

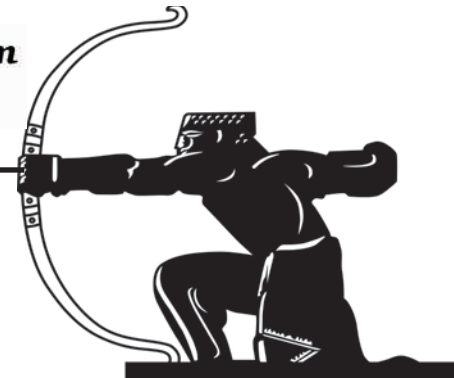


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30 Local News is our Aim
30 years 1993-2023

The Archer



October 2023 No. 354

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Now Co-op are set to move into the High Road

By John Lawrence and Eva Weinstein

A second major supermarket chain is set to move into the High Road in East Finchley, giving more choice to shoppers but also putting the squeeze on hard-pressed local traders.

Co-op has told The Archer that it wants to open a food store in the vacant ground-floor unit beneath the newly built block of flats opposite the entrance to the tube station.

“Co-op is not currently the leaseholder. However, it is our ambition to open the store there in 2024,” said a spokesperson.

ager at family-run grocery store Tony’s Continental, said: “Do we need four or five big supermarkets moving into a very small proximity? I don’t think so. Everything that they bring is already available on the High Road.” A café owner close to the proposed Co-op site said: “It might



Coming soon: The flats opposite the tube station where the Co-op wants to open a food store

The news comes after Tesco opened an Express food store in a unit formerly occupied by HSS Hire and later Zapp at the opposite end of the High Road in August.

That joined the Sainsbury’s Local on the corner of Leicester Road, which opened five years ago, and the much longer established Budgens and Iceland stores.

Some shoppers and business owners we spoke to welcomed the possible arrival of the Co-op for potentially bringing more business to the lower end of the High Road. Others said it would be one more nail in the coffin for the High Road’s family-run and independent food stores, which are already struggling in a difficult market.

Chris Athanasiou, man-

bring more people...down this end of the High Road where there’s not as much here. It could bring people coming out of the station, and then they might want to come into my café. I don’t think that it’s going to be bad for business, I think that it’s actually going to be good.” Turn to page 2 for more reactions.



Festival gets ready for its fiftieth outing

This is how East Finchley Festival looked in 1974, starting with a parade of floats down the High Road, past the KFC restaurant that is still on the corner of Huntingdon Road. Next year marks the event’s 50th outing and organisers have put out a call for people to share their photos and memories of all the festivals over the years. Turn to page 8 for the full story and more photos.

A celebration of black history
Former actress, author and activist **Baroness Lola Young** will share her story at Age UK Barnet’s centre in East Finchley as part of its **Black History Month** celebrations. There’ll also be **music, a cookery demo and a chance to taste some Afro/Caribbean cuisine.**

The event takes place on Monday 9 October 2023 from 2pm to 4pm at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. To register, please contact Teresa on email at teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call her on 07502 989403.

Inside this issue...

RAAC alert

An East Finchley school was one of those caught up in the ‘unsafe’ concrete alert when the government issued emergency guidelines just days before the start of term. Full story page 7.

Water circus

Serious concerns have been raised over plans to allow a circus to set up and run shows in Cherry Tree Wood over the winter months, a period when the park is often prone to flooding. Full story page 3.

Grange access

A construction company has proposed opening a new route on to the Grange estate for heavy vehicles involved in the building of two new blocks of flats. Full story page 5.

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Barnet Council	020 8359 2000	Childline	0800 1111	Health Info Service	0800 665544
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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
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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
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Branch out and buy a tree

By Diana Cormack

With more trees disappearing from our streets and queries about their replacement not always receiving a response from Barnet Council, the answer seems to rest in a recent notification from them headed 'Let's Fill Barnet with Trees'.

It announced that a partnership with the charity Trees for Streets will enable residents to sponsor new tree planting in local streets and parks. There is the choice of sponsoring a street tree outside your house or a celebration tree in a park or recreation ground.

This can be done singularly or in groups, with community crowdfunding campaigns and local businesses also able to participate. Care of the trees is part of the scheme involved in the strategy, which Barnet hopes

will help to reduce air pollution, absorb carbon, improve mental and physical wellbeing and make the borough a more pleasant place to live.

Earlier in the year a new Tree Planting Policy for the next five years was approved. Central to this is an ambitious pledge to plant 5,000 trees by 2028. For more details visit:

<https://sponsor.treesforstreets.org/provider/barnet-council>

McDonald's charity link

East Finchley-based charity Ronald McDonald House Charities is partnering with a fitness and well-being app to benefit the parents and carers who stay in its accommodation while their child is ill in hospital.

Free use of the TRU-CONNECT app will be given to all families staying in the UK's 14 Ronald McDonald Houses. It will give them access to more than 1,000 mental and physical health programmes and more than 400 nutritious recipes.

Do we need another supermarket in N2?

Eva Weinstein talked to shoppers and traders on the High Road to find out what they thought of big chain stores like Tesco and Co-op moving in.

Inga Graber, resident and shopper: "The Co-op is not a bad idea though there's a Co-op when you go down Ossulton Way onto the A1, and there never seems to be anybody inside. Though of course, our area will be busier.

"I'm a bit worried about parking [...] because of the traffic by the station I think that they might find that they haven't got parking. Even the flats there haven't got parking.

"It'd be nice to have a bit of competition. But this isn't competition. The new Tesco is hopeless and I'm a Tesco shopper.

They're very expensive. It's no different from the Sainsbury's, although they have more in there."

Chris Athanasiou, manager at family-run grocery store Tony's Continental, High Road: "East Finchley used to always be proud of having their village status. Do we need four or five big supermarkets moving into a very small proximity? I don't think so. Everything that they bring is already available on the High Road. They're not going to add anything, they're just going to be taking away from not just us, but all the shops that sell things that overlap."

Rebecca Miller, resident and shopper: "We live on Hertford Road which is near the new Tesco, and we went in there to check it out, and it is really expensive. Our preferred shop is actually the East Finchley Supermarket. Their fruit and veg is really good, it's cheap and they've got a really good selection.

"Co-op I'm more likely to

use because I like their values, but Tesco... we'd probably only go in there if we were too lazy to get meat elsewhere."

Husain, owner of N2 Food Centre, High Road: "I'm not sure it's going to work off the bat. I'm not really sure how it's going to go for the community. I think that there are already plenty of shops on the



The new Tesco store in the High Road

high street, but I don't know if the new one is going to be helpful to people. When lots of shops open, you're going to lose business."

Café owner, who has been on the High Road for eight years: "It might affect some sales, but in a business like this you can change your products. It might bring more people here because Co-op, being down this end of the High Road where there's not as much here, could bring people coming out of the station, and then they might want to come into my café. I don't think that it's going to be bad for business, I think that it's actually going to be good.

"How many coffee shops are on the High Road, how many dry cleaners, how many chemists? So I do feel like it's just the same and that it's like this in every high street in the UK, so I wouldn't say it's a bad thing. As a business owner you always adapt."

Send us your views. Email news@the-archer.co.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

3 Aylmer Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of conservatory. Roof extension including one side and two rear dormer windows, and conservation roof lights to front, side and rear. Removal of chimney at rear. Insertion of two windows to east elevation. New front masonry wall and pillars, following demolition of existing. Access gates with associated railings.

52 Chandos Road, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with Juliet balcony, two front facing roof lights and side gable windows. Changes to rear fenestration. New rear patio area.

12 Elmfield Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliet balcony and three front facing roof lights.

Flat 2, 40 Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension. Erection of garden room.

24 Heath View, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer with Juliet balcony and three front facing roof lights.

17 Heathgate, N2

Air conditioning condenser

unit to side path (retrospective application).

14 Hertford Road, N2

Air source heat pump in garden.

20 Howard Walk, N2

Replacement of windows and doors with double glazing.

Land rear of The Bobath Centre,

250 East End Road, N2

Non material amendment to planning permission for "three-storey building, plus rooms in roof, comprising 25 self-contained residential units with associated plant, car parking, cycle parking, refuse stores, hard and soft landscaping and associated works". Amendments to refuse/cycle store location, removal of boiler room and provision of substation building; footprint revised to align footprint and massing, ground floor amenity, schedule of accommodation. Balconies reconfigured, new roof lights, new railings, roof form refined, and revisions to fenestration.

19 Lankaster Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory. Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliet balcony and three front facing roof lights.

21 Lankaster Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension following demolition of the existing conservatory. Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliet balcony and three front facing roof lights.

31 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with four roof lights. Roof extension involving rear and outrigger dormer and three roof lights.

352 Long Lane, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window and four front facing roof lights.

408 Long Lane, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer with Juliet balcony and two forward facing roof lights. Single-storey rear extension.

79 Park Hall Road, N2

Rear outbuilding, following demolition of garage.

36A Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Change of use from a C3 (residential house) to a C4 (House in Multiple Occupation or HMO) for three people. Associated cycle store.

49A Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Change of use from a C3 (residential house) to a three-bed C4 (House in Multiple Occupation or HMO). Associated cycle store.



Circus invited to perform shows in Cherry Tree Wood

By Fiona Macdonald and John Lawrence

Barnet Council has invited a circus to perform at Cherry Tree Wood over Christmas and New Year. While some are welcoming this 'first' for East Finchley, there are also serious concerns over the suitability of the park, which is prone to flooding over the winter months.

East London-based Revel Puck Circus is currently selling tickets for 25 shows, each with an audience capacity of 500, between 21 December and 7 January.

Sorrelle Morris, from Revel Puck, told a meeting of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood and local residents last month that the circus would be on site for a total of five weeks, with a big top, bar area, fencing and around 15 trailers. Staff living on site would require a diesel generator running continuously throughout their stay.

The Friends group and residents pointed out that this would close off much of the park for the five-week duration. They also raised concerns about noise from the generator, light pollution affecting the wood's wildlife and potential damage from HGVs bringing circus equipment on

and off site.

"Has this idea really been thought through?" asked Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends group. He is calling for the circus to be sited elsewhere.

Revel Puck said it was Barnet Council who had suggested Cherry Tree Wood and no other location was offered. Barnet Council has told the Friends that they are not required to consult with them or with neighbouring residents before granting permission. Revel Puck Circus will be presenting their plan to the Safety Advisory Group later this month.

Revel Puck describe themselves as a young and dynamic company who bring their shows to "sites and spaces outside of traditional performance settings to activate an area and community through vibrant live performances and local partnerships".



Soggy bottom: The proposed circus site in Cherry Tree Wood is prone to flooding after heavy rain

Can you help us with our advertising?

Could you be an advertising manager for The Archer and help us continue to inform readers in the N2 community?

Advertising in The Archer helps local businesses reach a potential 20,000 readers in East Finchley and online every month. For the last 30 years, it has been an excellent way of spreading the word to the people of N2 about their goods or services.

Nobody on The Archer team gets paid for anything, including our volunteer deliverers, but we do rely on the support and the income we receive from our advertisers to cover the costs of printing the newspaper.

Those costs are rising so, in our anniversary year, we are looking for someone to help us manage our advertising.

If you have some time each month to contact local companies, shops and venues who want to advertise with us, we'd love to hear from you. Please email news@the-archer.co.uk and we can tell you more.

If you would like to be one of those advertisers, using The Archer to reach almost 10,000 homes and businesses in N2 every month, we'd love to hear from you too. We have competitive rates and can offer discounts for advertising in multiple editions. To find out more, please email advertising@the-archer.co.uk or check out our Advertising information at www.the-archer.co.uk.



Winners: Women and men from the East Finchley Women's FC and EF Neighbourhood Support FC teams celebrate their mixed team victory.

Goals galore for grassroots football

By Fiona Doyle

East Finchley's grassroots football teams are steadily growing, with successful clubs in both men and women's football now representing the community.

On Thursday 24 August, East Finchley Women's FC and EF Neighbourhood Support FC held a mixed tournament to share their love of the game, promote both teams and, most importantly, have fun on the pitch.

They played at Christ's College Finchley school off East End Road and ran three seven-a-side mini games of 15 minutes each. Four mixed teams competed and performed admirably, with the eventual winners achieving two wins and a draw.

An informal presentation ceremony was held afterwards at the Five Bells, with a trophy for the winning team and a top scorer trophy being awarded to Helena from EFWC for scoring

four goals. With the recent success of England's Lionesses in the World Cup, it's exciting to know that we have such talent in our own community.

East Finchley Women's Football club began in 2014, starting with one group of ladies at the Archer Academy. They now train over 70 women a week, running three different sessions and have four competitive teams playing in two leagues. You can find out more about them by visiting their website at efwfc.co.uk.

Supporting volunteers

East Finchley Neighbourhood Support FC is a local men's team that began their first season in the Barnet Sunday Football League last year. They play to support the N2 Food Project, a non-profit run by East Finchley Neigh-

bourhood Support CIC, which sees local volunteers cook 200 meals every Sunday at Martin School and distribute the meals on Tuesdays at the Phoenix Cinema between 10.30am and 12.30pm. They rely solely on donations from the public and would be grateful for any contributions, either on Tuesdays outside the cinema (cash and card accepted) or online at www.iloven2.co.uk/food-project.

It was fantastic to have such a fun community initiative take place and all involved are keen to do another one soon. Thanks to all and good luck to EWFC and EFNSFC in their respective leagues this season!

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Shameful institution in the heart of East Finchley

You may have watched the BBC's recent acclaimed drama *The Woman in the Wall* and been moved by the harrowing stories of the Magdalene laundries. Here Alison Roberts recounts the shocking history of these institutions and reveals that they weren't just Ireland's problem.

The Magdalene asylums were set up in the 19th century for so-called fallen women. Operated by orders of nuns, the asylums financed their operations by functioning as commercial laundries providing service to schools, prisons and other institutions.

The women had to labour in silence 52 weeks a year, symbolically washing away their sins. They were forced to bind their breasts, had their heads shaved and were regularly humiliated and beaten.

On our doorstep

The last Magdalene convent, in Waterford, southern Ireland, closed in 1996. Of course not all the asylums were in Ireland; there were plenty in Britain too. But who would have guessed that one of England's last remaining Magdalene laundries was right here in East Finchley?

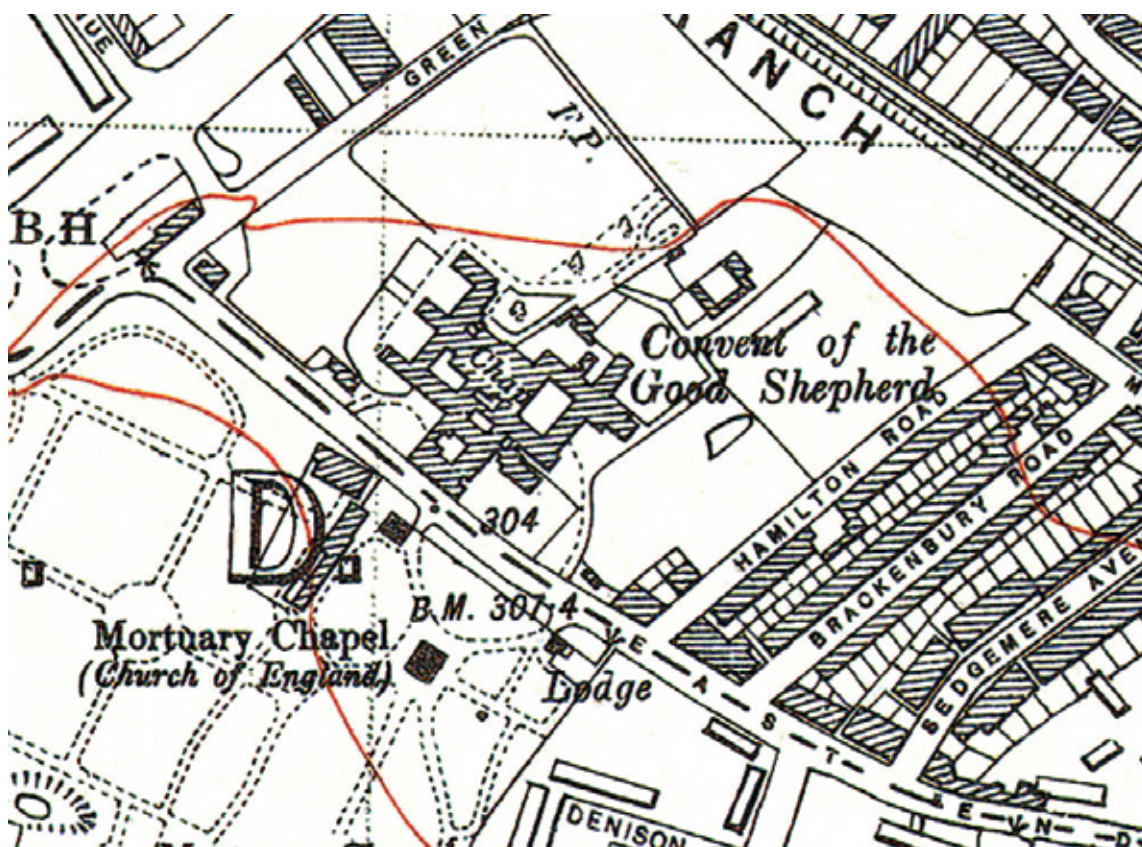
Built in 1866, East Finchley's Magdalene asylum was situated on East End Road, opposite

the St Marylebone Cemetery, occupying the area bordered by the railway, Hamilton Road and what is now the North Circular Road. Known as 'The Good Shepherd Refuge', it housed 170 women and 80 girls, and was run by a Catholic order The Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Over the years, thousands of women and girls were imprisoned in these establishments, some for decades, to scrub away the sin of being pregnant or unwanted. The victims of abuse were deemed to be guilty too and, by extension, those in danger of corruption by their fathers, brothers, or just men in general.



Forbidding: The convent and Good Shepherd Refuge off East End Road in a photograph taken by W Stackemann & Co c1910. Image courtesy Look and Learn.



Built over: This map from the early 1900s shows the convent's land spread over a large area now occupied by Bishop Douglass School and the Thomas More estate

Talks at the RAF Museum

Age UK is running a series of four talks at the RAF Museum in Colindale that will each focus on a different area of the museum's collections, including its new Bomber Command exhibition and its extensive archives.

Talks take place at the RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL on Thursdays 2 November, 16 November, 30 November and 14 December from 2pm to 3.30pm. Open to all Barnet residents over 55, the sessions are free. To book a place contact Helen Nicolaou on 07384 466840 or email helen.nicolaou@ageukbarnet.org.uk.

The disappeared

Although the asylum was intended as a reformatory for former female prisoners, Census returns from the period show that many of those locked away in East Finchley's Magdalene asylum were little more than young girls, some as young as 12-years-old. These girls became an early example of the 'disappeared', nearly always with the connivance of their own families.

Technically, everyone who entered one of the laundries did so voluntarily, following the example of Mary Magdalene, the prostitute who became the '13th apostle' of Christ, after whom the convents were named. But there was nothing voluntary about the grinding work, the forced fasting or the

weekly mortification sessions, when the women were stripped and laughed at for their vanity.

Washed up

The demise of the Magdalene laundries appears to have been driven more by economics than concern for the women's welfare. By the 1960s, the wide availability of automatic washing machines reduced the requirement for the laundries to the extent that they were no longer viable.

Most of the original East Finchley convent and boarding school, by then known as St Joseph's Training Home, was destroyed in a huge blaze one Sunday afternoon in October 1972. The inmates were shipped off to different parts of the country and only a handful of nuns stayed on in the surviving villa.

Some of the land was repurposed as playing fields for the adjoining Bishop Douglass RC School and the rest became the Thomas More housing estate. The site of the original villa is

now a modern housing development.

This article was originally printed in *The Archer* in May 2003. Read the full article online at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/history

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

- Helpers are welcome to contribute towards the life of **The Archer Academy** secondary school in East Finchley. There is a beautiful school garden and a lovely team of garden volunteers who are always looking for new members. If you are interested in helping in the garden, please contact Rachael Harvey at greenarrows@thearcheracademy.org.uk. There is also a team of volunteers who come into the school library during the week to read with students who need support. If you would like to volunteer in the library, please contact school librarian Allison Appelquist at aappelquist@thearcheracademy.org.uk
- Just a couple of hours a week of your time could make a big difference to an older East Finchley resident. A weekly friendly chat can be a lifeline to someone who is isolated. **Age UK Barnet** is appealing for volunteer befrienders, shoppers and walking buddies to give older people the confidence to get out and about. Or if you have a skill you'd like to share, they have lots of great activity groups you can support too. Get in touch with the charity at volunteering@ageukbarnet.org.uk. For a list of our current volunteer roles, check the website: www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet/get-involved/volunteer/
- **East Finchley Festival CIC** is seeking to expand its team on the run up to the 50th festival in Cherry Tree Wood next June. Positions include raffle coordinator, volunteer coordinator, plus various working groups to organise activities. If you'd like to find out more, the festival team is hosting an open meeting on Thursday 9 November in the Old White Lion from 7.45pm. Or you can apply online at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer.
- The **Finchley Foodbank** turns 10 years old this year and to mark the occasion, the team there is asking for your help. They are currently regularly supporting between 550 and 650 people a week with three days of food, essential toiletries and baby goods and other household items. Can you donate your time to volunteer? Get in touch by email at finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com to find out more.
- Become a **Proms** volunteer! Could you give a few hours a month to help make next year's Proms at St Jude's Festival a success? The skills or experience needed include admin, IT, organisation and logistics, fundraising, and education. It's a great opportunity to get involved in a local community project, gain experience and meet new people. Visit www.promsatstjudes.org.uk/volunteering.

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please send details (max 80 words please) to news@the-archer.co.uk or complete the form at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it.





Blue sky thinking: Visitors to Cherry Tree Wood lie back and appreciate the cloudscape above. Photo Mike Coles

Amazing what you learn when you look up at the sky

By Diana Cormack

It was no surprise on the hottest Sunday of the year to see people lying around on the grass in Cherry Tree Wood. Many were stretched out hoping to get a late summer tan, but one group who were focussing skywards weren't interested in the sun.



Funding is the key to improving High Road

By Ruth Anders

The East Finchley Constitutional Club was buzzing one evening in mid-September when East Finchley Town Team (EFTT) hosted its second formal open meeting. New arrivals joined previous attendees, when representatives from High Road shops, the Phoenix Cinema, Bin There Donate That, Friends of Market Place Playground, the Finchley Society, residents and all three of our ward councillors gathered to discuss matters of local interest.

The meeting focused on suggestions submitted at the London Festival of Architecture event in June as to how the High Road's appearance could be improved. While nothing can be achieved without funding, Chair Kate Brown stressed the importance of having an overall plan ready to submit when financial support is identified. EFTT's research into all possible funding avenues continues.

Plans afoot

Local architects have worked together to produce preliminary plans including smaller incremental steps that could be achieved little by little. Suggested long-term improvements embrace more imaginative planting and better-designed seating areas outside Budgens with the aspiration to develop an attractive linear town square.

A professional infrastructure survey, air quality, safety, pedestrian flow and water foun-

tainments were all discussed alongside a possible statue of one-time resident George Michael.

More green spaces

The majority agreed that efforts should be made, however modest, to continue developing green areas wherever the opportunity arises between the station and the North Circular. The East Finchley Pollinator Project has started the ball rolling with a generous donation of 1,000 daffodil bulbs, enabling a volunteer led community planting initiative this autumn.

The meeting was then introduced to EFTT's new website. Check out www.eastfinchley.london to see more. If you have any suggestions or questions please contact EFTT at eftownteam@gmail.com

EFTT's next meeting on Thursday 12 October will focus on a repeat of the successful East Finchley's Got Talent event, planned for the New Year. Watch this space for details.

They had come to look at and learn about clouds in an event organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood to coincide with Cloud Appreciation Day a few days later on Friday 15 September.

They heard that it was a north London man who had greatly contributed to the study of clouds. Luke Howard (1772-1864), a manufacturing chemist and amateur meteorologist, who lived in Tottenham, became known as 'the namer of clouds' and 'the father of meteorology', coining the classifications still used today, including cumulus, stratus and cirrus. His *Essay on the Modification of Clouds* was published in 1803.

Cloud-gazers

The numbers of cloud-gazers grew as the afternoon wore on and Muswell Hill-bound clouds scudded over, leaving those with threats of showers approaching from Hampstead Garden Suburb.

It was an enjoyable afternoon, perhaps one to encourage some participants to join the UK Cloud Appreciation Society which was established in 2005, just over 200 years after Luke Howard named them.

Bingo nights

Bingo sessions have made a successful return to the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2. They are held on Monday evenings from 6pm to 9pm for anyone over 18. It costs £6 per evening with books sold from 6pm to 7pm. Go along to make new friends and maybe some money, too.

New entrance to Grange estate for building work

By Janet Maitland

A temporary new way into the Grange estate in East Finchley has been proposed by construction company Stack London while they build two blocks of new homes next to the High Road and on Central Avenue, each with eight flats.

The special traffic entrance, which will only be used by construction vehicles, will be on Oak Lane and lead into Central Avenue. "It will have gates that will be locked at all times and attended by a Stack vehicle banksman," said Liam Buckley, site manager, who presented the plans to local residents on Tuesday 12 September at the Tarling Road community centre. "There will also be three operatives along the length of the route to manage any congestion."

Local residents had made the case that if construction vehicles were to use the current roads on to the estate, from Elmfield Road and King Street, there would be major traffic and parking disruption, as they are both single lane due to parking on both sides of the street.

At the time of going to press, Barnet Council had not yet made a decision on the proposal, so construction cannot yet begin. Stack says that the building work will take



New way in: The dotted line shows the proposed HGV route on to the Grange from Oak Lane

75 weeks once started, which should be sometime during the winter months. The company will be providing monthly newsletters from now on to keep



Expansion: Artists' impressions of the two new Grange blocks that will be built

A spokesperson from Elmfield Road Residents Association (ERRA), who support the new proposed route, said they would continue engaging with Stack to "ensure that the upcoming construction works minimise disruption to all local residents".

residents informed of upcoming actions on the site.

Detailed information about the Grange construction plan can be found on www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/. Search using reference numbers 22/3544/FUL or 22/3539/FUL.

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Fit for a king: Members of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel North London group gather in Cherry Tree Wood shortly before the Coronation earlier this year. Photos Michelle Huberman

Cavalier convention in Cherry Tree Wood

By Eva Weinstein

If you found yourself in Cherry Tree Wood on a drizzly day in early April this year, you may have been lucky enough to find the park bustling with waggy tails and floppy ears – in other words, you may have stumbled across a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel meet-up.

The ‘Cavaliers of London’ Facebook group holds monthly gatherings across the capital.

Keen to make meet-ups more accessible to North Londoners, local dog-lover Michelle Huberman created the ‘Cavalier King Charles Spaniel North London’ group which now boasts over 200 members.

Therapeutic

Aside from their good looks and adoring faces, Cavaliers are known for their friendly and sociable nature, so it’s no surprise that Michelle has a fondness for the breed, owning six Cavaliers over the last 45 years.

Michelle reveals that tragically losing her young Ruby Cavalier, Aubrey, during the 40-degree C heatwave in the summer of 2022 was a key motivation for getting involved with the group: “If you’ve lost a Cavalier and you haven’t got a Cavalier, or you love Cavaliers, come along! Join the group because it’s really very therapeutic,” she says.

Michelle urges all dog-owners to join her second Facebook group, ‘Coldfall Wood Dog

Owners and Walkers’. With close to 1,000 members, this serves as an online community noticeboard for all local announcements and dog-related concerns.

A resounding success with more than 30 Cavaliers meeting up, the Cherry Tree Wood event was followed by another gathering in Grovelands Park in May, with further events in the pipeline. Join the Facebook group to keep an eye out for information.

From reels to real estate

By Rachel Rubinsohn

To anyone tuned into local social media, Leigh Brown is probably a familiar name and face. An ex-resident of East Finchley with over 20 years as a residential estate agent, Leigh has become a champion of independent business on various networking sites.

His home-produced videos, which offer an insider’s guide to the neighbourhood in anything from a 15-second ‘reel’ to a 15-minute feature film, have been shared widely in community groups online.



Estate agent: Leigh Brown

Alan’s Records and Black Gull Books in the High Road, N2, and even a new footpath on Muswell Hill Playing Fields are just some of the ventures to have benefited from this grassroots publicity.

Using his schooling in media, Leigh’s four-part series on Hexagon Classics on the Great North Road, N2, sets aerial and interior shots of the car showroom to a rock-infused soundtrack, before delving into the history and evolution of the business with chairman Paul Michaels.

Leigh has now started up his own estate agency business after working in property acquisition across south east England, saying he wants to reflect a heartfelt commitment to local interests and offer a personal, hands-on service to clients. Describing his parallel projects as a ‘virtuous cycle’, Leigh invites local traders wanting online promotion to get in touch via his website at leighbrown.exp.uk.com.

On the frontline of the cost of living crisis

In the face of so many graphs and statistics about the cost of living, it is all too easy to lose sight of the human experiences that lie behind each percentage increase in food or energy expenses. Violet Mermelstein explains how Citizens Advice Barnet tries to help.

Jessica has allowed us to share her story. When she was unfairly dismissed from her job, she sought help with Citizens Advice Barnet and began the arduous process of taking a claim to the Employment Tribunal; a process that can take two years to resolve.

In the meantime she was left without a source of income and, despite successfully applying for

Universal Credit, a delay in payments coupled with the rising cost of living left her struggling to make ends meet.

When she is able to, Jessica pays money towards her rent, council tax and energy, going short of food to do so. She feels paying for these is more important than buying food as they keep her in her home. For everyday essentials, she is reliant on the local food bank.

Citizens Advice Barnet is



Help at hand: Citizens Advice offers support on a range of financial and legal issues

continuing to support Jessica through the Employment Tribunal process and with phone, fuel and foodbank vouchers, but her situation is unlikely to change soon.

What we do

Stories like Jessica’s make

up the vast majority of the cases we deal with at Citizens Advice Barnet. Financially vulnerable people have been pushed into crisis by the squeeze on household expenses. Of the 1,150 people we saw in July, nearly 80% needed our help with man-

aging benefits or debt.

For Jessica, this help is being provided in meetings concerning her debt, and specialist legal advice concerning her upcoming tribunal. She is also in receipt of fuel and food bank vouchers.

For others, support can include telephone advice appointments, representations on behalf of the person, and support with appeals and other complex issues.

We are increasing our Outreach locations, to make ourselves available in community spaces all over the borough. For a list of locations see: <https://barnetcab.org.uk/get-advice/visit-us/>

How you can get involved

Citizens Advice Barnet is a local independent charity. Our ability to help our community is tied directly to the donations we receive and the people who volunteer their time and effort to deliver our services.

If you would like to get involved, there are many ways to do so. You can donate to us via our website, support us by fundraising when you shop, or volunteer your skills directly. Find out more on the Get Involved pages at barnetcab.org.uk.



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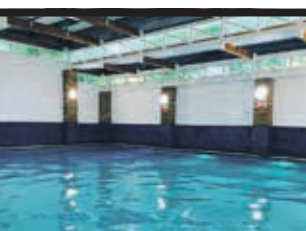
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School scrambles after safety alert over concrete

By John Lawrence

Staff and students at Bishop Douglass RC School in East Finchley were forced to spend the first weeks of term last month dealing with the fall-out from the government's last-minute decision to isolate all buildings containing sub-standard concrete.

The secondary school in Hamilton Road, N2, was on the original nationwide list of 147 affected schools issued on 30 August and had to take emergency measures to comply with the government's orders. Three religious education rooms plus the sixth form study area and common room located in a single-storey extension to the rear of the site were closed. Four Portakabins were brought in to provide temporary accommodation while remedial work was carried out to buttress the rooms.

The extension, built in the 1980s, was known to have reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC), and had been subject to regular safety surveys for well over a decade, the last one in May, with no problems being found. Michelle Henderson, Head of School, said the government's safety alert had come as a shock but her staff's quick response meant that all 250 sixth-formers and pupils from other years were able to carry on with face-to-face teaching. "We have been working to ensure the impact on students and staff is kept to an absolute minimum," she told The Archer. "We had a

lot of support from parents. They understood that it's not a problem of our making." In 2010, Bishop Douglass was in line for an £18million investment as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme, which would have dealt with the RAAC-affected rooms, but this was cancelled by the government at the time. "We would have been hoping that at some point there would have been a school rebuild to take account of these issues," said Michelle. "The school has increased in popularity and we were looking to expand anyway. "But our RAAC has always been well maintained and regularly surveyed. We always look at the surveys and follow any regulations that are necessary.

"Bishop Douglass is also a community space used by lots of clubs and local people. We'd like to reassure people that only a small area of the school is affected and that we are doing everything necessary to deal with the problem."

RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete with a lifespan of around 30 years and was used in the construction of schools and other public buildings for several decades up until the mid-1990s.



Long way to go: Chris Berlingieri, left, with friends Mike Keet and Phil Vallentin pass their first marker at The Bishops Avenue

Chris takes 18,000 steps towards a normal life

By John Lawrence

In April 2021, Chris Berlingieri was involved in a car accident that left him with multiple serious injuries. Thirty-six months on the chiropractor and musician still needs surgery to repair his broken body.

His latest operation was a total left elbow replacement last month. This wasn't available on the NHS so Chris, of Durham Road, N2, has been left to find the money for a private operation, including surgeon, anaesthetist and nursing care.

Unable to work since his accident, Chris decided to set himself a challenge to raise some cash. So just four days before his surgery he set out to walk the 10km from East Finchley to the hospital where he was going on the operating table, The Princess Grace in Marylebone, W1.

This was a huge achievement for Chris, who was in a wheelchair for many months and still has great trouble walking. "I don't normally do more than 3,000 steps a day but this was 18,000," he said. "When I set out I had no idea if I could reach the end." Chris met friends and support-

ers at Amici Delicatessen on the High Road before setting out, then made his way very slowly into town, eventually arriving at his destination seven hours later.



Final destination: Mike and Chris at The Princess Grace Hospital

Chris, who played with popular local band Sound of the Suburb, explained why being able to fund this latest operation was so important to him. "If it is successful, I will hopefully be able to get back to the work I love, being a chiropractor and helping other people with pain," he said. "Also I may be able to play the guitar again, and if I'm really lucky, I'll be able to play at the East Finchley Festival as I did many years ago."

Chris would welcome any donations to help him reach his £200,000 target. Find out more on his page at <https://gofund.me/d113745f>.

To boost the total, his friend and pub manager Niall O'Connor is hosting a horse-race fundraising night at Madden's on the High Road on Monday 6 November from 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

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From The Ritz to a school cafeteria

World-class chef Amber Francis took over as Head Chef at Christ's College Finchley, off East End Road, N2, last month after ten years of experience in the restaurant industry working at the finest establishments, including The Ritz.

Amber, who also competed in last year's *Great British Menu* TV series, is following her ambition to work closely within the local community with the help of the Chefs in Schools charity.

She is leading food-based education at CCF, directly linking what the pupils are taught about healthy eating with the food they are served in the cafeteria. Amber says: "To share my knowledge and passion for food and cooking is a privilege. We have some very big aspirations for school meals and food-based education at CCF and cannot wait to see what can be achieved together with pupils, staff and the kitchen team."



School chef: Amber Francis



Share your memories in time for 50th festival

By David Melsome

Preparations have started for next year's East Finchley Festival with an invitation for all to get involved and an appeal for people to send in their memories and photos from festivals down the years.

The community event in Cherry Tree Wood next June will be the festival's 50th year. Although the very first one happened in 1972, two years have been missed, one for legal reasons and one due to flooding.

Open meeting

The East Finchley Festival volunteer organisers are holding an open meeting from 7.45pm on Thursday 9 November at the Old White Lion pub, Great North Road, N2, where every-

one is welcome to come along to share ideas and get involved.

The festival always used to be opened by a parade of carnival floats from local schools and community groups making its way down the High Road and into Cherry Tree Wood. Do you have photos of those parades? Or maybe you took snaps on the festival field or captured some of the performers who have taken to the festival's two stages, including the late great Amy



Street parade: The Wilmot Centre youth club push a car down the High Road in the mid-80's, following pupils from Martin school.

Winehouse, who performed in 2003, just before the release of her first album, Frank.

Send your photos and memories to the festival organisers, who will include as many as they can on their website and in the official programme for next year's event. You can email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com or upload them directly to the festival's Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/eastfinchleyfestival

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood make history

At the same time, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have started work on a history of the festival in time for next year. They are asking people to share their memories of the event through the 1970s and 1980s

right up to the present day.

Roger Chapman, of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, said: "Initial archive research shows that the first festival was organised by the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association in June 1972. We are particularly keen to hear from people involved in the period 1972 – 1982 as this is the time of which we have least knowledge."

Tell your story

Share your memories and your photos with the Friends at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, on Saturday 18 November between 2pm and 4pm. The Friends will scan any photos and record your stories. You can also send words and photos by email to friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com.



Half century: Festival compere Charles O'Toole in 1999. Charles is the only member of the festival committee to have been involved from the very beginning.

A life well lived and with so much to tell

By Daphne Chamberlain

John Hajdu arrived in England in 1957 as a penniless refugee, knowing nobody and speaking only a little English. He is now the recently retired Chair of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, a former magistrate and police adviser, and a Haringey Hero for his contribution to the borough.

John also has an MBE for services to Holocaust education and commemoration. He often tells schoolchildren his early life story, and why a tiny teddy bear is one of his most treasured possessions.

He was born in 1937 in Budapest, when life for his middle-class Jewish family was comfortable and peaceful. In his first seven years that life was shattered. The Hungarian government supported Nazi Germany in the Second World War, imposed savagely anti-semitic laws, and eventually collaborated with German occupation. In 1944, the notorious Adolf Eichmann set up his HQ in Budapest.

John's father had been sent to a forced labour camp. In a later round-up, his mother was sent to a concentration camp, but a non-Jewish family sheltered his aunt and himself in a cupboard, at great personal risk.

Ghetto

Eventually they were

also found and forced into a ghetto containing 50,000 Jews. Around 20 people were crammed into each flat. They fetched water in a bucket, and had no electricity, medical care or cleaning materials. They existed mostly on horse meat, bread and dripping. Refuse was not collected. Many died and bodies lay in the street.

Once, their building was bombed. John remembers his fear as masonry fell around them, and then bewilderment when they emerged into an almost obliterated city. That was when the Soviet army liberated the ghetto, just before the retreating Germans could blow it up.

Survival

John's parents both survived but were divided by personal circumstances. The new Soviet regime was harsh and restrictive to all, culminating in the students' uprising in 1956. Over 300 demonstrators were gunned down in Buda-



Long service: John Hajdu and his wife Maureen at his retirement from the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association

pest's main square, and more than 2,500 Hungarians killed.

John, his mother and a friend managed to escape to Austria. After crawling through mud, negotiating landmines and wading through an icy river, they crossed the border via an unguarded watchtower. They had found freedom, but had nothing but themselves

and John's tiny teddy, which accompanied him everywhere.

Their friend remained in Austria but John and his mother secured two of the last permits to enter England. John forged a highly successful career in the hotel business and is deservedly proud of his service to the community as a British citizen.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:

October 2013

East Finchley viewers of ITV's *This Morning* were amazed when the programme's Take a Moment slot showed Barbara Windsor singing along with clients at the Ann Owens Age UK Centre in Oak Lane. The late *EastEnders* star was a keen supporter of Age UK. She took time to chat with those enjoying a sociable get together and helped to serve tea and cakes.

15 years ago:

October 2008

A balloon released by children at Holy Trinity Primary School arrived home after a four-year odyssey and a round trip spanning more than 1,000 miles. The tagged balloon was one of hundreds sent flying by pupils in 2004 to mark a visit by the Bishop of London. It was spotted on a north German beach in August 2008 and kindly returned to the school by the finder, herself a school teacher. Headteacher Tim Bowden said: "It arrived in its envelope full of sand: it is the genuine article."

23 years ago:

October 2000

The traffic island installed in the High Road to restrict access to and from Baronsmere Road continued to cause controversy. Drivers had been seen doing dangerous U-turns around the island to turn into Baronsmere from the North and some had even driven the wrong way along Fairlawn Avenue to avoid the queue to turn right at the traffic lights at the High Road/Fortis Green junction. Businesses in the vicinity said they have also suffered from the changed road layout but, 23 years later, the traffic island remains in place.



Flood of donations sends Robin to Barcelona

By Lynn Winton
Following our report in last month's edition, we have a heartwarming update on 18-month-old Robin Samuel, whose parents Rachel and Nick are fighting to get him the best treatment after he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare paediatric cancer.

The family, who live in a rented flat in Tetherdown in Muswell Hill, published their appeal to the community to help them raise £300,000 via Crowdfunder so he can have treatment in Barcelona, which will give him an excellent chance of growing up into a healthy adult. After the incredible response, their fund has quickly reached £108,000 from nearly 2,000 supporters.

Originally the hospital, St Joan de Deu, had insisted that they were paid for at least three of the five rounds of 'next-generation' immunotherapy that Robin urgently needs to start, but having seen the strength of Rachel and Nick's support, they relented and so, at time of going to press, the family are packing for Barcelona where the first round of treatment will be delivered immediately.

"It was just amazing to see our story in print," said Rachel "and we can read on the comments how many supporters helped after reading about us in

The Archer. Someone wrote "It takes a village" and I think that says it all."

Bittersweet

Rachel works for The National Literacy Trust and Nick is a composer and saxophonist. As well as their Crowdfunder page, both have arranged auctions, concerts, gigs and other fundraising events with local businesses and work contacts.



Ready for treatment: Robin Samuel and his dad Nick

"This is such a bittersweet time," said Rachel. "We are elated that Robin is going to start his treatment to ensure he grows up healthy, but the pressure is on to keep up the payment plan for the next rounds. One day hopefully soon this treatment will be available in the UK but that would be too late for Robin. If we don't do this, it's going to be agonising, as the further chemotherapy on offer here, on

top of his eight original courses, will wreck his little body with a high probability of deafness, leukaemia, infertility, the list is endless.

"Thank you so much for helping to make this happen, and to those of you who are continuing to donate and fundraise for Robin as we begin the next part of his journey towards a healthy, happy and hospital-free life."

If you would like to help Robin, the Crowdfunder QR code is below, or you can go to crowdfunder.co.uk and search using keywords "robin cancer london". You can also follow the family's planned events on X (formerly Twitter) @savebabyrobin. Rachel and Nick can be contacted on 07399 447705 or rachel.samuel@myyahoo.com



Gift ideas: Some of the items on show at last year's arts fair at the Muswell Hill Club

Autumn arts and crafts

The Muswell Hill Club on Fortis Green is hosting its second Autumn Arts and Crafts show after the great success of last year's event. It is open to the whole community, not just gym members.

As well as a date for the diary to buy all kinds of artisanal gifts made locally, there is also still time for makers to apply for a stall and start selling well in time for Christmas. There is no charge to run a stall.

As well as food samplings, wine tastings and a raffle in aid of North London Hospice, gym owner Hussein Lalani has other plans that are still under wraps. The fair will take place on Thursday 26 October from 6pm to 9.30pm. If you would like to apply for a stall, direct your queries by email to Natalie: info@muswellhillclub.com



Which way? The sign at The Causeway exit of East Finchley station fell into disrepair...

Can we have our missing signs back?

By David Melsome

A resident is trying to drum up support for the restoration of the missing sign in the much-used pedestrian path to the rear of East Finchley Tube station.

Tina Janering is a regular user of The Causeway and was dismayed to see the old sign fall into disrepair before disappearing altogether to be replaced by unsightly graffiti.

"The sign gave very helpful information to any visitors exiting the rear of the station and local residents would like it back," said Tina. The sign at the other end of the footpath is also missing.

Not the only problem

Tina, of Harford Walk N2, notes that the missing signs are not the only problem for The Causeway. Further up from the station, an enormous tree is covering the streetlight, making that section pitch-black after dark. The surface is uneven and full of puddles when it rains.

"If the lighting remains so poor as the evenings draw in, this path will become a mugger's paradise," Tina says.

The Causeway sits in the Hampstead Garden Suburb ward and Tina has enlisted the support of her local councillor

Rohit Grover, who took up the issue with Barnet Council in June. The Highways department told him then that they were in touch with the contractor who would replace the sign but, more than three months on, Tina has not seen any action.

A petition for improved lighting, started by residents of The Causeway, which gathered 3,600 signatures in a matter of weeks, was presented to Barnet's local area committee in January 2022. Residents were promised several safety improvements which never materialised.

Meanwhile, any visitors leaving the station by the rear exit may be left to scratch their heads as to exactly where they are.



Who knows? ... before disappearing altogether and being replaced by graffiti

RICKY SAVAGE ... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

Vegans v cats

In the world of climate change we are all meant to stop travelling, stop breathing and go vegan. No more whole milk latte from Costa Buck, no butter, cheese, fish or meat. Instead everything we eat must be plant-based, including the milk on your cornflakes... and the food for the family pets.

This is not a problem for your average hamster or rabbit; I've never seen a gerbil tucking into chicken or beef, and rabbits don't do bacon sarnies even at Christmas. Dogs are easy, because a dog will eat anything, even if, like their relatives the suburban foxes, they might prefer a left-over kebab. But there has always been an exception to all this and that's everyone's favourite domestic predator.

Cats, as he who sleeps next to the radiator explained via email, need a high-protein diet and there are some things that a cat just has to have to stay healthy which they can only get from meat. Go vegan? No way.

Yet scientists have done what scientists do and developed vegan cat food. How you might ask? Simple really, they got out their chemistry set and came up with synthetic proteins. To find out if it was true that vegan cats were healthier and kinder to the planet, I started on mine.

Sniffy

I got the highest quality vegan cat food and opened the tin and waited. He had a quick sniff, a tiny nibble and then reacted like any self-respecting cat. He spat the food out, kicked his dish across the kitchen and went off to hack into my computer, where Just Uber can deliver a dozen tins of endangered species flavour Gourmet cat food in 20 minutes.

The thing is, I'd hoped that by getting him to join me in going vegan I could avoid having to replace the V8 muscle car with some eco-friendly, ULEZ-compliant electric taxi. The cat had other ideas and now I'm stuck with an urban predator ordering fresh tuna behind my back and boasting about it on Instagram. So forget vegan cat food. Cats aren't interested in saving the planet, they are only interested in lunch.



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125 years: Bishop John Sherrington, centre, and worshippers at the St Mary's celebration service

Double celebration for church community

On Sunday 17 September, the community of St Mary's Catholic Church on the High Road, N2, celebrated a double anniversary. Bishop John Sherrington presided at a special Mass to commemorate 125 years since the parish of St Mary's was established in East Finchley and 70 years since the present church building was opened.

Attending the celebration were Mike Freer MP, Cllr Alison Moore and three of the surviving past parish priests. As well as the present parish priest Fr Peter Scott lighting 12 church consecration candles, the celebration involved a procession of children from Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School in Bow Lane, N12, and an offertory dance by the Nigerian Calabir Union Dancers.

The original St Mary's was situated on the now demolished



Victorian: The original church in the former Chapel Street

Chapel Street, roughly where Chapel Court is now, off Market Place. The church was badly

damaged during an air raid in 1940 and the present St Mary's on the High Road was the first new church to be built after the Second World War. Its unique designs and blueprints are held at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

"It was an amazing day," said Fr Peter, "full of prayer, solemnity and laughter. We have steadfastly put down roots to be here for another 125 years."



Unusual suspects: The cast of Murder with Ghosts get ready for their comedy whodunnit

Ghostly goings-on for Garden Suburb group

'Ridiculous and hilarious' are the words used to describe the next production by the Garden Suburb Theatre group, playing this month Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate village.

Murder With Ghosts is a comedy murder mystery written by Simon Brett that sees Lady Cholmondley invite a group of friends and relatives to Quittenden Manor for a weekend party because a medium has told her it will be her last. Can debonair amateur sleuth Peregrine Villiers solve the mystery of who might kill Lady Cholmondley before she meets her fate? Director Miranda Cheesman says: "I really wanted to bring something fun and spooky to

Highgate in time for Halloween. *Murder With Ghosts* has been such a fun play to work on, all the cast are basically in a competition to make the audience laugh as much as possible. We're also hoping to add a few spooky surprises to keep the audience on their toes."

The modern farce runs from Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 October, with matinees on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th. Find out more and book tickets at www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com.

Backyard ball game becomes a global sport

By Callum Conway

A racquet sport that started as a backyard game in America in the 1960s is beginning to take root in Britain and now you can play it in East Finchley. Called pickleball, it combines the skills needed for tennis, badminton and table tennis, and can be played at a fast or slow pace.

The people behind pickleball, which has millions of players and a professional league in the US, say it's "easy to learn, but hard to master" so I wanted to see if they were right. I contacted Lemon Pickleball, which is run locally by Alex, Ash and Theo, to get a game. Sessions are run at Christ's College Finchley, off East End Road, N2, and at Fortismere School in Muswell Hill.

Much easier

As a keen tennis player, I was pleasantly surprised at how much easier pickleball was to pick up. Within the first 20 minutes, I was already having long rallies with my fellow players

and by the end of the session, I felt like I'd been playing for years.

You play with paddles and hit a hollow plastic ball over a net on an indoor or outdoor court, marked similarly to a tennis court.

If you enjoy tennis but find it too difficult or if you want to play a new sport but don't know where to start then this may well be for you. Lemon Pickleball runs sessions almost every day of the week at three venues in East Finchley, Muswell Hill and Maida Vale. Check them out at www.lemonpickleball.com or contact head coach Alex on 07946 540502.



See you in court: Pickleball is played with paddles and a lighter ball

Everything in the Green Man garden is coming up lovely

By Diana Cormack

A dream came true for Strawberry Vale resident Tom Matthews with the opening of a kitchen garden at the rear of the estate's Green Man Community Centre.

Setting it up was all his idea and work began on the project in January. Eight months later a variety of plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables bear witness to the hard work put in by so many.

At the opening event on Friday 18 August guests were politely welcomed by Tom's eight-year-old grandson Sean. Tom and East Finchley ward councillor Alison Moore gave a massive thanks to all the volunteers who had helped along the way.

Special mention was made of Green Man caretaker Gary Bourne, who had given hours of free time to manage and maintain the site, and Chris Walters from Peabody Estates, who donated earth, mulch and seeds, plus East Barnet Food Hub's Max and Lawrence, who provided black boxes as containers.

Bugs and birds

Particularly impressive was



Crop ready: Councillor Alison Moore and Tom Matthews in the Green Man kitchen garden

the input from youngsters of Hope, North London's weekly group meetings. Tom invited them to take part in a competition for planning the garden and their colourful and innovative designs were on display in the Green Man, divided into four age groups.

All received special certificates as prizes and examples of their ideas such as bug hotels

and bird boxes could be seen outside, along with the plants they were growing.

"Now they know that tomatoes don't just come out of Tesco," said Tom, who hopes the experience will encourage them to participate in other activities. He also hopes the garden will become a community hub where local people can meet and socialise.



New music from a forgotten and eccentric genius

By David Hobbs

There are some people who are so central to popular culture that the mention of their name will always get smiles of recognition. Then there are others who are well kept secrets, and Viv Stanshall is one of those.

He was a founder member of the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, wrote lyrics for Steve Winwood and created the character Sir Henry at Rawlinson End, which started life on the John Peel Show and went on to become an LP and a film starring Trevor Howard. So why is he such a well-kept secret?

Partly this was a consequence of a lifetime of anxiety, alcohol and Valium addiction that left behind broken relationships, missed deadlines and, on his death in a fire at his Muswell Hill flat in 1995, a stack of unfinished music.

On good days he could be charming, witty and engaging in the way you always hoped your heroes would be. When he was drinking he was impossibly disorganised and frightening to be around. When my friend and fellow Stanshall admirer Adrian Taylor interviewed him in 1991 we saw both sides of the man. The first time was when he was drinking and trying to get anything coherent was a forlorn hope. Two months and a trip to rehab later when we went back he was sober, fit and relaxed and working on new music and new ideas.



Larger than life: Musician Viv Stanshall photographed by Adrian Taylor in 1991

Following his death, there was a massive amount of unfinished ideas including an album of songs and new Rawlinson End material. As Rodney Slater, his friend from the days of the Bonzos said about this period at the end of his life: "He was

still incredibly creative in those years, but it wasn't consistent."

New album

It has taken his son Rupert nearly 30 years to disentangle the mess, including dealing with legal issues and sorting out the music. The tapes that he got back from Warner Bros for the new albums were full of bits and pieces rather than finished songs and eventually producer Andy Frizell was brought in to pull everything together to create

the album *Dog Howl in Tune*.

The Rawlinson's End material was handed to Michael Livesley, who had been performing a one-man show of the original album pulled together using the old Radio 1 material and other recordings Viv Stanshall had made. The results have brought a forgotten genius back to life.

Dog Howl in Tune and *Rawlinson's End* are both available via Madfish Music.

Watch out for destructive winged invader

East Finchley beekeeper Lucie Chaumeton explains how an unwelcome invader could pose a major threat to UK hives and what you can do to help.

This year a Kent beekeeper lost 16 of his 17 hives. The culprit was an invasive non-native species of hornet which has swept through Europe, decimating honeybees and other native pollinators.

Unfortunately, the Asian Hornet has now invaded the UK, with over 40 nests destroyed this year by the hard-working National Bee Unit (NBU), the government body responsible for bee health in England and Wales.

A single Asian Hornet nest

can eat 12kg of native pollinators. Beekeeping associations are doing their best to support the NBU, but here's what you can do.

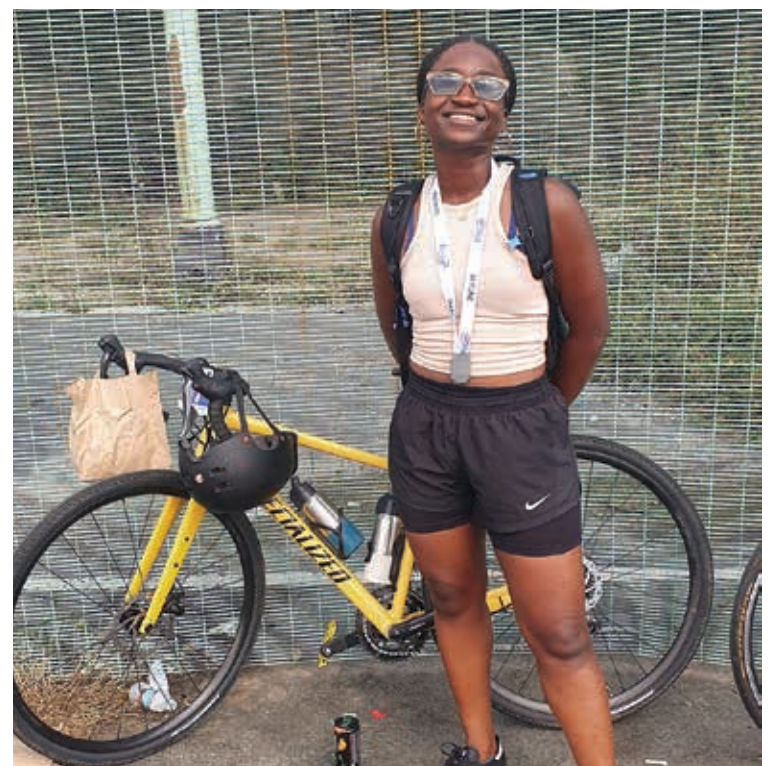
First, please download the Asian Hornet Watch app from your app store, or use the QR code in this article. This will help you identify Asian Hornets vs similar native species and to report any suspected sighting. All you need to do is upload a photo and the location. Secondly, contact me at mieldelucie@gmail.com if you'd be will-



Not native: The Asian Hornet ing to print and display A4 posters to boost awareness at home or work. Whilst the national press has helped raise awareness during Asian Hornet Week, some papers wrongly illustrated their articles with pictures of native hornets. Correct information is vital.

An effective measure is to issue the public with specific traps. Please do not use shop-bought products, which kill many native insects too. Correct traps will lure and kill young Asian Hornet queens when they emerge in the spring, before they can establish nests. In Brittany last year, a town council successfully deployed this method and destroyed several hundred queens. I plan to help East Finchley do this in 2024.

Please also lobby government (DEFRA) to request increased funding for the NBU, to help them address the Asian Hornet threat. All our native crawlers and buzzers will thank you!



Ready to ride: Nathy's Mussolo on the way to Brighton

Novice cyclist conquers long-distance challenge

By Lynn Winton

Nathy's Mussolo only took up cycling this year but comfortably managed to ride the 60 miles from London to Brighton to raise over £650 for Finchley Foodbank.

Nathy's, who has lived in Lankaster Gardens, N2, for 12 years, recently took some time off to complete her master's degree in global health, and on her return she noticed a significant increase in people needing to come to the food bank.

"It all started when I donated food items during Covid and decided I would apply to be a volunteer," said Nathy's. "It was such a well set up system but it

was clear from the queues that they needed more volunteers. Now I have got to know so many of the clients by name, so many lovely people, we hug and we chat when we see each other, and they notice if I miss a session."

If you would like to help boost Nathy's total, her sponsorship page can be found on Gofundme.com by searching for 'Finchley Foodbank Fundraiser'.

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



It's the great British bark-off!

By David Melsome

Dachshunds rubbed shoulders with dameranians and cavapoos mixed with collies when dozens of dogs and their two-legged companions took to the ring in Highgate Wood at the annual show run by East Finchley-based rescue charity All Dogs Matter.



Faithful companions: Dozens of dogs, many of them rescue animals, took part in the All Dogs Matter show in Highgate Wood, including Keith Chilvers and his tiny pet Knight of the Hunter. The judging panel included Michelle Collins, right in the group of four. Photos Holly Marks @marks_x_photography

A few minor stand-offs outside the show ring aside, the behaviour of the canine competitors in front of the judges was impeccable, patiently waiting while they were inspected and their owners interviewed.

Local actress and *East-Enders* star Michelle Collins opened the show on Sunday 3 September and joined the judging team for five categories: Golden Oldie, Best Rescue, Mr Highgate Wood, Miss Highgate Wood and Waggiest Tail.



With All Dogs Matter goody bags at stake as prizes, around 30 entrants in each category were whittled down to three winners in front of an enthusiastic crowd of spectators.

events around north London.

The judges and hosts urged anyone looking for a new dog to consider a rescue animal first as there are so many who need a loving home. Find out more at alldogsmatter.co.uk



Among the competitors was a tiny rescue dog with a big name. Knight of the Hunter was accompanied by his owner Keith Chilvers, a long-time supporter who attends most of the charity's



A gem of a show

The annual Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show hosted by the Amateur Geological Society Finchley takes place on Saturday 25 November from 10am to 4pm at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12.

This is a lively show in a large hall with fossils, jewellery, gems, rocks and mineral stalls to browse and buy, along with refreshments and a children's lucky dip. Entrance costs £2 with under 12's free.

The society itself meets on the second Tuesday of each month in Finchley Baptist Church, East End Road, N3. A guest speaker gives an illustrated talk each time and there is a programme of regular field trips. Find out more at www.amgeosoc.wordpress.com

Halloween bash

The café in Cherry Tree Wood will be hosting a Trick or Treat party on Tuesday 31 October. From 3pm, there will be pumpkin soup, baked potatoes and three-bean chilli, with prizes for the most spookily dressed children and dogs. At 4.30pm, children's entertainer Ilana Banana will be there at the Cherry Tree Café to keep the little ones occupied.

October car boot

This month's Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 28 October 2023 at Hornsey Parish Church, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH.

Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For more information, telephone 020 8368 8180.

Free concert

The next free Sunday evening concert at East Finchley Methodist Church features the Serafini Baroque Chamber Ensemble performing works by Handel, Telemann and Marais, among others.

The ensemble is made up of Marino Onissi on flute, Richard Vidler on violin, Dinah Beamish on cello and Elizabeth Dockrell-Tyler on harpsichord.

Admission to the concert is free with a collection in aid of the Friend in Need community centre. It takes place on Sunday 8 October at 7.30pm. The church is in the High Road, N2, opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue, and is fully accessible.

Not such a different world? East Finchley a century ago

By Frank Edwards

A tragic shooting, two seats for Cherry Tree Wood, port wine for sale, rising food prices and a job opportunity at Sainsbury's. This is just some of what happened in East Finchley in October 1923, 100 years ago this month.

The biggest news story, which made the national as well as the local press, concerned an East Finchley boy scout who accidentally shot and killed a fellow scout. Scoutmaster and former army officer Captain Bundy was showing troop members his collection of three pistols when Sydney Cornford, 13 years old and from Richmond Road, N2, picked up a German automatic revolver not realising it was loaded.

He accidentally discharged the weapon, shooting another scout, 14 year old Roland Crampton, in the head. Roland was taken to Hampstead General Hospital but died the next day. Warned he faced prosecution for offences relating to his firearm certificates Captain Bundy said: "I do not mind what happens afterwards. Nothing will bring the boy back to life again." Hendon Magistrates Court subsequently fined him £5 and confiscated the weapons.

Seating plan

On a lighter note, the monthly meeting of the Finchley Urban District Council discussed seating in Cherry Tree Wood. All wooden seats had rotted and the one remaining iron seat could accommodate just four people. A local councillor, told there was no money to buy seats, suggested that two should be transferred from the Victoria Recreation Ground, now Victoria Park, off Ballards Lane. Despite objections that the suggestion was 'pettifogging' and 'ridiculous,' the transfer went ahead.

Pint of port

To cheer everyone up The George Inn in Market Place, where Elm Tree Court now stands, proudly announced it was offering 'guaranteed legitimate port wine' at 2s 3d (about 11p) a pint. When not pouring port wine The George was also the headquarters of the East Finchley Musical Society,

which held fortnightly concerts.

Meanwhile a meeting of the East Finchley Ratepayers' Association discussed the problem of high food prices. Ordinary people, they noted, faced with reductions in income and wages, still had "to take what they could get, pay the prices fixed by powerful manipulators and consume food of poor quality." The Ratepayers' Association's solution? Cut out the middleman and supply food from farmers and market gardeners in the Home Counties direct to local shops in the London suburbs.

Smart application

Finally, perhaps another way to deal with rising food prices was to take a job with a grocer. In October 1923 Sainsbury's, then trading from 82 High Road in East Finchley (as described in *The Archer*, March 2016) had a tempting situation vacant: 'Smart Boy wanted, able to ride cycle, good wages.'