

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**



Star turn: Actor Celia Imrie, producer Cat White and director Amelia Sears at the Phoenix premiere.  
 Photo Adriana Saetta

## Phoenix premiere for film exploring coercive control

The Phoenix Cinema hosted the premiere of a short film late last year in the presence of its stars Celia Imrie, Juliet Stevenson and

*Call the Midwife's* Hannah Morrish.

*Ceres* was written by Morrish, directed by Amelia Sears and produced by Cat White from

award-winning Kusini Productions. A modern retelling of the myth of Ceres and Proserpina, the film is inspired by true events and tells the story of a daughter seeking refuge from her emotionally abusive partner at the home of her estranged mother.

Morrish said: "I wrote *Ceres* to explore the complexities of coercive control, specifically without the presence of the perpetrator. Too often, the perpetrator is put front and centre in screen depictions of emotional abuse. Instead, I wanted to explore the effects of intimate partner abuse on a mother-daughter relationship, weaving in the myth of the mother and daughter relationship of Ceres and Proserpina. It is a profound myth, and one that reminds us of the power of female bonds."

The Phoenix premiere was held ahead of the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The filmmakers are working alongside Women's Aid to fundraise and advocate for their mission.

## Arts and music event comes to the High Road

By Diana Cormack

A weekend festival of arts and live music later this month will be the next event in East Finchley Town Team's drive to bring more people to the High Road to support local shops, cafés and restaurants.

'High Road Live' will run from Saturday 28 to Sunday 29 January, with associated events in the two previous weeks. It follows on from the Town Team's successful 'Sustainability' day back in September.

Activities will be centred at the Finchley Youth Centre and the Phoenix Cinema but included in the weekend and the fortnight prior will be the Bald Faced Stag, Maddens and the Old White Lion, who will be hosting live music, open mic sessions, quiz nights and jazz.

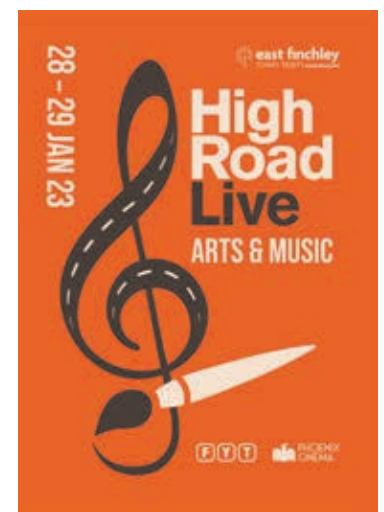
On Saturday 28 January, up-and-coming talent will be on show at Finchley Youth Centre, 142 High Road, with Fixation Academy of Performing Arts offering free activities and workshops, as follows:

- 2.45pm Glitter art (with sustainable glitter) and music in the foyer, followed by workshops for 11-16 year olds in the theatre and dance studio.
- 3pm-3.45pm: Drumming and Tik Tok Dance
- 4pm-4.45pm: Contemporary Dance and Songwriting/Singing
- 5pm-5.45pm: Musical Theatre and Youth Theatre Acting

Drop-in sessions at the rear of Finchley Youth Centre from 3pm-5.45pm include Lego (on International Lego Day) and art-drawing workshops.

All workshops are free and bookable through Fixation's website: fixationacademy.co.uk. A limited number of spaces will be available on the door. There will be waiting areas for parents and friends.

Visit fixationacademy.co.uk/children-classes for details of other free taster sessions for 3-16 year olds in January.



On Sunday 29 January activities take place in the Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, where three special films will be shown.

- 12pm: *Matilda the Musical*, at
- 4.30pm: *Grease* is the word and you can dress up and join in
- 7.30pm Steven Spielberg's autobiographical new movie *The Fabelmans*.

See [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) for booking information.

### East Finchley's Got Talent

At 2.30pm, the Phoenix will also host East Finchley's Got Talent to be co-hosted by MOBO award winner Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock from East Finchley Festival and members of the Town Team. At 6.30pm, the bar will be open and there'll be a chance to check out the East Finchley Open Artists' photography exhibition in the foyer.

Activities and information may be updated throughout January so keep an eye on the website [www.ILoveN2.co.uk/high-road-live](http://www.ILoveN2.co.uk/high-road-live) and follow the Town Team socials @eftownteam for updates.

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<b>Copy Editor</b> John Lawrence	<b>Production Editor</b> Alison Roberts	<b>Finance</b> David Marsh
<b>Sub Editors</b> Ann Bronkhorst Lucy Moorman	<b>Advertising</b> Richard Tank	<b>Editorial Team</b> Nick Allan, Ruth Anders, Daphne Chamberlain, Diana Cormack,
<b>Picture Editor</b> Mike Coles	<b>Distribution</b> Toni Morgan, Jane & David Marsh	David Gritten, David Hobbs, Janet Maitland, Lynn Winton

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

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## Attempted robbery

By Janet Maitland

A teenage girl was threatened with a knife as she walked along a heavily used pedestrian path in East Finchley on Friday 2 December.

She was just coming out of The Walks from Leslie Road and onto Park Gate at around 6.15pm when a man with a knife confronted her and demanded all her money.

The girl managed to escape by running home where her parents called 999. Police carried out a search of the area but could find no trace of the man or any evidence.

The girl's parents checked the CCTV in the nearest corner shop, where images were found of a man matching their daughter's description of his black and white tracksuit with the hood pulled down.

### Appeal for information

Enquiries are ongoing and anyone with any information should call 101 with crime reference number 5574/2DEC. If you want to remain any-

mous, call 0800 555111 or go online at [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org). Crimestoppers is an independent charity, not the police.

## Proms triumph

The Proms at St Jude's music and arts season in June raised a magnificent £50,000 for its two partner charities, North London Hospice and Toynbee Hall. Organisers said they were particularly grateful for everyone's support in these challenging economic times. They are already working on the programme for Proms 2023, which will run from 24 June to 2 July.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<b>Councils</b>		<b>Help &amp; Advice</b>		Health Info Service	0800 665544
<b>Barnet Council</b>	020 8359 2000	Childline	0800 1111	MIND	020 8343 5700
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600	Citizens Advice Barnet	0300 4568365	National Blood Centre	0845 7711 7711
Benefits	0800 882200	Cruse Bereavement Care	0808 8081677		
<b>Haringey Council</b>	020 8489 0000	EF Advice Service	0300 4568365	<b>Crime</b>	
Recycling & refuse	020 88857700	Lone Parent Centre	020 3828 4834	Emergency	999
Benefits	020 8489 2800	Missing Persons Helpline	116 000	Police non-emergency	101
		National Debt Line	0808 156 7718	CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
<b>Leisure</b>		NSPCC	0808 8005000	Victim Support	0845 303 0900
Alexandra Palace	020 8365 2121	Rape Crisis helpline	0808 802 9999		
East Finchley Library	020 8359 3815	Refuge Crisis Helpline	0808 2000 247	<b>Hospitals</b>	
Everyman, Muswell Hill	0872 436 9060	Relate Helpline	0300 100 1234	NHS	111
Garden Suburb Library	020 8458 3301	RSPCA	0300 1234 999	Barnet General	08451 114000
Muswell Hill Library	020 8489 8773	Samaritans	116 123	Edgware General	020 8952 2381
Phoenix Cinema	020 8444 6789	SENDIASS Barnet	020 8359 7637	Finchley Memorial	020 8349 7500
Tarling Rd Community Ctr	02070186560	SENDIASS Haringey	020 3667 5233	Oak Lane Clinic	020 8346 9343
Vue, North Finchley	0345 3084620			Royal Free	020 7794 0500
		<b>Health Advice</b>		Whittington	020 7272 3070
<b>Transport</b>		AIDSline	020 8363 2141		
National Rail	0845 7484950	Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555	<b>OAPs' Advice</b>	
City Airport	020 7646 0088	Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688	Age UK Barnet	020 8203 5040
Heathrow Airport	0844 3351801	Cancer Support	020 8202 2211	Independent Age	0800 319 6789
National Express	0871 781 8181	Carers' Line	0808 808 7777	Age UK	0800 169 2081
TfL	0343 222 1234	Drinkline	0800 917 8282		
Thameslink	0345 026 4700	Drugs Helpline	0800 776600		

## Abandoned skip attracts unwanted attention

By Diana Cormack

Not many people know the name of Brompton Grove, though it is well used, particularly for parking on the approach to East Finchley station. It is the unmade-up road which runs alongside the park fence from Summerlee Avenue to Cherry Tree Wood's High Road entrance.

The uneven surface needs careful negotiation and many attempts have been made by locals to fill in the numerous potholes. You won't find much rubbish though, as one admirable resident does regular



Piled high: The overflowing skip in Brompton Grove. Photo Mike Coles

litter-picks there.

However, his example has not been followed by whoever is responsible for the unsightly skip that has been left standing at the side for several months. Fancy a barbecue for the summer season? There was one left there last month.

At the time of writing snow is thankfully covering the pile of debris mounting up in and around the skip. But as the pile grows, so do the fears of some of the residents nearby, with one worry being the possibility of rats.

Rubbish attracts rubbish and the presence of this overflowing skip is an insult to those who strive to keep the Cherry Tree Wood area in good condition for

the physical and mental health of its users. Local councillors are investigating what can be done.

However, Brompton Grove is an unadopted road, so is not maintained by the local authority. Barnet Council may not have been asked for a skip hire licence and may not have known it was there. They do now, so hopefully the new year will bring an end to this unhygienic and unwelcome heap, much to the relief of all those who are sick of the sight of it.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Barnet Council

#### 5 Beaumont Close, N2

Re. planning permission for three-storey block of flats to replace existing building. Variation to include: addition of lift overrun and relocation of chimneys; new emergency escape stair added to rear; relocation of west facade; extension of south facade porch; window amendments, including car lift window, minor horizontal realignment of east windows, opaque glazing to north windows, raising height of south gable window; minor reduction of roof balustraded area; relocation of plant from roof to ground level; addition of vents at ground floor level; minor internal rearrangement.

#### 17 Cromwell Close, N2

Change of use from single family dwelling to house in multiple occupation for three people.

#### 161 East End Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Changes to fenestration. Rear carport to replace existing

garage. Changes to front landscaping, including hardstanding to provide one off street parking space.

#### 29 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Part single, part two-storey side/rear extension, following demolition of existing rear extension.

#### 62 Hertford Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extensions, following demolition of existing rear conservatory and side chimney. One additional front entrance with new access steps. Roof extension, including raising ridge height, two rear dormers, and five front rooflights. One obscure glazed side gable window to provide conversion of two flats to two single family dwelling-houses. Associated alterations to doors and windows. Also to landscaping, including new raised patio, installation of glass balustrade and railing to front, access ramp, side/front gate and railing to side. Cycle, refuse and recycling storage.

#### 12-18 High Road, N2

Details of carbon dioxide emission reduction measures; delivery and service plan, waste water network and surface water network upgrades. Also details of play equipment, gated access and biodiversity improvements.

#### 343 High Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with new patio area. New vehicular access and front hardstanding to provide off-street parking. New access steps to main entrance.

#### 19 Huntingdon Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear L-shape dormer and two front rooflights.

#### 63 Leslie Road, N2

Replacement and enlargement of rear door opening.

#### 366 Long Lane, N2 (Chasewood Lodge)

Conversion of two self-contained flats to single family dwelling, including single-storey rear extension, new front porch, changes to side fenestration and insertion of side rooflights.

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# Ancient stone arrowhead comes to light in Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

“One day last year I was watching a bird. I looked up, then down, and there it was at my feet.” Philip Hogg, a Haringey resident and a regular dogwalker, had almost trodden on an early Neolithic arrowhead in Coldfall Wood. Luckily he was not barefoot.



Ancient weapon: The arrowhead found in Coldfall Wood

The photo shows a leaf-shaped, nicely napped object, still capable of giving a cut or two. It is thought to date from 4,500 to 1,500 BC and is one of many small archaeological finds such as weapon parts, pottery shards and coins discovered in London over the years. This, however, is much earlier than most such finds.

In the 1940s a Neolithic axe head was found in Windermere Road, Muswell Hill, but little else has emerged in Haringey. As Adam Single of Historic England says, “Our understanding of the early human occupation of the area is not great.”

Adam is one of several experts consulted about this arrowhead. He clarified its ownership: like most similar finds it belongs to the landowner, in this case Haringey, and not the finder. Digital infor-

mation about it will become available to anyone, however, on the Portable Antiquities Scheme site at [finds.org.uk](http://finds.org.uk). Another helpful source of expertise in this case was the Finds Liaison Officer at the Museum of London, Stuart Wyatt.

### Local museum

Where should the actual arrowhead find a home? Philip should hear more this month from the experts who are examining it. The consensus is Bruce Castle Museum in Haringey, where the curator, Deborah Hedgecock, hopes to welcome it to the museum’s fascinating and varied collection. *The Archer* (appropriately) will tell readers when and where to view it. Meanwhile, back in the wood, the arrowhead’s exact resting place for the last 4,000 or so years must remain unidentified.

# Car ends up inside caravan



This was the extraordinary result of a crash between a car and a stationary caravan in The Bishops Avenue, N2, last month. *Archer* reader Joss Woolf took these photos after spotting the scene on Sunday 4 December. “It looked as though the car had driven right inside the caravan. Pretty spectacular!” said Joss.

No one is thought to have been seriously injured in the collision but the powerful VW car was badly damaged and the caravan’s rear end was torn apart, with many of its contents including pots of paint strewn across the road.

Double parked: Above and below, the VW car embedded firmly in the back of the destroyed caravan. Photos Joss Woolf.



# Solicitor struck off and must pay back £760,000 to clients

By David Melsome

**An East Finchley solicitor has been struck off and has agreed to pay back £760,000 after a disciplinary tribunal ruled that he had dishonestly overcharged clients.**

George Nosworthy, 79, ran Cree Godfrey and Wood in the High Road, N2, a firm with a more than 200-year history of providing legal services, until it was suddenly shut down in March 2021 when allegations against him came to light. At the time, hundreds of his existing clients had their files transferred to an intervening agent based in Bournemouth.

In four specific cases considered by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal in November Mr Nosworthy admitted overcharging clients to a total of £474,110 by invoicing for work that had not been done and transferring money from their estates into his business.

The panel considered that, given the serious nature of his misconduct, including his admitted dishonesty, the appropriate sanction was to strike him off the Roll of Solicitors.

### Stresses and failures

In mitigation, Mr Nosworthy admitted that he was “old school” and struggled to keep up with changes to legislation and the complex requirements of running a busy legal practice. He regularly worked more than 80 hours a week.

He told the panel that he felt stressed 24 hours a day, felt harassed by clients because he fell behind from time to time, failed to bill properly on matters if at all, failed to maintain proper records and had no effective time recording systems.

He admitted charging the four clients for work that hadn’t been done and dishonestly transferring money from their estates.



Dishonest: George Nosworthy

### Repayment

Mr Nosworthy, who became a solicitor in 1965, told the tribunal that the suspension of his firm in 2021 came as a “welcome relief” and meant he could stop working seven days a week. He and his 74-year-old wife have since sold the business premises in the High Road and their family home of 35 years in order to create a £760,000 fund to repay all their creditors. The parties agreed costs of £36,157.00.

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# Give yourself the gift of getting involved in 2023

*The New Year is an ideal time to try a new challenge or find ways to support others. Here two East Finchley residents reveal the rewards they have found in volunteering. First, Amanda McGrath explains how she has become involved with Driving Aid to Ukraine. When the world changed under lockdown, my business as a fabric agent supplying the fashion retail trade slowed down and I took that as an opportunity to volunteer for Barnet, packing food parcels going to the families that were isolating. It gave me a wonderful opportunity to meet new people. I found it extremely rewarding to be able to give my time for free and support people who needed help.*

Then when the war in Ukraine started, I initially joined the national scheme to take in a family as I felt the need to help and support people forced to flee their own country. My mother was a refugee from Gdansk before the Second World War and I was aware how this could be any of us, at any time.

Luckily I always read *The Archer* from cover to cover and, as the grim news about the war escalated, I saw the article about East Finchley resident Michael Byrne and his organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine.

I volunteered to help and, under Michael's guidance,

I'm creating connections with dynamic organisations and people to raise awareness, money and goods. Lacking experience in this field I've found it both challenging and rewarding but I'm so pleased I have got involved.

The organisation drives a seven-ton truck to Ukraine regularly, delivering vital aid such as medical supplies, baby food, and warm clothes now that their punishing winter has arrived. Driving Aid to Ukraine is a small but growing organisation and anyone who would like to join us on this venture is most welcome.

I've lived in East Finchley for over 28 years and raised three sons here and I love the village atmosphere and the supportive community. Before the onset of Covid and the Ukraine war I'd never had the opportunity to stop and rethink the never-ending daily task of work to support my family.

Now I would urge anyone who has the time and possibility to come and join us, or check out the regular volunteers column here in *The Archer*; there are so many local initiatives and charities that will welcome you with open arms. Find out more at [drivingaidtoukraine.org](http://drivingaidtoukraine.org)



Wartime mission: Amanda McGrath with Michael Byrne, who drives aid to Ukraine

*Louis Victor moved to East Finchley four years ago, already knowing that he liked the village feel, amenities and location. He explains how volunteering for Finchley Foodbank has only added to his sense of belonging.*

**What surprised us when we moved to East Finchley was the really strong and supportive community feel of the area embodied by big things like the Festival, the N2 Food Project, Grange Big Local, N2 United and Finchley Foodbank, but also by small things like the vibe of the local social media groups and other kindnesses seen daily on our streets.**

My retirement plan was to try to work to help my local community and as a Foodbank volunteer I have started to achieve this. I began on Fridays, sorting donations ready for Saturday clients and in midweek, pre-packing bags of groceries.

Groceries are no longer pre-bagged as the Foodbank now gives clients the pleasure (and dignity) of making their own selections in person. When Tuesdays were reorganised into a second day of 'client' sessions I was initially nervous about how I would feel meeting and assisting the clients and who they would be... but the whole point is that there is no 'they'.

Foodbank clients are not 'they', they are 'us', simply normal people who, for reasons beyond their control, need help at a given time to provide enough food for themselves and their families.

Everyone that I have met has been so friendly, the clients have diverse needs but clearly recognise us for what we are, a voluntary organization doing our best to help. Meanwhile, my fellow volunteers are lovely. I was 40 years a librarian, mainly in schools, and after retirement I was really missing the camaraderie of working in a close team but I am already feeling something of the same closeness with my Foodbank colleagues.

I would urge anyone who can to become a Foodbank volunteer. There are a wide range of days and tasks for which help is needed and you don't need to



Help at home: Louis Victor volunteers at Finchley Foodbank

be available every week. If you can't volunteer please continue to donate food individually or within a group.

The list of most-urgent items appears weekly on the Finchley Foodbank Facebook page and items can be brought in person on Fridays (11am-2pm) to St Mary's RC Church, 279 High Road N2 or left at the receiving point in Sainsbury's.

Items that are always welcome include: cereals, soap, UHT milk, baked beans, tea, tinned tomatoes, tinned corned beef, pies and ham, tins of cus-

tard/rice pudding, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, toilet rolls, biscuits, rice, soup, tuna, sardines & mackerel, washing tablets/capsules, jars of coffee, cooking oil, sugar, honey, jam, crackers, sanitary wear, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo (2in1), and shower gel.

Finally, monetary donations are also of great worth in keeping the Foodbank stocked and running. More details of all ways to help are available at [www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk/give-support](http://www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk/give-support)

## BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton of N2United

**Proms at St Jude's** in Hampstead Garden Suburb needs enthusiastic and capable volunteers to join committees working year round to put on the festival. Whether it's education, fund-raising, music planning, social media, catering or logistics, they'll try to match you with the kind of task you would be happy to undertake, whatever time commitment you can offer. Find out more at [www.promsatstjudes.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk/volunteering).

**Driving Aid to Ukraine** is a non-profit organisation based in N2 started by local resident Michael Byrne, who personally delivers lorries of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian conflict zones, via border transfer points. The project requires volunteers to help scale up by building and sustaining a social media campaign, fundraising and grant writing. This is a fantastic opportunity to use your skills to bring vital aid to utterly devastated people and learn about the international aid sector at a grassroots level. Please get in touch with Michael at 07791 912389 or visit [drivingaidtoukraine.org](http://drivingaidtoukraine.org)

A crucial element of **Finchley Foodbank**, based at St Mary's church hall in the High Road, N2, is its volunteering team. They are sensitive to the needs of the clients, work from a position of trust and are great team players. Roles range from receiving deliveries and sorting food donations to restocking shelves and staffing a Tuesday and Saturday session. If this could be you, please email [finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com)

Could you spare an hour or so a week to make a real difference to an older isolated person? **Age UK Barnet** is looking for befrienders to offer friendly chats, support and companionship. The charity also needs walking buddies to help older people to get out and about. Just a couple of hours a week of your time could make a big difference to an older person in East Finchley. As a thank you volunteers receive a free day pass from The Muswell Hill Gym where you can spend a day using all the facilities. Please contact volunteer manager Lisa on 020 8432 1422 or email [lisa.robbs@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:lisa.robbs@ageukbarnet.org.uk)



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.



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# Leisure centre could be moved to town centre

By John Lawrence

The future of the Finchley Lido Leisure Centre has been thrown into question after Barnet Council opened a public consultation inviting users and residents to give their views.

One suggestion is that the swimming pool and gym complex at the Great North Leisure Park could be demolished and relocated closer to the town centre in North Finchley.

Alternatively, a new centre could be built on the existing site, depending on the lease of the leisure park, which is itself on the market as a standing asset or with redevelopment potential.

He said: "At this stage, this is just an exploration of options, which is why we want to speak with residents and local community groups to get their views. No decision has been made yet, and we would like to hear from anyone with an interest in its future"

You can give your views at one of three 'community conversation pop up events' to be hosted at Finchley Lido Leisure



Set to close? The Finchley Lido gym and swimming pool complex

**End of life after 26 years**  
Finchley Lido Leisure Centre was built in 1995-96 and is operated by Better on behalf of the London Borough of Barnet. It took the place of a popular outdoor swimming pool on the same site, which closed in the early 1990s.

Barnet Council says the existing Lido building is nearing its end of life and not fit for purpose long-term. It was closed for an extended period three years ago while repairs were made to the roof and a new ventilation system installed.

**Residents' views sought**  
Barnet's Housing and Growth Committee Chair, Cllr Ross Houston, said it needs replacing with a more modern and more sustainable alternative.

Centre on Monday 9 January from 5pm to 8pm and Tuesday 10 January 2023 from 8am to 10am, and outside Starbucks in North Finchley town centre on Wednesday 11 January from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

You can give your online opinion by going to <https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/all-consultations> and looking for 'Finchley Lido Leisure Centre engagement'. To request a paper questionnaire or another format email [sport@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:sport@barnet.gov.uk) or telephone 020 8359 7704. Alternatively you can write to: London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW.

**The closing date for the consultation is Monday 23 January.**



Team colours: Fiona Doyle (left) and Giuseppe Sollo (second from right) with the East Finchley men's football squad made up of N2 Food Project volunteers and friends

## Food and football are teammates

By David Gritten

Anyone who routinely walks along East Finchley High Road on a Tuesday morning, and passes the Phoenix Cinema, will have noticed the team of volunteers by its entrance, giving out food to local people in need.

Some 200 free meals, cooked by volunteer chefs, are taken to the Phoenix each week, in a scheme organised by the N2 Food Project that has been operating for just over two years. Under the aegis of East Finchley Neighbourhood Support (EFNS), the scheme has gone from strength to strength.

### Spotted by the League

It's been a remarkable couple of years for the project, but in the past two months there has been even more good news: a football team put together by N2 Food Project chef Giuseppe Sollo was given the chance to parade its players' talents on the football field.

They were invited to join the Barnet Sunday Football League, ranked as a Division 6 league by the Football Association, after a game against a Clapham-based team who'd been following the activities of the N2 Food Project, and for a charity match. A commissioner for the League swiftly invited the N2 Food Project team to join the league in their own right and EFNS FC was born.

The squad, backed by EFNS, now features players from that Clapham team as well as East Finchley locals. And no game

is merely a game. As EFNS project manager Fiona Doyle points out: "We use each match to promote the N2 Food Project, and encourage people either to donate to the project, or to come along and volunteer."



### Local businesses line up

It's a heartening story, and it helps that some businesses in East Finchley have become involved. Fiona names Maurizio, of Amici Deli, who is now EFNS FC's main sponsor, and who watches every game, even taking on the role of lines-

man when necessary. Oakdale Pharmacy has provided first aid supplies, while Emra and Bedran from King Street Food & Wine have come on board as a coach and player respectively. "They've made a massive difference in terms of getting us into shape as a team," Fiona notes.

All this adds up to a thoughtful, unselfish way to enjoy watching and playing soccer. No one gets rich, everyone seems to relish the joy of each game, while the sportsmanship displayed by these small local clubs is an object lesson to professional footballers everywhere. It's another triumph for the N2 Food Project and East Finchley Neighbourhood Support, who have done so much to help local people in need.

## Socceroos support from ex-pats

By Daphne Chamberlain

Argentina may have won the World Cup, but they were given a run for their money on their way to the final. One of their most interesting matches was against new footballing nation Australia.

Cheering on the Aussies was Brian Timms, brought up in East Finchley but now living Down Under in Moruya, New South Wales. He told *The Archer*: "At least three ex-East Finchley *Archer* readers in Oz were thrilled by the Socceroos' reaching the World Cup Finals. Pubs and clubs across Oz were packed by supporters watching Australia defeat Denmark 1-0 to reach the last 16."

Once through, they were

knocked out by Argentina, but didn't go down without a fight. "We wanted Australia to win," said Hazel Astley, once of Leopold Road, N2, and now in Melbourne. Hazel's husband Bob agreed.

But, as long-time readers know, these three have never forgotten their roots. Brian, who used to live in Huntingdon Road, has often contributed to *The Archer* with memories of East Finchley and news from Australia, and Bob and Hazel

sent us a very interesting piece to celebrate their big wedding anniversary. Along with June Carruthers and Sylvia Orlando, they are all loyal readers of the copies we send them by post.

Brian sent us all Christmas greetings, saying "Multi thanks for sending our beloved *Archer* to Finchleyites Down Under. It's a lot cheaper than a psychiatrist!" It's a pleasure, Brian and friends, and don't forget to cheer for England in the Euros!



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# 'Stop before you chop' plea for our garden trees



Timber: The back garden tree that was removed

By Ruth Anders

**A resident from Leopold Road got in touch to tell us of a mature ash tree in a neighbouring back garden that many felt was a valuable part of the local landscape and provided shelter for wildlife. To her great distress, and despite her efforts to prevent it, the tree has been removed.**

Surprisingly, it seems that the lop was not initiated by the tree's owner and it seems the occupier of the rented property wanted to keep the tree. The initial removal request appears to have come from a property close by.

Signed petitions to save it and efforts to obtain a tree protection order came to nothing. Barnet Council's tree officer said it was a healthy tree (something, surely, to be cherished following the ravages of ash die-back disease) but, unfortunately, government legislation does not protect trees in private gardens

unless they can be classed as a 'public amenity'.

The letting agent explained that the tree could remain in situ if someone paid for its five yearly maintenance checks. Critically, no one offered to do this. Payment was made to have it removed.

Sadly, nothing has replaced the missing ash tree, meaning some properties around now feel very exposed and bereft of significant greenery.

### Think twice

While our reader, who wishes to remain anonymous,

understands that some trees pose a safety threat and must be taken down, she would like to join many local garden lovers in asking everyone in the area to think twice before chopping down a tree: a tree can be felled in minutes but take decades to grow. We are all responsible for looking after the natural world, and we can each have a personal positive impact on the environment close to home. Our own gardens are very important. Every tree, large or small, plays its part in the collective whole and should be treasured.

## Residents support pioneering trial of 'free money'

**East Finchley residents have given their support to the idea of a trial of Basic Income, which would give households regular guaranteed payments and potentially replace the complex system of means-tested benefits.**

Residents canvassed on the doorstep and those who attended an Eat Free Pizza, Talk Free Money event at the Tarling Road Community Centre backed the trial, proposed by neighbourhood group Grange Big Local (GBL) and Basic Income campaigners Basic Income Conversation (BIC).

BIC spokesperson Lena Swadlow described a Basic Income as a regular payment given to everyone without conditions, and explained that its supporters see it as a way to give everyone a solid floor of financial security which they can use as a platform on which to build their lives. The claim is that a Basic Income would reduce poverty and inequality and, because of its universal nature, reduce the stigma that surrounds means-tested benefits.

### How a local trial would work

GBL volunteer Mike Segal then outlined the idea of the local trial. He explained that, if funding can be found, a number of residents would be selected to receive a Basic Income for one or two years. In return they would agree to take part in regular surveys about their situation: their employment, their physical and mental wellbeing

and other factors.

What the surveys would not do, he added, was inquire into how people spent the Basic Income. This, he said, was a fundamental principle of a Basic Income: it is money that people can spend as they see fit.

GBL and BIC have already found a research partner for the trial in The University of Northumbria. At the end of the trial the researchers will produce a report summarising their findings about the effect a Basic Income can have on individuals and communities.

Organisers said a small trial in the future cannot solve the cost of living crisis, but it will provide evidence for how we might run things in the future. People at the meeting felt that was a legacy they would feel proud of. It would also draw more money into the local economy.

### Next steps

GBL is now looking for volunteers from the local community with diverse views to join the taskforce that is taking the next steps in this project. If you are interested in joining, email the project manager at [info@grangebiglocal.org](mailto:info@grangebiglocal.org). You don't need any previous experience. There will be another public meeting in early February to discuss progress.

## Five trees on first-name terms

Here, reader *Charles O'Toole* tells us about a surprising discovery he made while out walking in Church Lane, N2, and, below, local resident *David Broome* reveals the story behind it.

**If you walk down Church Lane from East End Road you will see a row of recently planted spindly trees on your right. You may think they are nothing to get excited about. Look at the label, *Chitalpa Tashkentiensis*, and you may be transported to the steppes of Central Asia. So gangly now, next summer the trees will produce lush crowns with large mauve flowers.**

Loiter by the trees and you will see they are individually named Eve, Angela, Ted, Pauline and Dominic. Look to the right for a house with a display of smiling ceramic cats, frogs and a ladybird, and on the other side of the road, three silver fishes dangling on a pole. Just a few of the wonders of Church Lane.

### Names for the new arrivals



*David Broome writes:* People living at the East End Road end of Church Lane awoke one morning in November 2021 to the noise of Barnet Council arboriculture contractors planting five Chitalpa trees along our section of road. No warning at all. But nevertheless, a very pleasant surprise for us and our neighbours to have these wonderful additions to our environment.

We decided to personalise our trees by naming them



Personal touch: One of the five new Church Lane trees and, left, one of their name tags

with little wooden plaques: 'Eve' for Eve Bagley, whose family have lived at no 71 for 90 years; 'Angela' for Angela Madden, one of the original occupants of the Cricket Row terrace on Church Lane; 'Ted' for the late Ted Bagley, Eve's husband who was a veteran sailor on the Arctic convoys to Russia during World War Two; 'Pauline' for Lisa at no 81's mother, who always enjoys her visits to Church Lane; and 'Dominic' for the son of Gail and Barry at no 89.

### Christmas lights

We thanked Barnet Council

for planting them and I also asked if we could light the trees at our own cost for the Christmas period last year. They were slightly worried at first but after I made them aware that in the 1980s I was foreman in charge of installing the Oxford Street lights for three years they let us go ahead.

Our lights were battery powered and were a great success, which encouraged the neighbours to create their own front garden roadside decorations. So Church Lane became a very nice Christmas feature to all who passed through it.





# Phoenix Cinema seeks sponsor for second screen

By David Gritten

The Phoenix Cinema has submitted plans to build a second screen to widen the range of films it can show and has appealed for a sponsor or major donors to help it get the transformative project under way.

Executive director Oliver Meek told *The Archer* that the cinema was seeking approval from Barnet Council to convert its upstairs café area into a little boutique screen suitable for smaller-scale screenings and as a home for popular films after they have played on the main screen.

sponsor the new screen. We think that person is out there somewhere as we've had some very generous donors in the past."

Alison pointed out: "If we have even a small extra screen, that's a few thousand admissions more a year. It's the extra choice of being able to



Art Deco: The Phoenix's auditorium may soon be joined by a second screen

The idea of a second screen has been mulled over by Phoenix executives for a long time but was put on hold by the profound financial uncertainty of recent years. Audiences have been loyal and appreciative and until 2020 there was a high level of memberships. "But in the wake of Covid, it had shrunk to a really small number," says Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix Cinema Trust.

### Head start donor sought

As a result, the cinema is hoping to find a financial backer for the new screen. The amount of base funding to get the project off the ground is expected to be between £50,000 and £100,000.

Oliver said: "We need someone to help us get a head start who would be prepared to make a larger donation or

have two films on at once, and even a small screening room could create that flexibility. It's been talked about here since the 1980s.

"We've been doing the work to prepare for all this, so our planning application is currently with Barnet Council. All the necessary behind-the-scenes steps have been happening.

"And once we've got the base funding – it could be from a generous individual, but we're also looking at funding sources – we're confident we could fund the rest to make this happen. But it's the missing piece in the jigsaw, really."

The Phoenix Cinema opened in 1912 as The Picture-drome and then redesigned and reopened as The Rex in 1938. It has been run by the Phoenix Cinema Trust since 1985.



On the road: Food Bank Aid volunteers take delivery of their new truck from Tesco representatives

# New van gives food bank charity some much-needed va-va-voom

By Ian Cormack

Food Bank Aid (FBA) was presented with a new delivery van by Tesco last month and the organisation has described it as a "game changer".

FBA, based at the Great North Leisure Park in North Finchley, is not a food bank in itself but a hub that donates to 21 north London food banks, has connections with 85 schools and is run by 250 volunteers.

Four Tesco representatives handed over the keys to Naomi Russell, the founder of FBA, their CEO Celia Davis and the trustees, along with some volunteers at the company's Colney Hatch Extra superstore.

### Game changer

The 3.5 ton automatic van is fully liveried with FBA's logo, can be driven on an ordinary licence and takes 120 crates. Naomi declared it a game

changer considering that, at present, 24 cars are needed each week to deliver to Tottenham alone.

She said it will be greener, better for the environment and a huge milestone in the growth of the charity. Demand for its services have risen 20% recently and Naomi wishes to raise awareness, get more "amazing" volunteers involved and educate the next generation.

### Partnership

Tesco's Fleet Integration Manager Emma Elston stated they were very proud to help their local community, especially when people were struggling with basic food problems.

The company had been surprised when they realised the difference their donation would make and are looking to establish a longer term partnership. A maintenance team may investigate improvements at the hub and possibly assist them to buy in bulk. Tesco are now rolling out electric vehicles countrywide in line with their aims for improving the environment.

The final word was from FBA's hub and general administrator, Richard Adler, who said he found driving the van back to their base surprisingly easy despite shaking with nerves and excitement.

# Donate digital devices to help the planet

By Diana Cormack

Did you treat yourself to some new electronic equipment for Christmas or maybe you have some unused desktops, laptops or tablets cluttering up your cupboards? If so, as long as they are working and under eight years old, you can start the year by taking a step towards saving the planet by donating these unwanted machines to 2second Chance.

This not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) based in Hendon re-cycles and refurbishes such electrical goods, saving them from going to landfill and preventing them from being added to this country's huge electrical waste pile.

As well as giving these machines a new lease of life, the company offers free accredited training programmes for people who are not in education, employment or training.

Collected free of charge,

devices undergo secure data destruction before being worked on by a supervised team of trainees. That means your donations will also help to provide people who have learning difficulties and other special needs with meaningful accredited training and employment opportunities.

Additionally, some refurbished machines are sold on at affordable prices to fund the programme. In an attempt to bridge the digital divide, others

are made available to those in the community who need them and can also be passed on by referral. 2secondChance is encouraging schools and businesses to participate in their scheme.

### Find out how and where

Equipment can be donated at local libraries, including East Finchley's, but only when library staff are present to deal with any queries or paper work involved. Visit [www.2secondChance.co.uk](http://www.2secondChance.co.uk) for further details.

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## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:  
January 2013

The Grange Estate and surrounding roads received a £1million grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Big Local programme, to be spent on projects suggested and agreed by local residents. The Grange Big Local has helped to fund many local initiatives, including N2 Food Project, Barnwood N2 and the ongoing renovation of the Trinity Road/Manor Park Road underpass.

15 years ago:  
January 2008

The Office actor Mackenzie Crook got behind the controls of a tube train at East Finchley station to shoot scenes for his latest film *Three and Out*. It was a comedy about ordinary people with unique dilemmas caught up in a cocktail of desperation, friendship, loneliness and love. During a break in filming Crook chatted with local schoolchildren outside the Windsor Castle pub and signed autographs.

23 years ago:  
January 2000

Local people and organisations were asked for their wishes for East Finchley in the new millennium. Responses included more dropped kerbs and improved accessibility to shops for the disabled, the return of public toilets, no more cafés in the High Road, a right-hand turn filter at traffic lights on the northbound side of the High Road junction with Fortis Green and last, but not least, somewhere to buy knickers! Needless to say, not all of these wishes have come to fruition.

## Tell us what's on

Does your group, school or club have an event you'd like to tell our readers about? *The Archer* offers a free listing for fundraising and other non-commercial events taking place in the N2 area or nearby.

Our What's On column was suspended during the pandemic but will come back once events pick up again. Meanwhile we're happy to mention events throughout the paper.

Email your listing to [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk), marking it 'What's On'. We can't guarantee publication but we'll consider every submission received. Find our monthly deadlines at the top of page 2 of this and every edition. We look forward to hearing from you.



High energy: Fundraisers enjoy the fitness and dance session in aid of Ukraine

## Dance drives up funds for Ukraine

By Lynn Winton

A dance event staged to raise funds for local organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine raised £4,000 to cover fuel costs for sending trucks packed with aid to children's centres and residential areas in the war-torn country.

One of the 85 donor-dancers who came ready to enjoy the Dance for Ukraine event organised by GemmaB Fitness on Saturday 10 December at Fortismere School, Muswell Hill, was sustainability activist Maxine Klein, who lives in Hertford Road, N2.

Maxine said: "It was an exhilarating experience. The dance leaders were so charismatic and inclusive that we all joined in with great enthusiasm right from the first song. Everyone had huge smiles throughout and there was a real

sense of coming together to play our part to help Ukraine. "I also brought my young house guest Stasya, who is staying with me under the Homes for Ukraine scheme and she loved it. We both want to take part in the next one in the summer."

As well as coming to dance, people dropped off a ton of warm clothes ready for the ninth transport run that left on 14 December.

### DAU update

Lynmouth Road resident Michael Byrne, the force

behind Driving Aid to Ukraine, spoke to *The Archer* with a news update. He said: "The tremendous funds raised will pay for larger trucks to take a higher tonnage of aid to Ukraine throughout the winter and help us continue to be agile in response to specific Ukrainian requests. We are working hard with our partners to move 22 tons of vital aid in January and February."

### Contact details

If you have any donations for Ukraine, another local resident, Nicola Cousins, is now on board coordinating collections and drop offs. She can be contacted at [nicolacousins0812@gmail.com](mailto:nicolacousins0812@gmail.com).

Michael Byrne can be contacted on 07791 912389 if you have any ideas or offers of help. Find more information at: [drivingaidtoulkraine.org](http://drivingaidtoulkraine.org)

## Schoolkids reach out

By Lynn Winton

Martin School in East Finchley has pioneered a Young Global Ambassador's Programme which encourages children to respect the local and international environment and to be responsible citizens. Children apply for the positions and run a range of projects to support the local and international community.



Toys and clothes: Martin School's Shona Glackin and Tristan Young load donations for Michael Byrne, left, to drive to Ukraine

Last month they learnt about Driving Aid to Ukraine, when founder Michael Byrne came to talk about his East Finchley based initiative transporting vital aid across Europe destined for refugee camps in Ukraine. The ambassadors, under the guidance of their teacher/leader Shona Glackin, tasked themselves with collecting toys and warm winter coats; then a cake sale and collection raised nearly £400 for fuel costs. These goods were already distributed in Ukraine in mid-December.



Art school: Laura Fox in her studio at the Archer Academy

## Studio under the stairs for school's artist in residence

East Finchley artist Laura Fox, whose practice focuses on young people's relationship to their local environment, has worked with the Archer Academy to set up an ongoing artist in residency project.

A temporary studio space has been created under the stairs in the Upper School in Beaumont Close, N2, an important centre point in the building easily accessible by staff and students.

As well as creative map making of Cherry Tree Wood and outdoor printmaking workshops, Laura offered creative drop-in sessions for students during lunchtimes

and worked with small groups of students in the school's gardens at the lower school site in Eagans Close.

### Looking ahead

A key focus for future artists working with the school will be on students' mental health and wellbeing. Artists from different creative disciplines will be offered residencies that could last from one to three academic terms.

## Age UK calls for care reform

By Daphne Chamberlain

Age UK have issued a report outlining the challenges older people are facing in accessing care. It calls on the Government to provide more funding to see the care system through the winter, and to take forward reforms to improve the care system once and for all.

They are thanking everyone who took part in their recent survey. This revealed that one in nine people surveyed were either in need of care but not receiving it, or were waiting for social care assessments or services.

Age UK will be launching a campaign on this shortly. Details will be available at [www.ageuk.org.uk/campaigns](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/campaigns) and on Twitter: @ageukcampaigns. For free, professional advice on your own circumstances, call the Age UK advice line on 0800 169 65 65. Lines are open seven days a week, 8am-7pm.

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# When Santa said "See me for free"

By Jane Revell

Meeting Santa Claus is a magical moment for young children at Christmas time. But visiting Santa in his Grotto doesn't usually come cheap: £15 per child at Alexandra Palace, for example, or £50 for up to three people at toy store Hamleys. Not easily affordable prices for many parents, especially in these hard times.

Well, one day last November, East Finchley resident Paul Stephenson was starting to feel Christmassy and suddenly had an idea. "Times are a bit tough at the moment," he thought. "Wouldn't it be great if seeing Father Christmas could be completely free!"

Now, Paul knows a thing or two about Santa as for several years he was the Santa at Martin School. So he put his idea to friends: Millie Sutton, events planner and organiser, and Emma Whiteman, current Martin School Santa, and they were very happy to organise/promote and share Santa duty respectively.



Faster Christmas: Paul Stephenson dashes between visits

The High Road response was enthusiastic too. Tony's Continental donated a Christmas tree to raffle and Coffee Bank generously provided space for a grotto on their outside terrace, and some sweet treats. There were goody bags too, courtesy of Paul, his family and friends, with an activity book, little toy and free raffle ticket for the tree.

### Family affair

So, on a bitterly cold Saturday afternoon in December, Santa Claus (Paul) aided by his elves (Paul's wife, Nicola, and his daughter, Iris) greeted excited children in his Coffee Bank grotto on the High Road. And around 3pm, Santa Emma took over so Paul could hot-foot it (!) down to Cherry Tree Wood where Sharon Harding and Sharon Hall of The Cherry Tree Cafe, inspired by Paul's initiative, were also offering children a free Santa encounter. Paul replaced David Harding: Santa shifts! Children here were all given a lovely book generously donated by the Children's Bookshop in Fortis Green Road.

A true family and community afternoon, giving pleasure to children and grown-ups alike, which, at the same time aimed to raise donations for the Finchley Food Bank. Let's hope this will be the first of many such events to come.

# Think tank to examine the way we are governed

By Janet Maitland

A national commission has been created to generate ideas about improving how we as a country are governed. The Commission on Political Power has members from across the political spectrum and has been co-convened by East Finchley resident Frances Cook.

Frances was awarded the OBE for services to youth justice in 2010 and retired last year from the Howard League for Penal Reform where she was chief executive for 35 years.

"The commission is a kind of think tank," says Frances. "It's exploring how to reform our constitution, the skeleton on which our entire democracy hangs. We've already looked at the monarchy and the power of the executive, and now we're focusing on the House of Lords."

"Most democracies have second chambers like our House of Lords, but theirs are elected," she adds. "I wonder if we could make ours more representative by including council leaders and local mayors. I'm also interested in civic assemblies, made up of randomly selected people from all walks of life, which could run alongside the House of Lords."

### Local power

A Labour councillor for



Reformer: Frances Cook

East Finchley during the 1980s, Frances has lived here for 40 years, moving here because a flat was available, but staying because she loves the area. "It's so friendly, and exciting too as there's so much happening."

Frances believes civic engagement is a powerful force. "I want to push power down to local government and local people. It really matters what happens locally because that is what politics is all about, not party politics."

Her strong sense of social justice has been a driving force throughout her life. As well as her long career at the Howard League, Frances has worked with Amnesty International, the School Food Trust and Barnet Primary Care Trust.

"It means I've spent my whole life lobbying for change," she says. "I'm like an engineer. I'm interested in how all the bits of government fit together and I want to influence that so I can contribute to national wellbeing."

To find out more, go to <https://commissionpolitical-power.uk>

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

### Back in the freezer

Ain't it amazing that we Brits get completely hung up on the weather? A couple of inches of snow and the whole country goes into meltdown and everything stops working. And snow in December? We don't expect the white stuff until January, but in 2022 the snow gods got in early, maybe because it was anniversary time.

Sixty years ago we got a sprinkling of snow in mid-December and then the real deal from the 22<sup>nd</sup>. That was when the snow swept down from the north and ushered in 62 days of snow on the ground.

The really heavy snowfalls came on Boxing Day and Devon and South Wales got 20 foot snow drifts. And it was cold, the January average temperature was -2C. This meant stranded villages on Exmoor and the RAF being called out to deliver food and ultimately to airlift people out. It made for jolly good black and white TV.

And things went downhill from there as the snow stopped food getting to the shops, people getting to work and trains getting through to deliver coal so people could keep warm. Which is when the British, being British, stopped moaning and started digging. Once they'd dug out the trains and rescued people from the moors the fun began.

For the first time in several hundred years the sea froze in Kent, but not far enough to let you walk to France. Rivers were different. At Oxford you could drive on the Thames, they had ice racing, the postman skied to work and you could try a new sport of snow skiing behind your friend's car.

And don't forget about the football. Back when men were men and there was no underoil heating football stopped for a couple of months. Long enough for teams like Chelsea to arrange a tour of Malta. Same thing happened to horse racing, but the horses preferred to stay at home.

In fact, as the snow stuck around until March, the only thing to do was to stay at home and listen to The Archers while you made a sledge and hoped you could get to work. If you wanted to go out, there was always the cinema. 1962 ended with the heat of *Lawrence of Arabia*, but the start of 1963 gave us the ultimate something-to-look-forward-to feel-good movie when *Summer Holiday* opened on 10 January. It became the biggest film of the year and I think I know why.

## Give yourself a money MOT

Are you worried about money and bills, feeling the pinch or want to find out about welfare benefits and grants? Maybe you are approaching retirement or looking to refrain to start a new career.

Age UK Barnet is hosting a Managing Money in Later Life event with experts' talks and advice, information stalls and refreshments. It takes place at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, from 10am to 1pm

on Wednesday 25 January and is free to attend. All over 50s are welcome.

To find out more or book your place, contact Teresa on 07502 989 403 or email her on [teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk).

## COMING SOON AT ARTSDEPOT



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Grown up comedy - babies welcome!

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**Wed 25 Jan**  
**Hal Cruttenden: It's Best You Hear It From Me**  
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**Sat 4 Feb**  
**Unfolding Theatre: Hold On Let Go**  
A poignant and personal show about memory.

**Thu 9 Feb**  
**ACE Dance and Music: Unknown Realms**  
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**Sun 12 - Thu 14 Feb**  
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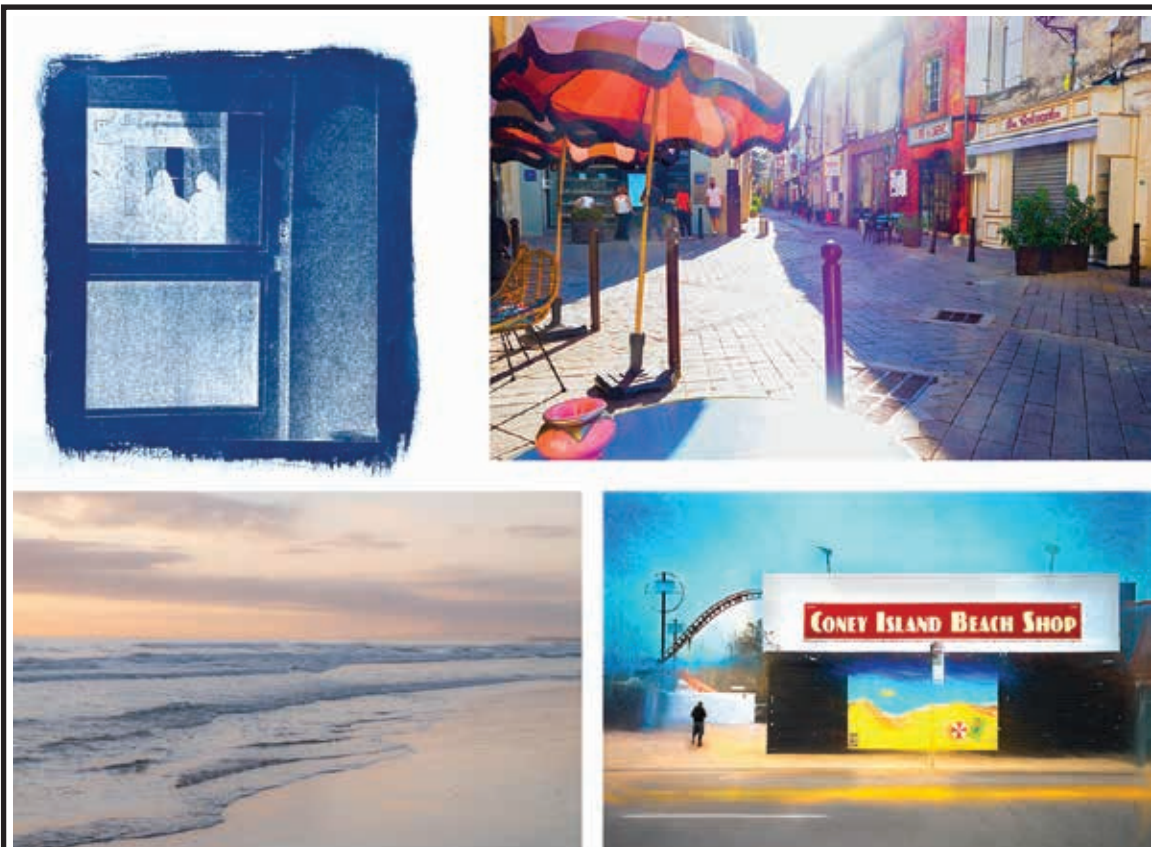
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Photos in the foyer: The foyer of the Phoenix Cinema this month features an exhibition of photographs from the East Finchley Open Artists group. Called 'Inspirations', it runs until Tuesday 31 January and entry is free. The cinema foyer is open 30 minutes before each day's first performance, usually around lunchtime, until the end of the last evening performance.

## The Ladykillers hit Highgate

A new production of the stage version of the Ealing comedy classic *The Ladykillers* is coming to Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate in February.

The Garden Suburb Theatre will be performing Graham (Father Ted) Linehan's 2011 stage adaptation of the much-loved 1955 film, which starred Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers, who spent his formative years in East Finchley.

version keeps all that's great about it but with added dollops of contemporary comedy and considerable farce.

"Our version has everything you want from a classic comedy caper. A great plot, daft villains, a wily old woman

com or call the box office on 020 8340 3488.



Comedy caper: The cast of *The Ladykillers*. Picture Ivan Berg

Tilak Patel from Finchley will be attempting to follow in Sellers's enormous footsteps as Harry Robinson, part of the criminally bad nest of crooks posing as classical musicians in Professor Marcus's gang.

Dave Barron, *Ladykillers* director and East Finchley resident, said: "I've always loved the film and this stage

and her sick parrot. It's a masterpiece of villainy, with tea and biscuits. Brilliant fun to perform and fabulous fun to watch."

*The Ladykillers* can be seen at 7.30pm on Thursday 2, Friday 3, and Saturday 4 February, and at 4pm on Sunday 5 February. More details at [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com).

## What's On at the Phoenix in January

By Zalan Pall, general manager

The Phoenix kicks off the year with a bang: a heart-wrecking drama, a beautiful biopic, an English tale of the magic of cinema, classics, live events, local festival all happening in January.

From Friday 6 January, *Till* reframes an horrific historical murder within a mother's grief, brought heartwrenchingly to life by Danielle Deadwyler's tremendous performance. It is a well-acted and beautifully made attempt to reckon with the personal and societal legacy of reprehensible racial violence.

Set in an English seaside town in the early 1980s, *Empire of Light* from Monday 9 January is a powerful and poignant story about human connection and the magic of cinema, from Academy Award-winning director Sam Mendes and starring Olivia Colman and Colin Firth.

From writer-producer-director Todd Field comes *Tár* from Friday 20 January, starring Cate Blanchett as Lydia Tár, the groundbreaking conductor of a major German Orchestra.

For collectors of classics, we have *The Queen of Spades* on Sunday 8 January, a 1949 British fantasy-horror film based on the



1834 short story of the same name by Alexander Pushkin, and *Rashomon* on Sunday 5 February.

For lovers of live performances, we have the Met Opera's *Fedora* on Saturday 14 January, the ballet *Like Water for Chocolate* from the Royal Opera House on Thursday 19 January and the National Theatre production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* on Thursday 26 January.

Part memoir, part ode to the power of the movies, *The Fabelmans* from Friday 27 January finds Steven Spielberg digging at the family roots that helped make him a beloved filmmaker, and proves he hasn't lost his magic touch.

On Sunday 29 January we look forward to hosting the **East Finchley's Got Talent** contest and a fancy-dress screening of *Grease* as part of East Finchley Town Team's 'High Road Live' Arts and Music Festival.

Find our full programme at [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) or drop into our foyer any time.

## Club ready for a busy year ahead

Activities and social events are ramping up at the East Finchley Constitutional Club in The Walks, N2.

Last year, a sub-committee of volunteers was formed to assist the club's board members in running the venue. They organised two curry & quiz nights, an open weekend for non-members, a Halloween party for the children, Fright Night for the adults and several festive events at the end of the year.

In 2023, the sub-committee will be organising one event per month including gin tasting, afternoon tea, games nights, Easter family activities plus some charity fundraising. These events are for members although they can bring guests with them.

The club also has a friendly bunch



The Constitutional Club's events sub-committee

who get together every Sunday evening for a fun night of bingo to which everyone is welcome. You can just turn up with a few coins to play a game or two.

The club's front garden has had a makeover and the exterior brickwork is being repaired. Work is also continuing inside and redecorating will be taking place in the much-used function room.

As well as members' events, the Constitutional Club hosts Lunge Fitness, run by personal trainer Sally who teaches a variety of classes from Monday to Friday in the mornings. You can book online at [lungefitness.co.uk](http://lungefitness.co.uk)

Follow East Finchley Constitutional Club at [www.instagram.com/east\\_finchley\\_constitutional](http://www.instagram.com/east_finchley_constitutional) for details of upcoming events.

**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](mailto:vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com) or check out our website:

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>





### Letters



Cold water: Linda Dolata's photo of one of the Heath ponds

#### Wintry swim

Dear Editor,

I have always (since 1968) swum in the Highgate Ladies pond, but mostly in the summer months. Last year I managed until 16 November, and this winter challenged myself to at least equal that by joining the lovely, friendly, hardy group of 7am bathers.

One morning, the hanging mist was so beautiful with a song thrush carolling away (sometimes we hear owls instead) that I thought it worth sharing. The photo is of the next pond downstream as we are not permitted to take pictures of the swimming pond, but the appearance is very similar.

Linda Dolata  
Leopold Road, N2

#### The kindness of strangers

Dear Editor,

On the evening of 13 December I slipped on the treacherous ice on the High Road and fell, badly injuring my head and arm. Thankfully I was with a colleague who was very helpful, but I'd also like to thank the passers-by who stopped to give assistance. I don't know their names, so I hope it may be possible to express my sincere gratitude through *The Archer*.

These kind people showed great presence of mind and resourcefulness in looking after me until my husband and daughter arrived. I'd also like to thank staff at the A&E Department of the Whittington Hospital, who gave me excellent care.

Name and address supplied

#### Stolen package

Dear Editor,

On Thursday 15 December a package was stolen from outside my house on Kitchener Road. I am a single mother who works full time, so I had requested for the delivery to be left just outside my door. The delivery driver did this, but the package was not there when I came back from work. The package was the main Christmas present for my four-year-old. It wasn't a cheap gift, and I do not have the money to just replace items. I didn't think this would ever happen in East Finchley. I work so hard to try and make sure my child doesn't miss out. To say I am upset is an understatement

Ailish McAlpine-Green,  
Kitchener Road, N2.

#### Not another one!

Dear Editor,

Following on from the letters in your last edition about the new video advertising screen and defibrillator installed outside Iceland in the High Road, everyone will have noticed that a second identical monstrosity has popped up not 50 yards away outside Budgens. Besides the video screens being eyesores and another obstacle to step around on the pavement, what on earth is the point of having two defibrillators so close together? A better position would have been further up the High Road. Does no one on Barnet Council's planning team put two and two together to make a sensible decision about siting these things? Obviously not, and it's us good folk of East Finchley who have to put up with the results of their lack of thinking.

Stuart Carey  
Fortis Green, N2

Send your correspondence to:  
news@the-archer.co.uk  
or post to The Archer, PO Box  
3699, London N2 2DE

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.



Always on display: Gabby Nkansah at Amy's. Photo: Merrill Rauch

## Questions and answers

In the second of our occasional series, Ruth Anders talks to Gabby Nkansah, known to many East Finchley shoppers as a friendly face in Amy's in the High Road.

**Gabby, we just crossed the road for a coffee and you were stopped five times. How come everyone knows you?**

Well, I've been here a long time, 32 years in all. People call me the King of East Finchley!

**How long have you worked in this area?**

I started at Budgens and stayed for 14 years. After two years at Iceland, I moved to Amy's around 2008.

**Where did you grow up and when did you move over here?**

I was born and brought up in Ghana. I came to London in 1991 for a visit, and took a job at Curry Motors in Edmonton, polishing showroom cars.

**Do you have any family here?**

I have family in Streatham and a nephew in Germany. My wife, six kids and 11 grandchildren live in Ghana. Of my five brothers and four sisters, my late brother was

a regional King and, as I am next in line, I am thinking about going back to take over. But I'll keep coming back here!

**How often do you go home to Ghana?**

Every year, but I get a bit bored after four weeks. I have two houses in the Ashanti region and 17 brightly coloured sofas. (It's true; Gabby showed me the photos.)

**What do you like best about East Finchley?**

Everyone here is so very friendly.

**How do you travel to work?**

I live in Edmonton, and I catch the 102 bus to work. It takes half an hour.

**Your favourite place in N2?**

The seat outside Amy's.

**Favourite food?**

That's easy. I love Fufu (a West African favourite, it's a spongy dough made from plantains and cassava), chicken, rice and peas, and peanut soup.

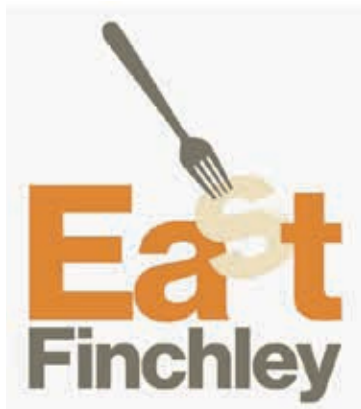
**What's your proudest achievement?**

Looking after my family.

**Can you sum up your approach to life?**

I feel very blessed to be in East Finchley. My mum told me to open my heart and go everywhere with a smile, and that's how I start each day. Oh, and no smoking and bed at 9pm.

## A simple and tasty winter warmer



In the run up to East Finchley Town Team's 'Eat Finchley' food celebration in March, we are collecting recipes made with ingredients from East Finchley shops. This month it is supplied by Tony's Continental, 140 High Road, where you will find all the ingredients needed to make it.

### Roasted red pepper and squash soup

Serves 4

#### Ingredients

- 1 butternut squash (peeled, seeded and cut into 1 inch cubes)
- 2 onions (peeled and quartered)
- 2 red/orange or yellow peppers (deseeded and quartered)
- 1/2 bulb of garlic
- Rosemary 5 sprigs
- Thyme 6 sprigs
- 2 tins chopped tomatoes
- 1 1/2 litre of veg/chicken stock
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

#### Preparation

Place all ingredients into a roasting tin except tomatoes and the stock. Add olive oil and mix.

Roast at 180C fan oven until butternut is soft, turning the vegetables every 20 mins

Remove from oven when vegetables are all soft. Remove all herb stalks, and squeeze garlic from skin. Empty into a large saucepan, add chopped tomatoes and stock. Bring to the boil and simmer for 15 mins, then blitz with a hand held blender until silky smooth.

Add seasoning to taste. Serve with crusty bread, and enjoy a healthy wintry treat.

**SACKS MORASHA JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Consultation on admissions arrangements for 2024/5 runs from Monday 12th December 2022 until Monday 23rd January 2023. Please refer to our website [www.sacksmorasha.org.uk](http://www.sacksmorasha.org.uk) for our proposed CRP process, our proposed admissions policy and details of how to respond with feedback to the proposals.

Sacks Morasha JPS, 31 Stanhope Road, Finchley N12 9DX

**1 - 1 MELODIOUS MEDITATION**

LIZZY BARMAK  
EB.BE1@OUTLOOK.COM  
LESALDRICHMUSIC.CO.UK/OTHER

**MELODY COMPTON**

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# The Archer

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## Why we think East Finchley is the place to be

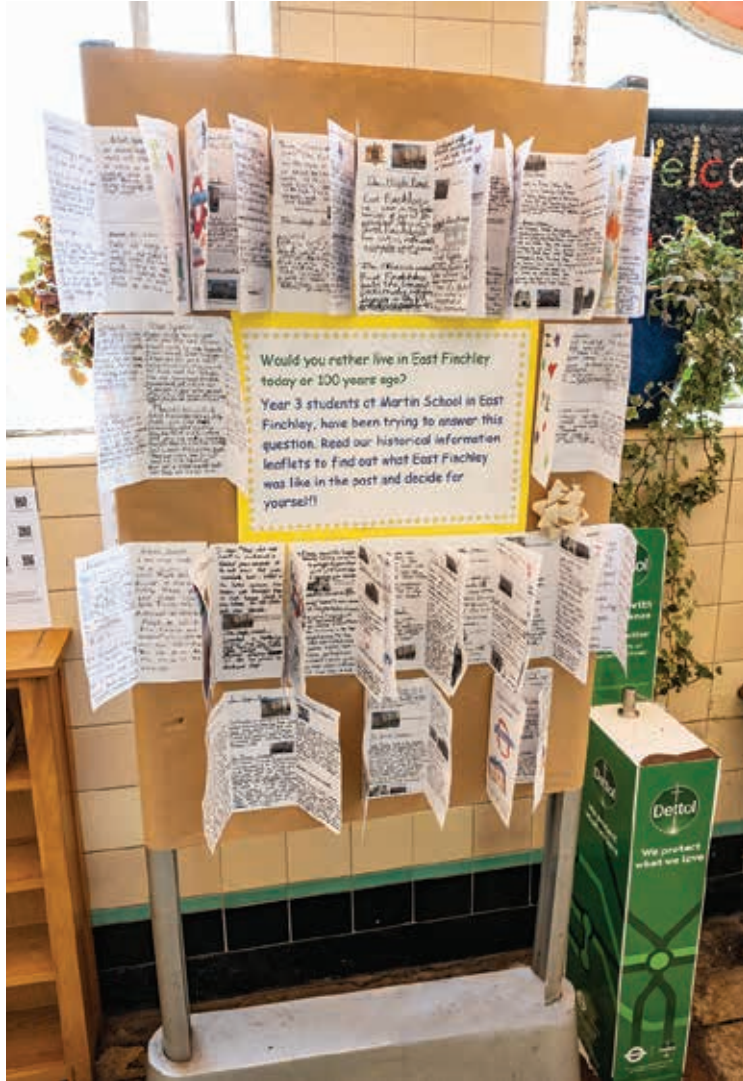
By Isobel Grant

Those passing through the entrance hall of East Finchley tube station in early December were greeted with a surprising and delightful sight. Three large display boards exhibited meticulously handwritten illustrated leaflets extolling the virtues of East Finchley.

Painstakingly produced by each of the Year 3 students at Martin Primary School, the leaflets posed the question "Would you rather live in East Finchley today or 100 years ago?" All the children, aged from seven to eight, penned their own individual leaflets, giving different accounts of a local history that stretches back to the early Middle Ages.

Their suggestions about modern-day elements of interest to be found in N2 included:

- "If you enjoy walking with your dog and following trails, come to the superb place called East Finchley. It has a cool park and a fantastic playground for kids and adults. You can run around the playground and get fresh air."
- "East Finchley has a well-equipped gym that can make you strong and fit."
- "Tony's Continental is a great place for you if you like prickly pears."



Handwritten: The best things about living in East Finchley according to pupils at Martin Primary School caught the attention of commuters at the tube station last month. Photos Mike Coles

The students were led on a walk around their local area to see the sights they had learned so much about during the autumn term and were particu-

larly delighted to be allowed into The Phoenix Cinema and shown how the projector works. The highlight of their tour was meeting East Finchley's tube station manager and seeing their beautifully presented historical leaflets on display in the station's entrance hall, where they remained for a week.

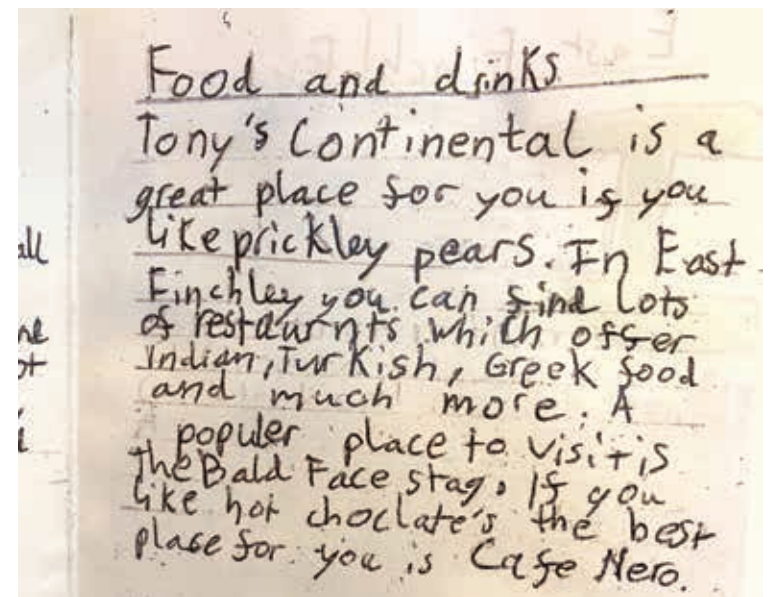
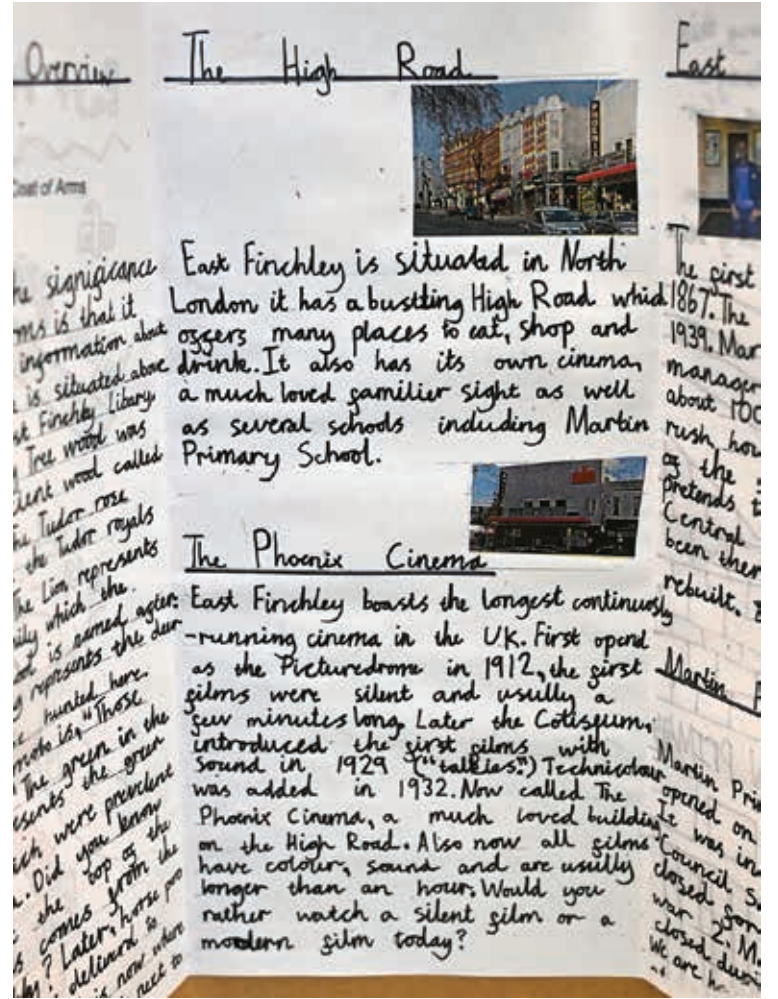
### Credit where it's due

Class teacher Mrs Karen McDuling told *The Archer*: "Year 3 should feel proud of themselves, and credit should go to all the Year 3 teachers for inspiring the children to research, read and create information in this original way."

## Dads five-a-side football

The East Finchley Dads five-a-side football group is looking for new players. They play at Power League, Colney Hatch Lane, N10 - opposite Tesco on the North Circular Road - every Wednesday at 7pm.

Aged between late 30s and early 50s, they say the standard is okay but definitely not scary. If you'd like to go along, contact Richard on 07973 444061.



## Coldfall calls for help

By David Melsome

The Friends of Coldfall Woods are appealing for more people to join their ranks to help safeguard this pocket of ancient woodland and the neighbouring playing fields.

There are plenty of projects that need people power to get up and running. For example, there are plans for a wildflower meadow on the fields which will need planting and protecting, and the water running through the woods needs monitoring to ensure it stays a healthy quality.

The Friends say they would welcome volunteers to work with Haringey Council on tree planting and on improving access points between the woods and the fields.

Organising walks, talks and

surveys and generally fundraising for items like information boards and a nature trail are all part of the Friends' activities too.

"As awareness of the enormous value of green spaces and natural environments to all of us increases so we as a community need to be fully engaged. We currently consist of a hard core of six! We do what we can but we need hands-on help," said the group. For more information, search Coldfall Woods on Facebook or visit [coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://coldfallwoods.co.uk)

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