

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

Community Fund

Readers may recall that last summer the MHFGA decided to launch a Community Fund, with up to £500 available to support local projects for the benefit of the community. We were delighted to receive a total of 13 applications from local groups and organisations, and would like to thank everyone who took the time and effort to make an application.

We eventually settled upon a shortlist of three projects: Friends of the Highgate Roman Kiln, Muswell Hill Rhythmic Gymnastics, and Sense of Locality. After careful deliberation, we decided to fund the Friends of the Highgate Roman Kiln application in full (£285), and also to support the Sense of Locality (£115) and Muswell Hill Rhythmic Gymnastics (£100). All three applications clearly demonstrated that their projects would have a significant impact on the area and the people who live here.



The Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln are aiming to bring the most complete Roman pottery kiln found in Greater London out of storage at Bruce Castle Museum for display in Highgate Wood where it was excavated, and to create an exciting and inclusive education programme around the return of the kiln. Its return offers wonderful opportunities for heritage and community education. The Friends' application related to a project to create replica Highgate Wood pots for presentation and exhibition. They want the public to be able to handle the pottery made in Highgate Wood in Roman times. The project will produce replicas of pots made of Highgate clay which are currently held in the Museum of London and other museums, showcasing the best types of late Highgate Ware. They could also be exhibited in Muswell Hill Library, Highgate Wood or other equally prominent places in the locality. The pots will be shown alongside materials to help interpret their significance.

Catherine West MP, Chair of the Friends of the Highgate Roman Kiln, warmly welcoming the award, said "We are immensely grateful to the MHFGA for this generous contribution from their Community Fund. It will enable us to engage local residents with the exciting ceramics made in Highgate Wood in the 2nd Century AD through handling accurate copies of the finest pots from 2000 years ago."

January/February 2022

Inside this issue:

- 2 Notices
MHFGA contacts
- 3 Member Profile: Rosalind Freeborn
- 4 October Members' Meeting
- 5 News from our Tree Officer
Vintage Bus Rides for Poppy Day
- 6 Report from our Environment Officer
Membership
- 7 Local Organisations
MHFGA Website
- 8 A whistle-stop tour of East Finchley
Planning Matters - Whitehall Lodge



Sense of Locality is an artists' collective which provides opportunities for people of all ages and learning needs to participate in creative ways to discover, record and learn from

contemporary and historical viewpoints. Their approach is inclusive and accessible for all.

Their project, 'WELCOME', is a community outreach programme held in collaboration with Muswell Hill

Methodist Church, Muswell Hill Synagogue and their wider network of friends. The plan is to run two creative workshops culminating in a celebratory exhibition and is aimed at asylum seekers who have recently arrived in Muswell Hill. Participants will be supported to respond to their new environment through conversations, drawing and photography including a unique experience in the darkroom. Participants will benefit from the chance to respond to their environment and personal situations through art which can then be shared with their community, particularly important after a time of isolation. The project empowers and welcomes asylum seekers into the community.



Continued on page 3

Happy New Year 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!

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.

Wanted - Membership Secretary

Due to our current Membership Secretary moving out of the area we are looking for a replacement.

The role requires numeracy and computer skills, good verbal and written communication, and good administrative skills.

Responsibilities

- Act as first point of contact for new and existing members
- Maintain and update the membership database and records
- Process new membership applications
- Process existing membership renewals
- Liaise with the Treasurer on financial aspects of membership
- Support the Newsletter distribution
- Attend and report to Committee meetings

Please contact our Chairman, John Hajdu, if you would like to take on the vital and rewarding position.

At this festive season, MHFGA has been very happy to support the Muswell Hill Food Bank in Pembroke Road. We have made a donation of £100 to help those families and individuals who constantly struggle to afford to buy groceries, food and household items.



We reported in our March/April 2020 issue that our Chairman, John Hajdu, had been awarded the MBE for services to Holocaust education and commemoration. Although John celebrated privately with family and friends at the time, he received the official award from HRH Princess Anne at Windsor Castle in November. This delightful photo of John and his wife Maureen commemorates the occasion.

John continues to give talks to schools and other organisations about his life in Hungary under the Nazi occupation and persecution, his life under the Soviet regime, his escape after the Hungarian revolution in October 1956, and his life in this country.

He has also contributed to the new Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum where, during a press reception, he met HRH the Duchess of Cambridge.

MHFGA Committee

Chairman

John Hajdu MBE
chairman@mhfga.org

Planning/Vice Chairman

Nick Barr
planning@mhfga.org

Secretary/CAAC/Alexandra Palace Statutory Advisory Committee

John Crompton
secretary@mhfga.org

Chair of the Consultative Committee, Alexandra Palace, Twitter

Duncan Neill
ap@mhfga.org

Treasurer

treasurer@mhfga.org

Membership Secretary

Richard Marmalade
membership@mhfga.org

Environment/Green Spaces

Brian Livingston
environment@mhfga.org

Transport/Highway /Photo Archives

Anthony Wells
transport@mhfga.org

Publicity and Events

George Danker
events@mhfga.org

Website

Alex Vincenti
webmaster@mhfga.org

Newsletter Editor

Christine Morris
editor@mhfga.org

Social Media/Notice Board

Zoe Norfolk
social@mhfga.org

Minutes Secretary

Laura Bugden

Tree Office

Jonathan Popper
treeofficer@mhfga.org

Graffiti

If you wish to report graffiti or flyposting, please go to the "Report It" section at www.haringey.gov.uk and enter the details there.



www.facebook.com/MHFGA
(over 1,900 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

Rosalind Freeborn

I've always been an artist but I finally made it to art school 20 years ago. We'd been living in Muswell Hill for years by then, our four children were all in education and I had a full time job. My understanding husband, Simon Battersby, a film editor, was wonderfully supportive. I gave up work, put the family on half-rations, filled spare rooms with lodgers and donned paint-spattered jeans for my daily journey to City & Guilds of London Art school in Kennington. It was brilliant. I learned the alchemy of painting in oils, understood the techniques of old masters and loved being in the world of contemporary artists.

For my final show I created a series of portraits of shopkeepers in Muswell Hill. I love the way you enter a shop and engage with the person there. You are entering their world and are invited to understand their passion. I made portraits of W Martyn, Purkis Fishmongers, The Toy Shop, the Children's Bookshop, Cheeses and many more. Some shops have since disappeared, alas, but Muswell Hill still has great characters in retail. I persuaded Tatlers estate agents to let me use their space to exhibit my works and put on a Broadway Show and I sold a lot of the paintings.

I love oils but I've always had a passion for paper. I started adding all kinds of paper to my canvases and exploring the world of collage. Eventually I ditched the oils and started making all my art from paper – torn magazine pages, tissue, wrapping, wallpaper and packaging. I made painterly collages with a strong narrative feel and used them to create a range of cards which were sold in John Lewis. Then I set up www.paperface.co.uk and took commissions to make portraits using paper and surrounded the subject with paper impressions of their life.

About five years ago I set up www.papershades.co.uk. I'd looked around my house and thought the lampshades were very dull. That was a real 'lightbulb' moment – why can't lampshades be made of paper and be used as a different kind of canvas for my art? I invented a new kind of lampshade – five panels of printed paper which are held together with two supports which fit onto lampstands or room lights. I've made several ranges now but during lockdown, in my studio, I 'travelled' in my mind to all the counties, cities and towns in the UK which I wanted to visit and made collage impressions. These became very popular with people who loved buying them to send to loved ones they couldn't see and that cheered everyone up.

I run Papershades workshops in my studio and people can sit round my table and create their own collage design which I then print on the spot. Everyone goes home with a beautiful lampshade. And I always make a cake!

I'm part of the Muswell Hill Creatives – a group of like-minded local artists and craftspeople. We have regular fairs on the Broadway. There's a wonderful concentration of creative people in Muswell Hill along with residents who support artists and appreciate owning work which is not only made locally but reflects the charm of this lovely village perched above London.

www.papershades.co.uk
www.paperface.co.uk



Continued from front page

Muswell Hill Rhythmic Gymnastics is a not-for-profit gymnastics club that provides classes for children in the local area. Their aim is to make rhythmic gymnastics, which can be an expensive and quite exclusive sport, accessible to everyone no matter their age, background, gender or fitness level. They also support ex-gymnasts to train as coaches - a useful life-long skill.. They offer subsidised fees, equipment, competition and leotard costs, and it is to help with this kind of financial support that the organisation applied to the Community Fund.

We are delighted with the success of our first Community Fund and are hoping to re-open the scheme next year to fund even more projects that will impact positively on the community and the locality.

George Danker



October Members' Meeting

We were delighted to welcome recent MHFGA member Ian Christie to give a talk at our October members' meeting. Ian is Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck College and has previously held roles as Professor of Film Studies at the University of Kent and Visiting Lecturer in Film at Oxford University. He also happens to be a local resident with a special interest in Robert Paul, who, in 1898, designed and constructed Britain's first film studio in our own Sydney Road off Colney Hatch Lane. In 2019 Ian curated an exhibition of Paul's life and work at Bruce Castle Museum - 'Animatograph! How Cinema was born in Haringey' - to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Paul's birth.

Robert Paul established himself as an electrical instrument maker in Hatton Garden at the early age of 23 having graduated from Finsbury Technical College, which was the only place where the totally new profession of electrical engineering was taught at the time*. Hatton Garden was then a centre for various enterprises, especially engineering and novelty items, rather than the jewellery businesses it is known for today.

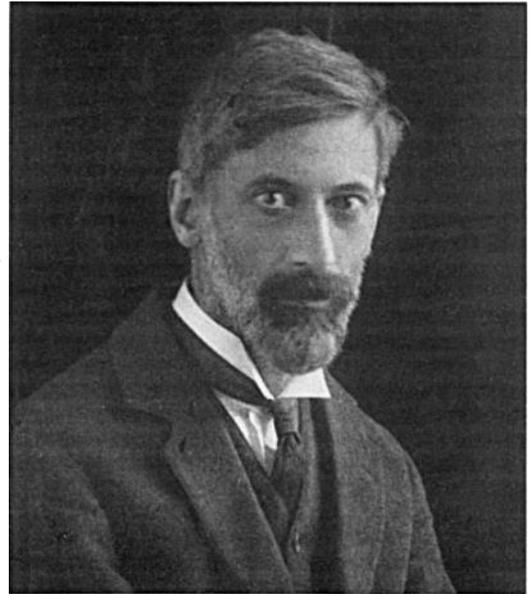
Two Greek-American entrepreneurs invited Paul to replicate Thomas Edison's kinoscope, an electrically driven moving picture device. Edison didn't extend the patent beyond the US, leaving others abroad free to exploit his invention. Paul made many kinoscopes, while the Lumiere brothers in Lyon took inspiration from it for their Cinematographe.

This new form of entertainment was very popular and very profitable. Paul realised that the way ahead was to project the images onto a screen, so that the film would be available to a wide audience rather than one punter at a time, especially as the kinoscope was expensive to build. Paul instigated a nightly programme of short films ('animated photographs') at the Alhambra in Leicester Square from March 1896. Ian showed us the only surviving printed programme of Paul's presentation in August 1896 with titles such as *The Arrest of a Bookmaker* and hit comedy *The Soldier's Courtship*.

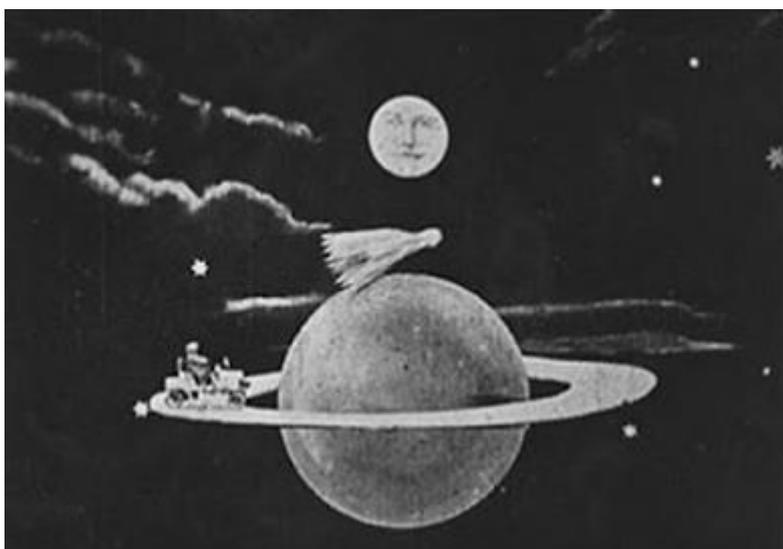
Paul was enjoying tremendous success by the middle of 1896. Even the Prince of Wales came to see Paul's film of his horse winning the Derby at Epsom. Paul was showing his films at several other London music halls before he employed others to do it for him. He established a shop on High Holborn – Paul's Animatograph Depot – which sold films and equipment.

From central London the Pauls eventually moved to Muswell Hill, where they set up their studio in a field adjoining Sydney Road. This was the most advanced studio in the world at that time. Paul's wife Ellen, a former dancer at the Alhambra, was heavily involved in the business in several roles, including appearing in some of the films.

Ian showed us many of Paul's films such as the early *The ? Motorist* (1906) and *The Unfortunate Policeman* (1905) which are fascinating for the early glimpses of familiar local streets. Paul was offering his films in expensive hand-coloured versions from the start, which seem to have been popular with audiences. Walter Booth, a successful magician, became central to trick-film production as part of Paul's team. Films in which he starred include *The Magic Sword* and *Artistic Creation*, still delightful to watch.



ROBERT W. PAUL OF LONDON, the British pioneer of the motion picture, and inventor of the Theatrograph.



The ? Motorist

Paul made about 800 films in his career, of which roughly 75 survive. We were privileged to watch excerpts from a range of these during Ian's lecture, and his website on Paul is at <https://paulsanimatographworks.wordpress.com/>. For Paul's Muswell Hill connections, he also recommended the website www.thecinetraveller.net, created by local resident Roland-Francois Lack, who sadly died earlier this year. We are pleased that Ian has agreed to give another film talk at a future members' meeting.

*See Jack Whitehead's article in the September/October 2021 issue of this Newsletter on Robert Paul's manufacture of instruments such as the Unipivot Galvanometer, wireless telegraphy sets and instruments for submarine warfare.

For those who missed the talk or would like to see it again, it is available at mhfga.org/bf

News from our Tree Officer

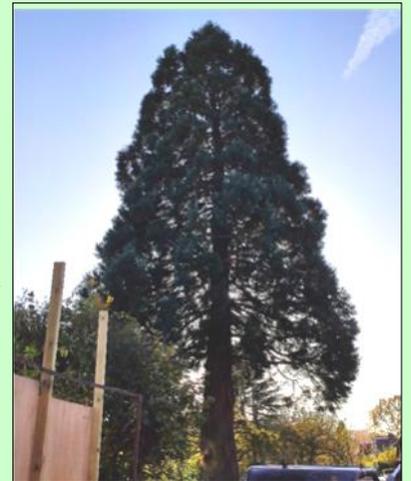
Notification of winter re-pollarding of street trees

I have received notification from Haringey Council that the planned 3-yearly re-pollarding (complete removal of leaf canopy area) programme will be commencing in our area. This work will be undertaken on the lime and London Plane trees. They are yet to formalise the diary but the works will take place from November to March each year.

A leaflet drop will occur to the properties affected informing them of the works. The following roads will be actioned: Midhurst Avenue, Fortis Green Avenue, Fortis Green, Park Road N8, Priory Road N8, Etheldene Avenue / The Chine, Queens Avenue N10, Kings Avenue N10, Princes Avenue N10, Coppetts Road N10, and Tetherdown, N10.

Tree preservation

I am happy to report that I've been successful in blocking the felling of the Wellingtonia tree in a garden in Southern Road, and a Tree Preservation Order is to be placed on it. I have also saved a splendid oak in Windermere Avenue.



Wellingtonia in Southern Road



Oak in Windermere Avenue

Street Trees

If there's somewhere on our streets where you'd like to see a new tree planted, do let me know and I will liaise with the Council who are planning more tree planting in our area over the next couple of years.

Memorable Trees

I'm planning to compile a list of memorable trees in our area. Such trees could be rare, particularly spectacular or just great examples. They could be in gardens, streets, woods or parks. If you would like to nominate a tree for the list please let me know.

Jonathan Popper

Vintage Bus Rides for Poppy Day

Situated in Sydney Road, N10 2NL, Muswell Hill London Transport Bus Garage was opened on 23rd September 1925 to serve a growing residential area. It provided various bus types, including Routemasters, Metrobuses and Leyland Titans on routes 43, 134 and W7.

Closure took place on 23rd July 1990 so it saw nearly 65 years of service. Housing now occupies the garage site.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the closure (postponed from 2020), local residents had the opportunity to take a free ride on vintage buses in aid of the armed forces.

The event took passengers between Archway and Friern Barnet via Muswell Hill, with donations welcomed for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Zoe Norfolk was out and about to record the event with these pictures.



Photo of the old bus garage by David Hillas



Old red bus photos by Zoe Norfolk

Report from our Environment Officer

The Green Spaces we look after

The Association continues to do what it can to maintain and improve the green spaces around Muswell Hill. Some of this work we can do ourselves, such as the flower boxes around the roundabout (*right*), the water trough opposite the Library, the beds in Colney Hatch Lane and the footpath in Grove Lodge Gardens down Muswell Hill. In theory this work should be undertaken by Haringey Council but various Council cutbacks have led to the Association stepping in. Other areas in Muswell Hill remain within the Council's remit and we try to keep the Parks Department on their toes to ensure that maintenance and new planting is not forgotten about. Over the years we have forged a good working relationship with various managers and gardeners working for the Parks Department, but there is a fairly regular turnover of staff which means that we are constantly having to deal with new people and encourage them to think beyond the Green Flag work in the parks and not to forget Muswell Hill.



Photo by Zoe Norfolk

Flower Bed at the end of Fortis Green Road

Recently we have badgered the Parks Department to re-plant the bed at the end of Fortis Green Road by the traffic lights and a few weeks ago this work was carried out and the beds now have a lovely display of flowers (*photo below*).



Photo by Brian Livingston

Flowerboxes around the Roundabout and the Water Trough

We look after nine flower boxes around the roundabout and the water trough opposite the Library, and we re-planted them last in October.

Colney Hatch Lane Beds

The flower beds in Colney Hatch north of the junction with Pages Lane were created by the Association 13 years ago and we regularly arrange maintenance visits undertaken by members to keep the beds in good shape. Recently we have installed two new signs to make people aware that the beds are maintained by the Association.

Grove Lodge Gardens

How many members are aware that there is a footpath running through the strip of woodland which is on the left hand side as one travels down Muswell Hill from the roundabout? This strip is called Grove Lodge Gardens and there is signage to the gravel footpath. This strip used to be part of Grove Lodge, one of three large houses which stood on the left hand side of Muswell Hill until the late 19th century. Grove Lodge still remains and the strip of woodland is owned by Haringey Council. It became overgrown and neglected but in 2005, at the instigation of the Association, the Council worked with us to install a new gravel path and signage. Unfortunately the Council does not now maintain the path and we arrange working parties on a regular basis to clear the brambles etc. off the path.

If you are interested in gardening (no experience is necessary) and able to volunteer a little of your time to join our maintenance team then please contact me at environment@mhfga.org. Similarly the Association is happy to receive donations from members to go towards the costs of the plants we purchase.

Brian Livingston

Membership

New Members

Welcome to our new household members including Prof. Ian Christie & Patsy Nightingale, and Angie & Malachy McAllister.

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

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

Friends of Queen's Wood are volunteers who support and care for the wood. Do join the Friends! **January** - On-line Leaf Quiz - which ones do you know? **February** - Family Bark-rubbing Event. For dates and times see 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.

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.

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

www.hcschoir.com.

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Contact: Jenny Kruss on 020 8442 0031 or bloomngn10@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.

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 is open **every Sunday** between **2 and 4pm**. The Centre will be well-ventilated and we will ask visitors to wear a face covering.

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE NORTH LONDON for the retired or those heading to retirement:

www.nlu3a.org.uk

WEA MUSWELL HILL

For details visit www.wea.org.uk or see brochures in libraries.

MHFGA website: check out the changes

Gone are the days when all services were just a phone call away. Certainly, the free emergency 999 number for the police, fire and ambulance is still there, together with 101, 105, 111, 112 and 119, but in many other cases they have disappeared, and the remaining few can make you wait for a long time before someone answers. Now, for information and action, more and more organisations make you go online or download dedicated apps on your phone, or both.

We have changed the MHFGA website to reflect these changes and we have added new pages to help finding what you need by phone, internet and app. There are now four new or expanded pages of contacts:

[Emergency, Non-Emergency & General Help](#) is new and lists all the three-digit fast phone numbers, and website and phone numbers for surgeries, hospitals, chemists, and other help sources.

[Haringey Council Services](#) has been completely redesigned and updated with the latest Haringey information, to include online and smartphone app facilities, now essential to contact the Council and make use of its services.

[Waste Disposal & Recycling](#) has been expanded and updated from the previous 'Recycling Small Electrical Appliances' to give complete details and contacts for all Veolia services.

[Community Associations](#) has been expanded from the previous list, with a potted description of what they do.

A very useful Haringey Council link you may want to check out is <https://my.haringey.gov.uk/Haringey.aspx>. It is a one-stop-shop for much of what you may need. Enter your postcode and house number, and it shows a huge amount of information about your property, including links and details of Haringey's local services and the map of where they are, planning developments within 400 yards of where you live, and your local councillors.

Please contact webmaster@mhfga.org if you spot mistakes or you have suggestions for other useful information to be added to the pages.



A whistle-stop history tour of East Finchley, courtesy of an article in the Finchley Advertiser in 1985

Inhabitants of Finchley may be surprised to learn that the origins of their borough lie, not in the immediate surrounding area, but in Fulham. The Bishops of London, who owned the manor of Fulham, also controlled various outlying Middlesex properties and so Finchley did not appear under its own name in the Domesday Book of 1086 but was included instead under Fulham.

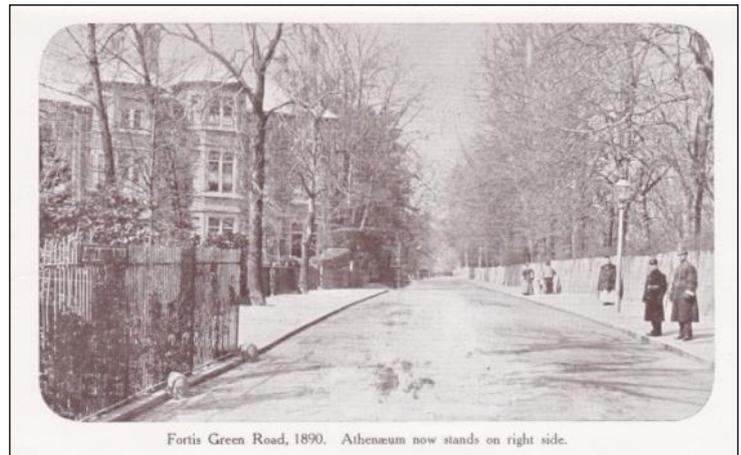
Finchley first emerges into the light of history as a separate place in the first decade of the thirteenth century when it was mentioned in the records of St Paul's Cathedral. It was then spelt 'Finchlee', remarkably like the modern spelling, but later attempts were somewhat wilder, such as 'Vyachlay', recorded in 1407, and 'Frynchesley' in 1547. It seems that the name must mean 'a clearing [ley] belonging to a man named Finch'.

There are thus a few written appearances of Finchley in surviving medieval documents, estate records and the like, but Finchley comes more clearly on to the scene during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The villages of the midland counties of England generally had a well-defined village centre, lying near to the middle of the parish. But in Middlesex it was more common to find several settlements in different parts of the parish of which one, not necessarily the most important, contained the parish church. So it was in Finchley, the distinct settlements being East End (which became East Finchley in Victorian times), Church End and Whetstone.

Geographically, Finchley is a most interesting place, for the greatest part of its surface represents the southernmost relic of the last Ice Age in the British Isles. The great glacier which then spread over the northern parts of England pushed forward a confused mass of gravel, clay and lumps of chalk which were deposited over most of the area covered by modern Finchley, reaching from just north of Whetstone down to Hendon and Muswell Hill.

As East Finchley expanded, it could no longer provide an occupation for many of the new inhabitants, gradually changing from an agricultural village into a London suburb.



The most significant event of this development was the opening of the Great Northern Railway's branch lines from Finsbury Park to Edgware in 1867 with stations at East End (now East Finchley) and Finchley & Hendon (now Finchley Central). A renewed impetus to house-building in the district was also given by the opening of electric tramways along the main roads in 1905 and 1909.

East Finchley has thus become an area almost entirely occupied by houses and gardens apart from the municipal open spaces and several large cemeteries.

Along the East End Road is the old Manor House of 1723 and the Five Bells pub, dating from 1812. The original house was burned down in the 18th century and rebuilt not long afterwards. It appears to have been a rendezvous for pugilists, as fights are said to have taken place frequently on Sunday mornings in the fields directly opposite. A smaller house of the same name, described as being two cottages joined with a single brick chimney, was here in the 15th century and history tells that its then owner, a Thomas Sanny, was once fined four pence for 'watering' his ale. A larger beer house was built on the site in the 18th century but later caught fire and was rebuilt in its present form in 1868. During the 19th century the Five Bells was often used as a training venue for bare fist boxers and boxing matches, as well as horse racing, took place on land in front of the pub.

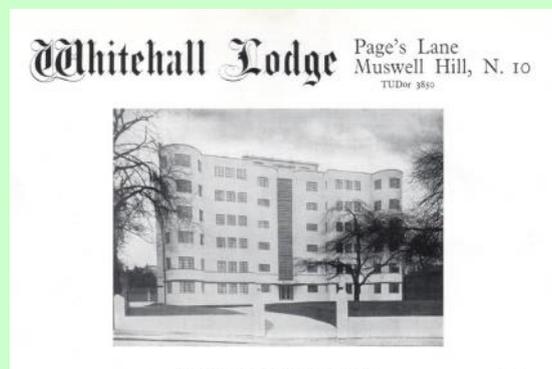
Planning Matters

Whitehall Lodge –good news

The application to build four flats on the roof of Whitehall Lodge in Pages Lane has been finally rejected. The two appeals have been dismissed by the Planning Inspector largely on the grounds of the adverse effect the proposal would have had on the Conservation Area.

The MHFGA objected to the original application together with almost 200 others who were concerned about the proposal. These included a highly effective campaign run by residents of the block, other local residents and also from various locations all over Europe and far beyond. Such was the concern about the effect the proposal would have on this building which looks pretty much the same today as it did when it was newly built in 1936, it is very much to be hoped that a line can now be drawn under the matter.

John Crompton



Copy date for March/April 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 February 2022.