

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

The MHFGA Salver



Some years ago the MHFGA donated a trophy to the Muswell Hill and District Horticultural Society as a symbol of closer co-operation between these two local associations. This was the MHFGA Salver, since awarded for the best floral art display at the Autumn Show. A theme is chosen each year and the entrant can show a display of any size and including any or all of flowers, foliage, nuts, fruit, vegetables and berries. Accessories can also be used, allowing free rein for the entrant's creativity.

The Summer Show took place on September 11th, a lovely warm and sunny day at North Bank, Pages Lane. The hall was full of beautiful

flowers and tasty vegetables and afternoon tea was taken in the large and beautiful gardens outside. There were also a number of stalls outside for visitors to browse through – local honey, two plant stalls, David Broome's "Shed Art" and a book-signing with local authors Ruth Pavay and Mona Abboud. Over 150 people attended, with Catherine West MP and both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Haringey making a visit.



Gary with his winning display

Gary's display used Indian corn and cotinus coggygria foliage to provide height, with dark and brooding sunflowers "Black Magic" and "Evening Star" echoing the dark night of All Hallows Eve. Silver cineraria foliage represented the autumn mists with brilliant orange physalis lanterns glowing through. The display was finished off with a carved pumpkin lantern and a collection of autumnal fruits and vegetables. Everything used in this class was grown by Gary on his Shepherd's Hill allotment. Gary was presented with his salver by local author Mona Abboud who was awarding this year's prizes.

Jenny Kruss

November/ December 2021

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Flower Planting

Brian Livingston, the MHFGA Environment Officer, was busy planting the flower boxes and trough in Muswell Hill Broadway during September.



Photo by Jacqueline Servat

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.

Seasons Greetings to all our readers



Members' Meetings

Our next series of meetings will resume in February, hopefully in person rather than on Zoom. Watch this space!

If necessary, places can be booked at www.mhfga.org/our-meetings.

A tentative programme includes, Mysteries of North Bank; a talk by Ben Wilson, 'the chewing gum man'; our AGM on 12th May; and a June walk in Kenwood.

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.

Library openings

For those members who are not yet aware, Muswell Hill Library re-opened on 4th October from 9am-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 10am-7pm on Wednesdays, and from 9am-5pm on Saturdays. Highgate and Alexandra Park libraries have also gone back to full opening hours.

There is also more information about what services are available at all libraries here:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/libraries/covid-19-library-services-currently-available>

Local photos by Zoe Norfolk



Hilfield Park with rainbow and view over London



Muswell Hill Roundabout

MHFGA Committee

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www.facebook.com/MHFGA
(over 1,800 followers)



[@theMHFGA](https://twitter.com/theMHFGA)
(over 1,000 followers)



[@mhfga](https://www.instagram.com/mhfga)
(400 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

Richard Rosen

Richard is a Muswell Hill lifer. His parents Dennis and Sylvia moved into Twyford Avenue in 1955, he arrived a few years later. He was away in the 70s and 80s but, once the children arrived, he moved back, first to Wilton Road and then back to the family house on the death of Sylvia.

If you'd asked him as a rebellious teenager in the 70s what he thought of Muswell Hill, it wasn't much. He remembers four or five shoe shops and at least three butchers. Les Aldrich was the place to go and listen to the latest chart hits in the archetypal sound booth with the drilled hardboard baffles. There were two cinemas and at least six pubs. There was Mr Davies the electrical shop that fixed things in Denmark Terrace and Mr Wilson the toy and bike shop on Fortis Green. Muswell Hill was more like a rustic village. He had no expectation it would slowly change into the cosmopolitan area it is today.

Workwise Richard was a late starter. Despite the best endeavours of Highgate Primary and UCS he went straight from A levels to work at the drinks research labs that Schweppes ran at its factory in West Hendon. He helped develop Russchian – a vodka mixture still there today. After night school he went to Southampton University, where he met his wife, Nicola, and started work in the technology sector once he had graduated. He was part of the marketing team for the evergreen falling blocks game, Tetris, worked to develop the world's first commercial data CD-ROMs – the maintenance manual for a Boeing 727 jet. He joined Sony in 1994 and was Planning Manager for the European launch of the PlayStation. From there he became a Corporate Finance Director at Durlacher in 1996 and was a joint author of the first report into the impact the Internet would make in Europe. He helped raise money for Demon Internet, the domestic ISP at the time, and went on to organise the flotation of Online Games Ltd, the first quoted MMPG games company to go public in the world. His final technology role was at Protégé Ltd, an internet accelerator company. He was general manager and helped to bring over 20 enterprise level internet software to Europe over a three-year period.

Tiring of too much tech he went to Imperial Business School and took an MSc in International Health Management and has been working in the NHS since 2005. This has been interspersed with a sauces and pickles business where he developed his own TamiTom flavour, a mixture of tamarind and spicy tomato sauce that became a favourite at a Brazilian restaurant chain.

He finally realised an ambition to live abroad when Nicola took a teaching job at Kenton College in Nairobi in 2016. They both spent two years travelling in Southern, Eastern and Central Africa. During a quiet spell Richard started making pork pies in Nairobi and within weeks had tapped into a thriving market. A high spot of the two years was sitting at a camp in the foothills of Mount Kenya and being approached by a fellow visitor asking if he was the renowned pie maker storming Nairobi and could he buy a pie? He tells us he does have another food business lined up and will let us be early tasters of the new fusion range.

Since his return in 2018 he is back in the NHS and helped set up and manage a Covid Hot Clinic in Greenwich during the height of the pandemic. It was this experience and, like all of us, having to endure the strictures of lockdown, that he started organising a Muswell Hill End of Lockdown Fair. It had been scheduled for the first weekend in September 2021 around the Everyman and the precinct there but had to be postponed due to the levels of uncertainty in the months leading up to it. He hopes to stage it around Easter or the Whitsun bank holiday 2022 and will be looking for volunteers to join him in organising the day.

He is currently working for North West London NHS on a project to get 7500 blood pressure monitors to people diagnosed with high BP so they can manage their condition from home.



To remind people that the Muswell Hill Post Office used to have brass fixtures

The Forgotten Factory of Muswell Hill

In the last issue of the Newsletter an article appeared under this title. Unfortunately, gremlins got into the system and a section was omitted which meant that the factory's connection with Muswell Hill was not clear. What follows is a clarification.

Robert Paul set up in business as a manufacturer of scientific instruments in Hatton Garden in 1891. He went into the film industry, and in 1897 bought land in Muswell Hill and built a film studio. This was on Newton Avenue, off Sidney Road.

In 1902 Paul commissioned a purpose-built factory in Newton Avenue for the electrical engineering side of his business, which had been continuing in Hatton Garden. A 1935 map shows a "Scientific Instrument Works" behind the houses in the block bounded by Newton Avenue, Sydney Road, Wetherill Road, Colney Hatch Lane and Pembroke Road. The entrance was on Newton Avenue. The 1911 census records him as living at "Newton Avenue Works". But by 1911 he had abandoned the cinema and concentrated on the manufacture of electrical instruments.

Manufacturing of scientific instruments and other devices continued at the site until 1975.

(My sincere apologies for misspelling Jack's name in the previous issue. Ed)

Jack Whitehead

The Role of MHFGA's Tree Officer

I divide my activities into two categories: protection and promotion.

Protection:

All work on privately owned trees with TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) or on trees in conservation areas (diameter > 75mm when measured 1.5 m from the ground) requires agreement from the Council. Work on most private trees in our area needs approval.

It's normally believed that most private trees get felled at the behest of developers. But this is far from the truth. In my time as Tree Officer, there has only been one developer request to fell a tree compared to 15-20 non-developer requests. I object to all requests to fell trees, unless the tree is diseased, damaging a building or a safety risk, in which case I urge replacement planting be made a condition of approval. Most, but not all of these requests, have been justified by residents wanting less shade and more light. In most cases, the objective could instead be achieved by pruning, crown reduction or crown lifting. Extensions are another cause of tree loss.

However, most of the 25-30 other requests to work on trees in the area have been for pollarding, crown reduction or crown lifting. I have developed the following approach:-

- If the tree is in a front garden, where it has some amenity value, I try to minimise cutback.
- If the tree is in a back garden and has outgrown its location or needs tidying up, I don't object.
- If the tree is in a back garden but is large or splendid and provides amenity to many neighbours, I object to anything other than minimal tidying up.

How effective have I been? Unfortunately, Haringey only publish decisions on their website for planning applications and TPO work, so I don't know what's happened for requests to work on trees without TPOs in conservation areas. I'm chasing the Council on this. I have definitely saved one TPO tree.

There are two gaps in my work. First, I have, so far, been unable to establish a mechanism to be alerted to work on public trees, in both streets and parks. The public only find out about these works when the Council puts up notices on a tree or men with chain-saws turn up and start working. Recently, I heard about a tree to be felled near the bottom of Muswell Hill, where objections by me and other residents led to a stay of execution. A tree close to me was saved during repaving of the sidewalk, when the Council was persuaded to use tar and accept a deformation in the gutter. And on Parkland Walk, objections from residents and users led to a scaling down of a tree-felling programme, though unfortunately too late to prevent the "tree massacre". Clearly, if we have sufficient warning and time, it's possible to approach the Council about modifying any proposed tree work.

Second, we can't stop residents cutting down trees without permission if we don't know about the work, though we can report them in which case they are liable to surprisingly large fines as they will have committed a criminal act.

In both cases, these gaps in tree protection need to be filled with detailed local knowledge of what's happening on the streets and in gardens. I can only object and campaign if I know what's going on.

Promotion

As in the case of protection, activity can be split into private and public trees.

I recently read about the planting of a mini-forest at the Thames Water reservoir site on Highgate West Hill. This got me thinking about similar schemes in our area. There aren't many obvious sites (and they really don't need to be very large), but the Fortis Green Reservoir and Pump Station (both owned by Thames Water) are good possibilities. I have inspected the site accompanied by officials from Thames Water and a representative of Dream for Trees, and locations for tree-planting, hedgerows and wild-flower meadows were identified.

As regards public trees, it's essentially a question of persuading the Council to plant more street and parkland trees. There are two possibilities. First, the Council has just signed up to a scheme to enable residents to identify sites and fund (through a charity) street tree planting.

Second, the Council claims that it's going to be prioritising tree planting in Fortis Green and Muswell Hill in 2022 and 23. I've suggested to the relevant Council official that we spend half a day walking around the area identifying sites.

Because of Covid and the success of Haringey's new tree sponsorship scheme, the plan to plant more street trees in our area is likely to be delayed. However, the Council has asked MHFGA to identify possible sites in our area for new planting as soon as possible so that surveys can be undertaken and work started in the coming months. ***If there's a good location near you please let me know as soon as possible, indicating the location (e.g. street house number).***

Jonathan Popper



Photo by Zoe Norfolk

Shopfront Archive



Photo by Zoe Norfolk

Photographs of the shopfronts in Muswell Hill have been taken by the Association for more than 15 years and are intended to demonstrate what a wealth of architectural and social interest there is in the streetscape in the centre of Muswell Hill, and also outside the immediate centre in Fortis Green and Alexandra Park Road.

They were originally kept in albums for display at members' meetings and at Association events, but now an increasing selection are displayed on the Association website and Facebook page.

We know when we are out shopping that there is much to appreciate at street level but it is not always easy to study the points of interest in the upper floors so many of the photographs show the whole of the building (hence the slightly odd angles in a few cases) and the surrounding street furniture. The pictures include several examples of the characteristic shop fronts which the Association wants to see preserved (as well as a few of the less welcome ones). We are keen to see features such as the curved feature above the shopfront which is to be found in parts of Fortis Green Road and the northern arm of the Broadway. Also the half units in Fortis Green Road.

I would welcome any shopfront photos which members have taken (or old postcards which they may have in their possession) for consideration for displaying on the MHFGA website or including in our archive album.

Tony Wells

September Members' Meeting

Peter Webb, the distinguished art historian, writer and print collector, entertained us to a fascinating talk in February this year about his collection of prints 'From Michelangelo to Picasso via Rembrandt - Part One'. His explanation of the types of prints was explained in this first lecture of which there was a summary in the March/April 2021 issue of this Newsletter.

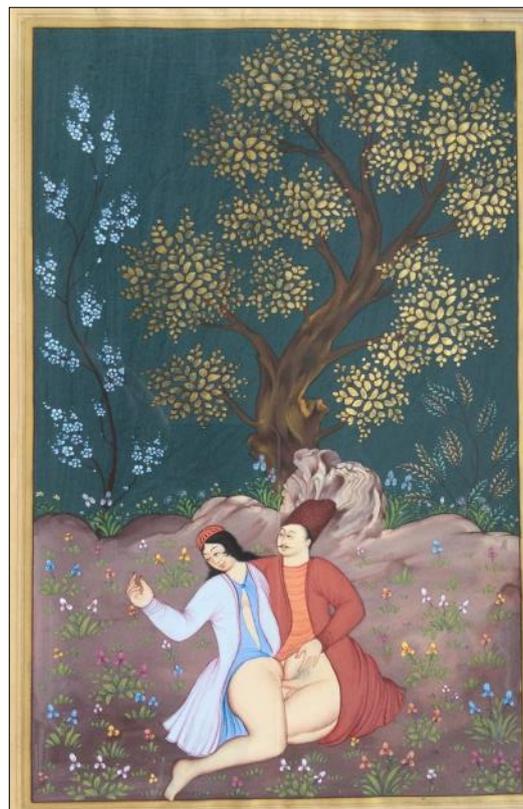
We were delighted to welcome him back in September for Part Two when he concentrated on Oriental and European Art. Peter's enthusiasm and knowledge are inspiring and it was a pleasure to be conducted through slides of his collection and the background to the works of art he showed us.

He started with 18th century works by Baudouin and Moreau le Jeune which reflected the delight of the aristocracy in eroticism in all its forms. This indulgence was ended by the French Revolution in 1789 when the theme of corruption in high places was depicted by, for example, Goya in Spain. Goya was a social critic who, like Rembrandt, did his own engravings.

Peter then moved on to the French Romantic movement of the 19th century and the artist Gericault. Gericault was only 33 when he died but he was a forerunner of the Romantic movement and ahead of his time in his attitude to slavery on which he wrote a treatise which he illustrated with his own lithographs using black men as models.

Peter's lecture covered Indian, Turkish, and Japanese art in great detail, and he then moved on to erotic art which is one of his areas of expertise. Western art from the late 19th century, and in France in particular, was full of portrayals of prostitutes and brothels. Manet, Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec all used these scenarios extensively in their work. Peter also showed us fascinating images of an erotic nature by Renoir, Cezanne, Gauguin, Rodin and Picasso.

Due to lack of time, Peter could only briefly refer to his friends Henry Moore and David Hockney, but his books including *The Erotic Arts* and *Portrait of David Hockney* cover the topics we can only touch upon here.



An example of Turkish erotic art from Peter's collection

Sally Stevens' Guided Walk 21 July 2021

Ros Freeborn reflects on the MHFGA summer walk

When you've lived in a place for nigh on thirty years, as I have done in Muswell Hill, you might think you know a thing or two about the neighbourhood. And I am familiar with many of the stories, the famous architecture and tales of the people who've lived here. But joining a tour with Sally Stevens this summer was a revelation.

A small group of us enjoyed an entertaining odyssey around the highways and byways of Muswell Hill. The walking was easy and generally on the flat, but the clue is in the name and Muswell Hill does have some steep climbs to consider. However, the tour was well-paced and thought out. We would pause on corners and beneath shady trees to learn more about the history of the place we were looking at.

Sally is a terrific guide. She brings the history of Muswell Hill to life with vivid descriptions, anecdotes and images. She gave us fuzzy black and white photos to gaze at, some of long-demolished places, which gave us an idea of how things once were. She would pause outside a building and describe the people who had lived there and events which took place (some rather gruesome, in the case of the infamous Cranley Gardens house lived in by Neilson the mass murderer). I was particularly fascinated to learn that the kink in St James's Lane, where it turns towards Muswell Hill, used to be the 'hub' of the village of Muswell Hill. Channelling her own memory of the spot where the children's drama school now stands, Sally conjured visions of sweet shops, cobblers, bakeries and even the famous 'tin pot' school. Sally's tours are fascinating for locals and interested visitors alike.

Sally has pointed out a couple of errors in the article about her walk which appeared in the last issue of this Newsletter. The house from which Fairport Convention took their name was in fact a GP surgery belonging to Simon Nichol's father, not a club. And it was only Rod Stewart who went to Fortismere School, not Long John Baldrey as stated.

Wave Café

You can find us every Thursday, 9am-5pm, at The United Reformed Church, Muswell Hill, N10 3NU. Art events are from 11am-3pm, and again from 3.45-5pm. The art themes are Watercolour in November and Festive-themed Art and Gifts in December. There is free yoga at 11am on Thursdays. From 5th November we will also be opening on Fridays, 9am-3pm.

Drop in for a coffee or stay for the best lunch in Muswell Hill. And while you're visiting, create something arty or do some yoga, have a work meeting or just hang out with friends. Talk to someone new! We're all about making connections at Wave Café so check www.wavecafe.org or Facebook/Insta pages @wavecafen10 for news about exciting updates and events!

We also sell delicious, locally baked sourdough bread by Adrian.

We will be having an event on the evening of 2nd December to celebrate inclusion, art and community and to try to raise some funding for Wave Cafe. We are still working out details, but please save the date and keep checking the website and social media for updates.

Claire Avant, Development Director

Membership

New Members

Welcome to our new household members including Stephanie Bayliss, Natalie & Benjamin Huckle, Angie & Malachy McAllister, Walter Merricks, Kate & Danny Schwarz, Carol & Keith Tarn, Nat Tsolak, Alexandra Westcott, Ian & Leila Young.

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**.

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
Dunn's Artisan Bakers Ltd
East Finchley Open Artists
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
House of Nails
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 Pharmacy
Muswell Hill United Reformed Church
Muswell Hillbilly Brewers
Natural Beauty Urban Retreat
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
Socials For My Business
St James's Muswell Hill
Studio Moe Ltd
Tatlers Estate Agents
The Hampstead Butcher & Providore
The Mossy Well

The People's Pantry
The Real Greek
The Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics
Toffs
Victory Auto Services
W Martyn
Walter Purkis & Sons
WAVE Café
White Tusk Studios
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's 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

Sunday November 21st 11.00am 'Beating the Bounds' Tracing the ancient and present boundary of the wood. Discover where the strawberry fields and Southwood Common were. Led by Lucy Roots and Sarah Graham-Brown. Meet at the Lodge off Muswell Hill Road, all welcome. Friends of Queen's Wood are volunteers who support and care for the wood. Do join the Friends! All information on fqw.org.uk.

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 bloomingn10@outlook.com.

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 or freehold2003@gmail.com or ring 07935 324578.

ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK

The Alexandra Park Visitor Centre near the Grove car park will be open **every Sunday** from now on, between **2 and 4pm**. The Centre will be well-ventilated and we will ask visitors to wear a face covering.

A Short Dictionary of Cybercrime

Over the 12 months, there have been more than 21,500 malicious login attempts against the MHFGA website. In just one hour, on 25th September, somebody or something tried and failed 64 times to guess the password used to change and add contents and pages to www.mhfga.org. Sounds a lot, but in fact it's fairly normal for websites to be under constant attack by hackers. This can be to steal banking information (we keep none), or to infect with malicious software, or expand botnets – the list of possible computer and cellphone phone scams and crimes keeps growing, and so the language used to describe them.

Gone are the days when SPAM stood for 'Special Processed American Meat', cramming was what you did at the last moment before an exam, and all you needed for skimming was a flat stone and a pond. Spam is now the unsolicited email, malicious or not; cramming is when you find unauthorised charges on your phone bill, like for premium numbers you didn't know you were calling; and skimming is the capture of information from the magnetic strip on your debit or credit card by portable "skimmer" devices that are secretly installed on card-reading machines. Here are some other more common cybercrime terms explained.

- **Botnet:** a network of computers that scammers have infected with hidden software to secretly send spam.
- **Hacker:** someone who uses the Internet to illegally break into computers.
- **Pharming:** when hackers use malicious programs to route you to their own look-alike websites in order to trick you into giving sensitive personal information.
- **Phishing:** the use of authentic-looking emails to trick you into responding with sensitive personal information.
- **Ransomware:** a malicious computer program that disables your computer and then demands, typically via a pop-up window, that you pay a fee to fix the problem.
- **Scareware:** similar to ransomware, except that the computer is still OK – you just get warning pop-ups to pay a ransom or buy potentially dangerous "protection" software.
- **Smishing:** like phishing but done with SMS text message to your phone.
- **Spoofing:** when scammers disguise their phone number or email address as a genuine one.
- **Spim:** like spam but done with SMS text message to your phone.
- **Spyware:** a type of malicious software installed on computers or cellphones to track your actions and spread to other computers.
- **Vishing:** short for "voice phishing", is the use of recorded messages to telephones — usually claiming to be from a bank — to trick you into revealing personal or account information.

If you have been a victim of a scam, report it to Action Fraud to help stop criminals, and prevent others from falling victim to the same scam. Go online to <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or call 0300 123 2040.

Alex Vincenti, MHFGA Webmaster

Crowdfunding to bring the Roman kiln back to Highgate Wood



Many MHFGA members will know that excavations in Highgate Wood in the 1960s and 1970s unearthed a Roman pottery-making site (c.AD 45-160) including ten kilns, one of which was in such good condition that it was lifted and conserved for exhibition.

Bruce Castle Museum, the kiln's current home, found some years ago that lack of space meant the kiln had to go into its store. To remedy this situation, Catherine West MP, Harvey Sheldon and Michael Hammerson, excavators, and I, experimental kiln-builder, with partners City of London and Bruce Castle Museum, formed the charity Friends of the Highgate Roman Kiln (FOHRK: <https://www.highgateromankiln.org.uk>).

We aim to bring the kiln back to the Wood for exhibition and as a catalyst for initiatives, including experimental archaeology and exciting online and face-to-face learning opportunities, that will engage all sorts of community groups including those less likely to be involved with heritage at present. The MHFGA generously donated £100 to FOHRK in 2019.

By 2021 we were ready to move to a major fund-raising programme. I had been involved with a successful crowdfunding initiative as Chair of Lauderdale House in Highgate, so that seemed a good way to start. (The FOHRK scheme owes much to that example and the experience of Katherine Ives, Lauderdale House's Director.)

Our publicity had a huge boost when local residents, Claire Skinner and Hugh Dennis, famous as stars of the BBC's *Outnumbered*, agreed to be our patrons. The Ham and High was generous with its space. We launched the crowdfunding initiative on 1st July in Lauderdale House (full as far as COVID allowed) at which Catherine, Claire Skinner, Harvey Sheldon and our education specialist, Charlie Andrew, spoke. We made a presentation (pottery, of course!) to Bob Warnock, the retiring Superintendent of Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood. The evening also incorporated the launch of our online Great Roman Pottery Challenge for schools and young people hosted by Duncan Hooson of Clayground Collective.

Over the summer:

- Duncan and I ran a Zoom on the joys of ceramics and kiln-building, which included a presentation from New York by Carolina Rubio-Wright, a civil rights lawyer, who uses ceramics to empower disadvantaged groups, like poor Mexican immigrants;
- I gave a talk on building replica Roman kilns;
- Harvey Sheldon led an expert tour of Highgate Wood and the kiln site which concluded with another successful party in the Pavilion Café;
- We did not anticipate the enthusiasm for our ideas! From a standing start at the launch, generous donors have given £14,284, 57% of our campaign target of £25,000. All of us in FOHRK are hugely grateful: the campaign's success has already allowed us to begin turning our plans into reality.

Nick Peacey



Catherine West, Harvey Sheldon, Nick Peacey, Hugh Dennis, Claire Skinner

Photo by Charlie Andrew

Hugh Dennis, presenter of *The Great British Dig: History in your Garden* and patron of the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln, will be at Lauderdale House, Highgate on Saturday 29th January 2022 at 6pm to give a talk on his interest in archaeology.

Copy date for January/February 2022 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 December 2021.