility of Henderson. Brian has raised the following: loose/damaged paving slabs; damaged manhole cover; missing street light; missing road markings in disabled bays; and finally, a major safety issue with the pathway leading into the car park, there is no dropped kerb for wheelchair or other wheeled access. Do you have any comments?

THEN & NOW – an occasional view on how things change... Haringey's logo



Councillor Joe Goldberg, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Social Inclusion, said: 'The new brand identity is there to tell Haringey's true story, and foremost to tell the stories of the people who live and work here.' Of course. What do you think?

HAVE YOUR SAY – Write to editor@mhfga.org

AN OPEN LETTER FROM CHRISKITCH

Dear Members

Chris and his team would like to begin by thanking you for allowing us to join MHFGA community group. We opened our doors in the disused chocolate factory in Tetherdown two years ago and have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement we have received from the community. You have helped make our dream a reality.

For anyone who has not visited our cafe yet, we are all about great food. Each day we offer a unique selection of our favourite breakfasts, savoury dishes, salads, breads and cakes. This family run business is an extension of our home and provides a lively and vibrant place to come and enjoy great food.

As a thank you for supporting us we wanted our local community to be the first to know about an exciting project we are working on, SILVER BELL: A unique service which delivers high quality, pre-prepared ingredients, together with easy to follow, inspirational recipes, that cuts down the time and stress involved in preparing a special meal, so you can cook like a chef and enjoy quality time out of the kitchen with your guests.

Sharing a meal is one of the most enjoyable ways for most people to socialise and celebrate – be it a special occasion, celebratory lunch, romantic dinner or a special treat. The SILVER BELL website (www.silverbell.co.uk) has a selection of delicious starters, main courses and desserts to choose from so you can create a bespoke menu for your occasion. Once you have chosen your menu, SILVER BELL will supply easy to follow recipe cards and source, prep and deliver the finest quality, fresh pre-prepared ingredients that take away 80% of the hard work, so you can cook and enjoy an amazing meal that will impress your guests. Pop into Chriskitch to pick up a discount code for your first SILVER BELL order.

Many thanks again

Chris and the Team at Chriskitch.

FROM A LONG-TERM MEMBER

Dear Chairman

I certainly appreciate the Newsletters. I also get news from local members. Keep up the good work. Muswell Hill needs an active local residents' association. Its pleasant environment and many assets (our parks and open spaces) owe much to active residents keeping watch for any threats to them.

Best wishes, Monica Myers

FROM TOPPS TILES

Dear Members,

Thank you for such a warm initial welcome from such a diverse and vibrant community.

With over 340 stores across the UK, Topps Tiles is renowned for our large edge-of-town formats, but our new Boutique store in Muswell Hill Broadway aims to bring the best of the Topps Tiles product range to the high street, making the brand even more accessible to home improvement enthusiasts and the local interior design community. The store has a smaller floor space which means the focus is on what's really important to our clients, offering inspiring collections of the very best quality tiles and exceptional levels of service, also offering a strong level of consultation at every stage of the client's project.

Customers can easily access specialist design advice from expertly-trained in-store teams which reflects our passion for the latest interior trends in a warm and friendly environment.

Please take the time to pop in and have a coffee and a chat
Regards, Sean, Peter and Kim

Topps Boutique, 97 Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10 3RS

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The members meeting in October was an important forum for information from Pauline Syddell. According to Pauline, the first Neighbourhood Watch was formed in the UK in 1981 and it is one of the largest voluntary organisations in the country, with over 4 million households covered by a Neighbourhood Watch. Neighbourhood Watches are run entirely by local residents with support from the police and other organisations. It is not just about reducing crime; it is about creating communities that care. Neighbourhood Watch can bring local people together and can make a real contribution to improving lives and the environment. Members are encouraged to take action as a group to tackle community problems, and feel secure knowing the neighbours are working together and looking out for each other.

Haringey borough currently has 305 active Neighbourhood Watches covering over 420 streets. Members of all ages and nationalities make up Haringey's 19,000 Neighbourhood Watch membership. Each Watch operates differently with the members deciding their objectives. Common objectives are:

- To get to know neighbours and build a stronger community spirit
- Feel safer in the knowledge neighbours are looking out for you
- Help to reduce crime and the opportunities for crime in your area
- Be more aware of suspicious activity and know who to contact



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Starting a new Neighbourhood Watch

All you need to start a Watch in your street/area/estate is a minimum of five households, although the more the better. A launch meeting is normally held and attended by the local community policing team. At this meeting a Watch Coordinator will be appointed by the residents. The main role of the coordinator will be to keep in contact with residents, disseminate information and be a point of contact for the residents and community police, also to arrange meetings if and when required. As most residents will have email addresses, this is not an onerous task. So that those who do not have access to emails are not left out, most of our Watches adopt a 'buddy scheme' and ask the member living nearest to print out and hand deliver any information.

How can Neighbourhood Watch help the local community? Reducing crime and the opportunities for crime; Helping to reassure residents and reduce the fear of crime; Encouraging neighbours to form friendships and build stronger communities; Empowering communities to take action to improve their environment; Creating better places in which to live and work.

For more information, contact Pauline Syddell, Community Neighbourhood Watch Link Manager, Haringey Borough

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association – Membership Application Form

I/we wish to become member of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association and enclose my/our subscription.

Title	First Name(s)	Surname(s)	
Address		Postcode	
Phone No	Email		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Household Rate (£8.00/year)	This subscription is <input type="checkbox"/> new/ <input type="checkbox"/> renewal.	The membership runs from 1st May to 30th April of the following year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Rate (£20.00/year) For businesses and organisations		
		ND15	

Standing Order helps us budget our projects more effectively and simplifies our administration. Please fill in the Standing Order Mandate form below, sign and return to: **Jacqueline Servat, The Treasurer, MHFGA, 52 Queens Avenue, London, N10 3NU.**

STANDING ORDER MANDATE		Instructions to Your Bank	
To The Manager of (Bank Name)			
Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly			
Your Account Name		A/C No:	
Bank Branch Name		Sort code:	
Bank Address		Post code:	

To Account Name	Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association		
Bank	NatWest Bank, Muswell Hill Branch	Sort Code 60-14-37	Account Number 31387276
Payment reference (To be filled in by MHFGA)			
Please pay (Delete as appropriate)	the sum of £8.00 (Eight Pounds)	the sum of £20 (Twenty Pounds)	
The first payment commencing on the day of receipt of this mandate and thereafter on the first day of May in each subsequent year until further notice and debit my account accordingly.			
Signed		Date	

Online Bank Transfer: please make payable to NatWest, **Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association** Sort Code: **60-14-37**, Account Number: **31387276**. Please enter your name in the payment reference.

Cheques: please make payable to **Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association**.

THE FORTISMERE COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Based in the heart of Muswell Hill at Fortismere School, the Fortismere Community Orchestra is made up of talented and enthusiastic members of the local community, including students, instrumental teachers, composers and highly skilled amateurs.

The FCO welcomes new players. If you would like to know more about joining, email the Fortismere Music Centre Manager at fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk.

STRIKING THE RIGHT CHORD

A-Chord is a community choir (started in 2013) which will be holding a charity fundraising concert on Sunday 29 November in Muswell Hill. For further details: www.a-chord.uk or contact Laura Gerlis, laura@a-chord.uk, 07732 120464.

NORTH LONDON VINTAGE MARKET

Saturday 5 December 10-5pm & Sunday 6 December 1-5pm
St Mary's Parish Hall N10 3AH

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST JAMES CHURCH?

Community Cafe - Tuesdays: 11.00-1.00 Free coffee, cake and conversation. Venue: through the main doors, just turn up.
Tea Time: For seniors in the Muswell Hill area. Wednesdays: 2.30-3.30pm Tea, sandwiches and entertainment contact: gebrazier@gmail.com 020 8883 6453 Venue: St James Centre
Legal Advice: Free legal advice Mondays & Saturdays walk in service from 10.00 am-12 noon Venue: St James Church, contact: anything.legal@dial.pipex.com

Got a photo or news item?

Share it on Twitter with our members



@theMHFGA

or visit www.twitter.com/theMHFGA

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

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, visit www.nlu3a.org.uk.

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 7 November *Verdi - Requiem*
All Hallows Church, Savernake Road, Gospel Oak.
Tickets from www.hcschoir.com or Les Aldrich on Fortis Green Road

MUSWELL HILL TOY LIBRARY

Open Mondays 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, Thursdays 9.30 am to 12 noon, and Fridays 9.30 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 4 pm. 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.

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

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The club meets every Wednesday at Jacksons Lane Community Centre at 7.45 pm 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.

COLDFALL WOOD

Friends of Coldfall Wood are holding a Geological Walk on Saturday 14 November at 10-30 am. Places should be booked by via the Friends of Coldfall Wood website where details of meeting point will be given.

THE BOLSHOI BALLET: Jewels

Sunday 15 November 3.00pm
The film of Jewels offers a unique opportunity to enjoy Balanchine's visually captivating work, as the Bolshoi is the only company authorised by the Balanchine Trust.

STAR WARS EPISODE VII: THE FORCE AWAKENS 2D

The Force Awakens continues the saga created by George Lucas, set thirty years after Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi. There's a special screening at one minute past midnight on the release date of Thursday 17 December and don't forget your costume!

Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9PJ

KINKS CONVENTION

Friday 20 November – contact the Clissold pub for full details. Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, East Finchley, London N2 9HR

UPSTAIRS AT THE GATEHOUSE, Highgate N6 4BD*Legally Blonde – The Musical*

Winner of three Olivier Awards including Best New Musical, *Legally Blonde The Musical* is an all singing, all dancing romantic comedy. The show follows the story of sorority president Elle Woods as she crosses the country on a mission to find love at Harvard Law School. 16 December 2015 to 31 January 2016. Box Office 020 8340 3488

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 and patriciajlott@aol.com by 12 December

Repositioned (with a swift 90 degree spin) and refurbished (thanks to Tom Wellingham of Bill's Restaurant), the Association notice board is attracting more interest than ever. Got something to announce? Contact patriciajlott@aol.com



Fortis Green Road – uneven surface

Roger Ward of the Muswell Hill Traders Group (MHTG) tells us, 'I have spoken to the council requesting they relay the entire pavement on either side of Fortis Green Road. Currently it is a real mess. It is made to look all the worse in comparison to the new paving in St James Square and throughout The Broadway'. The pavements in Fortis Green Road have become an unsightly patchwork of temporary tarmac repairs over the past 27 years. Understandably the council will not move until they know of their forthcoming budget allocation (from Whitehall to local councils). They should know their income within the month.

So now it is important for the council to be lobbied on the need for this particular project. The MHTG will start a petition next week on behalf of all the business outlets on the road. We will then send it to the council leadership and the local Muswell Hill councillors. In advance of the petition being taken around the shops, the MHTG will give advance notice to the local councillors in order that they are kept in the loop.

KNOTTY PROBLEM (SERIOUSLY)

by Ann Bronkhorst (a Friend of Coldfall Wood)



Local residents and dog-walkers have noticed the recent alarming spread of Japanese knotweed on two sides of Muswell Hill playing field. Other places in Haringey have also been affected, including the Pinkham Way site, Parkland Walk and Railway Fields.

One 'stand' is on the east side of the field, threatening the gardens of a few properties on Barrenger Road. A specialist contractor has treated it but the area should be avoided as even small bits of the plant can regrow after being transported on boots or by children or dogs.

On the north-western side of the field, no gardens are at risk but the problem is more complicated. About six stands of the plant are flourishing, having spread through from the Islington (St Pancras) cemetery where it is widely established and proving very difficult to eradicate.

The Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Field are aware that the plant could reach the wood from either direction or via the stream. There has been concern, too, about its presence at the electricity substation at the eastern end of the wood but Haringey are ensuring this is addressed.

Eradication is a slow process, usually taking several years; it entails the use of toxic chemicals and is very costly. Householders need to know that the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 forbids deliberate planting of knotweed and that mortgage applications can fail if the plant is found at the property. The Daily Mail's recent outline of the risks to homeowners, to be found online, is clear and useful.

Specialist firms attempt to destroy the whole root system, usually with powerful herbicides, but if further treatment becomes necessary the firms, the homeowners and/or the builders need to carry sufficient insurance. There is relevant information at www.confused.com/homeinsurance/your-guide-to-japanese-knotweed

Haringey residents can find information at www.haringey.gov.uk/environment-and-waste including advice on free separate collection of knotweed waste and on avoiding contamination of homes, gardens and normal waste.

A glimmer of hope: in Japan an insect called a psyllid controls knotweed effectively without harming other plants and may be introduced here. To know more about this remarkable plant, its history and its behaviour, including its alleged edibility when NOT full of herbicides, visit the local blog www.bugwomanlondon and search for A Knotty Problem.

The Woodside Copse Story

by Isobel Popper

Woodside Copse, a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), is a precious wildlife sanctuary off Woodside Avenue, N10.

In July 2015, despite planning policies which protect this site, Haringey (LBH) gave permission to Ambitious About Autism (AAA) to develop the site: erecting a large shed, two polytunnels and 12 raised beds.

This decision was made despite Haringey's Nature Conservation Officer writing in 2014 that the development 'would result in the loss of valuable habitat' and 'I would request that this application is refused in line with Council Policy on open space and biodiversity'.

Haringey's policy on SINC's states development should be resisted unless there is 'demonstrable need' and 'exceptional circumstances'. AAA already has a garden and polytunnel on its own site which could easily accommodate the development. Legal experts advised The Friends of Woodside Copse that LBH had made several errors in law, giving the Friends grounds to apply for Judicial Review of the decision, but permission was refused because it was felt that LBH knew the requirements for permitting development on a SINC. Given numerous contraventions of LBH and London Plan policy, this seems to be a serious miscarriage of justice.

The land is leased by AAA from Thames Water, owned in turn by a consortium of foreign investors including banks and investment funds from Abu Dhabi and China.

AAA has a poor track record with gardening. Given an allotment by FGCAT, they neglected the site. They paved over a large area of green space for a hard court, which is not much used.

We Friends will be keeping an eye on AAA's activities on the Copse.

Contact: friendsofwoodsidecopse@gmail.com



TOTAL POLICING



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.