

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

Colney Hatch Lane Beds 10 Years On



Ten years ago, in October 2009, the Association submitted a "Making the Difference" bid to Haringey Council for funding to turn the two sad looking grass verges on Colney Hatch Lane (see photo) just north of the junction with Pages Lane into proper flower beds and to make them an attractive and welcoming gateway on the approach into Muswell Hill. Our bid was successful and with the help of Association members and Sunshine Garden Centre we arranged "dig-ins" to transform the grass verges into new flower beds complete with shrubs and flowers.

Not everything went smoothly. The front page article of our November 2010 Newsletter titled "Dirty rotten thieves!" recorded that on the night of 24th October 2010 thieves struck and stole six of the large new shrubs we had planted the previous weekend. Undeterred, members rallied round and came forward with donations of money and new plants and a second "dig-in" was organised to replace the shrubs and plant additional plants and bulbs. The "dig-in" team included our Chairman John Hajdu, members Jenny Kruss and Susan Bennett and our Environment committee member Brian Livingston.

Roll forward 10 years and the beds are now full of mature shrubs and plants and give a lot of pleasure to the many people who pass by on a daily basis. We regularly arrange maintenance visits undertaken by members to keep the beds in good shape and last month we undertook a major pruning and tidy up of the beds and also installed a new rock edging. Fittingly we were assisted with this work by two gardeners (*Matthew and Fabian – pictured*) from "The Avid Gardener" which is owned by Mark Falconer - Mark previously worked for Sunshine Garden Centre and he helped us establish the beds 10 years ago.

If you are interested in gardening (novices are fine!) and able to volunteer a little of your time to join our maintenance team then please contact Brian Livingston (*contact details on next page*).

Our thanks to John Sparrow for his kind donation which, at John's request, will be used for planting some of the flower beds which the Association looks after.

January/February 2020

Inside this issue:

- 2 Notices
MHFGA contacts
- 3 Member Profile - Ann Jungman
Planning Matters
- 4 Alexandra Palace
Membership Matters
- 5 Corporate Profile: Roni's
Local Concerts
- 5 Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels
Victorian Postboxes
- 7 Local Events and Organisations
- 8 From Our Archive
Parkland Walk



Muswell Hill Winter Festival

The Association's stall at the festival drew a lot of attention thanks to our 'Guess the Name of the Teddy' competition organised by committee member Zoe Norfolk. All 80 names were selected and the winning names were Cuddles and Howard. The winners were announced at the festival. The competition raised £130 for the Harington Scheme.



Chairman John Hajdu, Newsletter editor Christine Morris, committee member Duncan Neil, and teddies Cuddles and Howard were joined on the stall by a surprise visitor.

Photos by Zoe Norfolk



A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Dates for your diary

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

19 th March	Muswell Hillbilly Brewers
16 th April	A talk by Haringey's Arboriculture Officer
14 th May	AGM
7 th June, 11.00am	Muswell Hill conducted walk

Details of these events will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

We are delighted to welcome recent new member Richard Marmalade as our Membership Secretary. Richard's profile will appear in our next issue.



Members' Meeting, November 2019

On Thursday 7th November, we were delighted to welcome Nick Peacey, secretary of the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln, who told us about the history of this fascinating artefact on our doorstep in Highgate Wood.



In 1971, during the excavations of the Roman pottery manufacturing site in Highgate Wood, Nick 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. He talked about the different types of pottery that were found in the excavation and the distinctive patterns that make 'Highgate Ware' easily distinguished from pottery made in other parts of the country.

Since then, Nick has built and fired a series of kilns using clay and wood from Highgate Wood. We heard 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. As a result the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln was formed to fundraise and plan for the return of the kiln to the Wood and for a range of exciting community and learning activities that will support its exhibition.

MHFGA Committee

Chairman

John Hajdu MBE
chairman@mhfga.org

Planning/Vice Chairman

Nick Barr
planning@mhfga.org

Secretary/CAAC/Alexandra Palace Statutory Advisory Committee

John Crompton
secretary@mhfga.org

Social Media/Notice Board

Zoe Norfolk
social@mhfga.org

Treasurer

treasurer@mhfga.org

Membership Secretary

Richard Marmalade
membership@mhfga.org

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Brian Livingston
environment@mhfga.org

Chair of the Consultative Committee, Alexandra Palace, Twitter

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Transport/Highway /Photo Archives

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Website

Alex Vincenti
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Newsletter Editor

Christine Morris
editor@mhfga.org

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](https://twitter.com/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

Ann Jungman, children's author

Muswell Hill is in my blood. My earliest memory is of my mother taking me to Highgate Wood to play and paddling in the small pond in Queen's Wood.

That was just the beginning. I went to Hornsey High School which was then right at the bottom of Weston Park. In those seven years Muswell Hill loomed large. At the time I regarded it as a dreary suburb and felt sorry for the poor people who had to live there. This view of Muswell Hill was widely shared: anyone who has read Helen Dunmore's excellent *Exposure*, will recall that the main characters live in Muswell Hill because it is the most dull and respectable place they can find. This is of course in the 1950s and all has changed since then. Until central heating became widespread in the 60s, big Edwardian houses were unheatable without the servants, who had previously dealt with fires in every room. So the very thing that makes Muswell Hill desirable today, i.e. the wonderful range of Edwardian housing, was a downer then.

However, Muswell Hill had its attractions even in those days. There were two cinemas, the wonderful Odeon and the Gaumont at the top of Muswell Hill itself. In the days before TV was in general use, one often went to films three times a week, at the ABC in Archway, the Odeon and the Gaumont. So, much time was spent in Muswell Hill, made all the more appealing because a couple of the boys from Stationers School sold newspapers outside the cinema on Saturdays. We never dared to speak to them of course, but it was enough that they were there.

Then there were the school trips to the Odeon. All the local schools were dragooned to go and see *The Coronation* and *The Conquest of Everest* and every Shakespeare film that came on. So there was *Richard III*, *Henry V* and *Hamlet*. Although we were completely segregated, there was a thrill in the boys' schools being there too.

But the huge Muswell Hill magnet was the coffee bar. In the 50s teenagers hung out in the new cappuccino-selling coffee bars that sprang up. Teenagers were invented in the 1950s, and coffee was king. In the previously tea-drinking nation a cappuccino seemed the ultimate in sophistication. The nearest one to me was in Muswell Hill, I think it was called "The El Toro" and there were posters of bullfighting on the wall and they played rock and roll music. What a thrill, so daring, so wicked and there were boys there and sometimes they even spoke to the girls. Wow!

My other teenage contact with Muswell Hill was going to the Jewish Youth Club in a lovely old Edwardian hall where Sainsbury's is now. Life was much more local then and so many people had weddings, parties and celebrations there.

Now I live in the suburb that I felt sorry for and I love it. I sit in my study and write my books, wander out and shop in our lovely and functioning high street, drink endless cups of coffee in all the eateries that have sprung up, still go to the cinema here and meet friends. My beautiful flat is Arts and Crafts and, post central heating, Muswell Hill is full of interest and stimulation. Two bookshops, great cafes, friendly shops where people know you, Highgate Woods and Ally Pally (still a television centre in my youth) nearby, what's not to like?



Planning Matters

76 Woodland Gardens: a story of perseverance

I suspect that most members are not aware that Woodland Gardens is an area earmarked by a local group as being suitable for consideration for an extension to the Muswell Hill Conservation Area, and even fewer are aware of the saga that has been played out concerning 76 Woodland Gardens. In many respects the story encapsulates why the area should be included in an extended Conservation Area. The property is typical of the area, being a double-fronted Edwardian villa with a gabled bay and the architectural detailing that is typical of its type.

In August 2018 an application was submitted for the demolition of the building and its replacement with a bland modernistic rendition that failed to respect the Edwardian spirit of the original. As the house is in a prominent position the site is especially sensitive and the design particularly problematic. Together with 59 other individuals and organisations, the Association submitted a detailed objection. The application was subsequently withdrawn and a revised application made in the following December which attracted almost 90 objections, including a further objection by the Association. This second application was refused on appeal and a third application, made in May 2018, was refused in July as the proposal "would fail to make an acceptable architectural response to the site, and would fail to respect local context and character". A fourth application was made in April 2019. Although this was marginally more sympathetic it contained many contentious elements and, after attracting substantial opposition, including a petition with in excess of 180 signatories, it was refused in the following June on substantially the same grounds as the previous application. A fifth and final application was made in June 2019. This envisaged the retention of the original road-facing facade with development taking place behind it, including a controversial heavily glazed and modernistic rear. This proved acceptable to Haringey which granted conditional consent in September.

The perseverance shown by the applicants and those who sought to retain the character of the area resulted in a compromise that could have been achieved earlier had there been constructive dialogue between all parties at the outset of the project without incurring what can only be assumed to be substantial costs.

For those who wish to see full details of all the applications, including supporting drawings and objections, they can be viewed by going to www.haringey.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control and following the links.

Nick Barr

Alexandra Palace Parking

In February 2019 Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust announced that it was considering introducing charges for car parking. Since then the Trust has worked with independent specialist advisors to develop a proposal. At the end of last year, our stakeholders, beneficiaries, visitors and local residents were asked for their views on the proposal via an online survey. The Trustee Board sought the advice of the Advisory and Consultative Committees as part of this process. There were also a series of informal drop-in sessions for members of the public to share their views and discuss the proposal with members of the team.

After collating the responses, and if the Trust decides to progress the proposal, charging could be introduced at some point in 2020. In this case it will be necessary to apply to the Charity Commission for permission to apply charges.

Duncan Neil, Chair of the Consultative Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ALLY PALLY

21 January 2020: An Evening With Glenn Hoddle
 4 February 2020: Comedy SOS — An Evening of Comedy In Aid Of Weston Park Primary School
 12 February 2020: Fred Deakin Presents The Lasters
 18 February 2020: Jimmy Carr: Terribly Funny (Sold Out)
 20 February 2020: Whitney: Queen Of The Night
 25 February 2020: Sir Ranulph Fiennes — Living Dangerously
 28 February 2020: Rob Brydon — Songs & Stories
 29 February 2020: Ronnie Scott's Presents James Taylor Quartet

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 Debo Nwauzu, Jacqueline Waltz and Jon Mann. Welcome also to our new corporate members: Clissold Arms and Ambitious About Autism.

MHFGA annual membership runs from 1st May to 30th April of the following year. **New members joining in the period January to April will get up to 4 months free as their membership will run to the end of April 2021.**

To renew your membership, 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

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

Corporate Profile

Roni's Bagel Bakery

Roni's Bagel Bakery was opened by Roni Avital in 1989, starting out life in West Hampstead. The bakery specialised in authentic freshly-baked bagels, artisan breads, pastries, cakes, salads, breakfasts, lunches and delicious coffees and teas. Very quickly Roni's became well-established in the area and is renowned for its excellent quality produce and high quality service. We pride ourselves on our reputation of being the best bagel bakery in the UK. Hence Roni's brand was born!

In 2010, the expansion of Roni's began, bringing the partnership of Alon Kubi and Roni Avital together: a father-in-law and son-in-law relationship. Roni's in Belsize Village was the next branch to open its doors, bringing Roni and Alon's expertise in the industry to create a brand supplying authentic home-baked produce in a relaxed, caring and approachable environment.

As a result of the huge success in Belsize Village, Hampstead was the next branch to open its doors and here we continued with the same ethos of providing high quality produce to all our customers in a warm and inviting environment, priding ourselves on the highest quality customer service along with exceptionally high quality and fresh produce which led us to our newest opening of Muswell Hill branch in July 2019 and another branch opening in the new year in Swain's Lane, Highgate.

We continually thrive to please all our customers by providing the highest quality fresh produce, breads, bagels, breakfast and lunches along with a warm, friendly caring team of staff who will cater for all your needs. Our aim is to ensure all our customers have a unique dining experience at Roni's. Our management and staff look forward to welcoming you.

Nicole Lanzman

348 Muswell Hill Broadway, Muswell Hill, London N10 1DJ 020 8829 4999



Local Concerts

HAYDN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Saturday 25 January, 7.30pm
St Michael's Church Highgate, N6 6BJ.

Beethoven Piano Concerto No 5, The Emperor

Strauss Metamorphosen

Louis Schwizgebel Piano
Jonathan Bloxham Conductor

In aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, Harington Scheme and The Parent House

Tickets

£25, £20, £15 reserved phone
020 8340 5643
£12 unreserved www.hco.org.uk



NORTH LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday 28 March
St James's Church, Muswell Hill

Margaret Hubicki, Irish Fantasy

Mozart Piano Concerto No 23 in A, K488

Mahler Symphony No 4 in G major

Visit www.nlso.org.uk for further details



FORTISMERE MUSIC CENTRE

Thursday 13 February, 7.00pm
Fortismere School

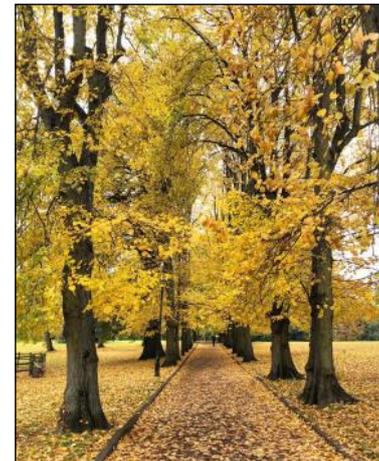
Music and Poetry Evening

Programme includes:

Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet for Cello Ensemble

Beethoven String Trio No 3

Visit www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk for further information



A selection of photos by Zoe Norfolk from our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MHFGA

Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels

a valuable local service for our local community

The Metropolitan Police organise their local policing under the umbrella of 'Safer Neighbourhoods'; our local police officers work in small teams looking after ward areas and in this way they get to know the locals, including of course those operating on both sides of the law. The wards are exactly the same as the voting wards, so, for the MHFGA area, there are three wards: Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra. Currently we have two Police Constables and a Community Support Officer for each ward. You may see them walking around your ward from time to time and you will meet them if you attend one of their monthly contact sessions; the dates and places of the contact sessions are of course notified to all MHFGA members through our mailing list every month. Local police stations have long gone unfortunately but the contact sessions at least get the officers out from behind the counter and onto the street to meet the public. In our area, the shops in Muswell Hill are partly in Muswell Hill Ward and partly in Fortis Green Ward. Constables from the adjacent wards co-operate with each other and share their efforts to ensure continuity of policing along Fortis Green Road and Muswell Hill Broadway. We have one Sergeant who is responsible for our three wards, also an Inspector overseeing all the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Haringey.

The Ward Panels are independent of the police but perform an important role in guiding and advising the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. The panels are comprised of local residents, business owners, representatives from schools, places of worship, neighbourhood watch and residents' groups. The people on the panel do not need to be formal representatives of a group but are typically people who engage with the local community and are prepared to give up a modest amount of time to support the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. The aim is for the panel to have wide representation and to reflect the local community. At the meetings, information about local crimes is provided in a 'trusted' environment and the officers say what they are doing to reduce crime in the area. The most important function of each meeting is to set 'ward priorities'; each ward is allowed three priorities at a time. Once these priorities are set the police aim to focus their safer neighbourhood work on those priorities. At every meeting the panel members are entitled to question the officers on what they are doing to address the ward priorities.

Haringey, as our local authority, takes an active role in working in partnership with the police and the Ward Panels are an important part of this – at least one of the local ward councillors attends each of the panel meetings.

The panels tend to meet about once every two to three months. The meetings are not public meetings but they are held in a community space of some sort; for example the back room of a pub. The meetings often include interesting guests – for example, the police officers assigned to liaise with our local schools, forensics officers and officers who focus on youth offenders

All of our local Ward Panels are now active and functioning and we believe that they are a valuable service to our local community. Unsurprisingly, our local Ward Panels often put burglary, street robberies and vehicle crime as priorities. Knife crime has also come to the fore in Muswell Hill due to some very concerning incidents in our area, and this is allied with the heightened awareness of the threats to young people in particular highlighted by the 'stop knife crime' initiative.

Each of the panels is open to new members at this time and if you are interested in becoming a member please let us know by contacting the chair of your local Ward Panel (see below).

Patricia Pearl

Ward Panel Chairs

Lauriz Hansen-Bay (Chair Alexandra Ward Panel) – lhansenbay@laubir.eclipse.co.uk
 Brian Livingston (Chair Fortis Green Ward Panel) – cblivingston@btinternet.com
 Patricia Pearl (Chair Muswell Hill Ward Panel) – pearltricia@aol.com



Photo by Peter Davies

Victorian Post Boxes

Thanks to several members who responded to the article in the September/October issue on Victorian post boxes in Muswell Hill, including Joanna Haydon-Knowell, Peter Davies and Jack Whitehead. The post boxes they refer to are on Fortis Green Road, opposite Birchwood Avenue, and Western Road off Fortis Green.

Another resident drew my attention to the story behind why the Western Road post box (*pictured*) stands slightly off-kilter. Apparently when Queen Victoria visited a friend in Western Avenue she commented on the lack of alleyways and the owner of Harewood House next door to her friend gave the alley by his property to the public. A post box was subsequently installed by the alley. When, many years later, the Post Office sent a crane to remove the post box, local residents protested and prevented the removal. Workmen were sent to reset the post box which the crane had started to remove but didn't make a very good job of it! An article in the April 2002 issue of *The Archer* reported on this story.



Photo by Jack Whitehead

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRA PARK

Park Visitor Centre opening days in **January: Saturday 4th, and Sundays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.** All from **11am to 1pm.** Fun things for children to do and interesting information for adults. Conservation work party: **Friday 24th January, 10am-12:30pm.** Get some fresh air while helping to improve the Butterfly Meadow. No special skills required. Bring gardening gloves and secateurs if you have them, but we have spares to lend. Meet at the finger post on the Lower Road or in the Butterfly Meadow itself. Members' talk: Butterflies and Moths: **Wednesday 29th January, 7:30 for 8pm.** Andrew Wood, from the Butterfly Conservation Trust, will share his knowledge of these beautiful creatures with us. Space is limited, so please email admin@friendsofalexandrapark.org to book a place.

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.

FRIENDS OF MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY

Saturday 11th January, 2pm, Muswell Hill Library. Talk by Nick Peacey, founder of the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln. He has built and fired a series of kilns using clay and wood from Highgate Wood. Nick will update us on plans for the return of the Roman Kiln to the Wood and the range of exciting community and learning activities that will support its exhibition.

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

From Our Archive

The following article is taken from the Spring 1967 issue of *Fortisman*, the forerunner of this newsletter.

Literary Men of Muswell Hill by W B Stevenson



The old Express Dairy

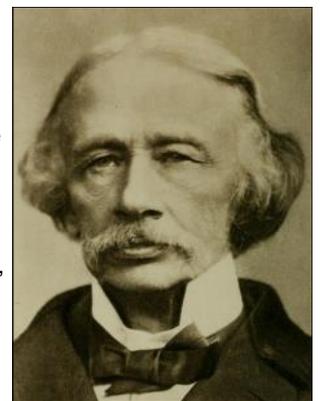
"I can remember the lipid stillness of the Muswell, and the knolls where the cowslip and the violet grew under the oaks, in the region now covered by the Alexandra Palace and its grounds. We would wander there all day and meet no-one but a carter and a milkmaid". So wrote Frederick Harrison the philosopher and critic who lived a Belle Vue until 1840: his villa was demolished in 1900. Buses and lorries roar up the hill past the Express Dairy which stands on the site: there may be a milkmaid around, but she will be serving coffee.

Harrison is only one of many literary people who sought refuge in the quiet village of Muswell Hill in Victorian times. Earlier than this, Thomas Moore the Irish poet had lived in Lalla Rookh cottage at the bottom of the hill while seeing his oriental poem of that name through the press. Who reads Moore's poem today? Yet his poetry is commemorated in the name of The Minstrel Boy in Colney Hatch Lane.

At the end of Colney Hatch Lane in a fine house called The Limes lived Richard Marshall, a famous Victorian publisher. He was followed there by C E Mudie, the greatest of "subscription librarians". Mudie's word was law with the publishers, and his purchase, or rejection, of a new novel spelt the difference between failure and success. The catalogue of the library contained the names of all the best sellers of the time. When Mudie left The Limes and it too was demolished, the Muswell Hill Library was built on part of the site – an appropriate transition.

In Fortis Green lived Coventry Patmore, one of the most prominent of Victorian poets. His long domestic poem *The Angel in the House* is little read today: but some of his poems are included in the *Oxford Book of English Verse*, and the *Oxford Book of Nineteenth Century Verse*. Patmore was highly regarded by Gerard Manley Hopkins, a much greater poet, who went to Highgate School. Highwood Lodge, where Patmore lived, still stands in Fortis Green.

Not far away at Stanley Lodge in Tetherdown, lived a more picturesque figure. William Ernest Henley, the collaborator of Robert Louis Stevenson, was a poet and a famous editor. He was a large man who walked with a crutch. He would argue furiously and then sweetly reconcile himself with his opponent. Stevenson used to call him "Burley", and on his character and physique modelled Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*. Today, too, many well-known authors, journalists and musicians live in our midst. You probably rub shoulders with them in the Broadway: for Muswell Hill, in spite of its modern bustle, is still a friendly village.



Coventry Patmore

Parkland Walk

Removal of dog waste bins

The Friends of Parkland Walk have alerted us to the fact that Haringey Council has decided to remove all dog waste bins. Dog waste will now be collected in the general rubbish bins.

The Friends have expressed concerns over the removal of dedicated dog waste bins for reasons of public health and hygiene. They were also disappointed that the council was not interested in discussing their proposal for working with the business volunteer sector to make waste bins using sustainable and recycled materials at about a fifth of the cost of the council's off-the-shelf solution.

If you have concerns about these, or any other issues concerning the Parkland Walk, please contact the Friends at FOParklandWalk@gmail.com. Your thoughts will be passed on to the council.



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://harcare.haringey.gov.uk/>

Copy date for March/April 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 February 2020.