

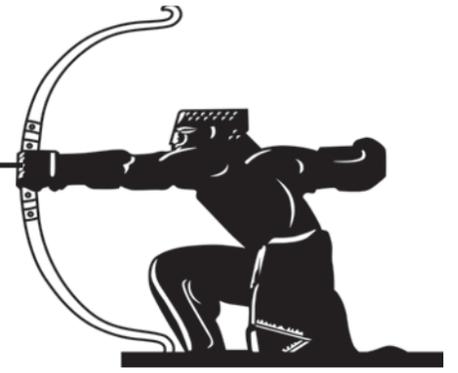


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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



April 2022 No. 336

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

## Cycle lanes to be changed for new trial

By Daphne Chamberlain

Changes are being made to the controversial cycle lane scheme through East Finchley and North Finchley as Barnet Council says it expects to make a final decision in the autumn on whether it should be made permanent. The cycle lane scheme has been highly controversial since it was installed along the A1000 in the autumn of 2020. It has undoubtedly made the road safer for cyclists but some traders complained of the loss of parking spaces and many drivers found themselves stuck in long queues at peak times.

Barnet Council opened an 18-month consultation at the time and say that they have listened to the feedback they received.

### Main changes

In East Finchley, the proposed change is the removal of the southbound segregated cycle lane between the bus stop outside Costa Coffee and 40 High Road. Pay and display parking bays would be installed in its place. The 20mph speed limit would be extended southwards, as far as the Haringey boundary.

At the North Finchley end of the route, the existing southbound cycle lane between Sandringham Gardens and Summers Lane would be switched from the road to the very wide pavement there. Double yellow lines would be removed, with unrestricted parking restored.

Amendments along the rest of the High Road north of the North Circular, including the flyover, are also being considered.

Barnet Council has also announced that the whole of the

cycle lane, whether earmarked for changes or not, has been put under a new Experimental Traffic Order, starting from 21 March, for a minimum of six months. The Council says: "This allows us to trial these changes so that we can see how they work prior to making a decision whether or not to continue the measures permanently, with or without further modifications and in accordance with the wider consultation."

### Have your say

Cyclist, drivers, traders and all residents are invited to give their views on the changes via the new A1000 Experimental Cycle Route consultation online questionnaire, which closes on 12 August. To complete it, go to [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) and find the Consultations page. To request a paper version or for help and further information, phone 020 8359 3281 or email [highwayscorrespondence@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:highwayscorrespondence@barnet.gov.uk). Alternatively, you can write to Highways, London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW.



Being removed: The cycle lane heading south towards the station



Ablaze: Fire crews in attendance as smoke billows from the second-floor flat. Photo Mike Coles

## Fire rips through High Road flat

By Janet Maitland

An alleged cannabis factory in a second-floor flat on the High Road in East Finchley caught fire on Sunday 6 March. Clouds of smoke billowed across the road as fire crews battled the flames roaring from the window of the flat, on the corner of Lincoln Road.

The London Fire Brigade was called to the blaze at 2.30pm and sent four fire engines. A team of 25 firefighters got the fire under control by 4pm and no one was injured.

Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team helped to police the incident alongside officers from West Finchley and Finchley Church End. Gas and electrical engineers also attended the scene. After the incident, East Finchley Police said they had been called to help control traffic and pedestrians in the High Road and subsequently arrested one man at the scene.

"The fire is believed to have been accidental and caused by a fault within the mains electricity supply," said a spokesperson for the London Fire Brigade, who are helping the police with their ongoing investigation. The 31-year-old man arrested on suspicion of illegally extracting electricity and the production of cannabis was taken to a north London police station and later released under investigation.

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Copy deadlines – **May: 15 April** **June: 13 May**  
**July: 10 June**

## What's on in the wood

With spring well and truly upon us, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have announced their calendar of free events for 2022.

On Sunday 10 April and Sunday 11 September you can find out more about the history of Cherry Tree Wood on a guided walk between 2-3pm starting by the noticeboard at the Summerlee Avenue entrance.

On Sunday 19 June, East Finchley Festival CIC takes over the park to host East Finchley's annual community festival from 12noon to 6pm, with live music, stalls, food and drink and

children's activities.

On Sunday 16 October, there will be an apple day with a chance to try fruit pressing and juice making. It runs from 11am to 1pm next to the Cherry Tree Wood café.

Then on Sunday 11 December there will be a workshop where you can make willow decorations for Christmas, again next to the café from 11am to 12.30pm.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Barnet Council

#### 27 Abbots Gardens, N2

Lawful development certificate for rear outbuilding.

#### 72 Abbots Gardens, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliet balcony and one side-facing rooflight.

#### 123 Abbots Gardens, N2

First-floor side extension. Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer with Juliet balcony and two front-facing rooflights. New front porch.

#### Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2

New single-storey school building. Relocation of bicycle storage and refuse storage.

#### 5 Beaumont Close, N2

Many amendments to planning permission for demolition of existing building and erection of a three-storey block of seven self-contained flats.

#### Drummond House, 50 Font Hills, N2

Submission of arboricultural details pursuant to planning permission.

#### 35 Elmfield Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window.

#### 11-59 High Road, N2

One high-speed electric car charger.

#### 76 Huntingdon Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window and one side-

facing rooflight.

#### 80 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey rear and side extension

#### 31 Leopold Road, N2

Roof extension including hip to gable, rear dormer window and raising of ridge, parapet and chimney, with two front rooflights.

#### 2 Maurice Walk, N2

One side and two rear-facing rooflights.

#### 14 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 21 Sylvester Road, N2

Submission of details of conditions pursuant to planning permission.

### Haringey Council

#### 11 Eastern Road, N2

Rear single-storey extension at lower ground level. New rear patio with associated garden landscaping and new timber pergola. Lower ground side elevation to be re-rendered to match existing. New side access gates.

#### 16 Eastern Road, N2

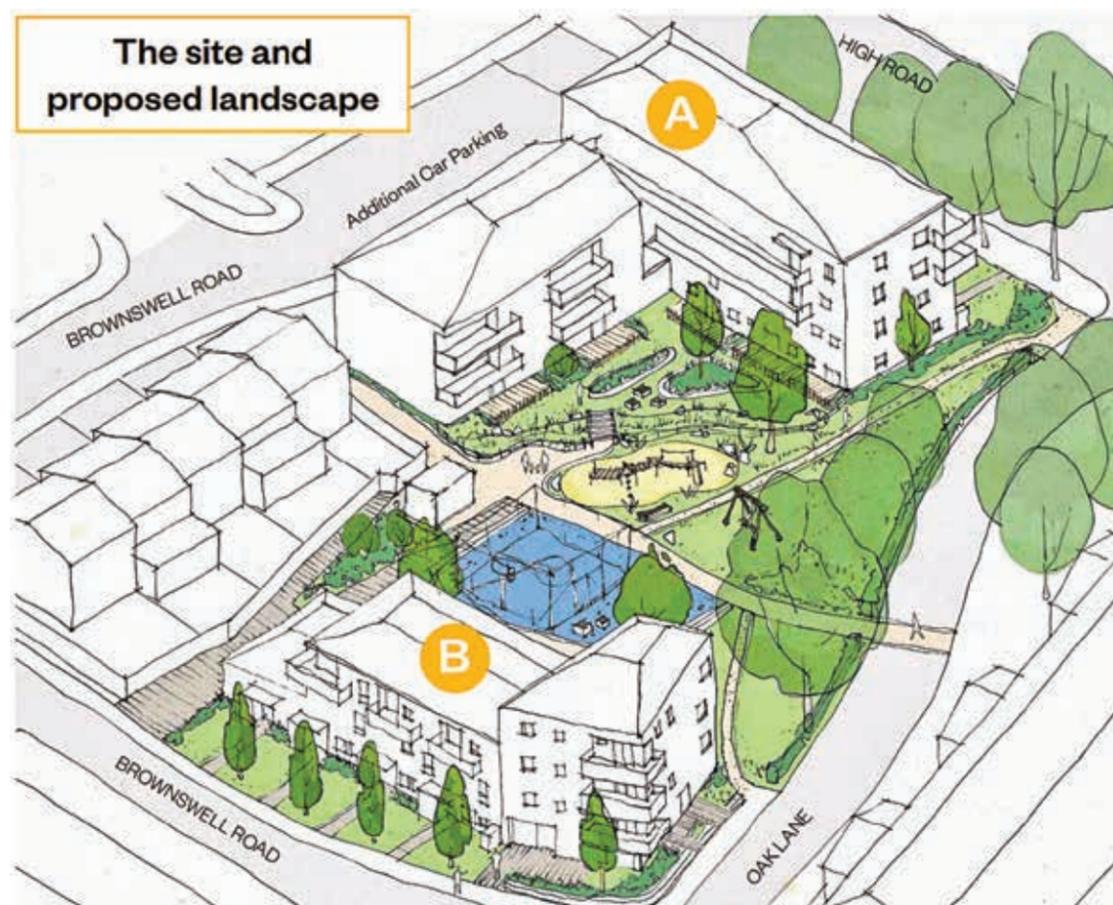
Single-storey rear extension: depth 6m, maximum height 3m, eaves height 3m.

#### 79 Fordington Road, N6

Single-storey rear extension, alterations to existing side extension including new rooflights, and new bike store to side alley.

#### 53 Twyford Avenue, N2

Outbuilding in rear garden.



Grange expansion: An image taken from the consultation documents shows proposed new housing blocks A and B, and a redeveloped Brownswell green area in between.

## Residents' dismay at revised plans for Grange homes

By Janet Maitland

Revised plans for the redevelopment of the Grange estate and surrounding streets in East Finchley are proving as controversial as the first ones.

Many of the dozens of residents who attended consultation events on 22 and 26 February were angry that despite the strength of feeling about the loss of green space on Brownswell Road and Tarling Road, and the proposed demolition of three homes, as we reported last year, the new plans did not really change anything.

### Latest proposal

Representatives from Barnet Homes are now proposing two four-storey blocks containing 24 homes on Brownswell Green, rather than one five-storey block containing 38 flats. They say that the positioning of the new blocks will "retain the large green space that faces south", unlike the first design.

However, some residents thought the new plans built over even more green space. "We told them we didn't want the first plan and now they've come back with something even worse," said Jo Conway, who lives on Brownswell Road.

Other issues raised by residents included insufficient parking spaces, poor drainage, tree loss, and why private gardens for the ground floor flats have been prioritised over public green space.

### Questions to Barnet Homes

The Archer asked Barnet Homes how much green space was covered over by the first design and how this compares with the revised plans. A spokesperson said that this



Brownswell green now: Proposed block A would occupy the foreground and block B would take the place of the three homes on the right, beyond the green.

information will be available "as part of the planning application" because the design is still subject to change.

We also asked if the petition last spring, signed by 700 people, would be highlighted in the planning application planned for May. The spokesperson said the petition had been "formally responded to last June" and that the "consultation events have provided the opportunity for residents to voice their concerns, a summary of which will be in the application".

A Barnet Homes spokes-

person said another resident event will be held in the next few weeks and residents will be notified in good time.

### Check on the plans

A total of 43 homes are proposed: 24 on Brownswell Green, three on Tarling Road, eight in a new block on the Grange estate itself by the High Road and a further eight in a block on Central Avenue.

The plans are available online at [www.barnethomesen-gage.org](http://www.barnethomesen-gage.org). Click on The Grange, then News and updates, then Consultation Boards February 2022.

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# Causeway CCTV to be extended by six months

By Janet Maitland

The security camera on The Causeway, due to be decommissioned at the end of March, has been given a reprieve for six months while Barnet Council undertakes a review of all CCTV units.

The camera was installed on this busy alleyway behind the tube station last September following a campaign by Causeway residents, supported by local councillors and triggered by two major incidents on the footpath.

Executive of the council and council officers.

Explaining why the council was considering removing the camera in the first place, Matt Len, from the council's Community Safety Assurance Group, had told the councillors: "There was no anti-social behaviour or crime incidents reported in the 12 months prior to the incident in October 2020 and no further incidents since CCTV was installed in September 2021."

### Camera presence deters crime

However, it is also the case that in the 12 months before the camera was installed there were the two known criminal offences. The deterrent factor that cameras can provide is cited in the government's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, which states that public spaces can be made safer for women and girls by "increasing [CCTV] coverage so people think twice before committing a crime".

The impact of violence on the ability of women and girls to go about their lives without fear of attack may not normally be considered evidence of a need for CCTV as fear is hard to quantify. However, in this case, an extensive Met Police survey undertaken at the end of last year revealed that The Causeway was the place where local women and girls feel the least safe.



Monitored: The Causeway

In October 2020, a schoolgirl was seriously sexually assaulted there and just five months later a man indecently exposed himself after following a young girl along The Causeway. During his arrest he attacked and injured a male and female police officer.

### Extension welcomed

Councillor Arjun Mittra said he and his fellow East Finchley councillors were pleased that a six-month extension had been agreed for now. They had arranged visits to The Causeway by the Chief



High-kicking: One of the Celtic Hearts Irish Dance group appears to float in mid-air in front of a fascinated crowd at the Cherry Tree Café on St Patrick's Day. Photo Mike Coles

## Dancing on St Patrick's Day

Anyone passing through Cherry Tree Wood on Thursday 17 March was able to enjoy some dynamic jigs and reels by the Celtic Hearts Irish Dance group in celebration of St Patrick's Day. And to give the event even more of a flavour of the Emerald Isle, the team at the Cherry Tree Café were serving Irish coffees, glasses of Guinness and bowls of Irish stew with soda bread.



Lifesaving help: Food bank volunteers bagging goods in a photo taken last summer...

## Bus route changes

As we went to press, Transport for London announced the changes to East Finchley bus services that will be made in early 2023, following a consultation with passengers. The 234 route will be extended from Highgate Wood to Archway via Archway Road, and the 263 will run via Highgate Village instead of Archway Road. The 143 route will not change, and there will be a new N271 night bus from Moorgate to North Finchley, via East Finchley. More details in next month's edition.

## Demand up but donations down

By John Lawrence

Organisers of Finchley Foodbank have renewed their call for regular donations after seeing the rising cost of living forcing more families to take up their services.

In one week in March, the food bank helped 474 people from its base in the hall behind St Mary's Church on the High Road, N2. At the same time, donations of food and household items have decreased noticeably this year.

The team thanked everyone who was still dropping off goods on their Friday collection day between 12pm and 3pm. All non-perishable food and toiletries are welcome and the in-demand list varies from week to week, for instance coffee, toothpaste, peanut butter and tinned pulses.



... but weekly donations are dwindling.

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The team is also looking for new collection points in schools, places of worship, workplaces and supermarkets. Contact them at finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com if you can help.

Further information can be found and cash donations can also be given to buy other essential items via the website: www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk/give-support



## ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY



Drop them off: All these items can be recycled locally

# Huge boost from High Road for recycling project

By John Lawrence

**The recycling project that aims to get East Finchley people donating their unwanted household items rather than putting them in the bin for landfill has taken a major step forward.**

Bin There Donate That has won the help of Amy's hardware store in the High Road as a cen-

tral drop-off point for a long list of items that will be passed on to schools and playgroups for children to use in art and craft projects.

Any of these items can be dropped into Amy's for recycling: paper and card off-cuts, cork, ribbon, silver and gold foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, wallpaper

off-cuts, mouldings, canvas rope, leather off-cuts, ceramic tiles and carpet samples.

Emma Frampton, co-ordinator of Bin There Donate That, said: "They will take the whole lot. It's amazing news for Bin There."

In an arrangement set up by Bin There volunteer Bridget, Amy's hands the items on for

collection by the Children's Scrap Project charity, which sorts them and shares them with children in education. It's a significant boost for East Finchley's recycling scheme, which was only started towards the end of last year. Find out more and get involved at: <https://bintheredonatethat.wix-site.com/reuse>

Amy's joins a list of local shops who are already collecting recyclable items and making it easier for all of us to reduce our impact on

the environment. They are: **Stewart Duncan Opticians**, High Road: unwanted glasses and frames **Everything Electrical**, High Road: electrical wires **EF Electricals**, High Road: cables, batteries, bulbs and small items **Nova Dental Clinic**, East End Road: toothbrushes and electric toothbrush heads **Sainsbury's**, High Road: batteries **Oakdale Pharmacy**, High Road: tablet blister packs

## Chance for voters to ask about action on the environment

Local elections for Barnet Council take place in early May and the environment is likely to be one of the key issues that people will be considering when thinking about who to vote for. In response, an environment hustings is being organised on Wednesday 20 April from 7.30pm to 9pm.

The event will take place online and will also be recorded so that it is available to people who are not able to attend on the evening. All the main political parties have been invited to send a representative.

The hustings is being organised by an umbrella group of non-political community organisations based in the borough, made up of Barnet Climate Action Group, Barnet Friends of

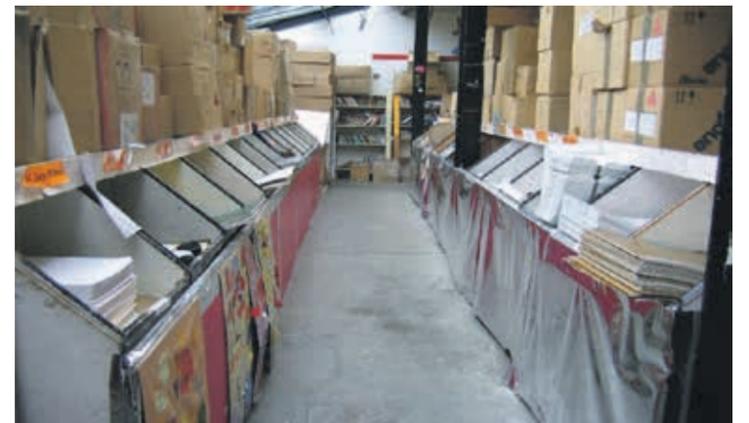
the Earth, Barnet Green Spaces Network and Better Streets for Barnet.

Their objective is to give residents the opportunity to hear from representatives of the main local political parties about their manifesto pledges on what they plan to do in Barnet with regards to the local environment and how they will reach borough-wide Net Zero during the next four years if elected to Barnet Council.

Questions will be set in advance by representatives of the umbrella group on behalf of the public on four topics: Barnet Net Zero, Healthy Homes, Active Travel and the Protection of Green Spaces.

The groups say all candidates will be given an equal opportunity to reply to each question, with a focus on local actions planned by their party for the next four years.

If you are interested in attending the hustings meeting and for further details, email [barnetenvironmenthustings@gmail.com](mailto:barnetenvironmenthustings@gmail.com) (note, there is no central 'n' in 'environment' in this address).



Off the shelf: The Children's Scrap Project warehouse

## Your unwanted items: Where do they all go?

**Any household items handed in to Amy's will be collected by the Children's Scrap Project, a registered charity that benefits more than 70,000 children in education.**

Donated materials are picked up by the charity's collectors and taken for safety checks and sorting in its east London warehouse.

Designed like a scrap supermarket, the warehouse allows members to browse the shelves and barrels to select the materials their school or youth group might need, such as fabric,

plastic, card, wood off-cuts and old office products.

Amy's joins around 150 suppliers who have materials collected for free for onward sharing with 650 member groups, helping 70,000 youngsters enjoy arts and crafts and avoiding the items ending up in landfill. Find out more at [www.childrenscrap.co.uk](http://www.childrenscrap.co.uk)



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# Community hub springs into life for the spring

By Janet Maitland

The number of local residents using the community centre on Tarling Road continues to grow. Bookings are steadily increasing, especially for celebrations and parties, and a spring event is planned for Saturday 23 April from 12 - 3pm.

Jon Woolfson, the manager, is keen to start providing refreshments at the centre and would welcome any practical proposals to make this become a reality. If you have any ideas and/or relevant expertise contact him on 020 7018 6560 or email [tarlingroad@ymcalcan.org](mailto:tarlingroad@ymcalcan.org)



He also wants residents to feel welcome to use the garden. "During the daytime when the centre is staffed and the gate is open, neighbours are welcome to use the garden for general recreation," said Jon. Parents and guardians are asked to take responsibility for their children at all times, not to engage in activities that endanger or disrupt others, and to take heed of any instructions from staff.

## Clubs and classes

A youth club organised by Maureen Clemetson meets two evenings a week, for pre-teens on Fridays and older children on Thursdays, with football, dance, boxing and basketball run by volunteer coaches. Other activities for children and

young people include Aikido on Mondays, ballet on Wednesdays and karate on Sundays.

There are also activities for adults. An exercise class for over 55s is offered by Age UK Barnet on Friday mornings. "It works on the whole body, combining movement, strength and stretch," said Wendy Nutman, who runs the class. Find out more at [www.ageukbarnet.org.uk](http://www.ageukbarnet.org.uk) or call 07741 877027.

Local resident Charm Donohue runs a Yoga class on Thursday mornings. "We're a small friendly group and we welcome beginners," said Charm. Find out more by emailing [yogacharmrd@gmail.com](mailto:yogacharmrd@gmail.com). A Christian Pentecostal church group meets on Sundays. "All are welcome," said Pastor Karl Garwood.

## Facts and figures

For general information about activities at the hub, email [tarlingroad@ymcalcan.org](mailto:tarlingroad@ymcalcan.org) or ring 020 7018 6560. To book a room go to <https://hallbookingonline.com/tarlingroad>. The hall costs £35 an hour to hire from Monday to Friday, and £38 at weekends. Office hire is £20 an hour or between £300 and £350 per calendar month. A co-working desk is £100 a month.



Soap and water: Zeb Jackman-Overlander, left, and William Symonds washing cars for their charity venture

## Car washing for victims of Ukraine war

When Archer Academy Year 8 students William Symonds and Zeb Jackman-Overlander were given a challenge to start a business with £10 funding they decided to start washing cars and give all the profits to charities helping the victims of the war in Ukraine. With their £10 they bought sponges and detergent and went looking for business among neighbours on Leopold Road, N2. After just a few days of hard graft they had generated enough profit to make an amazing donation of £373.



## Soccer dads in solidarity

Local footballing dads from Holy Trinity and Martin primary schools in East Finchley show their support for the people of Ukraine by swapping out of their usual colours of yellow and orange into yellow and blue for their regular Wednesday evening match at Power League at Colney Hatch.



## URBANCALM

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## East Finchley Baptist Church

We meet each Sunday for worship at 10.30 am. If you would like to join us please go to our website for further details. All welcome.

For more information please contact the Church Office Email: [office@eastfinchleybc.org.uk](mailto:office@eastfinchleybc.org.uk) [www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk)

## Car boot is back

This month's Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 30 April from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For more information, phone 020 8368 8180.

## Festival of artists

A four-day festival of art and activities for children and families takes place in Wood Green this month. The Citizens Art Festival runs from Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 April at various locations including Blue House Yard.

Around 50 painters, sculptors, printmakers and photographers will be exhibiting in the art show, leading workshops or hosting a stall at the art market.

The programme of free

art activities for all ages will include a Chinese calligraphy workshop, and sessions on collage making and printmaking, all led by professional artists. For full details visit [www.citizensart.market/cam-festival](http://www.citizensart.market/cam-festival).

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# Sunrise over the station

By Katie Leuw

A Northern line train driver has used her art and a particular view of East Finchley station to help her overcome her struggle with her mental health after experiencing a tragic incident on the Tube last year. Poland-born Hanna K was picking up her train from East Finchley station when she saw a beautiful sunrise over the tracks heading into town and decided to paint it.



@leartedibuja



@katiesbrushandnib



@oliviadrawsandpaints



@watercolourvibes



@litydraws



@ati24159



Inspiration: Above, Hanna's original sunrise photo and, below, the painting she created from the scene



@wyliewolfart

When she invited others to do the same via Instagram she was amazed at the support and response she received. Fellow artists from around the world saw the scene for themselves and painted their own versions to share with Hanna. I was extremely humbled and shocked when 13 people from all around the world got involved, from Malaysia, Canada, Germany and the UK, to name a few," she told *The Archer*.



@juliahmarshall



@friendsoftheblobs

### Trauma and recovery

Hanna struggled with her post-traumatic stress after witnessing an accident while she was at the cab of a train last year. Someone jumped in front of the train ahead of hers, which was

being driven by a colleague, and even though she wasn't directly involved she had to watch the aftermath of the tragic incident.

Hanna has always loved painting since she was very young. She always wanted to be an artist and to go to art school. However, growing up in Poland with parents who were

farmers, this wasn't affordable for them. When her own children were at school she used to love helping them with their homework and getting into arts and crafts with them. So after struggling to take her mind away from the stress following the incident on the line, she picked up her paints again and found that concentrating on the colours and the specific details of her drawing became a

huge part of her recovery.

Her daughter was so proud of her artwork and told her to share it with others on Instagram so she started putting up her work and noticed how amazing it was to build

a network and community. That's when her East Finchley station painting got such a big response, with contributions showing off the station sunrise through a fascinating range of styles.



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Road to recovery: Chris Berlingieri hopes to return home after months in hospital

## Family appeal to help guitar hero Chris

By John Lawrence

The family of a much-loved local man who was left unable to walk after a serious accident last year have launched an appeal to help him recover from his devastating injuries. Chris Berlingieri, known to many as lead guitarist in rock and rockabilly band Sound of the Suburb, who have been favourites at East Finchley Festival and venues like Maddens, has also lost the use of his left arm, experiences double vision and has difficulty swallowing. Since the accident last April, he has survived several complex operations and has been working hard to overcome his injuries in hospital, showing remarkable progress but still with a long way to go.

### Costly recovery

Before Chris can return to his family home in Durham Road, N2, it will need to be made accessible for his mobility equipment. He also faces large bills for other medical items and future rehabilitation sessions, which are not covered by insurance. "It is impossible to know how long this rehab will take and Chris deserves the best chance we can give him," say his family. They have launched a fundraising drive and are appealing for help from anyone who knows Chris from his own work as a chiropractor and from anyone who has enjoyed the music of Sound of the Suburb over the years. "While Chris has made remarkable progress and shown incredible determination in his recovery so far, he still has a long way to go," his family say. To find out more and to make a donation, visit [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) and search 'Chris Berlingieri'.

## Urgent call for site visit to tackle park flooding

By John Lawrence

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are calling for a site visit with Barnet Council officers to inspect the extensive flooding that is blighting the grass and tennis court areas of the park. Last month we reported that the council's environment team said there was no funding immediately available to address the problem, although they had promised to inspect the drainage gullies in the area.

The Friends group says it is willing to help where possible and is calling for a council site visit to happen as soon as possible to weigh up the options.

The standing water on the grass area and close to the tennis courts has been ever-present throughout the winter and shows few signs of draining. This is a major concern for general users of the park and for special events like the East Finchley Festival, scheduled for Sunday 19 June.

### First things first

Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends, said the group's objective was to work in partnership with the council to ensure the field area is as dry as possible for maximum public use throughout the year. "With that in mind, options looking at creating water storage areas, digging two to three field drains at the site of the worst persistent flooding, could be undertaken," he said, "but surely the first step remains to check that the existing drainage system for the park, including under the field, is working and functioning correctly."

### Controlled wetland suggestion

The Friends are also questioning whether, drainage issues aside, the water table under the park is rising and therefore

contributing to the problem. They have asked for help from Thames Water but have yet to receive a response.



Pond life: Geese make themselves at home on the flooded field. Photo Maggie Eiseman

One solution proposed by Barnet Council was to divert rain run-off into a purpose-built wetland area at the Northern line end of the park, where water could accumulate under control and become a wildlife habitat. However, this would require funding that is not currently in the council's budget.

## Garden waste collections

Residents can now sign up for Barnet Council's 2022-23 garden waste bin collection.

The cost for the service will be £70 for collections of one bin and £50 for each additional bin. Residents who sign up in time for the start of the service in early May will receive around 23 fortnightly collections. Find out more at [www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:  
April 2012

We reported on the birth of the Archer Academy, as the team behind the new free school submitted their plan to the Department of Education and started researching potential premises. The new school opened in September 2013, on the site of the former Herbert Wilmot Centre and Stanley Road playing fields in East Finchley and, as they say, the rest is history!

15 years ago:  
April 2007

The sudden closure of the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green caused local concern about what would become of the pub and the Kinks' memorabilia housed there. Ray and Dave Davies, founders of the famous band, lived across the road from the Clissold and gave their first public performance there. Fortunately the Clissold survived and re-opened and is now a thriving gastropub and shrine to the Kinks, whose fans visit from all over the world.

25 years ago:  
April 1997

The future of College Farm in Finchley was finally secured when Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Transport, John Bowis, confirmed Chris Owers' right to his agricultural tenancy. This allowed ownership of the farm to be transferred from the Ministry of Transport to a charitable trust. Sadly, the farm has been closed to the public since 2001, when restrictions were introduced to combat an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, although it now houses a successful saddlery and pet supplies shop which is open seven days a week.

Yesterday's news today

You can explore all the news from East Finchley over the last 29 years in our online archives, where nearly every edition of The Archer since 1993 is available to browse for free. Find them at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk)



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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Career advice: Matt Lucas, left, with students and staff at the Archer Academy

## TV star Matt inspires next generation of performers

*Great British Bake Off* star Matt Lucas visited the Archer Academy in East Finchley to inspire a group of year 10 and 11 students. The actor and comedian is patron of the secondary school's Raise the Roof campaign to build a performing arts studio.

Matt answered questions from the students about his own school days and how much being involved with drama meant to him. He spoke of how he got involved with the National Youth Theatre where he met his friend and *Little Britain* collaborator David Walliams.

He also talked about the determination needed to be a successful actor, noting that although there is a glamorous side to the job, it involves hard work and early morning starts on set, and that no matter who you are in the business, you still have to audition for roles.

Matt also advised students that it's either feast or famine for an actor and that they should have a secondary career to pursue alongside acting. He recounted many funny stories from the set of *Doctor Who* as well as his new film *Wonka*, in which he stars with Timothée Chalamet.

When asked why he has decided to support Archer Academy to build its new drama and dance studio, Matt's message was that it was about inspiring the next generation of actors and industry professionals. As he told the students: "Who knows, one of you might be a

future BBC Commissioning Editor and I might be coming to you to pitch one of my ideas for a show."

### Fundraising advice sought

The school is over halfway to its £300,000 fundraising target and would like to start work this summer in order to have the new performance space ready for the next academic year. It would welcome information about trusts and foundations that might be able to help. Anyone with advice can contact Jessica Scott at [jscott@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:jscott@thearcheracademy.org.uk)

## Welwyn winners for the fourth time

Archer Academy students once again took gold at this year's Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival. The competition, now in its 78th year, took place between in March at the Barn Theatre there and this is the fourth time the school has won the coveted trophy. Drama teacher Mr Carter won Director's Award for most creative and imaginative director and the actors were also recognised for technical skill and exceptional team work.



Champions: The Academy's winning drama students

## Choir chooses favourite for church return

North London Chorus is returning to St James Church in Muswell Hill this month with a performance of one of the choir's favourite works, the *German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms. Last performed by the choir in 2014 with orchestra, this time the work will be accompanied by two pianos in the composer's own highly effective arrangement which dates from a performance given in London in 1871.

The choir will be joined by soprano Verity Wingate for the first time and by familiar Muswell Hill face and baritone voice James Cleverton. The programme will also feature a group of songs by Richard Strauss. The two-piano accompaniment will be provided by the choir's regular rehearsal accompanist Catherine Borner and English National Opera conductor and pianist Chris Hopkins. Tickets for the concert on Saturday 9 April at 7.30pm can be booked at [northlondonchorus.org/tickets](http://northlondonchorus.org/tickets).

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## Hunt is on for a vintage venue

By Hannah Duncan and Kamila Radziszewski  
Meeting Chloe Holdsworth over a frothy cappuccino at Coffee Bank in the High Road was as thrilling as it was insightful. A true pioneer, Chloe's on a mission to launch a fabulous vintage market right here where she lives in glorious East Finchley... and she needs our help!

Chloe hopes her market will provide a sparkling new revenue stream for local businesses. Globally, the vintage scene is already exploding.

This year nearly a quarter of Gen-Zs will turn to second-hand sites for their latest looks. And by 2024, the market is expected to blossom a further 18%. Deep within the crinkling chiffon and beaded delights, vintage is full of promise.

But Chloe's not just in it for the profit. She's about the purpose. "I don't care if I don't make money, I just want to make a difference," she says. After the turmoil of lockdown, when one in five people experienced depression, many have been left isolated or anxious. "We need to get organic, deeper conversations going again," Chloe advocates. And a thriving new vintage market, she suspects, is just the ticket.

What's more, Chloe believes the market can help us embrace and appreciate different cultures

in our neighbourhood too. "Sharing vintage is sharing history," she says. Partly inspired by her time in Japan, she's keen to incorporate many different



Location, location: Chloe Holdsworth wants to bring a vintage market to East Finchley.

collections from around the world.

### Do you know a venue?

Chloe is searching high and low for a suitable venue. Like a fairy godmother, she has all the props and passion needed to transform it into a magical vintageland. It could be a Brick Lane-style series of edgy lofts and basements, woven together by a love of vintage. Or it could be a giant school facility, office complex or church hall. Can you help? Email Chloe at: [ChloesRetro@outlook.com](mailto:ChloesRetro@outlook.com)

## New choir director takes up the baton

Alison Smart Fisher, professional singer, choral director and music teacher, has taken up the baton to conduct Alyth Choral Society, which is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year. Alison studied at Cambridge University, the Royal Northern College of Music and Trinity College of Music. She has enjoyed a most successful career both as a solo performer and conducting choirs. Until recently, she sang with the BBC Singers.

The choir's main repertoire comprises choral works with Old Testament themes, as well as non-religious music. Their next concert, on Sunday 10 April, will include songs from the four home nations of the United Kingdom, in celebration of the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee year.



Choir director: Alison Smart Fisher

Alyth Choral Society performs at the North Western Reform Synagogue in Alyth Gardens, Temple Fortune. The choir welcomes new members of any denomination (or none) who enjoy choral singing. Further information and booking details can be found at <https://alythchoralsociety.wordpress.com/>



Many hands: Dozens turned out to plant trees alongside Mutton Brook

## Planting mob magics up a miniature forest

By Paul Salman

**Dozens of volunteers created an instant miniature woodland when they converged on a field in Hampstead Garden Suburb to plant 600 trees in a matter of hours.**

This was a Tiny Forest, a densely packed native forest that fits into a plot the size of a tennis court. Tiny Forests are based on a planting method developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki and have been gaining in popularity as one way to combat climate change in urban areas, where space is at a premium.

This one was a collaboration between Barnet Council and environmental charity Earthwatch, who have been promoting the concept in the UK and have now helped to plant dozens around the country.

As we reported in February, Barnet Council made some land available near Mutton Brook, just off the A1 and North Circular at Henlys Corner. Earthwatch prepared the ground, fenced it and supplied the 600 trees, all native species, that were to be planted. Trees are chosen to best match the soil conditions at the site and

to provide different levels of height cover.

### Getting involved

On planting day in late February, dozens of volunteers arrived at the site to dig holes in the muddy ground and plant the trees. Children from nearby schools Garden Suburb Infants and Henrietta Barnett also took part.

"It was a fantastic day," said local resident Daniel Mermelstein, who helped coordinate the volunteer effort. "It was very moving to see so many people turning up and getting stuck in."

Earthwatch will be organising science and community days, when local residents will be encouraged to measure the forest's progress by, for example, measuring tree size and counting butterflies and other wildlife. Volunteers will also be needed to pick litter and do some light weeding over the coming months. If you want to get involved, email [tinyforest-barnet@gmail.com](mailto:tinyforest-barnet@gmail.com).

## Tales of trees that have taken root

By Diana Cormack

**The Archer 19 years ago in April 2003 carried three articles about trees. The front page reported on 15 downy birches newly planted in the Glebelands, near the Coppetts Wood nature reserve, just over the North Circular in North Finchley, with the aim of making it more attractive for local people to use. Sadly, within three weeks, vandals had destroyed every one of them.**

However, back in East Finchley there was a different story. There the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood had planted



Still growing: The oak is planted in memory of Robin Chapman in 2003

an English oak in memory of Robin Chapman, one of the

founders of the Friends who had died suddenly the previous year.

Robin loved the Wood and it was the responses he received from local people to notices that he pinned up in the park that led to him organising a meeting and starting a committee that formed the Friends in 1995.

From then onwards he never allowed Barnet Council to forget the existence of the Wood and was always there to inspire and encourage the Friends in their many beneficial activities. Robin visited the park almost daily with his wife Kirsten and their dog Trina.

Fittingly, the oak tree was planted in line with the spot where Robin loved to sit and gaze upon the place he loved so dearly. You can see it in the triangular flower bed in front of the Cherry Tree Wood café.

Nearby at the Summerlee

Avenue entrance is a cherry tree which was planted in 2003 to mark the tenth anniversary of the newspaper you are reading now. *Prunus avium plena*, a double-flowering bird cherry, was chosen to commemorate a decade of continuous effort by *The Archer* team and everyone in the community who supports it every month. Who can envisage how we will mark our 30th birthday next year?



Anniversary: The cherry tree that marks The Archer's 10th birthday



Vandalised: The broken saplings in the Glebelands

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



## Spare that garden tree

By Isobel Grant

**I love trees. The unnecessary cutting down of any of them upsets me. I got wind of such a thing recently in one of the county roads when a universal wail went up on a WhatsApp group.**

Fretful voices decried the careless demolition of a mature tree in the corner of a back garden, coupled with the sight of bewildered birds sitting around on fences wondering where, in a matter of minutes, their safe haven had gone.

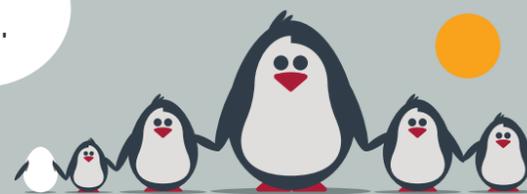
Since I arrived in East Finchley over 40 years ago I have watched a number of trees being unnecessarily culled from front and back gardens, often to make a bigger terrace or parking area. You would think in these days of climate change concern that residents would try to preserve their natural surroundings rather than destroy them.

A despairing walk down Creighton Avenue demonstrates the proliferation of concrete-stiffed front gardens where up to four cars are parked per house. I've even heard of one East Finchley household covering their entire back garden with 50 square metres of plastic grass.

So increasingly our wildlife is deprived of shelter, the earth cannot breathe and water has no drainage. We can hardly point the finger at Brazil's president Mr Bolsonaro and his deforestation programme, when in our small way we are equally guilty of damaging the natural world.

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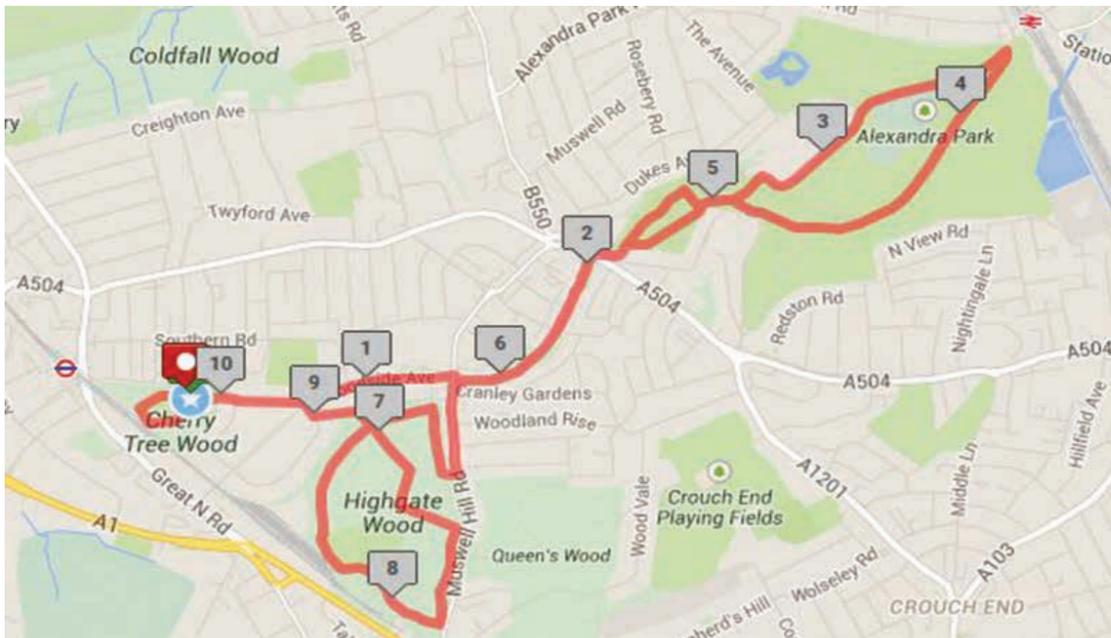
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# Trainers on! It's time to race the neighbours again

By David Melsome



Race the Neighbours: The route loops around Cherry Tree Wood, Alexandra Palace and Highgate Wood

Race the Neighbours, the massively popular annual challenge between East Finchley and Muswell Hill, is returning in June after being forced by the pandemic to hang up its shoes for two years.

Once again, individuals and teams from N2 and N10 are invited to take on the 10k course between Cherry Tree Wood and Alexandra Palace. This year, organisers are spreading the good-natured rivalry even wider by inviting people to sign up to run on behalf of the N6 and N22 postcodes as well.

### Diary date

Registration for the event on the morning of Sunday 5 June has opened and dozens of amateur runners have already signed up to take part. In previ-

ous years, around 450 have run on the day and there's still plenty of time to get involved at [www.racetheneighbours.com](http://www.racetheneighbours.com)

Avi Freeman, one of the organisers, said: "A healthy amount of local friendly rivalry will make it a fun and exciting event for all those who participate, either by running or by supporting their friends and family. Everyone is welcome and people can always enter as 'just running' rather than for N2, N10 or any other of the postcodes." There is a small entry fee for the race to cover costs but any excess money at the end of the event is donated to local charities.

## Proms at St Jude's take shape

Highlights of this year's 30<sup>th</sup> season of Proms at St Jude's, running from 25 June to 3 July in Hampstead Garden Suburb, have been announced.

The opening night will feature Orchestra Nova performing a programme of works by Mendelssohn and Schubert, including *Death and the Maiden*.

On the second evening, Darius Brubeck will pay homage to his father Dave by playing jazz standards plus a selection of South African jazz.

The Proms will also be welcoming back Tom Fetherstonhaugh and Fantasia Orchestra, with a programme including Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No. 2*.

For anyone who loves 60s and 70s music, *Joni and Me*, on the second Saturday, will see Joanna Eden performing songs by Joni Mitchell, Carole King and other folk legends. The Last Night, on Sunday 3 July 2022, will have a royal theme, in honour of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year.

The line-up for the companion Literary Festival weekend on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 June will include Claudia Roden, the writer credited with revolutionising Western attitudes to Middle Eastern and Mediterranean cui-

sine, who was recently awarded a CBE.

Twelve guided Heritage Walks will also take place during the festival this year. As well as many looking at different fascinating aspects of the Suburb and Hampstead, one will focus on Covent Garden, one on Spitalfields and Whitechapel, and one on Cricklewood and the emerging Brent Cross Town. You can keep an eye on the latest Proms news and find booking details at [www.promsatstjudes.org.uk](http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk)



And they're off: The starting line in Cherry Tree Wood



Darius Brubeck Quartet



Robert Max



Joanna Eden



Noah Max



Tom Fetherstonhaugh and Fantasia Orchestra

World-class: Some of the artists lined up to appear at this year's Proms at St Jude's

## Landing strip for a lone swan

Birds in flight were the subject of an exhibition by local photographer Michael Duke at the Queens Wood Café, off Muswell Hill Road, N10, last month. Flocks of seagulls and pigeons, and a single swan coming in to land, were captured by Michael's lens and then given a dynamic artistic treatment.

Flight path: Michael's image of a swan coming into land on water



## Be Part of It

A new column compiled each month by N2United, Be Part of It is a one-stop shop to find a huge range of volunteering opportunities on your doorstep.

East Finchley Festival is back, taking place on Sunday 19 June from 12pm - 6pm in Cherry Tree Wood. Sign up for all or part of this fantastic day for various tasks including stewarding and selling raffle tickets. Find more info at [www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/get-involved](http://www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/get-involved) or contact [volunteers@eastfinchleyfestival.org](mailto:volunteers@eastfinchleyfestival.org)

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood seek volunteers for regular monthly litter picks and general maintenance, also occasional nature conservation work such as dead hedging, hazel coppicing, tree planting. Contact: [friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com)

The East Finchley Pollinator Project seeks interested gardeners to help maintain a number of existing nectar café sites throughout East Finchley and develop new ones for pollinating insects. Contact: [efpollinators@gmail.com](mailto:efpollinators@gmail.com)

Bin There, Donate That is a new local initiative, driven by Emma Frampton's passion to create a more sustainable neighbourhood. All types of help are needed for research, liaising with shops to take in items for recycling/reusing, web and social media updates and project managing. Whether you have one spare hour a week or much more, email [bintheredonatethat@gmail.com](mailto:bintheredonatethat@gmail.com) for more details.

Grange Big Local is reaching out for voluntary help with a large range of projects for residents. Find one that floats your boat! Opportunities include working on the community fridge, Universal Basic Income, digital inclusion, the Trinity Road underpass, carpentry in the community garden, school holiday activities, funding applications and community events. Get in touch at [info@grangebiglocal.org](mailto:info@grangebiglocal.org).



N2United is East Finchley's Community and Business Network. If you wish to be included in this column please send details to [volunteer@n2united.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@n2united.co.uk). Max 60 words please.

### A Warm Welcome to Probus!

Come and meet us at the North London Probus Club for brunch, lively conversation and stimulating talks given by notable academics, journalists, media personalities and fellow members. Our Club welcomes all semi- or fully-retired PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS men and women, and we meet from 11am on the third Wednesday of each month at Stephens/Avenue House in East End Road, N3. More details from Eric ([ericdalton147@btinternet.com](mailto:ericdalton147@btinternet.com)). See also our website at [www.northlondonprobus.com](http://www.northlondonprobus.com).



## Letters

### Litter lovelies

The residents living in Lincoln Road who picked up litter along their street (*The Archer*, March 2022) are a fine example to us all. In these days of social media, most of us could organise the same kind of thing in our own roads. Of course, it's depressing that the job is left to us rather than Barnet Council keeping the streets clean but that's the way of the world in this age of cuts and reduced services. Still, if we all took charge of the small patch of land outside our own front doors it would take hardly any effort to keep litter off the streets. It makes such a difference to the character and appearance of the whole area.

**Michael Reid,**  
Creighton Avenue, N2.

### Ponds swimming charges

Dear Editor,

The result of the judicial review of the over-pricing of swimming at Hampstead Ponds that began in February at the Royal Courts of Justice will be known this month. The charges have rightly been described as both discriminatory and without justification.

Swimming at the ponds on the Heath as a free activity was formally established in Victorian times for all the people of London to enjoy, though in fact the practice goes back much further than that.

Responsibility for the upkeep of the ponds was passed from the GLC to the City of London Corporation, a body that had no experience of providing public service of any kind. It is building a new concert hall at the Barbican costing £288million while asking visitors to the ponds to pay just over £4 for a one-hour swim that had once been freely theirs for the whole day.

While it is hoped that the case will be successful the ponds should in reality be returned once more to an elected and accountable body where such matters as their upkeep

and enjoyment can be properly addressed.

The benefit of fresh water swimming is well known but the unfortunate reality is that these facilities are under-resourced for the large numbers that will want to visit them during the coming summer, but that is where they should remain: under democratic control and free for everyone to enjoy.

**John McPartlin**  
Creighton Avenue, N2.

### Water, water everywhere

Dear Editor,

Well done to the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood for pressing the issue of the flooding there with Thames Water and Barnet Council (*The Archer*, February and March 2022). I was walking through Cherry Tree Wood with friends and our dogs this week and could see clearly how the water has spread across the field much more widely than in previous years. Despite relatively dry conditions it doesn't seem to be going away, which suggests serious problems with water levels and drainage underneath. I do hope the Friends and the authorities can get together and do some remedial work to restore this lovely green space to general usage. Of course not many of us want to be sitting around on the grass in the winter months but the spring weather can be glorious and it won't be long before we'll be unfolding our picnic rugs. Perhaps the ground will dry if the rain holds off but we can't expect to go without rain for months and what will happen if we get heavy downpours in May or June? We'll be back to square one and the East Finchley Festival will have to find somewhere else to go.

**Laura French,**  
East End Road, N2.

## Lip reading can help one in six of us

There are about 11 million people living in the UK who have hearing loss. Often they will rely subconsciously on watching lips to help them to follow conversations. Mask-wearing in the face of Covid-19 led to many people realising for the first time that they had hearing loss and needed help.

"Lip reading is a challenging but immensely rewarding skill," says Cora Newell, qualified lip reading teacher and East Finchley resident. She teaches a number of lip reading classes for all levels of learners: beginners, improvers and more advanced.

"Hearing loss is an inclusive club which doesn't discriminate. There are many different causes of hearing loss. Some are obvious at birth, some are genetic but manifest themselves over time, some are caused by accident, occupational hazard, injury, illness or drug-reaction and some hearing loss is age-related."

### Learning online

Cora has been teaching



Lip reading teacher: Cora Newell

exclusively online over Zoom since the pandemic. Her online classes are diverse and she has students all over the country and overseas too.

Cora says: "Lip reading works very well online. I use Zoom features such as speech-

to-text live transcription, as well as chat and breakout room so that my students can work together and lip read each other as well as me. It's a great advantage for my students to learn in a class where there are a variety of accents as this helps prepare them for the real world."

She focuses in each class on specific consonant confusion groups, stand-alone consonants and vowels and says: "It is important for lip readers to aim to get the gist of conversations, not to get hung up on every word."

Cora is organising her spring term courses now. For further details and information, contact her at: cora362@btinternet.com

## Too much of a haul to long haul?

As the world opens up again and long-distance plane travel returns, Archer writer Ruth Anders, pictured right, took a trip to southern Asia. Here she reveals whether it was worth all the hassle and Covid paperwork.

Long haul: before the pandemic, those words were familiar parts of my vocabulary – until I made it on to one of the last flights out of Sydney in March 2020.

Distant shores then became the stuff of fantasy, until January this year. A friend and I had booked a trip to Sri Lanka months ago, when countries were labeled like traffic lights, Sri Lanka being one of the few highlighted 'amber'.

### Should I stay or should I go?

The list of non-negotiable instructions was seemingly endless. So much uploading, downloading, document printing, screenshot-saving, applications, visas, vaccine history, additional insurance, deadlines, sourcing appropriate face masks, to say nothing of testing negative in the 48 hours before departure. And that was all before we got to Heathrow.

So convinced were we that something would stop us from going, we did none of our usual research and pre-planning. At the airport, with the flight delayed a couple of hours and with sheaves of paperwork at the ready, we could not believe we'd made it to the departure lounge.

### Smart phones or hard copy?

Sri Lankan Airlines finally flew us, heavily masked up for the 12-hour journey. Arriving in the capital Colombo, our pulse rates rocketed again: would we get through Immigration? We did, but not without a few tense moments explaining why one of us had been unable to upload her online health declaration form. In fact, hard copy proved the best way forward throughout, as unreliable WiFi often made electronic document demonstration impossible.

Before our return home, out came our smart phones again to complete our passenger locator forms. At least by then a pre-departure negative test and proof of a PCR test booked in the UK were no longer necessary.



### Worth it or not?

In the past, all you needed were an electronic ticket, your passport and possibly a visa. Now it's very different. Was it worth the almost heart-stopping anxiety? You bet. Sri Lanka proved inspirational and, even with a nasty fortnight of having Covid on my return (probably caught on the flight), I'm already planning the next adventure.

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

### It's all over now

In the weird post-pandemic world, April 1st was celebration day, the day that Covid was officially over. Now we can go out, go to work and ignore every chunk of caution that has guided us through two panic-stricken years.

Temperature, aches, feeling seriously rough? Just grin and bear it, you know, like the soldier with his leg blown off who says it's just a flesh wound. Why? Because Covid is over. And even if it's not you've got to fork out £6 to get a test and who's going to do that?

It was back in March 2020 that Blonde Boris said stay at home and panic. So everybody did. They only went out to panic buy so that there was no food left for key workers, who were forced to live on applause. Your average Waitrose looked like it had been looted by angry members of Generation Range Rover terrified of running out of olive oil.

Next, no flour, eggs or sugar as everyone staying at home discovered their inner baker. Then, as one lockdown turned into another furlough and everyone got fed up with lounging around at home, they splashed out on expensive fitness kit because they couldn't go to the gym. Either that or they got a puppy.

Until finally the vaccine came to save us. So now it's all right, now we can look forward to crowded trains, pubs and shops again. We can look forward to the beginning of June and four days of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. We will be able to join the other cheering millions crammed onto the Mall because it's all over now.

Well, until the next time, which could be any time as there is a new variant out there and infections were rising fast right up until they stopped testing on, yes, that's right, April Fool's Day.

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### Holy Week Services:

10 April – Palm Sunday – 10.00 a.m.

Blessing of Palms, Procession and Sung Mass

14 April - Maundy Thursday – 7.00 p.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Watch until 10.00 p.m.

15 April - Good Friday – 3.00 p.m. Solemn Liturgy

16 April - Holy Saturday – 8.00 p.m. The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

17 April - Easter Day – 10.00 a.m.

Parish Sung Mass of Easter Day (followed by Fizz and Canapés)

For more information, contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on 020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com

or check out our website:

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

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## Inside a doll's house for all the people

By Lynn Winton

**Elizabeth Joseph, who has had a career covering art, illustration, jewellery and craft, has created a new forum for miniaturists who, like her, want to draw on their own colourful heritage and skills to make heirloom dolls' houses and interiors.**

Formerly a jewellery member of East Finchley Open Artists, Elizabeth, who has lived in Long Lane for 22 years, has now also been appointed resident miniaturist at the Museum of the Home in Shoreditch, previously known as The Geffrye Museum. Currently she has an installation of 20 eclectic chairs on display at the museum.



Tiny adjustments: Elizabeth's Barbadian-inspired furniture

"I have always loved things in miniature," said Elizabeth, "ever since I was given a doll's house as a child, and my love of making and interpreting the miniature world has grown ever since. Then I used to make tiny comics. As a jeweller I made tiny intricate charms.

"Now I want to create a

space where we change the narrative of the traditional Victorian doll's house, replacing period furniture with colourful interiors reflecting our own tastes and interests. Instead of portraits of Regency aris-

tocracy, let's fill these houses with portraits of inspirational people."

### Workshops

Drawing on her heritage of Barbadian culture, Elizabeth holds a variety of workshops on miniature furniture making in her home and also at the museum, and will soon hold



In miniature: A living room in one of Elizabeth's dolls' houses

her first all-day workshop at home to create a town house from a kit.

To find out more about upcoming workshops, and for tips on how to make

your own heirloom, subscribe to Elizabeth's newsletter by visiting her website: black-girlsdollshouseclub.com. She is also on Instagram @black-girlsdollshouseclub



Home history: Elizabeth next to a house exterior

## Action-packed projects

By Chris Stavrou, of N2United

**The March N2United meeting saw East Finchley Constitutional Club host another action-packed meeting, including an appearance from Councillor Alison Moore who kept everyone in the loop about the goings on in the local area, including everyone's favourite topic, the cycle lanes!**

Roger Chapman of East Finchley Community Trust covered topics from the recently launched East Finchley Pollinator Project to East Finchley's 'Town Team' bid that would help increase footfall on the High Road and around.

East Finchley Festival CIC, represented by Alison Roberts and Mike Hughes, gave an exciting presentation about the upcoming festival to be held on Sunday 19 June, inviting involvement and sponsorship from local businesses.

### Secrets of success

In April we'll hear from three local businesses that launched during the pandemic and have succeeded against the odds.

### What can we do for you?

We look forward to getting anyone interested in getting involved in all things local, so why not come to the Constitutional Club at 9 The Walks, N2 8DE for our next meeting on Thursday 14 April at 8pm? Meetings are free and open to all.

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