

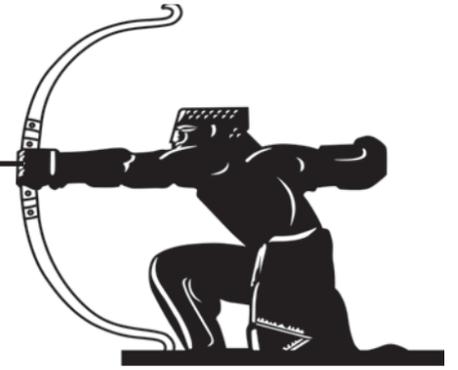


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ISSN 1361-3952 **20p** where sold

The Archer

Local News is our Aim



December 2019 No. 308

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Grease is the word for garage gang

Fashion designer and actress Sadie Frost, centre, joined her friends at the Spanners With Manners garage in East Finchley to create an all-female version of the famous Greased Lightning moment from the movie musical Grease as part of a special photo shoot. Read the full story on page 6. Photo: Debbi Clark.

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Seasons Greetings

Best wishes for the festive season to all our readers, deliverers and advertisers, from everyone on *The Archer* team.

Milkmen upheaval

At least 12 milkmen, serving East Finchley, Highgate, Muswell Hill and nearby areas, have been ousted from the depot they have used for many years with just two weeks' notice by its owners. Full story on page 5.

Mugging alert

People of all ages are being warned to be on their guard against muggers following reports of a spate of attempted robberies on teenagers and a distressing incident involving a commuter walking home at night. Full story on page 3.

Fundraising drive to make festival happen

By David Melsome

A crowdfunding campaign has been launched urging people in East Finchley to pledge a small amount of money to ensure their long-running summer festival in Cherry Tree Wood is a success again in 2020.

New team

There's a new team responsible for East Finchley Festival after previous organisers, East Finchley Community Trust, felt it was time to hand over the baton. Now, following a period of transition, festival volunteers Mike Hughes, Miranda Levey, Charles O'Toole, Alison Roberts, Owen Rowlands and Grant Silverman, who all live locally, are primed and ready to deliver future events after forming non-profit organisation East Finchley Festival CIC.

Free for the community

Entry to the East Finchley Community Festival is always free but it does cost money to run. Sponsorship, stall fees and programme advertising cover some of the costs but last year organisers found that some businesses were tightening their belts so the new crowdfunding approach is an attempt to fill the cash gap and ensure that the organising team can start making bookings for the essentials like stage equipment, bins and toilets.

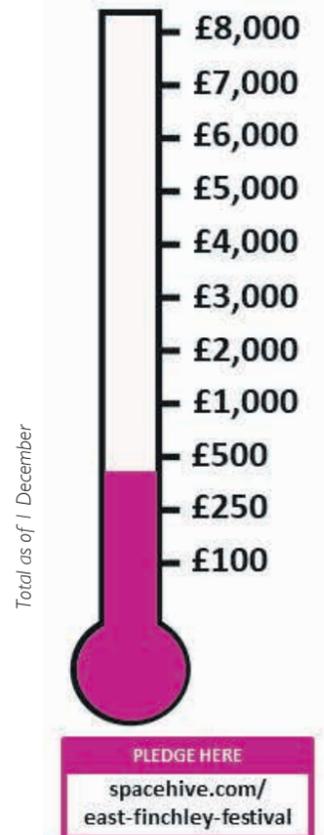
Back your festival

Co-organiser Mike Hughes said: "While we have no intention of changing the festival, we are exploring new ways of financing it. We need to raise £8,809 and quick, which is why we are running a crowdfunding campaign asking local residents to pledge a small amount. Just £10 or £20 from enough people will help ensure we have the finance to stage the event. So, please help if you can, our festival needs you."

You can make your pledge at: spacehive.com/east-finchley-festival. Pledges will only be charged if the project hits its funding goal of £8,809 by 8 February 2020.



EAST FINCHLEY FESTIVAL



Grant Silverman told *The Archer*: "We are all really excited about next year's festival. We want it to be the best yet and if that means making it greener or offering a greater range of food, then we're open to ideas, suggestions and most of all sponsorship. So please get in touch with us at eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com"

The festival is scheduled to take place on Sunday 21 June 2020 in Cherry Tree Wood. Any pledges, large or small, will be very welcome.



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Published by East Finchley Newspapers	Editorial Team Diana Cormack Daphne Chamberlain	Finance & Advertising John Dearing
Copy Editor John Lawrence	Sub Editors Ann Bronkhorst Jeff Robson	Distribution Toni Morgan Jane & David Marsh
Production Editor Alison Roberts		Printed By Sharman & Co Ltd
Picture Editor Mike Coles		

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 – **January: 13 December; February: 10 January; March: 14 February**

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Benefits	020 8489 2800	Missing Persons Helpline	116 000	Police non-emergency	101
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Everyman, Muswell Hill	0872 436 9060	Refuge Crisis Helpline	0808 2000 247	NHS	111
Garden Suburb Library	020 8458 3301	Relate Helpline	0300 100 1234	Barnet General	020 8216 4000
Muswell Hill Library	020 8489 8773	RSPCA	0300 1234 999	Edgware General	020 8952 2381
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Heathrow Airport	0844 3351801	Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688	Independent Age	0800 319 6789
National Express	0871 781 8181	Cancer Support	020 8202 2211	Age UK	0800 169 2081
TfL	0343 222 1234	Carers' Line	0808 808 7777		
Thameslink	0345 026 4700	Drinkline	0800 917 8282		

Extra flats are given go-ahead at High Road site

By David Melsome

A plan to increase the number of flats at a controversial development opposite East Finchley tube station, first reported in *The Archer* in July, has been approved by Barnet Council.



Expanded development: An early artist's impression of how the new block will look.

Permission was originally granted in January 2018 for 21 flats and an office on the former GLH site. Developer Safeland PLC claimed this was insufficiently profitable and asked for permission to add three flats and extra office space, part of which will be accommodated by excavating underground.

East Finchley councillors Claire Farrier and Arjun Mittra raised objections at a recent planning committee meeting but the amendment was ultimately approved.

Impact on area during and after construction
Local residents say they are particularly worried about road safety around the new four-storey development and the impact it will have on the Monkey Puzzle nursery school next door.

Michael McGrath, of Ingram Road, where homes back on to the site, said the development will be an ugly and overbearing eyesore. He is worried about the

danger of cars emerging from the flats' small parking area on to the High Road immediately opposite the busy station entrance and exit, and of waste collection lorries trying to service the 24 flats.

"The construction period will be very disruptive to the life of East Finchley," he added. "Hundreds of large waste lorries will be required to cart away the wreckage of the old Georgian building currently on the site and tons of soil excavated to form the underground areas.

"We can expect much dust, mud and noise to be generated. There will be no onsite parking during construction, so surrounding streets will be much busier. And no doubt the High Road will need to be closed to facilitate the connection of services."

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

8 Abbots Gardens, N2
Variation of condition 1 to planning permission, to include lowering ground floor levels.

11 Beresford Road, N2
Four air conditioning units at rear on flat roof.

15 Beresford Road, N2
Single-storey side and rear extension.

67 Brackenbury Road, N2
Extension to rear dormer window over first floor outrigger.

20 Elmfield Road, N2
Roof extension, including one rear dormer window and two front roof lights.

7 Fairlawn Avenue, N2
Single-storey rear extension: depth 3.5m, eaves height 2.35 m, maximum height 3.5 m.

80 Hamilton Road, N2
Variation to planning permission, to include increasing the size of rear roof lantern.

350 Long Lane, N2
Conversion of two self-contained flats back into a single family dwelling. Lawful Development Certificate.

7 Park Hall Road, N2
Single-storey side/rear extension, including three skylights to new pitched roof. Lawful Development Certificate.

Prospect Ring, N2
Non-material amendments to planning permission, to include removal of Condition 19 (Modelling and Design Work details).

1 Summerlee Gardens, N2
Single-storey rear extension.

The Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, N2
Amendment to planning permission, to include alterations to cycle storage, additional sections of fencing and gates to front, revisions to glazed entrance screen, details to roof plant and acoustic and visual screens. Two internal white LED illuminated and facade mounted pan channel lettering, with translucent vinyl coloured film and metal canopy fascia to front and rear entrance.

1-13 Willow House, The Grange Estate, N2
Replacement of roof and associated works. Replacement of windows.

OSTEOPATHY | ACUPUNCTURE

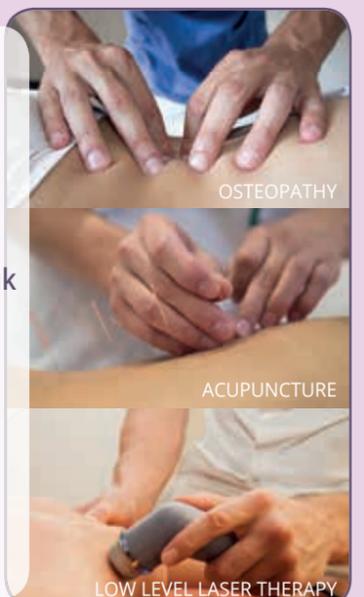
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Be on your guard against street robberies

By Diana Cormack

People of all ages are being warned to be on their guard against muggers following reports of a spate of attempted robberies on teenagers and a distressing incident involving a commuter walking home at night.

Parents on social media have reported a number of muggings and attempted muggings on teenagers in the area, in some cases by youths carrying knives. Teenagers are vulnerable as they are on the streets a lot and often carry expensive phones, cash and bank cards. Parents are patrolling some areas in the evenings to safeguard children walking home and have called for a more visible police presence.

Robbery prevented

The Archer has had a first-hand account of a foiled robbery on Park Road, N2, after a reader saw a light-coloured car standing in the road with one door open and a screaming neighbour on the pavement, trying to fend off an attack by the driver who was attempting to steal his bag.

Our reader, who does not wish to be named, yelled at the assailant hoping to scare him off. Fortunately this worked and he drove away. "I was scared to get too close in case the attacker had a weapon," the reader told us. "The victim did the right thing in making a lot of noise to draw attention to what was happening."

Other residents called the police, who were quickly on the scene and established that nothing had been taken. Despite being given a nasty beating, the man had held on to his possessions. It could have been a different story if no-one had intervened or if the mugger had been armed. Our reader hopes that locals will take heed and stay safe.

Police measures

40 robberies in East Finchley were recorded by the Met Police for the year October 2018 to September 2019, just over three a month.

In the year before that, October 2017 to September 2018, there were 58, almost five a month.

Commenting on the recent increase in local robberies, Jan Lovell, of East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, says: "We have increased both uniformed and plain clothed officers on patrol, on foot and in cars, on the ward. We also are working with Barnet borough CCTV to identify offenders and as observation to assist officers."

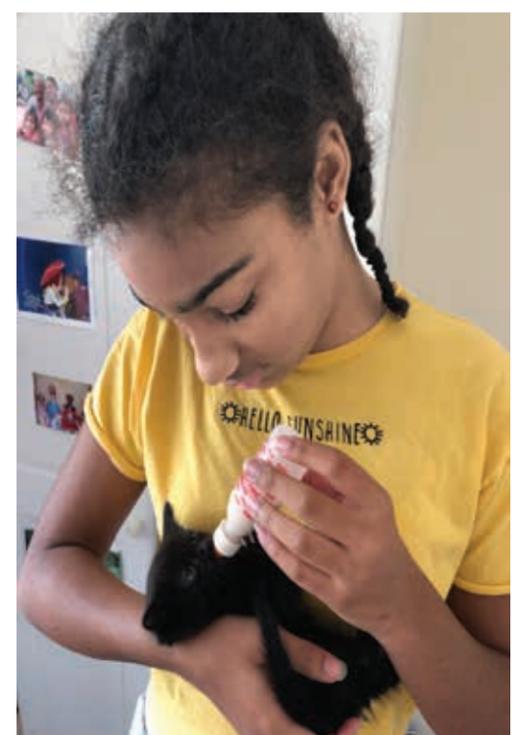
Advice on staying safe

The Archer asked Jan to suggest ways in which we can all stay safe. Jan advises people to look confident, be aware of their surroundings and not use earphones. If you feel you're being followed, move quickly to a busy well-lit area such as a shop, restaurant or transport hub and ask for help or get on a bus and ask the driver for help.

Meet friends in busy places and don't hang around on the street. Put your phone away after using it. Use your device's security features or PIN locking mechanisms to protect data and prevent it being used if stolen. Install a tracker app and act quickly if your phone is stolen.

Keep a note of your phone's unique IMEI number – but not on your phone – which can be obtained by keying in * # 06 #. Register this number on immobilise.com so the phone can't be used if stolen.

Parents should ask young family members what they would do if they felt unsafe when out so that they have a plan of action. They could also encourage them to carry a personal alarm, which can be picked up relatively cheaply online.



Caring network: Animal welfare officer Abi McEwan, left, with fostered cat Caspar, and a young carer feeds Caspar when he is just five weeks old. Photos: RSPCA Finchley.

Neglected kittens in desperate need of loving foster parents

RSPCA officers are appealing for help from anyone in East Finchley who is willing to foster neglected kittens and cats until they can be found a permanent home.

The charity is presented with a steady stream of mistreated cats but has only limited cattery places of its own in the Finchley, Golders Green and Hendon District. A network of foster volunteers would help to meet the demand.

How foster-care works

Foster parents are expected to provide food, water, a toileting area, stimulation and rest in a suitable area at home. A foster placement can be anything from a few days or a few weeks or more and is agreed in advance. All costs and expenses, including veterinary fees, are covered by the RSPCA.

Animal welfare officer Abi McEwan said fostering gives people who would normally be unable to take in a cat long-term

an opportunity to spend time with animals. The benefits to hosts of all ages can be huge.

She said: "We do not expect people to have previous experience of owning a cat, although this often is helpful, we only ask they have a passion for animals and some availability and understanding for those animals in their care."

"There is the reward of offering a helping hand and making a difference to a cat's life by ensuring its future re-home-ability and the happiness of a prospective adopter."

Potential volunteers should be aware that very young kittens will need bottle feeding every four hours round the clock. They are asked to complete an application form, supply two references and

accept a visit by an RSPCA officer to make sure their home is suitable.

"It may seem like a long and arduous process," said Abi, "but typically we are able to process within two weeks and often foster carers receive their first cat within the first two weeks of acceptance, such is the demand."

Carpenters welcome

To apply, email awo@rspcafinchley.org.uk for an application form, or contact the local animal welfare officer by telephone on 07733 395729. The RSPCA would also like to hear from any potential volunteers with carpentry skills who could help enrich the lives of the cats in foster care by making them some cat trees.

Man charged after 'stabbing'

By Janet Maitland

A man has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent after a man was allegedly stabbed in Muswell Hill in the early hours of Thursday 31 October.

Police were called to Fortis Green Road, N10, at 1.40am to a report of a stabbing. The victim was rushed to hospital by the London Ambulance Service where his condition was described as stable.

Keray Granfield, 21, appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court on 1 November, where he was remanded in custody to appear at Wood Green Crown Court on 5 December.

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Inner circle: A map of the new parking zone

Changes afoot to parking zones flooded by commuters

By John Lawrence

Major changes to parking zones in East Finchley are in the pipeline after residents raised concerns about their roads being clogged by commuters who leave their cars all day.

A new controlled parking zone, or CPZ, is being proposed for the roads closest to the tube station. It would operate from 10am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday and is intended to deter drivers who move their cars there from elsewhere in the existing 'M' zone, which is in a curve as far out as Greenhalgh Walk, Trinity Avenue and Hertford Road.

At the same time, Barnet Council has agreed to add Leslie Road and Leopold Road to the existing M zone, where parking is restricted to residents only between 2pm and 3pm Monday to Friday. Until now, these two roads have been just outside the CPZ and have found themselves first choice for commuters who leave their cars and

walk the final half-mile to the station.

Station parking

Residents in the roads closest to Cherry Tree Wood and on the other side of the tube station around Edmunds Walk and The Causeway have long reported difficulties with parking close to their homes. They say a number of commuters from further out in the existing M zone will get in their cars and drive to this area, rather than take a five or 10-minute walk to the station.

The proposed new M1 zone, which was put out for public consultation in November, would mean residents on these roads would be able to buy permits that will not be available to residents elsewhere in the M zone. A final decision on

introducing the new zone will be taken in the spring.

Leslie and Leopold

The extension of the 2-3pm parking restrictions into Leslie Road and Leopold Road is likely to take effect in the first few months of 2020. Eighty-eight per cent of respondents there declared in favour of the CPZ when a consultation was held earlier this year.

Residents Kathy Batten, David Johns, Delory Lowndes and Valerie Teague led the campaign. They told *The Archer*: "Once in place our CPZ will regulate non-resident/commuter parking ensuring residents can park near their homes. It should also help reduce congestion and driver conflict, making parking a less stressful experience and creating a more pleasant and safer environment for all." See *Letters pg 11*.



Tree planting: A new sapling in Lincoln Road. Photo Mike Coles.

What goes up must come down

Many residents in Lincoln Road, N2, were pleased to see Barnet Council contractors planting a range of new trees along the pavements outside their homes in late October, promising buds and greenery for springs and summers to come.

Meanwhile reader Diane Goodkind let us know that branches trimmed from trees in East End Road back in the summer, again by Barnet Council, were still waiting to be collected five or six months on. The tree debris is partially blocking the pavement.

Local councillors have repeatedly requested that the piles are collected but so far with no success. So, watch your step!



Tree debris: One of the piles of green waste in East End Road. Photo: Diane Goodkind.



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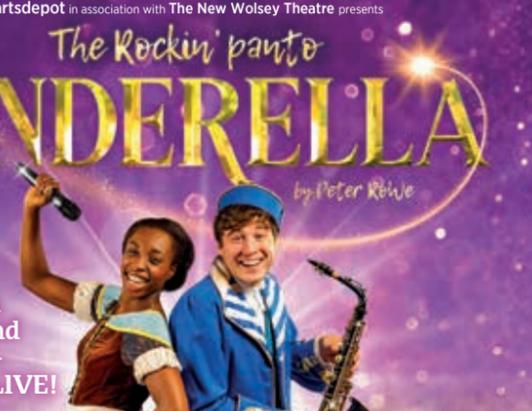
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Milkmen upheaval after years of serving local customers

By Ann Bronkhorst

Milkmen serving East Finchley, Highgate and Muswell Hill have been ousted from the depot they have used for many years with just two weeks' notice by its owners.

The independent deliverers had a supply agreement with Capital Dairies, renewable every two years and based on the long-established use of their north London depot and vehicles. These were bought two years ago by Milk & More, owned by the large German firm Müller.

This year, the milkmen's agreement was not renewed; instead they say they were told they would have to move to Capital Dairies' new site in Barking, Essex, less convenient for most of them and without electric vehicles. They claim Milk & More offered to buy their rounds for their own deliverers to take over.



Going independent: Milkman Mike Fuller

Angry and shell-shocked at their treatment, the milkmen refused the company's proposal. Staying united, they searched for another supplier and found Ongar Dairy in Epping, which supplies the well-regarded Cotteswold milk and can provide vehicles, albeit quite noisy ones, for now.

Online or traditional

The milkmen say the online-only ordering system run by Milk & More does not work for everyone. "Not all customers have the internet," said Mick Fuller, who delivers in East Finchley, "and many love the one-to-one contact with their

milkman." He points out the flexibility with which orders can be arranged and altered when customers know and trust their regular local milkman.

Tony Drew, who has delivered in Highgate for 40 years, spoke movingly about the social role of milkmen. He has been involved with rescues, helping stroke victims, calling police to burglaries and other situations when the protective presence of someone who knows the community has been vital. For him, "It's not the money aspect but the moral aspect. I will fight to the end."

Milk & More respond

Andrew Kendall, Deputy CEO of Milk & More told *The Archer*: "At no time were these independent milkmen told that they needed to sell their rounds to Milk & More and that if they did not they had to vacate the premises they operate from and lose their electric vehicles," but added: "If they were interested in selling to us then we would review the opportunity." The spokesman also emphasised that Milk & More's contract was "solely with Capital Dairies... [we] have no contracts with these independent milkmen." Milk & More and Capital Dairies, he said, had met in August to discuss their agreement and "agreed to serve notice on the arrangement." Of this the milkmen say they knew nothing.

Watch this space

These long-serving milkmen have at least succeeded in protecting their rounds for now, so customers' deliveries are safe and these traditional, much-valued small businesses won't disappear ... here, at least. In fact there's been a tsunami of support on social media. One typical comment is: "Let's all try to spread the word and help milk delivery services survive."



Story time: Children enjoying a picture book at the Finchley Community Toy Library.

Double the fun at toy library

By Diana Cormack

The Green Man Centre in Strawberry Vale, N2, has been housing Finchley Community Toy Library every Tuesday morning in term time for five years. In January 2020 openings will be extended to include Monday afternoons, giving more pre-school children and their parents the chance to enjoy some valuable play experience with a variety of toys but without the cost of buying them.

There is a soft play area for babies and each session offers activities for toddlers, which includes story time, along with facilities for adults to share play with their youngsters. Two toys can be taken for two weeks at a time at a minimal cost. Books, of which there is an impressive collection, are not charged for.

Meeting a need

Sadly the toy library in Muswell Hill closed this summer as did East Finchley's own many years ago.

Finchley Community Toy Library founder Nina Gentry said: "It is so hard to get into a library these days. You need a PIN code, a timetable and all that nonsense. Most obstructive!" She told *The Archer* of her future plans for a book bag scheme to encourage parents of pre-schoolers into the habit of book borrowing.

The toy library is open to all, though it is under the auspices of Barnet Lone Parent Centre, which is able to offer

help and advice to parents who are on their own for whatever reason. Attendance is flexible after registering. Sessions are run by a group of paid and volunteer workers who have been described as friendly and accommodating and who offer coffee and snacks to users as well as a warm welcome.

For more information search online for Barnet Lone Parent Centre, call 020 3828 4824 or email nina.gentry@peabody.org.uk

Stories of a church and its soldiers

By Sue Windridge

After much hard work, All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, launched two fascinating publications at its open day in October.

The first is a long-awaited history titled *The Story of All Saints', East Finchley* in a colourful and engaging format, written by David Sillito, who is the BBC's media and arts correspondent and a member of the congregation.

The second publication, *In Memoriam*, collects together articles on the casualties listed on the All Saints' war memorial, researched and written by congregation member Sally Atkinson and previously published over a period of four years in the parish magazine.



Tales to remember: The cover of one of the All Saints' books

The men listed on the memorial are aged between 16 and 40. Most died on the Western Front, but one died in East Africa and one in Mesopotamia. There are four sets of brothers.

The Story of All Saints', East Finchley costs £10 and *In Memoriam* £7.50, and both are available by emailing saintsabounding@gmail.com or calling 07767 427264.

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Tyred out: Mechanic Stevie Barrow in a shot from the charity calendar. Photo: Debbi Clark.

Calendar girls from the car workshop

Who says being a garage mechanic can't be glamorous? The team at London's first all-female car workshop make greasy boiler suits look chic in a special photo shoot for a 2020 charity calendar.

And the Spanners With Manners mechanics pulled in the star power of their friend, actress Sadie Frost, to join them in some of the photographs, all shot at their garage in Long Lane, N2.

It was a cold day in November but professional photographer Debbi Clark and a make-up artist made sure everyone looked their best. Ideas and styling for the shots came from garage owners Siobhan Murphy and Laura Kennedy, along with their colleagues Megan, Stevie and Emma.

"It was amazing to do but a little scary," said Siobhan. "Sadie is a professional but none of us had ever been in front of a proper photographer before. To

be honest, we were pretty stiff to start with but after a while we all loosened up and had fun."

Arts for children

Every penny raised from sales of the full-colour calendar will go to the Sir Hubert Von Herkomer Arts Foundation which provides free after-school clubs in arts subjects and arranges excursions to art galleries, theatres and exhibitions for children aged five to 18 across England.

You can find out more about the charity and reserve a copy of the calendar, featuring a different photo of the Spanners With Manners team every month, at vonherkomerfoundation.org/shop/ for £16.99.

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Search starts for ways to clean up the air we breathe

By Ruth Anders

Did you know that typical Londoners spend 90% of their time indoors, that every bus shelter and set of traffic lights is a toxic air hotspot and that 52% of journeys that could be done on foot in Barnet are made by car?

Around 50 people streamed into Martin School, East Finchley, in mid-October to hear these and other messages, as well as ask lively and sometimes confrontational questions.

Eco Team and more

But this was not before eight young Martin School Eco Team students had made a well-researched and impassioned plea for more action relating to the air we breathe. These children have been involved with a clean air school project, and are probably better informed than most of us. One of their many initiatives includes the growing of eco-friendly plants to counter air pollution.

Under the chairmanship of East Finchley Community Trust's Kate Brown, audience members heard about the London Assembly's aim to get 80% of London journeys achieved on foot, by bicycle or public transport. Assembly member Leonie Cooper stressed the value of 20mph speed limits in reducing air pollution.

Tamara Djuretic, Director of Public Health and Prevention for Barnet Council, explained the council's ongoing initiatives such as the mapping of air quality hotspots against childhood asthma and the planned New Year anti-idling campaign.

us all think about opening our house windows more often and pausing before taking our cars half a mile when we could walk. One Creighton Avenue resident raised his concern about noxious fumes resulting from local allotment bonfires.



Clean break: Residents at the meeting on air quality.

Audience views

Much excitable discussion followed about future goals including the reduction of four-wheel drive cars on our streets and planted green walls to replace metal fences around schools. Suggested tips made

Leonie, Tamara, Kate and East Finchley's three ward councillors promised to take all the issues on board, although next steps are unclear at this stage. For the most part, this fascinating session raised more questions than it answered.

Winter will be a busy time in the wood

Litter picks and a community orchard are part of the plans for the continued revival of Cherry Tree Wood. Roger Chapman, from the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, brings the latest news.

Clean-ups

Regular litter picking and general clean-up sessions are now planned for Cherry Tree Wood. Winter dates are the second Sunday of each month starting Sunday 8 December at 2pm. Take a break from shopping, de-stress and join us in our beautiful local wood for some litter-picking cheer. We will also be starting our leaf mould compost by clearing leaves off paths.

Further clean up sessions follow on Sunday 12 January, Sunday 9 February and Sunday 8 March, again all at 2pm. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Summerlee Avenue gate.

Community orchard

The idea of a community orchard has been discussed in the past. Due to a recent course run by the London Community Orchard charity the idea has moved on rapidly.

The course was about designing a small orchard for a particular area. We chose the area between the tennis courts and the main path, pictured. Two ancient half dead roses in the bed have recently disappeared. As part of the course the Friends were entitled to choose five two-year-old fruit trees. We ordered Core Blimey, Cornish Aromatic and Ashmead's Kernel, all apples, Humbug, a pear, and

Flavour King, a mix of plum and apricot. While we wait on their delivery we're negotiating with Barnet Council to ensure they approve of us planting the trees (with guards) in the location shown.

Please drop us an email with your views on the project and join our email list to keep in touch with events in the Wood. We will also hold an event in the Wood after Christmas to consult with local people before

finally announcing a planting date. Email friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting
Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 14 January at Monkey Puzzle Nursery, just outside the High Road entrance to the wood, starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and take part. Meanwhile, keep up to date with the Friends on our website: <https://friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog/>

What's happening with the pavilion?

A year has passed since the decision to demolish the disused pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood was made public, yet it would appear that so far nothing has been done.

At the beginning of the year a Barnet Council spokesman told us: "We are currently awaiting quotations for the building to be safely demolished. Once these have been received and evaluated we will programme the works for as soon as is practicable." (*The Archer*, Jan 2019).

It was believed that this would happen once the money was available. However, it seems we will have to wait a while for the crumbling structure to be dismantled.



Fenced off: The pavilion last month.

The latest statement from Barnet says: "The contractor is currently undertaking a series of pre-start works, including arranging for the disconnection of utilities, after which the building will be demolished."



Three-year plan to bring visible changes to Big Local area

By John Lawrence

Six years after being awarded £1 million in lottery cash the Grange Big Local team is set to agree a new three-year plan for projects that it hopes will transform the lives of people living in a large area of East Finchley.

The Big Lottery Fund award was originally announced in 2013 to support community ideas in the area bounded by the High Road, Church Lane, East End Road and the North Circular. Money has been released in installments and work will carry on until 2026.



Big Local chair: James Masters

Varied achievements

To date, the Grange Big Local team has funded youth projects such as Art Against Knives and Basketball is Education, and run weekly citizens advice sessions at St Mary's Parish Centre, High Road, N2. In November 2018 it supported residents affected by the fire in Willow House on the Grange, and for several years has run an annual Fun Palace event for the whole community. Other projects include regular lunch clubs and a summer coach trip to Southend.

Complex projects take time

But chairman James Masters acknowledges that they have underestimated the time it will take to get some of their larger projects off the ground. These include ideas like new play areas for youngsters, finding a community hub where local people can meet and improving the underpass between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road.

"We have found that there are many moving parts in these types of projects," he told *The Archer*, "with sometimes five or six service providers like Barnet Council or Transport for London involved. It can take a lot of time to coordinate them all and see changes happen.

"That's why the new three-year plan is so important. I want to work out what's achievable and then spend some of our money on professional project managers who have the time and experience to get the projects done."

On the list?

Ideas put forward by local residents at an open afternoon in November included making more use of the new Barnwood green space in Tarling Road, improving equipment in the Market Place play area and supporting young entrepreneurs in the area. The three-year plan will be announced early next year ready to start in April.

Autumn fair success

By Stroma Leith

Despite dreadful weather on Saturday 2 November, the autumn fair at Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane, N2, was a great success. People flooded in to enjoy the stalls selling children's clothes and toys, books, bric-a-brac, cakes, chutney, jewellery, plants and much more.

There were competitions such as 'Splat the rat' and 'Guess the name of the giant bear' (Baloo, in case you wondered); story telling for the children and a bottle tombola; meal deals for the hungry and the famous raffle

with fabulous prizes.

More than £2,600 was raised providing much needed funds for the church and we are most grateful to all who came to support us. We hope even more people will come next year.

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Easily learned: Renato Corsetti, left, past president of the World Esperanto Association, with Esperanto author Anna Lowenstein. Photo: Mike Coles.

Internacia lingvo en Orienta Finchley (That's Esperanto for 'International language in East Finchley')

By David Gritten

Renato Corsetti writes a short sentence on a piece of paper, then asks for a translation. What he has written looks unfamiliar at first, but, with the exception of the final word, it's not so hard to decipher. It reads: 'Esperanto estas internacia lingvo facile lernebla.'

The meaning of the whole sentence? "Esperanto is an international language, easily learnable."

Renato and his wife Anna Lowenstein live in St Pancras Court, High Road, N2, and are both leading lights in the world of Esperanto, known as the most widely spoken 'constructed international auxiliary language.' It was devised some 130 years ago to help eliminate barriers of misunderstanding between people who speak different languages.

Growing interest

The couple say that enthusiasm for Esperanto is growing, notably among a generation of young people who travel widely and meet people from different countries. Online courses such as Duolingo are encouraging interest and, for the past four years, there has been an exam organised by the London Esperanto Club (founded in 1903). Success rates are gratifyingly high.

Italian-born Renato, a former president of the World Esperanto Association, and Anna run twice-weekly classes in north London, which are enthusiastically attended. He teaches advanced classes, she teaches intermediate. Renato observes: "People come from as far as Scotland, Wales and Ireland."

"New people keep turning up," confirms Anna. "I think they get involved because as soon as they start learning it, they feel they're part of something."

Family language

They met at an Esperanto congress in the late 70s and got to know each other in Lucerne, Switzerland. "We spoke in Esperanto, which was our common language," recalls Renato. "It is now the common language between us." Their sons, now in their 30s, speak Esperanto, English and Italian.

Anna, who was born and raised in north London, has written two novels in Esperanto. Their titles translate as *The Stone City* and *Death of an Artist*. She reflects: "The whole point of Esperanto is that it's an

easy language. When I was 13 I got a book out of the library in Muswell Hill. I knew about it because my great uncle was interested in it. He said it had no irregularities. And it's true. It's easy, especially if you're learning French or Latin, as I was."

After her 33-year spell in Italy, they moved to London some five years ago. They are pleased by the growing popularity of Esperanto; it has recently been estimated that 814,000 people worldwide are currently learning it.

"So many young people travel a lot or go to meetings abroad," Renato reflects. "And wherever they go—China, Thailand—there are esperantists!"

For more details about Esperanto email Renato at: renato.corsetti@gmail.com

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YOUNG ARCHER



Joe Strong with his Community Award. Photo Mike Coles

Joe honoured for his work with young people

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley worker Joe Strong was presented with an award at a ceremony in Hendon in September in recognition of the 23 years he has given to working with young people in the community.

Celebration and prizes

The spirit of celebration was felt at the Archer Academy's prizegiving ceremony when former pupils were welcomed back to help mark the achievements of current students.

Former army officer turned adventurer Neil Laughton was the guest speaker and shared stories about climbing Everest and racing from Land's End to John O'Groats on a penny farthing. The audience were treated to both music and dance performances during

the event.

The secondary school in Eagans Close, N2, thanked members of the East Finchley community, including East Finchley Open and Beaumont Close Residents Association, for their continued support of the annual ceremony.



Prize moment: Sophie, from Year 11 at the Archer Academy, collects her award for art from Lesley Andrew and Peter Hale, of East Finchley Open, as guest speaker Neil Laughton looks on.

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It came from the AAA4S-UCCESS charity, founded in Leicester by Cheryl Armatrading in memory of her son and young murder victim Antoin Akpom to assist and support young people towards achieving their ambitions in life.

Joe's own life changed in 1995 when, after a career in night club management, he decided to do something different. He moved from Manchester to London and began working with youngsters, often vulnerable or problematic teenagers who had difficulties with mainstream schooling, as well as doing support work in the secondary sector.

Monday, Friday and more

Many Strawberry Vale residents will know Joe from his work with the thriving football section of the Monday Club and also from the Friday Youth Club. He told us that he has also been mentoring and working with young individuals in the community who have mental health issues.

Joe believes the reduction in social services has contributed greatly towards many of the problems young people are now experiencing. He told *The Archer* that when he started working in Barnet in 1996, the borough ran 23 youth centres but that today there are only two: Canada Villa in Mill Hill and Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road.

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Helping each other: Monkey Puzzle pre-schoolers with residents at Nazareth House. Photo: Chloe O'Donovan.

Nursery visits bridge the generation gap

By Tamara Manrique Lago

Our Monkey Puzzle pre-schoolers had the opportunity to learn about our elders and share a space with them at Nazareth House Care Home, East End Road, N2, thanks to the JOY (Joining Old and Young) project founded by Jenny Kossew.

We walked up the High Road, which gave us the opportunity to develop our learning of road safety, sharing space with other pedestrians and "stranger danger". There was lots to see on the way. The children talked about the numbers they saw on the buses and on price labels for the fruit and veg stands.

JOY is all about joining old and young together. It is a

lovely experience for everyone involved, as each month the pre-schoolers go to the care home to visit the elderly, building relationships with them and learning to adapt to different social situations. Each child is paired with one of the residents and together do lots of singing and an arts and crafts activity, in this case decorating paper people. We're looking forward to our visit again next month.



Words and pictures: Author and illustrator Alexis Deacon at Martin School

Stories brought to life

Year 2 pupils at Martin School have been completing projects inspired by the book *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon and, shortly before the half term break, the author himself popped in to run a workshop, read the book and talk to them about the story. Headteacher Miss Chater said the children were enthralled.

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Climate change protests: what are they like from the inside?

Protests by Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists have become a part of city life this year, most recently in October when a number of London locations were occupied. Augusta Hall is a receptionist at Muswell Health Centre and volunteered as an XR steward in Trafalgar Square. Here's her diary of the event.

Stewards are responsible for keeping rebels and the public safe. We observe, listen and answer many questions. On site we familiarise ourselves with where everything is: for example, all exits, toilets, welcome and wellbeing tents, and where to access working groups such as de-escalation, police liaison and arrestee support. We help keep cycle lanes open, and always assist emergency vehicles through an action or site.

Safety is paramount. On the Extinction March we spaced ourselves all along between traffic and people. Wearing high vis, we are often the first point of contact for the public, and are ready to explain the protest, as well as showing understanding for the frustration of people's journeys being disrupted.

We encouraged a sombre tone to the march. After all, it was about the extinction of all creatures and nature. This isn't always adopted by the marchers, as people like to be loud, singing and chanting.

Trafalgar Square

On Monday 7 October my day began at 7.30am. Because we didn't know how things would play out, we stationed ourselves in twos about the square at different roads.

I was on the junction with the Strand. The Mall was blocked, due to building work, but cars, buses, lorries and pedestrians were rolling through the rest of the Square. When the action happened, it was so fast.

My junction was taken by five or more rebels running into the middle of the road with a wheeled, free standing scaffold. They clambered up to the top

while police tried but failed to stop them. Rebels moved all around the scaffold. Two sat in the road alongside, each with an arm locked into a long tube between them, soon decorated with XR stickers. The rebels at the top, were chanting and waving XR flags. A banner was unrolled across the junction.

I was reminded of the tremendous power of non-violent direct action. Over the next 12 days and a night, I joined the Rebellion daily.

Stewards spend a lot of time dealing with lost property, and this wet October the property was sodden. Every piece is recorded, and crossed off when reunited with its owner. With long hours on site, in the rain, it might have been miserable but it wasn't at all. It was inspir-



Massed ranks: Protesters in Trafalgar Square in October.

ing, due to the togetherness of people around. People were kind, and took care of each other.

...and what it's like to be arrested as a Rebel

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley's Hazel Mason was also in Trafalgar Square, where she was arrested on the first day. It was a difficult personal journey for Hazel, a retired actor, making her realise that she is essentially a law-abiding person.

She told *The Archer*: "I didn't want to dissipate police resources or to hamper people's movements, but sometimes civil disobedience is the only way to make an impact. I saw younger people facing arrest, even though that could damage their careers or their immigration status."

Together with an elderly friend with mobility problems, she lay down on the road alongside fellow-members who had glued themselves to the ground or to scaffolding. She says: "They were brave. I wasn't prepared to do that."

Police lifted her up, and drove her and her friend away from the Square. They found the police very pleasant, and they were not charged.

There is still a common belief that Rebels are "just kids", but Hazel told us that there is a huge group of professional people in their 30s, 40s and 50s in the membership. Plans are already afoot to contact schools, particularly in the science field.

Last month, Hazel herself made headlines by launching a Facebook group for XR Grandparents outside Buckingham Palace.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Pray for a power cut

Well, it's that time of year again: time for the turkey, booze, tantrums and overspending. And when it comes to turkeys I'm not just talking about the bird. Christmas is worse than that, especially when you're talking music and movies.

Once upon a time music meant carols and tuneless singing, until the wonderful world of pop music got in on the act and made it worse. Back in 1964 Elvis gave you a *Blue Christmas* and all Dora Bryan wanted for Christmas was a Beatle, though who knows what she was going to do with him. But once you hit the 70s John Lennon got all sanctimonious and Mud showed how naff you could get in 1974 with *Lonely this Christmas*, leaving everyone hoping for a power cut.

From there it went downhill all the way, particularly when Cliff was involved with such dross as *Mistletoe and Wine* and the awful *Millennium Prayer*. The Darkness gave a heavy metal experience and, in 2004, Morrissey released *I Have Forgiven Jesus*. I wonder if Jesus has forgiven Morrissey. I haven't. And I still haven't mentioned Band Aid...

So let's hit the popcorn and go to the Christmas movies. You've got the classics like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Scrooge*, the modern greats like *Trading Places* and *Carol*, but they're a few pearls scattered amongst the swine.

We've had *Love Actually*, with Hugh Grant doing his mutant cross between Tony Blair and David Cameron and Kate Winslet going rom com in *The Holiday*. And this year we don't so much hit the bottom of the barrel as come out through the other side. Yes, folks, *Last Christmas*, a movie that combines 80s pop and sentimentality, is here.

For some reason George Michael's sentimental 80s pop song has been bolted onto a film with the most sentimentally contrived plot twist in decades. It's got the dragon mother from *Game of Thrones*, the bloke from *Crazy Rich Asians* and Emma Thompson proving she can cook up a turkey with the worst of them. Time to bring back the great British TV tradition of back-to-back Bond films and *The Great Escape* or, failing that, give me a proper 70s' power cut. That will switch everything off.


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- **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.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on tennisgift@gmail.com.
- **This Mum Runs**: Free social runs in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, Sunday 8am and Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact trishy. dixon@gmail.com.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
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- **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.
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- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** friends-of-cherrytreewood.home.blog 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.



Recycled: Surinder Shani in his garden of art made from throw-away materials. Photo: Mike Coles.

Sculptor with an eye for old rubbish

By John Lawrence

Whenever plumbers do any work for Surinder Shani, the first thing he tells them is not to throw anything out. As soon as they start, he is already eyeing up any old pipes or boiler parts and wondering how he could use them in his art.

Surinder, 84, works with plastic tubes, bed springs, old barbecues and metal sheeting – in fact any junk that might usually end up in a skip – and sculpts them into fascinating abstract figures that have filled his home and garden in East End Road, N2.

Exploring shapes and materials

The artist, an architect by profession, sometimes encases his forms in cement and sand, creating elegant figures like a mother and child dancing. He has no studio and creates everything on the spot in his garden.

In his 40s, Surinder turned to painting as a creative relief from his heavily-regulated job

designing hospitals and other public buildings. Then 25 years ago he added sculpture to his repertoire, starting with casting some unwanted desks in concrete.

"I see shapes I could recycle in all kinds of objects. I find it a lot more challenging to work with materials that are lying around because it makes my imagination work harder to find ways of using them," he said. "When I start a piece I don't know how it will end up. Sometimes I finish in hours, sometimes it takes many attempts to satisfy me."

Outreach to schools

Surinder's paintings and sculptures have been displayed

in galleries but he rarely sells them. His new mission is to share his love of the visual arts with today's schoolchildren.

He said: "One of my paintings is already on loan to Friern Barnet School and I'd be happy to hear from any others interested in borrowing a sculpture or painting. The visual arts are being downgraded in the curriculum today and I understand that many schools don't have the money to promote them. If I can help bring young people in closer contact with art, I will be happy."

We will pass on messages from any schools interested in contacting Surinder. Email him via: news@the-archer.co.uk

Phoenix at Christmas

Families have a host of treats in store for them over the festive season at the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley, staff have announced.

The main feature over the Christmas period will be the next intergalactic instalment *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, starring Daisy Ridley, who happened to attend the Phoenix for a private event back in November.

The much-anticipated Disney sequel *Frozen 2* will be showing on weekdays throughout the school Christmas holidays and the popular CBeebies Christmas show will be screened on Sunday 1 December.

There is the traditional screening of *It's a Wonderful Life*, with free sherry and mince pie, on Sunday 22 December and there will also be screening of the Royal Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* on Tuesday 17 December.

Other special events include *Les Miserables: The Staged Concert* on Monday 2 December, the Old Vic's *Present Laughter*, starring Andrew Scott, on Monday 9 December and the Royal Ballet's *Coppelia* on Tuesday 10 December.

Choose the Phoenix first

Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix trustees, said the cinema will be running a Christmas raffle throughout December to continue with its fundraising drive and she urged film-goers in East Finchley to choose the Phoenix first.

What's On...

Thursday 5 to Saturday 7 December

• **The Guild Players present Aladdin** at Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, N3 1NB. All performances 7.30pm, plus Saturday matinee 3pm. Tickets online at ticketsource.co.uk/theguildplayers or on the door (cash or cheque only). Foyer opens 30 minutes before show. Collect booked tickets at least 10 minutes before performance starts. Box office enquiries 07938 232027.

Saturday 7 December

• **Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show** hosted by Finchley branch of the Amateur Geological Society, 10am-4pm, Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12 7NN. £2 entrance, under 12s free. Large hall with fossils, jewellery, gems, rocks and mineral stalls, refreshments, tombola and lucky dip.

• **Martin School Christmas Fair**, Plane Tree Walk, N2, 12noon-3pm; enjoy Santa's grotto, delicious cakes, games and treats, something for all the family.

• **Highgate Primary School Christmas Fair**, Storey Road, N6 4ED, 12.30-4pm, with Santa's grotto, mulled wine and mince pies, raffle, tombola and lots of festive family fun! Adults £3, kids free.

• **Switch-on of East Finchley's Christmas lights** around the tree outside Budgens, 4.30pm; carols led by the Archer Community Choir and Brookland Junior School Choir; free mince pies and mulled

wine. Everyone welcome.

• **Fortismere Community Choir**, conducted by Marvin Perrott, perform wonderful music for Christmas (Rachmaninoff, Janacek and Lauridsen's *O Nata Lux*) and carols old and new for everyone to join in; St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DD, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 in advance via www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk or £12 on the door.

• Chamber choir **Voxcetera** presents its Christmas concert *Star of Wonder*, an evening of sacred music and traditional carols for all to join in, at Hornsey Parish Church, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH. Tickets £20, £16, £14 (under-18s half price on top two bands) available from voxcetera.co.uk. Refreshments available.

Sunday 8 December

• **Charles Dickens in North London, guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker; meet outside High Barnet tube station, 11am. More information from Paul on 07506 761294 or www.barnet-walks.co.uk

• Volunteers are invited to take part in a **litter pick and general clean up in Cherry Tree Wood**; meet at Summerlee Avenue gate at 2pm.

Wednesday 11 December

• **The London Mozart Players and London Ripieno Singers** present a concert at All Saints' in Durham Road, N2, 7.30pm; music

by Elgar, Mozart and Vaughan Williams, with two works by Geoffrey Hanson, whose 80th birthday the concert marks. Tickets online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyarts, and locally from Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2.

Wednesday 11 December to Sunday 26 January

• **Ovation** presents the London fringe premiere of the hit Broadway musical *42nd Street*, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6. Musical numbers include *We're in the Money*, *Lullaby of Broadway*, *You're Getting to be a Habit with Me* and the title song *42nd Street*. More information and tickets from upstairsatthegatehouse.com

Saturday 14 December

• **Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale**, 10am-1pm, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; info: 020 8368 8180 or 07708 152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

• **Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Symphony Orchestra present The Glory of Christmas**, music for all the family, including Handel *Messiah* (excerpts), JS Bach *Christmas Oratorio* (opening chorus), Parry, Lehar, Elgar, Massenet and Strauss, with favourite carols for all to sing; Trinity Church, North Finchley, N12 7NN, 7.30pm. Tickets available on the door, or in advance at www.fcchoir.co.uk: £15, £13 concessions, £6 under-18s.

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

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December

• **Pop-up Christmas sale** of ceramics, glassware, gifts, cards and present ideas at **Offshoot Gallery and Studio space**, High Road, N2, near junction with Bedford Road. Other gifts: original artwork, skincare, pet products, jewellery, books, wrapping paper and cards.

Sunday 15 December

• **Ramblers Association nine-mile walk from Highgate to the Olympic Park** passing through Parkland Walk (London's longest nature reserve), several parks, Woodberry Wetlands, Abney Park Cemetery and along the River Lea and Hackney Marshes. Return from Hackney Wick DLR to Northern line. Early dropout points possible. Bring packed lunch. Meet at Highgate tube station, 10.30am. More information from leader Declan Leyden on 07503 619465.

• **Jazz at the Bohemia**, 762-764 High Road, North Finchley, 7.30pm; Eriko Ishihara (piano, vocals), Andy Hamill (bass) and Allison Neale (saxophone). Entry £10.

Sunday 22 December

• **Ramblers Association Winter Solstice Walk** a seven-mile route around Hadley Wood to celebrate the shortest day. Bring a festive picnic to share. Meet at Hadley Wood station, 10.40am. More information from leaders Vivien Mallindine and Julia Haynes on 07709 041784 or 07803 892496.



Ho, ho, how to avoid buying more plastic this festive season

Maxine Klein, from No2PlasticsN2, has some planet-saving tips for present buyers. **Christmas is coming and the stores are getting glittery. Having worked with the campaign No2Plastics for some time, I despair at the amount of surplus tinsel, unnecessary packaging and plastic goods on sale. I imagine, in my Scrooge-like way, how full the bins will be after Christmas, with waste and plastic that will never decompose.**

People say that our contribution is a drop in the ocean but our philosophy at No2Plastics is that small measures can have an effect. Enough drops of water accumulated can produce a torrent. So, how to minimise this threat to our environment?

Starting with wrapping paper, I have for some time used the centre photo page of The Guardian (other newspapers can be used) to wrap presents, tied with string instead of plastic ribbons. Many recipients brand me as an eccentric but they did anyway.

Ideas for presents and stocking fillers

- For those who have been using plastic coffee capsules for their coffee machines I've discovered a reusable version that is compatible with a Nespresso machine, which can be ordered from evergreen-capsules.com.
- A nice bar of soap as an alternative to soap dispensers, or a soap alternative to shampoo.
- My grandchildren will get steel straws to use instead of plastic ones. Any toys will be those that last, such as Lego, and not novelties that are broken and thrown away before Christmas dinner.
- All the friends whom I ever visit are given a packet of reusable plastic food covers to use instead of cling film and this will be a present for the friends who have not yet received one.
- Amy's in the High Road have lovely string bags in which to put loose fruit, as well as a selection of bamboo bowls, cutlery and water bottles. They also have collapsible plastic coffee cups, although I prefer my lovely metal cup for coffee. Merry Christmas, one and all, from No2PlasticsN2.

Christmas concert

Chamber choir Voxcetera is staging its annual Christmas concert on Saturday 7 December, this year in Hornsey Parish Church.

The evening will include traditional carols and sacred music, as well as popular secular seasonal songs. Concertgoers will also be invited to raise the roof by joining in with a couple of carols.

The concert at the parish church (St Mary with St George) in Cranley Gardens, N10, starts at 7.30pm and refreshments will be available. Tickets priced £20, £16, £14 (under 18s half price on top two bands) are available from voxcetera.co.uk.

A useful way to recycle this newspaper

By Mary Poulter, East Finchley Open Artists basket maker **Making containers from copies of The Archer and any other newspaper is a good way to recycle paper and avoid buying plastic. The containers are fairly strong and can be used to store dry produce from the garden or items in your workroom.**

Newspaper pots can also be used for growing seedlings. Take care when transferring them to the final garden spot as the bottoms will be soggy, but the whole container can be safely put in the ground so there is less root disturbance. Inks used for printing are water-based and thus fine for composting.

To make a container all you need is lots of newspaper pages folded neatly into 2-3cm strips



Put to good use: How your paper basket could look.

and a wooden block or a strong cardboard box; 15cm x 15cm x 25cm works well. Use tacks, drawing pins or clothes pegs to secure the work as you weave. Simple and satisfying.

Pop in to the pop-up

Local artists, designers and traders are coming together for a pop-up Christmas sale of ceramics, glassware, gifts, cards and present ideas in the High Road, N2. Their festive gift market takes place on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December at the Offshoot Gallery and Studio space, close to the junction with Bedford Road.

Artists and makers having stalls at the event include Anita Mangan, Matilda Harrison, Chris Stayrou, Brigitte Herod and Intrepid Hound. Other gifts on offer will be original artwork, skincare, pet products, jewellery, books, wrapping paper and cards.

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Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December

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6.30 pm Christmas Carol Service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Children's Christmas Service with Carols
11.30 pm Sung Midnight Mass
with Blessing of the Crib
followed by wine and mince pies

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

10.00 am Sung Mass of the Day
followed by refreshments

For more details, check our website:
www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk

Letters

Willow House fire

Dear Editor,

Your article on the devastating fire in Willow House (*The Archer*, November 2019) exposed the chaos wrought by the right to buy scheme when used in multi-occupancy buildings. As you reported, two of the flats remain owned by the Council i.e. Barnet Homes, the rest having been bought by their occupants as leasehold properties. Many of the flats are occupied by tenants of the original purchasers. So who is responsible for getting the work done?

In addition to the two flats, Barnet Homes own the common parts i.e. the roof, entrance, stairs etc. However when maintenance work is required the leaseholders have to pay the council to get the work done and one person's view of need doesn't necessarily agree with another's. The situation of having the flats occupied by tenants of the original purchasers may well be in contravention of the conditions of the leases and/or of the mortgage lenders. This problem is in addition to the obvious one of the depletion of the housing stock available to the Council.

**Yours faithfully,
Ann Inglis
Huntingdon Road, N2**

Good news on parking

Dear Editor,

We are very pleased to report that after several years of campaigning for a solution to the many and various parking and safety issues in our roads, residents of Leslie and Leopold Roads are now joining the N2 CPZ.

We attended the Finchley and Golders Green Local Area Committee meeting on 17 October where the results of the recent CPZ Statutory Consultation were announced. The response rate was one of the highest in the borough for CPZ consultations and an overwhelming majority (88%) of respondents voted in favour of the CPZ.

The committee voted to accept the consultation's recommendations and are going ahead with the CPZ extension. A big thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation especially those who also campaigned door to door.

A likely start date for the CPZ will be during the first quarter of 2020 and parking restrictions will operate for one hour between 2-3pm Monday-Friday. The council will write to residents 4-6 weeks before the start date with more information and practical details.

Parking has become increasingly fraught and difficult over the past few years as we have suffered from a cumulative displacement effect from the gradual extension of the N2 CPZ (a common complaint in London, especially near tube stations). More and more commuters seem to be parking in our roads and walking to the tube or their place of work. There were increasing 'stand-offs' and road rage incidents as drivers competed for spaces and passing places.

Once in place our CPZ will regulate non-resident/commuter

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.

parking, ensuring residents can park near their homes. It should also help reduce congestion and driver conflict, making parking a less stressful experience and creating a more pleasant and safer environment for all.

We have asked the FGG Committee to review the effects of the CPZ in 6 months. We also realise that some nearby non-CPZ roads may experience extra displacement parking and may then wish to apply to join the N2 CPZ.

In addition, we have requested double yellow lines at the junction of Leopold/High Road (very near the Martin School crossing) to allow clearer visibility and a safer access to the High Road, reducing the likelihood of accidents.

We would especially like to thank our councillors Alison Moore & Arjun Mittra for their invaluable help in making this happen, and also Brian Milsom for his initial campaigning on this issue.

**Yours faithfully,
Kathy Batten, Valerie Teague,
David Johns and Delory Lowndes,
Leopold Road, N2.**

Pavement peril

Dear Editor,

I'd like to add to what David Day has observed about the dangerous corner by Domino's (*The Archer*, November 2019). The delivery drivers are in the habit of leaving the road just by the bus stop before Fortis Green junction and riding on the pavement to the shop. They come up behind you at some speed with no regard at all for pedestrians.

**Yours faithfully,
Jan Masson,
Address supplied.**

Talent seekers

Applications are now open for acts to take part in North London's Got Talent 2020, which helps to raise funds for the North London Hospice supporting end-of-life care in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

If you're part of a dance or theatre company, a school or church band or choir, or perhaps you're a magician or comedian, the organisers would love to hear from you. Successful acts will be invited to take part in a live show in front of a panel of judges at artsdepot in North Finchley on Saturday 8 February.

Find more details and apply before Friday 13 December at www.northlondonhospice.org or call Amanda in the hospice fundraising team on 020 8446 2288.

Your news

Send your stories, letters, and photos to the-archer@lineone.net or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @TheArcherN2. You can view our online archive at www.the-archer.co.uk

The Archer

Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 2DE. www.the-archer.co.uk



A time machine to the Tube of yesteryear

By David Gritten

If a time machine could whisk today's Tube travellers back to the 1970s, they would be astonished by how different the Underground was back then. Smoking was permitted. The escalators below ground were wooden. Passengers feeling tired (or possibly tipsy) could stretch out full-length on benches situated on platforms.



Feet up: Tired travellers on the Northern line in 1975. Photo: Mike Goldwater.



Tunnel of love: A couple kiss at Holborn in 1978. Photo: Mike Goldwater.

“And compared to today, the Underground was dark,” says Mike Goldwater, a photographer and filmmaker who lives in Fortis Green. “Since then, the lighting has been upgraded phenomenally.”

Mike began chronicling life on the Tube with his camera in 1970, when he was just 20. Over the next 10 years he returned often, visiting dozens of stations, riding trains and seeking out intriguing subjects.

“I spent a lot of time below ground,” he recalls. “I never had a fixed destination. Everyone else was going from A to B, but I’d travel on a whim, looking at people and the different spaces.”

“The darkness made it a technical challenge but I discovered I could take good pictures on the Underground by shooting black-and-white film and overdeveloping it slightly. Then it was a question of finding interesting moments and capturing them.”

Faces from the past

Earlier this year Mike was looking through his archive of photographs, came across his Tube photos and decided they stood the test of time. He visited a publisher of collectable photographic books in East London, who immediately agreed.

Now, 40 years after he completed his project, a 128-page book of his photographs is available to buy. *London Underground: 1970-1980* captures people in spontaneous, amusing or intimate moments as they navigate the Tube system.

Mike always asked travellers for their permission to be photographed, and simply

walked away if they were reluctant. Most of them agreed, enabling him to assemble an impressive portfolio.

As the book confirms, they’re a varied lot: on its cover, a charming young couple,

kissing at the foot of an escalator at Holborn in 1978; dejected young Manchester United fans at Wembley Park station after the 1979 Cup final (their team

lost to Arsenal); two City types (clearly the worse for drink) sprawling across Tube carriage seats at Bank.

So many changes

The book is also a reminder of long-gone features on the Underground: the lift operators, the little bookshop at Baker Street, the newspaper stand at Notting Hill Gate.

Today benches on platforms have dividers, so no-one can lie down on them. All

escalators are steel, after the terrible fire in 1987 at Kings Cross St. Pancras, started by a lit match dropped on a wooden escalator, caused the deaths of 31 people.

“A lot of changes were

necessary, even in 1970,” Mike recalls. “The Tube was dark. Its infrastructure was run down. But not all the changes were positive: beautiful Victorian tile work and lovely decorations around the tunnels and escalator passages were covered up behind aluminium cladding.”

Mike is delighted to have found such an enthusiastic publisher and pleased his work from that long-ago period will

now be widely seen. “Looking back at it now,” he says, “it was a wonderful experience.”

(London Underground: 1970-1980 is available from Hoxton Mini Press at £16.95)



Pipe-smoker: A train guard at Oxford Circus in 1978. Photo: Mike Goldwater.



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