

Traffic Issues in Muswell Hill.....

.....resolved and on-going

Double yellow lines in Fortis Green



Before

As a result of our prompting, a redundant disabled bay has been removed from Fortis Green near its junction with Fortis Green Road and double yellow lines have been painted along this stretch of road. Buses are no longer blocked by cars parked here as illustrated in these photos taken by Jacqueline Servat.



After

Bus lane

The bus lane on Muswell Hill has recently been changed to operate 24 hours a day. The reason given was the need to control parking outside bars and nightclubs at the top of the hill. There was no sign warning of

the change and drivers who regularly use the area and feel there is no need to check the sign each time have been caught out and fined. It appears there is no obligation to erect a sign but we have written and asked that, as a courtesy, this is done in such circumstances. The council responded to our concerns and have now erected a warning sign.

Electric car charging points

Haringey council are moving ahead with the installation of electric car charging points in the borough, They say they are:

- signing an agreement with Blue Point London on expanding street charging points across the borough, and repairing defective ones already in place
- introducing trials of street-lamp based charging points in optimum locations after selecting a supplier
- working with TfL to roll out some of London's first rapid charging points.

Safety improvements on Priory Road

In response to concerns raised by residents a number of safety improvements have been and are being made on Priory Road. First the entries into a number of side roads were narrowed to slow cars making the turn. A build out was made at the

March/April 2018

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entrance to Warner Road to assist drivers entering Priory Road whose view could be blocked by parked vehicles. This build out is causing concerns amongst cyclists who claim that this forces them into the narrow gap between the build out and the central reservation. The Haringey Cycling Campaign and the Warner Estate Residents Association are taking this up with the council.

The best news is that funding was secured for the building of a zebra crossing on Priory Road near its junction with Redston Road. This is now being built.

Congestion in the Broadway



Concern has been raised about traffic congestion in Muswell Hill Broadway on Sundays caused by parked cars. The position is particularly bad in the stretch by Muswell Road. We have written to the council suggesting that weekday parking restrictions be extended to include Sundays. In response the council are now proposing to paint double yellow lines to restrict parking at all times in part of the road.

Chris Barker, Transport Officer

If you love us, you have to 'like' us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/MuswellHillandFortisGreenAssociation

Visit us on Twitter for regular updates: @theMHFGA

Follow us on Instagram for beautiful images of Muswell Hill: @mhfga

Visit our website: www.mhfga.org



Dates for Your Diary

Members' Meetings

Our meetings are open to the public and are free of charge

Thursday 15 March, 7.30pm, at North Bank, Pages Lane, N10 1PP
Muswell Health host an evening of taster sessions and short talks on Life Coaching, Osteopathy, Acupuncture, Psycho-therapy and Counselling, Massage, Reflexology, Homeopathy, Nutritional Therapy, Alexander Technique, Ayurveda Nutrition and Lifestyle. This will be an opportunity to find out about the many different therapies on offer at their local Complementary Therapy Centre. **Please email events@mhfga.org to book your space as there is limited availability for some of the taster sessions.** Even if you do not want to book a session come along and find out more. Refreshments will be provided.

Thursday 12 April, 7.45pm, at North Bank, Pages Lane, N10 1PP
Presentation by Haringey Police, including a Q&A session. Inspector Kevin Blenkinsopp, Sergeant Peter Tarrant, Constable Alan Rankin, and Community Safety Officer David Shipp will cover the following topics:

- . The Met's new website
- . CCTV coverage at the Broadway
- . Fortismere School students in the Broadway
- . Theft from motor vehicles
- . Theft of motor vehicles
- . Crime and disorder around nightclubs
- . Any other areas of concern.

Monday 14 May, 7.30pm - AGM at the John Baird. Thai food will be served.

Thursday 14 June, 2pm - guided visit to Highgate Cemetery. Tickets £12. Booking details in the next newsletter.

Join in our Facebook community

We have an active Facebook page with over 700 followers – and we would like to encourage you to follow along. We post current updates and news stories that relate to Muswell Hill, you can also post your comments and questions. All our events are also listed on that page.

We also share beautiful pictures like this one of the snow in December from the Parkland walk with St James Church on the horizon.



Photo by Zoe Norfolk

New Headteachers appointed at Fortismere School

Two new Co-Headteachers have been appointed at Fortismere School. Ms Zoe Judge and Ms Jo Davey have been acting Co-Headteachers since the beginning of the academic year, and the decision to make their roles permanent was made in early February, effective immediately.

Their appointment was the result of a rigorous selection process involving a variety of stakeholders in the school, including the Senior Leadership Team, other staff members, parents, students and Governors.

Please let us know if you have changed your e-mail address so that you will continue to receive the Newsletter

Visit our website www.mhfga.org for lots of information about the local area including old photos and John Hajdu's history of the Association. If you have a photo or news item why not share it with our members on Twitter @theMHFGA or visit www.twitter.com/theMHFGA. We tweet regularly on Association and local news, so please follow and spread the word. And don't forget our Facebook page!

Member in Profile

Wendy Wallace



I've lived in Muswell Hill for about twenty years, having arrived here from Hackney in 1997, in search of greenery and good schools. Those November late afternoons in the weeks after we moved into our new house seemed darker than any I had ever known in London. The leaves of the great, scabby plane trees were big as dinner plates. Our new back garden was of sucking clay, and full of frogs. We were burgled before we had even unpacked the boxes.

I liked Muswell Hill less than I like it now. The peace and sense of removal from the city unnerved me when I first came here; was this London? We didn't initially know anyone. Now, we know many people, not only the friends we have made but also people known mainly by sight, the man who reads books in his breaks from sweeping the pavements, Ben Wilson's familiar figure prone on the pavement as he paints his miniatures onto blobs of chewing gum, a patient from St Luke's who has frequented the area for all these years.

Some aspects of Muswell Hill – the dramatic topography and elegant architecture - do not alter, but so much has changed in two decades. Open or abandoned spaces behind Tetherdown primary school, and along Grand Avenue have been built upon, front gardens paved for parking. St Luke's, the police station and former Alexandra pub along Fortis Green all converted into apartments. The Singer sewing machine shop a distant memory, the Odeon now the Everyman, Avenue Mews revived. Martyns, with its turning coffee roaster emitting fragrant smoke, provides a living link to our suburb's Edwardian beginnings. Less obviously, a sense of civility, of community, endures.

Our children finished their primary education at St James School, went on to Fortismere School as we had hoped and flourished in the peace and freedom of this area. My husband Mike Goldwater and I continued our careers as - respectively - freelance photographer and writer, working from home much of the time. Our capacious house made this possible and pleasant; the easy access to town and routes out of London have been a bonus. Over time, I changed from writing feature articles for the Times Educational Supplement, to non-fiction books and more recently historical novels. The first, *The Painted Bridge*, takes place in 1859, the setting and title inspired by Kenwood House and grounds.

Recently, we have downsized to a mansion flat, which with its curved walls, decorative woodwork and huge windows feels much like our house once did. We still look out on London plane trees at the front, and down towards the tops of the trees in Highgate woods at the back, this place that once felt so unfamiliar now our much-loved home. We've taken on an allotment at East Finchley, a mile away as the crow flies.

I joined the Association because I'm interested in the history of the area, its life in the present, and efforts to preserve its special character for future inhabitants.

Anti-social behaviour

A view from a local resident

I've recently moved from Highgate to Muswell Hill, I find the village a vibrant and enjoyable place to live. Our village offers a far greater range of local shops, boutiques, interesting restaurants and pleasant markets from home and abroad.

Perhaps the only thing that N10 has in the 'negative' column is the anti-social behaviour aspect. I live very close to the Broadway in a new development in a busy, central part of the village. A legacy of 'old' Muswell Hill is the plethora of pubs and take-away shops around the Broadway and unfortunately this can often lead to anti-social behaviour. Even without the nightclub our development is often used as a public toilet late at night as revellers leave the pubs. There have also been several reported incidents of drug dealing, noise, fighting and, in my case, two bricks thrown at my windows which, had they smashed, would have caused thousands of pounds worth of damage. In the case of the bricks, they were small enough to indicate this was not a robbery attempt, just a simple case of petty vandalism. We have also had post box theft in the past few weeks with an individual caught on our CCTV cameras. The development is also being used as a 'rat run' as cars cut out the Broadway using Dukes Mews. I've seen several near misses of cars and pedestrians.

In fairness, the police have been visible and engaging with any of the new residents who have complained, yet there is little they can do given their stretched resources.

Our lack of an underground station, in many ways, makes us more self-sufficient as we shop locally and socialise locally, and this should not change. However, as with many London villages, socialising does not mean late night drinking, urinating and fighting, it means gastropubs, local dining, wine bars and cafes and restaurants. Clearly, pubs have and will always exist, but the council should be aware that the constant police presence is not what this village needs, particularly given its proximity to several new luxury developments.

The village is changing for the better, and so should the nightlife that complements it.

Neil Colquhoun



Muswell Hill roundabout, 1907

Long service award for Maureen Foulkes-Hajdu



Maureen receives her award from Cressida Dick, Commissioner of the Met Police

MHFGA member, Maureen Foulkes-Hajdu, has received a well-deserved award for 10 years of service as a volunteer for the Metropolitan Police.

Haringey Police's Inspector Kevin Blenkinsopp, who read her award citation, said: "Maureen has been a tremendous support to the police and the community in Haringey for a number of years".

A smiling Maureen said: "Having worked as a Met Police Volunteer in Haringey since 2005, I was delighted to be invited to a ceremony at New Scotland Yard to be awarded my long-service badge by the Commissioner herself, attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and other dignitaries.

"It has been a very rewarding – if sometimes somewhat frustrating – twelve years, but I have so much enjoyed working alongside uniformed colleagues who have all accorded me and my fellow volunteers on the front counter at our much-missed police station in Fortis Green, Muswell Hill, every courtesy and patient advice.

"We were a great team brilliantly held together by our Volunteer Co-ordinator, and we kept the front counter open for more than ten years which would otherwise not have been possible. I am now manning the Met Police Contact Point at Planet Organic in Muswell Hill every Saturday afternoon, maintaining a police presence in the community, which is much appreciated by the public, particularly in these uncertain times of police station closures across the borough. It has been a huge privilege to work with the Met Police, and I hope to continue to do so for the foreseeable future."

Alex's Corner

Our Association covers Muswell Hill, Fortis Green & Alexandra wards, and works closely with our corporate members.

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to our new members:

Sally Stevens, of Muswell Avenue
 Rosalind Freeborn, of Muswell Hill
 Sara Hodgkinson, of Muswell Hill Road
 Claudia Tye, of Sutton Road
 Tessa Kulik, of The Avenue
 Lena Rigby, of Tetherdown
 Kaye Bhatt, Zebra Ceramics
 Colin & Rachel Campbell, of Alexandra Gardens
 Rachael Booth-Clibborn, Muswell Hill Creatives

Georgia Pairtrie, of Fortis Green
 Richard Mathias, of Church Vale
 Neil Colquhoun, of Pinnacle Close
 Vanya Zaeva, Baby Sensory
 David Allen, of Walpole Road
 Ewelina Ogorzalek, Evelina's Patisserie
 Olivia Geisler, Greene & Co
 Martin Stone, of Duke's Avenue
 Lee Worrall, of Fortis Green Road.

Comings and goings in Muswell Hill

- Barker's to close at the end of March
- Muddy Boots replaced by Shimco Shoes
- Flesh & Flour now has a new owner
- Fara Charity closed their full shop of everything and will re-open as Fara Kids
- Caffe Nero are moving from the bus roundabout to the former Maison Blanc
- Really British has closed and is replaced by House of Books

Corporate Members

Seventy local businesses and organisations support the Association. You can find the links to their websites on our Corporate page at www.mhfga.org and click **Useful Links**.

Acorn Property Group	Excel English Language School	Muswell Flyer	Sorbet Muswell Hill
Aleion	Fagins Toys Ltd	Muswell Health	St James Muswell Hill
Alexandra Park Brazilian Jiu Jitsu	FEAST	Muswell Hill Bikes	Take Two Brothers
Angela Rose	Feet	Muswell Hill Bookshop	The Hampstead Butcher & Providore
Baby Sensory	Flesh & Flour Ltd	Muswell Hill Bowling Club	The John Baird
Barkers for Dogs	Fortismere School	Muswell Hill Creatives	The Mossy Well
Barnet Furniture Centre	Freehold Community Association	Muswell Hill Methodist Church	The Real Greek
Bob's Café	Friends of St. James's Square	Muswell Hill Pharmacy	The Robin Kiashek
Broadway Pet Stores	Greene & Co	Muswell Hill Toy Library	Osteopathic Clinics
Broadway Pharmacy	Hamptons International	Muswell Hill United Reformed Church	Tim Moss Furniture
Can't Buy Me Love	House of Nails	Panoptica	Toffs of Muswell Hill
Cha Cha Cha	Internet Express/PhoneRepairs4u	Planet Organic	Victory Auto Services
Children's Bookshop	Keats Estate Agents	Pret A Vivre	Walter Purkis & Sons
Clissold Arms	Knidos Restaurant	Principia Brand Consultants	WAVE
Cosi Homewares	Lavender White	Rhodes Avenue Primary School	WMartyn
Crouch End Festival Chorus	Mailboxes Etc.	Robert Linsky Opticians	Woodland Tree Surgery
East Finchley Open Artists	Muddy Boots	Sally Bourne Interiors	Zebra Ceramics
Evelina's Patisserie		Snappy Snaps	
Everyman Muswell Hill			

Muswell Hill Creatives

Muswell Hill Creatives was founded in 2014 and brings together local artists, designers and makers united by a desire to create original, high-quality products through skilled workmanship. This small collective includes those who have had full careers in the creative sector, as well as some who have re-trained in areas they have long been interested in or have simply returned to an old passion for creating. The creatives have their own businesses, but also come together to sell their work as the Muswell Hill Creatives at markets in St James's Square, pop up shops and in 2017 with its first exhibition held at the Hornsey Town Hall Arts Centre in Crouch End.

The collective currently comprises:

Shelley Zetuni of Goldust Millinery
 Rachel Orme (leather bags and accessories)
 Rob Jones of Romor Designs (Shibori textiles)
 Michele Wyckoff Smith of Wyckoff Smith Jewellery
 Jo Angell Design (prints, cards & homeware)
 Caroline Stansfield of The Little Cloth Shop (childrenswear)
 Samantha Sweet, Glass
 Isabella Lepri Ceramics
 Elvira van Vredenburg Designs (cards, wrap, scarves and prints).
 Jess Albert (artist)
 Tracy Lord Knits
 Rachael Booth-Clibborn (MHC Founder)

Website: www.muswellhillcreatives.com, FB: Muswell Hill Creatives, Instagram: @N10creatives and Twitter: @N10Creatives.



Baby Sensory



My name is Vanya and I am the proud owner of Baby Sensory Muswell Hill. I have a Masters degree in psychology and am a member of the British Psychological Society. I have worked as a psychologist for Care International with babies, children and their families. I have also worked as a nanny.

Baby Sensory is a Baby Development programme with classes specifically designed for babies from birth to 13 months. The programme is very well designed and beneficial for babies' development as well as fun for everyone taking part. The founder of Baby Sensory, Dr Lin Day, is one of the UK's leading parenting experts and a renowned author within the field of childcare and education. With over 35 years of practical experience working with parents and children, Dr Day developed Baby Sensory to provide the support and knowledge necessary to lead baby learning and development forwards in the most important year of life. Before each activity we explain why what we are about to do is beneficial for the babies and we give simple, practical ideas which parents can recreate at home.

I am very happy and excited to be leading Baby Sensory classes in Muswell Hill and to be part of this wonderful community. Meeting the little ones for the first time when they can be as young as 2 weeks old and being part of their life until they turn 13 months is fantastic, although I do get a little sad when our babies graduate. I absolutely love what I do, and I can't wait to see my babies and parents each week in class.

We do lots of different activities such as puppet shows, musical activities, light shows, baby massage, dancing, bubbles and so much more. Please check our website (www.babysensory.com/muswell-hill/home) for details of class times and activities. We hold classes in North Finchley and Hampstead Garden suburb as well as Muswell Hill.

Vanya Zaeva

How you can help to support the MHFGA

We are always very grateful to receive donations from our members, either of time or money. If you would like to support a specific project, for example plants or flowers, please do specify this when making your donation. Perhaps you might like to consider leaving a legacy to MHFGA? All the work that we do is to preserve and enhance our local environment. Please contact John Hajdu for further details.



Phone boxes

A report by the Association's graffiti patrol

As we have been doing the graffiti patrol over the years we have noticed the decline of the phone boxes in our area. Some have disappeared and those remaining have become increasingly scruffy and in many cases positively filthy. In addition, most of them do not work.

We decided we should do something about this. At the suggestion of Chris Barker, we contacted David Shipp at the council, who has been very helpful and active in chasing up BT. Following David's emails, BT arranged for all their phone boxes to be cleaned. The first cleaning was only partially successful but after our complaints a second round of cleaning left the boxes in satisfactory condition.

Most of the phones do not work, but BT refuses to remove these useless boxes. The reason is probably that they earn advertising revenue.

The box outside The Flower Seller (opposite Sainsbury's) is not owned by BT but by another company, whose details we do not know. The Flower Seller uses it for storing plastic crates during the day. Of course, the phone does not work.

The most interesting case is the old red phone box on Princes Avenue opposite the library. The handle has been removed from the door so one cannot get in and therefore we don't know if the phone works or not. Is this Schrodinger's phone?

Jack Whitehead

[Schrodinger's Cat presents the theory that a cat may be simultaneously both alive and dead, a state known as a quantum superposition, as a result of being linked to a random subatomic event that may or may not occur. Ed]



Phone box in Muswell Hill Road by Cranley Gate

Rubbish in Queens Avenue - update



For the past six months, the MHFGA has been lobbying Haringey Council to clean up Queens Avenue, which has suffered from repeated dumping of household and commercial waste for many years.

Some small improvements have been made, but overall it seems that very little action has been taken despite regular complaints being submitted by MHFGA on behalf of residents.

We are very disappointed at the lack of results as the persistent dumping is taking place at particular addresses which are well known to the Council's Waste Management team. We continue to keep up the pressure on the Council and urge interested residents to contact their local Councillors to add weight to our message.

George Danker and John Crompton

Proposed development at 1-9 Fortis Green Road

This application for the redevelopment of the site to provide six flats with retail below would be the largest building scheme in our town centre since the late 1960s when we lost the Athenaeum and gained the Sainsbury building.

There has been speculation about a possible redevelopment of these post-Edwardian single storey buildings for years but no actual application until now. At a very early stage of the process, which started in 2015, the Council indicated that it favoured a contemporary design approach and this is what the architects came up with. At no stage did the Council or the (unknown) developer seek out the views of the local community about any of this and there is understandable concern from the existing traders (and their customers) about the implications for them.

The Association drew attention to the application through social media following which more than 200 comments have been submitted to the Council and petitions have attracted several hundred signatures. Design, loss of views of the church, lack of parking provision and effect on independent traders are the main areas of concern. In its own submission the Association invited the developer to respond to the points of concern but at the time of writing nothing has been posted on the Council website. We await the next moves with interest.

John Crompton



Local Organisations and Events

ST JAMES' CHURCH

Tuesdays, 11.00am-1.00pm. Community Cafe - free coffee, cake and conversation. Venue: through the main doors, just turn up.

Wednesdays 2.30-3.30pm -Tea Time for seniors in the Muswell Hill area. Tea, sandwiches and entertainment.

Contact: gebrazier@gmail.com 020 8883 6453. Venue: St James' Centre.

Mondays & Saturdays 10.00am-12 noon- free legal advice walk-in. Venue: St James' Church, contact:

anything.legal@dial.pipex.com.

Sundays 4:45-5:45pm, Monday-Thursday 7:45-8:45pm.

Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen, located at the Muswell Hill Baptist Church. Donations of any non-perishable items would be welcomed. Contact: soupkitchen@mhbc.org.uk

10am on Fridays during term time Challenge Group: for families with a pre-schooler with additional needs.

THE FREEHOLD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mondays - Freehold Community Men's Shed -10.30am-3.30pm. Showstoppers Performing Arts - 5-7pm. Yoga - 7-8pm.

Tuesdays - Freehold Community Men's Shed - 10.30am-3.30pm. Showstoppers Performing Arts - 4.30-7pm.

Wednesdays - Pensioners Lunch Club - 12.30-2pm.

Pensioners Bingo - 2-4pm. North London Woodturners - 7.30-10pm (**3rd Wednesday of month**).

Thursdays - Open Shed - 10.30 to 3.30pm. Open Bingo - 7.30-10pm.

Fridays - Baby Rhyme Time - 9.45-11am. 'Behave! Life Skills for Puppies', puppy training class 11.45 - 12.45 with Jane Robinson.

Saturdays - Showstoppers Performing Arts - 10am-4.30pm. Shree Depala - 7.30-10pm.

Sundays - Yoga - 9.30-10.30am.

Contact details: 07935-324578, freehold2003@gmail.com. Freehold Community Centre, 9 Alexandra Road, N10 2EY.

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The club meets at **7.45pm every Wednesday** at Jacksons Lane Community Centre. We show and discuss our photographs, and we have guest speakers, competitions, and practical activities. More details: www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk, contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk.

FRIENDS OF PARKLAND WALK

Keep Britain Tidy are running a national litter clean up event. We will be running a number of deep cleans of the Parkland Walk. Two sessions will run on the morning of **Saturday 3rd March**, one going west from the Finsbury Park end, and the other going east from the Highgate end (finishing at a pub TBA). Join our dog-loving PCSOs Avra and Stef on **Saturday 17th March at 2.30pm** in Bruce Castle Park. All welcome. info@parkland-walk.org.uk.

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

We meet to discuss local and national issues with visiting speakers on the **third Wednesday of the month**. Our meetings are held in the main church hall of Hornsey Parish Church, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH.

Wed March 21st at 1.30pm: talk on Housing Alterations. Contact Ann Anderson (020 8340 8335), Pamela Jefferys (020 8444 0732), Janet Shapiro (020 8883 9571) or www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk.

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

www.fqw.org.uk. Working parties **last Sunday of month 10.30-12.00**. Meet outside Café in Queen's Wood. Please bring gloves and mobile phone if available. Monday Litter picking. Please contact Gemma Harris if you are free to help her do litter picking on a **Monday morning**. harrisgemma67@gmail.com or 07806 870505.

FRIENDS OF COLD FALL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELD

www.coldfallwoods.co.uk/whats-on Thanks to Coldfall Primary School for hosting our meetings at **7.30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month**.

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NORTH LONDON for the retired or those heading for retirement. www.nlu3a.org.uk.

CROUCH END FESTIVAL CHORUS

www.cefc.org.uk.

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 the month** and has lectures, information and social events. Contact Barbara Penney 020 8883 0010 or e-mail barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk

MUSWELL HILL AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Show dates in 2018: Saturday 7th April, Saturday 7th July, Saturday 2nd September, all at North Bank at 3.00pm. Contact Jenny Kruss at jenny_starick@hotmail.co.uk or 020 8442 0031.

FRIENDS OF MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY

Saturday 10th March, 2pm, Muswell Hill Library. 'Crouch End Festival Chorus - Hitting the World Stage'. Speaker: David Temple MBE

The success of Crouch End Festival Chorus is an extraordinary story! In 1984 two locals give out leaflets outside a supermarket and 80 people show up for the first ever rehearsal. In 2018, Crouch End Festival Chorus is one of the world's great choirs. How did it all happen? Come and hear local man David Temple, who has conducted the choir since its inception, explain how this miracle has unfolded.

NORTH LONDON ESPERANTO GROUP

Free Esperanto lessons at beginners and advanced level. The group meets on **Monday evenings 7-8pm** in Muswell Hill Place. For more details (including the full address) contact anna.lowenstein@esperanto.org or phone 07943 137891.

POPCHOIR MUSWELL HILL

Wednesday evenings 8-9.30pm at the Royal British Legion in Muswell Hill Rd. No experience, no auditions, no need to read music. Book a free taster session at www.popchoir.com or email info@popchoir.com. 020 8659 5464.

EAST FINCHLEY OPEN

www.eastfinchleyopen.org.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 and patriciajlott@aol.com by 9th April 2018.

Copy date for May/June 2018 edition of this Newsletter

If you would like to submit an article, letter or diary date for our next edition, please send your copy to editor@mhfga.org by Monday 9th April 2018.

Alexandra Palace update

Whatever else happens in 2018, it promises to be a huge year for Alexandra Palace. For too long, large parts of the building have been closed to the public, including the Theatre and the Television Studios. This year, the East Wing will start coming back to life, with the East Court and Theatre re-opening to the public in the autumn.

The Theatre has not hosted regular public performances for over 80 years and became largely forgotten. A grand room which was opened in 1875 with grand ambitions, it hosted all sorts of shows from dance and opera to plays, concerts and cinema screenings. With its fortunes tied to the rest of the Palace it then led an intermittent life, going dark for years before being brought back into use. It was adapted to show early cinema in 1907 and served as Gracie Fields' London base in the 1920s. It was then leased to the BBC as part of their television operation, who ended up using it as a store room of sorts.

The Theatre has much of its original Victorian stage machinery still in place and will retain much of its 'as found' character in the same spirit as Wilton's Music Hall, but on a larger scale. Currently, a huge amount of work is happening to clean and protect the interior fabric of the Theatre, including the iconic ceiling panel which extends over the auditorium. When it re-opens, it will enable us to programme all sorts of new performances and entertainment at Ally Pally. The restored East Court will become a vibrant visitor hub with a creative learning space and a range of activities throughout the year.

Support from Heritage Lottery Fund and Haringey Council was crucial in getting the green light for this project – but the support of our community is crucial too. You can be part of the transformed Alexandra Palace – every donation of £25 and over will be credited on our Donor Board, to be installed in the restored East Court. There is still time to name a seat in the Theatre itself and become part of this building's amazing history.

To support the Theatre restoration, please visit <http://support.alexandrapalace.com> or contact us on support@alexandrapalace.com or 020 8365 4397.

James Atkinson, Director of Fundraising, Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust, Registered charity no. 281991
