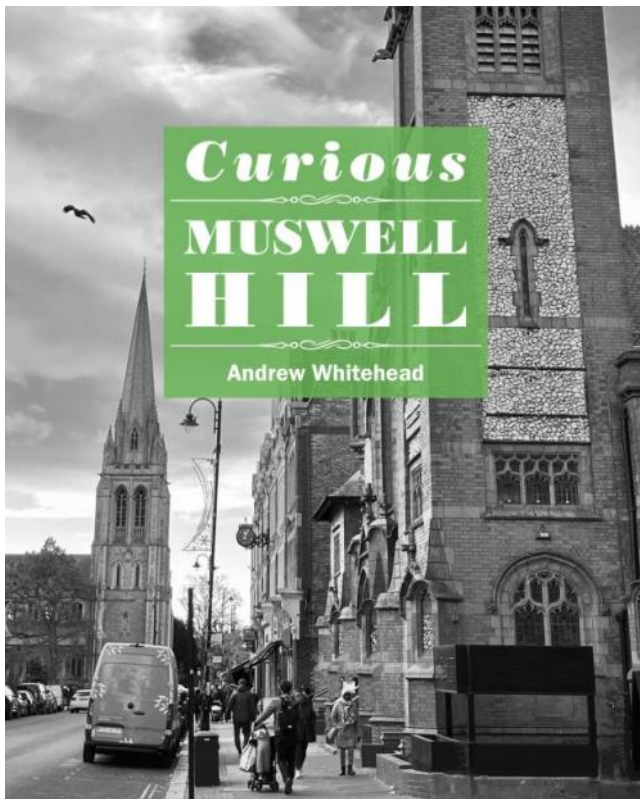


Your Residents' Association - working for the local community since 1948



Curious Muswell Hill

*An illustrated
talk by Andrew
Whitehead*

Muswell Hill is a model Edwardian suburb with its broad streets and regal street names. But look a little harder, and you'll find the trace of aristocratic Russian anarchists, God-fearing African revolutionaries and insurrectionary Indian nationalists.

September / October 2025

- 2 Events and meetings
Changes around the Broadway
MHFGA contacts
- 3 Broadway resurfaced
Age Well Festival
Pinkham Way update
Make & Mend Festival
- 4 Community Fund report from
CUFOS
- 5 Green plaques - David Greig
- 6 Zoe Norfolk photographs of
Muswell Hill
- 7 Trees for Streets and Broadway
flower boxes
Bruce Castle Open House
- 8 Parkland Walk and Coldfall
Wood updates
Muswell Hill Library reopening
Library survey
Ally Pally fireworks
- 9 Local organisations
- 10 Local shows
Membership

The Kinks made the locality almost cool with their 'Muswell Hillbillies' album while Fairport Convention took their name from a wonderful arts-and-crafts house on Fortis Green. Hidden away in the back streets is N10's best kept secret, the Bowls Club. And did you know that Muswell Hill has a listed, and lovely, electricity supply feeder pillar dating back well over a century?

All these local tales and many others are recounted by Hornsey Historical Society member Andrew Whitehead in his new book *Curious Muswell Hill*. In this illustrated talk, he will share some of these stories: however well you know Muswell Hill, some of the spots he talks about will take you by surprise!

We are very pleased to host this talk in conjunction with Hornsey Historical Society at the Birchwood Centre, a building in the heart of Muswell Hill, celebrating its centenary this year.



**7pm on Wednesday
17th September**

Birchwood Centre

171 Fortis Green Rd
Muswell Hill
N10 3BG

Entrance on Birchwood Avenue

Muswell Hill
Library
re-opening
date announced
- see page 7

Meetings and Events

Full details of future events with dates and times will be emailed to members in advance, published on our website and included in future newsletters.

- **Wednesday 17th September 7pm** - *Curious Muswell Hill* illustrated talk by Andrew Whitehead at the Birchwood Centre (see front page)
- **November** - early Christmas Holiday Social Event (details TBC)

We are also excited to have a stall at a local history day event organised in memory of Hugh Garnsworthy by his son, Chris. In addition to an exhibition of Hugh's extensive postcard collection of Muswell Hill, there will be local history talks. The event will take place at St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road on Saturday 4th October.

Della Deme

Changes around the Broadway

There have been a lot of closures recently, but also positive news. See our **Facebook page** for the latest:

- **Muswell Hill Books & Parlour** has just opened on Fortis Green Road
- **Crew Clothing** has opened a new branch where Jigsaw used to be
- **Kervan**, a local Turkish restaurant group, is opening in the old Côte premises
- **All Aboard**, a charity shop, is opening in the former Clark's shoes / Kona shop
- **Creature Comforts**, a vet clinic, has opened in the old NatWest bank unit
- **Oliver Bonas** is relocating to the former Halifax unit
- **Sciene** is opening a wellness and beauty treatment clinic in the old Lloyds Bank building
- **Giggling Squid** and **Wickes** have closed their Muswell Hill branches

Photos by Zoe Norfolk



MHFGA Committee members

Chairman

[vacancy]

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

Heather Hampson

membership@mhfga.org

Meetings

Della Deme

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 Maisey-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



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.



Broadway resurfaced

Muswell Hill Broadway was closed for a couple of nights in August for resurfacing works. John Lawal took these interesting snaps of the work in progress.



Age Well Festival at Bruce Castle

Co-produced with older Haringey residents, this festival promotes ageing well, and includes music and dance, literature and storytelling, health and wellbeing sessions, creative and physical activities and much more.

Everyone is welcome, free entry.

Saturday 20th September, 12 noon to 5pm, Bruce Castle Park, Tottenham, N17 8NS.



Pinkham Way Alliance

Pinkham Way site - Haringey Local Plan

Pinkham Way, on the borders of Haringey and Barnet by the North Circular Road, is a 15-acre site rich in biodiversity.

After extended delay, Haringey is finally offering its Local Plan for consultation in October.

Incredibly, the relentless political pressure on Haringey throughout the 2010s means that 2025 is its first opportunity for some 20 years to conduct a genuinely objective assessment of one of London's most contentious sites. We'll be keeping an eagle eye.

As some will remember, Pinkham Way has an irrational dual designation of Site for Nature Conservation (Grade 1) and employment. We've consistently argued throughout for removal of the employment designation, a designation that, importantly, none of the Planning Inspectors over the years has endorsed.

Full details in the next issue of this newsletter. In the meantime, please look out for PWA newsletters.

To view an aerial video of the site, please go to pinkhamway.org/Gallery and scroll down the page.

Stephen Brice, Chair, Pinkham Way Alliance (PWA)

Make & Mend Festival

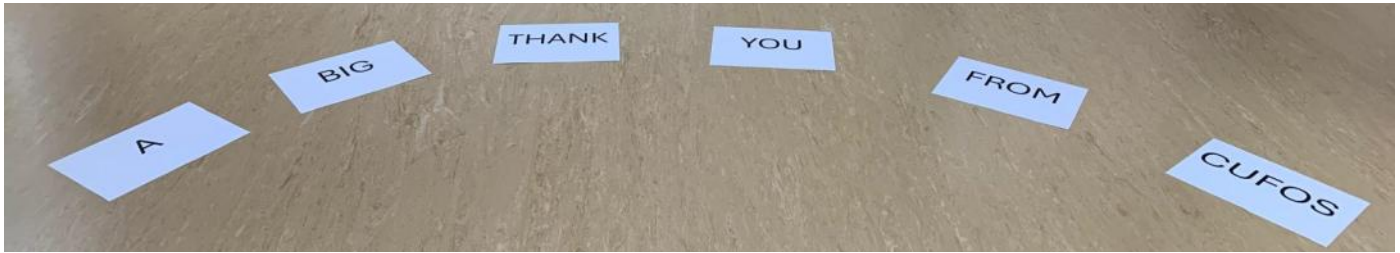
The Muswell Hill Creatives Make and Mend Festival returns on **Saturday 18th October**, 1 to 5.30pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens.

Admission is free - drop in to shop local makers, enjoy food and drink from Stroud Green WI, and soak up the creative buzz. Try hands-on workshops, from paper lampshades to sewing tote bags, led by skilled artisans (book on arrival or online in advance). Plus, get sustainability advice from the Muswell Hill Sustainability Group.

Details and booking at muswellhillcreatives.com



2024 Community Fund report from CUFOS



CUFOS is a community centre run by volunteers in the former Alexandra Palace railway station, and is used by local people and organisations for classes, meetings and many other activities.

In our application to the MHFGA 2024 Community Fund, it was explained that the floor at CUFOS is an important component in making the space attractive to users. Our funding model relies upon us letting the building for parties at weekends (primarily children's birthday parties) and when the room is shown to prospective users it is important that the floor look clean and attractive. The money raised by these weekend party lets allows us to keep our rental prices for community groups during the week at an affordable level.



BEFORE

The floor had not been reconditioned for many years and despite the best efforts of our cleaners to keep the floor looking good, it was badly in need of treatment. Ingrained scuff marks and scratches made the floor look tired and unattractive.

Financial reserves for CUFOS had been



AFTER

depleted during Covid as rental money for the space dried up and, with regret, the Trustees did not consider it wise to spend over £1,000 of the CUFOS reserves on the floor. We applied to MHFGA for a grant to help us bridge this gap.

The success of our application was hugely beneficial to CUFOS. Firstly, it meant that an important project could go ahead and make CUFOS attractive to our wide variety of users. These include baby massage, art classes, movement classes, after-school clubs, support groups, band practices ... the list goes on. All our groups will benefit from the reconditioning and importantly it makes the room attractive for weekend parties.

Secondly, it was an affirmation that the contribution CUFOS makes to the local community is valued, which is very important to the volunteers who donate their time. The Trustees and Duty Officers who staff CUFOS receive no payment, we have one paid administrator, but everyone else gives their time for free.

In line with our promise to MHFGA, refurbishing the worn flooring has created a more welcoming space, enhancing the comfort and safety of CUFOS's users and will help in contributing to the centre's long-term sustainability as a valuable resource for the local community by making it more attractive to prospective users.

The Trustees of CUFOS would, once again, like to thank the MHFGA for their generosity in awarding us the grant. Visit cufos.org.uk for info on CUFOS.

You can also visit the building as part of Open House on Sunday 21st September, 12.30 to 4.30pm.



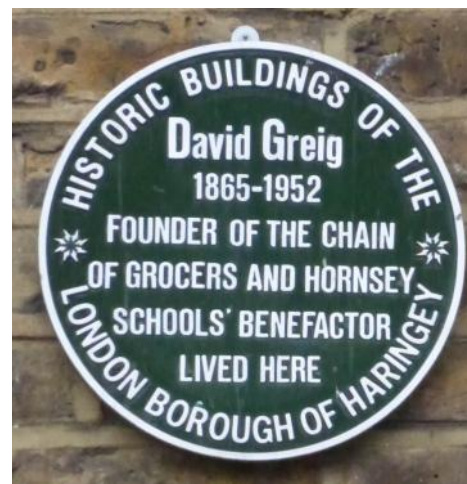
Emma Rogers, CUFOS

**See next issue for details of
our 2025 Community Fund!**

The twelfth* in our series on local Green Plaques - David Greig: Grocer to Greatness

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 15 September 2010 at 32 High Street, Hornsey, where David Greig (1865-1952) originally lived.

When the first ever British self-service grocery store opened at 111-113 Turnpike Lane, instead of counter service, with products cut and weighed to order, shoppers had to take a basket, choose pre-packaged and priced items from one-way rows of shelves, surrender to impulse buying, and make their way to the till – precisely what you would expect today. But that was 1923, and the shoppers couldn't have known that they were entering the future.



The shop was an experiment by David Greig, future first Freeman of the Borough of Hornsey and Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, the driving force behind the UK's first chain of grocery stores, which grew to more than 220 outlets at its height. Although this pioneering venture was reasonably successful, it was not considered profitable for expansion and closed after eight months. It would be another twenty years before the self-service model reappeared, this time adopted by the Co-op in Romford.

The seeds of David's grocery empire were sown in 1870, when as a child, he helped his mother, Mary Greig, in the provisions shop she had opened at 3 St Mary's Terrace (now 32 High Street, Hornsey). In 1881 he joined his mother full time and in 1888, with his father's backing, he launched his own shop at 54-58 Atlantic Road, in Brixton. Soon after bought his second one, across the road, marking the start of his lifelong career in grocery retail and the birth of a true chain of supermarkets.

Today, David Greig's brand can still be seen in the distinctive, gleaming ceramic tiling and the Scottish thistle motif that graced many storefronts, visible at surviving locations across London. Despite its success, the death of several family members and crippling inheritance tax forced the sale of the company, which the Co-op ultimately absorbed.

David Greig blended entrepreneurial ambition with social conscience. Deeply attached to his Hornsey roots, he became a major educational philanthropist. In 1933, he established the David and Mary Greig Trust, named after his parents, to support local schools, including the Greig City Academy in Hornsey. This fund helped St Mary's Church of England Primary School in Hornsey weather financial challenges during a period of educational reform and declining church school funding.

In 1949, Greig expanded this work by creating further endowments in memory of his wife, Hannah Susan (Annie), and his son, providing ongoing income to support church schools in the borough. The trust has remained active well into the 21st century; in 2021, The Greig Trust acquired land next to St Mary's CE Primary School, to preserve it for community and educational use.



The Green Plaque at 32 Hornsey High Street stands as a tribute to David Greig's pioneering contributions to business and his lasting dedication to the Hornsey community.

Alex Vincenti

** The eleventh in this series was not, as it turned out, the final one, as stated in our previous issue!*

Zoe Norfolk's photos of Muswell Hill

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.





Trees for Streets thriving on the Broadway and local streets

In July, Brian Livingston, our Environment and Green Spaces committee officer (*in the middle, top right photo*), joined Haringey Council Cabinet Member Mike Hakata, local councillors and residents to visit some of the many trees recently planted through the charity initiative Trees for Streets.

The Association was delighted to support the project and the trees are generally getting well established.



Broadway boxes in summer bloom



Brian does a lot of other work to help maintain and improve the Muswell Hill environment, on behalf of our members, coordinating with Haringey, local groups and residents. One of our initiatives, the flower boxes on the Broadway roundabout, looked particularly stunning this summer, as you can see in these photos by Zoe Norfolk.



Open House tours at Bruce Castle

On Sunday 14th and also Sunday 21st September, between 1pm and 4.30pm, Bruce Castle in Tottenham is taking part in the Open House Festival.

Visitors can enjoy:

- Free curator-led historical guided tours, every half hour.
- Meet conservation architects Rodney Melville Partnership, on hand to talk about our recent MEND restoration works at Bruce Castle.
- Show & Tell - meet the Project Manager (Haringey Council) & see the current restoration works of the C17 Boundary Wall by PAYE Stonework with SKK Design.

Families can also enjoy the Mystery Manor Trail for free. Step back in time and explore the historic building, uncover hidden stories, and discover the past around every corner! Aimed at families with children aged 5 - 10 years old, the trail is a stickered activity booklet in which Wilbur the Wyvern, a dragon-like creature, guides families around the building. Pick up your free copy of the trail from the museum reception.

Free, all welcome. No booking required, just drop-in. Further details at brucecastle.org

Parkland Walk bridge works towards Finsbury Park

Many local residents use the wonderful Parkland Walk, the former railway line and now the longest linear nature reserve in London, often the Muswell Hill section between Alexandra Palace and Highgate. Anyone planning to walk a longer stretch this autumn should be aware that a section around Mount View Road Bridge will be closed for an expected period of 5 weeks from 15th September. This is due to essential maintenance works to secure the integrity of the bridge.



Visit parkland-walk.org.uk for news from Friends of the Parkland Walk and information about the route.



Coldfall Wood drawing event and bird walk

The Friends of Coldfall Wood have organised a Mindful Drawing event on Sunday 21st September from 10.30am to 12 noon, with Laura Fox, open to anyone over 16 to come along and have a peaceful and creative time in the woods. Places need to be booked and all materials will be provided.

A Bird Identification Walk with experienced birder Gareth Richards is on Sunday 28th September from 8 to 9.30am. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children welcome with a responsible adult.

Book places at either event at ticketsource.co.uk/coldfallwood

Haringey library survey

The council is developing a new libraries strategy and would like residents to share their thoughts via two surveys - one as either a current library user or non-library user, and a second on the guiding principles of the strategy.

Complete the surveys at haringeylibraries.commonplace.is



Muswell Hill library opening times

Monday	9.30am to 6pm
Tuesday	9.30am to 6pm
Wednesday	9.30am to 6pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9.30am to 6pm
Saturday	10am to 5pm
Sunday	Closed

...and Muswell Hill library re-opening date confirmed!

At long last, after more than two years of stop-start refurbishment, the re-opening date of Muswell Hill library has been confirmed as **Monday 29th September**.

The building will now benefit from better accessibility, including a new lift, and facilities such as a designated area for local young people to study.

The library will be open for 41 hours per week.

Ally Pally fireworks festival dates confirmed

On **Friday 31st October and Saturday 1st November**, Halloween collides with Bonfire Night as the legendary Ally Pally Fireworks & Drone Festival returns, bigger, bolder and spookier than ever.

The sky will come alive with a bespoke Halloween-themed fireworks and drone display.

Tickets from £14 available at fireworks.london



Local organisations

Please send event details for our next newsletter by 15th October 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

BRUCE CASTLE MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Explore over 1,000 years of stories from manor house to museum. Exhibition about Joyce Butler, 'The National Woman's MP' until June 2026. See Open House article on page 7. Details at brucecastle.org

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HARINGEY

Support group for relatives, friends and carers of loved ones who have dementia. Monthly, **every second Thursday 11.30am to 12.30pm** at Haynes Dementia Hub, 151 Park Road, Hornsey, N8 8JD.

Email dementiafriendly@haringey.gov.uk for further info.

FRIENDS OF COLDFAHLL WOOD AND MUSWELL HILL PLAYING FIELDS

Regular meetings on **first Tuesday of the month 7.30pm**. See article about events on page 8. 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. Tree walk on **Sunday 28th September 10.30am** - meet outside café. Visit fqw.org.uk for more information.

HARINGTON SCHEME

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

HIGHGATE CHORAL SOCIETY

Britten *War Requiem* on **Saturday 15th November 7pm** at All Hallows Church, Gospel Oak. Details at hcschoir.com

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Full details of this and other events, plus lots of resources and interesting local history books to buy at hornseyhistorical.org.uk

HORNSEY PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

Contact Ann Anderson via hornseypensioners.ag@outlook.com or on 07757 634405 or visit hornseypensionersactiongroup.org

HORNSEY PETANQUE CLUB

Details 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. MHDHS Autumn Show with blooms, cookery and craftwork at North Bank on **Saturday 20th September 3pm**. 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. Finals Day on **Saturday 13th September 2pm**. Full information at muswellhillbowlingclub.co.uk – or contact Richard Johnstone at rje938@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 METHODIST CHURCH

Details including groups at 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. All are welcome to our regular speaker meetings, advice events including Green Open Homes (running **8th/9th and 15th/16th November** this year), and social activities. Details at mhsgroup.org or email info@mhsgroup.org

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

A friendly local choir. Next concert including Ralph Vaughan Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Cecilia McDowall *Some corner of a foreign field*, Gerald Finzi *Eclogue for piano and strings* on **Saturday 22nd November 7.30pm** at St. James Church, N10 3DB. Visit northlondonchorus.org for details.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Lunchtime concerts at the church on Alexandra Park Road organised by V&J on **Saturday 13th September 1pm** with the Redbourne Ensemble playing Clara Schumann, Mendelssohn and Halvorsen; and **Saturday 11th October 1pm** with Katerina Oikonomou and Eleni Kevensidou playing Handel, Mozart, Bernstein and more. Details at alexandrapark.org

ST. JAMES CHURCH

Harvest Festival service followed by a Bring and Share lunch on **Sunday 26th October 10.30am**. Details of this and other services, groups and concerts at st-james.org.uk

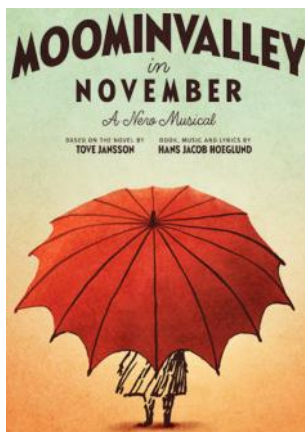
WAVE HUB

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



Time Travel is Dangerous: Film & Fayre with Q&A
27th September, *Alexandra Palace Theatre*

An all-day festival featuring stalls from local sellers, live music, props and costumes from the film, special guests and more. Matinee and evening screenings of the film, with filmmaker and cast Q&As after each session.



Moominvalley in November
23rd October to 16th November, *Upstairs at the Gatehouse*

A new musical based on Tove Jansson's final Moomin story. Six strangers arrive in Moominvalley, each searching for something. A gentle, profound, and life-affirming meditation on grief, belonging, and quiet resilience.



The Woman in Black
8th to 25th October, *Alexandra Palace Theatre*

One of the most successful and longest-running theatre shows in the history of the West End, this gripping production is a brilliantly successful study in atmosphere, illusion and controlled horror.

Details about this and other shows at upstairsatthegatehouse.com



The Family Magic Show
14th September, *Jacksons Lane*

The Great Baldini, "The Emperor of Illusion" and an award-winning magician, teams up with his magical dog, Baldwin. This hilariously silly performance traces their partnership from humble beginnings to attempting Houdini's deadliest escape.

Full details including many other shows and events at alexandrapalace.com/whats-on

Joyous fun for the whole family.

Details about this and other shows at jacksonslane.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 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 all of our recent new personal and corporate members including **Muswell Hill Books & Parlour** now open on Fortis Green Road (muswellhillbooks.co.uk) and **Boulangerie Pierre Alix**, on Muswell Hill Broadway (boulangeriepierrelix.co.uk). Features on these and other corporate members will appear in future editions of this newsletter.

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
Boulangerie Pierre Alix
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 Books & Parlour
Muswell Hill Bowling Club
Muswell Hill Club
Muswell Hill Creatives
Muswell Hill Karate Academy
Muswell Hill Methodist Church
Muswell Hill Methodist Lawn Tennis Club

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
Reformed Gardens
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 Little Gym
The People's Pantry
The Robin Kiashek Osteopathic Clinics
Total Boxer
Walter Purkis & Sons
WAVE Hub
Woodland Tree Surgery
Yogamatters