

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Residents reclaim the streets for Royal wedding



Neighbours: Hertford Road



Feast: Leopold Road



Help yourself: Elm Gardens. Photo Allison Goodings.

The people of Hertford Road, Leopold Road and Elm Gardens, N2, came out into their cordoned-off streets to celebrate the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on Saturday 19 May. Barbecues were fired up, tables were piled high with finger food and there was general music and merriment as everyone enjoyed the chance to meet their neighbours.

Get ready for the best free event of the year!

By David Melsome

East Finchley's Community Festival is here! Amazing live entertainment and the chance to chill out with friends and family are what make this annual free event such a crowd pleaser. It returns to Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 24 June from 12 noon to 6pm.

Last year's soul-funk favourites Dex & Mercy will be amongst the bands appearing on the main stage, whilst Fixation Theatre, Airborne Circus and Fortitude Dance Company join the performers entertaining crowds on the Community Stage.

There will be more than 80 stalls to browse, with locally produced artisan crafts and delicacies available to buy and stalls representing just about every community organisation in the area.

This year Chickenshed Theatre will be bringing *Tales from the Shed* to the storytelling tent, alongside storytellers and magicians, and free multi-sensory fun sessions from Hartbeeps for the little ones. Children can also enjoy traditional Punch and Judy, a climbing wall, giant inflatable slides and a chance to meet some majestic birds of

prey, courtesy of Jambs Owls. If you haven't tired yourself out, there will even be free tennis coaching sessions taking place on the Cherry Tree Wood courts.

Festival helpers

Volunteers are still welcome to make the event run smoothly on the day. If you can give up an

hour or two, please email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com.

Check out 'myeastfinchley' on Facebook for updates or find out more at www.eastfinchley-festival.org. See page 2 for the full line-up on the stages.

The Archer team will see you there!

Sign of progress on the pavilion in the wood

By Diana Cormack

On page 2 of *The Archer* last month we wondered if, before this year's community festival, a final decision could be hoped for regarding the fate of the dilapidated pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood.

In mid-May we received the following statement from

Barnet Council which suggests an announcement could be imminent: "The Council has reached an agreement with the tenant but the council's constitutional process now has to be followed, in order to formalise this agreement." Let's hope this long-running saga is brought to a close soon. We will keep you posted.

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Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag and New Local Cafe for providing us with a meeting place.

The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

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.

Copy deadlines – **July: 15 June** **August: 13 July**
September: 10 August

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Council Tax	020 8359 2608	Cruse Bereavement Care	0870 167 1677	MIND	020 8343 5700
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Heathrow Airport	0870 000 0123			Age UK (general advice line)	0800 169 2081

Chicks killed by rampaging dog

Volunteers who look after Long Lane Pasture are urging dog owners to treat the nature reserve with respect after one pet was allowed to run riot in the pond.

The dog splashed around in the pond for a long time, leaving its plants and reeds in a terrible state and leading to the death of three newly hatched moorhen chicks.

Volunteer Linda Dolata said: "This is actually a criminal offence. There are plenty of places to let a dog loose, but

the pasture is a wildlife reserve and, much as I love dogs, it is too sensitive in terms of its natural status to be one of them." The pasture, opposite the fire station in Long Lane, is open almost every day at this time of the year. On Saturdays from 10am till 12 noon volunteers carry out essential maintenance work.

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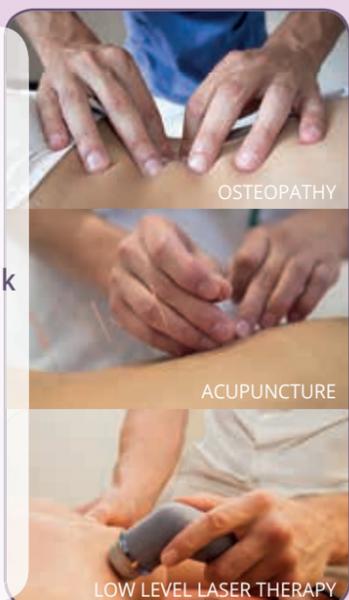
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Welcome to Probus!

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 20 June: **Howard Lanning** discusses his family's 80-years behind the camera, from Hitchcock's Blackmail (1929) to his own film work on Gandhi, A Bridge Too Far, Candid Camera (TV) and many others. Details from Eric (8449 0566).

Festival line-up

Continued from p1.

Here is the line-up for the two stages (timings approximate):

Main Stage

- 12.00: Festival opening
- 12.15: Clickbait
- 12.50: Rob Thom
- 1.20: SEN3
- 2.00: Talking Fools
- 2.30: Pat 'Have Mercy Leacock DJ set
- 2.50: Guido Falls, Martin Murray
- 3.30: Dex & Mercy
- 4.15: Angie A
- 4.50: Raffle
- 5.10: Miss Havisham's Digital Clock
- 6.00: close

The Archer newspaper Community Stage

- 12.10: Martin School Dance Club;
- 12.30: Finchley Youth Theatre presents: Fixation Theatre, Airborne Circus and Rithmik Live
- 1.40: Fortitude Dance Company
- 2.05: Holy Trinity School Choir
- 2.30: N6 Zumba, Latin-inspired dance fitness display
- 2.50: The Archer Academy Choir
- 3.20: Soto CIC, dance and performing arts
- 3.55: Brookland Junior School Orchestra Choir and Dance group
- 4.30: Fortitude Dance Company
- 4.55: Cecilia, musician with quirky songs
- 5.15: Blink and You'll Miss It, magic and mindreading show
- 5.40: Patrick's Jazz Class
- 6.00: close.

Man jailed for 21 years over High Road murder

A man has been jailed for 21 years for the fatal stabbing of 55-year-old Derek McAllister in East Finchley following an argument at a bookmaker's. Joseph Tripp, 35, of Sylvester Road, N2, was found guilty of murder at the Old Bailey on Thursday 24 May.

Police were called shortly after 3pm on 30 December 2015 to reports of a man assaulted on the High Road, N2, near to the junction with Huntingdon Road. Mr McAllister was taken to hospital for treatment by a passing member of public who stopped to help. He died of his injuries two weeks later.

Officers established that Mr McAllister and Tripp had been involved in a minor argument inside a local bookmaker shop ten minutes before the attack. Mr McAllister left the shop and was followed by Tripp, who stopped at a hardware store to buy the largest carving knife on display. CCTV cameras captured Tripp unwrapping the knife at a bus stop whilst he watched Mr McAllister, who was standing across the road. Tripp crossed the road, ran towards Mr McAllister and stabbed him in the back before fleeing with the knife.

Officers recovered the knife's packaging which had Tripp's fingerprints on it. He was subsequently arrested and charged with murder.

Mr McAllister's daughter



Victim: Derek McAllister

Collette said: "It has been a long haul, but justice has prevailed and we've finally got the result that my father deserved. We will never come to terms with losing our father in this way, but we finally have some closure now. I would like to thank the police, the prosecution team and my family for helping us through this tough two-and-a-half years."

Detective Sergeant Bryan Field, of the Homicide and Major Crime Command, said: "I would like to thank the local community for all their help both on the day of the attack but also with their continued help and support in securing evidence and identifying witnesses in this case."

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

- 4 Baronsmere Road, N2**
Roof extension including one rear dormer window to main roof slope, one dormer window to two-storey rear projection, and one front roof light.
- 8 Bedford Road, N2**
Single-storey rear extension. Roof extension involving rear dormer window and two front roof lights.
- 213 East End Road, N2**
Roof extension involving hip to gable, enlarged rear dormer window with Juliette balcony, and new side dormer window. Single-

storey side extension.

Co-operative Food, 71 High Road, N2

Installation of two internally illuminated fascias, and one internally non-illuminated projecting and two internally non-illuminated wall mounted flat panel signs.

21 Ingram Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window and Juliette balcony, and two front roof lights.

137 and 139 Leslie Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Remodelling existing external stairs.

Ground and first-floor maisonette, 385 Long Lane, N2

Replacement of garage with garden room (retrospective application)

21 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, depth 5.4m, eaves height 2.8m, maximum height 3m.

Haringey Council

32 Fordington Road, N6

Single-storey side and rear extension.

12 Fortis Green Avenue, N2

Single-storey ground floor rear extension.



The Governor, David Smith says farewell to Holy Trinity at a special assembly.

A lifetime of dedication to one school

By Matt Beaven

This summer, David Smith will stand down from his role as a governor at Holy Trinity School in East Finchley. It's a position he's relished for 42 years and his relationship with the school goes even further than that.

David was a pupil at the primary school, originally located in East End Road, between 1944 and 1951. It was much larger then, with over 500 children and up to 45 in each class. "Some of the teachers struck fear into you when you entered the school," he remembers, "but it was an exciting time."

"And then there's the day I shot my teacher," he says with relish. "The deputy head, Mr Davis, handed me a replica gun and asked me to turn up late for his lesson. When we started to argue, I was to pull the gun from my pocket and shoot him." The class then had to write a description of what they'd seen. "There was no panic – these children had lived through a war, after all."

"The years slip by"

It was this inspirational backdrop that led David into the teaching profession and, eventually, to his return to Holy Trinity as a governor in March 1976.

One of David's fondest memories as governor is helping put together a week of festivities for the school's 150th anniversary in 1997. Fifty years earlier, he had been a pupil during the school's centenary celebrations

in 1947. "It's a smaller school these days," says David, "but it sets incredibly high standards in academic performance, sport and even the school choir. The governors do a fantastic job keeping it on track. The years have just slipped by. You start doing something and you don't stop."

Tribute

Head of Governors Paula Quiddington says: "We've been extremely lucky to benefit from David's extensive knowledge for the last 42 years. We wish him a long and happy retirement, and thank him for his part in making Holy Trinity the outstanding school it is today."

As he steps down from the role, David has plenty of plans – not least, getting some of his many stories down in writing to pass on to his grandchildren. His legacy to the school will never be forgotten, however, particularly for those classmates during a certain lesson in 1951. From time to time, Holy Trinity has vacancies on its board of governors and applications are welcome from the wider community. If you'd like to find out more email: governors@holytrinity.barnet.sch.uk

Litter is up and cleansing rates are down, claims resident

By John Lawrence

We reported briefly in our May edition on a petition launched by East Finchley resident David Attfield calling on Barnet Council to do more to clean litter from the borough's streets. Here's more of the background we didn't have room for last month.

Contrasts with neighbouring boroughs

David cycles widely across London, regularly crossing the borders between Barnet and Haringey, Brent and Camden. He says: "As soon as you cross into Barnet, the litter increases, the bins are often overflowing and are themselves filthy and the street scene generally is neglected. Walk down The Bishops Avenue and into Camden at the Spaniards Inn or walk into Haringey along Fortis Green and you will see what I mean."

There is a responsibility on all of us to put our rubbish in bins or take it home with us, but David believes Barnet Council is not doing enough to clean the rubbish that does accumulate over weeks and months.

His petition, now closed, stated: "The standard of street cleaning has fallen to totally unacceptable levels. Many streets have large amounts of litter. Bins are often overflowing. Everywhere you see piles of rotting leaves from the autumn and other uncollected debris."

B standard with gaps

In response to a request to disclose its cleaning schedules

for Summerlee Avenue, Barnsmere Road and Southern Road in N2 for 2017 and 2018 to date, Barnet Council listed 11 dates between January and October 2017 but then nothing from 9 October 2017 until more than three months later on 18 January 2018.

The council claimed its teams aimed to clean to a 'B

cleansing standard' which equates to clearing all litter and leaves on roads and pavements, and particularly accumulations around bus stops and other street furniture.

How clean is your road? Send details and photos by email to the-archer@lineone.net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.



For fridge sake!
What level of thoughtlessness does it take to dump three battered fridge freezers at the end of Summerlee Avenue, N2, at the pretty gated entrance to Cherry Tree Wood? Well, someone did it last month, as our picture shows. Thankfully the unsightly pile was cleared in short order, possibly by Barnet Council, but let's hope flytipping doesn't become a growing trend.

Electrical goods and large items can be taken to the Summers Lane Recycling Centre just across the North Circular in N12. You can report flytipping to Barnet Council online by going to www.barnet.gov.uk and searching 'flytipping'.

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Heads join forces to help pupils step up to secondary school

By Frances Cooper

Six local schools are collaborating in an innovative literacy programme to help young pupils make the most of their last term at primary school.

The scheme will see Archer Academy teachers and Year 8 students working alongside colleagues and students from Brookland Junior School, Garden Suburb Junior School, Holy Trinity Primary School, Manorside Primary School and Martin Primary School to deliver a five-week programme, built around a classic work: *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster.

The first of its kind in the area, it will support the students' literacy and language skills and help smooth the transition process between primary and secondary school.

Avoiding a learning dip

Academy headteacher Lucy Harrison has been shaping it with her primary school counterparts since last October. She said: "We know that Year 6 pupils and their teachers work extremely hard in the run-up to SATS and have a well-deserved, less intense half-term afterwards. My headteacher colleagues and I agreed that it would be great to find an enjoyable way to keep some momentum going, so that they don't have a learning dip which

then makes the transition to secondary school harder."

The programme is designed to boost their vocabulary and enhance their language analysis skills. Primary pupils joining the Academy will study the book in more detail in their first term there and those joining other schools will be encouraged to take their work with them.

Jenny Aylen, headteacher at Brooklands Junior School, said the dip in children's performance in moving from Year 6 to Year 7 was noticeable and that the new project would give them an engaging and familiar environment to carry their reading and writing skills with them.

Wendy Rennie, headteacher at Manorside Primary, added: "Outstanding teachers have worked together on ideas and activities that will capture the enthusiasm and talents of many young people as they grow and move on."

Magical journeys

The Phantom Tollbooth focuses on a bored child who is whisked off on a series of journeys to different lands: ideal themes for children about to start an exciting journey of their own.

High Road robbery and break-ins

Late one afternoon in early May, a masked robber broke into Nail Studio Designs on the High Road, N2. Brandishing a knife, he forced the only young member of staff present and two clients into the back of the shop, before stealing one client's handbag.

He made off by motorbike with an accomplice who was waiting for him outside. Police were alerted and, with the help of the mobile phone tracker in the handbag, pursued the thieves for some time. However, they lost the signal in Camden Town. In separate incidents on the High Road on 23-24 April, both the UOE Post Office

store and Nur Kebab, on the junction with Leslie Road, suffered break-ins overnight. UOE managing director Elliot Jacobs said police were on the scene within three minutes of the alarm sounding and missed the thieves by a matter of 25 seconds. The shop had been secured and nothing was stolen apart from a few coins from one of the tills.



The damaged door of the Post Office. Photo Mike Coles



Healing touch: Caitlin Smail with a care home resident's work. Photo Mike Coles.

The power of art therapy

By Daphne Chamberlain

Caitlin Smail's workroom in Fortis Green welcomes you with brightly coloured pictures and art materials, soft, strokable objects, and something very like a gingerbread house. But the only magic here is good. Caitlin is co-director of ArtTherapy4all, which helps people of all ages to find healing and emotional support through creativity.

The Lottery Fund is supporting a 10-week Art Therapy project in four care homes, including Springdene in Muswell Hill. It offers residents with dementia the opportunity to create their own pictures, working in small groups with the support of a therapist and a volunteer.

Raymond's picture

Caitlin showed me several paintings by people with dementia. One of them is the illustration for this article. It is the work of Raymond, who attends an art therapy group at the care home where he lives. In Caitlin's words: "He explained that his picture was of a blue sky and trees. There is a brick wall with a crack in it, and 'nothing can grow there'. He said that sometimes it feels to him like he has hit a brick wall. At the end of the session he decided to 'plant some flowers' by the wall, adding them to the picture. This helped him to feel better."

Beyond words

For all participants, this project is about empowerment and emotional satisfaction, pride in producing their work, and the chance to chat about their lives. Chatting is not always possible, of course, but feelings and memories can be expressed through creating art. Sometimes, other residents will come near and watch, which is supportive too.

Art therapists also work in schools, pupil referral units, hospitals, hospices and refugee centres, in small groups or one-to-one.

If you would like to support projects, suggest others, or find out more, visit www.arttherapy4all.co.uk, or call Melanie

Stevenson on 07837 394799 (for children and adolescents) or Caitlin Smail on 07939 406270 (adult mental health).

Beyond Words: The Healing Power of Art, coinciding with London Creativity and Wellbe-

ing Week, is showing at The Darnley Gallery, The Centre for Better Health, Hackney, E9 6QH, from 4-27 June. Gallery tour and talk Friday 8 June. Details at www.arttherapyexhibition.co.uk.

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Plastic-free zone in East Finchley: how we can all help

By John Lawrence

We have received a hugely positive response to our front page story last month (Let's make East Finchley plastic-free) and Huntingdon Road resident Ann Inglis's call for everyone in the community to cut out the use of throwaway plastics.

Business network N2United's next meeting on Thursday 14 June at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green will focus on what local traders and businesses can do to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics like bags and wrapping.

Ruth Anders, who will co-ordinate the project for N2United, said: "This is a critically important campaign about which we will doubtless hear far more in the coming months."

Our very own bag

There's one action we can all take immediately, by giving up buying plastic bags and instead always putting our shopping in an 'I Love N2' cotton bag, from East Finchley Community Trust. The new design is available now for £4 in the



Bag it up: Buy your cotton I Love N2 bag in place of plastic carriers.

Black Gull Bookshop, Tony's Continental and Ryker, all on the High Road, and will be on sale at the East Finchley Community Festival on Sunday 24 June. Wherever you buy them, all proceeds will go towards the running of the festival.

And most importantly readers have been sending us their responses to Ann's campaign and telling us about the actions they are already starting to take. We print a selection below.

Please continue to write to us with your ideas on how everyone can help East Finchley become the first neighbourhood in London to be a plastic-free zone. Email us at the-archer@lineone.net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

Your letters:

Live life without plastic

I read your article (Let's make East Finchley plastic-free, *The Archer*, May 2018) with great interest. I am a very keen advocate of trying to shop, eat and generally live life without plastic.

It is hard. I used to do all my shopping at Tesco, but became very frustrated when I realised that almost everything I bought was wrapped in plastic. Trying to put a week's worth of loose fruit and veg onto the conveyor with a queue of customers tutting behind me was not the way to go.

I now go to the High Road, Ballards Lane or Southgate and buy fruit and veg loose. Even then items like rocket are impossible to buy loose. We have Tony's Continental and other fruiterers in the High Road. Tony's also offers a 'refill' service on some items. I have switched my milk from plastic bottles to our excel-

lent milkman who delivers in glass three times a week.

My husband is a Canadian from Vancouver and they always seem to be a few steps ahead of us. Ann Inglis is absolutely right to say we should buy items from shops that don't separately package but sell on a more 'wholesale' level from vats/containers where we decant into our own containers: shampoo, soaps, nuts, coffee, tea...the list goes on. Instead of that proposed Budgens expansion, a store selling 'wholesale' style with no excessive or unnecessary packaging would be a huge bonus to the area.

I am vehemently anti single-use plastic and, as a product design teacher at The Compton School in N12, I am driving the anti-plastic message home in every lesson in the hope it will sink in. I am aware of the damage plastic causes and am currently trying to get my school to go down the glass milk-bottle route.

Yours faithfully,
Joanne Westgate,
Address supplied.

Let's unite on plastics

Dear Editor,

I was moved and inspired by Ann Inglis's appeal to your readers and to the residents of East Finchley to transition away from single-use plastics. There's been a lot about this in the press and some good online campaigns, but local action has been the missing piece of the puzzle.

It is encouraging to see this has garnered support from N2United. I hope we can all unite behind Ann and show the rest of London that it's possible for a whole community to return to sane and compassionate shopping habits.

Yours faithfully,
Thomas Bonneville,
Fortis Green, N2.

Plastic bags are a waste

Dear Editor,

I think plastic-free is a great idea. Why bag things up? One always used to be able to pick what and how much one wanted of anything and take it to the till in a paper bag. I live on my own and I only want a small quantity of things at a time.

I also commend Iceland for not putting palm oil in its products. It is very destructive because forests are cut down to grow palm trees. I will do what I can to help.

Yours faithfully,
Primrose Chamberlin,
Address supplied.



East meets West: Kyoko and Denise in Tokyo.

Big in Japan

Artist Denise Wyllie was travelling round Japan for a month setting up links with art galleries when she and her friend Kyoko Iwata took time out for a quick read of *The Archer* on a pedestrianised road in downtown Ginza, central Tokyo. "Japan is a great place, beautiful for landscape painting with interesting, thoughtful people to hang out with," said Denise, who prints her works at London Print Studio as well as from a new studio she is creating at home in Long Lane, N2.

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Artists

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The highs and lows of running the Marathon

In our March edition we reported that Freddie Rand, of Bedford Road, N2, was planning to run the London Marathon in support of cancer research and in memory of his parents Chris and Fiona. Here's his brilliant account of exactly what it was like.

On the day before the Marathon, I went down to the EXPO in East London to register. That was when the extent of what I had signed up for really hit me and I was taken aback by the emotion I felt picking up my race number.

That afternoon my housemates joined me on a walk to keep my mind occupied before the race, although that didn't help as that night I think I got about three to four hours' sleep, which is common the night before big races, I found out googling at 2am! On the day, I got up at 5.30am to prepare myself and get down to Greenwich for 8.45am where I began to stretch and eat the pre-race meal I had prepared of porridge, bananas and apples. The race began at 10am although you don't move until about 10.30 so you have another 30 minutes standing around anxiously, which isn't great but luckily the weather was amazing.

my shorts. They didn't so I had to carry them in my hands all the way round... rookie error!

Heat ... and hugs

When you start and you see the crowds you get that unbeatable surge of pride and motivation. They do say that London is the best marathon to run and I'd have to agree. As I was running this race in memory of my parents I made the decision that when I saw my sister Lottie I would give her a hug which I did at mile nine; after the race I found out it actually made her cry.

The race continued to go well from there but the heat was hard. I think I ate my weight in the sweets handed out by the general public; their support makes the difference especially as I had my name on my T-shirt. Hearing people shout "Go Freddie, you can do it!" is immense. It got really hard after mile 20. Earlier in the course I knew my girlfriend was going to be

rewarding. I was ecstatic when I finished although I just missed my target time of under four hours. I blame my sister and my girlfriend for those earlier hugs! After the race 35 of my friends joined me for drinks and food. Lottie made a speech saying how proud she was and how proud our parents would have been, which is where the tears finally appeared. The following day my girlfriend and I went on a well-deserved spa day, which was amazing. However the usual seven-minute walk to East Finchley tube took 40 minutes that morning! Overall I've managed to raise nearly £6,700 for Cancer Research UK which is more than I ever expected but now it's time to think of the next challenge! You can still donate to boost Freddie's fundraising total by going to <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org> and searching for 'Freddie Rand'.



Finishing line: Freddie looks remarkably fit at the end of the Marathon in The Mall.



Inspiration: Freddie's parents Chris and Fiona

I hadn't been able to run for four weeks due to straining a ligament so I had a knee support and was hoping the knee would last the whole 26 miles! I also made the bad decision of thinking my energy gels would fit in

my shorts. They didn't so I had to carry them in my hands all the way round... rookie error!

Reward

When I hit mile 26 and ran over the finish line in four hours and 16 seconds I've never felt euphoria like it. It was the toughest challenge I've ever taken on but the most

around mile 13 at Tower Bridge but I only saw her housemates and not her. Then I saw her unexpectedly at mile 21 when I was struggling - gave her a hug too, and that helped push me towards the finish.

Help with pesky IT problems

By Thalia Pellegrini

If, like me, your expertise in the face of technological breakdown starts and ends with optimistically switching it off and turning it back on again, help is at hand.

N2 resident Faiza Majid opened Intellot on the High Road in February, offering assistance with all problems technological, be it trouble-shooting, virus checks, and the not unfamiliar, "Why won't Windows 10 do what I need it to do?"

Faiza has 14 years of IT experience and her skills are broad ranging, so feel free, she says, to bring in your Android phone or your iPhone, your iPad or your laptop. She has experience with both Apple and PCs. For those who have a desktop computer or just can't get to the shop, she also offers IT support visits to your home.

Noteworthy is that Faiza does not charge for diagnostics and believes that trans-

parency is essential when it comes to IT customer service. She believes in taking time to explain clearly what the problem is, how she intends to fix it, how long it will take and the cost of both labour and parts.

And the feline face?

Intellot also offers internet access as well as digital imaging for those wanting to print photos from any device, up to poster size. For those of you intrigued by the cat's face on the shop sign, Faiza explained that Intellot combines a sense of intellect and knowledge, and a 'lot' of it, with an animal she loves for its intelligence and power - the ocelot. Mystery solved!

Need some muscle?

Are you a charitable organisation or community project that needs some help? The runners at Goodgym Barnet are looking for physical tasks they can carry out during one of their weekly evening runs from the centre of East Finchley. Decorating, gardening, moving and shifting... anything will be considered. Phone Goodgym's Paul on 07768 353108 or Damian on 07525 357369.

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Speak up for your favourite footpath... before it's lost forever

By Roger Chapman

Do you walk around East Finchley using The Walks, The Causeway, the path between Stanley Road and Market Place or on one of the many other footpaths in the area? Well, now's the time to make sure your favourite historic path in East Finchley is on the map or you might lose it.

Record and protect

The Finchley Society, working with the local Ramblers Association group, is looking to identify footpaths that may need to be recorded to protect their status. This is where you can help. If you use a footpath

is much easier to protect against development.

Add more green dashes

Barnet Council holds a definitive map which is available to view at their offices but it does not include all urban



Busy thoroughfare: The Walks, near Leopold Road.

locally and are not sure if its protected as a public right of way drop an email to me, roger.chapman99@btinternet.com, stating where it starts and where it finishes so that we can check it out.

The first day of 2026 is the cut-off date for adding historic paths to what is known as the definitive map: the official record of public rights of way in an area. When a path is on this map, it not only means we have a right to walk on it, but it

footpaths. Many historic urban routes such as The Walks, which in the main follows the edge of the old Finchley Common in East Finchley, are not recorded.

The routes that are recorded are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map marked with green dashes. Don't be deceived by some of the main recreational footpaths that exist locally. A large part of the Capital Ring and Dollis Valley Green Walk are not public rights of way.

Routes can be added to the definitive map either using historical evidence or by providing witnesses who have used the route for 20 years. There is now a deadline of 31 December 2025 for claims using historical evidence, so it makes sense to get going on this while it can still be easily done. Act now or we could lose these footpaths forever!

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Wave of walkers: Friends head out through Highgate Wood on the Big Fun Walk. Photo Andrew Prod Photography.

Glad of the shade on a sizzling Big Fun Walk

By David Melsome

Those who took part in the Big Fun Walk in aid of the North London Hospice on the first weekend of May were blessed with one of the hottest days of the year so far when London's parks and tree-lined roads were looking their very best.

More than 1,400 people set off from East Finchley tube station on Sunday 6 May to walk the nine miles through Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood, Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill, Regents Park and St James's Park to West-

minster. It was the biggest turn-out yet for this annual event, which is on track to raise £130,000.

Director of fundraising Robin Langrishe said: "Supporters young and old joined the event and the youngest

participant was just five years old! We had record numbers for this year's Big Fun Walk and they have raised an incredible amount of money which will go towards funding vital patient care in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey."

Could you help with local animal welfare?

By David Melsome

Animal lovers are being invited to become trustees for the local district branch of the RSPCA to look after its work and affairs in Finchley, Hendon, Golders Green and Edgware.

The branch has two very successful charity shops in East Finchley and North Finchley raising much needed funds for welfare work and is looking for even more ways it can help local animals.

Branch manager Emma Prosser said being a trustee was a very important role and could be very rewarding. Most people aged 18 or over are eligible to become a trustee and you would need to become a member of the RSPCA.

You would need to be able to work with people and have good interpersonal skills. You do not need to be an expert although commitment, common sense and the ability to be objective are vital. Specific skills such as finance, fundraising, project management, business experience,

awareness of employment or charity legislation can be useful, but are not essential.

New RSPCA trustees are provided with a guidance document and asked to attend a training course which provides information about their role and responsibilities. Then the ongoing commitment can be

just a few hours a week. Ongoing support is also provided by regional and national RSPCA staff in addition to any additional training provided by the relevant branch. For more information email the RSPCA on admin@rspcafinchley.org.uk or call Emma on 07557 959690.



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YOUNG ARCHER

Maths teacher turns tables on learning by rote

By Diana Cormack

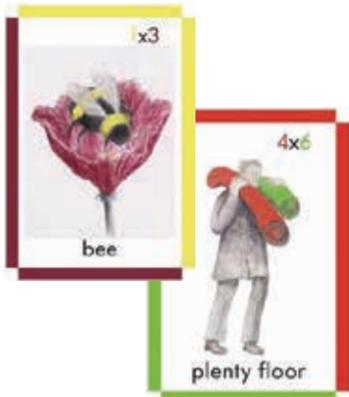
Former maths teacher Gill Steiner has devised an innovative way to help children with their number skills. Times Table Bee features short, readable rhymes and appealing pictures on 90 playing cards. Each has a numerical question on one side and a captioned picture on the other which rhymes with the answer.



Noah, Dani and Abi enjoy learning with Gill Steiner's cards. Photo Mike Coles.

Following the principle that a visual prompt sticks in the mind, the resource makes a refreshing change to the traditional rote learning of tables. If it rhymes, the answer is right; if not, the rhyme should help to work out the answer.

Helpfully, each number is colour coded so is recognisable wherever it appears. The characters and creatures pictured in amusing and intriguing situations stick in the memory and the colours they wear provide clues too.



Rhyme and reason: Two of Gill's illustrations for her card system.

The design of this game could be helpful to youngsters who need a little more support with their learning and act as a confidence builder too. It can be played as a self-help game or in a group of family or friends.

Building knowledge and confidence

Gill, of Woodside Avenue, told *The Archer* that, having learned through her experience as a teacher at both primary and secondary levels, she recognised that students' incomplete knowledge of their tables handicapped progress, self-confidence and success in maths.

She got the idea for this resource many years ago following an art course at Barnet College where she had to design and make a book. As a self-confessed 'art nut' who loved card games as a child, she has since devoted untold hours to creating the right characters and captions which will appeal to parents as well as children.

This fun game could become a family favourite as well as serving a useful purpose. It costs £9 and is available at Securebase, 112 High Road. Visit www.times-tablebee.com to find out more.

Nazareth House summer fete

On Saturday 7 July from 2-5pm there will be a Summer Fete in the garden and main hall of Nazareth House, a fun event for all the family with music, a barbecue, strawberries and cream, teas, a tombola and raffle with stalls selling bric-a-brac, plants, good quality clothes, cakes and books. Entry is £1 for adults; children are free.

Nazareth House at 162 East End Road, N2, is a residential home to 84 elderly residents. It is run by not-for-profit Nazareth Care Charitable Trust and is open to all faiths. The Friends of Nazareth House is a voluntary group which raises funds to provide extras and luxuries for residents such as outings, entertainments and treats.



Bucket collection: Maya, centre with bucket, and friends who took part in the water-carrying challenge.

A bucket of fun for Maya and friends

Thirteen-year-old Maya Wiseman persuaded her friends at the Archer Academy in East Finchley to walk around their playground with buckets of water on their head to raise funds for poor communities in Tanzania.

Maya told us: "I was trying to figure out how I could do something meaningful for my Bat Mitzvah, which marks me becoming a Jewish adult responsible for my actions and role in community life. I wanted to put some action behind my words.

"I decided to take part in the Walk in Her Shoes project with CARE International to help

girls and women in the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities work their way out of poverty. I've now raised over £4,500 which will be match funded by the government under UK Aid match.

"I'm really pleased with how well it's gone and am so grateful for all the support from donors and my school, the Archer

Academy. It is only a small contribution of course but hopefully we've enabled at least one girl to have a brighter future."

Maya spent the first nine years of her life in Tanzania and India before coming to London. She still welcomes donations on her fundraising page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mayas-miles-and-miles.



Special delivery: Coaches Gaya Gole and Emma Albery, centre front, with the North Middlesex Girls.

Tortoise found in street

On Saturday 5 May a tortoise was found on the High Road in the vicinity of the Phoenix Cinema.

One of its rescuers told *The Archer* it was given into the care of the RSPCA. If you lost this tortoise, did you get it back? We'd love to know. Tortoises are a protected species. For more information visit www.tortoise-protection-group.org.uk.

Father's Day

Here are some jokes that might bring a smile to your dad's face on Sunday 17 June.

Boy: Dad, can I have £5 for being good?
Dad: When I was a boy I was good for nothing.

Girl: Daddy, do you think I'm vain?
Dad: No, you're not vain dear. Why do you ask?

Girl: Because most girls as pretty as me are.

Girl: Dad, there's a man at the door collecting for the new swimming pool.
Dad: Give him a glass of water.

Son: Could you put my shoes on, Dad?
Dad: I don't think they'll fit me.

Top-quality coaches open the cricket season

North Middlesex girls' teams were coached by Gaya Gole and Emma Albery from Middlesex Women's First Team on Saturday 21 April, giving them a great start to their playing season. North Middlesex CC has Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 girls' teams who practise every weekend and play matches most weeks. New members are welcome and anyone interested in joining can email nmcc.colts@gmail.com.

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Solo ride: Malcolm crosses the mountains of Central Asia

Motorcycle diaries of a round-the-world rider, part one

By Ruth Anders

It's a brave man who would take off round the world with nothing other than a Triumph Tiger 800 XCX adventure motorcycle, a pacemaker and a challenging back condition for company. Malcolm Dunkeld, 68, of Leslie Road, N2 is just such a man.

Inspired by the four-year journey described by Ted Simon in his book *Jupiter's Travels*, Malcolm planned a similar expedition, albeit for one year only. With the generous agreement of his wife Gillian, Malcolm set off last summer across Europe, Central Asia and the Far East towards Australia.

Surviving and smiling

While his career as a lecturer in building technology and architectural history had taken him to many remote parts of the world, this solo odyssey was a very different matter. Escaping robbers in Istanbul, suffering gastroenteritis on the Caspian Sea, facing brigands in Central Asia, negotiating countless border controls, his stories are legion. He is now busy writing a book about his adventures.

He quickly learned that blue polo shirts suggest integrity and that a friendly smile opens many doors. In Central Asia, foreigners are treated as minor

celebrities, and the curiosity about him and his motorbike was endless.

"Crossing long distances on a motorcycle by road is entirely different from travelling by air," Malcolm told *The Archer*. "You experience all the sights and smells of every forest and plain, every town and village." Tar roads were replaced by corrugated dirt tracks, heavily wooded areas by snowy mountain ranges and clouds of butterflies by swarms of flies and mosquitos.

Special encounters

He talks about the characters he met along the way such as "the life-enhancing Rashid" in the port of Baku, who closed his café to help Malcolm find his mobile phone (located eventually back on his motorcycle). Then there was the Australian biker doing a similar trip in reverse despite a heart transplant and having to ride with bagfuls of drugs. And the

primary school Ishmali girls and boys he met in Tajikistan, carefully sweeping the road to maintain the civic pride they felt in their small village.

We'll have more on Malcolm's ride around the world next month, including the moment when his trip was cruelly cut short by an accident. Don't miss it!

Champion cheese

Cheesemonger Cheeses of Muswell Hill has been named the second most loved shop in the whole of London in the Time Out Love London Awards. The awards, which celebrate the capital's independent cafés, pubs, restaurants, shops and cultural venues, received nearly 165,000 votes.

Social media spotlight

By Ruth Anders

East Finchley business network N2United's chair Nick Allan welcomed a total of 20 local business representatives to the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green in May to catch up on a raft of local commercial interests including a follow-up to the previous month's GDPR guidance (compliance required by 28 May), disabled access to a new High Street coffee shop, local crime updates and East Finchley Festival opportunities.

Understanding platforms

The highlight of the evening was a talk by social media consultant Ginny Till who succeeded in de-mystifying the layers relating to the use of different platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest and Snapchat.

Describing each app's targeted demographic and pros and cons, she clarified the purposes for which each could be used to maximum effect according to the needs of individual businesses.

Ginny emphasised the significance of well designed content and thoroughly researched tagging while highlighting the importance of identifying and

using one platform well rather than three less effectively.

N2United is growing fast and new member Amanda Reuben, of Bijou Recruitment, was impressed by the welcoming and informal atmosphere of the group: "So much more fun and friendly than the other networking events I've attended," she said.

N2United's next meeting will be on Thursday 14 June at the Clissold Arms. The charge for attendance at each meeting is £10. All are welcome, and if you haven't already tested this network, come along to see just how stimulating and enjoyable these sessions are. More information at www.n2united.co.uk.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Two types of band

In the weirdly wonderful world of pop and roll there are only two types of band: 'The Beatles' and 'The Stones'.

In 1961 a 20-something gay music shop owner called Brian Epstein found four young lads in a Liverpool cellar. The band was tight, popular and there was something about the tight trousers and leather jackets that attracted him. So he did the only thing he could do, he signed them.

Brian realised that black leather was past it, restyled their hair, put them into neat, collarless suits and let them play up the cheeky Scouser. The rest is history and myth. I guess he realised that as teenage girls bought most of the singles, he'd got a band they could dream about having as a boyfriend. Yes, they wanted to have their hand held by a Beatle.

This set the tone for the sixties as the Hollies, Tremeloes and Searchers dominated pop music. In America they even invented the Monkees to get in on the act. Hit singles, screaming fans and a short shelf life. Why? Because no one stays a teenager for ever and if The Beatles hadn't quit touring, headed to the studio and come up with Sgt Pepper they'd probably have gone the same way as Herman's Hermits.

But The Rolling Stones were different. They didn't have Brian Epstein, they had producer Andrew Loog Oldham. He spotted something else in the bar band playing blues and R'n'B that Brian didn't spot in The Beatles. He spotted a gang. Gangs are different, gangs are something to either join or run from, they are attractively dangerous. And if lots of teenage girls love a bad boy, lots of teenage boys want to be in a gang.

The Stones didn't sing about holding hands, they sang about spending the night together. They didn't look like the kind of boy you could introduce to your parents and they had something else that teen pop bands don't have, a kind of long-lasting loyalty, because boys don't grow out of the bands they want to be in at 15, whereas girls grow up and move on to real boys, not poster boys.

And it doesn't stop there, you can play the poster boy versus gang all the way through. Blur versus Oasis? Poster pop versus gang. See what I mean.

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Regular Events

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Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **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 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. 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**, Thursday & Saturday afternoons, Age UK, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.

Roots Sisters get ready to rock

By Frances Cooper
East Finchley will be the setting for a brand new monthly live music night showcasing the best female Roots music performers in the UK today.



Musical sisters: Rossella Scarlet

The Roots Sisters Reunion night at the Constitutional Club in The Walks, N2, will showcase women working in American Roots music as singers, songwriters, musicians and DJs. American Roots music is a broad spectrum of styles which includes genres like jazz, blues, rhythm & blues, bluegrass and folk.

Miss Scarlet and Sister Suzie

Rossella Scarlet, one of the co-organisers, said: "In Europe and around the world there are many great female artists and if this monthly event can become a way to connect all of them, it would be a great achievement." Rossella will also be DJ ing at the event as DJ Miss Scarlet playing 1950's rock 'n' roll, rockabilly and jive, to entice people onto the dance floor in between sets from the band.

The inaugural night on Saturday 21 July also features the talents of Sister Suzie and The Right Band, who play a mixture of all the different sounds she loves from the Southern States of America, including songs from her favourite artists,

like Elmore James, Big Mama Thornton and Irma Thomas.

She said: "While they were oppressed in society being black and being women, these ladies could release their emotions in music. Moaning the blues or demanding their man give them some sugar, those women knew how to express themselves and gained power from that."



Sister Suzie

Admission to the very first Roots Sisters Reunion at the East Finchley Constitutional Club on Saturday 21 July is £9 and doors open at 8.30pm. Follow RootsSistersRule on Facebook.

Summer fair

Summer gets under way properly with Martin Primary School's summer fair on Saturday 30 June from 12-3pm. Everyone is welcome to come along to the field at the school in Plane Tree Walk, N2, for an afternoon of food, fun, bouncy castles, games, stalls and even pony rides.

What's On...

Saturday 9 June

• **Wild Flower and Pollinator Day at Long Lane Pasture**, opposite fire station in Long Lane, N3, 10am to midday. After warm, dry weather the pasture will look its prettiest. Wild flowers, grasses and insects will bring the site alive. Booklets and advisors available to identify finds. Free entry.

Sunday 10 June

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue; Tom Klidzia, violin, Jill Anderson, clarinet, Yuki Osedo, piano, and Mary Wiegold, soprano, perform Cesar Frank's *Violin Sonata*, Stanford's *Three Intermezzi* and *Fantasia on Airs from I Puritani* by Lazarus; 7.30pm, free entry with collection in aid of North London Hospice. Fully accessible venue.

Saturday 16 June

• **Highgate Choral Society Jumble Sale**, St. George's Church Hall, corner

of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH, 2-4pm; admission 40p. Clothes, Nearly New, Bric-a-brac, electrical goods, household goods, toys and games, books, CDs & DVDs, plants, tombola, raffle, Teas. Many bargains!

Thursday 21 June

• **Things That Go Bump in High Barnet**: summer solstice ghost walk with City of London guide Paul Baker through High Barnet and Monken Hadley, the second most haunted village in England. Meet at High Barnet tube station 7.30pm. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 23 June

• **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, 11am. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Sunday 24 June



Art of the matter: EFO artists will be showing their incredible talent in many crafts.

Wide array of wares as artists open doors

By Mike Coles

Local art group East Finchley Open Artists is holding its annual Open House event on the weekends of 30 June to 1 July and 7-8 July. Seventeen houses will be open in and around East Finchley, and at least 58 artists will be exhibiting their work, both to view and sell.

It's one of the leading art events in North London, it's local and it's free. The houses will be open daily 11am - 6pm each weekend. On show will be a wide range of affordable art including ceramics, prints, jewellery, paintings, photography, glass, basketry, textiles and silk. More details at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.

Guild Players: *Widdershins*

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

'In a peaceful house near the Welsh border, an entire family has vanished suddenly without a trace one evening, with supper on the table and no apparent violence. Inspector Ruffing's attempt to understand what's happened to a couple and their two daughters leads him deep into his own dark soul.' "On a rainy night I wander here in another man's labyrinth, haunted by a dead woman."

That was the Guild Players' trailer for *Widdershins*, their latest production at the end of April. It was enough to get me booking tickets immediately. Over the last few years I've taken a couple of friends to their shows, and they've always been keen to see another one.

This one didn't let me down. Don Nigro's thriller was impeccably acted, and a mystery to the end. The twist of a concealed door leading to a hiding-place has certainly been used before, but the writing was skilful enough to keep it as a surprise.

And when we left, my friend and I were still musing about that detective's dark soul.

And by the way, *Widdershins* means anticlockwise, and is considered unlucky...

The Guild Players rehearse and perform in Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, N3 1NB, but are drawn from all sections of the community from across the borough.

They have a very informative website at www.guildplayers.org.uk, but do make sure you are looking at the most recent one, updated this year.

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

• **East Finchley Community Festival** in Cherry Tree Wood 12 noon to 6pm. Run entirely by volunteers this free annual event brings together everyone from East Finchley and our neighbouring areas for great live entertainment, good food and glorious atmosphere. Plenty of activities for children, including a storytelling and magic tent, plus inflatable slides, along with dozens of stalls hosted by community groups and a visiting party of live owls.

Saturday 30 June

• **Martin School Summer Fair**, 12-3pm, Plane Tree Walk, N2. Come and bounce on a castle, eat delicious food, enjoy live music and ride a pony! A wonderful afternoon on the field for all the family!

• **Local art group East Finchley Open Artists** hold their annual Artists Open Houses: 17 homes and studios open in and around East Finchley; at least 58

artists exhibiting work for viewing and buying. Wide range of affordable art including ceramics, prints, jewellery, paintings, photography, glass, basketry, textiles and silk. More details on www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk. Free entry on all four days 11am to 6pm.

Sunday 1 July

• **Race the Neighbours** 10k run pits East Finchley runners against their neighbours from Muswell Hill. The race sets off from Cherry Tree Wood and takes a route to Alexandra Palace and back. Come and cheer on the runners from 9am onwards

Saturday 7 July

• **Summer Fete in garden and main hall of Nazareth House** residential home, 162 East End Road, N2, 2pm to 5pm; fun event for all the family with music, a barbecue, strawberries and cream, teas and cakes a tombola and raffle with stalls selling bric-a-brac, plants, good quality clothes, cakes, books. Adults £1. Children free.



How to get your business noticed

A public relations expert in East Finchley claims local businesses can get themselves noticed on a national scale and is offering some advice to help them do just that.

Caroline Wade lives in East Finchley with her daughter Athena and is managing director of WADE PR, which she founded in 2015 after 15 years in the PR industry.

She says there are a significant number of small business and consumer affairs editors on the national press who are interested in trend-led news stories about products and consumer purchasing habits.

Caroline said: "Have you noticed a



PR guru: Caroline Wade

particular product or service is flying off the shelves? You may have the makings of a story that would not only work for niche trade press but also for national news outlets."

Caroline urges business owners to think digitally. Consumers now generally use Google to conduct deeper product research, which is when retailers need journalist reviews and features which will sit online and tie into keywords.

And you have to know how to play the game when looking

for coverage. Caroline claims the media generally are increasingly savvy about the worth of including your website address and so are restricting them to advertising and advertorial packages.

She suggests ring-fencing useful content on your website and then launching it through PR. If the content is newsworthy journalists will want to write about it and they will have to tell readers where to find it, hence including your URL. You can find out more at www.wadepr.com.



Helen Newman, second left, with the Age UK team

New chief at the helm of age charity

Age UK Barnet has announced Helen Newman as its new chief executive officer, taking the reins from Mark Robinson who has stepped down as after 19 years of valued service.

'Mark is a hard act to follow,' said Helen, "but we are looking forward to building further on our success providing activities and a range of services for older people and enabling them to make the most of later life.'

On another note, the Age UK Barnet spring quiz night was a huge success and raised an impressive £1,100, which will go towards supporting its vital services for older people in the borough.

Nearly 90 people attended the event at the Ann Owens Centre in East Finchley with 11 teams competing for the top slot. The winning team was the appropriately named Ageing Disgracefully.

Letters



Full up: Domino's delivery bikes occupying parking bays in Fairlawn Avenue.

Pizza bike problems

Dear Editor,
We residents of Fairlawn Avenue are totally exasperated by the way Domino's pizza motor delivery bikes take up space in our road, for which they pay NO parking fees despite there being nine or 10 bikes sometimes.

They occupy the three pay parking bays at the Fortis Green end of the road which years ago we successfully campaigned to be made available to residents with relevant parking permits. We should point out that these bays were intended for residents and visitors with appropriate parking permits and are now being used for business.

Some of us are elderly, disabled or with small children and we waste time driving round the area often unsuccessfully seeking a parking space. This is especially difficult when we also have to carry large and heavy shopping home.

If this is not serious enough, the Domino's bikes frequently flout the 'No Entry' sign at the south end of Fairlawn, turning into our road from the High Road end and we often see them driving at excessive speed too.
Neither the police nor Barnet Council traffic wardens, who frequently issue penalty notices to us if we stop for a minute to offload passengers, children or shopping, seem willing to deal with this. Promises made by the manager of Domino's to residents when approached are never fulfilled. Perhaps he should be aware that we have film footage of these bikes breaking the law.

No wonder we feel besieged,

ripped off and disenfranchised.
Yours faithfully,
Residents in Fairlawn Avenue, N2.

Editor's note: The Archer asked Domino's for a response to the Fairlawn Avenue residents' points and received this reply. "Domino's has been a proud part of the Fairlawn Road community for 30 years and we're keen to respond to feedback. "In our Borough, motorcycles are able to use pay and display bays and resident spaces free of charge. Last year, we joined the Council's pilot scheme for business / motorcycles on the High Road to ensure we're best placed to serve local customers. This scheme wasn't introduced in Fairlawn Road and we continue to use one bay out of four. "The safety of our people and local community is a responsibility we take seriously. All drivers have received additional motorcycle training and we encourage any local residents with concerns to speak with the store manager."

Don't dump your litter

Dear Editor,
Thank you for your continuous publishing efforts. I really enjoy reading our lovely local newspaper as it makes me feel part of a caring community.

I have noticed that unfortunately misplaced rubbish and fly tipping are very frequent in East Finchley. I would wish to raise awareness on this issue and help the local community to be part of a respectful and caring environment.

Yours faithfully,
Gemma Arregui,
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.

Red light road rage

Dear Editor,

I thought I should report an awful incident of road rage I witnessed on the High Road this morning, as the person responsible should be called out publicly.

I was waiting to cross Fortis Green Road at the crossroads where Fortis Green meets the High Road at around 9am on Tuesday 8 May. There were quite a few people waiting to cross with me and when the cars finished turning right from the High Road one man ran into the road in front of the final car and started to shout, blocking her path and claiming she had run the red light.

He was extremely angry and then ran over to the driver's window where he started to scream at the poor young female driver in her white Fiat 500. She in turn was talking back and defending herself. Not content with that he proceeded to try to open the car door in a very aggressive manner, clearly frightening the driver and the other people in the area.

Luckily, the driver's door was locked and he could not open it. I dread to think what he would have done if he had been able to open the door. It is likely that the young woman would have been attacked. I hope that the aggressor will read this and think twice about his appalling behaviour.

Yours faithfully,
Polly Pearson,
Manor Park Road, N2.

Paper mountain

Dear Editor,
I read the article in your April edition concerning the three bins outside East Finchley tube station. The paper recycling banks at East Finchley station have not been emptied for at least six weeks so paper is littered around the banks. Moreover I have witnessed local businesses putting their cardboard material into the banks, thus clogging them up, when they should have (and may well have) commercial waste collection agreements with the local authority. The banks used to be emptied once a week.

Yours faithfully,
Russell Schofield
Diploma Avenue, N2.

Bird bonanza

Dear Editor,
We have lived in our house near an ancient wood in East Finchley for nearly 47 years. Over that time we have had 26 species of birds visiting our garden. This has included three species of the crow family, three from the tits, nuthatches, chaffinches, green and lesser spotted woodpeckers, a duck and drake and a sparrow hawk. This year, to our delight, we have two pairs of long tailed tits visiting our feeder. Is this a record?

Yours faithfully,
Ruth Sober
Address supplied.

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Garden Suburb: Belvedere Court, 1938, by Ernst Ludwig Freud, son of Sigmund; intended as rental apartments for Jewish families from Europe, internally the flats were ultra-modern with central heating and fitted kitchens.



Garden Suburb: Lytton Close, 1935, by G.G. Winbourne; built in 1935 for W.L.M. Estates and Grade II listed.



Finchley Central: St Mary-at-Finchley Social Centre, 1958, by Kenneth Wood; post-war church social centre, designed by Kenneth Wood, better known for his house designs in South London and Surrey.

Bold and beautiful? Buildings that embodied a new style

By Malcolm Dunkeld

Modernist architecture is like Marmite, intriguing and repelling in equal measure. It arrived in Britain in the 1920s with émigré architects like Walter Gropius and Berthold Lubetkin. It's a style characterised by plain, white, rectilinear buildings with long ribbon windows, streamlined surfaces and the use of 'new' materials such as steel and concrete.

Photographic printer Joshua Abbot, 39, discovered Modernist architecture during his degree in photography at Westminster University and now runs the popular www.modernism-in-metroland.co.uk website, which documents and celebrates the Modernist and Art Deco buildings of the Metroland area.

Modernism on our doorstep

His favourite N2 examples include East Finchley tube station, Strawberry Vale and houses in Vivian Way, along with houses in Lytton Close, Spencer Drive and Belvedere Court in Hampstead Garden Suburb, plus the old Church End Library and St. Mary-at-Finchley Social Centre, both in Hendon Lane, N3, and not forgetting the splendid Everyman Cinema in Muswell Hill.

The bold imagery and distinctiveness of modernist buildings attracted him when compared to the more common 'Tudor-bethan' house style of the interwar years. Joshua became particularly interested in buildings in Metroland, the area of north-west London and the counties of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire developed by the Metropolitan Railway Company and made famous by John Betjeman in his 1973 BBC documentary film *Metro-Land*.

Joshua, from Welwyn Garden City, has recently teamed up with Unbound, a crowd-funded publisher, to produce *A Guide to Modernism in Metro-Land* which will include photographs, maps and descriptions of individual buildings. He is looking for support to publish the guide in September and details can be found on his website.



East Finchley: Tube station, 1938, by Charles Holden & L.H. Bucknell; Northern Line station, built as part of the New Works Programme of 1935-40, it features Archie, the famous Archer sculpture by Eric Aumonier.

Morning has broken on the pasture

By Linda Dolata

A few stalwarts were at Long Lane Pasture between 4.30am and 5am on Sunday 6 May to hear the wonderful dawn chorus and see the sun rise. We could not have chosen a better day, and indeed the birds thought so too, as there was a loud choir of song thrush, blackbird, robin, blackcap and many others.

The pasture, opposite the fire station in Long Lane, looks particularly beautiful at the moment, with hawthorn in full blossom, with its strong perfume, all the wild grasses in flower, and dewfall at that time of the morning spangling everything with ephemeral diamonds.

The chorus lasts only minutes, but is something everyone should make the effort to hear at least once at this time of the year. We live in a city, but around East Finchley there are many pockets where nature comes into its own, and this is one way to recognise how lucky we are to live here.

Sound and light

As the light intensified, and the chorus faded, we all grouped at the west end of the site to watch the glowing bright red ball of the sun slowly rise above the houses at the east end. The clear skies allowed us to see it in all its glorious globed scarlet before it turned to flame orange and then yellow. What a spectacle, and how little

attention we pay it on most days.

Thank you to all who came. It was particularly lovely to see Zoe and her young son Huxley. We always love to see new faces. The pasture is open almost every day at this time of the year, for anyone to just

call in, sit and enjoy the peace, have a picnic, read the paper and just relax.

On Saturdays from 10am till



Morning glory: A song thrush joins the dawn chorus at Long Lane Pasture. Photo Donald Lyven.

12 noon there is always a group of volunteers keeping on top of the tasks that need to be done.

Please feel free to join us.



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