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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



The burnt-out shell of the archery club building. Photo by Gill Steiner.

Archery club pavilion burnt to a shell

By Janet Maitland

After its pavilion was destroyed by fire the Aquarius Archery Club on Southern Road has received the support of members from all over the world. The wooden pavilion, built in 1923, was burnt to a shell in the early hours of 13 April.

A neighbour who was woken by the crackle of flames called the fire service at 4.10am. About 20 firefighters tackled the blaze and managed to put it out by 5.30am. It is not yet known how the fire started and investigations are underway.

Bereavement

"We've lost all our history, all our records and photographs," said Maggie Woolf, the club's coaching officer. "It was such a beautiful old

building. Members are rallying round: one made tea for all the firefighters and everyone's offering help. We've also had condolences from old members as far away as China and India.

"People who aren't members are asking what they can do to help and some even want to join the club. We're linked with the archery club in Coblenz and they've told us they're in mourning. Well, it does feel like

a bereavement. I've been here since 1976 and I knew every square inch of it. I even dreamt I was cleaning it last night, but now it's gone."

Members raised all the money for the building themselves, including the cost of a new roof and central heating, improvements which have only just been completed. They hope to rebuild and the club has no intention of disbanding. In fact everything planned will carry on, even an Olympic Open Day in September.

If you would like to offer your support to the club, leave a message at www.aquarius-archers.org.uk.

Expansion plans for Martin Primary School

By Diana Cormack and Helen Drake

Barnet Council has issued a formal consultation about its proposals for the expansion of Martin Primary School. Recently rated "outstanding" by Ofsted, this popular school formerly had two classes for each year. The proposal is to expand it permanently from a two to a three-form entry establishment from September 2012, so that eventually it would cater for 630 pupils from reception to Year 6.

Last September, as a then one-off response to the needs of local children without school places, Martin Primary opened an additional reception class. Now plans are being made to accommodate the "bulge" reception class children within the main school building when they enter Year 1. Future planning, should the permanent expansion proceed, would involve additional financial investment plus logistical issues, as well as the need for extra teaching staff.

These proposals have come about just as the school enters its centenary year, completing a century of many changes. Writing to parents and carers, headteacher Helen Morrison explained that the plans were at an early stage and would be subject to a full consultation process.

Meeting hears plans

On Wednesday 18 April, Mick Quigley, Barnet's assistant director for schools and

families, met staff, governors and parents to talk about the expansion proposal. "We are not a faceless bureaucracy," he said. "This is a genuine consultation. There is a community in East Finchley which needs schools."

If the expansion goes ahead, the meeting was told, money would be ring-fenced to create a £2million pound budget for building works.

School field

Parents raised concerns about how expansion would affect the current pupils and their families; road safety; and the shortage of secondary school places. The greatest concerns expressed, however, were about changes to the building and particularly about the impact of possibly building on the school field.

Mr Quigley stressed that there was "no automatic plan to build on the school field" as it was protected and had other restrictions. He pointed out that the existing site was fairly large and might include areas which could accommodate sympathetically-designed changes.

Following the meeting, the present consultation stage was due to close on 4 May. After this the council will decide whether to publish a statutory notice, with a further six week representation period. Having taken into account any responses, it will then take a final decision about whether to proceed with the expansion. To view the consultation document visit <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>

THE ARCHER would like to have your views about this topic. Please write to us by email or post, or find us on Twitter and Facebook. Our contact details are on page 2.

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Copy deadlines

June: 11 May

July: 15 June

August: 13 July

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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

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Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
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Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

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NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
RSPCA Inspector 0300 1234 999
Samaritans 08457 909090

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

Cardinal House, 5 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Extension of existing basement to create leisure facility.

32 Church Lane, N2

Demolition of existing roof; proposed new roof extension to form one bedroom with en-suite shower room, play room with WC, three dormer windows to rear elevation and three roof lights to front elevation.

3 Durham Road, N2

Erection of new side conservatory following demolition of existing one.

99 East End Road, N2

Conversion of house into two self-contained flats, with new flat roof to existing single-storey rear extension.

47/49 Edmunds Walk, N2

Conversion of two self-contained flats into single dwelling-house. Insertion of two roof lights to rear elevation.

50 Gurney Drive, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

11-59 High Road, N2 (McDonald's Restaurants Ltd)

Temporary non-illuminated exterior banners, logo and fascia to entrance doors to promote 'Games Maker Training' taking place within the building.

60 High Road, N2

Conversion of existing maisonette to form two one-person flats.

238 High Road, N2

Variation of condition 1 of planning permission F/01624/11 for "erection of a three-storey building to accommodate eight self-contained flats and a ground floor commercial unit". Amendments to include rearrangement of flats and associated alterations to all elevations; amendments to proposed fenestration; repositioning of balconies.

The Bungalow, 1 Indigo Walk, N6

Extension to time limit for implementing Appeal Decision APP/N5090/A/09/2093227 for "erection of glass entrance porch to eastern elevation, creation of new basement

accommodation under south east corner of garden, and provision of associated small sunken terrace to south of existing property."

"Dick Turpin", 383 Long Lane, N2

Non material minor amendment for previously approved application Ref: F/03082/11 for "erection of a two-storey building plus rooms in roof space and basement living accommodation and parking, all to facilitate eight residential flats following demolition of the public house". Amendment to include adding boundary railings and Juliet balconies.

30 Ludlow Way, N2

Conversion of existing detached garage to create playroom/study space with pitched roof, roof lights, window and patio doors.

9 Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Loft conversion, including two roof lights to front elevation.

49 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Single storey rear extension.

54-60 Trinity Road, N2

Double storey side extension, including raising of existing roof and formation of rear dormer to roof of 58-60 to create a one-bedroom flat within the loft space.

Haringey Council

29/31 Aylmer Road, N2

Demolition of 29-31 Aylmer Road, and erection of a part four/part five storey building, comprising nine self-contained flats to provide six two-bedroom apartments and three three-bedroom apartments. Provision of 14 covered car parking spaces, one visitor's space, cycle parking and associated landscaping.

8 Fortis Green Avenue, N2

Formation of gable end and rear dormer, with installation of two roof lights, to facilitate a loft conversion.

2 Fortis Green Cottages, Fortis Green, N2

Erection of rear dormer to facilitate a loft conversion.

Lynton Grange, Fortis Green, N2

Installation of six Vodafone antennas, three transmission dishes, associated equipment cabinets and ancillary developments.

New councillor for East Finchley

By Nick Young

Arjun Mittra has become Barnet's newest councillor, convincingly winning the East Finchley ward by-election for Labour. He received 67.8% of the votes cast, over four times as many as his nearest rival, the Conservative candidate.

"I feel really honoured to have been elected," said Councillor Mittra. "I look forward to working with people to help them get the improvements to our area that they need."

The full results of the by-election, held on 11 April, were as follows:

Arjun Mittra (Lab): 2,117
Anshul Gupta (Con): 543
Jane Gibson (Lib Dem): 461

Rejected ballot papers: 19

The turnout was significantly lower than at the last Council election, held in 2010, although the higher turnout two years ago might be explained by the fact that the vote took place on the same day as the General Election. Then, East Finchley's three Labour councillors each received in excess of 2,800 votes and all of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat candidates polled over 1,000 votes.

Labour's not-unexpected victory in a ward that has traditionally returned three Labour councillors leaves party numbers

at Barnet Council unchanged, with the Conservatives in overall control with 39 seats, Labour with 21 and the Liberal Democrats with three.

Raise a sunflower

Finchley Horticultural Society is running a sunflower competition for children under 16. The young sunflower plants can be purchased for 50p at the FHS plant sale to be held at Gordon Road, N3, on Sunday 13 May from 10am to 12.30pm.

At the beginning of September children will be asked to send in a photograph of their sunflower with measurements of its height and the width of the flower head. The winner will be announced at the Autumn Plant Fair to be held on 9 September. For more details, please email: fhsunflower@hotmail.co.uk

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The Muswell Hill Band gets in tune outside Budgens. Photo by Nick Young.

Give us your brass

On a Saturday in late March, shoppers on the High Road were treated not just to a warmer-than-usual early spring day but also to a brass band playing on the pavement outside Budgens.

Their purpose? To help raise money for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, which provides practical and emotional support for life-limited and life-threatened children and their families in North London.

The Muswell Hill Band,

By Nick Young

which is part of North London Brass, described on its website as "London's independent brass band network", was established in June 2011 and has helped to raise money for local community projects ever since.

Players of all ages and abilities are welcome. "The band is for people who used to play and are coming back to it," explained conductor Paul Hooper. The band has players aged from 13 to 70, and hopes to be entertaining people at the East Finchley Festival this summer.

For more information about North London Brass, visit their website at www.fourhillsmusic.co.uk/north-london-brass. Further details about Noah's Ark Children's Hospice can be found at <http://noahsarkhospice.org.uk/>

Credit card scam

By Janet Maitland

Police have issued a warning about an inventive new card fraud telephone scam. You receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from your bank, who informs you that their systems have spotted a fraudulent payment on your card or that your card is due to expire and needs replacing.

You may be asked to ring back using the phone number on the back of your card. But the fraudster keeps the line open at their end so that when you make the call you are connected straight back to them. You are then asked to 'cancel' your existing card or to 'activate' or 'authorise' a replacement card by keying your PIN into the handset. You are told that your card will be collected from your home.

In some cases a genuine courier company is hired to pick up the card from your home address. Once the criminals have your card and PIN they can of course now use them to steal your money.

Dos and donts

Police advice is to remember that your bank will *never* ask you to authorise anything by entering your PIN into the telephone handset, nor will your bank or the police *ever* ring you to tell you they are coming to your house to collect your card, so *never* hand it over to anyone who comes to collect it.

You should never share your PIN number with anyone, and the only times you should ever use it are at a cash machine or when you use a chip and PIN machine in a shop/restaurant. If you think you have been a victim of this scam, report the crime to the police by dialing 101 and contact your bank or card company immediately.

Book your stall at the festival

This year's East Finchley Community Festival will be on Sunday 24 June between 12 noon and 6pm in Cherry Tree Wood. If you are interested in booking a stall, it is advisable to do so as soon as possible. For more information, email: eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com.

Wheeled bins to replace recycling boxes

Household recycling in Barnet is to change after Barnet Council agreed on a new waste collection plan, to come into effect at the end of 2013.

Residents will no longer need to separate their recycling into blue and black boxes; instead they will be able to put paper, cans, plastic bottles, cardboard and glass in one new 240-litre wheeled bin. Weekly collections of recycling and household waste will continue as usual.

Food waste

Residents will also be provided with internal and external kitchen caddies for food waste. The kitchen caddy will allow people to place all their food waste in one container. At present about one third of the contents of black wheeled bins is food waste which, when put into landfill, gives off methane gas, one of the most damaging greenhouse gases.

The caddies will be collected weekly along with black wheeled bins for other household waste that cannot be recycled or composted. Green wheeled bins for garden waste only will be collected fortnightly.

Arrangements for people living in flats are not yet clear but are likely to fit in with the new collections.

Cost-cutting

Barnet Council says the new plan will reduce the projected increase in waste costs by £4.1 million in 2016/17. The council's target is for 43 per cent of residents' kerbside waste to be recycled by then.

The plans will not be implemented until the end of 2013 when the council's contract with its current recycling service ends.

THE ARCHER has published several letters in recent issues from readers complaining about the obstructions caused by the existing black and blue recycling boxes and the mess caused by rubbish escaping from them. However, there is also a warning in this month's letters on page 11 about the danger of having too many wheeled bins on our pavements.

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400 years in 800 yards

By Ann Bronkhorst

A good many tourists explore historic Highgate village but few tackle North Hill. Locals, too, tend to see it merely as a route to the village and on into town or, northbound, as a road leading to suburbs like East Finchley and Barnet. Now the history and architecture of North Hill can be appreciated, thanks to an imaginative new heritage guide launched by the Highgate Society with a grant from Haringey's Making a Difference Fund.

On each side of North Hill are buildings dating from the early 17th century to the 21st. A leisurely stroll down just 800 yards of pavement (about 732 metres) reveals a fascinating diversity of domestic architectural styles.

Richard Webber, co-ordinator of the project, pointed out at the launch event on 12 April that the road is not a visual mess despite being perhaps the most architecturally varied street in Britain. Most owners, he said, were delighted to co-operate with the project and to supply extra information.

From Highpoint to Esso

The guide is a leaflet (map-sized, once unfolded) of colour photographs and factual information. Thirty five buildings

are shown chronologically on one side and in walk order on the other. Architect and lecturer Wilson Briscoe's clear, brief descriptions highlight details such as decorative brickwork, porches, and roofing tiles.

The leaflet is packed with information organised skilfully by designer Nick Moll, using colour coding to denote architectural styles and a time-line to link in with historical events.

Starting at Highpoint, the famous Modernist block of flats, the intrepid explorer heads down the hill as far as the service station at the junction with Archway Road. About halfway along the route The Bull, which hosted the launch event, makes a pleasant refreshment stop. Here there's an interpretation board and free leaflets (also available at The Wrestlers, The Victoria and at two North Hill shops).

So, hop off the 143 bus, either at the start or the end of the trail, pick up a leaflet, and explore this remarkable road. Further details and information about circular walks in North London from www.highgate-society.com.

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How you can help the Bobath Centre

By Daphne Chamberlain
Times are still tough for the Bobath Centre as it battles against a funding crisis, but the staff appreciate the great support they are getting. Their spring newsletter spells out various ways in which the community can help, and makes clear that the staff too are continuing to fight.

Although families are still struggling to get NHS funding, the team is working hard to fill vacant appointments, and in March the staff ran a record number of training courses. Therapy and healthcare professionals are invited to find out more about these. While the centre in East End Road specialises in treating children, Bobath treatment also helps adults with neurological disabilities, including those brought on by traumas such as stroke.

How can the general public help? There is a way to generate funds for a charity of your



choice whenever you make an online purchase. You can be sponsored for a London half-marathon in October, and there should still be time to support students Rohit Kumar Rajput and Andreas Patsalides running for Bobath in the BUPA London Run on 27 May. Visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/rohitrajput1>.

You can join the centre's 4,000 Facebook fans, get a Bobath collection box and just

find a project to get involved with.

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold. Recently, Barclays Bank employees did wonders with the gardens around the centre, benefiting both families and staff. People like Liz Forshaw (pictured here) spend a day or so a week, helping with administration.

If you are interested, call 020 8444 3355 or visit www.bobath.org.uk.

Not a baaaa-d idea for dinner

By Allison Goodings

There's nothing nicer than an impressive dish using in-season spring lamb, especially if it can be cooked with limited effort in advance. Lamb shoulder is an economical cut and in this recipe for ragu it goes far.

Buy a boneless lamb shoulder from Midhurst Butchers on Fortis Green or Graham's Butchers on East End Road. Pancetta makes a great addition to this ragu; buy it along with pappardelle from Amici's Delicatessen (High Road), or use good bacon if you prefer. This dish is inspired by a recipe in *Economy Gastronomy* by Allegra McEvedy.

Slow-Roasted Lamb Ragu with Pappardelle and Tomato & Basil Salsa (Serves 6)

Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in heavy-bottomed pot. Add 4 shallots peeled and quartered, 150g pancetta cut into lardons, 3 cloves garlic sliced, and a bouquet garni (1 bay leaf tied with 5g thyme on stem). Sauté on medium heat until shallots are soft and pancetta is starting to brown, 10-15 minutes.

Add 250ml red wine (we used

£2.99 Italian wine from Spar!) and deglaze pan. Scrape brown bits off the bottom – they're full of flavour. Reduce mixture for 10 minutes.

Trim fat off boneless lamb shoulder (700g). Leave whole, season with salt & pepper. Place lamb over pancetta mixture, pour over 750ml beef stock (from cube is fine). Bring to simmer, cover with lid or foil, place



into 150C oven for 3 hours or more: you can't overcook this dish.

Remove from oven, cool slightly. Transfer lamb to another dish, shred meat and remove any remaining skin, fat or sinew. Skim fat from liquid or sieve the mixture and cool liquid for 20 minutes before removing top layer of fat more easily. The dish can be made ahead and refrigerated up to this point.

Return lamb, cooking liquid and 250g sliced mushrooms (button, oyster, cremini) to pot on medium heat. Bring to simmer and cook until juices reduce substantially, about 30-45 minutes. Optionally, add 15g dried wild mushrooms reconstituted in 250ml boiling water to the mixture. Simmer gently, using wooden spoon to break apart lamb.

Separately, cook 500g pappardelle according to package instructions. Cook pasta al dente ("to the teeth") as overcooked pasta will not hold up to the thick sauce. Drain pasta, toss with 75g butter, then with the ragu, which should be very thick with little liquid remaining.

Top with simple tomato & basil salsa made from 6 plum tomatoes, seeded and diced, 50g fresh minced basil, 4 tbsp olive oil and salt & pepper to taste. This salsa brightens the flavour of the rich lamb sauce. Shave fresh parmesan over each plate and finish with cracked black pepper. For added indulgence, drizzle with truffle oil.

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



Stanley Field "could be Olympic legacy"

A new campaign group has been formed to keep Stanley Field for sport with a claim that the open space could be an Olympic legacy. The Friends of Stanley Field say the playing field is a much-needed resource for children and people of all ages in an area where sports facilities are in short supply.

Currently, Sport East Finchley is working with developers to secure the best possible mix of housing and leisure use following the rejection by Barnet Council of its bid for the whole field to be a community sport centre.

Join the parade

The Friends group is inviting families to show their support by meeting at the field at 11.15am on Sunday 24 June dressed in sporting kit to join the parade for the East Finchley Festival that day.

Spokeswoman Kate Brown said: "This year the festival parade has an Olympics theme, so if you like, wear your football shirt or track suit! Stanley Field should be our Olympic legacy. It's a scandal that at the time of the London Olympics, Barnet

Council is considering making some quick cash by selling a field that's been used for sport for over 100 years."

The Friends of Stanley Field have cleared litter and weeds from the football pitch, and have invited Mayoral and GLA candidates and Olympic officials to come and see the field. They can be emailed at friendsofstanleyfield@gmail.com.

Sports EF Chair, Roger Chapman said, "Our last public meeting showed the strength of local opinion in support of protecting Stanley Road Playing Field. I think the establishment of the Friends of Stanley Field reflects that strong feeling. I am sure that their campaign will complement ours to save this playing field for the local community."

Shoppers support Lupus UK

On Good Friday, Sippy Azizollah spent a few hours in Budgens fundraising for Lupus UK. She received the usual kindness and hospitality from the manager and staff at the store along with much support from local shoppers. Sippy, who suffers from lupus herself, would like to thank everyone who helped that day, when her collection box revealed £100 to go to this very worthy cause.



Sippy Azizollah in Budgens. Photo by Diana Cormack.

At present there is no cure for lupus. Visit www.lupusuk.org for more information. Look out for more events on 10 May, World Lupus Day.

Parking changes call time on Watch Factory

By Nick Young

The Watch Factory ceased trading in the High Road at the end of March, a victim of the continuing recession in general and of Barnet Council's new parking regulations in particular.

"We would like to thank all our customers for their support and custom, and hope that Barnet Council will do something quickly before more stores in East Finchley close down," proclaimed a closing-down poster in the shop's window.

"I've been running at a loss since January," said proprietor Bobby Bhojwani, whose shop has been a part of the East Finchley community since opening in the autumn of 2009. "I was getting customers from Enfield, Tottenham and High Barnet. They'd come in and drop off their watches, and then go to visit the other shops." Since the new parking regulations have come into force, however, trade has dried up.

"The dynamic of the high street is changing," said Bobby. "There will just be more betting

shops and hair salons, which will compete against each other, and we'll move away from the balanced high street that draws in people from miles around. [The council] has made sweeping decisions without realising the consequences."

Bobby, who offered vintage watch repair services at competitive rates as well as selling watches, fitting new straps and changing batteries, was in the process of selling all of his stock and specialist equipment when he spoke to *THE ARCHER*. "I've been in touch with an eBay expert who'll take whatever's left," he said. He intends to move to Australia to stay with relatives for the immediate future.



The Watch Factory has gone out of business. Photo by Nick Young.

Olympic Flame to pass close by

The Olympic Flame will be passing through Barnet on Wednesday 25 July, two days before the opening of the Games. Regents Park Road, Ballards Lane, and Tally Ho will all see the torch relay pass by between 12-3pm. See the full route and timings at www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelaymap

Best paws forward

On Sunday 13 May, 100 dogs will take part in a sponsored 4km walk around Highgate Wood to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The new event called Best Paw Forward follows the lead of a similar walk in Barnes which has raised an amazing £50,000 for the charity.

The route covers two laps of this popular dog-walking destination. Dogs will set out in small groups from 10am and there will be a raffle and prizes for the pets raising the most sponsorship. Dogs taking part will also be able to buy a Best Paw Forward t-shirt at the event. Registration is £8 per dog. Participants will be emailed an information pack and details of how to set up their dog's own online sponsorship page.

For more information visit <http://supportus.cancerresearchuk.org/BPFHighgate>, contact Sylvia Mutevelian

on 0771 1828250 or e-mail woodview188@yahoo.co.uk.

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In the swim

By Daphne Chamberlain

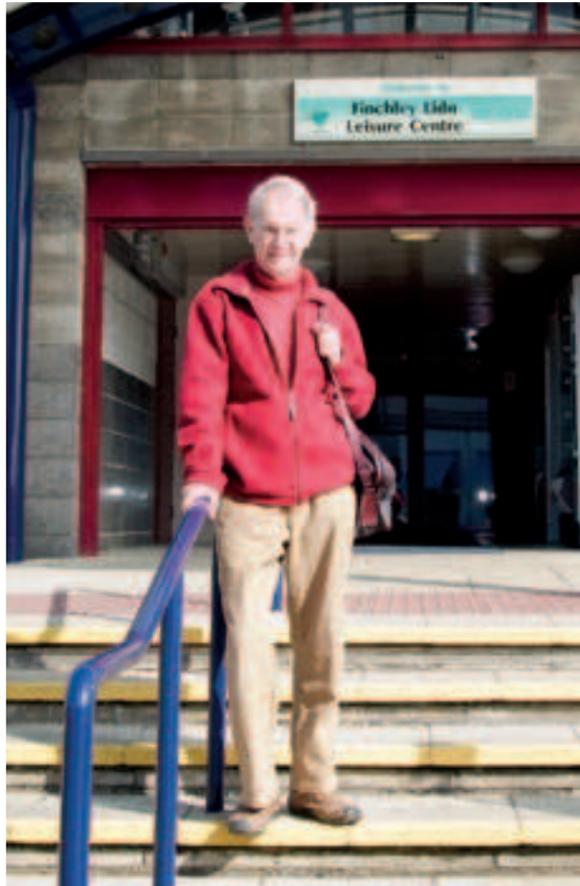
What makes an enjoyable visit to a swimming-pool? Cleanliness, maintenance and staff are most people's priorities. As the Finchley Lido users' co-ordinator, John Hajdu does have to report broken toilets, hairdryers and showers, malfunctioning lockers and cleaning issues, but says that work is carried out very quickly to rectify the problems.

Intriguingly, though, the Over 55s Users Group which John co-ordinates developed for a different reason. He noticed that nobody seemed to talk to anyone else. Most of the other regular swimmers were Seniors too, and he thought it might be nice to get to know each other. Eventually his campaign to greet and chat got going. John put together an email list, and people began to exchange news, check up on those who missed a few sessions, and welcome newcomers. Then they invited the Lido managers to meetings to discuss different issues.

Making waves

Their unofficial club became an official over 55s Users Group when, in 2007, Greenwich Leisure, who manage the pool, planned to raise the annual concessionary rate of £60 to over £200. John organised a petition and a letter, which resulted in Over-55s' season ticket holders being able to renew annually at the same price (plus a small inflationary increase), for as long as they continued to swim at the Lido.

Now the group meets every three or four months, and John also has one-to-one access to the pool managers. He told us that broken and sagging lane dividers were replaced at the users' request, and the group point out swimmers who are using the wrong speed lanes to the staff, who immediately take action. Every term John is shown the schedule for school visits, which he circulates among the members.



John Hajdu outside Finchley Lido Photo by Caron Westbrook

He says, "We now have a happy relationship with management and staff, who are grateful for our feedback and co-operation".

Glory of the old Finchley Lido

Readers continue to send us their memories of Finchley Lido. Here, Jake Eiseman-Renyard remembers the pool in the 1980s and 1990s.

Having been taught to swim at Park Road Pool in Crouch End, Finchley Open Air Pool was the second pool I ever used. It was like a day at the beach here in Finchley: the kids' pool being flat at one end, the wooden changing huts and people spreading out on the grass with towels to sunbathe and picnic. From here, you could see into the tennis courts next door; in the summer, there were always people playing there.

The kids' pool had quirks including lion fountains spouting water, and a waterfall display shaped like a staircase (where I occasionally saw a cat walking across the top). There was a concrete pipe by the pool with 'wheels' painted on, to look like a steam engine: probably not an original feature.

I was about seven when I first used the main pool. This also had fountains at one end, more conventionally-shaped this time. There was an exit-only path to the turnstiles, leading past a little wooded garden, which I preferred to leave by as it was so scenic.

Even as a kid, I wasn't pleased with redevelopment proposals. We'd all heard talk of an indoor pool; we didn't want an indoor pool. The whole point was this pool was outdoors, and many locals saw no sense changing a good thing. Sadly, the lido was closed in 1992, and by 1996 the site was redeveloped into the Great North Leisure Park that we have today.

Although my first job was at the multiplex cinema there, I still wish the old lido had stayed. I know this will probably never happen, but I dream of buying up the site one

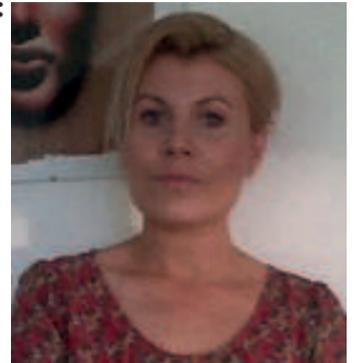
day and rebuilding Finchley Open Air Pool, restoring it to its former glory.

Every penny counts

Justyna Riley, of Leslie Road, is taking part in the Cancer Research 5km Race for Life on 27 May and she's hoping for your support. She writes:

I'm a mum of eight-year-old Leon and eight-month-old Alice. This will be my third race for Cancer Research. I have decided to raise money for the charity because my mum suffered from cancer. Also I think that it is very important to help others and their families. It is a great cause and can help to find new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

I'm hoping to raise more money than ever before and would like to ask the local community to help me to achieve my goal. Please support me by going to my profile and donating money at www.raceforlifesporsome.org



Justyna Riley is running for Cancer Research.

g/justynariley753. All the money goes directly to Cancer Research and every penny counts. Thank you very much for your support and kindness.

Green fingers but white cauliflowers

By Sheila Armstrong

When winter turns cold, bitter winds blow and snow threatens, what is a reporter to do? Go south, of course. This ARCHER reporter was happy to turn in a southerly direction even though the destination was only Regents Park.

At the end of January, North London gardeners, allotment holders, and anyone who could hold a fork or shake a stick turned up in their droves to a recording of the popular Radio 4 programme *Gardeners' Question Time*. It was chaired by the evergreen Eric Robson who was ably supported by a panel of well known gardeners, on this occasion Chris Beardshaw, Chistine Walkden and Bob Flowerdew. The whole thing got off to a good start with a delectable buffet served by The Royal College of Physicians who hosted the event.

Brassicas have long been

a preoccupation with certain members of *THE ARCHER* team, so when the opportunity to ask a question about how to keep your cauliflowers white arose this reporter was at the front of the queue (answer: you bend the leaves over the curd or flower so no light gets to it). As well as questions from the audience from pomegranates to plants for shade, other items included superfoods, a report from a recent plant-hunting trip to Chile by Christine Walkden and the regular feature "weather for gardeners".

All this was recorded with minimum fuss by two technicians, the producer Howard Shannon, the panel and the long serving chairman with efficiency and good humour. We were additionally lucky to be in the Royal College of Physicians, one of the few modern buildings on the Outer Circle in Regents Park, designed by Sir Denys Lasdun in the early 60s, and not normally open to the public. A great evening all round.

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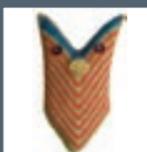
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School offers prove need for more choice, say campaigners

By Cathy Halstead

The team behind the campaign to set up a new free school, The Archer Academy, claims this year's first round of offers of secondary school places provides further evidence of the need for a wider choice of schools in Barnet.

According to Barnet Council's figures, 36.5% of children weren't offered a place at their first choice school, with 6.6%, a total of 223 children, being allocated to a school that they hadn't even named on their application form.

Local Schools for Local Children spokesperson Avis Johns said: "I've lost count of the number of people who have told me that even the first choice on their form isn't their school of choice at all.

"Parents are being forced to put faith schools, or single sex schools, on their application forms, because there aren't any other realistic options. All they want is a good, mixed-sex, non-denominational school that their children can go up to with their friends."

Expansion

Barnet Council has recognised the need for more secondary places in the borough, and is working to find solutions, such

as expanding well-regarded schools. The Compton, Christ's College and Cophall schools are scheduled to expand from September 2013, providing 90 extra places.

But in a report at the end of last year, the council's Scrutiny Panel stated that the projected shortfall in secondary places will rise to around 720 by 2020/21. So a wide range of solutions, in addition to the planned expansion, will need to be found if that demand is to be met.

Avis explained: "We know that The Archer Academy alone isn't enough to address the long-term issues around secondary education in Barnet but it would significantly widen choice for local parents, and help avoid the disappointment that hundreds of families experience on offers day."

STOPPRESS: As we went to press, the team were notified that they have got through to the interview stage and they will be

seeing the Department for Education on 28 May. A beaming Avis said: "We're absolutely ecstatic to be called for interview and are really looking forward to putting our case to the DfE. We need support like never before and we need parents to register that support at www.thearcheracademy.org.uk before 20 May, so the DfE can be in no doubt about the strength of local feeling for our school." The team can be contacted by email at localschools@live.co.uk.

Could you live on £1 a day?

Here, local resident Esther Grieder explains why she will be living on £1 a day for five days this month.

Could you live on £5 for five days? This is the challenge that thousands of people, including myself, will be taking on from 7-11 May when we Live Below the Line for Restless Development.

This innovative campaign involves people across the UK, US, Australia and New Zealand, and asks them to spend just £1 per day on all of their food and drink for five days. It aims to raise awareness of the 1.4 billion people across the world who live on this amount every day.

Lack of choice

If, like me, you find it hard to imagine surviving without your morning coffee, then living on £1 a day will seem pretty incomprehensible. And that's why Live Below the Line is such a powerful campaign. By living on this limited budget, I hope to get a personal, albeit tiny, insight into the lack of choice and opportunity that is a key part of living in extreme poverty.

Sometimes we think that "£1 per day goes much further overseas", but that's simply



Esther Grieder plans to live on just £1 a day.

not the case. Those 1.4 billion people around the world have to make this sum cover everything: food, healthcare, rent, travel, and education. I am worried about going without coffee for a week, but I can't imagine being in a situation where you have to choose between food for your family and medicine.

By being sponsored to Live Below the Line, I am raising vital funds for Restless Development to support the crucial work they do with young people across Africa and South Asia. Restless Development works with young people to tackle the issues that affect them most, including the HIV/AIDS crisis, unemployment and extreme poverty.

If you'd like to sponsor me, please go to www.livebelowtheline.com/me/esther. Next month I'll update you with how I got on. To find out more, or to take on the challenge yourself, please go to www.livebelowtheline.com/uk-restlessdevelopment.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Show your library some love

Twelve-year-old Fiona Mitchell, of Summerlee Avenue, explains why she's one teenager who treasures her local library.

I've always enjoyed libraries, ever since I was very small I loved being taken down to the library, to explore the masses of books, never knowing what I would find. And as I've entered my teen years my appreciation of my local library has remained.

That is why I'm often seen searching through the books of East Finchley library, hoping to find a book that will remind me why I love reading so much. Based on the 1,000 residents' signatures on the 'Save our Libraries' petition last year, it seems many people feel the same way. But I'm still not convinced that many teens or young people fully appreciate their library.

For many people, the way they use their libraries has changed considerably from when they were six to twelve. Teenagers do not have to rely on their parents to take them to the library; they choose different books and they can make more use of the library's other facilities such as book groups, writing groups, homework clubs and author readings.

Recently, I have joined the teen book group Me, Myself and I. We meet every month to discuss our chosen book, pick new titles and share our love for reading. I have found this book club has widened my knowledge and love for new genres of literature, that until recently I had not explored.

For example, this month, due to Charles Dickens' 200th birth-

day, we are reading a graphic novel of Great Expectations. This has done two things for me. One, as normally graphic novels are not my first choice, it has shown me any reading is enjoyable as a traditional novel. Secondly, the old-fashioned language has required much more concentration and understanding of the story line. I believe this is a good thing for any reader to experience as even with seemingly straightforward storylines, sometimes with a bit of focus, you can uncover a hidden message.

That is why I have nothing but praise and appreciation for my local library. But don't just take my word for it. Down at East Finchley library they're always looking for new members. And remember, whether it's a book, comic, graphic novel, instruction sheet, cheat book or even a magazine; any reading is reading.

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Children in Need grant for Noah's Ark



Dan Jones and some siblings enjoying a recent outing to Shaketastic Bus. Photo courtesy of Noah's Ark

Staff and volunteers at Noah's Ark have been celebrating the news that Children In Need has granted them funding for the second time in three years. The grant, awarded over a three-year period, will be used to expand the charity's Sibling Support Programme and will benefit brothers and sisters of life-limited and life-threatened children living within the boroughs of Enfield, Barnet, Islington, Camden and Haringey.

The programme has organised a wide range of activities for the siblings, from Bollywood dancing, DJ and drama workshops to mask and felt card making and a teddy bear's picnic. Outings included a driving day, trips to LaserQuest and the cinema, ice-skating and trips to the BBC for recording and animation workshops. None of these activities would be possible without the support of specially trained Family Support Volunteers, Specialist Carers and the wider Noah's Ark team.

The benefits of the programme are best summed up in the following quote from a 15 yr old sibling, "The Sibling Support Programme is a great help for me because it has helped me regain and build my confidence ever since my brother was ill. They have brought me many good memories in the past and I have made many good friendships over the past years and thank you for putting my life back on track."

For further information visit www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk or contact Dan Jones on 020 8449 8877 or djones@noahsarkhospice.org.uk

Hundreds of toys to enjoy

By Liz Luxmore

Would your child enjoy having four different new toys every three weeks? And would you enjoy choosing them from our collection of around 600 toys for under-sixes?

If so, come into Muswell Hill Toy Library, on the first floor of the library in Queens Avenue, Muswell Hill. We are just off the roundabout, and are open three days a week: Mondays from 2pm to 3.30pm and Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30am until noon.

Although based in Haringey we accept, and are happy to help, parents and carers from neighbouring boroughs. As we are a charity we charge £12 a year, or £8 for six months, or a 'taster' fee of £5 for just three months. If you are on benefits (though not the Child Benefit that everyone gets) your membership will be entirely free.

Stock to choose from includes toys for babies and toddlers, plus construction sets, games, dressing up clothes, Thomas the Tank Engine toys, play trays and jigsaws, and a collection of musical CDs and instruments for under-sixes. We also have a small collection of DVDs, and larger toys including a baby tricycle, tent, and tunnels for the garden. We run singalongs, story times and music sessions each week, and special events in summer holidays, so the whole library is a fun place to visit. Ring me, Liz, on 020 8444 0244 for more information. We will welcome you to have a look at any time when we are open.

Sing your heart out

Fun-loving vocal group Rock Chorus was launched in September 2009 by singer/songwriter Lauren Field. Since then they have gone from strength to strength with over 400 members in eight choirs.

Rock Chorus perform classic and contemporary rock, pop, soul and gospel from the 1960s to the present day, and have a rocking great time singing them. Anyone can come along for a free taster session at any time. Lauren said: "We don't hold auditions and previous experience isn't required. We want people to come because they love singing and want to make friends."

The local choir meets at Trinity Church Centre, 15 Nether Street, North Finchley, N12 7NN on Thursday evenings from 8pm to 9.30pm. All ages are welcome. Membership costs £90 for a ten-week term. For more information call 01582 668211 or email info@rock-chorus.com. Also visit www.rock-chorus.com and www.facebook.com/rockchorus

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Jewish London at the Phoenix

On 25 March, local author Rachel Kolsky showcased her recently published guide book *Jewish London* at the Phoenix Cinema.

With co-author Roslyn Rawson she welcomed over 200 people for an afternoon of Jewish London on Film. Rachel's overview of the book was interspersed with a virtual tour of her favourite buildings and sites of Jewish interest ... and a full evacuation of the cinema following the smoke alarm going off! Once everyone was back in the auditorium, places and names came thick and fast. Some were familiar like Freud and Bernard Kops, but others were new to many in the audience including two Millies, Witcop and Lansbury, sculptor Oscar Nemon and anarchist Rudolph Rucker.

Film academic Searle Kochberg provided an insight into Jewish London portrayals on film and then it was time for London itself to take centre stage in two very different films.

The delightful short *The Tenth Man*, filmed on location in and around the Jewish East End, was followed by *It Always Rains on Sunday* from 1947 with its story of lost love set in post-war Bethnal Green.

For more information on the book, contact Rachel at info@golondontours.com or visit www.golondontours.com

Back to the good old days

By Neville Robinson
On 21 March, the Rotary Club of Golders Green took 20 pensioners courtesy of Age UK Barnet to Lauderdale House in Highgate for an evening of Old Tyme Music Hall. Several of the guests were in their 90s and one lady, Miss Jean Henry, is proud to be 103 years old.

The party were taken in individual cars by their Rotarian drivers to enjoy a show where they could join in the refrains of songs like *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* and *For Me and My Gal*.

The thrill of seeing the artistes of the Lissenden Players in their wonderful array of costumes, plus chocolate cake and drinks during the interval, gave the guests a lovely night out. This is the fourth time the Rotary Club has organised this visit in the last 15 months.

Chill out with a chi ball

By Carolyn Pickles
Come Thursday and I for one can feel like a coiled spring, and not in a good way. By then, some part of my body is crying out for attention after carrying too many shopping bags, or sprinting to stop the traffic warden leaving me a ticket.

That's why I love Thursdays. At 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, Penny Hill runs her wonderful Chi Ball classes and the healing effects on body and mind are palpable.

Penny's one hour class is roughly divided into five sections, each of which has a season, and the appropriate exercise for that season. When I joined the classes we were in the winter season, so the focus was on breathing, relaxation, stillness and meditation. In the summer season, we dip into some pilates and for autumn the exercise technique is Feldenkreis, which I know little about despite Penny very clearly describing why and how it's employed, because by then I feel like a happy toddler allowed to roll about on the floor following where the ball's path takes me.

Penny describes every move and what it does for us very clearly as she watches over us all. No one laughs or shouts at you, and you leave the church hall feeling you've had a mini break. And cheap at that. Contact Penny on 07788667716.



Song for Tutu

By Sheila Armstrong
Archbishop Desmond Tutu has agreed to become a global patron of The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children, a popular youth arts charity project based in Haringey, North London.

Kaos kept in touch with the Archbishop after he donated an autographed copy of his new book in 2011 to help with fundraising for The Celebrity Angel Artwork Appeal. Children from The Kaos Signing Choir thanked him by sending him their own original artwork.

The great man responded by agreeing to become a global patron. A letter from his office said: "The Archbishop... is cutting down on his many activities and demands. However he is willing to be a patron if it helps you in the work that you are doing for children." In celebration, the choir now plans to dedicate one of its new signed songs to Archbishop Tutu. *One Earth, One Sky* is a stunning expression of hope for human understanding and unity.

The Kaos Organisation aims to make its activities accessible

to anyone who wants to participate, with a 'no audition' policy and previous experience not necessary. Contact Ali Wood directly on 07950 359 209 or office@thekaos.org for more information.

Council legal teams merge

Barnet Council is to merge its in-house lawyers with Harrow Council in a move that it estimates will save £4.4 million over five years.

The shared legal service will be hosted by Harrow, with Barnet staff transferring to Harrow. Initially, legal staff will work on their own council's projects but, as the transfer becomes embedded, teams will take on work for both councils.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

All hail, snail mail

Once upon a time when kings were kings and wives were worried, there was something called the Royal Mail. It was there for the use of the king and the king's post always got through, eventually. Then, in 1635, King Charles decided that everyone should be able to send letters and the rot set in.

By the time Jane Austen was describing the trials and tribulations of the upper middle class in early 19th-century England, everyone was sending letters. Well, everyone who could write, that is. And it was an expensive business. Every letter you got came complete with its own bill. None of this going down the post office and sticking a stamp on an envelope. Instead you went down the post office and handed it over for the poor sod at the other end to pick up the bill.

Parents who complain that their children never write would quickly change their tune if they had to pay the postage when they got the letter. Oh, and it was charged by the page: the longer the letter the higher the cost so you had to keep it short even if it wasn't sweet.

This all had to change and in 1840 it did as the all-new penny post arrived with a roll of thunder, a shrug and a comment about your letter being lost in the post or sent to Carlisle, which was probably the same thing. No longer did the arrival of the post, often as many as three times a day, mean having to shell out hard cash; now the writer had to pay.

Suddenly the British turned into a nation of letter writers. Out came the green ink, the ground glass and the vitriol as Disgusted of everywhere from here to eternity wrote to The Times to complain, usually about the post being late. Now lovers could send sweet missives to their beloved and everyone sent postcards, Christmas cards, Valentine's cards and offensive letters.

But now in the age of the email the post is fading away as the price rises ever higher to 144 times the original cost. It is sad, especially for generations of dogs who've acquired a taste for postmen and haven't yet learnt how to use the internet. Virtually biting a virtual leg is not the same, ask any dog.

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- ❖ **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 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

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- ❖ **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

Why open gardens mean so much

By Susan Bennett

Many of you will have visited gardens open under the National Gardens Scheme, this year celebrating its 85th birthday. Although I have been involved for over 16 years, and serve as Assistant County Organiser for NW London, it was only when I was invited to talk on the history of the scheme that I realised what an important contribution it has made to aspects of our lives that we now take for granted.

The story begins in Liverpool in 1859 when William Rathbone employed a trained nurse to care for his dying wife. He retained her services to tend the poor in their own homes and thus the District Nursing Service was born, growing into The Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

At an Institute meeting in the 1920s, Elsie Wagg suggested funds could be raised by opening private gardens to the public, already a popular 'genteel' pastime. Donating the proceeds to charity was a brainwave.

In 1927 Blenheim, Sandringham, Chartwell and many other grand gardens opened, 609 in all.

There was such an enthusiastic response, supported by the Royal Family, *Country Life*, the RHS, the BBC, the AA, that the Garden Scheme flourished until the war.

Despite the introduction of the NHS in 1948, money was still needed for the welfare of



Tea in the garden for Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde, who have been invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Photo by Peter Beal

young, sick and retired nurses. Eventually the scheme was so successful it was possible to support other charities. Now Macmillan Cancer Relief (who had received £13 million by 2011), Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices, and Crossroads are among the main beneficiaries, enabling patients to be cared for at home.

So every time you visit a garden in the Scheme, you can be sure that you are helping us to care for others. If YOU have a special garden, why not consider sharing it for these excellent causes?

Award for Neha

A sixth form student from Christ's College Finchley has received a Rotary in London Young Citizen of the Year Award. Neha Thakker was recognised for her efforts to raise £800 last year to support the Barnet Young Carers and Siblings organisation and Mapledown Special School in Cricklewood.

Her donation helped the school to buy an iPad which now helps provide extra learning opportunities for the pupils. Neha also leads a group of students from her school who give up one lunch break each week to provide computer training for older people.

Launched by the Rotary Club of Golders Green in 2010, the awards celebrate the achievements of young people who demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship.

Here are just some of the local gardens opening to visitors in 2012:

- Sunday 13 May**, 2-6pm, various at Princes Ave Gardens N10;
- Sunday 13 May**, 2-6pm, 5 St Regis Close N10;
- Sunday 13 May**, 2-5.30pm, 66 Abbots Garden N2;
- Sunday 20 May**, 2-5.30pm, 46 and 48 Dukes Avenue, N10;
- Sunday 10 June**, 2-5pm, East Finchley Cottage Gardens, 20 and 22 Trinity Rd N2;
- Sunday 17 June**, 2-6pm, 60 Church Crescent N10;
- Sunday 24 June**, 2-7pm, 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road N10;
- Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July**, 1.30-6pm, 27 Wood Vale N10;
- Sunday 15 July**, 2-6pm, 79 Church Lane, East Finchley N2;
- Sunday 15 July**, 2-6pm, 66 Muswell Avenue, N10;
- Sunday 22 July**, 2-7pm, 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road N10;
- Sunday 29 July**, 2-6pm, various at Alexandra Park Gardens, N22.

A tale of two concerts

In March, North London Chorus performed Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt* twice: once in St James's Church, Muswell Hill, and, by special request, the following evening in New North London Synagogue in Finchley. Marian Bunzl compares the experiences from two unusual points of view.

The Bouquets (at the church)

Beautifully wrapped in cellophane, we are taken to the church and put in a cool room. From there we can hear the musical director at rehearsal: "Save your voices!", "Altos, I can't hear you!", "Basses, you're flat!", "Hydration!", "Bananas!"

Just before the performance we are brought to the side chapel, from where we listen to the succession of splendid double choruses and beautiful arias. To rapturous applause from a full house we are placed in the arms of the soloists.

The Carnations (at the synagogue)

Overnight we are kept in lemonade (it keeps us fluffy). Next evening at the synagogue we, teetotal flowers, are placed, each with a bottle of wine, in silver bags, and hidden behind the stage. The choir sings with undiminished energy and the synagogue's amazing acoustics allow us to hear every word of the dramatic text. To a (mainly) Jewish audience, at this time of the year, it has special meaning: Passover by Handel. To even greater cheers we are presented to the singers. We, carnations and bouquets, are the expression of the choir's appreciation for our MD and our wonderful young artists.

What's On in and around East Finchley

Saturday 5 May

• **Creepy-crawly Walk** for all ages in Coldfall Wood, led by naturalist Edward Milner; starts 11 am; booking essential; details at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

Saturday 12 - Sunday 27 May

• **Finchley Art Society Spring Exhibition**, Trinity Church Concourse, Nether Street, Finchley N12 7NN, Mon-Thurs 9am-10pm, Fri-Sat 9am-7pm and Sunday 2-6pm. Free admission. Paintings in oil, acrylic, water colour and pastel covering a wide range of subjects by local artists at affordable prices; also selected art from local schools.

Wednesday 16 May

• **The Westminster Morris Men's** 4th annual tour of East Finchley. At The Windsor Castle pub, off Church Lane, 7.30pm; The Five Bells pub, East End Road, 8.30pm; The Old White Lion pub, High Road, 9.15pm.

Sunday 13 May

• **Free music at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, 7.30 pm. Mezzo Viola da Cunha, baritone Ray Shone and pianists Mark Lowe and Muriel Ray play works by Brahms, Faure, Montsalvatge, Granados, Novello and Lloyd Webber. Collection in aid of British Association for Performing Arts Medicine. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Thursday 17 May

• **Jazz at Lauderdale House**, Highgate: Mick Hutton Quartet, 8.30pm. Tickets £9 (£7.50 concessions). Box office 020 8348 8716 or www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Saturday 19 May

• **Live music at Madden's Ale House**, 130 High Road, 9pm to midnight. Local band Sound of the Suburb, a favourite from The East Finchley Festival, performs cover songs for all tastes from 1950s to today, and original songs from their

recent debut album. Come along for a fun night of rocking and dancing. Free entry.

Tuesday 22 May

• **Woodland Festival** at Coppetts Wood, 2-4pm. Music, stalls, refreshments. Proceeds go directly to wildlife conservation. Meet in the Glebelands Nature Reserve.

Thursday 24 May

• **Jazz at Lauderdale House**, Highgate: Phil Robson's Immeasurable Code Quintet, 8.30pm. Tickets £9 (£7.50 concessions). Box office 020 8348 8716 or www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Saturday 26 May

• **Abbots Gardens, garage sales** at various locations in the road, 2-4pm. All welcome to browse. Further details: Paul Vigus, Secretary, The Cromwell Hall Residents' Association on 020 8883 4905.

• **Herbal Walk** in Coldfall Wood, starts 10.0 am. Details: www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

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

Wednesday 30 May

• **East Finchley Library**. 6.15 - 7.15pm. **Me, Myself and I** - Book club for teenagers. Contact library for details.

Thursday 31 May

• **Jazz at Lauderdale House**, Highgate: Ted and Gladys, featuring music from their new CD *The Rhythm of Life*, 8.30pm. Tickets £9 (£7.50 concessions). Box office 020 8348 8716 or www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Sunday 3 June

• **Open afternoon at the Bothy Garden**, Avenue House grounds, East End Road, 3-5pm.

Saturday 16 June

• **Martin Primary School summer fun day**, 12-3pm, Plane Tree Walk, East Finchley. Come and enjoy the fun: bouncy castle, BBQ, teas & cakes, tombola, raffle, bands & entertainment, fancy dress and lots of stalls.



Letters to the Editor

Bins are a pavement hazard

Dear Editor,

I am a wheelchair user living in East Finchley. I have phoned Barnet Council numerous times to complain about the refuse collectors leaving wheelie bins front ways on. The little space left for me and my chair makes it extremely difficult for me to get to my destination. I have to physically move each bin from front facing to sideways on.

It is painful and totally exhausting having to do this every time on refuse collection days. Why can't the collectors put the bins back in the gateway?

Church Lane is a joke. I have to ride in the road being hooted by cars, shouted at by drivers because the pavement only takes one bin, leaving me no choice but to endanger my life every single week. I'm sick of it! My life is hard enough without having to contend with refuse collectors telling me they are not allowed to return the bins to the place they belong. Why not?

This problem has to be addressed, because if something isn't done I will be forced to take my case further. I'm not just speaking for myself here, mothers with buggies and people with visual difficulties are a couple more reasons why the bins need to be taken off the pavements.

I would like one council member to spend a day in a wheelchair for me to prove my point.

If this matter affects you, please stand up and be counted. Life needs to get easier the older you get, not harder.

**Yours faithfully,
Sippy Azizollah,
Fairacres N2.**

Asphalt creep

Dear Editor,

An area at the junction of Bedford Rd and the High Road at 176 High Road has been overlooked for as long as anyone can remember and remains an uneven eyesore. As a resident of Bedford Road, I brought this to the attention of the council when the main part of the

High Road paving was completely replaced some years ago. No action was taken at that time and I had no response.

There is a new business use at 176 (Robertson Memorials) who have requested a drop down of the kerb. Should and when this takes place could the council properly make up the pavement as it should be?

In addition, there seem to be incidents of what I call 'asphalt creep', where such is used instead of paving flags. For example between Nos 17 & 19 Bedford Road a tree was removed within the last year and a very uneven hazardous piece of asphalt was laid to replace. Similarly, some utility work was done outside No. 29 and asphalt was used instead of paving.

If this continues the whole character of the road will be affected. It also appears that if any utility work is done in the proximity of a tree, utilities regard this as a reason to use asphalt rather than paving.

**Yours faithfully,
Antony Edwards,
Bedford Road, N2.**

Same house for 70 years

Dear Editor,

Regarding the article by Lorna Roberts in the February issue of *THE ARCHER*, "Fifty years on in East End Road", I moved into our house in 1941 and apart from five years from 1958 to 1963 I have lived here all the time. I went to the Garden Suburb School which is 100 years old now. My husband also went to this school although we did not know each other then.

I wonder if Malcolm and Peggy Kemp mentioned in the article are the same Kemps that had a shop off Lytton Road in the Market Place. This shop sold everything from cups of tea to shoe repairs. I wonder what Health and Safety would say about this mixture today.

**Yours faithfully,
Frances Anthony,
Greenhalgh Walk, N2.**

Memories of East End Road

Dear Editor,

Firstly, I wish to thank you very much indeed for producing *THE ARCHER* every month. It's something to look forward to, always very interesting and very informative. Issues are passed on to ex-N2 residents.

In February's issue was Lorna Roberts' article "Fifty years on in East End Road", which I enjoyed reading very much and which sent me down Memory Lane to remember what it was all like in the early 1920s (I was born in 1920).

There were no shops, no flats and no paving on the southern side of East End Road between St Marylebone Cemetery and The Causeway; just a ditch all the way. I well remember the buildings on the way to the Bald Faced Stag and the Congregational Church with its outstanding steeple and clock on the other side at the junction with the High Road.

**Yours faithfully,
Maisie Williams,
Manor Park Road, N2.**

A peek inside Park House

Dear Editor,

In *THE ARCHER* in February, there was an article congratulating GLH on their 45 years of trading at 14 High Road, N2. There was a picture of the front of Park House as it is now but I remember this same house 68 years ago when, at the age of 14, I started work there as a trainee chairside dental nurse (wages 10 shillings per week).

Just inside the front door was the surgery, waiting room and the dental laboratory. The dental surgeon Mr Sidney Puckey lived above. At the back of the house were stables with accommodation for the grooms where, so I was told, passengers and horses stayed overnight before completing their journey into London.

There used to be a very well-kept garden both front and back of

the house and an attractive goldfish pond. This is now Tarmac for the car hire company – what a shame!

As I said, the frontage hasn't changed and I would love to see inside, expecting to find offices with modern technology, and not as I remember from 68 years ago. Not bad for a memory oh so long ago.

**Yours faithfully,
Evelyn Bagley
Church Lane, N2**

Kewgardia and the kennels

Dear Editor,

I lived in Hertford Road from 1957 to 1979, and was wondering if any of your readers remember Joyce's Kennels which used to be in the High Road at the bottom of Oak Lane on the other corner to the Red Lion Hill (Grange) estate, i.e. opposite the cemetery. I assume it was connected to the family who owned the timber yard in Church Lane, and I believe this site also had a garden nursery on it.

Also Pulhams the butchers had a field opposite where St Pancras Court is, which I believe had an abattoir. Does anyone also remember the name of the funeral directors in the High Road next to/on site of the Wimpy Bar on the corner of Lincoln Road?

**Yours faithfully,
Mark Littlefield,
By email.**

Daphne Chamberlain writes:

There was certainly a nursery called Kewgardia next to this spot, at 329 High Road (between Oak Lane and Sylvester Road). It was managed by the Chick family from 1956 till 1972, when it was demolished. Rita Palmer told us some years ago that her parents ran it originally as a greengrocer's and florist's, changing later to just floristry. They grew most of their own flowers in the nursery, building up a clientele including celebrities such as Cliff Richard. You can read Rita's article online in *THE ARCHER* archives for December 2004. The photo, taken by The Finchley Press in the 1960s, shows the Georgian house from which the Chicks ran Kewgardia. The family kept two Alsatisans, but we believe there was also a kennels on this site. Can anyone tell us more, or answer the other enquiries?

Just in time

Dear Editor,

A thank you to our very own local newspaper. Over the past couple of weeks I received several voting cards and with barely a glance set them aside until the May elections. Fortunately the April edition of *THE ARCHER* arrived in time to inform me that we had a local council election, within a few days, on 11 April, and thus I was able to participate in local democracy and cast my vote.

**Yours faithfully,
Harriet Copperman
By email**

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.



Trackside trees get the chop

By a tube-side resident

I am sitting at my desk hitting the laptop keys noisily so as to overpower the roaring of the chainsaws massacring their way along the tube line where it runs overground just beyond East Finchley station. My heart is beset with sadness, my mind with anger, and between them runs a rope twisting and turning its way around my neck, ever tighter with each new roar of the machines.

Two days ago we played our favourite lunchtime game of spotting two birds playing on your branches, hopping from lofty heights gradually down to below our first-floor window, around and up again, chasing each other.

You had not yet begun to bud again but we could feel that the fresh green was having its last moments of slumber inside you before bursting forth, turning you into the incarnation of innocence and freshness that conjured a smile onto my face and gave daily life a little jolt of hope and happiness every time I stopped and looked.

You let us smell the moist of spring and the sweet stick of summer, you let us hear the morning chorus of visitors to your branches and measure the wind's tides in the dance of your leaves, twigs and branches. Yet, the fall of your leaves is what brought you to fall.

All large trees need to be removed from the side of the line, they wrote in their letter, as falling leaves cause a hazard on the line. I wonder, how has the train managed to keep running for so long with all these hazardous trees nearby?

So there you lie, massacred and mutilated, spliced and sliced, wrecked and abandoned, by the side of the line along which a lonely tube now rattles. Instead of the lush green, the rich tapestry of branches and leaves interwoven with the myriad colours of the sky behind it, before me now lies a little piece of urban despair, a tiny new chunk in the desolation caused by the city's ever-increasing need for efficiency.

I surprise myself by the sadness I feel, but I am truly, deeply hurting in my longing for you. I stare at the spot of sky against which you were pitted; if I stare hard enough you re-emerge, branch by branch, leaf by leaf – yet it saddens me that only I can see you now.

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By Adam Justice-Mills

Once again there's been another very dry winter (rainfall has been below average for 19 out of the past 24 months), with hosepipe bans already here. Last year I wrote about water use from a gardener's perspective: micro-watering and collecting in butts. I checked the drought provision: micro-watering is OK (but re-filling our fish pond by hosepipe isn't).

What about saving water in the house? In the Thames Water area, a household with four people uses over 600 litres a day. The company's online water usage calculator will tell you what you use. Our family's main aim is to reduce the amount we use in showering from 400 litres to the average 100 litres (teenagers, take note).

Thames Water offer free water-saving devices: bags for the loo cistern (flush with less water), tap inserts and so on. My favourite is a shower timer (like for eggs, but this one sticks on the shower wall and tells you when to get out).

Secondary schools use on

average 1,000 litres of water per pupil per year. The government's "wise up to water" web site helps schools to reduce their costs by educating students, staff and parents about saving water. On average, a school could save £1,500 per year with simple water-saving actions.

I'll bet as you're reading this it's raining cats and dogs ... if not, perhaps we should all think ahead. From now on we'll be collecting rainwater in dustbins whenever we can and eventually we'll get a butt installed. Thames Water says it's not possible to predict when the hosepipe ban will be lifted, so it could be a long, dry summer for our pond fish.

Maggie Ferguson

By Daphne Chamberlain

Maggie Ferguson, vice-chairman of The Finchley Society and manager of its archives, died from pancreatic cancer on 29 March. Her fellow members have paid warm tributes to her, with chairman David Smith saying they would need about four people to replace her.

We at *THE ARCHER* are most indebted to Maggie for her work in the archives. The mass of material there is a really valuable record of life in Finchley. As well as official source-material, much is donated, often handed in by people clearing friends' and relatives' houses.

I remember talking to Maggie about their collection of photos. She was keen for *ARCHER* readers to help with identification, as looking at them made her feel "like a newcomer to Finchley." She said, "I've only lived here since the 1970s, and I've only really felt part of the area since I retired."

Her colleagues agree that Maggie loved making discoveries and sharing her knowledge. Margaret Cullen said, "She

always knew where to look to find an answer to a query, and she made our meetings fun. We hope we can keep the archives as happy and useful a place as it was under her management."

Her special interests were the theatre, literature, nature and France, and she also played the cello. Apparently she was quick with Shakespeare quotations, which, together with her organisational skill, probably stemmed from many years as a stage manager.

Confirming that Maggie was a genuinely warm and nice person, artist Mari I'Anson added poignantly, "When people go, I wish that I had known them better, and so it is with Maggie."

Martin Primary School pupils run miles for charity

By Frances Buckingham



Run for it: Martin School children run round their playing field for Sport Relief.

Help Shelter to help the homeless

By Diana Cormack
Shelter, the housing and homeless charity which believes everyone should have a home, now has a shop in Muswell Hill. "Most people just walk by because they don't realise we're a charity shop," manager Jane Mungai told *THE ARCHER*.

Situated at 44 Muswell Hill Broadway, by the well known Toff's fish and chip restaurant and close to many expensive clothing outlets, they have a lot to live up to. Their impressive window display certainly shows they are making the effort, as do the rails inside, where the stock is of a high quality, much of it new.

An East Finchley resident who volunteers there said more volunteers are needed not only to work in the shop but also to collect much needed donations.

Jane hopes they can be a bit different from other charity shops and there are various plans towards this end. One is to have a rolling programme of "star" donations featuring goods given by well known personalities.

So if you fit that description or you would just like to give to this charity call in at the shop or phone 020 8815 9138. For more information about Shelter telephone 0808 800 4444 between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday or visit www.shelter.org.uk

On a lovely sunny day in March pupils from Martin Primary School ran over 400 miles on the school field to raise money for charity. The pupils were taking part in the Sport Relief Mile and each year group, including the nursery, ran up to a mile along a winding course marked out on the field.

A team of year six helpers was on hand to keep them going and gave encouragement to those with the littlest legs. Parents also took part, supporting from the sidelines and running with the children.

The pupils also dressed up as their favourite sportsperson for the day. Inspired by their recent work on the Olympics and Paralympics many came as runners, gymnasts, boxers, swimmers, footballers and tennis players. The day was a great success and raised over £1,200 in sponsorship for Sport Relief.



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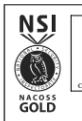


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