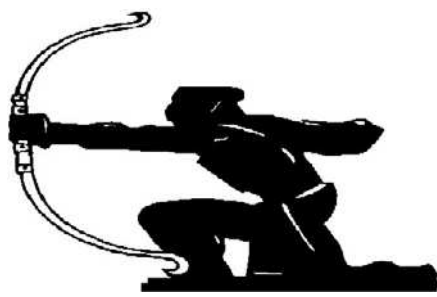


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Cricket champs

Summer 2014 was North Middlesex Girls cricket team's best season as they finished the season as Under 11 Girls County Champions.

North Middlesex Cricket Club is at the bottom of Muswell Hill in Park Road, N8. The girls' team practises each Saturday in the summer from 9am to 10.30am in the club's ground.

A number of girls from East Finchley play for the team and they ran a successful open coaching session for girls at the 2014 East Finchley Festival.

North Middlesex Girls are planning to play indoor cricket in January, and hope to have Under 11 and Under 13 girls' league teams next summer.

New girls are welcome to join the team. For details contact: nmcc.colts@gmail.com. You can follow news of North Midd Girls on Twitter @GirlsCricket.



Silverware: The winning cricketers of the North Middlesex Girls team.



A winter wonderland at the East Finchley winter Festival 2013. Photo Mike Coles

Biggest event of the winter is back

By Diana Cormack

Plans are well under way for East Finchley's third Christmas Festival which takes place on the High Road on Saturday 6 December. Starting at 10am, there will be seven hours packed with festive fun.

Naturally Father Christmas and his sleigh will be there, along with some of his reindeer for people to pet from 12 noon to 4pm. There will be old favourites such as making decorations for the festival Christmas tree plus last year's dog show hit, which will now be in three categories: festive dogs; dogs that look like their owners; all other dogs.

A new feature to be launched at noon will be The Great East Finchley Bake Off with the judging of the best decorated Christmas cake or pudding, possibly by a surprise celebrity.

The Lincoln Road festival stage will host live performances and activities, compered by the inimitable duo Chris Hampson and Pat

Leacock. Talent on stage will include brass, jazz and ukulele bands, local rockers Sound of the Suburb, Finchley Youth Theatre Dance Group, choirs from Martin Primary School and The Archer Academy along with a pop choir, culminating in a Pat "Have Mercy" Leacock DJ music set.

Joining in

A variety of things to buy, taste or experience will be found on the street stalls run by local businesses and charities. If you are interested in having a stall or participating in any way email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

The full programme is still being worked on but notices put up locally will give the necessary information and you can follow things on twitter @n2Festival.

Our Christmas Festival gets bigger and better every year and, so far, even the weather has matched up to the occasion. The snow machine will probably be in use again but that can only add to the enjoyment, so just make sure you're there to join in this great start to the festive season.

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If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address. Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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Council Tax	020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust	020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
Haringey Council	020 8489 0000

Leisure

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

Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries	0845 7484950
City Airport	020 7646 0088
Transport for London	0843 222 1234
National Express	08705 808080
Heathrow Airport	0870 000 0123

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Oak Lane Clinic	020 8349 7000
Royal Free	020 7794 0500
St Luke's	020 8219 1800
Whittington	020 7272 3070

Health Advice

AIDSline	020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555
Barndoc	0300 033 3777
Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688
Cancer Support	020 8202 2211
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Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
MIND	020 8343 5700
NHS Direct	0845 4647

OAPs' Advice

Age UK	020 820 35040
Contact (N2)	020 8432 1415

Crime

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Thief gets no change from cash scam

By Janet Maitland

You probably wouldn't be suspicious if a well-dressed man stopped you in the street and asked if you'd dropped the £20 note he shows you. You'd think he'd have just pocketed the money if he wasn't honest. But what if, when you tell him it isn't yours, he asks you check your wallet, just in case? Would you be suspicious then? Well, you should be.

How the scam works

If you do get your wallet out, all he has to do is snatch it and run. This is an old scam that's doing the rounds again. It was tried on a woman on East End Road at about 3pm on 26 September. However, the thief bungled the scam.

"I'd just stopped to read-just my shopping bags when a swarthy well-dressed man appeared at my side and dropped a crisp, new £20 note by my foot; then he picked it up and asked me if I'd dropped it," said the woman. "I said NO. When he asked me to get my wallet out I gathered my shopping and walked off. If I'd done as he asked, I could have been in trouble."

When the man changed tack and asked her if she had change for the £20, she just ignored him.

Change for fake euro note

Asking for change for a fake note is a scam in its own right. Two women in Highgate were tricked into giving change in sterling for a fake 50 euro note in June. In both cases the thief said he needed the money to pay for a taxi fare. In one case the thief said he was a relative of a resident living nearby. In the other the thief said he was a neighbour. Both victims later found that the note was a fake.

"We urge people to be careful if they are approached by someone suspicious," said a police spokesman.

For information and advice about the latest scams, go to <http://content.met.police.uk/site/fraudalert> where you can also download The Little Book of Big Scams, which is also available in an audio version.

What do your local police do for you?

That's the theme of the November meeting of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association.

Among the topics covered will be local crime statistics, visibility of the police and burglary prevention advice.

Taking part are police representatives from Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra wards, and Inspector Matthew Casey will be in the chair. The meeting is at 8pm on Wednesday 12 November, at North Bank (Methodist Church), Pages Lane, N10. For further information contact John Hajdu on Hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

Flu jab push

Residents who are eligible for the free seasonal flu vaccination are being urged to take it up and prevent the infection spreading through the community.

Last year, while 72 percent of over 65s in Barnet received the free vaccine, only a third of pregnant women in the borough and only half of people with long term health conditions such as asthma and heart disease took it up. A nasal spray vaccination is now available for children and is a painless alternative to the injection.

Dr Andrew Howe, Barnet and Harrow's Director of Public Health, said: "We know that those who catch the flu pass it on to an average of two people putting those most vulnerable at an increased risk. While the number of people aged 65 and over are good at taking up the vaccine in Barnet, there are still a large number of people at risk out there who aren't receiving it. If you fit into one of these categories it is important you contact your GP or pharmacist."

Bus diversions extended

By Daphne Chamberlain

We've heard more about the bus diversions we reported in last month's issue and it seems we will have the 134 running along the High Road for at least nine days longer than expected.

It will not go back to its own route on 7 November, as originally planned. The predicted date now is 16 November, and that is weather permitting. The 43 will continue to stop at Muswell Hill until the same date.

That is bad news for the unlucky people living along Colney Hatch Lane. Taking away both their bus routes has been tough for them, and I've felt genuine sympathy. But their loss has been our gain.

Bonus for High Road

In the September edition of THE ARCHER I wrote about the extension of the 263 route past the Nag's Head, quoting an admission on the TFL website that it was done to benefit the Holloway Road area. There are complaints on the same website

that there are now fewer buses on Holloway Road than there used to be.

Well, there were once three bus services running along our High Road, from central London to North Finchley or Barnet. In fact, I've been told that the original pre-Second World War route of the 134 was through East Finchley.

So, if you've been making the most of our extra buses, tell TFL. The website referred to above is <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk>. You can see there that a body of support is building up for giving us a better through bus service. The more people make their views known, the more chance we have of getting a service that a long stretch of busy and highly populated main road needs.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

45 Brownswell Road, N2

Single storey rear extension with proposed depth of 4.800 metres from original rear wall, eaves height of 2.745 metres and maximum height of 3.245 metres.

Chambers Gardens, N2

Replacement of existing tower, antenna and feeders with new 14 m tower. Installation of new cabinet (telecommunications application).

13 Elm Gardens, N2

Demolition and reconstruction of garage. Single-storey rear extension. First-floor side extension.

122 High Road, N2

Extensions to first and second floor and

changes to rear fenestration. Internal alteration to provide one extra self-contained unit.

174 High Road, N2

Two-storey rear extension and conversion of existing residential unit into two self-contained flats.

211 High Road, N2

Proposal: Change of use from B1 (Office) to D1 (Clinic and Health Centres).

139 Leslie Road, N2

Replacement of kitchen window and door with bi-folding doors with balcony to rear serving first-floor flat. 26A, Manor Park Road, N2 Single-storey rear extension.

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Now police impersonators burgle homes

By Janet Maitland

Police are appealing for information following burglaries carried out by men pretending to be police officers.

At one o'clock in the morning on 11 August, a woman living in a flat on Eagle Drive in Colindale heard loud knocking at her front door. A man shouted that he was a police officer and asked her to open the door. When she did, she was confronted by two men who looked like policemen and produced what she believed was a search warrant.

Handcuffed, gagged and threatened

As soon as she let them in, the woman was handcuffed, gagged with a piece of tape and threatened with a knife. The fake police stole a substantial amount of cash and left. The victim heard a car driving away shortly afterwards.

The men are described as white and in their 20s. Both were wearing black vests with 'Police' printed on them, light blue short sleeved shirts, black trousers and black belts. One man was about 5ft 11ins tall and thin, with blonde gelled hair and blue eyes. The other was the same height but stocky, with greying short brown hair and freckles.

"This was a horrendous attack on a female in her own home, which has left her traumatised," said Detective Constable Andy Deamer.

Similar burglary

On 13 September at about 9pm two men disguised as police officers tricked their way into a home in Wembley and stole £800. Once inside, the fake police handcuffed one of the two occupants and then searched the property on the

pretext that they had been told that drug dealing was taking place at the address. The two men then left, but said they would be back shortly and left one of the victims in handcuffs.

The men are described as black, in their 20s and about 6ft tall. Both were wearing police beat helmets, white shirts, dark coloured jackets, black trousers, black gloves and a high visibility jacket with 'Police' emblazoned across it.

If you have any information call police on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Festive fun

Come along to the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, for a Christmas dinner, carol singers from local schools and other festive entertainment. To find out more, email christine.gilbert@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8432 1423.

Meanwhile, to celebrate a year of Age UK Barnet's men's cookery classes, the men who have attended will prepare Christmas dinner, mince pies and nibbles for themselves and their friends and partners. If you would like to join one of the classes or taster sessions, or if you know a man who might be interested, email eatwell@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8150 0967.

Coffee scheme perks up school funds

One of East Finchley's most popular coffee shops is celebrating five years in business with a fresh look and a new community scheme.

Since opening its doors opposite the tube station in 2009, Dan & De Carlo has served hundreds of commuters, shoppers and park-goers every week.

Business owner Danny explains: "I used to drive to town from Arkley every day, passing East Finchley. I spent a long time looking for the perfect venue, and was delighted when a property came up here. It's such a warm, friendly place with a strong community feel."

As well as a refit to mark the anniversary, the Dan & De Carlo team has set up a venture with the Archer Academy just across the road. Coffee customers will be able to pick up a special loyalty card from the shop or the school and collect stamps every time they buy a hot drink. For every five stamps collected, Dan & De Carlo will give the customer a free drink, and also donate the price of a coffee to the school.

As Danny says: "Local people have supported us so well over the last five years. Now it's our turn to give something back to the community that we've made our home."



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Meet Archie's distant relative

By Nick Young

It seems our very own Archie statue on the tube station has a Canadian cousin. While in Toronto recently visiting family, I had a wander around the city and noticed a Henry Moore sculpture called The Archer in front of the equally modernistic City Hall.

Both the sculpture and the building date back to the 1960s but they almost missed being paired up. Apparently, the Toronto city authorities turned down Moore's offer to sell his Archer to them, even though he'd set a low price. They later changed their minds.

In 1980, Moore explained how his creation got its name: "How I came to call it The

Archer is that the two forms in the middle of the sculpture, not at the top and not at the bottom, in the middle, to me have a kind of stretch in them, and one end is the shape of a bow and this to me just reminded me of pulling and stretching a bow."

As I'd taken the latest copy of our newspaper with me, I couldn't resist asking a passer-by to take a photo of me with both Archers.

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New management at Old Barn

By Janet Maitland

The Charity Commission has taken the momentous step of issuing an order to appoint a new trustee at the Old Barn in Tarling Road. "Following an investigation, we believe that the charity has no validly appointed trustees," said a spokesperson at the commission.

Campaigners have been trying to restore this much-loved and valued community centre back to the local community ever since it was taken over by a group of people in 2010. These people acted as if they had the authority of trustees, discontinuing all the pioneering services for children and young people that the centre had provided for 25 years.

The only service they actually provided in four years was a nursery. This was closed by Ofsted in July after 18 months of failing to provide safe childcare. The building is currently deserted and the gates are padlocked.

New trustee

The commission is seeking to appoint Mobilise Public Limited as the new trustee. This company was appointed in September by Barnet Council to consult with local people about the kind of services they

want from the centre.

As soon as the formalities are completed, Mobilise will have the authority, as trustee, to review the constitution and then operate the centre. "At that point, they will be able to work with residents to establish how the Old Barn can be used for the benefit of the community," said a spokesperson from Barnet Council.



The Grace Spitfire

Café serves up sewing and knitting classes

By Diana Cormack

Delicia café and restaurant on Fortis Green brings more than food to its customers. On Tuesday evenings there is a sewing class from 7pm to 10pm led by a professional teacher. Sewing machines are available but you can bring your own if you wish.

The same applies to materials and to what you want to sew. This can be something

you already have in hand or an item offered in class such as clothing or household items. Contact Lisa Falconer on 07983 413 929, email theavidseamstress@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.theavidseamstress.co.uk

Knitting and crochet sessions are available, too, with details from genevieve@genevievesweeney.com

Meanwhile, an arts and crafts tutor is needed to teach on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday evening. Phone 07879 816 420 or email deliabobgrey@gmail.com

Of course, if you are interested in any of the above you can ask in Delicia at 4-5 Cheap-side, Fortis Green, where the business celebrated its first birthday on 26 October, no doubt with a particularly delicious cake!

The Grace Spitfire needs you!

By Diana Cormack

A 70-year-old Spitfire which served during the last 12 months of the Second World War can still be seen flying at special events in the UK. Built at Castle Bromwich in early 1944, the ML407 flew a total of 176 operational combats with six different allied squadrons of the RAF's Second Tactical Air Force.

A few years after the war the single-seater fighter was converted by Vickers-Armstrong into an advanced two seat trainer for the Irish Air Corps, then was put into storage before being offered for sale in 1968. After several years in a Scottish aircraft museum it was acquired in late 1979 by design engineer Nick Grace, who was following his dream of flying a Spitfire.

This he achieved in April 1985 when, after five years of meticulously restoring the plane, he took off with his wife Carolyn in the rear cockpit. The unmistakable sound of the Spitfire's Merlin engine was enjoyed at air displays all over Europe and the UK as Nick showed off the plane's paces.

Family carry on

Sadly, this lasted only until 1988 when Nick was tragically killed in a car accident. Left with their two young children, Carolyn determined that a Grace should pilot ML407 so she learned to fly it herself, going solo in 1990 when the plane became known as the Grace Spitfire.

Carolyn added aerobatic and formation to her qualifications and has continued to fly in tribute to and in memory of Nick and his intention that his Spitfire should carry on for generations to come. As well as piloting his father's plane, their son Richard keeps it maintained.

Keeping it flying is financially straining and their daughter Olivia started the Grace Spitfire Supporters Group in 1997. This is helped by JLT Insurance Brokers and their generous insurance sponsorship. Funding is needed, particularly in the winter when most of the maintenance is done and there is no income from flying displays. If you would like to help keep this Spitfire flying, visit www.ml407.co.uk, email cg@ml407 or call 01787 476 995 for further details.

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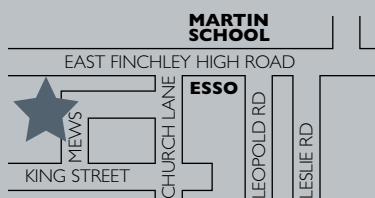
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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

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



Autumn in an ancient wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

The horses have moved on, sadly, but one of the men who worked with them in Coldfall Wood, back in the early spring, returned recently to share his knowledge of trees.

Woodsman Iain Loasby led a dozen people, including children, on a walk through Coldfall on the last Saturday of September. We set off from the recently coppiced area bordering Creighton Avenue, where new growth is thrusting up from the coppice stools and woodland plants are emerging from the seedbank, now that there's light and space.

There's little plant growth on most of the woodland floor because of shade from so many hornbeam trees and compaction of the soil by human feet. It seems that plant roots and tree roots need oxygen, provided by worms, insects and fungi.

Iain showed us how to tell beech buds and leaves from hornbeam, now the dominant tree in the wood. Hornbeam ousted lime and hazel here centuries ago, though a few hazels have persisted and are watched over carefully.

Growth and decay

We saw why quick-growers, like cherry, rowan and silver

birch, are called opportunists. Many of the silver birches scattered through the wood have finished their rather brief lives (usually about 40 years in woodland) and now make excellent homes for insects and fungi.

So do the far older "stag-horn" oaks with their bare branches, magnificent even in decay. Pests like the Oak Processionary Moth were mentioned but luckily not seen. Maybe our oaks will be spared.

Iain explained what goes on just beneath the bark of any tree, where the cambium, a narrow layer of living tissue, acts like the brain of the tree, responding to conditions and controlling growth. Damage the bark and you may kill the tree.

We strolled for an hour or two, absorbing not only facts but also the atmosphere of this small but ancient wood, its leaves just becoming autumnal. Next February Iain will lead another walk in the wood to look at winter trees. Visit www.coldfallwoods.com to see more walks and activities.

Outstanding open pasture

The Long Lane Pasture Trust is transforming a neglected two-acre site in an area recognised as deficient in open green space, for the benefit of the local community and the increasingly flourishing wildlife.

For the second year running Long Lane Pasture has achieved the 'outstanding' level in the London in Bloom awards. It is the only scheme in Barnet to have received this award.

"We are absolutely delighted," said Dennis Pepper, chairman of the trust, "especially as such an award requires us to reach a very high level in community participation, environment responsibility and gardening achievement."

"Coming as it does on top of the Green Flag Award earlier in the year it reflects the dedication of our Management Team, and the hard work of our volunteers."

The London in Bloom scheme is part of the Royal Horticultural Society's initia-

tive to encourage and support groups in bringing about significant improvements in their neighbourhoods. For further information see: www.londoninbloom.co.uk

Surviving and thriving

Long Lane Pasture, opposite the fire station, was taken over by the trust under a lease from the London Borough of Barnet which still owns the site though it makes no financial contribution to its upkeep. Costs are met by donations from supporters and grants from funding bodies.

It is open every day from 10am to dusk but may be closed occasionally during the winter depending on weather conditions. For more details visit www.longlanepasture.org

Shy and ethereal: Lynsey de Paul

By Daphne Chamberlain

It was certainly a shock to hear of the sudden death of Lynsey de Paul so soon after seeing her at the unveiling of the Spike Milligan statue, reported in last month's issue. The singer-songwriter died of a brain haemorrhage on 1 October at the age of 64.

A long-standing friend of Spike, who nicknamed her Loony de Small, she had joined him in animal welfare demonstrations as well as on the stage, and was involved in The Finchley Society's rescue of College Farm.

In fact, she had strong North London links. Originally Lynsey Monckton Rubin, she was born and brought up in Cricklewood, and attended South Hampstead High School and Hornsey College of Art.

Rocketing to stardom in the early 1970s, she won two Ivor Novello awards, had five Top 20 UK hits herself, and wrote songs covered by US performers and theme tunes for television shows, including *No Honestly*. Later, she came second in the Eurovision Song Contest (at a time when her UK entry could still be called *Rock Bottom* with no sense of irony).

Remembered by many of us as a small blonde often at a large piano, she was described by Barbara Warren of The Finchley Society as ethereally beautiful, but someone who kept in the background, seeming rather shy.

Booklet about Spike

Barbara, and all those who worked with her on turning the idea of Spike's statue into reality, must be delighted by the number of people posing for photos on the bench. Lynsey De Paul, who had many chats with the living Spike, was one of the contributors to a commemorative booklet about him, published by The Finchley Society. The sale of this, and other mementoes, will help



Lynsey De Paul shares a smile with film director Terry Gilliam at the unveiling of the Spike Milligan statue. Photo Mike Coles

reduce the financial shortfall on constructing the statue.

They can be bought at Stephens (formerly Avenue) House, or donations made through www.spikestatue.org.uk.

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A splendid week of music-making

East Finchley's 18th Arts Festival at All Saints Church in Durham Road wrapped up just as we went to press on last month's edition. You may have seen our festival photos but we ran short of space for reviews so we're putting that right this month with this round-up by our reviewer Ken Carter.

Organist Jennifer Bate, the All Saints Choir and Geoffrey Hanson

With our backs to the altar, we looked up towards All Saints' prized organ. The evening honoured the life of Jennifer Bate (70 years and still going strong). The organ displayed most delightfully the gentle charms of two fragments of Mendelssohn, the Choral from Duruflé's first organ work and Geoffrey Hanson's engaging *Salutamus diem natalem*, written for the occasion.

Geoffrey Hanson then took the All Saints' Choir on a sung journey through the devotions of Western Europe, visiting amongst others Byrd, Bruckner, Elgar and Britten

visit to All Saints. A highlight of the festival, of course, they can come every year.

Using the style of commedia dell'arte, the director provided knockabout comedy, high grade slapstick, stylishly delivered, with visual jokes a-plenty. From the same handful of people we heard highly professional musicality.

"I've never heard the trio better sung," someone remarked to me during the interval. This was an evening of high jinks, cheek and consummate musicianship. PopUp delivered a flexible ear-catching romp which can be adapted to a village hall, a school or ... a magnificent, flamboyant late-Victorian parish church like All Saints.



Paprika. Photo Mike Coles

and concluding with his own work *To Cecilia*, to words by local resident Fleur Adcock. The choir sang gracefully and its two soloists certainly made their mark.

PopUp Opera: *Così fan tutte* (Everyone Does!)

This was PopUp Opera's third

Paprika

Fast, vigorous, electrifying folk-music from Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria and Macedonia jiggled the rafters. Melody was treated as by-the-by and dismissed rather brusquely, especially if it got in the way of any persistent, foot-stamping

beat.

A duo from the two accordions was a melodious relief. So was the dazzling cadenza-like display of fireworks from Bogdan Vacarescu, the leader, on the violin. The church swelled and surged with a quite terrifying and ceaseless jubilation ... a celebration of village vitality.

Shakespeare's Greatest Hits

Belinda Yates sang songs inspired by the Bard, ranging from Morley to Arne to Bernstein and Cole Porter. Her diction was impeccable, every word clear and well-projected. I found her more at home with the musicals than the earlier ditties. However, during the interval someone voiced an opposing view to me, finding the ditties fresh and the American music rather tired and automatic.

Lance Pierson spoke Shakespeare's words breezily, resolutely and with commendable resonance. Much was familiar: "Once more unto the breach...", "Friends, Romans, countrymen...". We heard him debating whether 'to be' or 'not to be'. His delivery sought to meet newcomers to Shakespeare halfway, at a steady pace. The performance was genial and avuncular, with real gusto. Heather Chamberlain accompanied all this with deft-fingered verve, from a discreet keyboard.

Centenary of 1914

Fleur Adcock and Donald Pelmear read war poems in the first half. The selection was wide-ranging including not only Owen, Sassoon, Thomas and Graves but also Kipling's lament for the loss of his son and five pieces by women poets.

The final spoken item was the citation for Jack Parr, resident of North Finchley and the first British soldier to die in 1914.

In the second half, Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*



The London Ripieno singers in full voice for *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Photo Mike Coles

was masterly. In the right hands, the music rings out with a pained, rugged authenticity, its rhythms ungainly, spare and haunting. The London Ripieno Singers and Players, under Geoffrey Hanson's direction gave this barely recognised masterpiece its due. I shall long remember the lamenting cries, the keening, of soprano Louise Eekelaar rising from out of the hulking chaos of war and the stentorian affirmation of bass Matthew Bernstein. This was the second highlight of the week.

Haydn Chamber Orchestra

George Butterworth finished *The Banks of Green Willow* in 1913 and was killed in battle three years later aged 31. The orchestra swam into this late-Romantic music warmly. Mozart's *Jeunehomme* piano concerto followed, K 271. Pianist Ivana Gavric gave

a captivating performance, aristocratic, nimble-fingered and fluent. The last movement raced along at a dazzling speed, reminding me of an express train hurtling through a station non-stop.

Bartók's *Divertimento for String Orchestra*, was born in 1939 and thus the second piece of the evening to be written on the eve of a world war. Here, though, Bartók was preparing to leave his Nazi-leaning Hungary to take up exile in America. The piece was technically difficult and often dissonant but with melodious harmonic moments. In this, the Haydn Chamber Orchestra was outstanding.

The evening finished in more relaxed mode with Mendelssohn's *Italian Symphony* which he described to his sister Fanny as "the jolliest piece I have ever done". Bern Gernon and the orchestra caught the



The Haydn Chamber Orchestra with Ivana Gavric, piano. Photo Marian Harris

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music's surging delicacy with exhilarating stylishness, a young man's jubilation.

The King's Men

The festival week ended with a mini-festival on its own, comprising seven singers and one organist from the Choral Scholars of King's College, Cambridge. There was nothing they could not do – as long as it suited male voices. They had Henry VIII, Lassus and Byrd... Duruflé, too.

The group specialised in their own spectacular arrangements of traditional and pop from English to Scottish, Irish and French. There was an American spiritual and pop, ranging from Cab Calloway to Michael Jackson and the Beach Boys. What a joyful conclusion to a splendid week of music-making!



Olive Westley, 104

By Daphne Chamberlain

104 years old and still going strong. Mrs Olive Westley celebrated that milestone birthday on 5 September. After a happy family party at the Royal Chase Hotel, Enfield, she returned home to her upstairs maisonette in Creighton Avenue, where she has lived since 1986 and still looks after herself.



Councillor Hugh Rayner, Mayor of Barnet cuts the ribbon at the re-opening of Hair 202 on the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

A new style for hair salon

The only scissors in use at 202 hairdressing salon on the evening of 24 September were in the capable hands of the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Hugh Rayner, who cut the ribbon to officially open the re-vamped premises. The salon has established an enviable reputation at 202 High Road since starting there in November 2004.

In his speech, Cllr Rayner talked about support for small businesses in the borough and recognised the life-blood they give to local communities. At the re-launch party staff warmly welcomed clients, family and friends to view the new-look salon and celebrated the event with a range of promotions and offers. More photos and details can be seen at www.hair202.com

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Visitors always welcome

Olive has always stood out from the crowd. She took her driving test in 1930, when it was unusual for women to take the wheel, and continued driving until she was 98.

One of her favourite childhood memories, though, involves a horse-drawn milk float. While the driver was occupied, she turned on the milk-tap, but then couldn't turn it off.

Milk featured in her adult life, when she worked in the offices of United Dairies, next to East Finchley station. She also worked for Liverpool Victoria Insurance Company. Born in Davenant Road, Holloway, Olive has spent most of her life in the East Finchley area. When a WW2 bomb fell in Fortis Green, opposite the police station, she was living in Lynmouth Road.

The 10th of 12 children, she said that both her parents lived into their nineties. She is the last surviving sibling, but has six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Cheerful and courageous

In early October, Olive had a heavy fall, tripping over a lethally uneven pavement in the High Road, just outside Cootes Pharmacy. She took most of the impact on her face, which was badly bruised, and also had bruising on an arm and her ribs. In spite of this, she chose to see me for this interview and was cheerful and positive. A remarkable lady.

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No sleep for night walkers

Congratulations to ten employees from estate agents Jeremy Leaf & Co. who smashed their £1,000 target by raising over £2,000 for Cancer Research UK in the Shine Night Walk on 27 September, covering marathon and half-marathon distances through the streets of London at night.

The team was Katrin Gerlach, Clair O'Hanlon, Mary Stevens, Wayne Edmonds, Robin Seery, Marcus Brilliant, Barbara Franks, Trish McKeague, Michael Zucker and Georgie Dallas.

Katrin said: "The atmosphere at the event was truly amazing which helped push our physical boundaries to their absolute limit. There is no doubt the enthusiasm of so many others taking part on the night to embrace such a worthy cause kept us going. We are definitely aiming for an even higher total and faster time next year!"



The Jeremy Leaf team take a break after their night time walk.

Over 65s Xmas party

The Bishop Douglass Christmas party this year will be held on Thursday 11 December from 5.30pm for a 6pm start. East Finchley residents who are over 65 are welcome and you should book your place without delay.

As usual, you will be welcomed with a glass of sherry by Year 10 students and enjoy a three-course meal followed by carol singing and entertainment by pupils and staff. Games of bingo and a gift from Santa Claus

will round off the evening.

Transport can be provided for those who need it. To book your place, just phone Toni on 020 8883 0433, leave your name and a contact number and someone will get back to you.

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YOUNG ARCHER



Visitors among the Auschwitz buildings.

We can only imagine...

Daniella Ekundayo was one of two pupils from Wren Academy in North Finchley chosen to travel to the Nazi extermination camps at Auschwitz in October with the help of the Holocaust Educational Trust. Here she records her impressions from the trip.

There is no one word that I can use to describe my day trip to Auschwitz. My response to the trip was to immediately write down and document what I saw and how I felt. Yet, I could only conjure up a cluster of thoughts and feelings which are insignificant when compared to those of the Jews who endured life in these extermination camps.

One student said to me: "Human feeling can't adequately take into account the magnitude of what happened". Another felt that "seeing the victims' hair really put things in perspective".

For me, what stood out was seeing a number of family portraits, individual photographs and suitcases. Thousands of suitcases, stacked one by one on top of the other and encased behind a glass window, for all to see and marvel at man's destruction.

To me, the suitcases represented the innocence and sincerity of the victims. They longed to be back home and maybe felt one day they would be. I suppose this gave them a tiny sense of hope, which I can only imagine helped to divert their attention away from the dark days ahead.

Hundreds of photographs of victims and their families were displayed to commemorate the loss of human life. Anyone who tours the camps today can identify with the victims. They

were people with dreams and aspirations just like our own.

Everyone should make the trip to Auschwitz if they can. We all need to be reminded of these horrible events in history, so that they are never repeated.

Behind the scenes of The Imitation Game

By Daphne Chamberlain
If, like me, you have *The Imitation Game* on your "must see" list, you might be interested in a look behind the scenes. In the film, Benedict Cumberbatch portrays the man who Churchill thought did most to win the Second World War. Mathematician Alan Turing led the team who cracked the famous German Enigma Code, but ended up taking his own life.

Some of the scenes were shot at Bletchley Park, where the codebreakers had worked in the utmost secrecy. From Monday 10 November, there will be a big new exhibition there about the making of the film.

Forty minutes by train from Euston, Bletchley is always worth a visit anyway. You don't have to be a geek to be fascinated by the historic computers, the very understandable explanations (including activities for children) of how the codes were broken, and the wealth of information about the brilliant engineers (like Tommy Flowers) and analysts who worked together as a secret army.

Not many of them were heroes in their lifetime: certainly not Alan Turing. Find out more at www.bletchleypark.org.uk.

Practising yoga at home and away

It can't be bad to have a job you really love in a city which has been rated number one in the world, even if it is 10,000 miles away from East Finchley! Lucy Cormack, who was born and brought up in Cherry Tree Road, has been teaching yoga in Melbourne, Australia since 2010.

She got into yoga whilst at university in Manchester and continued with it at The Manor, Fortis Green, when she was back here working in the fashion industry. At the same time she studied for a yoga teaching diploma at The Life Centre in London which enabled her to teach anywhere in the world. Lucy is a certified Relax and Renew Restorative Yoga Instructor who has studied under renowned yogis such as Rod Stryker, Judith Lasater, Donna Farhi, Shiva Rea and Richard Freeman, and at various ashrams in India.

One of the most common questions asked by her students was about the practice they should do at home and if there were any yoga DVDs she could recommend. So Lucy put two and two together and decided to make her own. Over 40 Hatha yoga postures are shown on the DVD *Prana Samana: Creating a Home Yoga Practice*.

It has been selling well in Melbourne and as the Christmas season approaches Lucy is hoping it will solve a lot of people's present-giving problems. For more information visit www.pranasamana.com



Yoga practice. Photo by Janitha Jayasingh

Let someone else arrange your social life

By Diana Cormack

When things go well, organising your social life can be fun, but when problems crop up such as friends cancelling dates or changing times and venues it can become a bit of a strain.

Frustration with such issues gave East Finchley resident Alexandra Felce an idea which she has turned into a reality. She has created a stress-free way for people to socialise at ready-made events where they can discover things in their own locality as well as attend venues further afield or take the opportunity to try something completely new.

Using her master's degree in Social Research Methods and getting opinions online and from community website Streetlife led to Alexandra, of Lankaster Gardens, setting up Who London, a members-only social events group.

Anyone wishing to join has to be over 50 years of age. Who London aims to make it easier for them to socialise, with pre-planned events available at the touch of a button eliminating the hassle about when, where, what's included and payment. Take a look at www.wholondon.co.uk or call 020 3393 3343.

Christmas is coming

St Mary's Church at 279 High Road invites everyone to its Christmas Fair on Saturday 22 November from 12noon to 3pm.

Meet Santa in his grotto from 1pm to 2.30pm, plus there will be kids' activities, face painting, cakes, mulled wine, knitting lessons, manicures, pottery, books, jewellery, tombolas and arts and crafts. No entrance fee.

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Deborah gets the party started

A former charity fundraiser has set up a company to help the 'Boomer' generation enjoy their significant birthdays and special celebrations.

Deborah Granville, of Durham Road, N2, came up with the idea of Dezevents after giving up a successful career raising millions of pounds for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Working Families, amongst others.

She is offering a full party planning service, ranging from on-the-day coordination to full event planning and management, particularly aimed at those 'of a certain age'.

Deborah, a boomer herself, has lived in East Finchley and Muswell Hill for 28 years, and recently celebrated her own significant birthday at the Clissold Arms on Fortis Green.



Boomer: Deborah Granville. Photo Lynn

She said: "Celebrating a birthday or other event, particularly as we get older, can be daunting, and some people would rather hide under the duvet than acknowledge it, and just let it pass. Others would like to mark it in some way but perhaps lack the confidence or

the tools to make it happen."

If you're interested in organising a party but don't know where to start, you can contact Deborah on 07990 751857 or by email at deborah@dezevents.com. Her website is www.dezevents.com

Help for returning soldiers

In this 100th year since the outbreak of the First World War, Combat Stress Veterans' mental health charity is commemorating the 95th anniversary of its foundation. Unfortunately, the need for its mental health treatment programmes is as great for today's ex-service personnel returning from the horrors of war as it was in 1919 and the programmes cost a great deal of money to run.

Over the last few years, a group of people in Hampstead Garden Suburb has been putting on a fundraising winter fair in aid of Combat Stress. The fair started in someone's home six years ago and raised a few pounds, but it is now held in the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11 6PB. Last year it raised nearly £5,000.

This year former BBC correspondent and MP Martin Bell will open the fair at 11am on 1 November and the organisers hope to reach that magic £5,000 again. Running until 4pm, there will be lots of interesting stalls, a good place to meet your friends over lunch or tea served all day, and it's just £1 to enter (children free).



Aida Khaledi in her pop-up shop at Rykers on the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

Pop up shop pops up in shop

By Diana Cormack

Aida Khaledi started her online fashion boutique business Aliya.J a year ago and soon became involved with fashion shows and pop up shops. In June of this year she held one for a week at Ryker Kids, the children's wear shop at 162 High Road. As this went well she returned in July for two weeks, on the strength of which she is now there until the end of March 2015.

Passing by Ryker's you might not notice that at the rear of the shop there is a large area displaying ladies' wear, leather bags and handcrafted jewellery, all set out against a pleasing background. This, as well as the choice of goods, reflects Aida's previous experience in retail and her work for a fashion designer.

Aida told *THE ARCHER* that she likes to have affordable stock which is a bit different and individual, with British-made brands available alongside Italian, Spanish and Swedish.

A selection of autumn and winter clothing is now on display. Local mums get a chance to look at these while their children are trying on shoes in Ryker's. They can also get the personal touch with styling from Aida then or when they return later unencumbered.

Aida is now designing herself for the Aliya.J range (named after her daughter) so keep an eye out for her designs when you pop into her pop up shop. You can find her online business at www.aliyaj.com

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

It's not a pub if...

Once upon a time when men were men and women drank pints, there were two kinds of pub: those that just sold beer and those that sold food and beer: proper beer from proper breweries and proper food. You know, traditional British fare like pies, sausages, pizzas and lasagne. Some were so traditional that they even sold curries or chillis, but were exotic enough to serve everything with chips. But then it all started to go weird.

It started with the theme pub. The madness of cocaine crept through brewery marketing departments who decided that what was needed was a bit of Americana and turned some unsuspecting boozer into 'Gracelands' for the complete Elvis experience including mega burgers, neon lights and weak beer. Next they came up with the Oirish pub where Guinness was everything and the jukebox only played U2. But that was nothing compared with the bubonic plague that is the gastro pub.

This evil has crept across London like acne, crushing decent boozers and displacing good, wholesome shepherd's pie and proper beer. It has wrapped its tentacles ever tighter round all that was alcoholic about London until the poor unsuspecting drinker can't go out for a pint of best bitter and a plate of fish and chips in safety anymore.

If the menu is in French it's not a pub. If the place has a chef not a cook it's not a pub. If the manager is rude to staff and customers like an equal opportunities Gordon Ramsay it's not a pub. If the chips are triple fried and come displayed like the battlements of Mordor it's not a pub. If they serve minted pea puree it's not a pub. If they serve jus with anything it's not a pub. And if anything is sustainably farmed, marinated, flambeed, and lovingly prepared then you can bet your life it's not only not a pub, but one that will charge £25 for the two-course set lunch.

Be afraid, be very afraid, because the curse of the gastro pub is out to get you...

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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 & Qigong** in N2, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 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.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLs, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464.
- **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. 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
- **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.
- **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



Thriller: the cast of *Our Man in Havana* includes, from left to right, Tim Solomons, Imogen Colmans, Owain Rose and Ian Grainger.

Whose line is it anyway?

Jokes are often made about actors trying to find motivation for their character, but the four actors in the Garden Suburb Theatre's upcoming production of *Our Man in Havana* have to find motivations for not just one but 32 characters between them.

This adaptation of Graham Greene's comic novel sees them playing characters as diverse as spies, nuns, tourists, strippers, a vacuum cleaner salesman and even, on one occasion, a dog.

Our Man in Havana runs Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate Village from Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 December at 7.30pm (4pm on Sunday). Tickets cost £12 (£10 concessions) and are available from www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com or by ringing 020 8340 3488.

On the shore



Muswell Hill printmaker and teacher Henry Hagger had this print called *Old Tales*, Young Dreams selected by the Royal Society of Marine Artists for their annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries, behind Trafalgar Square, which ran for two weeks in October.

Church fair

Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane will be holding a fair on Saturday 8 November from 12noon until 3pm with attractions including cakes, books, bric-a-brac, kids' toys, arts and crafts, face-painting and popcorn. Donations and offers of help with manning stalls are very welcome. Contact Jenny Borst on 07958 408512 or jenny.borst@yahoo.co.uk

November at the Phoenix

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, Phoenix Cinema executive director
November brings two of the year's most touted feature film presentations to the Phoenix. The month starts with a two-week run of Phoenix patron Mike Leigh's sweeping yet intimate epic, portraying one of Britain's most revered artists, *Mr Turner*. Timothy Spall in the title role won the coveted Best Actor award at this year's Cannes Film Festival and is favoured for BAFTA and Oscar wins.

The second half of November delivers another outstanding portrait of a great Briton, this time mathematician Alan Turing, who helped to break the German Enigma Code during WW2, helping the Allies bring the war to an earlier close. Benedict Cumberbatch delivers another flawless and touching performance as Turing in *The Imitation Game*.

The UK Jewish Film Festival returns with three screenings and events. Join us on 9 November for *Run Boy Run*, on the 11th for *Above and Beyond* and on the 12th for *Gett: the Trial of Viviane Amsalem*, all intriguing films with lively discussion sessions.

Silent film classic *Pandora's Box*, starring one of the first screen femmes fatale Louise Brooks, will be presented in the afternoon of Sunday 9 November with a thrilling live musical accompaniment by *Stephen Horne*, a leading light in this specialised field.

Why not try our new *Phoenix Film Salon*? Two Monday nights a month, Nick Walker hosts the second evening screening of our current feature film, leading a spirited audience discussion in our beautiful Art Deco auditorium after the film. November's events are on the 10th and 24th. Special tickets include tea or coffee.

Fancy a film quiz that projects the clues on the silver screen? Bring your brains to the *Phoenix Use It or Lose It Film Quiz*, once a month on Sunday from 11am to 12noon starting on 16 November. This is your chance to win a complimentary membership to the cinema. Even if you can't answer all the questions you'll have lots of fun trying and give your memory a workout.

Visit our website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk for the full schedule, ticket prices and booking. See you at the movies!

Ally Pally ice show

This year's Christmas production at Alexandra Palace ice rink is *The Snow Queen on Ice*, a recreation of the famous story of an icicle world. The show runs for four days at the following times: Friday 19 December at 7.30pm; Saturday 20 December at 5.30pm; Sunday 21 December at 2pm and 5.30pm; Monday 22 December at 7.30pm.

Tickets (for which there will be an additional booking

fee) cost £11 for adults, with concessions of £9 for 14 years old and under and for the over 65s. Wheelchair users have free carer entry. No tickets will be sold at the door and they will stop being sold for the next session on the midnight before (unless previously sold out). To book or for further details call 020 8365 2121 or visit www.alexandrapalace.com.

What's On...

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

Saturday 1 November

• **Winter Fair** in aid of Combat Stress (Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society), 11am - 4pm, to be opened by Martin Bell; Free Church Hall, Northway, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 6PB. Collectables, china, glass, jewellery, crafts, cakes and home produce. Lunches, teas and free parking. Entry £1 (children free).

Saturday 8 November

• **Holy Trinity Church fair**, Church Lane, 12noon to 3pm. Attractions include kids' toys and books, face painting, kids' crafts and popcorn plus the adult favourites of cakes, books, jewellery, bric-a-brac, arts and crafts and more.

• **Bonfire and fireworks evening at Finchley Cricket Club**, East End Road. Food and drinks available from 5.30pm. Show starts 7pm.

• **Fireworks at the Walker Cricket Ground**, Waterfall Road, Southgate. Gates open 5pm, fireworks start 8pm. Tickets available online until 5 November and at the gate on the night. More info from www.thewalkerground.co.uk/fireworks

Sunday 9 November

• **Battle of Barnet: guided walk** around Wars of the Roses battle site (1471) with

City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet 2.30 pm at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road. Tickets £8, £4 for under 12s. Call Paul on 020 8440 6805 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm. The Hermitage Ensemble (soprano, violins, viola, cello) perform a programme to include Karl Weigl, Schubert and Mozart. Admission free, collection for Target Ovarian Cancer. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Tuesday 11 November

• **Quizzerama in the Kinks Room**, Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, 7.45pm for 8.0 start. Hosted by Deborah of DezEvents.com. Entry £2 each, teams up to six; winners take the pot, runners up win drinks round. Second Tuesday every month.

Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 November

• **Finchley & Friern Barnet Operatic Society** (FFBOS) presents Mack & Mabel, the Hollywood musical, at The Intimate Theatre, Palmers Green, Green Lanes, N13 4DH. Featuring classic songs such as I Won't Send Roses and Tap Your Troubles Away. Tickets: £13/14 (£10 concessions).

Box Office: 020 8482 6923 or www.ticketsource.co.uk/ffbos

Sunday 16 November

• **Open Sunday at Stephens House & Gardens**, East End Road, 1pm-5pm. The Stephens Collection and The Bothy Gardens are open for you to visit and explore. Make a day of it and enjoy a classic Sunday lunch with main courses from £6.50 and sweets from £2.50 (booking recommended).

Thursday 20 November

• **Quiz Night at Stephens House & Gardens**, East End Road, 7.30pm; £13:50 per person, including a fish and chip supper. Call 020 8346 7812, option 1, or book in person at the house.

Saturday 22 November

• **St Mary's Church Christmas Fair**, 12noon - 3pm, 279 High Road, N2. Meet Santa in his grotto from 1pm-2.30pm. There will be kids' activities, face painting, food, cakes, mulled wine, manicures, knitting lessons, arts and crafts, and three tombolas. Free entry.

• **Battle of Barnet: guided walk** around Wars of the Roses battle site (1471) with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet 2.30 pm at junction of Great North Road

and Hadley Green Road. Tickets £8, £4 for under 12s. Call Paul on 020 8440 6805 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 November

• **East Finchley Open Artists hold their Winter Fair** at Treehouse School, Woodside Avenue, N10, 11 am-5pm. Browse and buy beautifully crafted gifts by talented local artists. Admission free; donations welcome to assist Ambitious About Autism. Details: www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Thursday 27 November

• **The Finchley Society** hosts Christmas in London, a talk by Brenda Cole for the Jean Scott Memorial Lecture; 8pm at Stephens (Avenue) House, East End Road, N3 3QE. Non-members very welcome. Admission £2.

Sunday 30 November

• **Charles Dickens in Barnet**: special Christmas guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet 11.0 am at High Barnet tube station. Tickets £8, £4 for under 12s. Call Paul on 020 8440 6805 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Until Sunday 21 December

• Exhibition marking the **50-year career of Ray Davies** of The Kinks at Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, N17.



Lily Levy at her 100th birthday party. Photo Mike Coles

Lights on for Lily

By Daphne Chamberlain

Some surprise visitors dropped in to Lily Levy's 100th birthday party. All the sparklers activated an alarm and brought in the Fire Brigade, but they entered into the spirit of the occasion. As for the Queen, she had been in hiding there since a Jubilee celebration. Not many people have their special birthday card presented to them by Her Majesty herself, even if she did turn out to be a cardboard cut-out.

Mulberry Court, where Lily has lived for 10 years, celebrated in style. Quite right too, as the energetic Mrs Levy ran a keep-fit class there when she moved in at the age of 90, and is still putting people 20 years younger than herself to shame.

Lily's recipe

"A good marriage and Pond's cold cream" is her favourite explanation of how she looks so good. "It was a fantastic marriage," said daughter Terry.

Dancing may have had something to do with it too. Lily and her late husband Jack loved ballroom dancing, and she also played the saxophone in her teens. She always watches *Strictly* and enjoyed *Dancing on Ice*, going

to a live performance once. Her other big enthusiasm is football. She watches all the teams, but is a special fan of Chelsea, who she has also seen live.

Forty people came to her party, including family from New York, New Zealand and Australia, and there were "cards galore". Lily and Terry, who lives nearby, paid tribute to Mulberry Court manager Robina, who helped to organise the party.

Lily, who has never smoked or drunk, told *THE ARCHER*: "I just wanted everyone to have a good time, with plenty to eat and drink. I wanted everyone to enjoy themselves." Certainly, as someone said to me, it was "a fun party".

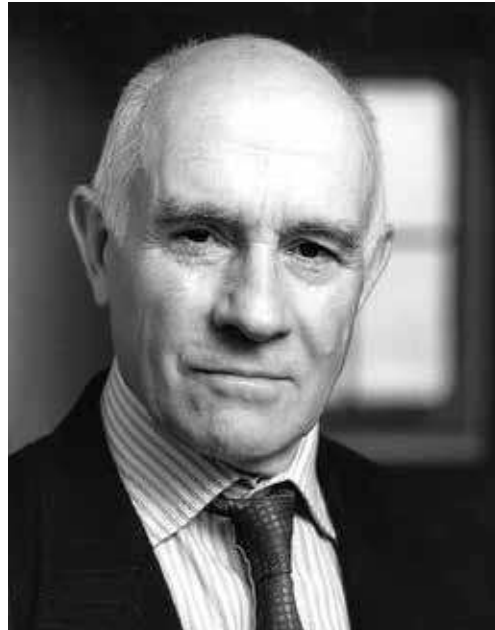
Happy memories of Barry Jackson

A memorial service for Barry Jackson will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly on Tuesday 2 December at 2.30pm. Barry, who lived in Park Hall Road with his wife Denise and son Aubrey for 18 years, passed away on 5 December 2013.

Nationally Barry was known for his many roles as an actor on stage, film and television (internationally on TV for his part as a forensic scientist in the series *Midsummer Murders*).

At home in N2 his family and friends knew Barry as a busy man with many interests which included tending his allotment, bee keeping and turning wood into beautiful objects. Barry taught tai chi, was a shiatsu practitioner and an Aikido black belt.

He was community spirited and helped out with meals on wheels, actively supported Neighbourhood Watch, the Phoenix cinema and East Finchley Open. He also delivered *The Archer* for many years. For a picture of the lovely man that Barry was, you can read his obituary in our online archives. Go to www.the-archer.co.uk and look for page 9 of our January 2014 issue.



Barry Jackson

The Archer tea towel ... buy now for Christmas

The Archer tea towel makes the perfect Christmas gift for family and friends. The Cherry Tree Gift Shop in the High Road is kindly stocking it for us and handing over all the money to support three local youth charities.



They are the Monday Youth Club, the Finchley Youth Theatre and a reading project for youngsters at Strawberry Vale.

Pop in and buy yours today. And you can still order your tea towel by post. Send a cheque made payable to The Archer for £5 per tea towel to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. Include your name and address and we will deliver to your door free of charge.

Letters

Kindness at the tills

Dear Editor,

I shopped at Iceland in the High Road early in October and my Visa credit card was rejected three times. I do not take more cash than I expect to need, neither do I take my direct debit card, for the same safety reasons. I had both available at home but felt unable to make the journey again that day.

However, a very kind woman in the checkout queue said it would give her pleasure to pay it for me and she could do it without herself noticing. I wasn't sure I had heard properly so I asked her what I should do next. She said: "Nothing, just don't worry about it."

Then another woman handed her something and said she would like to contribute too. I was deeply moved and grateful for their kindness and generosity.

Later that afternoon, I remembered I had put my card in the wrong slot and it bent. I must have damaged it and stopped it working. I rang the bank and they will send a new card.

I hope the two women involved will read this letter and get some idea of my gratitude.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

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

Where there's a will...

November is Will Aid month, and to get your will drawn up by a local solicitor in return for a voluntary donation to charity you need to make an appointment now!

Don't forget, during Will Aid month participating solicitors won't charge you for writing a basic will. Instead, they will invite you to make a donation to Will Aid's nine charities. The suggested voluntary donations are £95 for a single will, or £150 for a pair of 'mirror' wills. Please call 0300 0300 013 or email enquiries@willaid.org.uk

How to make your own sloe gin

Try this autumn recipe from Finchley WI president Elizabeth Alcock. Sloe gin is a traditional seasonal drink, made now in time for the coming winter season's celebrations. Sloes, also known as wild damsons or the fruit of the blackthorn bush, are plentiful at Frynt Park in Wembley and on the Heath Extension.

You will need:

1 litre gin (cheaper the better) & one extra empty bottle with seal

A sharp needle (long darning type helps)

400g sloes

150g granulated sugar

Method:

• Wash and dry bottles, keeping gin safe in a jug.

• Prick the sloes with a needle (higher yield if you freeze them overnight first).

• Place sloes to half fill each bottle.

• Add all of the sugar.

• Top up with gin and replace the cap. Secure it well!

• Give it all a good shake. Leave in a cool place and shake it every day for a month.

• When the colour has developed and all trace of sugar has vanished, decant the lovely purple liquid into a clean bottle or decanter

• If you find this recipe too

sweet, just adjust the sugar quantity.

The sloe gin keeps well and, it's reported, is like Malmsey after 10 years. Don't like gin? Use vodka instead! If in doubt what a sloe looks like, check out the internet. This site is helpful: www.sloe.biz

Finchley WI meets at Stephens House, 17 East End Road, N3 7QE at 8pm on the second Wednesday each month. Non-members fee £5.

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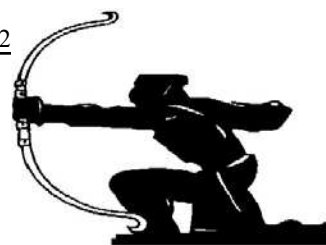
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New lease of life for Friends of Cherry Wood

By Debbie Linton



Cherry Tree Wood in late autumn. Photo Mike Coles

Winter warmer in the wood

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard
With the autumn here and the days becoming shorter, parks can seem less inviting or 'alive' than in the summer. The staff at the Cherry Tree Wood kiosk café have plans to face this head-on by keeping it open most days during the winter months as a way of breathing life into the park.

If the management were to get the go-ahead they would serve more hot food and drinks than in the summer, possibly with pub-style outdoor heaters around the patio area. They intend to make the park a more social, inviting and safe place by providing somewhere fully staffed where you can meet up over a coffee (hopefully also meaning the park toilets stay open longer too!) during what would otherwise be a slump time for business.

The staff have shown throughout the summer months that they are full of good ideas (such as painting the kiosk green to suit the park setting and adding flowers and ice cream pictures to it) and the food there has always been good. Like all staff I have known there, they are friendly and remember locals such as me and don't mind chatting to customers, though they always give priority to serving.

I would be delighted if autumn and winter openings were to become a regular feature. Who knows, they might even set a trend for other parks...

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood was founded a number of years ago by a group of dedicated East Finchley residents who decided to play an active role in managing and protecting the woodland.

Over the last couple of years, the charity has been dormant. However, we are now looking to reinvigorate it by finding a new committee, some fresh input and some different faces.

Our charity has worked alongside Barnet Council to help preserve the woodland and its wildlife, working sympathetically to evolve facilities to meet the needs of its changing users.

We need you to get involved
Have you got skills, ideas or

experience that could help preserve the woodland and enhance its facilities? If you use and enjoy Cherry Tree Wood, please don't take it for granted. Come to our AGM on 23 November and help all of us in the community to look after it. We're meeting in the Old White Lion pub next to the tube station and proceedings start at 12pm.

We have funds available to spend and a membership list of over 150 people. We don't require lots of time, just energy, enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in. For more information about our organisation please see our website at www.cherrytreewood.co.uk.

Everyone is welcome on 23 November, so please come along and get involved.

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Catherine takes the concert spotlight

By Marian Bunzl

For our November concert, the North London Chorus will be back home at St. James's church in Muswell Hill and it will be a very special occasion. Our accompanist Catherine Borner has been with us now for ten years.

We are very lucky to have Catherine; she is a superb pianist who, from an ordinary school hall upright piano, can evoke a whole orchestra whatever the composer, or style, from Monteverdi to Benjamin Britten to Stephen Sondheim, from Requiem Mass to Oratorio to American Musical, and who does it, seemingly, with the greatest of ease. And she always manages to include the vocal lines for us to follow and to



Catherine Borner.

keep track of us when we don't!

From background to foreground

But however brilliant, choral accompanists live mainly in the background: their art is on display at rehearsals, the public rarely gets to hear them, and on the odd occasion when they are needed at the concert, they tend to get taken for granted.

So for her tenth anniversary, we would like to bring Catherine into the foreground. As the highlight of the evening, under the baton of Murray Hipkin, with the Meridian Sinfonia, she will perform Mozart's *Piano Concerto No 23 in A*. Of course

the choir will also sing: a short lively *Te Deum* by Haydn, and Beethoven's beautiful *Mass in C*.

Please come to the concert on Saturday 22 November at 7.30pm at St. James's Church, Muswell Hill and enjoy the wonderful playing that we get to hear every week.

Tickets cost £20, £15, £10 (concs. £2 reduction). Ticket-line: 0203 468 1213, or online at ticket@northlondonchorus.org, or from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, or at St James's Church bookshop.

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