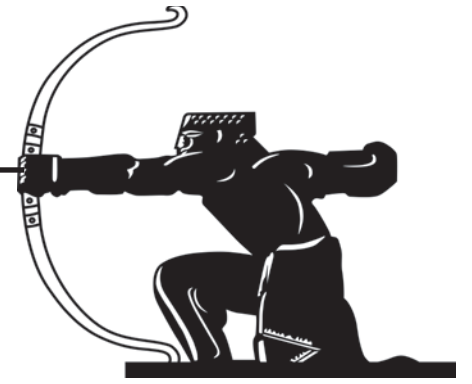




residential sales • lettings • management  
020 8444 5222  
www.jeremyleaf.co.uk

# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



ISSN 1361-3952

June 2024 No. 362

Delivered free to 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley

## Be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> festival!

By Alys Wainwright

Everyone is invited to come along to the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 23 June and to join the anniversary High Road parade beforehand to mark the event's very special 50<sup>th</sup> year. The 1970s-themed pavement parade will set off from Martin Primary School in Plane Tree Walk, N2, at 11.30am and the festival itself runs from 12pm to 6pm. Entry is free.

The day will feature 24 acts across two stages, alongside north London's largest makers' market with stalls representing local craftspeople, businesses and organisations.

### All the family

There'll be a full timetable for kids in the storytelling tent, plus lego tent and a return of the popular laser tag. There'll also be free sports activities and

demos for all ages. The festival bar will be serving locally brewed beers from Muswell Hillbilly Brewers, along with wine, gins and cocktails and there will be an even bigger

selection of food than ever, with plenty of vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options.

### Climate aware

Not only is this community celebration 50 this year, it is now carbon-neutral, plastic-free and powered with clean fuel. This year the festival will be part of Barnet Climate Action Month and London Climate Awareness Week, so expect lots of sustainable activities and stalls, from upcycling workshops to free bicycle repairs.

### Be lucky

Help to fund future festivals by buying your raffle tickets at the park entrances. The draw takes place at 5pm on the main stage. For a full list of prizes see [eastfinchleyfestival.org/raffle](http://eastfinchleyfestival.org/raffle)

### Join in the fun

If you would like to be involved with the festival by giving an hour to sell raffle tickets or to help with stewarding, the organising team would love to hear from you. Please visit [eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer](http://eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer)

Full details of the 50<sup>th</sup> East Finchley Festival can be found at [eastfinchleyfestival.org](http://eastfinchleyfestival.org) or follow their socials @EastFinchleyFestival



Get Together. Crowds enjoy the 2021 festival under blue skies.

## In this issue

- New CPZ survey.....p2
- Phoenix protest .....p3
- Roundabout artist.....p7
- Mexican cookbook.....p9
- Your letters.....p11

## EAST FINCHLEY FESTIVAL: WHAT'S ON

Sunday 23 June, 12-6pm, Cherry Tree Wood

Main Stage	Community stage	Storytelling Tent
<b>Hosts: Kate Galston &amp; Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock</b>	<b>Host: Nick Allan</b>	<b>12:30</b> - Debutots - Interactive, multi-sensory stories and songs, with a parachute and bubbles, for under 7s
<b>12:00</b> - Festival opening with Michelle Collins	<b>12:05</b> - Archer Academy Jazz Band	<b>13:25</b> - Story telling, stone painting and arts and craft with Pink Patsy
<b>12:15</b> - The Mighty Heartaches	<b>12:30</b> - Highgate Primary School Choir	<b>14:05</b> - Ilana Banana - Sing along session for under 5s with shakers, rainbows, parachute and bubbles
<b>12:40</b> - Luke Carey	<b>12:55</b> - Fortitude Dance Co.	<b>15:00</b> - Story time with Sonia Beldom reading from her Granny Franny stories
<b>13:05</b> - Simi's Band	<b>13:25</b> - Martin Primary School Choir	<b>15:40</b> - Story time with children's author Jason Korsner
<b>13:35</b> - Natsuma	<b>13:50</b> - Madhuriya School of Classical Indian Dance	<b>16:20</b> - Spinning Top activities featuring interactive story telling with Bailey the Bear
<b>14:00</b> - Wesley D	<b>14:15</b> - EFGT: Reuben Freeman and Eila Zecevic	<b>17:00</b> - The Magic Wagon puppet show - quirky original stories featuring puppets
<b>14:20</b> - Special Guest	<b>14:40</b> - Fixation Academy of Performing Arts	
<b>14:40</b> - Mantis Defeats Jaguar	<b>15:10</b> - Patrick's Jazz Class	
<b>15:10</b> - Pat 'Have Mercy's' Summer Sounds	<b>15:40</b> - Brookland School Choir	
<b>15:40</b> - Nifty Fifty '50-50' Quiz with Kate Galston	<b>16:05</b> - Ned Ashcroft	
<b>15:55</b> - Maisy Fox	<b>16:30</b> - Christ's College Finchley	
<b>16:05</b> - Mash-up Quiz	<b>16:55</b> - Sing Mama Sing	
<b>16:20</b> - Jem	<b>17:20</b> - Counterpoint Dance	
<b>16:45</b> - Pat 'Have Mercy's' Reggae Summer Sounds	<b>17:40</b> - R Voices	
<b>17:00</b> - Raffle with Harriet Thorpe		
<b>17:30</b> - Neon Lights		
<b>Sports:</b> Free sports coaching, trials and demos with Lemon Pickleball, FG Tennis, East Finchley Womens and Girls Football Club, and Finchley Rugby Club	<b>Children's activities (All day):</b> Lego tent, Toddler soft play, Laser Tag in the Woods, Treasure hunt, Eco-arts and dress-up photo booth, Face painting, Arts and crafts	

**PRICKETT & ELLIS** ESTD 1767  
CELEBRATING 250 YEARS

East Finchley Office  
82 High Road, N2 9PN  
020 8883 0033

[eastfinchley@prickettandellis.com](mailto:eastfinchley@prickettandellis.com)  
[www.prickettandellis.com](http://www.prickettandellis.com)

SALES & LETTINGS AGENTS | SURVEYORS | VALUERS | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL** 020 8444 7994  
38 High Road, N2 9PJ

Stay cool this summer, with our huge range of fan in store!



**GENZO GREEK**  
WE ARE BACK  
SERVING YOUR FAVOURITE GREEK AND CYPRIOT DISHES

[WWW.GENZOGREEK.COM](http://WWW.GENZOGREEK.COM)  
0208 883 8823

212 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY, LONDON, N2 9AY @GENZOGREEK





## The Archer

[www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk) Email: [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/TheArcherN2) [X](https://www.instagram.com/TheArcherN2) [@TheArcherN2](https://www.tiktok.com/@TheArcherN2)

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

Published by East Finchley Newspapers CIC

Registered in England & Wales company no 14524944

### 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

Printed by Sharman & Co Ltd on 100% UK-sourced recycled newspaper

The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous volunteers who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

Thank you to The East Finchley Constitutional Club for providing us with a meeting place.

Copy deadlines - July: 14 June, August: 12 July, September: 16 August

## BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

**Number Champions**, 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, see [www.numberchampions.org.uk](http://www.numberchampions.org.uk) or contact [volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk). The charity is especially looking for local volunteers.

**Barnet Lone Parent Centre**, based in N2, is looking for creative support volunteers to deliver family-friendly art and craft activities for lone parent women with children aged 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](mailto:kealey.kissiedu@blpc.org.uk). Find out more at [blpc.org.uk/](http://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, 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 the organisation's van, picking and packing. Find out more at [foodbankaid.org.uk/](http://foodbankaid.org.uk/) and contact [volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk).

**MS Haringey** is a local group of the national Multiple Sclerosis Society. It is looking to recruit a volunteer to manage all aspects of its financial activity under Charity Commission rules. Initial training will be given. The role could suit a retired person with an accountancy or similar background. Interest in the welfare of people living with multiple sclerosis would be a strong recommendation. For details please contact Jane Howard on [Haringey@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:Haringey@mssociety.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](http://www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it).



## Forward to the food bank

A reminder that GoodGym Barnet are running to raise awareness and bring donations for Finchley Foodbank in East Finchley on Tuesday 11 June.

They are inviting everyone to join in by meeting at the Phoenix Cinema for 6.45pm and then running, cycling or walking to the food bank at St Mary's Church Hall, further up the High Road, carrying donations of food and household items in backpacks. Find out more by searching Barnet events at [www.goodgym.org/happenings](http://www.goodgym.org/happenings)

## New chair for hospice

Simon Morris MBE has been selected as Chair of the Board of Trustees at North London Hospice. The announcement comes after Lis Burgess Jones decided to step down from the role, which she has held since May 2018.

Mr Morris joined the hospice's board in 2011 and is currently Chair of the hospice's Fundraising Committee and is a member of the Finance and External Audit Committee. He has wide experience in the charity sector and was the CEO of Jewish Care until 2018.

# Resident sets up community survey on parking zone

By John Lawrence

A resident who wants to get an independent community-led view of whether people are for or against a new controlled parking zone (CPZ) being introduced across the top half of East Finchley has set up his own online survey to do just that.

Sylvestre Road resident Edward Butler, one of 2,700 householders who would fall inside the 11am-3pm Monday to Friday zone, said he had run out of patience with Barnet Council's lack of communication and action on the issue.

We reported last month that Barnet Council has promised a second public consultation if it ever decides to implement the plans it had for restrictions from 11am-3pm Monday to Friday, which it paused in February in the face of a wave of complaints.

And we reported there was a question mark over whether the first consultation in 2021 could be seen as impartial as it was conducted by the same company that would be paid by Barnet Council to enforce the new zone, including employing traffic wardens. The council said it made all CPZ decisions based on trusted evidence.

### Fair and transparent

Edward, who runs engagement programmes on behalf of property developers for a living, says East Finchley deserves that any new consultation should be fair and transparent and allow everyone to express their opinion "without being funneled to the council's preferred outcome".

"I've tried to present the survey in an impartial way and kept the questions simple," he says. "It's not for me to justify the case for or against the CPZ. The most important thing is that people feel they've had a chance to make their opinions heard."

"I would like to think that Barnet Council will give some weight to the results of the survey in deciding whether to move ahead with the CPZ. That's why I'm asking for people who take part to submit their name and address, as this will fulfil the council's criteria on surveys of this sort." The East Finchley CPZ Community-led Consultation can be found at [www.n2cpz.com](http://www.n2cpz.com). At the time of going to press in late May, a total of 260 people had taken part.

### Your views on the CPZ

See letters page 11.

Beginners & All Levels  
**Tai Chi & Qigong**  
Classes (E. Finchley) & LIVE STREAM  
Wednesdays am & pm  
(Trial session: £5)  
[james@taiji.co.uk](mailto:james@taiji.co.uk)  
07836-710281  
[www.taiji.co.uk](http://www.taiji.co.uk)



East Finchley CPZ community-led consultation

Visit our consultation website and have your say on Barnet Council's plan to blanket East Finchley with a Controlled Parking Zone.

Do you have an issue in your street?

Do you think it is a good idea?

Were you consulted?

Can you afford to pay for it?

For more information and to take part in our community-led consultation:

visit [www.n2cpz.com](http://www.n2cpz.com)

East Finchley CPZ community-led consultation

Take part: Publicity for Edward Butler's CPZ survey includes a QR code and a web address

## East Finchley farmers market every Sunday

By Ruth Anders

A new Farmers Market will be coming to East Finchley from Sunday 16 June. Organised by London Farmers Markets, it will take place every Sunday come rain or shine from 10am to 2pm at The Engine Rooms, Great North Road, N2, a short walk from the tube station.

Produce will come directly from farmers, fishermen and producers and will include free range and organic meat and poultry, seasonal game, dairy, seasonal fruit and vegetables, juice, bread, cakes, pies, plants and flowers, eggs, fish, pasta and much more. The organisers ask that shoppers bring their own bags to help reduce, re-use and recycle.

Ian Smith, Farmers Market manager said: "2024 marks 25 years of farmers markets in London and what better way to celebrate a jubilee than with a brand new market launch?"

The market is also looking for local people who would like to help run the market, so if you are interested, contact London Farmers Markets via [info@lfm.org.uk](mailto:info@lfm.org.uk) for more details.

### Get results! advertise in

Your unique access to nearly 10,000 homes and businesses in East Finchley

Generous rates for a range of sizes

The Archer

For more details check [www.the-archer.co.uk/ads\\_index.php](http://www.the-archer.co.uk/ads_index.php) or e-mail [advertising@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:advertising@the-archer.co.uk)





# Phoenix at centre of film festival protests



Flag waving: Hundreds of people block the High Road. Photo Lucy Moorman



Defaced: Red paint daubed across the Phoenix frontage. Photo Yael Grizen

By Lynn Winton

**The Phoenix Cinema experienced one of the most turbulent days in its 112-year history on Thursday 23 May when its frontage was daubed in red paint in an overnight graffiti attack and it was later caught up in a heated protest and counter protest which drew in hundreds of people and blocked the High Road.**

The dramatic series of events was triggered by the cinema accepting a private hire booking for a documentary made by an Israeli film company. Called *Supernova*, *The Music Festival Massacre*, the film features accounts from survivors and first responders after Hamas terrorists murdered 360 people and brutally assaulted many more at the event on the Israel-Gaza border on 7 October. The documentary was part of The Seret Israeli film festival.

The Met Police said: "While inquiries are ongoing, at this time the incident is being investigated as a potential hate crime."

Outraged at the wanton destruction, people rushed to volunteer to help clear the graffiti. By mid-morning, Finchley resident Amir Barkan had set up a Justgiving page to fund the clean-up which at the time of going to press had raised over £14,000 from 600 supporters. "This act of vandalism was

### Police presence

By late afternoon, police were out in full force erecting barriers down the High Road. From here things did not go quite as anticipated by anybody. Anti-Israel protesters arrived in small numbers to find that there was no room for them outside the cinema, which was completely ring-fenced by an estimated 1,000 counter protesters, protecting the Phoenix from any more harm.

Phone footage posted on social media afterwards captured intimidatory exchanges and threats of violence between small groups of protestors but overall there was little trouble in the huge crowd. Although traffic was brought to a standstill as the police struggled to control people dancing to Israeli music in the middle of the road. At 8.30pm the crowd sang *God Save the King* and everyone gradually dispersed.

### Phoenix response

The final word must go to the beleaguered Board of the Phoenix, who said: "We made this decision [to approve the private hire] with an awareness of our status as a charity committed to education through the arts. We seek a diversity of work and voices in our programming and we also welcome hosting a range of private hires which allow individuals and communities to choose their own

content.

"We know our supporters have passionate and strongly held views about events in Israel and Palestine. We appreciate that some do not agree with our decision. Despite this, we hope that people will remain committed to our shared vision of a vibrant, sustainable and independent cinema in East Finchley and for London."

If you would like to show support for the Phoenix Cinema, a membership is an easy way to do this, and includes free tickets. If you would like to support Amir's fundraising initiative go to [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) and search for 'Amir Barkan'.



## Crime forum

The East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team is hosting a public meeting on Friday 14 June with the topic of 'Bringing together police, the Borough of Barnet and the community'. Everyone is welcome to attend from 6.30pm to 8pm at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2.



Defiance: Police marshall the protesters. Photo Mike Coles

The Phoenix has a clear policy of not taking part in cultural boycotts, so resisted all calls to cancel the booking, despite two of its patrons, directors Mike Leigh and Ken Loach, making clear they supported a boycott of films from Israel. Artists for Palestine UK were just one of the many groups also calling for a boycott, stating "Seret is part of an artwashing strategy by Israel". Later in the day, the cinema's two patrons very publicly resigned, citing the screening as the reason.

### Vandalism

In the early hours of 23 May, the day of the screening, masked vandals from a group called Culture Workers against Genocide filmed themselves defacing the whole cinema frontage with thick red paint, and posted it on social media.

truly outrageous," Amir told me. "Calling this 'artwashing' is either ignorance or pure hatred, and an attempt to hide the true horrors of what happened. I truly hope the Phoenix know how much their stand is appreciated, and that we stand by them."



No way through: Traffic at a standstill. Photo Mike Coles

David Hillel Optometrist  
BSc(Hons) FCOptom DipCLP MPhil DOptom

Dr David Hillel Burns is an experienced specialist in eyesight.

119 High Road N2  
Tel: 020 8444 2233  
[www.davidhillel.co.uk](http://www.davidhillel.co.uk)



Advice, help and care for all eye and sight matters

- Children's sight care
  - Advanced clinical investigations
  - NHS available
  - Special contact lens fitting service
  - On-site laboratory
  - Hospital-level vision care
  - Myopia Control
- Appointments from 8am - 7pm

**G&C Commercial Services Ltd**  
Your Trusted Cleaning Partner  
With 10+ Years Experience

**Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning**  
**End of Tenancy & After Builders**  
**Spring Cleaning & Oven Cleaning**

07592 872 868 @gc.services.ltd





Laugh a minute: Comedians Ria Lina and, right, Ian Stone, entertain the packed audience at The Archer Academy. Photos Mike Coles

## Comedy night raises the roof for new arts space

By Justine Csaky

It was a laugh a minute at Archer Academy's comedy night **Raise the Roof** on Monday 29 April. The school sports hall was transformed into a first-class comedy venue for the evening and top stand-up comedians Ria Lina, Finlay Christie and Ninia Benjamin, as well as fantastic compère Ian Stone, and DJ Pat Leacock entertained the audience at the sold-out event.

Whilst having fun was the main focus of the night, the event also raised close to £10,000 for the school's Raise The Roof campaign to build a

new dance, drama and music studio at the Lower School on Eagans Close, N2.

This will provide a much-needed rehearsal space for

students. Despite these subjects being in decline in UK schools, creative and performing arts are a big part of Archer Academy's life, and the school has enjoyed success in a variety of competitions and festivals across the years.

The new studio will also benefit the wider local com-

munity as a venue to be hired outside school hours. The school has raised £280,000 so far, but still needs to secure a further £170,000 before building can commence. You can make a donation via the school

website [thearcheracademy.org.uk](http://thearcheracademy.org.uk) where you can also watch the campaign film, or get in touch with the school if you are able to help in any other way by emailing [office@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thearcheracademy.org.uk)

## Mutant daisy found

By Maria Georgiou

We were walking home from Martin Primary School and at the little green space on New Oak Road, N2, my daughter Andriani called to me that she had found something strange. The daisy she found was about five times the size of a normal daisy with a double and thick ribbon-like stem and elongated middle.



Power flower. Andriani and Therapon with their over-sized and normal size daisies

There were actually two daisies, one which she picked and one which she left in the park. Funnily enough my son Therapon spotted a double-headed dandelion also with a thick ribbon-like stem the very next day on Long Lane, very close to where we found the mutant daisy.

An internet search showed us that the uncommon phenomenon is known as fasciation or cresting. It can be caused by hormonal imbalances in the plant, due to random genetic mutation, bacterial infection or exposure to chemicals. It was so bizarre that both kids found mutant flowers within a day of each other.

It can be caused by hormonal imbalances in the plant, due to random genetic mutation, bacterial infection or exposure to chemicals. It was so bizarre that both kids found mutant flowers within a day of each other.

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

**10 years ago: June 2014**

A statue dedicated to the Kinks was unveiled at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green, N2, in the presence of drummer Mick Avery and guitarist John Dalton. Founder members of the group, Ray and Dave Davies were born in Denmark Terrace, opposite the pub and held their first gig there. The Kinks Room at the Clissold is full of memorabilia of the group.

**15 years ago: June 2009**

East Finchley was visited by the Westminster Morris Men, who toured the area performing outside local pubs. The team had a change from their usual tour of Highgate and entertained locals with their Cotswold Morris style, involving the use of sticks and handkerchiefs. Musical accompaniment was provided by their two melodeon players.

**23 years ago: June 2001**

Local poet Diana Bishop, who then lived in Park Hall Road, N2, was appointed poet in residence at Keats House in Hampstead for six months. To get the post she had to submit a sample of her poetry and attend an interview. During her tenure Diana led a series of workshops and creative writing classes.



Emotional support: Members of the Barnet Bereavement Service ready to welcome new trustees

## Could you be a charity trustee?

By Lynn Winton

If you have considered using your skills to help shape the running and future of a charity, then the long-established Barnet Bereavement Service would like to hear from you, as they are keen to appoint new trustees for their next period of development. They offer bereavement counselling to adults living in Barnet.

Trustee Liz Illman said: "We have 16 valued volunteer counsellors who see around 35 clients each week, and some paid managerial support. All of us will experience loss and for some it will be hard to see a way ahead after the death of a loved one.

"We are looking for new trustees, and welcome applications from those with experi-

ence or those taking their first steps into a charitable governance role. Trustees bring skills, experiences and perspectives that are all so valuable in our work."

If you would like to know more, get in touch with Sarah Patterson by email at [sarah.patterson@barnetbereavement-service.org.uk](mailto:sarah.patterson@barnetbereavement-service.org.uk) or telephone 020 8368 8880.

<p>Wednesdays Mornings 9.30am &amp; 12pm (Noon)</p>	 <p>touching hearts, changing lives</p>	<p>Wednesdays Evenings 4pm, 5.30pm &amp; 7.30pm</p>
 <p>Call/text Suzy 07980 032836</p>	<p><b>East Finchley</b></p> <p>Lose weight eating the foods you love</p> <p>Every Wednesday East Finchley Methodist Church <a href="http://www.slimmingworld.co.uk">www.slimmingworld.co.uk</a></p>	 <p>Call/text Frankie 07769 032419</p>





# Two venues help raise funds for Emily's vital treatment abroad

By Zalan Pall

The Phoenix Cinema and the Clissold Arms pub in East Finchley were at the centre of a special event to raise funds for a 24-year-old woman who urgently needs medical treatment abroad.

Emily suffers from the little-understood Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a rare genetic disorder affecting the body's connective tissues, that results in chronic pain, severe fatigue and neurological issues. Treatment is only available overseas.

The event on Sunday 12 May started off at the Phoenix with a special screening of the director's cut of 2001 cult classic *Donnie Darko*, and ended at the Clissold Arms for some drinks, a raffle and an important opportunity to learn more about the cause from Emily herself.

Emily said she was really moved by the sup-



Fundraiser: Emily needs medical treatment

port shown and was grateful for the generosity of those who attended and donated. However, her target is not yet met. If you would like to learn more, or make a donation visit [www.helpemily.live](http://www.helpemily.live)



Spread the word: Emmy West and Katy Hodges from the N2 Mums Speak group

# N2 mums spread the word on community mothering

By Alys Wainwright

Three years ago, East Finchley friends Katy Hodges and Emmy West created a group where local mums could connect with each other and share their experiences of motherhood. They used a community grant from the Grange Big Local project to set up a private space in Barnwood, off Tarling Road, N2, where mums could meet and talk about the highs and lows of parenting.

So successful has their N2 Mums Speak group been that earlier this year the pair were invited to share their story at an academic conference at the University of Warwick. They told attendees that their aim was to make mums experts on their own lives, not to bring outside experts in to talk, and that they wanted to include women from all parts of the community, including the most deprived.

Katy said: "When we applied for the grant together, as friends who had supported each other

when we had our first babies and who had met through a local sling library, we just thought about the impact that the temporary closure of playgroups and playgrounds during the pandemic would have on people, particularly new mums.

"We thought others might feel the same way, and may want to share their motherhood stories in a supportive space, and that turned out to be the case. We never expected that our idea would lead to us presenting at an academic conference. It shows

the lasting impact that a community grant can have."

Emmy said: "We hope our sessions provided an opportunity for mums to feel heard and supported. I'm so grateful to Leo Smith and the lovely space that is Barnwood, GBL, and all the women who came together to support each other and who were brave enough to be open about all the feelings motherhood brings, good and painful." For more details about the project, email [N2MumsSpeak@gmail.com](mailto:N2MumsSpeak@gmail.com).



Forward a bit, back a bit: The hapless bus tries to negotiate the tight T-junction

# Too tight to turn

Thanks to reader Matthew Hales for this photo of a coach that took a wrong turn and ended up well and truly stuck. The driver had mistakenly left the High Road, N2, and come down Bedford Road before getting wedged between parked cars as he tried to turn into Durham Road in the late afternoon of Tuesday 14 May. Luckily, helpful neighbours were on hand to move one of the cars, giving the coach just enough room to manoeuvre before returning back up Bedford Road.

# School shortlisted in education 'Oscars'

The Archer Academy in East Finchley has been shortlisted twice in the Tes Schools Awards 2024 for Excellence in Creative Arts, and Staff Wellbeing School of the Year. The prestigious awards programme, dubbed the 'Oscars of education', celebrates the best of education across the UK.

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: "As a school we have worked hard to secure our incredible reputation for our commitment to the visual and performing arts. This commitment is seen in not only our GCSE results, but also in the number of students studying

arts-based subjects, as well as our prominence and success at prestigious competitions."

Regarding the 'Staff Wellbeing School of the Year' nomination, she went on to say: "Staff are the most precious resource within a school, they are there to educate, care and inspire young people. I am delighted that our innovative and thoughtful approaches to wellbeing have been recognised."

Winners will be announced on Friday 21 June at a gala awards night at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, in central London.

# Free concert

The next in the monthly series of free concerts at East Finchley Methodist Church will feature the Woodside Ensemble of violin, viola, clarinet, cello and piano playing works by Mozart and Crusell. It takes place on Sunday 9 June at 7.30pm at the High Road church, opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue. Admission is free with a collection in aid of Freedom from Torture.

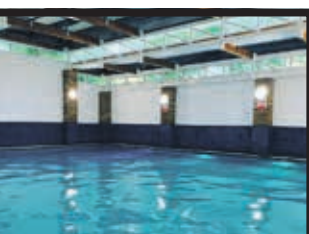


THE MUSWELL HILL CLUB  
FITNESS AND LEISURE

Membership from £35.95 (T&Cs apply) • Day passes £10  
Over 100 classes per month • Swimming Pool • Sauna  
Steam • Fully equipped gym • Spin • Yoga • Pilates  
Studio • Free weights room • Pop in for a tour or free trial

140 FORTIS GREEN, N10 3EF  
TEL: 0208 883 0500

[WWW.MUSWELLHILLCLUB.COM](http://WWW.MUSWELLHILLCLUB.COM)



[INFO@MUSWELLHILLCLUB.COM](mailto:INFO@MUSWELLHILLCLUB.COM)  
[THEMUSWELLHILLCLUB](https://www.instagram.com/themuswellhillclub)





# Literary stars line up for Proms at St Jude's

Comedian David Baddiel and journalist Sathnam Sanghera are among the line-up of authors appearing at the Proms at St Jude's Literary Festival on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June. David Baddiel will be talking about his latest book *My Family: The Memoir* and Sathnam Sanghera will be in conversation about *Empireworld*, his exploration of the impact of the British Empire.

Royal Family expert Robert Hardman will be in conversation about *Charles III: New King. New Court* and Clair Wills will be discussing *Missing Persons, or My Grandmother's Secrets*, uncovering the story of Ireland's unmarried mothers and unwanted children, told through three generations of an Irish family.

For foodies, there's an opportunity to see award-winning cook and writer Fuchsia Dunlop discussing *Invitation to a Banquet: The Story of Chinese Food*, discovering Chinese food as it is made, cooked, eaten and considered in its homeland.

Other authors in the LitFest line-up include Simon Lewis, David Kynaston and Tobias Buck. All sessions take place at The Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 7BN. Full details and tickets at [www.promsatstjudes.org.uk](http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk).



Author insights: David Baddiel and Sathnam Sanghera

## Strong interest in basic income idea

The Grange Big Local project team last month hosted an event on their proposed Basic Income pilot designed to provide a secure, regular income to participants in East Finchley, as previously reported in *The Archer*.

A total of 49 residents turned up to the event on Monday 13 May to hear that a basic income is a financial model where everyone receives a regular sum of money. East Finchley and Jarrow in the North East are the only two areas in the UK chosen to take part in the pilot and it is designed to run for two years.

Grange Big Local (GBL) is seeking funds to cover participant payments, research costs and compensations for control group participants. Fundraising efforts are currently underway to secure the necessary budget before it can be launched.

James Little, community engagement lead for GBL,

said: "The pilot is a bold step towards addressing poverty and economic instability. By providing a reliable income, the initiative aims to foster a healthier, more equitable community where individuals have the opportunity to thrive and contribute positively."

## Summer sale

The Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 29 June from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. More info from 020 8368 8180.

## Edwardian evening

Alyth Choral Society is presenting an evening of Edwardian parlour songs, piano duets and Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*.

The concert takes place on Sunday 7 July from 7pm at the North Western Reform Synagogue in Alyth Gardens, NW11 6EN. Tickets priced £20 with under 18s and students free are available on the door and in advance at [alythchoralsociety.wordpress.com](http://alythchoralsociety.wordpress.com). There will be free refreshments.



Run and relax: Luke Brazier and the East Finchley Running Community

## Running club with a sideline in social

By Luke Brazier

After moving to East Finchley and leaving my old running club behind in January this year, I was elated to see so many runners on the streets. When I began to figure out my new routes in the area, I thought to myself with so many runners there must be a running club here, and so my hunt began.

After looking for a while all I could find were athletics clubs, which are amazing, but can be quite daunting to join and not always suitable for everyone, especially runners looking for something a little more social. That's where I came up with the idea for East Finchley Running Community (EFRC), taking inspiration from my previous running club in Hertfordshire, called Bubble Works.

EFRC is a social running club designed to bring runners of all abilities together with the added benefits of drink and chat at the end. We run on Mondays at 7pm, meeting at the Bald Faced Stag pub in the High Road.

Routes are pre-planned, led and tailed by myself and by volunteers with runners going at their own pace throughout. It's completely free and we have big plans to build our group and run more events including Parkrun trips, race days and themed runs.

We welcome any and all new members, and you don't even need to run. If you have any questions about the club, joining, or how we do things, message us on Instagram @efruncommunity, email us [efrunco@gmail.com](mailto:efrunco@gmail.com), or just come and join us on a Monday night.

## Pickleball

The team behind Pickleball sessions in East Finchley is running junior summer camps for five to 15-year-olds at Christ's College Finchley, off East End Road, N2. The camps run from 10am to 3pm from 22-26 July and from 12-16 August and will feature professional coaching and fun games and tournaments. Find out more at [lemonpickleball.com](http://lemonpickleball.com)



# YOU'RE INVITED

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW KUTCHENHAUS SWISS COTTAGE SHOWROOM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SIEMENS


SATURDAY 29TH JUNE • 12-4PM  
FOR DETAILS AND TO RSVP  
CONTACT US OR SCAN THE QR CODE

**Kutchenhaus Hampstead Garden Suburb**  
0203 948 5006  
Kutchenhaus, 1 Lytfliton Road, London, N2 0DR  
[showroom@hg.kutchenhaus.co.uk](mailto:showroom@hg.kutchenhaus.co.uk)

**Kutchenhaus Swiss Cottage**  
0203 985 2169  
Kutchenhaus, 169-169a Finchley Road, London, NW3 6LB  
[showroom@sc.kutchenhaus.co.uk](mailto:showroom@sc.kutchenhaus.co.uk)



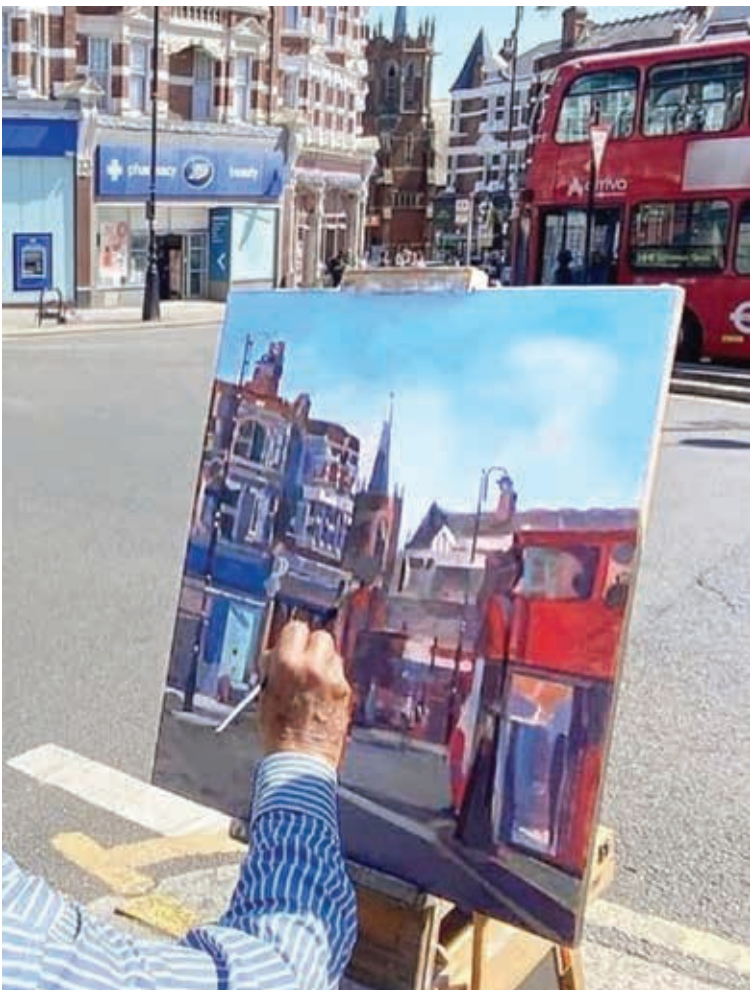
Rated 'Excellent'



*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





Easel does it: Alan, above, paints the busy scene at the roundabout in Muswell Hill Roundabout and, below, his tranquil painting of a house in Fortismere Avenue, N10

## The artist appearing at a roundabout near you

If you happen by chance to be passing the roundabout in the middle of Muswell Hill, don't be surprised if you see an artist working at an easel. This spot happens to be a favourite location of north London *plein air* painter Alan Lancaster.

Plein air means 'open air' in French, says Alan, and it was an approach used by the impressionists who wanted to catch the fleeting effects of light and time. "The view from the roundabout is one of the most interesting in north London with its assorted array of period

buildings, bus stops and people on the move. "It is not environmentally friendly though and something I did not take into account when I chose the subject is that the best light for painting happens to be during its very chaotic rush hour."

### Light on a facade

Alan usually wakes early and has his equipment packed and ready to go. He checks his weather app and, if everything looks fine, loads up his motor scooter and heads off looking for potential subject matter. He especially likes to paint buildings but it is usually the way the light is falling on a façade that draws him to it in the first place.

"Painting on location means you have to be ready for any scenario to unfold," he says. "On a lovely summer's day last year, I started to paint a view of the Free Church in Hampstead Garden Suburb when an hour into the painting the girls from Henrietta Barnet came out to play rounders. A member of staff did ask me if I minded and I said no. Ducking from fast moving balls, I persevered, finding the game had become the subject and the church the backdrop to what turned out to be a far more dynamic painting."

### Full of character

Alan's obsessive interest in residential architecture has resulted in him becoming a well-known house portraitist. "Like a human face, an interesting building is full of character and invariably reflects the personality of its owners."

You can follow Alan's daily painting journey on Instagram at [alanlancasterpleinair](https://www.instagram.com/alanlancasterpleinair) or on his website [www.alanlancaster.co.uk](http://www.alanlancaster.co.uk)



## Open artists

The East Finchley Open Artists group is hosting its two annual open house weekends on 29-30 June and 6-7 July. Sixty artists will be displaying their crafts at 17 open houses around the East Finchley and Finchley Central area, with an opportunity for visitors to browse and buy. Find out more at [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk/events](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk/events)

## Objectors hit out at tennis club plans

By Diana Cormack

Residents living around the Fortis Green Tennis Club off Southern Road, N2, have received letters from Haringey Council informing them of a planning application for new housing on the site (described in previous editions of *The Archer*) to which objections could be made by 10 May.

Representatives from Cherry Tree Road, Summerlee Avenue and Summerlee Gardens, all in Barnet, and Shakespeare Gardens in Haringey gathered in a local garden to discuss this with the help of East Finchley Councillor Arjun Mittra.

Under the proposals, the trees seen at the rear of the photo printed here will disappear, to be replaced by the blank wall of a club house, the bulk of which will block out any light or view from the family garden it will be overlooking. Those on the opposite side of the road fear being overlooked by several balconies.

Also lost will be the garden which lies between the end of the Cherry Tree Road cul de sac and the tennis courts in Haringey. Only by crossing over this can vehicular access be provided, along with creating a turning-circle which, despite

residents' views on its efficacy, the applicants claim will be of benefit to the narrow road.

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have raised the question of biodiversity with both councils and underlined potential damage to the surrounding woodland, along with other detrimental effects on the environment, the danger to wildlife and possible run-off water problems.

Objections to the proposed plans have been sent to Barnet as well as to Haringey for a decision to be made. Many feel the site is too small and that the proposed alterations are inappropriate for the tennis club itself, reducing the number of courts from four to three. At the time of writing, owing to the high number of objections and considerable local interest, the consultation end date has been pushed back to 10 June.



Not in favour: Objectors to the tennis club development plans meet with Councillor Arjun Mittra, centre



HOME CARE PREFERRED

## AWARD WINNING CARE

Quality support in your own home

- Permanent or temporary care
- Fully trained and fully referenced team members
- 24-hour support from management team
- Dementia care
- All medical conditions supported
- Companionship
- Personal Care
- Support from one hour a week to live-in care

Call 020 3950 3273



[info@homecarepreferredbarnet.com](mailto:info@homecarepreferredbarnet.com)  
[www.homecarepreferred.com/barnet](http://www.homecarepreferred.com/barnet)

3C Galley House, Moon Lane, Barnet, EN5 5YL



Overall 'GOOD' rating from the latest Care Quality Commission (CQC) report. Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. You may view the full report at [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)





Life messages: Some of the artwork created by Martin Primary pupils on the theme of healthy living.  
Photo Ruth Anders

## Lessons in healthy living for primary school children

By Ruth Anders

**Martin Primary School in East Finchley is on a roll. Having recently achieved a repeat award as a Gold Rights Respecting School, all children from Years 1 to 6 have been enjoying a week devoted to 'Healthy Living' every term this school year.**

In collaboration with other teachers, the week's activities are devised and led by one of the school's curriculum leaders, Kate Tench, and include specially designed programmes for Healthy Eating, Healthy Body and Healthy Mind. With the final Healthy Living Week coming up in June, I visited during the Spring term to see what is involved.

Some subject leaders had been brought in from outside the school and I saw workshops in yoga, Boxercise and dance. Other children were being introduced to healthy food groups and their origins,

alongside practical lessons in making healthy sandwiches, healthy pizzas, couscous salad and cheese straws. Other groups were being taught breathing and guided meditation.

Healthy Minds includes life skills workshops focusing on personal growth and gratitude. Food art and activity photos also form part of Healthy Week, as demonstrated by the children's artwork along one of the main corridor walls.

Some of the children talked excitedly about a recent trip to a local farm and seeing vegetables they'd never come across before. A child from Year 2

described "water bottles that make you happy", containing colour, glitter and oil. Others said they had enjoyed "moving like animals" and "yoga, which was very calming". Year 6 pupils were still talking about the "sitting volleyball" they'd enjoyed last November.

Headteacher Ziz Chater hopes that some of what the children have learned throughout the year will be embedded permanently. She told *The Archer*: "We are delighted with the way our healthy living weeks have gone and the positive impact they have had on our children and their families."

## A week of wellness for young yoga fans

By Lucie Ormerod

**In April, students at Archer Academy were treated to a week of wellbeing and wellness education. An extensive programme of classes, talks and activities offered advice about how to manage stress, anxiety and promote a healthy lifestyle. I was delighted to be invited in to teach yoga.**

Five years ago, I took part in PhD research in a school in Euston where yoga for teenagers was measured against mindfulness. Seeing how much the Year Eight children benefited from ten weeks of yoga was wonderful and since then, I am always pleased when yoga is offered in a school. This time, the Year Ten group class took place in the academy's spacious and airy dining room. When I arrived, I found the class warming up with a dance routine where they followed a sequence that caused a lot of laughing and fun.

The students were really keen to then move into a yoga class where we included a lot of standing and balancing. Afterwards, the class told me that some of them already do yoga at home with their dads. I gave advice on how to access some great YouTube yoga teachers should they wish to. The school has a beautiful community garden where the students also set up their mats. We were lucky with the weather and practising with the bird song in the background was blissful!



Outdoors: Yoga mats ready for a session at the Academy

## Town Team talks about transformation

By Diana Cormack

**A good-sized gathering met at the East Finchley Constitutional Club for the Town Team's networking meeting on Thursday 9 May. These monthly meetings offer everyone the opportunity to raise issues and talk about topics which affect the High Road and our local area, along with feedback on previous events and information on those being planned.**

May's reports included the Grange Big Local (GBL) residents' meeting on the Controlled Parking Zone which followed on from the one organised by the Town Team in April, as reported in our last edition. GBL have a further meeting planned on this topic.

A second successful East Finchley's Got Talent took place at the Phoenix Cinema, which benefited from the proceeds as well as from those raised from the Bake-Off competition. Some of the talent is to be on show again at East Finchley Festival on Sunday 23 June.

On Saturday 1 June events involving the proposed 'town square' area outside Budgens and Amy's will see the temporary Stagesette made of timber benches set up (*The Archer*, May 2024) where locals will be invited to perform. This is in conjunction with the start of June's London Festival of Architecture (LFA). An exhibi-

tion of plans for the town square will be on display for the month at Egg and Bake, 122 High Road, N2. A community consultation encouraging use of the Stagesette will be held on Saturday 22 June.

As part of the Barnet Net Zero 2040 sustainability campaign, the Town Team will be launching an air quality monitoring initiative, with hand-held devices supplied by the Community Development Trust. It is anticipated that in future volunteers will help with this project, which starts at noon on Tuesday 4 June outside Amy's, 69 High Road, N2.

On Sunday 30 June there will be two discussion walks in Cherry Tree Wood focusing on re-imagining parks and open spaces, the theme of this year's LFA. You can book a place at [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) by searching for 'Cherry Tree Wood'. For more Town Team information, visit [www.east-finchley.london](http://www.east-finchley.london)



Good company: Two regulars enjoy a chat over coffee and homemade cake at Wesley's Coffee Bar

## A place to connect

By Anne Isaacs

**Novelist EM Forster's view was that if we could "only connect" then "human love will be seen at its height" and "we will live in fragments no longer." This, of course, is easier said than done and the world at the moment seems alarmingly fragmented.**

However, there are many places where people from varying backgrounds and of different faiths or none connect very successfully indeed: Wesley's Coffee Bar at East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road, N2, on Thursdays from 9am to 11am is one such place.

The church is full of small children having a great time but we are equally happy to welcome adults who wish to have coffee and cake and a chat. We make proper barista coffee for £1.20 and offer oat milk and cake (often homemade.)

Sarah Sackman, Labour candidate for Finchley and Golders Green, visited us recently and expressed the view that such places form the social infrastructure of society and embody the spirit of connection which is so crucial to achieve a happy and diverse society. She also praised the coffee and cake.

Come along any Thursday morning in term time and see for yourself. The café volunteers are also delighted to welcome carers for vulnerable adults who would like to join their café community.





# Charity for the poor and the famous perils of drink

By Frank Edwards

*This is some of the news from East Finchley, 100 years ago, as revealed in newspaper archives.*

In 1924 those of low or no income often depended on charity for basic health and welfare support. In June the Finchley Nursing and Benevolent Society announced that after a period of financial difficulties it could, once more, employ a nurse to meet the needs of the sick poor of East Finchley. The experienced nurse, based in Leslie Road, was fully trained and free to use for those unable to pay for their care. The Society hoped, optimistically, that henceforth "no one in East Finchley lying on a bed of pain shall be deprived of the attention of a highly skilled and kindly nurse".

In this month local charitable aid received a second boost. Henry Laming, a former East Finchley resident became a very successful ship owner. When he died, he left an estate of nearly £156,000 (about £12 million today). From this he bequeathed £1,000 (about £80,000) to Finchley Charities "for the provision of pensions" and the same sum to East Finchley churches. To his parlourmaid he left £50 (about £4,000).

**Drunk and disorderly**  
Meanwhile, there were regular reports of people appearing at Highgate Police Court for being drunk and disorderly. A man detained in the High Road after nearly being knocked down by a motor car explained he was crossing the road to get a tram car home and remembered nothing until he woke up the



next day in the police station.

A woman found sitting on a chair in East End Road said she had faced much trouble and worry and was "mad with neuralgia". A woman arrested in The Bishops Avenue one Saturday night offered the novel defence that she was celebrating Cambridge winning the

boat race.

Some took a serious view of such matters. In June the East Finchley Branch of the British Women's Temperance Association, citing the increasing number of drunk and disorderly cases coming before the Highgate Bench, held a sale of work to raise funds for a Temperance Hotel in East London.

### Avian absconder

Finally, a bereft resident of Durham Road posted the following notice in the local paper: "Lost: Green and Red Parrot, last seen flying towards Highgate". They offered a reward for the bird's safe return. Well, good luck with that, you might think but the following week the paper reported that Police Constable Adams, stationed in Muswell Hill, had read the notice.

On patrol early one morning, the ever-vigilant Adams saw "a parrot flying about". He followed the bird and observed it settle on a pear tree in Southern Road, just off Fortis Green. Here (with the aid of the long arm of the law?) he detained it. Constable Adams got a peck on the hand but presumably also the reward when he returned the avian absconder to its grateful owner.



Fresh ingredients: Karla Zazueta 'sets the table for one of her authentic Mexican dishes

## Family feasts from the north of Mexico

By John Lawrence

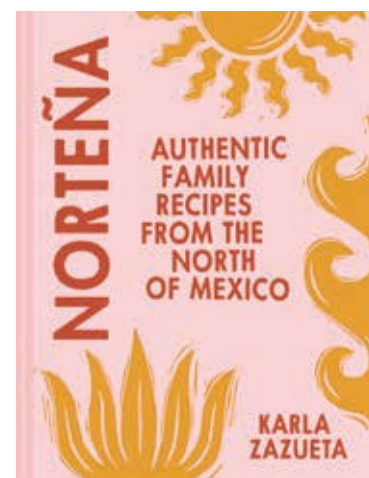
**Our parents pass many things down to us and for Karla Zazueta it was her love of cooking. Karla grew up in the north of Mexico where she never saw her mother or father open a tin, instead always cooking from scratch using the freshest ingredients.**

A resident of East Finchley for 21 years, Karla has for the last six years been sharing her favourite recipes and her kitchen skills through cooking classes and supper clubs at her home in Ossulton Way, N2.

And after writing about Mexican food and contributing recipes for many prestigious publications, she has now created her own cookbook called *Norteña: Authentic Family Recipes from the North of Mexico* (Pavilion Books). Norteña means woman from the north.

### The real thing

"It was my first time writing a book and it was hard work," admits Karla. "The whole process took about two years but I had a great team of editors, photographers and stylists around me and I learned a lot about what



On sale: Karla's new cookbook

to include and what to leave out. "We cooked and photographed all the dishes in London and I was there to make sure they looked like the real thing. Some think that Mexican food is complicated but it's not so I wanted to keep the recipes straightforward and give suggestions for replacement ingredients so that anyone can cook them."

Karla says people's other preconception is that Mexican food is spicy. "It's really not. It's rich in flavour and deep in tradition but my father always placed a bowl of spicy salsa on the table so you could add as much heat to your plate as you wanted."

Karla welcomes groups of up to six people to her Friday and Saturday cooking school, teaching them the essential techniques and where to source ingredients, before sitting down together to eat what they've cooked. Find out more at [mexicanfoodmemories.co.uk](http://mexicanfoodmemories.co.uk) where you can also order her cookbook.

## RICKY SAVAGE ... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

### Festival fever

**It's June and that means the summer fete and festival season is starting. Suddenly schools are doing something strange on the playing field to raise money for a new teacher and churches are throwing bring-and-buy sales to repair the vicar.**

And at the other end of the scale, nothing is as big as Glastonbury. Never been there? Well I have, but that was when you could just turn up, find a hole in the fence and watch the music. Even if you weren't breaking in, back in the 80s and 90s it was cheap. In 1986 it was only £17 and it didn't hit the £100 mark until 2003. This year it costs £355.

Or let's put it like this: for the price of a pint at today's Glastonbury you could have had four days of music, drugs and food poisoning in 1986. Add on the travel, the food, the booze, the recreational narcotics and the medical treatment and your multigenerational family of four could spend a couple of grand and still get food poisoning. Fine if the sun shines.

There are two big problems with Glastonbury, so let's start with the weather. This is England in June and that means that the rain gods just love going down to Somerset to chill out to Coldplay. They love it so much that they pay tribute in the only way they know how by laying on four days of rain. They don't do it out of spite, they do it because they know just how much festival goers love being knee deep in a mixture of cow dung and mud.

But I can handle that, what I can't handle is the bucket list 'Glasto' crowd. These people aren't there for the music, they didn't know who was playing when they bought the tickets and hired the motorhome and decided that it was the perfect holiday. Besides, grandad would love it, he saw David Bowie play in 1970 and his grandchildren were conceived in some holistic yurt 40 years later. They've even brought an air fryer, a couple of cases of decent wine and extra virgin olive oil.

I went there when it was still fun and not on anyone's bucket list. This year I'll do my festival thing a week earlier and closer to home at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 23 June. The beer will be better and I won't mind if it rains.



Supercoach: Anisha Dissanayake

## Cricket training for girls

**Mill Hill Village Cricket Club is hosting the new Mill Hill Finches girls' summer training programme every Wednesday, continuing through June and July.**

The training sessions run on Wednesdays from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm and are open to girls of all ages and abilities. The programme is led by Anisha Dissanayake from the Middlesex women's team and participants have the option to attend mixed sessions at either Mill Hill Village CC or Finchley CC. Find out more via [millhillvillagecricketclub.co.uk](http://millhillvillagecricketclub.co.uk) or sign up at [bit.ly/3xOqRsl](http://bit.ly/3xOqRsl)

## Money in later life

**Age UK Barnet is hosting an afternoon of free talks and advice on how to manage your money in later life.**

The Your Money Your Way event will have stands and advice services on subjects from Power of Attorney to making a will and avoiding scams. All over-55s are welcome to go along to the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday 26 June. To book your place, phone Teresa on 07502 989403 or email [teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk)





Trapped: The cast of *When Atlas Met Tantalus*

## Drama uncovers hidden secrets

An East Finchley producer is staging the second play from her theatre company this month following her first show at the Edinburgh Fringe five years ago. Tiff Milner has written *When Atlas Met Tantalus* herself and is directing it with Emily Layton.

It's a taut and witty one-hour LGBTQ+ period drama following the story of two men trapped together in a Victorian parlour where they face the secrets they are hiding from each other and from themselves.

Tiff, 28, said: "We have had the kind sponsorship of a London-local LGBTQ+ historical fiction writer named KJ Charles, whose new book *Death in the Spires* is also out this year. We're really grateful for her support and believe it's a really great

sign to see LGBTQ+ creatives supporting each other, especially for a show during Pride Month."

*When Atlas Met Tantalus* runs from Sunday 2 to Saturday 8 June at the Lion & Unicorn Theatre in Kentish Town, curtain up at 7.30pm every night, followed by a run at The Bridge House Theatre in Penge from Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 June. Tickets can be booked at [www.greateggtheatre.co.uk/tickets](http://www.greateggtheatre.co.uk/tickets)

## Review: Silver Lining

Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate

by Ruth Anders

*Silver Lining*, written by comedian and TV host Sandi Toksvig, was first performed at the Rose Theatre, Kingston in 2017 and recently enjoyed a brief season at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate.

The comedy sees five elderly ladies stuck in their care home in Gravesend as flood waters outside rise and a national emergency is declared. The staff seem to have deserted them and they rely on an unpredictable young freelance carer who arrives out of the blue and, more importantly, on themselves.

Part One was a little uneven and a few prompts were needed for forgotten lines. This interrupted the flow, as did the reliance on one-liners, some very predictable jokes and a deluge of swear words which, on the night I attended, prompted loud guffaws from members of the audience. The play's most ancient inmate surprised the others by producing a sparkling pink dildo from her box of possessions which again brought the house down.

Part Two was more rewarding, with further character development and a resultingly quieter audience. We heard about May's long-term partner Peggy, whose funeral she had been unable to attend; May's sister June, a devout Christian, turned out to be a kleptomaniac; Gloria was hoarding pills for a planned suicide; and Maureen admitted that she had been happy to watch her husband die in the bathroom after a loveless marriage.

Dildo-wielding St Michael, the oldest inmate, so named because of the label on her nightgown, had dementia and some of the best lines. Sandi Toksvig herself was there the night I went, and I wonder what she thought of it.

This reviewer wanted to like the play but found it hampered by dated concepts despite the Garden Suburb Theatre's cast giving it their all. However, the audience gave it a very warm reception. Upstairs at the Gatehouse has admirable ambition and attracts a healthy crowd (the run was sold out), and *The Archer* looks forward to their future offerings.



Church setting: *The Romeo and Juliet* cast rehearse at St John-at-Hampstead

## Star-crossed lovers meet in Hampstead

The Hampstead Players, one of London's longest established amateur theatre troupes, is building up to this year's summer production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. It will be the first time in the company's 48 years that they have performed the play.

This adaptation, set in a Verona of the 1940s, promises an entirely fresh take on a firm favourite. The cast have been in rehearsals since April, including learning fight choreography. The venue is the parish church of St John-at-Hampstead, a Grade 1 Listed building in the heart of Hampstead village, NW3 6UU.

There are evening performances on Thursday 4, Friday 5 and Saturday 6 July. Doors will be open from 7pm and the show begins at 7.30pm. There will also be a matinee on Saturday 6 July, starting at 2.30pm. Tickets can be bought at the TicketSource link on the Hampstead Players homepage at [hampsteadplayers.org.uk](http://hampsteadplayers.org.uk)



Merry men and ladies: Some of the *Robin Hood* cast

## Robin Hood rides into the Suburb

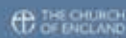
Garden Suburb Theatre's next production will be *Robin Hood In The Wood*, a pantomime-style family show in the heart of Little Wood in Hampstead Garden Suburb from Friday 21 to Saturday 29 June.

It's a battle for good over evil as Robin and his gang fight the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham, his sidekick Gisbourne, an evil Priest, and a daft bunch of hapless guards in the infamous Little Sherwood Wood. Writer Dave Barron has cre-

ated this site-specific show for families and friends to enjoy in this unique venue. Tickets are available from [www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](http://www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk). Anyone in groups of 10+ can contact [boxoffice@gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk) for group discounts.

### All Saints' East Finchley

Living the Catholic faith in 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](mailto:vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com)  
or check out our website:  
[allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk](http://allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk)

### Lemon Pickleball Junior

Summer Camp

For ages 5-15 years  
22nd-26th July & 12th-16th August  
[lemonpickleball.com](http://lemonpickleball.com)





## Letters

Send your letters to:  
[news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk)

### Palaver and expense

Dear Editor,

Thanks heavens for *The Archer*. Without it, I would know nothing about this exceptionally bad idea for a new controlled parking zone. Commuter parking is a non-issue in the road where I live. There are far fewer cars parked here in the daytime than in the evening.

I don't have a car. However, people who come to see me do... the odd relative/friend or people providing services that I need. I can't believe that the council wants me to go to all the palaver and expense of making sure they can still do that.

I understand that there is no money, and have direct experience of the consequences of this for social care provision, but I would appreciate not being lied to by people I have voted for. And why ask people what they think again when you have already been told?

**Janet Maitland,**  
Address supplied.

### Try again

Dear Editor,

I oppose the decision by the council to impose parking restrictions in the East Finchley residential areas despite residents being overall opposed in the consultation conducted. I agree, therefore, to a second public consultation to be carried out by the council.

**Dilshad Martin,**  
Address supplied.

### Positive effects

Dear Editor,

I would like to emphasise my emphatic support for the CPZ scheme and other measures to tackle the increasingly dangerous high level of car traffic, and in turn air pollution/reduction in safety for pedestrians in our lovely borough.

There are numerous case studies across London (Waltham Forest being one which shares characteristics with us here in EF) of CPZs and traffic reduction measures where such proposals similarly initially faced vocal opposition from some but have very effectively brought down unnecessary car usage, improved pedestrian safety, and increased overall air quality in the borough resulting in better health outcomes (notably for children who often suffer the most from such traffic).

They have also increased the level of much-needed footfall to local shops and businesses by reducing congestion caused by unnecessary car journeys which could otherwise have been completed on foot or by public transport.

These schemes allowed those who need to use cars (and don't have an alternative, including those who are less mobile) to do so in a less impeded/restricted fashion. This in turn resulted in an overall positive view of the scheme once established.

I do hope the CPZ will be implemented, in a way that reflects residents' views and concerns, and similar speed reduction and air quality measures will be implemented in our lovely borough.

**Rob,**  
Long Lane, N2

### Parking questions

Dear Editor,

If we are to have another public consultation over a new parking zone in East Finchley, it should be fairly written and conducted independently of the company that Barnet Council pays to look after all its parking services (*The Archer*, May 2024). The last time they sent out a survey, the questions were written in such a way that it was impossible to avoid giving opinions on how the zone should be run, even if you'd said you didn't want it in the first place. And on that subject, how can the council possibly fly in the face of 71% of people opposing the whole idea? They should have paid attention to people's wishes, not ploughed ahead regardless.

**Petra Connolly,**  
Address supplied

### Enforcement needed

Dear Editor,

I've been a resident in N2 for a little over 18 months and when it came to renew my parking permit I did not. The reason is that I found that I couldn't park anywhere near where I live in N2 and would be parking two or three streets away and that's after driving around looking for somewhere to park.

More often than not, those parking illegally were never given a ticket. I'd see a car parked on the zigzag lines by the zebra crossing outside the Learning Experience nursery on East End Road on a daily basis.

I feel that if you're going to have a CPZ, it should be policed. At the moment it does not feel that this is happening and therefore what is the point of paying for a permit when I can't even park and especially as with the cost of living as high as it currently is, I do not think it is working. I now just move my car during the hour when the CPZ should be enforced.

**N2 resident.**

### Parking hours are wrong

Dear Editor

Nothing was mentioned in the articles about the controlled parking zone in your May edition in relation to the logic of the 11am to 3pm extension to the top half of East Finchley when our road, Bedford Road, near the shops only has a 2pm to 3pm restriction.

This seems sufficient to reduce parking during the day but as with other areas the main parking problem is in the evening especially when coming back late. I cannot see why the top half of Finchley would need such a long CPZ.

So at least the proposals should be revised or possibly scrapped altogether especially in areas with no parking problems at all.

**Susan Saunders Vosper**  
Bedford Road, N2.

### Scrap it

Dear Editor,

The CPZ should be scrapped. It's a money making racket for the council and hassle for people who live in the area trying to arrange permits for residents and visitors. I say no thank you.

**Katie Walsh,**  
Address supplied.

### Not wanted

Dear Editor,

As a longtime resident of Long Lane, I can safely say that we do not need or want a CPZ here. The council should not waste money, time, and effort on another consultation; simply scrap the ridiculous scheme altogether immediately.

**Andy Minnis,**  
Long Lane, N2.

### No problem

Dear Editor,

I write in response to your request for views regarding the proposed CPZ in your May 2024 issue. I live in Church Lane where there are no parking problems. Although I have off-street parking, visitors and tradespeople are always able to park in the road close to the house. We don't need costly and annoying CPZ limitations in our lives. A further consultation should be scrapped altogether.

**Ray Clarke,**  
Church Lane, N2.

### Eyesore site

Dear Editor,

I've walked past the highly visible but neglected site at the end of Church Lane, N2, most days for years (Land worth millions is still a vacant desolate eyesore, *The Archer*, May 2024) and I find it increasingly upsetting. Not just because of the ugliness, but also the indifference to the neighbourhood it seems to represent.

Even worse is the prospect of two overbearing blocks of luxury flats, that many people did not want, and said so repeatedly, eventually being built on the site when there's a desperate need for decent cheap housing.

Whatever the reason for the delays, the landowners have invested in land in a prime spot, the value of which will be increasing every day whether anything gets built or not. They win either way.

**Rani Dickson,**  
Address supplied.

### Don't bank on it

Dear Editor,

I just discovered that the NatWest bank in Muswell Hill will be closing down in August of this year. I think there is a Santander left in Muswell Hill but you have to go online to even open an account there.

There are no banks in East Finchley or Highgate. This is dire and it all makes banking very hard for many older people. They want to talk to a real person.

Can we do anything to stop this disregard for public service by very rich banks which we the public have often bailed out? This has got to be a serious campaign issue in the local press and for the upcoming elections.

This is absolutely no good for people who live in this country. I've been with NatWest for 40 years. Ratbags to let me down like this, first in East Finchley and now in Muswell Hill.

**Dr Mary Poulter**  
Park Hall Road, N2.



Vibrant community: Worshippers celebrate 200 years of East Finchley Methodist Church

## Two hundred years of people stories

By Ella Malik

A fascinating new book has been written recounting the 200-year history of East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road. *All Are Welcome* is a compilation of 'old and new material' gathered through various sources, including previously-written historical documents, newsletters and other church records.

In addition, many local members of the East Finchley Methodist community contributed their personal stories. I spoke with Andrea McTeare who has been responsible for compiling all this material.

She told me the idea for the book came early in 2021 when church members began planning for the 200-year anniversary of the church, celebrated in 2022. *The Archer* had a hand in this when a large group photo of a 1960s Boys Brigade was published inviting people's memories.

Replies came from as far afield as New Zealand and Devon as well as locally, and these are included in the book, in the chap-

ter 'Youth in Uniform'.

Andrea told me that she wanted to write "a book about people" which undoubtedly, she has achieved. The final product of her two years of hard work is a book rich with voices, past and present, with dedications to valued members of the Methodist Church, pictures of the church community and accounts of notable events.

Copies (100pp. £10 plus p&p.) can be bought from the church at services, at Thursday coffee mornings in the attached Wesley's Coffee Bar, at its monthly live music concerts and through the website [www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk).



Nature on show: One of Mike Wasser's works

## Images from nature

Local artist Mike Wasser is holding an exhibition of his paintings inspired by the natural world at Lauderdale House, Highgate, N6, from Wednesday 26 June to Monday 22 July. *Shadows and Light* will be open every day from 12pm to 4pm, except Wednesdays when it will be open from 11am to 3pm. Part of the proceeds go to North London Hospice.





## Pedal pushers pay tribute on penny farthings



High and spry: The penny farthing enthusiasts, including round-the-worlder Joff Summerfield, right, ride past the grave of Thomas Stevens in East Finchley Cemetery. Photo Mike Coles

By John Lawrence

**What was it that brought 15 men, many dressed in Victorian and Edwardian outfits, to a particular corner of East Finchley Cemetery one Sunday morning in April to raise their glasses in a toast and ride around on their imposing penny farthing bicycles?**

The answer was a fellow cyclist called Thomas Stevens. He was the first man to circle the world on two wheels, setting out from San Francisco on his own penny farthing in April 1884 and returning two and a half years later in December 1886.

Born in Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire in 1854, he emigrated to the US as a child with his parents and in later life returned to the UK where he married and worked as the manager of the Garrick Theatre in the West End. He died in 1935 and was buried in East Finchley.

It was at his graveside that the modern-day penny farthing riders gathered to pay tribute to their hero on the 140<sup>th</sup> anni-

versary of the day he set off. "This is a man who should be revered as much as the first person to climb Everest. He was an inspiration," said Phil Saunders, of the Pickwick Bicycle Club, which was established in 1870 and is the world's oldest cycling club.

### You feel every bump

Among those toasting Thomas was Joff Summerfield, from Kent, who equalled the Victorian's feat by cycling around the world on a penny farthing between May 2006 and November 2008. "I covered about 40 miles a day on a good day," said Joff. "It all depended on the terrain. On a penny farthing, you feel every bump come straight up through the saddle."

With no chain or gear mechanism, the most noticeable thing about the penny farthing, or Ordinary, is how silent they are for such big contraptions. Also at the graveside was Matthew Trott, whose family firm Trott and Sons still makes around 15 penny farthings by hand every year at their workshop in Horam, East Sussex. Prices start from £1,750.

On the same day as the East Finchley tribute, the American cycle club The Wheelmen were also riding their High Wheelers in tribute. There are plans to make it an annual event and a group called The Friends of Thomas Stevens has been created to raise money to restore and straighten his grave, which is tilting slightly.



Inspiration: Thomas Stevens took two and a half years to ride around the world. Image Wikipedia



Tribute: The riders want to make their graveside meeting an annual event. Photo Mike Coles

**STEWART-DUNCAN**  
Ophthalmic Opticians  
126 High Road,  
London N2 9ED

Seeing beyond

**Tailor-made, individual lenses with the ZEISS VISUFIT 1000.**

Book your consultation by contacting us on:  
**020 8883 2020**