



Avenue House open to new ideas

The trustees of Avenue House have said they welcome ideas from the public for activities and fundraising ideas that will help to support the estate in East End Road.

In our May issue, we reported that local resident Lindy Kursten had launched a questionnaire inviting people's views on how the grounds could be used and what improvements they would like to see.

Bill Tyler, chairman of Avenue House Estate trustees, said Lindy had not made contact with them directly, but they would be keen to see the results of the survey and to consider any viable ideas that came out of it.

Bill told us: "The Trustees are always willing to consider ideas for the future of the Estate and any activities that will help to support it. I look forward to hearing what ideas have been suggested to Lindy Kursten." He added that events would need to match the objectives of the charity and would need to be staffed and insured.

Summer programme

A busy schedule of events is already in place. In June and July, there were three farmers' markets in the stables courtyard, which may become a regular fixture throughout the year. The Barnet Band played a concert in the grounds in late June and there was a joint summer event with the North London Hospice on the main green in mid-July.

Work has recently finished on the refurbishment of the Stable Hall, with a small kitchen facility and new central heating, and this is being used on a regular basis at weekends for children's parties. Bookings may be made directly with Avenue House Estate by calling 020 8346 7812 and party events for children can be arranged with Planet Party on 020 8346 5432.

Lindy told us that all the questionnaires had been collected and she was looking forward to a positive response when she had handed over the results to the trust.



Bubble machines and relaxing on the grass at the Family Fun Day at Avenue House. Photo by John Lawrence

Grounds for fun

Hundreds of families enjoyed a fun day thrown by the Avenue House Trust and North London Hospice in the grounds of the historic property on East End Road.

There were traditional attractions like a coconut shy and tombola, along with more unusual opportunities to have your tarot cards read or try your circus skills.

Scores of children ran around the Avenue House grass on a sunny afternoon with bubble machines, making for a magical scene

Chronicle of a local voice

By Daphne Chamberlain

In 1948, a small group of Fortis Green residents formed an association to keep their rates down. In 1952 the group enlarged to include all of Muswell Hill ward, changing its name to the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association. Gradually its interests expanded too.

Today it has an influential voice in many projects and organisations. MHFGA has input on planning applications and local facilities, traffic management and transport problems; reports graffiti, fly-posting, dumped rubbish and vandalism; and "polices" street planters and pocket parks. Last year, its website had over 66,000 hits, including many from abroad.

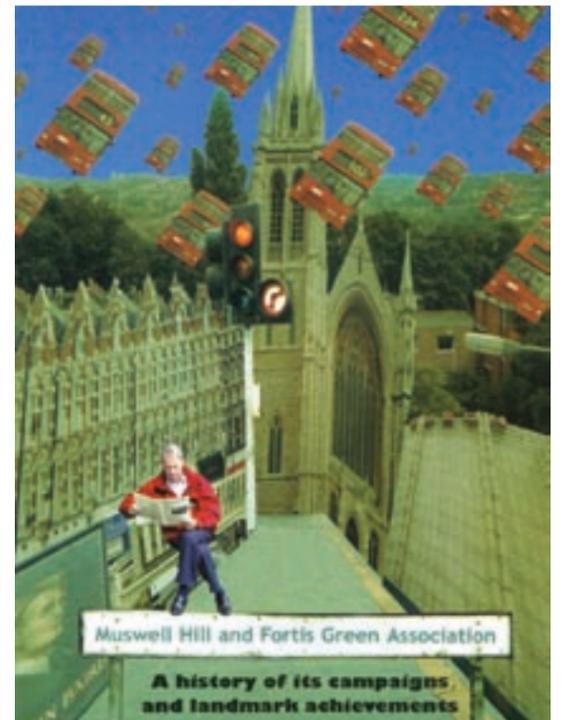
Since 2006, MHFGA have been compiling a photograph album of every shopfront in Muswell Hill, which will be a guide to changing landmarks and fashions.

Six decades of local life

Ever conscious of history, when John Hajdu became their Chair in 2001 he inherited the Association's archives. Apart from "the dark ages" from 1959 to 1965, when his predecessors must have campaigned against hoarding, he found boxes of documents, press cuttings,

newsletters and minutes, starting from 1948, and reflecting much of the history of the area. Once he had finished the mammoth task of sorting and arranging, he began writing it all up.

The finished book, which has 125 pages, including photographs and a local quiz from Jack Whitehead, shows, in John's words, what can be done by a small number of strong-minded and hardworking volunteers who wish to improve their environment. Copies are available for £6 from John Hajdu. Contact him on 020 8883 8114, or by emailing hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.



The cover of John Hajdu's book

Healing at every level

The Soul Therapy Centre will be setting up a free drop-in healing clinic once again at the Muswell Hill Festival, on Sunday 12 September in Cherry Tree Wood, offering free spiritual healing to all comers. No religious beliefs or dogma are involved. Healing stimulates self-healing mechanisms and helps dissolve blocks to health and happiness. While it can help with a wide range of specific issues, it can also bring general balance, calming those who feel stressed or energising those who feel drained.

The Muswell Hill-based Soul Therapy Centre was founded in 1996, and its practitioners have been providing their clients with effective treatment since then, integrating spiritual healing with counselling/psychotherapy

and subtle energy techniques. The staff at the Soul Therapy Centre are registered spiritual healers and include psychology, psychotherapy, hypnotherapy and Feng Shui among their professional qualifications. Their aim is to provide their

clients with healing at every level of existence.

Studying soul healing

The Soul Therapy Centre takes a small number of students each year for its part-time two-year course, leading to a Diploma in Soul Therapy and a professional qualification in spiritual healing. The course starts each January. A free introduction to Soul Therapy will be held on Thursday 30 September at the InterChange Studios, Old Hampstead Town Hall, Belsize Park, from 7 - 9pm. Places can be booked via www.soul-therapy.co.uk where a registration link is provided. For more information, contact the Soul Therapy Centre on 020 8883 8562 and speak to Ingrid Collins.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

tel: 0208 346 1700

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info@thecherrytreeuk.co.uk www.thecherrytreeuk.co.uk