

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

Odd One Out 2019



Photo of Immy Grey by Zoe Norfolk

For the third year running I organised our summer competition. More kids than ever before had fun taking part finding some easy and some well-hidden objects.

All the shops taking part embrace it, as it takes place at a quiet time of year for our high street. It's always lovely to see children with their entry forms on the Broadway looking for the objects, and we had a few new shops taking part this year which confused a lot of children.

Immy Grey one of our winners said *"It's such a fun competition that I love to do every summer! The objects are sometimes very hard to find and are a good challenge if you like puzzles like me! One of my favourites was the pencil in Evelina's patisserie as it was tricky to find. Angela Rose's object was the hardest to spot."*

We had a few problems this year with shop posters going missing, one shop even removing their object half way through - but we hope that didn't spoil the fun

I'd like to thank the library for being the drop-off and collection point for all the entry forms. And, of course, the Everyman cinema for donating 40 tickets for the winners.

Odd One out will be back in 2020!

Zoe Norfolk

See page 3 for the list of shops and objects

November/December 2019



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Questionnaire

We sent a questionnaire to our members in August to find out how you feel about the content and presentation of the MHFGA Newsletter. We received 64 responses and the results were as follows:

- * 47% read most of the Newsletter and 52% read some of it.
- * 98% said that the Newsletter helps them feel part of the community and the same number found it both easy to read and informative.
- * 92% felt that the balance between text and pictures was about right.

The following themes were very popular:

- Events / what's on in the local area / community meetings
- Articles related to local history / conservation
- Local businesses / profiles / shops that have recently opened or closed
- Local news / personal stories

There was a request for more coverage of planning issues, and information on opening and closing of shops which we will cover in future issues.

The Editor welcomes input to the Newsletter from members, either letters, articles or pictures. Please contact her at editor@mhfga.org.

 www.facebook.com/MHFGA
(over 1,300 followers)

 [@theMHFGA](https://twitter.com/theMHFGA)
(over 600 followers)

 [@muswellhill.london](https://www.instagram.com/muswellhill.london)
(over 1,300 followers)

Good wishes to all for the festive season, and a peaceful year in 2020

Members' Meeting

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.

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 was a secondary school teacher. 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 has built and fired a series of kilns using clay and wood from Highgate Wood. He 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.



The Committee presented Sandra Howell, retiring Minutes Secretary, with a decorated plate in appreciation of her long term (March 1998- August 2019) in the role. See Sandra's profile in the July/August issue of the Newsletter.

REPORT IT YOUR WAY

The Metropolitan Police is committed to keeping London safe.

You can now report crime easily online via

www.met.police.uk

You can report anytime, anywhere, at your own convenience.

What should I report online?

- You should only report crime and incidents online if they are not an emergency.
- In an emergency always dial 999.

What will happen when I report online?

- Your report will be reviewed and dealt with by the same experienced call handlers who deal with 101 and 999 calls.
- We will respond to your report within 48 hours, unless it needs a more urgent response.

Visit www.met.police.uk and follow the steps to report crime online.

You can also report crime and other incidents via 101.

REMEMBER – in an emergency always dial 999.

The Police Safer Neighbourhood Team are introducing a new evening shift which will finish at 11pm instead of 8pm. This is good news as it means that our local Police working on this shift will be available for longer in the evening to patrol or to deal with incidents which occur in the late evening hours. The new roster is due to start in November 2019.

MHFGA Committee

Chairman

John Hajdu MBE
chairman@mhfga.org

Planning/Vice Chairman

Nick Barr
planning@mhfga.org

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John Crompton
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Social Media/Notice Board

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Graffiti

Jack Whitehead, Bill Jago
jack.whitehead@btinternet.com
If you wish to report graffiti or flyposting, **do not** contact Jack or Bill. Please go to the "Report It" section at www.haringey.gov.uk and enter the details there.

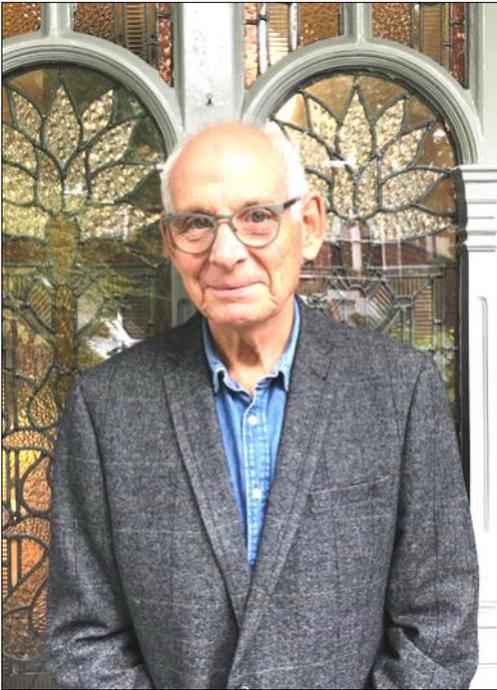
Tree Monitor

Ann Elliott
020 8883 1396

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

Colin Marr



I moved to Methuen Park in 1974 with my late wife and two young daughters, later to be joined by a third daughter. I still live at the same house, remarried and after 45 years it still pleases me. We moved here after being away for ten years, two of which were in Brussels and it was a delight to be back in London. We wanted a house that was big enough for us and a granny flat, and knew from earlier times that the agreeable leafy streets of Muswell Hill were what we wanted. With children at nursery school and then primary school it quickly led to being part of a like-minded

community of parents and friends, the remnants of which endure to this day.

Many Muswell Hill houses then were run down and in need of modernising/ restoration. For many of us newcomers this meant DIY on an ambitious scale, with local suppliers like Bond & White (where Planet Organic is now) with men in brown coats providing all the raw materials including wood, putty and nails weighed out in ounces and screws sold by the dozen in paper bags. Where Pizza Express is now was a plumbing and bathroom supplier. None of us was wealthy, but there was a sense of well-being and optimism about the future. At that time I think there was only one restaurant, The Four Lanterns, near where Crocodile Antiques now is.



Dukes Avenue c. 1908

Our earlier experiences of Muswell Hill had been in the late 1950s and early '60s, when it seemed like a faded Edwardian village but with a strong sense of identity. In 2017 I produced a booklet with memories of an extraordinary community of politicians, eccentrics and others. Copies are in the Local History section at Queens Avenue Library – *"Past times – past ideals, Memories of a Muswell Hill Community"*. It was positive association with that period and place which led us to return.

Odd One Out results

SHOPS		OBJECT
Owan 225 Antiques	1	Plug
Snappy Snaps	2	Pig
Evelina's Patisserie	3	Pencil
Sally Bourne Interiors	4	Bauble
Fagins Toy Shop	5	Love Hearts
Robert Linsky Opticians	6	Crystal Dog
Point 5 Kitchens	7	Timer
House of Books	8	Boot
Lambert Kitchens <i>Everyone will score a point. The object was removed during the comp.</i>	9	Toolbox
Fierce Grace	10	ODD Cards
W Martyn	11	China dog
Angela Rose	12	Padlock
Muswell Hill Pharmacy	13	Screwdriver
Cosi Homestores	14	Eggs
Broadway Pet Shop	15	Car
Barron's Hair Salon	16	Rabbit
Walter Purkis Fishmonger	17	Wrench
Children's Book Shop	18	Skeleton
All Dogs Matter	19	Jam
Men@107	20	Marbles
Hampstead Butchers	21	Book
Framers in Dukes Mews	22	Sunglasses
Zebra Ceramics	23	Car
JHK Estate Agents	24	Honey
Misk	25	Green String
House of Nails	26	Blue Thread
Toffs	27	Stick of Rock

My interest in architecture and history led me in retirement to be something of a conservation activist. I was appalled by the cumulative damage being done to our local environment from front garden car parking. The loss of green space and original front walls had taken a terrible toll, and I led a campaign trying to curtail it. The council tightened the rules to restrict this and I was pleased when the MHFGA also took up the cause. Sadly, so much damage had already been done with once beautiful roads like Wellfield Avenue and Church Crescent losing much of their character.

I have also been a champion for Alexandra Park and Palace and am involved with committees dedicated to do the best for these amazing spaces for the community. Helping to stop the sell-off to a property developer in 2007 was worthwhile, as was the recent HLF funded scheme to open up the East Court and the Theatre. It is regrettable that the historically important BBC TV Studios are still derelict, closed and in a worse state than they were ten years ago. Hopefully there will be a new scheme to do justice to these spaces.

Wonderful Muswell

The Association will again have a stall at the Muswell Hill Christmas festival on Saturday 7th December. **Please contact our Chairman, John Hajdu, if you can offer an hour of your time to help on the stall.**

The Harington Scheme is delighted that the Association has chosen to support them this year with the proceeds of a Name the Teddy Bear competition.

The Harington have embarked on enhancing the retail training side of their teaching by taking a lease on large premises in Hornsey High Street. This will complement the already successful shop they have in the Archway Road by Highgate tube station. These premises will not only be a shop but will also be their major retail training hub. They also plan to increase student numbers (currently 45 full time and 28 part-time) by 25%. All this costs money and that is their next challenge.



Leaflets about this project and a general information leaflet will be available on the MHFGA stall.

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 Anne and Alan Dallman, Richard Marmalade, Blake Brooks, Katrina and Craig Goldband, and Peter Webb. Welcome also to our new corporate members: Le Pot de Terre, Roni's Bagel Bakery, Hopper & Bean, and Green's of Highgate.

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.

Alternatively, you can pay by bank transfer, standing order or cheque. In this case, please contact Jacqueline Servat, MHFGA Treasurer, 52 Queens Ave, London N10 3NU.

Corporate Members

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

Corporate Profiles

Bob's Café

Born into the family business and working in hospitality from an early age, Gideon Joffe successfully managed several of the Giraffe restaurants back in the day. He left Giraffe to start Monkeynuts, an all-day breakfast, burger and steakhouse concept situated in North London. Gideon and his father, Russel, then launched Chez Bob in 2010 in the Belsize Park area. Chooks restaurant was then established in Muswell Hill in 2012. After being part of the neighbourhood for 5 years and learning more about the locals, Gideon and the team felt that Muswell Hill was better suited to an all-day healthy café and, in 2017, Bob's Café was born!

We are family friendly, child friendly and dog friendly. We serve fresh, healthy seasonal dishes, made lovingly by our great chefs. Being healthy is not just about the food we eat – it is how we treat others and how we treat the planet. We aim to make a positive impact on our environment by ensuring our plastics are biodegradable where possible.

Our all-day café's décor of exposed brickwork, hanging plants and macramé, makes it the perfect brunch haven, while also being a cosy space to spend an evening. Bob's Café is your 'home away from home' where you can get hearty local classic dishes and sit all day without a care in the world.

We run kids' activities every school holiday, including beading bracelets, decorating biscuits and potting plants. We also hold wine tasting evenings where we pair fabulous wines and foods from around the world. The next event, a cheese and wine tasting, will be on 12th November. We invite all MHFGA members to join us then.

The best way to find out about our events is by signing up to our email newsletter: www.bobscafe.net/signup. You will get a free burger when signing up, a bottle of prosecco on your birthday, and lots of other great stuff!

We also have a Christmas menu launching in November, and we would like to offer all MHFGA members a free glass of prosecco for all of their party guests. (Terms & Conditions apply for the Christmas booking - please check our website).

Find us at 43 Muswell Hill Broadway, Muswell Hill, London N10 3HA. www.bobscafe.net. Tel: 020 8444 5383.

Lauren Sarembock



Fierce Grace Hot Yoga



Jamie and his team

The Muswell Hill hot yoga studio is owned by Crouch End resident, Jamie Glassman. Living at the bottom of the hill with a young family, Jamie is well aware that this busy local community needs more places where people can take time out to improve their health and wellbeing.

Before opening the studio Jamie worked in the world of comedy. His best-known work was as a writer and producer creating and developing the characters Ali G, Borat and Bruno for the small and big screen. "Making people laugh is incredibly rewarding," says Jamie, "but providing a space for local people to bring balance to their lives is even more so".

Fierce Grace Muswell Hill opened in January of this year on the site where the old Green Man pub stood, at the top of Muswell Hill, for well over a century. The site is still a place where people meet and laugh but the brew on sale is of a different hue.

As a long-time hot yoga devotee Jamie is well aware of the enormous benefits that come from regular hot yoga classes where the yoga is practised in a room heated to 38C and with 40% humidity pumped in.

Fierce Grace is an international hot yoga brand with its first branches in North London and recent studios opened in New Zealand, New York and Rome.

A lot of people start hot yoga for the physical benefits but they carry on going for the mental and emotional benefits as it has the ability to give people a sense of calm and focus like nothing else.

56 Muswell Hill, London N10 3ST Tel:020 8292 4929
fiercegracemuswellhill.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

A convenient suggestion

As we age, our control muscles weaken; the need for a nearby lavatory can suddenly become acute. Some communities already have a scheme where shops help; I suggest it's time for N2 and N10 to follow. What better and cheaper advertisement exists? A notice in the window welcoming embarrassed oldies and parents with a needy child will make them eternally grateful, and relieved. We all prefer to shop where there's evidence of concern for customers; it's human, and the good news travels fast.

Public conveniences often fall foul of trashing teenagers seeking attention; these conveniences can then be out of commission until local council restores, after a delay and at public expense. Oldies don't trash, we appreciate and remember.

I would invite offers from shops ready to join such a scheme; an eventual published list would aid publicity. Wood Green has its well-equipped Shopping City; Crouch End's library is available, but what about N2 and N10? Wetherspoons is available, albeit accessed by steep stairs. We need more!

Peter Lack

A Railway Trip

I thought that I should point out that this most interesting video (*see article in July/August issue*) contains one fundamental error. Underground trains could not have run on the section from Highgate to Finsbury Park as there is no third rail. No third rail is shown in the video when the tube train passes the train we are "on".

Maybe the author would like to amend the video.

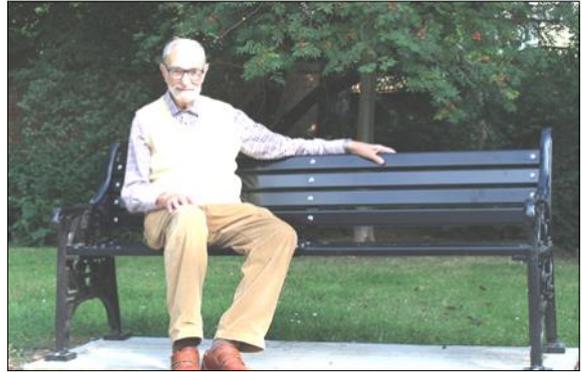
David Restarick



A novel use of hard hats seen along the hoarding of a development in Finchley. Maybe an idea for sites in Muswell Hill? What do our readers think?

Photo by Christine Morris

Four Benches Again



The photograph shows Eugene Myerson who lives in Annington Road, Fortis Green, sitting on one of the four benches in Midhurst Gardens N10 near his home, which he managed to persuade Haringey Council to reinstate after many years without them.

All four previous benches were removed on police advice after some vandalism and anti-social behaviour associated with them. After the local police station closed, Eugene wrote to Claire Kober, former Leader of Haringey Council, to ask whether any benches could be replaced there. She agreed to fund two of them, and if they were not vandalised after two years, she would consider another two. Ms Kober has since resigned as Leader, but after two years Eugene persevered with the new administration. Councillor Patrick Berryman suggested that he should apply for a slice of the local Fortis Green Ward Budget. He did so, via Fortis Green Ward Councillor Sakina Chenot who presented his proposal for two more benches for Ward Budget approval. The bid was successful, £2,000 was allocated for the purpose, and two more benches were installed. Four sturdy benches now sit securely on these "Pocket Parks" which were created from World War Two bomb sites. They are well-used and much appreciated by all generations of local people.

Eugene commented: "Nothing in my local government career of 34 years gave me as much pleasure as securing the restoration of these four benches in Midhurst Gardens."



The eye-catching stained glass window at the United Reform Church at the corner of Fortis Green.

Photo by Jacqueline Servat

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

www.fqw.org.uk.

Sunday 2 November, 2pm at the Lodge. Moselle River walk with Lucy and Sarah.

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 COLD FALL 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.

WEA MUSWELL HILL

For details see wea.org.uk or WEA brochures in libraries, or ring Ruth on 020 8202 9500.

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

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.

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.

FORTISMERE COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Concert on 23rd November, 7.30pm at St Andrews Church, Alexandra Park Rd, London N10 2DE
Clara Schumann Piano Concerto and Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony
www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/events/boulangerschumann-tchaikovsky

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 9 November 7pm. Bach Christmas Oratorio All Hallows, Gospel Oak. Soloists include Mary Bevan.
Saturday 7 December, 6pm. Family Carols St. Michael's Church, South Grove, Highgate. 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. 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.

FRIENDS OF MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY

Saturday 2nd November, 2pm, Muswell Hill Library - How Hampstead Heath was Saved! Speaker: Helen Lawrence.
Saturday 23rd November, 2pm, Muswell Hill Library - A Celebration of Poetry.

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

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 1967 issue of *Fortisman*, the forerunner of this newsletter.

Catching the Post!

A familiar sight in our streets is the scarlet pillar box. Yet probably few of those using these post boxes and taking them so very much for granted pause to consider how different 'posting a letter' must have been for those without them.

Until little more than a century ago letters for carriage by The Royal Mail had to be taken by the senders to a local receiving house. These centres came to be supplemented by the famous 'bellmen' who, garbed in scarlet coats, went around the streets before the mail coaches were due to leave carrying locked bags with a slit through which to insert the letters for transmission. Vestiges of the coats worn by the 'bellmen' survive in the red-piped uniform of the modern postman.

Through the well-known efforts of Rowland Hill the charge for each letter 'posted' was reduced in 1840 to one penny and the substantial increase in correspondence which resulted from the introduction of the flat-rate called for some new method of collecting together outgoing mail. Like London's equally familiar red buses, pillar boxes had their origin in France and were imported into England via the Channel Isles in 1854, the first town to receive one being Carlisle.

The innovation did not reach London until the following year and it was a further twenty years before red became the universal colour in place of the original green finish. Despite initial public criticism and several alterations in design these simple cast-iron receptacles proliferated and became accepted as part of the national scene.

Now the penny post is, alas, but a legend and, notwithstanding, many would aver that the service provided has not kept pace over the years with the steady advance in postal rates, the pillar box remains as necessary as at any time since the disappearance of the 'bellmen' from our streets.



Editor: This is the nearest Victorian post box to Muswell Hill that I have been able to find. It is located in East End Road N2 by the bus stop opposite the cemetery. Are any of our readers aware of old post boxes in Muswell Hill?

Planning



Dorchester Court

Work is underway to build an additional story on Dorchester Court, the block of flats at the junction of Muswell Road and Colney Hatch Lane. There will be four 1 bed flats and two 2 beds. The design was revised following

comments from the public and the Conservation Area Advisory Committee to make it less overbearing than was originally proposed.

John Crompton

Woodland Gardens

In our next issue: an update from Nick Barr on the saga that has been played out concerning 76 Woodland Gardens.

Colney Hatch Lane Flower Beds

Brian Livingston, Lucy Haynes and John Hajdu have been spending time in the regular maintenance of the flower beds in Colney Hatch Lane. Future work to be undertaken includes:

- A major prune of the area
- Rocks for the edging at the top end of the bed nearest the town
- Then applying some fertilizer to the beds
- Planting some bulbs in the beds (using the bulbs available from Haringey)
- Planting a few new plants

We hope that we will be able to call on volunteers to help with this work which enhances the area for all. Please contact John or Brian if you are able to offer some of your time.

Copy date for January/February 2020 edition of this Newsletter

If you would like to submit an article, letter, picture or diary date for our next edition, please send your copy to editor@mhfga.org by 1st December 2019.