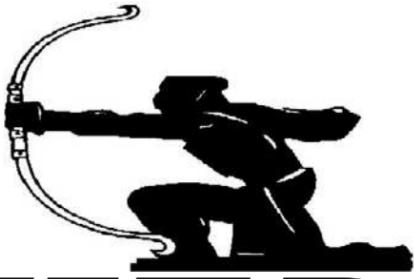




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# THE ARCHER




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



Campaigners gather outside the Post Office. Photo Mike Coles

## Last ditch effort to save Post Office

By Gerard Sagar  
The future of East Finchley Post Office was still in doubt as *THE ARCHER* went to press, amid a flurry of last minute efforts to keep the Post Office open at its current location on Viceroy Parade.

Campaigners launched a new petition against closing the Crown Post Office after it emerged that customers would have to climb three steps or use a lift to get to the counters at the new location. They would be 100ft from the entrance to the UOE stationery shop, which has applied to take over the service as a franchise.

Post Office Ltd was forced to reopen its original residents' consultation about the move because the wheelchair lift and steps were not mentioned in the first consultation, which closed on 6 January.

### Disability groups not consulted

On the closing date for the second consultation, 13 March, disability rights campaigner Sippy Azizollah handed in the Save East Finchley Post office petition, joined by East Finchley's councillors, traders and residents. Sippy said: "It will be rather like an obstacle course

to get to the post office via a lift to pick up my pension."

The petition was signed by 934 residents and business owners in just under two weeks, including 22 residents of the Jewish Blind and Disabled Society flats at Fairacres, East End Road.

Disability rights groups in Barnet confirmed that they had not been consulted about the move, as required by the Post Office Code of Practice on consultations. These include Disability action in the Borough of Barnet (DabB), Barnet Centre for Independent Living, Barnet Independent Living Agency and the Jewish Blind and Disabled Society.

### Petition remains open

The petition was organised by Sarah Sackman, Labour Parliamentary candidate for Finchley & Golders Green, who said: "East Finchley Post Office must stay open. The alternative is too small and will be a severe downgrade in terms of access for wheelchairs and buggies. The consultation should be started again because they have broken their own rules on informing the public."

The petition has been kept open for signing at: [http://betterbarnet.nationbuilder.com/save\\_east\\_finchley\\_post\\_office](http://betterbarnet.nationbuilder.com/save_east_finchley_post_office)

A Post Office spokesman said the purpose of the consultation process was to gather the thoughts of the community before making a decision. He added that no decisions would be made until all issues raised had been seriously considered.

Building work on UOE seems to have begun in early March. It is expected that the earliest the Post Office could move is late April.

## Tennis club comes to site of former garden centre

By Diana Cormack

The Chandos Lawn Tennis Club, which dates from 1934, is to relocate from its Golders Green home to East Finchley.

Plans for their redevelopment of the Finchley Manor Garden Centre site on East End

Road were shown to the public two years ago (see *THE ARCHER*, Jan 2012).

Barnet Borough Council's planning and environmental committee approved its plans in February. These include four full-sized open clay courts, four

full-sized covered courts and one open mini court and a single storey clubhouse with a restaurant. There will also be parking facilities for cars and bikes.

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Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
Haringey Council	020 8489 0000

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Barnet Police	101
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Samaritans	08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

# One local hero who won't be getting a Civic Award



David Atfield spearheaded the fight against parking charges

When Mrs Justice Lang ruled in the High Court last July that Barnet Council did not have the power under the 1984 Road Traffic Regulation Act "to charge local residents for parking in order to raise surplus revenue for other transport purposes" a local hero was created.

Summerlee Avenue resident David Atfield had spearheaded the campaign organised by Barnet CPZ Action to fight the huge increase in parking charges introduced in spring 2011. Solicitor David emphasised the unfairness of a small number of CPZ residents having to contribute disproportionately to a range of services in the borough. His landmark victory after three High Court hearings in two years subsequently made headlines all over the country and was prominent in the national media. It sent out a warning to other councils and meant that Barnet residents could claim back the additional amount paid

for parking and visitor vouchers which, to quote council leader Richard Cornelius, had been raised "too abruptly and rather charmlessly".

### Award nomination fails

Nominations for the annual Barnet Civic Awards ask: "Do you know a group or an individual living or working in Barnet who you feel deserves

recognition for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the borough?" Knowing of his long and selfless battle to benefit local people, some felt that David fitted the bill and nominated him for a 2014 award. The judging panel however disagreed, concluding that the nomination "is ineligible on this occasion".



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## Planning Applications

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Level access on all platforms. Minor alterations to stairs and surrounds.

#### 248 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey building with basement in rear garden, replacing existing building.

#### 7 Durham Road, N2

Single-storey side extension.

#### Flat 4, 13 Fortis Green, N2

Roof extension, including gable roof and dormer windows to both sides, to facilitate loft conversion. Amendments to rear elevation.

#### 162A High Road, N2

Conversion of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors into two self-contained flats.

#### 174 High Road, N2

Single-storey rear/side infill extension to existing shop.

#### 2 Howard Walk, N2

Single-storey side extension, including converting garage into

habitable space. Roof extensions, involving rear dormer window and one roof light to side, to facilitate loft conversion.

#### 35 Huntingdon Road, N2

Conversion of two self-contained flats into one house, including single-storey rear extension and alterations to rear fenestration.

#### 4 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Rear conservatory, following demolition of existing.

### Haringey Council

#### 15 Beech Drive, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness for rear dormer with insertion of front roof lights and side opaque window.

#### 32 Church Vale, N2

Two-storey side and single-storey rear extensions, following demolition of rear conservatory, side garage and stores.

#### Boulevard House, 92 Fortis Green, N2

Change of use from B1 (a) Offices to C3 Residential.

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# Daylight assault at bus stop

**Police are appealing for witnesses to a daylight sexual assault on a woman sitting at a bus stop in Fortis Green.**

The 79-year-old was waiting at the stop opposite Springcroft Avenue for the 102 bus towards Muswell Hill at 10.30am on Saturday 1 March when a man struck up a conversation with her.

Police say the man was on a fence opposite the woman before moving towards her and sexually assaulting her. When the bus arrived, the victim boarded but the suspect did not.

Detective Constable Alex Peddie said: "This attack took place in daylight on a very busy

road. Were you in the area at the time of the assault or were you travelling on the route 102 as it pulled in to the stop on Fortis Green?"

The suspect is described as black and approximately 30 years old. He was wearing a thick, dark-coloured coat with a logo on the right sleeve and light blue jeans. He also wore a hood or a hat and scarf.

If you saw anything and can assist the police, contact DC Peddie on 020 3276 3071 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Put the gibbet back into East Finchley

**Finchley Common used to stretch from East Finchley station to Totteridge Lane in the north and east to west from Muswell Hill to the Dollis Brook. It was notorious in the 17th and 18th centuries for highway robberies.**

Dick Turpin reportedly hid behind an oak tree in Oak Lane before plying his trade. People were frequently robbed and brutally attacked. When caught, perpetrators were executed at Tyburn and then the custom was to take the body to near the scene of the crime and exhibit it on a gibbet.

On Finchley Common there were several gibbets with one that used to stand somewhere on the High Road between the Bald Faced Stag and Bedford Road.

### Visitor attraction

Local residents have now successfully bid to the EU Suspension Fund and obtained £27,000 to erect a replica gibbet at the junction of Bedford Road with the High Road.

Local campaigner Roger Chapman said: "The money came through very quickly. We didn't have to hang around. We think this gibbet will attract thousands of visitors to the High

Road shops. It will act as a great gateway into East Finchley.



Highway robbery: Bring back the gibbet?

"We are already planning a series of events and activities around the gibbet. We will be holding a sponsored fundraiser inviting noted local celebrities and councillors to spend an hour in the gibbet for £100 with the money going to local charities."

# A bus to the hospital

By Daphne Chamberlain

**The movement to get a bus service to Finchley Memorial Hospital is gathering momentum. Here are two ways to get involved and make your voices heard.**



New hospital but no public transport. Photo Mike Coles

### Petition

Julia Hines, a trustee of Age UK, has launched an online petition to London Mayor Boris Johnson, asking him to work with Transport for London to ensure that at least one bus stops outside the hospital and on its site. She points out that the Memorial is a new hospital with services geared towards older people and people with disabilities, and yet it is 500 metres from the nearest bus stop.

Another local newspaper reported last month that this petition had been rejected. That was not the case. It is still alive and healthy, and had not even been presented. You can find

it online at <http://you.38degrees.org.uk>. On this website, click "more campaigns" and then "health", and "Bus Service for Finchley Memorial Hospital".

Julia is also running a paper petition. She can be contacted on [juliahines@rocketmail.com](mailto:juliahines@rocketmail.com), and you can also spread the campaign via Facebook and Twitter.

### Visitors' survey

Meanwhile, The Finchley Society and Friends of the Memorial Hospital, with co-operation from hospital management, are conducting a survey of hospital visitors.

Roslyn Green, who is working on the survey, has been using the hospital for 60 years.

### Appalled

When she realised how far she had to walk to have her leg dressed before Christmas, she

was told that there were no figures to show the ratio of people who would need a bus service. Realising she would have to make a statistical case to TFL and also secure the backing of Barnet Council, she approached The Finchley Society.

Mike Gee, Chair of the Society's Environment and Transport Committee, told *THE ARCHER* that they have been aware of this problem for some time. At an open meeting last year, transport to Finchley Memorial was one of the most pressing concerns.

Campaigners hope that, with support from Barnet Council, TFL will realise how much people without cars need public transport to their local hospital.

For information, or to help with the survey, please contact Mike Gee on 020 8346 5503.

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One of the anti-scaming workshops under way.

## How to spot a scam

**At-home care provider Home Instead Senior Care has partnered with national scam awareness charity Think Jessica and the Met Police to launch a public education programme about scams.**

The aim is to provide tips and advice on how people, particularly the elderly, can protect themselves from falling victim to fraudsters and con artists.

As part of the campaign, there will be a series of fraud awareness workshops over the coming months, attended by Detective Chief Inspector Helen Williams of Barnet Police. The workshops will share information with attendees on the scale of the problem and the most common scams targeting the elderly, as well as

what to do if they have fallen victim to scammers.

Home Instead has also put together a 'Senior Fraud Protection Kit' which contains information on the most common scams, tools to help assess the risk of an elderly loved one, plus checklists to help seniors take practical action to lower the risk of becoming a scam victim.

DCI Williams said: "These types of scams defraud individuals in the UK of an estimated £3.5 billion each year. They have very serious consequences

for the elderly who can suffer devastating emotional distress affecting their confidence and trust which can lead to a loss of independence. With better awareness and education, however, I hope that we can alert the community to prevent them becoming victims."

For more information regarding the workshops or the 'Senior Fraud Protection Kit', please call 020 8446 7044 or visit [www.homeinstead.co.uk/barnet](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/barnet). You can also get information on scams from <http://content.met.police.uk/Site/scamconstricksandfraud>

## Burglars force open front door

By Janet Maitland

**Burglars broke into a house through the front door in broad daylight on 21 February. The house on Trinity Road was unoccupied at the time.**

The residents went out at about eight o'clock in the morning and when they returned at about 11.30am they found the front door wide open. But although burglars had got into the property, nothing had been stolen.

This burglary follows three other burglaries during a single night on the same

street last November, when front doors were also forced open. The residents of two of these houses were asleep in bed.

If you have any information about this crime, please call 101 quoting reference number 2404053/14; to remain anonymous, contact Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

## Talk shop

**A new project is being launched to inspire young people about careers in retail, based partly at the new Retail Skills Academy at Hospitality House, next to East Finchley tube station.**

Participants will be able to get careers advice and taster sessions from local employers and colleges, backed by £155,000 from Barnet Council. For further information, email [platforms@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:platforms@barnet.gov.uk)

## Old Barn: Charity Commission 'not fit for purpose'

By Janet Maitland

**Campaigners are becoming increasingly frustrated by the Charity Commission's slowness in investigating the Old Barn community centre in Tarling Road. Their frustration is mirrored by Margaret Hodge, chair of the Public Accounts Committee, who recently described the commission as 'not fit for purpose'.**

The Old Barn was taken over in 2010 by a new group of trustees led by Geoffrey Muhoro. Shortly afterwards, services such as the Monday Club Youth group found themselves homeless. For the last four years local people have been campaigning to open up the centre again, working alongside Barnet Council, who own the property, local councillors, and Community Barnet, an umbrella group for local charities. MP Mike Freer joined the campaign last year.

### Months of delay

It looked as if some progress was made last October when the Charity Commission finally used its regulatory powers to demand key records from the trustees. But campaigner and local resident Helen Drake was informed by the commission at the end of February that they were still chasing Mr Muhoro for a full response 'on many issues'.

### Evidence to Public Accounts Committee

A highly critical report by the National Audit Office published

at the end of last year warned that the Charity Commission's failure to investigate fraud and abuse was undermining public faith in good causes.

In the light of this report, Helen Drake contacted Margaret Hodge. "She urged me to provide evidence to a consultation about strengthening the Commission's powers to act," says Helen.

The report about the Old Barn that Helen submitted expressed campaigners' frustration at being unable to engage effectively with, and get the support of, the Charity Commission. "We feel that they took the trustees at their word, with no corroborating evidence, at the initial stages of the problem," adds Helen.

Following this consultation, the Public Accounts Committee published a report in February which said that the commission is 'too willing to accept what charities tell it' and recommending a 'robust change management plan.' The commission will be reviewed again in a year's time to see if any improvements have been made.

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Mass of the Lord's Supper

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Sung Celebration of the Lord's Passion

19 April - Holy Saturday - 8.00 p.m. The Easter Vigil

20 April - Easter Day - 10.00 a.m.  
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# Your ideas to bring people together

The East Finchley Altogether Better team met more than 80 new people and heard their views at a Pop Up Shop at the Finchley Youth Theatre in February.

Some ideas for new initiatives in the area emerged, including a book club, meditation group and a loyalty card scheme for local shops. Organiser Lisa Smith said EFAB was looking to help start these up or link them with projects already happening where possible.

EFAB is looking for volunteers to help lead or take part in their projects. Here's the current list:

- **Back to Work Boost Workshops:** first workshop to take place at the Bobath Centre in May for anyone out of work/looking for a change.
- **Cooking Skills Share Workshops:** simple, nutritious meals for those who lack confidence in the kitchen.
- **Evaluation Group:** could you help as part of our borough wide evaluation team, measuring Altogether Better's progress and effectiveness?
- **EFAB Festivals Group:** volunteer to help at the EFAB Community Stand as part of the East Finchley Summer or Winter Festival.

• **Green Fingers Gardening Group:** share gardening tips together.

• **Homes & Away:** bringing the opportunity for activities and excursions into local homes.

• **IT & Biscuits: IT for all:** a chance to gain confidence in technology to those who thought it was not for them!

• **Mums Who Run:** get fit and socialise together, at your own pace.

• **Shop Assistance:** delivering shopping home to those less able to carry it.

• **Table Tennis:** get fit together with ping pong.

• **Winter Warmers:** don't stay cold at home, come to a local communal space to warm up together.

• **Young Person Hub:** somewhere safe and fun to hang out and learn, to be run by young people for young people.

If you would like to volunteer for or participate in any of these projects contact EFAB via [www.efab.org.uk](http://www.efab.org.uk) or phone Lisa on 07909 998453.

## A chance to participate

An experiment in democracy has been launched in East Finchley bringing together people from across the borough of Barnet with the aim of getting things done and making changes.

Barnet Participates was taking over the Shree Aden Community Centre in Church Lane on 30 March, shortly after this issue went to press, inviting along all Barnet residents, voluntary groups as well as councillors.

"How can we make Barnet a better place?" was the starting point of the day and the hope was that group collaboration would uncover new ways to work together on various local issues and find practical solutions to local problems.

"The future of this project will depend on the discussions that take place on the day," said one of the organisers Rosie Rogers before the event. "We want to bring people together, to get to know one another and form connections. Local politicians will be there but they won't be given any special treatment"

The impetus for the experiment comes from a group of people who found through local meetings and online communities that they have a mutual interest in local politics and participation.

So how might it fit with a group like East Finchley Altogether Better (EFAB), which has been up and running for a year, with many of the same aims?

Dora Meade, of Barnet Participates, said there was no intention to encroach on existing projects and that the new experiment was a Barnet-wide initiative that might be able to give extra power to a local group like EFAB.

To find out more visit <http://barnet.participates.org.uk>



Lily up the allotment with Claire, sporting her Crufts rosette

## Happy soul Lily takes a rosette

By John Lawrence

You won't see many dogs like Lily around. The six-year-old is a Hovawart, a rare breed of which there are only 200 in England and possibly as few as half a dozen in London.

She's a regular visitor to East Finchley Allotments, where her owner Claire Scully has a plot, and was looking particularly proud recently after returning from the Crufts dog show with a runners-up rosette in her class.

The Hovawart is a German guard dog, originally bred for life on farms. Nowadays they can be great companions in the city: excellent for security, very watchful and always alert for threats or unwanted visitors.

### Lost keys

Once they know you, they are also extremely loving... and useful. Lily's party piece is to locate a set of lost keys by following the scent of the person who dropped them. When she does it for me, Lily comes back with the keys in her mouth, jangling them triumphantly.

Claire says Lily is a happy soul who does everything with gusto and joy. "She likes

walking on Hampstead Heath because she can swim in the ponds," says Claire. "She does enjoy chasing squirrels but she always slows down if she looks like catching them. It's just the chase she enjoys."

Lily was a puppy when she first visited the allotments and knows the etiquette there perfectly. Vegetables, plants and beds are not to be walked on so even if she's in a rush she'll always move in straight lines and right angles.

### Low maintenance

Her coat looks like it needs a lot of work but in fact, even for Crufts, she is very low maintenance. She needed just two baths beforehand and a good groom. Normally, it's a stiff brush once a week.

Mixing with the other well-trained dogs at the show was no problem. And for winning a rosette she chose her own treat from one of the food stands there... liver muffins!

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Unemptied bins in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Mike Coles

## Litter problem in Cherry Tree Wood

By Diana Cormack

In the middle of March, following the first warm weekend this year, visitors to Cherry Tree Wood found the park in a deplorable state. Overflowing litterbins had been ransacked by animals, resulting in rubbish being scattered everywhere. This consisted not only of bin contents but also the waste which people had stacked around the full bins. One of the worst areas was adjacent to the children's playground.

Barnet Council acted quickly in clearing up the place on the Monday (including the removal of a broken white garden chair from the far side of the field) though amongst the wooded parts there was still some debris.

### Bin design

This problem is not a new one, particularly during the summer, and over the years, questions have been asked about the number of bins available and their design. Apparently it is extremely difficult to make a bin with a slot big enough to take rubbish but which animals, particularly small ones such as squirrels, cannot get into. So packaging from picnics in the park would still end up being piled around the sides.

After Easter, when the summer schedule starts, cleansing operators should tour the borough's parks on Saturdays and Sundays thus reducing the chances of this recurring. Another solution would be for everyone to take their rubbish home with them.



Cherry Tree Wood pavilion as of 1st March. Photo Mike Coles

## New café in the park

After almost 30 years of abandonment, the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood is being given a new lease of life. In February tiling work was done on part of the roof and subsequently the contents of the building were removed. At the time of writing undergrowth had been cleared from an adjacent area. Plans for the place, which is to be a coffee bar, can be viewed at [www.barnet.gov.uk/planning/reference F/02410/13](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/planning/reference/F/02410/13)

# An English couple in China – again

By David Winton

In *THE ARCHER*, February 2012, David Winton wrote about teaching English for a year in Wuhan, China, a mega-city of 10 million people. Last year he and his wife signed up for another stint, this time in Ji'an, home to about a million people, 450 miles south west of Shanghai. Here he describes campus life.

In March 2013 my wife Rachel and I, both retired Barnet teachers, returned to China to teach English for two semesters at a university in Ji'an. We had 16 hours of teaching each week to classes of between 20 and 40 students who had already been studying English for a good six years.

Lessons started at 8am and most lasted 100 minutes. Most students, who were mainly female, came from the local province, and all without exception were very polite, friendly and eager to improve their English and learn more about western culture.

### Topical issues

We taught some Writing lessons, for which there was a textbook, but mainly we were teaching Oral English, either in pairs or in small groups or before the whole class. We talked about what the students had done the previous weekend; read and discussed poems (Wordsworth's *The Daffodils* was a favourite); discussed a topical issue, or acted out a role-play, for instance: 'Bringing home an unacceptable girlfriend/boyfriend'.

The classrooms for Oral English were very basic: movable seats and a blackboard, with no heating. In winter students and teachers sit in class wearing their coats. Similarly there was no air conditioning in the summer, when temperatures often reach the high 30Cs.



An oral English lesson in full swing.

### Spartan

The university campus was pleasantly laid-out, with several lakes enhanced by pagodas. We lived on campus in a typical teacher's apartment. In some ways it was rather spartan: for example, no hot water tap for the kitchen sink. For cooking we had a two-ring gas burner and a microwave but we often ate (very cheaply) in one of the two student canteens.

To help us with admin issues we had a young Chinese co-teacher with whom we got on very well. When not preparing our lessons we read a lot, took daily walks around the campus and socialised with the three

other foreign English teachers, an American and two from Ireland.

Rachel and I returned to East Finchley in mid-January with many happy memories and an increased understanding of life in China.

## Allotments available

Plots are available at Vale Farm Allotments, off Tarring Road, N2.

Full size and half-size plots are up for grabs, with priority going to local and Barnet residents. For more details email [secretary@valefarm.org](mailto:secretary@valefarm.org)

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## Practical help for homeless people

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association have alerted us to a chance to do something positive about the plight of the "hidden homeless". They are hosting a meeting on 16 April at North Bank, Pages Lane, N10, at 7.30pm, when Lia Leonis will be giving details of practical ways to help.

Lia is the CEO of All People All Places, a registered charity with 13 centres in Haringey offering shelter in the winter, plus three drop-in day centres. She decided to stop walking past evidently homeless people on the streets, and to do something about it.

She says: "What hope is there for a homeless person to get back into accommodation and work? It is very difficult to hold down a job unless you have somewhere to sleep, wash and eat.

"Rough sleepers have no representation. The public will continue to think 'someone else' is doing something when, in fact, no one is doing anything, because the problem has not been recognised."

### Entry point

"All People All Places is the only entry point for an unsupported homeless person who wants to get back into the system," says Lia.

"It costs less to support an organisation such as ours than to pay the NHS bill of homeless people endlessly going to

## Cook your way to cash

Channel 4's hit show *Come Dine with Me* is coming to north London but this time with a twist. The new series is for couples who feel they host great dinner parties. Three couples. Three nights. Three dinner parties.

Programme makers are looking for contestants over 18 years of age with the combined skills to produce an amazing dinner party which could put them in line for a cash prize of £1,000.

Filming will be taking place between April 14 and 19. To apply, email emma.leonce@itv.com or call 020 7157 4555. (Calls from a BT landline will be charged a set up fee of 14p per call plus 10p per minute. Calls from other networks may be higher and from mobiles will cost more).

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## New home for arts group

Arts charity Community Focus, which was evicted from the artsdepot building in North Finchley last March, has found a new home at Friary Park.

The group will move into the first floor of Friary House from July once the building has been fitted out and will be given a 20-year lease.

Community Focus director Tim Balogun said: "We are eager to work with all our community partners in Barnet to create an amazing new arts hub at Friary House and extend our valuable outreach projects throughout the borough."

## How do you like your info?

Barnet residents are being asked for their views on the kind of information they would like to see published by the council to make it more transparent.

In recent years the council has taken a number of steps with the aim of increasing openness including publishing online major contracts, expenditure of over £500, the performance of individual services and senior salaries. The transparency consultation runs until 13 April. Find out more at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk)

A&E because they can't get a GP as they've no address and ID. How is anyone going to get ID if it was stolen from them?

"All People All Places receives no statutory funding and relies 100% on public support."

Lia has arranged a sponsored Sleep Out on 6 June, hosted at St James's Church, Muswell Hill, to encourage other sponsored events with schools, scouts, local businesses and local residents. Anyone who wants to get involved can go to the FGMHA meeting or contact Lia on 07538 331521 or at [lia@allpeopleallplaces.org](mailto:lia@allpeopleallplaces.org)

## Plant swap

As reported in our last issue, East Finchley's seed and plant swap day is happening again for the third year in a row. This year it's on Sunday 13 April at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, off the High Road from 2pm to 3.30pm.

This is a great chance for everyone to swap a diverse range of seeds, plants and vegetables, and to discuss gardening or get advice from fellow gardeners. There is no entrance charge and no money changes hands.

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## Lovely view of your pond from up here



Most often spotted on the shores of a lake or by the side of a babbling brook, herons like to be on a level with their hunting ground. But this particular chap thought he'd get more of a bird's eye view for a change.

He was spotted on the roof of a house in Richmond Road, possibly on a tour from the nearby Long Lane Pasture. From this high vantage point, he was able to look down into a row of properties and spot if there might be a snack swimming around in a garden pond.

His presence wasn't appreciated by the regular gang of local crows and an odd seagull who repeatedly swooped on his position with threatening calls in an effort to dislodge the lanky visitor. However, apart from a slight flutter of wings, he held his ground for a good 20 minutes and only flew off when he was good and ready...perhaps with his next meal in sight.

## Support our skydiver

There is still time to sponsor ARCHER deliverer Stroma Leith from Neale Close in her first skydive. Stroma takes to the air on 4 May. By the end of March she had already raised nearly £1,200 for the North London Hospice.

Read more about Stroma (who went "ape" in Windsor Great Park a month after her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday) in February's ARCHER, available online at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk).

To contribute to care for those who need it and support for their families, you can donate via [www.doitforcharity.com/stroma](http://www.doitforcharity.com/stroma) or by cheque to the North London Hospice. If you are a taxpayer you can increase the amount of your donation by adding your address.

Good luck, Stroma!



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## YOUNG ARCHER



All dressed up for World Book Day. Photo by Polly Beverley

## Hubble bubble for book day

By Phoebe Beverley, aged six, Martin Primary School  
**On Thursday 6 March it was World Book Day. At my school the children and staff dressed up as favourite book characters. I chose to dress up as Mildred Hubble and one of my friends did too.**

Mildred Hubble is the main character from *The Worst Witch* by Jill Murphy. I love her books

because they are adventurous, exciting and funny. There are lots of good characters in the books. Ethel is a goody-goody who tries to get Mildred into trouble.

For my costume I used one of my mum's friend's dresses that went down to my ankles. I made a school badge with a black cat sitting on a yellow moon, using some clay that my Nana gave me for Christmas. I loved dressing up.

My sister, Rosie, dressed up as *The Tiger* who came to Tea.

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- **Dads' Club:** Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
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- **Muswell Hill Toy Library** story time, singalong and other events. 8444 0244/ 8489 8774, [www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com](http://www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com)
- **Parent & Toddler Group,** Green Man Centre, Sajni 8359 3460/Julia 8444 2276
- **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- **Stepping Stones,** interactive play for under 3s. Tues 10am, East Finchley Baptist Church. Liz 07836 284538.
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## Get into step for Irish dancing

By Lisa Omar

**Fiona Mackey has enjoyed Irish dancing since she was three years old, competing at world championship level for many years.**

Now she has opened The Fiona Mackey School of Irish Dancing at St Mary's Church Hall in the High Road, with classes for adults and for children aged four upwards.

The classes are small and friendly; children can quickly build fitness, skill and confidence and dancers have the chance to compete in competitions which are held regularly. All classes are taught by Fiona and her school is registered with An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha.

Call Fiona for further details on 07985 415 421 or email [irish-dancenorthlondon@outlook.com](mailto:irish-dancenorthlondon@outlook.com) to book a free trial class.



The Irish dancing group with Fiona Mackey back left.

## Stef steals victory from way back

**You may remember that we featured young karting champion Stefanos Charalambous in our October 2013 edition. The 16-year-old had just won British Karting's London Cup.**

Since then, Stef, of Ringwood Avenue, N2, has tasted all the ups and downs of racing. In a series of meetings he was robbed of victory more than once but managed to make four podium finishes in his last four races.

His consistent performance qualified him for the Winter Championship but he had to start way down in 33<sup>rd</sup> place on the grid. Even though it looked as if he needed a minor miracle to take the trophy, that's what Stef did over 13 laps, finishing in 12<sup>th</sup> place. That meant he had enough points from the season to become PF International Winter Champion 2013-14. Well done again, Stef!

*Stef celebrates with his champion's trophy.*



## Young performers raise the roof

By Justine Csaky

**East Finchley youth theatre group Full Circle directed by local resident Anne-Marie Conway gave a spectacular performance of *Raise The Roof* on 1 and**

**2 March at the Bull Theatre in Barnet.**

The group, who rehearse each week at the Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Street, decided to put on the production at the Bull Theatre due to high demand for tickets.

The show was amazing, with strong performances from the cast, all aged between 8

and 16. The audience were treated to scenes, sketches and songs from various musicals including: *Annie*, *Chicago*, *Peter Pan* and *James and the Giant Peach*, as well as original material.

For further information about Full Circle, contact Anne-Marie Conway on 07958 409863.

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Finchley's double cantilever grandstand. Photo Mike Coles

# Take your seat in a Grade 2 listed grandstand

By Daphne Chamberlain

Here's a quiz question for you. Where is the oldest reinforced concrete cantilevered grandstand in Britain?

Very well done if you answered Summers Lane, North Finchley. I'm guessing you support Wingate and

Finchley Football Club or Finchley Rugby Club, who have one side each of the double-sided back-to-back stand.

Built for Finchley Urban District Council in 1930 for £30,000, it now has Grade 2 listed status.

When the Council's Chief Engineer and Surveyor, Percival

T. Harrison, was directing the construction, the Rugby Club had been going for five years. The then Finchley Football Club was much older, being founded in 1874, but its glory days were in the 1950s. Perhaps some of you roared on its stars, like the late George Robb of Finchley, Tottenham and England.

Were you in the grandstand, or do you remember it being built? We would love to know.

# The symbols of Easter

By Diana Cormack

Although Easter is now a Christian festival, you may be surprised to learn that the two symbols which represent it come from pagan times. In those days people used to pray to the goddess of spring for their crops to grow well and their animals to have babies. The goddess was called Eostre.

Eggs played an important part in their spring festivals because they produce new life and people used to give them as presents. The hare, which is like an oversized rabbit, became a symbol of new life because it produced lots of babies. It was also the animal sacred to Eostre.

When Christianity came it

took over a lot of pagan festivals. So Eostre became Easter, with eggs and hares still being special. However, chocolate ones weren't made until hundreds of years later. You could think about this when you are chomping into your chocolate bunny or enjoying your Easter egg.

# KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

## An uncommon man

I heard it on the radio, crammed in between the latest on the missing plane and the weather forecast, and I didn't want to believe it. But it stood out in the blandness of early morning broadcasting, something to stop the clocks, silence the barking dogs and quieten the bustle of the day: Tony Benn is dead. And to me, it wasn't just another politician, it was personal.

Entire forests have been sacrificed recounting the transformation of Anthony Wedgewood Benn, centre right Labour MP and flag bearer for the white heat of technology into Tony Benn, radical, socialist and idealist. He was the perfect class traitor, born into a privilege that he would not defend and it was because he knew the establishment's rules that he would not play their game. Instead he became one of the last of the old-style radicals.

Tony Benn could have had it all. In the 1960s he was thought of as the Tony Blair of his time. He'd been to public school and Oxford, become the youngest MP in 1950 and had the family background for it: grandfather a liberal MP, father a Labour minister in the 1930s. If New Labour had existed back then, young Wedgewood Benn would have been perfect for the moral vacuum. Something changed in the 1970s and at an age when most people move to the right he moved to the left, driven by a conviction that there was something better than the collapsing post-war consensus.

In that vacuum there was a decision to be made. Would we turn left towards a bright socialist dawn or right to a gleaming free market sunset? We all know the choice we made, just as we all know where the road led and that Big Society means a food bank on every corner.

And the personal? Back in the mid 1980s he went down to Exmouth to the local Labour Party fete. He was chatty, friendly and made one old lady's day by pushing her round the fete in her wheelchair. Twenty years later, when the Tony Benn Road Show hit Christ's College here in East Finchley I asked him if he remembered that day. He paused, smiled, said yes, he did. In fact, he even remembered her name and that made me, the lady's grandson, immensely proud and is why I will raise a mug of tea to his memory.

# The Best Education

A short story by Alex Miles

While Sir was reading the surgery's newspapers, Lady weighed up all the other parents and pulled her mink comfortingly round herself. Looking down at Lysander's chess game, she noticed the chess moves were three every second and the majority of pauses were taken up by Lysander.

"Check, check, stalemate."

Lady raised her eyebrows at the result. Both boys shook hands with speed and synchronicity. At that moment, the door of the consultancy opened and Nurse, with her longest digit, beckoned to Lady. "Honeycomb, you're next."

Lady got up and pulled Lysander away from the chess board, towards the consultancy. Sir followed, able to navigate without looking up from the newspaper.

Lysander entered the office and lay face down on the bed without instruction. On the back of his head were many laces interwoven through the skin, holding it together. Nurse brought her chair up to the side of him, stretching and exercising her fingers. These fingers constantly fidgeted, as did her massive eyes, which swirled behind magnifying glasses. Sir had taken a seat in the far corner, still reading.

Nurse bent her head down to Lysander, "Poppet, how are you feeling?"

"Not happy," replied Lady.

"Hedgehog, if you're not happy I'm nothing. What's wrong?"

"He came third in the oboe regional championships."

Nurse began undoing the bows and knots on the back of Lysander's head. "Sugarcake, that new version of Oboe-Playing-Make-VI has been out for months. Everyone's up to date. But there is a brand, brand new viola make. I could give the angel that?" Nurse pulled out the remnants of lace from the back of Lysander's head and opened him up like a parcel.

"Viola? Yes, I suppose Lysander would like the viola."

"Of course he would. Okeydo," said Nurse, pulling ribbons out of a drawer and holding them up to the light. She stopped at a light blue thread of silk. "Ah! Here it is." With insect dexterity she took out a needle and scissors, and began cutting and sewing the contents of Lysander's head with the ribbon.

"While you're there, he has been interested in Marlowe recently, but can't he get involved in Jonson and Webster, please? Everyone seems to be on Marlowe at the moment."

"Oh, they but are fun aren't they? The little monster will love them."

"Have him like reading the plays rather than watching, please. We don't have the time. And while you're there, he keeps using the word awesome."

"Easy to snip out. What do you want me to replace it with, Chocynot?"

"Just something more suitable. What do you think, darling?"

"Whatever is best for Lysander," said Sir through the paper.

You can read more about the world of Alex Miles in his book, *Glory and Splendour, Tales of the Weird*. Published by Karoshi in 2012, it's available on Amazon.

Alex is a member of the East Finchley Writers Group, who meet on Wednesdays at The Old White Lion. Call Carola on 020 8883 5808 for details.

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## EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

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### Easter Services

- 17th April 7.30p.m. Maundy Thursday United Service (at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane N2) - Holy Communion
- 18th April 10.30a.m. Good Friday "Reflections on the Cross"
- 20th April 10.30a.m. Easter Day Celebration Service - Holy Communion



## Regular Events

### Sport & Fitness

- **East Finchley Flyers running club**, Tuesdays 7pm at the tube station, 7k run and socialising. Nick 07593 367134.
- **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. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi** class at EF Methodist Ch, Weds 1pm. James 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 [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk).

### Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. 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.
- **Ladies Keep Fit** Class for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **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.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Traditional music at TOC**, Highgate Hill, on 1st & 3rd Tues each month from 8.30pm. Free. All musicians welcome 07958 282898.

### Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk) or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- **Bridge Club**, every Saturday 1.30-4pm, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.
- **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- **Youth Club** at Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale every Tues in termtime. Ages 8-13, £1 entry.



Mock the Week regular, Milton Jones

## Top comedians in school fundraiser

On Monday 12 May, and for one night only, some of the best stand-up comedians in the country will be coming to the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley for a fundraising event for local secondary school the Archer Academy.

Milton Jones, a *Mock the Week* (BBC2) regular, who has also performed on *Live at the Apollo* (BBC1), will head the line-up with critically acclaimed newcomer Romesh Ranganathan (*Mock the Week*, Edinburgh Festival Best Newcomer Nominee 2013) and Loretta Maine, a guitar-wielding American songwriter character, played by comedian Pippa Evans.

The event will be compered by local stand-up comedian and parent at the school, Ian Stone, ranked by *The Independent* as one of the top ten stand-ups in Britain. As well as many

TV appearances, Stone is a regular at The Comedy Store in London's West End. He says: "We've got a fantastic line-up for The Phoenix in May and I'm delighted to be involved in this event for the school."

Everyone is invited to come and join the fun. Tickets cost £25 plus booking fee and can be bought from [www.tinyurl.com/archercomedy](http://www.tinyurl.com/archercomedy). The evening will start at 8.30pm with doors opening at 8pm. Please note that the event is for over-18s only. For further information please email [info@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:info@thearcheracademy.org.uk).



East Finchley resident, Ian Stone

## Cajun at The Clissold

By Betti Blatman

As an avid Cajun enthusiast for many years, I've attended Cajun dances and festivals in the UK, US and Europe and am delighted that finally Cajun will arrive in East Finchley on Friday 11 April, when The Creole Brothers, one of my favourite bands, will be playing at The Clissold Arms in Fortis Green.

Two of the band have played at Wembley Arena with Bill Bailey and, more recently, for the Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana. Phil Underwood will be on accordion and fiddle, Charlie Skelton on fiddle and Peter Dunhill on guitar. The pub has a great atmosphere, decked out with lights and an intimate space for dancing, and it's free entry from 8-11pm.



The Creole Brothers

## What's on at the Phoenix

By Elizabeth Taylor-Meads, Phoenix Cinema executive director  
Spring is here at last and the Phoenix has not been hibernating! We start by looking at *The Past*, a compelling new film with top grade pedigree: Iranian director Asghar Farhadi (*A Separation*) plus star Bérénice Bejo, from *The Artist*.

Next, young man of the moment Jesse Eisenberg multiplies in Richard Ayoade's *The Double*. The darkly comic *Calvary* enthralled with its tale of an Irish priest (the always brilliant Brendan Gleeson) stunned by a particularly surprising confession.

Our global perspective next takes us to India, where we enjoy the tasty *Lunchbox*. We end the month with *Tracks*, Robyn Davidson's bestselling memoir of her trip across the Australian desert with four camels and a dog in tow, wondrously transposed to the big screen and featuring fellow Aussie Mia Wasikowska as the intrepid traveller.

The thrill of live performance is offered through our transmissions from the Metropolitan Opera. Luxuriate with

us in two stellar April productions: *La Bohème* and *Così fan Tutte*. No need to leave the neighbourhood!

We've also got something special for our youngest audience this school holiday. It's best to book early for our enchanting programme of outstanding European animation films.

Who needs sleep when you can join the throng of happy film lovers for *Phoenix Nights*, our new series of late night screenings? Starting next month and then the first Friday of every month, friends of the Phoenix guest host to present their favourite cult films. *The League of Gentlemen*'s Reece Shearsmith is on hand to do the honours for our launch.

Check out our website for details: [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk)

## What's On... E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### Saturday 5 April

• **Silvestre Trio** in Concert at St Mary-at-Finchley Parish Church, Hendon Lane, N3 1TR, at 6pm. An hour of chamber music including works by Handel, Granados, Saint-Saens, Irving Berlin and others. Refreshments. Free entry. Doors open from 5.30pm. No need to book. Children aged 7+ very welcome if they can sit quietly.

### Wednesday 9 to Saturday 12 April

• Theatre in the Square present **Family Circles** by Alan Ayckbourn, at United

Reformed Church, Pond Square, Highgate, N6. Hilarious, intelligent and still relevant (first performed in 1970). Performances at 8pm. Tickets £10, concessions £9, available online at [www.theatreinthesquare.org](http://www.theatreinthesquare.org)

### Friday 11 April

• **The Creole Brothers** - Phil Underwood, Charlie Skelton and Peter Dunhill - play Cajun music at The Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, N2, free entry, 8-11pm.

### Saturday 12 April

• Peter Hart, local resident and

historian, will give a talk on **life in the trenches of the First World War** at East Finchley Library at 2pm. Also present, from 10.30am to 3.30pm, will be four members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment re-enactment group, demonstrating equipment and kit used by the average Tommy during WW1.

### Sunday 13 April

• **Seed and plant swap**, Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, High Road, N2, from 2pm to 3.30pm. Come along to swap surplus plants and seeds, and share

gardening advice. No entrance charge and no money changes hands.

### Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church

High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, N2, at 7.30pm. Opera scenes and personal favourites with Lucy Elizabeth Elston, soprano, Edmund Caird, baritone, and Richard Black, accompanist. Programme to include works by Bellini, Mozart and Handel. Free admission; collection in aid of mental health charity MIND. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.



Letters

Post Office opinions

A number of readers have let *THE ARCHER* see the comments they sent to Sally Buchanan, franchise project manager for the Post Office, about the planned move of our Crown Post Office to the UOE shop in the High Road. Here we print two of their letters:

Dear Sally Buchanan,

I refer to your update of the proposed branch move. I was previously aware that the new Post Office was to be inconveniently sited at the rear of the limited UOE premises. That news was disappointing enough and you now advise about the three steps rather than level with the rest of the shop floor. Thus, a further problem for those with mobility issues and a complete contrast to the current spacious premises with a flat floor. Of even more concern is where the UOE shop is situated on the opposite side of the High Road. There are no pedestrian crossings nearby and I anticipate that accidents will occur as people will tend to cross the road in between the crossings, e.g. from NatWest Bank or Santander. Another factor that has not been considered is the nature of the nearby shops to UOE compared to those close to the current Post Office. I have no doubt that customers are more likely to make use of the banks or Budgens, or perhaps Amy's, when visiting the current Post Office as they are all on the same side of the High Road. That facility will cease to exist in the event of a move to UOE and would necessitate more crossing of the busy High Road as already mentioned. In summary, having regard to UOE's size and position, and the issues therefore arising, I trust you will accept the general weight of opinion from the public consultation and abandon the proposed move to these entirely unsuitable premises.

Charles Vincent  
Brackenbury Road, N2.

Dear Sally Buchanan,

This branch is due to close and a much smaller, franchised, office (or rather, I understand, literally a counter) is to replace it, across Finchley High Road in UOE. I wish to formally object to this move for a number of reasons: 1. Fewer services will be offered (as a notice posted in the current branch states). 2. Fewer people will be employed. This will, inevitably, result in longer waiting periods at any time of day. 3. No office of comparable size,

staffing level and provision of service will be within easy reach of the current one: Muswell Hill has limited, paid for only parking (which creates difficulty for all who have mobility difficulties apart from the registered disabled); it is physically smaller than East Finchley and thus frequently, and quite literally, has queues out of the door. For this reason it is convenient only for those who already live close to it. 4. Consultation has consisted, so far, only of those fortunate enough to hear of this planned closure (and that by chance) who have known where and how to respond. Why, for example, has the Post Office not sought to inform all the households and businesses served by the nearby sorting office (by means of a leaflet via the usual delivery service) of these plans? Or is the newly privatised Post Office seeking to slim down its workforce by stealth? 5. I note, via an article in the local paper *THE ARCHER* that the current staff will be redeployed or will take voluntary redundancy. This suggests that the staff employed in the new, much smaller, branch will therefore be untrained as to their duties, thus reinforcing point 2 above. 6. Perhaps this is intentional, so that expenditure on a post office in East Finchley can be entirely curtailed over a relatively short time scale. 7. The article in *THE ARCHER* also appears to suggest that access will be more difficult and less accessible. Given the present location and accessibility, this will make it less attractive and easy to visit, reinforcing point 5 above. 8. I trust that no plans are afoot to close the local sorting office on Market Place, N2. As it is, since shortly before privatisation, the time of our daily postal delivery has become progressively later in the day; and we live close to the start of a delivery round, not too far from the sorting office itself.

Brian Goldfarb,  
Address supplied.

Hospital bus service makes sense

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read the account in February's *ARCHER* of Brian Pearce's struggle to have a bus service made available for patients going to and from Finchley Memorial Hospital.

What a splendid idea! And one I should think that would barely disrupt the present services of the 263 and 382 buses.

I wonder why TfL talks of cost and extra buses. It would be only a matter of minutes for the existing 263 and 382 to make the small diversion up Granville Road, turn around in the hospital car park and then back on to their regular routes. No difficulty at all as far as I can see!

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

Good luck to Mr Pearce. I hope that TfL will be persuaded to see the reasonableness of his request and take some action to help the local community, where it would be most appreciated.

Yours faithfully,  
Barbara Godfrey,  
Deansway, N2.

Gibbet in East Finchley  
Our story on page 3 about the gibbet returning to East Finchley is not all it seems. In fact, it's totally untrue. We may be a little late with our April Fool but you can't blame us for giving it a go. Then again, if anyone thinks it could be a good addition to the High Road, just let us know.

How to survive exam time

Exam time is fast approaching so here are some tips from educational psychologist Naomi Burgess for you and for your family who are supporting you while you complete coursework and revise.

What are some of the most important things to know about getting ready for exams? Let's divide that up into the study part and the looking after yourself part.

Be prepared, start early, make a weekly timetable and leave yourself space for fun. Take each of your subjects and check your work is up-to-date. Read through your notes and your work and make a list of help you need from your teacher or family; then see what you can do to help yourself.

Which are some of the best ways to get the information into your head? Look at old questions and exam papers and generate as many new questions as you can. On your own or with friends, map out the answers. Pretending you are the examiner puts you in control!

Check for websites and



Jitterbug takes David Broome for a walk

Pet of the Month: Jitterbug

By Sheila Armstrong

David and Caroline Broome invited *THE ARCHER* round to meet their cat Jitterbug, a Long Haired Devon Rex. But if you go to meet Jitterbug you cannot avoid meeting the other six cats who also live there: all pedigree, all beautiful, all colour coded in shades of brown and cream.

It's been said that cats do better living on their own and are basically solitary creatures, but this happy well-loved group consisting of a Long Haired Devon Rex, a Sirex, an Oriental, a Siamese, 2 Sphynx, and a Havana all get on very well at their home in Church Lane.

If any readers would like to see this lovely band of brothers (and sisters) David and Caroline will be opening their newly designed garden on Sunday 15 June in conjunction with The Yellow Book NGS Open Gardens Scheme. The cats will be around too. Do not miss it.



**JITTERBUG:**  
Age: 7  
Breed: Long-haired Devon Rex  
Likes: Going for walks on a lead. Playing in the snow.  
Dislikes: Sleeping  
Talents: Gets up to all sorts of mischief, moving pictures and mirrors, and opening cupboards.  
Claim to fame: He was on TV in the Alan Titchmarsh programme *Love Your Garden* in 2010.

Have you got a pet of the month? Send us a photo and tell us about them, including their likes, dislikes, talents and favourite food. Email us at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

Naomi Burgess offers support for people with or without learning disabilities who have revision difficulties or exam anxiety. Her website is [www.naomiburgess.com](http://www.naomiburgess.com)

Part Time Receptionist & Kitchen Support

Children's day nursery in East Finchley requires a part time receptionist / administrator / kitchen support assistant.

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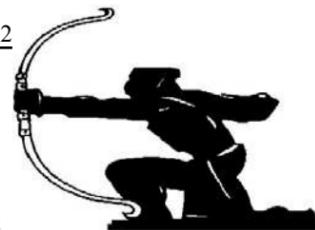


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## The first soldier to die in the war

By Daphne Chamberlain

**An appalling number of men and boys were slaughtered in the First World War, which started 100 years ago this summer. One young Finchley boy was the first soldier to die. By a tragic irony he was both too young to have joined the army, and met his death two days before hostilities officially started.**

John Parr, born in Finchley Central, lived for a time at 49 Bedford Road before his family moved to North Finchley, and attended Holy Trinity School. Lying about his age, he joined the army at 14 years and 10 months. When he died, on 21 August 1914, two days before the official outbreak of the Battle of Mons, he was still only one month past his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Barnet War Memorials Initiative will be creating a monument to young John in Lodge Lane, and telling his story around the borough, but every death was a tragedy. Now is the time to remember others too.

### Arts Festival

Geoffrey Hanson, director of the East Finchley Arts Festival, has been asked to feature memorabilia, poetry and music from World War 1 in this year's programme, and is asking for contributions. He says: "There must be memories, documents, letters etc., dating from that time which local people will have, and which we could use at the event."

News travelled much more slowly then. I have seen several letters (including one in my own family), written by anxious relatives asking if anyone has had any news from their loved one. Letters, photographs, postcards, perhaps the dreaded telegram, memories handed down ... all will be welcome, and will bring

back the living person behind the names on our war memorials. if you can contribute to this project. Our contact details are always on page 2.  
Please let us know at *THE ARCHER*

### War talk

Local resident and historian Peter Hart will be giving a talk on life in the trenches of the First World War on 12 April at East Finchley Library at 2pm. Also present from 10.30am to 3.30pm will be four members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment re-enactment group, who will be demonstrating the equipment and kit used by your average Tommy during WW1.

## Somewhere over East Finchley

As the wet winter finally gave way to spring sunshine at the start of March, The Archer's John Dearing took this wonderful photo of a rainbow arching over Viceroy Parade. So where's the pot of gold?

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