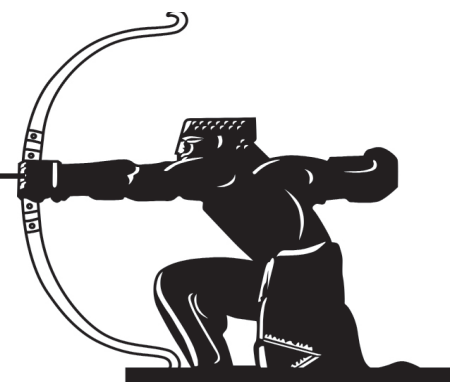




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The Archer is a non-profit-making, non-political & non-religious newspaper, run entirely by volunteers

Changes on way for supermarket

By Lynn Winton

Customers will soon start to notice major changes at Budgens, East Finchley's largest independent supermarket, which is currently reviewing its main supplier. The wholesale arms of Waitrose, Marks and Spencer and Morrisons are all being considered to supply products.

The East Finchley store is looking to break away from Budgens' main wholesale partner Booker, acquired by Tesco in 2018. Booker's prices have been rising and local management say they need to stay competitive with the High Road's chain supermarkets Tesco and Sainsbury's.

Budgens stores are run by independent retailers under a franchise arrangement, where the trading agreement is that Booker are the main suppliers. If this ceases to be the case in East Finchley there will be a name change away from Budgens, but to what is still an unknown as it depends on the current negotiations with the potential new big-name suppliers. However, supermarket insiders think that whilst

goods from Waitrose, Marks and Spencer or Morrisons might be stocked, it is unlikely that any of these will be the sole name above the store.

The Archer has been told that the store will continue to be owned by franchisee Paul Gardner and all the staff jobs are secure. Also secure is the very popular independent Forelegs, the sole East Finchley butcher, who rent a section inside the store. The ice cream counter and the falafel kiosk will also stay.

Any changes to the main supplier will also not affect the more upmarket quality items, such as the wines, beers, in-store bakery, continental cheeses and artisan charcuterie. Long-serving manager Ripon Shaha especially wanted to allay any fears about job

security. He said: "We are unique on The High Road when it comes to job retention and many staff have literally grown up with us. One valued member of staff has been with us for 26 years. We rarely lose a member of staff for any reason other than they move away or have a change of circumstances. And they recognise 80% of our customers, which is very special."

East Finchley Town Team member Peter Hale said his group enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the current Budgens store, such as through its support for the annual Christmas carol and tree-lighting ceremony. Additionally, Ripon has just agreed to donate all the new planting for the raised beds on the pavement outside the shop entrance.



Staying put: Some of the Budgens staff team outside the High Road store, which is looking for new suppliers. Photo Mike Coles

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

Cloudwatching

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are inviting local families and residents to spend an afternoon looking up at the skies on Sunday 6 September, with two free events celebrating clouds and the natural world.

From 2-3pm, their monthly Children's Nature Club will meet at the Nature Circle, next to the playground. This month's theme is clouds, with simple activities for children aged eight and under.

Then, from 3.30-4.30pm, it's the Cherry Tree Wood Cloud Appreciation Hour. Bring something comfortable to lie on for an hour simply watching the clouds drift by. No need to book.

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Thank you to The East Finchley Constitutional Club for providing us with a meeting place.

Copy deadlines - October: 11 September November: 11 October December: 13 November

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

N2-based **Number Champions** is an award-winning charity that helps young state primary schoolchildren who are behind in maths. It trains volunteers to use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions in the pupil's school. The charity is active across London and is especially looking for N2 volunteers. If you have enthusiasm to help children, confidence in basic numeracy, 1.5 hours/week available in term time, and can volunteer from September, visit www.numberchampions.org.uk or contact volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk.

224 North London Air Scouts (N6) are looking for adult volunteers to help run fun weekly sessions for young people. No experience needed, full training provided. Flexible roles to suit your availability. Even a couple of hours a week makes a real difference. Interested? Get in touch at del@224.org.uk

Do you enjoy swimming? **WeSwim** is a London-based charity that creates safe, welcoming spaces where disabled adults can swim with the support of volunteers one-to-one in the water. They are looking for volunteers who are keen to make a difference by working with the disability community in Crouch End, giving just a few hours a month. No swim teaching/coaching qualifications are required, although being comfortable in the water is a must. Contact harriet@weswim.club for more information.

Join the team at the **Finchley Free Legal Advice Centre**. This new community-led initiative is providing free legal advice to residents who are most in need. If you have a legal background, and can spare two hours a month, your experience could make a profound impact on someone's life. They are particularly looking for lawyers with experience in immigration, housing, benefits, crime and family. The new Advice Centre will rotate to different venues in the constituency every other weekend. Find out more by emailing sarah.sackman.mp@parliament.uk.

The Hampstead Garden Suburb branch of U3A is looking for a Digital Newsletter Editor. This is the organisation for retired people where members participate in daily activities, meet new people and make lifelong friends. The newsletter is emailed to members monthly to keep them up to date with new events and groups each month. The role entails liaising with Group Leaders and compiling the copy for the newsletter. Our outgoing editor reckons that the job takes about 6-8 hours per month. For an initial discussion please contact cs@carolespiersgroup.co.uk. Find out more at <https://hgsu3a.uk>

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please email news@the-archer.co.uk

Face cameras on the tube

Victoria has become the first station on the London Underground network to employ live facial recognition technology on its platforms and concourses.

Transport for London says it has introduced the new camera system to make the station a safer place for all passengers, and particularly women and girls.

The facial recognition software generates alerts for individuals who are on an

authorised British Transport Police watchlist linked to serious and high-harm offences including robbery, knife crime and sexual assaults.

While all faces are scanned in real time, images of people who are not a match are not retained.

Action on rubbish blight

By Diana Cormack

Following our report last month on the state of rubbish collections in the High Road, N2, new East Finchley councillor Katy Minshall has given an update on what's being done to tackle the problem.

We reported that current bin provision is often inadequate for the amount of waste being generated by homes and businesses. Bins can be left overflowing and food waste is strewn across the pavements by foxes and other wildlife.

Cllr Minshall told us: "We've been working with residents and Barnet Council officers throughout the summer to address the issues on the High Road. Some changes are already being made: cleansing and waste collection is now taking place earlier, and the Town Keeper's schedule has been changed so that issues on the High Road are promptly picked up.

"These are important steps, but there's clearly more to do. We'll continue working closely with officers over the months ahead to identify and deliver more long-term solutions for the High Road."

The Archer has learned that proposals are being made



The reliability of bin collections on the High Road has been criticised.

regarding the the introduction of time-banded collections in East Finchley.

These will limit the time residential and commercial bags can be put out and left on the

pavement awaiting collection. It appears that starting the collection of waste earlier in the day has had a positive impact and reduced the level of waste being interfered with.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet

54 Abbots Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension with pitched roof and three roof lights. Ref. No: 26/2659/HSE

104 Ossulton Way, N2

New garage with one rooflight adjacent to existing garage. Replacement, widening and repositioning of existing hard standing of front driveway. Ref. No: 26/2994/HSE

72-74 High Road, N2

Mansard roof extension involving front and rear dormer windows to provide 4-bed 4-person HMO (house in multiple occupancy) Addition of new front door and changes to rear fenestration. Associate refuse/recycling and cycle storage. Ref. No: 26/3025/FUL. Installation of new windows and doors to the rear elevation at ground floor level.

Ref. No: 26/2996/192

90 Manor Park Road, N2

Conversion of two self-contained flats into one single family dwellinghouse including a single-storey rear extension. Ref. No: 26/2981/191

47 Hertford Road, N2

Roof extension with one rear dormer window over main roof and one rear dormer over outrigger roof, one main roof and two front-facing rooflights. Ref. No: 26/2948/192

43 Leopold Road, N2

Part single, part first-floor rear extension. Ref. No: 26/2921/HSE

82 Hertford Road, N2

Removal of an existing external AC condenser unit located on the side elevation and installation of two domestic air conditioning condenser units located on the side and rear

elevation. Ref. No: 26/2884/HSE

14 Lincoln Road, N2

Roof extension involving one rear dormer window over main roof with juliet balcony and one rear dormer over outrigger roof and three front-facing rooflights. Alterations to existing lean-to to form single-storey rear extension with flat roof with parapet walls. Alterations to fenestration and doors. (amended description) Ref. No: 26/2806/192

Haringey

5 Eastern Road, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for removal of glass blocks built in as masonry and replacement with new functioning window to side elevation. Ref No: HGY/2026/2136

New group for youngest Scouts

The 224 North London Scouts group based in Sheldon Avenue, N2, is launching a new Squirrel Scout session for children aged four to six on Saturday mornings.

Squirrels is the youngest section of Scouts and gives children a fun and friendly introduction to Scouting. They will make new friends, play games, get creative, explore the outdoors and start learning skills for life.

The group will meet every Saturday from 9am to 10am, starting from Saturday 12 September. Find more information at <https://224northlondonscouts.org.uk/>

Is your child ready to join Squirrels?

224 North London Scouts are excited to launch our new Squirrel Drey on Saturday mornings from 9 am to 10 am at our Scout Hut on Sheldon Avenue.

NEW SQUIRRELS LAUNCHING 12 SEPTEMBER

Launching Saturday 12 September

Squirrels is for girls and boys aged four to six. They will make new friends, play games, get creative, explore the outdoors and begin their Scouting adventure. Spaces are available now.

Find out more and register your interest: 224northlondonscouts.org.uk



Can we build new homes and keep the trees?

By David Melsome

A public meeting to discuss the future of Park House, next to Cherry Tree Wood opposite East Finchley tube station, will take place on Monday 14 September from 7.30–9pm at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2

Organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, the meeting will include speakers from the Friends group and the Finchley Society, as well as an opportunity for residents to have their say.

The Friends group said there is widespread agreement that Park House should be redeveloped for much-needed new homes and a replacement nursery but questioned whether redevelopment requires the loss of the mature trees and green space at the front of the site, as reported in previous issues of The Archer.

Chair Roger Chapman said: "Barnet Council's recently adopted Local Plan says that the green space and mature trees at the front of Park House should be maintained and improved. The trees are also protected by

Tree Preservation Orders, while a community petition calling for their retention has attracted around 1,700 signatures.

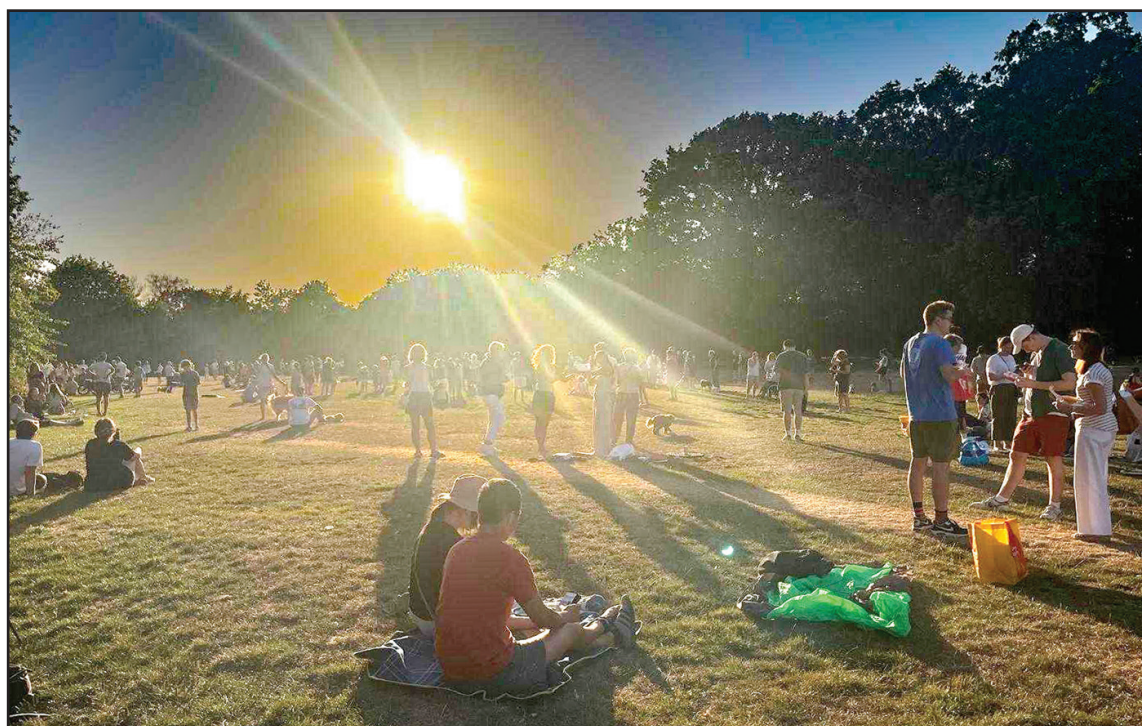
"After the fifth heatwave of this summer, the value of mature trees is increasingly apparent. They provide shade, help cool our streets, support wildlife and provide an attractive green entrance to Cherry Tree Wood."

The Friends added that their aim is not to oppose development, but to ask a positive question: can we have the new homes East Finchley needs while keeping and enhancing the trees and green space we already have?

Everyone is welcome to attend the public meeting. For more information contact FriendsOfCherryTreeWood@gmail.com



Save our trees: Campaigners are fighting to protect the mature trees on the Park Road site. Photo Mike Coles



Ray of light: Cherry Tree Wood was the ideal place to view the partial solar eclipse. Photo Hazel Mason

Front row for the eclipse

Scores of eclipse watchers gathered in Cherry Tree Wood on the evening of the cosmic event last month. Hazel Mason took this atmospheric photo of people on the main field as the moon started to move across

the sun at around 6.15pm on Wednesday 12 August.

Reader Mary Poulter was also there and said: "There were professionals with camera equipment and there were people with colanders and

shoe boxes. Guys came off the basketball court to have a look and it was a magic community event and wonderful to be part of."

See also Letters, page 11

The Archer

East Finchley's Community Newspaper

The Archer has been serving readers in East Finchley since 1993 and is run entirely by volunteers. We're a friendly team contributing in our own time from home and keeping in touch by email and with a monthly meeting.

Currently we have these roles available and would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining us. Email news@the-archer.co.uk and we'd be delighted to give you more details about what's involved.

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for you to deliver in your own time. Or could you be one of our distributor drivers who collects a set of rounds and takes them to our deliverers?



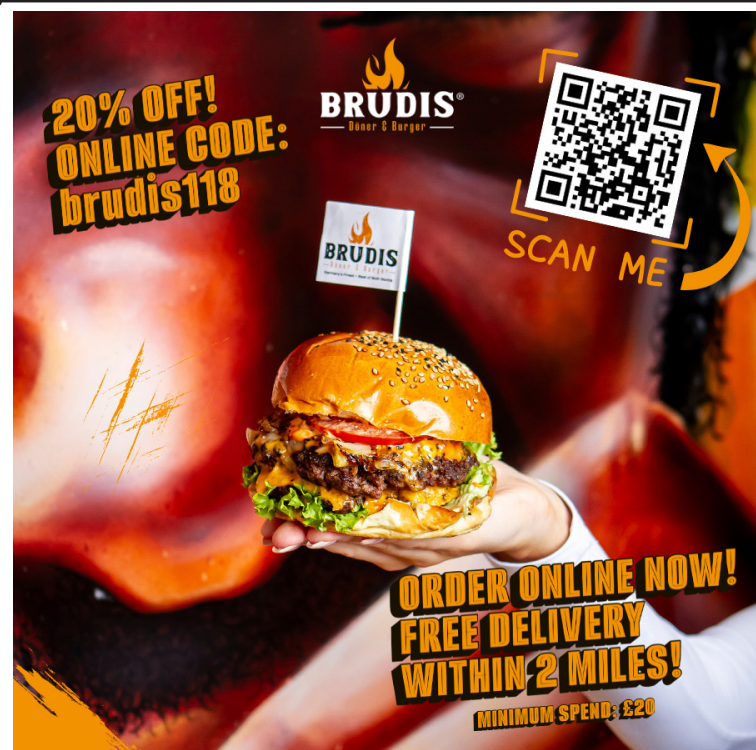
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Priorities for our ward councillors

This May's local elections left Barnet Council divided between the main political parties separated by just one vote. **Geoffrey Davies** has been talking to the ward councillors for East Finchley, longstanding member and former Mayor Alison Moore and our two newly elected representatives Katy Minshall and Ajith Das Menon.



Newly elected: Councillor Ajith Das Menon and Councillor Katy Minshall. Photo Geoffrey Davies

Losing overall control of Barnet Council in May's local elections might be seen as a blow to Labour. But according to Councillor Alison Moore, the important July Cabinet meeting was attended by the leader of the Conservatives "leading to a sensible discussion".

"We need to co-operate across the parties," said Cllr Moore, the night after the meeting. "While Labour hold the cabinet positions, opposition members chair committees, which is as it should be. We are still finding our feet and the July meeting is often difficult after elections."

Labour had an overall majority on the council before May but now governs with 31 seats, the same as the Conservatives, with one seat held by the Greens. A majority is 32. All three seats in East Finchley were held by Labour.

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Alison Moore is responsible for 28% of the council's budget to cover the 60,000 older people in the borough which she describes as "a significant and growing population." "A good proportion are living 20 years of their lives in poor health," she says. "Much of our work is to focus both on the immediate and long term, to keep people healthy with more connected lives, trying to remain independent and active."

She highlights the Reablement Service giving short-term support to residents to relearn daily living skills after an illness, injury or a stay in hospital. "80% need no further support after six weeks", she says. In her role as a ward councillor, Alison Moore says she is proud of her and her colleagues being able to support the Market Place Playground regeneration and the Barnwood Community Forest on Tarling Road, and improvements to the High Road, road safety and 20mph zones.

Big shoes to fill

"These are big shoes to fill", says Katy Minshall of her recent election as a councillor for the East Finchley ward. Her colleague Ajith Das Menon agrees. Referring to their predecessors Claire Farrier and Arjun Mitra, the newly elected pair tell stories of campaigning and how people said they voted for the individual, not the Labour party. "And of course we will be working with Alison Moore," says Ajith, "who is very experienced." Not only do these new

councillors have an academic grounding in public administration - both have MAs from prestigious American universities - but they clearly have a strong feeling about working in the community. "It is about representing the views of the people, being engaged and offering support," says Katy, who works for the Competition and Markets Authority.

Ajith agrees. "I stood because I want to give something back and provide roots for my children for when they grow up." He is a father to three girls under four and a half.

"The Labour Party are very supportive of our family situations," says Katy, who has two children under three.

The pair met five years ago as trustees of Mapledown School in Cricklewood, a secondary school serving those with Special Educational Needs. Katy had a long interest in education and her first role in politics had been as a researcher for David Blunkett in 2011. Ajith has worked in schools, teaching maths and physics in London.

"My father injected the theme of public service through his work when I was a child in Kerala," says Ajith, a consultant engineer with a background in the oil and gas industry. His other interests include opportunities for young people, especially those in their late teens, and reducing anti-social behaviour.



Long-serving: Councillor Alison Moore

Both new councillors are clearly very focussed on the job in hand and want to see the state of the High Road in East Finchley improved, in the words of Ajith "to make it better for business". Katy, a Youth Champion for the borough, sits on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. "Clearly there are financial challenges and I will be looking for additional sources of funding," she says. "But there are areas like rubbish collection that can be improved and better managed."

War memorials rescued from neglect

By Micaela Blitz

For years, two First World War memorials have stood outside the United Servicemen's Club at Tally Ho Corner in North Finchley.



One commemorates employees of the Metropolitan Electric Tramways of Finchley depot (closed in 1993) who lost their lives during the First World War, while the other honours staff from the London General Omnibus Co Hendon bus garage which was closed in 1987.

Exactly how the memorials came to be at the club remains somewhat of a mystery. London Transport and local historian Doug Rose became increasingly concerned about their condition in 2020. Years of lying almost flat on wedge-shaped plinths had left the Grade II listed memorials stained by rain, pollution and grime from the constant stream of traffic passing through the busy junction.

Having grown up in North Finchley, Doug remembered the memorial on the external Finchley depot wall, placed there by the Metropolitan Electric Tramways after the First World War, and knew the important significance of the memorials and so was determined to get them restored and preserve them.

He wrote to the club suggesting they be cleaned and mounted vertically, making the inscriptions easier to read and protecting them from further weather damage. Although the memorials were cleaned a few months later, they remained on their original wedged plinths.

By the autumn of 2024, they had become dirty again. Undeterred, Doug continued his pursuit. With the aid of Andy Savage, Chairman of the Railway Heritage Trust, permission was secured from Barnet Council, and Doug commissioned local specialists Robertson Memorials to restore and remount both memorials.

In May 2026, they were carefully removed, cleaned and installed on bespoke vertical rusticated granite plinths, designed to improve both their appearance and long-term preservation.

Thanks to Doug's determination, these memorials to local transport workers now stand proudly once again. Reflecting on the completed project, Doug hopes "the futures of these two

memorials have been secured for another 100 years" ensuring that the sacrifices they commemorate will not be forgotten. Find out more about the restoration at www.dougrose.co.uk

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago: September 2016

East Finchley became one of the first areas in London to receive a second dedicated police officer as part of a plan that the Mayor of London's office claimed would restore neighbourhood policing. East Finchley PCSO Jan Lovell, who is still in her post, said of the initiative: "This will be a big boost for the ward, as it will enable us to address crime and anti-social behaviour more extensively."

15 years ago: September 2011

This month saw the closure of long-established local charity East Finchley Advice Service (EFAS). The charity, based at the Green Man Community Centre in Strawberry Vale, had supported thousands of local residents on issues like debt, housing, benefits and legal advice over many years. It then became a victim of budget cuts by Barnet Council, which withdrew its core funding, resulting in the charity closing after failing to obtain alternative funding from other sources.

25 years ago: September 2001

September 2001 saw publication of the 100th edition of the Archer newspaper, a landmark we celebrated with a front-page article by the then editor Kevin Finn. In his piece, Kevin described our local paper as "a quite remarkable phenomenon", going on to highlight its humble beginnings as the brainchild of East Finchley resident Andrew Taylor. With over 30 years of publication now under our belts, we continue to be an entirely volunteer-led organisation bringing local news to all residents and businesses in East Finchley.

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Replay expected in fight to save tennis club from redevelopment

By Diana Cormack

Muswell Hill United Reformed Church (MHURC) situated at the corner of Tetherdown and Queen's Avenue, N10, for 127 years, has closed. The final church service took place on Sunday 31 May.



Court action: Fortis Green Tennis Club

Although the building itself is still being used for a variety of community purposes, there has been speculation online as to what might eventually become of it, particularly as it underwent an expensive refurbishment not that long ago.

For over a hundred years the church had a connection with East Finchley in owning the MHURC Tennis Club site. Lying off Southern Road and now known as Fortis Green Tennis Club, it emerged successfully in March 2025 from a bid by the church to sell the tennis club land for development.

The application was refused mainly because, as argued by the Lawn Tennis Association and Sport England, the number of courts could not be reduced from four to three.

Despite their delight that the application had been refused, the neighbourhood had to bear in mind that the church still needed the money it would have raised from this project.

On MHURC's closure, its assets passed to the URC Synod, who will now deal with the church building and the tennis club site. The Archer has been told that they have indicated an intention to sell, with interest already being shown.

So it appears that this gem of a tennis club has another fight on its hands. In anticipation it has acquired Asset of Community Value status from Haringey Council. This prevents the owner from selling immediately and gives the club six months to prepare its own bid for the site, which would require a major funding effort.



Just some of the members of Fortis Green Tennis Club together at a summer party

From strength to strength

By Julie Taylor

Fortis Green Tennis Club in Southern Road, N2, is going from strength to strength, with more than 50 new members joining the club this year.

The influx of new players on the back of a £50 introductory membership offer has created a real buzz around the club, with the courts now regularly full at weekends and on weekday evenings with players of all ages and abilities.

To welcome its newest members, the club recently hosted a social evening attended by almost 40 members both new

and old. The event featured relaxed mix-and-match tennis, giving everyone the chance to play with different partners, followed by drinks and nibbles as members got to know one another off the court. A beautiful summer evening added to the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere making the event a great success.

The club offers a variety of

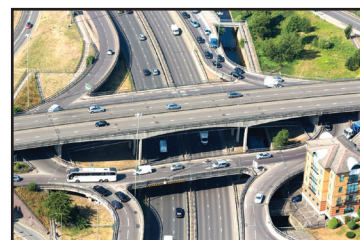
social tennis sessions for players of all abilities, as well as group and one-to-one coaching for juniors and adults, led by the club's coach Chris Ma.

Anyone interested in joining or finding out more about coaching and social tennis is encouraged to visit the club's website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/FortisGreenTennisClub> or just drop by.

Brent Cross flyover closures

Motorists are being warned to expect longer journey times when the Brent Cross flyover on the North Circular is reduced from two to one lane in each direction this month as part of essential strengthening works.

There will also be a number of overnight and weekend lane and road closures during different stages of the project. Signed diversion routes will be in place. The lane closures will start from Thursday 24 September and the renewal work is expected to continue for up to two years.



The Brent Cross flyover on the North Circular

Book club meet-up

Age UK Barnet's next in-person Book Club meet-up takes place on Tuesday 8 September from 2pm-3pm at Wilmot Close Community Centre, Tarling Road, N2. Books being discussed are: Land by Maggie O'Farrell, The Long Valley by John Steinbeck and The Book Shop by Penelope Fitzgerald. All over 55s are welcome. For details on how to join contact **Helen** on 07384 466840 or email activities@ageukbarnet.org.uk

Fun in the sun

Throughout the summer, the Green at Strawberry Vale, N2, buzzed with activity as Hope North London, Families Church and church@five joined together to run a series of free Community Fun Afternoons.

Held on Wednesday afternoons during the school holidays, the drop-in events were created to bring all generations together and offer something free for families and residents to enjoy, including crafts, activities and, on the hottest days, a welcome water fight.



Snapshot of a Community Fun Afternoon

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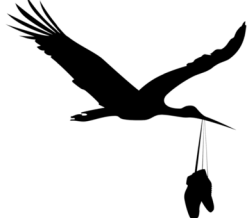
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A family forced to move out

By Margaret Crockett

A family sits outside the terraced house in East Finchley that has been their home for many years, all their furniture and worldly goods piled around them. The mother seems lost in thought and the father and son perch uncomfortably on a box alongside two bottles of milk. The next-door house is boarded up and in fact the whole street is about to be demolished.

This is Aveton Road in the late 1950s, a street that was erased to make way for a new housing development we know today as Prospect Ring, where three high-rise blocks now stand. Steve Barber remembers the scene in the photo of the Clark family camping out in the street vividly because he was there and found it quite shocking.

He was seven when his own family was moved out of Aveton Road to Elmshurst Crescent, over the other side of East End Road. Steve lived with his mother, younger brother and their maternal grandparents.

The houses in Aveton Road had no indoor plumbing. In common with neighbours, Steve's family had an outside toilet and bathed in a tin tub in front of the fire.

As a child, before starting school and going to play with friends in their houses, Steve thought this situation was normal. When he moved to the flat in Elmshurst Crescent, he found the inside toilet and bathroom a "real luxury".

Steve remembers the child's ride-in car in the image being red and that he took his turn to pedal it up the road. He also recalls his grandparents taking him to one of the neighbours' houses where the occupants bred canaries and budgies and being allowed to choose one.

A street party also sticks in his mind since an elderly woman neighbour insisted he eat the crusts of the sandwiches that he'd filched.

For the Barber family their move to Elmshurst Crescent was a good one. His father, who had been living apart, moved in with them.

Perhaps his grandparents' own move to a flat at 12 Chapel Street was less happy. There were a lot of concrete steps and his grandfather was sad to lose his garden.

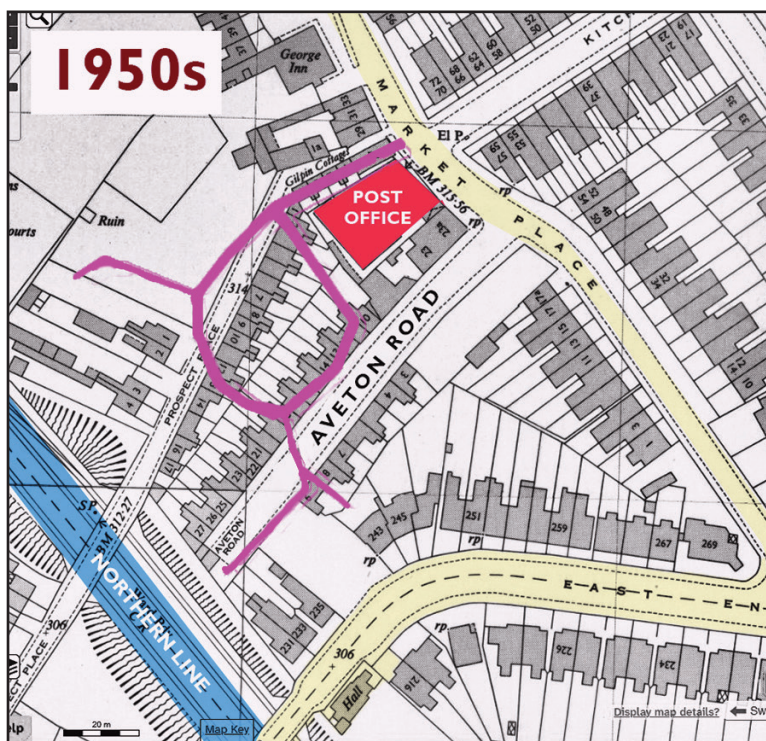
So what happened to their former neighbours the Clarks? Well, the electoral registers held at Barnet Local Studies and Archives record that they lived at 14 Aveton Road in 1955. By 1958 they had moved to Brackenbury Road.

In recent years Prospect Ring has acquired a new tower block to add to the two that were originally built in 1958. In place of narrow terraces, there are a lot of mature trees casting shade and a well-equipped play area for children.

There is a plaque on one of the blocks commemorating the silver jubilee of the Borough of



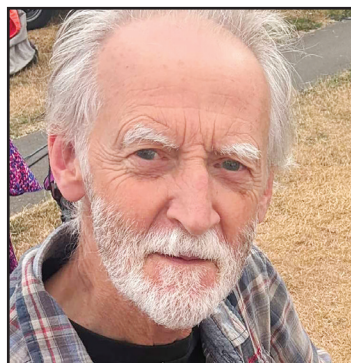
Moving day: The Clark family and their belongings in Aveton Road. Photo Courtesy John Balean, www.topfoto.co.uk



Ordnance Survey map on the left reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland) shows the location of Aveton Road shortly before it was demolished in the 1950s, overlaid with the present location of Prospect Ring. The map on the right (copyright OpenStreetMap) shows Prospect Ring and surrounding roads as they are today

Finchley in 1959, which was probably laid at the opening ceremony for the flats. Steve Barber describes being "dragged to the opening by my grandparents. The seats were hard and it was boring". Steve moved away from London when he went to university but often reads his mother's copy of The Archer when returning to his childhood home.

Former resident: Steve Barber and, right, as a boy in his garden in Aveton Road





Befriending team for older people feeling isolated

By David Melsome

Age UK Barnet has launched a new short-term befriending and support service to help older people who are feeling lonely, isolated or disconnected from their community.

Enabling Connections offers up to six months of free, volunteered support. Volunteers work one-to-one with individuals to help them regain confidence, rediscover interests, reconnect with friends and feel part of local life again. For people who are housebound, support focuses on digital skills and online connection.

The Age UK Barnet team, based in Oak Lane, N2, say many people may benefit: those living alone, recently bereaved, recovering from illness, caring for someone else, adjusting to retirement or experiencing low mood linked to loneliness.

The service also supports people recently diagnosed with dementia who can engage with short-term volunteer support. "Sometimes all someone needs is a bit of encouragement and a friendly face to help them take the next step," said the charity's Home Support Manager Rebecca Bayne, who is heading up the service. "Enabling Connections is about giving people the confidence to rebuild social connections in a way that feels

safe and achievable."

Volunteers help individuals set personal goals, whether that's joining a local group, getting out for a walk, learning to use a smartphone or simply reconnecting with old friends. All volunteers are DBS-checked, trained and supported by Age UK Barnet.

Referrals are open to anyone aged 55+ living in Barnet who wants to make positive social changes and can engage with a volunteer for up to six months.

To find out more or make a referral call 020 8150 0967 or email enablingconnections@ageukbarnet.org.uk



Together: Friend to friend



Vinyl Club members with some of their favourite discs and host Phil Hilton standing centre rear. Photo Age UK Barnet

Music lovers put the needle on the record

The Vinyl Club at Age UK Barnet in Oak Lane, N2, has got off to a rocking start. Club host Phil Hilton shares what's become a truly life-enhancing pleasure for all involved.

Whenever I have to play an album track at the Age UK Barnet Vinyl Club, there is a gleeful tension as the group watches me crouch, squint, and tentatively drop the needle onto the LP. I frequently botch it up. My humiliation has become part of the fun.

At the start of the year, a member of the Age UK team had the idea of a music-listening group and my wife, who also works there, suggested this might be a constructive use for the countless hours I waste on rock-based books, podcasts and documentaries.

It's instantly become a magical space where people bring Andean panpipes, original Beatles singles and Eighties dance hits. We listen together, all the way through (unless the owner signals they've heard enough). If they don't have vinyl, Spotify is always on hand as backup. It's grown week on week, thanks to leaflets in Alan's Records, word of mouth and friends bringing friends.

Every track evokes both an era and a specific memory. The conversation is a mix of personal recollection and living history. Eric Clapton's 21st birthday party. One regular brought in an immaculate, alphabetical index of all his incredible rarities. I start each session with a half-hour slide presentation accompanied by some tracks. I try to find a theme that allows us to cover different

genres across different decades: it's a very mixed group with a real variety of ages and tastes. We've had: the politics of long hair in the 1960s, two very different songs from Harlem, hit albums made by people who couldn't stand each other... When that unmistakable vinyl crackle leads us into another song, everyone is immersed in the moment and experiencing the music together. It's a very special collective human pleasure. Each track creates a new mood and evokes a new set of emotions. And if I place the needle badly, even better.

Age UK Barnet welcomes anyone over 55. The Vinyl Club takes place every Tuesday at 5pm at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Entry is £3. For more details, contact activities@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8203 5040.

U3A activities

North London U3A is hosting its annual Open Morning this month to showcase the group activities they make available all year round.

Organiser Mike Lewin says: "The Open Morning is our opportunity to promote what we have to offer to retired and semi-retired members of the public from Finchley, Highgate and Muswell Hill, or further afield.

"Our members have been telling us that as well as interest group activities, ranging from subjects like literature and languages to more energetic

activities, more energetic activities, such as yoga and walks, they also enjoy purely social events."

The Open Morning event will take place on Monday 7 September from 10am to 11.30am at St Margaret's Church, Victoria Avenue, N3. Just drop in, or you can find more information on the NLU3A website: www.nlu3a.org.uk



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Writer finds life, love and loss begin at 40

Jessica Holt talks to East Finchley playwright Paul Kalburgi about his latest work *We'll Always Have Paris*

Having reviewed *Almost the Birthday Party* by Paul Kalburgi for *The Archer* I was keen to meet him again and speak about *We'll Always Have Paris*, another of his plays to be performed at The Bear Theatre in Kennington, easily reachable on the Northern line, from 15 September to 3 October.

The title taken from the 1942 film *Casablanca* is said by Humphrey Bogart to Ingrid Bergman when they must separate forever and reflects the major theme of Paul's play: the loss of a loved one and how to survive it.

I asked Paul what led him to write plays. He told me: "I started with the notion of becoming an actor, but I always felt uncomfortable and nervous on stage."

His inspiration to write rather than act or direct came when he first saw Victoria Wood on TV. He was drawn to her comedy and felt a strong connection with her as a fellow northerner. When he realised she wrote her own material he recognised his future path.

Paul talks enthusiastically about his experiences in Dallas, Texas, where he made docudramas for TV and had two of his plays produced. He moved to New Zealand where he developed his playwriting course for aspiring playwrights. However, he came to recognise the best place to have an impact and have a chance to see his plays performed was in London and its Fringe theatre scene. Paul talks about his writing process

as at times "just listening to everyday dialogue, writing it down and hoping it will come together". But with this play which is purely fiction he says: "I hit 40 and the catchphrase 'life begins at 40' made me think about life and what if the wheels came off."

In *We'll Always Have Paris* cinema usherette Ginny finds love in her forties and then it is taken away. Paul talks about the questions raised in the play "How long can you grieve? How long before you move on? How long can people put up with your grief story?" He describes his play as a "romcom with a broken heart".



Love and loss: Playwright Paul Kalburgi



Flying colours: The Long Lane Pasture volunteer team with their Green Flag award. Photo courtesy Donald Lyven

Pasture green flagged for 15 years

Volunteers at Long Lane Pasture have celebrated receiving a Green Flag Community Award for the 15th year in a row. The Green Flag Award scheme itself is celebrating its 30th year of judging and awarding well-kept green spaces across the UK and internationally.

Donald Lyven, chair of the Pasture committee said: "We are grateful to have an enthusiastic band of eager volunteers who turn out each Saturday between 10am and noon to keep the Pasture looking

well-maintained and litter free. We have already seen 20 species of butterfly this year, due to the hot weather, and many bird species have successfully raised their young."

The Pasture is a two-acre nature reserve, opposite Finchley fire station in Long Lane, N3, that opens every day from 9am to dusk during spring, summer and early autumn.

Young nature lovers make a bee-line to create new artwork in the Wood

The Cherry Tree Wood Nature Club meeting on Sunday 2 August was centred on mosaic making. A dozen children focused on the mosaics attached to the wall of the toilet block. Then they coloured a drawing based on one of the mosaic tiles. The results looked remarkably like the originals with their bright colours and clear outlines.

Next the children made their own mosaic of a giant bee. They did this by sticking scrunched up tissue paper onto a picture of a bee, surrounded by sky, clouds and colourful flowers.

At the end of the session, the organiser, Debora Singer, from Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, told them how impressed she was that they had worked so well as a team to make the mosaic, just like the bees work together.

The next Nature Club at Cherry Tree Wood is on Sunday 6 September at 2pm and will



Bold patterns: Artwork based on the mosaic tiles in Cherry Tree Wood

focus on clouds. Children under eight are welcome to this free

activity, but must bring a grown-up with them.

Snaps in time

A time capsule capturing life in Haringey today for future generations is set to be buried beneath the grounds of the restored Civic Centre and residents are being asked to decide what goes inside.

Everyone in Haringey is invited to submit a photograph of a place, person, event, object or moment that represents what they love about the borough. The time capsule will be sealed later this year to be reopened in

50 years in 2076.

Residents wishing to take part should submit their photograph by 16 October. To find out more visit <https://haringeyciviccentre.commonplace.is/> and follow the time capsule link.

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City farm to be reopened to the public

By David Melsome

College Farm in Finchley, which welcomed family and school visits until it was forced to close 25 years ago, could soon be open to the public again.



Future restored: College Farm is set to reopen to the public if refurbishment works are approved. Photo The Barnet Society

A new board of trustees has entered an agreement with a charitable foundation focused on food sustainability to secure funding for the restoration of the farm's Grade II listed buildings, which have fallen into disrepair, and to reopen the land as a visitor attraction.

The site on Regents Park Road, the only farm in Finchley, was first established in the 1880s and continued operating as a dairy until the 1970s. Generations of residents will remember cows grazing on the grassland alongside the road.

The farm was then leased by Chris and Jane Ower, who opened it to visitors in 1980 until being forced to close it by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 2001. In the years since they have operated it as a pet food and equestrian store, also selling Christmas trees in season.

College Farm Trust's new board is comprised of local residents and includes Finchley and Golders Green MP Mike Freer and Chairman of the Finchley Society Mick Crick. They have entered a funding agreement with the Jeremy Collier Foundation, which works in the areas

of animal welfare, human health and food supply systems. The trustees say the task of repairing the farm buildings is likely to be substantial and expensive and will be subject to planning permissions being granted. They have not put a date on when the site could reopen to visitors.

Tenant farmer Chris Ower said: "Before the foot and mouth crisis of 2001, we held regular open days with thousands of visitors. It has been a source of great frustration that the farm has had to remain closed to the public for the past 25 years due to the poor condition of the buildings. We hope to be able to work with the Jeremy Collier Foundation to secure its long-term future and look forward to a time when we can welcome the public back."

Jeremy Collier, Chairman of the Jeremy Collier Foundation, said: "I have very fond memories of visiting College Farm in my youth and am very much looking forward to taking my grandchildren to visit the animals and to enjoy everything the Farm has to offer when the buildings and farm have been restored to their former glory."

Puzzle time: Re-Griddable

Re-Griddable is a twist on the free daily online game grid-dable.co.uk created by two East Finchley residents, Stuart Miller and Matt Robinson.

There may be more than one solution to each Re-Griddable but there is definitely at least one, which comes from a maximum scoring game of Griddable.

If you get stuck the official Griddable word-checker may help (griddable.co.uk/word-checker). If you like playing Griddable online, why not join the East Finchley Leaderboard? Go to Groups on the site and use code BUJRM4.

Re-Griddable No.7

Place the letters to create eight four-letter words — four left-to-right and four downwards.

A E E J M R R T

A		A	
H	I		
	V	E	N
	E		

Turn to page 11 for this month's solution

Be wise about water... not just in a drought

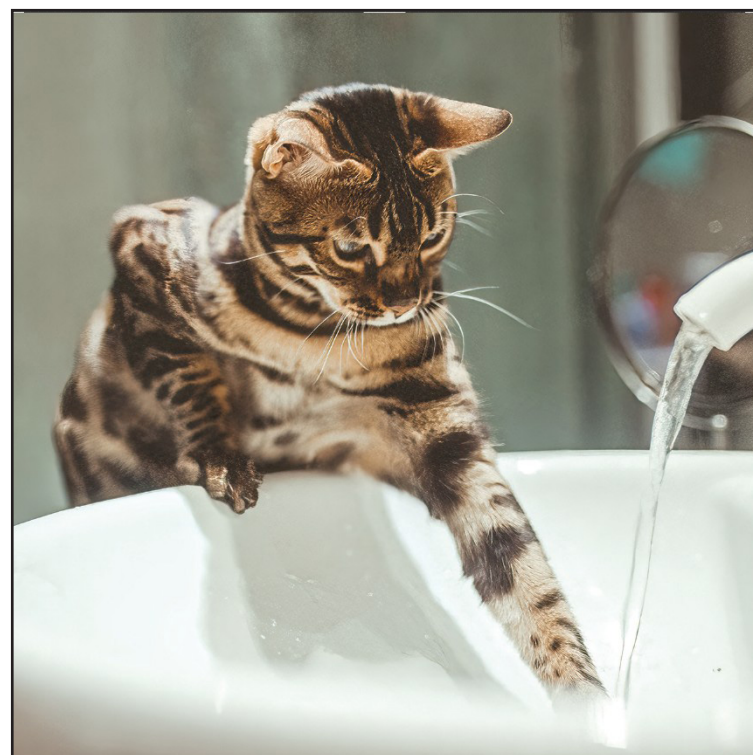
By Diana Cormack

At the time of writing we were set for the hottest and driest summer on record, with countrywide hosepipe bans and adverts on TV and radio about saving water.

Having as a child lived with grandparents in rural south west Wales when they had no mains water, I can well remember getting it from a pump in the garden. If that failed, we had to carry churns of water from a tap next to the village stream.

Around the bungalow were butts of rain water which grandma said was best for washing your hair. And I had to be second in the bath water after my brother!

This experience made me aware of water usage. I can never understand when there is a TV news item about it, they always show a tap in full flow. Everyone knows what that looks like and has hopefully learned by now not to let the water gush down the drain when cleaning their teeth. Use a mug or turn off the tap between brushings. Showering can save water too if, having wet your body, you turn off the shower before soaping your skin, then spray it clean. I've even heard of people who stand in a washing-up basin to shower, then use the water elsewhere. My washing-up water always ends up somewhere in the



Turn that tap off: Saving water is important all year round Image Helena Jankovičová Kováčová

garden, unless it is too greasy. Whenever I turn on a hot tap, I collect the run-off in a jug or suchlike. The water which would otherwise go down the drain can amount to quite a lot. You may be surprised if you try

measuring it, then work out how much you could save in a week and then in a year.

Just think of the amount which could be saved if everyone did this. Quite a few Olympic swimming pools worth!



Joy and movement: NIA is a popular form of fitness class

Is NIA new to you?

By Diana Cormack

If, like me, you've never heard of NIA, you may be interested to know that classes in this 40-year-old fitness holistic practice, which started in the US, are to begin next month in East Finchley.

Teacher Cindy Berman describes the activity as "a joyful form of movement to music for fitness, as well as mental, emotional and physical wellbeing". Classes are an hour long and open to all ages and

all levels of fitness and mobility.

The Sunday morning sessions begin on 11 October in the dance studio of the Archer Academy at 3 Beaumont Close, N2 0GA with drop-in classes

or a 10-week course. Further details from cindy@cindyberman.com or 07971 258427. For more information on NIA visit nianow.com



Girl power: The cast of Malory Towers at Alexandra Palace Theatre

Review: Malory Towers Alexandra Palace Theatre

By Jessica Holt

Alexandra Palace Theatre was packed with families for this highly praised production, adapted and directed by Emma Rice. Her enthusiasm for Enid Blyton's story stems from a heartfelt appreciation for what boarding schools achieved for young girls, one of whom was her own mother who attended Lord Digby's.

She has said: "And when I see my Mum, born into the poorest of rural backgrounds, enjoying George Elliot... and journeying to the Tate Britain to see the latest exhibition I am stopped in my tracks." Emma Rice calls the show her "happy Lord of the Flies".

However, the story set in 1947 has difficult moments for the characters, who are rather stereotypical but who clearly demonstrate to the audience their individual problems and insecurities. One is shy and unable to speak truthfully, one is a bully, while another is posh and feels she should really be in a Swiss finishing school. There is plenty of action as

the girls leave their bedroom to swim (yes, Malory Towers is on the coast) and the use of puppetry at this point is very amusing. However, when someone is nearly drowned the tension between the girls becomes toxic. The storm and the cliff-hanger just before the interval are played out with exciting visuals and sound effects.

The set was simple and flexible, moving easily from train station to assembly hall to dormitory. The lighting was colourful and the projections worked to create silhouettes, clifftops, and other landscapes which enthralled the audience. The production is well supported by the musical ability

of the company and the songs which provide a wonderful variety of genres, some Swing, some Jazz, some Gospel, all enjoyed by the audience. The company also provided us with more songs during the interval. Their energy and commitment to this production was a crowd-pleaser. And to top it all Sheila Hancock was the voice of Miss Grayling, the headmistress whose words inspired so many young girls.

This heart-warming production, though rather sentimental at times, has a really important message for young girls and women today which accounts for so many mothers with their daughters in the audience.

Bravery of resistance

By Lynn Winton

There's an exciting new drama at The Park Theatre in Finsbury Park this month. Titled *Holy Fool*, it explores the life of brilliant Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich, who walked a perilous tightrope under Stalin's brutal regime.

Interspersed with his divine music, it's the latest theatre project for Graham and Townley Productions. Comprised of actor and drama coach Hat Townley and retired GP and seasoned producer Stephen Graham, both living in East Finchley, they describe *Holy Fool* as a "darkly witty exploration

of the absurdity of tyranny and the bravery of resistance". It's playing until Saturday 10 October and at the time of going to press some dates were already sold out. You can buy your tickets at parktheatre.co.uk and see if you concur with our theatre reviewer Jessica Rose in next month's edition.



Drama duo: Stephen Graham and Hat Townley

What's on at the Phoenix

By Zalan Pall, general manager

A WW2 drama, a French coming-of-age story, a beloved period classic, special Q&As, live theatre and opera plus many more await you at the Phoenix in September.

In the tense 72 hours before D-Day, and with the fate of the free world hanging in the balance, *Pressure* (Wednesday 9 September) follows General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Captain James Stagg as they face an impossible choice: launch the largest and most dangerous seaborne invasion in history or risk losing the war altogether.

Just an Illusion (Friday 11 September) takes place in 1985 suburban Paris where 12-year-old Vincent lives with his distant older brother and quarrelling parents. Amid laughter and unease, he navigates friendship and first love, while beginning to confront the adult world.

From Friday 25 September comes an irresistible new take on Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*: a charming, witty, and deeply relatable story of love and sisterhood starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Esmé Creed-Miles.

Classic screenings this month are Japanese Film Club: *Shall We Dance* (Saturday 12 September) and Tarkovsky's last film *The Sacrifice* (Sunday 13 September). For lovers of the screen arts, we will screen *EoS: James McNeill Whistler* (Tuesday 15 September), *MET OPERA: Twenty Years of the Met* (Saturday 19 September), and *NTLIVE: The Misanthrope* (Tuesday 22 September). We are also hosting a few Q&As this month: A Bigger Splash



on Sunday 20 September and *Gentle, Angry Women* on Sunday 27 September.

And the Phoenix invites you to an exclusive one-off screening of *Playing the Changes - Tracking Darius Brubeck* screens on Monday 21 September, telling the story of the son of legendary jazz musician Dave Brubeck, who built on his father's legacy as a jazz ambassador and overcame formidable challenges to inaugurate jazz education in apartheid South Africa.

The screening will be followed by an exclusive, live discussion with Darius Brubeck, director Michiel ten Kleij and film critic Mark Kermode, making it a great opportunity to discover behind-the-scenes secrets and ask questions of the film makers. This highly anticipated screening offers local audiences a rare, deeply moving glimpse into a musical revolution that defied political borders.

Find out more at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or visit the cinema box office in the High Road.

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Letters

Rubbish collections

Dear Editor,

Your front page in August ('High Road rubbish still a mess') makes me wonder how a reliable waste collection service can't be organised in this day and age. Our household rubbish service is generally excellent but it seems to fall apart when it comes to the shops and flats on our main road.

This must be down partly to so many different waste contractors being involved, all on different days, and to the fact that no one has checked if the existing bins have enough capacity to take all the rubbish that is generated along this busy stretch.

You mention that local councillors and the East Finchley Town

Team are looking around to try to learn from other areas that don't have this problem.

Can I suggest they look further afield to a city like Barcelona where apartment blocks and shops occupy the whole of the central part of the city.

Here, citizens and shopkeepers are asked to place their rubbish in large communal bins positioned at every road junction. These have heavy lids to keep the smells in and the wildlife out. They are also emptied daily and as a result the streets are generally tidy and pleasant.

Mike Howarth
Long Lane, N2



Pile up: Are rubbish collections working?

A better 603

Dear Editor,

After some initial progress, our efforts to improve the 603 bus between Muswell Hill and Swiss Cottage via East Finchley are once again facing resistance. We need as many local voices as possible to be heard.

If you have five minutes, please write to your local councillor and Greater London Authority representative and ask them to support improvements to the 603.

Our asks are simple: a more frequent service using single-decker buses and a new early morning 603 bus with a first leg from Muswell Hill, passing Highgate Village around 7am and arriving at Swiss Cottage around 7.20am.



Better service: The 603 bus

This will bring teachers, staff and early club members to schools, plus employees, medical workers and patients to the Jubilee and Metropolitan lines and both branches of the Northern line, NW3 and beyond.

We are also asking for a second leg return to Muswell Hill by 8.45am and an additional afternoon bus between the existing two 603 afternoon runs.

You can find your Councillor and London Authority Representative here: www.writetothem.com. Please tell them why the 603 matters to you. Personal stories about difficult school journeys, traffic, air pollution or the lack of a direct public transport option are far more powerful than form letters.

The case for improving the 603 is strong. It is the only direct route between Swiss Cottage and Muswell Hill, via East Finchley, connecting two school-dense

Christine McKenzie,
603 Watch Group

Sunflower summer

Dear Editor,

It's been another fantastic sunflower summer thanks to the efforts of the Church Lane Community Gardeners in East Finchley. Passers-by have commented with pleasure at the return of the nodding giants.

As well as being a great source of enjoyment, sunflowers have true superpowers. They were planted at Chernobyl and Fukushima after their nuclear accidents to absorb radiation and cleanse the ground.

Hopefully this won't be necessary in East Finchley but their summer residency has brought great pleasure including to Ernie and Rufus from Long Lane, who track their progress on the way to school and nursery.

Judith,
Church Lane Community gardeners



High points: Ernie and Rufus among the sunflowers

Never give up

Dear Editor,

I wrote a book recently called *Battered*. It's a story about survival and hope, after growing up in a narcissistic household and pursuing a career in the police and fire services.

As an ex-Finchley resident and passing through East Finchley tube station regularly after my pleasant walk through Cherry Tree Wood, I deposited a few copies in the book swap cabinet in the foyer for anyone to pick up.

It's a book with themes of surviving trauma and never giving up and is available from Foyles, Waterstones and Amazon.



Published: Gary's book

Gary Leighton,
Address supplied

To the rescue

Dear Editor,

I would very much appreciate you printing this letter as I would like to thank the very kind lady who booked and paid for an Uber cab for me to get to an appointment on Friday 14 August. I was waiting for the 102 bus in the High Road not realising that they were on strike and panicking as there was no other way to get there. She came to my rescue. If she gets in touch I will gladly pay her for the fare.

Anne Lewis,
Address supplied

Editor's note: If you were the kind lady who helped Anne, please email news@the-archer.co.uk and we will pass on your details.

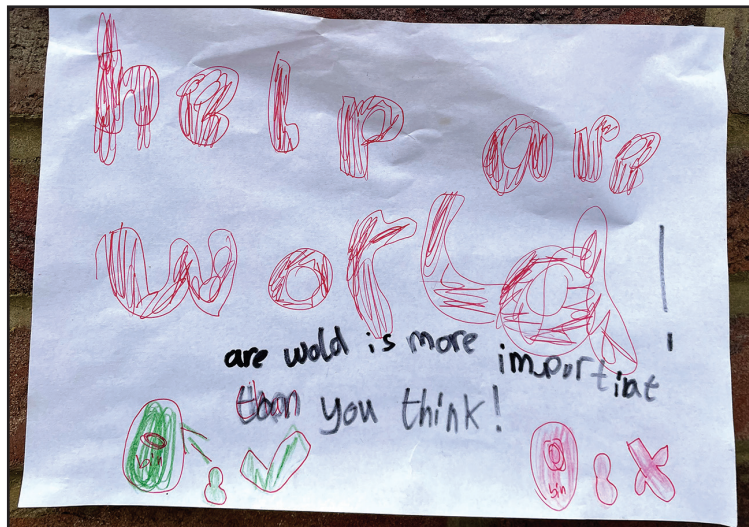
Take note

Dear Editor,

As I was walking my dog this morning I caught sight of this waist-high drawing appealing to all of us. It was in the alley way leading from Durham Road to Creighton Avenue. Please could it

be included in your next edition? The artist may possibly come forward and be given their due credit.

Louisa Piccirillo Kadri,
Address supplied



Message to us all: The hand-drawn poster spotted by Louisa

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.



Where does all our recycling go?

If you ever wondered what happens to all the contents of your blue recycling bin once they get collected by the council operators once a week, you are not alone. To find out, The Archer was recently given access to the Biffa Materials Recovery Facility, the second largest such plant in the UK. Matteo Lanzini reports.

Inside a vast and rather noisy warehouse in Edmonton, north London, up to 50 collection trucks every day dump their mixed recycled items on to a massive pile. Three separate processing lines, two storeys tall, continuously sort the incoming material using mechanical and technological methods like magnetic fields, air pressure and optic sensors... but also manual checkers.



Man-made mountain: Huge piles of recyclables collected from all over north London are piled up at the Edmonton Centre before being sorted and compacted into cubes for processing. Photos Matteo Lanzini

Around 40 operatives are active on site around the clock, mostly performing quality checks during demanding 12-hours shifts. The plant is operational every day of the year, except Christmas Day.

Once fully separated, aluminium, glass, plastics, cardboard and paper get compacted primarily in very large cubes ready for resale and shipping to Biffa's manufacturing and packaging customers, so that they can be reprocessed into new consumers' products. This happens mostly in the UK, but also in Europe and Asia if there are capacity or demand constraints at home, most commonly for cardboard and glass. During our visit I saw first-hand that unfortunately residents too often dump unsuitable materials in their recycling bins, causing

issues and delays to the processing cycle and resulting in a large quantity of residual waste that needs to be transported to other facilities for disposal, all at extra cost and causing extra pollution.

The facility manager that led our tour mentioned nappies, hygiene products and textiles as the most common offending items. Composite materials containers – think milk alternatives, certain soups and fruit juices – also pose a challenge. They are made of a combination of recycling materials but packed together in a way that makes it currently not possible to separate them, often despite opposite claims from manufacturers. Also, stuffing different materials together, for instance in a delivery cardboard box, in an attempt to save space, turns out to be problematic.

The collection trucks press and compact these items all together, making the sorting process at the plant much more difficult as a result.

Food contamination is another issue that often means items cannot be recycled. The easiest tip to remember is to only put waste that is "dry, clean and separate" in your blue bin.

A Biffa spokesperson told The Archer: "Small actions at home help improve recycling quality, reduce waste and ensure more materials can be given a second life."

Guidelines available at www.nlwa.gov.uk/whatcan-werecycle will help you check what can be recycled at home and what items instead can be taken to a Reuse and Recycling Centre like the one on Summers Lane, N12.



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Ally Pally celebrates 90 years of BBC TV

Alexandra Park and Palace is running an autumn season of events marking 90 years since BBC television began broadcasting in the new medium from a studio there.

Alongside its studios, the Palace housed BBC offices, dressing rooms, scenery stores, and props and technical facilities, while the East Court housed a

fleet of BBC broadcast vehicles. Running from September to November, the programme will feature talks, screenings, performances and special

events, drawing from the Alexandra Palace Television Society archive. Full details are at alexandrapalace.com/BBCTV90



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