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# THE ARCHER



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CARS & COURIERS

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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Tube station: there's good news and bad

By Diana Cormack and John Lawrence

There's good news and bad news for users of East Finchley tube station. First, the bad. Transport for London has put forward plans to cut drastically the opening hours of the ticket office by almost five hours a day in the week and by almost 12 hours a day on weekends.

Current weekday hours of 6.30am to 8.30pm will be cut to 6.45am to 1.30pm and 4.45pm to 7.15pm. On Saturdays, the office will be open only from 12pm to 2.15pm and on Sundays for just one hour from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

The reduced hours may involve job losses, although TfL has been reported as saying these will be achieved through voluntary redundancies or leaving vacancies unfilled. The station will remain staffed at all times when trains are operating.

It's another blow for travellers and commuters, coming as the Northern line begins the first of many closures and part

closures on weekends, and 11.30pm shutdowns during the week, in order to complete maintenance work.

### And the good news?

The frontage of East Finchley station is about to become a lot more attractive with a helping hand from the N2 Gardeners, the growing group of 'guerilla' gardeners set up last year to cultivate the neglected corners of our neighbourhood. The voluntary gardeners could receive a £1,000 Capital Growth London Wide grant to cultivate the green bank alongside the entrance to the station car park.

N2 Gardeners told *THE ARCHER* that any work taken

on there would be tough. They are seeking people to plan plant layout for this difficult space; suggestions as to what to plant; and help with the digging and planting work itself.

### Fag ends among the flowers

Winter flowering pansies, spring bulbs and green shrubs planted by the group are already brightening up the planters at the front of the station. Unfortunately some people are spoiling them by dropping cigarette butts into the soil.

There is now a notice asking people not to dump their rubbish in the planters. However, the group feels that cigarette butt disposal will remain a problem as there is no alternative provision for it at the station after a small bin on the wall was removed several weeks ago.

A TfL spokesperson said: "To help make the station more pleasant for our customers London Underground will be instructing our contractor Tube Lines to install two new ashtray bins at the entrances of East Finchley station by the end of April. Tube Lines will be responsible for maintaining and emptying the ashtray bins."

If you would like to improve the look of the area around East Finchley tube station please contact: n2gardeners@gmail.com



Goggles on: Archie Price gets ready for the swimathon

## Archie splashes out for charity

Six-year-old Archie Price is hoping to raise £1,500 for Marie Curie Cancer Care by taking part in the Swimathon this month. Archie, of Durham Road, is competing in the event at The Oasis, an outdoor pool in Covent Garden, on 17 April.

He will be taking part in the charity event with Finchley friend Ella Coleman and his parents Chris and Wendy Price as part of Team Goggleblog. A pupil at Martin School, Archie is planning to swim at least 10 lengths of the pool (270m) while the team will be swimming 5km between them.

His dad Chris Price says:

"Archie hasn't been swimming that long and we are really proud that he wants to take on this challenge to help others. At a time when child obesity is becoming more common we are hoping that his and Ella's example will encourage others to take up swimming to keep fit and have fun."

Parents Wendy and Chris Price recently started their own swimming website, Goggleblog.com, specialising in giving swimming advice as well as selling water confidence toys and swimwear for kids and adults. You can sponsor Archie and Team Goggleblog here: <http://my.artezglobal.com/TeamPage.aspx?teamID=34508&langPref=en-CA>.

For details on how to take part in this year's Swimathon go to [www.swimathon.org](http://www.swimathon.org)

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us with a meeting place.*

*THE ARCHER team wishes  
to thank all the generous  
people who give up their  
spare time, in all weather,  
to deliver the paper for us.*

### Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please  
contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may  
be published unless clearly  
marked 'Not for publication'  
within the text.

### Copy deadlines

May issue: 16 April  
June issue: 14 May  
July 2010: 11 June

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Councils

**Barnet Council:**  
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000  
Council Tax 020 8359 2608  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700  
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
Employment Service 020 8258 3900  
**Haringey Council** 020 8489 0000

### Leisure

**Alexandra Palace** 020 8365 2121  
**East Finchley Library** 020 8359 3815  
**Muswell Hill Odeon** 0870 505 0007  
**Phoenix Cinema** 020 8444 6789  
**Warner Cinema** 020 8446 9933

### Transport

**Nat. Rail Enquiries** 0845 748 4950  
**City Airport** 020 7646 0088  
**London Transport** 020 7222 1234  
**National Express** 08705 808080  
**Heathrow Airport** 0870 000 0123

### Hospitals

**Barnet General** 0845 111 4000  
**Coppetts Wood** 020 8883 9792  
**Finchley Memorial** 020 8349 7500  
**Oak Lane Clinic** 020 8349 7000  
**Royal Free** 020 7794 0500  
**St Luke's** 020 8219 1800  
**Whittington** 020 7272 3070

### Health Advice

**AIDSline** 020 8363 2141  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** 0845 7697555  
**Barnet MENCAP** 020 8203 6688  
**Cancer Support** 020 8202 2211  
**Carers' Line** 0808 808 7777  
**Drinkline** 0800 917 8282  
**Drugs Helpline** 0800 776600  
**MIND** 020 8343 5700  
**NHS Direct** 0845 4647

### OAP's Advice

**Barnet Age Concern** 020 8346 3511  
**Contact (N2)** 020 8444 1162

**Help the Aged** 0808 800 6565

### Crime

**Emergency** 999  
**Barnet Police** 020 8200 1212  
**Mus. Hill Police Stn.** 020 8808 1212  
**CrimeStoppers** 0800 555 111  
**Victim Support** 0845 303 0900  
**East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team** 020 7161 9014

### Help & Advice

**Childline** 0800 1111  
**Disability Info Service** 020 8446 6935  
**E.F. Advice Service** 020 8444 6265  
**Gingerbread** 020 8445 4227  
**National Debt Line** 0808 808 4000  
**NSPCC** 0800 800 500  
**Rape & Sexual Abuse** 020 8683 3300  
**Relate** 020 8447 8101  
**RSPCA Inspector** 0300 1234 999  
**Samaritans** 08457 909090  
**Refuge Crisis Line** 0870 599 5443



42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.  
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Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.

### Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

### Community Services

❖ **Credit Union**, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916  
❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916  
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

**5 Beaumont Close, N2 (The Lodge)**

Proposed alteration and extension of existing garage structure to provide bedroom accommodation within the attic.

### 26A Church Lane, N2

Erection of a single storey front extension to provide increased office space following demolition of existing conservatory.

### 38A Church Lane, N2

Creation of first floor roof terrace to rear involving installation of privacy screening.

### 255 Creighton Avenue, N2

Part single, part two storey rear extension including balcony. Extension to roof including removal of chimneys and rear dormer to facilitate a loft conversion. Conversion of garage into habitable room. First floor front/side extension.

### 5 Hamilton Road, N2

Single storey rear extension.

### 83 High Road, N2

Second floor rear extension.

### 111 High Road, N2

Single storey rear extension.

### 248A High Road, N2

Retention of front lights and formation of new dormer window to rear to facilitate a loft conversion. Retention of new door to first floor side elevation with accompanying fire escape staircase. Repositioning of gable window.

### 2 Lyttelton Road, N2

Formation of new access door within existing window opening to form entrance to ground floor unit (suite 2).

### Land Rear of 2 Market Place, Viceroy Close, N2

Erection of part two, part three storey building containing two two-bedroom terrace houses and one two-bed maisonette.

### London Underground Ltd, East Finchley Station, Great North

### Road, N2

Installation of two wall mounted flat screen TFT monitor Electronic Service Update Boards (ESUBs) housed within a case made from aluminium castings and extrusions and fronted with a glass door. Listed Building Consent.

### 16 Ossulton Way, N2

Erection of two storey rear extension. Extension to roof including side dormers and rear roof light to facilitate a loft conversion. Conversion of garage into habitable room and new garage doors. Extension to front porch and associated works.

### 79 Park Hall Road, N2

Single storey rear conservatory.

### 33 Summerlee Gardens, N2

Installation of solar panels onto flat roof of dormer window.

### Gable Lodge, 30 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Two storey extension to front, sides and rear. Demolition of existing roof and erection of new clay tile roof with dormers to all sides. First floor rear extension. Removal of stone cladding and formation of new front extension at ground floor level. Front excavation following demolition of existing garage, followed by new underground room and new extension to replace garage on ground floor. New fenestration and front door. New chimneys.

### Land adjacent to Eliot House, 40 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Erection of two-storey (plus attic and basement accommodation) dwelling house, with associated landscaping. Formation of new access onto The Bishops Avenue.

### Flat 5, Maple Court, 49A The Bishops Avenue, N2

Roof extension to Flat 5 including extension of existing north facing flank to provide additional living space, terrace room and small terrace.

## Plain clothes patrols pay off

By Janet Maitland

**Four men were arrested for burglary in Creighton Avenue on 15 February.**

PC Eddie Rose, who made the arrests, became suspicious when he saw the men eyeing up the houses on the avenue. The men were unaware they were being watched as the police officer was in plain clothes and driving an unmarked car. When PC Rose spotted the men emerging from a back garden he arrested them, with help from

other members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. They have all been bailed pending further enquiries.

Police are also targeting a specific street at a time. Householders get a security survey and information about a DNA marking scheme for valuable property. A new e-watch scheme warns residents by email of crime that's happened in their street. Sign up by emailing East Finchley.snt@met.police.uk.

## Boys' group seeks new leader

**The 9th Muswell Hill Beaver Colony is looking for a new volunteer to lead the group or else it risks closing. The current leader Adrian Haysome is leaving after three years and despite several appeals no-one has come forward to lead the group.**

The 9th Muswell Hill Beaver Colony is 40 years old and serves 25 boys aged 6-8.

Local dad Adrian Haysome has been a dedicated and enthusiastic leader. He has given the boys a wide variety of opportunities and challenges from caving

to cake making, from kayaking to swimming, shooting to hiking, Scuba diving to gliding, trips and competitions.

If you think you or someone you know can help, please contact Lucia Glynn at lucia.glynn@blueyonder.co.uk

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at **East Finchley Methodist Church, 197 High Road, N2 8AJ.**  
James Drewe is a qualified teacher and has been practising t'ai chi for 34 years.  
He is Vice-Chairman of the Longfai Taijiquan Association  
Other classes (Tottenham Ct. Rd., Westminster, The City): **WWW.taiji.co.uk**  
email: **james@taiji.co.uk** phone: **020-888 333 08**



## Do you remember those Phoenix nights?

By Sheila Armstrong

Our own and much loved Phoenix Cinema is asking people to share their memories of the picture house and be part of their new Story Book Project which celebrates the cinema's centenary this year.



The Phoenix (then The Coliseum) in 1930. Photo courtesy Archives of London Borough of Barnet.

Phoenix Heritage Officer Eleanor Sier is looking for anyone, of any age, local or not, who has a memory to share about the Phoenix. Maybe you worked there years ago, went to children's Saturday morning films or still travel across London regularly to see films at this iconic venue?

Whatever your memory, Eleanor is keen for you to share it. Contact her on 020 8442 0442 or at [heritage@phoenixcinema.co.uk](mailto:heritage@phoenixcinema.co.uk). You will be interviewed and possibly filmed and these interviews will be shown on the website, and in some cases at the cinema before main features.

Built in 1910 and known vari-

ously over the last 100 years as The Picturedrome, The Rex and the Coliseum, the Phoenix is the UK's oldest continuously run cinema. As we all know, The Phoenix's restoration project, funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund and community contributions, will renovate the Art Deco film house this summer. Fundraising is still going on and donations are very much welcome.

Renovation work started in March and the cinema will have restricted opening times this summer. Watch the press for details, or go to the website [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk).



Stephen Brain with Institute Principal Joy Solomon. Photo courtesy HGSI

## New chairman for The Institute

The Institute has announced the appointment of Stephen Brain as chairman of The Institute Council. Stephen will support the ongoing development of the adult education centre.

The new chairman was educated at Goldsmiths' College London and Sussex University. His first teaching post was in Adult and Continuing Education, an area of work in which he has retained a strong interest.

He is committed to the idea of Adult Education as a dynamic

force. He believes that, despite the financial pressures the sector has experienced, it is more relevant to people's lives today than ever before. "Technology presents adult education with new and exciting possibilities", he says.

Stephen is married with two children and lives in Greenwich, although he was born in Hampstead and still has family and friends living in the area. When not working, Stephen's interests include music, poetry, literature, the arts and quantum physics.



Diana Cormack presents a cheque to The Bobath Centre from the proceeds of sales of the ARCHER Calendar. Pictured are Diana, Ruby Hamilton, Sarah Terrazas, Marie Stanley & Kevin Gillespie. Photo by John Dearing

## ARCHER Calendar raises £2,000

A huge thank you to everyone who bought a copy of *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2010 and to all the shops and venues who found space to sell them. Thanks to you, we raised a magnificent total of £2,066.

Every penny will go to help the work of the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Hundreds of children and their families every year benefit immeasurably from the therapy and support work provided by the charity at its base in East End Road.

Bobath fundraising and

development manager Kevin Gillespie said: "We were so pleased to be chosen as the beneficiary of the funds raised from the 2010 calendar. Thank you to everyone involved in making this project such a success, especially the local businesses which sold the calendars. We are proud to

be part of such a supportive community."

*THE ARCHER* is also very grateful to all the readers who submitted their own photographs to be used in the calendar, and to Photobox.co.uk, the online photo and gift company that printed the calendars free of charge.

This is the second great year of fundraising for *THE ARCHER* Calendar. Last year, you helped us raise more than £2,000 for East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact.

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# No place for bullies



Pictured above:  
Year 12 pupils Anooja  
Jethwa, Mayuri Depala and  
Jodie Meredith from Christ's  
College Finchley with their  
anti-bullying T-shirts.  
Photo courtesy Christ's  
College Finchley.

An anti-bullying campaign was launched and driven by Year 12 students at Christ's College Finchley on Monday 8 March. Thirty students volunteered to be anti-bullying ambassadors and donned bright yellow T-shirts to offer help and advice to students.

Students in Year 10 devised a drama for school assemblies to provoke discussion on the issues surrounding bullying and cyber bullying. There are many more events planned between now and the end of the spring term such as a pledge wall, which students will sign, anti-bullying wrist bands and PHSE lessons led by Year 12 students.

Headteacher Gary Tucker said how important it was for all schools to be addressing this issue whether or not there is a problem.

## Stretch your legs this spring

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard  
For 78 miles around outer London runs a guided trail known as the Capital Ring. A Transport for London poster promoting Suburban London features a Simpsons-style doughnut with the caption "The Best Bits Aren't Always In The Middle". Having explored the walk myself, I am inclined to agree.

The Capital Ring runs alongside the Stratford Olympic Village, and the Welsh Harp reservoir, with Wembley Stadium in view. This delightful route takes in parks, scenic hilltops and canal paths, and highlights of the tour (for me) include Eltham Palace Gardens, Wimbledon Park, Richmond Park with its wild deer and the dinosaur sculpture park at Crystal Palace.

### The Northern trail

Although the official start of the Ring is at the Woolwich Tunnel (near a leisure pool advertised as London's Premier Indoor Waterpark) you can start from any point. North Londoners can start from the 12 o'clock position on the Ring.

Cherry Tree Wood is included in the walk, between Lyttleton Playing Fields and Highgate Wood. There are nearby parks such as Big Wood and Little Wood that I found out about thanks to this trail. It usually takes a few days to complete the walk, and at many stages (such as the western end of Cherry Tree) the signage could be better. However, it makes a fascinating journey, well worth the time, and offers a view of countless corners of the leafy suburbs.

Further information from TfL's Walking Pages website, [www.tfl.gov.uk/walking](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/walking) or 0870 240 6094

## Comedy and song in memory of Spike

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund, part of The Finchley Society, is presenting a fund-raising event with The Angels of Kaos Choir, singers Jessie Buckley and Jane Milligan (Spike's daughter) and actors Maureen Lipman and Ben Goddard, along with Ian Cameron on trumpet and Barry Booth at the piano.

It takes place on Sunday 18 April at The Middlesex University Campus in The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BT, starting at 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost £15.00 and can be obtained from David Smith on 020 8883 4154 or from Barbara Warren on 020 8346 5258. The price includes interval drinks in the covered quadrangle.

It is intended to erect the statue to Spike in the grounds of Avenue House, East End Road. Full details are on the website: [www.spikemilligan](http://www.spikemilligan)

[statuefund.org.uk](http://statuefund.org.uk)

Jane Milligan and Maureen Lipman are patrons of the Statue Fund. The Angels of Kaos are a locally-based choir and supported the Fund's open air event in the grounds of Avenue House in June 2006.

There will be an auction of books signed by Bill Wyman from the Rolling Stones and explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, also patrons. Further details from David Smith on the number above or [joda@fsmail.net](mailto:joda@fsmail.net)

## Time to contemplate

Recently, the tranquil interior of East Finchley Methodist Church was home to a touring exhibition of highly colourful banners by the artist Jacqui Frost, in conjunction with the Deo Gloria Trust.

Stepping in from the noise and bustle of the High Road, visitors found time for quiet contemplation of the 10 exquisite embroideries, each with a theme based around the words of Jesus.

A mixture of thoughts, prayers and imagery, the banners have toured nationwide and been exhibited in cathedrals and churches.



Andrea Whittaker, left, shows visitors one of the hand-stitched banners. Photo by John Lawrence

## ARCHER: special delivery

Every month *THE ARCHER* arrives at your door thanks to the work of a team of local volunteers. The names of those involved with the writing and production of the paper are listed on page 2. However, their work would go unseen were it not for an anonymous band of deliverers who distribute the paper throughout the N2 area.

### Key role

Pivotal to this is the person who takes delivery from the printer and then sorts the papers into rounds. We are looking for someone who could take on this role. Delivery usually takes place in the evening between 9pm-11pm. You would need to have a large ground floor entry and/or room for the papers to be stacked and sorted into rounds (plus a suitable space outside just in case you were ever out at the time of delivery).

The papers come in bundles of 50 and we provide round sheets with all the necessary

details. Sorting into rounds takes about three hours but does not have to be done the same evening. The next step is to phone those volunteers who collect the bagged papers and drop them off to our network of deliverers in East Finchley.

We also need more people to drop off and to deliver the paper. On average, delivery takes about 45 minutes per round. To volunteer for any of these roles, crucial in getting *THE ARCHER* to its readers, please email [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or leave a voicemail on 08717 33 44 65. Thank you.

### East Finchley Baptist Church

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Flooding in Cherry Tree Wood has inspired a new leisure plan.  
Photo by Diana Boyd

## Pool in the park proposal

By Diana Boyd

Recent heavy rain heralded the return of flooding to the field in Cherry Tree Wood (see photo). Looking at the saturated grassland, it is not surprising to learn that this was the site of a watercress farm in the latter part of the nineteenth century. There used to be a permanently wet area in the undergrowth not far from the Lazy Sally café, but that has gradually disappeared in the past few years without its source being firmly established.

The dampness of the ground, coupled with the reluctance of water to drain away, could mean that a plentiful natural supply lies beneath the surface. Now a plan to make use of this untapped source can be revealed.

Developers are hoping to apply for planning permission to build an open-air swimming pool because the deeper pools gather at the tennis/basketball court end of the field. They have described it as "a mini version of that enjoyed by so many in Highgate [Ponds]". The natural water in Highgate Ponds is from the River Fleet, which flows underground to the Thames.

### Using resources sensibly

Members of the group "Community Recreation and Play" believe mechanical diggers could create a natural-looking bathing area filled with Cherry Tree Wood's own water. Spokesperson Avril Fullsome said: "The excavated soil could be used to form a grass-covered bank around the pool. Changing facilities for swimmers and tennis players would be provided between the present toilet block and the former park keeper's hut, which would be put back into use for the sale of tickets, hiring of lockers and so on. This is an example of recycling and sensible use of resources at its best."

### Olympic link

Connor Lott, financial oper-

ator of Lidos, believes it would be possible to open the pool to coincide with the launch of the London Olympics in 2012. "If local people get behind us we could start tomorrow," he enthused. "Who knows, in 2016 a swimmer from East Finchley could be representing Britain in Brazil?"

## Manorside School wins prestigious new award for inclusivity

By Diana Cormack

A local primary school on Squires Lane has become the first recipient of the Accord Award for Religious Inclusion and Equality. The award is sponsored by the Accord Coalition, which links both religious and secular organisations in campaigning for inclusive education and against discrimination in schools. It is offered to primary and secondary schools that celebrate diversity of religious and non-religious beliefs and go beyond what is expected in terms of inclusion and equality in the school and the wider community.

### Harmony

"When I read about this I knew we had to apply because Manorside ticked all the boxes," RE coordinator Dianne Cohen told *THE ARCHER*. "It is difficult to define the ethos of a school but everyone who comes through the front door comments on the harmonious atmosphere here. I put this down to the hard work of the staff, the children and support from the parents."

A high proportion of the pupils at the one form entry



Asmaa Ali and Rageh Sabban of Year 6 who received the award from Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain and Baroness Kishwer Falkner.

Photo by Mike Hughes

school are from ethnic minority backgrounds, many with English as an Additional Language, some from refugee families. While assemblies are held to celebrate the major festivals of the six main religions, children who are not from religious homes are encouraged to celebrate their own rituals such as birthdays, weddings or other family occasions. Parents play an important role in the life of Manorside, where culturally significant annual events are given equal importance. Local religious leaders and community figures participate in school activities and the children go on a variety of relevant visits. These include links with local Jewish, Roman Catholic and community schools.

### An opportunity, not a problem

The award was presented at

morning assembly on 1 March by Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, Chair of Accord, and Baroness Kishwer Falkner who summed up succinctly when she said: "I was impressed by the energetic and cheerful way Manorside went about its work of educating and integrating its interesting and varied community, particularly the way it saw its multi-ethnic base not as a problem but as an opportunity to widen the knowledge and experience of its children. An obvious winner."

## Cake sale raises money for autistic education

By Diana Cormack

On a cold, wet Saturday in February customers entering Budgens, in Viceroy Parade, were greeted by an unusual sight. A table loaded with delicious home-made cakes welcomed them into the store, along with the beautiful smile of one of its employees, Vanessa Perri-Khoo.

Vanessa and her boyfriend, fellow employee Fabio Raspagliese, had spent hours of their free time preparing Italian fruit flans, tiramisu, chocolate and banana muffins, low fat chocolate cakes and cookies, which were on offer in return for a donation to the TreeHouse School in Woodside Avenue, part of the national charity for autism education.

Budgens generously paid for all the ingredients and other members of staff contributed their own cakes. Many shoppers gave generously to the cause (but not all: see Letters to the Editor on page 11) and some returned to praise their quality.

At the end of the day only a few were left and £130 had been raised for TreeHouse.

### Parachute jump

Vanessa, who is a volunteer helper at TreeHouse on her days off, told *THE ARCHER*: "I really admire the people at the school. They work so hard. That is what inspired me to do this."

In fact, so keen is Vanessa to raise funds for TreeHouse that on 9 April she is doing a parachute jump before she returns home to Italy. Anyone who would like to sponsor this jump can do so by visiting: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/VanessaPerriKhoo>

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Fancy a cuppa? Contact the Elderly is looking for tea guests.

## Wanted: guests for tea and a chat

By Gilli Pettinger

**Contact the Elderly is looking for people over 75 who would like to join our regular monthly tea parties. On the first Sunday of each month a group of volunteers working for us pick up elderly people in and around East Finchley at about 2.30pm and take them out for tea.**

Every month we go to a different host who provides a wonderful afternoon tea and we all sit round a table and catch up with each other's news, stories and photographs. There is usually a lot of laughter. At about five o'clock we all say goodbye, thank our hosts and the drivers take the guests home and see them safely indoors.

All our guests are elderly people who have difficulty get-

ting out and don't have close family around to help them. If they need an arm to lean on, we lend one. We all have cars and drive the same guest each month so we get to know one another well. At the moment we have vacancies for two or three new guests.

If you know anyone who would like to join our group

please contact either Gilli Pettinger on 020 8361 6313, who runs the East Finchley/Muswell Hill group, or Contact the Elderly on 020 7240 0630 and tell them your post code. They will pass on your request to the nearest group. All the drivers are carefully checked and are fully insured to drive our guests.

## Coming clean on housework

By Diana Cormack

**My grandmother died in 1970 at the age of 82. Among her effects was a poem which she had kept for many years. I believe she cut it out of the Radio Times decades before the feminist movement hit the headlines. Although Grandma never expressed them, she**

**must have secretly shared the writer Mary Knight's views on housework. This was long before vacuum cleaners, washing machines and dishwashers were the norm, yet reading it I realise just how much I take after my grandma!**

### A Psalm of Home Life

*(For the Other Listeners who find the Household Talks oppressive)*

Tell us not in mournful numbers  
How to keep our houses clean:  
When to leave and seek our slumbers,  
How to fill the hours between.

Life is real! Life is earnest!  
Spotless homes are not its goal;  
Who dusts, and then to dust returnest,  
Leaves no rest for sole or soul.

Not enjoyment - surely sorrow  
Is their destined end and way  
Who so plan that each tomorrow  
Is the same as yesterday.

Housework's long, and time is fleeting,  
Must our wives, though stout and brave,  
Go on bottling plums and beating  
Carpets to the very grave?

In the world's broad field of battle  
This seems a depressing strife.  
Be not like dumb driven cattle!  
Get some pleasure out of life!

## Ten tips to help you declutter

*Clearing out clutter can be a huge job for many of us. Starting is the hardest part, but once you've heaved the first few unwanted items into a rubbish bag, you'll find the energy to continue. If decluttering is one of your New Year resolutions, the following tips from Viviana Lotti should ease your progress and save you time.*

### Tip 1: Clear your clutter before buying any storage

Sounds obvious, doesn't it? Many magazine and newspaper articles offer great advice on decluttering, but some are glorified advertisements encouraging you to de-junk so they can sell you more merchandise and the 'perfect' storage solution.

Don't waste money and time buying huge shelving units or cupboards until after you've had a really good clear out. Aim to sort out your storage needs to accommodate what you're left with, otherwise the storage itself can become a clutter problem. Work out exactly what storage you need, which isn't necessarily what's 'in' this month or what everyone else has got.

### Tip 2: Short-term chaos is worth it

Depending on how cluttered your home is, clearing out your junk can make it look like the set from *Apocalypse Now*. Don't be afraid to declutter for fear of your home looking a complete mess while you're doing it. Temporary chaos indicates positive change is occurring, and is only a problem if it becomes your permanent, default mode of living. Just keep eliminating your junk and the mess will subside.

### Tip 3: Don't throw out someone else's clutter without their permission

Avoid this at all costs unless you actually enjoy screaming matches. Many of us are emotionally attached to our clutter, and letting it go can be unsettling at first. Decluttering someone's possessions before they're ready to do this for themselves will upset them immensely. It's also bad karma. By all means tell your loved ones how good it feels to clear your clutter, and suggest they try it too, but don't do it for them unless they specifically ask for your help.

### Tip 4: Don't use charity shops as a junkyard

Only give away possessions to charity if they are in saleable condition and fit for purpose. Your junk can be someone else's jewel but only if they can use it. Also, charities spend precious resources getting rid of (primarily well-meant) donations which they can't sell. Please don't add to their burden.

### Tip 5: Don't overestimate the resale value of your unwanted goods

This applies mostly to books, CDs and DVDs. If you have, say, lots of books to sell, don't assume you'll get anywhere near the price you originally paid for them. However, if you're a truly spectacular

haggler, feel free to ignore this advice. The rest of us can take our chances with eBay, Amazon and the like. Get the best price you can but don't be greedy; remember, your primary aim is to get rid of excess clutter.

### Tip 6: Avoid using paid-for storage as a long-term solution

Storage rental facilities are a brilliant short-term solution between house/flat moves, or if you're doing some major home refurbishment and need to keep your belongings safe and out of the way. However, locking up huge piles of clutter for years will cost you money without actually solving your problems. You'll still feel your clutter is 'hanging over you'. And why pay rent on stuff you'll never use?

### Tip 7: Don't take on someone else's clutter

If you really want to do Aunt Rose a favour and look after her ancient leather sofa 'for a while', put a deadline on it. Make it clear you'll only keep it for a set period of time (say, three months). If not, chances are the person whose junk you're caretaking will suddenly feel liberated and may not want it back. They probably won't tell you and you'll be stuck with their clutter for a very long time.

### Tip 8: Let something go before it's beyond repair

Sometimes we hang onto stuff that's broken or useless because we can't afford a replacement. Don't worry, just let it go. Nature hates a vacuum, so disposing of the offending item will create a space for something better. Releasing your dead clutter will also send a message to Divine Providence that you trust it to provide for you in the future.

### Tip 9: Keep what you love, regardless.

Decluttering isn't about throwing out things you love and need, it's about releasing unwanted junk that's holding you back. It's also not about interior design or having the latest 'must-have' furniture or artwork. If you love something and/or find it useful, ignore what anyone else thinks and keep it. If looking at it makes you happy, it belongs with you. If you shudder just thinking about it, get rid of it.

### Tip 10: Be positive

Clearing out unwanted clutter is one of the simplest and most powerful ways of improving your life. Remember that letting go of your junk isn't about making do with less, it's about making room for something better. Good luck and happy decluttering!

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Typical FGTC club session play. Photo by Sue Pryke

## A gem of a local tennis club

**Fortis Green Tennis Club, as recently renamed, boasts four shale courts. They are sandwiched between Cherry Tree Wood, the club's own lawns and neighbours' back gardens, in a setting nothing short of idyllic. The club has been a fixture of East Finchley and Muswell Hill for nearly a century. Yet, hidden from view and with an unassuming entrance next to 31 Southern Road, it can be easily missed by area newcomers.**

The subject of a BBC documentary in the past, the members-run club is renowned for its welcoming atmosphere.

The season runs from April to early December. The club is affiliated to the LTA and fields men's, ladies' and mixed teams in the area summer and winter leagues. It also runs a number of internal tournaments, formal and informal. Both individual and group coaching is available and there are popular drop-in sessions for juniors and adults keen to advance their skills.

### Uncrowded

A great club attraction is that its courts are rarely crowded. Availability at times other than the lively Saturday sessions is pretty high, including Sundays.

With very reasonable fees, perhaps the lowest in the area, the club offers excellent access and value for money.

The club currently accepts new members of all levels and ages. People are welcome to walk in on Saturday afternoons for a look-around and potential full members have the chance to play in. Good-standard players, both men and women, who enjoy competitive tennis and aspire to play for the club's teams, are particularly welcome.

Further information from the club website at [www.FortisGreenTennis.co.uk](http://www.FortisGreenTennis.co.uk) or the membership secretary on 020 8883 7723 or email [MembershipSec@FortisGreenTennis.co.uk](mailto:MembershipSec@FortisGreenTennis.co.uk).

## Obituary: Grita Dunjohn

It was standing room only in the packed chapel of Golders Green crematorium on 22 January for the funeral of popular former nursing sister Margarete 'Grita' Dunjohn. Mrs Dunjohn, who had lived in Oakview Gardens, East Finchley, from 1980 and before that in Hampstead Garden Suburb for over 20 years, died following a cerebral haemorrhage and six years with Alzheimer's disease.

Known always as 'Grita', she was born in Germany and came to London in Coronation year, 1953, to train at the Royal Free Hospital, then in Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross. In 1956 she was married to Kenneth Dunjohn, a newspaper journalist and later public affairs chief for major industries.

After the birth of her children Grita worked part-time as a teaching sister for the Family Planning Association, including for a while at Fortis Green clinic, and latterly at the Margaret Pyke Centre in London. A team of former colleagues attended her funeral along with many neighbours and friends who shared Grita's keen interest in meditation and related spiritual studies.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Alan Walker, Vicar of St Jude-on-the-Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb. In one tribute it was said that Grita invariably showed 'purity of spirit'. She is survived by her husband and three adult children.



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## Every little counts

By Daphne Chamberlain

**After 23 years as fundraising director at the North London Hospice, East Finchley resident Pauline Treen is retiring this October. Her post carries tremendous responsibility, as the hospice, a registered charity, needs £5.6 million a year. Last year, the Primary Care Trust contributed £1.2 million, so the rest must come from voluntary work and contributions.**

Many fundraising activities are organised by people like you, your neighbour or your pub or club. Part of Pauline's job is to "raise money by persuading other people to raise money."

### Making a difference

During 20 years at home, bringing up three children, Pauline helped fund small local causes where she felt she could make a difference. For example, she and her friends bought out-

grown children's clothing from each other, donating the money to charities of their choice.

Then, after gaining a degree in 1987, she volunteered to work for a year in the newly established hospice, doing a couple of days a week. Instead, the administrators offered her the post of fundraiser.

She believes in going the extra mile. "If an organisation sends you a donation, get back

to them; find out why they are interested. You will make contacts, and hundreds of pounds can grow into thousands."

The hospice's North Finchley building is a beautiful and serene place, serving people of all faiths and offering, free of charge, 17 en-suite rooms with space for families to stay overnight, a day centre and counselling services. There are also 600 home care patients.

Pauline is full of praise for the hundreds of volunteers who work for the hospice in many capacities, with a special word for East Finchley's charity shop and other local fund raisers.

### Happy feet

Another East Finchley focus is the annual Big Walk, held on 21 March this year. That is run by volunteers and brings in between £125,000 and £150,000. If participants are not too footsore this year, they can always walk over burning coals at an event at The Five Bells in May. For further information about the North London Hospice, visit [www.northlondonhospice.org.uk](http://www.northlondonhospice.org.uk).



The Phoenix Morris Team strut their sticks. Photo by Diana Cormack

## First birthday bash at the tea rooms

**The Emporium Tea Rooms at 4-5 Cheapside, Fortis Green, celebrated its first birthday on 13 March. Customers and passers-by were able to watch the Phoenix Morris Dancers, who performed on the pavement and brought a touch of Olde England to the proceedings. Home made jams and chutneys were available for tasting outside, along with a sale of books for children and adults.**

Inside, The Emporium was packed with people eagerly eating the delicious home-made cakes for which the business is justly renowned. They were entertained with music

and by a young magician, 15-year-old Oliver Graham Smith, from Midhurst Avenue. All proceeds at the party were in aid of the North London Hospice.

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## Kick-off for new football school

A new football training school has been launched to cater for eights, nines, 10s and 11s. Danny Grant Soccer School says it will offer a safe environment in which children can keep fit and healthy while learning respect towards their coaches, team-mates and opponents.

Danny Grant has been running League One Sports Academy in north and north-west London for more than 10 years. The school will cater for the four age groups with a training session one evening during the week and matches on Sunday mornings. Teams will be made up of players in five north London locations: Finchley, Hampstead, Mill Hill, Highgate and Southgate. Trials for the 2010/2011 season will take place from May onwards.

Teams will be managed by FA coaches who have a wealth of experience teaching sport to young children and who have worked with the League One Sports Academy. Parents will be encouraged to contribute their time and effort to the smooth running of the teams.

For more details about the North London Youth Football League trials please telephone 020 8446 0891.



## National record for young swimmer

Twelve-year-old swimmer Anum Bandey recently secured the Pakistan women's national short course record for 800m freestyle, swimming the 32 length race in a time of 10 minutes 18.35 seconds.



Champion swimmer Anum Bandey

Anum, who lives in the High Road, was part of a 54-strong team from Barnet Copthall Swimming Club competing in the Middlesex County Swimming Championships.

Barnet Copthall Swimming

Club ended the weekend with a total of 14 individual champions and a further 15 silver and 7 bronze medallists.

Head coach Rhys Gormley praised his swimmers and Anum in particular: "It is a great achievement for Anum Bandey to set a new Pakistan National record in the 800m freestyle. This could well be the catalyst for another Barnet Copthall swimmer to kick-start their international swimming career."

Anyone interested in joining Barnet Copthall Swimming Club can contact rhys@barnetcopthall.com

## Musical treat

Full Circle Youth Theatre will be performing *Once on this Island*, a vibrant and uplifting, award-winning musical. It tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who falls in love with a nobleman, Daniel Beaux-homme. It is a story of life, pain, love, grief, faith, and hope.

Full Circle Youth Theatre is a local company of experienced young performers. The show will be staged at the Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road, N2, on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 April at 7pm. To book tickets, priced £7 for adults and £5 for children, call Anne-Marie on 07958 409863.

### PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Coffee & Kids, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ Dads' Club: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ EF National Childbirth Trust contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ Newstead Parent & Toddler Group, Thurs 9-12-30, Green Man Ctr. Sajni 8359 3460.
- ❖ Old Barn pre-school club, contact 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ Parent & Toddler Group, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ Stepping Stones, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

## YOUNG ARCHER

### World Book Day 2010

Children and school staff all over the borough held special events to celebrate World Book Day on 10 March.

Many put a great deal of effort and ingenuity into dressing up as their favourite book title or character.

Representative of these are Marianne and Gabrielle (pictured), ten-year-olds from Year 5 in Holy Trinity School, who became "Little Women" for the day.

Photo by Diana Cormack



## Fin-tastic day out

Nemo didn't stay lost for long with the children from Holy Trinity nursery and reception classes searching for him among the anemones at the London Aquarium. The children enjoyed a day out as the highlight of their 'Under the Sea' topic in the Foundation stage this term, which has seen the children making jellyfish out of paper plates, singing songs about the sea and even having a taste of the salty water.



Up close and personal: Holy Trinity nursery children are fascinated by the sharks on a trip to London Aquarium.

The trip was a valuable opportunity to take learning outside the classroom and extend the children's knowledge and understanding of one of the most intriguing facets of our 'blue planet'.

"For the children, it was as if the characters of the stories we'd been reading came to life right before their eyes," said Sally Gordon, nursery teacher at the school. "On returning to school, nursery children enjoyed making a book all about our trip. They certainly had lots to say about the experience. I'm sure it will become a favourite at story time."

Holy Trinity nursery in Eagans Close is holding an open morning for all parents and carers together with their children on Wednesday 21 April from 9.30am-11am. Last year, the open morning received great feedback from visitors who thought the nursery was "well run, well organised but still friendly."

When Ofsted visited in October 2009, they noted that 'activities are interesting and exciting and the children enjoy all they do.' More details on admissions criteria are included in the school prospectus at [www.holytrinityceschool.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityceschool.org.uk)

### All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.  
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.  
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,  
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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.  
Experienced singers are always welcome.  
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



### Holy Trinity C of E School Nursery Open Morning

Wednesday 21 April 9.30am to 11.30am

Application forms and our admission policy are available from the school office and from the website at [www.holytrinityceschool.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityceschool.org.uk) and also at the Open Morning. Holy Trinity offers both morning and afternoon nursery sessions and our nursery children can extend their day at breakfast and after-school clubs in the main school.

Applications for admission to nursery for children born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008 close on 3 May 2010



### ★ The Spring Chill Out Academy ★

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or call 020 7284 3215 to request a booking form



## Highgate Primary helps out the Dads' Club

Back in December *THE ARCHER* published a story about the Dads' Club, run by local dad Adam Porter. In the summer Cherry Tree Wood is a favourite meeting place for the group, although it is less tempting during the winter. An indoor venue was much needed for the rest of the year but the dads were unable to find anywhere suitable.

We are pleased to report a happy ending. By a stroke of luck the article was read by East Finchley resident Katherine Nashnush, administrative officer at the Highgate Children's Centre. Head of Centre and Deputy Head of Highgate Primary School Anthony David phoned Adam the next day and when the Children's Centre opened its doors on 22 February, the Dads' Club was the first group to be welcomed in.

Information Officer Kate Imeson said: "Creating a social drop-in playgroup for local part-time and full-time male carers has always been at the core of our ambitions for the Children's Centre, so we were delighted to find an already existing Dads' Club that needed a home. We're looking forward to seeing it grow into a thriving support group and social network for local dads."

"As a father myself," said Mr David, "I know how daunting it can be to walk into a playgroup where you're the only dad. But our data showed that there are a lot of dads in the area caring for their pre-school children for at least part of the week and we want to support them actively. All the research shows that children benefit hugely from spending quality time with their dads."

The Centre, one of only a few in the London area, has been open for a few weeks and is already a huge success. One week, Riaan Kelly led toddler football skills for the children in the outdoor play area. East Finchley dad Richard Looney said his children Caitlin, two, and William, one, have greatly enjoyed coming to the club.

The centre will be hosting a Dads' Day on Saturday 8 May, when local dads are invited to bring their families for a fun day out. If you'd like to attend the Dads' Club with your baby or toddler, drop in on Wednesday mornings between 9am and 12pm at Highgate Children's

Centre (behind Highgate Primary School), Gaskell Road, Highgate N6 4ED. Find out more about the

Dads' Club at <http://thedadsclublondon.blogspot.com> or phone 020 8213 0004.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### If you weren't there

In the weird and wonderful world of rock'n'roll there comes a time when all your yesterdays crawl out from underneath an inconvenient stone to haunt you. And mine is called Nick Kent.

Nick Kent was the reason why I wanted to write about rock'n'roll, take industrial quantities of recreational narcotics, drink death-defying quantities of expensive booze and charge the whole lot to someone else's expenses. I bought the NME, Nick Kent wrote for the NME and I wanted to write for the NME. It wasn't much of an ambition, but it was the 1970s.

They claim that if you remember the 60s you weren't there, but they are wrong. It was the 70s when the weird turned pro and got paid for it. That ten-year period between the end of The Beatles and the death of John Lennon was a golden age. You didn't need a degree or a daddy who worked on The Times or a pointless knowledge of obscure bands. What mattered was being there, and being there didn't mean sitting on the outside looking in.

When Nick Kent went on tour with the Rolling Stones he went with the band. He drank with them, matched Keith drug for drug and then wrote it up for the NME. Objective it wasn't. It wasn't even about the band, it was mostly about Nick Kent and what it was like to snort coke with Keith at seven in the morning. Boy, was I jealous.

In a spectacularly drug fuelled period from about 1972 to 1977 Nick was where the craziness was. He said he had to do the drugs to keep up with the bands. And I guess that was it; he wanted to be in the bands but wasn't talented enough, so he wrote about them like no one else ever did. And I wanted to be him.

When punk arrived and I started to get my chance I found out that there was no point in trying to match Sid and Nancy's drug intake if you wanted to stay alive. Even Nick gave up and eventually retreated to Paris, leaving only a trail of press cuttings and wild stories of a time when if you couldn't be in the band then writing self indulgent accounts of your drug crazed exploits on the road with them was the next best place to be. I should know, I've been there.

Ricky has been reading 'Apathy for the Devil: a 1970s memoir' by Nick Kent, published by Faber and Faber at £12.99.

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## A cup of tea and a piece of art

East Finchley artists Gina Bold and Jon Maitland have an exhibition of their work at the Muswell Hill branch of the art café Chorak. The vibrant paintings light up the café walls.

Gina Bold is self-taught, describing herself as an 'outsider' artist who doesn't belong to any movement or school. Her paintings include a blue-grey portrait of Bob Dylan playing a harmonica and a vase of lemon yellow chrysanthemums that burst out of the canvas like sparklers. "My painting is always changing direction," she said. "I'm influenced by who I meet, what I see and what I feel."

Gina was artist-in-residence at Arlington House night shelter in Camden, where she painted 40 portraits of homeless people. She had her first major solo show in 2007 and exhibited some of her work at the Wallace Collection in March. Gina can be contacted through her website: [www.ginabold.com](http://www.ginabold.com)

Jon Maitland trained at Bristol Art School and Sussex

University in the 1970s, where he developed an innovative child-like style, using clear bright colours. Deceptively simple, many of the pictures have a social message.

His paintings include 'Inside Looking Out', a view through a window on a sunny day. The rich pastel colours make the scene look edible, as if the window were part of a fairy-tale gingerbread house. In 'Sunblest', a man drives a bread van, bathed in the rays of a giant sun. 'My paintings are an emotional response to everyday things,' said Jon. 'Mostly they're humorous, but sometimes they're very sad.'

Jon usually works from photographs and specialises in large-scale wall murals. He can be contacted on 0759 839 5933. The Chorak exhibition is on until the end of April. All the paintings are for sale.



Gina Bold and Jon Maitland in Chorak

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## Regular Events SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi class** at East Finchley Methodist Ch, Weds at 1pm. Call James Drewe 8883 3308 or james@taiji.co.uk
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk).

## MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners and Improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-15 year olds. Mondays 6.30-8pm. Contact Dominic Conway 0777 284 3958
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops.** Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz on Mon 12 & 26 Apr at 8.15pm**, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- ❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music. Contact 07957 344 724 or [www.swamprock.org.uk](http://www.swamprock.org.uk).
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Traditional music** at EF Constitutional Club on 2nd Monday each month from 8.30 pm. Free to join in or just listen.

## CLUBS & SOCIAL

(See p8 for Parent & Toddler Clubs)

- ❖ **Bingo evening, 8pm Sundays**, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** on Weds afternoons, call 7722 6209.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk) or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **LGBT?** 1st Weds every month in a local pub. Welcoming atmosphere. Email [efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com](mailto:efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com)
- ❖ **Muslim Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tuesdays 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita Shaw 8886 6140.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.

## REVIEW:

# A captivating trio

By Ken Carter

The concert programme on 27 February at All Saints Church, Durham Road, comprised a violin sonata by Brahms, along with a cello sonata and a one-movement trio, both by Rachmaninov. Common to all three pieces was the pianist Rimantas Vingras, last heard here to riveting effect in Geoffrey Hanson's 2<sup>nd</sup> Piano Concerto at his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday concert.

Brahms' *Violin Sonata* was exceptional and unforgettable. Vingras and Orpheus Papafilippou (violin) caught the idiom exactly with impassioned clarity and a vigour of spring and weight. Vingras's deftness and Papafilippou's urgent lyricism partnered each other in exemplary balance.

Rachmaninov's *Cello Sonata* (soloist Gregory Duggan) was less endearing. As a pianist, Rachmaninov writes with ardour, but his ear does not quite discern how easily the cello's low tones become lost in this competition, and he strains to be weighty.

Performing balance was not happy, either. We heard arresting individual performances, with some ravishing moments, rather than a partnership of sound. The piano lid was too open and, to my taste, there was too much pedal. This work is rarely played and I applaud Messrs. Vingras and Duggan for giving it an outing.

Rachmaninov's *Trio Elégaique* is a student work of great beauty. Written very simply, with a newcomer's caution, its heart is a haunting melody. Our three performers passed this lament round in flowing, poignant tones, making a sad yet eloquent culmination to an excellent concert.

## Finchley Jazz Club

Some of the very best professional musicians play traditional jazz at the Finchley Jazz Club, which meets on alternate Mondays at the Wilf Slack Memorial Cricket Ground Pavilion, 19 East End Road, N3, from 8.15pm to 10.45pm.

Forthcoming dates are 12 and 26 April. Tickets are just £6 on the door and everyone is very welcome. For more information, contact Pam Kent on 020 8444 6690 or visit [www.finchleyjazz.co.uk](http://www.finchleyjazz.co.uk).

Poet, teacher and publisher Dennis Evans was inspired by a recent visit to the club to write the following poem:

## All that Jazz

*In-jokes,  
and out-jokes.  
We're in the palm of their hands.*

*Jokes about pay and wrong notes,  
Pros behaving like kids!*

*Old standards, busy music.  
They're dancing!*

*Mainstream, Be-bop, Trad!  
'Playing around the tune', you said.*

*The toe-tapping syncopation  
of 'Honeysuckle Rose'.  
The slide and rasp of the trombone  
driving, inventive; tender.*

*A fugue, Bach-like,  
from clarinet and trombone.  
'If I had you...' takes me inside myself.*



Photography by Kate Plumtree

## Worn to be wild

By Sheila Armstrong

An unusual costume exhibition is running at artsdepot until 18 April. Inspired by animals and birds, textile artist Kate Plumtree is showing a selection of her unusual theatrical costumes. Perhaps the most striking is one inspired by the hedgehog: a golden dress complete with prickles.

Elsewhere, a mute swan has inspired a featherlike white ball gown. The badger, the red deer and the golden eagle have also inspired Kate. Each costume, mainly dresses, represents a fashion style such as the 1960s or the Elizabethan era. A variety of textile crafts have been used, including printing, dyeing and quilting as well as straightforward sewing.

Kate has included working sketches and photos showing meticulous research into each animal and giving insight into the design process. There are

fabric sample boards and an area for trying on some of the costumes.

An experienced costume maker, since graduating from Wimbledon College of Art in 1992 Kate has worked on such West End shows as *Wicked* and *The Lion King* and with companies like the ENO and RSC. She also designs for private clients and does workshops with colleges and museums.

The show goes on tour round the country after 18 April. If you can't get to artsdepot, you can view her work at [www.kate-plumtree.com](http://www.kate-plumtree.com).

## What's On...

Until Sunday 18 April

• **Free exhibition celebrating 50 years of twinning between Barnet and Chaville, France**, at the Church Farmhouse Museum in Greyhound Hill, Hendon. The photographic display documents the many civic exchanges, sports competitions and educational trips that have taken place between the two areas over the past half-century.

• **Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story**, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate. Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm, Sunday at 4pm. Box office: 020 8340 3488. Website: [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com). Tickets: £12, £15 (concessions available).

Saturday 10 April

• **Spike Milligan Quiz Night**, hosted by The Finchley Society; 8pm at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2. Admission £5 per person, includes a raffle. Puzzles, books and shirts for sale. Nibbles, tea and coffee provided by Budgens. Further information from Barbara Warren on 020 8346 5258 or [barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com).

Sunday 11 April

• Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 7.30pm; **Die Fledermaus** by Johann Strauss. Concert performance presented by Amici del arte; Andrea Whittaker, soprano, Viola da Cunha and Victoria Ward, mezzos, Ivan Sharpe and David Furnell, tenors, Ray Schöne, baritone, Don Ray, compère, and Muriel Ray, piano. Free admission; collection in aid of Children with Leukaemia. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Sunday 18 April

• **East Barnet village: guided walk.** Meet at East Barnet Library, Brookhill Road, 11am. Stroll through 1,000 years of the history of this lovely, unspoiled village with walking guide Paul Baker.

• **Join the Jewish Community Centre Weekend Walkers** to meet new people and enjoy the countryside. New event for singles in their 30s and 40s wanting to get out of London for fresh air, food and conversation. Meet at a central London train station at 9am, details provided after booking. Price: £20, includes

train fare. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866.

• **Maureen Lipman** and other show-business stars present an evening of entertainment to raise money for the Spike Milligan statue fund, set up by The Finchley Society; 7.30pm at Middlesex University Hendon Campus, The Burroughs, NW4. Tickets, costing £15 and including interval refreshments, available from David Smith on 020 8883 4154, Barbara Warren on 020 8346 5258 or through website [www.spikemilliganstatuefund.org.uk](http://www.spikemilliganstatuefund.org.uk).

Tuesday 20 April

• **Love and War in Finchley:** readings of quirky pieces inspired by local history archives kept at Barnet Local Studies Centre. Performed by Made in East Finchley, a creative writing group, at East Finchley Library, 226 High Road, N2, at 7.30pm.

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 April

• **Once on this Island:** musical at Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road, 7 pm, tickets £7 or £5 for children. Book at 07958 409863

E-mail your listings to:  
[the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

Thursday 29 April

• **My granny had one of these, but she threw it away**, a talk by Maurice Collins, with the audience invited to guess the use of various contraptions and gadgets dating from 1851 to 1951. Hosted by The Finchley Society at Avenue House, East End Road, N3, starting at 8pm. Non-members very welcome. Admission £2. For more details, telephone 020 8346 7812.

Wednesday 5 May

• **Beginners Crochet Class**, 7pm, at an East Finchley venue; all materials and refreshments provided! Make beautiful gifts and accessories just one class. Call 07932 035325 or visit [www.omarama.co.uk](http://www.omarama.co.uk) for more details.

Saturday 8 May

• **Dads' Day** for local dads to bring their families for a fun day out; Highgate Children's Centre (behind Highgate Primary School), Gaskell Road, Highgate N6 4ED. Telephone 020 3213 0004 or find out more about the Dads' Club at [theadclublondon.blogspot.com](http://theadclublondon.blogspot.com).



## Letters to the editor

**Congratulations, ARCHER**  
**Dear Editor,**

It was an enormous pleasure to be at the Barnet Civic Awards Ceremony at Hendon Town Hall on 11 March to see Diana Cormack and John Dearing accept a Civic Award on behalf of THE ARCHER Editorial Team from the Mayor Brian Coleman.

The award recognises not just their very considerable achievements as a long-standing volunteer run community newspaper but also their place at the heart of our East Finchley community, epitomised by the support and profile that they've given to local events such as the East Finchley Community Festival and to our local schools and small charities. They are part of the "glue" that makes East Finchley such a special place.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Cllr Alison Moore,**  
**Local councillor.**

**Better signs could avoid**  
**junction problems**

**Dear Editor,**

Reading the large number of letters about the changes to the Fortis Green and High Road junction (*THE ARCHER*, March 2010), what struck me is that no-one has pointed out that the large numbers of heavy vehicles turning left at Domino's Pizza to continue to Muswell Hill are a result of the removal of the interchange between East End Road and the North Circular Road in the last 'improvements' 20 years ago.

At the time of the public enquiries into these so-called improvements, the officials from the Department of Transport were wilfully and stubbornly obtuse and disingenuous, long-term residents may remember, supplying maps that finished well to the north of the Fortis Green/High Road/East End Road junction, and insisting that the junction was too far away from the improvements to have its traffic flows altered in any way.

What is needed, to remove these vehicle turning movements, is signage on the North Circular/High Road junction saying "Unsuitable route for HGVs to Muswell Hill", and banning left turns to southbound HGVs for all the County roads AND Fortis Green.

The HGVs could then either proceed to Colney Hatch Lane, or if they persisted in coming down the High Road, they could turn left only at Creighton Avenue or Woodside Avenue, leaving Haringey to cope with their difficult junctions.

The number of times the traffic light and safety bollards have been demolished over the past few years is a clear sign this should not be a permitted left-hand turn for HGVs.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Pete Eiseman-Renyard**  
**Fortis Green, N2.**

**Respect for green space**  
**Dear Editor,**

I would like to add my support to some of the letters regarding the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. There is no need for the proposed café / activity development. It is a sheer waste of taxpayers' money.

Make the play area better for children, employ a caretaker and have more weekend family activities. Demolish the pavilion and perhaps the children could be encouraged to have a project that would be environmentally and educationally responsible, and teach them to respect what little green space we have.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Dolores Connolly,**  
**Summerlee Avenue, N2.**

**Take us into town**  
**Dear Editor,**

Why is East Finchley not served by a bus route that goes into central London? As a regular commuter, I know that the number of people using the tube at peak times to and from East Finchley is considerably more than at any of the other stations on the section from High Barnet to Camden. If there was a decent bus service along the High Road and into the centre, this would ease pressure on the Northern line which, as I am sure most East Finchley commuters are aware, is packed from 7.30am to 9.30am on weekdays.

Also, the two buses that go into town from High Barnet, stopping in North Finchley and Muswell Hill, the 134 and the 43, are usually full when they reach Muswell Hill at peak times, thus unable to pick up passengers in Muswell Hill who might use this service to travel into town. The recent extension of the 264 to Holloway Road is hardly helpful for commuters.

As the Northern line will be shutting earlier and more frequently over the coming months, it would seem a good time to review buses serving the area and consider a new bus service for Finchley which would finish where most people in the suburbs work: central London. What do *ARCHER* readers think?

**Yours faithfully**  
**Deborah Granville,**  
**Address supplied.**

**Concerns over**  
**travel pass changes**

**Dear Editor,**

One thing we know for sure will be in next month's budget is the controversial policy of raising the age of eligibility for the bus pass. The Government has announced that it will raise the age of eligibility for all travel concessions, currently 60, in line with the changes in pensionable age for women such that between 2010 and 2020 it will increase to 65.

I was most concerned to read this. If the age for eligibility for the bus pass will be raised in the next budget it will go against the green policies of the government by discouraging people from using public transport and encourage more car use and/or discourage over 60s from getting out and about.

This will have a harmful effect on their health and well being which will probably end up costing the NHS more than it saves.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**John Silvertown,**  
**Address supplied.**

**Cake freeloaders**  
**leave sour taste**

**Dear Editor,**

Offered delicious cakes and dessert portions by two cheerful and enterprising young people at Budgens on 20 February, I fell for a tiramisu and made a donation. They were raising money to help TreeHouse, the local school for autistic children, with encouragement from their employer Budgens. All the food was home made and the cause was a good one.

Two days later, I asked how the fundraising had gone and was told that, although most people had donated quite generously, a few had simply taken the food without giving anything in return or just coughed up a few pennies. Even when it was made clear that this was for charity these free-loaders simply shrugged. I hope such shabby behaviour doesn't put off our young fundraisers in future.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Sarah Dudley,**  
**Durham Road, N2.**

**Is this tube shutdown**  
**really necessary?**

**Dear Editor,**

I am very glad that *THE ARCHER* has highlighted the proposed forthcoming engineering works on the Northern line (*THE ARCHER*, March 2010). As always, the passengers are the last ones to be told about such plans. Whilst disruption is inevitable to upgrade the tube after so many years of neglect, there must be a better way than allowing works to go on for 18 months.

Surely there aren't enough engineers to go round to work on the entire line all at once? Why is it not possible to have a phased closure of certain sections? That at least would give commuters some additional travel options. Why cannot the shutdown be from 11.30pm rather than 10.30pm which would then mean a large majority of those out, or working, at night would still be able to get home by tube?

If these closures go ahead and no replacement buses are provided, then that is a complete dereliction of public duty to those who use the Northern line. We must have buses that only stop at the closed stations, so that late night commuters can get home in reasonable time.

I'm sure the closures will have huge implications for the local and London economy and will result in considerable wear and tear on commuters. For a limited period of time, say three months, people can probably adapt and change their plans, but 18 months is far too long and, judging by the Jubilee line experience, we'll be lucky if the Northern line reopens fully this side of 2012.

**Yours sincerely,**  
**D Wray,**  
**Address supplied.**

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**The Archer, PO Box 3699,**  
**London N2 8JA or e-mail**  
**the-archer@lineone.net.**

**Letters without verifiable**  
**contact addresses will not be**  
**reviewed or printed. Contact**  
**details can be withheld, however,**  
**on request at publication.**

**BlackBerry found**

A reader has contacted *THE ARCHER* to say he found a BlackBerry phone in East End Road in mid-March. He has tried many ways to trace the owner but with no success. If you can identify the owner, please contact David on 07970 622008.

**Pool plan for**  
**Wood**

**For anyone who may have**  
**looked twice at our story**  
**on page 3 about plans for**  
**a swimming pool in Cherry**  
**Tree Wood, you were right**  
**to be suspicious. It was our**  
**April Fool story. A little late**  
**in the month, admittedly,**  
**but just a bit of fun.**

**Girl about East Finchley****Girl about Paris**  
**(via Finsbury Park)**

By Fay Sanders

**As much as I love East Finchley, I am a**  
**hopeless Francophile. Six full years back**  
**in London after a three-year stint in Lyon**  
**have made me more eager than ever to**  
**experience French life again before finally**  
**settling down, wherever that may be. So when an opportunity**  
**of moving to Paris with my company cropped up, I instinctively**  
**seized it.**

Ironically, it's only now I'm leaving that I'm really starting to feel part of the community here in N2. Alison Goodman opened my eyes to the wonders of Pilates when I wrote an article for *THE ARCHER* on her new Church Lane studio, Pilates Nation. I've been religiously attending her sessions ever since. Not only does it help keep me trim and fit, but it also gets me out of bed bright and early on a Saturday morning and has introduced me to a new sample of East Finchley's population.

German lessons are another pursuit I've taken up relatively recently. I'd been oblivious to the fact that the large red brick buildings looming up on my left when leaving the station belong to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. It wasn't until it casually came up in conversation with my housemate that I enrolled on an evening course. It was so convenient popping in on my way back from the office to work on my language skills, as well as making new friends.

**Getting to know you**

The final nail in the farewell-East-Finchley coffin was bumping into some neighbours who'd been living a few doors away for nearly a year, yet we'd never met. We spent a while chatting in the street and I took an instant liking to them. They invited my housemate and me over for a drink. I didn't have the heart to say I had decided earlier that very day to move out. Only weeks later, they caught me carrying boxes out of the front door and ran over, appalled we were moving out so soon.

However, a final blow was yet to come, when I discovered I'd been slightly premature in telling my landlady we wouldn't be renewing our contract. It turns out the relocation to Paris will be a few months later than I'd initially hoped, so for the time being I'm moving in with a friend in Finsbury Park. I'll miss life in East Finchley, but who knows what the Girl About Finsbury Park will encounter before she sets foot in Paris

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Diana Cormack receives the Civic Award on behalf of THE ARCHER Team from the Mayor and the Lady Mayoress. Photo courtesy London Borough of Barnet

## Civic Award honour for Archer team

**THE ARCHER team has won a Barnet Civic Award in recognition of the major contribution they make to community life in the borough. Diana Cormack collected the award on behalf of the whole team from the Mayor, Councillor Brian Coleman, in a ceremony at Hendon Town Hall on 11 March.**

The citation stated that the award was given "in recognition of all of the dedicated volunteers who produce and deliver *THE ARCHER* newspaper".

Editor John Lawrence said: "We were very pleased to be nominated and to be one of the winners. This award belongs to every one of the dozens of volunteers who are involved in writing, producing and delivering *THE ARCHER* to nearly 10,000 homes in East Finchley every month."

### Recognition for Barnet's best

Seven other civic awards were presented on the night.

They went to: Steve Gleeson, in recognition of 38 years of service with the London Fire Brigade; Hanan Ibrahim, in recognition of her work as founder and Chief Executive of the Somali Family Support Group in Barnet; Mr B J 'Mac' Mackenny, in recognition of his many years of service to the local community as Chairman of the Whetstone Society; Mushtaq Rehman, in recognition of his dedication to helping young people in Barnet; Ronald Charles Shelley, MBE, in recognition of his outstanding work and contribution to the

Anglo-Jewish community in Barnet; Dr Margaret Clark, in recognition of her outstanding work in supporting cancer sufferers in Barnet and as founder of Barnet Cancer Care, and Jill Summers, in recognition of her many years of service to the local community and in particular to Wessex Gardens School.

The Mayor commented: "All of the nominees have dedicated themselves and their time selflessly to improving the quality of life of other people. It is important that their efforts and achievements are recognised."

## All-female cast for Alice's new adventures

By Milena Ciric

**East Finchley actress Rebecca Dunn recently starred in a lively new play, *Alice's Adventures in the New World*, as part of an all-female cast.**

Rebecca, 28, played three characters, including a male role, in a Victorian-style play written by Sarah Sigal for Fluff Productions. The story followed an Irish heroine who travels the world in search of her American mother. The trip leaves her questioning the options available to women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Rebecca said that putting on the production at the Old Red Lion Theatre, Islington, in March had been a smooth but tight process, as the group had only three weeks for rehearsals. She said: "This is great individually for us, to be able to play these roles. We're hoping this show is going to be a stepping stone for us. We'd

like either to tour it, or to take it on somewhere bigger, so if the company can get a higher profile, then that's great."

### Roles for women

As one of the founders of Fluff Productions, Rebecca said the group started in 2004 when they found a play that they wanted to put on, not thinking it would go very far. She said: "It did really well. People thought it was interesting to see an all-female theatre company and it has grown from there. We don't have any kind of particular style."

As an all-female group, Fluff Productions' aim is to make a difference by tackling the lack of roles for women in theatre.



Women in the New World: a scene from the Fluff Productions drama.

## Corpse found in front garden

By Ann Bronkhorst

**It wasn't the sort of scene an *ARCHER* deliverer usually comes across in East Finchley, let alone on the smart 'Ringwood Estate' between Twyford Avenue and Creighton Avenue.**

Bare, pale feet protruded from a body bag, which lay beneath a tent on damp sand in a front garden. Edging past towards the letterbox, I thought the feet did look very dead but luckily I'm not of a nervous disposition.

In fact, I'd already noticed a bustling film crew with vans, catering equipment and lighting gear, which had taken over part of the street and several front gardens. I was told that the 'body' would feature in a TV murder drama; the setting would be Whitechapel, not in Jack the Ripper's day but now; and the house I was delivering to would become, by some technical wizardry, a Thames-side house. So look out for a glimpse of Ringwood-on-Thames coming to your TV screen soon.

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