

Your Residents' Association - working for the local community since 1948

Help celebrate 150 years of Alexandra Palace and Park with *By the People: 150 Lifetimes*



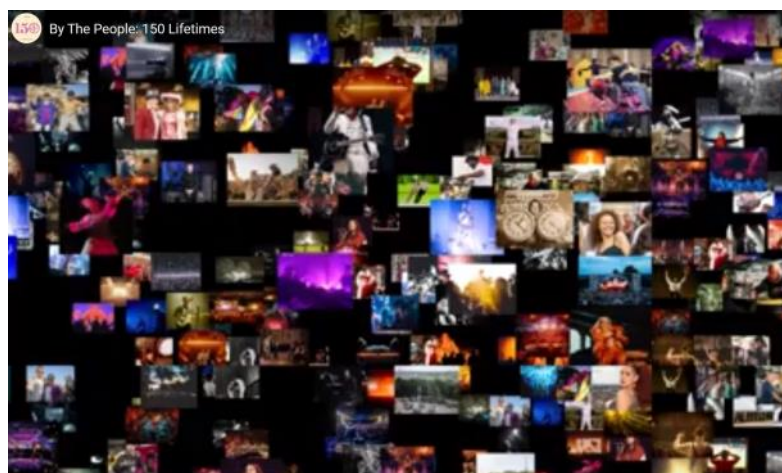
November/December 2023

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Membership

A programme of community events and projects celebrating the 150th anniversary of our local Alexandra Palace will culminate with the creation of a major new exhibition, *By the People: 150 Lifetimes*, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and set to be unveiled in early 2024.

This commemorative project encourages collective discussions about peoples' connections to Alexandra Palace, past and present; focussing on topics such as heritage, identity and place. A giant photo mosaic will be created and displayed in the Palace's East Court.

Simply upload a selfie, portrait picture of you, a friend or family member, or a favourite photo of the Park and Palace, together with a short explanation of your Ally Pally story. The process takes less than a minute and just a few clicks of your computer. Visit thepeoplespicture.com/alexandra-palace-150/ as soon as possible to contribute to this great project.



Helen Marshall, whose work includes *The People's Monarch* and other major projects across the world, will then use your picture along with thousands of others, to construct her final work.

In addition to the permanent display at the Palace, *By the People* will also be displayed online, with the opportunity to explore the collected stories of all those taking part. Projects related to the programme will also be carried out in local schools, libraries and care homes, to ensure everyone in our community has the opportunity to participate.

Local planning round up



Passersby will have noticed that the former Woolworth/Poundland building is behind wraps with work going on behind. There is some positive news about what hopefully will emerge in due course. The developers have scaled back their proposals with regards to the number of flats to be provided. The result is that the restored building would be of similar dimensions to the existing one rather than being a storey higher as was originally proposed. This means that it will have a less overbearing and intrusive appearance in the Broadway than was feared. The submitted planning application also shows that the windows will line up better with the ones next door. Full details can be found on the Haringey planning website using reference HGY/2023/1854. It is very much hoped that the earlier proposals (for which the developers unfortunately already have permission) have been dropped. Incidentally, it is not known who might take the ground floor commercial unit but there are rumours of a German supermarket.

Members were shocked to read in the last newsletter about the application to build eight houses on the site of the Grove tennis courts on the Rookfield Estate. So far there have been around 300 objections including one from the Association. It is not known when the application will be considered by the Planning Sub-Committee.

Work is under way to build new homes on the site of the former Cranwood care home. Graffiti is an issue especially given the large amount of hoarding around the site. The Association reports instances and the contractor has been repainting the hoarding alongside Woodside Avenue.

Finally, some disappointing news about the bid to have the listed building status of Alexandra Palace listed building status raised which we covered in the last newsletter. Historic England has decided that it should remain at Grade II.

John Crompton

MHFGA Committee members

Chairman

[vacancy - see advert on page 8]

chairman@mhfga.org

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Tree Officer

Jonathan Popper

treeofficer@mhfga.org



Latest local stories on our Facebook page
facebook.com/MHFGA



Local stories and links on our X (Twitter) feed
[@theMHFGA](https://twitter.com/theMHFGA)



Great photos on our Instagram account
[@mhfga](https://www.instagram.com/mhfga)

Visit our website www.mhfga.org for lots of information about the local area including old photos and films of Muswell Hill, useful local links, MHFGA archives and John Hajdu's fascinating history of the Association.

Improvements to Coldfall Wood

It will be of no surprise to members that our former Chairman John Hajdu, continues to push for improvements to our neighbourhood. Our membership secretary, Agnes Gomori, recently met up with John to discuss a recent success - a new path in Coldfall Wood, replacing the previously uneven (and often muddy) surface which leads from the wood to the playground at the other end of the Muswell Hill Playing Fields.



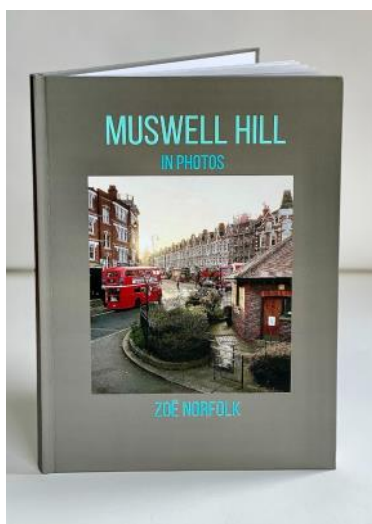
John said, *"The idea of having a path as well as renewing the equipment at the playground at the bottom of the field came about when we walked in the mud on our many walks and when we took our grandchildren to the playing area. It was supported by the Friends of Coldfall Wood."*



Agnes also took a photo of John in front of the iron gate installed 30 years ago thanks to him. John adds the background, *"It was in 1993 when I was the Chairman of the Friends of Coldfall Wood that I approached somebody who had a wrought iron shop. He kindly did the work free of charge."*

Coldfall Wood is a lovely place to visit and we are sure local residents will enjoy the new path and admire the gate for many years to come.

Zoe Norfolk's Muswell Hill photography book is now out!



Many people have enjoyed the wonderful photography of our Social Media Officer, Zoe Norfolk, on Instagram, Facebook and X (Twitter). You can now peruse her best photographs of Muswell Hill in a lovely new book (and it would make a great Christmas present).

Zoe will be selling the book at the Ally Pally farmers market between 10am and 3pm on:
Sunday 22nd October and
Sunday 12th November.

She will also be at the Muswell Hill Creatives Fair on St James's Square on Saturday 25th November between 10.30am and 4pm.

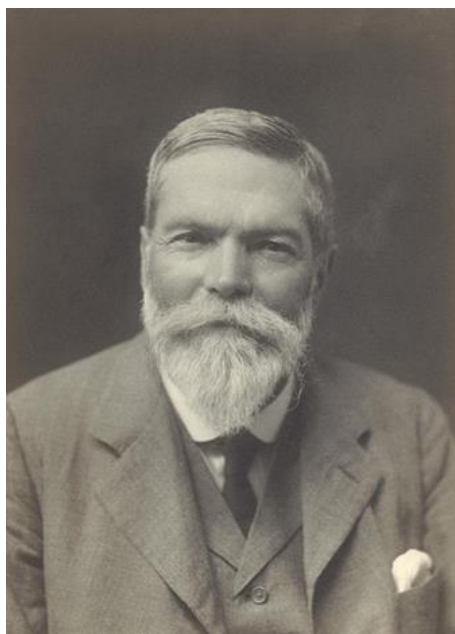
The book can also be bought online at zoe-norfolk.sumupstore.com



A new series on Muswell Hill's Green Plaques - William Barlow, crystal clear and on the moon

Muswell Hill's Green Plaques commemorate notable or famous local former residents. The idea for the scheme, subsequently adopted for the whole of Haringey, came from the then Chair of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, John Hajdu. This first plaque was unveiled on 3rd October 2007.

Kelly's 1890 Directory of Middlesex shows Barlow Wm. living at Hillfield, Muswell Hill Road – today at the corner of Hillfield Park and the Broadway. Those were the days before James Edmonson's and W.J. Collins's huge suburban development of Muswell Hill, and from his large, detached house and spreading garden he would have had an uninterrupted view of the railway viaduct and rolling fields. There, after a sizable inheritance from his father's estate allowed him to stop working, he could pursue his passion: crystallography.



Today, crystallography is essential for the study of life sciences, geology, and materials science. It is used to reveal the structure of viruses, proteins, nucleic acids, gemstones, and industrially important substances. Back in the late 19th century, it was a relatively new and abstract science and frankly quite unusual for an amateur to study. In fact, Barlow was not an academic and though he was interested in science and mathematics from his days as a student, he had worked in the building trade before becoming financially independent.

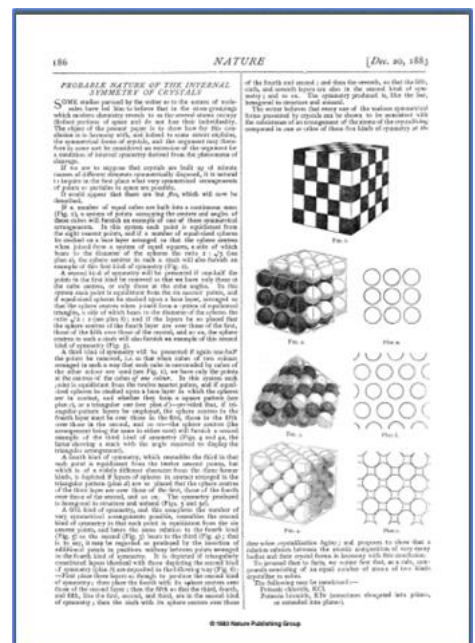
He developed his knowledge and understanding of the nature of crystals after meeting one of the leading lights of German crystallography, Paul Groth, and by regularly attending meetings of British scientific societies. Writing in Muswell Hill in 1883, Barlow published in the authoritative science magazine *Nature* the first of his papers that aimed to give a total explanation of the structural nature of crystals.

Though others had arrived earlier to the same conclusions mathematically, Barlow's approach was uniquely visual. Maybe for the first time in a scientific paper, he used graphics (today they would be called

infographics) to represent atomic structures in three dimensions and make the information easily understandable at a glance. Even after his death in 1934, his graphics would continue to appear in scientific papers and textbooks.

In the world of science in the twentieth century, it is rare for anyone to conduct experiments or conclude hypotheses whilst an amateur and become an established name in science. William Barlow achieved this. In 1908, he was elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 1915 became President of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain. In 1976, Dorsa Barlow a 110 km long ridge on the moon in Mare Tranquillitatis, near the border with Mare Serenitatis, was named after him. And in 2010 the mineral Barlowite was named in his honour.

We would like to think that Barlow would have enjoyed “receiving” the first Muswell Hill Green Plaque as much as these other recognitions!



The next in our series on local sports clubs - North London Stars FC

North London Stars FC, founded in September 2022, is a grassroots football club with two training venues in Muswell Hill and Finchley. The club provides football opportunities for children aged 6-17, offering both recreational and competitive options, ensuring that all children, regardless of their abilities, can join and benefit from high-quality coaching tailored to their individual needs.



The origins of NLS FC trace back to the collaboration between co-owners Bracken Norman and Fabio Carmo, who had previously embarked on separate ventures to establish their own football clubs. In 2015, Bracken initiated Little Stars, a football club designed to provide children of all skill levels with the chance to engage in the sport. Emphasising individual development and recreational enjoyment, Little Stars earned a reputation for its friendly and inclusive environment within the community.



As the club expanded and nurtured young talents, a need arose to extend its reach. In response, competitive teams were introduced for both boys and girls under the name Highgate Woods FC. This expansion allowed both genders to experience competitive football through participation in the Regents' Park Football League.

In 2019, Fabio established Sintra AFA, aimed at bridging the gap between competitive grassroots football and professional academy football. The club's focus was to recruit and develop players to excel in top grassroots leagues in London while providing opportunities for them to be scouted by professional academies. Players aged 10 and above were welcomed to join, and Sintra AFA

achieved success in the Harrow Youth League and Camden and Islington League, earning recognition for their attractive and inclusive style of football.

In 2022, Bracken and Fabio merged their expertise to form North London Stars FC, which now serves a wide range of age groups, including U7 to U16 Girls and U17 Boys. The club's age groups are divided into three sections: recreational, semi-competitive, and competitive.



Recreational and semi-competitive sections focus on nurturing individual skills and providing a fun and inclusive experience for all, regardless of prior football experience or abilities. In contrast, the competitive groups at North London Stars FC follow a comprehensive programme with multiple weekly sessions, developing both individual skills and the collective aspects of the game.

With a coach-to-children ratio of 1:8, NLS FC offers substantial support for players, creating an environment conducive to their development. All coaches undergo DBS/CRC checks conducted by the club, and lead coaches hold coaching badges from the FA or UEFA, ensuring a high standard of coaching and safety for the players.

As NLS FC continues to grow and welcome children aged 7 and above, Little Stars remains a welcoming entry point for newcomers aged 6 and below. Situated in the scenic Highgate Woods, Little Stars provides multiple Saturday morning sessions, ensuring a safe and accessible introduction to the sport for the youngest aspiring athletes.

If you are interested in knowing more about NLS FC or Little Stars, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@northlondonstarsfc.com and at www.littlestarscoaching.co.uk or via phone call / SMS / Whatsapp on 07389 811990 or 07564 703159.



Recent members' meetings and visits

In advance of our 2024 programme of events, we look back on the final Association meetings and visits of 2023.

Alexandra Palace and Park Walking Tour

An enthusiastic group of Association members joined an insightful walking tour of Alexandra Palace and Park on 17th September. Led by experienced guide and Ally Pally volunteer, Julian Woodfield, the walkers were treated to a commentary covering the history and current operations of the Palace and Park.

Julian wove fascinating – and sometimes barely believable – insights into his narrative. From the fire that destroyed the Palace just 12 days after first opening, through the spectacles of parachuting from hot air balloons, cowboys and the circus to the early television broadcasts, war-time internment and PoW camps to the more recent, but now lost, ski slope. After a brief and unplanned musical treat at CUFOS, the tour concluded outside the theatre and ice rink, teeing up the possibility of a future tour inside the Palace itself.



Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Climate-ready Muswell Hill

On 21st September, Muswell Hill Sustainability Group (MHSG) committee member Dermot Barnes provided an insightful and thought-provoking presentation on the drivers and impact of climate change on our environment, and mitigating actions that can be taken at a local level.

Starting with the challenges that climate change presents at a global level, Dermot distilled the issues and challenges down to actions that can be taken at a local and household. Dermot also covered the work of the MHSG and, in particular, its recent successes in providing sustainable power via its en10ergy social enterprise and the upcoming annual Green Open House events. The session then moved into a discussion amongst the audience, mainly around the 'trilemma' of balancing energy security, affordability and sustainability.

Cherry Tree Wood – Past, Present and Future

On 26th October, Roger Chapman, Chair of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, provided a talk covering the history, current activities and plans for Cherry Tree Wood. Roger's talk also covered the important work undertaken by the Friends to protect and enhance the park and woodland.

Whilst Roman records cover the area, Roger's talk started in 604AD when what is now known as Cherry Tree Wood was first recorded as being part of the Bishop of London's hunting park. The church's ownership ended in 1915 when Finchley Urban District Council purchased the land for recreational use. As well as hunting, over the ages the land provided wood for construction and burning, served as a dumping ground for waste (hence, the area was once known as Dirthouse Wood!) and contained a water cress farm. Now, the facilities in the park include tennis and basketball courts, a playground, a café and public toilets. The park has been host to the East Finchley Festival, the next edition of which will be its 50th!

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are engaged in all aspects of the park's maintenance and regularly undertake litter picking sessions, creation and maintenance of flowerbeds, hazel and willow weaving, the planting of trees (including the recent planting of fruit trees) and the monitoring and recording of wildlife. Current challenges facing the park include the frequent flooding of the field and neighbouring residential development plans. Volunteers are always welcome!



Local organisations

ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK

The Alexandra Park Visitor Centre near the Grove car park is open **every Sunday between 2 and 4pm**. Events and visitor information always available at www.alexandrapalace.com/

FRIENDS OF COLD FALL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELDS

Regular meetings on **first Tuesday of the month 7.30pm** www.coldfallwoods.co.uk for more information

FREEHOLD COMMUNITY CENTRE

9 Alexandra Road, N10 2EY
Please email freehold2003@gmail.com or ring 07935 324578

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD

Friends of Queen's Wood working parties on **last Sunday of the month from 10.30am**. Tools provided but bring suitable gloves
For all events meet outside The Lodge off Muswell Hill Road
www.fqw.org.uk for more information

HARINGEY STREET TREE SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

Haringey Council has partnered with the charity - Trees for Streets - to make it easier for residents to donate towards tree planting in local streets and parks. **Deadline is Sunday 19th Nov** - visit sponsor.treesforstreets.org/provider/haringey-council

HARINGTON SCHEME

Providing unique opportunities for young adults with learning disabilities and/or difficulties. More details at www.harington.org.uk

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lots of resources and interesting books to buy (including new "100 Stories from the Archives", plus details of regular events at www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

Contact Ann Anderson on 020 8340 8335 or www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk

LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

Contact Barbara Penney on 020 8883 0010 or email barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Now in its 110th year, a great network for anyone interested in gardening. Full information at www.bloomingn10.co.uk/
Contact: Jenny Kruss on 020 8442 0031 or bloomingn10@outlook.com

MUSWELL HILL BOWLING CLUB

King's Avenue N10 1PB (next to No. 36)
Founded in 1901 and one of the oldest clubs in north London. Full information at www.muswellhillbowlingclub.co.uk – or contact Richard Johnstone at richardjohnstone@gmail.com

MUSWELL HILL CHILD CONTACT CENTRE

The Contact Centre, 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 www.mhmc-contactcentre.org.uk or by email at contact.centre@mhmc.org.uk

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Meet on **Wednesday evenings** at Jackson's Lane Community Centre, and warmly welcome new members. Information at www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk or email contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk

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.facebook.com/muswellhillwelcomes/

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

Tickets for winter concert of Bach's Magnificat in D and Handel's Laudate pueri on **Saturday 25th Nov 7.30pm** at St James Church, N10 3DB are available at www.northlondonchorus.org

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Lunchtime concerts at the church on Alexandra Park Road on **Saturday 11th Nov 1pm** - 4 hands and melodies by Satie, Evans and more - Robert Evans, Veronica Chacon and Jerome Royet; **Saturday 2nd Dec 1pm** - French melodies and more - Veronica Chacon and Jerome Royet
Details at www.alexandrapark.org

ST. JAMES CHURCH

Details including groups and concerts at www.st-james.org.uk/

Please send detail of any events for our January / February newsletter by 1st December via editor@mhfga.org

Changes on the high street



We benefit from a lively local retail area - here are some recent and forthcoming changes (see our [Facebook page](#) for the latest news):

- The charity Crisis is opening a shop where Sue Ryder used to be
- The PhoneRepairs4u shop on the Broadway has been sold but we don't yet know what is going to open here
- A reminder that Halifax is closing its Muswell Hill branch on 15th November. The nearest branch will be Wood Green



Photos: Zoe Norfolk



You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

14th December - 14th January
Upstairs at the Gatehouse

Heartwarming, hilarious songs brought to life by a wonderful five-piece band, Clark Gesner's 1967 musical based on Charles M. Schulz's beloved Peanuts characters urges us to find happiness in the everyday and serves as a reminder that we're all just grown-up children trying our best to figure it out.

Details about this and other shows at www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com/



A Christmas Carol

24th November - 7th January
Alexandra Palace theatre

Following a phenomenally successful run in 2021, Mark Gatiss's acclaimed retelling of Dickens' winter ghost story returns with a brilliant cast including Keith Allen and Peter Forbes.

Tickets for this and other events available at

www.alexandrapalace.com

Bad driving!

Members of the Association have been in touch about instances of antisocial or illegal driving in Muswell Hill – speeding on the Broadway at night and by commercial vehicles in residential areas during the day.

While these are unlikely to currently meet the threshold for installation of a speed camera or traffic calming measures, residents can report them directly to the police via their online reporting tool RoadSafe London

met.police.uk/roadsafelondon

We would also encourage members to flag any further examples to the Association, and we will raise them with the local authority and our local community police officers on your behalf.

Chris White

New Chair wanted!

Are you interested in being our new Chair? To find out more about the role, please get in touch with our Hon Secretary, John Crompton, by emailing secretary@mhfga.org

We look forward to hearing from you!

Membership

If you live, work, or just enjoy spending time in Muswell Hill, why not join over 700 other members of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association. For just £10 annual membership for households, or £25 for businesses and organisations, you can support our actions and campaigns; receive six bi-monthly newsletters with local news and events; receive email updates with community news and developments; attend members' meetings; and come to our annual guided local walk. Join at www.mhfga.org/membership

We encourage existing members not already set up on Direct Debit to do so at www.membermojo.co.uk/mhfga/renew where you can also renew using PayPal. For any membership queries, please get in touch via membership@mhfga.org

We are delighted to welcome the **30 new members** who joined at our stall at the recent Best of Muswell Hill Festival (see photo above of our welcoming Committee members, taken by Patricia Pearl).

Our business and organisation

members are key parts of our community. You can find links to their websites at

www.mhfga.org/directory

225 The Jewellery Exchange
Ambitious About Autism
Angela Rose
Baby Sensory
Broadway Beauty
Broadway Pet Stores
Broadway Pharmacy
Capital Gardens

Children's Bookshop
Claire Avant Yoga
Clissold Arms
Cosi Homewares
CPotential
Dunn's Artisan Bakers
East Finchley Open Artists
Fanshaw Books
Fornaro Pizza
Freehold Community Association
Gallalock
Gibfit30
Green & Blossoms
Greens of Highgate
Hollickwood Primary School
House of Books
JHK Estate Agents

Lambert Welch Kitchens
Lunablu
Men @ 107
Misk Boutique
Muswell Flyer
Muswell Hill Bowling Club
Muswell Hill 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
Norfolk House School
North London Chorus
North London Symphony Orchestra
Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd
Picture Framing Muswell Hill
Planet Organic
Robert Linsky Optometrist
Roni's Bagel Bakery
Sally Bourne Interiors
Snappy Snaps Muswell Hill
Sounds & Shapes (V&J)
St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park

St James's Church, Muswell Hill
Studio Moe Ltd
Tatlers Estate Agents
The Cut Barbershop
The Good Rooms
The Harington Scheme
The Mossy Well
The People's Pantry
The Real Greek
The Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics
Total Boxer
W Martyn
Walter Purkis & Sons
WAVE Café
Woodland Tree Surgery
Yogamatters

