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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



July 2019 No. 303

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**

## EAST FINCHLEY FESTIVAL REPORT & PHOTOS - PAGE 6 & 7



Retirement gift: John Omar, centre, is handed a cheque by his friend Nalin Shah watched by well-wishers who had helped to raise hundreds of pounds. Photo Mike Coles.

## Neighbours turn out for John

More than six months after sudden ill-health forced John Omar to hang up a 'Closed' sign on his tiny shoe repair shop in Manor Park Road, N2, he returned to say a proper goodbye to the community where he had worked for more than 30 years.

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# Grieving parents call for 20mph speed limit

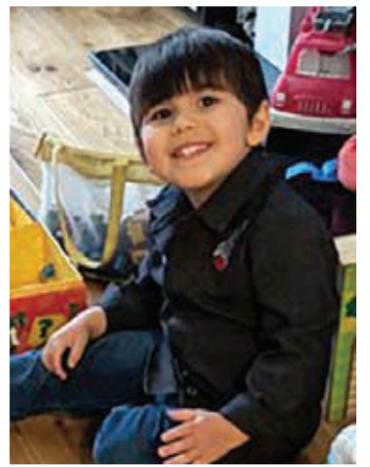
By Janet Maitland

More than 2,700 people have signed a petition calling for a 20mph speed limit on East End Road, N2, following the death of three-year-old Sonny Parmar, who was killed at the crossing near the Five Bells pub while walking home from nursery with his mother.

### "Every parent's nightmare"

Sonny's devastated parents, who asked not to be named, said that making safety improvements on this road would help their son to "rest in peace knowing that his sacrifice will prevent anything awful like this happening again".

"A barrier needs to be put in place on the side of the crossing where Sonny was hit, the same as the other three sides," his mother told The Archer. "And the speed limit should be 20mph as it is in neighbouring suburbs."



Killed at crossing: Sonny Parmar

### Pressure for borough-wide speed limits

A spokesperson from Barnet Council, which has a target of zero road deaths by 2041, said that they must await the result of the police investigation "after which we will ensure we take the appropriate action".

Several London boroughs have borough-wide 20mph speed limits, but in Barnet these limits are only imposed close to schools. Andrew Dismore, London Assembly member for Barnet and Camden, and Councillor Barry Rawlings have asked the Mayor of London to press Cllr Dan Thomas, the leader of Barnet Council, to reconsider this policy.

Continued on page 2



"It only takes a second for the unimaginable to happen. It's every parent's nightmare," said Natalie Collins, who started the petition within hours of the accident at about 7pm on Wednesday 22 May. The driver stopped at the scene and was interviewed by the police who are continuing to investigate the causes of the collision. No arrests have been made.

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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 – **August: 12 July; September: 16 August**  
**October: 13 September**

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Councils

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Barnet</b>           |               |
| Admin/Town Hall         | 020 8359 2000 |
| Council Tax             | 020 8359 2608 |
| Recycling & refuse      | 020 8359 4600 |
| Primary Care Trust      | 020 8201 4700 |
| Benefits Agency         | 020 8258 6500 |
| Employment Service      | 020 8258 3900 |
| <b>Haringey Council</b> | 020 8489 0000 |

### Leisure

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Alexandra Palace      | 020 8365 2121 |
| East Finchley Library | 020 8359 3815 |
| Gt North Leisure Park | 0870 240 6020 |
| Muswell Hill Everyman | 0871 9069060  |
| Phoenix Cinema        | 020 8444 6789 |
| Tourist Info Service  | 0870 128 8080 |

### Transport

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| BR Enquiries     | 0845 7484950  |
| City Airport     | 020 7646 0088 |
| London Transport | 020 7222 1234 |
| National Express | 0871 781 8181 |
| Heathrow Airport | 0870 000 0123 |

### Help & Advice

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Childline                    | 0800 1111     |
| Citizens Advice Barnet       | 0300 4568365  |
| Cruse Bereavement Care       | 0870 167 1677 |
| Disability Info Service      | 020 8359 7637 |
| EF Advice Service            | 0300 4568365  |
| Lone Parent Centre           | 020 7021 4146 |
| Missing Persons Helpline     | 0500 700700   |
| National Debt Line           | 0808 808 4000 |
| NSPCC                        | 0800 800500   |
| Rape & Sexual Abuse helpline | 020 8683 3300 |
| Relate                       | 020 8447 8101 |
| RSPCA                        | 0300 1234 999 |
| Samaritans                   | 08457 909090  |
| Refuge National Crisis Line  | 0870 599 5443 |

### Health Advice

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| AIDSline             | 020 8363 2141 |
| Alcoholics Anonymous | 0845 7697555  |
| Barnet MENCAP        | 020 8203 6688 |
| Cancer Support       | 020 8202 2211 |
| Carers' Line         | 0808 808 7777 |

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Drinkline             | 0800 917 8282  |
| Drugs Helpline        | 0800 776600    |
| Health Info Service   | 0800 665544    |
| MIND                  | 020 8343 5700  |
| National Blood Centre | 0845 7711 7711 |

### Crime

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Emergency            | 999           |
| Police non-emergency | 101           |
| CrimeStoppers        | 0800 555111   |
| Victim Support       | 0845 303 0900 |

### Hospitals

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| NHS               | 111           |
| Barnet General    | 020 8216 4000 |
| Edgware General   | 020 8952 2381 |
| Finchley Memorial | 020 8349 7500 |
| Oak Lane Clinic   | 020 8346 9343 |
| Royal Free        | 020 7794 0500 |
| Whittington       | 020 7272 3070 |

### OAP's Advice

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Age UK Barnet                | 020 8203 5040 |
| Independent Age              | 0800 319 6789 |
| Age UK (general advice line) | 0800 169 2081 |

## Parents call for 20mph limit

Continued from front page

### In Sonny's memory

Sonny's parents wanted to give a big wooden train to the Monkey Puzzle Nursery in East Finchley so that their son, whose favourite toy was his wooden train set, could "continue to give his beloved

friends at nursery happiness, as he did in life". It took only a few days to raise more than £2,500 through a crowdfunding page, enough to buy a train with two carriages, books and reading dens. The balance will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

If you witnessed the acci-

dent or have any dashcam footage, contact the Met's Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 020 8246 9820 or tweet @MetLCC, quoting CAD 7373 or May 22. If you want to sign the petition, go to [www.thepetitionsite.com](http://www.thepetitionsite.com) and search for 'East End Road'.

## Connected carers

Barnet Carers Centre has launched a new app, the first of its kind, to deliver information and support to carers and keep them connected.

People who may be caring for a loved one alone can post and ask questions, watch videos and follow important news.

The Barnet Cares app also has a list of benefits available to carers and an audio player to make information easily available to carers with sight problems. Download it from Apple and Android

## Safer school crossing campaign stepped up

By Sam Candler

A group of concerned East Finchley residents met to hand a petition for a safer crossing outside Martin Primary School to the local member of the London Assembly, Andrew Dismore.

The petition, signed by 2,131 people, will be delivered to the Mayor of London to request his support. Transport for London is responsible for all of London's traffic lights, while Barnet Council is responsible for the road. The Council will be considering options from a traffic study on the crossing on Tuesday 9 July.

The crossing was the site of an accident in February in which a Year 2 child from the school and a father were hit by a car after leaving an after-school club. They have recovered, but residents and parents say action needs to be taken to prevent further accidents at this crossing.

## How to find an electric car charger

Motorists with electric cars can find their nearest charging points on a map on Barnet Council's website. There will be 22 outside the two new leisure centres being built at Barnet Copthall and in New Barnet, with a further eight in other car parks across the borough.

Chargers attached to lamp posts are available in East Finchley in Long Lane, Hertford Road, Bedford Road, Denison Close and Hamilton Road, with more installations planned. Find the full map of locations at: [barnet.gov.uk/electriccharging](http://barnet.gov.uk/electriccharging)

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Barnet Council

#### 83 Bedford Road, N2

Alterations to main roof. Dormer extension involving rear juliet balcony window, and three front conservation roof lights. New rear side dormer extension. New rear patio with associated replacement access steps. Changes to rear glazing to create new opening, and changes to side openings.

#### 11 Beresford Road, N2

Roof extension, including one rooflight each to front and back. Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of conservatory.

#### Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, N2

External alterations, including refurbishment of existing facade. Internal alterations, and repair works, maintenance and restoration to listed buildings.

#### 269 Creighton Avenue, N2

First-floor side extension with pitched roof. Conversion of garage to artist's workroom, with pedestrian door to replace garage door. Reconfiguration of front door and adjacent window.

#### 20 Elmfield Road, N2

Roof extension, including one L-shaped rear dormer window and two front roof lights.

#### 35 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4.48 m, eaves height 2.87 m, and maximum height 2.925 m.

#### 12 - 18 High Road, N2

Demolition of existing buildings and construction of two four-storey buildings (plus basement), providing 25 self-contained flats and B1 office space with associated refuse and recycling storage, cycle store, two off street parking spaces and amenity space.

#### 3 King Street Mews, N2

Use as three flats.

#### 17 Lankaster Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 65 Leicester Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window. Changes to fenestration, and new side and rear openings. Rear outbuilding.

#### 344B Long Lane, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with juliet balcony, and two front roof lights.

#### 344C Long Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing conservatory.

#### 412 Long Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Changes to first floor rear fenestration and new openings. Roof extension, involving rear dormer window and two front roof lights.

#### Park Farm Close, N2

Alteration to roofs of all blocks, including raising of heights and installation of insulation. Alterations to pipes at roof level. Replacement and relocation of water tank housings. Replacement of safe access systems, including hatches and handrails of Block A (1-16). Associated external alterations.

#### Prospect Ring, N2

Electricity substation is now moved away from proposed accommodation. Submissions relating to conditions of planning permission.

#### 52 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension. Depth 4 m, eaves height 3.35 m, maximum height 3.72 m.

#### First Floor Flat, 17 Sylvester Road, N2

Roof extension, involving two rear dormer windows and two front roof lights.

#### 27 Trinity Road, N2

Change of use from single family dwelling to House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for four people. (Retrospective Application)

Seeking David Francis Turner (born 20/01/63. Last known address - Park Road, N2), or any person knowing of his whereabouts please contact Caroline Lomax of Russell and Russell Solicitors - [cl@russellrussell.co.uk](mailto:cl@russellrussell.co.uk) - 01204 374887 regarding outstanding legal matters.

## OSTEOPATHY | ACUPUNCTURE

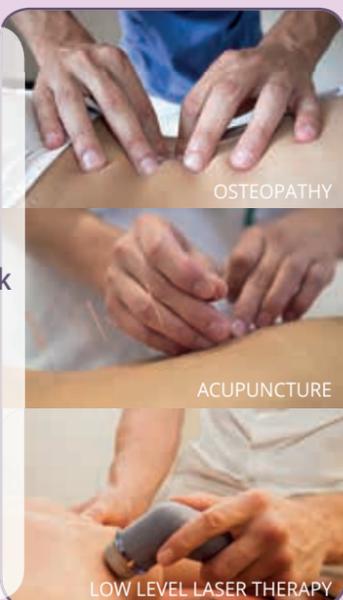
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# Frustration over latest plan for former GLH site

By Daphne Chamberlain

A new application to increase the number of flats at a new development on the former GLH site opposite East Finchley tube station has left local residents angry, frustrated and disillusioned.

Safeland Plc was granted permission last year, by one vote, for 21 flats at 12-18 High Road. This was in the face of over 1,200 objections, centred on congestion, risk of traffic accidents, insufficient waste storage, fire safety worries and lack of parking.

concern that access to the site is difficult and that sprinklers should be fitted.

“Only one on-site parking space is to be provided for residents of the development and council figures suggest at least 30 parking spaces would normally be expected



Artist's impression: How the development opposite the tube station would look.

for a site of this size, which will have around 80 residents. The developer claims there is ‘ample’ parking within a short walk of the development.”

## Questions and objections

Objections had to be filed by 18 June. Barnet’s website was flooded with objections. Comments include: “I wonder whether it’s even worth documenting concerns, as no-one seems to be listening in the Planning Department” and “This is an even worse proposal than the last one.”

Mr McGrath questioned why this time Barnet Council had decided not to write directly to residents inviting comments and called on it to publish a full and definitive set of plans and documents to avoid any confusion about what is being agreed. *The Archer* has asked Barnet Council for a comment but nothing had been received by the time of going to press.

## Extra flats, extra problems

A new application from the company has increased the number of flats to 25, achieved by adding basements, and is seen as just compounding all the factors already objected to. Ingram Road resident Michael McGrath told *The Archer* that road safety was a real concern, especially next door to Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery. “The developer’s own figures estimate there could be as many as 14,000 vehicle departures from the site each year,” said Mr McGrath. “Lack of adequate parking and turning space means many of these departures will have to reverse out onto the High Road. The Fire Brigade have also expressed



Library demo: Campaigners protest outside Hendon Town Hall ahead of the council meeting.

# Moving protest over library cuts

By Ruth Kersley

Supporters of Save Barnet Libraries held a demonstration outside Hendon Town Hall prior to the community leadership and libraries committee meeting on Tuesday 11 June. They are campaigning for a transparent review of the effect of changes to the Barnet library service since their implementation in 2017.

Main areas of contention are unstaffed libraries and the question of personal security; locked toilets during unstaffed hours; the fact that children under 15 are not allowed to use their local library during unstaffed hours; and the effect of the closure of study areas on young people.

During the meeting that followed several members of the public were able to address the committee describing how

the new measures have affected them. Particularly moving were the testaments of Harriet Connides, a disabled woman who is now no longer able to use East Finchley Library when unstaffed as she feels unsafe with her daughter, and nine-year old Siah Kamanda, who is now unable to use the library after school as her mother works full time as a nurse and cannot accompany her.

An opposition amendment was put by Labour Councillor Sara Conway to broaden the scope of the review so that additional problems are assessed, including: toilet access; cleanliness of buildings; personal safety; and reduced space. The committee voted to agree to this amendment, which Save Barnet Libraries sees as a measure of public concern about the service.



Across the board: Archer Academy headteacher Lucy Harrison and students celebrate their Ofsted rating.

# Academy graded outstanding

Just six years after opening, the Archer Academy has been judged an outstanding school by Ofsted. The inspectors felt that the school deserved the top rating in all four areas: effectiveness of leadership and management; quality of teaching, learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare, and outcomes for pupils.

Among the strengths highlighted in the inspectors’ report are exceptional leadership, outstanding progress for pupils and routinely strong quality of teaching. Pupils were found to be friendly, articulate and self-confident, with excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning.

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: “I am delighted that Ofsted have recognised that we are, as we have always aimed to be, an outstanding school. My thanks go to my fantastic staff team,

who work as hard every day as they do when the inspectors are visiting, and to my students, who have done us all proud.”

In 2015, the Academy’s first full Ofsted report gave the school a rating of good overall, with an outstanding rating for pupil behaviour and safety.

Avis Johns, the school’s founding chair of governors, added: “The Archer Academy began as an idea, underpinned by the thought,

‘If we were to create a new school, how good could it be?’ Now Ofsted have given their answer: it’s outstanding in every way.

“I too would like to thank my team of founders and governors, all volunteers, who have worked so hard to create and shape the vision for our school, and support its development.”

You can read more and access the full report at <http://thearcheracademy.org.uk/ofsted>

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## Sign up for safer cab journeys

On the front page of our May edition we reported on a campaign to improve safety for taxi passengers and drivers by making it law that cabs are fitted with camera and audio recording equipment. Now the petition is live and its creator **Corrina Suri** explains why your help is needed.



Cabs petition: Corrina, left, with her sister Josie

**Many people have experienced being mistreated during a cab journey but have been unable to prove it because of a lack of evidence. Unfortunately I was such a victim, but that has led me to create this campaign.**

One way we can ensure criminals don't get away with unlawful behaviour is by making it the law that cameras and audio are in place to capture these incidents, but this requires us, the people, to sign a petition so that it can become a subject of debate in parliament. Only then will steps be taken to do something about it. This petition aims to make it mandatory for all licensed

cabs and taxis to have cameras/audio, to improve the safety of both passengers and drivers. If you believe in making journeys safer for everyone, please sign today at the government website: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/246158> You can also find the link on Facebook and Twitter @camsforcabs. If you have a story to share about a journey, or can volunteer to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing [camsforcabs@gmail.com](mailto:camsforcabs@gmail.com). Thank you all for your support in making the world that little bit safer.

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## Glad to have their voices heard over TV licences

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**The Monday exercise class at Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, was visited by the BBC last month to get reactions to their plan to means-test free TV licences for over 75s. ITV reporters were there later in the week.**

Age UK told us: "People were glad to have their voices heard." Inge Graber, whose interview was shown, said: "I don't get any benefits, but what about people who are too poor? And is it the thin end of the wedge?"

Age UK says means-testing may sound fair but in reality it means at least 650,000 of our poorest pensioners facing a big new annual bill they simply can't afford.

"But this is really the Government's doing: they pushed the scheme onto the BBC without asking any of us what we think or providing the funding to sustain it," says the charity. "For over a million of our oldest citizens the TV is their constant companion and window on the world. And now it's under threat. Together we must tell the Government to keep TV free for everyone over 75."

It has launched a petition, demanding that the Government take back responsibility for funding free TV licences for everyone over 75. At the time of writing, it has already collected over 568,000 signatures and can be found at [www.ageuk.org.uk/typetition](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/typetition).



Easy access: Staff member Uthay, left, and Paul Gardner at Budgens.

## Subtle changes take stress out of shopping

By John Lawrence

**Shoppers who have difficulty navigating busy supermarkets for any reason are being given a bit of assistance with a new Purple Thursday scheme started by Budgens in East Finchley.**

New owner Paul Gardner came up with the idea after his other store in Islington was inspected for ease of access for shoppers who use wheelchairs or who have visual impairments or cognitive disabilities.

From 9am to midday on Thursdays, the East Finchley shop will be just slightly different. The aisles will be cleared of shelf-stacking cages and special offer bins to create more floor space; the store music will be turned off for a quieter atmosphere; and staff will be more visible and on hand to offer assistance to anyone who needs it. There will also be tea, coffee and cake on offer to all shoppers.

Paul said the aim was to make it easier to shop for people who might find the regular store too crowded or overwhelming. And it could be more of a

morning out for those who like to have a chat when they're out buying a few items.

"There can be many reasons people find shopping difficult, perhaps a physical disability or maybe finding it stressful," said Paul. "I always remember my Nan, as she was getting older she lost the confidence to go out on her own. She would go days without seeing anyone. Maybe if she had had the opportunity to get round a shop more easily and not feel rushed she would have appreciated it."

By good fortune, Budgens has two disabled parking bays immediately outside its doors. Paul's ambition is to spread the idea to other shops on the High Road so that East Finchley can become known as a place where people can go and shop at least once a week in a calmer, disability-friendly environment.

## Family tree traces roots back to 1066 and all that

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Philomena Telles has lived in Leopold Road, N2, for 50 years. Of Portuguese heritage, she was born in Goa, now part of India but then a colony of Portugal. So when her son Darryl told her she was a direct descendant of Norman king of England William the Conqueror, she told us, "I thought he was talking rubbish".**

Darryl showed *The Archer* the family tree he has uncovered. This reveals that his mother is descended from William's great-grandson, Henry II and the famous Eleanor of Aquitaine. Their daughter, also called Eleanor, married Alfonso the Eighth of Castile, and from then on the line moves through Castilian, Portuguese and Brazilian aristocracy before settling in Goa and then Kenya.

### Moving ...

Philomena, her husband and two sons, Darryl and his older brother Terry, came here in 1969. Kenya had gained independence from Britain, and to keep his job her husband had to

hold a Kenyan passport. So he moved his family to London.

While he was selling their house Philomena made the journey here alone. She told us: "I was lucky. I joined a very good friend living in a house in Muswell Hill, mainly occupied by Goans, with a lovely, homely feel." When her husband and the boys arrived, they soon moved to Leopold Road.

### ... and connecting

A regular worshipper at St Mary's Catholic church, she has helped for many years with admin work and social activities there. Both her sons attended Bishop Douglass School, and Darryl joined Finchley Labour



Connected: Philomena Telles Party in 1979. He stood as a Labour candidate in Hove in the recent local elections.

He told us: "I'm an immigrant, yet I call myself English because this is the only country I know. I've been here since I was four. I did my A-Levels on the Normans and Anglo-Saxons. So to now find out that William the Conqueror was my 28th great-granddad is pretty amazing. As my family tree has just proved, we all come from different places and we are more connected than we think."



Pleasant tents: Neighbours relax together at the Manor Park Road party.

Hand snake: Mushu the snake makes friends in Manor Park Road.

# Snakes alive! It's the Manor Park Road street party

By Thalia Pellegrini  
After a week of rainy weather, residents of Manor Park Road had been envisaging waterproofs as suitable attire for their street party on Saturday 15 June but on the day they were delighted

to wake to blue skies. Bright bunting up and down the street marked the third annual party, which has become a summer highlight for residents. "It's so inclusive and welcoming," one resident, Emma, remarked. "It's lovely to talk to people instead of just

passing them on the street," added Pamela. The day was an easy blend of games, music, chatting and play. Children raced up and down the long car-free street on their bikes while the grown-ups relaxed and caught up with neighbours. There was

a lot to enjoy, including the now established egg-catching competition, plus (new for 2019) the hugely popular pets' corner, courtesy of Jean Davis, featuring Mushu the snake and Gibby the gecko. There were artful creations, face-painting, giant Jenga, singing, a mini-concert and a fantastic buffet lunch provided by residents, odd numbers

bringing savoury dishes, with even numbers providing the puddings. Despite dark clouds gathering, the rain held off until late, giving everyone the chance to stay outside talking until well into the evening. One resident summed up the success of the day: "Life is all about connecting. The street party brings us outside and together."

# John gets a send-off

Continued from front page

And that community said "thank you" in return. Soon after John moved away last year to recuperate at his daughter's home in the Midlands, customer Darren Mitchell started a retirement collection with a fundraising total of £300. With the help of John's friend Nalin Shah, who had a collection box at his Galaxy Drug Store nearby in Church Lane, the final sum raised was £855. A cheque was handed over to John after he made a special trip back to the area for the Manor Park Road street party on Saturday 15 June. He was also given a retirement cake made by Imelda Santillan, a "happy retirement" card and

lots of handshakes. "John has been an outstanding member of the community by providing his services, smiles and good deeds for 30 years now," said Darren. "He made so many friends and became a well-known face and still to this day no one has a bad thing to say about him. "He will be missed by everyone and we all wish him the very best in his retirement. We hope he left with pleasant, happy memories of this special event and his days in East Finchley." Darren thanked everyone who had contributed to John's retirement present and who helped with the presentation at the party.



John Omar receives a retirement card from local residents in Manor Park Road. Photo Mike Coles

# Brian takes the plunge for church roof fund

All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, received a welcome boost to its roof repairs project when Brian Hooper, a member of the congregation for over 40 years, presented a cheque for £740 to the church.



In the swim: Brian presenting his cheque to Father Richard at All Saints'.

Brian raised the money from a sponsored swim of 100 lengths of the 25m pool at the Cally Pool & Gym in Caledonian Road which he tries to visit three to five times a week. The swim was achieved in 56 minutes.

Brian commented: "I love swimming, it's my way of keeping fit, and I am so pleased

to combine my favourite sport with being able to raise money for the All Saint's Roof Appeal."

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Annie, of rock band Nameless, has the festival in her sights.

# What a day! What a festival!

By Hilary Townley, of the East Finchley Festival organising team  
It's no wonder that East Finchley is acknowledged to be the happiest place to live in London. N2 neighbours came out in force for the community festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 23 June and the party went with a swing.

Possibly the busiest and most joyous festival yet with something to entrance and enchant everyone, the talent on both stages was incredible, and along with the food, the fun activities and the fascinating stalls it all added up to the best festival on record.

East Finchley's annual get-together is brimful of heart and it couldn't happen without the generous support of local businesses. Our thanks go particularly to Rogers Removals (main stage and a happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to them), our very own Archer Newspaper (community stage),

Martyn Gerrard (owls), Secure-base (first aid), Cree Godfrey & Wood (storytelling tent) and the Cherry Tree Wood Café (community stage power).

Huge thanks go to the two wonderful entertainment hosts, Cecilia Holmes on the community stage and Kate Galston on the main stage, who did faantastic job.

We thank everyone who gave prizes for the raffle and took an advert in the festival programme to help keep the event

free. Special thanks to Good Gym and 224 North London Scouts for all their help.

Most of all, we thank the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to planning and organising the festival and to running it on the day. There's always room for more so please come and join us for the 2020 festival. You would be very welcome.

There are many more who deserve our thanks but especially, you, East Finchley, for being there on the day!

Archer photographer Mike Coles was there to capture the fun of the festival. We hope you enjoy this selection of his photos.



Holy Trinity School Choir sing out to the crowd from the Community Stage.



Dressed for the occasion: Miss Havisham's Digital Clock



Brookland School Choir in perfect harmony



Above: SotoCIC, Below left: Rosie Moon and her cello, Roxie Stars, in the storytelling tent. Below: Box Time on the main stage



Above: WondR WomN. Below: Dex & Mercy





Fortitude Dance Company throw some shapes on the Community Stage.



Yum and Bass serve up some tasty lunch boxes.



Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock on the Main Stage.



Art and crafts with East Finchley Open Artists



Angie A leads a singalong with festival goers.



Above: Hundreds soak up the atmosphere in Cherry Tree Wood. Below left: Cecilia Holmes comperes the Community Stage. Below right: One festival goer is transformed.



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**Visitors always welcome**



# YOUNG ARCHER



Orchestral manoeuvres: Young players at the Youth Music Centre.

## Helping hand to play music

Some 160 children walk through the doors of Bigwood House in Hampstead Garden Suburb most Saturday mornings to join a variety of instrument classes run by the Youth Music Centre.

Now the organisation has launched a bursary fund to offer assisted places to young students who would otherwise be unable to afford lessons.

The centre's Marina Solarek said its youngest members start at the age of three with pre-instrumental musicianship classes before choosing from any string instrument or recorder or flute

beginner group lessons.

"Most students at YMC enjoy the mixture of activities like orchestras, choir, chamber music plus voice, aural and theory classes they can choose to take part in," she said.

The bursary fund will

be officially launched with a free summer concert at 5pm on Saturday 13 July at the Free Church Hampstead Garden Suburb North Square, NW11, where all are welcome. Find out more at [www.youthmusiccentre.org](http://www.youthmusiccentre.org)

## Cultural education

Fifteen organisations coordinated by artsdepot in North Finchley have started the Cultural Education Partnership to spread arts, health and history activities to young people least likely to have access to them.

Their focus will be on reaching pupils in faith schools, Pupil Referral Units and Special Educational Needs schools, pupils being home-schooled and young people attending supplementary schools.

Founding partners include Middlesex University, London

Borough of Barnet Libraries and Schools Improvement Service, the RAF Museum, The Young Barnet Foundation and Adolescents Mental Health Service. To find out more email Francesca Cross at: [Francesca.Cross@artsdepot.co.uk](mailto:Francesca.Cross@artsdepot.co.uk) or telephone her on 020 8369 5496.

## Spin to make dreams come true



Wheely tough: Members of Spin Cyclub during their marathon session.

A 45-minute indoor cycling class is tough

enough but Sharon Jaffe, owner of The CyClub, kept spinning for 180 minutes and raised £5,000 for the Rays of Sunshine charity which helps the wishes of critically ill children come true.

Sharon was joined by 64 spinners who did one or two classes alongside her at the fitness studio in Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

## TV comedy duo's tale of robot dad

By John Lawrence

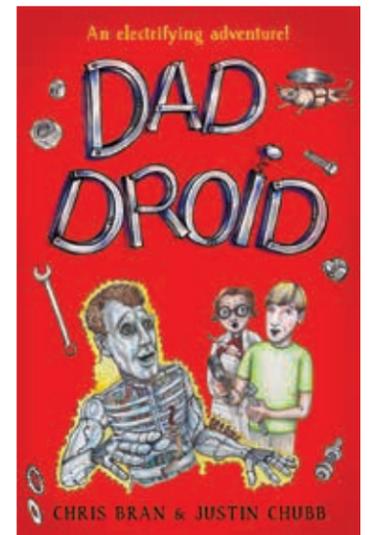
Fans of the *This is Jinsy* comedy series, the first British show to air on Sky Atlantic, will know its creators and performers Chris Bran and Justin Chubb for their eccentric imaginations and their offbeat sense of humour.

David Tennant as a very camp presenter in platform boots, Olivia Colman as an ageing aristocrat and Stephen Fry as the curator of an ancient hair museum were just some of the big names who starred alongside the pair in the show, which ran from 2011 to 2014.

### Memories of a real techie father

Now Chris and Justin have parlayed their partnership into writing books. *Dad Droid*, their first title for young readers, tells the story of Freddy Bird, who puts together a robot version of his genius inventor father Bert after he goes missing in mysterious circumstances.

Justin, who lives in Long Lane, N2, also illustrated the book. He said it was partly inspired by memories of his own father, who had a very early computer back in the 1970s, which filled the entire floor of a shop he was managing.



and we really enjoyed the challenge of penning a book. It's a sort of fable with elements of the Frankenstein story."

Chris and Justin went to the same school in Guernsey and started writing together after both moved to London, beginning with sketches for Radio 4 comedy



Co-writers: Chris Bran and Justin Chubb.

"He was always up to date with the latest gadgets and technology, so there were often strange new inventions around the house," said Justin. "Chris and I wanted to carry on writing in the spirit of the *Jinsy* scripts

Aimed at eight to 12-year-olds, *Dad Droid* is published by Unbound and is available at bookshops and on Amazon. The co-writers say they are hoping to start work on a sequel very soon.

## Flats coming to car park

There has been considerable activity in the car park behind Budgens recently.

The freight container that has graced the centre of the car park for months has gone, the central car parking spaces have been cordoned off, and surveyors have drawn blue lines and inserted boundary pegs across the site.

It would seem that the long-expected development of a block of flats in the car park is about to begin.

Representatives of the development company C&M Properties have informed residents of Viceroy Close that they will set up a key fob controlled gate across the entrance, and that once building work starts, they intend to close the car park to all vehicular traffic for up to three months.

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Spreading the message: Maxine Klein at Martin School. Photo Mike Coles

## A year is a long time in plastics

By David Burgh

The May 2018 edition of *The Archer* included a letter from Ann Inglis expressing concern at the prevalence of single use plastics (SUPs) in most shops in our High Road. Ann wanted to help reduce, and in time eliminate, usage in East Finchley, after David Attenborough's TV series had vividly illustrated the danger to wildlife and the planet from the proliferation of plastics in the ocean and our environment.

Ann was overwhelmed by the positive response to her plea and, with the help of a few keen neighbours, set up the No2Plastics East Finchley group. The core team realised they needed to get local businesses on board to reduce the number of SUPs distributed and to encourage customers to refuse bags or offer their own.

In the year since, our team of street champions has launched several initiatives, including:

- Making presentations at local schools, explaining the issues and encouraging children to cut their own and their families' usage. Street champion Maxine Klein is pictured outside Martin School, which has already responded very positively;
- Visiting businesses in the High Road, issuing signs to those who commit to reduce SUPs;
- Spreading the word to local shoppers and recruiting new members with a regular stall outside Amy's, which now stocks a range of products

offering alternatives to SUPs and whose staff have been supportive;

- Raising a petition to present to local councillors, with over 300 signatures of people supporting our cause;
- Developing social media, starting with our No2PlasticsN2 Facebook page and our no2plastics@gmail.com address, where we welcome your offers of support, views and ideas.

Ann's letter captured the national mood. The government agreed in May 2019 that plastic straws, drink stirrers and cotton buds with plastic stems would be banned from sale and use in England from April 2020.

Our campaign continues, and plans include liaison with councillors and supermarkets, arranging clean-up days and creating leaflets to help you find green businesses. You may have seen the team at their stall at East Finchley Festival. Let's keep up the good work!

## Plastics are slowly starting to disappear

One of the High Road stores pledging to wipe out single-use plastics wherever it can is Budgens. Its own Planet Pledge has all the same aims as the No2Plastics group.

The store no longer offers plastic carrier bags, instead offering customers a bag for life or free cardboard boxes. The thin tear-off plastic bags once used for loose produce have been scrapped too and replaced by paper bags.

Breads, croissants and as many fruit and vegetables as possible are being offered loose and there are doors on all the new chiller units to conserve electricity. Store owner Paul Gardner acknowledges they are small steps but hopes together they will make a difference. "Like everyone, I was shocked by what I saw on those TV documentaries," he said. "Our customers were too and they started asking us about things like plastic bags. The changes we've made have been really positively received so far." Still, there are limits to what local stores can change on their own. Salad bags, for example, are a popular purchase but an unnecessary use of plastic. Paul believes a real step-change in plastics use will only come when the big players like Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Tesco start putting pressure on their suppliers to remove plastic from the way they package goods.

"It's a work in progress so in the meantime we can make simple changes," said Paul. "We'll start adding signage on the shelves to let customers know what products are free of plastic; then they can make their own choices."

## Five years as a Post Office

High Road stationers UOE have celebrated five years of operating as a Post Office. The store, which has been in East Finchley for more than 35 years, took on the franchise in May 2014.

Managing director Elliot Jacobs said some customers were understandably worried about the change

successfully and now employs over 65 staff and operates seven Post Offices, including Muswell Hill's.

at first but many now like the service they get and love the longer opening hours, including on Sundays. The UOE team won Post Office of the Year at the 2018 Retail Industry Awards.

The East Finchley model has become so successful that it is often visited by other store owners wanting to take on a similar franchise. Visitors have come from as far afield as Kazakhstan and South Korea. UOE itself has expanded



Winner: UOE's Elliot Jacobs at the Retail Industry Awards in 2018. Photo Fergus Burnett

## RICKY SAVAGE ... "The voice of social irresponsibility"

### The car you promised yourself

Back when petrol was cheap and polar bears weren't worried, a guy in Detroit came up with a brilliant idea. It was simple: the 60s generation didn't want something old and boring like their parents drove, they wanted something new and rock'n'roll.

So, in 1964, Ford gave the world the Mustang. It was just what young America wanted. And just to be on the safe side, you could get everything from a dull slow six-cylinder to the beast that Steve McQueen drove in *Bullitt*. This was cool. Seriously cool, American cool, but not for us.

Back in Britain we wanted the same and Ford gave it to us. America had the Mustang, the original pony car, so Ford decided to give us a shrunken version, to be called the Colt. You can almost hear the yelps of delight. Problem was that Mitsubishi owned that name and sent in the lawyers.

So they named it after an island instead. Unveiled in 1969, here was the Capri. This was the car you'd always promised yourself. Really, a Ford Cortina in a party frock? Actually, yes.

As always with a Ford, you got the lot. There were L, XL, GXL versions and engines went from a pathetically slow 1300, a slightly embarrassing 1600, half-decent 2000 to the one you really wanted, the 3000 V6. This was our *Bullitt* car. Mad, crazy and able to hit 120mph when the cops weren't looking. And I wanted to have one when I grew up.

The Capri 3000GT had more power than you had sense, didn't handle that well but you could take your mates out in it and scare them. What more could you want in car when you're young and crazy? So when everyone goes on about how it's 50 years since man walked on the moon, I'll be revving an engine in honour of something a lot more fun, the three-litre Capri.

  
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- **Pilates Classes** Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. [www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.
- **Yoga beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or [info@yogalogy.co.uk](mailto:info@yogalogy.co.uk)
- **Yoga, pregnancy yoga, meditation** classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://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: [archercommunitychoir1@gmail.com](mailto:archercommunitychoir1@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](http://www.a-chord.uk)
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- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
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- **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.
- **Jazz Club** at the Bohemia, North Finchley. Call 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more information
- **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** [friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog](http://friendsofcherrytreewood.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.

# Walk in and enjoy some art

By Mike Coles

East Finchley is already noted for its cultural credentials, having an independent cinema, a buoyant local artists group, a youth theatre, a bookshop and many other art-related activities. Now there is a new addition with the opening of the Offshoot Gallery and Art Space.

The inaugural exhibition at Offshoot, situated in the High Road opposite the junction with Kitchener Road, was aptly named *Prologue* and featured a range of painters. That's now completed its run and the gallery team are working on their

at the back, and as the gallery develops Nick and Hannah plan to open up these spaces to other activities such as art classes, mindfulness and yoga classes, lectures, workshops and studios. The plan is that all the spaces will be in use and



The Offshoot Gallery - left to right, Gallery Executive William Esdale and Co-Directors Hannah Woldu and Nick Scammell. Photo Mike Coles

next exhibition to be announced soon.

The idea for a gallery came as a result of a chance meeting by Leslie Road resident Nick Scammell and a friend of his neighbour's, printmaker Hannah Woldu. Hannah had been running the Ryker Kids clothes shop on the site but wanted to start something art-related.

So, as co-directors, Nick and Hannah got together and created the gallery in the Ryker space. Joining them, William Esdale masterminded its refurbishment into a light and modern display space.

As well as being a talented artist himself, Nick was working as a freelance curator, so has brought a lot of knowledge and experience to the new venture. Complementing the extensive exhibition area there are rooms

benefit the local community.

Offshoot will be posting details of upcoming events in its window, on its website [www.offshootartspace.com](http://www.offshootartspace.com) and on social media.



Flowering artist: Sonya Elizabeth

## Vibrant floral art from the kitchen table

By David Melsome

Local photographer turned artist Sonya Elizabeth is exhibiting her new collection of abstract floral paintings, all created in the kitchen of her home in West Finchley. Sonya, who lived in East Finchley for many years, is inspired by walks in Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Woods and along Dollis Brook.

Mother of three Sonya, 43, said: "Life got in the way of painting until now, but I'm making up for lost time. I simply paint any time I can. My studio is my kitchen table and my house is filled with colour."

You can see Sonya's work at the New North London Synagogue in East End Road, N3, until the beginning of August (viewing by appointment) or browse online at [www.sonyaelizabeth.co.uk](http://www.sonyaelizabeth.co.uk)

## Double trouble

Garden Suburb Theatre is performing two plays in rep for their regular open-air appearance in Little Wood, Hampstead Garden Suburb, this month. In *Our Country's Good*, the dramatic true story of the convicts in the first penal colony in Australia is brought to life. Then *The Merchant of Venice* is Shakespeare's comedy-drama centred on love, money, prejudice and social injustice.

The plays are being performed at Little Wood Open Air Theatre, NW11, on selected dates between 4 and 20 July at 7.30pm, with five matinees at 2.30pm. Tickets priced £12/£10, with family and group tickets available, can be bought from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre)

Open air: The Garden Suburb Theatre cast rehearsing *Our Country's Good*.



## What's On...

**Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July**

• **East Finchley Open artists' open house weekend** at various locations, 11am to 6pm; browse and buy paintings, photography, jewellery, sculpture, textiles and pottery in artists' own homes and studios. Find full list of locations at [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk)

**Sunday 7 July**

• **Hampstead Garden Suburb open gardens**; 13gardensopen11.30am-5.30pm in aid of National Garden Scheme; plants for sale and home-made teas. Combined admission £12, children free. Tickets and map from Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11 6YD, from 11.30am.

**Saturday 13 July**

• **Moth and Dragonfly Morning at Long Lane Pasture**, Long Lane, N3, opposite fire station, 10am-noon. As part of National Moth Count, moth traps will identify

those caught before release. Damsel and dragonflies should also be seen defending their territory.

**Sunday 14 July**

• **Race the Neighbours, Cherry Tree Wood**, 9.30am start; more than 400 runners race 10km for East Finchley or Muswell Hill to compete for Cherry Tree Trophy. Come and cheer on the runners.

• **Open garden** at 24 Twyford Avenue, N2, in aid of National Garden Scheme; plants for sale and home-made teas; 2pm-6pm; admission £4, children free.

• **Finchley Victoria Bowling & Croquet Club** celebrate their centenary; Ballards Lane, N3 2PL (opposite Old Police Station). Have fun and try bowls or croquet FREE; equipment and coaching provided. Contact Gary on 07956 546457 or 020 8346 0818.

• Free concert at East Finchley Methodist

Church, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm. An Evening of Schubert, with Sanae Honda and Junko Isigaki, violin, Ruth Cohen, viola, Maryan Balkwill, cello, and Andrea Whittaker, soprano. Free admission, collection in support of Help Musicians UK. Fully accessible venue.

**Monday 15 July**

• **1960s Film Club double bill: *Entertaining Mr Sloane***, based on Joe Orton play, starring Beryl Reid, Harry Andrews, Peter McEnery, music by Georgie Fame: and ***Super Secret Cypher Snatch***, a classic episode of *The Avengers*, with Patrick McNee and Linda Thorson. Admission £3. Friern Barnet Community Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS. Doors open 7pm. Programme starts 7.15pm.

**Saturday 20 July**

• **Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Symphony Orchestra** perform Vaughan

E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

Williams' *Overture: The Wasps and Serenade to Music* plus Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and *The Music Makers*; Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12 7NN; tickets available in advance from [www.finchleysymphony.org](http://www.finchleysymphony.org)

**Saturday 27 July**

• **Muswell Hill indoor car boot sale**, 10am-1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; information from 020 8368 8180 or 07708152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

**Saturday 3 August**

• **Blackberry picking** starts officially at Long Lane Pasture, Long Lane, N3, opposite the fire station. The pick may last through to September. Bring own containers, make a donation at entrance. Please take care with brambles and try not to trample hedges which are a habitat for birds and mammals.



Bird's eye view: Stephen and Ruth just before opening their garden.

## Garden of delights

Visitors to Stephen and Ruth Kersley's open garden at their home in Abbots Gardens, N2, at the start of June found plenty to enjoy in Stephen's beautifully

designed borders, vegetable plot and water features, along with Ruth's glass and mosaic works.

The couple were grateful for perfect weather on the day and thanked family and friends for helping them sell a record number of tickets, raising over £1,000 for the many National Garden Scheme charities, which include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Queen's Nursing Institute, Parkinson's UK and the MS Society.



Natural beauty: Rachel and Jeremy's garden in Twyford Avenue.

## Glory of a garden makeover

There's a chance to explore another local garden this month when Rachel Lindsay and Jeremy Pratt open theirs at 24 Twyford Avenue, N2, for the National Garden Scheme.

When they moved in, the garden was unloved and badly in need of a makeover, half of it being covered by grass and the rest by overgrown brambles and bushes. Now it is full of beds packed with cottage garden plants and shrubs, and some of Rachel's own sculptures. Last year, Rachel and Jeremy raised well over £1,600 for the

NGS charities despite clashing with the World Cup Final and the Wimbledon men's singles final! It was also the height of the heatwave.

This year, their garden is open on Sunday 14 July from 2pm to 6pm. Entrance is £4 (children are free). Home-made teas and home-grown plants will be on sale.

# The hidden pest that spells trouble for your topiary

By Paulina Spencer-Lugtenburg

You may have noticed in your garden or your neighbour's that box trees (*buxus sempervirens*) appear to be drying out, shrivelling and dying. Look closely and you will likely find an increased number of moths, minute green balls or pellets on the ground, webbing nests in your box plant and a very well camouflaged box tree caterpillar.

They are hard to spot initially but soon you will notice them everywhere, including in front gardens in Beech Drive, Beresford Road and New Trinity Road.

most visible during the evening and at night. Their pupae are more easily spotted in a cocoon of white webbing spun among the leaves and twigs.

### 'Exterminate'

#### Destructive newcomer

The box tree caterpillar (*cydalima perspectalis*) is a troublesome pest, slowly eating its way through London's box plants. It has an almost exclusive taste for their tiny evergreen leaves so you won't find it on other shrubs. Native to East Asia and established in Europe since 2014, it has no natural predator in the UK.

These little critters are most active between April and October, laying pale yellow flat eggs in a sheet on the underside of box leaves. The well-camouflaged caterpillars are greenish yellow with black heads and can grow up to 4cm long. They are



Garden menace: Is the box tree caterpillar lurking in your greenery?

The most ecological way to get rid of them is to remove them by hand. Wearing gloves is recommended. You should also prune out stems covered in the webbing. This takes an enormous amount of time and patience for heavy infestations, with regular checks to ensure you have caught them all.

Another option is organic pesticide spray, particularly products based upon a bacteria called *Bacillus thuringiensis ssp Aizawai*. This specific strain will not harm bees, mites or spiders. Spray over the box plant and within the foliage too. Forceful spraying is required to penetrate the silk webbing, treating the areas again a week later.

Additionally, the use of moth traps should prevent the next generation of caterpillars. So make like a Dalek and 'exterminate, exterminate'. If you don't, you are creating the moths that will make their way to your neighbour's box plant. Female moths can fly up to 10km!

## Computers and a cuppa

The popular Internet and a Cuppa computer club will move for a period to the Old White Lion pub next to the tube station while its regular home, the Five Bells in East End Road, is under refurbishment.

People looking for help using their smartphones, laptops or tablets can bring them in to the Old White Lion between 2pm and 4pm on Tuesdays 2 and 9 July, and possibly for a week or two after that.

There will be no club on 30 July, or throughout August, as fewer volunteers are available to help run it. Sessions will start again on 10 September, back at the Five Bells. Sign up to receive the club's newsletter at <http://bit.ly/2wDgVPP>

## Time to get snappy

CommUNITY Barnet is inviting residents to get behind their cameras this summer to capture images of what the borough looks like to them. The photo competition marks 40 years of the community and voluntary group charity.

There are two categories, Culture & Communities and Buildings & Environment, with £150 on offer for first place, £50 for second and £25 for third. Full rules and details can be found online at: [bit.ly/CB40Years](http://bit.ly/CB40Years)

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## English classics

Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Symphony Orchestra join forces once again to present a feast of music for summer by two of England's greatest composers, Vaughan Williams and Elgar. The concert, conducted by David Lardi and supported by the Elgar Society, takes place at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, on Saturday 20 July at 7.30pm Tickets priced £15, concessions £13, under 18s £6 in advance at [www.finchleysymphony.org/concerts](http://www.finchleysymphony.org/concerts).

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## Breathe, sing and relax

Vocalist and teacher Angie A, who performed on the main stage at this year's East Finchley Festival, is spreading her Better Breathing campaign, which aims to improve health and wellbeing through the fun of singing.

Since February, Angie has been hosting her Stomping @ The Clissold Arms nights at the pub restaurant in Fortis Green, N2, where people can try a free taster dance class and have a good sing-song. The next is on Friday 5 July from 7pm. Contact Angie for more details at missangiea@yahoo.co.uk

Angie has now delivered her Keep Calm & Sing workshops to Barnet Carers and staff at Middlesex University. If you are 50-plus you can sign up to her course



Take a breather. Angie A

which is supported by the Mayor of London's Culture Seeds and runs until October 2019 at Barnet Cophall Leisure Centre.

## Hot chocolate and a friendly face for the homeless

By John Lawrence

Every other Tuesday evening, a small group of volunteers armed with flasks of hot drinks and tubes of squirry cream gets on the tube at East Finchley and heads into central London.

Their mission is simple: to meet with people living on the streets between Green Park and Covent Garden and have a friendly chat while sharing a tea, coffee or hot chocolate. In groups of three or four the volunteers head off in different directions for an hour or two before reuniting for a drink in a pub and heading home.

The Hot Choc Mob has been operating since January, co-led by photographer Lynn Hammarstrom-Craggs, who previously spent nine years providing warm clothing on similar trips with the Sock Mob.

### Breaking the ice

"We make the drinks as fancy as possible, with marshmallows and toppings if people want them," says Lynn. "They are something different and a good ice-breaker for talking to people, and we have fruit, soup and socks on hand too. "The people we encounter can be all types. Some want to talk, some just say thank you and take what we can offer. One of the girls we often see is only 19, from Liverpool. She's adorable, so polite and always so happy with what we can give her."

### Friendly listeners

Where the Hot Choc Mob differs from many groups who help the homeless is that volunteers don't need any special training and don't need to commit to turn up for every



Winter warmers: The Hot Choc Mob in action earlier this year

outing. An RSVP invitation is posted a few days ahead on MeetUp and those who can turn up at the tube the following Tuesday.

Lynn adds: "One of the hardest things about being homeless is that you can be ignored as people walk by you all day so the important thing for anyone in our group is that they are good listeners. Society has let these people down. They all have their own stories and always appreciate a friendly face."

### Can you help?

Find HotChocMob on Facebook, Twitter and meetup.com. If you can't make the Tuesday outings but would like

to help the group buy supplies, you can find their Amazon wish-list at <https://amzn.to/2XswJkf> and donate directly at [www.gofundme.com/f/helping-london-homeless](http://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-london-homeless).



Cream with your coffee: Lynn Hammarstrom-Craggs.

## Station becomes a destination

By Daphne Chamberlain

Allow yourself plenty of time to go through East Finchley station this summer as customer services duty manager Nino Santos has interesting plans for it.

Last year, his garden design won the prestigious Station in Bloom competition, and he's hoping to repeat that success this year with new floral displays. Judging usually takes place in late July or early August, so watch out as it takes shape.

This year the theme is Heritage, which ties in well with an exciting display of artwork due to be unveiled at the station this month. It will be on permanent display inside the entrance and will be a reminder of the very popular Destination N2 exhibition of writing and drawing from Martin School that caught so many people's attention in 2017 and 2018.

The children's work was part of a project to discover the family roots of many of us in East Finchley. Santos himself, who comes from Brazil, very much enjoyed being

interviewed by the children. He values community feeling, and is hoping that the commemorative artwork will make a similar impact. The unveiling ceremony will be on 19 July.



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