



Air waves: The Dis-labled podcast team are reaching a larger audience on a new radio platform

## Podcast team move to new radio platform

A podcast produced by a team at the Finchley-based Community Focus Inclusive Arts charity has moved to a new radio station with a global audience of 1.8million listeners. *Dis-labled* is airing every Tuesday from 6pm to 6.30pm on London arts radio station Resonance 104.4FM.

The show, which is also repeated on Fridays at 1.30pm, explores creative and wellbeing initiatives for people with disabilities, autism, and those in need of extra support. Listeners can tune in on FM, DAB or at [player.resonancefm.com](http://player.resonancefm.com). For more information contact [admin@communityfocus.co.uk](mailto:admin@communityfocus.co.uk).

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:  
November 2014

For the second year running, Long Lane Pasture achieved the 'outstanding' level in the London in Bloom Awards, part of the Royal Horticultural Society's initiative to encourage and support groups in bringing about significant improvements in their neighbourhoods. At the time it was the only location in Barnet to have received this award, and to qualify for it required a very high level of community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement.

15 years ago:  
November 2009

Controversy over Barnet Council's plans for parking restrictions is not a new phenomenon. This month, the Council put on hold its plans to extend the hours of parking restrictions in roads either side of the High Road, in the face of local opposition. Traders feared the move would sound the death knell for many independent businesses in the High Road and 2,000 people signed a petition calling for the Council to think again.

23 years ago:  
November 2001

Change was in the air for two local High Road landmarks. The Bald Faced Stag pub reopened after an extensive refurbishment, with the then landlord Rob Dobor dressing up as Dick Turpin for the occasion. Also, the Phoenix Cinema started a three-month closure for a major refit, involving re-modelling of the foyer and cloakrooms, and the installation of café facilities.

# Tributes to poet Fleur Adcock

By David Melsome

Acclaimed poet Fleur Adcock has died at the age of 90. Fleur, who lived in East Finchley, passed away in the North London Hospice on Thursday 10 October after a short illness.

Born in Papakura, New Zealand, in 1934, Fleur lived in England as a young girl through the Second World War years before her family returned to their home country in 1947. She worked as a lecturer and librarian before coming back to the UK permanently in 1963.

Her mother was a poet and Fleur followed her example, going on to publish ten books

### Treasured friend

Tributes have been paid to Fleur and her work. In a special segment on BBC Radio 4's *Front Row* a few days after her death, presenter Samira Ahmed said: "Her work was characterised by wit and powerful observation. She was a stalwart of the British poetry scene for many decades. Her writing remained clear-eyed



Cherished moments: Fleur Adcock reads her poems at Holy Trinity Church in January. Photo Mike Coles

of verse in the course of her career. Her most recent release, an expanded edition of her *Collected Poems*, was published earlier this year, as we reported in *The Archer* in March. In January, two months ahead of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, she was a guest at a 'warm space' session in the hall at Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane, N2, where she read a couple of her poems and reminisced about her life.

### Observation

Fleur's poems frequently shone a light on the lives of women and moments of birth, death and bereavement. Her writing style was often laidback but was always shot through with razor-sharp observation. She was not interested in shouting at her readers.

"The tone I feel at home in is one in which I can address people without embarrassing them; I should like them to relax and listen as if to an intimate conversation," she once commented. Fleur became a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1984 and was made an OBE in 1996. She was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2006 and received the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2008.

and humorous even as she contemplated her own old age." Neil Astley, her editor at Bloodaxe Books, said: "Fleur was always a delight to work with on all her books, and publishing her *Collected Poems* on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was a highlight. I knew her for 50 of those 90 years. She became a treasured and trusted friend as well as a poet whose work I felt privileged to publish.

"Her work and example were inspirational for the gen-



erations of women poets who followed her, helping bring about the huge shift which has made poetry publishing much more diverse, inclusive and representative of all writers in both of her countries during the latter part of her writing career."

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