

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

Hornsey Pensioners Action Group serves pensioners within Hornsey & Wood Green and other neighbouring parliamentary constituencies

June 2021 - Bulletin 6

Unfortunately, our 1st live meeting has been cancelled

Haringey Launches Mental Health Helpline

Haringey Mental Health services have launched the **Safe Haven helpline** to support residents aged 18+ who are experiencing mental health issues and need someone to talk to.

The helpline is available to anyone experiencing a crisis and is struggling to keep going. The helpline staff include those who have a lived experience of mental health. This will include; non-judgemental listening, working with people to find ways of managing the crisis and suggesting longer-term support.

The service is available 7 days a week, 5pm to 8pm, with the plan to extend the hours to more evenings and weekends in the future.

The Safe Haven helpline is available via freephone on **0800 953 0223**.

Calling All Able Bodied Members

We urgently need help with putting up flyer posters for our monthly meetings in Wood Green (5 venues) and/or Muswell Hill (3 venues) at the moment in designated shops and libraries. You may also find more sites. Please contact **Ann** for further details **020 8340 8335** or awarr@btinternet.com

Pensioners Convention Webinars

Webinars will be held on **8th, 18th, 21st & 29th of June 2021**. Unlike the Pensioner Parliaments, as held in Blackpool, no travel or hotel costs are needed but you do need to be on broadband.

These virtual meetings will be worth joining; perhaps those without broadband could share with members who are on email but taking COVID precautions.

- Janet

Mind Over Matter - Depression?

Cate Ablett – expert by experience, will recount how she dealt with her own problems.

There will also be a discussion on local support services

Time & Date: **Wednesday 23rd June 2021, 1.30pm**

Venue: **Hornsey Parish Church Hall
Cranley Gardens
N10 3AH**

Entrance on Cranley Gardens through car park.
Doors open from 1pm.

NB. Please note the meeting date has been changed from our last Bulletin.

The Old E-Scooter



Image: Paul Thompson/
public domain

We thought e-scooters were new. Not a bit of it. In 1917, a New York Company released the Autoped Scooter, 90 years before the first Peugeot e-scooter was seen.

This is an image of Lady Florence Norman, a suffragette, on her motor-scooter in 1916, travelling to work at offices in London, where she was a supervisor.

The scooter was a birthday present from her husband, the Journalist and Liberal Politician Sir Henry Norman.

Source: member, Joyce Rosser from www.harringayonline.com

Priority Services Help for Energy and Water Supplies

Apparently, there are schemes run by both *Thames Water* and *UK Power Networks* which will assist customers who have specific communication, access or safety needs if, for example, there is a power cut. All you need to do is complete a short registration form. For the *Priority Services Register* it is: <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/priority-service-register-application-form/>, for Thames Water it is: <https://www.thames-psr.org/enter-your-details>.

For those not on the internet, the telephone numbers are: UKPN **0800 169 9970** and Thames Water **0800 009 3652**.

Source: *Greater London National Pensioners Convention*

Mary Feilding Guild Care Home Closure

Latest News: Mary Feilding Guild Care home was closed by a private company, Highgate Care, on May 7th, 3 weeks earlier than planned. The remaining 4 residents have now found alternative accommodation. The cause for early closure was stated by the new owners to be due to Legionella bacteria samples in the Care Home water. But Public Health England told the *Ham & High* newspaper that "no samples above a 100 have been reported in recent water sample testing at the Care Home."
NB. The owner had earlier been awarded an OBE.

On May 6th Janet 's *View from the Street* article "**The Crisis Will Not Be Over Until The Virus is in Check Across The Entire Globe**" was published in the *Broadway Ham & High*.

Haringey Councillor Changes

The leader of Haringey Council is now Cllr. Peray Ahmet. On May 20th in the *Ham & High* the outgoing leader, Cllr. Joe Ejiofor lists achievements while he was leader in an article, "Peray Ahmet replaces Ejiofor as Haringey Council leader", by the [Hampstead Highgate Express](#).

As before, councillors will be welcome at our meetings and we shall lobby them for support.

We have sent an email to Cllr. Sarah James, the outgoing cabinet member for Health & Adults thanking her. Sarah has been very supportive. See her letter about the closure of St Mary Feilding Guild Care Home with evictions and her support in opposing the takeover of the GP practice at St Ann's by the US private firm Centene.

More detail can be found on our website: www.hornseypag.org.uk

Hornsey Historical Society from Janet Owen

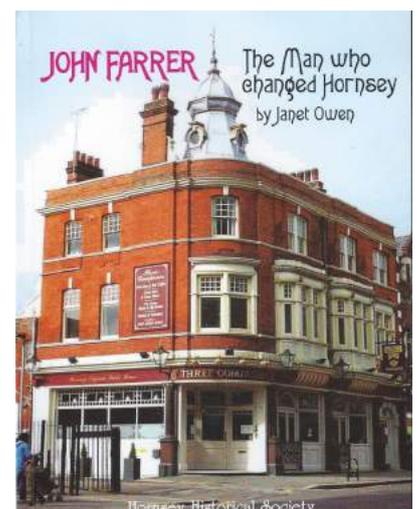
The Old Schoolhouse, the Hornsey Historical Society's base (since 1971) on the corner of Rokesly Avenue and Tottenham Lane, is opening again after being closed for months because of the pandemic. The shop, selling their publications, will be open on Thursdays (10.00am to 2.00pm) and Saturdays (10.30am to 2.30pm) and on Fridays (10.00am to 2.00pm).

On Fridays, there is the added opportunity for individual research on the history of the locality using material from our Archive Room which contains well over 26,000 items. Advanced booking is essential for researchers, who will be allocated an 1½ hour slot. The Archive catalogue is on the HHS website at: <https://hornseyhistorical.org.uk/archive/>.

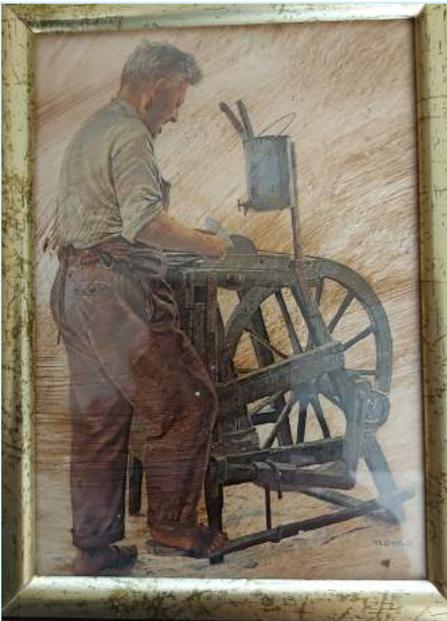
Janet Owen's book, priced £10, is about the man who developed and designed much of the area that our membership covers in the late 19th and early 20th century. I am enjoying it very much.

Alas, the Old Schoolhouse also served as a public convenience before 1971; there are now no longer any of these in N8.

Ann Anderson



Guido's Journey - The Story of an Italian Immigrant



The mobile grindstone, similar to the one my father used.

My parents lived in a small village in the Italian Alps. They were married in 1925. In the next 10 years, they had 4 children. I was number 3. They made a living with a few cows and they had a mill where they and the villagers would grind corn to make polenta. In the winter my father would travel to London with a mobile grindstone on which he would sharpen knives, choppers and saws. He had his regular customers.

In 1935, my parents and their children emigrated to London. They lived in Little Italy (Clerkenwell) next to the Italian church. Their accommodation was 3 rooms, a shared sink on the landing and a shared toilet downstairs. We went to school which was attached to the church with a playground on the roof.

In 1939, my father was taken from our family and interned on the Isle of Man with other aliens. By this time, my mother had 6 children and another on the way. She relied heavily on my eldest brother, Joe, who was 13 years old and could speak English. He became the father figure.

Later in 1939, us four older children were evacuated with the school to Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire. After the baby was born in 1940 my mother and the other 3 children joined us in Wootton Bassett. Three years later my father was released because a friend of his gave him a job in Swindon and also a house for the whole family.

The last baby was born in Swindon and I now had 6 brothers and 1 sister. Joe, Italo, Guido (me), Lucia (known now as Lucy), Dino, Mario, Angelo and Rico. In 1945, we came back to London and I had a Wiltshire accent.

We later bought our own family house in Archway in 1959. I met my now wife, Ursula, in 1962 through her sister who knew my friend. We married in 1965 and enjoyed going on package skiing holidays to Austria & Switzerland until we had our first child, who was born in 1969.

We moved to Hornsey in 1966 and have been here ever since. I retired in 2018 at the age of 88 after 73 years of sharpening knives, saws, scissors, garden sheers etc; in our own workshop. I am now 91 years of age.

By Guido Maestranzi as told to his wife, member Ursula Maestranzi (who helps Janet Wilson with the refreshments at HPAG public meetings.)



Me, my brothers and my sister with our respected husbands and wives.

Edited by Janet Shapiro and Ann Anderson. Produced by Mia Anderson

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