

# Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

Incorporating Alexandra Ward

## Tribute to the Pollarders!



### Jacqueline Servat writes:

I never tire of admiring the formidable and acrobatic spectacle provided every three years by those guys, pollarding the trees in Muswell Hill/Fortis Green.

Rain or shine (or even snow, like in March 2013), they are indefatigably carrying on a marvellous job, with the extra bonus of thoroughly cleaning up after themselves.

I even saw one of them blowing away debris from the windscreen of a car that had dared to park a little too close to their peripheral working space (and despite clearly visible "No Parking" notices...)



### MHFGA stall

Volunteers are needed for our stall on occasional Saturday mornings from 11.00 to 12.30. Please could anybody interested get in touch with our Chairman, John Hajdu, for more information and dates.

## March/April 2016 Newsletter



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*Chris Barker, our Transport Officer, writes:*

### A CPZ for Muswell Hill?

Haringey Council carried out a scoping exercise last year into parking issues in the Muswell Hill area. 68% of those who responded said they were experiencing parking pressures in their street and 66% said they would support further consultation into the possible introduction of parking controls. With ward councillors they have agreed to a full public consultation in the area, expected to commence in February or March.

### Proposal for a new bus service

The Highgate Neighbourhood Forum, in conjunction with Crouch End Neighbourhood Forum, have suggested that a shuttle bus service, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy, could be introduced serving a number of traffic objectives not currently linked.

The route would serve Muswell Hill, Highgate, Whitestone Pond, Hampstead, Royal Free Hospital, Gospel Oak, Tufnell Park, Dartmouth Park, Whittington Hospital, Crouch End Broadway and Park Road Medical Centre.

Our association has expressed our support for this venture to the Crouch End Neighbourhood Forum.

### Trouble at the Bald Faced Stag

The delays drivers experience turning right out of East Finchley High Road into Fortis Green are notorious. Some years ago we appealed for a filter light at the junction to clear the traffic. It was turned down. We are now trying again.

As a result of frustration some drivers attempt to turn right when there is an inadequate gap in the oncoming traffic. Others turn right on a red light. Others, signalling right, try to pull in to the inside lane to go straight on and then use Lincoln Rd and Durham Rd as a rat run, some always using these roads if there is a right turn tailback.

Buses are frequently delayed which causes inconvenience and bunching. Drivers have been heard on their radios reporting to their controllers that they are delayed because they have had to wait for more than three light changes before turning at that junction.

It is high time the issue is resolved.

### STOP PRESS

The launch of the 20 mph speed limit in Haringey has been confirmed as Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February

## Dates for the Diary

### Members' Meetings (at North Bank, Pages Lane)

Refreshments are served after the talks

#### 8.00pm Wednesday 16 March 2016

A talk by Chris Green, Vicar of St James Church, on the history and present of St James, both the building and what goes on inside it. Much of the work is hidden from view, and so this will be an excellent opportunity to find out some more of what goes on in Muswell Hill.



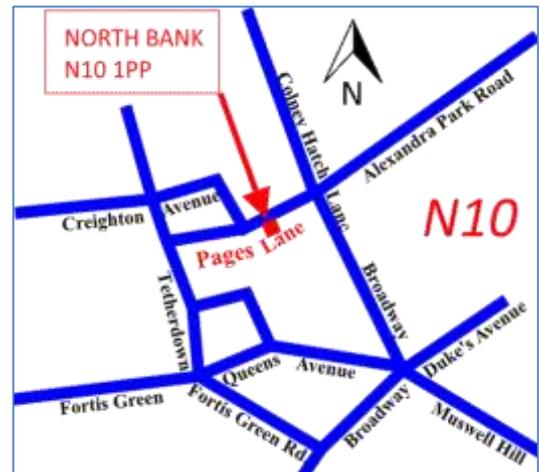
Chris writes:

*I'm Chris Green, the vicar of St James, Muswell Hill, a vibrant church in North London. Before that, I was Vice Principal at Oak Hill Theological College, a seminary in North London, teaching on preaching, church leadership, church planting and ministry. I'm a Church of England minister, and I've been involved in leading four churches. I'm a graduate of Edinburgh University.*

#### 8.00pm Wednesday 13 April 2016

'**Searching for Victor Hember**', a joint family Powerpoint presentation by Hugh Garnsworthy, his wife Ruth (maiden name Hember) and son Christopher. Victor Hember went missing in action on the first day (1<sup>st</sup> July 1916) on the Somme. The presentation is based on letters written by him and his family in an effort to find out what happened to him.

## Where to find us:



## Annual General Meeting

8.00pm Wednesday 18 May 2016, upstairs at The Mossy Well pub, 258 Muswell Hill Broadway, N10 3SH. The meeting will be followed by a buffet.



### Newsletter Editor

We should like to thank David Orme for all his hard work for the Association for the last two years, as editor and a valued member of the committee.

We are grateful to Christine Morris who has agreed to be interim editor until a permanent replacement for David can be found. Christine was born and brought up in Watford but has

lived in north London for many years. She has worked in administrative roles for the past 19 years, following on from a career in computer programming. She is married with two grown-up children, and is a graduate of the Open University.

### Member in profile - David Hamilton

David Hamilton has lived in Muswell Hill since 1969 and moved to the Ringwood estate in 1975. David worked in international banking and finance for 47 years, which meant 15 years travelling in the Asia Pacific region, and included a posting in Tokyo and work in Singapore and Hong Kong. He lived for 5 enjoyable years in Vienna, and four in Lausanne. In his business travels he visited over 45 countries.

David is now retired and took on a church treasury role but gave this up to look after his wife, Patricia, a retired music teacher who contracted Parkinsons. He enjoys swimming, music and cultural interests, travelling and practising his German in a locally formed and highly motivated German conversation and literary group. One of his daughters is a GP, the other is a primary school teacher in Enfield. His son is a support worker for the blind and sings in local opera groups and charity concerts. He has six grandchildren.



David has seen many changes in the neighbourhood. There has been a marked upgrading of the quality of housing, although, on the flip side, the area has become hectic and more crowded. Muswell Hill is now a more modern and dynamic area, partly due to a number of well-known actors, other notables and professionals deciding to set up home here. It offers many excellent facilities, including high quality restaurants and delicatessens. It is good that we still have Martyns and Toffs, but the closure of the very useful Bond and White was regrettable. If only we could resolve the question of traffic and parking after all these years!

## ALEX'S CORNER

Dear Members

A warm welcome to our newest members: John Bloom of Coppetts Road and Kay Carter of Grosvenor Road.

This takes our membership to more than 700, a steady growth year-on-year from the start of the Association in 1948, when Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and later Alexandra Ward residents came together following an outcry over the parking of commercial vehicles in Annington Road, just behind the Muswell Hill police station. You can read more of the Association's activities and campaigns, conducted over these 67 years to protect, maintain and improve the local environment and quality of life, in *Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association: a history of its campaigns and landmark achievements*, which can be freely downloaded from our website [www.mhfga.org](http://www.mhfga.org).

Thanks to the many new corporate members that have joined and are actively supporting the Association. Below is their list and you can find the links to their websites at [www.mhfga.org](http://www.mhfga.org). Bill's Restaurant, Clissold Arms (George Kyriakos Karageorgis), Creative Writing (Nichola Charalambou), Chriskitch (Chris Honor), Delicia (Bob), Duo-Klier (Talia Ramos & Pablo Castro), Elsa (Saliha Demirel), 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), NCT Haringey (Natalie Steiner), Norfolk House School (Samantha Habgood), Planet Organic (Peter Marsh), Pret A Vivre (Lynda Mair), 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), Topps Tiles Boutique (Sean Geb), Victory Auto Services (Mark Bharadia), Woodland Tree Surgery (Christopher Hill).

### Raglan Hotel Development – where will they park?

*Comment from committee member John Crompton*

With regard to the proposed underground parking, 12 spaces is surely not sufficient for 18 flats. We are concerned as to how attractive this solution will be for the new residents in reality (e.g. the steep gradient in and out and having to possibly carry out a lot of manoeuvring to get into a space, especially the corner ones) The danger could be that the residents will feel it easier just to take their chances and park in the street thus adding to the existing parking problems experienced by the established residents in Queens Avenue.

### THE MHFGA WEBSITE

The Association's website <http://mhfga.org/> is visited by thousands of people each year from nearly ninety countries.

In 2015 predictably the largest number of users were from the UK (about a third), but there are frequent visits from people all over the Globe. Some you would expect, like the USA, Australia and Canada; others less so, such as Colombia, Cambodia and Mexico. They come to view the galleries of images of Muswell Hill past and present, to download the history of the Association with details of its work and its campaigns over the years to preserve and improve our cherished area of North London. [http://mhfga.org/?page\\_id=1265](http://mhfga.org/?page_id=1265). They check out the winners of our latest Photographic Competition [http://mhfga.org/?page\\_id=1185](http://mhfga.org/?page_id=1185) and news of our meetings and current events.

If you haven't already done so, why not have a look now.

## The John Baird pub

The John Baird owes its existence to the *Luftwaffe*. During the Second World War a German bomber unleashed a stick of bombs over Muswell Hill, one of which exploded on the corner of Fortis Green Road and Princes Avenue, destroying the corner shop that doubled up as a post office and a pharmacy.

Eventually, the brewery company, Courage and Barclay, bought the bomb site to build a pub. But it is the connection with television because of its proximity to Alexandra Palace, the birthplace of television, that gives the John Baird its unique identity. The pub was named after John Logie Baird, the inventor of television, and early TV celebrities were at the opening in 1960. The first pint was pulled by Leslie Mitchell, the announcer whose voice was the first to be heard on BBC Television when it began broadcasting in 1936 in a transmission from Alexandra Palace. Also present were William Taynton, whose face was the first-ever to be televised in an experiment in Baird's laboratory where he had been an office boy, and Malcolm, Baird's son, who was a research chemist at Cambridge.

Recently the pub has been redecorated and has reformed the connection with television history through displays of antique TV sets and a specially-commissioned portrait of the inventor himself gazing down – rather severely, it must be said – on the proceedings.

*Ian Mather*



*The site became a garden before the pub was built*



*Malcolm Baird pulls a pint watched by Wally Pack and Leslie Mitchell*

## The Flower Boxes in Bloom Again!



Thanks to the Association the flower boxes around the roundabout continue to brighten up the winter days. Our planting team of Pauline Hudson, Lucy Haynes and Brian Livingston braved a cold and windy winter's morning to plant up the flower boxes and bring back some colour to the railings. This was an MHFGA exclusive operation, from the layout design, the choice of plants, logistical planning and the green fingers on the day. Thanks also go to Sunshine Gardens who gave us a generous discount on the cost of the flowers.

## Pinkham Way

It is now five years since the North London Waste Authority's announcement of plans for a waste plant on Pinkham Way nature conservation site, two thirds of which it had purchased secretly, and with no planning permission, from Barnet Council. It is now over three years since that project was abandoned because there was not enough waste to treat - confounding the Waste Authorities' own bullish projections. And still the argument goes on, with Haringey Council continuing to manipulate its planning policies to save the NLWA embarrassment.

In a few months' time an independent Planning Inspector will examine Haringey's **Local Plan** – the land use plan for the whole borough. At that point the Council will have to address the overwhelming evidence against its arguments for the retention of Pinkham Way's employment status. The Pinkham Way Alliance is now drafting one final submission, a vital one as it goes to the Inspector. We'll shortly ask supporters to sign in support of this, and will be publishing detailed bullet points for people to study before doing so.

We are hugely grateful for the continued support of so many for the campaign. It is remarkable after such a long time and continues to make a very real difference.

*Susie Holden*

[www.pinkhamwayalliance.org](http://www.pinkhamwayalliance.org)

## Muswell Hill Library

### Saturday March 5th, 2-3 pm

Creative Writes with Nichola Charalambou. Try some simple but effective writing games and exercises - you might surprise yourself! Nichola has been running motivational and creative writing workshops in Muswell Hill since 2009.

### Saturday March 12, 3-4pm

Down the Rabbit Hole performance (aimed at adults, but suitable for ages 10+) Imagine if Lorina, Alice's older sister, went down the rabbit hole. Come and find out who she met on a surreal adventure....things get curiouser and curiouser. This performance premiered at the Settle Stories Festival, and is created by storyteller Sita Brand

### Saturday April 30th, 2-3pm

Jocelyn Robson will discuss her book *Radical Reformers and Respectable Rebels: the true story of Grace Oakeshott, an Englishwoman who staged her own death and reinvented herself in New Zealand, in the early 1900s.* Her story is revealed through the reform movements of the period including education for girls, ethical socialism and the changing nature of marriage.

All events are free and there is no need to book

## Friends of Muswell Hill Library

This local community organisation has approximately 100 members. We exist solely for the benefit of the library and its users. We are in regular contact with Haringey Council and library staff to put forward the ideas, wishes and concerns of local users. Most of our members will know us best for the fantastic talks and workshops that we organise in the library! These mainly take place on Saturday afternoons, once or twice a month. In 2015, highlights included a free-flow creative writing workshop, a fascinating talk from a local beekeeper, and an audience with a world-renowned BBC journalist. We even had a carol singing session with mince pies and our treasurer on the piano at Christmas! 2016 has already got off to a great start with packed audiences for all of our talks so far.

Life membership for the Friends of Muswell Hill Library costs just £5 and we would really encourage everyone to sign up and support such a wonderful organisation in its vital work in promoting the library.

Please email [friends.muswell@gmail.com](mailto:friends.muswell@gmail.com) for more information, or simply ask at the library desk for a membership form. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

George Danker  
Chairman, Friends of Muswell Hill Library

### Concern about Muswell Hill Post Office

You may have seen recent news reports that the Post Office in Muswell Hill is being considered for private franchise. This raises the possibility that, if no franchisee is found, the Post Office could close. The situation is even more concerning because another local Post Office, the one in Crouch End, is also being considered for franchise.

These Post Offices are hugely important to local residents and business owners, and are heavily relied upon by the communities they serve. As the organizer of the petition below states, "if either closes, the nearest post office will be at least a bus journey away. This would be particularly onerous for the elderly and for people with disabilities."

If you are concerned, why not add your name to the petition which can be found at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/jaqlxub>

or look for the link on our Twitter account:  
<https://twitter.com/theMHFGA>

Duncan Neill

## HAVE YOUR SAY - write to [editor@mhfga.org](mailto:editor@mhfga.org)

### Metropolitan Night Club

from Nichola Charalambou, Director, Creative Writes

I am pleased to be a new member of the Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association.

As well as running my business locally, I have lived in the area for over 13 years and have recently moved into a flat on The Broadway. We are having a lot of problems with the noise, particularly from the crowds leaving the Metropolitan Night Club in the early hours at weekends. I thought it would be useful to forward you the email correspondence that my flatmate has begun with Catherine West and wondered whether the Association could be involved in some way in this?

From Jacqueline Goldenstein to Catherine West

My flatmate and I moved in to a flat on Muswell Hill Broadway last September. We are finding it increasingly stressful and noisy on Friday and Saturday nights and I'm sure it's down to the Metropolitan night club on the corner opposite Mossy Well. Between 2.00am and 4.30am there are often noisy, drunk and disorderly groups of people hanging around the bus terminal roundabout and the Broadway. Violent fights are breaking out along with screaming matches and it makes for a stressful time for residents. I've actually called the police on two occasions due to such violent outbreaks. The lack of police presence doesn't help but I don't expect their resources to be wasted on a night club either.

Please can something be done and the licensing laws changed so they will have to close earlier by 12.00am. I really don't think Muswell Hill is the right location for a night club and this whole experience is upsetting to have to deal with every week.

What do we have to do to make this a reality?

Response from the office of Catherine West, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green:

Thank you for your email. Catherine is sorry to hear that you are being disturbed in your home by the night club and has written to the council to ask whether a licensing review could be considered. She will be back in touch once she has received a response.

Reply from John Hajdu:

The problem of noise and bad behaviour is not new and it was much worse when there were three night clubs at the roundabout and I am afraid the clubs are here to stay.

As far as changing the law is concerned, this is almost impossible. The Clubs get their licence from the Council, but it does not apply to what happens outside their premises.

Any night time disturbance must be reported to the police, and they will attend, but as far as I know, there is no regular police presence in the area at night.

I suggest that you get in touch with the Inspector responsible for Neighbourhood policing in this area.

Dear Editor,

Are the members of the MH&FG Association aware that there are moves afoot to close down or sell off to franchise the Muswell Hill Post Office?

For those who are interested, the news is here:  
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jan/19/uk-post-offices-to-close-or-be-franchised-the-list-in-full>

Surely this important local amenity must be protected? What post offices are left in this area? Can we afford to chance the service of a franchised business which might stay open for a few months, then quietly shut its doors and sell off the building for yet another bar-restaurant?

Lydia Rivlin

### News from Fortismere School - Site Improvement Project

Fortismere School has been formed through the merger of three schools over the past 100 years, and we are fortunate to occupy a large, spacious site, but because it is made up of several separate buildings of differing ages, it also has particular problems.

We have two canteens (one in North Wing and one in South Wing), neither of which is really fit for purpose, and the Sixth Form/LINC block is inadequate for our needs. The Governors of Fortismere have been discussing with Haringey Council the options for making much-needed improvements to the site.

A Project Board has been set up and the first stage in the process is to conduct a Feasibility Study. This will take 3 or 4 months and the priority will be to assess the Sixth Form building and canteens and explore the best and most affordable solution. Once the study has been completed, the school will undertake a formal consultation process, which will involve a wide range of stakeholders, including members of the local community.

We hope to keep to the timescales below, dependent on the outcome of the Feasibility Study:

| <b>Activity</b>                   | <b>Date</b>               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Feasibility Study                 | January to March 2016     |
| Consultation                      | May to October 2016       |
| Design & Contractor Tender Period | May 2016 to June 2017     |
| Construction Works                | July 2017 to January 2019 |
| Completion                        | January 2019              |

To read a full briefing on the project and our FAQs, please click this link to the [school website](#).

Any further questions about the project can be addressed to [communications@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:communications@fortismere.org.uk). And we will respond to all queries as soon as possible.

**Stephen Dunmore (Chair of Governors)**  
**Zoe Judge (Acting Headteacher)**

#### 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 next concert will be at St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road, Muswell Hill, on 12 March 2016 at 7.30pm. Dvorak Cello Concerto (soloist Thomas Gregory), Brahms Symphony No.3, Conductors Paul Hoskins and Thomas Gregory. Leader Rebekah Allan. Tickets will be available on the door. 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](mailto:fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk).

#### HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

We meet to discuss local and national issues with visiting speakers on the third Wednesday of the month. Coming up: 16 March "Meals on Wheels" starting at 1.30pm promptly. Our meetings are held in the Main Church Hall of Hornsey Parish Church at Cranley Gardens N10 3AH. On 11 April "North London hustings for the London Mayor" at Islington Town Hall from 2.00-4.00pm. Contact Ann Anderson on 020 8340 8335 or [www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk)

#### WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST JAMES CHURCH?

Community Cafe - Tuesdays: 11.00am-1.00pm. 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](mailto:gebrazier@gmail.com) 020 8883 6453. Venue: St James Centre. Legal Advice: Free legal advice - Mondays & Saturdays walk-in service from 10.00am-12 noon, venue: St James Church, contact: [anything.legal@dial.pipex.com](mailto:anything.legal@dial.pipex.com)

#### RETIRED, OR HEADING FOR RETIREMENT?

UNIVERSITY OF 3<sup>RD</sup> 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](http://www.nlu3a.org.uk).

#### HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Monday 7 March 2016, **Ronald Corp 65th Birthday Concert** at Royal Festival Hall, Belvedere Road SE1 8XX. Tickets £15 - £35. With Roderick Williams and Rebecca Evans. **Britten Four Sea Interludes, Corp Behold the Sea (World Premiere), Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony** More details at [www.hcschoir.com](http://www.hcschoir.com)

#### MUSWELL HILL TOY LIBRARY

Open Mondays 2.00-3.30 pm, Thursdays 9.30am to 12 noon, and Fridays 9.30am to 12 noon. 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk)

#### MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The club meets every Wednesday at Jacksons Lane Community Centre at 7.45pm. We show and discuss our photographs, and we have guest speakers, competitions, and practical activities. Visit our website, [www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk](http://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](mailto:contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk).

THE CLISSOLD ARMS, 105 Fortis Green, East Finchley, N29HR  
Backgammon competition 6.30pm on second Wednesday of every month  
Weight Watchers meeting every Wednesday morning 10.00-11.30am.

East Finchley Altogether Better coffee mornings Mondays 10.30am to 12 noon.

Sorting Self (ladies' self-help group), Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm

Singalong for Singles, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm for dinner, 7.30pm for singalong only.

#### QUEEN'S WOOD

Friends of Queen's Wood Working Party - Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>.

All welcome. 10.30am. Meet at The Lodge Muswell Hill Road (bus stop 134 & 43 near gate).

AGM April 14 7.30pm at The Lodge. Slide/talk speaker from the Woodland Trust. Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, East Finchley, London N2 9HR

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](mailto:editor@mhfga.org) and [patriciajlott@aol.com](mailto:patriciajlott@aol.com) by 13 April 2016.

**Contact Point**  
Planet Organic, 111 - 117 Muswell Hill Road, N10 3HS  
You can meet your local police here on:

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

Planet Organic, 111 - 117 Muswell Hill Road, N10 3HS  
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.
- Report as well as reporting items 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](http://www.met.police.uk)  
If you need to speak to the police call 101.  
Always call 999 in an emergency.

#### Alexandra Palace and Park

It is estimated that 2.8 million people visited the Park by foot in 2015, an increase of 12% on the year before. If you add car and bus passengers, it is easy to see that Ally Pally is now one of the big attractions in both north London and the wider area.

The variety of events held at the Palace includes the William Hill World Darts Championship, the annual fireworks festival, gigs by popular bands, antiques shows and the Classic and Sports Car Festival. In addition, corporate and private events are generating an increasing amount of income, helping the move towards long-term financial sustainability.

Enabling works have started on the East Wing restoration project. A Theatre Policy has been drafted in collaboration with Friends of the Theatre. Whilst the theatre opening season starting in April 2018 seems a long time away, we expect some very interesting announcements to be made this year.

The pub will be renamed The Phoenix Bar and Kitchen.

Last but not least, an era came to an end recently when the fallow deer herd were moved permanently from their home near the boating lake to a couple of deer parks in Devon. The communication of this decision to the local community was hurried and may have caused some unnecessary concern about what was happening to the deer. However, it does appear that veterinary advice over the past few years and increasing disturbances from local building developments means that the deer have found a better home and Muswell Hill has lost some of its long-term residents.

Duncan Neill

## Do you know Coldfall Wood?

by Ann Bronkhorst

Readers of the Newsletter may have noticed occasional updates on events in Coldfall Wood. Some readers are regular walkers who know the wood closely, in all its weathers and moods; a few unlucky souls won't even have heard of it.

On the north side of Creighton Avenue patches of trees appear between the houses and you discover a wood lying in a dip of the land; drivers passing often miss it. To learn its history go to [www.coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk) and find the maps: once it was double the size, part of the Bishop of London's hunting grounds and a source of timber from oaks and charcoal from regularly-coppiced hornbeams. Now it's a nature reserve owned by Haringey, a lovely, natural ancient wood.

One reason why Coldfall Wood has become better-known in recent years is because of the programme of coppicing undertaken by Haringey, resulting in more light reaching many areas and a less "sinister" atmosphere (to quote some local people). Thanks largely to Haringey's Conservation Officer Ian Holt, proactive woodland management has transformed Coldfall and local Conservation Volunteers work there regularly to maintain and improve it.

Several schools are near the wood with one, Coldfall Primary School, having its own gateway straight into the trees. The distinctive sign at the wood's eastern entrance on Creighton Avenue was designed by a pupil at Fortismere School. Families criss-cross Coldfall on their way to and from school, spotting squirrels, picking blackberries, pausing to peer in the stream. It seems likely that children who are helped to know and value Coldfall won't be the ones who drop litter or set fires.



The website also flags up events organised by the Friends of Coldfall Wood. The programme has become more adventurous over recent years. There are regular walks that focus on trees, birds, bats, insects, fungi and flora; now geology, photography, medicinal plants, storytelling and Forest School methods have added to the variety on offer. You can book online. And on the website there is a gallery of photos and videos showing Coldfall all year round: maybe you could add some of your own? It's spring, a time of hope and regrowth for our unassuming little local wood. If you've never visited it, why not put on your walking shoes today?



## Planet Organic

Planet Organic is a chain of stores selling organic groceries including household and beauty products. The Muswell Hill store (111/117 Muswell Hill Road, N10 3HS) contains a cafe area serving organic food and drink made with seasonal and natural ingredients. It offers a large range of produce catering for diets such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, paleo and raw. The on-site café serves breakfast and lunch. You can choose from a selection of warm and cold dishes which are served in environmentally friendly packaging and with wooden cutlery. Alongside the meals Planet Organic has coffee and fresh juices, energy shots and shakes.

*See voucher to the left for a special offer!*

## LCCCP: FROM GREEN MAN TO GREENFIELDS

Members may recall that in 2013 planning consent was granted for the demolition of the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsey, (LCCCP'), the night club behind the Green Man and the partial demolition of the old Green Man building. In their place new bespoke accommodation was to be built for LCCCP replacing the nightclub part of the Green Man with an entrance on Muswell Hill. At the same time consent was given for the construction of 28 residential units consisting of 6 four bedroom houses and a mix of 1 to 3 bedroom flats some of which would be facing Muswell Hill and some on the land vacated by the Centre between the gardens in Dukes Avenue and Muswell Hill Primary School.



It was originally intended that LCCCP should remain on site while the works were undertaken. However, it became clear that this was not going to work and LCCCP consequently moved into temporary accommodation at the former Greenfields School on Coppetts Road on a short term lease from Haringey. It now appears that the new site is a vast improvement on what LCCCP had left and better than the new facilities that were to be built for them on Muswell Hill.

At a Cabinet meeting on 20th October last Haringey resolved to declare the Greenfield School site surplus to requirements and enter into a land swap with LCCCP so that Haringey will end up with a long lease of the LCCCP land on Muswell Hill and LCCCP end up with the freehold of the Greenfields site and retain a small area in the Muswell Hill development. It is understood that Haringey intend to use the upper floors of the Muswell Hill property to create 6 affordable / shared ownership housing one bedroom flats and the ground floor area as an unspecified "community building". It is believed that this could be health, education or something similar. LCCCP has already made a planning application to convert Greenfields School to its specific needs and it is understood that the funds that were raised by public subscription for the Green Man site will be utilised for these works and that all donors were consulted and consented.

Nick Barr