

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Call for action after sharp rise in street robberies

By Janet Maitland

Latest figures from the Met Police reveal that there were seven street robberies in East Finchley in December, the highest level in a single month for 18 months.

In four of these robberies all the victims, and the perpetrators, were teenage boys. They took place in the streets surrounding the tube station between 6pm and 11.30pm over the week between Christmas and New Year.

Knife threat

One robbery involved a possible knife. At about 9.15pm on 30 December two boys in their mid-teens were threatened outside the station by two youths who said they would be knifed if they didn't hand over their cash and phones. One robber was described as black, aged 17-18 and wearing dark clothing, the other as of east-African appearance, aged 16-17, with a squeaky voice.

Facts and figures

The number of robberies in East Finchley last year rose by 60%, with 32 robberies compared to 20 in 2016. Twenty-four of them occurred between July and December.

The situation is considerably worse in Fortis Green ward, with 46 robberies in 2017 compared to 19 in 2016, a year-on-year increase of 142%. Thirty-three occurred in the second half of the year.

Data for the month of December is not yet available for Hampstead Garden Suburb, but of the ward's 29 robberies between December 2016 and November 2017, eight were in Beaumont Close, N2, near the rear entrance to the station and The Causeway, the long footpath leading up to East End Road.

Local resident Sara Boxer, whose son was one of those

mugged near the station in December, urged the community to work together to petition for better CCTV and street lighting. She plans to organise a public meeting along with her husband Jonathan Black, to see what can be done to make the area safer.

Broken CCTV

Foster Percil, the Acting Inspector of Neighbourhood Policing, said that police action in the short term will include high visibility patrols in the vicinity of the station between 6pm and 11pm and, in his words, "liaison with the council regarding CCTV in the area which has not been working recently".

We asked Barnet Council about the broken CCTV and if they planned to increase the number of cameras. They told us two of the eight CCTV cameras needed fixing and that the average repair time was eight days. "We regularly review where our cameras are deployed and take into account the reported offences in East Finchley," said a spokesperson.



Margaret and Kieran move on

After 22 years running Madden's in the High Road, Margaret and Kieran Madden have decided it's time to retire and put the pub on the market. Turn to page 5 for the story.

Free basketball club gets off the ground

By Janet Maitland

A new free basketball club for children in years five and six is starting up at Christ's College Finchley, off East End Road, with support from the Grange Big Local project.

The club is run by Ted Polson of Barnet Bulldogs, an experienced coach who already runs sessions at CCF that are open to young people from any secondary school.

The new club is for any primary school children from the East Finchley area who would benefit from taking part in a team sport and from having the chance to be in a secondary school environment before they transfer themselves.

Julia Hines, from Grange Big

Local, said: "We are supporting the classes because we know there are not that many activities for children in the area that are free or low cost. We think Ted will be able to provide fun and at the same time give the kids that attend a boost in confidence."

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Voicemail (messages only) 0800 612 0748 for editorial and general enquiries or 0800 612 4027 for Advertising enquiries only

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Copy Editor

John Lawrence

Production Editor

Alison Roberts

Picture Editor

Mike Coles

Editorial Team

Diana Cormack

Daphne Chamberlain

Sub Editors

Ann Bronkhorst

Jeff Robson

Finance & Advertising

John Dearing

Distribution

Toni Morgan

Jane & David Marsh

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Traffic survey ahead of Bishops Avenue decision

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Archer asked Barnet Council for an update on their proposal, first reported last autumn, to install a pedestrian crossing at the junction with The Bishops Avenue and the High Road, N2, and to ban the right-hand turn into the High Road at that point.



Turning point: A driver waits to turn right out of The Bishops Avenue as another car leaving the Great North Road crosses his path

Tree-mendous

The beautiful Christmas tree that lit up the East End Road and High Road corner over the festive season would not have been there without the generous support of Maddens, Table Du Marché, East Finchley Electrical and the N2United business network. Special thanks also go to Nick Allan, Gail Coles, Mike Coles, Roger Chapman, Peter Hale, Christopher Hunter and Dino Loizou.

A council spokesman responded: "We met with a neighbouring council in November last year to discuss the scheme and a site visit was carried out in December to address concerns with residents.

Following on from this, we are now in the process of obtaining information which will be used to determine the best option at the junction of The Bishops Avenue and High Road."

We asked whether 'obtaining information' meant a traffic survey, and were told: "Yes. It means the Council is obtaining traffic and modelling data for this."

Moving the problem elsewhere

The neighbouring council is Haringey, whose boundary is just south of The Bishops Avenue. A right-hand turn veto would mean drivers wishing to reach Muswell Hill would be more likely to carry on down the A1, before turning left back through narrow Aylmer Parade to reach the Great North Road and then having to turn right into Woodside Avenue.

A point on which most people agree is that crossing The Bishops Avenue for a pedestrian is difficult and potentially dangerous. We hope that any decision will address that.

Teaching the teachers

It's not just children who are learning at Coldfall Primary School in Muswell Hill. For the last 15 years, the school has been offering workplace teacher training for those new to the profession.

It started with one trainee at the school in Coldfall Avenue and has grown to become a partnership with 12 other schools in Haringey, which this year hosted 24 trainee teachers between them.

The Coldfall Teaching Partnership is now one of the largest single providers of newly qualified teachers to Haringey schools. Nine in ten of their trainees obtain a final grade of outstanding and nobody has been graded at less than good.

Dan Walker, former deputy head of Coldfall Primary School, who now runs the partnership, said: "At a time when recruitment of teachers is becoming ever more difficult, we have a cohort of really excellent, very well-trained teachers. Nearly all

of our trainees are local people who go on to work in local schools.

"The success of our trainees is due to them really understanding the importance of their role in educating and caring for our children. We emphasise that teaching is not just a job, it's a vocation and one of the most rewarding jobs in the world."

Recruiting now

The programme is designed to train people to become teachers while they work, in most cases earning a salary while they train. Applicants must be graduates and have a first degree graded at 2:2 or better and have GCSEs in English, maths, and science. Recruitment is under way for next September.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

105 Brim Hill, N2

Roof extension including one side and rear conservation rooflight.

Adjacent to Five Bells PH, East End Road, N2.

Removal and replacement of existing equipment cabinet with new equipment cabinet, and one new meter cabinet with ancillary works.

13 Elmfield Road, N2.

Single-storey side and rear extension.

9B Fortis Green, N2

Use of second floor as one self-contained flat.

78 Hertford Road, N2.

Single-storey side and rear extensions.

102B Hertford Road, N2

Partial removal of rear roof to create a roof terrace with glass balustrade. Extension to roof, including partial raising of ridge height at front with hip to gable end on both sides. One rear dormer. Two front roof lights.

85 High Road, N2

Change of use from Class A2 (Financial Services) to Class A3 (Restaurant).

336 High Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Viceroy Parade, 71 High Road, N2

One 0.2m microwave dish on existing structure.

Ground and first floor maisonette, 385 Long Lane, N2

Replacement of garage with garden room.

27 Vivian Way, N2

Replacement of single-storey side extension roof and raising of parapet wall. Replacement of side and rear windows. Replacement of rear patio door and side door. Blocking up one side window. Insertion of boiler flue.

Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Probus Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3. Next meeting 21 February.

Brent Hoberman CBE talks about his career as an internet entrepreneur both in creating his own companies and as an angel investor in a range of innovative start-up enterprises. Details from Eric (8449 0566).

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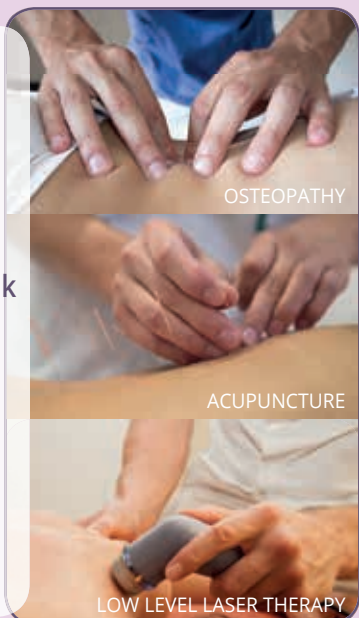
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Final clearance: Sue Tollerfield, left, and Haylee Miller in the Cherry Tree gift shop in its final week of trading. Photo Mike Coles

Gift shop to close after 12 years

After 12 years of trading on the High Road, the Cherry Tree gift shop has closed down. Set up by Haylee Millar and Sue Tollerfield in 2006, the shop became known for its extensive range of gifts and greetings cards.

During this time the pair have been great supporters of the community and, as far as *The Archer* is concerned, were always in the lead when selling our calendars and tea towels for charity.

Expressing their sadness

at the prospect of leaving the High Road, Haylee explained that, with the present lease coming to an end and their children now at university or about to go, this seemed like the right time.

News of the closure has

been greeted with regret by many customers. Paying tribute to them on behalf of Sue and herself Haylee said: "Thank you to our amazing, loyal, lovely customers. East Finchley is very, very special and so are its residents."



The domino effect

Thanks to Tricia Roberts for sending us this photo of the aftermath of the high winds that swept our way in mid-January, knocking over a rack of Domino's pizza delivery bikes parked in Fairlawn Avenue. How apt!

Summer festival 'won't happen' without help of a new generation

Grant Silverman, one of the team organising this year's East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 24 June, makes an urgent appeal for new volunteers to step forward and help.

Many of the current crop of brilliant organisers have been working on the festival for the past 15 years and for various good reasons are unable to continue with their roles beyond this year.

So we are just about to have the biggest brain drain and lose all of the experience that has been accrued over many years. We can still stage the festival in 2018 but only if we can bring in some new blood before April.

There are key organising roles that have to be replaced; the other roles that don't need replacing this year will need to be replaced next year. It is up to a younger generation to take the baton and run with it.

Please be aware that this year it is important that we learn how things are done, it is not for us to walk into a successful festival with brand new ideas until we see how the festival is put together.

Vital roles

We need an organiser, this would suit someone who has run events before. We need a web expert as well as help with social

media. We need volunteers who are willing to do what is required when it is required as there is a lot to do. We will need people on the day as well.

From my understanding, there may be a couple of hours per week of work, not much more than that, but there are monthly meetings too.

Save our festival

I can't stress enough what will happen if even one year is missed. You can bet your bottom dollar that will be the end for the festival, which in my opinion is the highlight of the year in this amazing community.

If you are like me, go to the festival year after year, take your kids and love the atmosphere, then please help your community and get involved. This is urgent and critical. Even if you are not sure how you can help but are willing, please get in touch. Contact: eastfinchley-festival@gmail.com or just turn up for the next festival meeting at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2, on Monday 19 February at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

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Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

The future of the East Finchley base

Many of you have remarked upon the news that the Safer Neighbourhood base in the High Road will be closing. May I point out that the document also said that it will not close until an alternative local team base is found, and that could take some time. This could be space within a partnership building such as a hospital, school, library, fire station, ambulance base, town hall, college, community centre etc.

All three teams here (East & West Finchley & Finchley Church End) will be housed together so the small teams do not become isolated. Our new home could be anywhere within the Finchley area, so all of us will still be close to our wards.

Vehicle crime

We are still experiencing high thefts of vehicles. Do visually and physically check your vehicle is locked. Consider at least looking at different types

of steering wheel locks; our vehicle crime Unit advises that they do make a considerable difference. Remove anything of value from your car.

Crackdown on moped-enabled crime

In December three people connected to moped-enabled crime were arrested following early morning raids at addresses in south London by officers from the Met and City of London Police.

This policing activity is part of Operation Winter Nights, the Met's seasonal crackdown on crime and anti-social behaviour during the winter period.

The use of mopeds, often stolen, in the course of criminal offences is a common tactic used by thieves and organised criminal networks in London and offences range from commercial burglaries to personal robberies; some of the offences have been violent in nature.

On the wings of a winter walk

Anyone who follows the fascinating Bugwoman blog will know she is a great fan of cemeteries. Here she describes a walk in East Finchley Cemetery, off East End Road, ideal as a short perambulation for those wishing to get out of the house in these winter months. Follow more of her nature notes at bugwomanlondon.com.

Dear readers, my heart is already given to St Pancras and Islington Cemetery with its Victorian trees, tumbledown tombs and colony of feral foxes, but I occasionally like to walk in East Finchley Cemetery. This is a much more manicured, controlled space, but it has some spectacular specimen trees, and is a haven for birds.

I spend a lot of time listening as I walk. I find it helps me to tune in to what's going on. There are lots of conifers: cypresses and spruces, pines and fir trees. They vibrate with the twitterings of small birds. I see goldcrests and long-tailed tits, and hear the scolding of blue tits. None of them stays long enough for me to get a photo, but it's enough to know that they're there, working their way through the needles.

There's the sing-song squawking of ring-necked parakeets, the cackling of magpies, the cawing of ever-present crows. The goldfinches sound like little bells. There's a flight of finches at the top of one of the big, bare trees, but they're too far away for me to see what they are.



Still as a statue: This squirrel wasn't going anywhere

bird calls. I sit on one of the benches and wait to see what will happen. Nothing does, except that I notice how the golden of the leaves on some silver birch is offset by the darkness of the firs behind it, and how the yellow foliage on the topiary box bushes make them look as if they're touched by sunshine.

When I am walking, I often think that something will happen, and then I'll know that

tion, and permission, a sense of closure. But what will it be this time?

I take a little path along the very edge of the cemetery and, as I meander along, I have a feeling of being watched. Who, or what, is it? And there, perched stock-still on one of the gravestones is a squirrel. I laugh out loud, because he looks so much like a glove puppet. And there he sits, unmoving, as I walk along the path and then away. While every other squirrel scurries away at my approach, this one seems to believe that if he sits still, I won't see him. As he looks plump and confident, it seems to be a strategy that's served him well.

Once I've laughed with delight, I know that my job here is done. I'm surfeited with wonders and can head for home. As I cross the road outside the cemetery I see a 143 bus in the distance and head towards the bus stop at a brisk but sensible trot – I still have my camera round my neck and so I don't want to do anything foolish like fall flat on my face. Just as I reach the stop the bus pulls away, and I plump down onto a seat, defeated.

An elderly man passes me a few minutes later, and smiles. "Next time," he says, "you'll have to fly."



High heaven: Greenfinches perch at the top of one of the cemetery's trees.

When I get home, I see from my photos that they are most probably greenfinches. These birds were hit very hard by a parasitic disease (Trichomonosis) a few years ago, and the British Trust for Ornithology noted a decrease of 40% in the number of gardens visited by the birds. So, it's cause for celebration if they're recovering. Fingers crossed.

Freedom of the air

There's a theme of wings in the cemetery. Secretly, I always wished that I could fly, and our myths and legends are full of humans who took to the air, from Icarus to the angels. We seem to want the freedom of the air, and perhaps also a release from our heavy, earthbound bodies.

I find the garden of remembrance, where the sound of running water is added to the

it's time to go home. There's often a moment when I think 'Aha, this what I was meant to see/hear/smell'. I am, I suppose, waiting for a sense of comple-

Support for the athletes of today and tomorrow

Applications close soon for athletes to win awards from a charitable social enterprise operated by the UK's largest leisure operator GLL, known as the 'Better' brand.

The GLL Sport Foundation programme provides athletes with support to aid their sports performance, including training memberships, access to physio and injury rehab support and financial awards up to the value of £1,250.

It is directly aligned to the National Governing Body of Sport and has partnerships with SportsAid and the Mary Peters Trust to ensure awards

are provided to the right athletes at the right time.

Athletes, many of whom receive no other funding support, seek awards to transition from national to international level or to achieve their own athletic milestones. To find out more visit www.gllsportfoundation.org. The deadline for this year's round of applications is Tuesday 20 February.



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Kieran and Margaret call time at Madden's

By Thalia Pelligrini

Long-established High Road pub Madden's is on the market and there are hopes that it can be sold as a going concern meaning regulars won't lose their favourite watering hole.

After more than two decades of hard work, retirement beckons for husband and wife team Kieran and Margaret Madden, who are looking forward to winters in Lanzarote, summers in Ireland "... and golf and family in between."

Real ale and Thai food

The couple moved to N2 in 1996. Having sold a pub in Camden they bought Welch's Real Ales in East Finchley, and Madden's was born. In the 22 years Kieran and his wife have run the pub they've watched the High Road change, but while other pubs have come and gone, theirs has enjoyed enduring success.

There was a complete refurbishment in 1999, and a few years later, in 2004, more than 500 members of the Barnet and Enfield branch of Camra voted Madden's pub of the year. This was followed by the launch of the Thai kitchen, which is still running, and a fresh facelift for the interior a couple of years ago.

However, what has best stood the test of time is Madden's welcoming atmosphere. Indeed for many years it provided a weekly meeting spot for *The Archer* team to discuss the latest local news stories. "Nine out of ten people that come in are locals," said Kieran. "We'll miss our extended family and I'll miss pub life. It's all played out in a pub, engagements, weddings, divorces and funerals."

A special place

The couple won't be forgotten. One regular, Ashley Bond, told us: "Kieran, Margaret and their staff over the years have made this place special and they'll be missed by a great many people."

And for those who may have heard the rumour that Sainsbury's have their eye on the pub which adjoins the two vacant shops they had earmarked for a Local store, Kieran thinks not. He's hoping that the pub will

stay as such, maybe even with the name unchanged as an extra bonus. Everyone at *The Archer* wishes Kieran and Margaret a long and happy retirement.



Kieran and Margaret being presented with the Barnet Pub of the Year award by James Francis of CAMRA in 2004. Photo by Kevin Finn



England rugby fans (and one lone Aussie) outside Maddens during the 2003 World Cup (see Many Happy Memories, right). Photo by Fiona Anderson

Bid to save historic building in face of flats plan fails

By Daphne Chamberlain

An attempt to save Valona House, the elegant Georgian building opposite the tube station, has failed. The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has decided not to add what is thought to be East Finchley's oldest house to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

The Archer understands that the decision was based on the fact that there have been significant changes to the extension at the back of the 200-year-old building, and possible enlargement of the windows.

Development to proceed despite objections

This means that the controversial redevelopment of the site on 12-18 High Road (the demolition of Valona House and its replacement with 21 flats



Valona House, pictured in 2005

and two parking spaces) can go ahead. Barnet Council has told us that planning permission for the four-storey building with limited access was issued to developers Safeland on 8 January.

More than 1,000 people submitted a petition to the council last year objecting to the project on the grounds of poor design, risk of traffic accidents, overdevelopment of the residential area and lack of on-site parking.

They claimed that with only two parking spaces and one

small slip road for access, cars and delivery vehicles might well have to reverse on to the High Road, close to the tube station's pedestrian crossing and with a blocked view to their left.

A council spokesperson said: "In terms of when the works will begin, this is up to the applicant. However,

pre-commencement conditions will need to be approved before this can be done. Conditions have been attached to the grant of permission in order to mitigate disturbance to residents during the demolition and construction process."

Many happy memories of Madden's

Regulars and former staff recall happy memories of Madden's over the years.

John O'Sullivan: That pub was one of the reasons that I moved to N2 (Welch's) and lived upstairs of Madden's for about three months. I'm going to miss Kieran and Margaret and the great staff. Just hope it stays a proper local pub. For the record I've been a regular for 35 years.

Ashley Bond: Kieran, Margaret and their staff over the years have made this place special and they will be missed by a great many people. As for memories, too many to mention, some personal. And of course the Rugby World Cup final in 2003 when there was only one Aussie fella, who came in by accident.

Gareth Hogan: I worked and lived here for five years and love the place still. It's sad news for N2 but a happy retirement to the wonderful landlords.

Amy Towers: Some of my best memories are from this pub, my home and work for four years with some of the best people I've ever met. Kieran and Margaret never failed to look after me and treat me like family more than an employee. Half of the regulars here were even invited to my wedding and I still class a lot of them as great friends. A very well deserved retirement but Maddens and N2 won't be the same for me and many others now they have decided to sell up. Bring on the leaving party and the baby Guinness!

Malcolm Sheppard: I remember many fabulous sessions there from when Bob Welch owned the pub and then Kieran and Margaret taking over and keeping it special. I live in Devon now so good luck in the future and best wishes to everyone there.

Chris Hayes: I have spent many happy hours drinking in there over the years, many of which I am unable to remember. I also worked behind the bar for both Kieran and Margaret plus Bob before them. I hope they have a long and happy retirement.

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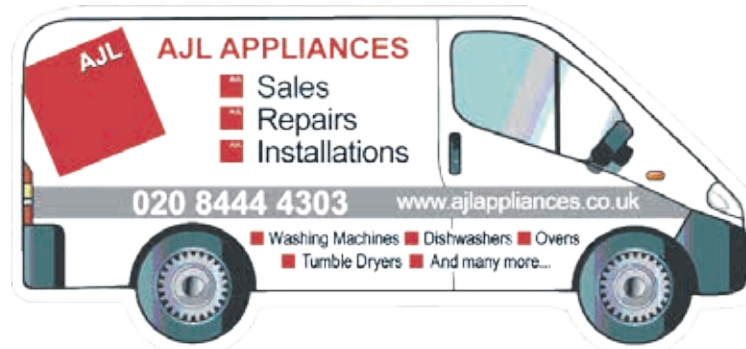
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Up, up and away in Ilona's imagination

Pen and ink artist Ilona Istvanffy may sketch a lot of her East Finchley scenes at street level but that doesn't stop her letting her imagination soar way above the rooftops.

Her black-and-white sketch of Market Place, for instance, centres on the Royal Mail sorting office at the end of Kitchener Road yet she also shows the full sweep of Prospect Ring behind and the tube line that runs between it and East End Road. Another of her super-detailed panoramas takes in the south-facing view from the Church Lane bridge, where she spends a lot of time watching the trains with her 20-month-old son Aron.

Other drawings in her sketch book are more down-to-earth, including portraits of her favourite shops like Margot Bakery in East End Road, and Scott & Son fishmongers and Tony's Continental in the High Road.

Capturing East Finchley's character

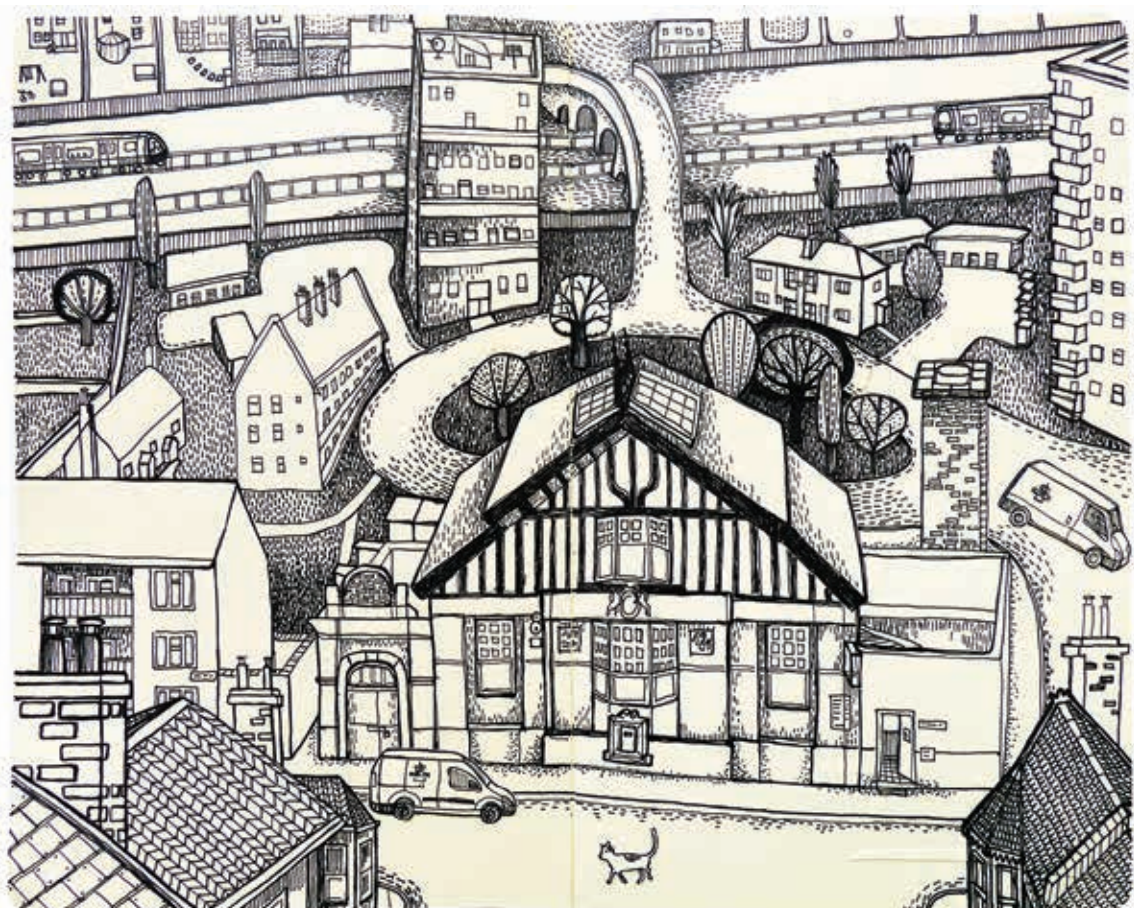
Fine art graduate Ilona was a secondary school art teacher and graphic designer in her

native Hungary before coming here with her husband Saby five years ago. She finds London a dynamic and exciting city but also takes pleasure in capturing the more intimate details of life in East Finchley seen on her daily walks with Aron.

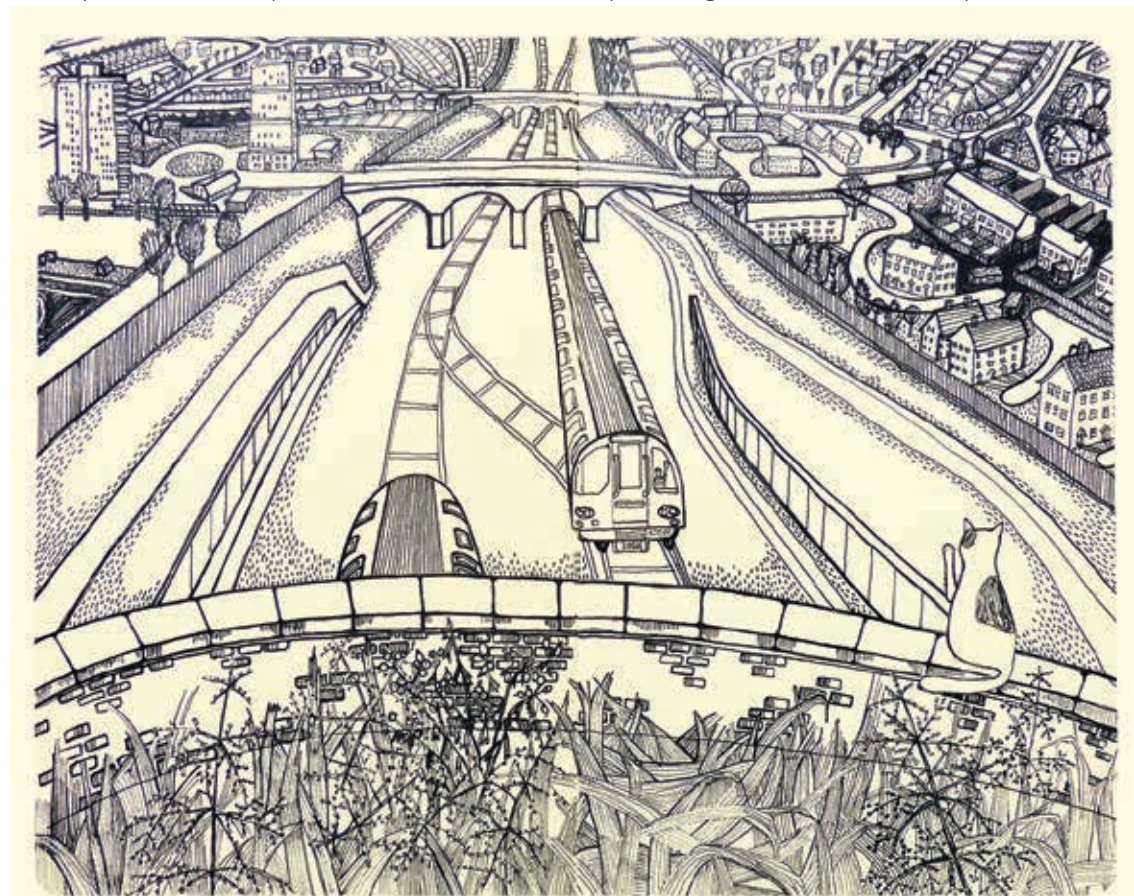
"Everything is new to him and to me," she says. "I like my buildings to be accurate but I don't want all my scenes to be naturalistic. A good drawing for me is one that finds room for everything that shows the character of the area."

"I make sketches and take photos when I'm out. Then I can spend anything from a few hours up to a week completing a drawing. Working just with a pen in black and white keeps everything simple and at the same time lets me include lots of little details."

Find out more about Ilona and her work on her blog: <http://saturart.blogspot.co.uk>.



Bird's eye view: Ilona captures Market Place and Prospect Ring with the tube line beyond



Down the tracks: Ilona's son Aron loves this view south from the bridge in Church Lane.



Ilona

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Top: Margot Bakery and East End Barbers on East End Road. No drone required: Ilona lifts us high above Holy Trinity Church

Fun photographic exhibition that is open to everyone

Asia Mscichowska is inviting locals to participate in an exhibition which has evolved from her 'High Road' photo project. Asia wanted to show her gratitude to the place in which she has lived for four years where, for the first time, she feels part of a community in the UK.

So she has launched 'We are East Finchley', a collaboration between East Finchley Open Artists, which she chairs, and the local heritage project Destination East Finchley. The objective is to show the diversity of people living here.

"Let's show what a beautiful community we are," Asia says. "It would be great to hear some stories of your journey to East Finchley. Maybe you've lived here all your life and you want to reflect how you feel about this. How has N2 changed? All stories and pictures welcomed. We will publish them on the

East Finchley Open Artist Facebook page and selected images will take part in an exhibition."

Sponsors are being sought to cover the cost of printing, hopefully with local businesses giving their support to this. An exhibition which will brighten up the High Road is planned for March/April.

So take pictures of your East Finchley and its people. To join in the project please send Asia your images at: contact@asiamsci.com or use #weareeastfinchley. Deadline date for submissions is 28 February.



Prize potatoes: Can you grow the biggest crop?

Potato challenge

This spring, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society is setting a challenge, open to all ages with no entry fee so that even people without a garden can take part. All you have to do is grow a crop of potatoes.

The society will be distributing seed potatoes and grow bags around the suburb on 3 and 4 February (venues to be confirmed). You will need to grow and care for the potatoes as best you can and bring your grow bag to the Horticultural Society's flower show on 16 June where they will be emptied out and each crop will be counted and weighed. The heaviest crop wins.

To take part contact Yvonne Oliver at the society on 020 8455 8741 or yvonne.oliver17@gmail.com.



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Baby farmers: Amelia Sach and Annie Walters

Every house has a secret

By Daphne Chamberlain

When author Caitlin Davies moved to her house in Holloway, she was intrigued by the thought of who had lived there before her. As she told a recent Finchley Society meeting, what she discovered inspired a book, *The Ghost of Lily Painter*. It also uncovered an infamous part of East Finchley's history.

Lily Painter never existed in life, only in Caitlin's imagination, but a Painter family had once occupied her house. Her researches opened up the world around Holloway at the end of the 19th century, an area then known for its show business connections. The Holloway Empire stood on the corner of Manor Gardens, by the old Royal Northern Hospital, and the teenage Lily of the novel became a singer in the music halls.

Infanticide

Only half a mile away was a very different institution. Holloway Prison was being reorganised for women only, and in 1903 two women were hanged there for murder. Amelia Sach, a 29-year-old East Finchley midwife married to a local builder, ran a nursing home, also offering private adoption, in Hertford Road, N2. An associate, Annie Walters, was discovered elsewhere in London with a dead baby, and police suspected that many others had been killed as part of their gruesome trafficking of unwanted infants. (We've

recounted the story in previous editions: search 'Amelia Sach' in our archives at www.the-archer.co.uk).

As Caitlin Davies explained to the Finchley Society, we know only the outlines of the case. Both women protested their innocence, but we don't know why neither spoke during the trial that led to their executions.

Fiction meets reality

Caitlin has made contact with the great-granddaughter of Amelia Sach's sister, who helped her identify the house in Hertford Road. Her fictional Lily Painter represents one of the young women whose baby was actually adopted.

Caitlin Davies herself is haunted by the lives and fates of the inmates of Holloway Prison. A new book, *Bad Girls*, will be published very soon, as will *Daisy Belle*, the story of 19th-century women swimming champions.

The Ghost of Lily Painter, ISBN 978 - 0 -099- 53813-4, was published by Windmill Books in 2012.

Amy feels at home with yoga

By Diana Cormack

The beneficial effects of yoga continue to be recognised, with classes thriving in health studios, fitness centres and church halls. Now a growing number of classes are based in instructors' homes.

Yoga teacher Amy Quirke holds Sunday morning classes suitable for all levels of ability at her house in Cherry Tree Road, N2. She told *The Archer* that with an entirely different environment to the gym, home sessions have a much warmer feeling. With a maximum of four per class, Amy says she can cater for each participant's particular needs.

Over the last six years she has taught yoga at University College School Active Gym in Hampstead and held private classes in the area.

Breathing and mindfulness

She took up yoga after university as a way of relieving work-based stress and found that both her physical and mental condition improved. She teaches a mindful style of Hatha yoga which focusses on building core strength, stamina and flexibility in the body.

Because the way we breathe has a huge impact on our mental and emotional states, she integrates pranayama - simple breathing exercises.

Viniyoga, a therapeutic style of yoga tailored to individual needs, has greatly influenced Amy. Interestingly, she studied this under East Finchley's renowned yogi Carl Hargreaves. It has contributed highly to her belief in the benefits of an ongoing daily practice.

Amy's two young daughters often join in this practice, copying their mother's poses with no instruction needed. For more information call 07972 240957 or email alquirke@gmail.com.



Strike a pose: Amy Quirke. Photo Mike Coles

Outstanding results

Pupils at Holy Trinity School in East Finchley have ranked sixth in the whole of Barnet for their performance in reading, writing and maths.

Almost one in four of the 10 and 11-year-olds at the primary school in Eagans Close achieved the higher standards of the Standard Attainment Tests, or SATS, in response to a more rigorous government curriculum introduced in 2016.

The school was also in the top 20 maintained schools in the borough for the percentage of children meeting the expected standard.

Headteacher Roz Kimani said: "We're really proud of all the hard work by our children and staff. The 2017 Year 6 class performed particularly well achieving 100 per cent in spelling, punctuation and grammar."

Headscratcher

Word Ladder

By Oliver Skanberg-Tippen

Fill each step of the ladder with a new word that differs from the previous word by just one letter. Answer on page 11.

shark
dying



Rockin' fundraisers

North London based band W3Detour eagerly rallied in support of a great cause when they played for commuters on a charity stage at Charing Cross Station. Their distinctive style of blues and psychedelic rock got the pennies rolling in for The Samaritans. Find out more about the group at www.w3detour.com.

**All Saints' Church,
Durham Road, East Finchley
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(11.00 a.m. on Wednesdays)

(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir.

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on 020 8883 9315

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



Landmark church needs £400,000 to pay for repairs to its crumbling roof

The congregation of an East Finchley church is launching a £400,000 fundraising campaign to pay for urgent roof repairs and protect the historic fabric of the building for future generations.

Repairs to the roof of All Saints' Church in Durham Road are planned to start in January 2019 and are expected to be completed by June of that year.

Fundraising is beginning in earnest now. The restoration bid has already received initial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, including development funding of £34,800. It is hoped the church will be able to secure further backing from lottery money and win grants

from other bodies.

Conservation and more

As well as carrying out essential conservation work, the project aims to provide information on the church, its history and people, to the wider community. Educational material, specifically aimed at children's school visits, will be drawn up.

It is also proposed to complete research on the First World War casualties listed on the church's War Memorial

and to publish the results in a permanent format. There will be opportunities for members of the congregation to be involved in this exciting project and to learn new skills in the process.

Focal point

All Saints' is a landmark building and a focal point for the local community. It is used by local schools and groups for concerts, meetings and other events and, because of its superb acoustic, is regularly used by



The church's hammer beam roof and exterior need repairs

recording companies. It was the birthplace of the famous Finchley Children's Music Group and hosts the annual East Finchley Arts Festival every autumn.

Listed building

The church was built in two phases: the main part of the building from 1890-92 with the chancel being added in 1911-12. It was granted Grade II listed status by Historic England in 2011 in recognition of its high-quality stonework and detailing, notably the window tracery and panelling of the chancel and the very impressive hammer-beam roof.

Father Christopher Hardy, vicar of All Saints', said: "We are delighted that we have received this support, thanks to National Lottery players. The church has been at the centre of

the community of East Finchley for the past 125 years and it is good to know that we are a step closer to preserving it for the next 100 years."



Landmark: All Saints' Church is more than 125 years old



Fine tuning: The Archer Community Choir performing at All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2.

Find harmony, join a choir

New members are welcome to join The Archer Community Choir which meets weekly and is open to any adult who wants to sing in a choir. An ear for music would be an advantage but you don't have to be able to read music.

The choir meets on Tuesday evenings at The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2, from 7pm to 9pm, and sings a range of light popular songs. Fees are approximately £75 per term (depending on numbers) but new members are welcome to try a free taster. For more details, email archercommunitychoir@gmail.com.

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RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

That time of year again

Well, here we go again, time to celebrate true love, renew marriage vows and keep florists happy for another year. Not that anyone really knows who St Valentine actually was. According to the bloke who flogged me 12 roses last year he was an early Christian martyr whose death inspired an entire industry.

He claimed that St Valentine was a poor flower seller in third-century Rome who fell in love with a Vestal Virgin and gave her flowers for 12 days until he was arrested. Due to a uniquely Roman sense of humour he was executed by being drowned in rose petals. For years afterwards lovers would lay 12 roses on his grave in the hope of meeting their true love. I don't know if it worked for lovers, but it sure as hell did for florists.

Fast forward to the weird world of the Victorians and you start to get cards. And once you had the penny post anyone could annoy the person they fancied by sending them a piece of folded cardboard with 'love you for ever' scribbled inside. And, guess what, the person who came up with these is a kind of secular saint in America where the entire greetings card industry celebrates the millions of cards sent every year.

But why stop at cards, because this year is a very special year in the world of wasting money on Valentine's Day tat. Yes, folks, it is 150 years since those wonderful folks at Cadbury gave us the heart-shaped box of chocolates. And you can't get those on your phone, although someone, somewhere is working on it.

And that someone is probably in Japan, because they do things differently over there. In the land of the rising sun it's the woman who gives the man chocolates, and she has to wait another month before he returns the compliment. At least that keeps everyone guessing.

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- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Outdoor Fit Camp** Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2, 6.30pm Wed and 9.30am Sat. Call Martin on 07809 593952.
- **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 beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or info@yogalogy.co.uk
- **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

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir@gmail.com.
- **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.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on missangiea@yahoo.co.uk
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. www.boldbodies.co.uk.
- **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.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
- **Traditional tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly 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.
- **Bridge Club**, every Saturday 1.30-4pm, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.



Four play: The Oberon String Quartet tune up at St Michael's Church in Highgate

Many strings to their bows

By Marian Bunzl

Violinist Jan Matthews and viola player Robert Puzey were in an orchestral rehearsal at music college 20 years ago when a chance remark planted the seed of an idea. In the years since, their idea has blossomed into East Finchley's own much sought-after string quartet.

Jan, Robert and their team of local instrumentalists are known as the Oberon String Quartet, offering bespoke musical accompaniment to a wide variety of celebratory and official functions in London and across the South East.

Bespoke music for special occasions

Their elegant, distinctive sound has graced occasions from weddings to funerals, from birthdays to bar mitzvahs, from corporate entertainments to charity fundraisers, from intimate dinners... to appearing in an episode of *EastEnders* filmed in a hotel in Harrow.

They have equally fond memories of performing at St. James's Palace in front of various members of the

Royal Family, and at a surprise birthday party for the previous owners of the Les Aldrich music shop in Muswell Hill.

For this varied clientele Jan and Robert have amassed an equally versatile repertoire for four players, from the Baroque to the Beatles. Indeed, clients often have even more eclectic tastes; at one wedding the *Game of Thrones* theme was specially requested for the signing of the register, and has since become a popular choice. Robert's arrangement of The Imperial March from *Star Wars* is also much in demand.

Word of mouth

Oberon's success owes much to Jan and Robert's style of management as well as their musical talent. Word of mouth has also helped: a guest at a City dinner was the mother of the captain of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers and her enthusiastic recommendation led the Oberon Quartet to a hunting lodge in Germany to entertain at a party for this regiment before deployment to Afghanistan.

Now the quartet is beginning to meet a second generation of clients: a lady at whose

wedding they had performed approached them at a wedding fair to introduce her daughter!

You can hear and see clips of the quartet playing and find out more on their website www.oberonstringquartet.co.uk. They will also be playing at the Wedding Fair at Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow, on Sunday 18 February. They say anyone mentioning *The Archer* when making a booking will receive a 10% discount.

Shadow and light

Work by artist Christine Watson, of Creighton Avenue, N2, has been selected from over 800 entries to appear alongside paintings by some of Britain's leading pastel artists. See her work as part of The Pastel Society's annual exhibition at Mall Galleries in central London between 20 February and 3 March. Find out more from www.mallgalleries.org.uk.



Pastel passage: Cumae Passage by Christine Watson

Scout group seeks leaders

The 224 North London Scout group that meets in Sheldon Avenue, N6, is looking for volunteer leaders to help with the Beavers (ages six to eight) and Cubs (ages eight to 10).

You don't need to have any specialist skills to join as a leader, and volunteering is flexible, allowing you to dedicate as much or as little time as you can spare. Volunteers should be aged over 18. For more details email Del@224northlondonscouts.org.uk.



Three wishes: The Garden Suburb Theatre cast clutch their unusual treasures.

Has anyone found the genie?

The cast of Garden Suburb Theatre's new production of *Aladdin: a Camel's Tale* show off their treasures but will one of them find the magic lamp with the genie inside?

Their show is set in a land far far away, where the sand dunes of ancient Arabia meet the sea, a Chinese spy is hot on the trail of the baddest baddies, and there are thieves and flying carpets wherever you look. And a camel called Trump.

Performances run at the Bull Theatre, Barnet, on 16 and 17 February at 7.30pm and on 17 and 18 February at 3pm. Tickets are £13/£10, with a family ticket for £40. To book visit www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

What's On... E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Sunday 11 February

• **Hooray for Hendon!**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside Hendon Central tube station at 11am. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; The Haywood Trio (Katherine Bamber on violin, Elizabeth Nevrla on cello and David Trafford on piano) play Bridges, Haydn and Saint-Saens. Free admission with collection in aid of Homeless Action in Barnet. Venue fully accessible.

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 February

• **Garden Suburb Theatre presents Aladdin: a Camel's Tale** at the Bull Theatre in Barnet, a yarn of thieves and betrayal, magical genies and flying carpets. Performing 16 and 17 February 7.30pm, 17 and 18 February 3pm. Tickets £13/£10; family ticket £40. To book visit www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

Saturday 17 February

• **Hampstead Garden Suburb: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside Golders Green tube station at 11am. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Sunday 25 February

• **Battle of Barnet: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road EN5 5PP, 2.30pm. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

• **Ramblers Association five-mile walk from Alexandra Palace**; meet at 10.30am outside the BBC tower at Alexandra Palace to walk through eight conservation areas and nine parks, finishing at Bruce Castle about lunchtime. Bring sandwiches; tea and coffee available in museum. More details from leaders Chris Barker and Joyce Rosser on 020 8347 7684 or 07951 905 490 or visit www.ramblers.org.uk/finchley-hornsey.



Come dine and make a difference

By Ann Bronkhorst

In 2015 we wrote about Viola's Food, a small catering business run by Viola Slodzinska, pictured, from her home in East Finchley. Her business is thriving but last year Viola took on a new challenge.

Moved by the plight of Syrian refugee children, she joined Unicef's campaign #CookForSYRIA. While visiting her family in Poland, she hosted a fund-raising dinner in a restaurant, cooking the main Middle Eastern dishes herself. It was a success, raising awareness as well as donations and was featured on a local TV station.

Back in East Finchley, Viola decided to host another fund-raising meal, this time from home and on a smaller scale. She invited neighbours and customers, persuaded local businesses to donate raffle prizes and somehow made enough space for guests in her tiny flat.

The food was varied and tasty: shish tawook, lamb with green beans, chicken with len-

tils and pomegranate and, for non-meat-eaters, tabbouleh, fattoush, lentils kofta, tahini, hummus and labneh. Wine and soft drinks helped the party atmosphere.

Viola wants to thank Tony's Continental, East Finchley Supermarket, Boucherie Moderne, Table du Marche and Finchley Wines for their support.

Find out more about her two dinners at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/violasfood where donations can still be made to Unicef's relief fund for Syrian children. With a target of £500 she's reached nearly £600. As Unicef's warm letter of thanks says, much can be achieved "with a sprinkling of spice and a splash of kindness."



Gill Doherty (née Bourne), 1938 to 2017

Carmen Stevens pays tribute to the co-founder of the Animal Aid and Advice charity shop in the High Road, who died last year aged 79.

Gill, pictured below, was the eldest of three sisters, and attended Westcliff High School for Girls. Their father had a photographic business in Chalkwell, Essex.



At 18 she began vocational nurse training at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and worked for many decades in London; at one stage for a general surgeon, and finally for an eye specialist in Harley Street. On the latter's retirement, Gill also retired from paid employment.

She met her husband John in London and enjoyed a long and happy marriage. Gill was a devoted carer during his long-term health problems. They shared many pursuits, including ballet, opera, antiques and literature. Early on, health permitting, they travelled extensively, as well as entertaining at home.

The Dohertys had two prized Burman cats, and then took in a stray, who they jokingly called Banquo.

Approximately 30 years ago, at a Kensington cat show, she met Gill Harris, who gave her a lift home. The two became firm friends, and launched with others their cat homing project. Another friend suggested opening a charity shop to raise funds, and the Animal Aid and Advice Shop was opened in the 1990s.

Most of the refurbishment of 48 High Road in East Finchley was undertaken by the feline fraternity. At a later date, a further bookshop was opened in Highbury to increase the charity's income.

As a trained nurse with a massive social conscience, Gill volunteered at the Royal Free Hospital. Her skills and experience were especially appreciated in the eye outpatient department.

Aside from her warmth, intelligence and wit, Gill's determination was remarkable. She will be greatly missed, primarily by her family, the Animal Aid and Advice Shop, and also the many customers like myself, with whom she formed a great rapport and long-term friendships.

Headscratcher

Solution to puzzle on page 8

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shank
thank
think
thing
tying
dying



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Letters

Prospect Ring not ignored

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to read the attack on myself and my colleagues by DP Donnelly in *The Archer* with regards to the proposed tower block on Prospect Ring (Letters, December 2017). I thought it would be helpful to place on the record that ward councillors have attended all three of the public meetings, had three meetings - with officers onsite and two off site. We have also attended meetings of the Residents Association, providing them with support and advice. We have also dealt with correspondence from residents and sought answers to their queries. I note that none of the residents who have contacted me is named DP Donnelly. Officers are very aware of the concerns that we and local residents have about their scheme, and have made some amendments to reflect this. Sadly not enough, but we are not the party in administration at the Council. At least not yet.

Yours faithfully,
Cllr Arjun K Mittra,
East Finchley ward.

Surgery closure

Dear Editor,

I was a member of the Patients Participation Group for the Cherry Tree Surgery. I now write in a personal capacity. The way the closure of Cherry Tree Surgery (*The Archer*, January 2018) was handled by NHS England and others has been far from satisfactory. It is true Dr de Cesare resigned, he had no alternative. The authorities did not help him in any way to resolve difficulties at the surgery, many of which were erroneously reported (I can attest to this as some personally affected me). So many patients have always found the doctor to be caring, compassionate and very thorough. We have nothing but respect for him in every aspect of his practice of medicine in this community. NHS England did not send letters out to everyone. I did not receive one, for example; I know of many others who only learned about the closure through Twitter or Facebook. At the final PPG meeting with the NHS England representative this person did not acknowledge NHS England's part in all this debacle, did not own it and refused to apologise for the events that had taken place. She did not answer the questions put to her and with regard to the letters to patients there was a gloss over the facts as to what happened: she first said that the letters were being printed, then that they had been sent out. Those two statements do not reconcile, do they? Thus many people were in difficulties in finding alternative GP care; the information that

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was provided to some patients was out of date or plain wrong. All this left some vulnerable patients in a very difficult position especially at this time of year. Some only had days to find another doctor. And registering and having records sent to the new practice is not smooth either. There have been difficulties which have caused delays and anxiety to many. This closure has come down to one thing only: a wish to close single-handed practices no matter what the consequences may be.

Yours faithfully,
Ros Goldfarb,
Southern Road, N2.

History lesson

Dear Editor,

I would like to supplement the history of Tollington Boys Grammar School in the January number of *The Archer*. I attended Tollington Boys from 1943-6, cycling to school along East End Road which was usually empty of traffic throughout its length.

My most dramatic memory was sitting an exam in the gymnasium, which was a corrugated iron building, and a V2 bomb dropping nearby, lifting the end of the gymnasium and then letting it drop down again with a thump. Everyone carried on writing.

The school itself began life in Tollington Park near Finsbury Park but rapidly grew in size and in 1901 was transferred to a new building in Tetherdown. Tollington Girls School was founded in Grand Avenue after the move of the boys' school.

Adjacent to the boys' school was Tollington Preparatory School which was fee paying but was later transformed into a state primary school but preserved the initials TPS by calling itself Tetherdown Primary School and thus avoiding the expense of rebranding the many articles of the school marked with TPS.

Some time later the girls' school was transferred to a new building and their empty building was then occupied by Tetherdown Primary School and again for the same reasons, economically preserved the Tetherdown name despite the anomaly of now being in Grand Avenue. I suppose that it was no different from the preservation of the Tollington name after it moved from Tollington Park.

The most distinguished alumnus of Tollington was Sir Henry Dale, Nobel Laureate 1936. He attended the school when it was in Tollington Park but his potential was recognised and he was encouraged to enter for a scholarship to the Leys School Cambridge to which he then transferred.

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Real men have a medallion! - Tee Tarjan at Mightteefit Photo Mike Coles

Archer medallion: where will you hang yours?

Our *Archer* 25th anniversary souvenir medallions are selling well and every penny of the £5 price is supporting the work of Barnet Young Carers in helping young people whose lives are dominated by caring for a sick or disabled parent or family member.

Tee Tarjan, who runs the Mightteefit fitness studio in Fortis Green, modelled his like an Olympic medal while the staff at the Black Gull Bookshop on the High Road found theirs made an excellent bookmark in some of their largest tomes.

Please help us support young carers by buying your own medallion and send us photos of where you've hung

yours (remembering this is a family newspaper) or what uses you find for it. Email your name, address and photo to: the-archer@lineone.net Our birthday medallion is kindly being sold by High Road outlets Black Gull Bookshop, Budgens, The Phoenix, Ryker Kids and Tony's Continental plus East End Road's Margot Bakery.

There are estimated to be

4,000 young carers in Barnet, many of whom are hidden and unacknowledged, so any amount of financial support for the Barnet Young Carers charity can make a massive difference. They are based at Barnet Carers Centre at 303 Ballards Lane, North Finchley. Contact them on 020 8343 9698 or find more information at www.barnetcarsers.org/young-carers.



Search is on for the oldest business in East Finchley

By Diana Cormack

During the last 25 years *The Archer* has become an established part of East Finchley, so much so that it has been described as 'the glue of the community'.

Reaching this quarter century has made us think about the length of time local businesses and traders have been active in the area. Over the years we have often featured those who have reached a particular milestone.

For instance, in November 2017 Stewart Duncan Opticians looked back at 55 years on the High Road. In the summer of 2015 Josephines the florist notched up 65 years of business,

with the possibility of a flower shop having been there prior to the 1950s.

Then there's C W Andrew Pharmacy, which was established in 1884. Estate agents Prickett and Ellis celebrated a massive 250 years of trading last April, though much of that was beyond East Finchley's borders.

Raise a glass to the pubs

We mustn't forget the Phoenix Cinema, where films have

been shown since 1912, but not surprisingly the main contenders for local longevity are public houses such as The Old White Lion, The Bald Faced Stag and The Five Bells, all having been licensed in the early and mid-18th century, though the Five Bells was mentioned as far back as 1484.

Many readers will remember other old pubs which disappeared under redevelopment, as well as old-fashioned businesses now long gone.

Let us have your memories about them and tell us about those which have continued and survived to the present day. We'd really appreciate your input to establish which business is the oldest in East Finchley.

Write to us at *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or email the-archer@lineone.net. You are also welcome to leave a message on our free voicemail line 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

Left to right: An Archer medallion makes an excellent bookmark at the Black Gull Bookshop, enhances the good looks of Michelangelo's David and adds to the medal tally of Admiral Lord Nelson

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