

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

CUFOS and Fortis Green Kids' Club win Community Fund Awards from the MHFGA



CUFOS (Community Use For the Old Station) is a charity set up to run the Community Centre in the former Alexandra Palace Railway Station (at the top of Dukes Avenue), currently used by more than 30 local organisations for classes, meetings and leisure activities. The full amount requested (£1,140) has been granted for the essential refurbishment of the floor in the main hall, necessary for movement classes, mother and baby groups and all users that need the floor to be well maintained and easy to clean. Due to Covid-19 and the consequent decline in bookings, CUFOS could not afford to recondition

the deteriorating floor, which affected bookings for the space, and therefore the funds to run the Community Centre.

Fortis Green Kids Club is a self-funded charity providing out-of-school childcare for children aged 4 to 11 since 1992. It also provides school holiday camps during term breaks. Fortis Green Kids Club receives £360 to buy new equipment and materials to increase the activities' reach and support more children in their social, physical and creative development.

The MHFGA received 13 applications for the 2024 Community Fund for wide-ranging and deserving causes, showing the need for financial support for formal and informal projects to benefit the community. Now in its third year, the Association hopes to repeat its Community Fund in 2025 with an increased grant for more initiatives.

We would like to thank Alex Vincenti, Zoe Norfolk and John Hajdu for organising this year's Fund Awards.

January / February 2025

- 2 Meetings & events plan for 2025
Changes around the Broadway
MHFGA contacts
- 3 Latest news on Muswell Hill
Library
- 4 Green plaques - Priscilla
Wakefield
- 5 Cranwood development latest
and drop-in event for local
residents
Aldi opens in Muswell Hill
- 6 Zoe Norfolk photographs of
Muswell Hill
- 7 Local organisations
Join our committee
- 8 Local shows
Business networking
Membership



Join us for our next members' event - Talk and Q&A with local police

8pm on Wednesday 5th February
North Bank, 28 Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, N10 1PP

Join Sgt Sam Hemstead and colleague from our local police force for an informative discussion.

MHFGA meeting and events plan for 2025

It was great to enjoy a social evening with some of our members at Muswell Hill Bowling Club. Despite a very cold November evening, it was fun to meet new and old friends, and enjoy seasonal treats in this fantastic venue (see photo on right).



We have a packed schedule of events for 2025 - full details with dates and times will be emailed to members in advance, published on our website and included in future newsletters.

Wednesday 5th February 8pm - Talk and Q&A with local police representatives (see front page)

March - Local guided walk

April - Evening talk by Maureen Paton on her new historic crime novel and the research behind it

Thursday 15th May 8pm - AGM and members' social

June - Local guided walk

September - Evening talk

November - early Christmas Holiday Social Event

We will also be organising family volunteering opportunities such as local litter picking.

Della Deme

Changes around the Broadway

See our [Facebook page](#) for the latest news:

- **Creature Comforts**, a veterinary practice, is opening in the old Natwest unit on the Broadway (see photo right, by Zoe Norfolk)
- The former **Barclays Bank building** is now expected to become the site of a nursery.
- **Daniel Footwear** is closing its Muswell Hill branch at the end of January, after eight years on the Broadway.



MHFGA Committee members

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[vacancy]

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John Crompton

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



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



Great photos on our Instagram account
[@mhfga](https://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.

Latest news on Muswell Hill Library

Muswell Hill Library's main claim to fame, for the last year or two, has been for being seemingly permanently closed for refurbishment. That was the result of the builder going into administration halfway through the work. But with another builder in the harness, that ignominious period will end in the spring of 2025.

Recently, eagle-eyed passers-by along Queens Avenue will have noticed that a steel-and-glass structure has appeared on the right-hand side of the library. That side extension will house a lift and a staircase, while inside the main building an extra toilet is already in position, two big improvements in the facilities offered to visitors.

The Friends of Muswell Hill Library has not been entirely inactive during the closure, despite the lack of an actual Library. Haringey, threatened by bankruptcy, proposed deep cuts to the opening hours of its libraries. We have successfully fought for fair treatment for our library which, because of its closure, was out-of-mind for a large part of the consultation period. As a result, the previous opening hours of 57/week are going to be cut to 41 hours/week, instead of the initially proposed total of just 29 hours/week.



The new extension in Queens Avenue

The **new opening hours** will be:

Monday	9.30am - 6pm
Tuesday	9.30am - 6pm
Wednesday	9.30am - 6pm
Thursday	closed
Friday	9.30am - 6pm
Saturday	10am - 5pm
Sunday	closed

These reduced hours are unlikely to please everyone but we must remember that, with fewer staff and staff-sharing across libraries, whatever happens at one library affects what is possible elsewhere. No library can expect precisely optimal opening times.

In the early months of 2025 the Friends of the Library will have much to think about and do. We will work with Haringey to get our library off to the best possible start, and to continue the work of maximising its usefulness to people in Muswell Hill. The recent improvement in Alexandra Park's refurbished library has been fantastic. We must follow that trajectory, adjusted for our different circumstances.

Our library in Queens Avenue, tucked discreetly in its little corner at the heart of Muswell Hill, is known to too few people. Its glass extension will provide a fantastic opportunity to be more noticed, for example by positioning signs showing what is available, and what is happening, inside the renovated structure. We need to become better at digital publicity. We now have data on how effective previous trial campaigns have been: that will help shape more effective efforts.

There is also the matter of the library stock. Most public libraries select stock on the basis of what is popular across the UK, or across the Borough. Haringey has sometimes followed a one-size fits all, and we will push for more of the kind of stock that appeals to the local community.

We will continue our Saturday events, which saw many packed sessions. We have proposed that themes of facilitating and easing all-age learning, and of helping the "disconnected" to stay in touch. An example of the latter is the large number of older people who are becoming digitally disconnected as new technology evolves.

We will, before very long, need help to make all this happen and will be interested to hear from any who are interested in helping. Reach out by dropping an email to friends.muswell@gmail.com. If you cannot help, but want to stay up-to-date, drop us an email and we can add you to our Newsletter circulation list.



One of the 1938 murals installed upstairs

The eighth in our series on local Green Plaques - Priscilla Wakefield: The Mother of Microsaving

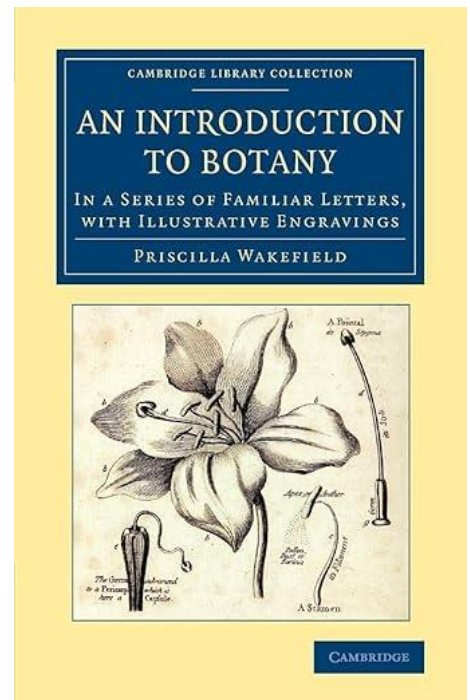
The Green Plaques, originally an idea of the then Chair of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, John Hajdu, were subsequently adopted for the whole of Haringey. This plaque was unveiled on 2nd August 2008 at the High Cross United Reformed Church, near Priscilla Wakefield's home, Sunnyside, in Ship Inn Yard, N15. Sunnyside was demolished in 1910.



Priscilla Wakefield (1751-1832) was a remarkable figure in early feminist thought and philanthropy, whose contributions significantly shaped the landscape of social reform in England. As a Quaker, she was deeply influenced by equality and social justice principles, which guided her life's work. A prolific writer of children's literature and social commentary, economist, and abolitionist, she was a founder of the Lying-in Charity for Women in 1791, established the School of Industry for Girls close to Bruce Grove station in 1792 and created the first savings bank in England in 1798. The Frugality Bank – or Penny Savings Bank - in Tottenham, which she ran for several years, was designed to encourage saving among the poor, particularly women and children, who often lacked access to traditional banking services. The establishment of the savings bank was a significant step towards financial inclusion. Wakefield's contributions laid the groundwork for what would later become the concept of microsaving, the deposit of even modest sums of money to achieve financial security by gradually building wealth.

Her feminist work was groundbreaking for her time. She advocated for women's rights and education and her writings often highlighted the need for women to be financially literate and independent, a radical notion in the late 18th century.

In *Mental Improvement: Or, the Beauties and Wonders of Nature and Art* (1794), Wakefield emphasised the importance of education for women, arguing that intellectual development was crucial for their societal contributions. She encouraged women to engage with the world around them and to appreciate the beauty of nature and art. In *An Introduction to Botany* (1796), one of her most famous books and notable for being the first comprehensive survey of botany written by a woman, she aimed to educate women and promote their intellectual engagement with scientific subjects, thereby asserting their capability in fields traditionally dominated by men. In *Reflections on the Present Condition of the Female Sex* (1798), she directly addressed women's societal roles, advocating for their rights and the necessity of their voices in public discourse. In the book, she contested the male-dominated economic theories of her time, highlighting the limitations placed on women.



Priscilla Wakefield by James Tomson,
National Portrait Gallery

Wakefield's approach was more subtle than that of some of her contemporaries, who took a more confrontational stance against patriarchal norms. She advocated for women's rights through the lens of moral and social responsibility rather than outright rebellion against male authority. Her emphasis on practical issues, such as financial literacy and savings, resonated with a broader audience, and her establishment of the first savings bank was seen as a pragmatic solution to poverty, which could be appreciated even by traditionalists who did not endorse feminist ideals.

The plaque celebrates a trailblazer whose feminist ideals and philanthropic efforts significantly influenced the establishment of social and financial institutions in England. Her legacy of equality, women's rights and social justice continues to resonate today.

Alex Vincenti

100 Woodside Avenue (Cranwood) development latest



As previously reported, Haringey Council is building 41 new homes, of which 32 are council homes and 9 are for private sale, on the site of the former Cranwood House care home on Woodside Avenue. The Association supports the use of the site for social housing, but is opposed to the design that was chosen for this prominent site. The Council did not make any amendments to the design despite detailed objections from us and a very large number of individual local residents.

After what has been a long period of little activity on the site, following the demolition of the previous buildings, the Council has confirmed that main construction works will start in early 2025. Working hours will be 8am to 6pm on weekdays and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays, with deliveries only happening between 9.30am to 3pm on weekdays (important, given St James CofE Primary School is next door) and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

The council has organised an in-person drop-in event for local residents on **Wednesday 22nd January 5pm to 7pm** at the Common House in Marwood Square, off Woodside Avenue, N10 3FB (opposite the site entrance).

You can also sign up to email alerts at cranwood.commonplace.is

Aldi opens in Muswell Hill

After much anticipation, the new Aldi store opened in November, in the former Woolworths and Poundland store on the Broadway.



MHFGA member John Lawal went along to the opening ceremony and took these photos.



Special guests in attendance were the Mayor of Haringey, Cllr. Sue Jameson, and Paris Paralympic Games, UK Team, Paralympian athlete, Aaron McKibbin.



Zoe Norfolk's photos of Muswell Hill

Wintery photography from around Muswell Hill by our Social Media Officer, Zoe Norfolk. Her book of local photographs is available at zoe-norfolk.sumupstore.com - use checkout code N10FREE for free delivery.



Local organisations

Please send event details for our next newsletter by 15th February to editor@mhfga.org

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 alexandrapalace.com

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HARINGEY

Support group for relatives, friends and carers of loved ones who have dementia. Monthly, **every second Thursday 4.30 to 6pm** (no meeting in January) at Haynes Dementia Hub, 151 Park Road, Hornsey, N8 8JD. Email dementiafriendly@haringey.gov.uk for further info

FRIENDS OF COLDFALL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELDS

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

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. Visit fqw.org.uk for more information.

HARINGTON SCHEME

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

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revolutionary Restaurateurs and Political Crimes talk by Peter Barber on **14th January 7pm** at Union Church Hall Corner of Ferme Park Road/Weston Park, N8.

Lots of resources and interesting local history books to buy plus details of regular events at hornseyhistorical.org.uk

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

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

HORNSEY PETANQUE CLUB

See article in the May 2024 issue and at hornseypetanque.club

LONDON EPILEPSY ACTION

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

MUSWELL HILL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Now in its 111th year, a great network for anyone interested in gardening. Spring Show on **Saturday 6th April 3pm** at North Bank. Full information at bloomingn10.co.uk
Contact: Jenny Kruss on 020 8442 0031 or bloomingn10@outlook.com

MUSWELL HILL BOWLING CLUB

Kings Avenue N10 1PB (next to No. 36)
Founded in 1901 and one of the oldest clubs in north London.
Full information at muswellhillbowlingclub.co.uk – or contact Richard Johnstone at rjej938@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 mhmc-contactcentre.org.uk or by email at contact.centre@mhmc.org.uk

MUSWELL HILL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Meet on **Wednesday evenings** at Friends Meeting House in Church Crescent, and warmly welcome new members. Information at muswellhillphoto.org.uk or email contact@muswellhillphoto.org.uk

MUSWELL HILL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

A local action group helping residents live more sustainably - saving energy, cutting waste, growing food locally and travelling greener. We work with other local groups, businesses, Haringey Council and our community energy company en10ergy. All are welcome to our regular speaker meetings, advice events including Green Open Homes, and social activities. Drinks evening **Monday 13th January 8pm** at Village Green pub, Fortis Green Road.

Details at mhsgroup.org or email info@mhsgroup.org

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 facebook.com/muswellhillwelcomes

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

A friendly local choir - see article in the November 2024 issue and northlondonchorus.org for details. Bach *Mass in B minor* (with period instruments) on **Saturday 29th March** at St James Church, Muswell Hill, N10 3DB. Tickets available closer to date on website or via St James Church bookshop.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Lunchtime concerts at the church on Alexandra Park Road organised by V&J on **Saturday 11th January 1pm** - Abléniz, Bach, Schubert and Chen Peixun, Neo Hung *piano*, and **Saturday 22nd February 1pm** - Bach, Telemann, Prokofiev Festival of Chapels, Swiss & English Ensembles. Details at alexandrapark.org

ST. JAMES CHURCH

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

WAVE HUB

Regular events including the Wave Café, art and well-being at wavehub.org.uk

Join our Committee!

One way to get more involved in the work of the Association is to join our Committee to help on specific areas of our work.

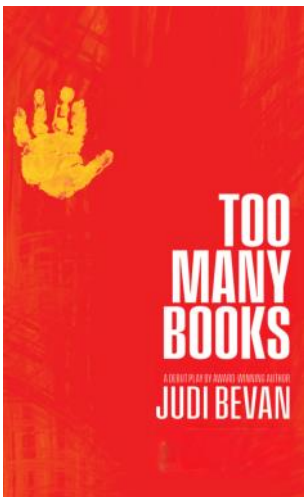
Volunteering is often interesting and rewarding. We love to hear from members who are thinking about getting more involved in the local community.

We are particularly interested in hearing from members to discuss the roles of Chair and Membership Secretary.

Our Committee is a friendly bunch and there is flexibility in adapting roles to fit individuals.

To have an informal chat please contact any of the Committee members listed on page 2.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Too Many Books

26th February - 16th March

Upstairs at the Gatehouse, N6

Written by award-winning journalist Judi Bevan, a heartfelt, thought-provoking debut play exploring the complexities of international adoption and the emotional journey of parents seeking to create a family.

Details about this and other shows including drama, magic

and musicals at upstairsatthegatehouse.com

An Evening Without Kate Bush

17th - 18th January

Jacksons Lane, N6

Howl with the Hounds of Love and dance on the moors with Wuthering Heights! She's not there – but you are. Whether you've been a fan for decades or recently joined the shoal via the 'Stranger Things' phenomenon, there has never been a better time to release your inner Bush and celebrate at this joyful, unique and mind-blowing show.

Details about all shows at jacksonslane.org.uk



Friday Night is Music Night

- A French Fantasy

29th January

Alexandra Palace Theatre

BBC Radio 3's Friday Night is Music Night and the BBC Concert Orchestra are off to France. Expect Gallic chic, champagne melodies and southern sun,

Details about these and many other shows and events at alexandrapalace.com/whats-on

Muswell Hill & East Finchley Business Networking

A friendly and inclusive networking group for all businesses based in or covering Muswell Hill and East Finchley with the aim of creating positive local business relationships and collaboration. We meet every **first Wednesday** of the month at The Village Green, Fortis Green Road between 7 and 9pm. January's meeting will be held on the 8th.

Message *Leigh Brown* on 07940 464921 to be added to the WhatsApp / Facebook groups.

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 mhfga.org/membership

We encourage existing members not already set up on Direct Debit to do so at 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 pleased to welcome new corporate member **Cloud 7 Brunch** which offers Mediterranean-inspired food at 40a Tottenham Lane, N8 and 7 Handel Parade, Edgware.

Our business and organisation

members are key parts of our community. You can find links to their websites at www.mhfga.org/directory

Angela Rose
Baby Sensory
Broadway Beauty

Broadway Pet Stores
Broadway Pharmacy
Capital Gardens
Children's Bookshop
Clissold Arms
Cloud 7 Brunch
Cosi Homewares
CPotential
Dunn's Artisan Bakers
East Finchley Open Artists
Fornaro Pizza
Gallalock
Gibfit30
Greens of Highgate
Harmony Coffee House & Soft Play
Hornsey Pensioners

House of Books (Fanshaw Books)
Knights Gardens
La Petite Colline
Leigh Brown
Lunablu Pizzeria
Magma Books
Meadow Motions
Men @ 107
Muswell Flyer
Muswell Hill Bowling Club
Muswell Hill Club
Muswell Hill Creatives
Muswell Hill Karate Academy
Muswell Hill Methodist Church

Muswell Hill United Reformed Church
Muswell Hill & District Horticultural Society
Muswell Hillbilly Brewers
New Wave Tattoo
Norfolk House School
North London Chorus
North London Symphony Orchestra
Panoptica - MH Optical Ltd
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
Tatlers Estate Agents
The Cut Barbershop
The Good Rooms
The Harington Scheme
The People's Pantry
The Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics
Total Boxer
Walter Purkis & Sons
WAVE Hub
Woodland Tree Surgery
Yogamatters