



On the run: Lizzie Cockle

## Help for those who help others

**Lizzie Cockle has two very good reasons for running the London Marathon and she would love your support. She'll be making her way around the 26.2 mile course on 24 April in order to raise funds for Cruse Bereavement Care, which offers free support to over 100,000 young people and adults each year when someone they love dies.**

Lizzie sadly lost her mother when she was four, and then her father when she was 13, both to cancer. She says Cruse's wonderful volunteers offered her invaluable support during her childhood and teenage years, when she struggled to come to terms with these losses.

Lizzie, who lives in Fairlawn Avenue, is hoping to raise over £500 for the charity in order

to help Cruse to continue their services and support others in need.

If you would like to sponsor her Marathon run, visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LizzieCockle>. And if you see her running through East Finchley with her trusty black and white Spaniel-cross dog Molly by her side, give her a wave!

## This is the biggest challenge of my life

By Sarah Shooter

**Around six months ago, I made two big changes: I moved to East Finchley, and I began training for the biggest challenge of my life, the London Marathon on 24 April. I began as a complete novice, huffing and sweating my way from Cherry Tree Wood to Muswell Hill and back, questioning my sanity and lamenting my blistered feet.**

I was encouraged to go further by the wonderful places to run around my new home: the Parkland Walk with its panoramic view to the city, Alexandra Palace, Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood. I've gawped at the beautiful mansions of The Bishops Avenue, which I've now been up and down more times than I'd care to count.

Throughout the miserable and dark winter evenings, I've been inspired to keep going by the other runners I meet along the way, clad in luminous Lycra and steely looks of determination.

I'm also inspired to run by the amazing work of Oxfam, the charity I'm fundraising for. Their tireless efforts to end extreme poverty and to improve the lives of those suffering hardship are truly amazing.

From providing emergency disaster relief to promoting women's rights, and combat-



Sarah Shooter

ting climate change, Oxfam carries out essential work on a global scale. Oxfam relies on the generosity of those who can afford to donate. If you can, please donate, and help me to raise £2,000.

For more information, you can visit my Virgin Money Giving page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/sarahshooter>

## The day we were sent down to the cells at the Old Bailey

By Diana Cormack

**Those quickest to respond to an invitation to buy tickets were able to join the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Mark Shooter, on a fascinating tour of the Old Bailey in February.**

We made our way to the Central Criminal Court through the Lord Mayor's Entrance in Warwick Square to have tea promptly at 4.30pm in the Judges' Dining Room, a place not generally seen by the public.

Of about 36 of us, a third were local mayors with their partners, bearing chunky chains of office. We were seated at a long table stretching almost the length of a panelled room with walls bearing the shields and insignia of former mayors of London.

After an interesting introductory talk by the Recorder of London, Nicholas Hilliard QC, we were taken into Court 1 by our guide Mr Charles Henty, Under-Sheriff and Secondary of London, who possesses a vast and detailed knowledge of the building and all that goes on there.

### Safety

After this older courtroom we were shown a modern one complete with the latest electronic necessities. As in all the courts, huge emphasis was put on the safety of witnesses and members of the jury, emphasised by the banning of mobile phones which could quickly identify them to the world outside.

There was nothing very modern about the cells downstairs, which had only the bare necessities. Behind the entrance desk was a blackboard listing prisons in the area, next to which the names of prisoners arriving the following day would be chalked.

In contrast, the baroque-style grand hall which lies directly below the familiar dome is a haven of stained glass, mosaics and statues, rarely open for public viewing but, like all of the Old Bailey, well worth a look.

### DARE

The tour was in aid of Cllr Shooter's mayoral charity which goes under the slogan 'DARE'. D: Dignity (Duchene Research Fund); A: Assistance (Chai Cancer Care); R: Respect (Homeless Action Barnet); E: Education (Legadel - helping children achieve). Find out more by web searching or emailing [mayor@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@barnet.gov.uk).

## Old Barn: Objections to share of space

By Janet Maitland

**What do you think of Barnet Council's plans to demolish the Old Barn on Tarling Road and build a new community centre in its place? So far, 22 people have objected to the scheme which will be decided upon at a planning committee meeting "sometime in the spring".**

Some objections are about traffic congestion, parking problems and noise. Most are about how the building will actually be used. To read residents' comments, go to <https://publicaccess.barnet.gov.uk/online-applications/> and enter the application code 15/06974/FUL

### Space arrangements

At the end of January, the council unexpectedly designated half of the ground floor as a nursery, while remaining committed to leasing half of the building to the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association (SBWA) in order to re-provide the facilities lost when their centre on Coppetts Road, N10, was destroyed in a racist arson attack in 2013. That therefore leaves a quarter of the building available for residents who are not nursery users or members

of the SBWA, which is described by one objector as "distinctly unfair".

Barnet Council told *THE ARCHER* that the nursery would benefit the community as it will provide "free early education". It would also make the centre more viable as the rent would "support other activities and the centre's operating costs". The spokesperson emphasised that "the majority of groups expressing an interest in using the centre, including a local nursery and the SBWA, were previously tenants in the Old Barn and provide services for local residents", adding that final decisions on space arrangements will be made after the appointment of a management organisation.

Another issue is whether the building will have any room for a community cafe to be shared by everyone using the centre.

The council said it was preparing detailed internal plans which look at potential uses of facilities such as the downstairs kitchen and the extensive grounds and outdoor space.

### How to speak out

Planning Committee meetings are public so anyone can attend. But to speak either for or against the application you must make a formal request, by emailing [planning.enquiry@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:planning.enquiry@barnet.gov.uk) or by writing to Planning Services, London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP. The council must receive your request by 10am on the third working day prior to the meeting. You can check on dates and agendas by going to <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk> and then Planning Committee.

## Decision expected by May on Viceroy Close flats scheme

**The timetable for consideration of the planning application that could see the car park behind Budgens and Iceland covered by a new block of flats is becoming clearer.**

The public consultation period has expired and Barnet Council is now assessing the scheme. If officers recommend approval, the application will be presented to the area planning committee, which next meets on 10 May.

### Objections received

So far, the council has received 33 objections to the plan. All objectors who have requested to speak to the planning committee will be notified of the precise meeting date in due course.

Should officers recommend refusal, however, objectors will be notified of that decision.

As we've reported in our last two issues, developers are seeking to build eight flats adjacent to Viceroy Close. They would sit behind an arched entrance off East End Road, and the existing public car park will be removed, leaving eight spaces left for residents' cars only.

Objectors have stated that the proposed development will seriously impair facilities and access for existing residents in Viceroy Close, reduce the number of parking spaces available for visitors to the High Road and threaten the viability of lorry deliveries to Budgens, Iceland and other stores in Viceroy Parade.