



A place to enjoy: Friends and family at the official unveiling of Noel Lynch's memorial bench

Take a seat in memory of Noel

By Diana Cormack

A new bench has been placed in Cherry Tree Wood dedicated to the memory of shopkeeper and local politician Noel Lynch, who passed away last August (*The Archer*, page 9, September 2021). Noel was a freelance auctioneer as well as a very active member of the Green Party which he had represented on the London Assembly.

Friends and family gathered on the main path through Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 24 April to unveil the memorial bench. A ribbon, green to match Noel's politics and his native Ireland, was cut by former London Assembly chair Darren Johnson, who worked alongside Noel at City Hall.

Noel's wife Diane Burstein Lynch said: "The bench can be found on the main path leading to the café so we hope that people will seek the bench out, sit and enjoy the views while remembering Noel."

Noel will be remembered by many for his fundraising



Dedication: The plaque says it all

curiosity-style shops, firstly in East Finchley at 212 High Road, close to Alan's Records, then The Green Room at Archway and in Tally Ho Corner Arcade in North Finchley.

Even more memorable for the team of this newspaper is that Noel was one of the founder members of *The Archer* in 1993

with Kevin Finn, Pete Maslen and Paul Savill. Pop into Maddens Bar on the High Road to see the plaque commemorating where it all began.

Nearly 30 years later our newspaper is still going strong and continues to match the description given to it by Noel himself: "the glue of the community".

Children's hospice seeks staff

Founded in 2006, Noah's Ark in High Barnet has become one of the UK's leading children's hospices, providing care for over 350 children and their families every year. Now the hospice team are looking to expand their services to help even more young people.

The hospice team have launched their biggest ever recruitment drive for nurses. They are looking to employ an additional ten nurses, in their words "to help those we support to enjoy life as children, rather than as patients". They say: "We urgently need passionate and highly-skilled paediatric nurses to join the team providing expert and compassionate palliative care for children who are seriously unwell. You also need to be really good at pulling funny faces, and not mind spending an hour or so in a ball pit!" Find out more at www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk/nurses

Be Part of It Volunteers wanted

A new regular column compiled by N2United

Could you spare an hour or so a week to chat to an older isolated person? **Age UK Barnet** is looking for befrienders to offer friendly chats, support and companionship. The charity also needs walking buddies to help older people to get out and about again after losing the confidence to leave their homes. Age UK Barnet is helping people who haven't left their house for two years. Just a couple of hours a week of your time could make a big difference to an older person in East Finchley. Please contact Lisa on 020 8432 1422 or email lisa.robbs@ageukbarnet.org.uk

The Archer is looking for volunteers to deliver the newspaper in any of the following roads and areas: Tarling Road, Lynmouth Road & Anington Road, Mansfield Heights, Manor Court, Doran Manor and Linksvie. Can you spare 30 minutes once a month? Email news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a free voicemail message on 0800 612 0748.

East Finchley Festival is back on Sunday 19 June from 12pm to 6pm in Cherry Tree Wood, N2. It's the biggest local event of the year, free to attend, and run entirely by volunteers. East Finchley Festival CIC operates for the benefit of N2 residents and receives no outside funding. The festival needs about 60 volunteers on the day stewarding and selling raffle tickets, which helps keep the festival free. If you could spare an hour on the day please sign up at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/get-involved or contact volunteers@eastfinchleyfestival.org for more info.

Finchley Foodbank cannot operate without volunteers. The team there is sensitive to the needs of its clients, works from a position of trust and needs more great team players. Roles range from receiving deliveries and sorting food donations to packing bags and staffing a Saturday session. If this could be you, to start the process of joining our team get in touch by emailing finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com or visit www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk for more information.

Number Champions, based in N2, helps transform the lives of young children in state primary schools who are struggling with numeracy or lack confidence in maths. Their trained in-school volunteers use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions with children. If you have good basic numeracy, plenty of enthusiasm, a spare 1.5 hours each week during term time and you're interested in volunteering from September, then visit www.numberchampions.org.uk for more information or contact volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk.



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. Max 60 words please.

Letters

Broken cycle lanes

Dear Editor,

I've seen the changes they've made to the cycle lanes in our area and it seems there is good and bad. The removal of the cycle lane heading south to the bridge over the North Circular should free up the flow of traffic and get rid of some of the queues there. And the return of parking places with the removal of the lane near East Finchley underground station will make life easier for shoppers and shopkeepers.

But I can't see that the changes will do anything to improve the safety of cyclists. That's particularly the case near the station which is always a tight squeeze.

What cyclists are left with now if they are cycling south is a broken series of lanes that appear and disappear and give you no feeling of safety. I can't blame Barnet Council entirely. Trying to fit cycle lanes on to roads that are already busy must be a nightmare. The best cycle lanes are those that are planned in right from the start.

Steve Thorn,
Lucas Gardens, N2

Empty food bank

Dear Editor,

I was sorry to read that Finchley Foodbank is desperate for donations again (*The Archer*, April 2022). I can imagine that there are more people in need and at the same time donors do not have so much to spare because prices are rising for all of us.

Perhaps neighbours could make it easier for everybody by organising a mass collection once a fortnight or once a month. At the least, just an item or two dropped into the collection bin at Sainsbury's on the High Road every time we go out shopping would make all the difference.

Lyn Macintyre,
Great North Road, N2.

Send your correspondence to: news@the-archer.co.uk or post to **The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE**

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

You are welcome to join us for:

**Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
Weekday masses as advertised on the website.**
Face masks must be worn for the time being.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

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>