

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

Tackling fly tipping at Queen's Wood



Unfortunately, fly tipping has become a growing problem along both sides of Queen's Wood Road. In a particularly troubling recent incident, a vehicle was driven right into the woods near the Priory Gardens entrance to dump waste - a blatant act of environmental disregard (see photo above).



Photos by John Dorken and Jonathan Samuels

The council encourages all residents to report any incidents using the Love Clean Streets mobile app available at haringey.gov.uk/contact/love-clean-streets-mobile-app but this is not perfect - this particular incident still took 10 days to be cleared up!

Positively, the Friends of Queen's Wood, helped by volunteers TCV, have now installed sturdy natural barriers - made from logs from a fallen tree - at two key access points. One of these spots was the site of the recent incursion, the other a vulnerable location also wide enough for vehicle entry. These log barriers are both practical and in keeping with the woodland environment, and it is hoped they'll serve as a strong deterrent for some time.

School Streets update

We have recently heard that Haringey is moving forward with the next stage of the School Streets process for Tetherdown (Collingwood/Grand Avenues) and Norfolk House (Muswell Avenue). Meanwhile, Fortismere (Twyford Avenue) and Rhodes Avenue remain possible future sites, but have not yet been formally reviewed.

Plans for Muswell Hill Primary, Eden Primary, and Our Lady of Muswell - covering Dukes Avenue, Elms Avenue, Pages Lane, and Creighton Avenue - will not proceed. While the consultation report is still pending, strong local feedback, including from the Association, was key to this outcome. It's a reminder that early, active engagement in consultations really can make a difference.



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Membership

MHFGA 2025 AGM

Thank you to the members and one of our local councillors, Cathy Brennan, who attended our 2025 AGM held on 15th May at the United Reformed Church (see photo on right). We had a lively discussion about various local hot topics including the School Streets consultation, current planning applications and the work of the Association and its members on improving our local pocket parks, flower beds and general environment.



As planned, we discussed whether we should keep the current name of the Association or change it. The consensus was that we should stick with “Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association” whilst allowing the occasional informality of shortening it in conversation as needed!

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.

- September - Evening talk and celebration of the centenary of the Birchwood Centre (details TBC)
- November - early Christmas Holiday Social Event (details TBC)

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:

- It looks like a second hand bookshop will be opening soon at the site of the former funeral parlour on Fortis Green Road (*left photo by Zoe Norfolk*)
- Work is underway on the old phone box at the Broadway roundabout (*right photo by Jacqueline Servat*)



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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://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.

Muswell Hill stars in Netflix crime drama



In May, Muswell Hill was transformed into a 1990s* London backdrop as a film crew took over parts of Muswell Hill Broadway and Fortis Green Road to shoot scenes for an upcoming Netflix crime drama titled *Legends*.

Filming took place both inside local shops and along the streets, with Fortis Green Road especially dressed for the occasion. Vintage cars and vans, market stalls, a classic parking meter, and even period bollards helped set the scene. One shop window featured a fabricated poster for a fictional entertainment event, adding to the immersive atmosphere.

As filming progressed, traffic was temporarily paused and roadside parking spots were occupied by film unit vehicles and prop cars, drawing attention from curious passersby. Residents were treated to a rare behind-the-scenes look at television production - and possibly a glimpse of another on-screen moment for Muswell Hill when *Legends* debuts.

* The 1990s: not so long ago...but now vintage, apparently!

Photos by John Lawal



Blue plaque unveiled to Alicia Markova

A blue plaque now marks the childhood home of Dame Alicia Markova on the Rookfield estate, Britain's first prima ballerina and an early star of the legendary Ballet Russes.

Born Lilian Alicia Marks in 1910, she began dancing on medical advice at a local academy before her talent took her to Monaco aged 13. Young dancers from English National Ballet joined the Cascade Avenue unveiling, celebrating the legacy of the trailblazing ballerina who once inspired Margot Fonteyn. She had an incredible international career and danced into her 50s. She died in 2004 at the age of 94.

Who knows how many young dreams may be sparked by seeing the blue plaque?

Copyright Library of Congress

Rookfield tennis courts update

The Appeal by the landowner company against Haringey's refusal of planning permission to build eight houses and to convert the clubhouse into a dwelling was heard by Planning Inspector Jane Smith on 10th and 11th June. It was represented by a KC, architect, planning expert, heritage consultant and estate agent. Haringey planning department opposed the appeal and defended its decision, and the residents were represented by heritage and planning expert Charles Wagner and over 20 residents attended. The Hearing was followed by a site visit. A decision is expected on 10th August.

Walter Merricks, Chair, The Chine and Cascade Residents Association



Coldfall playground latest

John Hajdu, our former Chairman, and the Association continue to press Haringey Council for long-overdue repairs and improvements to the playground behind Coldfall Woods. Despite assurances dating back to March 2023 and repeated follow-ups by John, only minor actions have been taken. Key safety and accessibility issues remain unresolved, including damaged surfacing and missing or broken equipment. Recent responses have shifted responsibility between departments, with no firm commitments. We remain committed to holding the council accountable and ensuring the play area, used by hundreds of local families, is brought up to a safe and welcoming standard. This is a vital community space that deserves proper care and investment.

Local businesses invited to help “Beat the Clock” for children’s futures

CPotential, a much-loved local charity supporting children with cerebral palsy and other movement disorders, is inviting local businesses to take part in a high-impact fundraising initiative as part of its urgent Ticking Clocks Appeal.



The charity is calling on a small number of community-minded businesses to step forward with a £250 match-funding pledge. In return, CPotential will mobilise its supporters over a two-week period to match (or exceed) that donation - doubling the impact while giving participating businesses valuable exposure.

Why get involved?

It's more than a donation - it's positive publicity with purpose. Your business will be featured across social media, emails, website, and potentially in local press - plus your name and logo will appear in campaign materials. Want to go further? Add a “give-back” offer like £1 per sale to boost engagement and footfall.



Luisa Hayes, Community Fundraiser at CPotential, said “We know times are tough, but so many local businesses still want to do good, and this is a really simple and powerful way to help. Your support could unlock even more donations and make a real difference for children who rely on us. Plus, it's a great way to show your customers you care about the local community.”

All funds raised through the appeal will go directly toward therapy and rehabilitation services for children and young people with complex needs - helping families access life-changing support.

Interested businesses can contact Luisa Hayes at lhayes@cpotential.org.uk to get involved. Find out more about CPotential and the Ticking Clocks Appeal at cpotential.org.uk and consider a £10 donation by texting CLOCKS to 70191

Johanna Vigilante

Music in the Gardens

Muswell Hill Methodist Church at 28 Pages Lane is hosting its annual and much-loved Music in the Gardens on every Sunday in July:

6th July – English Jazz Orchestra
13th July – Life and Mission Choir
20th July – Rock in the Gardens
27th July – London Metropolitan Brass

Other performers include Ruth Stobbs, Joel Stobbs, Catherine Simms, Act Out Performing Arts, BlackDogHat and Collaboration Choir across the weeks.

Gardens open from 2pm, with music starting around 3pm. Entrance is free, with refreshments available for a small price, and there is a play area for young children. Picnics welcome but please no alcohol or dogs.

Visit mhmc.org.uk for more details.

Muswell Hill Methodist Church
28 Pages Lane, N10 1PP www.mhmc.org.uk

MUSIC IN THE GARDENS

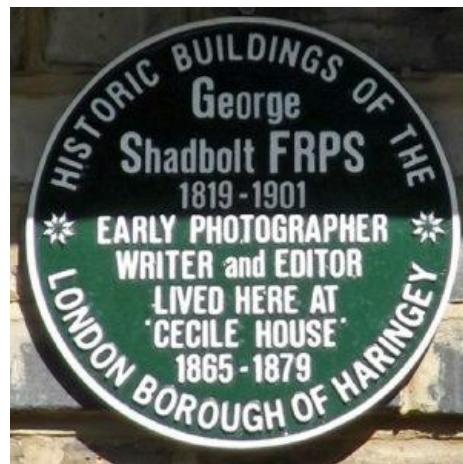
Free entry!
Every Sunday
29th June - 27th July
Gardens open 2-5pm,
with music from 3pm.

Play area and refreshments
available or bring a picnic
(no alcohol or dogs please).

The eleventh (and final) in our series on local Green Plaques - George Shadbolt: The Giant of the Micro

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 24 February 2010 at 104 Crouch Hill, where George Shadbolt lived between 1865 and 1879.

When George Shadbolt (1817-1901) became involved in the 1840s, photography had just begun. Today, a photo can be taken with a tap on a phone. Back then, the idea that light could capture a permanent image was revolutionary and magical. Scientists embraced it with enthusiasm, and so did many artists, though some worried that it might spell the end of their careers. It wasn't cheap, nor simple, nor quick. A professional camera could cost £50, as much as an average year's salary, and the process involved hazardous chemicals and took hours from start to finish.



Shadbolt's portrait from the Wallace collection

George Shadbolt played a significant role in shaping both the technology and philosophy of early photography. A man with a deep interest in optics and science, Shadbolt quickly became known for his technical expertise and thoughtful writing. He was an early member - and later editor - of the Photographic Society (now the Royal Photographic Society), founded in 1853 to support and advance photography in Britain. As editor of *The Photographic Journal*, Shadbolt shaped public discussion about photography's future, introducing new ideas, techniques, and debates to a growing readership. He strongly supported non-professional photographers at a time when the medium was dominated by scientists, wealthy hobbyists, and commercial studios. He published how-to guides, letters, and articles aimed at amateur readers, encouraging experimentation and the sharing of techniques across social and professional boundaries. This openness helped shift photography from an elite, technical pursuit to a more inclusive community activity.



The medal awarded to him at the 1851 Crystal Palace Great Exhibition

Shadbolt was among the very first to explore the possibilities of taking extremely small photographs—images so tiny they could only be viewed clearly through a microscope. Microphotography fascinated Shadbolt because it combined his deep interest in optics, lenses, and scientific experimentation. He saw it as a practical tool for teaching, archiving, and scientific research. In 1854, Shadbolt showcased a microphotograph that fit an entire newspaper page onto a space no larger than a pinhead—astonishing for the time. Microphotography at such high reduction was revolutionary - it demonstrated photography's ability to condense vast amounts of information into minuscule forms, anticipating modern microfilm and archival technologies. Shadbolt's experiments positioned him as a pioneer in the intersection of photography and information science.



John Hajdu and Rosemary Wilman, today's Chair of the Royal Photographic Society, at the unveiling of the plaque

The Green Plaque in Crouch Hill honours George Shadbolt's pioneering contributions to photography as both a science and a means of communication, as well as supporting amateur photographers. His technical innovations, editorial guidance, and belief in photography's educational value helped establish photography as a democratic and accessible medium that remains central to how we observe and share the world today.

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.



Local organisations

Please send event details for our next newsletter by 15th August 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. 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**. 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. Family Fun Day at the Witches' Coven with a scavenger hunt, live music and family activities on **Sunday 6th July from 2pm**. Visit fqw.org.uk for more information. See front page article.

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

Bach Magnificat on **Saturday 5th July 7pm** with other works by Bach and Handel 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 Summer Show at North Bank on **Saturday 5th July 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. Open Day on bank holiday **Monday 5th May 1 to 7pm**. 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, and social activities. Summer Social on **Saturday 19th July 7 to 10pm** at Meadow Orchard behind Hornsey Health Centre, Park Road, N8 5JD. Details at mhsgroup.org or email info@mhsgroup.org

NORTH LONDON CHORUS

A friendly local choir - visit northlondonchorus.org for details. Next concert of Elgar *The Music Makers*, Brahms *Schicksalslied*, Mahler *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* on **Saturday 12th July 7.30pm** at St. James Church, N10 3DB. Tickets £25/£21/£13 conc. £2 reduction. Unreserved tickets also on sale at St James Church bookshop.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Lunchtime concerts at the church on Alexandra Park Road organised by V&J on **Saturday 12th July 1pm** with V&J Ensemble playing Franck, Schubert and more. 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, dance classes and well-being at wavehub.org.uk.

Muswell Hill roads

Is Muswell Hill especially susceptible to road closures caused by burst water mains, gas works, and building projects? It can certainly feel that way at times. While neighbouring north London areas aren't immune, our hilltop streets seem to draw more than their fair share of disruption.

Occasionally, the cause is a little out of the ordinary. On 1st June, member John Lawal captured this image of a broken-down 144 bus stranded on the bus stand roundabout at the top of Muswell Hill. Police were on the scene, holding up traffic as recovery crews moved in.





Kaleidoscope Festival

12th July, *Alexandra Palace and Park*

Music, DJs, comedy, circus skills, crafting, and the World's Tallest Bubbleologist. Plus, step beneath the iconic Victorian Palace and explore hidden spaces rarely open to the public.



The Musical Medea

29th July - 3rd August, *Upstairs at the Gatehouse*

A new folk musical retelling of the Ancient Greek myth. This time, Medea's holding the mic. Leaving behind the safety of her homeland, Medea places her trust in Jason and his promise of a glittering future together. But is her faith well placed. Details about this and other shows at

upstairsatthegatehouse.com



Ice Skating Fast Track Course (child)

28th July - 26th August, *Alexandra Palace Ice Rink*

Learn to skate this summer on our fast track course for beginners! Hosted by qualified coaches, children aged 5 to 15 years old can enjoy a half hour lesson from 10.45am – 11.15am Monday to Friday during one week; plus they'll be able to stay on and skate for free

from 11.30am to practice what they have learnt.

Full details including many other shows and events at

alexandrapalace.com/whats-on



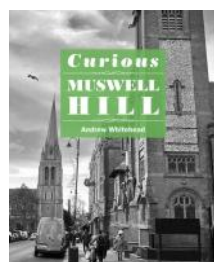
Moving Waves

6th July, *Jacksons Lane*

10th Year Anniversary Show! Join us for our spectacular annual stage show, showcasing the incredible talent, passion and creativity of the Moving Waves students and team. 40+ dazzling performances across multiple dance styles.

Details about this and other shows at

jacksonslane.org.uk



New book - *Curious Muswell Hill*

Historian Andrew Whitehead takes an affectionate - and mildly subversive - tour round N10, taking in the Bowls Club and the working men's club, the pumping station and the pioneering Wetherspoon's pub, and seeking out the hidden stories of our corner of north London. A detailed map helps readers find their way around Muswell Hill's curiosities and a wealth of photographs and illustrations, ancient and modern. Book available for £11.99 from fiveleaves.co.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!

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