



Long-distance: Hadrian's Wall walker Clare Monaghan with son Sabian, daughter Darcey and dachshund Freddie.



Walkies: Michelle Collins and Peggy in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Mike Coles

## Mum on a mission to get everyone checking their chests

By John Lawrence

An East Finchley mum who was diagnosed with aggressive triple positive breast cancer in 2018 but is now celebrating five years of being cancer-free is taking on a 100km trek to encourage everyone to check their chests.

### From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:

April 2013

We marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RSPCA Small Animal Clinic in Park Road, while reporting concern for its continued existence due to lack of funding. Although operating under the RSPCA name, the clinic was totally independent and reliant on local volunteers and fundraising. Sadly the clinic no longer exists, but the RSPCA does operate a clinic service from within the Two by Two veterinary practice in Long Lane.

15 years ago:

April 2008

There were protests against proposals to close two local post offices, in East End Road and High Road, N12, just north of the North Circular Road. It was feared that these closures would result in even longer queues at the remaining post office in Viceroy Parade, East Finchley, which has also since closed. Our local post office is now located in the UOE office shop.

23 years ago:

April 2000

At long last, and after much campaigning by local residents and *The Archer*, a new pedestrian crossing was installed in Fortis Green between its junctions with Summerlee Avenue and Durham Road. Action was finally taken following the tragic death of a local resident near the site of the new crossing.

Clare Monaghan is walking the length of Hadrian's Wall in northern England in June to support CoppaFeel. The charity's mission is to stamp out the late detection of breast cancer by urging people to check their boobs and pecs regularly and to give them the confidence to see their GP if something doesn't feel normal.

Clare, whose daughter Darcey is at the Archer Academy and whose son Sabian is at Martin Primary, had to go through a bi-lateral mastectomy and breast reconstruction, six months of chemotherapy, three weeks of daily radiotherapy and on-going hormone therapy.

She said she had several emergency hospital admissions and many dark days during treatment but is forever grate-

ful that her cancer was detected early. This month marks her five-year anniversary of having 'No Evidence of Disease'.

"I am very keen to get the message out that early detection saves lives," said Clare. "I'm keen to challenge myself, I want to make my kids proud and show them they don't need to be scared of cancer. I want to show them I have recovered and that we should now embrace every opportunity and live life to the max, whilst also getting the naps in when needed."

#### Coppafeel challenge

You can read more about Clare's challenge and help her reach her £2,250 fundraising target by going to [www.just-giving.com](http://www.just-giving.com) and searching for 'ClareMonaghanTrek'.

## Give your views on next steps for East Finchley Town Team

By Kate Brown

East Finchley Town Team members are inviting everyone to join them to help decide the next activities and future direction of the group.

Since it launched in June 2022 the Town Team has held three events on the High Road, all aimed at promoting our local traders, venues, eateries and community groups. They were a sustainability market last September, an Arts and Music event in January and last month's celebration of food.

Town Team has already got feedback. Some would like to see the successful East Finchley's Got Talent show become an annual or bi-annual event. Some would like to see collaborations between Town Team and the Phoenix Cinema and Finchley Youth Theatre continue.

Others feel strongly that Town Team's main emphasis

should be on trying to improve the physical appearance of the High Road. So what is the best strategy for sustaining our High Road and what do you think are the priorities?

#### Share ideas for the future

A feedback meeting will take place on Thursday 27 April at the Constitutional Club in The Walks, N2 8DE, close to Oakridge Drive, from 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join in. If you are interested, contact [eftownteam@gmail.com](mailto:eftownteam@gmail.com)

East Finchley Town Team was originally a coming together of five existing organisations: East Finchley Community Trust, *The Archer*, East Finchley Open Artists, East Finchley Festival

## Michelle gets ready for fun day out

By Lynn Winton

Actor Michelle Collins is hoping lots of us will be joining her on the North London Hospice Big Fun Walk on Sunday 21 May, which sets off from East Finchley and follows a leafy route through some of London's loveliest parks.

The 8.5 mile walk affords breathtaking views of the city at the top of Hampstead Heath and Primrose Hill. It finishes in the heart of Westminster where medals, music, a luxury raffle, and a well-earned brew await walkers at Central Hall.

Michelle, who has lived in the heart of East Finchley since 1996, is busy encouraging her neighbours, friends, fellow dog walkers and *Archer* readers to join the event to support what she sees as a vital resource for compassionate care.

#### Walking versus running

"The hospice team has helped so many local families that I know over the years, and this is an easy relaxed walk which will make for a lovely

day out," she said. "I've done charity walks before, even one in New York for Stonewall, and unlike a competitive run which isn't that sociable, on a walk one can enjoy such amazing conversations with all different people along the way."

Michelle has not yet decided whether to take Peggy, the younger of the two dogs that she adopted from local charity All Dogs Matter. Sadly Humphrey the elder dog is too frail. "He loves Cherry Tree Wood, but he can barely walk a mile now," said Michelle.

On screen, Michelle can soon be seen starring in feature film *My House* to be released in UK on Amazon Prime.

You can sign up for the Hospice Fun Walk at [northlondonhospice.org](http://northlondonhospice.org). For queries telephone 020 8446 2288 or email [bigfunwalk@northlondonhospice.co.uk](mailto:bigfunwalk@northlondonhospice.co.uk).

## Concert for Geoffrey

Just a reminder not to miss the memorial concert for organist and composer Geoffrey Hanson, who funded and directed the East Finchley Arts Festival until his death in 2020. It will be on Saturday 15 April, at 7.30pm, at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2, where Geoffrey was Director of Music for 30 years.

The programme will be largely Geoffrey's own works, and performers will be the London Mozart Players and the London Ripieno Society. Admission and refreshments are all free.

and N2United.

#### New network for N2

As *Archer* readers are aware, N2United has paused its meetings and a new N2Network team is looking for fresh energy to continue to evolve the vibrant network.

N2Network intends to resume quarterly meetings for local organisations, businesses and residents and is keen to speak to anyone who might like to take a turn at chairing meetings. This will be a topic of discussion on the 27th, with an open invitation to anyone interested in being part of N2Network invited to attend. For details see [www.iloven2.co.uk.n2network](http://www.iloven2.co.uk.n2network)