



## The digital age finally reaches N2

There are signs that East Finchley is finally moving fully into the digital age. Whereas most of the capital has enjoyed top-speed TV and broadband for many years now, N2 has remained in a black hole for cable services.

BT provides broadband through its copper wire network but inexplicably much of our area was left out when cable lines direct to homes were installed in streets back in the 1990s and 2000s. This means many TV and computer users in N2 have been left struggling with poor download speeds.

However, one supplier, Virgin Media, seems to have woken up to the demand and has started exploratory digging in Baronsmere Road with a view to installing cables. The company also told *THE ARCHER* that it would consider a wider programme of installations if it received requests from customers.

### 'Odd pocket' to benefit

One user who has led the digital charge is project manager Tim Isaacs, who lives in Baronsmere Road and needs a decent download speed to

handle large documents when he is working from home.

Tim said: "Our area should have 16MB broadband but I've had speeds of as little as 0.6MB. It gets worse through the day as more people use the network."

"The Government's mandate is to ensure rural areas get a good broadband service but what about odd pockets like ours in urban areas? A lot of people in East Finchley work from home and would benefit from higher speeds."

Emma Hutchinson, a Virgin Media spokesperson, told us: "We're always looking at ways to bring our next generation broadband, TV and phone services to more people and will be in touch with residents as soon as our work in Baronsmere Road is complete and we're able to confirm what we hope will be good news."

## Barnet boy styled Beatles' barnets

By Diana Cormack

When celebrity hair stylist Leslie Cavendish was called on to prepare the Beatles for a performance in January 1969, he realised he would have to make a special effort because it was to take place outdoors. The chosen setting was the rooftop of the Apple building in Saville Row. We now know that was the last time the Fab Four performed together. It also brought to an end three years of Leslie looking after the group's iconic hairstyle.

### Sassoon trainee

North Londoner Leslie left school at 15. He decided to become a hairdresser after being inspired by the sight of so many beautiful women when he collected his mum from a hair appointment. Starting as an apprentice at Vidal Sassoon's in Bond Street, he moved to their new salon at the Grosvenor Hotel where his skills became obvious, for Leslie completed the three year training in just two years.

His talent was soon recognised and, over the years, such famous names as Dusty Springfield, Britt Ekland, The Bee Gees, Tony Curtis, The Dave Clark Five and The Who were among his clientele. But it was when a young actress called Jane Asher asked him to cut her boyfriend Paul McCartney's hair that his rise to the very top began.

Subsequently Leslie was always on call to care for John,



Leslie Cavendish - hairdresser to the Beatles Photo Mike Coles

Paul, George and Ringo's hair wherever they were and whatever they were doing. He went with them on the Magical Mystery Tour and ran their Apple hairdressing salon on the King's Road, Chelsea. Leslie himself often featured in the press and fashion world media and he continued to cut Paul and Linda McCartney and other celebrities' hair until 1975.

Now in his 60s, Leslie runs the All Aboard charity shop at 124 High Road. He is also involved in many aspects of Beatles memorabilia. Find out more by visiting [www.beatle-shairdresser.com](http://www.beatle-shairdresser.com) where you can also read his fascinating story, or wait until later this year when Leslie's book about his time with the Beatles is to be published.



Teachers and staff from Holy Trinity limber up for their run.

## Holy Trinity take on the Heath

On Saturday 5 July many of the female staff at Holy Trinity Primary School will be joining the 5k Race For Life on Hampstead Heath. This is one of Cancer Research's female-only races dedicated to raise money and awareness of cancer.

Many of the school staff have witnessed the devastating effects of this disease first-hand and by joining together in this event are hoping to do something positive in raising money for an excellent cause. They have set up an online fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/teams/holytrinity](http://www.justgiving.com/teams/holytrinity).

Teacher Francesca Wiltshire said: "We plan to take on the beautiful, rugged landscape of the Heath together, raise money and have fun at the same time. In the meantime, we'll get in some training!"

## Virtual walk for hospice

If you didn't join the North London Hospice's Big Fun Walk this year and are of bus pass age or older, you can join fundraisers at a combined open garden and sponsored virtual walk in a spectacular private garden in Asmunds Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb on 20 July. Numbers are limited so register your interest in advance by telephone on 020 8203 5131 or email [events\\_nwsg@aol.co.uk](mailto:events_nwsg@aol.co.uk)

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