

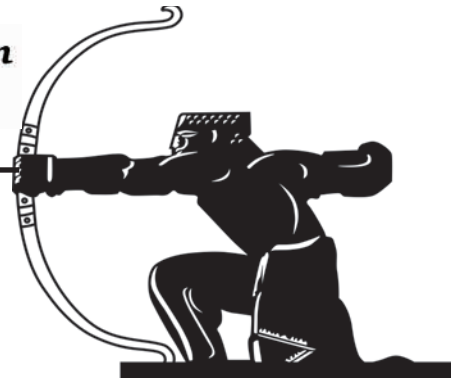


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30 Local News is our Aim
30 years 1993-2023

The Archer



July 2023 No. 351

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Chill out zone: Festival-goers enjoy food and refreshment in front of the live acts on the main stage in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Mike Coles

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Hundreds of people got into the party spirit in front of the main stage at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 18 June. Superb live music, good food, a huge makers' market and family fun all contributed to an unforgettable day enjoyed by thousands of visitors.

The park was packed with activities and over 100 stalls, and the whole community came together to celebrate the best of N2 in what was the festival's 49th year. Luckily the rain showers held off until the very last part of the day, leaving

plenty of time for visitors to picnic and relax.

Cleaner, greener

Since taking over the organisation of the festival in 2019, East Finchley Festival CIC has worked to make the festival more sustainable, by banning

plastic and single-use disposables, getting rid of the powered rides, and introducing vegware cups and packaging. This year they went one step further by running one stage entirely on solar power, provided by SouthEast London Community Energy, and the other with renewable HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel.

Turn to pages 6 and 7 for more great photos from the festival.

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The Archer

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The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous volunteers who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

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

Copy deadlines -August: 14 July, September: 11 August, October: 15 September

A new face in East Finchley

By Lynn Winton

Aesthetic facial specialist Dr Marco Nicoloso has joined the practitioners at the Utopia Therapy Hub on Leicester Road, N2. An ebullient Italian, he was keen to tell me about his speciality medical treatments now on our doorstep.



Aesthetic specialist: Dr Marco Nicoloso

Dr Nicoloso qualified as a doctor and went on to specialise in aesthetic medicine in Italy, but was persuaded by his Anglophile wife to move to London where they live in Bounds Green with their baby daughter.

"Getting to know the neighbourhood has been a real pleasure," he said. "I love the coffee at Amici where I met the East Finchley legend Maurizio, who

comes from the same region as me near Venice. I've enjoyed really good food across the road at The Bald Faced Stag too."

Dr Nicoloso still works as medical director at a clinic in Mayfair but is available locally at Utopia on Saturdays, which provides a significant saving on the central London practices with their high rents factored into their pricing. Additionally, first consultations in East Finchley are free.

He is keen to dispel the myth that vanity propels people to seek treatment. It is far more likely to be more complex than that, for instance dermatological conditions impacting on their self-esteem and on daily life.

A continuous learner, in September Dr Nicoloso is embarking on his second master's degree, in dermatology, at Queen Mary University. He can be contacted on 07983 899399 or visit www.drmarconicoloso.com

Poor state of some surfaces is serious danger to road users

By John Lawrence

Some months, a particular problem will arouse the anger of Archer readers, and this month that problem is potholes. Several readers have emailed us to complain about the poor state of the roads in and around East Finchley.

Avtar Panessar and Terry Tastard both pointed out the large holes lying in wait for unwary motorists and cyclists on the top end of the High Road, close to the North Circular. "Every day you see drivers swerving to avoid them," said Terry. And Michael Howarth pointed out the terrible condition of the top end of The Bishops Avenue, where anyone heading to or from the Heath will find themselves running a gauntlet of gaping holes, some of them spread across the carriageway so that they are almost impossible to dodge. "Any one of them could burst a car tyre or throw a poor cyclist under your front wheels," said Michael. The road damage is thought to be particularly bad here because of the large number of heavy vehicles moving in and out of construction sites on the avenue.

"Barnet Council or the construction companies, or both, should take responsibility for repairing these major hazards before there is a serious accident or possibly a fatality," said Michael.

Council answers our questions

We asked Barnet Council whether it actively monitored the state of roads in the borough and if it had a process for carrying out repairs as needed.

A spokesperson told us that cyclical inspections are carried out "in line with the 2016 Code of Practice Well Managed Highway Infrastructure" and that it investigates all reports of potholes received via residents, local councillors or online



Obstacle course: The Bishops Avenue is pitted with potholes

reports (go to barnet.gov.uk and search 'Potholes').

Any holes 40mm or deeper in a road, or 25mm on a footway, are judged to be suitable for repair. Depending on severity, this could take anything from 48 hours to 28 working days.

"A response is provided to reports on what action has been taken, on average, in 10 working

days," said the spokesperson. Barnet Council has a highways maintenance budget of almost £2.5million annually from which pothole repairs are funded. It says it also runs a licensing system with building contractors requiring them to adhere to certain levels of damage control and considerate behaviour.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

31 Bedford Road, N2

Roof extension including rear dormer window, side dormer window to rear outrigger and two front roof lights, following demolition of existing rear dormer.

222 East End Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear infill extension, with five roof lights and new access steps to rear. Roof extension, including side and rear wraparound dormer windows with Juliet balcony, two flat roof lights and three front roof lights.

19 and 21 Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension and rear extension, with three roof lights, following demolition of existing rear extension to no. 21.

Fuel Land Allotments, High Road, N2

Installation of composting toilet.

71 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

28 High Road, N2

Details re. construction management and logistics plan, cycle parking, storage and refuse/recycling storage, pursuant to planning permission.

56 High Road, N2

Mansard roof extension, including front and rear dormer windows, terrace area and two-storey rear extension, to provide two self-contained flats.

Land At Church Lane Open Space, East End Road, N2

Installation of one timber pole.

Land At High Road (Between East View House and Hilton House), The Grange Estate, N2

Submission of details of conditions re. contaminated land, demolition and construction management and logistics plan, and tree protection plan, pursuant to planning permission.

Ground Floor Flat, 50 Leicester

Road, N2

Rear outbuilding.

43 Leopold Road, N2

Two-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing extension. Roof extension involving raising ridge height, and front and rear dormer windows.

352 Long Lane, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with Juliet and three front rooflights.

71 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side extension, depth 5.2m, maximum height 3.5m, eaves height 2.5m.

8 New Trinity Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, depth 6m, maximum height 3.29m, and eaves height 2.5m.

5 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension. Air source heat pump to rear.

26 Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Rear air source heat pump.

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

A crucial element of **Finchley Foodbank** is their volunteering team who 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 Tuesday and Saturday sessions. Requests for help with food supplies are increasing week on week and volunteers are urgently needed. If this could be you, email the team at finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com

The **North London Hospice** shop on East Finchley High Road is looking for more volunteers. Whether you want to get work experience, help temporarily between jobs or are looking for a long-term role, please call in to the shop and talk to the manager Anastasiya. Age is no barrier; volunteers aged 14 - 94 are welcome. You will play a vital role in funding the hospice's work and enjoy the camaraderie of a very inclusive team. For more details, pop into the shop any time or call Anastasiya on 020 8883 6493.

Driving Aid to Ukraine is a new non-profit organisation based in N2 and started by local resident Michael Byrne, who delivers lorries of humanitarian aid across Europe to the Ukrainian conflict zones, via border transfer points. They require all kinds of volunteers: to help build a social media campaign; fundraising and grant writing; organising collections of warm clothes and other vital humanitarian aid items; and people who'd like to drive locally to pick up the collections. A fantastic opportunity whatever your skill sets to bring vital aid to an utterly devastated people and learn about the international aid sector at a grassroots level. Find out more at Drivingaidtoulkraine.org or get in touch with Michael on 07791 912389.

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please send details to Volunteer@ILoveN2.co.uk Max 80 words please.





East Finchley chosen to pilot basic income

By Fiona Macdonald

East Finchley made national and international headlines in early June when plans were announced for the first pilot of universal basic income (UBI) in England.

The concept, which has already been trialled in several countries, including Spain, Finland and the US, involves a regular and unconditional cash payment to everyone, designed to reduce poverty and ensure economic security.

Just two places in England have now been given pilot status: East Finchley, and Jarrow in Tyne and Wear. The pilots would see 30 people in total (15 in each place) receiving £1,600 a month for two years.

Pros and cons

“With the decades ahead set to be full of economic shocks due to climate change and new forms of automation, basic income is going to be a crucial part of securing livelihoods in the future,” said Will Stronge, director of research at the think-tank Autonomy, which backs the plan. However, critics argue the idea costs too much, diverting funds from public services, and that instead, financial support should be more targeted.

GBL’s involvement

Since 2021, East Finchley’s Lottery-funded community group Grange Big Local (GBL) has been working on the pilot plan, together with their Central Jarrow counterpart and researchers from Northumbria University.

GBL’s Julia Hines told *The Archer*: “It is very much a grass-roots, local proposal that came from East Finchley as much as it came from Jarrow. We were overwhelmed by the response – it made the news nationally,

and internationally in the US, New Zealand and France.”

She believes that a UBI could address problems with the current benefits system, such as “people getting into debt because of waiting periods for Universal Credit (UC) to start, or sanctions, often incorrect on appeal; people trapped in low-paid work because of thresholds; and conditions that just don’t work for people.”

Funding and participants

The East Finchley and Jarrow pilots could provide a model for other universal basic income schemes across the country and campaigners are now seeking £1.6 million in funding to launch them.

The current government has indicated that they will not support the trial financially. The GBL team expects the money to come from trusts and philanthropists and, potentially, regional mayors.

Anyone from East Finchley is allowed to put themselves forward and can remain anonymous. While participants will be drawn randomly, the organisers plan for it to be a representative group and to include 20% of people with disabilities. They are not seeking applications for the pilot until the funding has been secured.

“We are really proud that we could start a serious conversation about what is wrong with the system we have, and how we might fix it,” said Julia. “Everyone who answered our questions or came to a meeting is a part of that.”



Food on foot: Three Big Fun Walkers refuel as they head down Primrose Hill, more than halfway along the route to Westminster. Photo North London Hospice.

Downhill all the way for fun walkers... well, almost

By John Lawrence

More than 1,300 walkers set off from Cherry Tree Wood for the annual Big Fun Walk last month. Their combined efforts brought in an amazing £170,000 to support the end-of-life care services provided by North London Hospice.

The park was crowded with families, friends and individuals early on Sunday 21 May as the walkers picked up their packed lunches and set off on the 8.5 mile route to Westminster.

After walking through Highgate Wood and up the long climb to Highgate Village itself, it was pretty much downhill or flat all the way through Hampstead Heath, Regents Park, Hyde Park and St James’s Park, in coolish weather that was a mix of sun and cloud.

The traditional outdoor finishing point and brass band welcome opposite Westminster Abbey was replaced this year with free tea and coffee and comfortable seating in the basement of the Methodist Central Hall across the road, certainly a more weatherproof venue.

One participant Linda said: “What a wonderful day. Two of my daughters and I took part in the Big Fun Walk in memory of my father-in-law, who passed away in April this year, and also to raise money for the amazing hospice who were so brilliant to him, and all of our family, in a time of utter despair. The walk was tough but we are so glad we did it and everyone was so lovely and encouraging.”

North London Hospice provides free care to patients and their loved ones. Less than 40% of its costs are covered by the NHS so it needs to find millions of pounds each year to ensure its doors can remain open 365 days a year.



More for the pot: Kim Athanasiou, left, brings along some plants for Jane Marsh to sell in aid of research into Multiple Sclerosis.

Holy mint helps front garden fundraiser flourish

Beautiful weather helped Jane Marsh and her group of gardening friends and neighbours break all records this year with their charity plant sale in Bedford Road on Saturday 20 May. A massive £800 was raised for the MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Society by selling home grown plants, plus donations from friends who couldn’t come along on the day.

Jane’s fundraising efforts are always supported by the Athanasiou family, proprietors of Tony’s Continental in the High Road. Chris Athanasiou is one of an estimated 130,000 people living with MS in the UK today.

His wife Kim is a keen gardener and she has now joined Jane’s enthusiastic band of plant propagators and donors. Star of this year’s sale was her contri-

bution of pots of ‘holy mint’, which Kim says originally came from a monastery in the Cypriot mountains.

Multiple Sclerosis is a neurological condition and, although there is currently no cure, new developments are improving the management and treatment of MS all the time. To learn more about MS or make a donation, please visit the charity’s website mssociety.org.uk.

Judith Costa Podiatry

Judith Has Moved!

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Song and dance: Youngsters from Fixation Academy turn the pavement into a performance space at the Happening event on the High Road.

Happening space for all in High Road

By David Janosi

Fabulous contributions from the local community and lively performances brought life to the centre of East Finchley on Saturday 17 June, with more than 100 ideas pegged up with inspiring thoughts about the future of our High Road.

The event was part of the London Festival of Architecture, organised by East Finchley Town Team and MillsPower Architecture. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our washing line of postcards about how to transform the wide pavement in front of Budgens and Iceland.

Uplifting entertainment animated the space along with vivid conversations between local residents, children, community leaders, Town Team members and architects. Young trumpeter Gloria and Fixation Academy's

performance of *Matilda* drew the crowds, with local musicians Yuliia Humeniuk and Dayvid Grant performing on accordion and guitar.

The lively, open air workshop showed yet again the potential of the wide pavement to become a really great public space. The ideas and footage will be used to take the next steps to create a fun and useful heart for East Finchley for everyone. Follow @eftownteam and @millspowerarchitecture on Instagram for updates.

Now it's the Big Fun Run

After the success of this year's Big Fun Walk, the North London Hospice team are upping the pace with their new Big Fun Run on Sunday 10 September at Trent Park.

Participants can choose between a 5km course with 17 obstacles along the route, including slip and slide, a spider web and cargo net climb, or a competitive 10km run, which will be timed.

There is an entry fee and a suggested minimum sponsorship target in order to raise as much money as possible for the Hospice's work. Children aged 12 and above are welcome to take part. Find out more at northlondonhospice.enthuse.com/cf/big-fun-run

Out-of-order lift leaves Sonia stuck on the stairs

By David Melsome

A former headteacher says she and fellow residents at a retirement property in East Finchley have been left at risk by a failure to keep their only lift in working order.

Sonia Singham, the former head of Holy Trinity Primary School, is now a wheelchair user after having surgery to remove her left leg. She lives on the first floor of Mulberry Court in the High Road, N2.

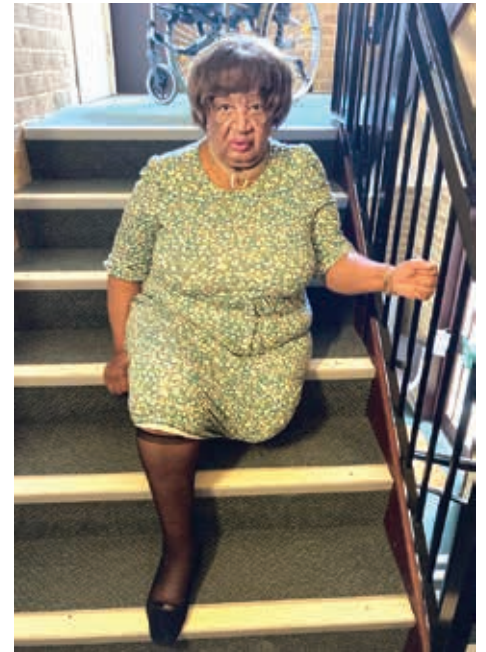
Over the past year the property's lift, which is essential for Sonia, 80, to be able to get in and out of the building, has been out of order a number of times, sometimes for more than a week.

Not only is this restricting Sonia's social activities, she says it is also putting her at greater risk should there be an emergency when she has to evacuate the building. Her only way out when the lift is not working is to shuffle down the stairs.

Over Easter, when the lift was broken for ten days, Sonia had to manoeuvre down two flights of stairs in order to attend a local church service. She told *The Archer*: "The situation has had a debilitating effect on my wellbeing and social life."

"The lift has been regularly serviced and inspected by a specialist contractor, with any repairs or recommendations actioned to ensure that the lift continues to work well for those that use it.

"However, it is now of an age where routine maintenance is no longer viable and a full refurbishment is required, including the replacement of some original parts



No choice: Mulberry Court resident Sonia Singham is forced to shuffle down the stairs.

Management response

FirstPort, the management company that looks after Mulberry Court, has said it is upgrading the lift this summer and apologised to residents for the inconvenience caused by the repeated lift breakdown.

A spokesperson told us:

that take time to source. "The refurbishment works have now started and we are working as quickly as possible to get the lift back in action. We will continue to keep residents fully updated and the Development Manager is supporting those who need additional help."



Hazard: The tree across the Northern line. Photo Maureen Delandro

Tree branch falls on line

Tube travellers had a lucky escape after a large branch broke off a tree over the Northern line and a train ploughed through it before the alarm could be raised.

The branch fell onto the track close to Brighton Road, N2, on Friday 12 May and resident Maureen Delandro reported seeing a train travel through the branches before she was able to

call the police.

Transport for London were alerted and services were halted until the track could be cleared. There were no reports of any injuries.

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BIG FUN RUN

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10k run



5k obstacle race



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Deaths of mother and daughter remain a mystery

By David Melsome

The deaths of a mother and daughter in a flat in East Finchley remain a mystery after a coroner said he was “at a loss” to explain how they died.

Zarin Adatia, 84, and her daughter Tasneem, 48, were found in their home in Prospect Ring, N2, last November by gas inspectors, six months after they were last seen. An inquest at North London Coroner’s Court last month heard there was no suicide note or any signs of forced entry and the rent on the flat had paid regularly each month.

Tasneem, who suffered from diabetes, cared for her mother, who was immobile. However, post-mortem examinations could find no cause of death, while a toxicology report could not be carried out due to the passage of time.

Concerns over months

The BBC reported that neighbours became concerned for the welfare of the Kenyan-born pair in April last year, but it was initially assumed they had gone on holiday. Gas inspectors sent six letters, made three phone calls and knocked on the door three times between last September and the day they were found on 24 November.

Met PC Asad Iqbal said the gas engineers had obtained a

court warrant to force entry into the property and, on arrival, found the lifeless remains of the mother and daughter. Tasneem’s mobile phone, which was on charge, was found on a table next to her and fans in the room were switched on.

Coroner’s comments

Assistant coroner Peter Straker told family members at the inquest: “It is an incredibly difficult case to get any handle on, to get any understanding on. I am left purely with speculation and I am not entitled to speculate as to what may have happened.

“When I read of your mother and how they were found I was left thinking about carbon monoxide, gas safety but there was no evidence of that being a contributory factor.

“I had a glancing thought towards suicide but found nothing to suggest that was a reasonable explanation. It is very difficult to think of anything that is not speculation and even natural causes might be speculation. I am at a loss. I don’t know what to say.”

The coroner recorded an open verdict.



Cat friends: Author Vicky Martin, second from right, and staff at Oak Lodge School celebrate the launch of their collaborative book project, below. Photo Oak Lodge School

What’s it like to be an autistic girl?

By Ruth Anders

What does it mean to be an autistic girl? Read *Everything Starts with a Dot*, and you’ll get a vivid idea. This delightful novel is the result of an ambitious two-year collaboration between a mixed age autistic girls’ group at East Finchley’s Oak Lodge School, the charity Community Focus, author Vicky Martin and illustrator Georgia Cowley. Vicky and the girls wrote the novel in year one, and over the past year they’ve adapted it into a play.

The idea was to create a female character who represented the groups’ own feelings and experiences, using improvisation, drawing and writing workshops. Other key themes include family relationships, bereavement, radio station Magic FM and cats, so there’s



who is not autistic but has anger management issues, is very difficult for me as I’m much more chilled by nature than she is. But the project has given me heaps more confidence.”

Raising awareness of autism

Assistant headteacher Rebecca O’Connell said: “We’re all so proud of this project. It raises awareness about autism without in any way being sensational.”

Funded by John Lyon’s charity, the play will be performed by members of the Oak Lodge girls’ group and others at North Finchley’s Arts Depot on Monday 17 July for an invited audience. To buy the book, visit The Lodge school shop, 132 East End Road, N2, in person, or go online to [etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com) and search ‘Everything Starts with a Dot’.



In demand: Fantasy author Alice Chao has published her debut novel set in Shanghai

Bidding war for author’s debut novel

By Justin Csaky

East Finchley author Alice Chao’s debut novel was published by Hodder and Stoughton on 1 June after a five-way auction for the work. Brimming with passion, fury and unforgettable characters, *Shanghai Immortal* is a richly imaginative adult fantasy teeming with Chinese deities and demons cavorting in Jazz Age Shanghai.

Alice is a Chinese-Canadian author of fantasy. She’s fascinated by the interplay between self-perceived versus imposed identity and how this intersects with belonging and enjoys exploring these spaces in her stories.

A recovering lawyer and Chi-

nese steamed bun enthusiast, she knits to soothe anxiety and has a deep abiding love for Japanese Hobonichi planner books and kawaii planner stickers. Alice lives in the county roads in East Finchley and says the warmth and sense of community was so welcoming when she first

arrived that it made her feel at home straightaway. She also credits the coffee at Campbell and Syme’s on Fortis Green, N2, for getting her through some writing deadlines.

You can find out more about Alice at www.aychao.com and on Twitter and Instagram @ay_chao

plenty in the mix.

Lili Barcroft, project manager at Community Focus, told *The Archer*: “Live performance makes autism accessible for everyone, and some of the dialogue is taken verbatim from the students’ improvisations. This story smashes stereotypes. The creative process has been meaningful for everyone involved, teaching them all sorts of new skills. The project should have a future.”

Student actor Carol, who plays one of the leading characters, told us: “Playing Violet,

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Festival 49 is unforgettable!

Not many of us can say we're better than ever at 49 but East Finchley Festival can! Organisers had no intention of waiting until the event's 50th anniversary next year to deliver one of the best parties in the park that we've ever had.

Cherry Tree Wood was transformed on Sunday 18

June. The quality of entertainment on the two stages was truly outstanding and the sheer creativity and variety of all the market stalls meant visitors were never short of something new to discover.

The crowd of thousands was made up of all ages, proving that East Finchley's summer highlight is totally inclusive. There was laser tag in the woods, a

storytelling zone, an arts and crafts tent and a football shoot out. All the while, fabulous food was being served up and beer, gin and cocktails flowed. Congratulations to the volunteer team at East Finchley Festival CIC, who put in so much work to make it a success every year. Thanks also to all the stewards and raffle ticket sellers who volunteered their time on the day.



A special mention must go to the 224 North London Air Scouts whose hard-working young litter pickers patrolled the park throughout the six hours of the festival and afterwards to leave Cherry Tree Wood looking pristine.

Photographers Mike Coles and Tetiana Shedko were there all day too and we hope you enjoy this selection of photos that really capture the festival spirit. Find more on Facebook and Instagram @EastFinchleyFestival. And roll on Festival 50 in 2024!



Michelle Collins opens the festival



Host Pat "Have Mercy" Leacock



Shoppers delight: the many craft and makers stalls



Cllrs Alison Moore and Arjun Mittra on stewarding duty with Cllr Ann Clarke and Helen Pugh and Sara Sibley of Finchley Foodbank



Tennis coach Paul Salter and the TP Tennis team ran free coaching sessions in the courts



Double trouble: Life of Riley rocking the main stage



Crowds filled Cherry Tree Wood



Delicious: Fala Portugues



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The Archer Academy school choir on the community stage



Over 100 stalls filled the park



Yum & Bass on home turf



Going wild: Kids enjoy laser tag in the woods



Belly Ache on the main stage



Multi-instrumentalist and singer songwriter, Natsuma



Fortitude Dance Company on the community stage



Walkies!



Fun in the kids' craft tent, run by LBL After School Clubs

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TUESDAYS
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7.30-8.30pm Dancercise (Adult fitness class)

THURSDAYS
5.30-6.30pm Dance Performance Crew (Ages 5-8)
6.45-7.45pm Dance Performance Crew (Ages 9-11)
8-9pm Dance Performance Crew (Ages 9-11)

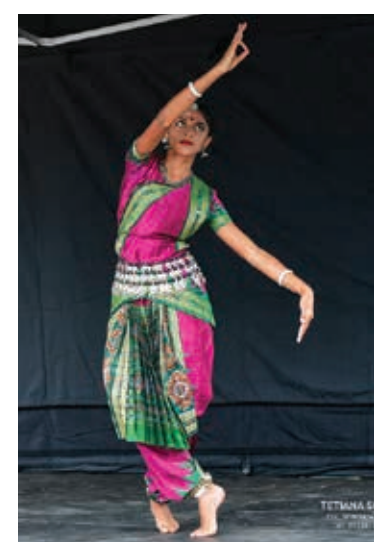
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Our performance groups work towards an annual dance show and learn a mix of dance styles.



East Finchley jazz violinist David Lasserson



Madhuriya School of Classical Indian Dance



Long-serving helper Peggy, centre, gets a special thank you from fellow volunteer Annette Morris, left, and hospice shop manager Anastasiya Zhinipotoku.

Thirty years helping out at hospice charity shop

Anyone who shops regularly at the North London Hospice shop in the High Road, N2, is likely to know Peggy, one of their longest-serving volunteers. Peggy, whose real name is Mary-Jane Kevin, has lived in East Finchley for 38 years and recently completed 30 years behind the counter and in the back room at the charity shop.

She was presented with flowers and a certificate by fellow volunteers and hospice managers as a thank you for the years of service she has given to the store.

Shop manager Anastasiya Zhinipotoku said Peggy was truly deserving of the Long Service Award. "Peggy always welcomes the shoppers with a big smile and keeps the staff in

stitches with her many asides and Irish humour," she said.

"She is extremely supportive and dedicated."

As we report in our Be Part of It column this month, the North London Hospice shop always welcomes new volunteer members to its team. For more details, pop into the shop any time or call Anastasiya on 020 8883 6493.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago: July 2013

After the Somali Bravanese Community Centre in Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, was destroyed in an arson attack the previous month, Barnet Council promised a rebuild. Council leader Richard Cornelius said: "I have no intention of leaving a hateful scar on the landscape." Local people were shocked and disturbed by the attack and a vigil was held at the site soon afterwards, organised by Unite Against Fascism. Four years ago, the Somali Bravanese were finally offered permanent facilities in the new Tarling Road Community Centre in East Finchley.

15 years ago: July 2008

Traders in the High Road, N2, warned that a council decision to start charging for use of the pavement outside their premises could threaten their livelihoods. Until 2008, Barnet had allowed traders free use of 10% of the pavement outside their shops as long as at least two metres was left clear for pedestrians. Despite shopkeepers' fears, pavement use has continued to increase, especially by cafés and restaurants.

23 years ago: July 2000

Archie, East Finchley station's famous statue, celebrated its 60th birthday this month. The statue was unveiled on 22 July 1940 by its sculptor Eric Aumonier and cost £245 to make, using steel, beech wood and lead. The Archer statue, from which this newspaper takes its name, links the station to its historic surroundings as an ancient hunting ground.

Food bank draws on the power of 10

By David Gritten

It has now been a whole decade since the need was recognised in Finchley for a means to support residents hit hard by poverty and suffering from a shortage of food for their families. Clearly, something needed to be done, and a food bank was duly introduced in 2013.

Based within St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on the High Road, N2, Finchley Foodbank swiftly became a sought-after destination for local people who were struggling to make ends meet. It was a laudable enterprise and, while it initially alleviated a problem for many individuals and families, that was not the end of the story. Back in the food bank's early days, no-one could have foreseen the ways in which life would subsequently change so abruptly for masses of people.

The Covid-19 pandemic was bad enough, but it would soon be followed by a widespread cost-of-living crisis, which continues to this day.

Foodbank facts Remarkably, Finchley Foodbank has steadily grown with the passing years and has succeeded in meeting local demand. The Foodbank now regularly supports more than 200 households and offers aid to as many as 650 people in any given week, not only in Finchley, but across the borough of Barnet, often supplying three days of food and essential household goods.

Such has been the success

of its operation, an event was held last month at St. Mary's to mark the ten years of its existence. It was a well-attended occasion, and the mood among the guests was distinctly upbeat. The main speaker for the evening was the then Mayor of Barnet and East Finchley councillor Alison Moore, who said: "From small beginnings, the Finchley Foodbank has grown over the past ten years to meet rising demand, the challenges of the Covid pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis, with their trademark blend of compassion, determination and professionalism.. "With food banks sadly more needed than ever, I congratulate all the staff and volunteers for their fantastic service to our community over the past decade, and know that they will be there alongside us to meet the challenges of tomorrow." Something about Finchley Foodbank's tenth anniversary has galvanised local people connected with it. The phrase 'The Power of 10' is currently in wide use, and plays its part in stimulating a major push to address the challenges of food poverty in the borough.



Double-decker: Author and illustrator Oscar Ellis hands over his donation to Finchley Foodbank volunteer Louis Victor. Photo Mike Coles

Oscar's bus donation

By Lynn Winton

Oscar Ellis is a young man with a talent for drawing and illustration, and has just completed an Arts Award in the highest category Gold level.

As part of that, one of his tasks was to create a portfolio, and Oscar went a step further by writing, illustrating and printing a storybook which was then exhibited for three weeks at the Artsdepot in North Finchley. Called *The Breakfast Bus*, it tells the story of a campaign to raise money for hungry families. During the exhibition, sales topped £200 and Oscar wisely decided it would be very fitting, given the subject, to donate it all to Finchley Foodbank.

"It's so kind of Oscar to donate his profits to us," said Anna Maughan, co-ordinator, "We are currently supporting 220 households a week, that's around 600 people, so we can definitely make good use of donations like this". Find out more at finchleyfoodbank.org.uk Oscar, 19, was already familiar with the Artsdepot, having won a place on their work experience scheme for learning-disabled young people.



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RICKY SAVAGE ...

Old man's blues

Once upon a time, when men were men, women were women and teenagers were meant to be obscene and not absurd, there was something called rock'n'roll. It was all about being young and crazy and not caring. It was weird, it was wonderful and it annoyed your parents.

Any band with any sense would disappear in a flash of sound and light long before they hit 40. Not anymore. Just look at Glastonbury, look at the big name headliners and there's a 76-year-old married father-of-two putting on the glitz for one last time. But it is the last time for Elton.

Glastonbury, or any other summer music festival, is not for the young and reckless, at least the bands aren't. Guns'n'Roses are all pushing 60 and what was wild in 1986 is now just re-treads. A crowd as old as the band, plus their kids and grandkids most of them wearing reissued 'Appetite for Destruction' reproduction T-shirts ain't teenage angst, it's nostalgia.

And there's worse if you know where to find it. If you're really unlucky you can catch the latest Kiss farewell tour flogging its dead horse round the country. The makeup once covered up the acne; it now covers up the wrinkles.

Once upon a time The Who were the most exciting band in the world: *My Generation*, *Won't Get Fooled Again*, they meant something. But now two of them are long gone and what's left is hitting the road with an orchestra. No bottles of vodka being swigged on stage; it will all be herbal tea. What generation? An old generation.

Even the Stones are back, or what's left of them. There's still Mick'n'Keef and their mate Ronnie and a bunch of session men plus their old bassist heading off to make a new record. Can't get no satisfaction? More like can't get a limo to the stage door. They stopped meaning anything a good 40 years ago, but kids still ironically buy the T-shirt.

Maybe not everyone should pack it in. Cliff's still going at over 80 and the blues and jazzers kept going until they had knocked on heaven's door and been let in. But if you want something young an exciting, forget the old boys, they're well past their sell-by date. It's why Paul Weller's refused big money to reform The Jam, why there's no Led Zeppelin reunion tour coming up and why I hope that the Gallagher brothers' feud continues because I don't want an Oasis nostalgia tour. And yes, I am old enough to have seen all the best bands, but I saw them in their prime and that's when they mattered.

Premieres and favourites at chamber music festival

High Barnet Chamber Music Festival has announced its 2023 season with a programme featuring Beethoven and Haydn string quartets alongside world premieres and a charity concert.

Performers include the New London Orchestra, the Brompton Quartet and the pianist George Xiaoyuan Fu. The premieres are a new work by the emerging Australian composer Rob Hao and a newly commissioned version of Carol J. Jones' *Chrysalis* for string orchestra.

The charity concert features local musicians of all

ages and is held in memory of Jean Middlemiss, a renowned music educator who lived in High Barnet.

The Festival, now in its third year, runs from Friday 30 June 30 to Sunday 16 July and is held at St John the Baptist Church, High Barnet, a short walk from the Tube and on many bus routes.

For the full programme, see www.hbcmf.co.uk

Choral favourites in a relaxed style

Renowned local choir North London Chorus will be entertaining its audience with a programme of well-known arias and chorus from opera and operetta at 7.30pm on Saturday 22 July at St James Church, Muswell Hill.

They will be performing Mascagni's poignant Easter Hymn from *Cavalleria Rusticana* and the sultry chorus of *Carmen's* cigarette girls along with choral favourites by Mozart, Puccini and Verdi. The second half enters the lighter world of operetta and musical theatre with pieces by

Offenbach, Johann Strauss, Gilbert and Sullivan and Leonard Bernstein.

In addition to the main performance at 7.30pm, there will be a special one-hour relaxed performance at 5pm. Suitable for families, neurodivergent people and those living with dementia, the



Behind the camera: Film maker Mike Leigh, centre, chats with a resident on set in Summerlee Avenue. Photo Fiona Macdonald.

Secret film project moves into Summerlee Avenue

By Diana Cormack

An unoccupied end-of-terrace house on the corner of Summerlee Avenue and Cherry Tree Road, N2, became an occasional hive of activity over the last two months. Neighbours had become used to the long-term refurbishment of the property prior to it being sold but the sudden change when a film company took it over was a sight to behold.

An amazing number of workers needed to manage all the camera and lighting equipment for the shoot meant there was quite a crowd swarming over the property and surrounding road and pavements during filming for a new feature by acclaimed director Mike Leigh, renowned for *Secrets and Lies*, *Vera Drake* and *Topsy-Turvy*.

Information provided ...

Organisers Untitled '23 Ltd had forewarned residents with an introductory letter and personal visits to households to allay any fears they might have and regular updates were delivered by hand giving information about filming dates, not only in the Summerlee Avenue house but also one in Cherry Tree Road and another further up Summerlee.

There were also parking suspension details as Barnet Council allowed the company to use some residents' bays as well as the tube station car park and a small area (the site of the former pavilion) in Cherry Tree Wood.

And withheld
In this new film, the Sum-

merlee Avenue house is the main character's home but little else has been revealed despite residents' interest and queries. Particularly commented on has been the use of two trained foxes in the back garden for a late-night shoot.

The veteran film maker is well known for keeping his projects under wraps, but the film producers have told *The Archer*: "Set in London, Mike Leigh's new film explores family relationships in the post-pandemic

world. After over a decade spent making his two epic period films *Mr Turner* and *Peterloo*, Leigh returns to his ongoing exploration of the contemporary world with this tragi-comic study of human strengths and weaknesses."

If you want to know more, you'll have to see the film. Maybe it'll be made a special feature at the Phoenix Cinema or even have its premiere here in N2, as Mike Leigh has been a long-time supporter and patron.

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Striking contrast: A scene from *Kyiv Unbroken*, showing at the Phoenix Cinema for one night only.

Film and music for Ukraine

By Lynn Winton

A unique night of Ukrainian culture, music and discussion is being hosted by the Phoenix Cinema on Thursday 20 July to support East Finchley based organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine, and one of its main partners, British Ukrainian Aid.

All proceeds will go towards their vital work transporting aid to the people of Ukraine, and thus reduce human suffering whilst Russia continues to attack civilian sites. The evening's programme will start with a drinks reception accompanied by live music from Ukrainian

musicians, followed by the award winning documentary *Kyiv Unbroken* and a Q&A with its director Phil Strongman, who has won a string of international awards for his documentaries.

"An ongoing youth quake"
Kyiv Unbroken tells the

incredible stories of the artists, sculptors, photographers, musicians and filmmakers who have created artistic shockwaves all in the midst of a country at war, fighting for its freedom. Tickets are £15 and available now on the Phoenix website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk, listed under Special Events.

Brighter future for book shop as it celebrates 16 years

By Ruth Anders

Anyone who treasures our High Road's gem of a book shop, Black Gull, knows that it holds occasional events ranging from signings and an exhibition of rugs to an evening last year which promised that "Refreshments and live music will be provided in lieu of heating."



Spineless: Books positioned pages outwards at the Black Gull

The purpose of the most recent After Hours exhibition held on Thursday 1 June was to celebrate the 16 years of the shop and to produce pieces representing each of those years. The recent past has been overshadowed by uncertainty about the shop's lease renewal, but happily Black Gull is now looking forward with more optimism.

In amongst the second-hand books, artists Kasper Pincis and East Finchley resident Nick Scammell displayed new works responding to and derived from Black Gull's stock. Kasper's

works were often driven by a literary impulse, while Nick's pieces were all created from the books he's acquired from Black Gull over many years. That evening the books returned, one for each year of the shop's life.

The original intention had been to reverse all the books on the shelves with their spine facing inwards, thus providing a neutral backdrop. With a mere hour's set up, there was only time for one section of the shop to receive this treatment. For those who could not attend, a commemorative soft book jacket is being designed

using images of the shop and the exhibition pieces. The size of a standard Penguin paperback, some will be available at Black Gull.

Treasure-hunting

Turnover at this Aladdin's cave is quite rapid and readers looking for a treasure know they must visit frequently. And what a joy when one does; every purchase is accompanied by an informative and lively chat with General Manager Brian Schwartz or his colleague Chris Overfield, often providing relevant intelligence about an art gallery, library, exhibition, or area of the world one knew nothing about.

Sale date

The next Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 29 July from 10am to 1pm at its usual venue in Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. More information from 020 8368 8180.

What's On at the Phoenix in July

By Zalan Pall, general manager

Adventurer Indiana Jones, an epic biopic, a refreshing rom-com and a fundraiser all await audiences at the Phoenix Cinema in July. Indy is back! From Friday 30 June, daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones in the still-limber shape of Harrison Ford races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. Accompanied by his goddaughter, played by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, he soon finds himself squaring off against Jürgen Voller, a former Nazi who works for NASA. *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* is sure to offer plenty of summer fun.

Then from Friday 21 July we will be screening Christopher Nolan's much-anticipated account of the father of the atomic bomb, *Oppenheimer*. Seen as a hero to many, within a few years Oppenheimer would be vilified as a turncoat and a threat to his country. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of Robert Oppenheimer*, Nolan's film stars Cillian Murphy, in his sixth collaboration and first



leading role with the filmmaker. On Thursday 20 July, we are hosting a Ukrainian fundraiser event. In the award-winning *Kyiv Unbroken* you will discover the artists that mushroomed in Ukraine since the Maidan's Revolution of Dignity 2014 and its continuing influence on painters, photographers, sculptors, musicians and film-makers in both Ukraine and the whole of Europe. You'll learn about the artistic shockwaves that have followed to this day, all in the midst of a country at war, fighting for its freedom. In Greta Gerwig's *Barbie*, showing 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. To book and to find out more about our full programme for the month, visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk, or drop into our foyer.

Monumental symphony

The Finchley Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir say the symphonies of Brahms are some of their audience's best-loved pieces and their next concert will feature his monumental *Fourth Symphony*.

When they performed the piece in Hampstead years ago most of the church lights failed during the final passage, leading some of the audience to congratulate them on the dramatic effect. They are not hoping for a repeat this time.

In addition they will be performing *In Windsor Forest*, a five-section cantata adapted by Vaughan Williams from music originally composed for his opera *Sir*

John in Love. This is often performed with piano accompaniment but in this concert it will be the full orchestral version.

The concert, conducted by David Lardi, takes place on Saturday 8 July at 7.30pm at Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley. Tickets cost £18, concessions £15, under-18s £7 and you can save £2 per ticket by advance booking online at www.finchleysymphony.org

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Letters

Holey unacceptable

Dear Editor,

I am increasingly alarmed at the potholes in the High Road in East Finchley, which are getting worse. Every day you see drivers swerving to avoid them.

And although it is on the fringe of our area I am particularly worried by a bad pothole on the southbound section of the Colney Hatch Lane bridge across the North Circular.

This deep hole is in the turn-right lane at the traffic light and could easily throw a rider off a bicycle or motorbike. These potholes urgently need to be tackled by Barnet Council.

**Terry Tastard,
Mulberry Court, N2.**

Unmade track

Dear Editor,

The Bishops Avenue is always said to be 'Billionaire's Row' but try driving down it and it feels like an unmade farm track. There are deep and dangerous potholes everywhere in the section between the A1 and Hampstead Heath.

Probably these are caused by all the heavy machinery and huge vehicles involved in the rebuilding work that is always going on at the massive properties there. But why aren't they being repaired?

There's one particularly bad stretch near the top where the holes are unavoidable without swerving dangerously. Any one of them could burst a tyre or throw a poor cyclist under your front wheels.

Barnet Council or the construction companies, or both, should take responsibility for repairing these major hazards before there is a serious accident or possibly a fatality

**Michael Howarth,
Fortis Green, N2.**

Fit for purpose

Dear Editor,

Regarding your article on a new woodland plan for Cherry Tree Wood (*The Archer*, June 2023), I wonder whether a suggestion of installing fitness equipment for adults could be considered in the plan too?

**Lily Fok,
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.



Disposable? Vape tubes

Vape hazards

Dear Editor,

I wanted to ask your vaping readers to make sure that they do not put their 'disposable' vapes into their normal household waste. These one-time vapes contain lithium batteries.

Currently, 1.3million single-use vapes are thrown away every week in the UK, according to recycling group Material Focus. When littered, they can leach dangerous metals, battery acid, and nicotine into the environment.

Each vape also contains on average 0.15g of lithium, which equates to 10 tonnes thrown away over a year in the UK – enough to make around 1,200 electric car batteries. Producing this metal is an environmentally costly process that uses huge amounts of energy and water.

At a time when we are relying on lithium and the batteries it powers to fuel the transition to clean energy, it seems ludicrous to be casually throwing tonnes of it away with single-use vapes.

**Shan Magnusson,
Long Lane, N2.**

Editor's note: Do you know of any safe ways to recycle or dispose of single-use vapes? Please let us know by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk

Dangerous road

Dear Editor,

I wish *The Archer* would highlight the growing numbers of potholes in the A1000 road leading from the North Circular towards and into the High Road in East Finchley.

No effort has been made to repair these roads by the council for months and driving on this stretch of road has become hazardous, trying to avoid them to save my car tyres.

**Avtar Panessar,
Address supplied.**

Sudden removal of street trees leaves its mark

By Diana Cormack

Last October a notice appeared on the aged cherry tree outside our house informing us of the necessity to remove it. Headed 'Tree Replacement' it stated: "In order to continue with our sustainable tree cover programme, this location will be added to our continuing planting list."

A month later the tree was partially taken down, leaving a hunk of the trunk remaining. In January that stump was ground out and the subsequent space filled in with Tarmacadam. Another tree nearby suffered the same fate.

Each piece of work was done by a different company. None of the workmen knew whether or when the tree would be replaced, nor could tell me if it would be a cherry tree (despite being Cherry Tree Road, we have had some rogue replacements in previous years). They all referred me to Barnet Council.

Since then, when I have had the odd afternoon to spare, I have tried to follow this advice. Pressing one number after another, leading to a disembodied voice telling me to do so again, I inevitably end up leaving a message with a request for someone at the council to call me back. No one ever does.

According to the Borough's website, Barnet is mid-way through a five-year planting plan with guaranteed replacement planting following a three-year



Stumped: Not much left of the cherry tree

cycle, where 50 per cent of trees removed during any financial year will be replaced, with 25 per cent in the second year and the final 25 per cent in the third year. It states that the planting season is from November to March each year.

Presumably that means we've missed out this year. Ominously, another tree was felled this month, which could indicate an even longer wait for replacement in our road. What it does mean

is another patch of dark grey Tarmac, unsightly even before cars manage to leave their mark as they attempt to park.

I used to plant flowers around the base of our tree throughout the year, despite the annual weed killing sprayer doing his worst. Any ideas for improving the look of Tarmacadam?

Pause on blister pack recycling

Recycling project Bin There Donate That has reluctantly had to halt collection of used tablet blister packs because the ultimate recycling point at Superdrug in North Finchley has stopped taking large bags at one time.

Individuals can still take their own blister packs there but, for now, the collection points at Oakdale Pharmacy in the High Road and Links Pharmacy, East End Road, N2, are on hold.

Bin There organiser Emma Frampton said: "The only way we can reverse this in the immediate future, until we find a more sustainable long-term solution, is to have large numbers of volunteers taking some each week. Hopefully neighbours can work together to continue to recycle on a personal level."



Where to donate your unwanted household items for recycling

- Batteries to EF Electricals and Sainsbury's, High Road
- Bicycle inner tubes to Bike & Run, High Road
- Bras to Aliya J Boutique, High Road
- Cables and small electrical items to EF Electricals, High Road
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Dental products (toothbrushes and heads) to Cavendish Dental Practice, East End Road
- Electrical cables to Everything Electrical, High Road
- Ink jet cartridges to UOE, High Road
- Lightbulbs to Amy's or EF Electricals, High Road
- Make-up to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road.
- Paper, cork, ribbon, foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, carpet samples to Amy's, High Road
- Spectacles to Stewart Duncan Opticians and David Hillel Opticians, High Road



Memorabilia: Items from the glory days of British F1. Photo Simon Stiel

The stories behind a speed racing legend

By Simon Stiel

In 1972 when he was a young struggling driver in Formula Three, James Hunt met Lord Alexander Hesketh who was a hereditary peer and motorsport enthusiast. He later served as a Government Whip in the House of Lords. They formed a partnership and 50 years ago in 1973 made their world championship debut in F1 as team-owner and driver.

James Hunt would win a race for them in 1975 at Zandvoort, Netherlands, before being signed for McLaren in 1976. That year he beat his friend/rival Niki Lauda to the title by a single point. Hesketh also manufactured motorcycles and would give talented young designers a chance, like Frank Dernie who would later work for world championship winning

team Williams.

Last month, Lord Hesketh was in East Finchley at Hexagon Classics on the Great North Road to sign copies of the new book *Superbears*, billed as the uncensored story behind Hesketh Racing. Publisher Philip Porter was present and so were people who knew James Hunt and his family personally.

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Everybody needs good neighbours in 10K run



Pace yourselves: The Race the Neighbours runners set off in Cherry Tree Wood, left. The first man to arrive back is Matthew Wheat, centre, and the first woman home is Gillian Hughes, right. Photos Mike Coles

Piano player keeps up the keyboard connection

By John Lawrence



Practice makes perfect: Pianist Gavin at the grand piano donated by Richard King

The very popular series of free Sunday evening concerts at East Finchley Methodist Church continues this month with performances by five young people with a clear musical connection to N2.

The first half of the concert on Sunday 9 July will feature cellist Sophia, flautist Bella, trombonist Kaelan and singer-songwriter Naomi, all from the Ark Pioneer Academy in Barnet.

The second half will feature pianist Gavin, who will perform works by Mozart, Chopin, Ravel and Gershwin, on the church's recently restored Bechstein

grand piano.

The music students at the Academy have a connection with East Finchley because the church's former organist Richard King donated his own grand piano to the school, after searching for a suitable home for it. Students at Ark Pioneer receive class music lessons every week and almost one in

four of them learns to play a musical instrument.

East Finchley Methodist's free concerts have been running for years and continue to be well-supported, always inviting donations to a chosen charity. For the students' concert on Sunday 9 July at 7.30pm, any money raised will go to The London Music Fund.

Hundreds of runners set off from Cherry Tree Wood in warm conditions when the annual Race the Neighbours event returned on Sunday 4 June, pitching amateur athletes from East Finchley, Muswell Hill, Highgate and Alexandra Palace against each other in a needle match with a distinctly friendly feel.

The 10km route sent almost 500 runners partly on pavements and partly through parkland to Ally Pally and back in pursuit of personal bests and the Cherry Tree Cup, awarded to the postcode with the best average time. This year that honour went to N2, who have now won it four times. N6 were second, followed by N10 and N22. The fastest male runner was Matthew Wheat, running for N6 Highgate, who finished in 36mins 05secs, and the fastest female runner was Gillian Hughes, running for N10 Muswell Hill in 43mins 50secs. But there was a warm welcome home for every runner who crossed the finishing line, thanks to the enthusiastic Race the Neighbours hosts and friends and family among the many spectators.

Town Team looks ahead

By Diana Cormack

A meeting of East Finchley Town Team (EFTT) on Thursday 15 June, hosted by the Windsor Castle pub in Church Lane, N2, welcomed the following organisations: EF Community Trust, the Phoenix Cinema, East Finchley Neighbourhood Support CIC and East Finchley Open Artists.

Past and future events based on the three main aims of the team for the High Road were discussed; these being to encourage footfall on the High Road, to campaign for environmental improvements and to facilitate connections between traders, businesses and the local community including beyond the High Road.

Imminent was the London Festival of Architecture event, held two days later on the wide pavement outside Iceland and Budgens. With EFTT aiming to improve this much-used location, this was an opportunity to get people's views on transforming what is regarded as the heart of East Finchley.

Future High Road events could reflect past successes. Some residents have already

expressed their views on those events previously organised by the team which they would like to see repeated, the front runner being the successful East Finchley's Got Talent, which took place in The Phoenix Cinema.

Contact or come for a chat

What would you like to see happening here? Everyone is welcome to put forward suggestions or add to the discussions. You can keep up to date with the Town Team's plans at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/town-team or email eftownteam@gmail.com.

Otherwise you could make your way to East Finchley Constitutional Club in The Walks, N2, on Thursday 13 July where you can join in the chat at an informal social evening from 7pm onwards.