



# So what exactly is the Town Team?

By Kate Brown, Chair of East Finchley Town Team

It's a frequently asked question. And the answer is that East Finchley Town Team is a collective of representatives from East Finchley Community Trust, East Finchley Open Artists, *The Archer* and the Phoenix Cinema supported by East Finchley's local councillors and established to promote and support the High Road in N2.

In other parts of the borough of Barnet, and elsewhere in the country, Town Teams have been around for quite some time. However, the East Finchley version only came about post-pandemic in order to apply for a grant which was available to run some public events.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, the Town Team ran a series of successful events to encourage people to use the High Road: one with an emphasis on reuse and recycling, one featuring live music and the arts and the last a very popular food event supported by local shops, cafés and restaurants.

And that might have been an end to it as the grant monies were all used up. But by then Town Team had got involved in the London Festival of Architecture canvassing local people on how they would like to see the wide pavement area between Caffè Nero and East End Road improved and this has become a project in its own right.

This is a huge challenge, and it will probably be something which will only be achieved bit by bit. We have developed our own website at [www.eastfinchley.london](http://www.eastfinchley.london) to promote our plans for that space and promote High Road businesses more generally.

So our role is developing and it has already extended beyond the High Road to the wider East Finchley area. Town Team would love to hear your ideas and suggestions on what can be improved and ideas for what they should do next. You can contact us at [eftownteam@gmail.com](mailto:eftownteam@gmail.com) and if you want to be regularly updated, ask to join the distribution list for our electronic newsletter.

Our next public meeting will be on Thursday 12 September at 7.30pm at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2 8DE and by public request, following the spate of phone thefts in the locality, the theme will be community safety.



Team talk: Wingate & Finchley have high hopes for the new season

# Blues ready to take on the challenges of new season

By Liam Blaney

The 2023/24 season for Wingate & Finchley was one of the best in their history, achieving a record points haul in the Isthmian Premier League and qualifying for the play-offs in the process.

Now our 2024/25 campaign is under way and lots has changed. New faces now roam the Maurice Rebak Stadium in Summers Lane, N12, ready to take on the challenge of picking up where the 23/24 squad left off.

Last season's deadly strike trio of Carvalho, Long, and Chukwu have moved on to pastures new (Maidenhead, Welling United and Welling United respectively), and former club captain and goalkeeper Ben Goode has returned to Chesham. All four will be

starting the new season at least one, if not two divisions higher, and it is no less than they have earned.

Ogo Obi, signed from Chesham, will be tasked with replacing some of the goal threat which we have lost, while the midfield ranks are bolstered by the likes of former Stevenage players Arthur Iontton and Andronicos Georgiou.

Manager Ahmet Rifat has been known to pick up quality players from all levels and this summer has moved to sign wing-back Ayo Tanimowo and midfielder Brian Garzon from a division below, with both players impressing in pre-season and eager to show their worth at this level. Together with numerous other new joiners, the Blues

squad is looking particularly strong this season.

The club's fixtures are packed with local clashes, including the return of Hendon to this division. And if the north London rivalries weren't enough to convince you to pop down to Summers Lane, the division has a number of new, and big names in it this season. Dartford and Dover Athletic have dropped into this division having previously played in the National League.

Off the pitch, there are London Brewing Company beers now on tap in the clubhouse bar, and a new digital ticketing system in action. There is a sense of welcome and positivity around the whole of Finchley right now.

## RICKY SAVAGE ... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

### Kick the bucket list

Summer is almost over. It doesn't actually end for another couple of weeks, not till children have returned to their place of incarceration and the credit card bill for your two weeks of sunburn and dysentery has landed. And I can give you a date, it's Saturday 14 September.

Look back and how did you do with your summer bucket list? The big attraction that starts the season is Glastonbury. It's meant to be a weekend of music, but it's usually heatstroke central or a mud bath. This year the rain gods weren't interested, probably because they'd gone off Coldplay and had already downloaded enough Dua Lipa to keep them going.

Then there was football and the Olympics, both of which were in Europe so don't count. Interspersed by Pride: a chance for box tickers to put on rainbow T-shirts, pretend they are LGBTQ+ and get claustrophobia in the wall-to-wall press of bodies in Old Compton Street. After which, the Proms. Eight weeks of what my parents called proper music, live from the Royal Albert Hall on Radio 3 every night from July to mid-September. You get everything from Bach to Vaughan-Williams via someone you've never heard of who's written a concerto for bassoon. It isn't top-hat-and-tails or pay-through-the-nose music. If you queue up on the day you can get standing tickets for less than the price of a pint in Soho's bars. You can also get fried.

Just to give you a full-on festival experience, the Royal Albert Hall is a cauldron in a heatwave and it still echoes. But what the hell, you get to hear music that's not been downloaded onto Spotify, played by real people on real instruments. And they've been doing it for over 120 years, every year. They didn't even stop for wars or pandemics and it took the inconvenient death of the Queen for them to cancel the last few days in 2022.

And, of course there's the Last Night. You know, the one they show on TV with the flag waving, *Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*, all as English as moaning about the weather. Give the Proms a go. My parents forced me to when I was in my teens and, surprise, surprise, I liked it. Even if it's too late for this year, put it on your bucket list for next summer.

## Vision for life

A special exhibition is being held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Barnet Borough Sight Impaired charity. The Vision for Life event will feature stalls from many different organisations connected with sight loss.

Visitors will be able to try the latest technology, audio books and leisure activities, and there will be a display of arts and crafts by blind and visually impaired people.

It all takes place at St James Church, East Barnet Road, New Barnet EN4 8RN, opposite Sainsbury's, on Saturday 7 September from 10am to 4pm. Buses 307, 384 326 and 184 pass the venue and it is a five-minute walk from New Barnet rail station. For further information contact 020 8343 3450.

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