



A new home on the web for N2

East Finchley has a new virtual community hub. ILoveN2.co.uk has been created as a one-stop shop for East Finchley community organisations, and is now home to N2United, East Finchley Town Team, N2 Food Project, East Finchley Community Trust and East Finchley Neighbourhood Support, plus there are links to *The Archer* and East Finchley Festival.

The site aims to create a central reference point for all the area's major community initiatives and organisations by bringing them under one digital roof.

You'll also find local history archives, a collection of East Finchley-themed art and even an ILoveN2 shop.

Community Calendar

Organisers of local events are invited to contribute to the new Community Calendar, which will carry details of key events in East Finchley. Originally created by N2United to help organisers prevent clashes between events, it is now being

rolled out so anyone in the community can subscribe.

To view the calendar or to submit your event, visit www.ILoveN2.co.uk/whats-on. Please note that your event must be of interest to the whole community and that the calendar editor reserves the right to decline or amend copy.

Brand value

ILoveN2.co.uk builds on the brand originally created in 2007 by local designer Mike Hughes, who has helped to produce the new website. ILoveN2 merchandise continues to be produced for the benefit of our annual East Finchley Festival.



Community hub: The revamped ILoveN2.co.uk website

N2United turns six

By Chris Stavrou, N2United

The most recent meeting for N2United, hosted by the East Finchley Constitutional Club, was a special one as it marked six years since its launch. Nick Allan gave an enthusiastic presentation to mark the occasion, outlining the metamorphosis the group has gone through over the years, having started out as a network solely for local businesses and evolving as a platform for all things community and business based in N2.

Dan Bird and Paddy Duncan of London Hackspace, a workplace for people who don't have space for tools, which has grown to a community of over 400 members, spoke about their search for a new site hopefully in the N2 area. The group is looking for somewhere of around 3,000sqft for their various workshops, including metal, electronics, wood and model making. The exciting venture is completely run and supported by London Hackspace members.

Phoenix rises

Alison Gold, Chair of Trustees at the Phoenix Cinema, discussed the strides the venue has made since its struggles prior to and during the Covid outbreak.

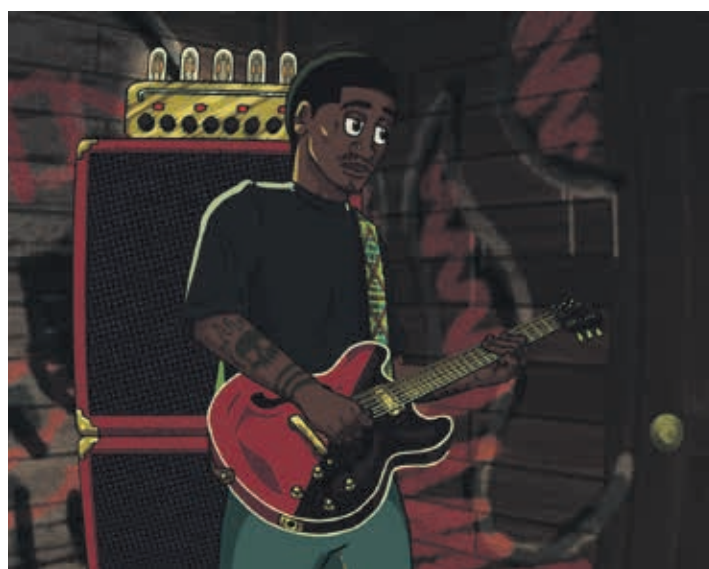
Peter Hale of East Finchley Open Artists updated us on the recent exhibition the group held, as well as the Arts & Music

event it will be part of in 2023 in conjunction with East Finchley Town Team.

Festive events

Alison Roberts and Mike Hughes informed us of the Winter Market to be held outside Bottles 'n' Jars near East Finchley station on Sunday 27 November, and Gail Coles got everyone in the festive spirit by talking about the switching on of the Christmas tree lights on Saturday 3 December.

To keep up to date with the local goings on, check the community calendar at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/whats-on and if you would like to get involved further or just get to know other locals who care about N2, join us at the next N2United meeting which will be held on Thursday 10 November. Details at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/N2United



Magical realism: Two of the characters from the Woodshed world and, below, creative artist Ollymandias with the first Woodshed novel

Take your first step into the world of Woodshed

For anyone fancying a trip into an alternate reality, a local artist is inviting you into the world of Woodshed, a new transmedia story project spanning books, a website and animations.

Ollymandias has been developing this world for five years as part of a creative collection of friends and fellow artists. They describe it as an alternative version of New York City, circa 2003, combining magical realism with a touch of sci-fi.

Visual artist Olly, a former pupil at Fortismere School, says the characters who inhabit the Woodshed world are all inspired by people they met while living in New York.

"The characters came before the story," says Olly. "We started writing scripts for episodes of an animated TV show and then realised we could use the same characters in books and animated shorts."



As a transmedia project, it means that the Woodshed stories can exist alongside each other in all the different formats, allowing people to enter and explore www.woodshed.world at any point and at any time. Their biggest challenge, says

Olly, is getting people to take their first steps inside.

Woodshed at Black Gull

So far, they've held a gallery event in New York and issued three sell-out sets of trading cards. Next they are inviting everyone to the launch of their first Woodshed novel *T-Minus* at the Black Gull Bookshop in the High Road, N2, on Wednesday 7 December from 7pm to 9pm, featuring readings and live music.

"We're going to have a musical performance from singer-songwriter Jesse Jake, who's flying in from New York for the event," says Olly, who himself has worked as a visual artist with hip-hop duo Run the Jewels and rapper MF DOOM.

Garden trophy

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society has been awarded a trophy after its members won the highest number of points in a London Gardens Society competition open to gardeners throughout the capital. The prize was handed over to East Finchley resident and society chair Caroline Broome by *Gardeners World* presenter Adam Frost at a ceremony in the Guildhall last month. Help required

At the same time, the society is looking for new committee members who can spare an hour a month to keep everything running smoothly, and for people to help run their social media and quarterly newsletters. You don't have to be a gardener, you just have to like gardens. Contact HGSHS.membership@virginmedia.com

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