

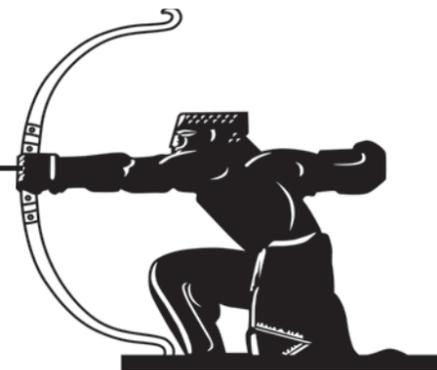


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ISSN 1361-3952 **20p**
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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



May 2022 No. 337

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Town team wins £10,000 boost for High Road trade

By Roger Chapman

A £10,000 pot of money has been secured by a group of East Finchley organisations to boost use of the High Road over the next year.

The East Finchley Town Team, comprising N2United, East Finchley Community Trust, The Archer newspaper, East Finchley Open Artists, East Finchley Festival CIC and local councillors, secured the cash from a Barnet Council fund to support the borough's

related activity and publicity throughout 2022. The themed events will cover 'a sustainable and biodiverse East Finchley' looking at green ideas, improving sustainability, and getting to and from the High Road.

Coming down the line
As *The Archer* reported in

attractive in time for the Jubilee celebrations in June.

New ideas include a food fair to promote the range of food available on the High Road, where it comes from, how we can make it more sustainable and to link in to food projects in the area.

An arts and music event on the High Road will showcase local talent and venues and focus on how they can be used to attract more shoppers and more visitors to East Finchley generally.

"Use it or lose it"

Kate Brown, chair of the Town Team group, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity to promote our town centre, its traders and the people who use it. So much is good about our High Road, but many things could be improved.

"To ensure we continue to have a vital and viable town centre we must use it or lose it. We want to use these events to show what an amazing range of goods, talent, and ideas we have locally."

Launch event

A launch event, in partnership with N2United, is planned on the evening of Thursday 9 June, kindly hosted by The Engine Rooms at Hexagon on Great North Road. Local traders and residents are invited to attend and get involved in developing ideas. See N2United.co.uk/townteam for details.

Organisers say the events are in the initial planning stages and are keen to engage with traders to ensure that the events work in concert with the local community to build a thriving town centre into the future.

Ideas and suggestions can be sent to eftownteam@gmail.com



Machine learning: Keerthana Meenakshi Sundaram and Gaia Simpson with their motorised robot.

Young robot experts take on the world

By David Melsome

Two East Finchley students with a talent for robotics will be joining their school team in Dallas, Texas, this month to compete in a championships against other young designers from more than 40 countries around the world.

Gaia Simpson and Keerthana Meenakshi Sundaram, both year nine pupils at the Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb, will be making the ten-hour trip together with their HBS Spark teammates in pursuit of the 2022 Vex Robotics World title.

To earn their place they had to win against multiple teams from around London and the UK and are now ranked number one in the UK for 'skills'. One of their designs they built for a game challenge called Pitch-

ing In is a motorised robot that responds to their self-generated code to collect balls and catapult them into a target.

The challenges they will face at the championships in Dallas will test their teamwork skills and design capabilities to the limit and they will have to be at the top of their game to replicate their national success at international level.

Gaia and Keerthana would welcome any financial support to help fund the costs of their travel. You can make a donation at <https://gofund.me/bd01af68>



The place to go: The Town Team has plans to revitalise the High Road town centres.

The money will be used to deliver three events on the High Road. Each event will have

March, a 'Clean for the Queen' is already planned to tidy up grubby and unkempt parts of the shopping area to make it more

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| Published by East Finchley Newspapers | Editorial Team Diana Cormack Daphne Chamberlain | Finance David Marsh |
| Copy Editor John Lawrence | Sub Editors Ann Bronkhorst Lucy Moorman | Distribution Toni Morgan Jane & David Marsh |
| Production Editor Alison Roberts | Advertising Richard Tank | Printed By Sharman & Co Ltd |
| Picture Editor Mike Coles | | |

Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag and Cup of Joy for providing us with a meeting place.

The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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

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| Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600 | Citizens Advice Barnet 0300 4568365 | National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711 |
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| Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121 | Rape Crisis helpline 0808 802 9999 | |
| East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815 | Refuge Crisis Helpline 0808 2000 247 | Hospitals |
| Everyman, Muswell Hill 0872 436 9060 | Relate Helpline 0300 100 1234 | NHS 111 |
| Garden Suburb Library 020 8458 3301 | RSPCA 0300 1234 999 | Barnet General 08451 114000 |
| Muswell Hill Library 020 8489 8773 | Samaritans 116 123 | Edgware General 020 8952 2381 |
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| Tarling Rd Community Ctr 02070186560 | SENDIASS Haringey 020 3667 5233 | Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343 |
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| Heathrow Airport 0844 3351801 | Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688 | Age UK 0800 169 2081 |
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Computer guides: Fay Morris of BOOST Barnet, left, with Grange Big Local's Richard Haywood and Mariella Hill

Free help to find your way in the online world

By Lynn Winton

It's hard to get by without basic digital skills, now that they are vital for a host of day-to-day tasks. That's why Grange Big Local, the resident-led, lottery-funded community project, has arranged free drop-in sessions at East Finchley Library to help people get online.

The sessions will cover all the essentials, such as booking hospital appointments, ordering shopping, online banking, applying for benefits and booking swimming or sports... the list is endless.

They take place on Wednesday 15 June from 2pm to 4pm and Wednesday 29 June from 4pm to 6pm at the library on the High Road. Bring your own device or use the laptops provided.

Whilst this has been arranged primarily for residents living in

the Grange Big Local area at the north end of East Finchley, organiser Mariella Hill told us that everyone is welcome. Call 07729 664525 in advance or just turn up.

The sessions have been arranged in partnership with BOOST Barnet, an employment, benefit advice, skills and wellbeing project helping Barnet residents. To learn more about Grange Big Local and its projects, go to www.grange-biglocal.org.

Have your say on the cycle lanes

Last month we reported on the changes to the layout of the cycle lanes in and around East Finchley as Barnet Council opened an extended period of public consultation on the scheme.

Some lanes in N2 and in North Finchley are being removed and one in North Finchley is being moved off the road onto the pavement.

Soon after we went to press, the directions we gave to take part in the council's online

survey on the changes went out of date. To find it, along with full details of the changes, go to engage.barnet.gov.uk and search 'A1000 experimental cycle route enhancement'. The consultation closes on 12 August.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

Development site north of 215, at former 217-223 High Road, N2

Variation of conditions of planning permission for one three-storey and one four-storey building with associated storage and amenity space. Changes to units, windows, entrance doors and rooflights, including additional windows and rooflight, provision of post boxes, extended amenity space, automatic vehicle barrier arm, removal of one parking space. Also, raising height of block 1 by 300mm and lowering ground floor levels of block 2.

27 Abbots Gardens, N2

Rear outbuilding with green roof.

64 Abbots Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension with new patio area, following demolition of conservatory.

72 Abbots Gardens, N2

Demolition of existing dwelling, and erection of two-storey dwelling with rooms in roof space and rear terrace area. Associated amenity space including refuse/recycling storage and provision of two off-street parking spaces.

111 Abbots Gardens, N2

Change of material to rear dormer window from traditional tile to aluminium cladding.

38 Bedford Road, N2

Roof extension involving L-shaped dormer and three front rooflights. Single-storey side/rear extension with patio area, following demolition of conservatory.

5 Beresford Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Blocking up of two first floor side windows, and insertion of first-floor rear window. Roof extension

involving hip to gable, enlargement of rear dormer window with Juliette balcony, and three front rooflights. Replacement and enlargement of garden shed.

45 Brim Hill, N2

Roof extension involving side/rear dormer window and one conservation rear rooflight.

88 Church Lane, N2

New rear windows. Replacement front windows.

248 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension with terrace area and access steps, following demolition of existing extension. New front porch. New front and side walls with relocation of window, following demolition of existing. Roof extension involving new crown roof, rear dormer window, one flat rear rooflight and one front conservation rooflight, following removal of hipped roof/side and rear dormer. Conversion of existing garage into habitable room, with inserted window to replace garage door. Changes to fenestration.

Carmelite Friars, 63 East End Road, N2

Details of landscaping, disabled parking and emergency access conditions pursuant to planning permission.

23 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Details of noise report condition pursuant to planning permission.

42 High Road, N2

Conversion of first-floor flat into two self-contained flats, involving new front bay window and removal of dormer window. First-floor rear extension.

78 High Road, N2

Conversion of upper floor to two self-contained dwellings, including two-storey rear bay extension and mansard roof extension. Construction of two-storey rear extension maisonette. Associated refuse/recycling/cycle storage.

330 High Road, N2

Demolition of rear storage/retail unit and construction of retail unit, with basement level and two self-contained flats over first and second floors, with side balconies and private screens. Associated refuse/recycling store, cycle store parking and amenity space.

29 Howard Walk, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension, including conversion of garage into habitable room. Roof extension with rear dormer window and one side rooflight.

356 Long Lane, N2

Alterations and extension at rear and rear side to provide level access from street, and wheelchair accessible ground floor arrangement, including new bedroom and shower facilities.

4 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing canopy and shed.

23 Park Hall Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliette balcony, three front rooflights, and new side gable window over existing rear outrigger.

Ground floor flat, 57 Park Hall Road, N2

Conversion of two self-contained flats to single family dwelling.

8 Trinity Avenue, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension.

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Warm-up: Youngsters get stretching ahead of a dance taster session at the Tarling Road Hub spring fair. Photo Mike Coles

Open doors at the hub

The Tarling Road Community Hub hosted a spring fair on Saturday 23 April giving families a chance to try fun activities and find out more about some of the community groups operating in the area.

Youngsters tried computer coding with Code Ninjas, along with street dance and karate, and volunteers from Community Focus and East Finchley Community Trust, among others, came along to talk about what they do.

Tarling Road hub gets funding for kitchen

By Janet Maitland

The Tarling Road community centre is one step nearer to running a café following a successful bid by East Finchley's councillors for £51,200 of council funding to install a fully fitted kitchen.

"This will enable more community groups to run cooking and food-related projects at the centre," said Councillor Arjun Mittra. And once the catering equipment is in place it might eventually lead to a community café.

"A fully functional kitchen will be an advantage in lettings and in developing a range of activities," said centre manager Jon Woolfson. "There's also potential for a pop-up community cafe, including for coffee

mornings, and existing users would certainly benefit from the ability to have refreshments. "Getting this off the ground would need resourcing, relevant expertise and willing volunteers," said Jon, before adding: "We will gladly consider practical proposals."

If you have any ideas about developing a community café and/or the relevant expertise, contact Jon Woolfson on 020 7018 6560 or email

tarlingroad@ymcalcan.org

Local use of hub is growing

As we reported last month, the number of local residents using the community centre on Tarling Road continues to grow. Bookings are steadily increasing, especially for celebrations and parties.

Residents and passers-by are welcome to use the centre's garden for general recreation during the daytime when the gate is open and the centre is

staffed.

For general information about activities at the hub, email 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.

Lions and tigers in the High Road

By Mick Crick, The Finchley Society

If you lived in East Finchley in the late 1800s you would have been used to seeing all kinds of animals including elephants, lions and tigers being paraded up and down the High Road because the world-famous Sanger's Circus, which toured the length and breadth of the country, was based here.

It was owned by the self-styled 'Lord' George Sanger, who invented the three-ring circus and even travelled to Balmoral to perform for Queen Victoria. In the winter, the circus would return to East Finchley and regularly set up its big top and perform on land now occupied by Martin School.



Greatest showman: George Sanger

Sanger had a large house off East End Road, N2, called Park Farm which had 70 acres of land, barns and outhouses where he could keep his animals.

To commemorate Sanger as a showman and circus proprietor, and his contribution to The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain, The Finchley Society is installing an information board on East End Road, at Park Farm Close.

It will be unveiled by the Mayor of Barnet on Saturday 7 May at 11.30am and it is hoped that both members of the Guild and any interested local people will attend.



Pub quiz team scoops the jackpot

By Lynn Winton

There was much nail-biting tension, followed by cheers, at The Bald Faced Stag on Easter Monday when the pub quiz rolover jackpot was finally won, after accumulating for more than a year with no takers.

The golden £600 question was answered successfully by team member Karen Lyle, who knew the answer to the following: "Multiply the rays of the sun on the Uruguayan flag by the number of South American countries under the equator." (The answer is below).

For those like myself who think this is a fun way to spend an evening (I have to confess I was in the team) quiz nights at the High Road pub take place every Monday at 8pm.

The jackpot question answer is 96.

Car boot opens up

This month's Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 28 May from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall at the foot of Muswell Hill on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH.

Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For more information, contact 020 8368 8180.

Answers, please: Jackpot winner Karen Lyle, left, with the rest of her pub quiz team at the Stag.

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Going underground: A Thames Water tanker in place for the drainage inspection at Cherry Tree Wood.

Thames Water investigates flooding in Cherry Tree Wood

By John Lawrence

A team from Thames Water spent the whole of Thursday 14 April surveying the drains they are responsible for in Cherry Tree Wood in an effort to work out why the flooding in the park is getting worse year on year.

As we have reported in recent editions, surface water has been lying on large parts of the field through the winter

and early spring, and is proving slow to dry up. The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are also alarmed that the flooding has spread to new areas close to the tennis courts.

They appealed directly to Barnet Council and to Thames Water to investigate the flooding before it causes large parts of

the park to become unusable year-round. Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends, said: "We are

edging closer and closer to understanding the flooding problem. Responsibility for it falls between Barnet Council and Thames. I hope that we will be able to get some practical solutions to this issue in the near future."



Under water: Cherry Tree Wood in 2021

Sensational display of snakes in the grass

By David Melsome

When Archer reader Jan Masson drew our attention to some rare flowers growing on the site of the demolished pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood, we decided to check them out with the people in the know. They are snake's head fritillaries and they were planted by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood gardeners, along with some native bluebells, after being bought from a sustainable source.

The delicate hanging flowers of the fritillaries have made a wonderful display these last couple of months and they seem to be thriving in the wood's damp conditions.

The wetlands and hay meadows that are their natural habitat are declining so it is important that they can still be protected in favourable pockets. They can also be found in Long Lane Pasture at the opposite end of East Finchley.

Kate Brown, from the Cherry Tree Wood gardeners, said that in total a couple of thousand bulbs were planted back in 2020 after the pavilion's removal. "They take a while to establish and so they are making a splash this year. They have enjoyed the wetness of the wood as they cannot be allowed



In bloom: The snakes head fritillaries

to dry out in winter," she said. Fritillaries bloom from March to April and there are hopes that the wood's bluebells will come good too and flower in May.

Get out into the garden... or somebody else's

By Susan Bennett

The past two years have proved how important gardens and nature are for our well-being. It has taken until recently for science to catch up with what so many of us already knew. The National Garden Scheme has raised money for nursing charities since 1927 by "opening gardens of quality, character and interest to the public".

I volunteer as Assistant County Organiser, encouraging owners to share their creativity and passion with visitors. Our new website ngs.org.uk makes it possible for people around the globe to access information and beautiful images of gardens, as well as to learn about recent partnerships with The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and the Queen's Woodland Trust "Green Canopy" initiative marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

More gardens, more charities

The NGS is broadening its horizons and supporting smaller projects as well as being a main benefactor to Macmillan, Marie Curie, Parkinson's UK, Hospice UK and other major charities.

More than 3,500 gardens will open this year. Together with plant sales, homemade cakes have always been a huge draw. Our president Dame Mary Berry says: "We're inviting everyone. It doesn't matter whether your garden is large or small, tidy or untidy. Join in and help raise funds for vital nursing and health charities that so many of us, our family and friends often rely on in times of need."

Do join in at ngs.org.uk/gardenparty. You can arrange afternoon tea or Prosecco by candlelight (no one sees the weeds). You can even ask for support with posters and invitations and download patterns for bunting.

In your neighbourhood

Meanwhile, there are some wonderful local gardens to visit to inspire you, including ours, with a Baroque temple, oriental tea house and carp pond. Our plant sale is a huge

draw, as are my partner Earl's delicious cakes. Our garden at 5 St Regis Close, N10 2DE opens Sunday 26 June and Sunday 31 July from 2pm to 6.30pm. Admission is £4, children free.

Other open gardens are: Sunday 5 June, 19 Coolhurst Road, N8, 2pm-6pm, admission £4; Sunday 12 June, 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, (London Gardens Society award winner), 2pm-6pm, admission £4; Sunday 19 June, 92 and 100 Hampstead Way, NW11, 2pm-6pm, combined admission £8. Pre-booking essential at www.ngs.org.uk



Splashes of colour: Susan and Earl's spectacular garden in Muswell Hill is open for viewing.

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ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

Stationery and crisp packets go on the recycling list

By Emma Frampton

Bin There, Donate That is a local organisation, launched in November 2021, aiming to find new homes for unwanted stuff. Our (very) small team works on finding possible recipients, then approaching East Finchley shops and businesses to ask if they'd consider being a donation spot.

For example, we found the Children's Scrapstore in Hackney can pass on unwanted stationery and craft items to schools (*The Archer*, April 2022), and Amy's in the High Road agreed to receive those donations.

pens from the Scrapstore during our weekly deliveries there and bring them back to Terracycle.

The Terracycle centre also takes crisp packets and this is this month's plan. The Cherry Tree Café in Cherry Tree Wood has started collecting crisp packets for us. We hope to have more collection points in all the local pubs (once we've asked them!) and at children's playgrounds.

We're hoping to get some big bins to post the crisp packets into, and are speaking to the Grange Big Local project about this.

One *Bin There* team member, Gilly, is also looking into setting up a local 'Crisp Packet Project' which makes covers for homeless people. Maybe you'd like to help her?

Soft plastic packaging

Many of you will be aware that Tesco and other big stores now recycle soft plastics including pet food sachets. Unfortunately, this is not yet possible in the local stores we have approached. Anyone with links or suggestions that could help on this front, do contact us.

Thank you to all those who send in ideas: keep them coming. We aim really high and cannot do it without help. Please get involved for a few hours each month; it really does make a difference. Contact us at Bintheredonatethat@gmail.com



Recyclable: Unwanted stationery

Our only sorter and driver Dee collects the items from Amy's, along with tablet blister packs from Oakdale Pharmacy and cable wheels from EF Electricals, and delivers them to their new home. This month we aim to introduce new donation spots. Do you have a few hours a month to help grow the initiative, including help with social media? If so, email bintheredonatethat@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

Crisp packets and pens

Please add pens to the long list of bits you can take to Amy's. If the pens work, we will send them to the Scrapstore. If they don't work, we hope to 'Terracycle' them, turning them into raw materials to be used in new products. And in a further twist on the circular economy, we also hope to pick up any broken



Stage portrait: Kara Wilson, right, and in character, left, painting a real-time portrait of Angelica Kauffmann.

Kara and the Art Angel

By Lynn Winton

The artist, writer and actress Kara Wilson moved to N2 with her husband, the actor Tom Conti, three years ago, just in time to be safely ensconced in her new home before lockdown arrived. So she had plenty of time to research and write her latest one woman show *Art Angel*, a glimpse into the life of Swiss artist Angelica Kauffmann.

This is Kara's fourth stage incarnation of a famous painter. In her first, she became Bessie MacNicol, a fellow Glaswegian, then Polish artist Tamara de Lempicka. Both productions toured the UK and went to New York. Her third artist of choice was the Bloomsbury Group

luminary Vanessa Bell.

I was lucky enough to see a preview of Kara's latest show on Angelica Kauffmann and can attest to it being a superb dramatic portrait of the great 18th-century artist, who was a founder member of the Royal Academy, and whose paintings

hang in galleries around the world, not least in Kenwood House on Hampstead Heath.

Meet a remarkable woman

Angelica's life story makes for a tantalising script, as she mixed with the most celebrated artists, writers and thinkers. She was a woman ahead of her time, clever enough to achieve her artistic aims, survive a criminal first husband, and enjoy many admirers including Goethe.

In the show, Kara assumes the identity of Kauffmann and chats to the audience as if they were guests in her studio, whilst she paints an oil self-portrait. There is a collective gasp at the end when the portrait is finished, there's an unexpected twist to the original, and all completed within the one-hour running time. Then there is an extra post-performance treat when Kara answers audience questions about the production.

Her next performance of Angelica Kauffmann, *Art Angel* is conveniently local at the Phoenix Theatre in King Alfred's School, Hampstead, on Wednesday 25 May at 7.30pm. Tickets are £20, available from Eventbrite.co.uk (search 'Kara Wilson') and the proceeds are going to Medecins sans Frontieres.

Pasture is open daily

Long Lane Pasture, opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3, has been re-opened to visitors every day from 10am. Closing time will be in the evening and will vary depending on the time of year and the weather.

The pasture has a new wheelchair-accessible path leading to the gazebo and the pond, where the ground has been paved and new seating added.

The Friends of the pasture encourage visitors to avoid any cordoned-off rewilding areas and in general to stay on paths and picnic areas to avoid damage to plants and wildlife. They prefer dogs not to be

brought along but if they are they must be kept on a short lead to avoid disturbing the resident wildlife.

If you spot any issues of concern or interest contact longlanepasture@gmail.com. For example, last year observant visitors discovered a honey bee colony in one tree and oak processionary moths on another.



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Heroic stories behind the headstones

By Jack Chesher

Islington and St Pancras Cemetery in East Finchley is huge. It is the largest in the UK in terms of burials with around one million people and, although technically two cemeteries combined, it is also the third largest in the country by land area at 190 acres.

The cemetery was set up in 1854 to alleviate pressure on fit to bursting inner city burial grounds and over the years it has taken on the exhumations from other demolished or downsized churchyards.

There are lots of interesting people buried here including Henry Croft, the first 'pearly king', and pre-Raphaelite artist Ford Madox Brown. Three graves in particular caught my attention: those of three unsung heroes.

1. William French and the Highgate dog tragedy

On the sunny afternoon of 13 July 1896, William French, a 50-year-old stableman who lived just off Archway Road, set off with a couple of friends and his dog to Highgate Ponds. They started throwing sticks into the ponds for their dogs to fetch.

When William's dog had been in the water for a long time and appeared to be too exhausted to swim back to shore, William jumped into the pond, taking off his waistcoat

and hat but still wearing his heavy boots and trousers. "I can't see the poor little fellow drown," he was heard to say.

Before he could reach his dog it dipped under the water, reappeared further away and swam back to shore. William, however, was not so fortunate. He cried out: "I'm knocked!" and sank. A park constable was called for and it took roughly an hour to recover his body.

William was at first buried in a pauper's grave but, after the incident received a lot of press attention, money was raised to transfer him to a proper grave, with a suitable memorial. As the photo shows, the stone dog is still regularly adorned with colourful flowers and garlands.

The grave reads: "Sacred to the memory of William French, aged 50, who lost his life on July 13th 1896 while saving a dog from drowning in Highgate Ponds. This monument, erected in commemoration of his brave deed, was raised by public subscription, and was contributed to by all classes of lovers of dumb animals."



Faithful companion: A stone dog guards the headstone of William French.



Campaigner: Robert Morrell sought to open galleries on Sundays

2. Robert Morrell: The man who saved Sundays

Another curious grave I came across was that of Robert Morrell (1823-1912). What caught my eye was the lifelike and, to be frank, fairly creepy carved visage. The eyes seem to follow you...

There had been restrictions on Sunday activities for over a thousand years, but in the 17th century two schools of thought started to develop. One was that Sundays should be exclusively for religious observance and the other was that 'good works' could take place, including some recreational activities.

The rules were actually made stricter in 1780 with the Sunday Observance Act imposing fines on those who organised activities. In 1855 a bill was presented to Parliament to further restrict Sunday trading leading to three consecutive Sundays of demonstrations in Hyde Park. Karl Marx was present and thought the English revolution had begun!

One of the demonstrators was Robert Morrell. Robert was adamant that museums and notably the Crystal Palace, which had opened a few years earlier in 1851, should be open to the public on Sundays.

Clearly a man of action, he set up the National Sunday League to campaign for this.

Finally, in 1896, Parliament voted to open the national museums and galleries on Sunday afternoons. After years of campaigning, Robert Morrell had been vindicated.

3. Captain Alexander Bruce Kynoch: warhero

The third grave is a very moving one, that of Captain Alexander Bruce Kynoch (1896-1918). His headstone

states that he had fought at Gallipoli, Egypt and Macedonia and died in 1918 during the First World War. But what caught my eye was that his gravestone says he died in England and not in France or elsewhere.

On the night of 7 March 1918 Alexander, whose family came from North Finchley, took off in his plane from Stow Maries aerodrome in Maldon, Essex, to intercept a German bomber. A minute later his fellow pilot Captain Henry Clifford Stroud also took off from the same airfield.

In the darkness and in these very early days of aerial warfare, the two planes were not aware of each other's position. They collided and crashed into the fields at Dollymans Farm in Rochford, Essex. Both pilots were killed.

Alexander was just 22 years old. Very sadly he was not even due to fly that night but took over at the last moment from a colleague who was ill. If you ever visit Stow Maries aerodrome you will see a monument to the pilots who were killed in the First World War from the



Killed in action: Captain Alexander Kynoch, and his headstone

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airfield and Captain Kynoch's name is first on the list.

Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, High Road, N2, is open daily including weekends from 8.30am to 5pm. Jack Chesher writes a London history blog and also runs regular guided group walking tours and private walking tours. Find out more at <https://livinglondonhistory.com>



Theatrical triumph: Dominic Conway, third from left with guitar, on stage in *Wolf Witch Giant Fairy*

Olivier glory for fabulous family show

By Mike Coles

The Olivier Awards are recognised internationally as the highest honour in British theatre, equivalent to the BAFTA Awards for film and television. Winning the Best Family Show this year was Little Bulb Theatre's production of *Wolf Witch Giant Fairy* at the Royal Opera House.

And picking up the award for Little Bulb was Dominic Conway, their music director, who grew up in East Finchley and attended Martin Primary and Fortismere schools.

During his teens Dominic formed The Bolsha Band, an ever-expanding group of musicians and singers, including the late Amy Winehouse, who played at East Finchley Festival several years in a row.

He studied Drama at Kent University and joined forces

with three other students to set up Little Bulb. In 2008, they took their first show, *Crocospia*, to the Edinburgh Fringe where it won a Fringe First for Best Graduate Show.

Wild show awarded

Wolf Witch Giant Fairy is described as a wild folk opera, drawing on traditional fairy stories and Italian and Balkan folk music. Its nomination for the Olivier Award for Best Family show came out of the blue and winning the award

was a huge surprise.

Dominic says: "As a devised production the show was created collaboratively by the entire cast and the wider creative team. We are all so pleased to have this recognition and we hope it will make it possible to tour the show around the country."

Dominic Conway lives in Somerset now, but on the night of the ceremony he took the Olivier Award back to East Finchley to stay with his parents who still live locally.

Secret oasis is open to everyone

East Finchley's newest green space is throwing open its gates to the public on the last Sunday of every month through the spring and summer.

The school garden at The Archer Academy, off Eagans Close, N2, was designed and created by a team of parents and volunteers from the wider community just a year ago.

Using funds from the Grange Big Local project, they built beds and pathways in a hidden space alongside the tube tracks close to Stanley Road. Volunteers come along every weekend for planting and general maintenance.

The garden is regularly used by academy students and now there is an open invitation for anyone to come along and enjoy the space on the last Sunday of each month between 10am and 12noon. Visitors can picnic on the lawned garden, take a seat in the woodland garden or just pass through to take a look. Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

Rachael Harvey, from the garden team, said: "The garden is flourishing and has become a



Paths of glory: The community garden at The Archer Academy is open to all once a month.

powerful new learning resource, which supports student well-being and provides opportunities for outside learning and connection with the natural world."

Plans this season include building toilet facilities and a

woodland cabin so students can use the garden throughout the year. Volunteers are always welcome to join the gardening team and carpenters especially are needed. Follow 'thearcher-garden' on Instagram.

Faith and peace walk

By Daphne Chamberlain
Saturday 25 June is the day planned for a Faith and Peace walk around East Finchley. It will coincide with the 200th anniversary of East Finchley Methodist Church, but is a multi-faith venture. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to follow a specific faith or belief to join in.

The plan is to visit places of interest, including those used for worship. Organisers at the Barnet Multi Faith Forum told us: "We will look at the area's long and rich history, and see how it has evolved into the present vibrant village community of many different traditions."

The timetable is from 11am to 4pm, with regular stops at various venues to hear about their work, enjoy light refreshments and use facilities. Full details will be available nearer the day.

If you would like to attend, please register at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/east-finchley-faith-and-peace-walk-registration-271331328307. To volunteer as a steward on the day, or if you have any questions, email: faithwalk@barnetmultifaithforum.org or phone 07548 743245.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:
May 2012

Barnet Council issued a formal consultation about its proposal for expansion of "outstanding" Martin Primary School from two to three-form entry, increasing the total number of pupils to 630. This was also the month when we reported that Arjun Mittra had been elected for the first time as a Labour councillor for East Finchley. Since then he has become a high profile representative of this ward and its residents.

15 years ago:
May 2007

Many older East Finchley residents will remember Dick and Jean Baker, the original owners of long-time local garage Bakers Autos. They retired in May 2007 after nearly 27 years in business, initially on part of the site now occupied by Mulberry Court and latterly in Lewis Gardens, where the current business still bears their name. Their reputation was such that one loyal customer who moved to Spain always had his car serviced by Bakers when he returned to the UK for visits.

25 years ago:
May 1997

We reported on the surprise election of Labour candidate Rudi Vis to the newly drawn constituency of Finchley and Golders Green. So unexpected was his victory in the general election that Rudi had not resigned from his position as a lecturer at the University of East London beforehand. He went on to represent the constituency for 13 years before standing down in advance of the 2010 election because of ill health. Sadly he died soon afterwards.

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



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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Brothers in arms: The victorious Finchley Rugby Club celebrate their winning season.

Finchley rugby team make it to the top of the league

By Andy Stone

Finchley Rugby Club concluded a great season by being crowned champions of London NW Division 3. In a tense final game of the season they beat local rivals Hendon 25-18 to seal promotion ahead of Welwyn. On Saturday 2 April in front of a big crowd at Summers Lane, N12, Finchley was leading 13-8 at half time, but thanks to tries from Dom Goring and Ben O'Donohoe and a penalty by Inigo Saxon-Stone, Hendon came back to lead 18-13 with 15 minutes to go.



First XI, plus one: Finchley Cricket Club welcomes players of all abilities.

Girls, come and have a go at cricket

By Dee McLean

Finchley Cricket Club is one of the oldest clubs in London, established in 1832. A Clubmark-accredited cricket club based in East End Road, it was one of the first to offer cricket to women and girls as well as men and boys.

We have an enthusiastic and lively girls' section, with an emphasis on inclusivity and fun. We will be holding a Girls' Open 'Party Night' on Friday 20 May where girls of all abilities, including complete beginners, are welcome to come along to have a go.

All players have access to high quality coaching and we have County players in several age groups. We will be entering teams in the Middlesex

Junior Cricket Association Girls' League and there will be opportunities for the more experienced girls to play in some of the boys' matches.

Outdoor training runs right through the summer so come along for a free taster session. Friday evenings are also for the whole family with food and drinks available and unrivalled sunsets, so turn up any time and join in. For further details visit www.finchleycricket.co.uk

Then came a try from Sam Green and, in the last minute of the game, the winning score from Drew Williams, converted by Fintan Shaw, secured Finchley the bonus-point win leading to raucous celebrations by their players and supporters.

Successful seasons

It capped a great season for a young Finchley side in a highly competitive division that prior to the last weekend saw six clubs vying for the title. The team is built around many players who have developed through Finchley's Mini and Youth teams.

The junior teams have also had a very successful season. The U13s, U14As and U15s boys' teams and the U15s girls' team finished unbeaten. Fittingly, on the same weekend, one of the club's former Minis players, Kelsey Clifford, played for England Women U20 v France.

Finchley involves players from all ages, starting with 'Rugby Tots' (age two to five), Minis from under-six to U12, boys' teams from U13-18, girls' teams at U12, U14, U16 and U18, a women's team, a mixed touch rugby team, a veteran's team and two senior men's sides.

So there is something for everyone! If you want to play or support your local club, come along, everyone is welcome.

Anyone for tennis?

By David Aron

The Fortis Green Tennis Club, located just behind 31 Southern Road, N2, is welcoming potential new members as the summer season gets under way.

With four shale clay courts of a type similar to those at the French Open, the club has been in existence since 1927. The site is semi-rural and as well as the courts has a clubhouse and extensive grassed areas.

The new season started on 1 April and members have been playing at a club session on Saturday afternoons. Doubles games are organised and usually there are three hour-and-a-half sessions on a Saturday afternoon. There is also a drop-in club session on Wednesday evenings at 5pm and plans for another one on Sunday.

An electronic booking system has been introduced and members can now book

courts every day of the week in 30-minute slots for up to two hours for each booking. There is no charge to members for booking the courts available one week in advance. Availability is usually good during the week.

The club has a professional coach who is available on most days of the week for adult teaching. Full annual membership for new members costs £120 for payment by the end of May. Weekday membership is available at £90 per year. Concessions are available for students and unemployed. There is no joining fee. Find details and an application form at www.fortisgreentennis.com.



Country club: Fortis Green players on court in their idyllic location tucked amongst trees.

N2United builds vital connections

By Ruth Anders

The East Finchley Constitutional Club hosted N2United's April meeting where enthusiastic attendees saw further proof of the group's value in enabling productive connections between N2 businesses and community.

Enthusiastic attendees heard about the different treatments available at Serene Wellness on the High Road, the new chef and menus at the Engine Rooms restaurant on the Great North Road, and the developing programmes at the Muswell Hill Club on Fortis Green.

Karen Williamson reported on activities at Age UK Barnet and Alison Roberts and Mike Hughes updated the meeting on plans for the East Finchley Festival.

The concept of innovative High Road related events, was outlined by Kate Brown, chair of the newly formed Town Team.

There is so much to celebrate

in East Finchley, and nothing more than the willingness of the different enterprises to support each other in whatever way possible. Contact details were swapped, and ideas exchanged with a view to mutual assistance and cooperation.

What's On in May

Our May meeting will feature updates from Grange Big Local and Phoenix Cinema.

To find out more about local plans and activities, go to n2united.co.uk and join us at our next meeting on Thursday 12 May at 8pm at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, London, N2 8DE. Meetings are free and open to all.

Finchley Central town centre art trail

A town centre art trail will be in place in Finchley Central on Saturday 7 May with shops, restaurants and businesses all exhibiting works by creative individuals from the community.

Shoppers are invited to walk along Ballards Lane from 10.30am to discover the art works and talk to the artists who made them. Find the trail map online at <https://finchleycentraltowncentre.co.uk>, in Church

End Library and in participating businesses.

The art trail, set up by Finchley Central's town team, aims to support local artists and bring more people back to local shops.

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A Coronation mug and a glimpse of the back of the Queen's head

By Diana Cormack

One of my earliest memories is of my father returning early from work in the RAF one February afternoon and announcing: "The boss is dead." I thought that meant his squadron leader, but in fact it was King George VI.

Sixteen months later in June 1953 came the coronation of his daughter Elizabeth, with celebrations throughout the land. The children on our RAF camp in North Yorkshire were treated to an outdoor party. Of course it rained, so we had to be contained in the Sergeants' Mess. At some point we were each given a commemorative mug, which I still have.

First-ever TV

Another memory of that June day is watching television for the first time. Whilst wondering how our next door neighbours could afford it, we squashed into their front room to stare at the small black and white screen showing endless processions of bandsmen, marching military, mounted troops and fairy-tale coaches. Numb from sitting on the hard floor, we were relieved to be allowed eventually to escape from that historical event.

Waiting to wave

At the time of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 I was teaching in a primary school on

wave their flags and cheer was not a pleasant one. Some were sick, others were thirsty and of course there were no toilet facilities nearby. Suddenly the royal car appeared and just as swiftly disappeared, with my only memory of it being the back of the queen's hat-clad head. To this day I wonder why it could not have slowed down for those children to see her properly.

Do you have any memories of the coronation, jubilees or special occasions during the Queen's 70-year reign which you could share with our readers? Post them to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE, or email news@the-archer.co.uk to reach us by Thursday 12 May. Thank you.



Tea up: Diana's Coronation mug

the Hackney-Islington border not far from the Balls Pond Road. This formed part of the route designated for local children to see Her Majesty as her car passed by.

It was a really hot day and the combination of heat plus a very long wait for the chance to



Easy rider: Estate agent Miles Ponder out and about on his e-bike.

Fourth time lucky for art fair

After being forced by Covid to cancel their planned Art Fair no less than three times, Hampstead Garden Suburb Art has announced that their 2022 fair will take place this month.

More than 30 local artists will be displaying their work, including painting, ceramics, jewellery, photography, textiles and glass, and refreshments will be provided by volunteers from the charity Combat Stress.

It takes place at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11 6YD, between 11am and 5pm on Saturday 21 May and Sunday 22 May. Entry is free.

Two wheels good, four wheels bad

A team of estate agents is bucking the trend of branded cars in favour of electric bikes to conduct their property viewings around East Finchley and north London.

Taylor Gibbs, an independent firm based in Highgate, said it had been looking for ways to become more environmentally friendly and transport was high on its list due to heavily congested roads.

Director Zia Taylor said: "E-bikes won't entirely replace car trips, but it is safe to say they will reduce costs and the time staff take to commute to appointments. It is good business sense coupled with green benefits."

A bug palace for the Jubilee

To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the East Finchley Pollinator Project in conjunction with the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are going to make a Bug Palace for the Queen on Saturday 4 June.

The palatial insect residence will be constructed near the tube station entrance to the Wood between 10am and 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along to help on the day. For more details, contact: efpollinators@gmail.com

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"THE VOICE OF SOCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY"

Ziggy played guitar

In a world where everyone is getting excited about an elderly woman celebrating 70 years on the throne, I'm not. What I'm celebrating happened 50 years ago, because 1972 was the year that the world really discovered David Bowie, or at least his alter ego Ziggy Stardust.

It wasn't just that Bowie wrote music for the confused and deranged, it was the way that he caused the net curtain twitchers of suburbia to foam at the mouth that I loved. Here was a man in a multi-coloured cat suit draping an arm round his blonde guitarist singing about aliens on *Top of the Pops*. For otherworldly teens there really was a starman waiting in the sky.

Before that Bowie had been a one-hit wonder with a minor cult following who'd been knocking around for seven years with no one noticing. He wasn't the first to grab the glitter and satin to get himself seen. Marc Bolan, complete with eye shadow, electric blue outfit and silver boots, had got there the year before. But Bowie was different; he made being weird cool.

In the summer of 72 onwards he became the cutting edge of the charts; this skinny guy from south London made you believe that there really was an alien just around the corner to rearrange your world. And it wasn't just the looks, it was the music. Albums like *Ziggy Stardust*, *Aladdin Sane* and *Diamond Dogs*, songs like *Suffragette City*, *Jean Genie*, *John*, *I'm Only Dancing* and loads more made him the teen hero the serious rock fan could get behind.

This was Bowie time, a time when just about everything he touched turned to gold records. He had the taste and vision to turn the forgotten and discarded into icons. Lou Reed was a washed-up leftover from The Velvet Underground until Bowie produced his classic *Transformer* album. He also gave Iggy Pop a second chance and wrote the immortal teen anthem *All the Young Dudes* that rescued Mott the Hoople.

I guess it couldn't last. Somewhere between announcing the end of Ziggy Stardust in mid-1973 and releasing *Young Americans* in 1975, Bowie changed, moved on and moved to America. It didn't mean that the music stopped; he remained an iconic innovator for the rest of his life. At various points he was chameleon, Corinthian and caricature. In 1972, he was all three, so when everyone else is going on about the Jubilee, I'll have my headphones on and be listening to Bowie.

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Note perfect: Composer Giacomo Puccini and one of his musical manuscripts written in Stephens ink.

Stephens was the ink of choice for a master composer

As collection curator at Stephens House and Gardens in East End Road, N3, **Melanie Wynyard** knew the ink manufactured by the Stephens family was extremely popular but she didn't know one fan was a world-famous composer. Here she takes up the tale:

One afternoon I got a call over the radio saying that a man in the café courtyard had something for me. Expecting to be handed the usual ink bottle, I was instead handed a photocopy of a page from a book that read: "Constantly chain-smoking and relieving his sore throat with cups of coffee he worked away at *La Bohème*. He was painstaking and meticulous and it took three years and nine months to complete. He relied on Ricordi for a free supply of score paper and Stephens blue-black ink."

Stephens ink used by Giacomo Puccini to write some of the world's most beautiful



music? I must admit that I laughed, returned to my office and put the piece aside. There have been several claims over the years about our ink, many of which have turned out to be simply hearsay.

Eventually, however, the page reappeared from the pile

of paperwork on my desk. It was in fact from *The Lives and Times of the Great Composers* by Michael Stein. So where did Stein get this information from?

Actually, Puccini started composing around 1880 by which time, thanks to Henry Stephens' efforts, the blue-black indelible ink was indeed available throughout Europe, so it was possible that the composer would have used and liked it. More research was obviously needed.

An exhaustive search finally unearthed a letter written by Puccini to his publisher Giulio Ricordi on 31 July 1898 when Puccini was working on *Tosca*. The letter says:

"I shall send on some material which I have already orchestrated, but I beg you not to look at it, as the calligraphy has deteriorated. I cannot understand it, but as I grow older I lose that neatness of hand which was so conspicuous a gift in me! Could you please send me on a bottle – not very large – of the usual Stephens Blue-black."

Eureka! With this discovery in mind, we decided to celebrate the work of Puccini with an evening of his music. The Voice finalist Nadia Eide will join tenor Austin Gunn performing arias and duets from *Tosca*, *La Bohème*, *Madam Butterfly* and more, set against the backdrop of Henry Stephens' home on Wednesday 6 July at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale at

www.stephenshouseandgardens.com/events

Writers and readers together at first libraries festival

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet Council is holding a literary festival this month, and the good news is that it's accessible from East Finchley. All the events will be at Church End Library in Finchley, N3 and everything takes place across the weekend of 21-22 May. Entry is free, but booking is advisable as there are limited places.

Barnet Libraries say: "It's a great opportunity to get together and share the love of books and reading with some of the wonderful authors who create those words." The programme is as follows: **Saturday 21 May:** Rob Bidulph and 'Draw with Rob' (age guidance: 5-12-year-olds), 9.30am - 11am; Louise Hare and Luan Goldie in conversation with Patrice Lawrence, 11.30am - 1pm; Mandy Morton and Nicola Upson in conversation with Natasha Boydell, 2.30pm - 4pm; Erin Kelly, Heidi Amsinck, Caz Frear, and C J Tudor, 6.30pm - 8pm.

Sunday 22 May: Michael Rosen in conversation with

writer Miriam Halahmy (age guidance: 9+, teenagers and adults), 9.30am - 11am; Pam Fox in conversation with Francine Wolfisz, 11.30am - 1pm; Helen Fry and Charlotte Philby in conversation with Michael Newman, 2.30pm - 4pm; Debra Barnes, Ariana Neumann and Meriel Schindler in conversation with David Herman, 6.30pm - 8pm.

To book, contact Church End library by emailing Meriel@churchend.library@barnet.gov.uk or by phone on 020 8359 3800. If you are not yet a member and want to join Barnet Libraries you can do so online at www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries.



Francis Spufford



Jeremy Farrar



Anjana Ahuja



Charlotte Mendelson



Howard Jacobson



Claudia Roden CBE



Jon Sopel



Victoria Glendinning



Steve Richards



Colm Tóibín

Wordsmiths: The line-up for this year's Literary Festival at the Proms

Garden Suburb Proms will be a showcase of literary talent

The Literary Festival that runs as part of the Proms at St Jude's season next month will feature conversations and readings with distinguished novelists, journalists and writers.

Award-winning novelist Francis Spufford talks about his new book *Light Perpetual*, which imagines the possible futures of five children killed in wartime London, and Head of the Wellcome Trust Jeremy Farrar will be interviewed about his book *Spike: The Virus vs the People*.

Booker Prize winner Howard

Jacobson discusses his latest book *Mother's Boy*, and there will be live sessions with former BBC correspondent Jon Sopel, cookery writer Claudia Roden and biographer Victoria Glendinning.

Eight live events will be held at The Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb on the weekend of Sat-

urday 25 and Sunday 26 June, while an online-only interview with novelist Colm Tóibín will be first broadcast on 25 June. Every session will then be available online the following week from Saturday 2 July for which there will be individual tickets or a season pass. Find out more and book at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

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). See also our website at www.northlondonprobus.com.



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.robins@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>

Your news

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The Archer

Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 2DE. www.the-archer.co.uk



Friendly fundraiser: The two teams of dads in Ukrainian colours for their charity clash. Photo Mike Coles

Footy dads play for Ukraine

By Matt Robinson

With anticipation growing for the potential Champions League qualification decider between Tottenham and Arsenal on 12 May, residents of East Finchley got to witness a much more laudable North London derby last month.

Arranged as 'A Game for Ukraine' to raise funds for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, a full team of East Finchley dads who play Wednesday-night football at Powerleague took on the East Finchley dads who play Wednesday-night football at The Archer Academy.

The event was the brainchild of Richard Meier who plays with two Ukrainians in his regular Powerleague game, Daniel Ivashchenko and Oleksandr Hodlevskiyi. Oleksandr came over from Ukraine when

the war started and is currently living with his cousin.

Like many of us, Richard felt he wanted to do something to help those suffering from the war so he booked a pitch at the neutral ground of Christ's College, East End Road, on Easter Monday.

Playing in Ukrainian blue the Powerleague Dads took an early lead in the first minute with, fittingly, an excellently taken goal from Oleksandr. The Archer Dads in Ukrainian yellow then pulled back in an exciting game that finally fin-

ished 7-3 to the Archer dads.

At the time of writing, the event had raised £1,725, smashing the £1,000 target originally set. Donations are still very much welcome at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AGame4Ukraine or by using this QR code



Emergency response teams in action at home

By David Melsome

When Storm Eunice's 70mph winds wreaked havoc across large parts of the country in February, Highgate-based volunteer Abbas Dhanani found himself helping vulnerable residents left homeless or without power.

As a volunteer with the Serve On charity, Abb and his fellow search and rescue volunteers had deployed to Nepal in the wake of the 2015 earthquake, and to the Caribbean in the wake of Hurricane Irma, but when Storm Eunice hit their help was needed in a different way.

National volunteer network

Serve On is developing and training a national network of volunteer Community Resilience Teams to support the emergency services and local authorities in their response to emergencies and major inci-



On duty: Emergency volunteer Abbas Dhanani, right, with a colleague

They worked alongside power company engineers across four counties in the south of Britain to identify affected communities and carry out welfare visits to ensure they could last until the electricity came back on.

Serve On Operations Director Dan Cooke said: "It is, as ever, humbling to see the efforts that people go to when others are in need."

dents like Storm Eunice.

People of all ages and from all walks of life are given training by experienced team leaders so that they can respond to emergencies like flooding, power cuts, missing person searches and many other incidents.

If you feel you have what it takes to join a Serve On team in London, no matter your experience level, find out more at serveon.org.uk

Tell us

what's on

Does your group, school or club have an event you'd like to tell our readers about? *The Archer* offers a free listing for fundraising and other non-commercial events taking place in the N2 area or nearby.

Our What's On column was suspended during the pandemic but we'll bring it back once events pick up again. Meanwhile we're happy to mention events throughout the paper.

Email your listing to news@the-archer.co.uk, marking it 'What's On'. We can't guarantee publication but we'll consider every submission received. Find our monthly deadlines at the top of page 2 of this and every edition. We look forward to hearing from you.



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