



Pavement art: Ben Wilson at work on the High Road. Photo Steve Carr
Inset: Miniature: Ben's painting of the Bald Faced Stag

What can you see down there, Ben?

Thanks to *Archer* reader Steve Carr for sending us this photo of 'chewing gum man' Ben Wilson in action on the pavement outside Amici Delicatessen in the High Road last month.

Ben is famous for his impromptu artwork, always using the miniature canvas of gum trodden into the pavement and thereby making an ugly splatter look beautiful.

When Steve spotted him, he was laid full stretch on a mat on the ground as usual and painting his view of the Bald Faced Stag across the road, complete with passing traffic and a swirling sky above.

Ben, who lives in Muswell Hill, makes forays across

London for his art. One of the last times he was seen in East Finchley was a year ago when he painted gum outside the Offshoot Art Gallery in the High Road just before everything began shutting for the first lockdown (*The Archer*, April 2020).

It seems appropriate for us to print his portrait of the Bald Faced Stag this April as we look forward to the expected reopening of our pubs, or those with beer gardens and outdoor spaces at least. Drink up!



N2 Mums: Katy Hodges, left, and Emmy West

Dig at the pasture

Long Lane Pasture is hoping to reopen by Easter after being closed for a number of weeks while UK Power Networks carried out essential maintenance on electricity cables that run under the wildlife haven. The excavations were deep so the site was closed for safety reasons, although its Saturday morning volunteer tidy-up sessions kept running.

Share your experience of being a mum

By Waddah Salih

N2 Mums Speak is a new project providing a supportive space for local mums to meet and share their experiences of motherhood

The project, which has been funded by Grange Big Local, was recently founded by Katy Hodges and Emmy West, two mums who themselves became close friends after meeting at a volunteer-run sling library. Describing how much they both got out of community groups, Emmy said: "Thinking about mums missing out on that during Covid, it's heart-breaking."

Weather-permitting, their first meeting will take place at the Barnwood Community Garden, Tarling Road on Saturday 24 April followed by further Saturday meetings on 22 May and 12 June.

Though the sessions will also feature short talks from two local mums, the founders

hope they will also create a space for mums to connect and learn from each other. "Mums are experts in their own lives", said Katy. "We want them to come and talk about their own experiences of being a mother."

Their N2 Mums Speak group is especially keen that mums from disadvantaged backgrounds come forward and it can also fund childcare costs for those needing to free up a little time to prepare a talk for other attendees.

To book a place at an upcoming meeting, or if you are interested in speaking at one, get in touch with the team via email at N2MumsSpeak@gmail.com or visit ILoveN2.co.uk/N2-mums-speak or [Instagram.com/n2mumsspeak](https://www.instagram.com/n2mumsspeak).

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