



Patients decry run-down face of surgery building

By Anna Hindmarsh
A patient at East Finchley Medical Practice wrote to *The Archer* recently to voice his concerns over the outside appearance of the surgery, calling it a “poor advertisement for East Finchley and for the NHS”.

The GP practice is a long-established part of healthcare provision in East Finchley. However, its frontage on Baronsmere Road is notorious locally for its rotting woodwork, peeling paint and broken windows. It has been in a worsening condition for some years with no signs of any repairs

being made.

Our reader, who asked to remain anonymous, made clear that they are “very happy with the care provided” but “very unhappy with the increasingly run-down appearance of the practice’s premises.”

“I find it hard to believe that such a big practice - I understand it has 7,500 registered patients - cannot afford to hire a decorator,” he said.

Katherine Herzmark, the practice manager, indicated that there may soon be improvements. She told us: “The partners of the practice are in discussion with the landlords

of the building regarding refurbishments.”

Funding run down

We asked other patients and local residents what they thought of the surgery’s exterior. One said: “It doesn’t look great, but maybe that just shows how much GP funding has been run down. It’s still an excellent medical practice.”

Another said: “I haven’t noticed it as being particularly bad and I definitely wouldn’t want funds diverted from care to the cosmetics of the exterior. If we need to fundraise, this could perhaps be done at the East Finchley Festival which I’m sure lots of patients attend.”

In July 2024, *The Guardian* reported that hundreds of GP practices have been forced to close due to financial constraints. Many faced tightened NHS budgets at a time when they were also dealing with the impact and after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Needs attention: Peeling paint and a broken window mark the external appearance of the East Finchley Medical Practice. Photo Mike Coles

A little extra help with daily living



Real life: A staff member and a resident at Nightingale Hammerson film one of the advice videos

By Lynn Winton
A residential care home on The Bishops Avenue has launched a free set of resources to help all older adults and their families and carers cope with daily life.

Named Reach, the aim of the community engagement team at Nightingale Hammerson is to support people to “live better for longer” at home for as long as possible and to also assist those caring for them.

All the information is research-backed, drawing on expertise from physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians and psychologists working at the care home.

As well as being available to give talks to groups both in person and online, the team is building a library of short two to five-minute practical advice videos available online which

illustrate different issues. Titles include ‘Finding Funding’, ‘Getting in and out of cars’, ‘How to Look after Hearing Aids’ and many more, including how to best engage with people with dementia.

Body of research

Heading the initiative is director and clinical nurse specialist Nuno Santos Lopes who says: “Working here at Nightingale Hammerson gives us a huge body of research to help people who want to remain in their own home. Residents and staff enjoy being the ‘actors’, demonstrating how best to carry out daily activities.

“Despite being a Jewish organisation and charity there is not a Jewish way of getting in and out of bed. We just want to offer our resources out to people.”

Reach can be contacted to come and give talks and demonstrations to local groups.

Further afield, they have already arranged online seminars in Uganda, Australia, China and the Middle East. Find out more at www.nightingalehammerson.org/reach/

A chance to reflect

As part of the nationwide Covid-19 Day of Reflection, the Grange Big Local team is holding an event on Thursday 13 March from 9.30am to 12pm at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2. Go along to remember those who have lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the tireless work of health workers and acts of kindness shown during the outbreak.

Monumental Bach mass



On song: The North London Chorus

Following a sell-out performance of sacred music in November, local choir North London Chorus will be performing JS Bach’s monumental Mass in B minor on Saturday 29 March at St James Church in Muswell Hill.

It’s thought that the mass, completed in 1749, was not actually performed in Bach’s lifetime, and it’s been described

as a compendium of earlier masses, cantatas and original movements.

The 24 players of the Meridian Sinfonia accompanying the choir will be playing period instruments including the oboe d’amore, transverse flute, natural horn and violin.

For tickets go to northlondonchorus.org/tickets or buy unreserved tickets at St James Church bookshop.



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