

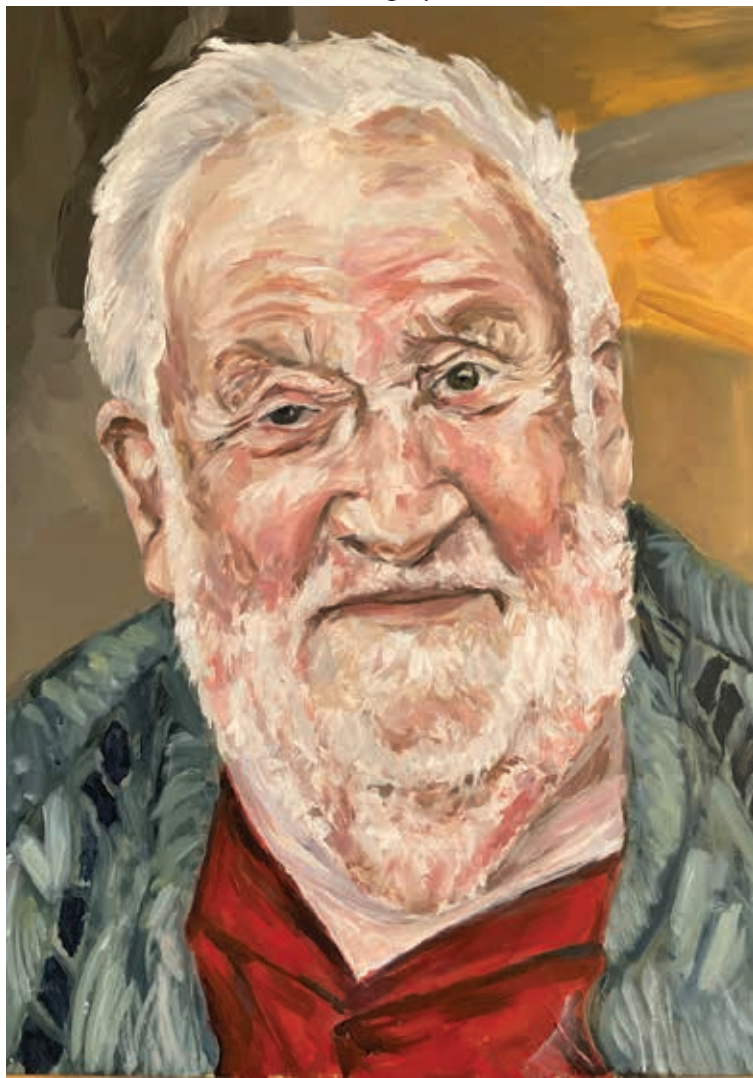


OBITUARY

Ken Carter: July 1934 – January 2021

Our former Archer team member Ken Carter died in January at the age of 86. Here, his son Dan pays tribute to his dad.

Ken thrived on people, he made friends easily and inspired so many, which is why he is so fondly remembered. He simply loved life and all it had to offer. He would make his way to the shops and meet all comers with a smile and a chat or philosophical debate. I admired and greatly loved Dad and was always being surprised by complete strangers who would come up and say: "You must be Dan, Ken's son; what a lovely man Ken is." And I can honestly say, from the bottom of my heart, he was. Ken lived most of his life in and around Hampstead, including at his late wife's pet shop Animal Crackers on Fleet Road, NW3, before moving to Golders Green and then East Finchley and spending his last years in Porthleven, Cornwall, enjoying his music and his sea view.



Much-loved: Ken Carter, in a portrait by Iris McConnell

Graduating from Oxford University, Ken chose the path

Fifty years of The Finchley Society

By Rosemary Coates

In 1970, the threat to demolish a row of Victorian agricultural cottages in Lodge Lane, North Finchley, galvanised a group of local residents led by comedian Spike Milligan, at that time living in Holden Road, and Jean Scott, the then Greater London Council member for Finchley, to fight this proposal.

They were successful and as a result it was decided to set up a group to keep an eye on similar situations in the future. So, with its motto 'Conserve, Enhance, Inform, Educate' Jean Scott formed The Finchley Society on 11 February 1971.

Spike became its President and Jean enlisted the help of Bill Tyler, a local architect, to draw up plans to modernise the cottages, and these still stand today.

As its first Secretary, David Smith worked with Spike and Jean to form the Society. Fifty years on, David, of Abbots Gardens, N2, is the group's President.

Still campaigning

From those humble beginnings grew the Society we know today with a membership of just under 400. Over the years it has been involved in campaigns to prevent the demolition of valued buildings.

Today the pressure from developers is even greater and the Society continues to work

to protect, preserve and improve buildings, transport, roads and open spaces in Finchley, Friern Barnet and their environs.

College farm

A recent success was in 2019 when the Society submitted a successful bid to Barnet Council to list College Farm, off Regents Park Road, as an 'Asset of Community Value' which gives a certain amount of protection against its loss to developers.

Many plaques have been erected in the area to commemorate famous residents and, of course, the Society commissioned a statue of Spike Milligan in the gardens of Avenue House, which was unveiled in 2014. Its current patron is actress Joanna Lumley.

Accessible archives

One of the Society's next projects is to digitise its archives and make them available via the internet. Anyone able to help with this is invited to make contact.

Countdown to Census 2021

Census 2021 is taking place on 21 March, as we reported last month, and from the 15th each household will receive a unique PIN so they can complete the census online.

If you are unable or don't want to complete the Census online you can call 0800 141 2021 and order a paper copy or if it is easier it can be completed via the telephone too.

Parts of East Finchley had among the lowest response rates in Barnet to the last Census in 2011. Central and local government use the population data gathered through the survey to judge

the delivery of public services and levels of investment for at least a decade, so the Census organisers are urging everyone to take part and ensure the available information is as accurate as possible. Statistics from the Census will be available in approximately a year but all personal details are secure and cannot be shared, by law. For more information visit: census.gov.uk.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Diamond dream machine

Sixty years ago in March 1961, in a cavernous exhibition centre in Geneva, an Italian car maker saw "the most beautiful car ever made". From Enzo Ferrari's point of view, the only thing wrong was that it didn't have his name on it. I guess he wished his company, with all its Italian glamour, had built it, not a bunch of blokes from Coventry. But it took true genius to create that ultimate dream machine: the Jaguar E-Type. This was a car that looked like it could go straight out and win the Le Mans 24 Hours just as easily as it could waft along the roads of the Riviera or blast up the then new-fangled motorways.

Back then when Britain had a motor industry, French cars were funny, German cars were weird and anything Italian was stylishly fragile, so Jaguar built the greatest sports cars. In 1948 they had launched the 120 mile-an-hour XK120. From that they developed the racing C-Type and won Le Mans twice, beating the Ferraris and the Maseratis.

Then engineer William Haynes and designer Malcolm Sayer got really serious with the D-Type. This was a purpose-built racer that dominated the mid to late 1950s, winning another three Le Mans. Not bad for a company from the Midlands. Next up, the E-Type. With a heritage like that, this was going to be serious. This was the road-going equivalent of cars that had won just about everything they entered. This was glamour, but not in a clichéd and cheaply expensive way. This was a 150mph rocket ship that made you look super cool, it was British and it was the best.

Everyone wanted one, from Frank Sinatra to Michael Caine, to every kid with their nose pressed against the toy shop window. And there was another thing about the E-Type: the price. They cost about half what you would have paid for the cheapest Ferrari and were quicker. Jaguar made lots of them; 55,000 between 1961 and 1971 and then, when they dropped in a V12 engine, another 15,000 in the next four years.

In the mid-1970s, you could buy a secondhand one for the price of a Ford Capri. A friend of mine did and he even let me drive it. The Capri might have been the car you always promised yourself, as the advertising went, but the E-Type was the car you dreamt about.

of a guide from an early age and although not a religious man, followed the writings of Lao Tzu. His passion was in drama, classical music, art and literature. He enjoyed a cultured life, writing reviews for the Classical Source website and *The Archer*.

I will never forget the wisdom and guidance Dad gave which is now somewhere within. For a full eulogy and to remember Ken by leaving a personal tribute, long or short, any photos or to support the listed charities instead of sending flowers, please visit <https://kennethcarter.muchloved.com/>



The Finchley Charities have been providing quality sheltered housing in a supportive community environment, across three sites in East Finchley and Finchley Central.

If you have lived in the Borough of Barnet for at least five years of your life, we can provide homes for individuals and couples aged over 55, in need of sheltered housing and able to live independently.

If this sounds like you or someone you know in need of a new home, please contact us on: 020 8346 9464 or email: info@thefinchleycharities.org to discuss eligibility.

020 8346 9464
info@thefinchleycharities.org
www.thefinchleycharities.org

 **The Finchley Charities**

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