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THE ARCHER



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July 2015 No. 258 **20p**
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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

In front of the festival crowds

The Long String Hawkers keep hundreds of people entertained on The Archer stage at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood.

They were one of many bands, schools, clubs and community groups who performed on the day and contributed to the buzzing atmosphere as thousands turned out to enjoy the day.

And there was so much more going on... Turn to pages 6-7 for our fabulous festival photos.



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Old Barn to be demolished

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council has announced that it plans to demolish the Old Barn in Tarling Road and replace it with a two-storey community centre.

The original plan was to refurbish the centre and build a new wing intended primarily for the Somali Bravanese community, whose centre on Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, was burnt down in a racist arson attack in June 2013.

Consultation over local concerns

The new wing was controversial because the council proposed building it on the land adjacent to the Old Barn which has a history as protected green

space. There were also concerns about creating what were effectively two community centres and thereby separating one part of the local community from another.

When it became clear that these issues remained unresolved, the council responded to a request for more consultation by employing its community liaison service to talk to local residents, the Big Local regeneration project, the Somali Bravanese Association and other key stakeholders.

New community centre

The new building will have two storeys with a single entrance, split vertically down the middle with each side accessible from a shared atrium. A

council spokesperson said: "One side will be leased by the Somali Bravanese Association, as a replacement for their old facility and the other half will be for other lease holders. The design will allow facilities to be shared easily."

The new plans will also allow much of the existing adjacent green space to be retained and improved. "There are real opportunities to make that space much better for community use," said the spokesperson.

The council will send out drawings of their plans with a survey sponsored by the Big Local. If you want to take part in the survey, go to www.grange-biglocal.org. The council will also hold a public exhibition of the plans during July.

"We're encouraged by the news that Barnet Council are proposing to build a new community centre that will be multi-purpose," said Pat Murphy, chair of the Big Local.

"We look forward to working with all involved and to engaging with people living in the area to ensure that the new centre meets the needs of local people," said Dinah Beamish, Vice Chair.

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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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Esso to close its garage on Church Lane

By Janet Maitland
Last month we investigated a rumour that Tesco was planning to open a store on the site of the Esso garage at 217 High Road. At first Tesco's spokesperson told us confidently that yes, they were planning on opening an Express store.

They retracted this statement after realising they had confused North Finchley, where Tesco are opening a store, with East Finchley, where they are definitely not.

Hunt the garage

However, Esso has now confirmed that the garage on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road will close later this year.

"Closures of this kind can take some time to arrange, and it too soon for us to report on the likely future use of the site," said a spokesperson for Esso.

The Esso service station at the junction of the Great North Road and the A1 will continue to operate. There is also a BP garage on the North Circular eastbound carriageway near Strawberry Vale. Otherwise, the closest places to fill up are local supermarkets, which seem to be starting to dominate the petrol market nationally.

Back to the High Road Esso: all we can be certain of at the moment is that whatever the garage will be replaced with, it won't be a Tesco. What would readers like to see built on this site? Alternatively, what would you *not* want on this site? Email the-archer@lineone.net or let us know on Facebook and Twitter @TheArcherN2.



Friendly chat: A coffee morning under way at the Stag.

Coffee mornings hot up

Lots of people have been enjoying a nice cuppa with others at EFAB's new community-led coffee mornings. Everyone is welcome to come in and have a chat with fellow slurpers at the Bald Faced Stag in the High Road from 10.30am to 12.30pm every Monday. If you would like to join the EFAB Friends and volunteer some of your time to help run these sessions, just go along, or contact Lisa Smith on 07909 998453 or email us@efab.org.uk

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Planning Applications

Barnet Council

The Alexandra, 1 Church Lane, N2

Change of use from A4 (drinking establishment) to A3 (restaurants and cafes). Two new canopy structures to rear. Rebuilding of existing new canopy. New roof to front patio arch.

18 Blandford Close, N2

One rear and one side dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

74 Brackenbury Road, N2

Roof extension, including rear dormers and two front roof lights. (Lawful Development Certificate).

11 Cherry Tree Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 5.9 m from original wall, eaves height 2.55 m, maximum height 3.46 m.

31 Cherry Tree Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension. Roof extension, including hip to gable, rear dormer with Juliette balcony, and two front roof lights, to facilitate loft conversion.

24A Church Lane, N2

Change of use from A1/2 to B1.

46 Fortis Green, N2

Conversion into four self-contained flats. Includes alterations to basement to provide habitable rooms, with associated light wells to front and rear, and loft conversion with new rear dormer.

Fuel Land Allotments, High

Road, N2

Installation of composting toilet.

85, High Road, N2

Four internally illuminated fascia signs, one internally illuminated projecting sign, one internally illuminated ATM tablet, one reverse applied vinyl ATM tablet, one face applied vinyl ATM cladding, one nameplate, one web/tel vinyl.

105 High Road, N2

Three-storey rear extension.

388, High Road, N2

Part single/part two-storey rear extension.

3 Stanley Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Haringey Council

8 Church Vale, N2

Roof extension. Ground and first floor rear extensions.

20 Church Vale, N2

Outbuilding in rear garden. (Certificate of lawfulness.)

5 Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 5.6m, eaves height 2.75m, maximum height 3.85m.

6 Fortis Green Cottages, N2

Demolition and rebuilding of single-storey side extension.

26 Shakespeare Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Alterations to bay and ground floor windows. (Certificate of lawfulness.)

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Run in the sun

By John Lawrence

“Fantastic”, “really well organised” and “great community atmosphere”... these were some of the responses to the very first Race the Neighbours 10km run between East Finchley and Muswell Hill.

Hundreds of people were there to cheer on 250 runners as they set off from Cherry Tree Wood at 9.30am on Sunday 7 June in warm sunshine and to applaud them as they returned there, crossing the finishing line with grimaces or smiles of relief

on their faces.

The question is, who was fastest? Was it those who ran for N2 or those who ran for N10? Well, the very first Cherry Tree Cup for the fastest neighbours went this year to N2. The fastest 25 runners from N2 completed

Race organisers Greg Swimer and Avi Freeman were delighted with the success of this inaugural event. They say there is every desire and intention to turn it into an annual event and the team behind it has already started discussing

Our photographer Mike Coles was there on the day to catch all the action. We hope you enjoy his photos.

Did you take part in Race the Neighbours? Let us know what the race was like for you and whether you'd like to see it return next year. Email the-archer@lineone.net or find us on Twitter and Facebook @TheArcherN2.



All the winners.

the course in an aggregate time of 19 hours and 47 minutes; the fastest 25 from N10 managed 21 hours and 19 minutes.

The overall race winners

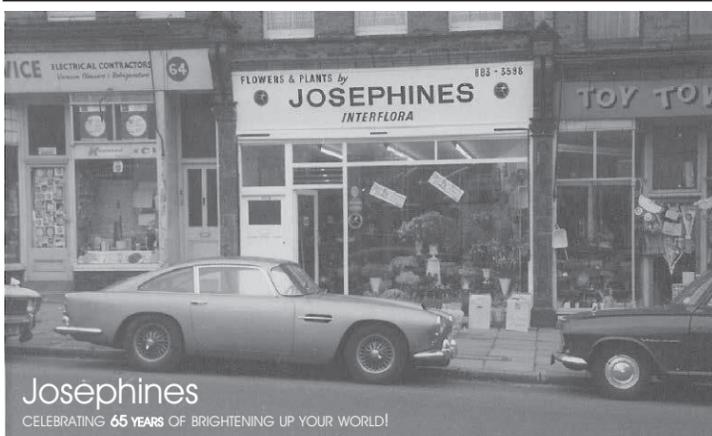
(male and female) were Henry Beynon and Rebecca Bunting. The full results with all names and times are available online at: www.stuweb.co.uk/race/RA



One of the winners on the final straight



On the run: the youngest runner crosses the finish line



plans and ideas for next year.

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Artist in residence

Laura Fishman, a member of East Finchley Open, has been appointed artist-in-residence at Stephens House in East End Road, N3, where she is a regular visitor. Until October, she will be painting and drawing on the site as well as working in a little studio in the 'secret tower' in the highest part of the building.

The property is the former home of Henry 'Inky' Stephens whose family owned the ink business familiar to many schoolchildren who owned fountain pens. Towards the end of the year there will be an exhibition of Laura's work at the house. Find out more about Laura and her work at: www.laurafishman.blogspot.co.uk



One of Laura Fishman's portraits of Stephen's House and gardens



EFO artists' open house weekends are back this month.

Invite yourself into an artist's house

Members of the local East Finchley Open Artists group are having their 15th annual Open Houses weekends on Saturday and Sunday 4-5 and 11-12 July. In and around East Finchley houses and studios will be opening where you can enjoy, and maybe even buy, all kinds of art, ceramics and jewellery. See brochures and posters in local shops or log on to www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk for a map of venues.



Greenhouse gas - the day the earth stood still (in East Finchley). Photo Craig Johnson

Out of this world

Latex alien props and Star Wars Lego are all in a day's work for photographer Craig Johnson. He studied for his master's degree in film and photography at Middlesex University and has been creating award-winning fine art photography for 16 years.

Craig's work taps into fantasy realms and the paradoxes of worlds running parallel with each other. His most popular work is titled Greenhouse Gas,

a series of four staged scenes of a garden in East Finchley shot on large format film using eight-hour exposures.

Another of his pieces is called The Witch is Dead, named after the final scene in the Wizard of Oz but using a modern garage setting with a mannequin's legs poking out of a foggy doorway.

Craig prints onto one-metre aluminium sheets. His work on alien themes has been displayed in shopping centres in Kuala Lumpur and on Oxford Circus tube station's Platform for Art

in 2008. In 2007 Craig won the People's Choice Award at the artsdepot in North Finchley and in 2012 he won the Pride in the House exhibition at Lauderdale House in Highgate.

You can see his work and his props as part of the East Finchley Open House weekends on 4-5 July and 11-12 July from 11am to 6pm at 45a Sedgemere Avenue, N2. Craig is one of many artists opening their homes and studios on those weekends. For full details, visit www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

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Visitors always welcome



Saying goodbye: Tim Bowden at Holy Trinity Primary.

Tim moves on after 10 years

Pupils and staff at Holy Trinity Primary School will say farewell to their headteacher Tim Bowden at the end of this month.

Tim, who has led the one-form-entry primary school in Eagans Close for 10 years, is moving on to lead Hillyfield Primary Academy in Waltham Forest.

Hillyfield is a six-form entry school with more than 900 children on its roll and it is expected to grow over the next five years to reach a full capacity of 1,400 pupils.

Tim has been an inspirational headteacher for the hundreds of youngsters who have passed through Holy Trinity under his care. Parents and staff have appreciated the hard work and drive he has brought to his role and the friendly atmosphere of learning and positive support he spread throughout the school.

Outstanding

During his time as headteacher he has overseen the transformation of Holy Trinity's outdoor facilities, including an outdoor classroom, garden area and new playground facilities. Most recently, his staff and pupils have been rewarded with an 'Outstanding' rating from

their latest Ofsted inspection.

Tim himself says: "It's been 10 great years and a fantastic journey. Thanks to the whole school community, especially the children and my fabulous staff. I leave the

school in a great place and I know it will continue to thrive." Deputy headteacher Roz Kimani will act as interim head for the next academic year while the school governors seek to fill the role on a permanent basis.

New head at Academy

The governors at the Archer Academy have announced the appointment of Lucy Harrison as the school's new headteacher to replace Mick Quigley.

A statement said: "Lucy has been the deputy headteacher from day one, and has been a driving force in establishing the school and developing its excellent reputation. She is a familiar, trusted face to everyone in the school community, popular with and respected by staff, students and parents alike."

Speaking of her appointment, Lucy said: "I am thor-

oughly looking forward to supporting the staff, students and parents of the Archer Academy over the coming years and building on the strong foundations we have in place."

She will officially take up the post in September 2015 as the school moves to its new Stanley Road campus. Mr Quigley, who has led the school since it opened in 2013, is relocating to Malaysia with his wife.

Reward offered over arson attack

By Janet Maitland

Police are offering a £5,000 reward for information leading to the prosecution of those responsible for the arson attack on the Somali Bravanese community centre in Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, in the early hours of 5 June 2013.

The fire completely destroyed the centre which has since been demolished. Graffiti reading 'EDL' was found on the outside of the building and police are treating the incident as a hate crime. No arrests have yet been made.

Specialist officers from the Met's Counter-Terrorism Command are leading the investigation and detectives continue to appeal for anyone with information to get in touch. They would like to hear from anyone who was in the vicinity of Coppetts Road on the evening of 4 June or the early hours of 5 June.

They are also looking for information about a light-coloured Toyota Corolla Verso car, which was seen very close to the centre immediately before the fire was started. They are keen to identify and trace either the driver, the owner, or anyone with any information about the vehicle.

"We are still determined to identify the person or persons responsible for this act," said Superintendent Paula Light. "I would urge anybody with information to call 020 7230 3046 or to contact Crimestoppers, which is completely anonymous, on 0800 555 111. It's not too late."



On the move: The Singing in London Club.

Singers switch

The Singing in London club is moving from Lauderdale House in Highgate to the Archer Academy in East Finchley in September.

This well-known club with a repertoire based on songs from the West End musicals will be running singing sessions from September at the Academy's Beaumont Place site on Monday evenings from 8-10pm.

Sessions are open to all singers over 16 years old and all levels of singing. There are no auditions. Find out more and book your place at www.singinginlondon.com where you can also reserve a place for an open evening on 14 September.



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All the fun of the festival

Top-notch live entertainment on two stages, a rollicking Punch and Judy show, fearless youngsters scaling a huge climbing wall, actress Michelle Collins handing out prizes for the fancy dress, beautifully crafted items to discover, a United Nations of cuisine from India, Africa, Germany, Greece and the Mediterranean, and beer on tap... no wonder East Finchley's Festival 2015 was another massive success.

Thousands of people enjoyed bumping into friends and soaking up the atmosphere in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 21 June. Everyone kept an eye on the skies but the clouds kept moving and a lot of the time there was sunshine.

Congratulations to all the hard-working organisers from the East Finchley Community

Trust and all the volunteers who joined in on the day to make this such a successful event for everyone. Thanks also to Archer readers who dropped by our stall to buy our charity tea towels or give us stories.

Our photographer Mike Coles was there to capture the fun. We hope you enjoy his photos.



The Parade to Cherry Tree Wood.



Michelle Collins opens the festival with host Pat 'have mercy' Leacock.



London Metropolitan Brass Training Band.



Lucky Strike.



Fortitude Dance Company on The Archer stage.



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YOUNG ARCHER

At the heart of democracy

In March we reported Mike Freer's visit to Limespring School, opposite the tube station. Recently pupils from the school were able to visit him, now that he has been returned as an MP, in the Houses of Parliament.

The children have been studying Britain as a topic and have become very knowledgeable about democracy, the parliamentary system, the general election and political parties.

They got a chance to see it all in action on a tour of the House of Commons and the opulent House of Lords with a very knowledgeable tour guide before meeting Mr Freer in a lavish committee room overlooking the Thames, pictured below.

School principal Denise Drinkwater said: "We saw the highly decorative Queen's Robing Room and were shown a copy of the Magna Carta as well as where the suffragettes

handcuffed themselves to the grilles in the House of Commons lobby. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to relate all their learning to real life."

The children were also introduced to an SNP member of parliament who explained that in the Scottish Assembly they pressed a button to vote so he was finding the House of Commons "quite old fashioned and slow" in comparison.

Limespring School is a small, independent junior school next to Cherry Tree Wood for primary age children with specific learning differences. Class sizes are kept to a maximum of eight.



Mums Who Run

Jogging or running as part of a group has been shown to have great health benefits and helps to motivate runners to keep at it.

Mums Who Run meet fortnightly at 9.30am on Thursdays at Cherry Tree Wood and are looking for more ladies to join, and even to help 'run' the sessions on any preferred day by acting as a contact and having a simple route in mind. Support is provided. For more details, email sarahglennon7@gmail.com.

The Finchley Charities



Welfare Administration Assistant Required

Reporting to the Welfare & Sheltered Housing Manager
35 hours per week, Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm
Salary £18,000 p.a., reviewed annually

An excellent opportunity has arisen for an additional Welfare Administration Assistant to work closely with the Welfare & Sheltered Housing Manager at a local Almshouse charity based in Finchley N2. We deliver a high quality Sheltered Housing service to London Borough of Barnet residents that have a housing need. Our aim is to provide secure and comfortable accommodation in pleasant surroundings which enables residents to live independently. Candidates should possess good people skills, be computer literate, have previous administration experience and be able to handle resident/applc issues sensitively.

Resident Sheltered Housing Officer

Wilmot Close, East Finchley, N2 8HP
Required to join a team of 5 Sheltered Housing Officers, reporting to the Welfare & Sheltered Housing Manager

Free accommodation - Permanent position
35 hours per week, Monday to Friday
Salary £16,500 p.a., reviewed annually

An excellent opportunity has arisen for a Sheltered Housing Officer at a local Almshouse charity to deliver a high quality housing management service to our sheltered schemes. The main duties are to be responsible for the general welfare of the residents and the management and maintenance of the schemes. Our aim is to provide secure and comfortable accommodation in pleasant surroundings which enables residents to live independently. Candidates should have experience with older people, possess people skills and be able to handle resident issues with sensitivity and discretion.

For further information and an application pack, please call 020 8346 9464 or email amanda.peters@thefinchleycharities.org.

Closing date 27th July 2015



Emergency aid: Bishop Douglass pupils with their fundraising cheque.



Summer reading

Join the annual Summer Reading Challenge at East Finchley Library, part of a national campaign run by The Reading Agency, which encourages children aged four to 11 to read six books during their summer holidays.

Children of all reading abilities can read whatever they choose: stories, joke books, fact books, or even listen to audio books. It doesn't matter as long as they are borrowed from their local library.

The Summer Reading Challenge runs from Saturday 11 July to Saturday 5 September and the theme this year is 'Record Breakers'!

To join, pop into the local library and talk to a member of staff who will be happy to sign you up! You will need to be a member of the library, but it only takes a couple of minutes to join.

Earthquake emergency

Secondary school pupils in East Finchley have raised more than £2,400 to help victims of the series of earthquakes in Nepal at the end of April and start of May.

Students at Bishop Douglass High School raised £2,448 with activities such as cake sales and car washes; the money has been donated to Catholic aid agency CAFOD's Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

More than eight million people were affected by two major earthquakes in the mountainous country, with over 8,000 people killed and 2.8 million forced to leave their homes.

CAFOD has provided food, shelter kits, and emergency supplies in seven of the worst-hit districts. Over £56 million has been

donated to the appeal launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee, of which CAFOD is a member.

Practical love

Year 12 student Diana said: "When we saw the news we all wanted to do something, to get involved. As a school we sympathise and empathise with the people of Nepal."

"When we started fundraising we found that everyone at school was really keen to help. We organised car washes, cake sales and held collections in school to raise the money."

Dig up Stanley Field

One of the first community events at Stanley Field now that it is home to the Archer Academy's new campus will be a Big Dig gardening weekend on 5-6 September.

The Big Dig will start transforming the outdoor space around the new school building and community sports facilities ahead of their official opening.

You don't need to be a gardening expert or to bring any tools, although extras will be appreci-

ated. All you need is some spare time, a pair of gardening gloves and a willingness to get stuck in.

Families are welcome and refreshments will be provided. Anyone interested in taking part in the dig is invited to email info@thearcheracademy.org.uk



In and around East Finchley. Check posters or eastfinchleyopen.org.uk for map of venues.



All hail, Vale's Nails!

On Saturday 6 June the ladies of Vale's Nails nail bar hosted a pop-up at Strawberry Vale, N2, providing free manicures and nail art for local Peabody residents in the sunshine.

London charity ART AGAINST KNIVES runs Vale's Nails from 10 Grand Arcade in North Finchley every Monday from 4pm-6.30pm. It is open to females of all ages, offering free manicures, training and a safe space in which to socialise.

The weekly project provides a chance to learn about professional nail care, design nail art and run pop-up nail bar events. These are an opportunity to positively engage with local females, gain practical transferable skills and develop the social enterprise model which the nail bar is working towards. Aside from creating amazing nails, it also provides one-on-one mentoring, support with personal issues, housing concerns, homework, CVs, and access routes into education, employment, and training.

As one attendee called Kelly-Anne puts it: "We need to keep Vales Nails, it's really important because young girls like me can easily access the qualification and support here...there is nothing else around here, now that I'm not at school or college I don't know what to do."



Barnet Mayor, Councillor Mark Shooter and the Lady Mayoress, Melissa Shooter at the Long Lane Pasture garden party. Photo Neil McNaughton

Pasture goes under cover

By Neil McNaughton

Tucked away on the N2-N3 border where Long Lane, the North Circular Road and the Northern Line converge, in one of the borough's busiest corners, Long Lane pasture provides a welcome oasis for nature lovers, walkers and anyone who wants to get away from it all without having to travel too far. This open space has been here since 1912, but is so secluded that many local residents are not aware of its existence.

On Sunday 14 June, members of the Pasture's 'Friends' group, volunteers and well-wishers gathered for a garden party to celebrate the construction of a new wooden gazebo and fencing made possible by a £5,000 grant from Barnet's area grant scheme.

Former Barnet Mayor Brian Coleman, who was instrumental in obtaining the Pasture Trust's 25-year lease in 2009, was joined by current Mayor Councillor Mark Shooter and Lady Mayoress Melissa Shooter at the event.

Local resident and custodian of the pasture Wayne Armsby proudly showed off the tree planting programme, designed to mask off noise from the North Circular, as well as the beehives, water features and protected nature reserves, all made possible by a small army of local volunteers.

The new shelter will also be home to a collection of illustrations showing visitors what can

be seen in its two and half acres of unspoilt landscape, including butterflies, birds, many species of trees, wild flowers and pond life.

The pasture also regularly sees working visits from groups of young offenders, Duke of Edinburgh award students and local school pupils. It is also planned to use the new shelter

for talks, working lunches and planning meetings, especially important given the uncertainty of the British climate!

For information visit the website, www.longlanepasture.org and follow on Twitter @LLPasture.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Mind the gap

School's out or uni's over and it's time to hit the road for that middle class rite of passage that is the gap year. This is the one chance to travel to far off places, meet exotic people and eat unusual food before training to become an accountant.

Back when hippies were hippies and love was largely free no one had a gap year. Some people went to work for charities and dug wells in Africa while trying not to get eaten by lions. Anyone else went travelling and you didn't even need to be rich to do it.

Armed with only a spare T-shirt you set out to find yourself and the rest of the world. You headed for Turkey by Magic Bus, crammed into some battered old heap that had to be pushed up hills and would break down in Yugoslavia. You hitched across Europe until you found somewhere seriously exotic to gaze at the stars.

The main aim was to reach a holy site in the Middle East for some serious contemplation or go further east to India, particularly Goa, so that you could sleep on the beach, smoke mind-expanding substances and come home with a set of bongos and dysentery. If, that is, you got home. Some people's 'gap year' turned into a gap decade.

It didn't matter what you did, it was about rejecting western culture and seeing the world from a different perspective, probably one that was hashish-induced. Soon you were complaining about how the unspoilt beaches of Thailand were being ruined by Aussies looking for somewhere to have a barbie. Oh the innocence of youth, the love of freedom, exploring new cultures and not worrying about whether you could get a signal on your mobile phone. You were in 'Rome' and did as the 'Romans' did. But that was then.

Now the gap year is a rite of passage for middle class kids with smart phones and credit cards. It's not when in Rome, it's welcome to Vegas. Who wants an unspoilt Thai beach when you can have one with beach bars, the latest dance music and a barbie run by a couple of Aussie IT entrepreneurs. And holy sites aren't for meditation any more, they're just the perfect place to strip off and then put the pics on Facechat. Gap year? No, Gap yah.

Give an hour, take an hour

Barnet Timebank is a growing scheme that lets people share their skills with others. Members have shared hours giving and receiving computer help, DIY, gardening, cooking tips and driving theory test help amongst many other things. Requests have included local lifts, web design and help around the home.

To join up and start giving and receiving time, contact Barnet co-ordinator Lex Karlin on 07887 249910 or email: barnet@timebanks.co.uk.

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- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- **Ladies Keep Fit Class** for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **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 Classes** Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. 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
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

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. www.a-chord.uk
- **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 Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **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

Arts Festival on its way

After a brief foray into September last year, the East Finchley Arts Festival returns to its traditional week-long slot in October for its 19th outing.

Running from 3-11 October, the festival will open with a Come & Sing performance of Handel's Messiah and close with Pop Up Opera performing Rossini's Italian Girl in Algiers.

The London Mozart Players premiere a new trumpet work, and there are crowd-rousing evenings promised by Massive Violins and Kosmos.

Crocodiles in Cream is a one-man show about Lewis Carroll that will run all week, and there will be an art exhibition in support of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and The Harrington Scheme. Puppet shows for younger audiences and a local schools concert are also in the line-up.

For more details on the festival schedule and booking, visit www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

Sound of the summer

Singer-songwriter Facio has a new EP out called *Non Parlo Italiano* and is fresh from an appearance at the Midsummer Muswell Festival on 20 June.

The multi-instrumentalist producer and film composer, whose name is pronounced Italian-style and sounds like 'Fatcho', lives in East Finchley and is becoming increasingly known for his catchy Mediterranean melodies and feel-good guitar playing. Find out more about him and watch his videos at <http://faciomusic.com>



Singer Facio

The circus is coming!

In a new and original take on the classic Shakespeare script, Garden Suburb Theatre are bringing the circus to their July production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Members old and new are hard at work not only learning lines but mastering circus skills, such as juggling, magic tricks and unicycle riding.

Ringmaster Leonato will welcome all to performances in the Little Oak Wood Open Air Theatre in the Suburb, an ideal setting for this riotous and witty play.

Former lovers reignite old feuds (and old flames) whilst new flames are furiously fanned and a comical web of deceit is woven to unmask all villains and put the world to rights.

Performances run



Roll up! Garden Suburb actors polish up their circus skills.

17-18, 22-25 July at 7.30pm and 18 and 25 July at 3pm. Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions).

For further details, see www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk or call 020 7723 6609.

What's on at the Phoenix in July

By Nick Walker at the Phoenix

In July, the Phoenix shows three films that celebrate famous men from history: the great director Orson Welles; the maverick musician Brian Wilson; and the lesser known resistance fighter Georg Elser.

Magician: The Astonishing Life and Work of Orson Welles is a fascinating documentary on the great filmmaker, timed to commemorate the anniversary of his birth. Director Chuck Workman skilfully works in the great auteur Welles's greatest moments from the Mercury Theatre, the controversial radio production of *War of the Worlds*, his short-lived golden-boy status at RKO and of course *Citizen Kane*.

In *Love and Mercy*, director Bill Pohlad (producer of *Brokeback Mountain* and *12 Years a Slave*) has made a fascinating biopic of Beach Boys leader Brian Wilson as he struggles with psychosis in his attempts to craft his avant-garde pop masterpiece *Pet Sounds* (1966). Evocative casting includes Paul Dano (*Little Miss Sunshine*, *There Will Be Blood*) outstanding as the young and prolific Wilson and John Cusack (*High Fidelity*, *The Grifters*) as the older genius.

Finally, director Oliver Hirschbiegel (*Das Experiment*, *Downfall*) returns to the theme of Hitler and WWII for the breathtaking story of resistance fighter Georg Elser who could so very nearly have changed the world. *13 Minutes* is an exciting thriller, based on the true story of the man who designed a bomb and attempted to kill Hitler in 1939, but was unsuccessful by only 13 minutes.

For more information on dates, times and booking, come into our foyer or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

What's On...

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

Saturday 4 July

• **Summer Fayre at Christ's College** Finchley, East End Road, 12 noon to 4pm. Everyone welcome for an exciting afternoon of activities and games with live entertainment.

• North London Sinfonia's Summer Concert at Highgate United Reformed Church, Highgate, 7.30pm. Works by Falla, Arriaga and Ravel. Tickets available on door.

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July

• **East Finchley Open artists' open house weekend**, 11am-6pm, at homes and studios around East Finchley. Full details: www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Thursday 9 July

• **Outdoor jazz concert** on the tea lawn at **Lauderdale House**, Highgate. Picnic jazz with John Etheridge's Sweet Chorus, 7-9.30pm. Family tickets available. Bring picnic baskets and enjoy the performance. Book online at www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk or phone 020 8348 8716.

Saturday 11 July

• **Battle of Barnet, a guided tour** of the famous Wars of the Roses battlefield of 1471, with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet 11am at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

• **Medicinal Plants walk in Coldfall Woods**, Creighton Avenue, N2, 2pm, led by local herbalist Krishna Ramamurthy. Free, donation appreciated. www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

• **Finchley Choral Society** performs Dove's *The Passing of the Year* and Finzi's *Lo, The Full, Final Sacrifice*, St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, NW3 3DJ, 7.45pm. Tickets available on the door or from 020 7263 3358.

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 July

• **East Finchley Open artists' open house weekend**, 11am-6pm, at homes and studios around East Finchley. Full details at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Sunday 12 July

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opp. Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm. Intimate Voices presents "Summer Light(e)ning", a concert of light a cappella music for a summer's evening. Includes works by Elgar, Gibbons, Parry, Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers. Free admission, collection in aid of The Eve Appeal, fighting women's cancers. Venue fully accessible.

Friday 17 July and other dates

• **Much Ado About Nothing** performed by **Garden Suburb Theatre** in the Little Oak Wood Open Air Theatre, Hampstead Garden Suburb, 17-18 and 22-25 July at 7.30pm and 18 and 25 July at 3pm. Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions). Details: www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk or call 020 7723 6609.

Saturday 18 July

• **Charles Dickens in Barnet: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. A look at Dickens's connections with Barnet and

Finchley. Meet 11am at High Barnet tube station. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 25 July

• **Ghost walk through High Barnet** and Monken Hadley, the second most haunted village in England. Meet 7.30pm at High Barnet tube station. More details from Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Sunday 26 July

• **Invertebrates walk in Coldfall Woods**, Creighton Avenue, N2, 2pm, led by local entomologist Tristan Bantock. Free, donation appreciated. www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

Monday 27 July

• A musical concert and sing-along with **Singing in London**, Lauderdale House, Highgate, 8.15pm. Favourite songs from the musicals with audience joining in grand finale. Book online at www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk or telephone 020 8348 8716.



Letters



Casualty: The fallen tree in Chandos Road.

Another fallen tree

Dear Editor,

When we saw the picture of the fallen tree in Twyford Avenue in the May issue of THE ARCHER, we did not expect to see a repeat incident in Chandos Road. On 5 May another cherry tree fell on a neighbour's front garden, completely blocking the entrance.

As soon as a telephone call was made, however, the council promptly sent their contractors who cleared the debris efficiently. As the trees are no longer regularly pruned, they are getting top heavy. Could this be the reason for this frequent occurrence?

Yours faithfully,
Manju Mitra,
Chandos Road, N2.

Thank you, driver

Dear Editor,

Recently on the bus I noticed the attitude of the young people towards the bus drivers. No matter they're the ones who are entitled to travel free without tapping the machine or not there is NO SENSE of appreciation to the driver, NO THANK YOU, NO LOOKING TO THE DRIVER AT ALL. I thought England is a land of gentleman-ness or lady-ness, where have they gone to? Can the education, parental teaching & modelling, and the media broadcasting all act to bring the nation to be friendlier and respect each other, PLEASE?! Yours faithfully,

Lily Fok,
Address supplied.

Ugly cover-up

Dear Editor,

I would like to draw to your attention the complete waste of council funds on the recent pavement replacement in Fortis Green.

As a resident there I was incensed to be told a few days before works started that they were going to be tearing up all the perfectly good paving in Fortis Green.

This caused massive inconvenience to residents and people using the bus stops (which have been not

in use) for no good reason. As far as I could see the paving was in good condition and did not need replacing.

Having suffered the weeks of drilling and smashing up paving, you can imagine my shock when I walked out of my front door one morning, not onto smart new paving stones but onto an ugly Tarmac surface. It seems that they have replaced the good quality paving with a cheaper and unsightly alternative.

I feel that whoever is responsible for this appalling waste of public money should be held accountable.

Yours faithfully,
Caitlin Small,
Fortis Green, N2.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"

The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail 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.

Know your place

Dear Editor,

Regarding the vacant Post Office site, those residents bleating about wanting Waitrose can get in their 4x4s and drive to North Finchley, Mill Hill East, Temple Fortune or Brent Cross. For us lesser mortals Lidl, Aldi, Netto or Poundland would be most welcome!

Yours faithfully,
Mike Holt,
Address supplied.

Big fund walker

Dear Editor,

I thank all my friends who sponsored me on the Big Fun Walk on behalf of the North London Hospice on 22 March. Their generosity encouraged me to finish and enabled me to raise £845 for the hospice! Thank you all again.

Yours faithfully,
Rosie Godfrey,
Address supplied.

Moving shapes

Five days of dance, design, music and storytelling workshops are on offer in August as a summer camp for youngsters aged five to 14.

Moving Shapes will be held at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2, from 3-7 August. Each day will run from 8.30am to 4pm, during which time participants will be able to explore dance movement, geometry, stories and sound. The end goal will be a performance created by the youngsters to share with friends and family.

The project is led by Diana Le Quesne, who previously presented dance and design installations in Rome and Milan. Her summer camp has attracted a collective of talented dance teachers.

Spaces are limited. For bookings and information, visit <http://movingshapes.tumblr.com>, email info@aereoballet.com or telephone 07580 041270.

Could you lead a meditation group?

If you have some experience with mindfulness meditation and feel you could lead a community group session playing recorded guided meditations, and support people attending the group by answering their questions, EFAB would like to hear from you.

EFAB Friend Laura has been running successful Monday morning sessions in East Finchley Library for the past few months, but due to new commitments needs to hand over the mantle.

Please contact Laura on 07976 511506 or email laura_roberts79@yahoo.co.uk

Frances Loveday

By Daphne Chamberlain

Family, friends and colleagues have paid tribute to Frances Loveday, whose sudden death last month was a great shock to us all.

She was a member of The Archer team: a former sub-editor and long-time deliverer. But Frances was involved in many aspects of East Finchley life, most recently the ongoing campaign to save Barnet libraries.

She was a member of East Finchley Library Users Group almost from the beginning, and the group's Polly Napper described her as one of their most committed campaigners, quietly but firmly supportive. She said: "Frances visited nearly every library on our marches this spring, and stood for hours on some really freezing street stalls last winter. We will miss her very sadly."

Frances loved books, and contributed to several reading groups, where she could always be relied upon for an honest opinion. If she didn't like something, she always said so. During her career as a primary school teacher, she worked for a time at Martin School, and older readers may remember her involvement with EFNA (East Finchley Neighbourhood Association), the group which started our annual festival in Cherry Tree Wood in the 1970s.

Gardens were important to

her: her own at home, Long Lane Pasture, where she worked as a volunteer, and her allotment next to it. It was in her allotment that she passed away very suddenly, on 3 June, with her son Hector beside her.

Friends remember her kindness, hospitality, zest for life and interest in exploring new places and her devotion to her family. Her husband Chris, her five children and her grandchildren were the centre of her life. We send our deepest sympathy to them and her two sisters.

Golders Green Crematorium was packed for her funeral service, with several people standing, and so was the Old White Lion pub back in East Finchley for the reception. *Thank You for the Days* was sung after the service. Thank you, Frances. We will always remember you.



Frances at a recent library protest march

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Archie: 75 years young and still yearning

Archie is 75 years old this month, qualifying him for his free TV licence. But there seems to be something missing in his life. David Tupman sits in on a conversation between our famous tube station statue and his creator Eric Aumonier.

Archie: Well knock me down with an Oyster card. It's my old mentor Eric Aumonier, famous sculptor of yours truly.

Eric: Archie my dear boy I can't believe you're 75. You're looking so sprightly.

Archie: Yes apart from the old trouble in my inspection plate, all is tickety-boo. Well they do say 75 is the new 50, don't they?



Archie points the way to Morden. Photo by Mike Coles

Eric: Such modesty. You know you are one of a kind especially with your gold trim, pointing your bow over London from high on the north plinth of East Finchley station.

Archie: Eric, it's puzzled me for years, but why don't I have an arrow?

Eric: Oh that's simple: health and safety! Old London Transport bosses were worried that resting pigeons might injure themselves on any sharp edges and they couldn't afford the insurance cover.

Archie: Huh, I see. Couldn't you now rustle up a genuine plastic replica arrow?

Eric: If only I could. But I am no longer of this mortal coil and my heart is now based in New Zealand. Then there's the question of getting a work visa and,

of course, the money.

Archie: Surely as I was a London Olympics landmark and am now an icon for the local Archer Academy the National Lottery could spare a few bob for an arrow?

Eric: Archie, you have to face facts. Statues do not feature in the planners' vision of a 21st century transport system. You're simply not strategic and income generating.

Archie: Tush, I don't think this is fair. I might retire to Bexhill-on-Sea and grace the Art Deco pavilion there with my presence.

Eric: Oh Archie, no! Your friends in East Finchley would be mortified if you were to go. You must stay. You're a national treasure. Who would we have in your place? It might have to be an ex-London mayor.

Archie: Lawks-a-mercy Eric, you've convinced me. I know where my duty lies. It's another 75 years for me in East Finchley.

Glorious greenery

By Nick Young

Congratulations to Church Lane residents Caroline and David Broome, who raised £1,250 for charity by opening their garden to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday 14 June.

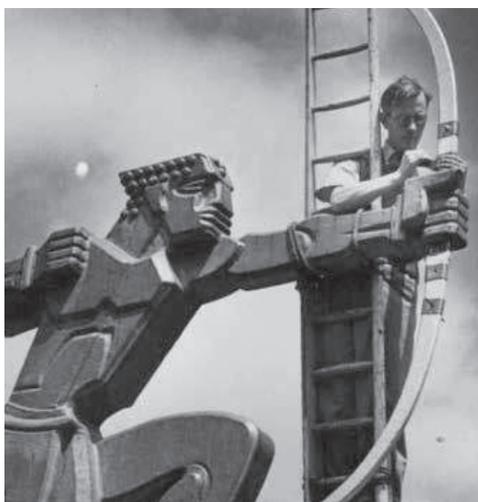
Caroline and David's very impressive garden, which they have been working on since 1997, has musical water features, a roof garden, borders crammed with perennials and an innovative open-air conservatory (the 'catatorium').

They have been taking part in the National Gardens Scheme for several years, during which

time their garden has featured on ITV's *Love Your Garden* and the BBC's *The One Show*. This year, they had 210 visitors, more than ever before, and the money was raised through a raffle, a plant sale and tea and cakes as well as the entry fee. The funds will support ten charities including Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care.



Spring moves into summer: David and Caroline Broome's glorious garden. Photo by Allison Goodings.



Eric Aumonier with Archie in 1940

Eric: You know, Archie, you were one of the biggest commissions of my career at London Transport. I laboured for many hours on your fine features and resolute demeanour.

Archie: Steady on Eric, you'll have me blushing.

A cordial invitation

By Liz Alcock, president of Finchley WI

Last month's meeting of Finchley WI saw us celebrate our sixth birthday, hold our AGM and welcome the Queen's Centennial Baton, all on the same night!

Thanks to the public's generosity, we have raised much money already this year to support local charities. We plan more, starting with Tea and Strawberry Scones at Stephens House Garden Fete on 19 July.

The WI nationally has reached its 100th birthday. It began as a club for Canadian country women and crossed the pond to Anglesey with aims we still share: food production, and to improve the social life of women.

All welcome

If you would like any more ideas, or just want a chat, come along to meet us at Stephens House, East End Road, N3. Our next open meeting will be a Bring Your Own picnic in the grounds on Wednesday 8 July at 8pm (indoors if wet). All ladies over 18 are welcome. Check us out on <http://wifinchley.blogspot.co.uk/>

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