



## BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton of N2United

**Finchley Foodbank** relies on volunteers. Roles range from receiving deliveries and sorting food donations to restocking shelves and staffing Tuesday and Saturday sessions. The team are sensitive to the needs of the clients, work from a position of trust and are great team players. If this could be you, email [finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com)

**Driving Aid to Ukraine** is a non-profit organisation based in N2 and started by local resident Michael Byrne, who personally delivers lorries of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian conflict zones, via border transfer points. His team requires volunteers to help scale up in building and sustaining a social media campaign, fund raising and grant writing. Find out more at [drivingaidtoukraine.org](http://drivingaidtoukraine.org) or get in touch with Michael at 07791 912389.

Gardens are a huge part of the sustainability movement and you don't have to have one to join the 300 strong members of the very active **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society**. They want you to bring fresh ideas to their committee too and they'd love some people to bring their skills in website development, social media and sending out occasional newsletters. Members are welcome from all neighbouring areas, not just HGS! For details, contact Caroline Broome for an initial chat at [HGS.Hortsoc@outlook.com](mailto:HGS.Hortsoc@outlook.com)

**The Archer**, your very own newspaper, needs YOU, ideally in the first part of each month, to help deliver the paper to readers. We are particularly looking for people to cover Prospect Ring, Brownswell Road, Tarling Road and Borrowdale Close, all in N2. Most rounds take 30-40 minutes. Papers are brought to your door and you can deliver at a time to suit you. Please contact: [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk). Thank you.



N2United is East Finchley's Community and Business Network. If you wish to be included in this column please send details to [N2United@ILoveN2.co.uk](mailto:N2United@ILoveN2.co.uk) Max 60 words please.

## Beavers bounce back

The 224 North London Scouts group has re-started its beaver colony, which was forced to close by Covid. Beavers are the second youngest section of the scouts and range from six to eight-years-old, although they can start slightly younger.

On Tuesday 11 October, 14 excited Beavers and their parents had their first meeting. They played games such as North, South, East, West, Stick-in-the-Mud and Grandmother's Footsteps and then went onto make grass seed heads which they got to take home along with a booklet and a T-shirt. Future fun activities will include campfire songs, campfire cookies, and new games along with

learning some skills for life, such as first aid and person safety

So if you are interested in joining Beavers or are currently on a long waiting list to join elsewhere, then consider going along on a Tuesday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm to the Scout Hut in Sheldon Avenue, N6. For more information email [gsl@224northlondonscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@224northlondonscouts.org.uk) or WhatsApp to 07707 763344.



Out and about: A lad from the Beaver group at 224 North London Scouts tries his woodland skills.



Taking cover: Olga's children's primary school class shelter in a basement on what was a 'normal' day for them

## "I am now the only person to take care of my children"

**Olga Stephanyshina** is a prominent Ukrainian MP who has recently arrived in our area along with her two children and their dog to live with a host family. She works between here and Kyiv carrying out her parliamentary duties. She gave our writer Lynn Winton a shocking first-hand account of the impact the war has had on her family's life.

Olga Stephanyshina will never forget the moment on 13 February this year when the threat to her life was considered so high that she was issued with a gun and trained how to use it. She had never touched a weapon before.



Carrying arms: At the start of the war, Olga was issued with a gun, like all Ukrainian MPs, as their risk of assassination was deemed high.

Olga quickly sent her two young children, escorted by their grandmother, to friends in Georgia for safety. The following week the Russians unleashed their bombing campaign. Olga's husband Bogdan volunteered for highly dangerous rescue work. As he was evacuating elderly women and children out of a collapsed building another bomb exploded and he was killed.

Olga heard the news while visiting her children and had to break the news to them that their father was dead.

### Far from home but still involved

London was a very conscious choice by Olga as somewhere to come to keep her children safe and give them stability. She had visited before many times and, most importantly, as a country we are emphatic that we are Ukraine's loyal and supportive friend on the world stage.

Before the war, Olga's previous role was as deputy health minister, where she revolutionised the Ukrainian health system after years of corruption and inadequate care. Since settling in our area, she has been so impressed by East Finchley charity Driving Aid to Ukraine that she is now on board as an advisor.

### Practical help for Ukraine

This organisation, started by Lynmouth Road resident Michael Byrne, delivers vital medical supplies and other desperately needed goods with great speed to the most devastated areas of Ukraine.

"There are so many displaced people in Ukraine who have nowhere to go, the unforgiving winter is going to mean death from cold and hunger to many," said Olga. "There's no heating and no light in devastated areas like Mariupol and Kherson. How are people going to feed their children or keep them warm?"

"In a little corner of England, you might wonder what you can do. The answer is, PLENTY!"



Resettled: Olga in East Finchley. Photo Mike Coles.

Here on your doorstep is a charity dedicated to get aid fast to Ukraine! If you have a blanket, a spare warm coat, a donation for supplies, you can keep someone warm or fed this winter."

The charity has a full list of goods to donate for their winter appeal at [drivingaidtoukraine.org](http://drivingaidtoukraine.org). Contact Michael directly on 07791 912389 if you want to offer any help or have any good ideas.

### Save the date

On Saturday 10 December from 11am-1pm at Fortismere School, Muswell Hill, there will be a fun two hours of all kinds of fitness dancing, including Zumba, organised by Gemma Barlow. Tickets are £20 with some amazing raffle prizes on offer too, and 100% of proceeds go to Driving Aid for Ukraine. Email [lynn@thewintons.co.uk](mailto:lynn@thewintons.co.uk) to go on the invite list.

### Free History Talks With Birthday Cake

12 November | 2:30-5pm

East Finchley  
Methodist Church  
N2 8AJ & Online



Full details at [eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](http://eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)



### A Local Handyman

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or: 0208 883 5325