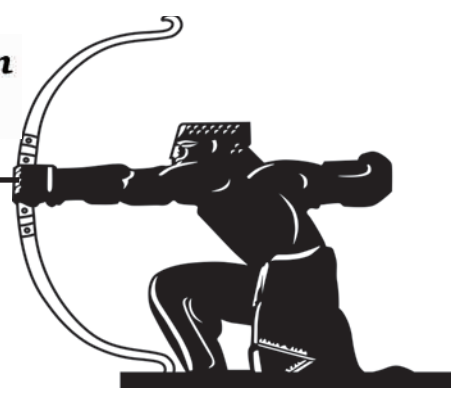


The Archer



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

East Finchley pioneers safe playing out



Reclaim the streets: Bikes, games and hopscotch take over the whole of Leopold Road as it was closed on a Sunday afternoon to give families a chance to play outside in safety. The pilot project will run once a month in East Finchley through to September. Photos Monica Wells

By Ruth Anders

The sight of children playing in the street was once common as some readers will remember. Since that happy time, car numbers have exploded, vehicles speed down residential streets, and children may prefer screen time to playing outside.

In the face of these trends, East Finchley resident Kathy Batten has spent the past two years negotiating with Barnet Council to launch a pilot scheme to introduce so-called Play Streets in the borough. These are temporary but regular closures of residential roads to enable children to play out safely.

many residents were in active support. Volunteer stewards in high-vis jackets were stationed at both ends of the road and the thoroughfare itself buzzed with bikes, balls, chalk, skateboards and laughter. Lasting from 3pm to 5pm, the Play Street will be repeated on the last Sunday of each month until September when,

Kids get a chance to meet other children they might not otherwise meet, parents meet other parents, and neighbours meet neighbours. A sense of community transforms city living for young and old, and initiatives like this are to be commended and encouraged."

They made it happen

Kathy, who as Chair of the Friends of Market Place Playground is involved in the playground's planned development, told *The Archer* about the delays and frustrations she has met getting the pilot off the ground. She said: "Our wonderful Councillor Arjun Mitra supported the idea from the start, but no progress was made until another volunteer in North Finchley and I combined forces to ask Councillor Alan Schneiderman, Chair of Barnet Council's Climate and Change Committee, how we could push the pilot forward." He gave permission earlier this year, and the requisite forms were submitted and approved.

The Play Streets initiative began life in Bristol in 2009 and has since spread across the country. Find out more at londonplaystreets.org.uk and at playingout.net/about/



Their popularity is spreading across London and other towns and cities but until now Barnet has not tried the idea. Then on Sunday 26 March, Leopold Road in East Finchley, well known for its community spirit, was the scene for the first of a series of trial runs.

Positive feedback

Despite poor weather,

hopefully, it will have been proved successful and will be rolled out to other roads across Barnet.

Feedback on the first trial was overwhelmingly positive, with one Leopold Road neighbour commenting: "This isn't an alternative to parks, it's an addition, and the initiative has different but related benefits.

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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	0808 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	AIDSlone	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		

Leisure centre to be rebuilt on current site

By John Lawrence

Barnet Council has announced the redevelopment of Finchley Lido Leisure Centre will take place on its current site, following a public consultation process that attracted more than 3,000 responses.

At the same time, the whole of the Great North Leisure Park where it stands has been sold to Regal London and Cheyne Capital Management, after being identified as a strategic site for new housing.

Barnet Council signalled the sale of the leisure park late last year by opening a public consultation on a relocation

of the leisure centre facilities, putting forward the possibility of moving them closer to North Finchley town centre (*The Archer*, January 2023).

More than 3,000 people responded and it seems from the outcome that they were keen for the pool and gym to stay where they are. The existing centre will continue

to operate until a new facility is completed.

Dozens of new homes, almost certainly apartments, are expected to occupy some of the existing car parking spaces.

Regal London says it will also open a Real Estate Academy there, providing construction qualification and job opportunities for up to 70 military veterans.

Mixed use

The long-term future of the Vue Cinema and the restaurants that occupy the rest of the 11.2 acre plot is not clear at this stage but we understand that at least in the medium term they will continue to operate. Regal London has indicated that it will be a 'mixed use' development.

"We will work closely with residents and Regal London as we take the next steps to deliver a new leisure centre for the site," said Barnet Council Housing and Growth Committee Chair Cllr Ross Houston. "We know residents have concerns about other leisure

elements of the site, and we will be looking at the proposals that come forward from Regal very carefully."

More details requested

The acquisition of the Finchley site is the sixth major house-building project for the developer, alongside others already underway in Brent,

development in North Finchley and the future of the existing businesses there. They told us: "Regal London will undertake extensive consultation ahead of any potential planning application submission.

"In the meantime, it is expected that all tenants of Great North Leisure Park,



Staying put: The option had been considered of moving the leisure complex to North Finchley town centre

Camden, Hackney, Watford and the City of London. It is planning to build 8,500 homes within the M25.

The Archer asked Regal London for more details on the

including Food Bank Aid, will continue to operate as normal. Any proposals will be widely consulted upon, at this stage. Plans have yet to be made as to the precise mix onsite."

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 receives no outside funding, so relies on volunteers from the community to help out 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 or would like to get involved with organising the event, please sign up at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer or contact volunteers@eastfinchleyfestival.org

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. **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.



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

5 Beresford Road, N2

One single-storey rear extension: depth 6m, maximum height 3.4m, eaves height 3m.

223 Creighton Avenue, N2

Roof extension including hip to gable, rear dormer window with Juliet balcony, three front roof lights and side gable window.

271 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

95 East End Road, N2

Conversion of dwelling into two self-contained flats, including single-storey side/rear extension, roof extension involving L-shaped dormer window and three front roof lights.

Flat 2, Gordon Court, 102 Elms-hurst Crescent, N2

Close board wooden fence panels to garden boundary wall. New soft landscaping to garden.

21 Greenhalgh Walk, N2

Alterations and extension to roof, including addition of one rear dormer window, one side dormer window and one conservation side roof light, and enlargement of first-floor rear dormer. Rear French door to replace ground-floor window, infill of side door, and part removal of front hedge.

39 Gurney Drive, N2

Replacement of windows with double glazed units. Replacement of side and rear doors.

12-18 High Road, N2

Non material amendment to planning permission for two four-storey buildings (plus basement), providing 24 self-contained flats and office space, involving addition of two lift overrun (sic) to block B, amendments to number of PV panels at roof level, addition of rain water pipe and boiler flues on east elevation to block B, and addition of satellite and antennae

to blocks A & B.

66-68 High Road, N2

Details required of traffic noise mitigation/sound insulation for planning permission.

Ground Floor Flat, 77 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension to existing rear outrigger.

76 Lincoln Road, N2

Roof extension involving outrigger dormer and changes to fenestration to existing rear dormer.

26 Park Hall Road, N2

Conversion of two self-contained flats back into one single family dwelling house.

28A Park Hall Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer and outrigger dormer and two front roof lights.

27 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Plus, certificate for roof extension involving rear dormer window and three front roof lights.



Healthy high streets scheme makes inroads

By Diana Cormack

Last August *The Archer* published an article about Barnet Council's bid to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities. Shops and businesses were encouraged to sign up to five Healthier High Streets schemes.

The five are:

1. Healthier catering commitment, which aims to make it easier for residents to find healthier food options when eating out and is available to all food businesses with a hygiene rating of three or above.

2. Refill Barnet: which offers free drinking water refills to all, so encouraging footfall in shops and reducing use of plastic.

3. Breastfeeding welcome: to offer a welcoming and safe space for mothers to breastfeed.

4. Dementia-friendly: a place where people living with dementia can feel happy and safe, helping to support them to remain independent for as long as possible. This will help towards Barnet becoming a dementia-friendly borough.

5. Community toilets: to offer clean and accessible toilets to the public, free of charge. Those offering community toilets are eligible to claim a maintenance fee of £800 to £1,200 per year.

Window stickers

Participating businesses for all these schemes have been given stickers to put in their windows although strangely these stickers do not indicate which particular service is being offered.

More services will be on offer and more stickers on show as other local businesses join the schemes. They could then benefit by attracting new customers, raising the profile of their business and being added to the borough's Healthier High Streets webpage and map. To find out more about it, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/barnetstreets



Sign up: *The Healthier High Streets logo*

Prime Minister shines light on numbers champion

By Diana Cormack

As he approached retirement, local resident Bernard Manson was looking for something to occupy his time and, having studied mathematics at university, he thought of supplying numeracy support similar to the reading support his wife Sarah was involved in.

In 2018 he founded Number Champions, a charity whose volunteers are now working in 29 schools in 12 London boroughs, helping youngsters often from disadvantaged backgrounds to improve their numeracy skills.

Bernard's work has recently been recognised with a Points of Light Award, given to outstanding volunteers who are making a change in their community. Every day, the Prime Minister recognises an inspirational individual. Find out more at www.pointsoflight.gov.uk. Number Champions has helped over 750 youngsters to make



Maths man: Bernard Manson

phone call from the Department of Works and Pensions asking about his organisation they called back to tell him about the award.

He said: "Although my name is on this award, it really recognises the contribution of all the Number Champions volunteers and the support they give to children." To volunteer or find out more about the scheme, visit www.numberchampions.org.uk



Archie fires an arrow at last

Thanks to reader Benjamin Susi who was in the right place at the right time to capture this photograph of the Archer statue on top of East Finchley station appearing to be firing a shot as the vapour trail of a high-altitude aeroplane passes in the blue sky overhead. After almost 83 years drawing his bow without an arrow, it really completes the picture for Archie!

Arrests over modern slavery claims

Police enquiries are continuing after two people were arrested on Sunday 20 November last year at a residential address in Edmunds Walk, N2, as part of an investigation into modern slavery and domestic servitude allegations.

A man in his 50s and a woman in her 40s were arrested and later released on bail. The ongoing enquiries are being led by the Met's Central Specialist Crime unit.

New defibrillator

Fitness centre The Muswell Hill Club, at 140 Fortis Green, N10, has installed an automatic defibrillator behind its reception desk, and registered it with the various websites that identify the nearest one to your location.

Club owner Hussein Lalani said: "I hope no one in the neighbourhood ever needs to use it, but I'd like everyone to know it's right here in case we can help." Astonishingly, there is no legal requirement in the UK for gyms to have a defibrillator on their premises.

The Muswell Hill Club also now has baby changing facilities that anyone is welcome to use if needed, and free filtered drinking water at all times. "I'm

a new dad, and know from experience that these small kindnesses really make a difference," said Hussein.

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Happy feet: Dancers enjoy the fitness workout at the first Dance for Ukraine event

A second chance to dance your socks off in support of Ukraine

By Lynn Winton

After the huge success of the first Dance for Ukraine event last December, which raised £4,000, the team supporting local organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine have announced another community dance event.

Instructor Gemma Barlow of GemmaB Fitness has brought together a team of top dance instructors making their way from all parts of the UK, volunteering their time and energy to create a fun two-hour dance session, followed by a Pilates-based cool down and stretch.

The dancing will be suitable for all ages and complete novices as well as those who attend fitness dance classes. All you need are leggings, trainers and a t-shirt, and a bottle of water.

One of last year's participants told *The Archer*: "It was an exhilarating experience. The dance instructors up on stage were all so charismatic and inclusive that we all joined

in with great enthusiasm right from the first song. Everyone had huge smiles throughout and there was a real sense of coming together to help Ukraine."

Donations and booking

The suggested donation is £20 (£10 for accompanied children aged eight to 16) and 100% of the donated amount goes straight to drivingaidtoulkraine.org to fund their next trip driving essential supplies to devastated areas of Ukraine. The Muswell Hill Club gym has donated a free spa all-day pass to all those who attend or donate.

The dance event takes place on Saturday 13 May from 11am to 1pm at Fortismere School's South Hall on Tetherdown.



Booking is essential. The QR code printed here will take you to a secure payment page and you will receive an email confirmation. Or search 'Dance for Ukraine' on the crowdfunder.co.uk website. Any queries can be sent to gemmabfitness@hotmail.com or call Lynn on 07973 432086.

Scarecrows damaged in meadow

By Ann Bronkhorst

Question: when does a field become a meadow? Answer: when the soil is rotavated, wild flowers are planted, the grass grows back but it's mixed with flowers and then the bees and butterflies arrive.

The Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields used to dream of making a small part of the playing fields (also in the Friends' remit) into a wild-flower meadow. Thanks to Haringey Council's support the dream is coming true.

Scarecrows

In the April edition of *The Archer* Laura Fox reported on this first stage of the borough-wide Meadows Pilot Project. She noted the enthusiasm of local children who sowed flower seeds and made tall scarecrows to help protect the tiny plants.

Sadly, the scarecrows themselves needed protection as they were soon vandalised, by

humans, not birds. The wild flower plants have persevered in spite of some fierce weather and lively dogs.

Playground

At the northern end of the fields is a children's playground but some of the play equipment needs maintenance, repair or replacement. John Hajdu from Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association and the Friends called this to Haringey's attention and have been assured that the broken equipment will be fixed.

Walks

The programme of events in Coldfall Wood for this year began with a Photography Walk on 16 April. A few more dates are fixed, includ-

ing drawing in the woods on Sunday 11 June, a geology tour on Sunday 16 September and an autumn plant walk on Sunday 1 October.

Bat walks, and activities especially for children, are being planned too, so keep checking the website for booking details and updates on all these events: coldfallwoods.co.uk

30 Local News is our Aim
30 years 1993-2023

Psst... have you heard the news?

The Archer is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year by printing memorable articles and columns from our archives at www.the-archer.co.uk. A popular contribution in our early years was the Out and About column, compiled by the late Noel Lynch, who was active in local community projects and political circles, and who ran The Bargain Centre on the High Road, close to where Alan's Records is still trading. Here's Noel's round-up of the news he'd heard along with some odd observations from our edition in April 1997.

Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

Bravo Mrs Patell

Mrs Patell of Vin Wines, Long Lane, had a frightening experience recently. Some youths, with a gun, tried to "hold-up" her shop. At first she thought that it was a joke, but when she realised that they were serious, she chased them from the shop with a metal spike! What kind of society do we now have?

Fly-posting

Readers may notice the reduction of fly-posting in the area. This is a result of the Council/Traders "Walk-round" in January. We pointed out the "black spots" and the Council officials promised action.

Beware

There is a rash of pick-pocketing going on in East Finchley just now.

New Shop

The former "Bargain Finders" shop has been opened under new management. As a Futon/Bedsettee/Cushion shop. It's always good to see new shops opening and we wish Mitesh and his staff many years of happy trading in East Finchley.

Water

The contamination in drinking water is causing consternation in East Finchley. We believe that there have been scores of cases across Barnet, and seeing that it can take about a week to take effect, many people are worried and angry about the situation.

Another publication!

The Archer is not the only title published in East Finchley. The other is "Nursing Notes" a newspaper for midwives at No 120 The High Road.

Another new shop

The former "Ruffles" shop is now "Pinewood Antique Studios". John and Maureen are very pleased with business so far. As a neighbour, I'm also pleased, as the extra "Collectors" shop, is pulling in more customers to the area. People have commented that our parade now "looks like a mini Portobello".

Where's Strawberry Vale?

Has anybody noticed the new road sign outside Strawberry Vale, pointing south stating "East Finchley 1 mile"?

Credit Union

On March 19th a public meeting was held at the scout hut, New Trinity Road, to start a Credit Union. Barry Epstein of the Association of British Credit Unions, was the main speaker. A steering committee will now be formed. Anybody interested can contact me at the address below.

Too true!

Slogan seen on a shop window "Buy now while shops last".

Any news

If you have anything of news value suitable for this column, contact Noel at The Bargain Centre, 212 High Road, East Finchley,

Free concert for the natural world

The next free Sunday evening concert at East Finchley Methodist Church will be a programme called 'Our Natural World', with flautist Hugh Evans, pianist Nick Reading and mezzo soprano Viola da Cunha. Admission is free with a collection in aid of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The concert takes place on Sunday 14 May at 7.30pm at the church in the High Road, N2, opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue. The venue is fully accessible.



'I'd love food bank to be put out of business'



Constant demand: Naomi Russell with fellow members of the Food Bank Aid team and, right, the inside of the warehouse on the Great North Leisure Park from where they distribute supplies to food banks across north London. Photos Mike Coles.

By Lynn Winton

East Finchley resident Naomi Russell is the powerhouse behind Food Bank Aid, the grassroots charity that commits to source and deliver supplies to as many as 20 food banks from Harrow to Tottenham.

Looking across the organisation's cavernous hub in North Finchley, which resembles the well-stocked warehouse of any supermarket, manned by an army of over 250 volunteers and less than a handful of paid members of staff, it is astonishing to hear that none of this existed before the start of the pandemic.

Naomi walked me round the warehouse, formerly a Mexican restaurant opposite Hollywood Bowl, where various volunteers were refilling the aisles after the latest delivery. "Not a day goes by when we don't get a huge order from a supplier, and today is no exception," she said. "We simply couldn't manage without all the people who volunteer to keep the wheels oiled, working under the guidance of a large team of volunteer managers."



Ready to go: Naomi with a typical box of household goods. need most.

Bespoke service

Since its inception, Food Bank Aid has distributed a staggering £3.5 million worth of vital goods to its ever-growing network of food banks, and spent around £100,000 on provisions each month, as well as sourcing donated goods. No other organisation holds up to comparison, as they give a bespoke service to the food banks they support, who place weekly orders and receive deliveries of what their clients

From tent to warehouse

"I never intended to set up a charity and Covid made this all happen," said Naomi, who has worked in a variety of jobs and had a long career break to bring up her children. "But night after night I watched the 6pm news and saw the ever lengthening queues at the food banks. I was heartbroken to think of children going to school hungry.

"I put up a tent in my drive and asked my friends to start donating. That's exactly how it

all started, and it's snowballed into this. We were so fortunate to be given this wonderful space rent-free by the landlords, originally Landsec but now Regal London who have been equally supportive. We deliver to 20 food banks from Totteridge to Bushey, and nearer home that includes Finchley Food Bank in the High Road, East Finchley.

"All those we supply are assessed to check they are properly managed with strict processes and also provide wrap-around services, which means they offer help and advice on all kinds of problems linked to food poverty, or at the very least signpost their clients to where to find that help."

Corporate connections include working with companies who have social responsibility programmes and volunteer days for local businesses. "We have had bankers from Black Rock and staff from Pinterest, to name but two, coming in small groups to volunteer and learn about us. We're set up to do a lot more of these programmes".

Naomi is also passionate about working with schools. So far 10,000 children in 80 schools have been involved in learning about the charity and many then go on to volunteer in some way.

I asked Naomi what she hopes for the future at Food Bank Aid. "I'd just love to be out of business," she laughed, ruefully, "but it's a never-ending cycle of escalation. Food prices are shooting up, client numbers are rising at all the food banks we help. We will keep on fundraising, recruiting volunteers and supporting the food banks."

Further information, contacts and a volunteering form can be found at foodbankaid.org.uk

Roll up, roll up, the festival needs you!

By Mike Hughes

East Finchley Festival is fast approaching – it will take place on Sunday 18 June in Cherry Tree Wood – and we are calling out to the community to volunteer at this year's event.



Big day out: A packed Cherry Tree Wood in 2022.

Volunteers

We need small teams of people to staff the raffle points throughout the day for 90 minute shifts. We also need volunteers to help steward the event and generally to be on hand to help keep things running smoothly. Every minute our volunteers give to the festival is hugely appreciated, not just by the organisers but by the wider community. East Finchley Festival CIC is a completely independent non-profit organisation and receives no outside funding, so we rely on volunteers to help make the festival the wonderful event it is.

Transport

We're also on the lookout for help with transport, as long-time supporters of the festival, Rogers Removals, are no longer able to assist. Big thanks to Rogers for all their years of support. If you've got a van or truck, and can spare a bit of time over the festival weekend, we'd love

to hear from you at organisers@eastfinchleyfestival.org

Raffle

The raffle is one of the highlights of the festival and we'd be super grateful for any donations from local businesses. Please get in touch with sponsorship@eastfinchleyfestival.org if you can help.

If you'd like to get involved, please sign-up on the festival website by scanning the QR code below or visiting www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you, East Finchley!



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Family history: Debora Singer sits alongside her mother Hanna to look at her World Jewish Relief file

Missing children and lessons from the Kindertransport

Debora Singer MBE lives in the heart of East Finchley. A keen mosaicist, you might have spotted her colourful work in Cherry Tree Wood. She has devoted a large part of her life and career to campaigning for a fairer society in the fields of human rights and helping refugees, and received her MBE in 2012 for services to women seeking asylum, whilst working at Asylum Aid. As she explains here, her own family history of many relatives fleeing persecution, with varying degrees of success and tragedy, informs her current work with human rights charity René Cassin.

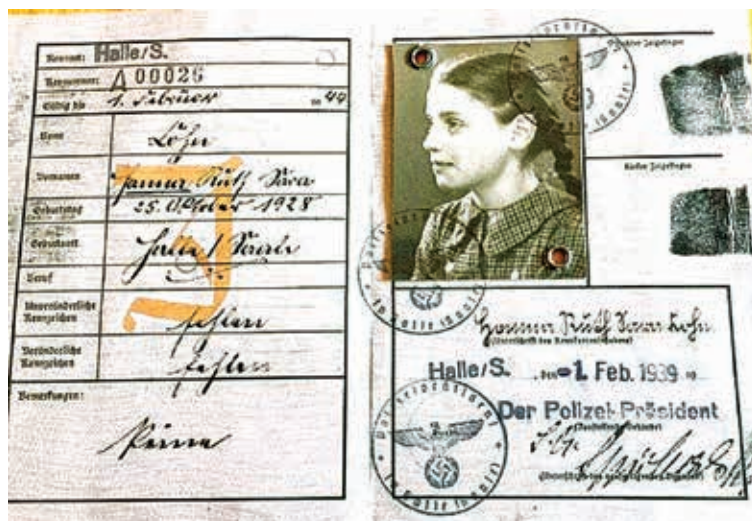
I have always enjoyed my work but it's only since I retired that my personal experience and my voluntary work have come together so closely.

At René Cassin, the Jewish voice for human rights, I have found a charity that reflects not only my values but also my desire to use my family's history to inform the present. My work at René Cassin focuses on saving the Human Rights Act and keeping the UK signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights. Both of these are currently under threat.

Following the Holocaust, the cry went up that never again would a state terrorise a minority group, be it Jews, LGBT people, Roma, disabled people or Communists. The international human rights framework that benefits us all is a legacy of the Holocaust.



Married couple: Debora's grandparents Gertud and Willy Cohn before the war



The identity card carried by Debora's mother in July 1939

Most of my family escaped the Holocaust, leaving Nazi Germany just in time to get to England. But there was no safe and legal route for my grandfather who was too old to get a visa and was murdered in Auschwitz.

At René Cassin our work on refugee rights comes directly from our experience of fleeing such persecution. My other grandfather, having reached England, spent a year interned on the Isle of Man in the 1940s before a public outcry stopped such detention.

Given our families' experiences we believe that people seeking safety in the UK deserve dignity and compassion, not suspicion, punishment and cruelty. We know all too well where discrimination against minoritised groups leads.

Most recently I

used my family's experience to highlight a contrast in relation to child refugees. Recently we heard the shocking news that over 200 unaccompanied children seeking asylum had gone missing from hotels while in the care of the Home Office.

After my mother, aged 10, arrived on the Kindertransport in 1939, it was a charity that monitored her welfare and whereabouts. The Central British Fund for German Jewry (now World Jewish Relief) kept track of thousands of children. They sent visitors and provided welfare reports. My mother changed address five times over this period. WJR kept track of every single change of address.

So this is the contrast. Today's missing asylum-seeking children were in a few hotels and the Home Office couldn't keep track of them. Yet during the Second World War, before the digital age, one charity kept track of thousands of child refugees. This is just one example of how we can use our legacy to protect and promote our human rights.

Think twice before buying at the garden centre

Kew Gardens guide Linda Dolata, of Leopold Road, N2, explains how we can all help biodiversity in the suburbs by planting species that attract insects and pollinators.

In recent years there has been a welcome trend to select plants to attract pollinating insects and indeed, the Station Bank, Cherry Tree

lem, however, is the lack of undisturbed soil, which is often used to pupate.

Garden chemicals, paving, mowing, pruning, an obsession with tidiness at all costs have a disastrous effect on the invertebrate life cycles. The dearth of once numerous animals is the terrible consequence.

Leave alone

Often it is best to just leave things alone, so that a food web can develop. The 'tidying' deprives organisms of their habitat, and they are



Floral dance: A bee gathers pollen

Wood and Leopold Road's community garden are all superb examples. If you are trying to do your bit towards this, perhaps in your garden, perhaps in a scrap of uncultivated land, I have a couple of pleas.

First, insects will always go to native plants in preference, as they evolved in parallel with them. Detailed research has shown that the vast majority of pollen grains taken up by honey bees (where they have an option) is from indigenous plants.

Many of the brighter long flowering cultivars are bred to attract the human eye, but have no nectar to offer insects. The insects might check them out briefly, but they will not linger. For example, hybrid pansies look great but are sterile. Go for violas instead.

Go native

So when you choose the plants for your garden, select ones that are closest to the natives. They could be wall-flowers, cowslips, alyssum, forget-me-nots, primroses, most bulbs, bluebells, marsh marigolds or rosemary. Leave dandelions in lawns. Pollinators love them and their young leaves taste good in salads. All clovers and similar vetches, hardy geraniums, any of the daisy family, salvias, most herbs and many Alpines are pollinator-friendly too.

Secondly, pollinators tend to be adult insects, but the egg, larval and pupal stages need to be nurtured if the insects are to reach adulthood. Larval food plants on which the eggs are laid will always be native (or closely related) plants like garlic mustard, nettles, wild grasses, ladies' smock and many of the vetches.

Disastrous tidiness

I believe the worst prob-



Petal power: Forget-me-nots attract pollinators

already under stress. Long term it deprives we humans of the simple pleasures of the natural world.



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



Somayeh is out there in a league of her own

By Ruth Anders

We all cheered when we saw the Lionesses win their glorious European football victory last summer and when the British Women's Curling team won at last year's Winter Olympics. Women's sport has finally come into sharp profile over the last couple of years,

But how often do we hear about those unsung heroes behind the scenes whose grassroots efforts ensure that women of all ages are being encouraged to participate in sport and that the very young are being nurtured and trained to continue the trend? Our own Somayeh Caesar is one such person.

Power List

Somayeh is celebrating being given a place on the BBC *Woman's Hour* Power List 2023, a list of 30 exceptional achievers in UK women's sport. Earlier this year the programme's listeners were invited to submit names under the categories of Sportswomen, Leaders, Change-makers, Amplifiers or Grassroots and Somayeh's name was suggested under that

in her after-school sports clubs. A teaching assistant at Martin Primary School, she has inspired girls from the school to join Lymore Gardens FC, where she is lead coach of the girls' and women's provision. Currently over 145 women and girls play regularly at the club, ranging from five to 40 years of age.

Somayeh leads four youth teams playing in three age groups, and they all compete in the Girls Super League London. She has also arranged tickets for her students to attend Women's Super League football matches, giving the girls a sense of inspiration and belonging when they see that their efforts are part of something bigger.

Throughout Covid, she



Medal winner: Somayeh Caesar is an inspirational cyclist, footballer and all-round sportswoman

last heading.

Somayeh told *The Archer*: "I am thrilled to be recognised for my work in encouraging women in sport, plus I've been able to meet most of the amazing women on the list."

Netball and football for all ages

Mentioned in our April edition in connection with here efforts to establish a netball league for older women, Somayeh has worked for years to engage girls

arranged cycling sessions for women wanting to keep fit and maintain their mental wellbeing. Her efforts have brought together young girls and older women to engage in sports and foster a sense of community spirit.

Others alongside Somayeh on the *Woman's Hour* Power List include Lionesses captain Leah Williamson OBE, Team GB gymnast Ellie Downie and Queen's Park Rangers assistant coach Manisha Tailor.



Fixation owners Laura Davitt and Carly Pryke collect their award from TV dragon Theo Paphitis

Arts academy awarded for all-round high performance

Fixation Academy of Performing Arts, which runs sessions at the Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road, N2, has picked up an award from TV entrepreneur Theo Paphitis. Owners Laura Davitt and Carly Pryke were handed the Small Business Sunday award by the *Dragon's Den* star at an event in late February. Fixation Academy offers training in acting, singing, dance, drama and musical theatre for ages four to 18, and adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Why hedges are so important

By Jenny Storer

A hedge holds a community of animals and plants working together to help each other live. In food chains, if somebody removes an animal or plant, slowly the whole food chain will die out.

At Cherry Tree Wood, a group of volunteers are laying new hedges along the fence next to Brompton Grove. They are hoping to attract wildlife, such as squirrels and birds of all species that will make their own food chains.

Hedge laying requires partially cutting through and then bending, without breaking, the branches of shrubs or small trees set in a row. There are many different styles of hedge laying, such as Midland style, Derbyshire style and Isle of Wight style, with many other styles around the world.

Next time you are in the park, if you look carefully, you might be able to see wildlife between the branches. Please help the Friends of Cherry Tree



Wood, and do not litter your rubbish as there are plenty of bins in the park, and do not disturb or hurt any wildlife you see.

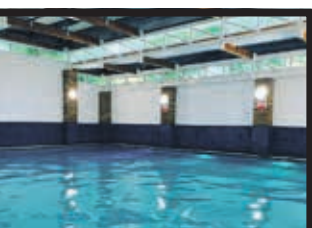


Natural habitat: The new hedge in Cherry Tree Wood, with a squirrel taking up residence. Photos Jenny Storer



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Former PC Sandy is still in uniform

By Lynn Winton

For those of us in the N2 part of Hampstead Garden Suburb, Police Constable Sandy Clifford was our popular dedicated ward officer for many years and I often stopped to talk to her on her beat along Deansway.

So imagine my surprise when I walked through the lobby of one of London's most iconic and glamorous hotels recently and saw the smiling face of none other than... Sandy Clifford. Sandy retired from the Met Police after 30 years but was definitely not ready to retire from full-time work. Not surprisingly this famous May-

included protecting residents from personal attacks, robbery, and burglary from houses, sheds, and from commercial premises.

"Then there was drug usage in open spaces that was frequently identified by residents as a problem. I worked closely with Barnet Council on issues such as misuse of disabled badges, anti-social



New role: Sandy Clifford in central London

fair hotel (which cannot be named, as her work demands anonymity) snapped her up as their security officer so she is not out of uniform just yet. As much as she loves her demanding new job, she spoke fondly of her years on the beat: "I focused mainly on crime prevention. My duties

behaviour mainly from neighbour disputes, and begging in the streets. I am proud that I helped make it the safest London area that's enjoyed by residents and visitors alike." Sandy asked me to send her regards to all those that took the time to connect with her over the years.

Coronation concoction

In this Coronation year Finchley Symphony Orchestra and conductor Christopher Stark are presenting a Celebration of Britain with a concert that includes three popular pieces each with a very different musical flavour.

Hamish MacCunn's *The Land of the Mountain and the Flood* paints a lyrical picture of the wild Scottish landscape. Benjamin Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings* is a unique setting of six poems by English poets calling for great virtuosity from the singer and horn soloist.

Finally Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fifth Symphony*, like the Britten, dates from the Second World War but could hardly be

more serene and unwarlike. It rapidly became a favourite and was highly praised by fellow composer Jean Sibelius.

All of this music can be enjoyed at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, on Saturday 20th May from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £18, concessions £15, under 18s £7 and you can save £2 per ticket by advance booking online at www.finchleysymphony.org



Brothers in arms: The Finchley RFC players and their Granite Bay visitors circle together after their hard-fought matches

American visitors prove fierce opponents for Finchley teams

By Luke Hammersley

International rugby came to the area last month when Finchley RFC played two matches against visiting junior rugby teams from California.

The Granite Bay teams are based near Sacramento and are coached by former USA international player Chris Miller. Their UK tour saw them playing in Bristol, Cardiff and in Summers Lane, North Finchley.

First to kick off were the Under 18 age group, taking on a combined Hampstead, Enfield Ignatians and Finchley Barbarians side put together for the match. It finished with a 45-5 victory for Granite Bay taken in great spirit, with everyone enjoying the match.

Next up the Finchley Under 16s side, captained by Ollie Mullen of Wren Academy, were in great form to take on Granite Bay Under 16s after a strong league season. This was a fantastic close game of rugby with both sides showing powerful running and strong defence.

Only in the final five minutes was a Finchley victory secured with a try and conver-

sion ensuring the final result was a 27-12 win to Finchley.

Both sides showed good handling skills and the HEF Barbarians worked the ball well to score.

California here we come

Granite Bay joined Finchley in their post-match huddle to congratulate one another on such a well-fought match, followed by celebrations, exchange of plaques and speeches from captains in the Finchley Rugby clubhouse. From all at Finchley we wish Granite Bay Rugby every success and perhaps we will head to California for the return fixture soon!

Rugby is a game that embraces all shapes and sizes. If you are interested in playing rugby then girls and boys rugby is played from age 4 to 18 at Finchley every Sunday, from Sept to May, with senior men's, veterans, mixed and women's touch rugby teams also playing weekly. We are a vibrant RFU affiliated community club who welcome everyone to join us. Visit finchleyrugby.com to find out more.

Choral premiere

Finchley Chamber Choir are staging a concert this month featuring the first performance of a work by one of their own members. *Dymock Songs* has been written by singer Richard Cox.

The concert on Saturday 13 May at 7.30pm at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, will also include Hubert Parry's *Songs of Farewell* and four choral songs by Edward Elgar.

Tickets cost £18 full price, £15 concessions (including students and over-60s), £6 under-18s; available from the choir's website www.fcchoir.co.uk or at the door.

Indoor car boot

The next Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 27 May from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop close to the hall. More information from 020 8368 8180.

From The Archer archives...

10 years ago:

May 2013

The long demise of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute continued with its partial move from its purpose-built Arts Centre building behind East Finchley station to Bishop Douglass School. The Arts Centre was to house the newly established Archer Academy with the Institute retaining access to specialist art rooms on the ground floor. It was the Institute's financial difficulties that had forced the organisation into this co-location arrangement with the Archer Academy.

15 years ago:

May 2008

According to the British Geological Survey, East Finchley was one of the places most affected by an earthquake in February. Several residents recorded their experiences of the event: "I felt the tremor quite violently", "The glass in my bookcase was rattling", "My bed shook", "The chandelier was shaking".

23 years ago:

May 2000

The passageway through East Finchley station was preserved after plans by London Underground to block it with ticket barriers at the Causeway entrance were abandoned. London Underground Ltd cited strong local opposition as the reason for the change of plan but, surprisingly, they had not bothered to consult local interest groups beforehand.



Hole in the ground: Caroline Broome gets plenty of help planting the new tree at Bishop Douglass School

New growth takes root in the grounds of green school

By David Melsome

Bishop Douglass students and staff chose to mark the start of the secondary school's 60th anniversary year by celebrating their green credentials with the planting of a tree. Guest of honour Caroline Broome, who lives in Church Lane, N2, and is the chair of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society, joined in the planting in the school's grounds off Hamilton Road.

The school already has a Green Flag award recognising its biodiversity projects such as bee-friendly beds and bee houses, a wildlife pond, a weekly gardening club and setting up recycling points.

Headteacher Michelle Henderson said: "We were delighted

Caroline Broome could come along and mark the start of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Having achieved a Green Flag award already, our students and staff are committed to being good stewards of our planet, so this seemed the perfect event for starting the celebration of

our 60th year."

Science teacher Sue Williams added: "We are fortunate in having a large playing field with 'wild margins' and some growing areas, but realise that we are not currently using it to its fullest potential and would love to have help for us to do so."

Open invitation to Patsy and John's garden party

By Lynn Winton

Patsy Bailey and John Rance have lived in their Edwardian home just off Muswell Hill Broadway for 25 years, and for the last ten have opened their garden for the National Garden Scheme, which raises funds for nursing and caring charities.

I had a sneak preview. Visitors are in for a visual treat, as well as a wonderful selection of potted plants to buy, including a large variety of hostas, their speciality, which will be for sale alongside everlasting wallflowers, penstemons and a host of other perennials. Patsy told me: "I've even got my family in Gloucestershire driving down with a car full of tomato plants and friends in Shropshire busily growing cuttings ready to sell."

Family affair

As you would expect, Patsy and John are very keen gardeners, but from visiting over the years I can attest they also succeed in creating a garden party atmosphere, with several tables (if necessary safely dry under a pop-up awning), at least 16 varieties of cake freshly made the day before by their baker daughter Joanna, who commandeers their kitchen, and the Secret Life sax quartet playing a mix of jazz and classical at the bottom of the garden.

It's a real family affair.



Easy on the eye: Patsy and John's garden

As well as Joanna on her baking marathon, artist daughter Imogen sells her greeting cards and son Edward is 'the accountant' on cash box and credit card duty.

Come with all your gardening queries as John also volunteers in Highgate Cemetery grounds under the watchful eye of their chief landscape gardener, and there's not much Patsy doesn't know about urban gardens.

Sunday afternoon

"There are the most wonderful gardens open but they are in the middle of nowhere,"

said Patsy. "Here, just off the Broadway, people can walk in after they've done their shopping, no special trip or booking necessary, and relax with tea and delicious cake with some live music. I like to introduce people to each other and friendships are made. What could be a nicer way to spend a Sunday afternoon?"

Patsy and John's garden at 17 Princes Avenue, N10 3LS, is open on Sunday 14 May from 12 noon to 6pm. They partner with a neighbouring garden opened by Ian and Viv Roberts at no 28 and the combined entry fee is £5.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

Coronation chickens

This is the moment an old man has been waiting more than 70 years for. Finally, he has got his mother's job and on 6 May he gets the crown, orb and sceptre and can really feel that he is king of all he surveys. What must make it even better is that the only people who can remember when his mother got the crown are now pushing 80. So in this weird world of the Windsors it's my job to remind you of what happened last time.

First off, it had taken 15 months from the death of George VI for them to organise Elizabeth's bash. Something about a suitable period of mourning, but probably mostly about sending out the invites to 8,000 guests and inventing a suitable recipe consisting of cold chicken, curry powder and mayonnaise to mark the start of a new Elizabethan age. Oh and don't forget lining up 197 ships of the Royal Navy at Spithead for the new queen to review.

There was also television to be thought of, with good old Auntie Beeb showing the whole thing live to anyone who could cluster round a tiny set. They reckon over 277 million people worldwide watched the thing. There was even a colour film made, complete with a narration by Sir Larry Olivier just to get the right level of pomp and circumstance. And you could buy coronation mugs, plates and flags to welcome in the new age.

This time it's the short version. They have got the whole thing nailed down in nine months, maybe because you can't afford to waste time with old folks. There won't be a long procession through London so the new King can survey his subjects, just a quick dash back to Buck House for a wave from the balcony and an afternoon nap.

The gang will still be there, mostly wearing uniforms from the Ruritanian dressing up box. Expect the new Prince of Wales to be dressed as an air marshal, his aunt will turn up in her admiral's uniform and you'll have to feel sorry for the spare forced to wear a suit. Not quite as grand as last time, not with a guest list limited to 2,000 and 40% of them normal people.

There won't be a naval review because we haven't got enough ships and no one has said anything about a special recipe to celebrate the coronation. I don't reckon this will be the start of a new age of optimism; all we'll get is an extra bank holiday.

Anyway, don't worry, he's an old man, so it won't be that long before we can all do it again. Next time with just a few family members and a couple of Uber hire cars. William V anyone?

GoodGym good ideas

GoodGym, the group that combines a run with a community activity each week, is looking for more people to get involved and for suggestions of good deeds they can do in the East Finchley and Muswell Hill area.

The tasks they undertake include sprucing up community gardens to helping isolated older individuals who need help. In the past, GoodGym Barnet runners have repainted the side of the Phoenix Cinema. The group is open to everyone regardless of age or fitness and you can pick or choose the runs or activities that you want to get involved with. It's a great way to connect with local people and projects, and to increase motivation through exercising with a group. Find out more at www.goodgym.org/join-goodgym

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Fitting farewell to a man of music

By Catherine Thompson
Friends, colleagues, neighbours and many others poured into All Saints' Church in Durham Road on Saturday 15 April to remember Geoffrey Hanson, East Finchley resident, organist at All Saints' for 30 years, and a much-loved member of our community.

Geoffrey, who died in 2020, composed prolifically all his life. The audience was treated to a very special evening of music from the singers of the London Ripieno Society, which Geoffrey founded in 1962, and the London Mozart Players, conducted by Geoffrey Simon, a friend and champion of Geoffrey's music.

The concert opened with *Now Welcom Somer*, unaccompanied music by Geoffrey, written in 1978 to poems by Geoffrey Chaucer, Christina Rossetti, Robert Louis Stevenson, W. E. Henley and A. E. Housman. All pieces were powerfully evocative of the current season. They were challenging



In tribute: Geoffrey Simon conducts the London Mozart Players at the memorial concert. Photo Mike Coles

for the soloist Anna Cavaliero and the choir, who all rose magnificently to the occasion.

This was followed by the premiere of Geoffrey's last work: *Chamber Symphony No 4*. It was at times lyrical, solemn, and dance-like with a tango movement. The performance was particularly poignant as Geoffrey did not live to hear it.

To end the first half, Ignas Maknickas transfixed the audience with a sparkling, lively performance of Mozart's *Piano*

Concerto No 21. It was clear we were listening to a young rising star.

The second half of the concert began with *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen (How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings Fair)* from the Brahms' *Requiem*, evoking the peace that can come with death. It was followed by *The Singing Will Never Be Done*, Geoffrey's setting of poems by Robert Bridges and Siegfried Sassoon, scored for soprano and orchestra. Anna Cavaliero, another young artist to remember, thrilled the audience with her solo singing. For some it was a memory of her rendition at Geoffrey's 80th birthday concert.

After the sustained applause died down, Geoffrey Simon conducted the London Mozart Player in Elgar's *Nimrod*, from the *Enigma Variations*, as a tribute to the people of Ukraine, but also as a memory of Geoffrey, who played it at All Saints' for many years on Remembrance Sundays.

What's On at the Phoenix in May

By Zalan Pall, general manager

An 80s classic, live opera, ballet and theatre, a comedy night and Eurovision are all happening at the Phoenix in May.

From Friday 5 May, Davy Chou's *Return to Seoul* is an unpredictable and refreshingly authentic story of a young woman's search for identity, and of the ever-shifting relationships that shape it. Featuring a revelatory performance from newcomer Park Ji-Min, this bittersweet journey of self-discovery sees Freddie travel from South Korea's vibrant, neon-soaked capital to its tranquil port cities, in search of a better understanding of her own identity, culture and home.

For the first time EVER, the **Eurovision Song Contest Grand Final** show will be broadcast LIVE in cinemas on Saturday 13 May, allowing fans to be 'united by music' and share the incredible experience of celebrating the biggest, brightest, boldest music party of the year on the big screen. Come and join the Eurovision party at the Phoenix!

For the lovers of other types of live performance, we have the MET Opera's *Don Giovanni* on Sunday 21 May, the Royal Opera House ballet *Sleeping Beauty* on Wednesday 24 May and the National Theatre's hit play *Best of Enemies*, starring David Harefield and Zachary Quinto, on Thursday 25 May.

We are also showing two one-night-only concert films: *Eric*



Clapton Live on Wednesday 17 May and *Roger Waters: This is Not a Drill* on Thursday 25 May.

Our next classic screening is the 40th anniversary remaster of Bill Forsyth's much-loved 1983 comedy drama *Local Hero* on Sunday 21 May. Peter Riegert plays 'Mac' MacIntyre, an American oil company representative who is sent by his boss Burt Lancaster to the fictional village of Ferness on the west coast of Scotland to purchase the town and surrounding property for his company.

Live event

We are also hosting a Comedy Night on Sunday 28 May. Find out more and book tickets for all these performances at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or pop by and talk to our foyer staff.

Art fair

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Art Fair this month has free admission and more than 30 local artists displaying ceramics, jewellery, photography, paintings, sculpture, textiles and glass. The fair takes place on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 May at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11 6YD, from 11am to 5pm each day.



Superstars: Dame Edna and Diana

Move over, dah-ling!

In tribute to the Australian comedian Barry Humphries, who died last month, we remembered that his greatest creation was a one-time fan of The Archer.

Dame Edna Everage was able to read a copy over the shoulder of our writer Diana Cormack when she visited the housewife superstar's statue in Melbourne back in 2012.

With her dress blowing in the breeze and with a bunch of gladioli in her arms, we can't quite work out whether she's

delighted or dismayed by the latest developments in East Finchley at the time.

Barry Humphries, who was 89, performed as Dame Edna for more than 60 years in a career that took him from The Establishment club in London in the 1960s to worldwide fame with his one-man shows.

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Letters

Kindness of strangers

Dear Editor,

A huge thank you to the stranger who stopped to help me when I tripped and fell on the High Road near Chandos Road on 26 February. He was on his way to meet up with his son but spent time calling an ambulance (there was a lot of blood and I was in pain).

When we were told the ambulance would be at least an hour he called an Uber to take me to the Whittington. Thankfully nothing was broken, my head wound was stitched and I was sent home on crutches, where I'm recovering well. Thank you.

Jane Townsend,
Huntingdon Road, N2.

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.

Garden credit

Dear Editor,

In your article 'Garden opens in time for spring' (*The Archer*, April 2023) you named the people involved in the Leopold Road project but failed to include the surname of those who initiated the concept, Edwina Roberts and Kathy Batten. I am sure this was simply an editorial oversight but feel that you should put the record straight. The garden in question is a real pleasure and helps make a stroll up The Walks a delight.

Bob Turner.
Address supplied.

Melt in the mouth recipe from chocolate bestseller

In November 2021 we told the story of a new book of chocolate recipes from East Finchley publisher Michael Leventhal, assembled from chef friends around the world and raising money for Chai Cancer Care.

We're pleased to report that *Babka, Boulou & Blintzes* was a runaway success, almost selling out and raising more than £15,000 for the Hendon-based charity.

Michael tells us: "We're thinking of printing a second edition, with a few more recipes, including a delicious Yotam Ottolenghi chocolate cake. I wanted to include it in the first edition, but the recipe didn't arrive in time and we missed the printer's deadline." To welcome in the spring and summer, here's a recipe from *Babka, Boulou & Blintzes*, a cheering chocolate treat that originates from sunny Tunisia and was given to Michael by East Finchley chef Fabienne Viner-Luzzato. A cross between a cake and a biscuit, a boulou half melts when dipped in a coffee, then finishes melting in your mouth.

A few copies of *Babka, Boulou & Blintzes* are still available on Amazon and possibly through Waterstones. Watch this space for news of a second edition.

Boulou

Prep time: 30 minutes, Cook time: 15-20 minutes
Makes: 3 boulou (each one will cut into several slices)

Ingredients:

- 2 large eggs
- 150g / 5½oz caster or granulated sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla sugar
- 125ml / 4fl oz vegetable or sunflower oil
- About 500g / 1lb 2oz self-raising flour, plus (optional) extra for dusting
- 100g / 3½oz dark chocolate chips
- 50g / 1¾oz raisins
- 50g / 1¾oz flaked almonds



Method:

- Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan/400°F/Gas Mark 6. Line a baking sheet with non-stick baking paper.
- Place eggs, both sugars and oil in a mixing bowl and mix together using a fork. Add flour slowly, mixing with your hands. Mix well to avoid lumps. Add enough flour to make a soft dough that is easy to touch but still slightly sticky.
- Divide dough into three equal portions to make three differently flavoured boulou. Add chocolate chips to one portion of dough, raisins to another and flaked almonds to the final portion, kneading each flavouring into the dough until evenly distributed.
- Roll the flavoured portions of dough into three equal-length logs (you might need to dust the work surface with a little flour first). Flatten each one into a rectangle about 5cm/2in wide and 15-20cm/6-8in long, then place on the lined baking sheet.
- Bake for 15-20 minutes, until golden brown. Remove from oven, transfer to a wire rack, then leave to cool completely. Once cool, cut into 2cm / ¾in slices (thinner if you prefer) to serve.
- Alternatively, store the baked logs in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 4-5 days, and slice them fresh, as needed. They will keep for longer and may dry a little but will still taste amazing dipped in hot black coffee!



Dream come true: Staff and youngsters from The Learning Experience are backing special wishes

Young ones help critically ill kids

By David Melsome

Children and staff at an East Finchley nursery raised more than £2,500 last month to help grant a wish for a child living with a critical illness. The 107 young ones and 33 members of staff at The Learning Experience in East End Road held a string of fundraising events in support of the Make-A-Wish UK charity.

Centre director Chantelle Gudgeon said the act of giving can help young children learn social consciousness and understand that some members of the community are less fortunate than others.

Chantelle said: "This year has been bigger and better than ever before and it would not have been possible without the generous contributions from our little learners, their families and connections within the local community. We are so incredibly grateful for all of the support."

The East Finchley nursery is part of an overall fundraising effort by the charity to raise £1.25 million and grant wishes to 500 children in the UK living with a critical condition.

Coronation Carnival

Join Age UK Barnet at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane N2 8LT on Saturday 20 May from 11am-3pm for a musical celebration of the King's Coronation. There'll be live music all day, including jazz, folk, classical and popular show tunes. As well, expect food, drinks, cakes, cream tea, tombola, raffle, a plant stall and more. Just £2 entry.

Questions? Contact Teresa on 07502 989 403

Second slice of pizza and free money discussion

The Grange Big Local is hosting a second event to discuss the idea of running a basic income scheme in the area it covers bounded by the North Circular, East End Road, Church Lane and the High Road, N2.

Basic income is the idea that every citizen should receive a regular cash payment, unconditionally, to meet their basic needs. The Grange team wants people's views on running a pilot scheme and is serving free pizza as an enticement to

come along.

The event takes place on Monday 5 June at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. To reserve a free place, go to www.eventbrite.com and search 'Eat Free Pizza, Talk Free Money'

Dementia friendly swimming sessions

Free swim sessions for those living with dementia and their carers are available at Finchley Lido Leisure Centre in North Finchley. They take place on Thursdays from 12 noon to 1pm and there is no need to book. You can simply turn up on the day and inform reception that you are there for dementia swimming.

Backed by Dementia Club UK, they are led by a fully qualified swim teacher to support those living with dementia in enhancing their psychological and cognitive wellbeing. For more information email Petrit.Krasniqi@GLL.org

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

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

You are welcome to join us for:

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and Weekday masses as advertised on the website.

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

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information, contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on 020 8883 9315
Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com or check out our website: allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk



Terrifying story of pilot who leapt to his death

By John Lawrence

Front page stories don't get much more dramatic than this. Thanks to the British Newspaper Archive for circulating this image of *The Illustrated Police News* from 100 years ago telling the story of a pilot who was forced to make a desperate leap from his burning plane over East Finchley.



Aerial disaster: The dramatic front page of the Illustrated Police News and tragic pilot Peter Legh, who died when his aircraft crashed.

Burning wreckage
The article from 8 May 1919 says that while undergoing an altitude test, the biplane owned by the British Aerial Transport Co and piloted by Flight Commander Peter Legh suddenly caught fire. Eyewitnesses said there was a loud explosion above the roar of the engine and the machine was covered in flames. It threatened to drop like a stone directly into East Finchley's Market Place, which was crowded at the time.

Fortunately it passed clear of the market square and dropped into some gardens between two rows of villas alongside what was then the Great Northern Railway. The newspaper report said that so narrowly did it miss the postal sorting office, still there in Market Place, that pieces of burning wreckage fell on the roof.

Brave in the highest degree
Amazingly, the pilot was observed walking along one of his plane's wings when still some distance from the ground. Holding up his flying suit to act as an improvised parachute, he took a desperate jump. Unfortunately, his fall was unbroken and he hit the ground, dying instantly from a broken neck. His clothing was still alight when his corpse was found.

It was a tragic end for Flight Commander Peter Legh, just 25 at the time of his death. He had trained in Hendon and had seen active service as a fighter pilot in France and Belgium in 1916, where he had been seriously injured. "He was always the very essence of modesty, brave in the highest degree, and ever eager to tackle new problems in the science of aviation,"

read a tribute in *Flight Weekly* at the time.

Illustrated news

The front page of the *Police News* reporting the pilot's death is certainly a prime example of vivid visual storytelling, with its illustration of his biplane plummeting towards the ground in flames in its final moments over East Finchley. Flight Commander Legh is shown plunging headfirst from the wings, with a cameo portrait alongside showing him in his flying gear and goggles.

The newspaper, established in 1864, sold for three halfpence in 1919. There are many other editions of the same publication along with thousands of other titles to be read in the British Newspaper Archive. Sign up at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Places for 10k fun race going fast

Places are going fast for the annual Race the Neighbours event that pits amateur athletes from N2, N10, N6 and N22 against each other in a friendly 10k run between East Finchley and Alexandra Palace.

Organisers are predicting it could be their most popular year yet as local runners "get their mojo back" after the pandemic. Each year, average times are taken from all runners and the Cherry Tree cup is awarded to the winning postcode.

This year's race takes place on Sunday 4 June, starting as always from Cherry Tree Wood. Places are limited to 500 and entry closes on Friday 26 May. Sign up at racetheneighbours.com. Volunteers are also needed to act as marshals along the course. Contact racetheneighbours@gmail.com



Park run: Last year's Race the Neighbours runners set off in Cherry Tree Wood