



Games take-over in the square

By Peter Hale



Giant games: People of all ages joining in the pavement activities in the High Road. Photos Mike Coles

Back in the heady days of the hot summer, East Finchley Town Team arranged with Fixation Academy at Finchley Youth Centre to borrow giant games for an event on Saturday 29 August. As luck would have it, this turned out to be one of the wettest days for months but Games in the Square still went ahead.

The giant games of drafts, connect, snakes and ladders and Jenga, were set up in the new event space in the High Road

outside Budgens, Pristine Amy's and Oakdale. Understandably not many people were out in the damp, squally weather, but when the rain

abated parents and children were delighted to have a go at the out-sized games. This event space was part of the plans for

the creation of a future town square with new seating and planting to enhance the High Road for our local shops and businesses.

Family fun at the Community Hub

Bollywood dancing, family yoga and Boxfit sessions were some of the activities enjoyed by visitors to a Community Fun Day hosted by Boost Jobs Plus at their new base in the Tarling Road Community Hub in East Finchley.

There was also a bouncy castle and live music on what turned out to be the hottest day of the summer, meaning high

demand for the ice lollies and refreshments provided by the community centre's team. Boost Jobs Plus supports

residents on the Grange Estate in looking for work, a second job or learning new skills.

AgeUK free annual celebration

Silver Sunday, Age UK Barnet's free annual celebration of ageing well, takes place on Sunday 4 October at Middlesex University in Hendon.

This year's event will feature live music, dance performances, workshops, health checks, advice sessions and a lively disco. New for 2026, the event will also include a vibrant merengue session, adding even more energy and colour to the day.

Attendees can expect a full programme of talks, information stands, friendly advice, and free refreshments, all designed

to support wellbeing, connection and confidence in later life. Free parking is available close to the venue in the Greyhound Hill car park. Bus routes 143, 183, 326, 125 and SL10 stop nearby. For more information about Silver Sunday 2026, contact Salima Jiwa at Age UK Barnet: salima.jiwa@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 07503 353157.



Action packed: Boxing with Omar as part of the Boost Jobs Plus community day

Tell us the news

Have you got a news story or an interesting photo for us? Our readers are our eyes and ears, and we are always pleased to hear what is going on in East Finchley.

Tips, ideas and stories, large or small, are very welcome. Please email news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748. Thank you

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:
October 2016

Local residents were shocked by the brutal double shooting of Annie Ekofo, 53, and her nephew Bervil Ekofo, 21, at their home in Elmhurst Crescent, off East End Road, N2. After a lengthy legal process involving five trials in four years, Obina Ezeoke, who was 24 when the murders were committed, was convicted of the crimes in October 2020 and jailed for a minimum of 40 years.

15 years ago:
October 2011

After the withdrawal of funding by Barnet Council the previous year, community charity East Finchley Advisory Service (EFAS) finally closed down. EFAS originally started in 1982 and was based at the Green Man Centre in Strawberry Vale, offering a drop-in advice service. Desperate appeals for funding from other sources proved fruitless, so future clients had to travel further to access other already stretched resources.

25 years ago:
October 2001

The Archer team and local supporters celebrated the paper's 100th edition with a walk around the parts of the Finchley Common within East Finchley. The walk included the original settlements of Hog Market and Red Lion Hill, plus Glebelands, Coppetts and Coldfall Woods, ending at Cherry Tree Wood. Local historian Tony Roberts led the party of 29 adults and two dogs, pointing out various features of historical interest along the way.

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