

# Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

www.mhfga.org

Your Residents' Association working for the local community since 1948

## Jane's a Winner!



Jane and Simon in the doorway of the shed

I am the fourth owner of my 1901 house in one of the Collins avenues off Fortis Green. And I've lived in it for 45 years. As a result, it hasn't been much hacked about, as have a lot of neighbouring properties, because we moved in before bi-fold doors became fashionable and when one loo at the top of the stairs and one outside were perfectly serviceable for a family of five. Most people have incorporated the outside one to enlarge the kitchen but mine is still there, enhanced by handmade glass from the years when I was a glass-maker.

My garden boasts another Edwardian feature – a folly. It was a post-lockdown project and was finished this spring,

just in time to be entered for the Shed-of-the-Year Competition. I'm pleased to say it won the Unique/Unexpected Category.

A folly cries out for some visual fun with a mixture of styles and quirky design features. I already had a Gothic theme in the garden, with chairs, mirrors and a hornbeam arch, so pointed-crown fenestration made sense. Throwing in fancy castellations, a pyramid lantern, the odd rosette and little touches to delight the eye added to the joy of it. It is a small footprint seven-sided structure designed for me out of friendship by Simon Hurst who, like me, is a collector of stuff. So he suggested a Cabinet of Curiosities inside which will be a changing exhibition space.

Modern technology came in handy; the Gothic doors, windows and inside display cabinet are water-jet-cut from exterior-grade MDF; 'proper' joinery would have eaten up my entire budget. Everyone assumes that as I am a glassmaker I have laboriously cut and leaded the gherkin-like swirl of the eight-sided lantern and I delight in telling them it's not stained glass at all but peel-on, peel-off leading and coloured film. And why not? This is a folly; deception and sham is part of what a folly celebrates

Above is the weathervane I designed of my own cat, forever chasing a mouse he will not catch. Inside are mock Byzantine mosaics gilded with real gold-leaf set on a midnight-blue sky, inspired by the ceiling of the Basilica in Ravenna. There will be a rising sun in the eastern corner and a setting one in the west. I have painted the eight winds from the Temple of the Winds in Athens and I squeezed in an anachronistic pineapple to symbolise largesse and hospitality. Because that is what this folly is all about. All summer it's been an excuse for drinks occasions with friends – morning coffee, afternoon tea and home-made vermouth with botanicals from my garden for cocktails: 148

## November/ December 2022

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people have come to see it. We've just about squeezed seven seated inside.

Maybe it's an extravagant eccentricity, but I love it and what's wrong with a bit of madness? Plus it will be energy-saving to heat the small space rather than the whole house and work there this winter. Here's to magical moments in Muswell Hill.

Jane Dörner



### Copy date for January/February 2023 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 2022.

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## Members' Meetings

Meetings take place at Northbank, Pages Lane, N10 1PP at 7.45pm.

### 24th November Future Plans for Ally Pally

Join Emma Dagnes, CEO of Alexandra Palace and Park, and other members of the executive team to hear about current and future developments, and have an opportunity to ask questions and give feedback on this wonderful local cultural institution.

*This presentation was originally scheduled to take place on 20th October but due to unforeseen circumstances it had to be swapped with the talk on the Battle of Barnet (see article on page 8).*

## Committee News

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to two much-valued members of our Committee, Lara Maisey (Membership) and George Danker (Publicity and Events). They have done sterling work with us and have been very active and efficient in their separate roles.

We are pleased to announce that Agnes Gomori has agreed to take on the role of Membership Secretary and we hope to publish her profile in the next Newsletter.

**Meanwhile, we now need to recruit someone to take over George's role. You may have seen his email in which he describes the role as fun and varied, and an opportunity to contribute to the life of the Muswell Hill community. Please do get in touch with John Hajdu if you are interested in taking this on or just to have a chat about what is involved.**



*John Hajdu presenting Lara Maisey with a gift at the October Members' Meeting*

## Tree Pollarding Programme

The planned 3-yearly re-pollarding (complete removal of leaf canopy area) programme will be commencing week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the following roads:

- Birchwood Avenue
- Church Crescent
- Collingwood Avenue
- Firs Avenue
- Fortismere Avenue
- Grand Avenue
- Leaside Avenue



A leaflet drop will occur to the properties affected informing them of the works.

## MHFGA Committee

### Chairman

John Hajdu MBE  
chairman@mhfga.org

### Planning/Vice Chairman

Nick Barr  
planning@mhfga.org

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### Minutes Secretary

Laura Bugden

### Newsletter Editor

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### Social Media/Notice Board

Zoe Norfolk  
social@mhfga.org

### 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](http://www.haringey.gov.uk) and enter the details there.



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



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



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

Visit our website [www.mhfga.org](http://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](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)!



## Muswell Hill Club

I am really excited to have our business as part of the Association.

I took over the Muswell Hill Club site in January 2021 when we were in lockdown. The previous owner of the building had converted it into a gym in the 1990s and I saw an opportunity to bring it back to life. I spent over £250k renovating and modernising the club and invited back all the old members. They all love the renovations and most have re-joined.

Part of my vision for the Club is to support the local community in a number of ways, some of which are:

- Sponsoring the Muswell Hill Christmas tree last year and will be contributing to the grotto this year.
- Creating a mini art gallery in our reception and giving local artists a chance to have their work on display. We don't take commission on any sales or charge to be displayed.
- Holding free talks for members and non-members on various health issues.
- Raising money for Guide Dogs UK by holding raffles. We have a blind member who wasn't being accepted at other gyms. We also petitioned successfully for him to get a guide dog as his previous one was retired pre-covid.
- We held an Autumn art and crafts fair on 27<sup>th</sup> October this year.
- We have donated over 10 years'-worth of memberships to local schools for their auctions, raffles and other fund-raising activities.
- We collect for the local foodbank.



*Hussein Lalani*

## Muswell Hill and Hornsey Friends of the Earth

### Warm Homes, Better Health, Climate Protection

Friends of the Earth has joined with several other organisations, including Greenpeace, Save the Children, the Women's Institute, and Fuel Poverty Action, to form **Warm this Winter**. This campaign will demand government action to ensure that everyone can afford to keep their home warm; urgently implement a national insulation programme to cut emissions and keep bills down; ensure sufficient supplies of clean renewable energy, which is a lot cheaper than polluting fossil fuels supplied by Putin and other exporters.



In Haringey, as in all local areas, Friends of the Earth invite local organisations to come together in **United for Warm Homes**, to ensure strong local action on these issues. You may like to join in our planning of a launch event later this year with speakers with direct experience of the harm caused by fuel poverty. This harm includes serious health effects which cost the NHS vast amounts. With a general election due by 2024, we intend to push the government for early action. They know they will lose millions of votes if they fail on this critical issue. We are confident of success; one prominent Conservative recently called for a [national insulation programme](#), and most people of all political viewpoints know that this is a wise and cost-effective policy.

You can sign **Warm this Winter's** petition at <https://www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/get-involved/this-winter>

*Tim Root, Co-ordinator, Muswell Hill and Hornsey Friends of the Earth*



Lovely autumn pictures by Zoe Norfolk







## A message from the Membership Secretary

A little, final reminder to those few still due to renew their 2022/2023 membership, for the period 01 May 2022 to 30 April 2023. We'd love to have your continued support!

To renew your membership please visit <https://membermojo.co.uk/mhfga/renew> where we encourage you to set up a direct debit, or alternatively to pay via PayPal. The cost to renew as a Household is £10, and as a Business or Organisation, £25.

The MHFGA runs a whole range of activities, including the maintenance of local flowerbeds, a community fund, running talks and events, fighting your corner on the upkeep of the local environment, collating and sharing information on our local history, providing input on local planning applications, keeping members updated through our website and social media channels, and, of course, producing our Newsletter six times a year. You can learn more about the work of the Association at [www.mhfga.org](http://www.mhfga.org).

Highlights for our business and organisation members include:

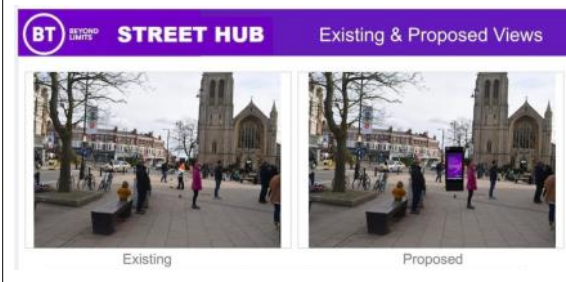
- Listing on our website [www.mhfga.org](http://www.mhfga.org) which ranks highly for Muswell Hill related terms.
  - Listing in our Newsletter which is produced 6 times a year and sent to our members.
  - Eligibility\* for a profile and/or offer in our Newsletter.
  - Eligibility\* for a post on our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with over 3,500 followers).
- \*Subject to meeting our terms and schedule - please ask for more info.*

If you're having trouble renewing, please don't hesitate to get in touch via [membership@mhfga.org](mailto:membership@mhfga.org).

## Planning News

About 18 months ago BT applied to install two large LED advertising screens in the paved area near the Everyman cinema. The Association and nearly two hundred members of the public objected and it is good to be able to report that it has been refused. Haringey has thrown the book at BT with regard to the reasons why the proposal was not acceptable so let us hope that this is the end of the matter.

*John Crompton, Conservation Officer*



## MHFGA's big birthday coming up!

For those members who are not aware, next year will see the MHFGA's 75th anniversary. Your Committee plans to celebrate the occasion, so watch this space for further news.



## Membership

### New Members

Welcome to our new members: Soner Akman, Agnes Gomori, Adam Kuper, Moira O'Neil & Memet Bunyan, Nigel Clark, and St Andrew's Church.

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**.

Ambitious About Autism  
Angela Rose  
Baby Sensory  
Barron Salon  
Bob's Café  
Broadway Pet Stores  
Broadway Pharmacy  
Capital Gardens  
Children's Bookshop  
Claire Avant Yoga  
Clissold Arms  
Cosi Homewares  
Dunn's Artisan Bakers Ltd  
East Finchley Open Artists  
Everyman Muswell Hill  
Freehold Community Association  
Gibfit 30  
Green & Blossoms

Green's of Highgate  
Harington Scheme  
Hollickwood Primary School  
House of Books  
JHK Estate Agents  
Lambert Welch Kitchens  
Laytons (Jeraboams)  
Men at 107  
Misk Boutique  
Muswell Flyer  
Muswell Hill Club  
Muswell Hill Bowling Club  
Muswell Hill Creatives  
Muswell Hill Karate Academy  
Muswell Hill Methodist Church  
Muswell Hill Methodist Tennis Club  
Muswell Hill Pharmacy  
Muswell Hill Pilates

Muswell Hill United Reformed Church  
Muswell Hill & District Horticultural Society  
Muswell Hillbilly Brewers  
North London Chorus  
North London Symphony Orchestra  
Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd  
Picture Framing Muswell Hill  
Planet Organic  
Point 5 Kitchens  
Robert Linsky Optometrist  
Roni's Bagel Bakery  
Rowan Antiques  
Sally Bourne Interiors  
Snappy Snaps  
St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park

St James's Muswell Hill  
Studio Moe Ltd  
Tatlers Estate Agents  
The Good Rooms  
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  
Woodland Tree Surgery  
Yogamatters

## Muswell Hill Rhythmic Gymnastics



We were thrilled when the MHFGA Community Fund offered us £100 to pilot a scheme to support gymnasts who need financial support with the costs of their apparatus. Rhythmic gymnastics is a beautiful but expensive sport, with girls in our competition squads training up to 4 times per week and needing their own leotards, toe shoes and up to 4 pieces of apparatus (costing between £20 and £80 per piece). This creates barriers to participation and we've been trying to reduce some of these barriers by offering subsidised fees for those who need this support.

So far we have supported two gymnasts with equipment costs to the value of £76. One gymnast was given financial support to purchase a hoop and toe shoes for competition at a value of £45. She competed for the first time in June at the London Championships and did very well. We have also purchased a hoop for a second gymnast at a value of £31. This gymnast had recently arrived as a refugee from the Ukraine and was unable to bring any of her equipment with her. We look forward to her competing for the first time in November at Autumn round of the London Championships.

As we travel for competitions, because our club's name is so rooted to our location we make more people aware of Muswell Hill, as a place to visit and also as a place where there are high quality sports and leisure activities. We are proud to carry the name of our brilliant local area and at our last competition brought home 6 bronze

medals, 2 silver medals and one gold, showing the rest of London how much talent there is in the Muswell Hill area.

We still have £24 left from the fund to support gymnasts who need it and as the scheme has run smoothly - providing a discreet and effective way to ensure that everyone can afford to participate in our sport - we will top up the fund with donations raised at our most recent display and fundraiser in July.

As the cost of living crisis unfolds further we expect that more of our gymnasts will need support not only with equipment costs but also with class fees and competition fees. We were grateful that the grant from the MHFGA Community Fund allowed us to test out what support could be offered and to see how parents would respond to offers of support.

## Grove Lodge Gardens Path Clearance

Over the weekend of 8th and 9th October 2022 three of our committee (John Hajdu, Duncan Neil and Brian Livingston) descended on the Grove Lodge Garden path in lovely autumn sunshine armed with garden tools to clear the gravel path of brambles and other vegetation. Some hours later the path was in much better shape as the photos show. If you have not walked down the path it is worth doing so. It is located in the strip of

woodland which is on the left-hand side of Muswell Hill. From the roundabout walk down Muswell Hill on the left hand side, cross over Grosvenor Gardens road and after a short distance you will see the signpost and steps leading up onto the path.



The path after clearance



The path before clearance

## Local Organisations

### 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).

### 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

Our next concerts: **Saturday 12th November at 7.00pm** at All Hallows Church, Savernake Road, London NW3 2JP

**Ralph Vaughan Williams – Garden of Proserpine; Ronald Corp – Symphony no 3; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Requiem**

**Saturday 3 December 2022 at 6.00pm** at St Michael's Church, South Grove, London N6 6BJ. Family carols with the New London Children's Choir and St Michael's C of E Primary School Choir

Membership enquiries to Siobhan D'Gama at [singwithhcs@hcschoir.com](mailto:singwithhcs@hcschoir.com)

### MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Contact: Jenny Kruss on 020 8442 0031 or [bloomingn10@outlook.com](mailto:bloomingn10@outlook.com).

### 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 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).

### 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) or [freehold2003@gmail.com](mailto:freehold2003@gmail.com) or ring 07935 324578.

### MUSWELL HILL CHILD CONTACT CENTRE

The Contact Centre which is attached to the Methodist Church in Pages Lane, provides a friendly and supportive place where the children of separated parents can meet their non resident parent in a neutral and safe space on Saturday mornings. Further information can be obtained from our website <https://mhmc-contactcentre.org.uk> or by email at [contact.centre@mhmc.org.uk](mailto:contact.centre@mhmc.org.uk). Apart from a £20 referral fee the service is free.

### WEA MUSWELL HILL

For details visit [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or see brochures in libraries.

### FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

Last Sunday of each month 10.30 - 12. Tools provided but bring your own gloves. Meet at the Lodge off Muswell Hill Road.

### MUSWELL HILL WELCOMES

An inter-faith project supporting refugees and asylum seekers, bringing together volunteers offering skills such as cooking, English speaking and more.

Details at [www.muswellhillwelcomes.org](http://www.muswellhillwelcomes.org)

### NORTH LONDON CHORUS

Our next concert: **Saturday 3 December 2022 at 7.30pm** at St James's Church, Muswell Hill, N10 3DB

**Charpentier – Messe de minuit pour Noël**

**Handel – Dixit Dominus**

**Corelli – Concerto Grosso in G minor 'Fatto per la Notte di Natale'**

North London Chorus will be accompanied by Meridian Sinfonia on period instruments, and soloists. Conductor Murray Hipkin.

Tickets: <https://tickets.northlondonchorus.org/>, Les Aldrich and St James Church shop.

[www.northlondonchorus.org](http://www.northlondonchorus.org).

### FRIENDS OF MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY

**Saturday 19 November at 2pm:** "The Geology of Muswell Hill" Talk by Di Clements.

For event details and other updates contact Iain Smith on [friends.muswell@gmail.com](mailto:friends.muswell@gmail.com).

### HARINGTON SCHEME

Christmas Sale, **Saturday 10 December 10am - 2pm** at 55a Cholmeley Park, N6 5EH

Come and see for yourself the wonderful Harington site and buy Christmas cards and decorations, homemade jams and chutneys. There will also be a raffle with great prizes.

Details at [www.harington.org.uk](http://www.harington.org.uk)

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

**Saturday 12 November at 1.00pm** with music for two organs performed by Robert Evans and Peter Smith.

**Saturday 3 December at 1.00pm.** Verónica Chacón (mezzo soprano) and Jérôme Royet (piano) will be performing a programme of music with melodies by Satie, Fauré, Poulenc and Massenet.

Admission by donation - all are most welcome to attend. For any enquiries: please phone 020 8444 6898 or email: [office@alexandrapark.org](mailto:office@alexandrapark.org)

### ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK

The Alexandra Park Visitor Centre near the Grove car park is open **every Sunday** between **2 and 4pm**.

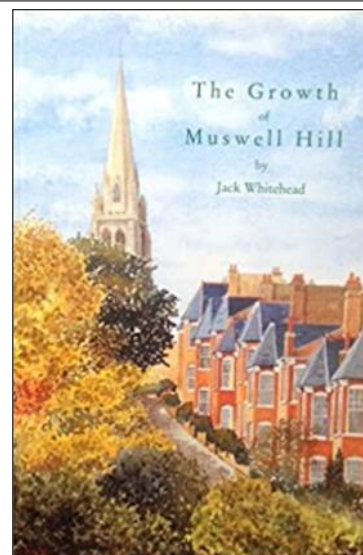


## The Sad Reality of Christmas Dinner

An extract from Jack Whitehead's excellent book, *The Growth of Muswell Hill* published in 1995

In the 1920s, Olney's, the butcher's, was at the corner of Wilton Road and Colney Hatch Lane. It had an open front, closed at night with shutters and inside large hanging rails for sides of meat. In Wilton Rd was a side entrance to the back of the shop which was furnished like a stable. Just before Christmas each year a young heifer and a few sheep were herded to the shop from some farm and stabled there. The animals were penned as if in a zoo, bedded in thick straw and fed from large troughs. The Roman Catholic church was showing its model of Christ in the manger and here was a real example. We thought, as children, that the live animals seemed better versions of the models. We visited the stable several times and fed the animals with grass, but when we returned one day the animals were gone.

Mother had great difficulty in explaining that the animals had been killed for Christmas. Their bodies now hung in the shop as sides of beef and mutton for people to eat. It was a traumatic shock. Until then meat and animals had been completely different things, as they are to children buying meat in supermarkets today. Now reality had entered and I was never to see a painting of the Nativity after this without wondering what had happened to the animals when the artist had finished painting.



## The People's Pantry



MHFGA members refill service, The People's Pantry, are giving a 20% discount on your first online order! Use the checkout code MHFGA20.

The People's Pantry is about making sustainable shopping as simple, affordable and convenient as possible. Operating from Ernie, a vintage milk float now fully equipped refill shop, they have thought of everything. If you enjoy a sociable spot of slow shopping while catching up with neighbours, then book Ernie for a personalised street visit. Prefer a regular routine refill? You can find Ernie at a number of fixed local pitches listed on their website. <https://thepeoplespantry.biz>

Or if you'd rather click for quinoa from under a quilt? Then order their weekly doorstep delivery service, in returnable containers - just like the milkman.

Across well over 200 sustainability-vetted products, including pantry, bathroom, eco-cleaning staples and fresh oat milk, everything is sold packaging-free either to fill your own containers or into one of their free, repurposed supply. And, to encourage more 'refillutionaries', there are no charges for deliveries or bookings and no minimum order restrictions.

## October Members' Meeting

### How much of the Battle of Barnet took place on Muswell Hill's doorstep?

The Battle of Barnet was a key battle in the Wars of the Roses, the XV century conflict between Warwick's House of Lancaster and Edward's House of York. The military action, along with the subsequent Battle of Tewkesbury, secured the throne for Edward IV. In his presentation, historian Lester Hillman took us, together with Edward's army, on the two-day march from St. John's Field (today's Smithfield) to within 500 yards of Warwick's forces near Hadley. On the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> May 1471, the armies met. The rest is history – except for the unique role of Muswell Hill.

From his own military experience, Lester gave us a unique perspective and a world premier presentation on Muswell Hill and its surroundings as rear echelon for the battlefield. Because of its strategic location and water supply, it would have been a holding area to keep troops ready for battle and then for keeping prisoners of war and possibly pricing them for ransom. There, dead bodies would have been validated, also to identify any royal provenance. Armours and booty would be sold. It would have been a centre for spying, spreading rumours – and changing sides. Even though the Battle of Barnet was a game changer for the use of gunpowder and explosives, arrows still played a major part and would be carried along Colney Hatch Lane stacked in barrels and loaded onto oxcarts.



For more on the Battle of Barnet from Lester Hillman, see his article on the Hampstead Garden Suburb Virtual Museum at <https://hgsheritage.org.uk/Detail/collections/bob1471>.