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What a day we had!

Drummers from Fortismere School lead the festival parade into Cherry Tree Wood at midday on Sunday 23 June at the start of an afternoon when thousands of people came out in the sunshine to enjoy the fun of the 50th East Finchley Festival. Live music, family activities and great food made for a party atmosphere. Organisers have thanked all the volunteers, sponsors, stallholders and performers who made the day such a success. Turn to the back page for more photos by Mike Coles and Tetiana Shedko.

People power puts paid to parking zone

By John Lawrence

Barnet Council has stepped away from its controversial plan to bring in a new controlled parking zone (CPZ) that would have affected 2,700 homes and businesses in East Finchley. The decision comes after the council received a flood of complaints and hundreds of people signed a protest petition and attended public meetings.

The 11am to 3pm parking restrictions were originally scheduled to take effect across all roads in the top half of N2 in February but the negative reaction forced the council to pause the implementation. At the time it promised a public consultation before it went

ahead again. But late last month Councillor Barry Rawlings, the leader of Barnet Council, signalled that the whole scheme had been abandoned for now. In a response to Sylvester Road resident Edward Butler, who organised the petition and set

up his own questionnaire, he said: "At the moment there are no plans to change the existing CPZ system in East Finchley. Although it may be looked at in the future it is no longer on the list for any changes."

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[f](#) [X](#) [@](#) @TheArcherN2

Voicemail: (messages only) 0800 612 0748 for editorial and general enquiries or 0800 612 4027 for advertising enquiries only

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Copy Editor

John Lawrence

Sub Editor

Lucy Moorman
Fiona Macdonald

Picture Editor

Mike Coles

Production Editor

Alison Roberts

Distribution

Toni Morgan,
Jane & David Marsh

Finance

David Marsh

Editorial Team

Ruth Anders, Daphne Chamberlain, Diana Cormack, David Gritten, David Hobbs, Janet Maitland, Lynn Winton

Social Media: Justine Csaky

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BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

Age UK Barnet, based in East Finchley, supports older, isolated local people in the area and needs volunteers to help out in various activities and day clubs for people living with mild dementia. They also need befrienders and shoppers to offer weekly chats or a light weekly shop to someone who can't get out. Contact Lisa Robbins by emailing volunteering@ageukbarnet.org.uk

Number Champions, also based in N2, is an award-winning charity that helps young primary school children who are struggling with numeracy or lack confidence in maths. Its trained in-school volunteers use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions with children. If you have good basic numeracy, plenty of enthusiasm, 1.5 hours/week during term time and you're interested in volunteering from September, have a look at www.numberchampions.org.uk

East Finchley-based **Barnet Lone Parent Centre** is looking for creative support volunteers to deliver family friendly art and craft activities for lone parent women with children 0-11 years. If you have patience, empathy, enjoy creative tasks, and can commit fairly regularly to four hours on the second Saturday of each month, contact kealey.kissiedu@blpc.org.uk. Find out more at blpc.org.uk

Food Bank Aid provides essential items for 32 food banks in north London, who in turn support 20,000 people per week, and offer flexible volunteering for a wide variety of tasks in a convivial atmosphere. They can't do this without an army of volunteers. Located at the Great North Leisure Park in N12, opposite Hollywood Bowl, with free parking, music, tea and coffee, volunteers are needed for a variety of roles including deliveries using your own car or our van, picking and packing. Contact volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column and listed on the East Finchley community website, please complete the form at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it.



Undeveloped: A large pile of dirt is the only sign of activity on the former Esso garage site in the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

Council not planning action over eyesore site

By Janet Maitland

A vacant plot of land on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road, N2, looks set to remain an ugly wasteland unless members of the public ask the council to investigate.

We reported in April that although they were given planning permission to build 21 flats in two blocks back in November 2019, landowners Leopold Properties have not laid a single brick, despite a statutory condition that building work should start within three years or permission is rescinded.

The council is not currently planning to take any action. A Barnet Council spokesperson informed us that it does not routinely check if work has started by the three-year deadline. Leopold Properties did inform the council a month before the deadline that building work had commenced, but no one checked if that was the case. The site was not inspected by a council officer until late March this year, shortly after *The Archer* first asked why it was still undeveloped. The officer found "some evidence of disturbed earth".

This pile of soil in one corner of the site, dug up just before the deadline in November 2022, may be considered sufficient evidence that building work has started. If this is the case, then it would be

up to the developers when they complete it.

If there is an investigation, "all parties will be given an opportunity to state their own cases," said the council spokesperson. However, he explained there is "nothing to investigate at this point in time in so far as no formal breach of planning control has been identified or requested to be investigated". We asked Joe Henry, agent for Leopold Properties, why building work hasn't started. He said he had "no further information on this site", but his understanding was that "ever-increasing build costs, partly attributable to more building regulation and energy efficiency requirements, and lack of skilled builders are making many housing schemes unviable for the moment".

Members of the public are able to formally request the council's enforcement team look into the status of the site by writing to Planning Enforcement, Barnet Council, 2 Bristol Avenue, London NW9 4EW or emailing planning.enforcement@barnet.gov.uk.

Parking zone

Continued from p1

While not entirely ruling out the possibility of the scheme being revived in the future, Cllr Rawlings' message will be good news for hundreds of people who would have had to pay up to £200 per year to park near their homes. Many said their roads did not suffer from daytime parking issues and branded the CPZ a 'money maker' for the council.



Parking zone: The proposed EF zone has been paused

However, some roads do report overcrowding from localised commuter parking and the council has not yet indicated how it will now deal with these, if at all. Edward Butler urged people to take part in his short CPZ questionnaire at www.n2cpz.com, the results of which will be shared with the council.

He said: "The Leader's acknowledgement is welcome, however... it fails to address the fundamental concerns held by many local stakeholders about how the council has conducted itself and the lack of engagement which has surrounded the process.

"The Leader indicates that there are no plans at the moment but also makes clear it is likely to come back. We are committed to continuing with our efforts to ensure each and every East Finchley household and business has their say."

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

145 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single, part first-floor side and rear extension with five roof lights. Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with juliet balcony and three front-facing roof lights.

Land opposite Chambers Gardens/Strawberry Vale, N2

Remove one 15m structure to replace with one 18m structure with wraparound and nine antennae, along with associated equipment works.

36A Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Change of use of the property from a single family dwelling (C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) (Class C4) for three people (retrospective application).

49A Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Change of use of the property from a single family dwelling (C3)

to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) (Class C4) (retrospective application).

Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2

Installation of two air source heat pumps at ground floor to the school field opposite the road to the front of the school. Installation of two rows of solar panels to the front pitched roof on the main block (retrospective application).

11 Ashburnham Close, N2

Single-storey front extension.

25 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear wrap-around extension to existing rear outrigger and addition of external insulation.

59 Bedford Road, N2

Two-storey rear extension; new cladding to rear walls; installation of solar panels to rear roof slope and side roof slope of rear

outrigger; changes to fenestration including new windows to rear elevation and insertion of a door to replace ground-floor window; insertion of one rear and one side roof light; installation of air source heat pump.

32 Sylvester Road, N2

First-floor rear extension.

208 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension, two side roof lights to replace existing. Replacement of front door and garage doors.

Haringey Council

20 Beech Drive, London N2

Replace a steel beam at the existing rear extension. Convert the integrated garage (with existing electricity, existing gas pipes and existing water pipes) into a utility and storage room, replace existing garage door with a French garage door.



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What is going on with crime in East Finchley?

Does East Finchley feel less safe to you in recent months? Are crime levels getting worse or are we just hearing about more incidents because people post their experiences on social media? **The Archer** has spoken to concerned traders and businesses and to East Finchley's neighbourhood policing team to get a picture of street and household crime in 2024.



Vulnerable: This was the moment a burglar, in black, stole £12,000 worth of cigarettes from Pacey's newsagent last August in a week when four other High Road businesses were also targeted

Traders: Something needs to be done

By Lynn Winton

Harsha has run the newsagent shop inside East Finchley tube station for 24 years and never used to have any fear working there on her own all hours of the day. In her words "it's a good neighbourhood". In recent years, however, something has changed. Her business has been broken into overnight and she has been targeted several times by daytime gangs who walk into her shop, intimidate her and her customers, and then run off with whatever items they like from her shelves. Harsha told us: "I myself have chased after two and one picked up a stick to attack me just six months ago. In the last two weeks we have had many similar incidents, sometimes twice a day. We need to protect ourselves and need police presence to prevail in the station for everyone's safety."

Phone muggings

All the shop owners I spoke to on the High Road agree there has been an increase in incidents of crime, with many witnessing phone muggings and bag snatchings.

Maurizio Businaro, owner of Amici Italian Deli, said: "We had a customer who left his electric bike outside. In the five minutes it took for us to make him a coffee, it had been stolen. We felt so bad for him, he told us it cost £3,000."

East Finchley resident Natalie Blanks, receptionist at The Muswell Hill Club, is uniquely placed to see what's going on with a clear vantage point along Fortis Green. She

said: "I see the same masked bikers continuously riding up and down, scouting for a mugging opportunity. One of our female personal trainers had a knife pulled out on her right outside, they snatched her bag, a terrifying incident that has left her in total shock."

"I have told all our members not to get out their phones on the street. I feel I have a responsibility to keep informing people, and I think they target this area because they know there are no police around here."

Where are the police?

One Facebook user commenting on the number of mobile phone thefts along the High Road said: "Personally I rarely see any sort of police presence in the area other than when they're responding to another incident. Would it not make sense to have more visible policing at particular hot spots within the area - the station being one? I'm not sure how to escalate this but surely something needs to be done."

Police: Be our eyes and ears

By John Lawrence

Burglaries in East Finchley are up, incidents of criminal damage are up and robberies are up, according to figures from the Met Police. At the same time, thefts are slightly down and violence-related incidents have dropped.

East Finchley's Safer Neighbourhood policing team, made up of three police officers and one community support officer, is urging people to report all incidents, however small, so they can identify criminal patterns and deploy their limited patrol and investigation resources in the most appropriate ways. At a crime and community meeting at Martin Primary School on Friday 14 June, Chief Inspector Paul Condren told *The Archer*: "We have to make decisions because we don't have enough resources to be everywhere. Each area has a small team but I can draw on 21 neighbourhood teams across Barnet to coordinate our response." Sgt Manny Asare-Bekoe told residents: "The first port of call should always be the police on 999 or 101 and immediacy helps. If a crime is reported several hours later or the next day it significantly reduces our chances of identifying suspects."

Crime figures

The team revealed the most recent crime figures for East Finchley ward, comparing January to March 2024 with the same period in 2023. They were as follows: **Burglaries:** 20 (Jan-Mar 2023), 33 (Jan-Mar 2024) **Criminal damage:** 20 (2023), 28 (2024) **Robberies:** 9 (2023), 15 (2024) **Thefts:** 114 (2023), 112 (2024) **Violence-related:** 114 (2023), 101 (2024) East Finchley can be vulnerable to individual criminals and gangs arriving from outside N2 and then being able to make a quick and easy getaway by

tube along the Northern line or by road along the A1, A1000 and North Circular, police say. They suggested some phone muggings could be linked to criminals coming across from the Camden Town area.

Police presence

Residents at the meeting raised their own concerns about school students being mugged along The Causeway, anti-social behaviour from neighbours, dangerous cycling on pavements and drug dealing on the streets among other issues.

When asked directly what police are doing on the ground, Sgt Asare-Bekoe said: "We cannot police every single road but if people give us a heads-up we can make plans and take actions. The more people call us the more chance we have to deal with it."

Grange Big Local grants

The Grange Big Local project has thanked everyone who applied for one of its community grants, saying there are so many amazing projects taking place right on our doorstep in East Finchley.

Applications closed on 31 May and all funds will be distributed by mid-July. It urged anyone who missed the deadline to get in touch on info@grangebiglocal.org as there may be other opportunities. You can subscribe to the project's newsletter and keep updated via www.grangebiglocal.org



How to report a crime

- Call **999** in an emergency when there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress
- Call **101** for non-emergencies, if your property has been stolen or damaged, you wish to report drug dealing or a minor traffic accident, and for general police enquiries
- Report crime to East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team by phone on **020 7161 9014**, by email to eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk and on X/Twitter @MPSEastFinchley
- Stay anonymous and report information to Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**
- In the case of violence against women and girls, and domestic abuse, call **999** in an emergency and **101** in a non-emergency

Boot sale bargains

This month's Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 27 July from 10am to 1pm at the usual venue of Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For information, contact 020 8368 8180.

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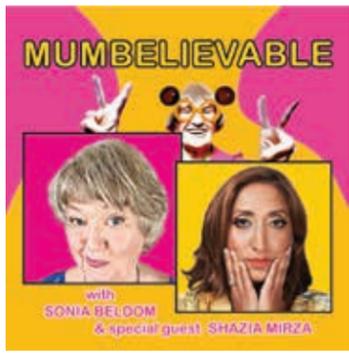
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Funny and moving: Podcast host Sonia Beldom with actor and impressionist Steve Nallon, and, left, with comedian Shazia Mirza and actress Su Pollard

Unbelievable stories of our mums

By Julia Lawrence

As a child, growing up in Hendon, Sonia Beldom was frequently embarrassed by her mother Margaret. And what's so unusual about that, readers will rightfully ask: surely, it's a mother's remit to appal and mortify her offspring. Only Sonia's mother went beyond the odd questionable outfit or anachronistic comment.

Before she was eventually sectioned in 2010, at the age of 80, Margaret had spent her life secretly, and bravely, battling a host of mental health issues, including frontal lobe disorder, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety and ADHD. It furnished Sonia, who now lives in Long Lane, N3, with a treasure trove of hilarious and deeply touching stories of life with a mother who was never destined to follow a conventional path through life.

And her beloved mother, who died six years ago, aged 88, has been the inspiration behind a new podcast series, aptly named *Mumbelievable*, in which Sonia, a former radio and TV producer, interviews guests about their own unique relationships with their mum.

Guests so far have included

actors Su Pollard and Helen Lederer, actor and impressionist Steve Nallon, stand-up comedian Shazia Mirza and the pianist and songwriter Bobby Crush, and the podcast has been attracting up to 400,000 downloads per episode.

"There are so many podcasts out there about how to be a good mother, but nothing like this," says Sonia. "Everyone has, or had, a Mum. Everyone has a story. We are finding things out about people that even their best friends didn't know. 'Shortly before she died, Mum said to me 'I've been a terrible mother', and I told her: 'no, Mum, you're incredible. Look at me: I have a lovely life, a happy marriage, a great career. You achieved all that, with everything you had to cope

with. You did an amazing job.'" Find *Mumbelievable* wherever you usually get your podcasts.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:
July 2014

This month saw work begin in Stanley Road, N2, on the site of the Archer Academy's new campus. Before work began, Museum of London archaeologists investigated the site for historical interest, but nothing of significance was found.

15 years ago:
July 2009

The Archer launched its first full colour edition this month, giving the paper a livelier, more modern look. We featured the 70th birthday of East Finchley station, our local grade II listed art deco gem. In 1937 it replaced the old 19th-century building when East Finchley became part of the Northern line. At the same time tunnels were constructed, linking Highgate station to East Finchley, completing the changeover.

23 years ago:
July 2001

The RSPCA gave a local dog a top award after she saved her family from a house fire in Eastern Road, N2. Trine, an 18-month-old King Charles spaniel, alerted her owners to the fire, enabling them to escape safely. She was given the RSPCA animal medallion for vigilance by the Society's Council Member for North London, Alan Anyon.

Marathon man makes it across the line at the big six

By Ruth Anders

To complete one marathon is a feat, but to complete all six Marathon Majors is a mighty achievement indeed. And with his completion of the 2024 Boston Marathon, the oldest modern marathon in the world, that's just what local resident Keith Jordan has accomplished, taking 25 years to do it.

The Marathon Majors comprise London, Berlin, Tokyo, New York, Chicago and Boston, all with a length of 26.2 miles. Approximately 35,000 entered this year's 128th Boston race, with 25,530 runners finishing the course and Keith coming in 7,976th in 3 hours 24 minutes. "In marathons," says Keith modestly, "the race doesn't really begin until mile 18."

He told *The Archer*: "When I first came to London, I started feeling worse and worse shut up all day in an office. Trying a run in the local path for some fresh air, I collapsed after 300 metres! So, something had to be done. I began running into work in the City from Clapham, with my office clothes in my backpack, and slowly graduated to running half-marathons, then marathons."

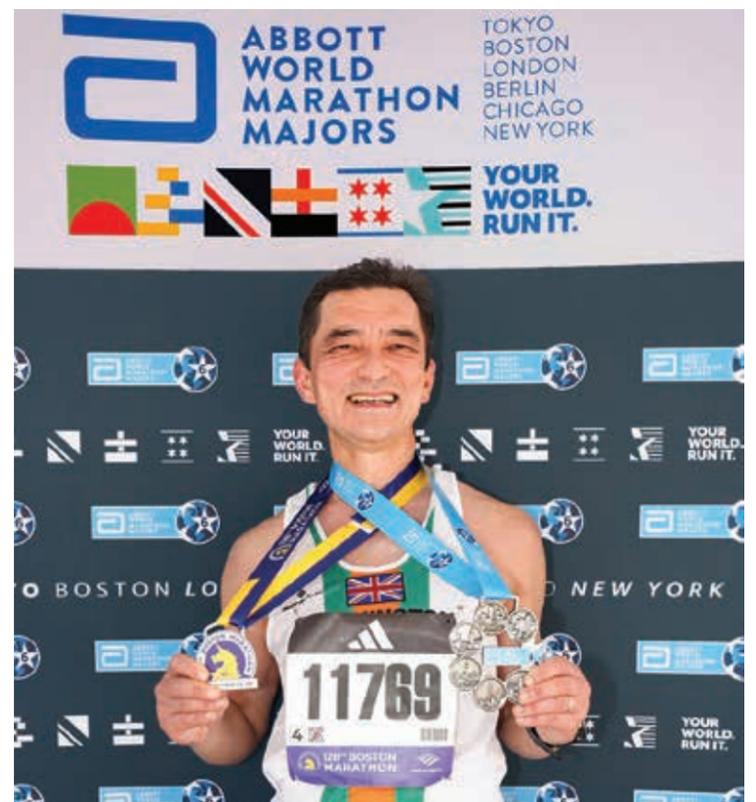
He started his marathon journey with the Berlin Marathon in 1999, running it with a hangover

("Well, I was young," he smiles) in 3 hours 18 minutes, and has now done 13. After a disastrous London Marathon in 2008 when he started too fast and struggled to finish, he took an 11-year break. Then came Lockdown, and when the London Marathon was cancelled, he ran the New York Marathon instead, finishing in a very respectable 3 hours 5 minutes at the age of 52.

Addictive sport

Which was his favourite? "Running over London Bridge to a wall of sound is an experience I'll never forget", says Keith. He adds: "Running is an addictive sport and undoubtedly helps improve one's mood. Through running I have made a good many friends."

Having achieved the Big Six, he'll now concentrate on fell racing which he prefers to big city races. "But I might still enter the odd Marathon if my son does," he admits with a grin.



Medallion man: Runner Keith Jordan with his medals from the Big Six Marathons

Send in the clowns

By Diana Cormack

If you suffer from coulrophobia, an event which starts this month may not be for you! In early July the London Clown Festival opens for a week at the Soho Theatre before moving for the first time to Jacksons Lane Centre, in Archway Road, Highgate.

Starting on Tuesday 16 July, there are six shows with performers differing from the conventional Bertram Mills Circus clowns of my childhood and probable source of my own fear of clowns. These internationally acclaimed acts are influenced by mime, circus and physical comedy. For further details visit www.jacksonslane.org.uk



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Pharmacies in crisis in funding freeze

By Lynn Winton

Paresh Shah is the chief pharmacist and co-owner of High Road pharmacy CW Andrew and many readers will have been indebted to him for his expertise and advice over the years. Ever calm and professional, it came as a shock to hear that he is facing his biggest crisis since taking over the business 41 years ago, and is campaigning on behalf of all pharmacies who are in jeopardy of closing their doors for good.

On Friday 20 June he covered his windows with the bleak message 'Save our Pharmacies' as part of a nationally coordinated plea to the government to increase desperately needed funding. He has a petition on his counter that he hopes everyone will sign.

been taken of the increasing number of drug shortages and price increases and how as a local pharmacist we now have to spend hours finding vital drugs to fulfil the prescriptions and then pay more for them. We simply can't move forward without proper funding."



Underfunded: East Finchley pharmacist Paresh Shah is campaigning alongside colleagues across the country. Photo Mike Coles

Pharmacies receive most of their funding from the NHS. Paresh explained the crisis: "Ten pharmacies are closing every week in the UK and three quarters of us are in the red. From 2018 funding has been frozen, so after six years with no increase we are all experiencing a huge shortfall averaging £70,000 per business and this simply cannot carry on.

"Most of us are struggling, carrying debt and a massive workload as we cannot afford more staff. No account has also

Shanel Raichura, owner of Links Pharmacy in East End Road, N2, told *The Archer* that community pharmacies are a vital resource: "Anecdotally, many people in East Finchley struggle to get help. Many have said it's impossible to speak to a GP. Community pharmacies can help with this. Not only can patients get the help they so desperately need for themselves or their loved ones, but they are also helping relieve the pressure on NHS services."

Find out more at saveourpharmacies.co.uk

Fifth arrest made in Anthony Littler case

There have now been five arrests in connection with the re-opened investigation into the murder of Anthony Littler close to East Finchley tube station 40 years ago.



Murdered: Anthony Littler

As were reported in January, the Customs and Excise executive, aged 45, was fatally attacked as he walked home to Leslie Road, N2, late at night in May 1984. Detectives re-opened their inquiries late last year and quickly arrested two men followed by a further two arrests in March. A fifth man was arrested in May. A Met Police spokesperson told *The Archer*: "All five have been released under investigation and enquiries remain ongoing.



Striking: The cast of *The Glass Menagerie* on the production's spectacular set

Review: The Glass Menagerie

Alexandra Palace Theatre

By Jessica Holt

The first thing that strikes you in this production of Tennessee Williams' classic is Rosanna Vize's set with the neon sign saying Paradise back to front. It sits on a huge column and fills the vast stage area at Alexandra Palace. We learn later it is the club across from the apartment where the action of the play takes place and it turns slowly throughout the play, symbolising the failure of the Wingfield family to fulfil their dreams.

Central to the lack of fulfilment of the characters is Amanda Wingfield who lives in the past, the days when women were courted by gentleman callers. Her ambition for her daughter Laura is the same, to marry a handsome and wealthy gentleman. Being set in 1937, it was also an economic necessity as the father had deserted the family some years before.

Geraldine Somerville's performance as Amanda is complex, and strong. This sometimes takes the impact away from the terrible sadness experienced by Laura, played by Natalie Kimmerling, and the restlessness and hopelessness experienced by Tom the son, played by Kasper Hilton Hills.

Tom as narrator declares at the beginning it is a memory play and often it is suggested by critics that this is Tennessee Williams himself remembering when he left his beloved sister Rose because he knew his future lay elsewhere both personally and professionally.

Laura's salvation was her relationship with her glass collection of animals strewn around the stage and just about visible. She appears truly happy when she gives her favourite,

the glass unicorn, to her gentleman caller. He smashes it by mistake and reveals to her he is engaged to be married. Her brother had not known this when he brought Jim, played by Zacchaeus Kayode, home but had also not taken the trouble to get this important task right.

The actors often move within the non-naturalistic set as if in a dream, in what is a powerful, deeply moving play performed with considerable skill.

Beethoven

bonanza

Finchley Symphony Orchestra and Finchley Chamber Choir conducted by David Lardi are performing an all-Beethoven programme for the final concert of their season. In his third symphony, the *Eroica*, Beethoven revolutionised the form. His *Mass in C Major*, written just a few years later, features chorus, orchestra and a full set of four soloists.

Both works can be heard at Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley on Saturday 13 July starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £18 with reductions for anyone under 26 or over 60 and are £1 less when booked online at finchleysymphony.org.

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Morning has broken: A wren sings in the early dawn light on Long Lane Pasture. Photo Donald Lyven

When the natural world wakes up

By Donald Lyven

International Dawn Chorus Day fell on Sunday 5 May and a group of brave souls got themselves to Long Lane Pasture before sunrise to be greeted by the pleasing symphony of birdsong, with the bonus of seeing a few bats flitting about despite the temperature being 7°C.

The brightest stars were fading in the clear and lightening sky as a discernible mist hung low over the dew-laced meadow. All the usual suspects were calling: robin, blackbird, song thrush, blackcap, chaff chaff and great tit, but the wren as always, despite its diminutive size, was the loudest and most dominant in the morning soundscape.

Seen silhouetted crossing the sky were magpies, pigeons, carrion crows and gulls, flying over with a purpose only they knew. In the east, the evolving hues of yellows and pinks blazed in anticipation of the sun's rising. The blanket of mist began lifting as the first glimpse of the sun's orange disk came into view.

The lighter it became the less the birds were calling, but new sounds caught my ear:

the song of the garden warbler, the tuneful notes of the ever-present goldfinches, and the unmistakable chirping of house sparrows; late to the party but welcome nonetheless.

It had been a cold, early start at the pasture, opposite the fire station on Long Lane, N3, but the clarity of the dawn chorus before the cacophony of traffic began and the privilege of seeing the colourful sunrise on a new day made the effort worthwhile.

Summer opening at the Pasture

By David Melsome

The volunteers who run Long Lane Pasture opposite Finchley Fire Station are opening the nature reserve every day over the summer and inviting visitors to enjoy what it has to offer.

Opening hours have varied over recent months following the death of pasture trustee Wayne Armsby, who lived next door and diligently opened and closed the gates for 20 years.

But his fellow volunteers have taken on that role between them, opening the pasture from around 10am until late afternoon and later some days.

As ever, during late autumn and winter, they will revert to opening less frequently, mainly because of the risk of waterlogged ground, but will always be open approximately between 10am and midday every Saturday, unless the winter weather is unusually severe. This is the time when they work on pasture maintenance and when they welcome anyone who can lend a helping hand.

The volunteers have also issued a friendly reminder that all visitors and their children should stay on the paths, and that dogs must be kept on short leads rather than allowed to roam around, as they disturb and distress the wildlife. Also, barbecues are not permitted.

Changing times

Professor Catherine Loveday will be giving a talk on the mysteries of time on Wednesday 10 July from 7pm to 8pm, everything from why time speeds up as we get older to why the first week of a holiday always seems so much longer than the second week. It takes place at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. To reserve a place, contact Teresa on 020 8432 1421 or email teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk



Recycled: Artist Elisa Cantarelli unveils her Brent Cross station artwork alongside London Mayor Sadiq Khan

Recycling project has plenty of bottle (tops)

By Emma Frampton

East Finchley's recycling and re-use project Bin There Donate There is still around! We are engaging with local artist Elisa Cantarelli, whose mission is to tackle the abuse of single-use plastic and other discarded materials through creative acts.

Sharing her therapeutic signature technique called dotting, she aims to engage with different communities, spreading social and educational messages about environmental issues, embracing diversity and focusing on the identity of places to enhance a sense of belonging.

Over the past five years, she has designed projects in northern Italy and London, including for the grand opening of the new Brent Cross West Station, inaugurated by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan in December. For this project, Bin There Donate That contributed by donating white bottle tops.

Grant us success

Bin There, Donate That still collects unwanted arts materials from the Amy's hardware store in the High Road but we need your help! We have applied for two grants this year

to restart the tablet blister pack collection, sadly without luck. Grant success is partly dependent on the number of applications, skill and knowledge. Is this something you can do or can help with?

We are also looking for dedicated volunteers to help our team with organising the inbox and filing emails and setting up social media accounts. By helping with basic administrative organisation, you will play a crucial role in helping us secure the funds needed to grow our charity.

Additionally, as a small organisation, we value fresh ideas and you will have the chance to influence the future direction of Bin There Donate That. Contact us via www.bintheredonatethat.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @bintheredonatethat



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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
- 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



Tennis club sale to cover costs of church revamp

By Diana Cormack

The large number of comments made on the planning application for the redevelopment of Fortis Green Tennis Club, off Southern Road, N2, caused the end date of the consultation to be pushed back to 10 June (see *The Archer*, June 2024). Results then showed that there were over 120 objections to the proposals and five in support, which included the site owners Muswell Hill United Reform Church (URC).

The church is proposing to sell off the site to developers the Capstone Group to build five new houses and a block of three flats on part of the site. The tennis club will be given a new club house but the number of courts will be reduced from four to three.

In its response to the planning application, the church gave a brief history of its relationship with the tennis club and its development over the years. It stated that the recent redevelopment of the church's main building on the corner of Queens Avenue and Tetherdown in Muswell Hill had led to an over-running of costs, for which a loan was secured. Repayment of this would be managed by selling off the tennis club site "while continuing to keep a tennis facility for the community".

In its own response, Fortis Green Tennis Club stated that it has always been open to discussion but that "the URC and the developers have chosen to submit the scheme without addressing any of the club's serious concerns. The present proposals cannot be supported but the club is ready to further engage and discuss any alternative proposals".

With no date at the time of writing for a decision to be made, the fact that the tennis courts are in Haringey but entry for any building work and future vehicular access would be across Barnet land could influence the result. In fact, as an adjoining borough, Barnet Council has raised objections to the proposals, with many of its concerns matching those of local residents.



World in motion: Malcolm Dunkeld plans one of his ambitious motorbiking adventures. Photo Mike Coles

Ride pillion in Malcolm's motorbiking memoirs

By Ruth Anders

Seven years ago, local resident Malcolm Dunkeld undertook a remarkable journey. On his specially acquired Triumph Tiger XCX, named Hecate, he biked across Europe, Central Asia, Siberia, and via Japan to Australia. On South Australia's Oodnadatta Track, after an almost fatal accident, he was rescued by the Flying Doctor and spent weeks recovering in hospital, his wife Gillian beside him.

Now he has published an enthralling book about his immensely complex expedition. It was wanderlust that sent him out on the road, he says, combined with a highly personal need to face his demons and overcome his fear of being alone, "... something which had deeply frightened me since boyhood".

Whether describing the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, the treacherous Trans-Siberian Highway, Vladivostok or Tokyo, he writes with riveting style. Riding through vast forests and across bleak deserts, he describes the unlikely situations in which he found himself, reflecting on the beauty of his environments, his irritations and his loneliness. Encountering hospitality, curiosity and suspicion in equal parts, he meets ruffians, prostitutes, extreme risk-takers and many just keen to help.

Much of the book reads like a magical letter from an old friend, peppered with chatty nuggets of history. Towards the end he tells the reader: "On my journey I had ridden across wild lands - the Kyzylkum Desert, Pamir Mountains, steppes of Kazakhstan, the taiga of Siberia - and journeying along (Australia's) Eyre Highway gave me the same tingling feelings I had in those places: awe at the solitude, vastness and beauty of the wilderness, combined with fear where a full complement of

dangers waits those who break down or get lost."

I first wrote about Malcolm and his adventures in *The Archer* in July 2018. This book brings to vivid life every step of the journey. By the end, we feel not only that we have been riding pillion with Malcolm, but also that we know this audacious traveller in an inti-

mate and rewarding way. Our courageous neighbour's fascinating book is a thoroughly recommended read.

Motorbiking Mountain and Steppe, Forever Eastward by Malcolm Dunkeld is available to buy from Amazon, WH Smith, Coles Books, Waterstones, Foyles and via the Whittles Publishing website.



High tea: Five Bells Computer Club volunteers meet Barnet Mayor Cllr Tony Vourou. Photo Toni Koppel

Tea time treat for computer club

By Toni Koppel

To acknowledge the 40th anniversary of Volunteers' Week in June, four volunteers from the Five Bells Computer Club in East Finchley were invited to a scrumptious tea with Mayor of Barnet Tony Vourou, at Hendon Town Hall. Around 35 volunteers from many different organisations received certificates of recognition and personal thanks from the Mayor and we were honoured to be there.

If you are able to offer or are looking for free and friendly help with your smartphone, laptop or tablet, then come and join one of our Tuesday sessions between 2pm and 4pm at the Five Bells Pub. We can be contacted at fivebells.computerclub@gmail.com. New volunteers and new learners are always welcome.

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Sliding tackle: Wingate & Finchley, in blue and white, take on Hastings United last season. Photo Martin Addison

Optimism overcomes The Blues ahead of new season

By Liam Blaney

Wingate & Finchley FC had one of the most successful seasons in their history in 2023/24. The Blues, whose home is in North Finchley, managed a fourth place finish with a tally of 76 points, meaning that they qualified for the Isthmian Premier League play-offs.

Unfortunately the play-offs proved a step too far, with a narrow 1-0 defeat in front of more than 2,000 spectators at Enfield Town, who eventually won in the final and will be promoted into the National League South in 2024/25.

The success of this season has not come overnight and is the culmination of a lot of hard work by the management team, led by club legend and all-time record appearance holder Ahmet Rifat, who took

over during the previous season when the Blues were rooted to the bottom of the table. His first game in charge was a 5-0 victory and there was no looking back as he led the Summers Lane side to safety. The squad that Rifat has assembled during his time in charge is young and exciting, full of talented young players. The Blues will be looking to build on last season's success to push for another top-half finish in 2024/25.

As chairman Aron Sharpe alluded to during the club's end of season awards ceremony, there is a real optimism around the team, demonstrated by a growth in attendance of 34% compared with the previous season, and the involvement of a growing number of young and motivated people. The club is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers – if you'd like to get involved in the club, contact them via www.wingatefinchley.com

Book awards for new Jewish writers and illustrators

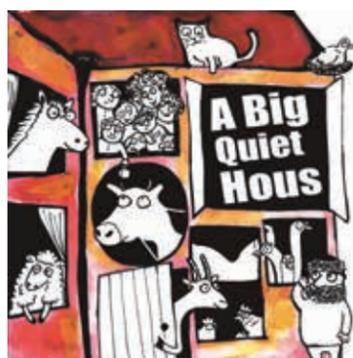
Green Bean Books, run by East Finchley resident Michael Leventhal, and The Jewish Literary Foundation have announced the return of the Jewish Children's Book Awards for 2025.

Now in their fourth year, the awards recognise exciting and previously unpublished new work by Jewish writers and illustrators living in the UK and Europe.

One author and one illustrator will each receive a separate £1,000 prize and their winning entries will be considered for publication by Green Bean Books. The winner of the writing prize in 2024 was Julie Form from Germany for *Moses the Matzah Sparrow*. The winner

of the illustration prize was Ukrainian-born designer and illustrator Julia Krasovitsky.

"The awards can be an amaz-



Winner: Illustrations by Julia Krasovitsky were honoured in last year's awards

ing springboard for previously unpublished writers and illus-

trators," said Michael. "Each year it is wonderful to see how Jewish themes are explored in fresh hands and I can't wait to see the new entries."

Fellow judge and magazine editor Rebecca Taylor added that the awards embrace diversity in Jewish writing. "If you have a great story with beautiful illustrations there's no reason why its protagonists shouldn't be from any kind of background. The book awards have shown that this is absolutely possible and are hopefully heralding a new era for Jewish children's stories."

Full submission criteria for the awards can be found at greenbeanbooks.com/JCBA2025. Submissions close on Monday 28 October.

Heaven for our busy pollinators

By David Melsome

The residents of Leopold Road, N2, have been praised as Buzzy Street Champions after adding hundreds of bee and pollinator-friendly plants to their gardens and window boxes. The Finchley Pollinator Project made them winners after 16 households added almost 500 plants.

This is the first year of the competition, which aims to increase biodiversity across Finchley through providing habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hoverflies, moths and other life-sustaining pollinators. Overall, 1,400 plants were added in gardens across the area.

Run and water

Running group GoodGym Barnet are contributing in their

own way by planting part of the grassland in Manor Cottages Approach, N2, with pollinator-friendly plants. They are inviting the whole community to help them thrive by watering them through the summer. Take along your own bucket or watering can and the nearby Spanners with Manners garage on Long Lane, N2, will let you fill them up from their tap. They also have a watering can to lend.



Fresh produce: The new East Finchley farmers market draws customers on its first day. Photo Mike Coles

Farmers in the city

Sales were buzzing at the new weekly East Finchley Farmers' Market on the forecourt of the Hexagon showroom, Great North Road, on its first outing on Sunday 16 June, and a sunny day helped to keep business lively.

The variety of stalls ticked every box with fruit and veg, free range eggs, meat, fish, bread, cheese and fruit juices. A number of ready-made food outlets were selling slow-cooked beef, salads, wraps, dumplings, quiches and pies. Coffee was available from Hexagon together with a popular outside seating area.

Several considered the market a great addition to East Finchley's food offerings. One visitor commented to *The Archer* that the market seemed expensive. However, it is widely acknowledged that contribu-

tors to most farmers' markets charge more for their produce than supermarkets, as goods are likely to be more ethically sourced.

These providers drive from as far afield as the Isle of Wight (tomatoes), Somerset (White Lake Cheese and Bagnell Farm), Warwickshire (Galileo Farm) and Cambridge (North Sea Seafood Ltd, who work with a small fleet of boats in Wells on the North Norfolk coast). Bagnell Farm offered to bring pork chops with rinds next week for a shopper who made a special request.

Summer at the U3A

Are you retired or semi-retired and looking for some new activities to get involved in? During July and August, North London U3A is again opening up their programme of activities to people who would like to give the organisation a try. Their Summer Programme includes a wide variety of events, from walks to wine tasting, and there are no upper or lower age limits.

Organiser Michael Lewin said: "As a member of NLU3A we can introduce you to new skills and subjects or perhaps even persuade you to share your own specialist skills and interests. Why not come along and sample the experience?"

North London U3A holds meetings in Finchley, Highgate, Muswell Hill and provides

opportunities throughout the year to meet new people through talks, interest group meetings and local events. Some events go further afield, ranging from walking tours of the City of London and Richmond to visits to the Museum of Brands in Notting Hill and the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. Find out more at www.nlu3a.org.uk



New landmark: Members of East Finchley Town Team fix the teepee structure in place outside Budgens. Photo Mike Coles

Tower of flower

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley's Town Team installed two items on the High Road last month to celebrate the London Festival of Architecture (LFA) which ran throughout June. One was a bamboo structure in the style of a teepee/wigwam erected in the raised garden outside Budgens using the empty Christmas tree space. Flowering plants growing in compost, both generously supplied by the supermarket, surrounded its base.

The other was a Stagesette on the pavement area outside Amy's hardware store. It consisted of two wide-slatted wooden benches which can be positioned at various angles as a seat, or erected as a small stage (see *The Archer*, May 2024). Passers-by of all ages have been taking the opportunity to sit there for a while as well as having a good look at the teepee.

After being used as a stage for story reading and puppetry on the first day, four days later the Stagesette was set up in an L-shaped bench form as a meeting point to launch the local air quality monitoring event. Volunteers were able to collect a monitor from the Town Team to be used throughout the month, with the results fed back into a borough-wide database.

An exhibition of proposals for the town square being on show in Egg and Bake, 122 High Road, for the whole month enabled people to make their comments on the scheme. So did the final scheduled activity on Saturday 22 June, when the Town Team along with East Finchley architects MillsPower held a community consultation event with local performers putting the Stagesette to good use.

Playground team calls for arts and heritage experts

By Samantha Haycock

With the renovation of Market Place Playground well underway, work has begun on plans to bring the history of the site to life. Being located close to the historic centre of East Finchley and what was once the largest hog market in the country from the 1660s to the 20th century, there are plenty of stories to tell.

The Friends of Market Place Playground are looking for help to create permanent information boards, signage and images, and to create a number of 3D public art installations that are interactive and playable.

They need a heritage, museum or communication professional with experience of creating accessible and informative displays for a diverse community, including children, those with disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

This unpaid role would include giving advice on content and construction. Time required is expected to be six to eight hours in total, including one or two meetings. Any contribution would be recognised in the playground's publicity and on the Friends' website.

For the artworks they need people with experience in designing, creating, and installing sculptures from concrete in public spaces. Time required is to be determined but it is likely to be a significant project. This will be a paid project and is subject to fund-



Taking shape: New equipment is being installed in Market Place Playground. Photo Samantha Haycock

ing approval and tendering process.

If you can help, or have an idea of someone who could, email the relevant contact

details to friendsofmarket-place@gmail.com along with a brief summary of experience and interest in the relevant project.

RICKY SAVAGE ... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

They used to play music here

"Friday, all is bright, gonna go and see some band tonight", except you can't. Well you can, but not in the way you used to, because there aren't the venues anymore. Even the big ones have gone. The Rainbow in Finsbury Park, where everyone from The Who to Deep Purple to The Jam played until it shut in 1982. The Astoria on Tottenham Court Road got bulldozed a few years ago to make way for the Elizabeth line and even the Hammersmith Palais, a place immortalised in a Clash song, got demolished in 2009.

The smaller places haven't survived either; The Marquee, The Nashville and The Rock Garden are long gone. OK, some have plaques on the wall of the new office block or student flats, but music? No way.

Maybe that's not important, you can always pay a fortune to go and see Taylor Swift sell out Wembley or the Stones play in Hyde Park, but what about your regular Friday fix? Forget it. That's something from the 70s and 80s when you were only a bus ride way from a gig.

I guess it all started in the early 70s when most people stayed in and watched TV and publicans realised that the way to get people in was to put bands on. A 263 bus ride away from East Finchley got you to the Torrington in North Finchley where The Stranglers and Ian Drury played in the backroom before they were famous.

Go a bit further to New Barnet and the Duke of Lancaster, another pre-fame haunt of the Stranglers and where The Psychedelic Furs started out. Head the other way to Kentish Town and the Bull and Gate to catch some northern band like Pulp or Oasis starting out in the 90s. Or how about heading down the Holloway Road to the Lord Nelson? And there's the Hope and Anchor in Islington, and the Dublin Castle in Camden where Madness began. Except you can't anymore. The Duke got replaced by flats in 2002, The Torrington went in 2004 and is now a Starbucks and the Bull and Gate is now a gastro pub. At least the Hope and the Dublin Castle are still going and Dingwalls never really went away. But if you want to see the next medium-sized thing try out in some grotty pub with bad beer, sorry too late. And if you're in a band and are looking for your first gig, well tough luck, there's nowhere to play. But you can go out and buy Paul Talling's two books on London's Lost Music Venues. I did and have been ticking off all the lost places I spent my wasted youth in. They used to play music there, but they don't anymore.

Review: Tom Lehrer is Teaching Math and Doesn't Want to Talk to You

Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate

By Jessica Holt

From a very young age I remember the songs of Tom Lehrer, pictured, coming on the radio. It was always a Sunday and although I preferred The Beatles, I was aware that what he sang was important, especially the words.

The satirical nature of his songs and the wit of the words were conveyed with skill and affection in this lively production of Francis Beckett's musical play. The opening song *I Got it from Agnes* is a joyful comment on sexual promiscuity and its possible health risks and later in the first half *We Will All Go Together When We Go* is drawing on his experience of working at Los Alamos and the one potential positive of nuclear war.

The power of satire in all his songs is what makes him a timeless artist. The thrust of the play is the questions and conversation between Lehrer, played by Shafar Ifhar, and a young woman called Iris who visits him, played by Nabilah Hamid.

She asks about his life and the choices he made, but most of all she wants to know why he turned his back on



a successful career and settled on teaching maths and a course on American musicals at the University of Santa Cruz. Despite much probing we never get a satisfactory answer. The third actor on set in Lehrer's living room is Harry Style as the pianist accompanying the faultless singing by the other two. Congratulations to the director Isaac Bernier-Doyle for providing the audience with a delightful and entertaining piece of theatre.



Tidy time: Coldfall Primary pupils make the Wood a cleaner place

Coldfall kids clean up the woods

By Megan Greene

A group of 20 children, parents and staff from Coldfall Primary met one Wednesday afternoon last month to clean up Coldfall Wood, the ancient woodland at the back of their school, to which they have direct access.

It was the second community litter pick of the woods that the school has organised, with support from Friends of Coldfall Wood, and they plan to make it a regular event. Children at the litter pick said they were picking up litter “to save the animals” as otherwise it could endanger wildlife or end up in the ocean. “Someone left a whole McDonalds meal behind!” said one astonished mum.

Church friends on Franciscan trail

By Helen Tierney

It was a chilly 3am start for a group of parishioners from St Mary’s Church in East Finchley for our four-day pilgrimage to the hilltop town of Assisi in central Italy.

Led by parish priest Father Peter Scott, we visited many of the churches associated with Saint Francis including the famous Basilica with its fres-

coes by Gothic painter Giotto, San Damiano, and San Rufino and mass was said for the group each day.

Assisi is also the resting

place of Saint Clare and more recently Westminster-born Carlo Acutis and the itinerary took time to visit their associated shrines in this ancient and beautiful walled medieval town, set high up in the Umbrian countryside where the air is mountain fresh.

The trip coincided with Italy’s Liberation Day bank holiday and we were joined at the hotel by a lively Sicilian group who led the toasts over dinner as well as serenading birthday girl Regina, one of the East Finchley pilgrims. The return to Stansted seemed just as unwelcomingly cold as when we left it but we all agreed that we were enriched by the trip, spiritually, culturally and gastronomically. And Father Peter’s verdict? “Wonderful!”



Tall tale: The cast of Theatre in the Square’s latest production

Chicken and Bacon

Local community group Theatre in the Square will be performing their original, devised production of Francis Bacon and the Ghost Chicken of Highgate at the Pond Square Chapel, Highgate, from 17-20 July at 7.30pm.

It’s 1974: Anne and Gilbert are courting in Pond Square when they are surprised by a glowing, ghostly chicken, distressed and half-plucked. Fleeing into a nearby pub, they’re surprised to learn from the locals that the ectoplasmic fowl has been seen before in Highgate. But what is its mysterious link to long-dead philosopher Francis Bacon?

Theatre in the Square is

an East Finchley based community theatre group with its origins in Highgate. The group has been producing plays in and around London and at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall since 1967. They’ve been working on researching the astonishing history behind this latest production since April. Tickets are available now from ticketsource.co.uk/theatreinthesquare

Free concert

The Barnet Youth Wind Ensemble and the Barnet Youth Jazz Ensemble will join forces to play a lively programme of music “with something for everyone” at East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, on Sunday 14 July at 7.30pm. Admission is free with a collection in aid of Barnet Education Arts Trust.

Harness your life’s experiences for the good of others

By Lynn Winton

East Finchley’s Maurice Collins is an entrepreneur, collector, author and founder of national charity Kith and Kids. He started out as an apprentice printer in Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, and he went on to own multiple businesses. All of which proves he is one of those interesting people who is never short of an idea or seven. His latest one, due to launch in the autumn, could involve you too.

Named Prime Thinkers, the aim is to harness retired people to form a group who will brainstorm local problems, using their own life experience and problem-solving abilities to help others, whether it be a business, organisation or charity. The list of possibilities is endless.

I spoke to Maurice about who he would like to recruit. “Well, it might be someone with professional skills or life skills, like a solicitor or accountant, someone creative, and someone who is always looking for a challenge,” he said. “We can create a team combining all our skills and natural abilities and there is no end to who could approach us for this free service. I have already had two requests from people who would love some help with growing their local businesses as well as a cartoonist. So we help the community whilst keeping our own brains firing up.”

There must be many retired people in East Finchley who would love to join this inclusive group where all ideas are valid, as sometimes the most outlandish ones can become a really good



Business ideas: Maurice Collins takes a break in Amici’s Delicatessen.

one if they spark a discussion.

Maurice would love to hear from anyone wishing to get involved. He plans monthly two-hour meetings for around 10 participants. You can contact him in the first instance and he will take it from there. His partner is U3A Hampstead Garden Suburb so your only expense would be joining that group, if you are not a member already. The annual fee is currently £37 which entitles you to also try all the other free unlimited courses. Contact Maurice at mauricecollins@msn.com.

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Kim propagates pleasure of plants

There was an extra show of greenery outside Tony's Continental in the High Road, N2, last month, when Tony's daughter-in-law **Kim Athanasiou** ran a charity plant sale. Here she describes what made the event so special. The sale was to raise money for UCLH Haematology cancer care in memory of my mother-in-law Effi who we sadly lost last year to lymphoma. Effi was the joint founder of Tony's and a total plantaholic like me.

Gardening is in my blood, and I always helped as a child in my parents' garden. We grew much of our own food, and I earned pocket money weeding and looking after the chickens. Enfield's answer to 'the good life'!

Last year I donated a few plants to Jane Marsh in Bedford Road for her annual plant sale for Multiple Sclerosis and she inspired me to have a go. On 25 May with help from my parents

me. I was overwhelmed by the response from our customers and passers-by who offered more than the cost of the plants with each transaction.

The atmosphere was great, the weather kind, and the plants flew out. Shuttlecock ferns and Erigeron daisies were the favourites and we even had some baby figs taken from cuttings from Tony's original fig tree.

People shared stories and



Green shoots: Kim Athanasiou with her dad and mum at the plant sale outside Tony's Continental

we set up outside Tony's with over 400 plants grown during the past year, mostly from my own garden and greenhouse with some from my mum too.

I'm addicted to propagating and growing from seeds harvested from perennials but with no space left in my garden, this was a win-win solution for

experiences of their own health battles and were so positive when talking about UCLH. My dad was quite emotional seeing the generous donations people made. We sold all but eight plants and raised over £1,100.

Thanks to Chris, Helen, Mike, Sophia and Chloe for manning the shop so I could be outside all day. Next morning I was back in my garden taking cuttings for next year's plant sale. I can't wait to do it again. Thanks, East Finchley, for your incredible support.

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Dreaming spires: Archer Academy pupils on their trip to Oxford University

The Brilliant Club is... brilliant!

By Archer Academy student Ruby H

'What is knowledge?' This is the question that we at the Archer Academy have been studying over the last few weeks in the Brilliant Club. The Brilliant Club is a fantastic programme that enables school students to delve into the world of further education and university courses.

Our particular course was on philosophy and gnosiology and was taught to us by a PHD tutor called Antimo Lucarelli. We explored three theories in great depth: Naive Realism, Critical Realism and lastly Absolute Idealism to question humans' worldly importance and how we have an impact on the world around us.

The programme inspired us to think outside the classroom and delve into unfamiliar topics that we wouldn't usually cover in our day-to-day lessons. It

encouraged us to explore challenging themes and it developed our collaboration skills through working with our peers and our tutor.

Once we had finished this course, we were taken on an amazing day trip to the University of Oxford where we were lucky enough to be taken around Jesus College to learn about its history and some of its previous famous students.

Then we went on to the graduation event we had all been waiting for. Along with students

from other schools we were congratulated on our hard work and we received our certificates. We caught a glimpse of what a real graduation ceremony could look like in our futures.

The Brilliant Club programme has encouraged many students to go into the world of further education and explore university as an option for their future. The Brilliant Club was an incredible opportunity and personally inspired me to think about my future and how to get myself there.

Sunday opening as new barbers take over Church Lane business

By John Lawrence

A long-established barber shop in East Finchley is under new management and looks set to stand out from the crowd by opening on Sundays. Aydin Canbaz and his business partner AJ are now running a fully refurbished Barbers in the Village in Church Lane, N2, taking over from former owner Ozzie Akalin, who has switched to driving a black cab after passing the Knowledge last year.

Aydin and AJ expect to welcome a third barber to join them and will be offering a traditional Turkish barber shop catering for all, including special services like hot towels, shaving, waxing and ear singeing. They will be open for business from Tuesday to Sunday with both a booking and a walk-in service. Their loyalty card means regulars who get six haircuts will get their seventh for free.

Aydin, who lives in Palmers Green, said the chance to take on Barbers in the Village was good fortune. "We'd been looking for somewhere to set up in business together and this shop became available. We're very glad we found it at just the right time," he said. "We

are keeping the name as it was before. It suits the area because

it's a nice community and it has a village feel to it."



New owners: Aydin Canbaz and business partner AJ at Barbers in the Village



Golden festival

Music, games and laughter all made the 50th East Finchley Festival truly golden. Cherry Tree Wood was full of people enjoying the party atmosphere throughout a hot afternoon. Congratulations to everyone involved in organising this much-loved event. We hope you enjoy these festival moments from photographers Mike Coles and Tetiana Shedko. Find more photos at eastfinchleyfestival.org



Full house: The view from the Community Stage



East(Finchley)Enders Michelle Collins and Harriet Thorpe



Jump around: Mantis Defeats Jaguar on the Main Stage.



Helping hands: Litter pickers from 224 North London Air Scouts



In harmony: Highgate Primary School Choir on the Community Stage

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Veteran artist: Dell Richardson



Big fun for little people: Ilana Banana in the Storytelling tent



High Kicks: Fortitude Dance Company



Host Pat "Have Mercy" Leacock