

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



## January / February 2024

- 2 Ancient woodland award  
MHFGA contacts
- 3 Zoe Norfolk photos of  
Muswell Hill
- 4 Green plaques - Oliver and  
Adelaide Tambo
- 5 Local sports clubs -  
Aquarius Archery Club
- 6 Astrid Artisan Bakery
- 7 Local organisations  
Changes on the high street
- 8 Local shows  
Conservation work on the  
Parkland Walk  
Membership

2023 was a very special year for the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association. Celebrating **75 years** as the champion of our local community and environment provided an opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our past and current members, volunteers, supporters and committee members including our retiring Chair, John Hajdu. It was wonderful to see so many people join us at our 75th birthday party in May, attend our talks, join us on our guided walks, read and contribute to our newsletter, engage with us directly and through social media on many local planning, environment and other issues...and many, many more ways we collectively work to improve the quality of life in our area.

During our first 75 years, the Association has led many notable campaigns, including successful fights against:

- the proposed Archway Road motorway scheme;
- Haringey Council's proposal to cut down nearly 4,000 street trees in the western half of the borough;
- the threat to demolish the famous art deco Muswell Hill Odeon (now Muswell Hill Everyman).

Today, our membership is almost 800 strong. In addition to individual household memberships, we also have corporate members – local businesses, institutions and organisations that actively support our work for the community - see page 8 for the list of current corporate members.

Through the work of our committee and volunteers, we represent local views on such matters as planning applications, traffic and transport, and provide a voice for local opinion on many areas of wider interest. For example, we have representatives on several amenity and public bodies, including the Alexandra Palace Statutory Advisory Committee and the local Conservation Area Advisory Committees. Our views are sought by the officers and councillors of the local borough, Haringey. We also maintain contacts with other appropriate organisations including the local police.

Of course, the strength of the Association depends completely on its members, supporters and volunteers. As we head into 2024, and into our fourth quarter century, we invite any members who would like to find out about how to get more involved in the work of the Association, and anyone with ideas and feedback on our work, to get in touch with our committee members - see page 2 for contact details.

**Please also spread the word about joining our membership to your friends and neighbours!**

## Recognition for Haringey's ancient woodland projects

Haringey won the Community London Tree and Woodland award at the London Tree and Woodland Awards in November for its Ancient Woodland Restoration projects in Bluebell Woods, Coldfall Woods and Queens Wood.



The award is for ancient woodland management projects that have been inspired, driven and delivered by local community groups. Haringey council worked closely with various Friends of Groups (Queens, Coldfall & Bluebell Woods) as well as the wider community, The Conservation Volunteers and the Woodland Trust to codesign work to protect our irreplaceable ancient woodlands from ecological degradation and improve biodiversity.

More detail about the awards at [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

## MHFGA meetings and events

After a bumper year of meetings, events and guided walks, we are looking forward to organising more events for members in 2024. Details of forthcoming events will be in our next newsletter and the latest plans are always available at [mhfga.org/events](http://mhfga.org/events)

We will also confirm the date of our 2024 AGM in the next issue.

## New Chair wanted!

Are you interested in being our new Chair following the retirement of our record-breaking John Hajdu? To find out more about the role, please get in touch with our Hon Secretary, John Crompton, by emailing [secretary@mhfga.org](mailto:secretary@mhfga.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!

## MHFGA Committee members

### Chairman

[vacancy - see advert above]  
chairman@mhfga.org

### Planning

Nick Barr  
planning@mhfga.org

### Treasurer

treasurer@mhfga.org

### Website

Alex Vincenti  
webmaster@mhfga.org

### Secretary / CAAC / Alexandra Palace Statutory Advisory Committee

John Crompton  
secretary@mhfga.org

### Administrator

Laura Bugden

### Membership

Agnes Gomori  
membership@mhfga.org

### Meetings

Nigel Clark  
meetings@mhfga.org

### Publicity and Social Media

Zoe Norfolk  
social@mhfga.org

### Alexandra Palace Consultative Committee / X (Twitter)

Duncan Neill  
ap@mhfga.org

### Environment / Green Spaces

Brian Livingston  
environment@mhfga.org

### Transport / Highways

Chris White  
transport@mhfga.org

### Newsletter Editor

Duncan Neill  
editor@mhfga.org

### Tree Officer

Jonathan Popper  
treeofficer@mhfga.org



Latest local stories on our Facebook page  
[facebook.com/MHFGA](https://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](http://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.

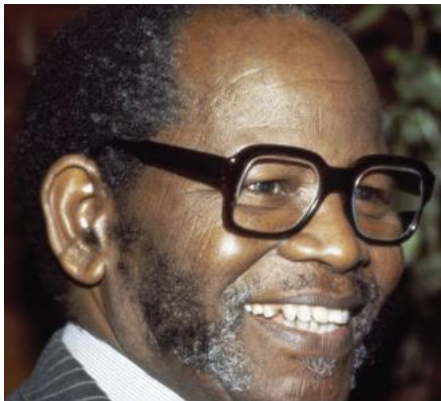


## ***The second in our series on Muswell Hill's Green Plaques - Oliver and Adelaide Tambo, leaders in the fight against apartheid***

***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.***

Oliver Tambo lived in Muswell Hill during the period of his exile from South Africa from the late 1960s until the early 1990s. Tambo's time here coincided with his leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) and his efforts to mobilise international support against apartheid.

During his stay in Muswell Hill, Tambo established the ANC's international headquarters at 51 Alexandra Park Road, which served as a base for ANC activities and as a meeting place for anti-apartheid activists. The house became a significant location for Tambo and his wife, Adelaide, who led fundraising initiatives to support the ANC's activities and the welfare of the South African people. They organised events, engaged with international donors and supporters, and worked tirelessly to secure resources for the anti-apartheid struggle.



Oliver Tambo's house was purchased by the South African Government in 2010 as a historic monument. The house now bears a plaque in honour of Oliver and Adelaide.

There is also a statue of Oliver Tambo in the park opposite the house, a park previously known as Albert Road Recreation Ground but which now bears his name.



The Tambo family became part of a supportive community in the UK, including other exiled anti-apartheid activists, political allies, and sympathetic individuals who were committed to the fight against apartheid.

After spending over 30 years in exile, Oliver returned to South Africa in 1990 following the unbanning of political organisations by the government. He then played a significant role in the negotiations that led to the end of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic South Africa.

More information about the Tambos can be found at [www.tambofoundation.org.za](http://www.tambofoundation.org.za)

*Portrait photos courtesy of the Oliver & Adelaide Tambo Foundation*

## ***The next in our series on local sports clubs - Aquarius Archery Club***

Aquarius Archery Club is based in the tranquil grounds of Fortis Green Covered Reservoir which we use all year round. During the Winter season we have indoor shooting sessions at the Archers Academy. The archery club was founded in 1966 although there had been a tennis and social club on the site since 1923.

The club is affiliated to our national governing body **Archery GB** and through them our international body **World Archery (WA)**, allowing the club members to shoot and compete at other clubs and events in the UK.



*Photo: Carolyn Collins*

Coaching is available on request and we have regular “improvers” sessions for new archers who may want advice. The club has several coaches who can provide coaching though they are all volunteers. We try to be supportive to all our archers and help in whatever way we can.

All club members need to have completed a recognised Archery GB beginners course before they can join. We run beginners courses each year after Easter once the evenings are light enough and we do take new members who have completed recognised courses elsewhere.

There is a handicap system for archers, similar to the golf handicap system and a classification system which gives badges as the milestones are reached. The club records officer manages all the scores with the help of some specialised software.

There are several club shoots each year including a club championship and an indoor championship. We also have social events such as a family and friends have a go and barbeque in the summer and a bonfire night event on November 5th.

Aquarius archers enter many local and national competitions and take part in league matches.

There is a summer league in Middlesex where we visit other clubs and they come to us. In the winter we shoot in “postal” leagues for indoor and outdoor competitions within Middlesex and nationally. We have recurve, longbow and barebow teams competing in all the leagues and archers of all abilities can shoot and get into the teams. The recurve and longbow archers often win in the leagues. Barebow is new to the leagues this year.

Much more information including contact details can be found at the club website **[www.aquarius-archers.org.uk](http://www.aquarius-archers.org.uk)**

Archery is an inclusive sport and we have club members from age 10 up to 95 and we cater for all abilities. Currently we have over one hundred members. We shoot a variety of bow styles from English longbow to Olympic recurve and barebow recurve is very popular just now. Other traditional bows can be used too.

Some of our archers shoot outdoors all year around, weather permitting even in snow! There is a mix of recreational and competitive archers and it is up to the individual how and when they wish to shoot.



## The story behind Astrid Artisan Bakery

**Just before Christmas, I caught up with Charlotte O’Kelly, the talented local baker behind Astrid, opening imminently on Alexandra Park Road...**

*“My family and I have lived in Muswell Hill for 12 years and we are proud to be part of our lovely community. Back what feels like a lifetime ago, in the pandemic of 2020, I started offering delivered Breakfast Boxes of breads, cakes and pastries from my Muswell Hill home kitchen. A mix of trusted family recipes, exciting new ideas and French classics learned when I studied boulangerie and viennoiserie at Le Cordon Bleu London. I called the new bakery project ‘Astrid’, my middle name, and got to work.*



*Every week I offered a revolving selection of products, changing to suit the seasonal produce available, what I*

*wanted to bake and what my customers requested. Every week without fail, the Breakfast Boxes sold out, often before I could even announce what was going to be in them! My local customers loved the novelty of a box of fresh baked goods arriving on their doorstep in time for breakfast, and - to my delight - they absolutely loved the products.*

*Since then, my annual Christmas Eve, Mother’s Day and Valentine’s Breakfast Boxes have always been big hits, and thrillingly, have become a tradition for some families. Everyone loves the themed selections too... an Alpine Breakfast Box containing pink praline brioche, apple strudel Danish and muesli bread; a Campfire selection with s’mores croissant, baked apple cruffin and hedgerow Danish; and an American - inspired Fourth of July Box with an apple cinnamon bear claw; Red, White & Blue Danish and red velvet cake.”*

### The Astrid “Big Five”

Cinnamon Bun  
Pistachio Croissant  
Vanilla Custard Doughnut  
Lemon Meringue Croissant  
Clementine Cruffin

*my customers - had outstripped my capacity. After a long search - and even longer negotiations - I have secured an absolutely tiny space on Alexandra Park Road in the perfect spot. It is small and strangely shaped, but it will house the commercial equipment I needed to scale up, it has a shopfront so I can finally meet my customers in person, and it feels like the next right step for a tiny bakery with big ambitions.*

*My team is currently in the middle of a refurbishment programme which will run into early 2024 and we can’t wait to get in and get baking as soon as possible. At the moment, we plan to continue delivering Breakfast Boxes and celebration cakes locally, as well as offering fresh viennoiserie, cakes by the slice and our famous doughnuts with coffee from our new bakery!”*

The new bakery can be found at:

Astrid Artisan Bakery, 118A Alexandra Park Road N10 2AH and [www.astridbakery.co.uk](http://www.astridbakery.co.uk)



## 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/](http://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](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk) for more information

### FREEHOLD COMMUNITY CENTRE

9 Alexandra Road, N10 2EY  
Please email [freehold2003@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.fqw.org.uk) for more information

### HARINGTON SCHEME

Providing unique opportunities for young adults with learning disabilities and/or difficulties. More details at [www.harington.org.uk](http://www.harington.org.uk)

### HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lots of resources and interesting local history books to buy plus details of regular events at [www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk](http://www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

### HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

Contact Ann Anderson on 020 8340 8335 or [www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.hornseypensionersactiongroup.org.uk)

### LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

Contact Barbara Penney on 020 8883 0010 or email [barbarapenney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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/](http://www.bloomingn10.co.uk/)  
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)  
Founded in 1901 and one of the oldest clubs in north London.  
Full information at [www.muswellhillbowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.muswellhillbowlingclub.co.uk) – or contact Richard Johnstone at [richardjohnstone@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.mhmc-contactcentre.org.uk) or by email at [contactcentre@mhmc.org.uk](mailto:contactcentre@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](http://www.muswellhillphoto.org.uk) or email [contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/muswellhillwelcomes/)

### NORTH LONDON CHORUS

Tickets for the next concert with performances of Ethel Smyth – The Prison and Brahms – Nänie on **Saturday 16th March 7.30pm** at St James Church, N10 3DB will be available at [www.northlondonchorus.org](http://www.northlondonchorus.org)

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Lunchtime concerts at the church on Alexandra Park Road organised by V&J on **Saturday 13th January** - Duo Mercadante - R.Schumann, Alice M. Smith and N. Rota - clarinet and piano; **Saturday 17th February** - Festival of Chapels - G.P Telemann & more - string ensemble; **Saturday 16th March** - Muswell Hill Violin Studio - J.S Bach, A. Vivaldi, G.P Telemann and more  
Details at [www.alexandrapark.org](http://www.alexandrapark.org)

### ST. JAMES CHURCH

Details including groups and concerts at [www.st-james.org.uk/](http://www.st-james.org.uk/)

**Please send detail of any events for our March / April newsletter by 1st February via [editor@mhfga.org](mailto:editor@mhfga.org)**

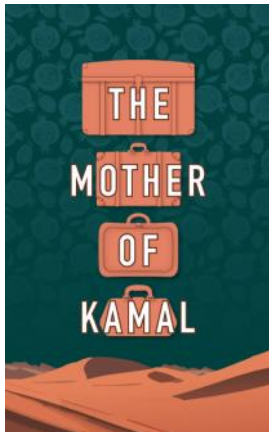
## Changes on the high street

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

- JHK, one of north London's last independent estate agencies, has unfortunately closed. We will miss its unique shopfront which featured model houses and other interesting objects. Duke's Pharmacy plan to move into the unit (right)
- The new Crisis charity shop opened in early December
- Refurbishment of the former Poundland shop continues. We understand a German supermarket may be opening there



Photo: Zoe Norfolk



**The Mother of Kamal**  
19th - 28th  
January

Upstairs at  
the  
Gatehouse

Following a  
sold-out run  
at the 2023  
Camden

Fringe, writer

Dina Ibrahim brings a new, extended full-length telling of this powerful, poignant, warmly humorous, gently satirical, and intriguing piece of personal family history. Blending traditional narrative drama with elements drawn from classical, physical, epic and ensemble theatre, this is *"theatre of the soul to sustain us... A symphony of survival"* (International Times).

Details about this and other shows including musicals and magic shows at [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com)

## Why not help conservation work on the Parkland Walk?

Over the past year, the Conservation Volunteers (TCV) have been busy across the length of the Parkland Walk, including the Stroud Green meadows, the Highgate Bowl, the approaches to Stanhope Bridge as well as the Muswell Hill entrance. On **Tuesday 30th January from 10am to 3pm**, they will be running a session at the Milton Park entrance and all help is welcome. Work will include coppicing hazel and bashing laurel on the bank sides, creating and adding to dead hedges and protecting the growth in the new regeneration areas. Meet at the Milton Park entrance, N6 5PZ.



This event is being run by Haringey Conservation Volunteers. You can simply turn up although it's worth registering your interest directly with them at [www.tcv.org.uk/london/haringey](http://www.tcv.org.uk/london/haringey) so that they can contact you if there are any changes.

You can keep up to date with all things related to Parkland Walk, the longest linear nature reserve in London and stretching from Finsbury Park to Ally Pally at [www.parkland-walk.org.uk](http://www.parkland-walk.org.uk)

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:membership@mhfga.org)

**We welcomed many new members in 2023 and we are looking forward to meeting old, recent and even more new members at our events during 2024. We also love to hear from you any time - see page 2 for contact details.**

### Our business and organisation

members are key parts of our community. You can find links to their websites at [www.mhfga.org/directory](http://www.mhfga.org/directory)

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  
House of Books  
Lambert Welch Kitchens  
Lunablu

Magmay Books  
Men @ 107  
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  
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 Hub  
Woodland Tree Surgery  
Yogamatters