

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

February 2023

The Dark Side of Enfield by Joe Studman

A well-known London local history guide of Jaywalks



Time & Date: **WEDNESDAY February 15th 2023**

1.30pm Start

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

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

*All help by members welcome. With many thanks to all our helpers last month and
volunteers Mike Seed and Mia Anderson*

Friends of Muswell Hill Library Talk, Saturday 28th January, 2pm in the Library

Nick Higham, Author of *The Mercenary River* will tell the story of London's water from the Middle Ages to C20, with special reference to the New River.

Hornsey Pensioners Action Group's Future Meetings

March 15th Primary Health Care

April 19th AGM and the Co-operative Legal Services.

2023 Subscriptions



Parminder, our Treasurer, updating the members at the December party regarding new technology for 2023 subscriptions.

Cheques can be scanned; direct transfers can be made, as well as meetings' payments, on her phone.

See insert or attachment for how you can pay your subscription.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Feedback



Comment on trials of Haringey Low Traffic neighbourhoods on the [Haringey Council website](http://www.haringey.gov.uk).

The deadline for objections on each of the schemes is:

- Bounds Green – **15th February 2023**
- St Ann's – **22nd February 2023**
- Bruce Grove West Green – **1st May 2023**

Thursday 26th January: Watch out for Janet S's column in the Broadway Ham and High newspaper on Mathematics in schools!

Hornsey Pensioners' Festive Social on December 7th 2022



We were so lucky on the weather – though it was cold. Imagine if it had been on the 15th with ice on top of thick snow! It was the highest meeting attendance since the end of the COVID lock down. As the volunteers came at 11.30pm, the Noah's Ark nursery could leave on the heaters for us. The social was opened up at 12.30pm with the large spread that Ursula and her husband, Guido, had organised - in their Christmas jumpers. They were ably supported by Janet W, Ros and Susan.

At 1.30pm, Daniele Pirrodi gave his 45min recital. He is a classical guitarist and gained a Master's degree at Moderna's Conservatory. His resume says: *"The guitar is the perfect instrument to merge the sacred and profane, the sophisticated and simple and it goes directly to your inner self."*

Alas, as time was pressing he did not give his own introduction, which Clive pointed out would have been preferable. As Janet S wrote to Daniele in her thank you email: *"You created a peaceful and contemplative mood, with a variety of styles."* You can visit his website: www.danielepiroddi.com or **07828 793 283**.



The refreshment volunteers then provided dessert while Sarah, who was organising the quiz, asked people to get into teams of equal size. She had written two quizzes; Geography and the History of London, on which nobody gained full scores. The Geography quiz was the most difficult, with subtle wording like *"What is the largest wild carnivore in the British Isles?"* No, it was not a Boar but a Badger, as the former being a pig, like humans, can eat anything.



Hilary (with her Christmas jumper) and Mike had organised the free raffle and Rochelle called out the lucky winners, except for Janet W, who said she got the booby prize i.e. one of the books Ann had self published: *High Times with Hilda* (The journal extracts of a group of middle aged women escaping into the countryside. NB. I have plenty more). Then there was a rush to get the hall and kitchen clear as the after school club started setting up.

Thanks to everyone, including Mike for the audio, it was a most enjoyable event!

Keep Our NHS Public: Ambulance Services

From Member, Rod Wells: I went to Edmonton Ambulance station to show solidarity and to support ambulance workers on their picket line on behalf of Haringey's KONP (Keep Our NHS Public.

We met ambulance workers who are proud to do their job, helping people receive proper treatment - and taking on a wide range of mental health and social issues, palliative care, as well as emergency care. But some are concerned about their mental health, with constant anxiety whilst on duty about the backlog of calls, whilst they struggle to get their patients into hospital (in this case N Middlesex.)

Some said that if there was an alternative job, many would consider taking that. All agreed that there is a real crisis in the Ambulance Service and the NHS now and that they are striking as it's not safe for patients. The Government must pay what's necessary so that enough staff are recruited and we get back a proper Ambulance service.



Digital Communications and the Over 65s



Forwarded from Member, Gordon Peters, who remembers that 2 years ago, 1 in 5 over 65s did not use digital communications.

[Age UK London](#) sent Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to all 33 London councils asking for information on the availability of support for people without online access. 29 councils responded and 4 did not.

The responses reveal that:

- 9 (31%) do not offer offline access to council tax reductions or housing benefit
- 8 (25%) do not offer offline access to Blue Badge applications
- 5 (17%) do not offer any offline access to council rate rebates, council tax reduction, housing benefit and Blue Badge applications

This digital exclusion will be preventing older residents from accessing vital support to which they are entitled. A quarter of older Londoners live in poverty and councils not offering an offline alternative to accessing services is exacerbating this severe problem even further.

See Age UK's report: [Age UK_MTDG_FOI_Final.pdf](#)

People and Ageing Commissioner

Hornsey Pensioners Action Group will support a Consensus Statement on an Older People and Ageing Commissioner, as sent from the National Pensioner Convention. See attached email or inserted print out.

Tottenham Clouds



Last November, some members celebrated Luke Howard, Namer of Clouds and Father of Meteorology's Anniversary, Legacy in Tottenham 250 years after his birth. Lordship Rec was also declared the 1st Cloud Appreciation Park in the World. See <https://www.tottenhamclouds.org.uk> for your own cloud chart.



My Family Story

By Parminder Gunn-Hamilton



Khat -Ker-Kalan, the family land

Becoming the second daughter of a Sikh Punjabi farming family, my mother was not very pleased when she had me. I was born and brought up on a farmhouse in the Punjab, North India. Punjab means 5 (Punj) rivers(ab), which makes it a very fertile land and is known as the breadbasket of India.

My paternal grandfather worked very hard and expanded the farm with the help of his two sons. My dad was the eldest and, being very bright, was educated and became a very respected teacher.

Growing up on the farm in an extended family had its ups and downs. Ups were seasonal foods, e.g. melon season, maize season, and all the fresh vegetables. Downs were the constant conflicts between my mum and her mother-in-law. Fortunately, my father wanted to, and did, come to England. A few years later, in November 1963, we were able to follow him. My mum and us kids came by ship, a massive cruise ocean liner. Of course we were 3rd class, with other Indian families.

The ship provided amazing experiences for us children, we could roam all over it. There were shops, swimming pools, music at night. The sight of white couples dancing together horrified our mums. *"Have they no shame"*, they would say. The ship took us through the Suez Canal via the Arabian sea, it stopped at Naples. We heard Pompeii was worth seeing. So we took a taxi there, found out it was just ruins. Mums said *"we're not paying to go in and see ruins"*. And we didn't. We disembarked at Genoa, train via Paris to Calais. Got a ferry to Dover, the train to London and then a van to Leicester. My poor Mum, she coped with all that.

I was 10, my sister was 12 and my brother was 8. I could read English but speaking and understanding took a while. I had no idea there was an eleven plus, which I didn't get through.

Deep snow and cold were expected, we knew we were coming to a cold place. We didn't know it was an unusually cold winter. Television was a wonder; I thought there were real people inside. The Beatles' *"She loves you"* was number one. I thought, how can they sing in English, let alone speak it? It was all a wonder to me. My teacher looked like Marilyn Monroe, I used to wonder whether she had bare legs or there was something funny about them, while we sat on the floor and watched her legs as she sat on a chair in a tight skirt. Indian women didn't wear stockings, so I had no idea that was what she was wearing.



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