

# Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

## Members' Short Story Competition



We are inviting our members - budding writers and those with maybe more experience - to take part in our short story competition. This brainchild of our Chairman, John Hajdu, may help to pass the coming darker evenings while the world around us is changing in unexpected ways. You may wish to encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Association so that they too can take part.

There will be two categories and rules for entrants:

- **Children up to and including age 14. Entries should be up to 500 words. First prize £50, 2nd prize £30, 3rd prize £20.**
- **Age 15+. Entries up to 750 words. First prize £100, 2nd prize £75, 3rd prize £50.**

Stories need to be submitted by 1st December so that the winning entries can be printed in our January/February 2021 issue. Entries must be an original piece of work written by the entrant and not previously published elsewhere.

## November/ December 2020

Inside this issue:

- 2 Notices  
MHFGA contacts
- 3 Member Profile: Peter Webb  
Queen's Wood
- 4 Members' Letters
- 5 Muswell Hill in World War II  
Artists Walk
- 6 Safer Neighbourhood Panel
- 7 Local Organisations  
Risborough Close
- 8 From our Archive



Our judges will be Trevor and Valerie Grove both experienced writers themselves. Valerie is a veteran Fleet Street journalist, writing mostly for the Times and Sunday Times. She was also Literary Editor of the Evening Standard and has written the official biographies of Laurie Lee and John Mortimer. Trevor worked for the Evening Standard and the Observer before becoming Editor of the Sunday Telegraph. He has written books about the jury system and the magistracy – as well as one about the dogs on Hampstead Heath.

So, get your imaginative thinking caps on, and we very much look forward to receiving your entries which should be sent to [editor@mhfga.org](mailto:editor@mhfga.org).



Season's Greetings to all our members!

## Getting ready for the festive season!



Local traders have clubbed together and now raised over £4,000 through the Muswell Business Just Giving page for the St James's Square Christmas Tree. The tree will be professionally installed and linked up to electricity to keep all those fairy lights twinkling over the festive season.

## Members' Meetings

We hope to continue with meetings if we can do so in line with government guidance. Please check our website [www.mhfga.org](http://www.mhfga.org) for up-to-date information.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 7.00pm.** A talk by Alex Fraser, Tree & Nature Conservation Manager, Haringey Council. This will be a Zoom meeting. To take part, please register at <https://mhfga.org/virtual-events/>. There will be an opportunity for questions at the end of the talk.

### 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>



Do any of our readers have any information on the shop B.S. Yuill Ltd (above), which occupied the site of the current Little Cook café at the top of Muswell Hill?

*Photo by Chris Barker*

## Extract from *Where to Live Round London*, first published in 1906



*Muswell Hill roundabout, 1907*

Muswell Hill is one of the most salubrious heights around London for, standing at an elevation of over 400 ft above sea level, the air is exceptionally pure, and it enjoys its full share of sunshine. This dominant height also commands extensive views over the Middlesex Vale with Epping Forest and the Hertfordshire Hills in the distance on one side and the heights of Highgate and Hampstead on the other. Its many residential thoroughfares are all of a pleasant character and contain numerous modern well-planned and artistic houses lying back beyond ample forecourt gardens. There are also some admirable modern flats. Its main thoroughfares are electrically lighted, it has excellent water supply from the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board, and is within the admirably administered area of the Hornsey Borough Council. To the north and west stretches some beautiful country where the main provincial roads are attainable by cyclist and pedestrians.

## MHFGA Committee

### Chairman

John Hajdu MBE  
chairman@mhfga.org  
020 8883 8114

### Planning/Vice Chairman

Nick Barr  
planning@mhfga.org

### Secretary/CAAC/Alexandra Palace Statutory Advisory Committee

John Crompton  
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020 8883 7286

### Social Media/Notice Board

Zoe Norfolk  
social@mhfga.org

### Treasurer

treasurer@mhfga.org

### Membership Secretary

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020 8883 5534  
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### Chair of the Consultative Committee, Alexandra Palace, Twitter

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### Publicity and Events

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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 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/MHFGA)!

## Member Profile

### Peter Webb

I cannot claim to be a "native" of Muswell Hill, only having lived here for fifty years!

In 1970 I gained a Senior Lectureship at Hornsey College of Art, an exciting place to be at that time, and so had to find somewhere to live. A flat in Hampstead for £3,500 was ideal until the surveyor told me that the foundations were unsafe. The estate agent said that I could buy a whole house in neighbouring Muswell Hill for the same price. I had never heard of Muswell Hill. She took me to Eastwood Road and showed me a fine little Edwardian two-bedroom terrace house with garden. I was delighted and bought it on the spot. Five years later I sold it for £20,000, and with a good book advance, I moved up to a detached five-bedroom Edwardian house with large garden in Muswell Avenue for which I paid £34,000. Those were the days!

At Hornsey I taught an annual course on The Erotic Arts, which not surprisingly proved to be very popular with the students. I always invited a guest speaker, whose ideas on the subject might agree or disagree with my own. Over the years these guests included David Hockney, Allen Jones, Derek Jarman, the editors of the controversial Oz Magazine, Cliff Richard, Lord Longford, Mrs. Whitehouse, John Trevelyan and his successor Stephen Murphy (Secretaries of the British Board of Film Censorship), Adam Ant (a former student of mine at Hornsey), Simon Wilson (Head of Education at the Tate Gallery) and George Melly. The course received a certain amount of press publicity, and Frederick Warburg (Director of publishers Secker & Warburg) invited me to write a book on the subject. *The Erotic Arts* was published in 1975 with many subsequent editions and broke new ground in the literature on art. A Collector's Edition was published with original prints by David Hockney and Allen Jones.

Hornsey College of Art became the Faculty of Art & Design of Middlesex Polytechnic, later Middlesex University, where I continued to teach this course among others. With the help of sabbaticals, I was able to research and publish well-received books on artists Hans Bellmer, David Hockney (French and English and later revised edition) and Leonor Fini (French and English). I have recently co-authored the Catalogue Raisonne of the work of Leonor Fini, and published a new edition of my Bellmer book in English and Japanese. I am still writing, as well as lecturing (on Zoom at the moment!)

Have I ever been tempted to move on from Muswell Hill? Certainly not! If it was good enough for William Blake, it is good enough for me.



Portrait of Peter by David Hockney

## Queen's Wood



Photo by Zoe Norfolk

a stay of execution for another year. This is mainly due to the actions of the tenacious Queen's Wood oaks protectors' group who staged a 'sit-in' by the trees. Insurance company AXA intends to underpin the house and monitor the subsidence for a year.

The independent structural engineer's report stated that felling the trees would destroy the house. However it's too soon to celebrate: the concerned parties want an arboriculturist to comment on whether the trees need to be reduced or managed in some way. We await further comment from Haringey Council.

Readers will be pleased to hear that the four ancient oak trees in Queen's Wood that were under threat of removal because they were causing subsidence to a nearby house have been granted

### John Dorken, Chair of the Friends of Queen's Wood, writes:

*Footfall in the Wood (and paw-fall too) has increased substantially in recent years (and more dramatically following the onset of the pandemic), not least because of the greater awareness of the value of woodland to health and well-being. So too has wear and tear in the Wood, exacerbated by the effects of climate change. At the same time, the resources that the Council devotes to the Wood are ever dwindling.*

*Never has there been a greater need for the work that the Friends do. Whilst celebrating the size of our membership, we do need more active involvement if we are really to make our mark. Now is the time to ramp up our efforts. Not only do we have to contend with the impact of the pandemic but we are coming up to the end of the current 10 year plan for the Wood and the development of a new long term plan to replace it. Now is the best time to influence how the Wood evolves in the future. What we do now will affect what the Wood looks like in not only 10 years' time but in 50 years' time too.*

*We are looking to get more people to help with this process. They do not need to be members of the Committee but could contribute relevant expertise in, say, environmental management, project management, infrastructure development and maintenance, legal matters (especially in planning and nature conservation law), social media usage, and PR or managing our various activities and events. If you have a little spare time on your hands please contact me at [dorken24@aol.com](mailto:dorken24@aol.com) to discuss any contribution you might be able to make.*

## Members' Letters

### Expanding street eating

Honor wrote to us regarding the recent increase in outdoor dining around Muswell Hill:

*"There is now a problem with St James's Square. First Planet Organic expanded its cafe operation outside with two ranks of table and chairs. Now Bill's has colonised a large area at the southern end of the Square. The result is that there is very little room for ordinary pedestrians to cross the Square. If one walks on the road side of the bus stop one inconveniences people waiting for a bus - and this at a time when we are supposed to be keeping our distance from others. Have these three commercial enterprises acquired the requisite licences to expand into the public areas? If not, why not? Who will ensure that they acquire them?"*

Haringey Council advised us that restaurants can be granted permission for outdoor seating via three separate channels: by owning the land, by applying for a 'Tables and Chairs licence' under the London Local Authorities Act 1990 or by applying for a 'Pavement Licence' under the newly introduced Business and Planning Act 2020 which received Royal Assent on 22 July 2020 and came into effect immediately to help hospitality premises during the Covid-19 pandemic.

For applications under this umbrella, Haringey clearly state that *"Businesses will be able to apply to take advantage of any available space outside their premises but must ensure that normal pedestrian use is maintained especially for people with a disability or sight impairment so that they are not disadvantaged or hindered in their use of the public highway."*

During the winter months it's likely that customer demand for pavement seating will reduce. However, in line with Central Government guidance, Haringey state that they will *"seek to approve all licences, where possible, to remain in force until 30 September 2021 unless there are good reasons for granting a licence for a shorter period of time"*.

We'd love to hear what you think. Are you making use of the extra outdoor seating areas? Are they causing you issues? Let us know by emailing [membership@mhfga.org](mailto:membership@mhfga.org).

### Delivery scooters

Ann got in touch regarding the noise pollution created by food delivery drivers.

*"There is a new problem here on Fortis Green Road and surrounds (it probably also applies to other areas), an endless stream of very noisy motor bikes and scooters. With at least five takeaway places in Fortis Green Road, they have proliferated. Any ideas of what can be done?"*

The current boom in food delivery apps has led to a noticeable increase in delivery scooters in the area. Many deliveries which claim to be coming by bicycle are actually delivered by scooter, raising additional questions over insurance. Home delivery is an important revenue stream for struggling restaurants and clearly there is a demand for the service.. These apps should encourage delivery by bicycle and e-bikes. We will continue to look into this and would love to hear more from our members (email [membership@mhfga.org](mailto:membership@mhfga.org)) on the subject.

### Old photos of Muswell Hill Primary School?

One of our members Paul got in touch with the following request: *"I wonder if any of your members can help? I went to Muswell Hill Primary School ("The Tinpot") from 1956-1961. I can't find any photos anywhere of that incredible old prefab - if anyone has any they would like to share I would be most grateful."*

Do you have any photos or memories of 'The Tinpot'? If anyone can help please send us a mail to [membership@mhfga.org](mailto:membership@mhfga.org).

### New Members

Welcome to our new household members including Robert Farmer, Judy & Richard Loren and Stephen & Jill Brice.

### 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](http://www.mhfga.org) and click **Useful Links**.

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

## Muswell Hill in World War II

by Peter Lack



*A police officer examines the remains of a V2 that hit London in September 1944.*

Bombing came in three phases: conventional planes dropping high explosives and incendiaries, V1 guided missiles (doodlebugs) that could be seen and heard, V2 rockets whose explosion alone announced arrival.

Conventional planes from early 1940 targeted central London's docks and the West End and reached our northern suburbs only as bombers turned to fly back to base, indiscriminately shedding unreleased payloads without specific targets.

V1s began in early May 1944 and, unsteered, were aimed at the metropolis; suburbs thus received a fair share. Being audible, however, they allowed us to rush to a shelter during their 20-30-second gliding descent.

N10's first V2 arrived one November Friday evening with an unprecedented explosion at the top of Muswell Hill; it had landed in the then carpark of the Ritz ABC cinema, near where the gymnasium now stands. I still recall exactly where I stood 200 metres away in my Grosvenor Gardens house. The following morning, we went out to view

the damage: fronts or backs of house torn open by the blast, with occupants cleaning up and trying to continue in their damaged but not destroyed houses.

A few months later came a second V2, at the foot of the hill between Etheldene Avenue and Cranley Gardens, almost the last to hit London as allied troops progressively destroyed the launch sites along the Belgian and Dutch coast.

The most conspicuous N10 site lies at the corner of Fortis Green Road and Prince's Avenue, where the Village Pub (formerly the John Baird) now stands opposite a small public garden. Thus the 1900-1910 Broadway development as we know it today gained after the war its first purpose-built pub; the evangelical developers' plans had included four churches, but deliberately no pubs.

Other bomb sites have been rebuilt to original design. One in Coniston Road hosted Guy Fawkes celebrations in the late 1940s; another was near St. Andrew's Church in Alexandra Park Road.

### Artists Walk

Two Muswell Hill locals, artist Rosha Nutt and Art Marketing Consultant Holly Collier, have set up [Artists Walk](#), a community event for artists and creatives in North London, inviting them to display their artwork in their windows from 14th November to 14th December. There's an interactive map that anyone can access to find out where art is on display, featuring the name and website of each participating artist it will be a great way for locals to enjoy their daily walks more in the winter!

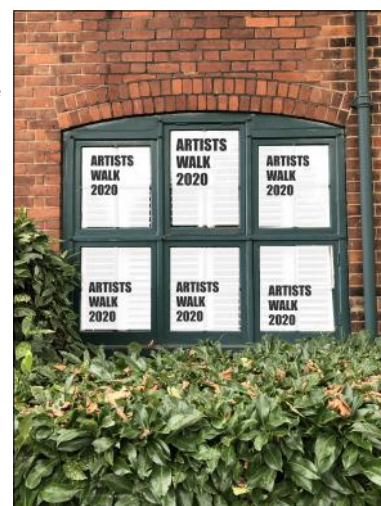
Covid-19 has changed a lot of things. Galleries and events have been hard hit and many opportunities have been cancelled or moved online, and open studios have had to be put on hold. Artists Walk provides a simple way for artists and art lovers to make connections and new discoveries in their area and a way to support and bring more awareness to artists in the local community.

Artists Walk is open to all types of creatives: painters, photographers, illustrators, ceramicists, merchandisers, set designers, really anyone who feels they could create an eye-catching display of their work and would like to share what they do with the people around them. Everyone who registers will be placed on the map for their local community and wider audience to find. There will be a link from the map through to your website and your window will be featured on Instagram. Each participant is provided with a downloadable poster and shown how to create a QR code to their website.

Rosha and Holly are also trying to get local businesses involved by asking them to offer up their window to display an artist's work and be added to the map. This brings the local shops, cafés and restaurants into the event, encourages more foot traffic to their locations and is a simple way for these businesses to show support to the creative community here in Muswell Hill. All participating businesses will be featured on Instagram and listed on the Artists Walk website.

You can find out more about Artists Walk on the website <https://www.artistswalk.org> and follow on Instagram @artistswalk. Any help you can offer in spreading the word and getting people involved would be really appreciated.

Rosha and Holly hope to make Artists Walk a great success, bringing together the art community, the local community and encouraging new connections!



## Muswell Hill Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel October 2020 update

*Patricia Pearl, Chair, Safer Neighbourhood Panel*

We have managed to keep the Panel going via Zoom since March. Many crimes reduced during lockdown: apparently even the rogues wanted to keep out of the way. However, now that there are more people out and about, things are returning to a more familiar pattern.

Anti-social behaviour has been a huge concern for residents living close to the Roundabout and at the bottom of St James's Lane: these areas were the point of detailed discussion at our meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The police will focus their efforts on the pockets of anti-social behaviour as they occur.

You will have noted on social media that there has been an increase in thefts of catalytic converters; this can be a very distressing crime – for example when you need your car to get to work and discover that someone has sawn off part of the exhaust system. The perpetrators are really well-organised and can nick a converter in a few minutes. P.C. Jonathan Eldered rides a bike around the ward and recently happened upon a theft of a catalytic converter in progress in Cranley Gardens: that crime was foiled. There may be steps that can be taken to protect your own vehicle. You could contact your car manufacturer or speak to a local garage and see if a 'cat guard' can be fitted to your car.

Two years ago we had an horrendous spike in burglaries in November and December by thieves looking for stuff to brighten up their own Christmas. To coin a phrase 'stay alert', watch out for advice from the police and think carefully about the security of your own home.

Robberies are also rising again. Our young people are often the targets; they may know the perpetrators and will often not want to report the crime. However, our local police will take all reports - even anonymous ones - very seriously and want to encourage these crimes to be reported. Be aware that the smart new phone you bought during lockdown would be a great target and when you emerge from the tube at Highgate or East Finchley resist the temptation to get the phone out to check your messages – that's where you may be relieved of your possessions.

On the issue of security and prevention I can do no better than to suggest that you connect with the Neighbourhood Watch in your road. We are really fortunate to have a great Neighbourhood Watch Link Manager in the Borough – Pauline Syddell keeps the Watch coordinators up to date with all the latest crime advice and guidance and if you sign up to Neighbourhood Watch all these gems will come to you.

The 3 Wards have set these priorities in the light of the current difficulties:

### Muswell Hill Ward

- Antisocial behaviour
- Car crime (includes Catalytic Converter theft)
- Robbery

### • Alexandra Ward

- Theft from Motor Vehicle
- Robbery
- Burglary

### Fortis Green Ward

- Anti-social behaviour - Osier Crescent and Gilson Place
- Robbery (focus around schools)
- Burglary



### 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



[www.facebook.com/MHFGA](https://www.facebook.com/MHFGA)  
 (1,500 followers)



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

## 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](mailto:pt.anythinglegal@gmail.com) and [coppettslegal@gmail.com](mailto:coppettslegal@gmail.com).

### FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

Join David Darrell Lambert for a slide talk via Zoom: "*The Birds in Queen's Wood, the results of 2019 survey*" on **Wednesday November 18 at 8.00pm**. Contact [membership@fqw.org.uk](mailto:membership@fqw.org.uk) to register. All welcome. Anyone offering to help Gemma Harris with litter picking should contact her at [harrisgemma67@gmail.com](mailto:harrisgemma67@gmail.com) or 07806 870505.

### NORTH LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

Contact Barbara Penney 020 8883 0010 or e-mail [barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk)

### HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

Contact Ann Anderson (020 8340 8335) or [www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk).

### MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

[www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk](http://www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk) or email [contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk](mailto:contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk).

### MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Contact: Jenny Kruss on 020 8442 0031 or [jenny\\_starick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jenny_starick@hotmail.co.uk).

### MUSWELL HILL BOWLING CLUB

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

### HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk](http://www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk)  
Local History Surgery. Phone 020 8348 8429 or email [hornseyhistoricalsurgery@gmail.com](mailto:hornseyhistoricalsurgery@gmail.com) with a brief outline of the problem.

### HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

[www.hcschoir.com](http://www.hcschoir.com).

### THE FREEHOLD COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

## RISBOROUGH CLOSE

Just south of the Parkland Walk on the corner of Muswell Hill and Muswell Hill Place, Risborough Close has stood pretty much unchanged since it was built in the 1920s. It is not in a Conservation Area although positioned between two, and I, for one, haven't taken much notice of - it is one of those buildings that are just there, part of the subliminal local landscape..

Others, however, have been more aware, particularly Vera Road Limited, the company behind the recently completed roof extension at Dorchester Court on Colney Hatch Lane. Since January 2019 it has made five applications to extend the building to create 10 additional residential units.

The first two applications were alternative schemes for the roof space. One of these was withdrawn, however the other garnered consent for the creation of six new flats despite attracting fifty objections including one from the Association and a letter from Catherine West MP raising a number of issues on the impact on the quality of life of the residents of Risborough Close if the development went ahead. The original application envisaged the creation of six car parking spaces on what is currently green space between the building and Muswell Hill Place. However this was not supported by Haringey's transport officer, was objected to by the Association and consequently dropped from the final version of the approved scheme.

Vera Road Limited then turned its attention to a small area of land between the Parkland Walk and Risborough Close facing Muswell Hill, and applied to build a two-storey, two-bedroom unit. This was refused on grounds that there would be a negative affect on the Parkland Walk including the loss of screening trees. It would appear, however, that the trees in question were detrimental to the buildings' structure and were removed. A second application for a two-storey one-bedroom flat with a 'living' wall and sedum roof facing the Parkland Walk was more successful and consent was granted in July this year even though it had attracted over thirty objections.

The final substantive application was for the construction of a further storey to the roof on the part of the building facing Muswell Hill to create two self-contained units. Consent was given despite the application attracting almost forty objections including from the Association and Friends of Parkland Walk. To my mind this was possibly the most controversial of the applications as the development affected the original coherent design of Risborough Close creating a disjointed roof line and a more dominant presence on Muswell Hill. It was granted consent in August this year.

The recent history of Risborough Close is one that reflects the current pressure to create housing in London and the popularity of Muswell Hill as somewhere to live. All the proposals are imaginative and, if built, the subliminal landscape of Muswell Hill will be altered to some degree.

Nick Barr



Full details of all the Planning Applications referred to in this article can be viewed on the Haringey Council website.

## From Our Archive

The following article is taken from John Hajdu's *Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association: a history of its campaigns and landmark achievements*, originally published in 2010



The major innovation to commemorate famous people who have lived and worked in Haringey with a plaque on their place of abode in the borough, which is now proudly claimed by the local authority as Haringey Council's Green Plaque Scheme, was in fact the idea of our own Chairman, John Hajdu. It took him three years of hard, personal lobbying and planning with the Council and local historians before the first plaque was erected in 2007. Since then, many others have been put up and there are still more in the pipeline who, hopefully, will eventually be honoured in this way.

John's plan arose out of a discussion in 2004 with Professor Alan Mackay, a MHFGA member. He had been trying to arrange for a plaque to be put up to William Barlow, a crystallographer, mineralogist and a Fellow of the Royal Society, and asked if our Association could do anything about it. Barlow lived from 1845 to 1934 and occupied a house on the corner of Muswell Hill Broadway and Hillfield Park. In line with our Association's growing influence locally - at this time, our membership had

grown beyond 600 for the first time - the project to erect one plaque could obviously lend itself to a borough-wide campaign to remember all the other important people who had lived in the area and had attained national, in many cases international, significance.

John decided that such a campaign must have the full support of the local authority and, as a first step, he approached the newly-appointed Design and Conservation Officer at Haringey Council, who was enthusiastic. Their meeting led on to meetings with the Chairman of the Hornsey Historical Society, and the Curator of Bruce Castle Museum. Ground rules for qualification were established, many names considered, and priority short lists drawn up. The first plaque to William Barlow went up in October 2007 and several more followed, the plan being to continue to erect new plaques at regular intervals. The plaques, produced by a local plaque maker in Haringey Green, not to be confused with English Heritage blue, feature the borough logo and were financed by the Council.

The following is a list of the plaques installed up to 2010 to commemorate:

- William Barlow, crystallographer/mineralogist (Muswell Hill Broadway, N10)
- Oliver Tambo, former president of the African National Congress (Alexandra Park Road, N10)
- W.J. Collins, architect and developer of estates in Muswell Hill (Cranmore Way, N10)
- William Heath Robinson, humourist, artist and illustrator (Southwood Avenue, N6)
- Priscilla Wakefield, philanthropist and founder of the Penny Savings Bank in 1798 (High Road, N15)
- William Bernhardt Tegetmeier, Victorian naturalist, beekeeper and organiser of the first pigeon race, a regular correspondent with Charles Darwin (St. James's Lane, N10)
- George Shadbolt, pioneering photographer and writer (Crouch Hill, N8)
- Charlotte Riddell, Gothic novelist and editor of St James' Magazine (St Ann's Hospital)
- John Alfred Prestwich, inventor and engine designer (Lansdowne Road, N17)
- Coventry Patmore, poet (85 Fortis Green N2)
- W. J. Macqueen-Pope, theatrical manager/historian (33 Etheldene Ave. N10)
- John Elliot Howard, scientist (1/3 Lordsmead Road N17)
- David Greig, grocery chain founder, benefactor (32 Hornsey High Road N8)

Further plaques were planned for a number of individuals, including Harry Champion, Cockney music hall comedian (Downhills Way, N17), J.B. Priestley, writer/novelist/broadcaster (Highgate, N6), John Bewick, engraver and water colourist (Crouch End, N8), Thomas Moore, Irish poet (Cranmore Way, N10) and A.J.P. Taylor, historian and TV presenter (Highgate, N6).

Unfortunately budget restrictions brought a complete halt to these plans, but we hope the Council will revisit these in future.

The plaques project was just one of a number of similar local initiatives started during John Hajdu's tenure as MHFGA Chairman which coincided with a change in our Association's direction of development leading to a more pro-active stance in local affairs rather than the paramount watchdog role of earlier days.

### Copy date for January/February 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](mailto:editor@mhfga.org) by 1st December 2020.