



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.

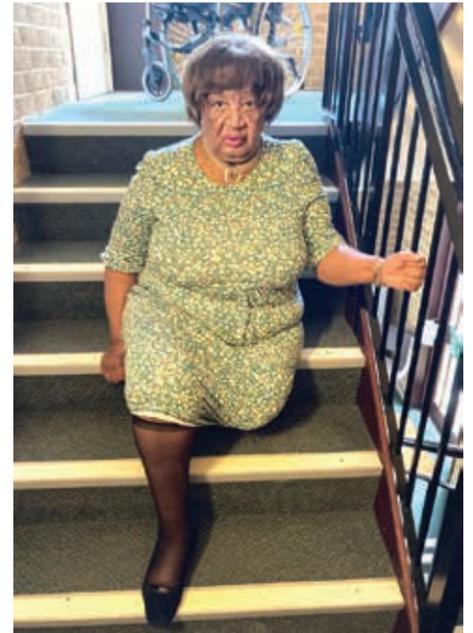
Over the past year the property's lift, which is essential for Sonia, 80, to be able to get in and out of the building, has been out of order a number of times, sometimes for more than a week.

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.

Join us for our brand new event

North London Hospice

BIG FUN RUN

Sunday 10 September 2023



10k run



5k obstacle race



Scan me

Register at

northlondonhospice.enthuse.com/cf/big-fun-run