

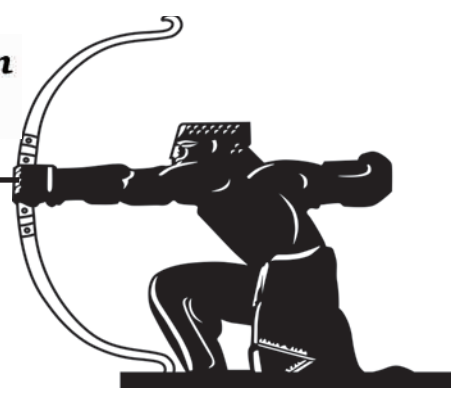


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30 Local News is our Aim
30 years 1993-2023

The Archer



August 2023 No. 352

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

How could we make life better in East Finchley?

By Diana Cormack

Free parking, wheelchair access at the tube station and a statue of George Michael are among the ambitious ideas put forward by N2 residents to improve life and trade in East Finchley.

The suggestions were made as part of a survey held at the London Festival of Architecture's event in the High Road in June and later put on display at East Finchley Town Team's social evening in July.

Locals had been asked to fill in cards giving their opinion on how to transform the wide pavement area between Caffè Nero and Budgens. Amongst these were views on seating provision, greening up the area, adding water fountains and introducing free parking plus a request for a wheelchair lift at the station, a better night-life

and a statue of East Finchley-born George Michael.

Event and social

On the day of the architecture event the area was full of information stalls and used for live performances by youngsters from the Fixation Academy of Performing Arts, based at the Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road.

There were hundreds of ideas, many of them from children and some looking beyond the immediate area, as well as comments on what people already liked about the area.

Turn to page 3



Road block: The mature tree lies across a parked car and completely obstructs traffic in Leopold Road after being felled by strong winds. Photos Kathy Batten

Trees tumble in day of high winds

By John Lawrence



Trees and gardens took a battering when high winds and sudden gusts of up to 48mph swept across East Finchley through the afternoon and evening of Saturday 15 July.

On Leopold Road, N2, the trunk of a mature tree snapped completely, sending it crashing across the pavement and road, seriously damaging a car parked underneath. The car belonged to a young couple, who came home to the shocking scene later in the day. Resident Kathy Batten said: "It was quite amazing that no one was hurt. The council came to clear it a few hours later." Trees also tumbled in Huntingdon Road and on Long Lane. The high winds lasted for several hours, with the Met Police reporting top speeds in the capital of 48mph, just slightly below storm-force

Reporters required

Would you like to report for The Archer?

We are looking for writers of all ages to join our team of volunteers and to contribute one or two articles each month. You don't need to be a trained journalist but good writing skills would be appreciated. Story ideas can come from the team, from readers or from your own connections.

Please get in touch if you are interested. Email John via news@the-archer.co.uk

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Thank you to The East Finchley Constitutional Club for providing us with a meeting place.

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Crowd-puller: Last year's street festival in Muswell Hill attracted hundreds of people to Fortis Green Road.

Street festival celebrates the best of Muswell Hill

The Best of Muswell Hill Festival is back next month with a busy shopping street being taken over by performers and vendors for a whole afternoon. The free family-friendly event is organised by traders' association Muswell Business.

One of the organisers, Deanna Bogdanovic, said: "The Best of Muswell Hill is one of the biggest local highlights in our cultural calendar this year. We hope to draw not just local residents and businesses but also visitors from outside the neighbourhood. "Our aim is to increase footfall in our high street, help put our local indie businesses and local artists on the map, and together celebrate Muswell Hill's diversity and heritage."

Gillian White, festival committee member, added: "Our community and traders have experienced extraordinary dif-

iculties over the past few years. On the other hand we've also seen the strength of our local community and friendly support when it was most, most needed."

Fortis Green Road, N10, will be closed for the festival, which takes place on Saturday 9 September from 1pm to 7pm.

The organisers are looking for volunteers to help them organise and deliver the event and more food vendors to sell their goods to festival-goers. Find Muswell Business on Facebook, Business Muswell on Instagram or visit <https://muswellbusiness.wordpress.com>.



Garden therapy: Dorothy Kightley and Tracey McCarthy spread the benefits of outdoor spaces to people recovering from spinal injuries. Photo Mike Coles

Heroes helping spinal patients

By Lynn Winton

I first encountered Tracey McCarthy outside her house in Durham Road, N2, where she was manning a plant stall. After stocking up on the most enormous hardy geraniums, I learnt that all the plants had come from the gold medal-winning 'Horatio's Garden' at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Tracey was selling them to raise funds for the charity of the same name that creates and maintains beautiful outdoor spaces at the 11 NHS centres that look after people needing long term care after life-changing spinal injuries. Tracey is the garden administrator (and tireless volunteer) based at their garden at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, just the other side of Mill Hill.

Space for access and reflection

"Spinal injuries can happen to anyone," said Tracey. "Whilst every case is unique, the result is always devastating, and the garden is a place for vital reflection and readjustment. Horatio's Garden and Pods are seen as very much part of the rehabilitation process and not just a space for intense physical and occupational therapy.

"For instance, in this one week alone, I've organised botanical pottery workshops, photography, book talks, sewing and live music sessions, all with cakes baked by our wonderful band of volunteers."

Tracey went on to explain that the patients' rooms all connect with nature, having garden views and skylights: very dif-

ferent to the usual NHS set-up. Beds and wheelchairs have full access to all parts of the garden, including the greenhouse and raised beds.

Another EF volunteer

Working alongside Tracey is Fairlawn Avenue neighbour Dorothy Kightley, who befriends patients, and helps with fundraising. "Our volunteers are the backbone of the

charity and absolute gold dust," said Tracey. "Having people in the garden like Dorothy with the time to chat to the patients make it a lovely community."

Tracey is currently recruiting more volunteers and is also happy to hear from anyone who would like to be notified in advance about her occasional plant sales. She can be contacted at atracey@horatiogarden.org.uk

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

Can you help deliver **The Archer**? We are East Finchley's very own newspaper, written and delivered by your neighbours to keep you informed and entertained on local. We have an amazing band of 80 volunteer deliverers and urgently need a few more to deliver to parts of The Grange and Strawberry Vale. It only takes 30-60 minutes once a month. Also we would like to hear from some "understudies" who we can ask to fill in when regular deliverers are on holiday. Contact us by email at news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a voicemail message for free on 0800 612 0748.

Food Bank Aid urgently need volunteers. Flexible shifts mean you can volunteer when you want, helping to sort pack and deliver donations to food banks from a hub in the leisure park, opposite the Vue Cinema, in North Finchley. The hub is a fun place and there's always tea and cake! The charity provides essential goods to 30 north London food banks who in turn help more than 16,000 people every week. Please email volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk and put 'The Archer' in the subject line.

N2 Community Gardeners are beautifying spaces in East Finchley. They are looking for garden volunteers for their oldest community garden, growing fruit and perennial flowers on the small piece of ground on TfL land affectionately known as Station Bank, next to the pavement leading up to the tube station car park. Want to know more? Contact Kate Brown at brown.kate@btinternet.com Become a Proms volunteer! Could you give a few hours a month to help make next year's **Proms at St Jude's** a success? The skills or experience the team needs include admin, IT, organisation and logistics, fundraising, and education. It's a great opportunity to get involved in a local community project, gain experience and meet new people. There will be an open house for more information from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursday 28 September at Fellowship House, 136A Willifield Way, London NW11 6YD, or go to www.promsatstjudes.org.uk/volunteering.

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please send details to news@the-archer.co.uk. Max 80 words please.



www.ILoveN2.co.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

109 Abbots Gardens, N2

Two-storey front extension incorporating a front porch. Replacement of first floor windows to match existing window design, and new garage door.

188 East End Road, N2

New front porch.

29 Edmunds Walk, N2

Conversion of existing roof space, including insertion of two

rear conservation roof lights.

2 Elmfield Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with four roof lights.

37 Neale Close, N2

Replacement and changes to existing windows and doors. New decking area and pergola.

31 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

18 Trinity Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey rear

extension with one roof light.

Haringey Council

34 Aylmer Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension; two-storey rear extension; rear loft extension with rear dormer; two side dormers; minor changes to front façade; internal alterations.

66 Twyford Avenue, N2

First-floor front extension and associated alterations.



Images among the trees that inspired them



Hanging space: A visitor to Coldfall Wood views art created by members of a group led by artist Laura Fox, pictured right sitting among the outdoor exhibition. Photos Mike Coles.

Local art group **Back To The Woods**, facilitated by artist Laura Fox, held their first exhibition in Coldfall Woods on Wednesday 5 July by hanging their works among the ancient trees that had inspired them. The group meet in the woods on the first Sunday of every month and have drawn together throughout the year, even on New Year's Day. Participant Mark Choueke said: "Being out in the woods and drawing with Laura is like a holiday. It's indulgent and uplifting. The excuse to be creative is indescribably high in value." Laura said the exhibition was a celebration of the wonderful participants who turn up each month, and the majestic ancient woods. For more information www.laurafoxartist.com

We won't be beaten on blister packs

Last month we reported that Oakdale Pharmacy in the High Road, N2, had been forced to stop accepting used tablet blister packs because the onward recycling point at Superdrug in North Finchley was no longer taking large bags of them.

Emma Frampton, from East Finchley's Bin There Donate That recycling project, hoped that the Superdrug branch would still accept smaller consignments or individual packs, as the company website stated. However, members of *The Archer* team and several readers told us that this was not the case. They had tried taking their blister packs there and were told the branch couldn't accept any as it wasn't a pharmacy. One enterprising reader then took his all the way to the Superdrug in the Seven Sisters Road, just off Holloway Road, N7, which is a pharmacy and did accept them.

Travelling that far isn't very convenient for most of us, of course, but Emma Frampton is determined not to be beaten. She has asked one of the volunteers on her team to investigate how they can reinstate

blister pack recycling in N2, as it was such a popular service.

They may look to recruit volunteers to take packs to the Superdrug stores that are participating or find a way to get them to the ultimate reprocessing centre. Watch this space for more details.



No longer collecting: Staff at Oakdale Pharmacy have paused blister pack recycling

How can we make life better?

Continued from page 1

Those at the Town Team social discussed how any development should be approached, raising the question of funding and of how to encourage local residents and traders to take an interest. It was hoped that the rest of the High Road and adjacent areas would also benefit.

More residents

However, warnings were given about the proposed Great North Leisure Park redevelopment (*The Archer*, May 2023), with plans for high rise flats housing hundreds of people just on the other side of the North Circular. Not only will this have an effect on both North and East Finchley, necessitating more places in schools and on doctors' lists, but the often criticised 263 bus service along the High Road will face even more demand.

Coming up

There were useful exchanges throughout the evening. The first quarterly formal meeting of the Town Team will be on Thursday 14 September in East Finchley Constitutional Club. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. All are welcome.

The Town Team would love to hear more of your suggestions on how our High Road can be improved and welcome your ideas for what they should do next. You can contact them at eftownteam@gmail.com or visit www.ILoveN2.co.uk/townteam for more information.



Harvest festival: The food garden in fine fettle outside St Mary's Church hall.

Food garden feeds the food bank

By Kate Brown

It is hard to believe that just a few months ago this patch of ground behind St Mary's Catholic Church in the High Road, N2, was rough grass. As you can see from the photograph, it is now a remarkably productive garden. The plot is now providing a range of fresh produce for Finchley Foodbank, based in the church hall, including broad beans and potatoes. Another firm favourite has been young kale leaves which cook in no time.

All this has been a joint project by a group of parishioners who agreed the use of the land with Father Peter and brought on board a growing (no pun

intended) band of volunteers.

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Objects of desire: Just some of the works and displays from the East Finchley Open Artists Open Weekends where visitors could browse and buy. Photo montage Mike Coles.

Two weekends of artful browsing

By Mike Coles

Hot on the heels of this year's East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood were two weekends when local artists opened their houses to show and sell a large variety of original art and crafts.

Hundreds of visitors followed the trail in gloriously warm weather at the end of June and start of July, confirming East Finchley

as one of London's notable artistic communities. The East Finchley Open Artists group is planning more exhibitions for later in the

year and will be back with its Open House Weekends again next summer. Keep up to date with the artists and events at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk



Lisa Jones and Stephen Thomas pictured with 'Ernie' at East Finchley Festival. Photo: Mike Coles

Ernie earns innovation award

A Muswell Hill wife and husband have won a national award for the way they have grown their small business selling refill goods from a restored vintage milk float.

The People's Pantry, set up by Lisa Jones and Stephen Thomas, were crowned winners of an innovation category at the Small Awards, hosted by comedian and radio host Sue Perkins.

Their mobile refill shop, otherwise known as Ernie the milk float, is a well-known

site at north London markets and festivals and has regular neighbourhood stop-off points around the area, selling food and household items to customers who bring their own containers.

They reduce plastic use even further by offering a doorstep delivery option where customers can order precise amounts

online and leave their used containers out for collection, sanitation and reuse, just like traditional milk float deliveries.

The People's Pantry has also been awarded a £500 Community Carbon Fund grant from Haringey Council to make this system even more sustainable.

Why I've become a soldier in the battle against dementia

By Diana Cormack

Recently there have been more reports of hopeful news regarding the development or treatment of dementia. I may be noticing them because my mother spent the last years of her life living with Alzheimer's, a cruel disease which inevitably affects other members of the family.

The feeling of helplessness as the person you know and love gradually disappears is unforgettable. However, some time after her death I did find a way of helping when I became a volunteer at the Dementia Research Centre in Queen Square, central London.

Testing for comparison

Participants need to be healthy 50 to 75-year-olds who are asked to perform a series of tests, the results of which can be used as a comparison to those of someone with dementia. They usually take place on a one-to-one basis and involve answering spoken questions, some paper and pencil work, along with computerised responses. These increase in difficulty and some are timed.

Over the years I have participated in new tests being developed to help better inform the understanding of different types of dementia. More recently the research has been on working to understand how people's thoughts, feelings and behaviour change with a diagnosis of dementia, and how this relates to the brain. The focus is on the perception of speech and other sounds such as music and different acoustic environments.

The Brain Behaviour

Group

Led by Professor James Warren at the UCL centre,

the BBG is interested in how hearing impacts people living with dementia, particularly those with Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia. With hearing being crucial to everyday communication and because we hear through a complicated process in our brains, they want to explore the impact on cognition, hearing and everyday life dementia might have in relation to the brain. This research provides the groundwork necessary for developing treatments.

Any information about volunteers is kept strictly confidential. Should you wish to participate, google Dementia Research Centre, Queen Square and click on 'Get Involved'.

Flower arranging

Meanwhile here in Barnet a community project has been launched which uses flower arranging to support people with dementia. Flowers sourced from retailers and venues which would otherwise dump them are used to make floral arrangements at more affordable prices. They are then sold for weddings, funerals and other specific events.

Organiser Ursula Stone, who has won a Barnet Civic Award for her work, says such activities are particularly suitable to those living with dementia and their carers. To find out more visit www.theflowerbank.org.uk

From the heart

By Diana Cormack

*I thought I saw you then, Mum,
When you looked at me,
Looked and saw and knew me.
Before your eyes filmed over
I caught a glimpse of you.*

*Then you were gone once more,
Dragged back by that invisible invader,
Back to that parasite of your brain,
To that dictator of your being.
I didn't see you go.*

*Imperceptibly over the years
Cruel claws have tightened their grip,
Slowly, silently stealing you from us.
Where do you go? Why do you obey?
Oh Mum, I wanted you to stay.*

*I wanted to hold you tightly,
For you to feel the power of my love,
To feel my strength pulling you back
From that unseen enemy within.
But it remains, invincible.*

*I thought I saw you then, Mum,
When you looked at me.
I caught a fleeting glimpse
But, as I looked at you Mum,
You couldn't see me any more.*



Double anniversary: Former headteacher Sonia Singham, left, with Councillor Alison Moore and executive head Stefan Roos at the Holy Trinity Primary School celebrations, and, right, Archer Academy headteacher Lucy Harrison with students at the end of term.

Happy birthday to East Finchley's oldest and youngest schools

By Justine Csaky and Stuart Miller

Neighbouring East Finchley schools Holy Trinity Primary and the Archer Academy secondary are both celebrating special anniversaries this year. The oldest school in the area, Holy Trinity primary, is 175 and the youngest, Archer Academy is 10 years old. Both are rated outstanding by OFSTED.

Archer Academy held a Wonder Week of '10 good deeds to celebrate 10 great years' where each year group will be taking on long-term community projects which provide students with opportunities for active citizenship and volunteering within the local community, focusing on food poverty, primary school partnerships, environmental work and care for the local elderly community.

The school also welcomed

back over 700 former students for two celebration evenings and held an afternoon tea for staff, governors and trustees both past and present.

Gala evening

To mark the official opening of the school by author Michael Morpurgo ten years ago, the school will be holding a Cocktails and Canapes gala evening on Saturday 9 September. All past and present parents and teachers are welcome to join to

eat, drink, chat and enjoy live entertainment from comedian Ian Stone and music from Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock's band.

This particular event is a fundraiser for Raise The Roof, a campaign to build a performing arts theatre at Archer. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://tinyurl.com/archer10ticket>.

Special reunion

Meanwhile, Holy Trinity held its own celebration when former staff and teachers came

back to meet current pupils and parents immediately after the school's annual summer concert, with a barbecue, live music and a DJ to keep the party spirit going.

The assembled crowd of pupils, parents and former students were entertained by speeches from outgoing Mayor of Barnet Council Alison Moore, past head teachers Tim Bowden and Sonia Singham, and current head teachers Kirsty West and

Stefan Roos.

Linked with Holy Trinity Church, the school and church were designed by the famous Victorian architect, Anthony Salvin and opened in 1848 in the historic red brick buildings on East End Road, N2, now occupied by The Learning Experience nursery. Planning for the current school in Eagans Close began in 1972 and it was opened in 1975 by the area's MP Margaret Thatcher.

Young athletes show their class

Congratulations to two young East Finchley athletes for their performances on track and field last month. Fortismere student Elkie Baker won a bronze medal in the Junior Girls discus event, representing Middlesex at the English Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham. Elkie is currently ranked first in the U15 Girl category in discus, with a personal best distance of 35.27m.

And East Finchley schoolgirl Maya Michlic showed her speed in the 800m race running against boys and girls from schools across the borough at the Barnet All Primary Schools Annual Athletics Competition. Maya, a Year 6 pupil at Akiva School, East End Road, N2, came third in the semi-final heat in the event at the StoneX Stadium, the home of the Saracens rugby team, at Barnet Cophall.



Track and field: Elkie Baker, left, and Maya Michlic



Stage stars: Students from the Archer Academy performing Matilda the Musical at the ArtsDepot.

Students stage high-energy hit

Archer Academy staged a whole school production of *Matilda the Musical* at the Arts-Depot in North Finchley in July.

The show featured four actors playing the part of Matilda alongside a cast of 100 student performers. The audience was enthralled by the high-energy dancing, acrobatics, singing and imaginative set and props, including more than 30 scooters on stage, which meant this show really had it all.

And congratulations to The Archer Academy for coming second in the finals of the national Great Big Dance

Off competition. The secondary school's dancers were up against 20 other regional winners from across the country at

the final in Cheltenham, where they performed a striking dance to *Goodbye Song* by Cynthia Erivo and Terence Blanchard.

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South Africa, here I come! Mike's odyssey goes on

By Mike Coles

In the unlikely event of being asked how long it would take to walk from East Finchley to Gabon, in Africa, at just under 10 km per day, interestingly, I could answer, having just done it – three years and four months. I haven't done the actual walk, of course, but have done the miles in local streets and parks.

Let me explain. During the original Covid lockdown in March 2020 when we had to stay home, I looked around for ways to keep fit (and sane). We were allowed out for one hour a day for exercise so I thought I would walk locally, plot my cumulative progress on Google maps and head south, virtually, to Marseilles in the south of France.

and then south to Gibraltar, which I reached on Christmas Day 2020. On Boxing Day 2020 I crossed to Tangiers to Morocco and continued south.

West Africa

Nearly a year later, on 10 December 2021, without missing a day, I arrived in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, having walked down the sparsely



Count the miles: A map of Mike's route shows he has reached central Africa

10 km per day seemed a good target, although it took a bit more than an hour. I found a back route that took me through Cherry Tree Wood and around Highgate Wood a couple of times which involved little contact with other people. This was a time of uncertainty when every passing jogger, if they got too close, seemed like a potential death sentence.

The days passed, the daily walking continued and I reached Marseilles on 18 July 2020. Covid was still a problem, so I decided to keep walking south into Spain, through Barcelona,

populated west coast of Africa. In January 2022 I was in The Gambia.

Nearly another year went by and I arrived in Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast on 5 October last year. I completed 1,000 days just before Christmas 2022 and in January I crossed the Benin/Nigeria border, and on to the Nigerian capital Lagos. On 10 July, my 1,201st day, I reached Gabon where the luxurious Hotel Esperance in Cocobeach awaited me!

During the worst of the Covid days it was fun checking on TripAdvisor what it was like



One step at a time: Mike Coles walking through woodland on his three-year virtual trek.

locally at the places I (virtually) passed through: fascinating through Europe, but not much information going down the

west coast of Africa.

What now? There seems to be no good reason to stop, so South Africa here I come!



Bed for the night: Hotel Esperance in Cocobeach



Crossing point: Mike 'jumped on a ferry' in Gibraltar to cross the Mediterranean

Mike recommends walking

On a serious note, if your triathlon and hang-gliding days are over and the gym is not for you, why not try walking. It's highly rated by doctors for your health and wellbeing. Even half an hour a day is very good for you, and you can do as much as you feel like, and there are always lots of interesting things you come across locally!

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:

August 2013

We reported on a public meeting held in East Finchley Library to oppose plans to close the Crown Post Office on Viceroy Parade. The meeting was organised by the Union of Communication Workers and attended by Simon Berman, senior stakeholder manager for the Post Office, who emphasised the annual losses incurred by the Crown Office network. A heated discussion took place, followed by a unanimous vote to oppose the closure and associated plans to find a franchise partner to host the service. Eventually of course the Post Office was closed and the service incorporated into the UOE Store on the opposite side of the High Road.

15 years ago:

August 2008

Yet more ambitious plans emerged for redevelopment of the now demolished pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. By 2008, the pavilion had already stood derelict for many years and several schemes were mooted for its restoration but, despite some work eventually starting, all came to nothing. It was not until February 2020 that the building was demolished and the site has now been grassed over.

23 years ago:

August 2000

Children from local schools and organisations, including Christ's College and Finchley Children's Music Group, took part in celebrations marking the 100th birthday of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Over 160 local children joined the cavalcade in Central London depicting events of the previous 100 years, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and ethnic mix found in the capital.

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Final destination: The cyclists reach Amsterdam after less than four days on the road, with the local sheep, below, failing to slow them down for long.

On two wheels, across four countries in four days

By David Melsome

In 2021, at the height of the pandemic, a group of friends from Muswell Hill took to their bikes and raised more than £30,000 to save their local nursery. Spurred on by their success, four of the group, plus one newbie who had only just learnt to ride a bike, went one step further in 2022 and cycled 500km from London to Paris to raise £15,000 for a cervical cancer charity.

Now the local mums have achieved another milestone in the saddle by cycling across four countries in three and a half days, starting in Muswell Hill, riding to Dover, then from Calais in France to Bruges in Belgium, and finishing in Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

This time Helen Style, Lea Helman, Melissa Rockman, Vered Lobel, Naomi Chanim and Sharon Rubin rode in aid of mental health charities Mind and YoungMinds.

Helen said: "One in four adults and one in six children will experience a mental health problem throughout their lives. This means that every family is likely to be impacted. Most people do not find the help they need to help battle these



silent but often debilitating illnesses. This is why we chose Mind and YoungMinds as our charities this year. "We are just a group of local mums trying to raise money for amazing charities. Please help us make a small difference to an incredible cause. Our ride was fully self-funded and all

donations go straight to the charities."

The cyclists thanked Ian and Oben Gray of Northern Heights bike shop in Muswell Hill, who helped them plan the route and gave support along the way. You can donate by searching '4 countries 4 days' at donate.giveasyoulive.com

Oasis of greenery before you go underground

By David Gritten

The average tube station, it's fair to say, is an unremarkable place, somewhere for travellers to wait for a train to arrive and take them to their preferred destination. East Finchley's station has long been rather more interesting.

It's an attractive place in its own right, largely as the result of its dedicated staff having decided to help in upgrading it over several years.

To first-time visitors, the results are immediately apparent. Stroll down either of the station's two busiest platforms (one for northbound trains to Barnet, the other for southbound towards central London) and you cannot fail to notice the gorgeous flowers in large, beautiful pots, many of them coloured deep blue.

Nino's cunning plan

None of this has happened by accident, and many East Finchley tube employees have played their part. Prominent among them is station manager Nino Santos, now a long-time employee who actively encourages plans to beautify his patch.

Currently Nino is working on plans for a tea party at the station, to coincide with Transport for London's annual gardening competition. This year's theme is entitled 'Healthy Plants, Healthy Planet.'

And this enthusiasm is not confined to the station's platforms. In its tall, broad, imposing entrance hall there are several containers of flowers on the shelves, not to mention the ever-popular book exchange. There's also a photo booth and a small convenience store only a few yards away.

Add to this the numerous attractive plants and general greenery outside the station entrance, on the way to the car park, and it's easy to conclude that East Finchley tube is unique. N2 is fortunate to have it.



Platform planters: Nino Santos among the shrubs at the tube station.

Party for pop icon George Michael

By Antonia Schewitz

Singer George Michael was born in 1963 in Church Road, N2, and one of his biggest fans is Sharon McGoey, who organised a summer party at the Cherry Tree Café that she co-manages to celebrate what would have been his 60th birthday.

There was a *Club Tropicana* Ibiza-themed barbecue run by volunteers and everyone was encouraged to dress up their favourite George Michael styles. Money raised from the drinks, food and raffle went to Finchley Foodbank, North London Hospice and Market Place Playground.

Anna Maughan of Finchley Foodbank said: "Celebrating what would have been George Michael's 60th birthday with great Greek food, themed cocktails and of course all his hits, whilst supporting a

local good cause describes our perfect afternoon. Customers of the Cherry Tree Café were very generous. A big Finchley Foodbank thank you to them."

Sharon said the enormous Wham! posters, George gallery and cut out roller skates were donated to by DCS London printers and sold for charity at the end of the night.

The singer, who died in 2016, was an avid supporter of many UK charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support and would no doubt have approved of the extensive charity work at the party.



Club Tropicana: Café co-owner Sharon McGoey, second right, with friends at the George Michael party.



A family's life touched twice by tragedy

By Julia Lawrence

Back in September 2021, *The Archer* told the tragic but fascinating story behind the pedestrian underpass that runs below the Northern line, connecting Trinity Road and Manor Park Road, N2. We learned, thanks to the research of writer Roger Chapman, how it was dug to keep local children safe following the death of a nine-year-old boy on the line in 1878.

The boy's name was William Bowman, and at the time of the accident he was living at 16 Manor Cottages, a row of tiny, terraced dwellings on what is now Manor Cottages Approach, off Long Lane, just before the North Circular Road.

An inquest into his death was held at the Red Lion Tavern, on Red Lion Hill, N2, and a report published in the *Hendon* and *Finchley Times* in September 1878. Several witnesses described how William had been working with his

one train pass before stepping onto the tracks. The noise of the passing engine must have masked the approach of another train travelling in the opposite direction. He was killed immediately.

Family facts

Through looking at the electoral rolls, and registrar documents for the area in the 1800s, we are now able to tell you a little more about the Bowman family.

As for so many families



Tragic accident: A map of the Long Lane area of East Finchley in 1878 showing where William Bowman died crossing the railway line.

Arthur, four, and a one-year-old daughter, Elizabeth. Sarah was a laundress while her husband was a farmer's labourer.

Eight in one cottage

Ten years later, they'd moved to an address in Long Lane, and the family had grown. There were three more boys: Frederick, Harry and lastly William. That's six children to feed, clothe and keep warm on a laundress and labourer's wages, and there was more tragedy in store for this family.

While the eldest boy, Thomas, joined the Royal Navy, the other sons followed their father onto the land. One boy, at least, managed to fly the cramped family nest for there's a record of Frederick marrying a Mary Elizabeth Favell in Islington in 1884, when he would have been about 19.

Long before the discovery of antibiotics, Arthur, like so many others living in overcrowded conditions, succumbed to tuberculosis, then known as

consumption, in October 1886. His death certificate shows he died at 16 Manor Cottages, with his mother Sarah at his bedside.

Daily reminders

The last sighting of the Bowmans is on the 1911 census. By then, Sarah was a 78-year-old widow, living in Hertfordshire with her daughter Elizabeth, who, unusually for the age, never married. She gave her profession as a shop assistant in London and, presumably,

would have travelled along the Great Northern Railway into town every day to get to work, across William's tunnel, which the railway company was ordered to build following his inquest.

Millions of commuters obviously travel the line every year, but I doubt she ever forgot the little brother who died on that line, or the tunnel that is still keeping children and adults safe almost 150 years later.



Safer passage: The underpass built at the crossing point following William's death is still used today.

father, an agricultural labourer, at Park Farm, East End Road, on 7 August, when he was sent home to get some tea at around 4.15pm.

The direct route back to his home went via the Trinity Road crossing, then above the level of the surrounding fields. It appears William had watched

living in Finchley at the time – then a largely working-class, agricultural area – life must have been hard. William's parents were Sarah and William Snr and they first appear on the 1861 census living at '26 East End' when Sarah, then aged 22 and William, 24, already had three children: Thomas, six,

26] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Parish (or Township) of *Finchley* City or Municipal Borough of *Finchley* Municipal Ward of *Finchley* Parliamentary Borough of *Finchley* Town of *Finchley*

ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOWARD No. of HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of Person	Sex
<i>Long Lane</i>		<i>Sarah Bowman</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Female</i>
		<i>Arthur Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Male</i>
		<i>Elizabeth Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>Female</i>
		<i>Frederick Do</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>8</i>	<i>Male</i>
		<i>Harry Do</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>Male</i>
		<i>William Do</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>Male</i>

Family snapshot: An extract from the Census of 1871 showing the entry for Sarah Bowman, 38, and her children Arthur, 14, Elizabeth, 11, Frederick, eight, Harry, six, and William, then aged two.

Plea for recycled crisp packets



Organisers of recycling project Bin There Donate That have thanked everyone who has donated empty crisp packets at the Cherry Tree Café in Cherry Tree Wood and issued a plea.

They've asked if all packets could first be prepared by being washed, dried and cut open down their back seam, as in the photo. This then makes them easy to recycle as warming blankets and useful bags which are given out to homeless people on the street.

Any unwashed packets collected at the café will not be used for this project but instead will go to one of the major supermarkets to their soft plastic recycling locations.

Opened up: How to dry out your crisp packets for recycling

Players fuel up at tennis tournament for Age UK

Earlier in the summer, Our Lady of Muswell Tennis Club, based in Rhodes Avenue, N22, hosted an American doubles tournament in support of Age UK Barnet. In conjunction with Barnet Tennis Club, 30 players enjoyed coffee and home-made cakes followed by three hours of strenuous competition on the courts, before finishing off with lunch. The day raised £600 for the work of Age UK.



Tennis trio: Members of Our Lady of Muswell Tennis Club enjoy their fundraising event.



Hall in a day's work for thriving tech start-up

By John Lawrence

Two years ago, we reported on the launch of new tech start-up Sharesy by East Finchley entrepreneur Felix Atkin, which aims to bring together community venues who have spaces to hire with the people who want to hire them.

Where some start-ups may struggle, Sharesy is soaring. Since February 2022, the company has grown steadily to a team of 10 and generated more than £750,000 in community event bookings for school halls, church halls and other neighbourhood spaces.

This comes at a time when schools in particular need to generate all the extra income they possibly can to pay for rising costs. And it has helped to solve a problem for many people who often don't know where to start when trying to find a venue for a party or special occasion.

Case study:
St Mary's CE Primary School in Finchley Central found its hall lettings dropped off significantly after the pandemic due to lack of time and resources. Those that did come in tied up the school's business manager in reams of paperwork.



The lettings platform set up by Felix Atkin and his team has helped St Mary's get back on track. After falling to a low of £500 per month to an average, hire income is now up to £2,500 per month.

The school is using the money generated to complete projects they'd had to put on hold, such as important building work and new classroom resources.



Founder: Felix Atkin

Why it works

Felix, who has had roles with Sony Playstation and BT in the past, said: "Hiring a school or church hall isn't new, but the experience today requires 30-plus interactions back and forth by email, phone or in person. In most cases, Sharesy has reduced this to zero.

"Existing venue hire platforms focus on marketing for larger venues, as they can generate bigger profits from high-cost bookings but that means smaller community venues are being largely ignored as a result. We focus on the smaller community venues, which are often overlooked and usually in desperate need of help."

Sharesy is expanding across north and west London with 350 venues on offer. Options in East Finchley include Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road and Martin Primary School's two halls and playing field.

Felix says listed venues can generate between £12,000-24,000 on average per year, with top performing venues generating over £120,000 per year. Find out more at Sharesy.com



Trunk call: Barnet Council workers dismantle the felled tree in Cherry Tree Wood

Tree felled in Cherry Tree Wood

By Roger Chapman

Every now and again we lose a tree in Cherry Tree Wood. Recently, a mature oak, over 100 years old, on the main path through the wood was felled. It had been identified by Barnet Council in one of its regular surveys as one that was dead and needed to come down for safety reasons.

Under the recently released Woodland Management Plan all felled wood should remain on-site as dead wood is extremely useful to increase biodiversity and can be used to create natural play or seating.

However, in this case the tree and its stump have been totally removed. The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are in contact with the council to see why this felled wood was removed in this case.



Marionettes: Puppet workshops are on offer

RICKY SAVAGE ...

Artificial Incompetence

Until recently, the only thing that passed as an intelligent lifeform on planet Earth was human. We had evolved enough to order a pizza and operate a remote control. We could even manage to drive a vehicle, walk upright and read without moving our lips. Well, most of us. But not anymore, because someone has come up with the thinking computer.

Artificial intelligence is the new kid on the block, capable of writing an entire work by Dickens in less time than it takes to download *The Archer*. Okay, what it calls a new Dickens may not be anything like Charles ever wrote, but who cares, everyone will want to read Oliver Copperfield, or David Nickleby on their smarter-than-you-are phone. Except it won't be authentic, even if it has the necessary squalor, grime, cliffhangers and happy endings. Why? Because artificial intelligence is just a copycat, not the real deal. That's technology for you.

Who remembers that the lunatics at British Leyland once came up with an intelligent talking car that would tell you to slow down, look out there's a cyclist or you've run out of petrol. On a good day it would refuse to start because it was upset that it was raining. On a bad day it would lose an argument with itself and break down on the North Circular in the rush hour.

But things have moved on since then and now AI can do the full customer service. I know, I tried it and, according to Rip Off Water and Sewage, I'm called Ronald Sausage.

Why not embrace the change, I hear you say, be like the rest of the kids in your class, get AI to do your homework, churn out identikit essays and enjoy the thrill of getting a full Eurovision null points for originality and 100 for cheating? That's the problem, it's not so much artificial intelligence, as its mad brother, artificial stupidity. As my grandmother said, if God had meant us to use computers he'd never have given us the Biro.

Strings on me... for puppets and jazz

Puppetry and jazz are two of the new projects started this year by the DaCapo Saturday Music Centre, based at Wren Academy in North Finchley.

Funded by the National Lottery, the Afternoon of Music and Puppets is open to children, adults and families. It combines puppetry with music-making skills and is in partnership with the renowned Little Angel Theatre.

Meanwhile, the Saturday morning jazz band is led by Austin Carroll, a prize-winning jazz trumpet graduate from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, who has developed an approach to teaching jazz incorporating movement and voice as well as the actual playing.

DaCapo Saturday Music Centre also runs a mix of one-to-one instrumental lessons, ensembles and musicianship classes, with two free choirs, one for children and one for adults, and open to all.

Find out more about visiting or joining from September at www.dacapo.co.uk/saturday-centre

Former councillor

John Davies, who served as a Labour councillor for East Finchley from 1982 to 1994, has died aged 82.

He also served for a time as leader of the Labour group in Barnet. John came to national attention in the 1987 General Election when he stood against the incumbent Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in her Finchley constituency. She was re-elected of course but he succeeded in denting her majority.



Shop windows: Hilary's sketch of the high street in Highgate shows the intricate detail in every building

Beauty in the brickwork

By John Lawrence

Sometimes it takes a special eye to appreciate the architectural qualities of the buildings we all walk past every day and Hilary Masetti is an artist with such a talent. Her ink and watercolour sketches of some of our local landmarks really bring out their man-made beauty.

You may have seen Hilary and her work at East Finchley Festival in June and last year's I Love N2 pop-up markets - and she's already a regular at Muswell Hill Creatives events, having started her Hilary Sketches business just two years ago.

Highgate and Crouch End."

Materials and method

She works from photos taken from different angles in good light, and sketches the basic outlines in pencil, before adding detail in black ink. She then uses ink and watercolour pencil or ink and brush pen to



Artist: Hilary Masetti



Front of house: Hilary's portrait of the Phoenix Cinema

Local buildings

A local favourite is her colourful sketch of the Phoenix Cinema, and she captured the charm of a row of shops in Highgate high street as a commission for a 40th birthday which was received very warmly. Her sketch of The Flask in Highgate, incorporating its handsome brickwork, beer garden and St Michael's Church in the background, was a favourite at Highgate's Fair in the Square, also in June.

Hilary said she enjoyed drawing the Phoenix in particular because it is an iconic building with so much history behind it. She said: "I am constantly inspired by the stunning architecture found in all pockets of London but especially the local areas of Muswell Hill, East Finchley,

capture their vibrancy, colouring them to show how the light hits them and highlights their features. Often she includes a special human touch like a child pointing at a window display or someone walking their dog.

Hilary added: "I set up my business just two years ago and it's going better than I could have imagined. I have enjoyed drawing from a very young age and benefited hugely from having this as a hobby throughout my life. Being able to do this as a full-time job now with my own studio is an absolute dream come true."

Hilary sells prints and greeting cards of all her work and posts new sketches on her Instagram page @hilarysketches. Find out more on her website www.hilarysketches.co.uk

What's On at the Phoenix in August

By Zalan Pall, general manager



The simultaneous arrival of two much anticipated movies, now labelled on the internet as Barbenheimer, is the cinema event of the year, and along with live opera and theatre, it is happening at the Phoenix Cinema in August.

Playing until Thursday 3 August is Christopher Nolan's much-praised account of the father of the atomic bomb. *Oppenheimer* has been hailed by critics as one of the most important films ever made.

Seen as a hero to many, within a few years Oppenheimer would be vilified as a turncoat and a threat to his country. The film is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of Robert Oppenheimer* and features a moving performance in the title role by Cillian Murphy, of *Peaky Blinders* fame.

Then in Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* from Friday 4 August, Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colourful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover

the joys and perils of living among humans. It's a vibrantly coloured comedy that's also earning great reviews.

For the lovers of arts live, we have a theatrical play and an opera. It is World War II and the boots of the Third Reich echo through the streets of Europe. But on a quiet city corner in the Netherlands, some choose to resist. Corrie Ten Boom and her family risk everything to hide Jewish refugees by the hundreds, and they ultimately face the consequences when they are discovered. *The Hiding Place*, showing on Wednesday 16 August, is their story. This powerful stage presentation was filmed for cinema audiences in Nashville, Tennessee. The following evening on Thursday 17 August, we are screening a performance of Puccini's opera masterpiece *Turandot*, filmed under the stars in the beautiful and historic Arena di Verona.

For full details of our August programme and to book seats, drop into our foyer or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Music festival in the Suburb raises funds to tune of £50,000

By David Melsome

Annual music and literary festival Proms at St Jude's, held in Hampstead Garden Suburb in the last week of June, notched up another success in its 31st year, pulling in large audiences and raising £50,000 for its two charities.

"After three pandemic-struck years, we were back towards 2019 audience levels," said Ron Finlay, Proms Trustee. The money raised each year is donated to Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice.

Concerts in the 2023 season ranged from Mendelssohn and Beethoven to Viennese favourites, Broadway and jazz standards, and a new arrangement of the score for Fritz Lang's silent movie masterpiece *Metropolis*.

The festival hosted a Schools' Prom involving nine local schools and held a Fanfare Competition for young people. Prize winners in the 11-13 and 14-18 category respectively were Joseph Sainsbury and Nemunis Jusiones, whose Coronation-inspired pieces were played at the start of two of the concerts.

The LitFest weekend hosted top authors such as Times writer Daniel Finkelstein, BBC broadcaster Justin Webb and food guru Henry Dimbleby, talking about and signing



In the nave: A Proms concert at St Jude's

copies of their books.

"Proms at St Jude's was blessed with a week of wonderful weather which really brought out the crowds for our events," said Chair Kate Webster. "We are very grateful to everyone involved, in particular our generous sponsors, supporters and audience members, as well as our very

committed volunteers without whom there would be no festival."

Thinking ahead

The Proms team is holding an Open House at Fellowship House, 136A Willifield Way, NW11 6YD from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursday 28 September 2023 people interested in volunteering for next year.



Letters

Caterpillar warning

Dear Editor,

At risk of repeating a warning in previous *Archers*, I would like to advise readers of the dangers of some caterpillars. A few months ago I spotted for the first time quantities of them in my back garden.

Keen to rescue my surviving plants (pre and post slug attacks) I picked them up. Within 24 hours I was afflicted with large, painful and itchy weals all over my body and felt terribly unwell with an extreme allergic reaction. Three different prescribed medications failed to conquer it. Finally I needed a steroid course, which thankfully worked.

I should point out that these caterpillars do not develop into attractive butterflies but moths and can reduce your best woollens to Airtex. This is a cautionary tale which the majority including myself are unaware of.

Children especially might be at risk, as they are quite pretty all brownish with yellow features and look harmless, but if handled may have dire consequences.

Name and address supplied.

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.

Musical lover

Dear Editor,

Is there a lover of chamber music in East Finchley who would like to accompany me, free of charge, to two concerts at Kings Place near Kings Cross station?

One is on Sunday 8 October featuring the Strings of the Royal Opera House, and music by Richard Strauss, Mozart and Brahms. The other is with the Diotima Quartet, with music by Ligeti and Janacek, on Wednesday 11 October.

I have mobility problems, so a car driver would be a bonus for me but not absolutely necessary. Please send details with phone number to me c/o The Archer. Email news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message for free on 0800 612 0748. Barbara, Address supplied.

Fond memories of Lucia Chandler

By Diana Cormack

Back in the 1950s a Spanish woman in her twenties bravely left her hometown of Madrid to start a new life in this country. She took a job in south London, improving her English as she worked as a domestic help.



Familiar faces: Juan Carlos and his late mother Lucia

Whatever the plans for her future might have been, she found her path when she met Ernest Chandler, an Englishman who was learning Spanish as a hobby. They married and lived in Maidstone, where their two sons Michal and Juan Carlos were born.

Some of you may recognise that name, for Juan Carlos told *The Archer* that he and his mother were well known in East Finchley. They lived in the area for 36 years, after his late father took a job as a caretaker at Pardes House School in Hendon Lane, Finchley Central.

For the last 17 of those years Lucia lived in Mulberry Court, Bedford Road, N2. She loved the local paper and always asked Juan Carlos if it had been delivered downstairs. Being an *Archer* fan himself, Juan Carlos

was usually able to assure her that it had.

Unfortunately, in 2014 Lucia had a fall and broke her hip, after which she used a wheelchair and Juan Carlos became his mother's carer. He described how they would visit local cafés and supermarkets, where his mum was always chatty and smiling with the staff and the people she met out and about. Often, just for fun, she would slip some Spanish phrases into the conversation.

Sadly, Lucia passed away two days before Christmas last year at the grand old age of 95. Juan Carlos has fond memories of his dear mother and wonders if others have too. Perhaps you might like to share them with him? If so, you can reach him at juancarloschandler@googlemail.com



Teams spirit: Players from the GRDNS Netball League enjoy their end-of-season play-off

Netball players already cheering for start of new season ahead

By Lucy Moorman

Season Two of the GRDNS Netball League reached its joyful conclusion at the end of June with an evening of play-off matches on the outdoor court at the Archer Academy in East Finchley.

There are six teams in the league, women of all ages and abilities who share their love of netball, and the fun, friendships and fitness which goes with it.

Tigers Too took the gold medal after a tight match against Tetherdown Tigers. The low 9-6 scoreline reflected some tough defending in both circles which limited the shooters' chances to score. Ultimately, consistency and teamwork gave Tiger Too the edge.

Earlier in the evening,

Martin's Bluebirds scored a convincing 21-13 win against Archer Arrows to secure third place. The Bluebirds' skilful passing in the circle and sensational shooting proved decisive.

The fifth-sixth place play-off was a hot, sweaty five-a-side between the Shooting Stars and RNDMS, with Shooting Stars winning 15-3. Both teams were helped by excellent ringers from other teams who stepped in to make up numbers: typical of the supportive ethos of the league.

Happiest league around

Big thanks went to the brilliant young umpires who run the lines every Wednesday. The inspirational organiser, Somayah Farooq, says the secret of the GRDNS league is that it's "a community of

ladies, sharing the same passion and values, who come together, bond, make new friends and stay fit because of their love of the game."

Players talk about how friendly and supportive it is. "You can be comfortable whatever level you are." "I love it! It's competitive, friendly, fun and great exercise." And a couple of mums admitted it's a great way to avoid the kids' bedtime!

Season Three begins on Wednesday 6 September and the league is looking for new players. You can commit to a team and/or join the ringers group. If you love netball and want to join the happiest league in north London, email tetherdownnetball@gmail.com.

Respected reporter and newsreader

We were sorry to hear the news that BBC foreign correspondent turned newsreader George Algaiah died last month aged 67 from the bowel cancer that he had originally been diagnosed with in 2014.

Mr Algaiah, who is survived by his wife of 40 years Frances and their two sons, lived for a period in Summerlee Avenue, N2, and was an ardent supporter of the Nazareth House assisted living home in East End Road, where his father lived.

Did you know?

The Archer is printed each month on paper made from 100% recycled fibre, mostly retrieved from old newspapers collected by local authorities around the country. It is made here in the UK in King's Lynn in Norfolk, some 50km from our printers Sharman and Co in Peterborough.

All Saints' East Finchley
Living the Catholic faith in the Church of England

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

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: allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk

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Reluctant artist wins over the Royal Academy

By Lynn Winton

An eight-year-old boy's vivid artwork with an uncompromising message has won the hearts of the judges at the Royal Academy Young Artists Summer Show.

Nico Ogden is in Year 3 at Tetherdown School, Muswell Hill. When he heard about the opportunity to create a painting to be submitted for possible inclusion at the summer exhibition, he didn't find the prospect very appealing.

He said: "I really didn't want to do it but my mum kind of forced me. So I wrote these words and made them 3D and coloured it in. Then I realised I did want to do it. Art is fun when you put your mind to it."

The painting says: 'I don't want to enter the Royal Academy art competition.' The judges obviously got the joke and chose his work from more than 21,000 entries to be part of the Young Artists Summer Show until 13 August. Admission to the exhibition at the Academy in Burlington Gardens, central London, is free. Find out more at www.royalacademy.org.uk.



He's been framed: Nico Ogden at the summer exhibition and, left, his chosen art work in close-up

Aileen has two works selected for summer show

By Lynn Winton

Artist Aileen Jampel is no stranger to The Royal Academy, where her artworks have been selected to hang in their Summer Exhibition no less than five times. This year visitors can spot two of her colourful works, and both have sold within days of the opening.



Artist: Aileen Jampel

Aileen, who has lived in East Finchley since 1958 and continuously created art since her teens, originally studied at Hornsey School of Art and now attends a weekly art and printmaking class at The Working Men's College in Kentish Town. She's particularly inspired by David Hockney and Matisse and their daring colours.

We met in Amic on the High Road, N2, her favourite cafe, accompanied by her daughter Melanie Coates, who acts as her agent and facilitator,



Hillside scene: One of Aileen's two works chosen by the Royal Academy

and who also lives in East Finchley. Growing up with such a creative mother, it is hardly a surprise that Melanie also has links to The Royal Academy, where she has led their primary school workshops.

Whilst art has been a huge part of her life, Aileen's interests are not confined to that alone. She regularly attends concerts, theatre and Wimbledon, plays bridge and keeps fit with weekly pilates sessions. At home in Edmund's

Walk she's happy to spend the day drawing in the garden. "And once I get started I just can't stop".

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition runs till August 20th. Find out more at royalacademy.co.uk