

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

Zoe earns a Royal Seal of Approval



Zoe Norfolk, Muswell Hill resident, professional photographer and member of the MHFGA Committee, has been photographing local people through their front windows during lockdown. Her aim has been to show a broad section of the community who have been directly affected by the lockdown and COVID-19.

The National Portrait Gallery invited entries to its "Hold Still" competition, spearheaded by its patron, the Duchess of Cambridge, who is a keen photographer herself. The Duchess surprised participants by personally commenting on a few of the images on Instagram. Zoe's picture of Ben was one of them.

Zoe photographed Ben, 72, (above) at the allotment at Alexandra Palace, where she also has a plot. She said: "It was lovely to see her message".

To see over 50 of Zoe's portraits, (including the Reynolds Family at home - see right), head to www.zoenorfolk.com or to view more of her pictures on Instagram @muswellhill.london.

July/August 2020

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The History of our Newsletter

The first Newsletters of which I have copies from 1965 were called *Fortisman*, *The Official Magazine of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association* and they appeared as a booklet on average twice a year.

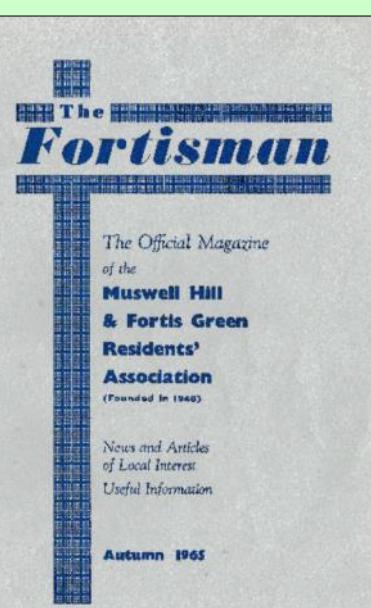
Until 2001 the Newsletter consisted of 1 to 3 simple typed pages (mainly one page). From 2001 it consisted of two pages, printed for the first time, and on cream-coloured paper. From March 2002 it grew to four pages, from 2003 to 6 pages and from 2008 to the current length of 8 pages.

On taking over as Chair in May 2001, I appointed Gerry Saunders as the Editor of the Newsletter, followed by Barbara Erskine in May 2008, David Orme in March 2014, and Christine Morris in March 2016.

From January 2012 the front and back pages were in colour. We also experimented with a new style masthead. The current masthead was first used in January 2014. From July 2014 the middle pages were printed in colour. Since May 2016 the Newsletter has been in full colour.

The first Member Profile appeared in January/February 2014, and the first Corporate Profile in May/June 2015.

John Hajdu MBE



Northern Line Quiz



1. Angry distortion around an R
2. Grinding ascent where the sun rises
3. Campanologist's height in the open
4. Blackboard marker gone rural
5. Tall barrier
6. Through the portico
7. Urban garden of England
8. Regal ire
9. Big hair
10. Entrance to wide open spaces
11. Mining for timber
12. Sylvan haven
13. The shop is full
14. Gabriel is tops

Answers in next issue

Correction

Muswell Hill Covid 19 Support Team

Please note that the website for the support team is www.muswellhelp.co.uk, not www.muswellhelp.com as stated in the last Newsletter.

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>



Photo by Bill Jago

One of our readers wrote in to say:

"I was interested in the planning article on Whitehall Lodge [in the last issue]. My school was next door to these flats and we used to go inside after school and go up and down in the lift until we were chased out. It was during the war and there was a huge NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) tank full of water outside the Lodge."


www.facebook.com/MHFGA
(1,500 followers)


@theMHFGA
(over 800 followers)

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!

Member Profile

Kay Carter

I'd never set foot in Muswell Hill before 2004, and the first day we visited we put in an offer on a house on Grosvenor Road.

I was living with my husband in Islington and we'd recently found out we were expecting our first baby. Before then we hadn't given a moment's thought to things like schools and green spaces and had no idea where a good place to raise a family in London would be. I'm a journalist by trade and at the time I was working on the property section of the Sunday Times. One day I found myself editing an article about how great Muswell Hill is for people with children. I showed it to my husband and the following Saturday we were visiting estate agents. We saw a few houses that day which were bigger and probably more sensible than the one we bought, but we just fell in love with the redbrick houses on Grosvenor Road.

The biggest change we've seen since we moved in is how the shops on Alexandra Park Road have developed. When we first lived here it was a bit of an uninspiring selection, but within a few years we'd seen Owen's open up — first the deli then the coffee shop — and brilliant little shops like Tash & Tania and Green Guru. There's so much more choice right here than there used to be.

Muswell Hill has a reputation for being very friendly, and that has certainly been our experience. Pretty quickly after arriving we got involved with St James's Church and that really helped us get to know people. My husband teaches with the Sunday School and volunteers for the Besom Project (where church members provide good, essential furniture to people in the borough who are struggling). I was churchwarden for a few years and helped some friends from the church to set up Wave, which runs all sorts of activities to try to make Muswell Hill more inclusive for people with learning disabilities. Being involved with Wave has been one of the most rewarding things I've ever done. It's a constant reminder to me not to put people into boxes according to their abilities — you never know what somebody can achieve in a supportive environment.

I have also been very involved with the local Conservative Association — which is quite a niche interest in Muswell Hill! It's a fun group, very diverse, and I even enjoyed serving for a few years as Chairman. To be involved in local politics in any way is an incredible privilege. You get to knock on people's doors and talk to them about what they love about the place where they live, and what they find challenging. I remember knocking on one door and the lady who answered it was very upset. English wasn't her first language and she was having difficulty accessing the benefits she was entitled to for her son. I was able to give her some information about the free debt clinic run by lawyers at St James's, so that she could get the help she needed. It doesn't always work out that you can be of direct use to somebody like that, but sometimes it does.

As our two daughters got older we started to feel that we'd outgrown the house a bit and did wonder whether to move somewhere bigger. But we've become very attached to this particular corner of Muswell Hill. In the end we decided to convert our cellar into proper living space, which was about a year-long project and not for the faint-hearted! It was all worth it in the end though, and I can't see us moving out any time soon — probably not until we're too old to hobble up and down the stairs.



Bats of the Parkland Walk

The Parkland Walk is a natural feeding corridor for bats, sitting as it does with Highgate and Queen's Wood at one end and Finsbury Park, with its large pond, at the other. The pond at Finsbury Park is a big draw for bats as it hosts such large numbers of insects.

Bats are the only mammal that can truly fly, as opposed to glide. As flying uses up a lot of energy, they feast on large numbers of insects over long distances and for much of the night. The tiny common pipistrelle can consume over 3,000 gnats, moths and flies in a single night.

Blind as a bat?

One of a number of myths to bust about the bat; bats aren't blind; they actually see almost as well as humans, but at night they rely more on their ears than their eyes. They use echolocation to find their prey — sending out calls and then listening to the returning echoes to get information about what is around them. If you join one of our guided bat walks (not running while social distancing is required) we supply bat detectors which hear the noise made by bats and convert them into clicks that are audible to our own ears.

Where and when to see them on the Walk

Bats sleep lightly during the day and leave their roost 15 - 30

minutes before sunset. Best places to see them are where there are small clearings in the tree cover. They generally fly at about 6 metres above ground so look upwards to see them swooping silhouetted against the evening sky. In Muswell Hill look at either end of the viaduct, in Highgate just in front of the railway tunnels and as you go through Crouch End and Stroud Green check around the bridges or by the open grassland areas.

Bats will roost in trees, caves, bridges, barns or houses, although, as modern building techniques change, that is less common now. Bat boxes help provide alternative sheltered accommodation. The tunnels at the Highgate end of Parkland Walk have now become a protected bat sanctuary where they often tuck themselves into gaps between bricks. Surveys indicate numbers are increasing annually. Bats hang up-side down when they sleep which begs the question 'Why don't they fall when they are asleep?' Well, the tendons in their legs and feet are designed so that the weight of the bat causes the toes and claws to grip the foothold in the roost firmly, even when asleep. In most mammals the knees bend forwards. Bat knees bend the other way which helps them fly away from the surface on which they are hanging.

*Article taken from Friends of the Parkland Walk newsletter.
For more information, visit their website:
www.parkland-walk.org.uk/*

Membership Matters

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

Thank you so much to all our members who have renewed their membership for another year, supporting the work of the Association. 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.

We've all been spending more time locally and it's been great to see the community coming together to support one another. I have been enjoying walks in the area, the surreal experience of exchanging smiles and pleasantries with strangers as we've cheerfully avoided each other! And it has been lovely seeing the heart-warming posters, signs and chalk drawings of rainbows in support of our NHS workers who have been the backbone of this country over the past few months.

I'd love to hear your stories of positivity from the community during this period. Email them to me at membership@mhfga.org

We're incredibly lucky to have such a varied range of independent businesses around us, and as they start to reopen it's imperative that we give them our support to help them recover and flourish once more.

We can't wait to enjoy this small but thriving community fully again, and though that may be some time away, let us stop, think, and enjoy the slow journey back to normality, and make sure to take time to take stock and be grateful. I sure am.

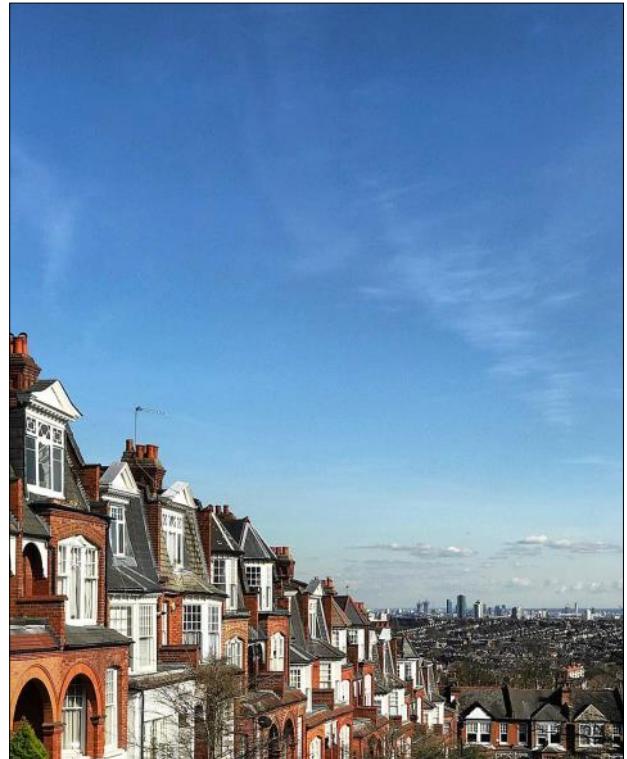


Photo by Zoe Norfolk

New Members

Welcome to our new household members including Mark Leveson.

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			

Corporate Profiles

Muswell Hill United Reformed Church

Muswell Hill United Reformed Church at the corner of Tetherdown and Queens Avenue has been a feature of the local landscape for more than 120 years. The URC as a denomination came into being following the union of the Congregational and English Presbyterian Churches in 1972. In the words of our national body: '*Reformed*' means that we delight in the Bible, we do not fear change, and we try to run our churches in ways that take everyone's insight and contribution seriously.

A few years ago, it became obvious that our building was no longer fit for purpose: insufficiently accessible, dreary to view, starting to crumble and largely empty for too many days of the week. The Church Meeting of members, with our minister, Rev Kate Hackett, voted to remodel the building; keeping the original shell and preserving certain important historic features. The work began in June 2018 and was completed in August last year.

The result is a vibrant two-storeyed church / community building with a fully accessible entrance in Queens Avenue, flanked by our feature stained-glass window. The interior is very striking with a chapel, flexible café area, a modern kitchen, various sized meeting rooms / halls, and the bonus is a lift for those who need it!

Since re-opening, we have welcomed back the Scouts and Brownies, as well as a variety of other new community users including U3A; hosted the weekly Wave Café and ecumenical events; embarked on other new community-faced activities; and continued our dedicated work supporting organisations bringing fairness and justice to people locally and overseas.

Lockdown in late March brought activities to a halt and put plans on ice, but we have kept communications going through phone calls and a daily group email, the current shared worship and prayer material, continuing to produce our award-winning monthly magazine and even raising money for Christian Aid. How we long for the day when we can re-open our doors and say 'welcome' again.

In the meantime, you can view our website muswellhillrc.org.uk. for worship material and e-versions of the monthly magazine, Tetherdown News, and also learn more about the redevelopment.

Patricia Stannard, Church Elder



Rev. Kate Hackett outside the church

Broadway Pet Stores

For me Broadway Pet Stores has always been about family. My dad, Nigel, started working in the pet shop in 1970 as a Saturday boy helping my uncle who ran/owned the shop. Then my dad took over in 1973 and my mum, Sue, joined him in 1985 when I started school. In 2000 I joined them and it's been the three of us running it since then. So as a family it's been lovely to work together and we are very lucky to have such amazing customers. Over the years people have come into the shop as children and then grown up and brought their children and now their grandchildren! I'm hoping my son will join us when he grows up but we'll have to wait as he's only 8 months old! It's also lovely that of our suppliers there are still independent family-run businesses – even with companies trading internationally. Having been in the trade for so long, we have built great relationships with all our suppliers. It doesn't really feel like going to "work" between seeing our regular customers and speaking to suppliers every day.

We have all lived in Muswell Hill for a long time and what is lovely is that it still feels like a village and maintains that local community feeling. We are tremendously lucky to be in London yet surrounded by parks and green spaces. People do want to shop locally and support small businesses so hopefully this will carry on into the future to preserve the look of the high street.



Tim, Sue and Nigel Wheatley

It's been interesting to see the changes in the pet industry since my father started working. As with the food we feed ourselves, the quality of pet food is always getting better and more natural. We are a small shop and very judicious about what products we have in-store – where possible it's only what we would use ourselves and we believe in the quality of the brand/product itself. I've also focused on understanding the different foods to give the best nutritional advice especially with dogs and cats where there are so many different approaches to feeding.

Tim Wheatley

Broadway Pet Stores, 6-8 Muswell Hill Broadway, N10 3RT
0208 883 3200 broadwaypetstores.co.uk
Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:30am to 4:00pm
Local deliveries

Chairman's 2020 AGM report

No doubt you have received my full report by email, and all the Committee reports are on our website at www.mhfga.org/agm-2020. Here is a short summary.

Meetings

June 2019 – guided walk in Alexandra Park, conducted by Sally Stevens.
 October 2019 – a talk by Nigel Willmott, Chair of the Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre, and Pat Brearey, on the history and restoration of the Theatre.
 November 2019 - Nick Peacey, Secretary of the Friends of the Highgate Wood Roman Kiln, gave us a talk on the excavations in the Wood and their future plans.

Newsletter

Six bi-monthly Newsletters have been produced by Editor Christine Morris.

Planning

Nick Barr has reviewed 285 planning applications throughout the year.

Publicity

George Danker is in charge of our press releases, helps to organise our meetings and sent out our Newsletter Survey. He sends out regular e-mail communications to you, our members, giving you information on local issues and our events.

Transport

Tony Wells took over from Chris Barker, who resigned after having been on the Committee for 19 years.

Conservation Area and Town Centre

John Crompton continues to represent us on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and looks at all applications in our conservation areas.

Website

Tony Wells resigned from this role but took on the Transport brief (see above) and Alex Vincenti was welcomed back as the new Web Manager

Environment

Brian Livingston has been involved in several projects throughout the year. With volunteers including Tessa Kulik, Lucy Haynes and Georgia Pairtrie, he has maintained the flower boxes at the Muswell Hill roundabout, the cattle trough opposite the Library, the pocket park opposite The Village Pub, and the Colney Hatch Lane beds.

Brian also has regular meetings with the Parks Department and reports such items as potholes, graffiti, blocked gullies and other damaged street furniture. He should be congratulated on persuading the Council to repair the damaged pavement at the crossing next to Sainsbury's.
 Our graffiti removal team of Jack Whitehead and Bill Jago continues to undertake weekly inspection and clean-up of graffiti and flyposting.

Social Media

Zoe Norfolk looks after both our Noticeboard and Facebook: she has recently updated the Noticeboard and reports that we have 1,486 followers on Facebook. Our Twitter account has 900 followers.

Membership

Loretta Mitchell resigned due to pressure of other work and the birth of her grandchild. We are delighted that Richard Marmalade has agreed to take on this job.

Alexandra Palace and Park

Duncan Neill represents us on the Palace Consultative Committee and is their Chair. John Crompton represents us on the Statutory Advisory Committee.

Shop Front Photos Archive

It was decided some time ago to keep a record of our shops in Muswell Hill. Tony Wells photographs all new shop fronts and holds the archives.

Treasurer

Our Treasurer, Jacqueline Servat has had an extremely difficult year, having to cope with various changes, including getting used to working with a new website and dealing with changing ways of payments of membership fees.

The accounts were audited by Patricia Pearl, MHFGA Independent Examiner.

The full financial report is available on request, addressed to me.

I would like to thank all our dedicated Committee members for their conscientious and willing support in ensuring the continued smooth running of your Association.

John Hajdu MBE

Responses to the Chairman's and Committee's reports

John

A quick note to congratulate you on your twenty years as Chair of the MHFGA. The recent reports from the Committee was a very interesting summary of the wide range of activity taken by the Committee, and the 'new faces' are making their impact. In the absence of an AGM, the donation to the Whittington was a typical generous and worthy gesture on your part - I approve!

David Orme

Thank you so much for this latest communication.
Betty Rosen

Thank you John. Next year, you will be 21 years into the job. I'm sure this has some significance, but I can't quite think what.

Barry White

Thank you for an excellent report. I would like to add my gratitude to Christine Morris for keeping up the regular writing and production of Newsletters that are a pleasure to read. How do you manage to keep the subscription so low? The hard work of talented volunteers I suppose, but I wouldn't object to paying £12 a year for all you do for residents.

Peter Thompson

Thank you to you all for giving us your time, energy and effort.

Louise Levy

Local Organisations

ST JAMES'S CHURCH

St James's Church Legal Advice Centre and its sister organisation Coppets 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 coppetslegal@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

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

www.hcschoir.com.

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.

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.



Richard de Belmeis II

Some Muswell Hill History

by Ros Kraushar

I was born in Muswell Hill a long time ago, before the war, and have lived in it almost all my life, so here are some snippets which not everyone knows.

My grandfather, Dr George Pereira, was the first doctor in Muswell Hill, starting in Dukes Avenue in 1900 and I believe that he delivered Gracie Fields into the world. My parents followed suit, both practising as doctors all their lives at 42 Colney Hatch Lane, where I was born

In medieval times the whole area belonged to The Bishop of London - hence Bishops Avenue - and the house I live in now, 2 Lauradale Road, was apparently the Bishop's piggery, together with adjacent land.

Even further back, Richard de Belmeis II, Bishop of London and Lord of the Manor of Hornsey, gave to the Benedictine nuns of the priory of Clerkenwell 65 acres of land between Colney Hatch Lane and Dukes Avenue and Curzon Road, which was in the manor of Hornsey and had two natural springs of water which became known as Mosswelle. The nuns farmed in the area and it became a well-known place of pilgrimage. In 1593 it was written how Muswell had become a shrine, as a King of Scotland was healed of a disease through the waters of Muswell. Pilgrims came from all over the world, even on their knees! It became a very fashionable place and there was a definite connection with Scotland, so many Scots came to settle in Muswell Hill, just like my grandfather who came from Edinburgh. It was also considered a holiday place for Londoners because it was so high

Crowds flocked especially to Alexandra Palace with its race course, boxing matches and many other events. Travel links were good, as there was a station, so my father and uncles, all future doctors, went to school direct from Muswell Hill to Charterhouse Square, but sadly of course the station was abolished a long time ago. During the war the place was quite dangerous and I remember how St Andrew's Church was badly damaged by a bomb. My memory is that Muswell Hill was not such an interesting place after the war and many poked fun at the odd name, but things have changed greatly in the last few years and it has become far more interesting in terms of both residents and shops.

From Our Archive

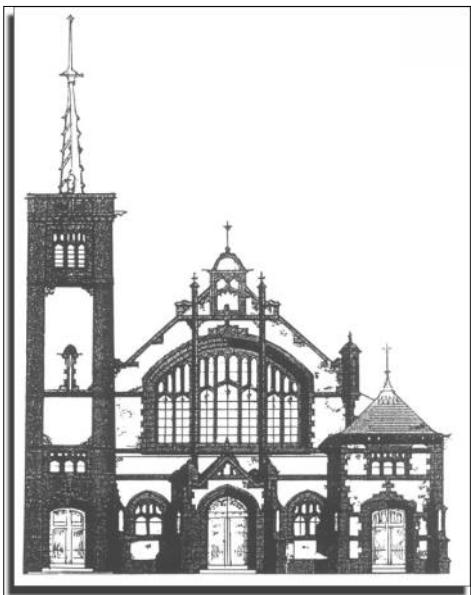
BROACH

This article is taken from the History of MHFGA on the Association's website

In 1976, the former United Reformed Church on Muswell Hill Broadway at the corner of Prince's Avenue was threatened by a proposal for its demolition, so that shops, offices and flats could be built on the site. The Association decided that this was such an important issue that a sub-committee should be formed to deal with it. It became autonomous and was known as BROACH (Broadway Church Action).

Nearly all the members were members of the Association, which strongly supported the long campaign to save the building and place it in trust. This was one of the most important campaigns in our history, and Pat Whitehead, the campaign co-ordinator, said that the loss of this building in the Broadway would be a major blow to Muswell Hill's brand-new conservation area.

There was much correspondence in the local press in support of the fight to save the church. In April 1976, 2,500 signatures were collected for a petition outside the church on one day alone. Many more signed later and the total reached 9,020 signatures. The petition and many boxes of BROACH documents are in the Haringey archives at Bruce Castle.



BROACH managed to get the church listed Grade II and then won a public enquiry to ensure its survival. Support was received from Sir John Betjeman, Sir Nicklaus Pevsner, Sir Hugh Casson and Sir John Summerson, who attended the public enquiry and spoke eloquently of the unique qualities of Muswell Hill's important streetscape. The issue briefly became national news and Pat Whitehead was interviewed about it on the World at One on Radio 4.

There were various plans for the building, one to become a concert hall and rehearsal centre, another for it to house a library, or an arts or community centre. It seems that at the time there was a shortage in London of premises suitable for orchestras to rehearse and record in, and BROACH gave support to this concept, reporting that the church was not only the right size for rehearsals by symphony orchestras but had outstanding acoustics as well. At the enquiry, the inspector was told by the late Felix Aprahamian, music critic and long-time Muswell Hill resident and member, that the hall's acoustic qualities put it in the top flight of London's concert venues. But, after extensive repairs and internal alterations supervised by English Heritage, it became an O'Neill's pub and then later the steak house it is today. This plan was not approved until 1995.

Answers to the quiz in the previous issue

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. c. Police | 7. Cranley Gardens |
| 2. d. 42 constables, one inspector, 2 horses and one dog, incl
2 on horseback | 8. 1842 (original building) and 1902 (new building completed
in 1902) |
| 3. b. Pizza Express | 9. 179 feet / 56.6 metres |
| 4. The Athenaeum, used as a dance hall. Also meeting place
of MH Parliament | 10. Edmondson and Collins |
| 5. United Reformed Church

St James's Church

Muswell Hill Methodist Church

Muswell Hill Synagogue

Our Lady of Muswell Hill Roman Catholic Church

Muswell Hill Baptist Church

St Andrew's Church

St Peter le Poer Church | 11.c. On Fortis Green Road between Firs Avenue and
Birchwood Avenue |
| 6. 10 July 1980 | 12. 1,000 |
| | 13. 1867 |
| | 14. 1939 |
| | 15.a. The top of Muswell Hill and Summerland Gardens |
| | 16. 1936 |
| | 17.d. Adjoining Lloyds Bank (now M&S) |
| | 18.c. Bagel Bakery |
| | 19.b. Between Princes Avenue and Nationwide |
| | 20. b. £425 |

Copy date for September/October 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 August 2020.