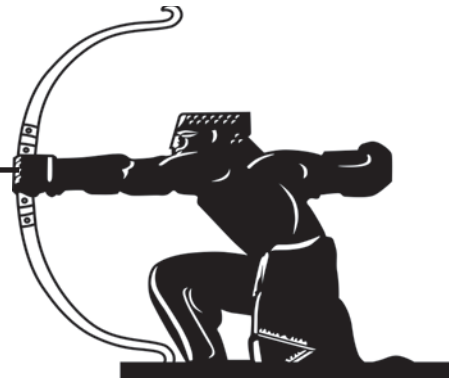




residential sales • lettings • management
020 8444 5222
www.jeremyleaf.co.uk

The Archer

Local News is our Aim



ISSN 1361-3952

November 2024 No. 367

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

Can our area cope with 1,470 new homes?

By Ruth Anders

While Britain is facing a housing crisis there is no shortage of developers looking to build new homes. The dilemma, however, is where and how to build them. One answer is the plan to build 1,470 flats on the site of the Great North Leisure Park, just over the North Circular from East Finchley, that is currently home to the Vue Cinema, the Finchley Lido Leisure Centre and several restaurants.

But this has raised concerns about where so many new residents would park their cars, where their children would go to school and what local amenities like shops and GP surgeries would be within their reach.

gised attendees put questions to representatives from Regal, the developers of the leisure park scheme.

As we reported in our April edition, all existing buildings on the site would be demolished to

ment director Greg Lyons and Ian Fenn from JTP Architects outlined the plans and timetable for work. These included the character and height of the buildings (one at 25 storeys, prompting an audible gasp from the meeting), leisure facilities, green spaces, bicycle facilities, access and possible small shops. They promised that the current leisure centre would not close until the new one was ready.

Stressing that this was not intended to be a new town centre, Ian Fenn described the scheme as being “a pedestrian friendly place for the people of Finchley and for Finchley, creating new borough-wide facilities with buildings designed to last for 100 years.”

With an eye to environmental responsibility, a green pedestrian route would go through the heart of the scheme, the buildings stepping up in height towards the east of the site and there would be a focus on cycle spaces (2,000) rather than car spaces (300-400). Turn to page 2.



Homes and leisure: An artist's impression of the entrance to the proposed housing development from the High Road

Tackling some of these issues, a lively meeting at the East Finchley Constitutional Club on Thursday 10 October hosted by East Finchley Town Team saw more than 50 ener-

make way for the new homes. The Finchley Lido Leisure Centre would be moved to a new building on a different part of the site.

Regal's planning director Steve Harrington, develop-



Lifetime's work: Fleur Adcock marking her 90th birthday earlier this year with a new collection of her poems. Photo Mike Coles

Treasured poet Fleur Adcock dies at 90

Fleur, who lived in East Finchley, passed away in the North London Hospice on Thursday 10 October after a short illness. Full story on page 4.

'Tis the season

Everyone is invited to celebrate the start of the festive season with the switching on of East Finchley's lights outside Budgens on the High Road on Saturday 7 December at 5pm.

Local choirs will lead the carol singing as dusk gathers and, with no trees felled for the event this year, the lights will adorn the towering plant frame in the flower bed there. Mince pies and mulled wine will be

provided by Budgens.

The festivities coincide with the Christmas market taking place at The Bald Faced Stag, directly across the road, from 2-6pm, with stalls, hot food and music.

In this issue

- Be Part of It..... p2
- Six-year-old cyclist.....p3
- Pasture appeal p5
- Christmas Markets.....p6
- Cook for good..... p6
- Winter race.....p7
- Hollywoodgate..... p10
- Your letters..... p11

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS

PRICKETT & ELLIS ESTD 1767

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

eastfinchley@prickettandellis.com
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!



The Archer

www.the-archer.co.uk Email: news@the-archer.co.uk

[f](https://www.facebook.com/TheArcherN2) [X](https://www.instagram.com/TheArcherN2) [@TheArcherN2](https://www.instagram.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 - December: 14 November; January: 13 December; February: 10 January



Green spaces: Pedestrians will take priority over cars but this has led to concerns about parking capacity in the wider area

Can our area cope with 1,470 new homes?

Continued from page 1

Gardens for residents only would be at the heart of each residential building, and the existing mature trees around the site's edge would not be affected.

Local impact

Architect Mary Hogben, from the Finchley Society, then summarised the concerns sent to the Town Team in advance of the meeting. These included the lack of nearby amenities and the impact on the Great North Road and Summers Lane traffic, parking in local streets, availability of school places, and demand on GP surgeries and Finchley Memorial Hospital.

Given the limited number of parking spaces in the complex,

Mary questioned whether the existing 263 bus route would be capable of taking another few thousand people to shops in North or East Finchley and to the tube station in East Finchley.

The meeting noted that most developments of this magnitude across Barnet and London are based around public transport hubs such as tube and bus routes. This site is not and will be home to an extremely dense urban development in a suburban location between two town centres.

Questions from the floor

Questions invited from the floor included the scheme's environmental credentials, parking zones needing to be re-visited in relation to local

streets, community provision within the site and who owns the land (Barnet, though Regal has a 150-year lease). Others asked how the scheme's only 25% 'affordable housing' could be seen as answering the housing crisis.

When a point was raised about a second high-rise development being planned for Lodge Lane in North Finchley Steve Harrington responded that all projects were being assessed together, and that the Council with its local and strategic plans, "would assess all needs and concerns".

The final planning application for the leisure park will be submitted before the end of this year, and planning stages will continue throughout 2025, with building potentially beginning in 2026 and the first complete building (the new leisure centre) ready in 2029.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that this matter should be readdressed by the Town Team in January when further updates will be available. To find out more about the plans visit www.gnlp-consultation.co.uk and make your views known by emailing info@gnlp-consultation.co.uk

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

Food Bank Aid urgently needs volunteers. Flexible shifts means you can volunteer when you want. The team is waiting to welcome you to their hub where they sort, pack and deliver donations to food banks. It is a fun place... and there's always tea and cake! Food Bank Aid provides essential goods to 32 North London food banks who help more than 16,000 people every week. Please email volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk and put 'The Archer' in the subject line.

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, please have a look at www.numberchampions.org.uk and then contact volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk. The charity is especially looking for local volunteers.

Community Gardening Project needs new volunteers. There is a small sloped garden near the entrance to East Finchley Station, known as Station Bank. It has been tended under supervision by volunteer gardeners since 2012. It currently grows a mixture of flowers and fruit but could grow vegetables too. This would be an ideal project for flat dwellers who enjoy gardening. Contact Kate at k.brown@btinternet.com

Citizens Advice Barnet or CAB is an independent charity based in Hendon looking for advice team volunteers who can ideally commit to two days per week. This will include training so you can advise on a range of problems, such as with work, debt, benefits, immigration, housing and more. Contact Naomi at nbielak@barnetcab.org. More details can be found at barnetcab.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/

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.



TREATING YOUR DOGS LIKE ROYALTY

At Paws Grooming Empire, we are passionate about keeping your furry friends happy, healthy and looking like royalty.

Grooming Services

- Full Groom Short Haired breeds
- Full Groom Long Haired breeds
- Full Groom with Hand Stripping
- Puppy Wash, Fluff Dry & Tidy

Dog Walking Services

- Single Dog Walks
- Group Dog Walking

Day Care Services

- 1/2 Daycare (5/6hours)
- Full Daycare (7/9 hours)



BOOK WITH US!

07572957013

02031491996



Party invitation

Students and staff at Bishop Douglass School in Hamilton Road, N2, will be holding their annual Christmas party for seniors again this year on Thursday 5 December from 5-7pm. East Finchley residents who are over 65 are welcome and you should book your place without delay.

As usual, you will be welcomed with a glass of sherry by Year 10 students and enjoy a Christmas meal, followed by carol singing and entertainment by pupils and staff. Games of bingo and a gift from Santa Claus will round off the evening.

Guests are asked to arrive by 4.45pm in order to make a prompt start. Transport can be provided for those residents who are less able. To book your place, phone 020 8883 0433, leave your name and a contact number and someone will get back to you.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet

79 Hertford Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliet balcony, and rear outrigger dormer, one front-facing roof light

48 Ossulton Way, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Alteration to roof including insertion of side and rear conservation roof lights

138 High Road, N2

Submission of details of conditions 4 (Demolition construction management and logistics plan) 6 (Cycle parking/storage) 11 (Air quality assessment) 12 (Sound

mitigation) pursuant to planning permission 24/2063/FUL dated 10/09/2024

231 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension following demolition of the existing garage and glass house. Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with Juliet balconies and two front-facing roof lights

Flat 1, 13 Fortis Green, N2

Erection of a rear outbuilding

Flat D, 36 High Road, N2

Use as one self-contained flat

Haringey

45 Twyford Avenue, N2

Formation of rear dormer and re-location of en-suite shower room to existing loft conversion

3 Beech Drive, N2
Partial replacement of existing side and rear single-storey extensions and a small first-floor extension

6 Eastern Road, N2

Internal ground floor remodelling including opening between front and rear room, installation of beams and post at the rear addition to install new kitchen and associated works

9 Aylmer Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension



Rayyan's ride makes a big impact on families in need

By Lynn Winton

Whenever six-year-old Rayyan Ahmed went shopping in Sainsbury's in the High Road, N2, with his mum, he pointed to the Finchley Foodbank donation point and wanted to know why people were dropping items in the container rather than taking them home with the rest of their shopping.

When his mum Saira explained all about food banks and how some families needed their support, he listened intently.

"We live close to Finchley Foodbank," explained Saira, "and Rayyan frequently cycles with his dad and they were going longer and longer distances. So we suggested to Rayyan that he could do some good for the food bank using his cycling

ability, and he was up for doing a sponsored challenge." Rayyan and dad Nawaz cycled 20 miles and raised £1,110 from sponsorship. They got in touch with the food bank's then manager Anna Maughan, who invited the family to visit on a busy distribution day, so Rayyan was able to put it all together and understand how his donation was being used to great benefit.

Anna wrote to Rayyan, explaining the impact he had made: "Thanks to your fantastic effort we have been able to buy healthy food like eggs, fruit, and milk, as well as other important things like tea, coffee, nappies, and toiletries for the people who need them. Did you know that, every week, we help almost 700 people? Thanks to you, we can make sure they have what they need."



Wheels of steel: Six-year-old Rayyan Ahmed cycled 20 miles in support of Finchley Foodbank



Big difference: Rayyan presents his fundraising cheque to Anna Maughan and new manager Rachel Nelson

Familiar face at food bank

By Lynn Winton

Finchley Foodbank, based at St Mary's Church Hall in East Finchley, has appointed a new manager and she will be a familiar face to clients and volunteers. Rachel Nelson has been assistant to outgoing manager Anna Maughan for the past 18 months.

Rachel, who grew up in Kentish Town and has a professional background in corporate human resources, now lives in

East Finchley with her husband and three teenage children, and describes her promotion as a "dream job".

"I started here as a volunteer and have never felt so fulfilled in my work," said Rachel. "Anna leaves me with big boots to fill but as she remains so involved in the organisation I can tap into

all her knowledge.

"Food poverty is a huge crisis and you have to navigate your way through it whilst coping with the emotional aspect of meeting your clients' needs in the very best way you can."

Find out more about the food bank's work at www.finchley-foodbank.org.uk

Stab victim recovering

A man who was stabbed at the junction of King Street and Church Lane, N2, at about 8pm on Thursday 12 September has recovered well and is now at home.

As we reported last month, a 30-year-old man was given urgent medical assistance by two doctors who happened to be in the King Street Food and Wine shop at the time. They rushed to the victim's aid then stayed with him until an ambulance arrived.

Jan Lovell from the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team said: "After the attack, we carried out reassurance patrols in the Church Lane and King Street area for several days.

The message was, and still is, that this was not a gang-related crime but a one-off incident with no concerns for public safety."

The stabbing is under investigation and no arrests have been made. If you have any information about this incident, call police on 101, quoting crime reference number CAD6603/12 Sept, or, if you want to remain anonymous, call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



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 your local Safer Neighbourhood Team by email: eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk, gardensuburb.snt@met.police.uk or fortisgreen.snt@met.police.uk
- Find full details for the local SNTs at www.iloven2.co.uk/local-government-and-policing
- Stay anonymous and report information to Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

Earthy delights

The annual Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show organised by the Amateur Geological Society - North London will take place on Saturday 30 November from 10am to 4pm at Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley.

This popular event features stalls full of jewellery, gems, fossils, meteorites and minerals, plus a children's lucky dip, books, maps and a refreshment area. Entrance is £2 for adults. Accompanied children under 12 are free.

Big Festive Fete

8 December 2024 from 14:30-18:30
at Christ's College Finchley, N2 OSE

Shopping / Live performances / Games / Gifts / Arts & Crafts Stalls / Face Painting / Prizes / Tasty Treats

Find out more at northlondonhospice.org/events/big-festive-fete/

Bocca D'oro

SUNDAY-THURSDAY
PASTA NIGHTS

THREE COURSES WITH SOFT DRINK FOR £20

ENJOY A STARTER, PASTA MAIN COURSE, DESSERT AND SOFT DRINK FOR JUST £20 OR £21 WITH A GLASS OF WINE OR A BEER

SCAN TO VIEW OUR MENU

SUNDAY - THURSDAY
FROM 5.30PM UNTIL CLOSE UNTIL NOVEMBER 28TH

214-216 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY, N2 9AY
07776 133040



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. For more information contact 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 90th 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 90th 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."

KOKOS

SHOE REPAIRS
SINCE 1976



AS SEEN IN
FINANCIAL TIMES
"THE WORLD'S BEST
REPAIR SHOPS"

72-74 HIGH ROAD • EAST FINCHLEY
LONDON • N2 9PN
020 8883 0876
www.kokos.co.uk
@kokosfinchley

THE MUSWELL HILL CLUB

FITNESS AND LEISURE

Over 100 classes per month • Swimming Pool

Cardio floor • Free weights rooms • Sauna & Steam rooms
Spin studio • Coffee bar • Stretch room • Friendly team



DAY
PASSEES
£10

Membership from
£35.95
per month
(T&Cs apply)

140 FORTIS GREEN, MUSWELL HILL N10 3EF 0208 883 0500
INFO@MUSWELLHILLCLUB.COM [THEMUSWELLHILLCLUB](https://www.themuswellhillclub.com)

Join online NOW muswellhillclub.com



Long Lane Pasture 'at risk of falling into disrepair'

By David Melsome

The much-loved Long Lane Pasture on Long Lane, a green space cherished by nature lovers and the local community, is at risk of falling into disrepair without vital funds to replace its aging maintenance equipment, say the volunteers who run it.

Long Lane Pasture Trust is appealing to the public for help in raising £5,000 to replace essential tools like a ride-on mower and brush cutters, which are crucial for keeping the area safe, accessible, and welcoming. For years, Long Lane Pasture, situated opposite Finchley Fire Station, has provided a haven for local wildlife and a tranquil retreat for residents. The space supports a variety of plants and animals and serves as a peaceful, natural escape from city life.

Oliver Kane, Trustee and committee member, stressed the importance of the fundraiser:

"Without this equipment, it becomes extremely difficult to manage the pasture. The upkeep is vital not only for the beauty and accessibility of the space but also for preserving the biodiversity that thrives here. It's a place that brings so much value to the community, and we need the community's help to keep it going."

New equipment

The pasture relies on volunteers to maintain its paths, meadows, and habitats and the funds raised will go directly toward purchasing new equipment for them to do this. The



Nature's glory: Long Lane Pasture is open to all but needs cash support to keep looking its best. Photo Donald Lyven

Long Lane Pasture Trust is appealing to everyone in the community to contribute what they can.

"Whether it's a small donation or spreading the word about the campaign, every little bit helps," said Oliver. "This green space means so much to so many people. It's a place where the

community comes together, where families can connect with nature, and where we can protect the environment for future generations. Every donation makes a real difference."

Donations can be made via the fundraiser page at <https://gofund.me/bd76e611> or by using the QR code in this article.



Insect-friendly: Children from Coldfall and Eden Primary Schools plant seeds in the wildflower meadow next to Coldfall Wood

Seed planters are the bees knees

By Laura Fox

As this autumn school term started, 150 children from Coldfall Primary and Eden Primary helped the Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields plant seeds in the wildflower meadow there. This is part of an ongoing project. Over the last two years, children from both schools have been involved in planting and maintaining this vital biodiverse environment.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has recognised the "exceptional work they have done to help pollinators survive and thrive" and awarded both schools Bees'

Needs Champions for 2024. Everyone involved is so proud of the children and the meaningful work we get to do with them because they are the future guardians of our meadows and woods.

Green hubs

Libraries in Muswell Hill, Highgate and Alexandra Palace have all become recycling points under a new scheme run by Haringey Council. Residents will be able to leave batteries, keys, printer cartridges and light bulbs for recycling.

Star soloists join local choir

Following North London Chorus's triumphant performance of Verdi *Missa di Requiem* in June, the local choir will be starting its 2024-25 season with two French masterpieces of the 20th century: Duruflé's *Requiem* and Poulenc's *Gloria*.

The concert takes place at St James Church, Muswell Hill on Saturday 23 November at 7.30pm and will feature two star soloists and a young organist.

The distinguished soloists both enjoy international careers on the opera stage. The *Gloria* features soprano Nadine Benjamin MBE (pictured right), who has recently starred as Mimi in *La Bohème* at English National Opera, while baritone James Cleverton (pictured above), a familiar face around Muswell Hill where he lives with his family, makes a return to St James in the demanding solo sections of the *Requiem*. The choir is also welcoming rising star George Herbert, currently assistant organist at New College, Oxford, to play the famous Harrison & Harrison organ of St James Church.

Tickets are available at www.northlondonchorus.org/tickets or on the door. Advance booking is recommended.

Singers welcome

Next March, North London Chorus will be performing Bach's magnificent *B Minor*



Mass and is keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the choir, where there are currently



vacancies in the bass section. Get in touch through northlondonchorus.org



Homecare you can rely on

From 30-minute visits to round-the-clock live-in care.

GoodOaks' care professionals help people in their own homes with:

- Personal care
- Preparing meals
- Medication administration
- Companionship
- Housework
- Shopping
- Escorting to appointments
- And much more!

To find out more call or visit:

0203 441 7696

goodoakshomecare.co.uk/edgware-finchley

GoodOaks
Quality Care at Home

 **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



Winter warmers bubble with the feelgood factor

East Finchley residents Karen Mattison and Cathy Halstead are the CEO and Marketing Manager of Cook for Good, a social enterprise based on a housing estate near Kings Cross. Here they explain how they bring businesses and communities together through food, and how their new cookbook, *Soup for Good*, is helping fund their work.

As the weather gets colder, many of us reach for a bowl of soup to warm our spirits, as well as our stomachs. But at Cook for Good, soup is more than just a meal; it's become a bit of an obsession for us and the community we serve.

We've been working on the Priory Green Estate near Kings Cross since 2021, starting by turning a disused laundry into a community pantry, led by local volunteers, where members pay £3.50 a week to choose a basket of surplus food worth around £35.

Then a year later, we transformed a derelict café into a community kitchen, where we invited residents aged between five and 85 to take part in free cooking classes and courses, and train local men and women to access jobs in catering and hospitality.

Much of this work is funded by corporate teambuilding events but this autumn we've also launched a fundraising cookbook, *Soup for Good*.

Why soup?

So why did we choose to write about soup? Well, our obsession started one cold winter's day in 2022, when Karen brought in a flask of homemade soup and offered some to our volunteer Mary. She enjoyed it so much that Karen took home

some wonky leftover carrots and made enough carrot soup to share with all the volunteers the following week.

Since then, we have served soup to our members every week, often using traditional recipes from our members' and volunteers' countries and cultures. And as our list of favourites grew, we saw a way to share the story of the soups we love, and the community who have become like family, with a wider audience.

Famous contributors

The result is *Soup for Good*; a celebration of the power of a simple meal to bring people together, described by American actor Stanley Tucci as "The only [soup] book you'll ever need". It's packed with recipes for 50 soups and 24 no-stress breads and toppings, including donated recipes from Nigella Lawson, Ed Balls and Gordon Brown. It also includes personal stories from some of our community members.

All the profits are being invested back into our community work, so as well as being a gorgeous addition to your own bookshelves, it would make a perfect, feelgood gift. It's available from Amazon right now for £23, and you can also pick up a discounted copy on the High Road in Tony's Continental and UOE for £20.



Soup-er: Karen Mattison and Cathy Halstead with the new cookbook that will support their Cook for Good enterprise

Loved-by-all Aromatic Lentil Soup

Try this recipe for yourself from the *Soup for Good* cookbook. The team say it's warming and nourishing and packed full of protein and spices. The taste is creamy with the chilli and mustard seeds adding a gentle kick.

Ingredients:

1 onion
2 mild red chillies
1 tomato
200g red lentils
2 garlic cloves
A small thumb of ginger
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp black mustard seeds
1 tsp Baharat or Lebanese 7-spice
Half tsp ground turmeric
1 litre vegetable stock
1 x 400ml tin coconut milk
1 lemon
Salt and pepper



Easy and warming: Aromatic lentil soup

Method:

Finely chop the onion. Deseed and finely chop the chillies. Dice the tomato into small cubes. Wash and drain the lentils. Peel and finely grate the garlic and the ginger to make a paste.

Set a large saucepan or shallow casserole pan on a medium heat. Coat with a thin layer of the oil. Add the mustard seeds and fry for 2 minutes until they start to pop. Stir in the onion, garlic, ginger, chillies, Baharat/7-spice, and turmeric. Sauté until the onion begins to turn light brown.

Add in the diced tomato and sauté until they soften. Add the lentils, coconut milk, vegetable stock, and a good pinch of salt and simmer over a medium heat for 20–25 minutes until thickened and the lentils are cooked. Add the juice from the lemon, starting with the juice of half and then adding more to taste. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

To serve, either blend the soup or leave it as it is for more texture. Garnish with your choice of tasty toppings.



Ideal gifts: The indoor Courtyard Market at The Engine Rooms

Winter makers' markets

More than 40 local creatives will be taking part in The Courtyard markets in East Finchley on the run up to Christmas, selling art, prints, cards, jewellery, textiles, ceramics, homewares and more.

Running alongside the regular Farmers' Market, the first makers' event takes place indoors at the Engine Rooms 82-92 Great North Road, N2, on Sunday 24 November from 10am to 2pm. There will be mulled wine, hot food, live music and a children's craft table. Entry is free.

Christmas markets at The Bald Faced Stag

Two more Christmas markets follow on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December at the Bald Faced Stag in the High Road, N2, the first coinciding with the switching on of the East Finchley Christmas lights.

Organised by East Finchley-based social enterprise, Dirthouse, each market day will offer a different selection of local makers, food and live music. Entry is free. For more information, visit dirthouse.co.uk/events.

Memories of loved ones

North London Hospice's annual event in memory of loved ones, **Light Up A Life**, will take place at 47 Woodside Avenue, London N12 8TT, on Sunday 24 November from 4.30pm, with the ceremony beginning at 5pm.

"Light Up A Life is a time to reflect on the cherished moments we shared and find strength by coming together to experience the compassion, companionship and community of the hospice with people who have had similar experiences of losing loved ones," says the hospice team.

Refreshments, including mince pies, doughnuts and mulled wine will be available at the event, which is a vital fundraiser for the charity's care services. If you would like to attend, with or without making a donation, visit the 'Support Us' pages at <https://northlondonhospice.org>

ALL WELCOME
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
OPEN PLAY
BEGINNERS COURSES

LEMON PICKLEBALL

TRY THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT IN THE USA
CLUBS • COACHING • EVENTS
www.lemonpickleball.com

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 or e-mail advertising@the-archer.co.uk



First-ever winter outing for Race the Neighbours

By David Melsome

The popular 10km Race the Neighbours, following a route between East Finchley and Muswell Hill, is to be held in the winter for the first time. Entry is already open for the event taking place on Sunday 26 January 2025.

The additional date is a significant step up for the race, which has been held in June or July since 2016. It was close to being cancelled this year when the event's volunteer organisers had to pull out but was put back on the starting blocks when the North London Hospice offered to take over.

The hospice team said the summer race was a huge success, with 500 amateur athletes

to run for their area: N2 East Finchley, N10 Muswell Hill, N6 Highgate, and N22 Ally Pally & Wood Green, with the best-performing postcode being awarded the Cherry Tree Cup. Or anyone from outside the area can take part for the fun of it. Registration costs £20 (+£2 booking fee) plus a minimum sponsorship of £30 or £32.50 (+£2 booking fee) to enter without sponsorship. Event proceeds



Hot and cold: The new winter version of Race the Neighbours may call for warmer running gear than the summer outing. Photo Mike Coles

raising more than £22,000 for the charity and many of them requesting more chances to run. "Starting and finishing at Cherry Tree Wood, the ethos and spirit of the event will remain the same, but with a small route adjustment to ensure safety in the winter conditions," said the new organisers. "It will be a great opportunity to train for any upcoming spring or summer races. You'll be able to enjoy a great run with a dash of friendly neighbourhood rivalry – just with a crisper, cooler backdrop."

Sign up now

Participants can choose

Weekend of art

The East Finchley Open Artists group is holding its Winter Fair at All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2, on Saturday 23 November from 11am to 7pm and on Sunday 24 November from 11.30am to 5pm.

There will be a raffle and plenty of handmade gifts by local artists working with glass, jewellery, textiles, ceramics, wall art, photography and greetings cards, along with a café serving healthy refreshments and mulled wine. The event supports the group's charity of the year, Destitute Asylum Seekers.

Art fair

Highgate Art Fair is taking place on the weekend of 8-10 November at Highgate Primary School on North Hill, Highgate, showcasing the work of more than 30 established and emerging artists in the creative community.

Alongside the main exhibition in the school's Victorian hall, there will be a collection of children's art, community workshops sponsored by Cass Art, installations and a bar selling a selection of refreshments over the weekend.

All proceeds from the Highgate Art Fair digital auction will go to the school to support its commitment to excellence in the arts. Find out more about times and tickets at www.highgateartfair.co.uk



Neighbourly network: People living in Bancroft Avenue say their WhatsApp group has brought them closer together. Photo Amaya Shankardass

WhatsApp opens up avenue

Neighbours have arguably never been more connected than they are today, thanks to the proliferation of street WhatsApp groups, like the one in Bancroft Avenue, N2. Amaya Shankardass finds out why it is flourishing.

In an increasingly digital world, we are often cautioned on the dangers of social media and the importance of prioritising real-life interactions with our fellow humans. However, as the residents of Bancroft Avenue have proved, both digital and physical can be brought together.

"I've been living here for 42 years and neighbours have never been so helpful and supporting of each other as now," said Yoya Karageorgis. "That's mostly due to our street's WhatsApp group."

Hours of research have been saved by a simple handyman recommendation. "Through this technology we can harness not just a single lifetime but hundreds upon hundreds of collective years of knowledge and life experience," said Kerry Karageorgis, emphasising the supremacy of human collaboration over artificial intelligence or AI.

The group was especially valued during the pandemic; whether it was buying supplies for the elderly, or sending uplifting photos of rainbows, sunsets, or the first goldfinch spotted that season, the WhatsApp members cultivated a community that thrived on impromptu chats and clinking wine glasses over garden fences.

Young entrepreneurs

Nearly five years on from lockdown and the group chat has only flourished, becoming a platform for young Bancroft Avenue entrepreneurs to sell homemade brownies or offer babysitting and gardening work.

"We couldn't have asked for better neighbours to help us transition from overseas," said Shefali Mukul, one of many to experience the comforting flood of welcome messages when moving in.

For those desiring fewer notifications, a separate 'emergency' chat handles matters ranging from suspicious vehicles lingering on the road, to rescuing children stuck in bathrooms while their parents are on holiday.

Although perhaps the chat can be too vigilant. Like a scene from a spy movie, residents rallied together to shadow someone 'suspiciously' pacing the street... who was in fact a friend waiting for a resident to return home.

Safer

"I definitely feel safer knowing we're just a message away from support," said Tulika Byce, who first proposed the idea of a group

chat by posting letters through mailboxes.

The chat has also increased awareness and mutual celebration of religious festivals and other traditions. For Halloween, Rita Shankardass used the WhatsApp group to coordinate neighbours, creating a trail of decorated houses for children to trick-or-treat safely and independently.

Overall, the Bancroft residents highly recommend establishing a group chat. Perhaps it is through streets and platforms like these that London will become a safer, happier city.

How are you connecting with your neighbours? Tell us your stories by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk


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
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



Academy speakers full of bright ideas

By Nathan H, Year 10

Bright Ideas is a series of free talks, organised by the Archer Academy, to broaden the minds of their students and teach us about life outside the school gates. Inspiring individuals come into school every half term and give their time to speak to students about their lives and career journeys.

I've attended every talk since its inception, and I would highly recommend them to future Archer Academy students. The first speaker, John Hajdu, was unforgettable, as he was one of the last Holocaust survivors. I found the part where he described being saved by his auntie particularly poignant.

The Bright Ideas talks have broadened my horizons and have given me insights into future careers and prospects. I have approached two of the speakers for work experience; the newly elected local MP Sarah Sackman, who gave a brilliant talk on her work as a campaigner and barrister, and Adam Wagner, a human

rights barrister, who led several debates about topical issues during his talk.

Sarah Sackman wasn't the only politician, as local Green party candidate Steve Parsons gave a talk about environmentalism and campaigning. Mike Freer also spoke about his former role as an MP and minister.

After that, we had Issy van der Velde, a video game journalist, who explained how he found a job which fused his two passions, journalism and gaming.

It has been an incredible experience to be able to meet such influential and fascinating people, and learn how they connect and contribute to our local area and beyond.



Inquiring minds: Human rights barrister Adam Wagner leads one of the Bright Ideas talks at the Archer Academy



Movie culture: Christ's College students and their overseas friends visit the Harry Potter Studios Tour

New headteacher for school with scores of international friends

Christ's College Finchley this term appointed a new headteacher to take over from Samson Olusanya, who had been in the role since 2013. Dr Ruth Hill arrives at the secondary school in East End Road, N2, from her previous position as senior deputy headteacher at Ruislip High School in Hillingdon.

John Bowra, Chair of the Governing Board, said: "We wish Dr Hill every success in her new

post. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Olusanya for all his hard work and dedication that he has shown whilst leading our remarkable school."

International summit

Last term, Christ's College Finchley hosted the International London Summit bringing together 52 staff and students from schools in Mexico, France

and Taiwan for a language and cultural exchange.

The visitors explored iconic places of interest in and around London, including the Globe Theatre, a Thames river cruise and the Harry Potter Studios. There was also a celebratory dinner organised by host families at the school, whose students had previously visited Mexico, France and Taiwan.

Project coordinator Avni Aliaj said: "The International Summit Week at Christ's College Finchley was more than just a series of events; it was a celebration of unity, diver-



New headteacher: Dr Ruth Hill

sity, and the shared human experience. We look forward to continuing these valuable exchanges and strengthening our international ties in the years to come."

St Mary's Christmas fair

There will be plenty of festive atmosphere at the Christmas Fair at St Mary's Catholic Church, 279 High Road, N2, on Sunday 1 December from 11am to 2pm. Organisers promise something for everyone, with carol singing, hot food and drinks. Visitors of all ages can meet Santa in his grotto and there will be home bakes, a tombola, arts and crafts, a hamper stall, toys, jewellery, pet accessories, henna and glitter tattoos, and more. Entry is free.



Lift-off: The 224 North London Air Scouts enjoying their visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester

Air Scouts join the space race for a day

A group from the local 224 North London Air Scouts based in Sheldon Avenue, N6, visited the National Space Centre in Leicester to celebrate the launch of the new Scouts Space Badge. They took part in astronaut training and interactive exhibits, and went on a virtual trip to the moon in the planetarium.

Zhane, aged 11, said: "I was so excited to see the rocket. Today has been really fun and very scientific. The museum really lives up to its name, it's been very sciencey and I've had such a good day with my friends."

The Scout group is on the look-out for volunteers to help

with its existing sections and the launch of Squirrels for younger children. Whether you can spare a little time to assist with weekly meetings, help on trips, or share a special skill, your contribution will make a big impact. Get in touch by emailing del@224northlondonscouts.org.uk or WhatsApp 07707 763344.

Training in Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy and Counselling

MA in Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy and Counselling

Can lead to UKCP registration, CPC and BACP Individual Accreditation
Duration: four years part-time

MA in Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy and Counselling (Conversion Course)

Can lead to UKCP registration, CPC and BACP Individual Accreditation
Duration: two years part-time

Foundation Course

Certificate in Adult Psychotherapy and Counselling, required for candidates who are applying for MA course and have not undergone any basic training
Duration: one year part-time

Diploma in Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychotherapy and Counselling Supervision

Duration: one year part-time, eight weekends

Introduction to Therapeutic work with Children

Duration: four and a half days



For more information about training with Terapia

Call: 020 8201 6101

Email: training@terapia.co.uk



SCAN HERE

www.terapia.co.uk



Associate Member



Bond of trust: Stephen Steppens and his faithful companion Xena. Photo Mike Coles

Guide dog Xena is a true princess among animals

By Lynn Winton

Two years ago, we reported that the long wait of local man Stephen Steppens to resume a normal life was finally over with the arrival of his guide dog Xena. Stephen, who has been blind since birth, had been forced to wait through most of the pandemic to be matched to a suitable companion following the retirement of his previous guide dog Owen in 2020.

We caught up recently with Stephen and we are delighted to share the news that today Stephen and Xena continue to be a perfect match. They were introduced because Stephen was a pioneer of a new scheme set up by Guide Dogs UK who were trialing a partnership with a puppy training school in Michigan.

Stephen was flown out to the US to meet and bond with Xena, a Golden Labrador, over an intensive three-week period. Xena is now three years old and ensconced in his East Finchley home, having responded very

well to the training that Guide Dogs UK give all new dogs and their owners.

On her arrival, Stephen says he was once again able to resume his active life. "We are so lucky, life is great," he said. "We're always out and about, on the tube, up the escalators, I'm in such good hands."

"She takes me to East Finchley station, Andrew's the chemist and everywhere else I want to go. We walk in Cherry Tree Wood where, when it's dry, I can let her off the lead. When it was flooded she got too wet and smelly."

Stephen's only complaint is the proliferation of Lime bikes left poorly positioned on the pavement and elsewhere. "People leave them all over the place and it makes outings more hazardous," he said. Lime bike users, please take note.

The pair are well known on Fortis Green and particularly in The Muswell Hill Club gym, where the team have always welcomed them with a dedicated space at reception, complete with water bowl, where Xena knows the routine is to calmly wait while Stephen works out in the studio.

Twice the fun

Two events are taking place this month to tempt you to travel over to Hornsey Parish Church Hall at the foot of Muswell Hill, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH.

On Saturday 23 November comes the monthly Indoor Car Boot Sale from 10am to 1pm. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For information, phone 020 8368 8180.

Then the following Saturday 30 November, it will be the church's annual Christmas Market from 1pm to 4pm, with hot food, home-made cakes, festive drinks and Christmas gifts

Flag goes up on Cherry Tree first

By Diana Cormack

On the last Friday in September an enthusiastic group gathered round the newly erected flagpole near the tennis courts in Cherry Tree Wood to see it become Barnet Council's first and only green flag public park.

The Green Flag Award is managed by Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the UK Government, recognising and rewarding well-managed parks and green spaces, of which there are more than 200 in the borough.

Barnet Councillor for Environment and Climate Change Alan Schneiderman praised those who had put in so much effort into making Cherry Tree the first to reach this admirable achievement.

He said: "Cherry Tree Wood is a beautiful open space cherished by those in the local community and beyond, and I'm delighted that it has now been recognised with a Green Flag Award. I would like to thank our staff and local volunteers who work all year round to ensure the park is in excellent condition."

His words were directed at many of the onlookers who were members of The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. Their chair Roger Chapman also paid tribute to the hard work of all the volunteer helpers, along with that of our local councillors Claire Farrier, Arjun Mitra and Alison Moore, as well as the two Sharons who run the Cherry Tree Café. And this may not be the last time! Roger Chapman said: "In large part, this award reflects the hours of hard work put in by so many volunteers in making Cherry Tree Wood so special



Pioneering park: The Green Flag goes up watched by friends and supporters of Cherry Tree Wood

for our community. We will be working hard to keep the flag flying in future years."

Paul Todd MBE, Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, congratulated everyone involved. He said: "We know that staff and volunteers work tirelessly

to ensure that it maintains the high standards of the Green Flag Award. Everyone involved should feel extremely proud of their achievement."

Visit <https://friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog> to learn more about the Friends.

RICKY SAVAGE ... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

Wrong side of the tracks

Remember 1964? It doesn't matter if you don't because I'm here to do it for you. It was the year The Beatles became the biggest thing since Cliff Richard, the year the third Bond film, *From Russia with Love*, hit the screens and schoolboys everywhere dreamed of owning an Aston Martin DB5.

It was also the year the Olympics turned up in Tokyo and, just to make the year even more memorable, the Japanese gave us the first modern, high-speed train, the Shinkansen, or bullet train. This 150mph+ glimpse of the future ran on special tracks and was the start of something special. It wasn't long before the whole of Japan was linked by modern, clean, punctual transport.

Meanwhile, what about Britain, the place that had invented the train? We were still welcoming the 19th century. Back then British Rail hadn't woken up to the idea that steam trains were dirty, polluting and about to become a historical dead end. When the rest of Europe went diesel or electric to rebuild their shattered railways, we invested in what we knew best, good old-fashioned steam.

Stuck in the past

The horrible dirty lumps of old engineering had looked good 30 years earlier, but by 1950 the only people still building them were the British. We had lots of coal and iron and we'd built the fastest steam train in the world. But that was yesterday. Launching a new range of steam engines in the 1950s was like deciding to reintroduce horse drawn carriages to combat global warming.

It wasn't just the trains. Britain was starting to get nostalgia fever. The Beeching Report got a lot wrong, but who, apart from train spotters and ageing spinster detectives, really needed the stopping train from Much Bickering to Duck's Bottom via Back Stabbing Junction?

It took until 1968 before British rail got rid of the last main line steam train. It wasn't until the late 1970s that we got modern InterCity trains and even then they were dirty, late and had a habit of breaking down outside Biggleswade due to the wrong sort of leaves on the line.

And high-speed trains? The French, Germans and Italians got there long before we got to the Eurostar. Looking ahead, HS2 isn't going to link Manchester and London and Leeds; it's just about going to manage Birmingham and a field in West London. If this is the age of the train, then Britain is still stuck in a siding.

Glebelands
indoor bowling...at its best

Why not book a 30min taster session
no charge

What are you waiting for?
just call, email or visit the club

Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club
Summers Lane
Finchley
London
N12 0PD
020 8446 2090
glebelandsibc@gmail.com
www.Glebelandsibc.co.uk

a game for all ages
100 years v 16 years



Courageous filmmakers: Ibrahim Nash'at and Tamana Ayazi outside the Phoenix

Bravery of film makers exposing life under the Taliban

By Ruth Anders

Early in October I met two very courageous young film makers at the Phoenix Cinema, both of whom have directed films about life under the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Egyptian Ibrahim Nash'at has directed the critically acclaimed documentary *Hollywoodgate*, a shocking exposé of how the Taliban re-took control shortly after the departure of Western forces from Afghanistan in 2021.

Ibrahim was permitted exclusive but dangerous access to the Taliban leadership as they entered the abandoned Hollywoodgate defence complex a day after US and Allied troops withdrew from Kabul.

What they found in the former US military base, partially destroyed, was what the most technologically advanced military nations in history left behind. Over the next year, from the inside, the film follows the Taliban's transformation from fundamentalist militia to murderous military regime.

As *Hollywoodgate* is tipped for an Oscar, Ibrahim was promoting the film in America and could not be at the Phoenix for its special screening event on 24 October, part of the London Breeze Film Festival. But he visited the cinema earlier in the month to appreciate its history and to record a special introduction.

His place at the post-show Q&A was taken by Tamana Ayazi whom I also met. Tamana

is an Emmy-winning director and producer, National Geographic explorer and human rights advocate born and raised in Balkh, Afghanistan. In 2021 she began assisting Amnesty International in documenting its year-long report titled *Death in Slow Motion: Women and Girls Under Taliban Rule*.

Tamana's debut feature-length documentary, *In Her Hands*, premiered at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival and won the Audience Award at the 2022 Camden International Film Festival. She received the Cinema for Peace Dove Award for Women's Empowerment, along with three News and Emmy nominations in 2023, and one win. Her work is available on Netflix.

Both the young directors told me: "Our films were made at great personal risk. When we are working, we can accommodate nothing else, the commitment to our projects devours us."

Hollywoodgate was part funded by The Whickers (part of the Whicker's World Foundation). Their artistic director Jane Ray, who lives in East Finchley, worked with Alan Whicker throughout the 1990s, and interviewed Tamana Ayazi after the film.

Free concert

The next in the regular series of free concerts at East Finchley Methodist Church takes place on Sunday 10 November at 7.30pm.

It features violinist Clare Thompson, cellist Josh Salter and pianist Sarah Down playing a programme of works by Rachmaninov, Rebecca Clarke, Joaquín Turina and Bohuslav Martinů. Admission is free with a collection in aid of Bipolar UK. The venue is fully accessible.

Comedy in the Kinks Room

A new monthly comedy club is running at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green, N2, combining live performers with pre-recorded material to create a hybrid show that is also available online later.

Stand-up comedians play to a live audience in the pub's famous room that pays tribute to the legendary 1960s group The Kinks, who lived nearby.

The comedy club is produced by Pocket Pictures Ltd, an East Finchley-based video and promotions company. They stream the live show a week after the event, on a platform called Lounges TV.

The next date for Comedy at the Clissold is Thursday 14 November, followed by a Sunday event on Sunday 8 December. Ticket prices are £10 online or £12 at the door with special 'bring your other 'alf' tickets, which is buy one and get one half price. Find out more and book at www.pocketpicturesltd.com



Comic timing: Clissold Arms performers, from left, Olly Miller, Dillon Harris, Lucas Jeffcoate and host JustP.

Budget costumes for festival film

By Ruth Anders

The Phoenix Cinema will shortly be hosting the 2024 UK Jewish Film Festival and one of its offerings, *Friday Night Flop*, is a short feelgood film about family starring Tracy-Ann Oberman and her real-life daughter Anoushka Cowan.

Maya (Cowan) is a recluse who refuses to engage with the world. Oberman plays her frantically worried mother Ellen, whose attempts to fix her daughter only alienate her further. When Ellen discovers Maya is gambling, all hope seems lost, but the hand she has just been dealt will change everything.

After two years of assisting on the costume side of a variety of short films and videos, East Finchley resident and undergraduate Evie Csaky was thrilled to be invited to act as head of costume for the film. Evie told *The Archer* that she has been able to take short spells out from studying Art History and French at Bristol University to build this sideline career in film and TV costuming.



Skills on a shoestring: Evie Csaky

She added: "We did this movie on a shoestring as the budget was tiny. I borrowed clothes from my parents and used a Lime bike to race round the actors' homes checking out their wardrobes for what we might use. It was only a three-day shoot, and we all got on very well. This was a very personal project for all involved."

Evie is still deciding her professional plans for the future, but she has certainly got off to a great start. This warm-hearted and funny film will be premiered at the Phoenix on Monday 11 November at 8pm. Find out more at <https://ukjewishfilmfestival2024.eventive.org/films>



Warm-hearted: Tracy-Ann Oberman stars in *Friday Night Flop*

**COMING SOON
AT ARTSDEPOT**

DRACULA
Thu 14 - Sat 16 Nov

**THE SCUMMY
MUMMIES
CHRISTMAS
SHOW**
Fri 6 Dec

**THE GRUFFALO'S
CHILD**
Tue 3 Dec - Sun 5 Jan

THE FIR TREE
Thu 12 - Tue 31 Dec

**...and lots more!
See the full line up
at artsdepot.co.uk**

arts depot

Box Office: 020 8369 5454
artsdepot.co.uk

artsdepot, North Finchley, N12 0GA



Letters

Car park confrontation

Dear Editor,

On a recent Tuesday at about 5.15pm, I pulled into the car park at East Finchley tube station on my way out for an evening in the West End. As it was near to the end of the working day, there were dozens of empty spaces and I was able to park just across from the pay station.

A couple of minutes later, while I was still sitting in my car, a huge Tesla reversed into the space next to mine, so close that it prevented me from being able to open my door. I lowered my window and politely explained that I couldn't get out.

The woman driver, aged about 40, said that she was legally parked as she was within the white lines and that she was in a hurry as she had an appointment. She locked her car and started to make her way to the trains.

I had to yell out of my window and insist that she pull forward to let me out. Grudgingly she pulled out but as soon as I was out of my car, she reversed back in again, just a few centimetres from my door. I told her there was no need to have parked so close to me as there were dozens of other spaces available.

She and her son then ran into the tube station. She knew she was wrong. If I had returned from my evening out to find her car still there, there is no way I could have got back into mine. Why are some people so utterly selfish?

This is actually a problem in a lot of car parks these days, where the spaces are too small for many of today's cars. However, this does not excuse this kind of selfish behaviour.

Joss Woolf
Church Lane, N2

Cut-through consideration

Dear Editor,

Whilst walking on the All Saints Church cut-through from Durham Road to Twyford Avenue, I was shocked to be clipped by a cyclist, riding two abreast with a companion. At my protest he declared he was not only allowed to cycle through, but it was my fault for wearing headphones.

Silly me. It seems it was not his responsibility, when approaching from behind, to slow down, give space or indeed dismount. What if I had been hard-of-hearing I wondered, as he rode off gesticulating at me, or indeed less able to keep my footing and had been knocked over?

As a cyclist myself, his behaviour upset me. We are living in an ever divisive world. Let's not allow a them-versus-us mentality to play out on our local pathways too.

Sarah R,
Address supplied

Send your letters to:
news@the-archer.co.uk

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

Praise for playground

Dear Editor

I am so impressed by the new playground in Market Place (*The Archer*, October 2024). Congratulations to the designers and everyone involved in making it a reality. What was once an unwelcoming and uncomfortable play area with run-down equipment is now an exciting and beautiful land of adventure for young ones to enjoy. Barnet Council have been involved in the project as I understand it but it's a sign of the times that the new playground only exists thanks to the hard work of volunteers and their determination to raise the money to pay for it. Facilities for young people should be a priority, not a luxury.

Tilly Milburn,
High Road, N2.

Walking football

By Diana Cormack

Our recent article about a local walking football club ('Find Your Pace at Walking Football', *The Archer*, August 2024) raised some recent memories for me. Not a lot of people know about the sport, but I had heard of it, as well as walking netball, and came across it again earlier in the year.

This was on a coach journey to Chesterfield, when some of my fellow passengers were a group of Australian ladies of a certain age. Of course, I needed to know why they were all dressed the same and why they were going to Derbyshire?

It turned out that they were participating in the World Walking Football Championships along with teams of 'oldies' from 17 other nations. More than 600 male and female players descended on the lovely market town for the finals held that mid-May weekend.

Why Chesterfield? Well, it turns out that walking football was created there by John Croot at Chesterfield Football Club in 2011. The game can be played indoors or outdoors. It is said that when first shown on TV news it was thought to be an April Fool joke, but coverage in later years led to it spreading rapidly. There are now estimated to be over 60,000 players in the UK and it is played in 55 countries.

With 17 countries represented in Chesterfield, there were many members of teams to be seen on the streets, but few local residents I spoke to knew about the event. Nor could I find any publicity before or afterwards in the press or on TV. This was despite the fact that walking football really did come home because England won the championship!



Top spot: Barnet's Deputy Mayor Danny Rich is surrounded by well-wishers as he officially opens the Market Place Playground

Families and dignitaries celebrate new playground

By Ruth Anders

More than 100 adults and children came along to watch Deputy Mayor of Barnet Danny Rich cut the ribbon at the official opening of the new Market Place Playground on Sunday 20 October.

Community dignitaries braving the rain included local MP Sarah Sackman, Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy Mete Coban, Leader of Barnet Council Barry Rawlings, London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden Anne Clarke, Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change Cllr Alan Schneiderman, Cllr Arjun Mittra (who

remembers playing there as a child), Cllr Alison Moore, and Roger Chapman and Kathy Batten, of East Finchley Community Trust.

Representatives from some of the funding bodies including Grow Back Greener, Betty Messenger Foundation and Grange Big Local also attended alongside the Playground's inspiration Tim Gill, play con-

sultant from the design team Phil Doyle. They were joined by Samantha Haycock and Michelle Frith, of the Friends of Market Place Playground, actor Carolyn Pickles and two head teachers, Ziz Chater from Martin Primary School and Lucy Harrison from the Archer Academy. All in all, it was an exciting and lively celebration, grey skies notwithstanding!

Henry Alder: 1941–2024, festival director and friend

By Ollie Smith

Henry Alder, a long-time resident of Cherry Tree Road, N2, and a former director of the East Finchley Festival, has passed away peacefully at the age of 83.

As a boy, Henry witnessed history first-hand when his school placed him at the front of the crowd for Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953. Not only that, his home was one of the first on his street to have a television, so he enjoyed watching the event twice, in person and on TV.

Henry had a long and successful career as a mechanical engineer, travelling to power stations across the UK. He loved being hands-on with machinery, a passion that led to an unfortunate exposure to asbestos, which later affected his health. One of his favourite stories involved a day he worked while he was ill, accidentally causing a power outage in Watford and the surrounding areas.

Henry moved into Cherry Tree Road in 1982 and quickly became an important figure in our community, including directing the East Finchley Festival for a couple of years in the late 1980s.

After taking early retirement, Henry pursued his long-standing interest in academia, earning a Master's degree in Energy Management Conservation from Middlesex University. This made him a pioneer in energy conservation and climate awareness long before these



Community stalwart Henry Alder

issues were widely recognised.

He also served as a senior exam invigilator at London universities, endearing himself to students with his humour and support. He was an avid sportsman, playing competitive squash and tennis, and he skied passionately, despite breaking a few bones along the way.

Henry never married but was a beloved figure to his friends and neighbours. He maintained a sharp mind and sense of humour throughout his life, even as his health declined. He will be fondly remembered as a dear friend and true pillar of our community.



Brick by brick: Hilary Masetti, pictured below, uses ink, watercolour pencil and brush-pen to capture the detail and light effects of her favourite local buildings, including the Gatehouse pub at Highgate, left, East Finchley tube station, above, and the old Arsenal football ground, below.

Urban beauty of pub and tube station

Muswell Hill-based artist **Hilary Masetti**, a regular stallholder at the East Finchley Festival, sketches familiar buildings in a way that throws them into isolation and reveals their beauty through the use of colour and lighting. Here she explains how she chose her latest subjects in East Finchley, Highgate and Highbury.

East Finchley Station

I chose to draw East Finchley Station as it is such a characterful Grade II listed Art Deco building. I especially loved drawing the fine detail of the semi-circular glazed stairway and the well-known and much-loved statue of *The Archer* by Eric Aumonier sitting proudly above the entrance.



My aim was to capture the true character of this building which is such a central part of East Finchley life. It was drawn using ink and watercolour pencil on A1 Fabriano Watercolour paper.

The Gatehouse pub

I'm so pleased I found the time to draw The Gatehouse in



Highgate. I had a lot of requests to draw this pub as it holds so many memories for people, from theatre-goers to those who held wedding receptions and birthday parties over the years within its walls. It's a real local favourite, sitting on the top of Highgate Hill looking down on central London.

I wanted to capture all the beautiful detail in its Tudor facade with all the pretty architectural features and flowers that decorate it so nicely. I used ink and brush-pen for

this drawing to give a vibrant and fresh look and it enabled me to capture the texture of the different building surfaces from the white pebble dash to the colourful bricks and tiles.

Highbury

I chose to draw Highbury Square as it is such a hugely significant building for Arsenal

Football Club. It's fantastic that they kept the Art Deco facade of the East Stand even when the stadium moved in 2006.

This was a fabulous building to draw with beautiful features and striking colours. It shows the facade as it is today and I feel it is a real celebration of Arsenal and its rich history. This was hand-drawn with ink and

brush-pen on A1 Bristol Paper. Hilary will be one of the local artists taking part in The Courtyard Market at The Engine Rooms 82-92 Great North Road on Sunday 24 November, 10am - 2pm.

Find out more about Hilary's work at www.hilarysketches.co.uk and on Instagram @hilarysketches.

Romantic rarities

Finchley Symphony Orchestra open their new season this month with a concert of Romantic music including rarities and a great favourite.

The music of the Anglo-African Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was hugely popular 100 years ago but is seldom heard today. His *Violin Concerto* will be performed by Jordan Brooks, a talented young South African.

Another rarity, Rachmaninov's early *Youth Symphony* is just a single movement, and

the concert will conclude with Dvorak's popular 7th *Symphony* which brims with typically Bohemian melody, dance and drama.

The concert takes place at Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley, on Saturday 23 November, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets from www.finchley-symphony.org

All seasons in December

Alyth Choral Society and Orchestra will be performing Haydn's *The Seasons* at Alyth Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, NW11, on Sunday 8 December at 7.30pm.

Soprano Eleanor Pennell-Briggs, tenor Nathan Vale and bass Pauls Putnins will be accompanied by the choir and orchestra led by conductor Alison Smart Fisher. Tickets priced £20 are available from Ticketsource and on the door. Under 18s are admitted free and there are free refreshments.

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU ARE GOING TO BE HAPPY WITH YOUR NEW VARIFOCALS OR YOUR MONEY BACK. AS SIMPLE AS THAT

IF YOU TRIED THE REST NOW TRY CERTIFIED VARILUX SPECIALISTS

STEWART-DUNCAN OPTICIANS

126 High Road, East Finchley, N2 9ED

020 8883-2020

FREE CHEESEBURGER

WHEN YOU SPEND £10

BRUDIS

118 High Road, London, N2 9ED

COUPON

EXPIRES: 30/11/24

SHOW COUPON IN STORE TO REDEEM

BRUDIS18

JOIN US IN EAST FINCHLEY!