

THE MUSWELL HILL & FORTIS GREEN ASSOCIATION

Presentation by: Ms. Denise Feeney, Committee Member, Webmaster and Rep Alexandra Palace Consultative Committee.

14th September 2010

General background:

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association was formed in 1948 as a non-political amenity society. It is concerned with everything that contributes to the quality of life and the environment, including roads, buildings and open spaces in Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra wards.

We have over 600 members from these wards and are one of the largest residents' associations in North London. We aim to be as proactive as possible, canvassing and putting forward members' views to the relevant authorities, on such subjects as design of shop fronts, parking, graffiti, green sites, planning, transport, litter and any issues relating to Alexandra Palace and Park. Our Committee is made up of 13 experienced and interested local residents who attend 8 committee meetings a year plus our AGM. Committee members are also involved in local consultations, events and groups throughout the year,

Alexandra Palace: Our interest and connection to the Charity.

Our Association is represented on the Alexandra Palace Statutory Advisory Committee by Denis Heathcote and his deputy Monica Myers and the Alexandra Palace Consultative Committee with myself as representative. The local Conservation Area Advisory Committee includes our representative, John Crompton. We all additionally attend events, exhibitions, functions and governance open days related to Alexandra Palace and Park.

In the past we played a key role in representing local residents' views at the Public Inquiry on the future of Alexandra Palace and Park. This carried considerable weight and influenced the Inspector and was one of the few occasions when a local residents' association's proposals have been carried through into legislation. As a result, the Statutory Advisory Committee, our main forum for influencing future plans for the Palace and Park, was established. The first Chair of the Advisory Committee was the Chair of the MHFGA - Robert Andrewes.

We hold regular open meetings for members and non-members with speakers on local issues and history. On 21st October 2009 Rebecca Kane and Park Manager, Mark Evison, gave a presentation followed by a question and answer session. Matt Baker, the previous Park Manager, also gave a talk to our members in the past on new developments in the Park. The Park Manager has led three walks for our members around Alexandra Palace Park; the first led by Matt Baker and the latter two by Mark Evison. These events were reported on in our newsletters.

Our eight page Newsletter, including photographs, is distributed six times a year. They include information on developments at Alexandra Palace as well as listings of any forthcoming events. Our website lists Alexandra Palace events on the Notices pages and a link to Alexandra Palace on the Links page. Other news items related to the Park also feature and our newsletter highlights include items about Alexandra Palace and Park. There is a new website in development and it will continue to offer such information.

Conclusion:

Alexandra Palace is part not only of the environment of Muswell Hill, but also part of its identity. The Park is particularly precious to our association's members.

Websites: <http://www.mhfga.1to1.org> and <http://www.mhfga.org.uk>.