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Quite a buzz: A hive and its inhabitants made from wool



Basket case: A beautiful bouquet of knitted flowers



High rise rose

Summer's End

A short story by E.T.Laing

I am lying in the long grass, maybe for the last time this year. Another summer is coming to an end. The branches of the poplar tree high above me are black, silhouetted against the blue sky. But their fluttering leaves turn bright green and gold as they rustle in a light breeze. Time passes. The breeze subsides. A few ragged clouds scud across the sky. But the rest of the world stands still.

Later in the afternoon, back in our quiet road, the sounds of the piano scales repeat endlessly, alternating with the clink, clink, clink of garden shears, the sounds of the lawnmower and the hissing of the spray over the grass in the garden of Mr and Mrs Wilson who live next door. She is so pretty and he is so handsome; although she is now over thirty and they are still waiting for a baby.

The elderly twins at the end of the street will wash their car again this Saturday, as they always do. They have not driven it yet, after three years. The cows will amble home at sunset, and chew at our hedge as they go. Later, Holy Hector, the vicar, will pass on his daily walk up the bridle path in the warm evening air.

On the kitchen table the water in the jam jar containing our sticklebacks is turning cloudy, and they will probably die. But they will be an excep-

tion. Almost everything else will remain as it is, just as it should be. The poplar tree will always be there, just a little taller. We will grow up slowly, but not grow old. Summers will come again, and they will be more or less the same. For ever.

An extract from a collection of reminiscences about growing up in the 1940s. E.T.Laing ("Ted") is one of the East Finchley Writers Group, meeting on Wednesdays at The Old White Lion. Details from Carola on 020 8883 5808.

Beauty of the knit-ural world

By Sheila Armstrong

Through the summer, artsdepot in North Finchley was host to a fun community knitting exhibition. The sound of bird song signalled the presence of Blooming Marvellous in the Apthorp Gallery and a garden of delights of many things vegetable and floral awaited within... all made from wool.

Birds, beasts and other living things were knitted and organised into gardens, greenhouses, picnics and hanging baskets, making a very colourful sight with appeal to all ages. It was followed up with workshops for children on Saturday mornings. Find out about future sessions

at <http://letslearnto.co.uk/>
Organised by Pauline Stanley, a participatory visual artist, over 2,000 knitters of all ages contributed their creations. The whole project was inspired by the Plasticine Garden exhibited two years ago at the Chelsea Flower Show.

New term, new voices!

A-chord, an East Finchley-based adult choir, begin a new term with new songs to learn from Thursday 4 September, meeting 8pm to 10pm at The New North London Synagogue, The Manor House at 80 East End Road, N3 2SY.

If you've always wanted to sing but never dared to give it a go, the choir welcomes you to join them for a free taster. No audition is required and being able to read music is useful but not essential. A-chord sings light, popular music including songs from musicals, and the folk and pop repertoires.

Although the choir rehearses in a synagogue, it is not a Jewish choir and A-chord welcomes anyone who wants to sing, regardless of religious background. For more details, call Laura on 07732 120464 or email a-chord@gerlis.com

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