

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

Message from our Chairman



In order to comply with the government's instruction that we should all "avoid all non-essential contact" and should "avoid gatherings at pubs, clubs and theatres", we have decided that monthly meetings of the Association and the AGM on the 14th May will be cancelled.

Although we cannot meet in person we will continue to try and produce our regular Newsletters which you should get in May, July and September, by which time we hope to be meeting again.

We very much regret this interruption to our normal activities and hope that we will be able to welcome you back to our regular meetings in the early Autumn but, for the next few months, everything is beyond our control.

The Committee are still working hard on behalf of the community. I will be sending out an annual report on the activities of the Committee later in May.

Meanwhile, we thought these images of Muswell Hill in springtime, courtesy of Zoe Norfolk, might be a cheerful cover for this issue of your Newsletter.

In the early days, the Association had the slogan 'Strength in Unity' which is particularly applicable at the moment.

May/June 2020

Inside this issue:

- 2 Notices
MHFGA contacts
- 3 Muswell Hill Quiz
- 4 Membership Matters
- 5 Member Profile: Lucy Haynes
Muswell Hill street scenes
- 6 Planning Matters
Muswell Hill Covid 19 Support Team
- 7 Local Organisations and Events
Wave Café
- 8 From our Archive
Composting at Home



Welcome to our newest member!



Congratulations to George and Sophie Danker on the birth of their son. George is our Publicity and Events Officer and Sophie takes the minutes of our committee meetings.

George writes:

"We are delighted to announce the birth of our son Blake. He was born at the Whittington Hospital on Wednesday 11th March, weighing 3.68kg (or roughly 8lb 2oz for the imperially inclined).

"Blake's interests including drinking milk, crying and sleeping for very short periods of time. Unfortunately due to the current lockdown he hasn't been able to make many friends just yet but he hopes to meet the rest of the MHFGA committee soon, as the newest (and youngest) member of the Association!"

A request to our members

If you have been spending some of your time in self-isolation by sorting out photographs and paperwork, you may have come across old pictures or written memories which would be of interest to our members.

If so, do please consider sharing these through our Newsletter by sending them to editor@mhfga.org for inclusion in a future issue.

The deadline for the next issue is 1st June and all contributions will be gratefully received!

Odd One Out



As with many other events this summer, we are sad to announce that our Odd One Out competition, which has proved so popular in the last three years, will not be taking place this year.

But we will be back in summer 2021!



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



@theMHFGA
(over 800 followers)

Newsletter Archive

The following issues of the Newsletter are missing from our Archive. If anyone would be willing to donate their copy, please contact me.

April to September 1990, June to September 1989, May to September 1988, November 1983 to April 1984, April to October 1982, October 1981 to April 1982, May to August 1980, July to November 1979, October 1978.

John Hajdu, Chair

Our thank you to the NHS

Your Committee decided that, as the AGM could not take place this year, it would be a good idea to send the money saved to the Whittington Hospital for their fund to support the staff in this time of increased stress, stretched resources and the wonderful dedication shown by all in the NHS.



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

Environment/Green Spaces

Brian Livingston
environment@mhfga.org

Chair of the Consultative Committee, Alexandra Palace, Twitter

Duncan Neill
ap@mhfga.org

Publicity and Events

George Danker
events@mhfga.org

Transport/Highway /Photo Archives

Anthony Wells
transport@mhfga.org

Website

Alex Vincenti
webmaster@mhfga.org

Newsletter Editor

Christine Morris
editor@mhfga.org

Graffiti

Jack Whitehead and Bill Jago
*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

*We are still looking for a Tree Monitor to take on the job of being our contact and looking at and commenting on communications received from the Council relating to tree work in our area. **If you are interested, please contact our Chairman to discuss taking on this valuable work.***

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!

How well do you know your Muswell Hill?

In these difficult times, when many of us are stuck indoors and the gardens and cupboards have all been tidied several times over, we thought a local quiz might help to pass the time! So here are a few local questions for you to ponder. Questions set by Jack Whitehead and John Hajdu. The answers will notified in due course.

- What is carved in stone above the front door of the former Muswell Hill police station?
 - Fides et Justitia
 - 1892
 - Police
 - 1875
- On 22 June 1911, on the occasion of the coronation of George V, the Muswell Hill police force was photographed outside the police station on Fortis Green. The photograph shows:
 - 28 constables and 2 horses
 - 32 constables, one inspector, 4 horses and 2 dogs
 - 38 constables, two inspectors, 3 horses and 3 dogs
 - 42 constables, one inspector, 2 horses and one dog
- Which shop is now on the site of the old Sainsburys?
 - Topps Tiles
 - Pizza Express
 - Boots
 - Carphone Warehouse
- What was on the site of the present Sainsbury's and what was it used for?
- Name 4 places of worship in Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra wards.
- When was the last time that Alexandra Palace burned down?



- Name the road in North London where the serial killer Dennis Nilson lived
- What year was St James's Church consecrated?
- What is the height of St James's Church from ground level to top of spire.
- Name one of the two main builders/architects of houses in Muswell Hill during the Edwardian period.
- Where is the highest point in Muswell Hill?
 - At Alexandra Palace
 - On Fortis Green Road between Sainsburys and Firs Avenue
 - On Fortis Green Road between Firs Avenue and Birchwood Avenue
 - On Fortis Green Road between Birchwood Avenue and the traffic lights
- What was the approximate population of Muswell Hill in 1860?



- When did East Finchley station open?
- When did Northern Line trains start to serve East Finchley station?
- Before World War 2 there were 3 cinemas in Muswell Hill. One was the present Everyman. Where were the other two?
 - The top of Muswell Hill and Summerland Gardens
 - Hillfield Park and the top of Muswell Hill
 - Summerland Gardens and the old Woolworths site
 - The old Woolworths site and Hillfield Park
- When did the former Odeon first open?
- Bond and White, the builders' merchant and DIY shop, used to occupy the present Planet Organic site. Before moving to the Planet Organic site, Bond and White was at another position on the Broadway. What business is there now?
 - Nationwide
 - Pizza Express
 - Oxfam Bookshop
 - Lloyds Bank
- Natwest Bank was formed by the merger of Westminster Bank and the National Provincial Bank. Each of these banks had a branch in Muswell Hill. The present Natwest branch was the Westminster Bank branch. Which present business occupies the site of the old National Provincial Bank branch?
 - Cote
 - Marks & Spencer
 - Roni's Bagel Bakery
 - Waitrose
- In the past there was a wet fish shop on the Broadway (Not Purkis). When this fishmonger closed a very posh French baby clothes shop opened on the site. Unfortunately, it still smelled of fish and it soon closed. Where was the fishy shop?
 - Between Rymans and Princes Avenue
 - Between Princes Avenue and Nationwide
 - Between Toffs and Summerland Gardens
 - Between Summerland Gardens and Natwest Bank
- In 1905, a 7-bedroom house in Wilton Road, just off Colney Hatch Lane, was sold. Can you guess the price?
 - £65
 - £425
 - £1,325
 - £2,325

Membership Matters

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

Membership Renewals

Remember our membership year runs from 1st May and renewal fees become due at this time. Many of our members pay by direct debit and as such payment will be taken automatically. For those members who make a manual payment - via PayPal for example - please ensure your account is up to date.

Manage your membership online

From the 1st May you'll be able to manage your MHFGA account via our website at www.mhfga.org. Simply visit the site and click the membership link to get started. You'll need the email address you signed up with in order to log in. The new system is powered by MemberMojo and offers the highest levels of security. If you have any questions or require any help using the system please get in touch by emailing membership@mhfga.org

Membership Benefits

As a member you will receive:

- six bi-monthly Newsletters full of information about the Association's wide and varied activities
- regular email updates with news and developments relating to the local area
- invitations to the many events, talks and tours we run as well as an annual guided walk.

You also support our work in the local community which includes maintaining local flowerbeds, supporting local business, reporting graffiti and fighting your corner on planning, environment, transport and conservation matters that affect our neighbourhood.

Our website at www.mhfga.org is updated regularly with details of the initiatives and events that we are involved in and you can also find us on social media (*see page 2 for details*).

Renewal fee - £10 per annum per household, £25 per annum per organisation.

Our Treasurer notes that a small number of members still have standing orders at the old rate of £8, we would kindly request that those members amend their standing order to ensure the correct amount of £10 for household membership or £25 for corporate membership. This can usually be done by calling your bank or via their website. However in the current circumstances this doesn't warrant a visit to the bank so if you are unable to do this safely from home please let us know and we'll put a note on your account.

New Members

Welcome to our new household members including Clive Jones, Marcella Constantinou, Sue Connaughton, and Jo & David Longville.

Welcome also to our new corporate members: Browology, La'De Kitchen.

Richard Marmalade

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	Friends of St. James's Square	Muswell Hill Pharmacy	Studio Moe Ltd
Aleion	Gibfit 30	Muswell Hill United Reformed Church	Tatlers Estate Agents
Ambitious About Autism	Green's of Highgate	Muswell Hillbilly Brewers	The Hampstead Butcher & Providore
Angela Rose	H Firkins & Sons	North London Chorus	The John Baird
Baby Sensory	Harington Scheme	North London Symphony Orchestra	The Mossy Well
Barnet Furniture Centre	Hollickwood Primary School	Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd	The Real Greek
Barron Salon	Hopper & Bean	Perform Media Ltd	The Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics
Bob's Café	House of Books	Picture Framing Muswell Hill	Toffs
Broadway Pet Stores	House of Nails	Planet Organic	Victory Auto Services
Broadway Pharmacy	Internet Express/PhoneRepairs4u	Point 5 Kitchens	W Martyn
Browology	Jeroboams	Rhodes Avenue Primary School	Walter Purkis & Sons
Bund Restaurant	JHK Estate Agents	Robert Linsky Optometrist	WAVE Café
Capital Gardens	Lambert Welch Kitchens	RocketshipWP	Woodland Tree Surgery
Children's Bookshop	La'De Kitchen	Roni's Bagel Bakery	Yogamatters
Clissold Arms	Le Pot de Terre	Rowan Antiques	Zebra Ceramics
Connubio da Fabio	Men at 107	S&D Express	
Cosi Homewares	Misk Boutique	Sable d'Or Patisserie	
East Finchley Open Artists	Muswell Flyer	Saints N10	
Evelina's Patisserie	Muswell Hill Bowling Club	Sally Bourne Interiors	
Everyman Muswell Hill	Muswell Hill Creatives	Snappy Snaps	
Fagins Toys Ltd	Muswell Hill Methodist Church	St James's Muswell Hill	
Fierce Grace Hot Yoga	Muswell Hill Methodist Lawn Tennis Club		
Freehold Community Association			

Member Profile

Lucy Haynes

I grew up in St Louis, Missouri, and went to the oldest girls' school west of the Mississippi River. For those who remember the film *Meet Me in St Louis*, Judy Garland's character went to that school. I came to Europe in 1963 with the idea of getting a job and staying for a couple of years. However, I met my future husband, John, at a Valentine's Day party and we were married in January 1965.

I first visited Muswell Hill in 1965 when I was living with John and baby son in Hillside Gardens in Highgate. This was where I did most of my shopping pushing the baby in the pram - at that time prams weren't allowed on public transport. Of the shops available then only Martyn's, a very small Sainsbury's, WH Smith and Purkis the fishmongers have survived.

Most of the houses were divided into bedsits. How things have changed! The Odeon, with only one screen, was here and another cinema at the top of Muswell Hill. None of the chain coffee shops were around then.

John was a Housemaster at Highgate School and, at various times I was a matron of Waiting House - a small house for 1st year boys in the senior school, ran the tuck shop on Senior Field and had a very small part in the school's production of *Coriolanus*.

We moved to Muswell Hill in 1991 when John retired. Sadly, he died in 2001. I have now lived in my flat longer than I have ever lived anywhere and still love it.

For many years I was active in the Highgate Society: among other things I was membership secretary and on the wine committee. In the last 20 years I have become very involved with the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution (HLSI) and some weeks feel as if I live there. Besides the lectures and classes my heart is in the library. For those who don't know it, it has the most fabulous selection of books, old and new, plus a small but wonderful children's section. I also volunteer at Shakespeare's Globe. For many years I was a steward there, but in the last few years I have worked at the Friends' Desk several times a month. You would be amazed at some of the questions people ask. As a keen, but decidedly fair weather, gardener I help tend the plots on the corner of Colney Hatch Lane and Pages Lane.



Muswell Hill street scenes

Photos courtesy of Zoe Norfolk

The streets of Muswell Hill may be deserted but there are messages of hope in windows.



Planning Matters

Cranwood

The Council is working up a scheme for the redevelopment of Cranwood, the former Council-owned care home at the corner of Woodside Avenue and Muswell Hill Road. The home was closed down in 2012 as part of a very large package of budget cuts. The current thinking is for demolition of the existing structure and to build two residential blocks on the site, one of six storeys high and the other possibly eight. These would contain up to 42 flats, the vast majority of which would be for the social housing sector. Clearly, blocks of that sort of height would be considerably taller than the residential buildings in the immediate vicinity. They would also impinge on the views of Highgate Wood which, given the topography, can be enjoyed from many locations.



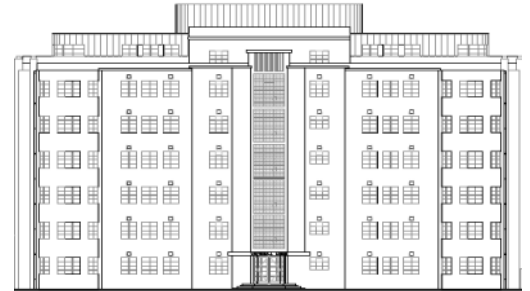
The intention is for a planning application to be submitted later in the year and further details will appear in the Newsletter at that stage. It is very much hoped that by then the Council will have come up with a more interesting design than that shown in their sketch. Also, a reduction in the proposed density to enable the height of the blocks to be reduced. We also hope that there will be careful consideration of the effect that tall structures could have on the amount of sunlight enjoyed in the playground of the adjacent St James's Primary School.

The care home was built on the site of the railway tracks serving the former Cranley Gardens station. The station was on a branch line running between Highgate and Alexandra Palace. It closed in 1954 and was demolished some years later.

Whitehall Lodge



Whitehall Lodge in Pages Lane is regarded as one of the hidden architectural gems of Muswell Hill. It is locally listed, but it is celebrated as a classic and intact example of a residential building from the modernist era of architecture far beyond Haringey.



Just before the lockdown the freeholder applied for planning permission to put another storey on the top to contain six one-bedroom flats with a further substantial structure on top of that to house the lift mechanism and other equipment. Zinc cladding is proposed for these new additions, which would be in marked contrast to the characteristic plain rendering of the rest of the building and would draw attention to them. The pictures show the block as it is now and the proposed front elevation if the scheme went ahead.

Whitehall Lodge has a lot of admirers and they have been quick to object to the proposal which is felt would ruin the architectural integrity of the building. The Association has also objected. The reference on the Haringey planning website is HGY/2020/0665.

Muswell Hill Covid 19 Support Team

A group of volunteers in Muswell Hill has set up an organisation to help the community in these difficult times. The Muswell Hill COVID 19 Support Team is offering to collect shopping and urgent medical supplies, to walk pets, to provide chats with isolated individuals and a lot more.

Set up by a small number of "Coordinators", the Team has distributed 12,000 leaflets in the area, set up a dedicated hotline on **07787 360 470** and a website www.muswellhelp.com. There are now over 600 volunteers ready and able to deal with numerous requests for help and advice.

The Team of Coordinators is a great example of people working together, spanning people of diverse political beliefs and a wide range of experiences, from oil company executives to extinction rebellion activists.

Here is an example of what the Team is doing. A single-parent mother with a weak auto-immune system called for help. She'd been isolated at home for several weeks and was running out of food. She was in tears and wanted to get hold of an Easter Egg for her child. Not only did we do her Easter shopping for her, but we've arranged for someone to phone regularly and keep in touch.

If you'd like to volunteer to support your local community, please contact the Muswell Hill Covid 19 Support Team via the website www.muswellhelp.com, Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/251261469365057 or call the hotline number above.

Jonathan Popper



Local Organisations and Events

All activities are suspended during the pandemic.

ST JAMES'S CHURCH

St James's Church Legal Advice Centre and its sister organisation Coppetts and Colney Legal Advice Centre (in Wilton Community Church) provide free legal advice on all issues, including immigration and the legal requirements of the Coronavirus Act 2020. Their drop-in sessions **[Monday and Saturday mornings at St James and Tuesday morning at Wilton]** are suspended for the duration but they continue to provide a free legal advice service by email 24/7 at pt.anythinglegal@gmail.com and coppettslegal@gmail.com.

THE FREEHOLD COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

www.fqw.org.uk. Anyone offering to help Gemma Harris with litter picking should contact her at harrisgemma67@gmail.com or 07806 870505.

NORTH LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

Contact Barbara Penney 020 8883 0010 or e-mail barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk

FRIENDS OF COLDHALL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELD

www.coldfallwoods.co.uk/whats-on

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

Contact Ann Anderson (020 8340 8335) or www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk.
MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk or email contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk.

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Future shows to be held at North Bank, Pages Lane:
Summer Show, **Saturday, 4th July**
Autumn Show, **Saturday, 12th September**
Contact: Jenny Kruss on 020 8442 0031 or jenny_starick@hotmail.co.uk.

MUSWELL HILL BOWLING CLUB

King's Avenue N10 1PB (next to No. 36).
www.muswellhillbowlingclub.co.uk – or call Richard Johnstone on 07986 873312 or e-mail richardjohnstone@gmail.com.

POPCHOIR MUSWELL HILL

www.popchoir.com or email info@popchoir.com. 020 8659 5464.

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NORTH LONDON NLU3A

www.nlu3a.org.uk

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk
Local History Surgery. Phone 020 8348 8429 or email hornseyhistoricalsurgery@gmail.com with a brief outline of the problem.

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

www.hcschoir.com.

NORTH LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

www.nlso.org.uk



Spotted on a rooftop in Queens's Avenue!
Photo by Jacqueline Servat

WAVE Café

Local social enterprise Wave Café have found a venue for their weekly inclusive community arts café.

Every Thursday, 9am-5pm, you can find them at the recently refurbished community space at the United Reformed Church, Queens Avenue, offering free yoga and art sessions, delicious cakes and coffees, a fantastic vegetarian lunch, plus space for kids, homeworking, games and relaxing. Wave Café's aim is to create a truly inclusive community by making spaces where people of all age, ability or background, are welcome!

See wavecafe.org for further evening events.

Obviously all events are cancelled at the moment.



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/>

From Our Archive

The following is taken from an article in the Spring 1966 issue of Fortisman, the forerunner of this Newsletter.

Was Muswell Hill ever a Commuter's Paradise?

By E C Tyler, Chairman of the MHFGA from 1958 to 1976

I moved into this district in 1922 from South London and lived at first in Cranbourne Road. Muswell Hill station was open and there was a back entrance in Dukes Avenue and I could catch a train leisurely in five minutes and sometimes had to in three! I could run in those days!

The steam trains were running between 8.00am and 9.00am, no less than 7 trains, and between 9.00am and 10.00am the number was 5. These were between Muswell Hill and Finsbury Park. All these trains served Alexandra Park, Cranley Gardens and Highgate. There was also a facility which I think was unique on any line entering London. This was at Finsbury Park. At this station trains came from the Barnet and Alexandra Palace lines, the Enfield line and the Main line local service from Potters Bar.



Muswell Hill Station entrance, c.1930s, from the Disused Stations website

They were all scheduled to arrive at the same time on three different platforms, only a single line between them in the centre. The trains then departed almost at the same time, one going to Kings Cross, one to Broad Street and one through the York Road station at Kings Cross and on to the Metropolitan line to Farringdon Street, Goswell Road and Moorgate. By changing, therefore, at Finsbury Park any train from whatever starting point enabled one to reach any of the three termini.

It was a really thrilling sight at Finsbury Park. There was no need to go down the stairs and up again to change. The train in the middle of the three being on the single line between two platforms formed a bridge to get from one train on the outside to the one on the extreme side. The gentlemen, complete with bowler hat, umbrella and brief case, all took part in the dash across.

Composting at Home

Now we are all spending more time at home it's an ideal opportunity to set up a home compost bin – less waste to landfill and lovely compost to use in your garden. I have been composting at home and at my allotment for over 30 years so have learned from experience what does and does not work.

The bin – I prefer the Dalek bins (*see photo*), easy to use and almost indestructible. Some of mine are over 30 years old and I expect to leave them to my grandchildren. If you prefer not to use plastic you can build your own from wood or brick. About 1m square is ideal but remember to make a removable front panel and cover the heap. Old compost bags are ideal. Site the bin where it gets some sunshine with the base in contact with the soil. Garden waste decomposes aerobically from the action of bacteria and insects so the heap needs a mixture of brown and green waste.

Do add – green garden waste, fruit and veg waste, flowers, annual weeds not gone to seed. Brown waste – dry plant stalks, paper shreadings, newspaper torn and balled up, wet cardboard. Add lawn clippings with care, a small layer, then brown waste or you will wind up with wet, smelly mush.

Don't add – cooked food (unless you are particularly fond of rats), perennial weeds, citrus peel, wood, twigs or evergreen tree leaves (take years to rot). Ferns also take a long time to rot down. Large amounts of deciduous leaves should be composted separately, although a few in the heap won't matter.

Time-scale – can be faster or slower depending on season, but in a year at most you will have usable compost to mulch your beds or dig in.

Common problems – heap wet and smelly – add more brown waste. Ants in the heap – too dry – add water and moist green waste.



Jenny Kruss, Muswell Hill and District Horticultural Society

Copy date for July/August 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 June 2020.