

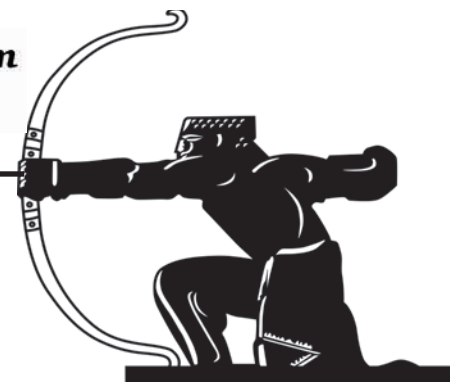


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30 Local News is our Aim
30 years 1993-2023

The Archer



June 2023 No. 350

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Now that's what I call a festival... 49!

By Alys Wainwright

East Finchley Festival is returning for its 49th year, with an exciting line-up of activities and entertainment for all ages, plus local food, artisan crafts and live music. It all takes place in Cherry Tree Wood, N2, opposite East Finchley station, on Sunday 18 June from 12noon to 6pm. Entry is free and festival goers are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket and pitch up for the day to enjoy all that's on offer.

MOBO-award winning DJ Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock, and singer Kate Galston will once again host the Main Stage. The Community Stage, hosted by Nick Allan, will be home to choirs, dance troops, singers and performing arts groups.

Family friendly

Meanwhile, the storytelling tent will feature a programme of stories for little ones, read by local authors, and East Finchley Open Artists will be running their popular eco-arts tent for everyone to get creative.

The children's area, run by LBL After School Clubs, will be packed with activities to entertain the little ones, including hook a duck, spin a prize and arts and crafts, and the ever-popular Beat the Goalie game, this year with appearances from the East Finchley Neighbourhood Support FC football team taking on



Host with the most: Pat Leacock entertains on the main stage at last year's festival. Photo by Tetiana Shedko

the young local talent.

Laser Tag is also back by popular demand. Spaces are limited so get in there early to get your shot at it. Details of how to book are on the festival

website: www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/lasertag.

There'll also be free tennis coaching for all ages in the courts throughout the afternoon with coach Paul Salter.

Makers' market

East Finchley Festival boasts one of north London's biggest makers markets, featuring over 80 local artisan makers, in addition to local business, community organisations and charity stalls.

Foodie paradise

You'll be spoilt for choice for food, with a wide range of cuisines including Pad Thai, hog roast, pizza, Vietnamese, Romanian and Indian street food, pasta, grills and salads, and lots of vegan options.

Pulling the pints are the gang from Muswell Hillbilly Brewers, who will be serving

a selection of locally brewed beers, including a festival ale, brewed specially for the event. Bottles'n'Jars will also be on hand with a selection of wines, and there'll be a gin bar and cocktails, plus the on-site Cherry Tree Wood Café will be serving coffee, Aperol spritz and beer.

Volunteers needed

The team needs dozens of volunteers on the day. If you can spare an hour to steward or sell raffle tickets, please email volunteers@eastfinchleyfestival.org or sign up at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer



Packed park: The 2022 festival crowd with craft and food stalls in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Mike Coles

East Finchley Festival, Cherry Tree Wood, Sunday 18 June

Main Stage

Hosts: **Kate Galston & Pat "Have Mercy" Leacock**

12:00 Festival opened by Michelle Collins
12:10 David Lasserson
12:35 The Autistix
13:15 Belly Ache
13:55 John Newman
14:30 Life of Riley
14:55 Pat "Have Mercy" DJ Set
15:10 Natsuma
15:40 JP Rose & The Garden
16:20 Neon Lights
17:00 Raffle drawn by Carolyn Pickles
17:15 Dex & Soulmates
18:00 close

Community Stage

Host: **Nick Allan**

12.05 Fortitude Dance Company
12.25 Yulia
12.50 Fixation Academy
13.20 The Archer Academy School Choir
13.45 The Archer Community Choir
14.10 Fortitude Dance Company
14.35 Brookland School Choir
15.00 Madhuriya, Classical Indian Dance
15.25 Gozde
15.50 Counterpoint Dance Company
16.10 Ethan Chin
16.25 Ned Ashcroft
16.55 North London Stars
17.15 Rock Choir
17.40 Patrick's Jazz Class
18:00 close

Storytelling Tent

Stories and shows for under 8s

12:00 Children's entertainer Ilana Banana
12:30 Sonia Beldom reads 'Granny Franny's Big Red Bus'
13.15 Jason Korsner reads a selection of his children's stories
14:00 Puppeteer Jake Eiseman-Reynard and friends
14:45 Keilly Swift reads a selection of her stories
15:30 Wendy Gallagher reads 'Pink Patsy and the Rainbow'
16.15 Sonia Beldom reads 'Granny Franny's Big Red Bus'
17:00 Puppeteer Jake Eiseman-Reynard and friends

See www.eastfinchleyfestival.org for details of activities and vendors on the field, or get updates by following the festival socials: Facebook/Instagram: @eastfinchleyfestival, Twitter: @eastfinchfest

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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 - July: 16 June, August: 14 July, September: 11 August

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Fortis Green house fire

Three adults and two children were taken to safety after fire ripped through a house in Fortis Green Avenue, N2, at in the early hours of Friday 19 May. Fortis Green - the main route between East Finchley and Muswell Hill - was closed for more than five hours as a result, while six fire crews tackled the blaze.

The evacuated people came from the house and a neighbouring property. Ella Whittaker, who lives opposite, was able to call 999 after her dog Twiggy

woke her as flames appeared at the front of the house around 4am.

Parts of the ground and first floors of the two-storey terraced house were damaged by the blaze. Half of the house's loft, which had been converted into flats, along with half of the property's roof, was also damaged. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

FOLLOW US!



BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

The annual **East Finchley Festival** will take place on Sunday 18 June from 12pm to 6pm in Cherry Tree Wood, N2. The festival is run by independent non-profit organisation East Finchley Festival CIC for the benefit of N2 residents, and relies on volunteers from the community to help on the day. They need about 60 volunteers to steward, supervise activities and sell raffle tickets. If you could spare an hour on the day, please sign up at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer or contact volunteers@eastfinchleyfestival.org

Bin There Donate That is a successful local initiative, driven by Emma Frampton's passion to create a more sustainable neighbourhood. All types of help needed for research, liaising with local shops to take in items for recycling/reusing, web and social media updates and project managing. Whether you have one spare hour a week or much more, email bintheredonatethat@gmail.com for more details.

A crucial element of **Finchley Foodbank** is their 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 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

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 grass roots 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.



Town Team plots out next steps to attract trade to East Finchley

By Ruth Anders

More than 30 people attended the East Finchley Town Team Committee's lively open meeting at the end of April and the East Finchley Constitutional Club buzzed with animated discussion.

The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the three events staged by the Town Team over the past year and to decide whether any should be repeated. They were a sustainability day, an arts and talent day, and a food and drink trail.

Attendees included representatives from *The Archer*, East Finchley Open Artists, East Finchley Festival, East Finchley Community Trust, Friends of Market Place Playground, the Windsor Castle Pub, Oakdale Pharmacy, the Phoenix Cinema, Barnwood, Grange Big Local and Barnet Council.

The general aspiration was for East Finchley Town Team to continue its activities in some way, with a particular focus on improving the local environment. People were also keen to repeat some recent events, such as East Finchley's Got Talent and the Cake Competition.



Future plans

A recent advisory group meeting has agreed the future remit of the Town Team: to encourage footfall on our High Road; to campaign for environmental improvements; and to facilitate connections between East Finchley traders, businesses and the local community. Town Team will also extend its reach to include enterprises outside the immediate High Road area.

Informal social meetings are planned at the Constitutional Club from 7pm on Thursday 8 June and Thursday 13 July. A further formal open meeting will be held on Thursday 14 September.

If you have further comments or questions for East

Finchley Town Team, you can contact them via www.iloven2.co.uk/town-team or email eftownteam@gmail.com

Festival of architecture

In collaboration with the London Festival of Architecture (LFA), the Town Team will be staging an event on the paved area outside Budgens and Iceland on Saturday 17 June from 12 noon to 4pm. This will focus on plans to improve the appearance and effectiveness of this much-used area.

Everyone is welcome to drop by to share their views on how it could be improved or developed. The LFA is a London wide initiative and further details can be found here: www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/2023-festival

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

109 Abbots Gardens, N2

Roof extension including rear dormer window with Juliet balcony, raised roof, one front roof light, and two roof lights to dormer.

62 Church Lane, N2

Conversion of dwelling into three self-contained flats, including two-storey front and side extension, first-floor rear extension, roof extension involving side and front dormer window with Juliet balcony, changes to fenestration, and internal alterations. Associated amenity space, cycle storage, refuse and recycling.

Ground Floor Flat. 67 Church Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

247A East End Road, N2

Roof extension including hip to

gable, rear dormer window, and three front roof lights. Extension to existing flat roof.

14 Elmfield Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

2 Hawthorne Dene, Strawberry Vale, N2

Alterations to front and side boundary wall. Vehicular and pedestrian access with front hardstanding to provide off-street parking.

340 High Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extensions.

343 High Road, N2

Roof extension, involving rear dormer window with Juliet balcony and two front roof lights. Single-storey rear extension. Rear patio. New vehicular access and front hardstanding to provide

off-street parking. New access steps to main entrance and bin store in forecourt.

69 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension to existing rear out-rigger. Roof extension involving L-shaped rear dormer with Juliet balcony and three front roof lights.

27 Lyttelton Road, N2

First-floor rear extension. Roof extension involving side and rear dormer windows. Removal of rear chimney. Changes to fenestration.

33 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

61 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension, following demolition of conservatory.



Full house: - The screening at the Phoenix Cinema. Photo Mike Coles.



Swings and roundabouts: Bill in Market Place Playground



Bill chats to Carolyn Pickles during the Q&A session.

Bill takes his seat for campaign to restore playground

By John Lawrence

Actor Bill Nighy made a special appearance at the Phoenix Cinema in support of the campaign to turn the run-down Market Place Playground in East Finchley into a smart new natural play space.

And it was a case of life imitating art as he chatted with fellow actor and local resident Carolyn Pickles ahead of a showing of his 2022 film *Living*, in which he plays a civil servant fighting to turn a Second World War bomb site into a children's playground.

The Phoenix was sold out for the screening and Q&A at the end of April, and all profits went towards the £100,000 transformation target set by the Friends of Market Place Playground, which is close to Holy Trinity

Primary School and The Archer Academy.

Bill and Carolyn first met at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool when they appeared in repertory there in the 1970s. He told the audience how important playgrounds are for youngsters and recalled his own childhood when he said they were a great place for meeting girls.

Using the funds

Funding for the new playground has already been secured from Barnet Council, Grange Big Local, and the Mayor of

London's Grow Back Greener fund, Betty Messenger Foundation. Further grant applications are in progress and the Friends are asking anyone who can help them get over the line to donate at: www.spacehive.com/marketplace-newplayequipment

Money raised will fund a wholesale rebuilding of the space, replacing the ageing Tarmac and rubber surfaces with grass and sand, and providing a new slide, swings and climbing equipment, as well as seating and shade with new planting

for all the community.

The campaign began in January 2021 with six residents petitioning to save the site from its 'low value, low quality' designation by the previous Barnet Council administration. The aim of the group is to bring nature and imaginative challenging play back to the space and create a local park for everyone to enjoy, year round.

Kathy Batten, Chair of Friends of Market Place Playground, said; "It was the icing on the cake to have the support of

Bill Nighy at the Phoenix. Our local councillors and the new administration have supported us throughout. Our funders have understood our vision and what we are aiming to achieve.

"Above all the local community, engaged from the start in developing our plans, have driven us forward. We are on the final stretch and need a final community push to get us over the line and help fully fund the work. Please give generously." Find out more at: friendsofmarketplace.org.uk



Every penny counts: Sofia, Emilia and Maya ready for their street sale in aid of Ukrainian children.

Street sale makes a difference for sick children in Ukraine

By David Melsome

Sisters Sofia and Maya Whitehouse were getting ready for bed one night when they began sorting out their bedrooms. They ended up with two big piles of unwanted items and decided there and then that they wanted to sell them for charity.

Sofia, eight, wanted to raise funds for sick children and Maya, six, wanted to help Ukraine, so they combined their ideas and decided to support the Children of Heroes charity, which looks after sick children in Ukraine.

On the day of their street sale in Lankaster Gardens, N2, their good friend Emilia Almarsdotir, nine, came over to help set up the tables for their stall and the three girls sat out for three hours selling items to neighbours and

passers-by.

"Items were priced either 10p, 50p, or £1," said Sofia and Maya's mother Julia. "They sold jigsaw puzzles, books and games. People were very generous and ended up giving more money for the cause. The girls were very excited." After the company their dad works for, insurers Marsh McLennan, doubled the money raised, the trio could make a donation of £122. Well done, girls!

Basma's storytelling inspires young writers at nursery

By Diana Cormack

Children looking through books at the Monkey Puzzle Nursery may well come across a character they know pictured on the cover. Marvellous Martin the Monkey already appears as the nursery's mascot on the notices outside their premises in East Finchley and Muswell Hill.

Also appearing at both these branches is the writer of the books in question, nursery teacher Basma Mohamed. When the nursery chain's head office pitched the idea for a staff story writing competition, colleagues encouraged Basma to enter.

Perhaps knowing that Basma was on the way to completing a degree in English Literature at Kings College may have given a clue to her prowess. In fact, Basma has loved writing from her primary school days and it has gone on to play a major part in her life.

Her poetry has been published as well as performed in places like the Arts Theatre and, she told *The Archer*, lockdown had inspired her to develop her skills.

She will probably be able to pass those skills on, for when she reads her award-winning story to the youngsters she teaches, they know that she wrote it. This inspires the little ones to write their own stories and perhaps go on to become authors themselves one day.

Marvellous Marvin and the Missing Puzzle Pieces tells the children how everything fits together to bring happiness to all. Basma praised her own parents for their

great support in whatever she chose to do. This is probably why she says: "Go for things. Never be afraid to put yourself out there in a positive way."



Story time: Writer and teacher Basma Mohamed reads to Monkey Puzzle children.

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Joy of helping a child to read from my own home

By Gail Norcliffe

Having retired in the thick of the pandemic, I was delighted to spot an advert from Bookmark, the reading charity, looking for volunteers to work online with primary school children.

Volunteers sign up to read one-to-one with children through school organised programmes, consisting of two 30-minute sessions a week for six weeks, with the process being coordinated through Bookmark.

Comfortable with reading online with their volunteers and using the programme is very straightforward. Bookmark is also running some programmes face to face, including in schools in north London.

Volunteers get support

Bookmark provides excellent practical training for volunteers, along with helpful and ongoing support. Feedback from schools shows how beneficial the Bookmark programmes are for children's reading, and



Screen assistant: Gail Norcliffe helps young readers from the comfort of her own home. Photo Mike Coles

From the comfort of my kitchen table in East Finchley, during my two years of volunteering I've worked with children in all areas of the country from Cornwall to Leeds, and it is a hugely rewarding experience. I aim to make the sessions fun and encouraging for my readers, and it's an absolute joy to see their reading confidence and enjoyment grow.

The children are very com-

good literacy skills are so essential for them to be able to make satisfactory progress.

Bookmark is looking for lots more volunteers, so, if you could spare 30 minutes twice a week during the school day to help children with their reading, please do apply. More information including how to apply is available at www.bookmarkreading.org/volunteer



Count on us: Bernard Manson, right, with Number Champions volunteers Peter Davies and Ayesha Aka enjoying a coffee break in Dan & DeCarlo. Photo Mike Coles.

Double win for charity that builds numbers skills

By Lynn Winton

Hot on the heels of being awarded a Points of Light award by the Prime Minister, the founder of East Finchley-based Number Champions, Bernard Manson, has received a second accolade on behalf of his educational charity.

He was named a Coronation Champion, a special award launched by the Royal Voluntary Service, together with Her Majesty Queen Camilla, to celebrate exceptional volunteers across the country who have been contributing to their communities.

Bernard, an East Finchley resident for 38 years, organises ongoing training for in-school volunteers. They use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions with children aged six to eight to help them make sense of numbers and so gain skills and confidence.

Number Champions is currently partnering with 28 schools across 12 London boroughs, a huge achievement considering the charity was only created in 2018.

Bernard's story

"I knew volunteers who helped primary school children with reading so when I neared retirement, I decided to do something similar and help primary school children who didn't 'get' maths," said Bernard. "However, I discovered no schemes offered this, so I set up Number Champions to create an appropriate volunteering opportunity for myself and for other people to help children with numeracy in a fun way.

"We received a very positive response from schools, which created an impetus for us to support more children, and I soon found myself organising

the charity full time. Over five years we've had 300 volunteers who've helped more than 760 children to engage better with maths, leading in turn to better probable educational and life chances.

"Our volunteers come from a wide demographic, span a huge age range, and represent at least 45 nationalities. Some have even gone on to become teaching assistants, teachers, and school governors. Our annual evaluation of impact from class teachers has consistently shown a large increase in confidence

and maths skills across the population of 'our' children".

"Only connect"

The Archer first wrote about Number Champions when it was launched. Once we started our regular volunteers column we've been able to connect them with committed volunteers, as we have for many other local organisations.

Visit numberchampions.org.uk to know more about volunteering or if you teach in a primary school and would like to find out if Number Champions can help your pupils.



Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Car thefts

Unfortunately East Finchley is suffering an increase in theft from and of motor vehicles. We would like to remind folk about securing their vehicles. Here are seven ways to keep your car safe at home:

1. Turn your car wheels into the the kerb. This makes it more difficult to make a quick getaway as it makes the car more difficult to manoeuvre.

2. Get a steering wheel lock. They're very low tech but for this reason are surprisingly effective.

3. Keep your valuables out of sight. Don't attract thieves to your vehicle, so lock bags and other personal items in the boot. A bag might only contain your gym kit, but a thief doesn't know that.

4. Why not etch your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) onto your car windows? A vehicle with etched windows makes it unattractive to thieves as the car is easier to identify and the thief will have to spend a lot of money replacing all of the etched windows before they can sell it on. Your VIN number has 17 digits and is stamped into the chassis of your car.

5. Watch them. Rig up CCTV or more easily a video doorbell, which allows you to see, hear and speak to visitors from anywhere. Both these will often deter a thief.

6. Leave your car in a well-lit position if you can. Thieves don't want to be seen.

7. Get an anti-Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) wallet or Faraday bag to keep your car keys in. These block signals from your key fob and so prevent thieves relaying or blocking signals from your key fob using wireless transmitters.

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- a basic understanding of Excel spreadsheets
- experience of managing people and systems
- an ability to think strategically
- excellent communication skills
- energy, positivity and a 'can do' attitude.

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Nature first: The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have plans to make it more biodiverse. Photo Mike Coles

Woodland plan to make Cherry Tree more biodiverse

By David Melsome

A permanent wetland and ponds, pollinator-friendly mowing and foraging gardens are among the ideas in a new woodland management plan for Cherry Tree Wood.

The draft plan has been drawn up by Barnet Council in collaboration with the Forestry Commission and the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. It should pave the way for grants and other funding to put the ideas into practice.

Other suggestions in the plan are the reintroduction of hedge laying and coppicing, and the establishment of local recovery zones to allow flora

and fauna to flourish. Forest gardens would be specific areas populated with plants that are suitable for foraging.

The permanent wetland and ponds would be part of a new drainage plan which would seek to divert and harness the large amount of standing water that accumulates on the grass area every winter and spring.

Roger Chapman, Chair of the Friends group, said: "This

is a great step forward for the Wood. Working with the council should help increase biodiversity and interest.

"This is a 'live' plan meaning it will be continuously reviewed and updated. If you have thoughts about other things that could be done do let us know so we can work with the Council to bring the plan ideas to fruition."

Friends' Festival stall

The draft plan can be seen on the Friends' website at <https://friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog/> and the group will be displaying it on their stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 18 June. Roger added: "There will be an increasing opportunity for volunteers to get involved in our work so do let us know if you might be interested as we will be setting up a new conservation task group in the coming months." For more information email friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com

Sub-station development

In other news for Cherry Tree Wood, the six-storey development of a derelict sub-station on the Great North Road, on the other side of the tube tracks from the park, has been given the go ahead.

As reported in previous editions of *The Archer*, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood were opposing the mixed residential and office development because the upper floors would overlook the park. Barnet Council refused planning permission but that decision has now been overturned by a Government Planning Inspector following a public hearing.

Father's mission to put the brakes on fast fashion

By John Lawrence

An East Finchley father-of-two is spearheading a project to persuade the fashion industry to change the way it does business and help prevent climate change destroying the world for our children.

Martin Flowers has set up Kyoto Kids to urge our high street fashion chains to transport their clothing products into the country every year but bringing them by air creates about 46 times more CO2 emissions than if they came by boat. Airfreight is used to get the products onto our shelves more quickly.

Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of clothing come into the country every year but bringing them by air creates about 46 times more CO2 emissions than if they came by boat. Airfreight is used to get the products onto our shelves more quickly.

Airfreight issues

Martin, who has worked in clothing production and critical path management for more than 20 years, said it doesn't make sense for the industry to operate in this way when we know we face a climate emergency.



Fashion drive: Martin Flowers

needs practical solutions."

Facing tomorrow

Martin has set out his ideas to the British Fashion Council and has created a website for his

project at <https://kyotokids.ucraft.site/>. He believes we can all help by refusing to buy 'fast fashion' and by putting pressure on established brands and retailers to avoid using airfreight.

"Textiles were the leading industry of the Industrial Revolution through the mechanisa-



Cost of clothing: Martin's daughters Sabrina and Madina back his campaign

"When I looked into it, I was shocked at the amount of products that were needlessly airfreighted into the UK. The supply chain had not been managed as well as for the amount of product that was deliberately shipped by air to cash in on the surge in sales while the product is trending," he said.

"A completely new retail model is needed. How can we hope to achieve Net Zero while this is going on? There is no shortage of clothing on the shelves, we are not facing a clothing emergency; we are facing a climate emergency that

tion of the spinning and weaving in England's cotton mills," Martin added. "Children suffered during the Industrial Revolution, just like our children today will be the ones that suffer tomorrow from the current generation's inability to find effective solutions to the climate change problem."



Spine-tingling: The Phoenix gets ready for its horror film festival. Photo courtesy of Phoenix Cinema

Night of frights at the Phoenix

By Claire Kleinman

Back in April, the Phoenix Cinema hosted a film festival for fans of horror called Creepuscula! The screening event was presented by The Malarkey Film Festival, a grassroots, mostly-for-fun but serious-about-art organisation that celebrates film makers and their community.

Originating in New York, Malarkey had two successful screenings at the Phoenix, programming short films from emerging independent filmmakers, after receiving more than 750 submissions from London and all over the world in categories such as Experimental, Docu and Queer horror. The final screening

shortlist consisted of 23 films.

The Malarkey Film Festival says it is committed to accessibility with free submissions and pay-what-you-wish entry to all of their events. Keep an eye out for future collaborations between Phoenix and Malarkey, possibly in the autumn. Find out more at malarkeyfilmfestival.com

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Game: Councillor Arjun Mittra pins ears on the King



Sunny: Neighbours chat in Leicester Road



Yummy: Coronation cake in Lincoln Road



Bustling: Creighton Avenue crammed with partygoers



Tea up: Actor Michelle Collins, second left, and friends serve up the refreshments



Heave-ho: Tug of war in Lincoln Road

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Choir's Creation

A choir drawing its members from East Finchley, Muswell Hill, Finchley, Highgate and Golders Green is performing Haydn's *The Creation* as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations.

Alyth Choral Society is staging the concert at Alyth Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, NW11, in company with The King's Sinfonia on Sunday 2 July at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £20 (under 25s £10 and children free)

are available at alythchoiralsociety.wordpress.com. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing with professional music direction and there is no singing test to be accepted. Find out more on the website above.

Festival in the wood

Nature reserve Coppetts Wood, off Colney Hatch Lane, N11, or Porters Way, N12, is welcoming visitors for its annual Festival on Sunday 11 June from 1pm to 4pm. There will be more than 25 stalls, along with children's activities, a puppet show, story telling, live music and food and drink. Entry is free with any funds raised going to Coppetts Wood Conservationists.



This is us: Residents of Hertford Road gathered for this wonderful group photo at their Coronation street party. Photo Arron Armstrong.

The day our whole street came together

Maxine Klein tells the story of how one street party got off the ground and what it meant to her and her neighbours in Hertford Road, N2.

I am not a Royalist nor are many of my neighbours in Hertford Road but I am a party girl, any excuse for a celebration. And it has been a long time since the last Coronation when

Whatsapp? The committee of three identified a face painter, someone who could borrow some tables and someone, me, who would apply to get the road closed (that



Cuppa: PCSO Jan Lovell drops into Park Hall Road

in any case I was too young to raise a glass.

So my neighbour Milly and I decided to have a street party to celebrate, but more importantly to meet up with our lovely neighbours. Having convened an initial meeting to which only two other people came along we decided to go ahead anyway. Who needs a meeting when there is a street

was my only job and I managed to apply for the wrong day!) Milly, the very organised member of our team, WhatSapped all the neighbours, gave them the date, asked them to move their cars on the morning of the party and to bring food and drink. Someone offered to put up bunting, someone else organised some music and that was it.



Crowned: A right royal teddy bear

Meeting, greeting and eating

Came the Sunday after the Coronation, the sun shone, the cars were moved, the tables



Woof: King Charles (Spaniel)

went up and the food and drink arrived. It was a wonderful event. Everyone chatted to everyone else, greeted old friends and made new ones.

Neighbours who had just moved in were welcomed; long standing residents competed for how long they had lived in the street. I am, apparently, a relative new comer at 40 years compared to the neighbours who have been here for 60 years. Everyone was labelled so we could learn their names, which I am trying to remember.

Our resident musician sat on his wall and played his violin and the children had their faces painted and drew on the pavement with chalks. The older children played games and the cooler teenagers wandered around being cool.

The day after the party I

saw someone in the street whom I had not known before and I greeted her by name. Success! I wonder what will be our excuse for our next street party?



Made up: Face-painted friends



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
- Blister packs to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road, and Links Pharmacy, East End 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



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Learning centre flourishes in library building

By David Gritten

For decades now, East Finchley Library has been a local landmark. Set back from the High Road, it is large and handsome in red brick and has survived through various changes to its opening hours and staffing levels.

In the last few months, part of the library building has undergone radical change. This becomes clear if you take the single flight of steps to the first floor where you will find the SET Tuition Centre, created by two members of local family the Tajallifars, Ehsan and Abbas.

The centre is visible from outside with lights and signage in the windows, and inside it is a bright, modern and intriguing space. Its aims are: "To make a difference in lives through education."

Opportunity

Ehsan is an engineer by trade, and also spent 15 years



Teach-in: Staff and students in the SET Tutors classroom at East Finchley Library. Photo Mike Coles.

teaching privately. He says: "I came to realise that my real passion was education. I'd had in mind for a long time that I might be in a tutoring centre like this.

"This opportunity came about when agents told me about part of the library building being available for rent. I gathered that it was struggling because people don't use libraries as much as they used to. So (the owners) were relaxed about renting it out."

Provision for all young people

The centre is open seven days a week, providing tuition for younger people ranging from pre-school through 11-plus to A-levels and university. Subjects on offer include maths, science, chemistry, biology, physics and engineering: "Core subjects, plus a variety of different courses," as Ehsan explains. Students from other countries can study 'English for Everyone.' Find out more

at settutors.co.uk.

For their part, the Tajallifars are delighted by the centre's rapid progress since opening. "This has been as good as we could have expected," says Ehsan. "And for me, there's nothing more exciting than watching a student learning something new through work, and getting excited about it."

From The Archer archives...

10 years ago:

June 2013

Local traders met with Barnet Councillor Dean Cohen to highlight problems caused by parking restrictions in the High Road, N2, and suggest possible solutions. Cllr Cohen said it was the largest such meeting he had attended. Many shopkeepers emphasised their loss of trade, as did the Phoenix Cinema, which had lost custom because parking restrictions in place did not allow time for viewing a complete film. Cllr Cohen was not able to offer any solutions at that time.

15 years ago:

June 2008

Plans were first mooted to turn Finchley Memorial Hospital into a major new healthcare centre offering GP services and pharmacy dispensing. This raised fears that local patients and pharmacists might be adversely affected. The hospital was subsequently rebuilt and fortunately those local worries were not realised.

23 years ago:

June 2000

We reported on a spate of airgun shootings in Cherry Tree Wood. Pigeons and squirrels had been found dead, along with a greater spotted woodpecker. Two local boys had been seen running from the park after the keeper heard shots, but no prosecutions followed.

Johnnie Proud, 1938 - 2023

Johnnie Proud, who died in April aged 84, lived in East Finchley all his life, growing up in Huntingdon Road, and moving to Durham Road and then Richmond Road.

One of five siblings, he was very mischievous and into everything he shouldn't have been as a young boy. Once, when he was looking after his sister Eileen, they had gone to London Zoo and Johnnie thought it would be a good idea to put a board over to the monkey enclosure and let them all out.

Johnnie grew up in the 1950s as a young teddy boy or rocker. He was very proud of his handmade suits and quiff haircut. In the early 1960s, after national service, he joined the Territorial Parachute Regiment. He loved this time and gained his Para wings doing over 40 jumps.

Johnnie married June in 1960 and they had three sons, Andy, Tony and Robert. The boys fondly remember holidays in Malta. They especially remember their dad being involved with a mountain rescue in which a holiday maker had fallen and broken his leg. Johnnie went to his aid but in all the excitement grabbed the man by his broken leg!

Johnnie was lucky enough to be able to turn his hands to many different skills; his jobs included delivery driver, landscape gardener, grave digger and builder. He thrived in the building game and continued to work up until the ripe old age of 84.

Johnnie got remarried to Barbara after adopting Mark. They welcomed their son Brad-



Mischievous and much-loved: Johnnie Proud

ley in 1987.

Admittedly in later years Barbara and the whole family were trying to talk him out of going on the church roof to carry out ongoing repairs. His reply was: "I will be ok, I am working for God".

One of his passions in life was metal detecting and although he encouraged all of the boys to have an interest, his partner in crime was his brother Lenny. Johnnie and Lenny could be found most weekends night hawking and would always return with many tales to tell afterwards.

Johnnie was a very proud dad, grandad and great grandad, and his whole family will miss him dearly. Johnnie was fit and healthy throughout his life but after a short illness he sadly passed away peacefully on the 11 April.

New horizons for retirees

North London U3A has launched a programme of summer events for July and August, aimed at retired or semi-retired people looking for new interests, or new friends. The events, most of them free of charge, include walks, talks, art classes, maths events and museum visits. Find out more by visiting the North London U3A stall at East Finchley Festival on Sunday 18 June in Cherry Tree Wood, or visit www.nlu3a.org.uk/summer-programme.

Summer fair

There will be something for everyone at the summer fair at the Tarling Road Community Centre on Saturday 10 June from 10am to 3pm. Attractions include street dance, karate, yoga sessions and a DJ, as well as old favourites like a bouncy castle and face painting. You can also buy goodies from a range of stalls.

Volunteers are needed to help run the event. If you would like to lend a hand, or want to hire a stall, contact Sonile Zimba on 020 7018 6560 or email her at Sonile.Zimba@ymcalcan.org. Hiring a stall to sell things costs £30. Stalls giving out information are free of charge. Any surplus after the running costs are met will be reinvested back into the centre.

Woodside Ensemble

The next free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church is the Woodside Ensemble, playing a programme of Torelli, Mozart, Clara Schumann and Dvorak.

The ensemble is Kathy Bamber on violin, Maurice Chernick on clarinet, Ruth Cohen on viola, Laura Dodds on cello, Patrick Dodds on trumpet, Sanae Honda on violin and Simon Ferris on piano.

The concert takes place on Sunday 11 June at 7.30pm at the church on the High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue. Admission is free with a collection in aid of street children charity Toybox.



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RICKY SAVAGE ...

Round the clock

In the wonderful world of modern health and safety if you turned up in North West France and said you wanted to close ten miles of local roads for a 24-hour race they would probably have you arrested. But it wasn't like that 100 years ago because back then they said yes and the Le Mans 24 Hours was born.

The idea was simple: ordinary sporting cars with at least two seats raced from 4pm on Saturday to 4pm on Sunday in mid-June when there was maximum daylight. In the first year, there were 20 starters with two drivers per car and the winner managed 128 laps at an average speed of about 65mph.

The following year Bentley turned up and won, then did it again in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930. By now the race was fully established and British sports car fans added it to their to-see list. It came back after the war in 1949, running on the same circuit with the same unique traditions that had been set down in the 1920s.

Drivers didn't sit in the car to wait for the flag to drop, they stood on the other side of the track and ran across the road, before leaping into their car, starting the engine and heading off. Fine in the 1950s, but by the mid-1960s someone had invented seat belts and who wasted time doing them up? No one. Instead they tried to get them on as they hurtled down the 4 miles of the Mulsanne straight. That didn't stop until 1970.

And who said you had to have two drivers? In 1952 Pierre LeVagh managed over 23 hours of solo driving before the car gave up. Seeing as he was leading at the time it had everything you wanted from a French tragedy.

And yes, motor racing was dangerous. There's a long list of drivers who didn't make it, but the real tragedy happened in 1955 when LeVagh's Mercedes hit another car and was launched over the barriers, killing him and over 80 spectators. After that they tried to make the circuit safer. Nowadays it has chicanes on the Mulsanne Straight so no one can match the 253mph achieved in 1988. There are barriers everywhere and you have to have three drivers with no heroes trying to do it non-stop.

But it's still the only sports car race you've heard of, which is why when Enzo Ferrari refused to sell his company to Ford, Ford got their own back and built a car to win Le Mans. This year marks 100 years since that first race and after 50 years Ferrari are back. But Porsche or Toyota will probably win.

Looking ahead to events in Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

This year's programme of walks and woodland events is coming together, with details and updates available at coldfallwoods.co.uk

You may have missed the photography walk (for adults) and Fun in the Forest (for children) in May but more events are planned. On Sunday 11 June, 10am to 12pm, local artist Laura Fox will lead an individual and collaborative drawing session in the wood, using various tools and media. All ages are welcome and all materials will be provided, with the emphasis on enjoyment and being mindful.

On Sunday 16 September Diana Clements of the Natural History Museum will lead a Geology walk, which may appeal to older children as well as adults. She is an expert who can recreate the far-distant past in our small ancient wood. For wild plant enthusiasts an autumn plant walk is planned for Sunday, 1 October, led by local botanist Linda Dolata. And there will probably be one or two bat walks, always popular with families, with dates still to be fixed.

Coldfall walks and events are organised by the Friends

group and are free, with voluntary donations welcomed. Meet usually at the east gate into the wood on Creighton Avenue, by the noticeboard, and remember to book a place as some events are for limited numbers.

Tennis coaching

As part of their centenary celebrations, The Avenue Tennis Club in East End Road, N2, is holding an open day on Sunday 11 June from 2pm.

Visitors will have the chance to enjoy some free coaching and to play tennis with the coaches and members, and there will be discounts on memberships and summer camps for children. For more information visit www.avenuetennisclub.co.uk or email Head Coach Sally Bentley at sally@avenuetennisclub.co.uk or call her on 07958 758580.



Councillor Alison Moore had a busy year as Barnet Mayor, including visiting shops during the Town Team's Eat Finchley event in March and the Wilmot Close Coronation party last month. Photos Mike Coles

Alison comes back down to earth after her year as Mayor

By Ruth Anders

After almost a year as 57th Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Alison Moore has handed over her mayoral duties to Nagus Narenthira, who served as her deputy. Before the end of her tenure, Alison talked to *The Archer* about her year as Mayor.

"It's been a wonderful time", she said. "I've undertaken more than 300 engagements in a year when we had the Platinum Jubilee, many organisations having their first face-to-face event after Covid, the death of the Queen with the obligatory mourning period and formalities, and the Coronation of the King. "We've also had a breadth of occasions like the annual Urban Gamz in Colindale's Graham Park, the Pearly Kings and Queens Harvest Festival in Bow, and the five-mile Whittington Walk for the London Mayors' Association from Highgate to the Mansion House for lunch."

Robe pros and cons

Alison has revelled in every moment. Last July she told *The Archer* how she wanted to modernise the role. She chose not to wear the robe of office for Barnet Council meetings, although she enjoyed wearing it more than she'd anticipated.

"It's a great point of contact for people, a real talking point" she explained, "and there's so much tradition attached." She has used the robe for fun history lessons or 'robe shows' aimed at children and young people, this year including a group of young adult asylum seekers.

Alison has also enjoyed inviting young people from a range of backgrounds to speak at the start of Council meetings, a significant departure from the previous format of a chaplain and prayers.

Meeting people

The element of the role Alison has enjoyed most is

meeting people of all ages and backgrounds. She admitted that she found officiating at the citizenship ceremonies unexpectedly moving and the connection with children has been a delight, especially the many who "ask for a hug".

She added, "The most challenging aspect of the role has probably been maintaining political neutrality. Oh, and avoiding ladders in my tights!"

Spot the Festival steward

Having been told she looks like a pirate and a highwayman in her full regalia, will she miss the Mayoralty? "I'll still have a role as Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing, and meeting people across the borough has helped reinforce the need to tackle our health inequalities."



Laughter: On stage at last year's East Finchley Festival. photo: Tetiana Shedko

"I've had an amazing time as Mayor and learned a lot from the role, but I'm really looking forward to being back in East Finchley, at the Festival in a T-shirt and jeans and acting as 'toilet roll monitor' and general steward at large!"

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Knowledge tree spreads its branches again

By David Melsome

Before the pandemic came along, parents at Eden Primary School in Creighton Avenue ran a successful programme open to everyone called Tree of Knowledge where the intellectually curious could learn about subjects as diverse as world affairs, business, history, art and food.

This month, after a three-year break, it's back with a new line-up of speakers from the local community ready to share their insider knowledge of the worlds of football, human rights, the Middle East, Asian cooking and more.

our approach to teaching the children every day.

"There is an immensely diverse line up this year, from culture and politics to conducting and flower arranging, offering something for everyone and we look forward to seeing the school and local community come together to learn and have fun."

Significant speakers

Speakers include David Dein MBE, international ambassador for the Football Association and ambassador for the Premier League in conversation with *The Sunday Times* special correspondent

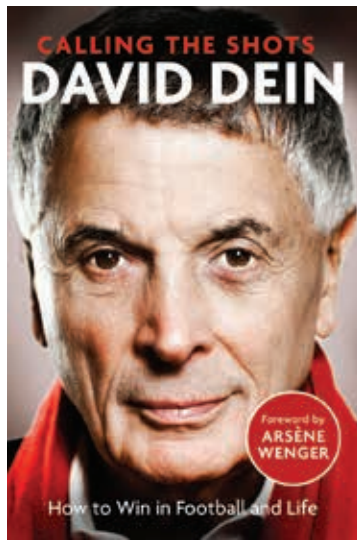


TV cook: Dominique Woolf

Headteacher Jo Sassienie said: "We are so excited to be able to bring back Tree of Knowledge this year. The event perfectly encapsulates Eden Primary's core values of intellectual curiosity and creativity and these form the basis of



BBC correspondent: Raffi Berg



Football ambassador: David Dein

Josh Glancy; Adam Wagner, barrister and human rights advocate; Raffi Berg, author of *Red Sea Spies* and BBC Middle East Correspondent; Dominique Woolf, winner of Jamie Oliver's *Great Cook Book Challenge* TV show; and Dave Rich, author of *Everyday Hate: How Anti-Semitism is Built into our World*.

For the full speaker line up and to book tickets visit <https://epg.bigcartel.com/category/tree-of-knowledge>

What's On at the Phoenix in June

By Zalan Pall, general manager



Three exciting new films for the early summer will be coming to the Phoenix Cinema in June.

In *Chevalier*, showing from Friday 9 June, the illegitimate son of an African slave and a French plantation owner Joseph Bologne rises to improbable heights in French society as a celebrated violinist-composer and fencer, complete with a love affair and falling out with Marie Antoinette.

Critics have been positive about the movie, saying: "Supported by Kelvin Harrison Jr.'s outstanding work in the title role, *Chevalier* offers an entertaining gateway into the incredible life of a brilliant artist."

Fans of Wes Anderson's unique approach to film making will not want to miss his new comedy drama *Asteroid City*. Opening at the Phoenix on Friday 23 June, the film tells the story of how world-changing events spectacularly disrupt the itinerary of a junior space cadet convention in an American desert town circa 1955.

Starring Tom Hanks, Margot Robbie and Scarlett Johansson, the movie has only just premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May and promises to be another of Anderson's ensemble masterpieces.

Then to top off the month, Indy is back! Riding out for a fifth time, daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history.

Accompanied by his god-daughter, played by *Fleabag* creator Phoebe Waller Bridge, he soon finds himself squaring off against Jürgen Voller, a former Nazi who works for NASA, played by Mads Mikkelsen.

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny plays from Friday 30 June and is the perfect early summer treat for all the family. To book and to find out more about our full programme for the month, visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk, or drop into our foyer.

On Sunday 25 June, the Phoenix is hosting a pre-release charity screening of *Golda*, starring Helen Mirren and telling the story of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir at the time of the Yom Kippur war in 1973. Producer Michael Kuhn will introduce the film and funds raised will go to the Belarus Jewish Cultural Heritage Route project.

Writers and illustrators

Publishing company Green Bean Books, run by East Finchley resident Michael Leventhal, has announced that entries are open for its annual Jewish Children's Book Awards competition. Now in their third year in conjunction with Jewish Book Week, the awards recognise new work by writers and illustrators living in the UK and Europe.

One author and one illustrator will each receive a separate £1,000 prize and their winning entries will be considered for publication. The winners of last year's awards were, in the illustrator category, Rome-based Mel Zohar and, in the

writer category, London-based Dina Leifer, with her book *Eddie Had An Egg*.

Full submission criteria can be found at www.greenbeanbooks.com. Submissions close on Monday, 23 October 2023.



Always the right time for The Archer

Waiting for the Sydney Harbour ferry one balmy evening while on holiday in Australia seemed like the perfect moment to catch up with the latest edition of *The Archer* for our contributor Ruth Anders. Despite a glorious sunset over the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the luxury Cunard liner *Queen Victoria* sailing past the world-famous Sydney Opera House behind her, she couldn't take her eyes off all the news from East Finchley. And we're dedicating Ruth's holiday snap to our loyal readers in various towns and cities Down Under, all of them ex-pats from N2, who still read us each month. Hello, gang!

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Letters

Play on

Dear Editor
How lovely to see the pictures of children playing in Leopold Road (*The Archer*, May 2023). I was a child who 'went out to play' myself, and I've always thought it such a shame that children nowadays miss all that fun and freedom.

Of course, it's the traffic that's stopped it. So well done everyone who's worked so hard to make the two hours a week possible. Let's hope the idea spreads.

I was interested to hear from a friend that apparently it has been possible for local authorities to create these play streets for a very long time; maybe since the 1950s, according to my friend, but the idea didn't take off.

Evie Robinson,
East End Road, N2.

Bus blockers

Dear Editor,
I'm sure we all appreciate the seats provided at bus stops, but please could I ask some fellow travellers to stop blocking the view of the buses. It happens a lot. You get one or more people standing by the bus stop post, making it impossible for anyone sitting down to see what's coming.

It's just thoughtlessness, but very annoying. So please can I use *The Archer* to ask people not to do this. Please remember that the people sitting down may well have mobility problems. Anyway, nobody wants to keep jumping up and down. Thank you.

V. Nicholas,
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.

Cars dominate

Dear Editor,
How lovely for the children and neighbours who were able to participate in the play street when Leopold Road was closed. It's a measure of how the car has taken over our lives that this could only be made possible with a great deal of work by local people and Barnet Council.

East Finchley is full of families who would benefit from being able to play out in the same way. Unfortunately, only a minority of our roads would be suitable for even temporary closure. Leopold Road is in a good position because there are alternative routes around it that don't inconvenience drivers.

Despite the lure of screens and YouTube these days, I'm sure many children would play out if they could. Near where I live, Claybrook Close is a no-through road, more of a parking area for the flats there really, and children are often out playing football and the like.

Deborah Betts,
Long Lane, N2.



Ready to party: Sharon and Sharon get in the George Michael mood at Cherry Tree Café. Photo Mike Coles.

Happy Birthday, George. Love Sharon

By Lynn Winton

Sharon McGoey, who with her business partner Sharon Hall has made such a success of revitalising the café in Cherry Tree Wood, has always been in love with one unattainable man: the one and only late superstar and East Finchley's very own George Michael.

Now she's ready to share her passion for the Wham! front-man and solo singer-songwriter with the rest of East Finchley on Sunday 25 June, on what would have been his 60th birthday.

Ambitious plans are underfoot to transform the café kiosk near the tennis courts into Pike's Hotel in Ibiza, the location for Wham!'s iconic *Club Tropicana* video.

Spoiler alert

Whilst Sharon is reluctant to discuss party details, as she'd like to keep an element of surprise, I can disclose there will be a chef setting up a Greek (what else?) barbecue, and there's a mixologist busy inventing cocktails inspired by George's incredible catalogue of Number One hits, which will be playing throughout.

Everyone is invited and, to add to the vibe, you can come as your favourite George, whether that be in a Hawaiian shirt as from the Wham! Era, or the more sophisticated and mature George in black leather and shades.

Statue plan

Councillor Arjun Mittra is planning to attend, and wants to engage with visitors to gain support and ideas for his campaign to commemorate George Michael's links to N2 with a statue in East Finchley. The singer's family lived in Church Lane when he was born in June 1963 before later moving to Kingsbury, NW9. After find-

ing fame, George lived in The Grove, Highgate. He died on Christmas Day in 2016, aged 53.

And best of all, Sharon, in the spirit of George the philanthropist, who gave millions away in his lifetime to help others, is partnering with Finchley Foodbank, to ensure a good chunk

of the money spent at the party will come their way.

George Michael's 60th Party will be at the Cherry Tree Café on Sunday 25 June. Check at the café or on their Instagram @cherrytreewoodscfe for party timings subject to weather conditions.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Time to rethink tube and rail

By Rob Adamson

Though it may be many years yet, the experience of all of us who use East Finchley's trains towards town will change.

Euston's Underground platforms will one day have a link to Euston Square's and Camden Town's southbound platforms will have a level interchange with no stairs, as already exists on the northbound platforms.

More significantly, all our trains may eventually run via Bank, with all Edgware branch trains running via Charing Cross, to allow an increase in trains per hour, although there is no indication when this long-standing idea may be put into practice.

But are there other changes that would suit us, shortcuts that would reduce the pressure we put on existing lines? Imagine if a new tube line went due south from Camden to Great Portland Street and Bond Street, a good interchange for the Elizabeth line. What if the line were also to continue northeast from Camden to Finsbury Park and Manor House as an alternative to the Victoria line?

Is that affordable? Yes, if it is built instead of the New Southgate £4 billion branch planned for Crossrail2, the planned NE-SW line of rail gauge. The branch's value was queried in a 2016 report by the National Infrastructure Commission. Dropping it would increase Crossrail2's usefulness. For example, 50% of Crossrail2's trains could serve Leytonstone on the Hackney branch, relieving the Central and Elizabeth lines into Liverpool Street.

Improving public transport is essential for reducing car traffic. The new tube line I propose and the Leytonstone service in Crossrail2 would contribute to that.

All Saints' East Finchley



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,
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Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com
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Let there be light: Rosalind Freeborn and the East Finchley lampshade she has crafted.

A light shines on East Finchley

By Jane Marsh

Muswell Hill collage artist Rosalind Freeborn invented and refined her unique paper lampshade design some time ago and sells them as kits that are easily assembled at home. Over the years, she has enlarged her range of designs to include well known places in addition to flowers, animals, literary figures and many others.



Work in progress: The collage takes shape

Ros recently took part in the ILoveN2 pop-up market and now, just in time for this year's summer festival, is launching her East Finchley lampshade, featuring famous local landmarks such as the Archie statue on the station, the Phoenix Cinema and the Bald Faced Stag pub. She says: "It was fun to make. I am so fond of East Finchley. We spent five very happy years in Sylvester Road before moving

to Muswell Hill."

You can see Ros's range of paper lampshades, now available in three sizes, on her stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 18 June or anytime on her website www.papershades.co.uk.

She will also be opening her house in Muswell Hill for the East Finchley Open Artists weekends on 24-25 June and 1-2 July from 11am to 6pm. Find out more at eastfinchleyopen.org.uk/events



Illuminating: The lampshade shines a spotlight on some of N2's landmarks

Can you deliver?

Can you help deliver The Archer newspaper? We are looking for volunteers to cover Brim Hill and Howard's Walk, and parts of The Grange estate. If you can spare 45 minutes each month, please get in touch. Newspapers are brought directly to your door and you can deliver them in your own time. Email news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message on our freephone line at 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

Twentieth year of artists opening their homes

By Mike Coles

Twenty years ago, a group of artists in and around East Finchley decided to open their homes and studios to share their work with friends and neighbours. Two decades on, the East Finchley Open Artists Open House Weekends are still a popular annual event.

Twenty houses will be opening over two weekends this year, featuring ceramics, paintings, prints, jewellery, photography, textiles, sculpture and glass created by more than 65 local artists.

Visitors are welcome to browse or buy and there will also be a special extra exhibition at All Saints Church in Durham Road featuring work from all EFOA artists.

The weekends are Saturday and Sunday 24-25 June and 1-2 July. Visits to the

houses are entirely free and they will all be open from 11am to 6pm on all days. Look out for a flyer through your door or you can find out more information at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk/events



Art for sale: There will be a huge variety of art works to browse and buy at the East Finchley Open Artists weekends. Photo montage Mike Coles.

Not too late to lend a hand at the festival

East Finchley Festival is just days away and volunteers are still needed to help make sure the event is as big a success as ever. Can you spare an hour or two on Sunday 18 June in Cherry Tree Wood?

The volunteers who run the festival are looking for small teams of people to staff the raffle points throughout the day for 90-minute shifts. They also need volunteers to help steward the event and generally to be on hand to keep things running smoothly.

They're also on the lookout for help with transport, as long-time supporters of the festival, Rogers Removals, are no longer

able to assist. If you've got a van or truck, and can spare a bit of time over the festival weekend, contact organisers@eastfinchleyfestival.org

Organiser East Finchley Festival CIC is a completely independent non-profit organisation and receives no outside funding, so relies on volunteers. If you'd like to get involved, sign-up on the festival website by scanning the QR code below

or visiting www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer.

