

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

The Art of Printmaking



Those of you who read the November/December 2020 issue of this Newsletter will remember that we published a profile of the distinguished art historian, writer and fine print collector, Peter Webb. We were delighted when he agreed to give a talk on his print collection for our February Members' Meeting, and even more so when he decided that this would be in two parts, the second part to take place later this year. The title of the February talk was: *From Michelangelo to Picasso via Rembrandt: my collection of prints*; the second part will concentrate on Oriental and European prints of a later period.

Peter first explained the different types of prints, prints being defined as images on paper. These can be produced in one of three ways.

Firstly from an engraving made from metal plates. This method produces prints which are delicate with careful shading and were much favoured by Renaissance artists such as Leonardo and Michelangelo. Engravings were a useful source of income for these artists as their skills such as frescoes didn't pay well.

The second method is from woodcuts where the raised surface is inked, producing a less precise engraving. This was used mostly by Northern European artists such as Durer, probably because the wood produced from the native trees was more easily sliced and polished than that from the south.

The third method is the lithograph which is made from engraving smooth stone, a similar skill to etching. This was invented in the late 18th century so it is a more modern method than the previous two which were developed from the 15th to 18th centuries. Picasso was one artist who used this medium.

Peter then guided us through his collection of prints by such artists as

MY PRINT COLLECTION from Michelangelo via Rembrandt to Picasso



March/April 2021

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Michelangelo, Rembrandt, and Goya, comparing them to the sketches and paintings from which they were derived. He explained that it is much cheaper to collect prints rather than paintings by famous artists. Collecting paintings excludes everyone but the richest buyers, but prints can be bought at a much more reasonable price, sometimes in the most surprising places. The luckiest of his finds was a print by Theodore Gericault from his watercolour *Two Negroes*, which he picked up in France for 10 euros!

It is difficult here to summarise the knowledge and enthusiasm that Peter imparted in his talk (accompanied at times by his pet budgerigars!), but I'm sure all those who attended (about 60 of you) are looking forward immensely to the next of his talks. Some of the comments after the meeting included *fascinating, interesting, enjoyable, informative, wonderful, inspiring* so I predict that there will be at least 60 in the Zoom audience for his next talk!

Short Story Competition

Congratulations to John Reid and Martin Burnstyn who were joint runners-up in our short story competition. Their entries are printed on pages 4 and 5.

Members' Meetings

We will continue with our programme of meetings via Zoom. **Please contact events@mhfga.org to book your place and receive the link to enter the meeting**, and check our website www.mhfga.org for up-to-date information.

We would welcome suggestions from our members for topics for future meetings or, even better, to offer a talk themselves. Please contact our Chairman, John Hajdu, who would be very happy to hear from you.

Thursday 11th March at 7.00pm

The Winklebag printer of Pages Lane - his life and times as a bizarre collector of oddities!

A talk by Maurice Collins who was the Member in Profile in our last Newsletter.

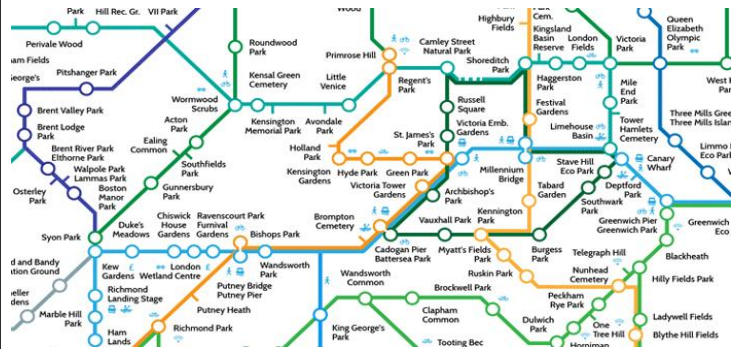
Maurice writes: This will be an interactive talk explaining my journey from an apprenticed compositor in Pages Lane to collecting in a range of different historical areas, from Victorian leaflets, posters, visiting cards and unusual everyday gadgetry from the past.

With the aid of the latest Zoom technology I hope to show you examples from the collection, and even try to get you to guess the use of some of the items. The collection is housed, when not out at museums, on the border of Muswell Hill and East Finchley, so not far from my start in Pages Lane.

Looking forward to meeting all my neighbours!

The Association was pleased to make a donation of £100 to the Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen.

The Greenground Map



Inspired by Harry Beck's iconic tube map, graphic designer Helen Illus has created a new version that joins the dots between London's parks and nature spots.

Like red buses and black cabs, Harry Beck's map of the underground is a London icon. But while it helps millions of people navigate the tube every year (in normal times), it is mostly useless for those travelling above ground.

Enter Helen Illus, a graphic designer who has dragged the map above ground and redesigned it to help walkers and cyclists travel across London amid greenery.

Instead of tube stations, the Greenground Map links up the city's urban oases: from forests and cemeteries to parks and waterways. Although exact routes aren't provided, the map does offer distances – an attempt by Illus to encourage more people to tackle the city on foot.

You can download the map by searching for Greenground Map online.

If you need help with a specific local issue, please check at <https://mhfga.org/useful-links/> where you will find contacts for reporting your concerns.

MHFGA Committee

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planning@mhfga.org

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*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.*



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



[@theMHFGA](https://twitter.com/theMHFGA)
(over 800 followers)



[@muswellhill.london](https://www.instagram.com/muswellhill.london)
(over 200 followers)

Visit our website www.mhfga.org for lots of information about the local area including old photos, early films 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

Linda Alliston

Although I was born and brought up in Hertfordshire, my secondary school years were spent travelling up and down the A10 to St Angela's in Wood Green. I had the pleasure of Broxbourne Woods on my doorstep for weekends, whilst spending weekdays at school in London.

My career has been in the overseas travel industry. My early working years were spent learning all aspects of the industry at two of the largest tour operators at the time. At what I now see was the young age of 28, I confidently set up my own business. The Travel Advice Centre started with just me and at its peak I employed a team of 15. Happily, I was so young I didn't suffer too many sleepless nights and just loved it all! In 2018 we marked 30 years of the business. The less said about the current situation the better!.

We moved close to Muswell Hill Playing Fields in 1995 and our daily dog walk was through them up to and around Coldfall Woods. In 1999 rumours started flying around that the council planned to sell off the fields for use as a golf range. The local community stepped into action, a protest group was formed, and a meeting held with Haringey: the plans were dropped. A consequence was the formation of the Friends of Muswell Hill Playing Fields dedicated to protecting the space. Coldfall Wood was suffering some neglect then with stolen bikes and cars easily accessing them and so a year or so later our group added the Woods into our care, and group title.

The first job was to protect and secure so, with the help of the council and police, gates and barriers were installed and hostile planting incorporated. As the years went by the group has undertaken various projects, installing bird and bat boxes in the woods, holding workdays, working on the addition of the playgrounds, skate park and multiuse court to the fields. We also organised a variety of nature surveys, guided walks, coppicing, bridges, and reed beds. The Woods now have nature reserve status, and the fields have 'Fields in Trust' status, good protections for both spaces. Our website has a lot of historic information including maps going back to 1864 and recordings of memories of a 1920s childhood in the Woods and Coldfall estate. Seeing the little tots and primary school children in the Woods always gives me great pleasure. The number of people who have discovered and are appreciating the Woods during lockdown has been heart-warming and the vast majority clearly care a great deal for them.

We have had numerous wonderful committed and passionate people who have contributed to all the foregoing successes and the enhancement and protection of these wonderful green spaces over the years. I have met fantastic people from all walks of life and made some lovely friends through my association with the group. Volunteering is a great way to get to know your community and make a difference to your area. Its also a great way to leave behind the stresses and strains of business life.

For more information about both green spaces www.coldfallwoods.co.uk



Planning Matters

by John Crompton

Whitehall Lodge, Pages Lane

An application submitted in autumn last year to build four flats on the roof was refused. There was an objection from the Association and an astonishing 172 others who were concerned about the proposal. These came not only from local residents but from various locations all over Europe and far beyond. This is an extract from the Council's reason for refusing permission which chimes in very well with the main points of concern which had been raised:

"The proposed roof extension by reason of its siting and bulk would cause harm to the design and appearance of this original building, in specific to the integrity of its original roofline as appreciated from short and longer views. The limited benefit of four residential units is not sufficient to outweigh the harm caused to this heritage asset and its contribution to the character and appearance of this part of the conservation area".

Very recently the applicant has submitted notice of an appeal to the Secretary of State against the Council's decision so unfortunately the uncertainty continues.

Manor Health and Leisure Club Fortis Green



Many members were concerned about a recent planning application concerning this building, involving as it did a triple whammy of unwelcome news: the demolition of this interesting low rise building housing an established fitness business used by local people and for a bland looking four storey block of nine flats to be built in its place. At the point when over 60 objections had been submitted the application was withdrawn. I understand that the new owner of the club will be giving the gym a revamp and changing the name from The Manor to The Muswell Hill Health Club.

Short Story Competition

Joint runner-up John Reid's disturbing sci-fi vignette, matter-of-factly relating how a man casually couples with an alien, producing an alien child, while not quite forgetting he has a human daughter he's left at home...

Alien-nation

One spring morning, at a time when people still looked at blue skies and said *what lovely weather* to each other, a man met an alien standing on the doorstep next to the bookshop at the corner of the high street. Something about the alien's casual demeanour made the man stop and stare. They locked eyes. The feeling seemed mutual. He followed the alien, taking the stairs two at a time into a spacious, well-appointed flat: art on the walls, a coffee machine in the kitchen; within a few minutes, they were having beautiful, uninhibited sex over the top of one of the plush sofas. When it was over, they fell into the plump cushions below and the man gazed out of the windows at the cloudless sky.

At last he said: *can I see you again?*

The alien looked at him with its cat-like eyes.

I have to go, said the man, picturing his daughter packing her bag at the end of the school day. He followed the alien with his eyes as it walked over to the door; watching the cool, green back, he suddenly felt that each cell in his body had started to freeze over.

He forced himself to think of his daughter again: now grasping the bars of the school gates, looking out through them, the last child in the playground. Sitting up, he willed his lips to move - *I have to go*, he would plead, if necessary - but instead, a harsh dry sound exploded from his throat: *ek ek ek ek*.

I mustn't panic, he thought, as the alien turned back towards him. *ek ek ek ek* said the alien softly, intimately, while the man looked down with terror at his new body.

An unprecedentedly wet summer, the news bulletins were saying. Parts of the city were reported to be under water, but the three of them emerged as usual from their front door by the old bookshop. They walked in a line across the pavement, skirting around the puddles, the two aliens and their child, until someone else, another person or alien came the other way, when they would realign in single file. He saw that the humans were in a state of discomfort, mopping their brows and scratching red patches of skin. Since his own transformation, he had come to enjoy the hottest days of the summer and the freezing depths of the winter months the most; physical adaptability was a consolation to him. All the same, he envied the humans their sweating and their complaining. *We appear to have gained control*, he thought, as he did obsessively every day; *but underneath, we're still human - he/him, she/her, delete as appropriate, etc. etc. Just humans without tear ducts.*

As they arrived at the bus stop, he saw that the thin plastic bench was already occupied by a young woman. Ears covered by black headphones, head bobbing, eyes heavily shadowed, she was painting her nails a shade of bright red directly underneath the screen of shifting adverts and practical information:

269, 3 minutes; 156, 4 minutes; *MISSING, can you help?; MISSING, can you help?*

Without looking up, the girl shifted her body along, making space. The three aliens sat, their child in the middle. He glanced surreptitiously at the profiles beside him: alien adult, alien child, human female. Was the slant of this girl's chin familiar? His heart began to bang painfully. *Underneath, we're still human*. Had his daughter and her mother really stayed in the same house all this time, had she continued at the same school with its dark Victorian brick buildings on that busy A-road? He carried on looking at her out of the corner of his vision. Could it be possibly be her, here, so self-contained and so nearly grown-up?

It was a busy morning; groups of people, aliens, shuffled past the bus stop, some poking their heads under the shelter, others slouched with bags by their feet, close by, waiting. The girl raised the lattice of her hands very slowly towards the daylight, blowing gently onto her nails. Was she...? Something in his heart seemed to be splintering, jagged ends moving towards his throat. *Humans without tear ducts*. He opened his mouth to cough - *Ek ek ek ek* - as the girl lowered her hands, pulling on her rucksack. The bus had arrived.

And here is Martin Burstyn's bitter-sweet account of an elderly man revisiting the picnic spot where he and his young French girlfriend had planned their future together on the eve of his going into action in August 1944.

August 1944

They'd motored down from London in the MG that day and managed to get to the coast by the late afternoon. One of his fellow officers in the Mess had told him about the magic beach and he'd decided to take Amelie there before he was shipped out. Just a few short days together and then he'd be gone for at least six months. He wanted something special for them both to remember.

He managed to find the turning and realising he couldn't go any further stopped and turned off the engine listening to it popping as it cooled.

“Come on *cheri*, let’s explore – and bring the picnic basket.”

Before he could reply she’d grabbed her straw hat and was out of the car running down the rutted lane towards what he hoped would be the beach. Her blue summer dress floated behind her and the pale downy hair on her long brown legs glistened in the sun. He took off his cap and flying jacket and throwing them on the passenger seat picked up the picnic basket and made off after her. He could hear her laughter echoing through the woods and then it stopped. Feeling frantic he hurried on and turned a corner in the lane.

“Oh Tom, look, isn’t it marvellous?” She was standing at the edge of the wood looking across an unkempt lawn at a large Italianate-style house that stood gently crumbling at the other side.

“It’s absolutely beautiful, I wonder who lives there? What do you think, shall we knock on the door?”

Amelie followed him up to the house but the front door was wide open hanging on its hinges and swaying gently in the breeze. “It’s abandoned, it must be.”

“Looks like it, shall we go in?”

“We need to be careful, there are probably rotten floorboards all over the place.”

“Maybe the owner abandoned it during the war. I imagine her sons went off to fight and didn’t come back and so she couldn’t face living there again.”

“You’ve such an inventive imagination Amelie, perhaps you should write detective novels like Miss Christie.”

“Perhaps I will, but in French.”

They laughed and went back out onto the lawn. Tom spread out the tartan blanket and Amelie unwrapped the sandwiches from their greaseproof paper. They sat back to back munching and admiring the house.

“We should buy it Tom. After we’re married I mean. This house would be perfect for children, I want four by the way and one of the boys will be called Timothy. Have I already told you that? I can imagine us all growing up and old here, sitting out on the lawn on your English deckchairs eating cucumber sandwiches and watching the grandchildren climbing in the trees.”

“Will there be Pimms?”

“*Mais non*, champagne only” She laid her head on his shoulder and he smelled the summer sun in her hair and the lemon breath of her perfume as they sat watching the sun go down behind the house.

“One day, cherie, one day.”

August 2010

He’d motored down from London and was surprised how quickly it took him, he was there well before lunch. Somehow he managed to find the turning, he wasn’t quite sure how, but there was the lane again. He was relieved to see that it was paved now. He got out of the car his knees cracking as he did so and reached for his stick. The first few steps were painful as they always were but soon the pain eased and he walked slowly down the lane. Nothing had changed except the trees looked taller and he could hear the roar of the traffic from the motorway beyond.

When he rounded the corner he was amazed to see the house was still there. It was just as dilapidated as before though at some point in the past it had been repainted. He could see that the front door was shut and the grass was neater than he remembered. As he crossed the lawn, the door opened and a middle-aged man came out. He would have been Timothy’s age.

“Hello, can I help you?”

“I’m not sure you can actually.”

“I’m sorry, I don’t understand. Do you know this house?”

“I should do.”

“Sorry?”

“My apologies. A long time ago my wife,” he paused and took a breath, “my wife and I stumbled across it and immediately fell in love with it. We planned to buy it and raise our family here.”

“And?”

“Well, it just never worked out. It’s a lovely house though, isn’t it?”

And there they stood.

Connected Communities



Alice Hawken, Local Area Coordinator

Local Area Coordination in Haringey is part of the Connected Communities team. Local Area Coordinators (LACs) are typically employed by their local authority but are rooted in the communities they work alongside. LACs approach, or are introduced to, people who may be isolated, causing concern or are at risk of needing formal services. We

The wider Connected Communities programme is set up to improve access to council and voluntary services. The team is formed of staff members from a range of Council and community services available to access a range of advice, advocacy and support. Connected Communities can be contacted via phone 020 8489 4431 or via email connectedcommunities@haringey.gov.uk.

If you have any ideas about projects or groups that Alice can support or if you would like to find out more about Local Area Coordination or Connected Communities, please get in touch. Alternatively, once restrictions ease, lookout for Alice and her Connected Communities colleagues based in Muswell Hill Library and other community locations, cafes, and workspaces across Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Highgate.

take the time to support people to build their own vision for a good life, finding pragmatic solutions to any problems, utilising community resources, before considering commissioned or statutory services. This means that, instead of assessing or signposting people into services, we can invest time to understand a person's vision for a good life, focussing on strengths and gifts to share and the natural support around from family, friends and their community.

LACs are a resource to all in the places they work. This includes helping local groups and organisations to develop and sustain their work whilst supporting people to establish new initiatives. We do not have set eligibility criteria, and anyone can approach a LAC for a chat, be it a resident, group, business or charity. Since September 2020 there have been LACs based in every one of Haringey's wards. The LAC for Haringey's West boroughs of Muswell Hill, Highgate and Fortis Green is Alice Hawken. You can contact her directly on 07779555193 or alice.hawken@haringey.gov.uk.



Spring is on it's way!

Membership

New Members

A warm welcome to our 10 new members including James Collins, Naomi Inwald, Peter Lambri, Faith Jenner, Linda Alliston and Zaira Iacopelli.

Corporate Members

The following 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**.

13 Web Street
Aleion Restaurant
Ambitious About Autism
Angela Rose
Baby Sensory
Barnet Furniture Centre
Barron Salon
Bob's Café
Broadway Pet Stores
Broadway Pharmacy
Bund Chinese Restaurant
Capital Gardens
Children's Bookshop
Clissold Arms
Cosi Homewares
East Finchley Open Artists
Evelina's Patisserie
Everyman Muswell Hill
Fierce Grace Hot Yoga
Firkins Chimney Sweeps
Freehold Community Association
Friends of St. James's Square

Gibfit 30
Green's of Highgate
Harington Scheme
Hollickwood Primary School
Hopper & Bean
House of Books
Internet Express/
PhoneRepairs4u
JHK Estate Agents
Lambert Welch Kitchens
La'De Kitchen
Laytons (Jeraboams)
Le Pot de Terre
London Institute of Dance
Men at 107
Misk Boutique
Muswell Flyer
Muswell Hill Bowling Club
Muswell Hill Creatives
Muswell Hill Methodist Church
Muswell Hill Methodist Lawn Tennis Club
Muswell Hill Pharmacy

Muswell Hill United Reformed Church
Muswell Hillbilly Brewers
Natural Beauty Urban Retreat
Norfolk House School
North London Chorus
North London Symphony Orchestra
Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd
Perform Media Ltd
Picture Framing Muswell Hill
Planet Organic
Point 5 Kitchens
Rhodes Avenue Primary School
Robert Linsky Optometrist
Roni's Bagel Bakery
Rowan Antiques
S&D Express
Sable d'Or Patisserie
Sally Bourne Interiors
Snappy Snaps
St James's Muswell Hill

Studio Moe Ltd
Tatlers Estate Agents
The Hampstead Butcher & Providore
The Mossy Well
The Real Greek
The Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics
Toffs
Victory Auto Services
W Martyn
Walter Purkis & Sons
WAVE Café
Woodland Tree Surgery
Yogamatters
Zebra Ceramics

Local Organisations

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.

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

Wednesday March 17, 7.30pm talk by Alice Evans, Project Officer for Citizen Science and Adult Learning in the Royal Parks: *Protecting Wildlife in London's Royal Parks through Mission: Invertebrate*, a project bringing people of all ages together to improve habitats in the park. All welcome. Email meetings@fqw.org.uk for a link.

NORTH LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

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

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

Contact Ann Anderson (020 8340 8335) or www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk.

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

www.hcschoir.com.

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk or email contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk.

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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.

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.

Parkland Walk

Ben Wilson 'the chewing gum man' has been working on a trail of chewing gum pictures along the Parkland Walk, the remarkable nature reserve that follows the track of a long-abandoned railway line from Finsbury Park to Muswell Hill.

Ben started work on this project in October 2019, and is still working on it. So far there are 35 pictures that celebrate and are inspired by the history of the Parkland Walk and the insects, animals, birds, trees and some of the people he encountered there.

The project was commissioned by The Friends of the Parkland Walk, who set up a crowdfunding page to pay for it: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-parkland-walk-art-trail>

More information about the Parkland Walk can be found at <https://www.parkland-walk.org.uk/>

Some of the pictures are in the vicinity of marker posts on the Walk, though there are also many that can be discovered in between; the positions of the marker posts can be found on this Google map: <https://tinyurl.com/yyu3j4vx>



Pinkham Way

Consultation on the North London boroughs' attempt to save their faltering waste plan has closed and the Pinkham Way Alliance has submitted its response. As previously mentioned, the councils are suggesting a huge 114 changes ('Main Modifications') to the version of the North London Waste Plan (NLWP) that the Planning Inspector found to be so deeply flawed a year ago. In short, these suggested modifications would make the plan more of a mess than it already is.

In fact, across-the-board changes in strategy, data and criteria mean that this farrago is, in effect, a new plan altogether. But one that has not even been through the usually required steps of public consultation, individual council approval, and so on.

By the time the Alliance had scrutinised just three of the suggested modifications (from a total of 114!), it was already clear that this supposed plan is an incoherent strategic muddle and impossible to reconstruct in this way. It requires a major rewrite.

Arbitrary and expedient changes in data, and the usual desperate (and evidence-free) attempt to keep Pinkham Way as an option for future waste use, riddle large parts of the plan with inconsistencies.

Stephen Brice, Chair, Pinkham Way Alliance

From Our Archive

The Association's webmaster, Alex Vincenti writes:

Rare moving images from as far back as 1898 are now on a new page on the MHFGA website. The earliest are from Robert W. Paul, one of the pioneers of British cinema, who in 1898 opened his film studio in Muswell Hill.

From a Keystone Cop-like chase, to black-and-white and colour street scenes through the years, to the demolition of the Muswell Hill Railway Station, to the birth of TV and the Alexandra Palace fires, the videos document almost a century of local history. Together with the contemporary and antique still pictures and an ever-changing record of shop fronts, the website Photo & Video Galleries are a visual treasure for anyone wanting to explore the past and present of Muswell Hill and its surroundings.



Dog Show, Alexandra Palace, 1927



Police chase, 1905



Roundabout, 1957

London's Lost Railways

Readers may be also interested in a couple of Youtube videos entitled London's Lost Railways which cover the Parkland Walk and the Mill Hill East to Edgware branch. Just go to www.youtube.com and search for London's Lost Railways. Other national lost lines are covered as well.

Friends of Queen's Wood

Queen's Wood is an area of ancient woodland in the London Borough of Haringey, which has been continuously wooded since at least AD 1600. The wood is principally inhabited by oak and hornbeam. Many birds have been spotted in the wood including crows, magpies, jays, blackbirds, greater spotted woodpeckers, green woodpeckers, blue tits, great tits, robins, tree capers, nuthatches, mallards, song thrushes, wood pigeons, wrens, hawfinches, cuckoos, sparrow hawks, London pigeons and gold crests. It's a place to find peace in a busy city. With the changing seasons there is always something new to see, hear and enjoy. The Lodge building houses a cafe with an organic garden behind.

The Friends of Queen's Wood is a local voluntary group dedicated to the conservation of Queen's Wood. Membership entitles you to a regular Newsletter, talks, guided walks in the Wood, special children's events and information about local conservation and environmental issues. Members can take part in monthly working parties in the Wood.

Our volunteers and committee members do a terrific job cutting back and conservation work including coppicing as well as the regular litter picking. The Committee is made up of local people who love the Wood and want to protect it. We always welcome new members and offers of help. Contact info@fqw.org.uk.



Copy date for May/June 2021 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 April 2021.