

## Wave Café wins Community Fund Award from the MHFGA

The winner of this year's MHFGA Community Fund Award is Wave Café, selected for its potential impact on the local community.

Wave Café is a charity whose aim is to reduce inequality in society, and radically change attitudes to learning disability and difference. It received the full £300 that it applied for to spend on equipment.

Two further projects with strong community impact also received funding: Muswell Hill Welcomes received £250 and Futsal Stars Foundation, £200.

The MHFGA received a total of 13 applications for the Community Fund, the same number as last year. MHFGA chair John Hajdu says: "We are delighted with not only the number of applications made to our Community Fund, but also the broad spectrum of organisations that applied. I am very pleased to report that this year the applications were even better on the whole than last year. In view of the success of the Community Fund over the past two years, we hope to repeat it in future years."

Wave Café is an inclusive community arts café that offers food and drink at a price point accessible to all, and creative activities to enable mixed ability mixing, creating and socialising. It provides placements for six Harington Scheme students with learning disabilities and/or difficulties. The work experience at the café is a valuable part of an internship and learning programme designed to help them into employment, further education or a more rewarding life.



The £300 funding is provided towards the purchase of adapted cooking utensils for people with weak grip or limited range of motion. This equipment will enable its interns from the Harington scheme to take part in food preparation activities from which they might otherwise be excluded. It will also help them to learn how to prepare meals for themselves at home.

## January/February 2023



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Muswell Hill Welcomes provides information, advice, and guidance, as well as social activities for newly arrived communities. Their £250 award will enable 20-40 guests to take part in the new food growing and community meals project. The project will bring together Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, and other newly arrived migrants, and the local community to celebrate the different cultures that live and work in Muswell Hill North London.

*Continued on page 3*



# A Happy New Year to all our readers

### Copy date for March/April 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 February 2023.

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## Members' Meetings

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

**16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

### An insight into conservation values, Muswell Hill's heritage and best practices

Presented by conservation architect Zaira Iacopelli, obtain fascinating insights into the importance of conservation of heritage buildings in general and specifically the Muswell Hill Conservation Area. In her talk, Zaira will also cover a selection of listed buildings in the area and will provide tips on what to consider when approaching works on older buildings.

Having qualified in Architecture, followed by an early career working on projects within historic settings in her native Italy, Zaira has spent the last 15 years studying and working on Conservation Areas and listed buildings in England. In particular, Zaira has a focus on raising awareness of the importance of improving and maintaining the existing housing stock with an eye on sustainability and the newly introduced requirements.

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2023** - our member Alison Watson will give a talk on the hidden rivers of London.

**13th May 2023** - AGM.

**30th June 2023** - a walk around Queen's Wood with our member Lucy Roots.

## New Faces on the MHFGA Committee

We are delighted to welcome three new members to our Committee:

Agnes Gomori took over the MHFGA Membership role in November 2022. See her profile on page 2.

Moira O'Neill is taking over Press and PR from George Danker. We extend our thanks to George who has done a sterling job for us over the last 5 years.

And last but not least, Nigel Clark has agreed to take over responsibility for arranging our members' meetings from our Chair, John Hajdu, who has organised an astonishing 125 meetings.

## MHFGA 75th celebrations



As pointed out in our previous issue, 2023 sees the 75th anniversary of the founding of our Association.

A sub-committee has been working on ideas to celebrate this event - details will be in the next edition. We do however have a new commemorative logo and a new banner for this Newsletter!

## 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

### Treasurer

treasurer@mhfga.org

### Minutes Secretary

Laura Bugden

### Membership

membership@mhfga.org

### Publicity and Events

Moira O'Neill  
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### Chair of the Consultative Committee, Alexandra Palace/Twitter

Duncan Neill  
ap@mhfga.org

### Meetings

Nigel Clark  
meetings@mhfga.org

### Environment/Green Spaces

Brian Livingston  
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### Tree Officer

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



@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 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)!

## Agnes Gomori

### MHFGA Membership

I moved to London to embrace its arts and culture scene. As an artist, I wanted to meet and collaborate with fellow international artists. Initially, I only wanted to stay for a few months, but 20 years later, I'm still here, in love with the capital's creative scene.

I grew up in Central Europe, in a beautiful historical city called Sopron. Strategically positioned, it was already an important city in Roman times, called Scarbantia. The city is in western Hungary, close to the border of Austria. It's surrounded by mountains, vast woodlands, and lakes.

Famous for its red wine 'Kekfrankos' and its prestigious University, growing up, there were always lots of cultural events to choose from; theatre shows, concerts, opera, ballet and there was always a new exhibition opening in one of the many art galleries or museums.

The romantic city centre with its cobbled streets is full of Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. The world-famous composers Franz Liszt and Joseph Haydn lived there, and this is where my love for classical music and heritage buildings comes from.

Sopron was given the title of 'Civitas Fidelissima', which means 'the most loyal town' because in the 1921 referendum, its citizens voted to remain part of Hungary as opposed to being attached to Austria as per the Treaty of Trianon.

'Sopron Civitas Fidelissima' is also incorporated into the coat of arms of Sopron, which was designed by my father, Dr Janos Gomori.

The Pan-European Picnic, a crucial event in modern history, took place just outside Sopron in August 1989. Sopron, dubbed as the 'gate to the west', opened its borders towards Austria, enabling the largest East German refugee movement to take place, which resulted in the fall of the Berlin Wall three months later.

Growing up in such a historically significant and culturally vibrant place made it important for me to recreate that homely feeling in London. I lived in different parts of London, West, East, South, but something was always missing.

Then 10 years ago as I was looking for a new flat, my instinct told me to view a property in Muswell Hill. I looked up the property on the map and saw its proximity to Highgate Woods and Alexandra Palace. It was already promising and as I arrived at Muswell Hill and looked at St James's Church, I felt a warm welcome.

But it's the view from the Broadway and a walk in the woods that sealed the deal. I knew I wanted to move here even without viewing the flat! I feel blessed to have found Muswell Hill, my home away from home.

Three years ago, I left my high-flying city job and established an intuitive healing and creative coaching business, offering 'Healing with Art' and 'Healing with Nature' (Walk & Talk) sessions locally.

I wanted to find an opportunity to get involved with the local community, and this is how I came across the membership role. And that our chairman, John Hajdu, is a fellow Hungarian, was the icing on the cake.

I'm looking forward to working with the committee and meeting our members!



### *Continued from front page*

Futsal Stars Foundation offers free after-school Futsal & Fitness Education classes and holiday camps to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds as a means of improving mental and physical well-being and encouraging social cohesion. This award will help to fund a 15-week programme of Girls Futsal/Football and Fitness Classes.

Last year's fund was divided between three projects, with Friends of the Highgate Roman Kiln winning the largest award, followed by Sense of Locality and Muswell Hill Rhythmic Gymnastics.

Sense of Locality is an artists' collective which used the funding to run two creative workshops culminating in a celebratory exhibition, aimed at asylum seekers who have recently arrived in Muswell Hill.



## OWL – Online Watch Link



It's been almost a year since OWL started for Haringey and we have amassed an impressive 1,100 people from scratch to join up. I hope that your experience of OWL has been positive and I hope to get

a survey out soon to evaluate this properly with you all. In the meantime we would appreciate it if you could spread the word to your neighbours and get more people onto OWL so that we can keep more people up to date with goings on in their wards and also to pass on valuable crime prevention advice to help people be more secure.

Thank you in advance for any help you can give to spread the word.

*Neil Rogers*  
Watch Liaison Officer for Haringey  
Metropolitan Police

Email: [sm221022aa200@met.police.uk](mailto:sm221022aa200@met.police.uk)

### And remember....

Winter brings cold weather and long nights, Christmas and the New Year. We'd suggested you consider:

- Light timers to give the impression you are home
- Not displaying your Christmas trees and presents by open windows, which can tempt a would-be thief
- When shopping for gifts, do not leave them on display in your car
- Dispose of wrapping and boxes that show what you have bought discreetly
- Watch out for vulnerable neighbours, make sure they are not the target of con men or bogus callers
- When you go out to the car to get something have a quick check up and down your road to make sure all is in order
- Make sure you tell your neighbours if you have a holiday over the Christmas period
- Don't just hide away of an evening when you get home, take a quick look out of the window as you go past to make sure your neighbourhood is okay.

## Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Haringey Council is inviting feedback on the impact of the three Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in the borough. Feedback on the Bounds Green LTN can be provided by emailing [BoundsGreenLTN@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:BoundsGreenLTN@haringey.gov.uk).

The LTNs were introduced as trials under an experimental traffic order and can run for a maximum of 18 months. There is a period of six months from becoming operational in which it is possible to make a formal objection – for the Bounds Green LTN the deadline to do so is 15 February 2023. Objections can be made by emailing [traffic.orders@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:traffic.orders@haringey.gov.uk), stating your reasons.

Members of the Association have reported long tailbacks in LTNs – including having had to abandon bus journeys and having missed medical appointments. We would encourage members to make their views heard on LTNs present and prospective.

*Chris White*

## Environment and Green Spaces

Brian Livingston, our Environment and Green Spaces Officer, keeps a close eye on the maintenance and upkeep of green spaces in our area. In November 2022, Brian undertook a walk around Muswell Hill with Lewis Taylor (Head of Haringey Parks Department), Andy Loucas (Area Supervisor) and Michelle Lindson (Parks & Greenspace Volunteering Officer) to inspect and record actions that needed to be taken.



- Midhurst Gardens – the grass had recently been cut, but the roses needed pruning and there were a few loose copings. Brian had separately asked John Crawley of Veolia to undertake a litter sweep of the area.
- Blaenavon Gardens – the grass had recently been cut and the shrubs pruned. One of the Memorial benches needed sanding down and a coat of varnish applied.
- Twyford Avenue borders - the grass had recently been cut and the shrubs pruned. The redundant metal post needed to be removed. There were a few loose pieces of timber that required moving.
- Raised bed Fortis Green (by traffic lights) – the bed was in a poor state and needed weeding and replanting.
- Pocket Park (opposite Village Green pub) – some of the shrubs were growing over the benches and needed cutting back, and the beds needed weeding. The pavement was uneven in places (trip hazards) and required attention. Brian separately asked John Crawley of Veolia to undertake a litter sweep of the area.
- Raised bed opposite COOK – this was in a poor state and Brian requested that it be weeded and additional drought resistant plants planted.
- Roundabout bed and bed outside Sally Bourne – these beds required some minor pruning.
- Top of Muswell Hill – the bed was overgrown with brambles etc.
- Grand Avenue raised bed – Parks Department agreed to consider the viability of this being turned into a low shrub area with the local residents assisting with the maintenance.

Some of these actions have been completed and some are pending, but this is an example of one of the activities that members of the MHFGA Committee undertake on behalf of the community.

## Muswell Hill's Christmas Tree...before and after the snow!

*Photos by Zoe Norfolk*



## Update on Muswell Hill Playing Fields and Playground

Following our Chairman's visit to the playing fields with his grandchildren, he got in touch with the Friends of Coldfall Woods and Haringey Council.

The Council's Play Fitter Team and Operational Team both visited the playground in October 2022. The team cleared weeds, cut the grass and trimmed hedges, with other seasonal works to continue in line with the annual schedule. The area was considered suitable and safe for play.

Play equipment was assessed and the team made adjustments to the swing chains and organised for a replacement of the swing seat.

The area of ground under the basket swing has also been identified as needing a small area of replacement. This has been ordered and will be completed once a contractor has been assigned the work. Time line 3-6 weeks depending on availability of materials.

The gates were independently inspected in the summer and were given a very low risk rating.

If you have any questions or queries about the playground, please get in touch with the council via [parkprojects@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:parkprojects@haringey.gov.uk)

## WANTED

Two new positions on our Committee have become available.

### Newsletter Editor

After 7 years as Newsletter Editor, Christine Morris is looking to hand over the reins to someone with energy, enthusiasm and an eye for detail. The role involves gathering copy from a variety of sources and setting it out in a readable and user-friendly style.

Christine has used Microsoft Publisher to create the Newsletter but any desktop publishing software could be used.

Please email Christine at [editor@mhfga.org](mailto:editor@mhfga.org) to discuss the role if you are interested.

### Subscriptions Helper

This is a new job for someone with an eye for figures to update our members' payment information on our online membership system. Full training will be given.

If you have a few hours a month to spare and you want to be involved in the Association's activities, please contact our Chairman John Hajdu at [chairman@mhfga.org](mailto:chairman@mhfga.org)

## Membership

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.

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

MHFGA annual membership runs from 1st May to 30th April of the following year. **New members joining in the period January to April will get up to 4 months free as their membership will run to the end of April 2024.**

## New Members

Welcome to our new members: John Fulford and Richard Baines.

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	Green's of Highgate	Muswell Hill United Reformed Church	St James's Muswell Hill
Angela Rose	Harington Scheme	Muswell Hill & District Horticultural Society	Studio Moe Ltd
Baby Sensory	Hollickwood Primary School	Muswell Hillbilly Brewers	Tatlers Estate Agents
Barron Salon	House of Books	North London Chorus	The Good Rooms
Bob's Café	JHK Estate Agents	North London Symphony Orchestra	The Hampstead Butcher & Providore
Broadway Pet Stores	Lambert Welch Kitchens	Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd	The Mossy Well
Broadway Pharmacy	Laytons (Jeraboams)	Picture Framing Muswell Hill	The People's Pantry
Capital Gardens	Men at 107	Planet Organic	The Real Greek
Children's Bookshop	Misk Boutique	Point 5 Kitchens	The Robin Kiashek
Claire Avant Yoga	Muswell Flyer	Robert Linsky Optometrist	Osteopathic Clinics
Clissold Arms	Muswell Hill Club	Roni's Bagel Bakery	Toffs
Cosi Homewares	Muswell Hill Bowling Club	Rowan Antiques	Victory Auto Services
Dunn's Artisan Bakers Ltd	Muswell Hill Creatives	Sally Bourne Interiors	W Martyn
East Finchley Open Artists	Muswell Hill Karate Academy	Snappy Snaps	Walter Purkis & Sons
Everyman Muswell Hill	Muswell Hill Methodist Church	St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park	WAVE Café
Freehold Community Association	Muswell Hill Methodist Tennis Club		Woodland Tree Surgery
Gibfit 30	Muswell Hill Pharmacy		Yogamatters
Green & Blossoms	Muswell Hill Pilates		

## November Members' Meeting

**Emma Dagnes, CEO of Alexandra Palace and Park, gave a fascinating talk and answered questions at our November members' meeting. Here are some highlights from her presentation.**

Although I took on the role of Chief Executive at the start of 2022, I have been at the Palace for 12 years and oversaw the delivery of the East Wing Project.

Alexandra Palace started life as a private enterprise, but never managed to sustain commercial success. In 1900 it was created as a Trust by Act of Parliament and In 1967 it became a Charitable Trust. Today, our corporate trustee is Haringey Council and our Board consists of 6 Councillors and representatives from the Statutory Advisory Committee and the Consultative Committee.

The charity raises funds through its trading subsidiary, from grants and from public and private donations. Our mission is to repair, restore and maintain the Park and Palace for the recreation and enjoyment of the public in perpetuity. Our vision is to become a cultural destination where people come to be entertained and engage with our past whilst exploring their creativity within our unique heritage.

A great example of this vision was the East Wing Project, funded with £18.8m National Heritage Lottery Fund, £6.8m from Haringey Council and £1m from elsewhere. As part of this major project, the incredible theatre re-opened in late 2018 after 80 years out of use. The first season was phenomenal with a "who's who" of art and culture performing, 50,000 tickets sold, over 100 performances, and 15,000 unique pieces of press coverage. We were riding on the crest of a wave for the first time in a very long time and then the pandemic struck. Despite the massive challenges that Covid brought, our park remained open and, behind the scenes, we even upgraded some infrastructure thanks to the Culture Recovery Fund.

Moving to the present, Alexandra Palace has featured heavily during the BBC@100 celebrations and we have been exploring the fascinating story of the broadcaster's time at Alexandra Palace as well as continuing our relationship. We have hosted many BBC shows during 2022 but the one that is a real stand out for me was the theatre being home to this season's "Later with Jools Holland".



*Photo by Jacqueline Servat*

Our varied Creative Learning programme includes Biblio-Buzz, using the power of literature to reach and inspire young creative minds. Overall, we now have over 60 community and charitable organisations actively involved in our annual programme.

In 2022 we launched our Young Actors Company and in 2023 we will also be launching our theatre school, targeting 7 to 18 year olds. We continue to open up the theatre for community use for all our diverse communities.

Our Creativity Pavilion, in the East Court, and our Transmitter Hall host numerous community activities and events. This includes our Café Palais, on the last Monday of the month, for those living with dementia to come and enjoy free refreshments and creative activities. We also run a range of programmes with Sing for the Brain. Our events are as eclectic as they were when the Victorians originally built the Palace with Red Bull Soap Box returning for its 5<sup>th</sup> year, Kaleidoscope (our own arts festival), the theatre continuing to develop, and of course our annual fireworks festival.

Thinking about the future, we continue to improve the environmental sustainability of the building and park. We must also continue our work to open up the remaining derelict spaces at the Palace. The North East office block currently has a tree growing through it! We've applied for funding to make this space safe and water tight.

We have also embarked on "Project Moonshot", to move towards financial sustainability. For example, we are looking at the feasibility of a café in the East Court to cater to the 150,000 people attending the theatre each year. We also have ambitions to revisit the BBC project and bring the spaces back to life in a meaningful and sustainable way.

The Palace sits in 196 acres of Parkland – this merits its own talk but I wanted to highlight a particular project. We are currently exploring environmental improvements to the south east corner of the Park. In recent years the area has developed a mosaic of woodlands and meadows, criss-crossed with a network of drains and ditches. We have recently secured funding from the Mayor of London's Rewild Fund, to carry out research into improvements here.

Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust serves many communities. We can only do this because of the support of our corporate trustee, the public, our volunteers and the many people who give up their time to engage with us. There are many ways that you can support, through donations or giving some of your time. Please get in touch if you can help!

Alexandra Palace and Park has a fascinating history, an incredible present and a very exciting future. In fact, in 2023, Alexandra Palace will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Year!

I'll keep you posted with what festivities are planned. In the meantime, you can learn about our incredible history at <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/alexandra-palace>.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

## 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.

### MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

### 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 PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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

### FRIENDS OF MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY

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

### 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)

### 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.

### FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

Friends of Queen's Wood working parties: **Sundays 29 January and 26 February 2023**. Meet outside The Lodge off Muswell Hill Road. Tools provided but bring suitable gloves and hot drink as cafe is closed.

### NORTH LONDON CHORUS

Are you looking for a choir? North London Chorus is currently recruiting in all voice parts, especially tenors and basses. [www.northlondonchorus.org](http://www.northlondonchorus.org)

### HARINGTON SCHEME

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

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Forthcoming concerts:

**14th January** - Beethoven - Chopin - Elgar and more.  
Alexander Dalziel - piano

**11th February** - Shostakovich - Webern - Vivaldi - Barber.  
Swiss and English quartets  
020 8444 6898 or [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**.

## Member Questionnaire

With the pandemic behind us and as part of its ongoing commitment to residents, the MHFGA Committee is keen to obtain insights into how we might improve member and non-member engagement with the Association. **Your feedback is valuable, so please take a few minutes to complete the online questionnaire on our website:** [www.mhfga.org/questionnaire](http://www.mhfga.org/questionnaire). All responses will be anonymous. These are the questions:

1. Are you an MHFGA member? Choose one.

- < 12 months
- 1 – 3 years
- > 3 years
- Non-member

2. Have you attended Association events? Please tick those appropriate.

- Evening meetings/presentations including the AGM
- Outdoor visits

3. Are there any subjects you would like to see covered in future meetings? Please provide your ideas.

4. Would you be interested in attending MHFGA events with the objectives of community building and engagement with residents to help ensure the Association's objectives are met? Please tick those appropriate.

- Pub visit
- Coffee morning/afternoon in coffee shop

5. Do you have skills, experience and time to support the Association on an ad hoc or project basis? Please comment.

*Nigel Clark*  
MHFGA Meetings Organiser

## The Bishop of London's Hunting Park



*Photo of Highgate Wood by kind permission of Hornsey Historical Society*

The Hunting Park included all of Highgate Wood but not Queen's Wood. Muswell Hill Road ran just outside the park, so that the narrow strip in the west side of the road, which became part of the Woodlands estate and now holds houses and shops, was the verge of the road, with the park behind it. The hunting park boundary continued between what are now the houses on Muswell Rise and Woodside Hospital and turned along the back fences of Grand Avenue, behind Tetherdown School, along the northern edge of the Water Board land to the corner of Cherry Tree Wood, across Edmund's Walk, along the back garden fences between Brim Hill and Abbot's Gardens, curved west across Lytton Road and the Playing Fields, down the boundary of Hampstead Golf Club to Turner's Wood, along to the Spaniards and from there to Highgate Gatehouse.

All the Woodside Avenue, Lanchester Road and Fordington Road block of houses were inside the park, while the Fortis Green and Muswell Hill developments were just outside it.

The hunting park would have been surrounded by a hedge and ditch strong enough to keep the deer and other game in so that they could be hunted, no easy task before the invention of barbed wire. The hedges probably go back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and would have been very dense.

Old hunting parks were built not only to keep deer in, but to attract deer from outside and trap them. This was achieved by choosing a place on the boundary where the outside ground was higher than the inside and creating a leap. The deer found it easier to leap down than to escape by leaping upwards. Thus the higher ground and across the hillocks of the Water Board land may perhaps have been the start for building this type of ditch and leap to trap deer from outside the park. It is extraordinary to imagine rutting deer running down Midhurst Avenue and leaping into the bishop's stew pot!

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

## Haringey's Tree & Woodland Plan

Haringey has recently published a draft Tree & Woodland Plan and invited comments. The Plan is ambitious and the objectives are laudable, but there is a disconnect between these objectives and the resources to be provided.

Across the Borough, tree canopy covers 19% of the area and the Council is aiming to increase this to 30%. To achieve this, the plan is to focus tree planting in the areas of the Borough with less than 30% tree canopy cover. We are fortunate in the area covered by the Association that canopy cover exceeds 30%. It's 32% in Alexandra Ward, 33% in Fortis Green and 39% in Muswell Hill. Consequently, the Council is not going to plant new trees on streets and parkland in our area, except as replacement for trees which have to be felled. If you want to see more trees planted, you'll have to plant them in your garden or fund a street tree under the Trees for Street Scheme.



*Photo by Zoe Norfolk*

The Council believes that there are about 33,500 trees in the Borough, including those in our gardens. They plan to plant 10,000 new trees by 2030 in the 13 wards in the Borough with tree canopy cover below 30%. Concentrating new tree planting in this way achieves the target only if the planted trees are fully mature with large canopies, they survive to maturity and if the existing tree stock is not degraded. Observation suggests that many new trees planted in parks and on streets are of species which won't develop large canopies. Even then, too many don't survive to maturity, because the resources to look after them in their early years are insufficient.

I have doubts about the Council's ability to fund and manage a programme of this scale, which is likely to cost around £2.5 million. The current Tree Team in the Council is too small to manage the existing stock of trees in the Borough, as well as dealing with numerous other matters relating to our trees, such as requests to fell trees in Conservation Areas, to protect private trees with TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) and to save trees from new developments.

The plan includes an intent to take more regard of trees in planning and development decisions. Unfortunately, no specific policies, programmes or actions are set out. How is the Council going to take more account of trees, not only in planning and development decisions, but in the activities of other departments, particularly Highways?

*Jonathan Popper*

