



## Anna in the maths elite

A student at Bishop Douglass School in East Finchley has won the title of International Maths Olympiad Elite. Anna Davletshina, in Year 9, qualified and whizzed through all the rounds of the Online International Maths Challenge, coming out with flying colours.



Mastermind: Anna Davletshina

Ann said: "The tasks were difficult and challenging but I managed to push myself harder and worked out the solution to most of the questions; thanks to my amazing maths teacher, Ms Akinrinlola for teaching me and helping me succeed in the challenge."



National champions: The Archer Academy dance team with their Peaky Blinders routine

## Dance triumph kicks off studio fundraising scheme

Dancers from the Archer Academy in East Finchley are national champions after their *Peaky Blinders*-inspired piece beat off competition from 57 other secondary schools across the UK in the Great Big Dance Off.

Their triumph comes as the school tries to raise funds to build a bespoke dance and drama studio and performance space on their lower school site in Eagans Close, N2. It will be kitted out with professional sound and lighting, and retract-

able tiered seating, and will be available to hire for the wider community outside of school hours.

The Archer Academy says it would welcome funding for its Raise the Roof campaign via major donors, corporate

sponsorship and arts grants. It asks anyone with contacts in the performing arts world, or who works for an organisation that might be able to support the school, to contact Angela Hay via [fundraising@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thearcheracademy.org.uk)

## N2United: Worries aired and ideas shared

By Ruth Anders

Familiar and new faces were welcomed to the July meeting of local business and community group N2United, and what it is hoped will be their last online gathering for a while. As helpful as Zoom has been, everyone is looking forward to getting together face-to-face again.

N2United Chair Nick Allan greeted an enthusiastic group of local heroes including the team from the East Finchley Festival whose representative, Gail Coles, told the meeting of plans for their Late Summer Social in September. A special welcome was extended to the 224 North London Air Scouts Group leaders Andrew Myers-Nobbs and Derek Chambers, who have undertaken responsibility for advising on safety and traffic management at the event.

Gillian Jordan reminded the meeting of the extensive reach of Age UK Barnet and their need for more volunteers. N2United Committee and founder member Hilary Townley spoke passionately about the unsightly litter on the High Road and asked what can be done to foster a culture of litter awareness and responsibility within the community. The two scout

leaders stepped in to offer the Scouts Group's services, demonstrating the value of sharing issues and concerns at N2United meetings.

Daphne Chamberlain from *The Archer* described a possible vision for a new East Finchley Arts Festival, moving away from the previous classical music focus to embrace a wider set of arts genres. These could include art and the spoken word, such as a poetry evening in an N2 café. The suggestions were greeted with enthusiasm along with the notion that events could be staged across different local venues.

### In person meetings return

After a summer break, N2United will hold its next open general meeting in a local venue on Thursday 9 September. The meeting on Thursday 14 October will focus on how to refresh and rebuild local businesses once restrictions relating to the pandemic are relaxed.

## Phoenix Cinema back in the swing

By David Melsome

Staff at the Phoenix Cinema report that their first two months of screenings after lockdown was lifted in May have been very positive.

The releases of Oscar-winning *Nomadland* and *The Father* attracted large audiences, although the cinema was restricted to 30-40 per cent of its normal capacity. A new bar area and a new food and drink menu were also popular.

Operations manager Ewelina Sadlowska said some minor issues arose around social distancing measures but overall her team and audiences had been adaptable and enthusiastic. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for their understanding and support," she said.

### Recovery from rain damage

There was one serious blow during the torrential downpours of Monday 12 July when water gathered on the roof and started dripping into the auditorium below. There was no immediate danger to filmgoers but a full day of screenings had to be cancelled while a specialist flooding company was called in to dry the carpet and walls, and a roofing company came to repair the damage.

The cinema will carry on with its same Covid-safe measures, including staff wearing masks and an extended cleaning regime. Customers are recommended to wear masks and

keep socially distanced in the auditorium. The NHS Covid app

will be available for check-in if customers choose to use it.

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

## All packed up and nowhere to go

It's summer. The dog is panting in the shade, the cat is avoiding hot tin roofs and you are jabbed, tested, packed and ready to go. This is the new dawn of post-lockdown getaways; the chance to spend hours in a crowded air terminal before you and your luggage decide to follow the football and head for Rome.

Or not. Just like traffic lights that change from green to amber to red as you approach them, your holiday destination can do a quick flip even while you're in the air. Suddenly your two weeks on the beach soaking up the sun turns into ten days quarantined in a hotel, four days recovering and a flight back to self-isolation.

So where can you go? Australia and New Zealand are still green. You could hit the beaches, the bars and even the Opera House. Problem is that with racing Covid levels in the UK Australia has closed its borders to Brits, for all but exceptional circumstances.

Maybe Gibraltar is a better idea. Well, yes, as long as you don't mind being stuck on a rock. Or there are Malta and Bulgaria for a getaway with a good chance of sunshine. Problem is, as I write, they are probably only a PCR test away from going red.

So what's left? There's always the Falklands. It could be a unique chance to do your bit for Britain by flying to a windswept rocky outpost that no one goes to and where the sun usually can't be bothered to show itself either. Your luggage definitely won't like it.

So the only real option is to stay in the UK and go off to find some unspoilt corner of this green and pleasant land in the hope that it's not raining and the locals are friendly. You could even go all Cliff Richard and sing and dance your way there and back. Failing that, Barnard Castle is still accepting bookings for eye tests, I hear.

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