

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

Muswell Hill in Bloom



Whenever we post pictures of Muswell Hill's flower boxes and flower beds on our Facebook page, we always receive comments from local residents about the pleasure they give and the appreciation that is felt towards the volunteers who regularly check, feed and water the plants.

We think that you will agree that the flower boxes have been particularly stunning this year, and a special thank you for this must go to our member Tessa Kulik who helped plant the flower boxes in April and has continued to look after them throughout the summer to ensure that they look at their best all the time.

It has not all been plain sailing; unfortunately sometimes rubbish has been placed in the flower boxes or plants have been removed. Quite recently we were shocked to find that one of the liner boxes full of flowers had been ripped out of the flower box outside Barclays Bank and taken away. We will be replacing this soon.

We are very grateful to those members who have made donations towards the upkeep of the flower boxes which allows us to bring some colour to the Broadway.

If you have some time to spare, please think about offering to help with the various activities we facilitate, such as the maintenance of our flower boxes and flower beds, reporting on local events for the Newsletter, finding speakers for our members' meetings or supporting your Association in many other ways.

If you are able to volunteer a little of your time, please contact our Chairman, John Hajdu (*contact details on next page*).

September/October 2019

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If you love us, you have to 'like' us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MHFGA

Visit us on Twitter for regular updates:

[@theMHFGA](https://twitter.com/theMHFGA)

Follow us on Instagram for beautiful images of Muswell Hill:

[@muswellhill.london](https://www.instagram.com/muswellhill.london)

Visit our website:

www.mhfga.org



Members' Meetings

Our meetings are open to the public and are free of charge. They take place at 7.30pm at North Bank, Pages Lane, N10 1PP. Refreshments are served after the talk.

10th October Talk by Nigel Willmott, Chair of the Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre, on the history and restoration of the theatre. Nigel co-authored the book *Drama at the Palace* covering the history of the theatre from 1873 to 1901, and a new book covering the period 1901 to date will be published later this year.

7th November Highgate Wood Kiln, a talk by Nick Peacey In 1971, during the excavations of the Roman pottery manufacturing site in Highgate Wood, Nick Peacey was a teacher in a comprehensive school in Hackney. His timetable included Latin and Classical Studies.

This interest led to an invitation to be part of an experimental archaeology project exploring Roman pottery making methods, using kilns reconstructed on the model of Kiln 2, the best preserved of the ten kilns found.

Nick was not skillful enough to be a potter, so became a kiln builder. He has since built and fired a series of kilns using clay and wood from Highgate Wood.

Nick will tell the story of the kiln experiments, the technical difficulties (mostly) overcome, the possible connections between the methods of Roman potters and the medieval charcoal burners, and the way in which Kiln 2, a unique survival, has come to be in store in Bruce Castle Museum, unseen by the public.

This situation has prompted the formation of the Friends of the Highgate Wood Kiln (FOHRK) established by Nick and Catherine West MP, the archaeologist Harvey Sheldon, who led the Highgate Wood excavations, and Michael Hammerson, FSA, of the Highgate Society. Nick will update us on FOHRK's plans for the return of the kiln to the Wood and the range of exciting community and learning activities that will support its exhibition.

Your Association Needs You!



An important position has become available on the Association's committee following Loretta Mitchell's resignation due to her other commitments. Our sincere thanks to Loretta for her work over the past year.

Membership Secretary

The role requires the following:

- basic computer skills including familiarity with Word and Excel
- communication with our members
- sending welcome letters to new members, and contacting members regarding outstanding membership fees
- producing address labels for the newsletters
- reporting to the committee at the bi-monthly committee meetings.

Please contact our Chairman, John Hajdu, if you are interested in taking on this role.

We should also like to thank Chris Barker who has served as Transport Officer for over 14 years. His role is being taken over by Tony Wells.

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 www.facebook.com/MHFGA!

Member profile

Georgia Pairtrie

Nearly two years ago I moved to Muswell Hill having downsized from Woodside Park now that my children have grown up. The idea of living in a mansion block had long appealed to me and in addition I love the views, the bustle, the mix of urban and green spaces that Muswell Hill has to offer. I've been a Londoner most of my life, starting off in Ferme Park Road in Crouch End: we emigrated as a family to Ibiza when I was a child in the early seventies, but my friends and family here make London feel my home.

My background is in textile design - I studied first at Winchester School of Art and then Central School of Art. After a few years running my own business as a hat designer with my own studio in Whitechapel, I discovered a passion for gardening and garden design, which has kept me very busy during the last 26 years, combining my love of gardens, the outdoors, meeting people and nature, with bringing up four children.

Shortly after moving to Muswell Hill I was walking through Coldfall Woods on a cold wet morning when I stumbled across a group digging out a ditch. It was TCV, The Conservation Volunteers, a nationwide charity. It looked just my sort of thing, so I immediately joined up and since then have volunteered on a regular basis at least twice a week, working all over Haringey, discovering beautiful ancient woodlands, nature reserves, parks and spinneys, learning first hand about biodiversity and conservation. Through TCV I've become a Friend of Parkland Walk, helping to maintain this beautiful 4 kilometer long nature reserve. I also help look after green spaces very local to me that are out of TCV's remit, such as pocket parks and public flower beds.

When I moved here, I thought I would miss my garden which I loved so much and had spent so long creating but the sociability of the communal garden where I live now more than makes up for time spent tending my own plants.

I haven't lost my passion for art and creativity, and since living in the area I have discovered groups for life drawing, felt making, and an artists' collective. I have also recently learnt about sashiko - a decorative form of mending and am now on the lookout for old clothes to repair and stitch.

Music is also important to me, I'm in a choir which puts on classical performances once a year, Mozart's Requiem has been my favourite so far.

One of my biggest achievements since living here was completing a 10k run in extreme heat in one hour and nine minutes, raising £1,174 for Women's Aid. I only had 12 days to train and am not even into running!

There are many joys in having downsized, I especially love being able to just shut my front door and go off on adventures, including Australia, Japan, Hong Kong and Thailand.

As wonderful as it is to discover far flung places I'm always happy to return home to Muswell Hill and catch up with friends and neighbours, and see what's new. I feel so lucky to be living in this vibrant, friendly, interesting area.



Muswell Business

Muswell Business is Muswell Hill's revitalised and upgraded Muswell Hill business sector representative organisation. It replaces the Muswell Hill Traders Group (MHTG) which was known to many of our High Street business owners across Fortis Green Road, The Broadway and Colney Hatch Lane in the years leading up to the creation of St. James's Square, the sale of the Odeon Cinema and the introduction of The Everyman Theatre, all of which was led by the MHTG.

The brand new MUSWELL BUSINESS is run entirely by Muswell Hill traders for Muswell Hill businesses. Its objective is to promote Muswell Hill as a destination shopping centre. It seeks to protect its common interests for the benefit of all businesses including local entrepreneurs without a high street shop presence. It aims to pool and share its rich and diverse expertise. It seeks to extend the numerous current informal business networking groups. Above all it hopes to recreate the communal working that has always been at the heart of the Muswell Hill business sector.



I pledge to
shop local

From Saturday 21st to Saturday 28th September, Muswell Hill will be holding its first ever Trader's Week. Organised by Muswell Business (Muswell Hill Trading Association), the week will showcase the area's vibrant community of shops, cafes, restaurants and businesses and encourage people to make a pledge to shop local.

MUSWELL BUSINESS has already created its own website (www.muswellbusiness.com), Twitter (@inmuswellhill), Facebook (@muswellbusiness) and Instagram (@businessmuswell)

Odd One Out



For the third year running the Association organised the Odd One Out competition for children aged 12 and under during the summer holidays. The competition offered prizes of cinema tickets, kindly donated by the Everyman Cinema, to 40 lucky winners.

The idea of the competition was to find one strange object – something they don't normally sell – in the windows of participating shops. For example, a tin of beans in a toy shop, or a spanner in a bookshop. Shops displayed our "Odd One Out" sign in their window to indicate their participation.

As usual, the competition was highly successful with many local children enthusiastically taking part. The winners will be notified shortly.



Membership Matters

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

Welcome to our new household members including Elizabeth Jack. Welcome also to our new corporate members: The Harington Scheme, Bob's Café, Fierce Grace Hot Yoga, House of Nails and Perform Media Ltd.

MHFGA annual membership runs from 1st May to 30th April of the following year. **Some members, including corporate members, have not yet renewed their membership for 2019-2020.** Could we please ask you to double-check whether you have renewed and, if not, urge you to make your payment as this helps the work of your Association.

To renew, please go to www.mhfga.org/membership and scroll down either to pay via PayPal or to set up a Direct Debit (which is preferred because it saves a lot of administrative time). Annual household membership is £10 and corporate membership is £25.

Corporate Members

Eighty-two 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**.

11.04 Architects	Fagins Toys Ltd	Muswell Hill Methodist Lawn	Studio Moe Ltd
Aleion	Fierce Grace Hot Yoga	Tennis Club	Tatlers Estate Agents
Alexandra Palace Farmers	Freehold Community	Muswell Hill Pharmacy	The Hampstead Butcher &
Market	Association	Muswell Hill United Reformed	Providore
Alexandra Park Brazilian Jiu	Friends of St. James's Square	Church	The John Baird
Jitsu	Greene & Co	Muswell Hillbilly Brewers	The Mossy Well
Angela Rose	H Firkins & Sons	North London Chorus	The Real Greek
Baby Sensory	Harington Scheme	North London Symphony	The Robin Kiashek
Barnet Furniture Centre	Hollickwood Primary School	Orchestra	Osteopathic Clinics
Barron Salon	House of Books	Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd	Toffs
Belmeis Jazz Club	House of Nails	Perform Media Ltd	Victory Auto Services
Bob's Café	Internet Express/	Picture Framing Muswell Hill	W Martyn
Broadway Pet Stores	PhoneRepairs4u	Planet Organic	Walter Purkis & Sons
Broadway Pharmacy	Jeroboams	Point 5 Kitchens	WAVE Café
Capital Gardens	JHK Estate Agents	Rhodes Avenue Primary	Woodland Tree Surgery
Cha Cha Cha	Lambert Welch Kitchens	School	Woollyland
Children's Bookshop	Mailboxes Etc.	Robert Linsky Optometrist	Yogamatters
Clissold Arms	Men at 107	RocketshipWP	Zebra Ceramics
Connubio da Fabio	Misk Boutique	Rowan Antiques	
Cosi Homewares	Muswell Flyer	S&D Express	
East Finchley Open Artists	Muswell Health	Sable d'Or	
Evelina's Patisserie	Muswell Hill Bikes	Saints N10	
Everyman Muswell Hill	Muswell Hill Bowling Club	Sally Bourne Interiors	
Excel English Language	Muswell Hill Creatives	Snappy Snaps	
School	Muswell Hill Methodist Church	St James's Muswell Hill	

Corporate Profiles

Men@107

Men@107 was born from a conversation between two long-time friends on a holiday back in 2016. One is an experienced jeweller with over 40 years of retail knowledge under his belt. The other started out in retail but has spent most of his business life running divisions for fashion and accessory companies, range building and working with factories around the world.



A shop became vacant in Muswell Hill and a decision was made in mid-2018 to open a unique men's gift shop. Within weeks stock was purchased, the shop interior was designed, and quirky touches were added to create an aura that at the very least is reminiscent of an Aladdin's Cave - full of exquisite and unusual gifts for men. Using past contacts and knowledge and after deciding what we should stock, we set out to find well-priced and great quality items that included not only traditional leather goods but leading-edge men's gifts that could not be found locally.

Men@107 specialises in leather and unusual gifts for men and offers innovative designs, appealing to both the younger and older generations. We source the finest quality leather goods, scarves, ties, silk handkerchiefs, belts, socks and all sorts of different gadgets and gifts to tempt you. The leather products are made from highly selected tanned hides to retain their natural individual character, and modern manufacturing techniques are used to produce the latest looks in many different leather styles, all at affordable prices.

Why Muswell Hill? It's a great area with unique shops that have interesting frontages and draws on not only Muswell Hill residents, but from all the surrounding areas. Please drop in to see us at 107 Fortis Green Rd, Muswell Hill, London N10 3HP. Tel: 020 8444 8004.

Andrew Owen

The Harington Scheme

Harington was started 40 years ago in Highgate, on a large plot of land just behind the High Street. It provides individual learning programmes for young adults with learning disabilities and/or difficulties, to help them into employment, further education and a more rewarding life. Every student has an individual plan which involves training towards future employability including work placements, functional English, maths, IT and life skills. They attend the training centre for between 2 and 4 years. Harington started out offering horticultural training, but from 2008 has offered a dedicated retail course to take advantage of the many entry-level employment opportunities in retail services.

Some of the young people graduate from the centre to paid work with Harington Gardeners. This in turn leads to high levels (80%) of employment in horticulture or grounds maintenance.



Now Harington is expanding. The centre opened its first charity shop in the Archway Road in 2015, primarily to offer work experience to the learners and to enable them to learn vital social skills, as well as sorting stock, pricing goods and using the till. In response to increasing demand for the retail training course, Harington have now taken out a long lease on a much larger site in Hornsey High Street, which will have a training suite as well as a shop. After some renovations, the shop has opened and has been welcomed by the community. The training suite has yet to be refurbished. Harington will now be able to increase its student numbers (currently 45 full time plus 18 part time) by 25%.

The Archway shop has provided much needed extra income and Harington is confident the new shop will be equally successful.

Harington's main challenge is finding volunteers to help out in both shops. There are many jobs to be done, such as welcoming customers, organising the books and cds, steaming and sorting clothes, and so on – the choice is yours. Shifts are generally 3 hours, but if someone can only offer two hours, then that would be very helpful. Please contact Shireen for more details on 020 3457 7993. Easy transport to both shops and some parking.

Harington are also asking for donations towards the refurbishment costs of the retail training suite. For further information, phone Pauline Treen (trustee) on 020 8340 5643.

Your Voice at Ally Pally

Both Alexandra Park, opened in 1863, and the slightly younger Palace have been around longer than most of Muswell Hill! The parkland, now 196 acres, was landscaped to provide a green oasis for Londoners' education and entertainment. The "People's Palace" covers an additional 7 acres, is Grade II listed and is globally famous as the birthplace of television.

In the early 1980s the MHFGA played a leading part in the successful campaign which eventually ensured that there was a sound and up-to-date statutory basis for the governance of the Palace and Park. Explaining how this works can get a bit complicated...but we thought it would be useful briefly to explain how your voice gets heard at Ally Pally.

Alexandra Park and Palace was placed in trust by Act of Parliament in 1900. In 1980 (and consolidated in the 1985 Act) the functions of the trustees were transferred to Haringey Council, making it the Corporate Trustee. The functions of the Trustees are detailed in the Acts.

The **Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT)** is a charity registered with the Charity Commission and delivers charitable activities, including maintaining, restoring and repairing the Park and Palace together with delivering creative learning and volunteering programmes. A **trading subsidiary** donates taxable profits generated by events, leisure and hospitality in the form of Gift Aid to the Trust.

The **Trustee Board** consists of:

- 6 Council appointees (elected members)
- 3 non-voting appointees from the Consultative Committee (CC)
- 1 non-voting appointee from the Statutory Advisory Committee (SAC)

All members must act in the best interests of the Charity.

One other important body is the **Statutory Advisory Committee (SAC)** created by the 1985 Act and with specific terms of reference including advising Trustees on the impact of activities and events on local residents, proposals needing planning permission and the adequacy of car parking arrangements.

The SAC consists of up to 16 members with 8 Council members from the surrounding wards and 8 representatives from residents associations. **John Crompton is the MHFGA rep on the SAC.**

Another body is the **Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee (CC)** created in the 1980s to give local and national organisations the opportunity to (amongst other things) discuss relevant matters with the Board, to be consulted on decisions of direct concern to them and to promote the best interests of the Alexandra Palace and Park as a conservation area.

Membership of the CC includes the 6 Councillors on the APPCT Trust Board and up to 30 community group representatives. **Duncan Neill is the MHFGA rep on the CC.** The CC elects 3 of its members on to the APPCT Board and Duncan has been one of these members for the last couple of years.

In practice, the SAC and CC meet jointly, usually 3 or 4 times a year, under the title of "**Joint Consultative Committee**" because many of the issues for discussion are the same. When needed, a separate meeting of the SAC will take place after the joint meeting to deal with its statutory function.

If you've made it this far, you're probably thinking that sounds a bit complicated. It is, but the important (and hopefully simpler!) point is that MHFGA members DO have an important voice at Ally Pally. So please get in touch with Duncan or John if you have any questions, concerns or feedback about what is happening at Ally Pally. **Their contact details are on page 2.**



Volunteering at the Whittington

The Whittington Health NHS Trust encompasses a large teaching hospital in Archway and lots of community-based services primarily in Haringey and Islington. The Voluntary Services Department is very active and is making a great deal of effort to recruit new volunteers to support both the hospital and community-based services.

There are many different roles available such as working on the wards as a befriender providing emotional and social support; assisting patients practically, for example with eating and drinking; admin roles supporting the various wards, clinics and departments; setting up and running the Whittington charity stall; helping with fundraising; supporting the Macmillan Service for patients with cancer; providing appropriate care and support for patients with dementia; and welcoming and guiding patients, visitors (and often staff!) around the hospital.

I have been volunteering as a guide for over a year now and find the work satisfying and fulfilling. I would encourage anyone who is interested to contact Casey Galloway, who runs this service with so much enthusiasm. She will be very pleased to speak to prospective volunteers at any time.

The contact details for the Voluntary Services are as follows:

Tel 020 7288 3282/3974 and
whh-tr.voluntary-services@nhs.net

Loretta Mitchell

Local Organisations and Events

ST JAMES'S CHURCH

Tuesdays, 11.00am-1.00pm. Community Cafe - free coffee, cake and conversation.

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

Mondays & Saturdays 10.00am-12 noon- free legal advice walk-in. 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

9 Alexandra Road, N10 2EY. Please check at www.familiesonline.co.uk/local/barnet/listing/freehold-community-centre-195857 for details of the various activities at the centre or contact freehold2003@gmail.com or ring 07935 324578.

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

see www.fqw.org.uk.

Working parties **last Sunday of the month, 10.30 -12.00.** Meet at the Lodge. Tools are provided but bring your own gloves and a mobile phone if possible. Anyone offering to help Gemma Harris with litter picking should contact her at harrisgemma67@gmail.com or 07806 870505.

FRIENDS OF COLDFAHLL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELD

www.coldfallwoods.co.uk/whats-on **The first Tuesday of each month** at Coldfall Primary School.

NORTH LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

A support group which meets on the **third Monday of the month** and has lectures, information and social events. It also meets on the **first Wednesday of the month** for coffee and chat 2.30-4.00 at Costa Coffee, East Finchley High Street. Those with epilepsy or living with someone with epilepsy welcome. Contact Barbara Penney 020 8883 0010 or e-mail barbarapenney@yahoo.co.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. Contact Ann Anderson (020 8340 8335) or www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk.

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.

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 or email contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk.

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.

IMPORTANT! Please check all times and dates with the organisers.

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lectures take place at the Union Church Hall, Weston Park, N8. A donation of £2 is requested from non-members. Refreshments available from 7.40pm. The doors close at 8.00pm and latecomers unfortunately can't be admitted for security reasons.

First Saturday of the month, 10.30-2.30, Local History Surgery in the Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL. To book an appointment, phone 020 8348 8429 or email hornseyhistoricalsurgery@gmail.com with a brief outline of the problem.

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Contact: Jenny Kruss on 020 8442 0031 or jenny_starick@hotmail.co.uk.

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

www.hcschoir.com.

MUSWELL HILL BOWLING CLUB

King's Avenue N10 1PB (next to No. 36). Everyone is welcome to see the club's picturesque grounds, enjoy refreshments, and perhaps try playing a game of bowls. During the season (**late April to mid-September**) the club is open to all on **Fridays from 6:30pm**. For further information see our website: www.muswellhillbowlingclub.co.uk – or call Richard Johnstone on 07986 873312 or e-mail richardjohnstone@gmail.com.

HOLLICKWOOD SCHOOL

Sydney Road, N10 2NL

Every Tuesday (Term time only) 9:30am-10:15am. Songs and Rhymes playgroup for children under 5 run by Coppetts Wood Children's Centre. No need to book, just drop in! For further information email childrenscentre@coppettswood.barnetmail.net or call 020 8883 2985.

WEA MUSWELL HILL

Courses start on 26 September at North Bank (Methodist Church, Pages Lane): *The Art & Architecture of Ancient Egypt (Thursdays, 13.45-15.45)* and *Writing for Pleasure (Thursdays, 19.00-21.00)*. For details see wea.org.uk or WEA brochures in libraries, or ring Ruth on 020 8202 9500.

FRIENDS OF MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY

All talks at 2pm in Muswell Hill Library

Saturday 7th September - Windrush Day - a talk by Arthur Torrington CBE

Arthur will present the history of Windrush and show how Caribbean men and women helped to rebuild Britain after World War II. Arthur Torrington CBE is a community advocate, and co-founder (with the late Sam B. King MBE) of the Windrush Foundation which they established in 1995 in London.

Saturday 14th September - A Celebration of Poetry - Autumn. Join us in a poetry-reading. Choose a short published poem to read aloud and say why you have chosen it.

Saturday 19th October - How Cinema was invented in Muswell Hill! - a talk by Ian Christie

Useful online information service

Haringey has an online directory for adults who need care and support, where you can search local organisations to find the right services. <https://haricare.haringey.gov.uk/>

From Our Archive

The following article is taken from the Autumn 1965 issue of Fortisman, the forerunner of this newsletter.

The Association – its history and function

by Mr E C Tyler, Chairman

Most residents' associations spring from some strong grievance that arises in connection with local affairs, or are established on new estates. This Association is no exception, and it was due to the parking of trade vehicles in Annington Road which brought about its formation with T L Baughan as Hon. Secretary and driving force in May 1948.

During the Association's existence it has fostered interest in local affairs to the general good of the residents as a whole. It has voiced and organised opinion on traffic facilities, the amenities of the district, assessments and rates.

One of its activities has been to afford electors the opportunity at each local Council election to hear all the candidates at one meeting, held by the Association, in May of each year. It was the only meeting in the Ward at which voters could form an opinion of them personally.

At the Autumn and Winter meetings addresses have been given by the Mayor, Chairman of Council Committees, Permanent Officials, and also from the Police, Post Office, London Transport Board, Gas and Electricity Authorities. Also on two occasions an interesting lantern talk on the history of the neighbourhood was given.

It was, until the recent end of the Middlesex County Council, affiliated to the Federation of Ratepayers and Kindred Associations of Middlesex (FORAM).

Under the new conditions brought about by the merging of Hornsey, Wood Green and Tottenham, the Association will continue to deal primarily with the local wards of Muswell Hill and Fortis Green, but will cordially work with the Haringey Ratepayers Association on matters of general concern to the whole new Borough.

The Association is strictly non-party political and non-sectarian. All residents are eligible and the minimum subscription of 2/- [10p] has remained in force since its inception.

Please see page 4 for details of how to renew your membership if you have not yet done so

Results of latest YouGov survey on development issues

The latest bulletin from Civic Voice, formerly known as the Civic Trust, published the results of the YouGov survey carried out earlier this year. It found that just 2% of the public trust developers and only 7% have faith in local authorities when it comes to planning for large-scale development. The public believes that developers only care about making or saving money, with 75% of respondents citing this as a reason for their lack of trust. Of the respondents, 2% say they trust developers to act honestly.

The findings show that:

- 74 per cent want developers to be held to account for what they promise.
- 72 per cent want local authorities to be held to account for what is promised.
- 71 per cent said they want opportunities for local people to have more influence on the outcome of development.
- 69 per cent want more transparency from private developers through the planning process.

As far as **Muswell Hill** is concerned, it is a mixed picture. Some developers go out of their way to make contact with organisations like our Association at an early stage and actively encourage our members to attend public exhibitions etc. Others do not, and the first we get to hear about a proposal is when a planning application is submitted.

One of the most frustrating actions by developers is the submission of fresh drawings at a very late stage with no explanation as to whether these are intended as a replacement or an alternative. The changes shown in these drawings are often deliberately complicated and objectors have no real way of being certain whether they are "good news" and, even if they are, whether there is not a hidden downside which will only become apparent with a close examination of the next set of new drawings.

Once permission has been obtained there is still scope for a developer to be difficult and slip things past the public by applying to the Council to make changes to the scheme safe in the knowledge that Councils are not required to carry out any public consultation on such changes.

Our Association continues to press for public involvement in major schemes by encouraging public meetings (as we did in the case of the application for the new flats in Fortis Green Road) in the hope that this will enable the local community to have some influence over what is built. Where approval has been given we will encourage developers to keep the public informed of progress and to participate in initiatives such as the Considerate Constructors Scheme so that there are clearly defined ways in which the public can raise any issues of concern.

John Crompton

Copy date for November/December 2019 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 1st October 2019.