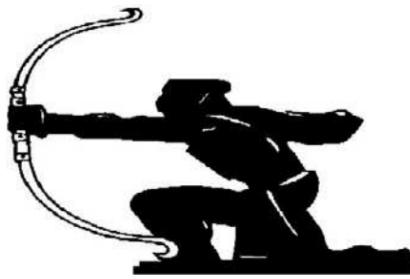




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CARS & COURIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Station will be blooming lovely

By Sheila Armstrong

ARCHER readers may remember the plants in the foyer of East Finchley tube station that we pictured last summer. This year Santos Ninor, who works at the station, is hoping to continue the green theme and enter the Stations in Bloom competition again - but on a larger scale.

A group from N2 Gardeners, who have done such sterling work planting up the slope and flower beds outside the station in past summers, will be supporting him in his efforts.

This year the competition will, not surprisingly, have an Olympic theme and there are already embryo plans for tubs of flowers on the platforms as well as outside the station.

Monica Lanman from N2 Gardeners told *The Archer* that she hopes local gardeners will volunteer to help maintain the planting so that when the judges arrive it will all be in top condition. Planting will be in June and judging will be in late July, and they will need help with watering and weeding.

If you think you can help maintain the pots and tubs, or in any other way, please get in touch with N2 Gardeners on n2gardeners@googlemail.com, putting 'Station in Bloom' in the subject line.

Dig deep

Additional funding will be needed. London Underground has been approached



Santos Ninor has planting lans. Photo by Caron Westbrook

by Santos for a grant, but all gardeners know how expensive it is to buy plants and containers now. So N2

Gardeners will be collecting more funds outside the station and will have collection boxes in Dan & DeCarlo's café opposite the station, and possibly in other local shops. Any donations and loose change will be very welcome.

Increase in street robberies

By Janet Maitland

There has been a big increase in street robberies in recent weeks. During March and April there were five muggings in East Finchley and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is advising residents to be extra alert when walking around the area.

The first three incidents happened in the immediate vicinity of the station, two on The Causeway, the footpath behind the station, and one in the station car park. Officers from the SNT and the Territorial Support Group (TSG) have responded to these robberies by doing extra patrols in uniform and plain clothes.

In mid-April, two suspects were arrested by officers close to the station. No further information was available at the time of going to press.

The CID is also investigating two other muggings. One of these took place in early April on Huntingdon Road when a youth was hit on the head with a bottle from behind and his mobile phone stolen.

The fifth robbery happened on the corner of Baronsmere Road and the High Road at 11.30pm on 28 April. Four

youths grabbed an 18-year-old man, demanded "everything he had" and stabbed him in the back four times. A member of the public intervened and the youths ran off.

Police arrived in time to chase them, catching up with a 15-year-old, who was arrested on suspicion of robbery. A knife was recovered from the youth although it is not known if it was he who stabbed the victim. The other youths were described as aged 18 or 19. Police informed *The Archer* that the victim's injuries were not serious.

Two 17-year-olds from East Finchley were arrested on the High Road, N20, following another street robbery on 10 May. Similarly to the Huntingdon Road mugging, the victim was struck over the head with a bottle. Both youths were charged with robbery.

The SNT advises local residents to stay alert and aware of their surroundings when walking round the area. Avoid wearing headphones and be discreet with your belongings, particularly electronic devices and jewelry, and avoid dark or deserted areas at night.

In addition to the extra patrols, the SNT have changed their shift pattern so more officers can patrol at night. An extra police officer has also joined the team.

If you have any information regarding the incidents, please call Colindale CID on 020 8733 4439 or, if you wish to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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

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July: 15 June
August: 13 July
September: 10 August

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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

Hospitals

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Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
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Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnetdoc 0300 033 3777
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

OAPs' Advice

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Contact (N2) 020 8432 1415

Leisure

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Planning Applications

Barnet Council

22 Baronsmere Road, N2
Single-storey side extension and formation of new bay window to rear elevation following demolition of existing single storey rear extension. Removal of door to rear first-floor elevation and reduction to window size to side elevation. Associated steps to rear. Partial rebuilding and erection of boundary wall and relocation of gate following removal of part existing boundary wall.

60 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension

24 Brackenbury Road, N2

Single-storey rear infill extension.

53 Deansway, N2

New side dormer window at first-floor level.

Finchley Manor Garden Centre, 120 East End Road, N2

Demolition of non-listed buildings and structures and redevelopment to provide a private tennis club with four full-sized open clay courts,

four full-sized covered courts, one open minicourt, a single-storey clubhouse including restaurant and changing facilities, storage, car and cycle parking, landscaping, and other associated works and relocation of gate on the listed north boundary wall and associated reinstatement and repair works.

73 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension/conservatory.

80 Leopold Road, N2

Single-storey side extension.

27 Lincoln Road, N2

Single-storey side extension.

84 Ossulton Way, N2

Replacement of existing soil pipe and hopper with cast iron soil and vent pipe to rear elevation.

Haringey Council

16 Shakespeare Gardens, N2

Formation of front porch

34 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Erection of single-storey rear extension and conversion of garage into habitable room.



Sandwiches (but no beer) for Labour MP

David Miliband took a break from canvassing in the May elections when he stopped off for coffee in the Village Bakery at 125 High Road. Proprietor Pepe Dostezadeh smiles happily and the Labour MP looks as if he's on a roll!

Dismore on London Assembly

By Nick Young

Labour's Andrew Dismore defeated Brian Coleman to become the Greater London Assembly Member for Barnet & Camden in a vote which saw support for Labour rise significantly. Mr Dismore received 74,677 votes, an increase of 14.7% for Labour compared to the 2008 results. Cllr Coleman, who had held the seat on the GLA for the Conservatives in addition to his duties on Barnet Council since 2000, received 53,378 votes.

Mr Dismore had previously served as MP for Hendon from 1997 to 2010, when he lost to the Conservatives by just over 100 votes. Speaking after his victory, he said: "I'm really pleased. I've spent the best part of the year licking my wounds after losing my seat in the General Election, but I'm a politician at heart and it's great to be back in active politics again."

The election has left Labour as the largest party on the GLA with 12 seats, followed by the

Conservatives with nine and the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party with two seats each.

In the London Mayoral election, Conservative winner Boris Johnson received 49.4% of first-preference votes cast in Barnet & Camden; his Labour rival, Ken Livingstone, received 34.8%.

According to the BBC, the turnout in Barnet & Camden was 42.1%, which was slightly above the London-wide turnout of 40.9%.

Shop burglary foiled

By Janet Maitland

There was an attempted break in at the Spar supermarket sometime between 11pm on 9 May and 7am on 10 May. The thieves attempted to break in through the rear entrance, using a piece of MDF board to hide behind while they forced the metal shutter open. But because the door behind the shutter was covered with a metal sheet, they were not able to get inside the shop.

If you have any information, please call 101 quoting crime reference number 2410999/12 or if you want to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Action on 'unsustainable' Cherry Tree woodland

By David Attfield

The focus of discussion at the Friends of Cherry Wood Annual General Meeting, held on 29 April, was a woodland management report prepared by Barnet Council. The report highlighted a number of risks to the future of the wood, concluding that with its heavy usage, the woodland is not sustainable without active woodland management.

The report stopped short, however, of setting out an action plan, raising the prospect of an eventual loss of the woodland. The Friends group resolved that its priority for the next year should be to agree an action plan with Barnet Council and, if necessary, contribute its funds raised through members' subscriptions toward woodland management activities.

Once an action plan has been agreed, the Friends hope to engage experienced groups like BTCV (the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers) in its implementation.

Active volunteers needed

Unfortunately, over the past year the Friends have been less active than in previous years due

to a number of active members standing down. While the membership base remains strong, few people have stepped forward to play an active role.

If you have conservation experience that you would like to share, or if you could help organise a conservation activity or children's event, the Friends would love to hear from you. They can be contacted at info@cherrytreewood.co.uk or at 33 Twyford Ave, East Finchley, London N2 9NU.

Users of the wood are also reminded that they should report any concerns that they have, for example about overflowing bins or anti-social behaviour, to the parks team at Barnet Council on 020 8359 7828 or by email to parks@barnet.gov.uk

Wanted: East Finchley Festival volunteers

The East Finchley Festival will burst into life on Sunday 24 June in Cherry Tree Wood from midday until 6pm, and organisers are eager to sign up more volunteers to help on the day.

Can you spare an hour to sell raffle tickets or to help litter pick the field during and after the event? Every offer of help keeps the festival safe, fun and, importantly, free. Volunteers can email the organising team at eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com or call them on 07983 360 834.

The Archer team will be there on the day. Please drop by our stall to tell us any news or just to say hello.

Meanwhile, here's the complete line-up of acts booked for the two stages at this year's festival.

Main Stage:

- 12pm: Official opening of festival by Councillor Alison Moore and parade presentation;
- 12.05pm: Martin School and North London Chorus perform excerpts from *Ballads for a Living Planet* by Ian Barnett;
- 12.20pm: Snake Oil Blues;
- 1pm: Lace and Whiskey;
- 1.40pm: Sound of the Suburb;
- 2.20pm: Matt Kos;
- 3pm: The Angels Of Kaos;
- 3.40pm: Sofasonic;
- 4.20pm: Spring Park Motel;
- 4.50pm: Festival raffle drawn and prices handed out;
- 5pm: Cosmic Blaze;
- 5.40pm: Darkwood;
- 6.10pm: Festival close.

Helen O'Toole Community Stage:

- 12.10pm: Jazz Guitar Group;
- 12.30pm: North London Brass;
- 1.10pm: Community Focus;
- 1.45pm: Dance group K Petrou;
- 2.20pm: Garden Suburb Theatre;
- 2.45pm: Angela Anuforo;
- 3.15pm: Oak Lodge School;
- 3.30pm: Friern Barnet School;
- 4pm: Sing Out Voices;
- 5pm: Kats Whiskers.



The 8th Muswell Hill Scouts have been sending treats to soldiers in the field. Photo by Adam Justice-Mills.

Treats for the troops

By Jo Harper

Scouts from the 8th Muswell Hill Scout Group (Tetherdown) have been supporting the Armed Forces in Afghanistan. Last month, the scouts put together 60 morale-boosting parcels for SOS 'Support our Soldiers', a registered charity that supports British Armed Forces.

The troops appreciate the parcels as 'a taste of home' to let them know that we are all thinking of them. Scouts and cubs packed useful items such as toothbrushes and soaps and unusual treats unavailable in a war zone, such as Oxo cubes, Tabasco sauce and Haribo sweets.

Some letters of thanks from grateful soldiers are already coming back. A recent letter from a soldier in Afghanistan said he was "very proud of the scouts and was especially touched with the letter which was enclosed. It bought a tear in my eye".

For more information on how you can send parcels

yourself, visit: www.supportoursoldiers.co.uk



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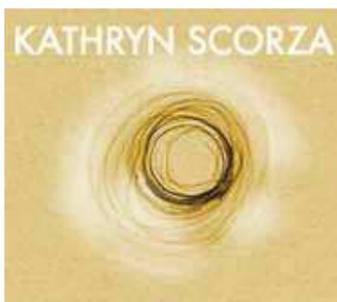
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Teachers share knowledge in Kosovo

Teachers from Oak Lodge School in East Finchley recently travelled to Prizren in Kosovo to share ways of working with children and young people with autism and those who have been affected by trauma.

Katerina Flynn and Diana Marinova spent four days there at the behest of the One to One Children's Fund. The pair were chosen for the trip as they have a particular understanding and experience of working with children at Oak Lodge who have an autism spectrum condition.

Oak Lodge has been recognised by the National Autistic Society for its educational approaches to autism and the Prizren visit was the first time the school's Outreach Service, coordinated by assistant headteacher Ginny Mason, had extended globally.

Katerina and Diana say the trip was invaluable given that understanding of autism in Kosovo is in need of development.

"Katerina and Diana are an inspiration to all of us," said Ginny. "As teachers working



A helping hand in Kosovo: left to right, Oak Lodge assistant headteacher Ginny Mason, teacher Katerina Flynn and teacher Diana Marinova.

with children with special educational needs, we know how it feels to make even a small difference for the better."

Two burglaries in three days

By Janet Maitland

Two houses in Hertford Road were burgled within the space of three days in March. The first burglary happened on 6 March when the residents came home after an evening at the theatre to find their front door bolted from the inside and both of their cars stolen. The burglars had broken in from the back of the house, where they forced open a locked window.

"They'd opened every drawer and every cupboard in every room, but were very selective in what they took," said one of the residents, who asked not to be named. "They only took things like my partner's gold jewellery and a designer handbag."

Three days later the house opposite was burgled. Even though the resident was at home, the burglars managed to break through the Yale lock on the

front door. They had just enough time to grab a brand new laptop before they were disturbed by the resident and ran off.

Police advise residents to double lock any UPVC or multi point locking door, even when at home. It's also a good idea to keep car keys hidden away, and especially not to leave them on display in a hallway or by a window. Modern cars are difficult to start without the keys, so some burglars break into houses with the aim of stealing the car keys and then the car. Having car windows etched is a relatively cheap and easy means of securing your car.

You should make sure that window locks are strong and that you lock all windows when you go out. Tall hedges can also provide cover for burglars, so cutting them shorter is advised.

Parking zone legal battle is back on

The legal action to overturn Barnet's Council's Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) charges is back on track after the Court of Appeal overturned a deputy judge's earlier dismissal of the claim. A court of appeal judge has reinstated a legal challenge brought by Barnet resident David Attfield.

According to Lord Justice Richards's ruling, the case warrants "fuller consideration of the factual and legal considerations" at a trial to take place later in the year. The case has, therefore, taken a big step forward.

The cost of a Barnet resident's permit for a first car rose from £40 to £100 last year and each visitor voucher went up from £1 to £4. The charges were subject to a further 5% increase last month.

Barnet CPZ Action, the campaign group set up to fight the increases, says these rises are up to 13 times higher than in neighbouring boroughs. Their legal case centres on the lawfulness of Barnet Council raising parking charges for a minority of residents with the stated intention of subsidising other transport services across the borough rather than just controlling parking demand.

Costly visits

David Attfield said: "How can Barnet justify charging £4.16 for a friend to drop by

when Haringey charges as little as 30p? We never wanted to have to pursue legal action against our council. We just wanted a fair outcome but our concerns were treated with contempt. Litigation to us was and is a last resort. We would welcome a meeting with the council to see if we can put this whole sorry saga behind us."

Meanwhile, the group is preparing for a full trial, possibly later in the summer, and is asking all supporters to donate what they can to meet the costs of the case. As the named claimant, David Attfield will be personally liable to pay Barnet's costs should the action fail.

Donations can be made online via at the Barnet CPZ Action website www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com or by sending a cheque made payable to Barnet CPZ Action to 88 Summerlee Avenue, N2 9QH. If successful, the group hopes that Barnet Council will be ordered to pay the legal costs which should allow much of the donated money to be returned.

East Finchley Open makes art local

By Adam Justice-Mills

The East Finchley Open Artists' Open House Weekends are the focal point in EFO's calendar: 65 artists warmly welcome you to a free exhibition on 7-8 and 14-15 July 2012 from 11am to 6pm.

This is a great opportunity to view a wide variety of unique artwork for sale in EFO members' homes and studios, as well as local shops. Our members include ceramicists, jewellers, painters,

photographers, textile artists and sculptors, glass makers and wood workers.

By visiting EFO venues, you can meet the artists and view the art in a home setting, without gallery fees. Last year over 2,000 people came to our Open House weekends. For 2012 there's the work of ten new members and three new Open Houses, as well as an online map of our venues (see www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk for details).

We're busy preparing for the Open and for the East Finchley Festival on 24 June, where we will have information about all the EFO events through the year, including who's exhibiting where on the July weekends. Join us at the festival to help create an Olympic-sized art work to raise funds for the Treehouse Trust charity for children with autism.

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Library under new management

By Daphne Chamberlain

As we reported in April, Barnet Council has closed its Hampstead Garden Suburb Library, and the local residents' association has taken it over.

The new Garden Suburb Library is in the same building in Hill Rise, just off the Market Place. Furniture, stock and opening hours are the same. Stock is borrowed on a Barnet Libraries card, though that has to be registered on the Suburb library system, and there is online access to the borough's council-run libraries. Books requested from Barnet libraries can be delivered and returned via the Barnet library van every Wednesday.

The staff, however, are different. The 11 shifts a week are divided between a pool of 70 volunteers. Three of these have library experience, two are administrators, and two are software specialists.

Software specialist Jeremy Clynes is also one of a group passing on training received from Barnet staff. He is proud of their own computer system,

and praised the hard work, organisation and enthusiasm of his fellow volunteers, some of whom don't want to go home at the end of their shifts.

They already run an Under-3s group and host Safer Neighbourhood surgeries, and plan to start a book club. Barnet Council is scheduled to carry out quarterly inspections, and will eventually give them a grant of £10,000 a year, of which £5-6,000 will be for new stock. Looking to the future, though, there are a lot of details to be worked out, and that future depends upon maintaining their volunteers.

Jeremy Clynes believes that HGS residents were allowed to take over the library because "We got our act together". Their newsletter urges everyone to "make the most of what is now our very own library", and when I visited, a user left with the words, "I'm very glad you're still here".

Pupils train at the kiosk

Pupils from the Treehouse School for children with autism, based in Woodside Avenue, have had the chance to gain some work experience at the Lazy Sally Kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood.

Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the kiosk, said it had proven to be a very beneficial learning experience for the pupils and their teachers, and the support from customers and understanding that their orders may take just a little more time than usual had been extremely encouraging. She added: "I urge other local businesses to consider doing the same. The potential outcomes couldn't be more positive."

Training programmes for the pupils will take place every Thursday and Friday at the kiosk during school term, initially 10.30am to 3pm, with the possibility of extending these hours once the pupils confidence grows.

Amy Temple, catering and hospitality vocational specialist from the Treehouse said the experience would undoubtedly help in the pupils' transition from a school setting into adult life.



Parents and children demonstrate against the loss of their safety railings. Photo by Mike Coles.

Campaigners win back railings

By Erini Rodis

Parents, children and residents have won their campaign to have safety railings reinstalled outside Martin Primary School at the junction with Church Lane.

The WALKSAFE N2 group staged a protest at the spot on 8 May, joined by Councillors Alison Moore, Arjun Mittra and Colin Rogers, and winning plenty of hoots of support from passers-by.

A few days later, representatives of the group met with Barnet Council and won agreement to have the barriers reinstalled on the corner next to the school. Parent Beverley Hadfield said everyone was surprised at the speed of the council's U-turn on the issue.

Councillor Dean Cohen, cabinet member for the environment, said he had listened to the views of the community and made the decision to reinstate the guard rail.

WALKSAFE N2 is a campaign set up by locals concerned by road safety in the area; objectives include the installation of a three-way traffic light where Church Lane meets the High

Road, a 20mph speed limit on Church Lane and a pelican crossing on Creighton Avenue.

Originally, Martin School were told that the railings were deemed "superfluous street

clutter" and the assessment had concluded that they were not "outside a school".

For updates or to offer support please email walksafen2@yahoo.co.uk

Diamond Jubilee for Brookland

Brookland Infant, Nursery and Juniors Schools will be celebrating their Diamond Jubilee this year. Both schools will be hosting an open afternoon on 3 July from 2.45pm to 4.15pm.

If you are a former member of staff, governor or a pupil who is no longer in full time education, the schools would welcome you to this event. If you are interested in attending, further information is available from the school offices: infant office 020 8346 6824 or junior office: 020 8346 6937.

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Bowls club facing closure

By Daphne Chamberlain
Muswell Hill Bowls Club, established in 1901 and one of the most attractive sporting venues in north London, is facing closure.

Tucked away between houses, with an entrance off King's Avenue, the club has produced many champions and given a lot of pleasure. However, membership has fallen so much that club directors have sent a circular to immediate neighbours, warning them that the future is very uncertain. The decision to close will be made during this playing season, which runs until the end of September.

To survive, the club needs both playing and social members. The green needs to be maintained, and fixtures, matches and social events arranged. There must also be a good-sized pool of players.

All ages and both sexes play bowls, which is certainly not just a game for pensioners.

If you think you can help in any capacity, please phone Paul Chapman on 020 8442 1875.

Police visit for every crime victim

By Janet Maitland

Police have undertaken to offer every victim of crime the opportunity to report the crime in person to a police officer.

Calls to the police are graded as emergency or non-emergency. Emergency calls are those that need an immediate response from police, such as a crime that is actually being committed at the time of the call, or serious road traffic accidents. Police officers always attend these calls and will continue to do so.

Non-emergency calls, such as those reporting crimes that have already happened, are currently routed to the Metropolitan police telephone reporting centre. Under a new scheme called Operation Promote, these victims of crime

will now be offered a personal visit by a police officer who will take a report of the crime from the victim. The visit will be arranged through an appointment process for police to visit within 48 hours, unless the victim prefers to report the matter over the phone.

"Operation Promote is a key part of our commitment to delivering a better and more responsive service to the victims of all types of crime," said Chief Superintendent Jim Read. "The service we provide to victims of crime must be at the heart of all we do."

Gardeners' delight

By Ann Bronkhorst

Nearly 50 gardeners were lured to Martin School on Sunday 22 April for a seed and plant swap organised by Charles O'Toole of the East Finchley Community Trust and other Trust members, with crucial support from Martin schoolkeeper Tristan Hunt.

Despite the cold, wet spring, a steady stream of optimists turned up throughout the afternoon, giving and receiving a wide variety of healthy house and garden plants and colourful packets of seeds.

On close inspection some seed packets were rather elderly but many were brand new. Everything was free

so it was worth taking a chance, and there were plenty of knowledgeable and approachable people around if advice was needed.

One swapper said what a pleasure it was to chat to fellow gardeners and hoped the event would be repeated. Another seed swap next spring is very likely, Charles says, with one this autumn also a possibility.

Hero or villain?

By Nick Young

If you've heard a harsh screech on the streets of East Finchley recently, you may have been listening to a jay.

Smaller than a woodpigeon, the jay has a pinkish-fawn body, a distinctive black 'moustache', a black tail and white and blue patches on its wings. Despite being the most colourful members of the crow family, jays are more often heard than seen as they are secretive birds. However, there have been sightings on streets and in gardens recently as nesting pairs have been busy gathering materials.

Although they are woodland birds (Coldfall Wood is an excellent place to see them), numbers in the suburbs have risen in recent years, and as that photo on the back page of the February edition of *The Archer* showed, East Finchley is nothing if not tree-lined.

Jays are best known for eating acorns, which they store in the autumn so they can eat them all year round. However, they also eat insects, beetles and even the eggs and nestlings of smaller birds, something for which they are considerably less notorious than their cousins the magpies. Jays may well have a negative impact on smaller birds as they will be looking for more food with which to feed their young at this time of year.



Muswell Hill 'country' lodge for sale

By Andrew Popov

The historic and enchanting Little Lodge, nestled off Muswell Hill on the slopes of Alexandra Palace, has recently gone up for sale after much deliberation from its owner Keith McKay. He has taken this decision rather reluctantly after renovating the initially uninhabitable lodge into the quaint country dwelling it is today.

It is quite rare to find such an old rural dwelling in the bustling urban climate that is modern day Muswell Hill. Away from the town's centre, huddled on its grassy slopes, it is now one of the last few surviving 18th-century country estate remnants to be found in the Haringey borough.

During the war, the Red Cross used the lodge as a base to treat wounded soldiers and it consequently has real historic value.

In recent years, it was also the inspirational backdrop for the children's story *The Mosella Tree*, written by Hannah Lea, Keith's own daughter, who

lived there for a short time as a child.

She says it is in a unique spot due to its contrast with the "architecture, atmosphere and vitality that makes Muswell Hill such a popular place to live" and the majestic woodland garden and its teeming undergrowth that seem to envelop the lodge itself.

Keith has fought many hard legal battles with the local authority to keep possession of the building, which he has owned since 1993. He says he found the Land Registry to be remarkably helpful in giving him absolute possession of the property to prevent any further intervention from the local authority in trying to redevelop his land or compel him to move out.

The future of the lodge seems uncertain, Keith frequently receives calls from speculators wishing to purchase his property for new construction projects, such as apartment buildings, but few, if any, people seem to appreciate the true character and charm of the place and it would be a great shame to see the lodge taken down after all his hard work.

Poetry in the wind

By Betti Blatman

East Finchley poet Dennis Evans read from his latest collection of poetry *Paper in the Wind* to an audience at Golders Green Unitarian Church on Saturday 12 May. Dennis gave some interesting background relevant to each poem prior to reading his selection. Amongst the wide range of poems, some were sprinkled with humour whereas others were more meaningful. All received an enthusiastic response from those in attendance, who were each given a copy of the collection. Dennis generously gave 50% of all proceeds directly to the church's heating fund.

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Street works website

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By Daphne Chamberlain
Are you worried about fly-tipping, broken pavements, missing signs, poor lighting, dog mess, or any similar problem that makes life unpleasant or unsafe? Would you like to know that your complaints are recorded, and to see at a tap of a computer key if other people have complained as well?

If so, visit www.fixmystreet.com. This national website relays complaints to local authorities within minutes. It also displays statistics of problems reported and problems fixed in each authority.

One resident who reported a potential danger was Gill Steiner. She wrote to tell us the story:

I thought I might mention that I consider I had a lucky escape when I was cycling along Fortis Green in the direction of East Finchley. I cycle close to the pavement. In the section between Eastern Road and Western Road, there is a drain which is much lower than the rest of the road and you only notice this when you are nearly on top of it so the natural thing to do is to cycle round it, swerving out just as you notice it. But at that point the road is only six metres wide and it is of course the busy A504, with buses. A car virtually brushed me. Of course, I do not blame the driver. That day I reported the danger to Haringey via the council website, and I was told the contractor should deal with it soon. The drain has been fixed in the last day or two and I have just been to see it. Now it is flush with the rest of the road. Reported 19 March, fixed 8 May. I am so proud! It is definitely worth reporting these sorts of issues to councils.



Bin bother

Last month, we reported on the changes to Barnet Council's waste collections to be introduced from 2013, including the provision of an extra wheelie bin to collect recyclable waste. But what if wheelie bins don't fit outside your house? Here, Betti Blatman explains why she already has bin bother.

I live on the Thomas More estate, which was built more than 30 years ago with bin cupboards located outside our front door. As this was prior to the introduction of wheelie bins and the height of the bin cupboard was unable to accommodate them, Barnet Council has for many years provided us with a large quantity of black bin liners twice yearly, where we place our rubbish. That was until we received the following letter from Jason Armitage and Jane Theobald, acting Refuse Services managers:

"With effect from 1 April 2012, London Borough of Barnet will cease the free delivery of black refuse sacks to those residents who do not have adequate storage facilities to store a wheeled container.

"Under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 local authorities can specify the type of container/refuse sacks used for refuse storage and collection and make

a charge for providing the container/refuse sacks. Residents will be responsible for purchasing their own refuse sacks to place their domestic household waste in.

"If you feel that you have adequate space and would like your property to be accessed for a wheeled container collection please contact our Street Based Services Team. Alternatively, refuse sacks are available for purchase and delivery through London Borough of Barnet for a small charge."

When I phoned them, I was advised that the cost of refuse sacks from the council was £5 for 50, to which I replied that it's not "a small charge" if you can get 44 bin liners for £1 at the pound shop.

I also learned that the cost of a wheelie bin is £32.50, to which I enquired why is the green wheelie bin for garden waste provided free of charge? I was informed that "it's the Council's policy and it's up to me if I want to pay for a black wheelie bin".

Suffice to say that I will continue purchasing my refuse sacks at the pound shop, and use the existing bin in my bin cupboard.

Outnumbered star backs hospice

By Diana Cormack

Daniel Roche, who plays Ben, one of the three children in BBC TV's long-running comedy *Outnumbered* has accepted the role of an ambassador for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

Local boy Daniel, 12, proved popular when he attended the opening of the charity's first shop in Barnet with *Britain's Got Talent* finalist Stavros Flatley last November. He joins such stars as Shane Richie, Elaine Paige and Andy Page as ambassadors of the charity, which recently received a community grant for £480 from the North Finchley branch of Sainsbury's. Visit www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk for more information.

Youth charged again

By Janet Maitland

A 17-year-old local youth has been charged with two further offences while serving a community sentence for another crime. One offence was committed just 15 days after he was given the community sentence.

The youth, who cannot be named because of his age, has been charged with robbing a boy of his mobile and an iPad on 26 June last year. He was also charged with possession of a knife which he used to threaten a boy on 31 January this year. Both offences took place on The Causeway, the footpath behind the station. The youth was arrested and charged with these offences in early May.

The same youth bit a boy on the face on East End Road and then stole his mobile last October. For this crime he was sentenced to a 12-month Youth Offender Panel Referral Order on 16 January by

Hendon Magistrates Court (*The Archer*, March 2012).

The aim of a Youth Offender Panel referral is to bind the offender to a contract which includes reparation to the victim or the wider community and a programme of activity to change their behaviour. As the youth has broken the contract, he will be sent back to court where the sentence for the original offence will be reviewed. He will also be tried for the new offences.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Fun and surprises in poetry showdown

Students in Year 10 at Fortismere School took part in Y'Poetry, a European poetry project for young people aged 15-17 from Amsterdam, Antwerp, and London. Fifteen-year-old Hazel Bergeron-Stokes, of Fortis Green, came second out of 1,500 entrants in this poetry writing and performing competition. Here Hazel writes about the event:

My whole poetry journey was fun, from beginning to end; from writing my poem at the very start to being called out as second place. The first round was completely nerve-racking, especially as my school, Fortismere, had to go first. I remember shaking quite badly when I got up to the microphone, but amazingly I managed to win a trophy for best performance, which was really rewarding as I had put my whole heart into writing the poem, called *The Promise*.

Then there were the finals in Amsterdam. It was a really fun experience and I enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends. I loved all the different workshops we did, especially the drama workshop, where we all loosened up and learned how to read our poems better.

My favourite part of the trip was sitting having dinner prior to the performance, enjoying the anticipation and getting excited, so I definitely had enough adrenaline for reading my poem. I was so taken



aback when the winners were announced. I didn't possibly think it could have been me, but I was so happy.

I thought all of our poems were great, and I would have been happy even if just one of us from the UK team had won a prize, but I was so happy and felt so proud of myself for such an achievement. I was so shocked, and had no idea I was going to win, but of course I was pleased!

The Promise

By Hazel Bergeron-Stokes

Promised myself to write a letter with shaking, turning hands and tobacco stained fingers.

My lips and words, stumbled over themselves while you bit yours, no words fell out.
Shades of black and blue mottled your china-white neck, a conversation not worth having.

You said you liked to lie in your bed, your nest.
You left the house about once a month, barely there, rush and rapid fading.

I liked to imagine our hands could melt into each other.
We would be still while delicate rain could dance a performance for our staring eyes.

I was fainting, falling, forgotten.

I still see shades of green and blue in the eyes I never really knew.

Climb inside art

By Lisa Omar

Year 2 children at St Theresa's Catholic School recently gave a warm welcome to James Mayhew, the well known illustrator and author of children's books.

James' first book *Katie's Picture Show* was published in 1989. This was the beginning of a long-running series about a girl who explores famous paintings by climbing inside them. James is passionate about introducing children to art, music, opera, ballet and traditional tales.

The children spent time asking James many of their own questions. They found out that the Katie books are based on his sister Kate; that

his favourite book is *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; his favourite pudding is banana custard; and if he could have dinner with any two famous people, it would be Doris Day and Sophia Loren.

James spent the whole day with Year 2 children and read them a story about George and the Dragon. He painted an incredible picture while telling the story. The children created a 'big' picture (about 4m long) based on James' story. All the children worked together and produced an amazing picture.



James Mayhew photo by Nicky Johnson

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- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.

Young swimmer on course to raise £1,000

Martin Primary School pupil Archie Price (*THE ARCHER*, April 2012) completed his 5km Swimathon at Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Cheered on by family and friends from his swimming club, Barnet Copthall, he completed the 200-length challenge in a time of 1hr 44 minutes. Archie has so far raised nearly £600 in online and offline donations, but is hoping to raise over £1,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Natasha Sadaoui, Community Fundraiser at the Marie Curie Hospice in Hampstead, said: "Archie's amazing efforts will go to providing vital care to those in the local community

who are in need of our services which we provide totally free of charge. It costs us £5.3 million to run the hospice each year and we wouldn't be able to fund it without the support from the local community." After his swim, Archie said: "I was feeling very nervous but I just wanted to do it for my friend's sister who has cancer and also Stilyan Petrov who is the captain of my favourite football club, Aston Villa." If you would like to sponsor Archie visit www.archieprice.com.

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Ravi Shankar's work exhibiting at The Noble Sage

Back to his childhood

By Sheila Armstrong
How many artists started out training to do something else and then could resist the call of the muse no longer? S. Ravi Shankar was certainly one of these, originally planning to train as an engineer before signing up at the Government College for Art in Madras, very much against his parents' wishes.

Born in 1960 and now living in Kerala he has exhibited in India and beyond since 1979. He is a long-time member of Jana Manuelpillai's stable of contemporary Asian artists at the Noble Sage Gallery in Fortis Green. This solo exhibition is titled *Back to His Childhood* and includes eight new works.

A crowd of his fans turned up to the private view in April to see a whole room full of his complex black and white drawings of Indian life. With no surface left undecorated, his visual vocabulary is complex, many-layered and some say cryptic. The pictures done in black gel pen allude to specific moments in his past life: he has a photographic recall of specific moments from his childhood and these inspire the pictures. He can be seen looking out at us from the pictures, surrounded by fascinating details from Indian life – and, more specifically, his own life.

To view the exhibition contact Jana at www.thenoblesage.com where all works can be seen online or by emailing thenoblesage@thenoblesage.com

Fresh look for dry cleaners

By Diana Cormack

"We've got a little bit more than they might get elsewhere," said Krishna Pattani, during a look around the refurbished Pristine Dry Cleaning on Viceroy Parade. Just over a year ago, the premises underwent a major revamp, being completely gutted back to the original structure. New ceilings, floors and walls were installed throughout, along with modern electrics.



Readers may only have been aware of changes at the front of the shop, with its new windows and entrance area. However, the working section at the back was altered too, with extra hanging space being created to deal with clothing cleaned using state-of-the-art machinery. Krishna told *The Archer* that the inspiration for all this came from his wife Hema. She felt that the changes were necessary despite the recession and were a way of being loyal to their clientele and of keeping their custom.

One of the innovations is a shirt press that treats collars, cuffs and sleeves under steam pressure before the whole shirt is dealt with on a shaped hanging frame, giving an almost new look.

A new look can be given to other garments too, for there is an on-site tailor offering an alteration and repair service. New clothes are also made, as well as covers for cushions and other forms of upholstery. Two other shorter services are key cutting and "while-you-wait" shoe repairs, the only one in the vicinity.

Krishna and Hema offer a 10% discount on dry cleaning clothes or 15% on curtains and sofa covers to anyone presenting this article at Pristine, 53 High Road (offer ends 31 July 2012).



By Adam Justice-Mills

After predicting in *The Archer* last month that drought would turn to flood, I'm certain that making little changes really can make a difference. Water butt installed, we've enough free water to keep plants and fish happy. Unfortunately, it's going to be a record hay-fever season as a result.

I read in 2009 that 15 of the world's largest cargo ships made as much sulphur dioxide (a source of acid rain) as all the world's 760 million cars, but the same statistic was applied this week to cruise ships. Who writes this stuff and do they check it? Deciding how to make a difference is hard enough, without misinformation and 'greenwashing'. With all the hype of the Olympics it was good to hear, on our school trip to the London site, that environmental concerns for the development had been carefully thought out and measured. A report from www.cslondon.org says that although there were many really good intentions, there will be mixed success at achieving their sustainability goals. I particularly appreciated their disappointment that the Olympic torch couldn't be made low carbon. Let's concentrate on their achievements – after all, nobody's perfect. Lots of the materials used in construction, much of the energy needed to run the Games, and loads of the water in and on the stadia will meet sustainability targets. Perhaps most of all, though, was the extent that sustainability was considered important: more than for any other large-scale development in the UK, if not the world. Finally, once the excitement is over, the legacy considerations kick in: re-using as much as possible of the buildings (the basketball building is moving to the next Games), waste (70% re-cycled) and even people (outplacement of the contractors). Perhaps this could become a realistic model of how to plan such developments in future. In contrast, it saddened me to hear that suggested strengthening of planning requirements for insulation of existing properties (which will save householders money even in the medium term) was greeted as a 'planning tax' by the media. It's about investing in our future, not about paying to 'be green'. We don't fully recognise the costs of clean water, cheap power and 'acceptable levels' of pollution: if we did, we'd all be clamouring to do more to help. Good information and foresight are essential parts of making the right choices. Choose your sources with care.

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❖ **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.

❖ **Pilates Beginners Classes** Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Lane N2. Contact: Michelle 07767 804 564

❖ **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk

❖ **Tai Chi class** at EF 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.

MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

❖ **Art Classes.** F or 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 & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.

❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.

❖ **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 7 May at 7.45pm, Hall School Sports Ground, 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.

❖ **Traditional music** at TOC, Highgate Hill on 1st & 3rd Tue each month from 8.30pm. Free. All musicians welcome. Info 07958 282898.

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

❖ **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.

❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** 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

❖ **Muslim Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.

❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495

❖ **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.

❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita 8886 6140.

❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390

Jane Eyre: New take on an old tale

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

Is there anything new to be said about *Jane Eyre*? Charlotte Brontë's novel has been dramatised so many times, surely the answer must be 'no'. Wrong! Finchley Youth Theatre gave us a completely fresh interpretation recently.

Fifteen-year-old Louisa Stratton played the role of Jane as a schoolgirl. She hadn't known the story beforehand but told *The Archer* that she saw her character as a shy but passionate little girl, hurt by her rough family, who went on to have an adventure.

The hero/anti-hero of that adventure is of course the enigmatic Mr Rochester. Except that in this version, he was anything but enigmatic. Instead, we saw a sensitive rough diamond of a young man with a definite playful streak.

Playful teasing didn't hide the tale's Gothic horror element though. When Mr Rochester's troubled wife escaped from the attic, carrying her lethal candle, the audience was transfixed.

The Youth Theatre is very small, and the front rows of the audience (forming three sides of a square) were within inches of the action. Theatrical attempted murder in the dark, and actual potential misadventure from moving scenery, really focused attention. No need to worry though, as the players had been meticulously drilled in their construction and deconstruction of the sets. Large planks of wood, ladders and doors were moved around with great efficiency.

Louisa told us they had just a few weeks to perfect the complex stage management, as well as to turn in excellent acting performances. Everyone involved should be very proud of an original and exciting performance. To find out more about the Finchley Youth Theatre, call 020 8883 9957.



A dance to remember

By Nmesoma Nwajobi and Miranda Harrison

Earlier this year, Year 5 from Holy Trinity Primary School took part in the annual Barnet Dance Festival at artsdepot. There were 15 other primary and secondary schools performing on the same day, which made it a very buzzing and exciting atmosphere.

When we got there, we watched the other schools rehearse their dances, and soon it was our turn to rehearse in front of the other schools. Our dance was themed around the Olympics so we went on stage doing different Olympic sports to "Chariots of Fire".

The next part of the song was much faster and involved a range of moves that we had learned in our PE lessons. Many of the others were amazing and we enjoyed watching different styles of dance.

Our performance in the evening was epic and it was a great opportunity to perform on a stage in front of over 200 people. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we will remember this experience for many years.

Rare chance to hear

By Marian Bunzl

North London Chorus is to perform two rarely heard works that deserve to be better known.

Dvorak's *Mass in D* is a very intimate work, originally composed for the opening of the family oratory of a grand castle, which alternates lilting rhythms with beautifully lyric passages. Dvorak himself summed it up as "a work of faith, hope and love to Almighty God".

Herbert Howells *English Mass* is a mystical setting by one of the 20th century's most accomplished choral composers. The vocal scoring creates a variety of textures and colours throughout the work.

Both works feature the splendid new voice of the restored organ at St James's Church, Muswell Hill, as well as the chorus's own. The concert will also include a lively organ concerto by Josef Rheinberger.

It takes place on Saturday 30 June at 7.30 pm, at St. James Church, Muswell Hill. Tickets priced £18, £13 and £10 (concessions £2 reduction) from 0203 468 1213 and Les Aldrich Music Shop, Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, and at the door.

What's On in and around East Finchley

E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Friday 1 June to Saturday 30 June
• **East Finchley Open artists Spoons in June** exhibition at Emporium tea rooms, Fortis Green, close to Muswell Hill.

Sunday 3 June
• **Two Hampstead Garden Suburb gardens open** in aid of the **National Gardens Scheme** charities, 2-6pm. Entry costs £3 per adult at each garden (children free), plants for sale: 48 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HG and 94 Oakwood Road, NW11 6RN.

Thursday 7 to Saturday 30 June
• **Postcards Arts Festival** at Jacksons Lane Arts Centre, 269a Archway Road, N6. Box Office 020 8341 4421. All Postcards tickets £10 per night, festival pass £50. Full line-up at www.jacksonslane.org.uk

Saturday 9 June
• **HGS Horticultural Society's Flower Show**, 3-5.30pm, Free Church Hall, Northway, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11. Children's fancy dress competition and adults' mad hats competition to be judged by Jonathan Ross, and two special-

ist plant nurseries selling in the garden. Teas served. More details from www.hortsoc.co.uk

Sunday 10 June
• **Open gardens at East Finchley Cottage Gardens**, 20 and 22 Trinity Rd N2, 2-5pm in aid of the National Garden Scheme.

• **Free music concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 7.30pm; Marina Solarek (violin) and Caroline Soresby (piano) play Beethoven, Mozart and Bartok. Free admission with collection in aid of Happy Home Orphanage, supporting children in Andhra Pradesh, India. This venue is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Saturday 16 June
• **Martin Primary School Summer Fun Day**, 12-3pm at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2. Come and enjoy the fun: bouncy castle, BBQ, teas & cakes, tombola, raffle, bands and entertainment, fancy dress and lots of stalls.

• **Dickens and Victorian Barnet:** a bicentenary guided walk with City

of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at High Barnet tube station, 2.30pm. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Sunday 17 June
• **Open garden at 60 Church Crescent**, N10, 2-6pm in aid of the National Garden Scheme.

Saturday 23 June
• **Barnet Ghosts:** a guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at High Barnet tube station, 7.30pm. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Sunday 24 June
• **East Finchley Community Festival**, Cherry Tree Wood, 12-6pm. Come along for live entertainment, stalls and fabulous food and drink. East Finchley's big day out.

• **Open garden at 5 St Regis Close**, Alexandra Park Road, N10, 2-7pm, in aid of the National Garden Scheme.

Until Sunday 24 June
• Ovation presents the world premiere of *Goodnight, Mrs Calabash*,

a new musical inspired by the life of Jimmy 'Schnozzle' Durante; Tuesdays to Saturdays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 4pm. Box office 020 8340 3488 or www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com. Tickets £10-£16 (concessions available).

Saturday 30 June
• **North London Chorus** perform **Dvorak's Mass in D** and **Herbert Howells' English Mass**; St James Church, Muswell Hill, 7.30pm. Tickets priced £18, £13 and £10 (concessions £2 reduction) from 0203 468 1213, also from Les Aldrich Music Shop, Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, St James Church Bookshop and at the door.

Saturday 7 to Sunday 8 July and Saturday 13 to Sunday 14 July
• **East Finchley Open artists' Open House weekends**, 11am to 6pm; 65 artists, free exhibition over two weekends. Unique artwork for sale in local homes and studios. 2012 show includes ten new members and three new open houses. Full details at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk



Letters to the Editor

The kindness of strangers

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to read news of a new councillor for East Finchley, Arjun Mitra. A couple of weeks ago I answered the phone to a caller who had mistakenly dialled my number. He began the conversation by mentioning the Labour party. I interrupted and told him he had dialled a wrong number but when I heard he was from a political party, I complained to him that I could never find a telephone number because there were never any phone books these days and I was unable to access the internet.

He had caught me at a bad time, but he listened to my complaint and asked for my email address and the address I was looking for. I explained that I was eager to send a letter of condolence to an old friend who had recently been bereaved.

Later that evening I received an email from Arjun Mitra giving me the address I was seeking. I was so touched that he had taken the trouble for a complete stranger. I wrote back to Arjun thanking him for his kindness. Tolstoy wrote that we

must do the good that is in front of us. Our new councillor is a fine example of this. Good luck, Arjun Mitra.

**Yours faithfully,
Vivienne Kaufman
By email.**

CPZ fight goes on

Dear Editor,

I was so pleased to hear that the residents' legal action is going ahead in the High Court against the new parking charges in controlled parking zones (CPZs) across Barnet. Barnet CPZ Action Group (and all who have supported it) go to show once again what a special place East Finchley is to live.

Hopefully soon the parking charges will be reduced to a reasonable amount, i.e. the amount needed to maintain the CPZ, and not a penny more! It seems to me that many of the residents who have had to pay the new parking charges have had no alternative, which is very unfair.

**Yours faithfully,
Debbie Linton,
Address supplied.**

Tree vandalism

Dear Editor,

One day last week, tree surgeons showed up and removed a magnificent, huge and healthy cedar tree that had stood at the back of Pulham Avenue for many years. There were no notices put up, no consultation with the neighbourhood.

I had always thought that this was protected by a tree preservation order but Barnet Council said it "did not appear to be". So, at the whim of one owner, the loveliest feature on the estate, something that was an asset to the whole neighbourhood, vanished in just a day. It felt like vandalism.

Meanwhile, down the road in affluent Abbots Gardens, a notice by Barnet Council went up the same day. It said the council intended to carry out tree surgery there, and anyone with any concerns could phone a given number at the council, with another number for the tree surgeons given for "any queries about the timing of these works". A council estate may never be a conservation area, but it still deserves its thing of beauty. Why didn't Barnet protect our tree?

**Yours faithfully,
Gayle Goshorn,
Pulham Avenue, N2.**

The war through young eyes

Dear Editor,

I am in the process of writing a fiction book about a child's view of the war and a story based around his life during this time. Though the story is fiction, the details surrounding the novel will be true. As well as being a book of interest to the younger generation, it will also educate them as to what actually happened during those times. I am researching that period so that all details will be accurate and correct. However, I can see no better way to research than have the memories of those who actually lived through this time.

I am hoping that your readers may be able to help me by sending their memories of those times. If someone was seven when the war begun they would be 80 now. There are many out there who, I'm sure, can accurately recall those times. Perhaps they were evacuated. The sounds, the smells, the innocence cannot be dreamed up. These are the memories I need. Who knows, a good response may generate enough material to be a book on its own.

If you have memories of those times, would it be at all possible to send them to me at willisonkeith@yahoo.co.uk. I realise that access to a computer for people of that age may limit my response. Therefore I can be written to at 16 Ibbett Lane, Potton, Bedfordshire SG19 2U. Any photographs, or anything to do with those times will be returned once copies were taken. I feel that these memories need to be preserved and this (or these) book(s) may just be a way of doing that. Please help this project.

**Yours faithfully,
Keith J Willison,
Potton, Bedfordshire.**

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



A sporting call to action

By Ruth Brown

Prince William is calling on us to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee by permanently protecting a local playing field. The front page of last month's Archer reported that Haringey has several playing fields that are part of his 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. The scheme gives communities an opportunity to vote for an outdoor space in their area to become a QE2 Field. It's then permanently protected, and the council is able to apply for special QE2 Field improvement funds.

The QE2 Fields website says of Barnet: "Unfortunately this local authority has not put any sites forward yet." However, it invites local residents to ask their Council to take part in the QE2 Challenge. If you think Barnet should join in this celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, it only takes a minute. Go to www.qe2fields.com and click on "Call to Action".

As well as its patron Prince William, the QE2 Fields Challenge has many famous supporters. Derek Redmond, gold medallist and 400m record holder, says: "The opportunities that playing fields provide to young people are fundamental in building sporting enthusiasm and this is a brilliant campaign to help our future athletes. I would not be where I am now without having access to my local playing field."

So perhaps Barnet, like Haringey, should be supporting potential local stars of future Olympics.

Thought-provoking dance

A group of dancers from Tudor School won an award for their lively routine and stunning visuals at a national dance event organised by the British Red Cross. Children in Year 5 took part in the national dance event called 'Make Your Move' at the Bernie Grant Theatre in Tottenham in April.

Led by the deputy headteacher Mrs Lockwood, the dance group created a sequence themed around water and the life-threatening problems that individuals and communities are faced with when there is a lack of water.

The group won an award for 'Most Provoking Visuals and Group Performance', a great achievement. This is the second year that the school has taken part in the event, and alongside the dance the children produced a PowerPoint presentation to support the theme of the dance.

Mrs Lockwood said: "The children performed brilliantly and willingly gave up their Saturday to attend the event, which was held in a real theatre. It was a memorable and wonderful experience for us all."

Children's ideas for Stanley Field

By Leo Kucera and Georgia Hunt

Children from Holy Trinity School are making a difference in the Stanley Field campaign by writing letters to the council and putting their point across. They were inspired by their visit to the horror that is now Stanley Field.

Year 5 from Holy Trinity School have been making plans for Stanley Field's make-over. The children feel strongly about the council's plans to build flats and the pollution it would create so close to their school playground. They were interested to hear about Stanley Field's child-friendly past from their teacher, Miss Katie Artemiou, and would like it to be returned to that state.

The children's plan is to develop the field into a sports facility with a basketball pitch, a large grass pitch for a wide range of sports, two small

sand pitches, one AstroTurf pitch, an athletics track and perhaps a small tuck shop. Also vegetable patches and allotments would be a cheap alternative. Both would be green and healthy ideas, creating educational opportunities for children.

These ideas would not cost a lot of money and it would be usable by local schools and hundreds of local families each year. We can't let this peaceful and safe outdoor area we replaced by buildings and roads. We look forward to hearing from our local councillor!

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Workshops open doors

By Sheila Armstrong

There's an interesting community growing up behind The Broadway in Muswell Hill, in Avenue Mews to be precise, which starts near O'Neills pub and ends behind the library. The old artisan workshops are now rented out to a variety of vintage shops, including Cha Cha Cha and Can't Buy Me Love, galleries and artists' workshops. If there is a red bike out at the end of the Mews then the shops and galleries are open, usually Thursday to Saturday.

Matt Humphrey invited *The Archer* along to The Local Gallery in April and plied us with news about the upcoming exhibitions at his gallery and cups of delicious coffee, courtesy of W. Martin in The Broadway. The Local Gallery is for local artists and is the only one in Muswell Hill.

Charity project

Matt is a successful and talented self taught photographer and spent some time in Hong Kong teaching languages before returning to the UK to work as a stagehand at the Old Vic theatre. This led him to devise his charity project 31thirtyone//portraitproject. Matt spent 31 days photographing various actors and theatre luminaries, amongst them Kevin Spacey and Sam Mendes. The limited edition photos were then signed by the individuals concerned and sold off for charity.



A total of £14,000 was raised this way and The Clissold Arms in Fortis Green hosted the exhibition. In 2011 he repeated this successful formula with musicians, which at the time of writing was still on show at the Clissold Arms.

Matt's plans for The Local Gallery include film shows, courses, a photo studio and space for hire, and more group and mixed media shows. The artist in residence is Nathan John Booth who occupies the small loft studio. East Finchley artist John Jones has shown a selection of prints there as recently as April as part of a group exhibition titled muswellhillbillies.

Contact for the gallery is at www.thelocalgallery.co.uk, but go along and have a look. It's a small friendly place and just behind the main drag. Matt is at www.matthumphreyimages.com

Missing bus info

Texting Transport for London to see the actual estimated arrival time of your bus can save a lot of hassle. As explained in the March *ARCHER*, all you have to do is text the number of your bus stop to 87287.

In a very few instances, however, there is no number displayed at the stop. You can discover the number on the TFL website, www.tfl.gov.uk, where you can also report its absence from the stop. Alternatively, call 0845 300 70000. A TFL spokesperson recommended allowing two weeks and then calling again if nothing had been done.

Fancy line-up for the Silver Jubilee



The fancy dress competition gets underway at the 1977 Silver Jubilee street party in Richmond Road. Photo courtesy of Mike Herring

A Diamond Jubilee 115 years ago



The 1897 plaque in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Photo by Nick Young

While we celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, next time you take a walk down Bedford Road, look out for an ornate plaque marking 60 years on the throne for her great-great-grandmother—Queen Victoria.

The current residents of the house are not aware why the plaque was placed here but it's certainly a fine example of Victorian craftsmanship and makes the most of Victoria's position at the head of the British Empire. Please contact us if you can tell us any more about the plaque. Our contact details are on page 2.

An astronaut, a giant Fingerbobs mouse and a clutch of kings and queens made the fancy-dress line-up for this Silver Jubilee party in 1977. Neighbours in Brighton Road, Chamberlain Road and Richmond Road set up tables in the street and enjoyed an afternoon of food, drink and games. Thirty-five years on, the three roads were staging another party on 2 June to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. Mike Herring, who took the photo and still lives in Richmond Road, remembers the 1977 party as a hot and sunny day. Who won the fancy-dress competition, though? Answers on a postcard, please.

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