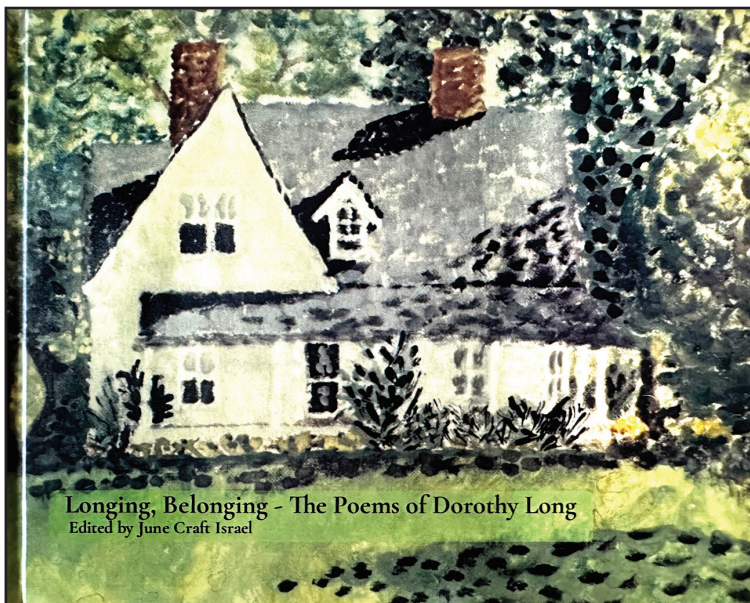




A debt finally repaid to a loving aunt

By Margaret Crockett

When local artist June Israel was an impoverished student in the 1950s, her loving Aunt Dorothy provided her with meals and other much-needed support. Seventy years on, June has found a way to repay her debt of gratitude by publishing a volume of her aunt's poetry.



Longing, Belonging - The Poems of Dorothy Long
Edited by June Craft Israel

Cover art: Dorothy's childhood home in North Carolina

Until now, publication has been unaffordable but June used online self-publishing platform Lulu.com to produce a slim hard-backed volume of her aunt's writings called *Longing, Belonging – The Poems of Dorothy Long*, with a striking cover image of her own oil painting of the house in rural North Carolina, US, where Dorothy grew up.

June, who is 94 and has lived in East Finchley since 1962, chose a selection of poems that speak to Dorothy's appreciation of nature, her strong Christian belief, her search for a romantic partner and the onset of blindness in later life.



Poet: Dorothy Long

Growing up

Dorothy, born in 1908 and known as Dot to family, grew up in a rural farming community in Dozier, North Carolina. She was a child prodigy and she walked to school with Anita (June's mother and two years older). Dorothy graduated from high school, aged 14, the same year as Anita.

Dorothy went to North Carolina College for Women, requiring a special permit because of her age. By her 15th birthday she

was teaching Latin and French to students her own age at Vienna School.

No permit was needed to buy a car and she taught herself to drive between home and work. In the Second World War, Dorothy served as librarian to the US Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina before going on to work in university libraries. Throughout study and employment she maintained close links with her family, travelling back to Dozier regularly.

June, who knew Dorothy better than anyone else, remembers her visiting with gifts of paper dolls when she was a child and, later, her first lipstick.

Audiobook

Dorothy suffered from macular degeneration, badly affecting her eyesight, and she was forced to retire in 1977. She returned home to the Long House to live with her mother and her younger disabled sister. Dorothy died in 1987.

She wrote poetry throughout her life and her works appeared in various publications such as the North Carolina Christian Advocate, Coraddi (her College magazine), Winston-Salem Poets and Perspectives in Biology and Medicine.

June, who is also thinking about reading the *Longing, Belonging* poems for the sight-impaired, perhaps recording them as an audio book, says simply that the poems "tell a story as it is".



New look: Customers in the Stag's refurbished dining room on reopening night. Photo Mike Coles

Opening night party at the refurbished Stag

By Maryam Bitege

Guests and visitors turned out in force for the reopening party at the Bald Faced on Friday 22 August, filling the refurbished pub at 69 High Road, N2, after staff worked until the final day to complete preparations.

Families mingled with long-time regulars throughout the evening, gathering in the renovated interior and beer garden under summer skies. The outdoor space, dominated by a mature tree, buzzed with conversations as guests explored the refurbishment. "It's always nice to have something the community can look

forward to," said one attendee, while another regular said: "I've always loved this pub and I'm glad it's back."

Launch evening

Guests were able to sample the new menu during the evening. After some years as part of the Greene King chain and a period

of closure for the refurbishment, the Stag is now owned and operated by Urban Pubs & Bars.

And if the packed attendance on the relaunch night is anything to go by, there is strong local enthusiasm for the pub's return to the East Finchley community.

Be a lifeline through SANE

By Joanna Michaels

National mental health charity SANE is actively recruiting dedicated individuals to join SANEline, its emotional support help line, which is open daily from 4pm to 10pm.

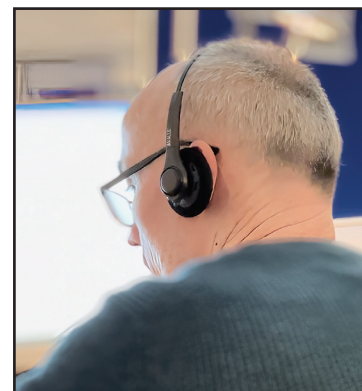
You don't need to be a mental health expert to get involved. Empathy and a genuine desire to help matter more than academic qualifications or previous experience.

SANE, based in Islington, provides comprehensive training to prepare volunteers for the role alongside ongoing support. Volunteers are asked for a commitment of one four-hour shift per week for a minimum of one year. Fatima Khan, Director of

Services, explains: "At SANE we support our volunteers with high-quality training and ongoing development opportunities to build a strong and connected volunteer community. This is key in putting our callers first and ensuring a safe and supportive experience."

Heart-warming

One volunteer said their time at the charity had been an eye-opening and heart-warming



On the line: A Saneline volunteer experience that taught them about themselves as well as about mental health.

Another said: "Most of the callers, in my experience, just want someone to see their reality from their point of view."

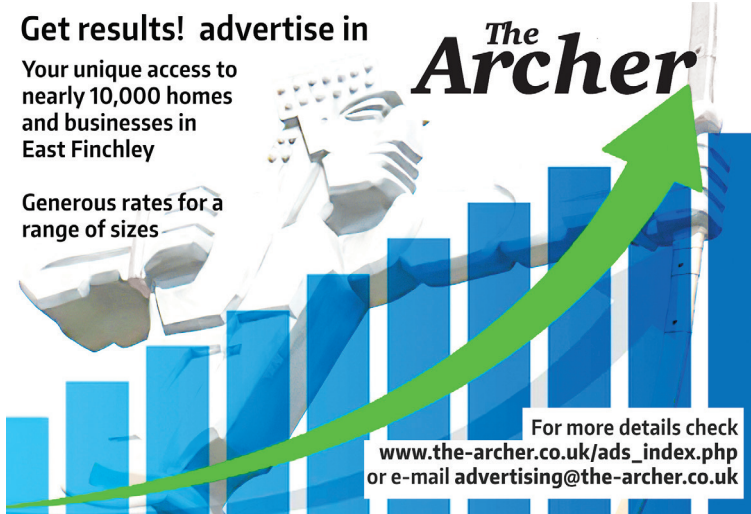
This is why showing them that we genuinely see and follow their thought process, that we can meet them where they are, regardless of the type of the problem they are bringing, is what they need the most."

For more information on becoming a volunteer at SANE, email volunteer@sane.org.uk

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