



Replay expected in fight to save tennis club from redevelopment

By Diana Cormack

Muswell Hill United Reformed Church (MHURC) situated at the corner of Tetherdown and Queen's Avenue, N10, for 127 years, has closed. The final church service took place on Sunday 31 May.



Court action: Fortis Green Tennis Club

Although the building itself is still being used for a variety of community purposes, there has been speculation online as to what might eventually become of it, particularly as it underwent an expensive refurbishment not that long ago.

For over a hundred years the church had a connection with East Finchley in owning the MHURC Tennis Club site. Lying off Southern Road and now known as Fortis Green Tennis Club, it emerged successfully in March 2025 from a bid by the church to sell the tennis club land for development.

The application was refused mainly because, as argued by the Lawn Tennis Association and Sport England, the number of courts could not be reduced from four to three.

Despite their delight that the application had been refused, the neighbourhood had to bear in mind that the church still needed the money it would have raised from this project.

On MHURC's closure, its assets passed to the URC Synod, who will now deal with the church building and the tennis club site. The Archer has been told that they have indicated an intention to sell, with interest already being shown.

So it appears that this gem of a tennis club has another fight on its hands. In anticipation it has acquired Asset of Community Value status from Haringey Council. This prevents the owner from selling immediately and gives the club six months to prepare its own bid for the site, which would require a major funding effort.



Just some of the members of Fortis Green Tennis Club together at a summer party

From strength to strength

By Julie Taylor

Fortis Green Tennis Club in Southern Road, N2, is going from strength to strength, with more than 50 new members joining the club this year.

The influx of new players on the back of a £50 introductory membership offer has created a real buzz around the club, with the courts now regularly full at weekends and on weekday evenings with players of all ages and abilities.

To welcome its newest members, the club recently hosted a social evening attended by almost 40 members both new

and old. The event featured relaxed mix-and-match tennis, giving everyone the chance to play with different partners, followed by drinks and nibbles as members got to know one another off the court. A beautiful summer evening added to the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere making the event a great success.

The club offers a variety of

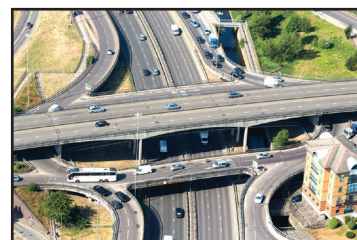
social tennis sessions for players of all abilities, as well as group and one-to-one coaching for juniors and adults, led by the club's coach Chris Ma.

Anyone interested in joining or finding out more about coaching and social tennis is encouraged to visit the club's website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/FortisGreenTennisClub> or just drop by.

Brent Cross flyover closures

Motorists are being warned to expect longer journey times when the Brent Cross flyover on the North Circular is reduced from two to one lane in each direction this month as part of essential strengthening works.

There will also be a number of overnight and weekend lane and road closures during different stages of the project. Signed diversion routes will be in place. The lane closures will start from Thursday 24 September and the renewal work is expected to continue for up to two years.



The Brent Cross flyover on the North Circular

Book club meet-up

Age UK Barnet's next in-person Book Club meet-up takes place on Tuesday 8 September from 2pm-3pm at Wilmot Close Community Centre, Tarling Road, N2. Books being discussed are: Land by Maggie O'Farrell, The Long Valley by John Steinbeck and The Book Shop by Penelope Fitzgerald. All over 55s are welcome. For details on how to join contact Helen on 07384 466840 or email activities@ageukbarnet.org.uk

Fun in the sun

Throughout the summer, the Green at Strawberry Vale, N2, buzzed with activity as Hope North London, Families Church and church@five joined together to run a series of free Community Fun Afternoons.

Held on Wednesday afternoons during the school holidays, the drop-in events were created to bring all generations together and offer something free for families and residents to enjoy, including crafts, activities and, on the hottest days, a welcome water fight.



Snapshot of a Community Fun Afternoon

THE MUSWELL HILL CLUB FITNESS AND LEISURE

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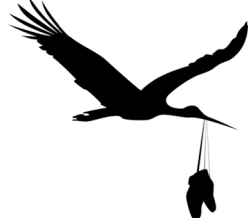
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