



Letters

After the fall

Dear Editor,

I was walking along the High Road recently at night and was only five minutes from my home when I stumbled on one of the many slightly lifted paving stones and fell flat, hitting my nose. I was aware first of lots of blood, and then of people around me.

Instantly, a young man lifted me back onto my feet and supported me whilst three ladies, all, it transpired, previously unknown to each other, produced tissues and wipes to try to deal with the blood, someone called an ambulance, and I was led very carefully to one of the seats outside Budgens, from where help was also offered.

People stayed with me, which was so kind and so comforting. A message came to say that the ambulance should be along within two hours but by this time help from home was arriving. In fact, the ambulance came within about ten minutes of being called and I was taken into its warmth and checked out very efficiently before being taken home. I have made a good recovery and would like to thank those kind, caring and competent people who helped make bearable what could have been a frightening and lonely experience. Many thanks to you all,

Heather B,
Address supplied

Contact us

Dear Editor,

We have all seen ads on TV and bus shelters saying 'contact us online'. Surely the powers that be, the government, the council, the NHS and big companies, realise by now that the poor will never be online, never have bank accounts or credit cards.

We exist and always will. Phone numbers please, non-automated, and postal addresses. Any good company would give these. We are not going to go away so stop pushing us out at every turn, and help.

M Murphy,
Wilmot Close, N2.

Send your correspondence to:
news@the-archer.co.uk

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.

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Tresses and dresses: Stylist Daniella Farrell in the thick of London Fashion Week

Catwalk creations with an ethical edge

By Lynn Winton

Daniella Farrell, one of the senior staff at Jo Sutherland Hair Studio in East End Road, N2, was thrilled to be invited to lead the team creating hair styles for a groundbreaking new show at London Fashion Week in February.

Called 'Source', it showcased international designers who focus on sustainable and ethical collections made using organic materials, such as those derived from grasses and coffee plants.

Jo said: "I was so proud that Daniella was chosen to create creative styles for the catwalk models for such an event. I also enjoyed the excitement of attending, knowing it was the first show at London Fashion Week that harmonised with my own passion for sustainability."

Her salon specialises in a vegan and cruelty-free product range from Scotland called Ffor,

which is formulated without the use of sulphates or synthetic fragrances.

Jo, who grew up in Widecombe Way, N2, and still lives there, took an unusual route to become a hairdresser. Originally working as a barrister, she switched professions and much prefers running a hair salon, which she combines with her acting career.

Jo is offering readers of *The Archer* a 15% introductory discount when booking their first appointment. Just mention this article when booking. Find out more about the salon at www.jo-sutherland.co.uk

Choir finally ready for long-awaited concert

Following North London Chorus's programme of Charpentier, Corelli and Handel last December, the choir is delighted to announce its forthcoming concert at St James Church, Muswell Hill on Saturday 22nd April at 7.45pm.

In 2020, family and friends of North London Chorus musical director Murray Hipkin gathered at a party for his 60th birthday at which donations were pledged to enable the choir to perform Vaughan Williams' magnificent work *A Sea Symphony*.

The pandemic interrupted their plans but finally the choir is ready to stage the concert. It takes place at St James Church, Muswell Hill, on Saturday 22 April at 7.45pm.

The concert will feature soprano Verity Wingate and baritone James Cleverton as

soloists, with The Meridian Sinfonia accompanying the choir using the composer's own orchestration.

Murray Hipkin said: 'I am immensely grateful to everyone who dug deep and gave so generously, and as this term also marks the 20th anniversary of my first concert with NLC, I hope that you will join us for this special, and very personal, double celebration.'

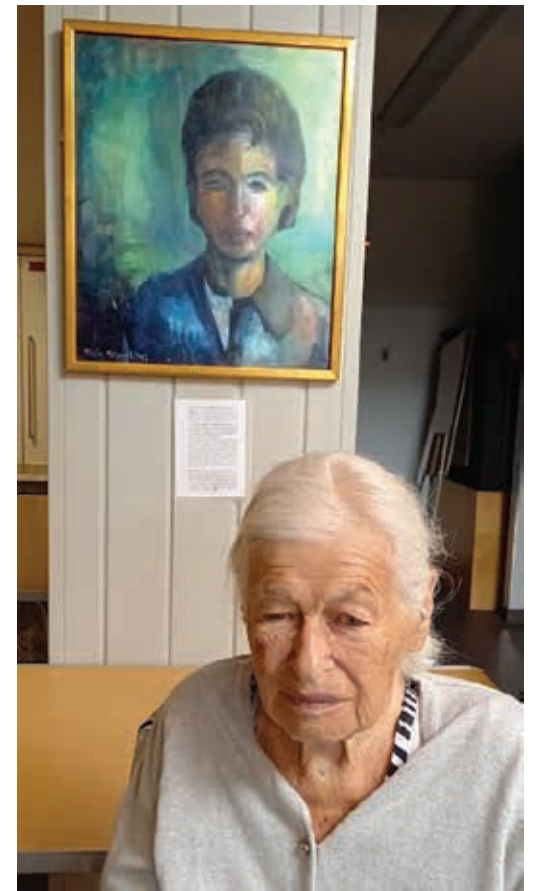
Tickets can be booked at <https://tickets.northlondonchorus.org> or purchased from St James Church bookshop. Prices £25/£21/£13, concessions £2 off.

A painter whose whole world was torn apart

Archer reader Ruth Kersley recalls the life of her friend Alicia Melamed Adams, who has died aged 95. She describes her as a unique artist who managed to transform the horrors of her wartime experiences into potent and expressive images.

Born in Eastern Poland to a middle-class Jewish family, Alicia's happy life ended abruptly when she was 13 and the Nazis occupied her home town. Jews were placed in a ghetto and Alicia's beloved and creative brother Josef was incarcerated in a concentration camp in Lvov where he disappeared without a trace.

In 1943 Alicia and her family were taken to the local prison, where the Gestapo starved Jews for three days and then took them to the woods to shoot them. A young man called Poldek Weiss, known to Alicia's family, was released because his father, a tailor, made suits for the Gestapo. Poldek pleaded with his father to ask if Alicia could be saved as his wife. His father made another suit and Alicia was released. Her 1963 painting *The Parting* shows Alicia in one final embrace with her family,



Life story: Alicia Melamed Adams in front of her painting *Looking Back* at her last exhibition in May 2022

who were all shot the next day.

Alicia survived the war and met Izrael Natan Melamed, who had also lost his entire family. They married in Warsaw in 1946, living in France before emigrating to England in 1950. Their son Charles was born in London in 1951. Izrael later changed his name to Adam Adams in the 1960s.

In the 1960s Alicia attended St Martin's School of Art where she was encouraged by a fellow artist to confront her painful memories by keeping a diary. She described her first painting *Looking Back* as a way of combatting depression. "You can see me coming out of darkness towards the light," she said.

Her paintings were exhibited widely including at the Imperial War Museum. She became a member of the United Society of Artists and her still lifes,

flower paintings and portraits became increasingly full of light and colour with her hallmark, a heart, reflecting her hopes for a loving world.

I first met Alicia when accompanying a group of primary school children to one of her exhibitions. She went into secondary schools to speak, was interviewed for several BBC documentaries to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and exhibited with Polish artists in 2019.

Adam died in 2020. Despite increasing frailty and loss of sight, Alicia never lost her sense of humour and remained beautiful and elegant to the end. I miss my visits, her laughter and her vivid memories. She is survived by her son Charles, grandchildren Craig, Leigh, Melissa and Nicholas and great-grandson Felix.

Holy Trinity Parish Church

67 Church Lane, N2 0TH

www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

We are a community who welcomes everyone.
We meet in church and online. Please do 'come and see'.

Holy Communion & Children's Sunday Club: Sunday @ 10.00 am - In Church
Morning Prayer: Thursday @ 9.00 am - Online

For more information please contact us:

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