



# War memorial finally finds a home

By Thalia Pellegrini

Keen observers at East Finchley Library may notice a recently installed plaque on the right-hand wall as they enter. It lists the names of local men who lost their lives in the First World War. The plaque has had quite a journey and it is thanks to the determined efforts of local Councillor Arjun Mittra that it is there at all.

## Barnet planning requirements ignored

The plaque was formerly part of the Royal British Legion on Brackenbury Road, N2. When that building was bought for re-development in 2013, Barnet planning officers made clear that the works could not commence until the plaque had been placed with the local council.

The developers were asked

returned in 2014. It then spent three years in a cupboard at Barnet Council while Cllr Mittra lobbied for its re-installation in East Finchley. But where? With the dedicated support of Barnet archivist Hugh Petrie, he discovered that the men commemorated were members of a non-conformist and non-Congregationalist group, and so a church was not deemed an



The war memorial plaque now restored to East Finchley library.

to remove the plaque safely and find a suitable new home for it within the local area, approved by Barnet Planning, before re-development work could begin. Unfortunately, these requirements were not met. The plaque was removed and donated to a plaque collector.

Cllr Mittra told *The Archer*: "I had to get the planning department to intervene and threaten the developer with enforcement action, as permission for the development was predicated on the plaque being put in council custody."

The plaque was eventually

appropriate place. East Finchley Library was decided upon as the men were said to have had a strong ethos about learning and education.

When asked what motivated him to retrieve the plaque, Cllr Mittra told us: "We owe a lasting duty to those who gave their lives for our liberty. It has been a labour of love for me over these last few years to ensure that those on the plaque are properly respected and commemorated. I am pleased all residents will be able to see it in its new location, and we truly will never forget them."



Counter measures: The digital security team visiting Bike and Run. Photo Nick Allan.

# On guard against cyber crime

Traders and small businesses in East Finchley have been urged to protect themselves better against the threats of hacking, fraud and other cyber crime.

## Headscratcher

By Oliver Skanberg-Tippen

This grid shows the position of the number of dots on a set of ten dominoes, with the dominoes themselves removed. Your challenge is to calculate the arrangement of the dominoes. Each domino is a pair of numbers, and no two dominoes are the same. Answer on page 10.

0	2	3	2
1	3	0	3
0	2	2	1
1	3	3	1
2	0	0	1

The London Digital Security Centre (LDSC) is a free service funded by the Mayor of London which invites businesses to complete a short questionnaire to help identify their risk and offers tailored advice in return.

Andrew Dismore, London Assembly member for Barnet and Camden, along with police representatives and East

Finchley councillors Alison Moore and Arjun Mittra, helped spread the word in the High Road late last year.

Jack Lemon, of the LDSC, said: "Our mission is to help businesses by advising on how to operate in a secure digital environment that will help businesses innovate and grow." For more information visit [www.londondsc.co.uk](http://www.londondsc.co.uk).



Fossils for sale: Enthusiasts browse the stalls at the Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show.

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# A gem of a show

Fossils millions of years old and intriguing mineral formations dazzled visitors to the Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show staged by the Finchley branch of the Amateur Geological Society in Trinity Church, North Finchley.

There were sharks teeth for sale and any number of semi-precious rocks, many ingeniously incorporated into desirable jewellery. The friendly society is always on the lookout for new members. Find out more at [amgeosoc.wordpress.com](http://amgeosoc.wordpress.com).

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