Call for secondary school rethink

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While stocks last

Supporters of ‘Local Schools for Local Children’ lobbied Councillor Andrew McNeil at his advice surgery on 30 April. Photo by Mike Craneshow

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“So much to offer”

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One parent commented: “Our local children, parents and businesses have so much to offer schools in the area and yet so many of our children miss out on places. A local community secondary school is long overdue, so we will keep going until we achieve it.”

The group is encouraging local residents to email Mike Freer (mike.freer.mp@parliament.uk) to express their views.

To find out more or join the campaign, email localschools@live.co.uk or follow Twitter LocalSchoolsN2 for updates.

For more on secondary schools, see our Letters and Soapbox on page 11.

Highlights for hairstylist

Stacey O’Makalwala, a senior stylist and technician at 202 hair salon in the High Road, has won through to the regional finals of NYC Redken’s hair awards. In doing so she has beaten 130 other entrants so far in this annual event organised by the American hair products company based on Fifth Avenue, New York. Let’s hope the judges put Stacey ahead of the others and select her for the national finals, due to be held in September.

ARChER Calendar 2012

After a year off, The ARChER Calendar will be back in 2012 and we’re asking for your photos again to help make it better than ever.

Your images of people and places in East Finchley made our two previous calendars sell-out successes and raised thousands of pounds for local charities in the process.

This time, to tie in with the 2012 Olympic Games, we’re looking for any photos of sports, games or fun activities taken in East Finchley or N2. You may have shots of epic football matches, a walk in the park, a treasure hunt in the wood, skateboarding, cycling, or maybe just a game of tid-lywinks at home.

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Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag for providing us with a meeting place.

The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

Your contributions
If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.
Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked ‘Not for publication’ within the text.

Copy deadlines
July: 10 June
August: 15 July
September: 12 August

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Planning Applications
Barnet Council
66 Bedford Road, N2
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single-storey side/rear extension with patio area.
91A East End Road, N2
Erection of rear dormer window, new roof gable, first-floor rear extension, new window openings to existing dwelling and fencing to paved terrace area.
238 High Road, N2
Erection of a three-storey building to accommodate eight self-contained flats and a ground floor commercial unit, following removal of existing Portakabin structures. Provision of eight car parking spaces, cycle storage and associated hard and soft landscape.
34 Howard Walk, N2
Single-storey side and rear extension to main dwelling, and single-storey front extension to existing outbuilding to link outbuilding to main building.
55 Huntingdon Road, N2
Single-storey rear conservation extension.
The Coach House, King Street Mews, King Street, N2
Conversion of existing building into a two-bedroom self-contained residential unit, including

Hospitals
Barnet General
0845 111 4000
Alcoholics Anonymous
0845 769 7555
Barnet MENCAP
020 8203 6688
Cancer Support
020 8202 2201
Cancer Research UK
0800 800 800
Drinkline
0800 917 8282
Drugline
0800 776 6000
MIND
020 8343 3700
NHS Direct
0845 4647

Help the Aged
0800 806 5665
Crime
Emergencies
999
Barnet Police
020 8200 1212
Mus, Hill Police Station
02083452148
Crime Stoppers
0800 555111
Victim Support
0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team
020 7761 9014

Help & Advice
Children
0800 1111
 Disability Info Service
02084466935
 LF, Advice Service
020 8444 6260
 Gingerbread
020 8445 4227
 National Debtline
0800 808 4000
NSPCC
0800 000500
 Rape & Sexual Abuse
02086813000
 Relate
020 8447 8101
 RSPCA Inspector
0300 1234 999
 Samaritans
020 8457 9090

Creighton Avenue parking problems
By Daphne Chamberlain
The Archer recently reported concerns about entering and exiting Creighton Avenue. Local resident John Hajdu had asked Barnet Council why the double yellow lines at the junction with East End Road did not extend the full length of the short narrowed section. He pointed out that cars are parking where the lines end, adding further difficulty to an already dangerous junction.

The council has replied that his comments have been noted, but that no vehicles have been seen parked there on site visits. Therefore the yellow lines will not be extended, but the department team have been asked to monitor the spot during routine journeys across the borough.

Mr Hajdu told The Archer: “I know full well that cars are parked there on a regular basis.”

Residents who would like to report cars parked in the section in question can contact the Design Team, Highways Department, Environment and Operations London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road North, London N11 1NP; tel: 020 8359 2000 and email: parking@barnet.gov.uk

John Scott
John Scott, owner of Greater London Hire, sadly passed away on 12 May. His connection with the East Finchley community stretched back to 1967 when he first involved himself in what was then a fledgling minicab company.
He managed to build it up over the years into what it is today and employed many local people.

John maintained a keen interest in East Finchley affairs and people, never more so than during the Warning on Waitrose campaign in 2003. Always interested in politics, he also stood in the 2010 local elections, albeit unsuccessfully. His funeral was due to take place on 3 June. A fuller tribute to John will be printed in our next issue.

All Saints’ Church, Durham Road, East Finchley
Church of England
Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.
The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315.
All Saints’ also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.
http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk
Nothing to be embarrassed about

By Nick Young

Embarrassing Bodies is one of the most popular shows on Channel 4, and the man behind it is from East Finchley. Adam Gee is the channel’s Multi-Platform Commissioning Editor and has been responsible for several programmes that have changed the way television works in recent years.

He has won three BAFTAs (two of them for Embarrassing Bodies) and was recently nominated for an Emmy award for the first time. The programme is seen as ground-breaking in the TV industry for encouraging viewers to interact with the show through its website, a first for a factual programme.

The website is integral to the show and has had over 10,000,000 users. When Embarrassing Bodies ran a feature on autism, an online test for people to see where they are on the autism spectrum had 32,000 hits in the first 25 seconds of going online.

Life-saving

“It has an amazing impact and engages a lot of people in health issues who aren’t remotely interested generally, so it’s bringing in people that the NHS doesn’t usually reach,” Adam explains. Embarrassing Bodies has been widely praised for increasing awareness of preventative healthcare among members of the public. Adam himself has received several emails from members of the public thanking him for saving their lives after they were encouraged by the show to visit their GP.

At the interface

Channel 4, Adam has also worked with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall on the award-winning Landshare project and the Big Fish Fight campaign which made heavy use of Facebook and Twitter, and led to changes in the fishing industry within two months.

Adam sees this as testimony to the power of multi-platform programmes: “I work in the interface between television and interactive media and when you get it right and hit the ‘sweet spot’, it’s very powerful.”

On a more local level, Adam has been involved with the campaign to save East Finchley Library. “Finally, it comes down to one or two really dedicated individuals who live and breathe it for a while. It’s a really difficult thing to do…!” I have been working on it consistently over the years but it’s those people who are there when the chips are down who have really made a difference.”

Old Barn council call

By Janet Maitland

The Old Barn Action Group has intensified its campaign to restore the Old Barn community centre to local people. Last month we reported that almost 100 local people had submitted applications to become members of the Old Barn in order to put pressure on the management committee to recommence community services in the building. Those applications were not accepted.

“We will be formally notifying the Charity Commission that any requests to join the association have been denied by the management committee,” said Bill Hudson, leader of the action group. “We’ve also asked the council for a high level meeting.”

The action group has planned a series of events to raise the campaign’s profile and will have a stall at the East Finchley festival.

The centre has been at the heart of community events and activities for 25 years, but, after a change in management last year, many community groups moved out and an after-school club was shut.

“The centre has been hijacked following a shady takeover by a single-interest group,” said Bill. “It’s providing none of the services or facilities that the community wants to see or needs to use. The council, which owns the building, is aware of the situation. They’ve refused to recognise the new regime as the legitimate owners and have not accepted any rent payments.

“The only way to save the Old Barn is if local people come together and let the new ‘owners’ know that they won’t have their community centre taken from right under their noses.”

If you want to help, contact Will on 07707 647 264 or endof
stritch@hotmail.co.uk or come to the action group’s next meeting at 7pm on 7 June at the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale.

Bomb victims memorial

By John Dearing and Debby Hiller

On 15 November 1944, a V2 rocket landed in the back gardens of numbers 109 and 111 Abbots Gardens. Five people were killed, many were injured, five houses were destroyed and many more badly damaged (see THE ARCHER, November 2010). This rocket was one of several hundred launched from various sites in Northern Europe by Hitler’s forces between September 1944 and March 1945.

On Saturday 16 April 2011, a commemorative memorial plaque was unveiled by Alan Fullford in Abbots Gardens to record this terrible event. The plaque is located on the verge outside numbers 111 and 113 and reads: “Near this spot on November 15, 1944 a V2 rocket destroyed five houses killing five people.”

David Smith made a short welcoming speech. Amongst those attending the ceremony were Tina Manolis, niece of Maysel Houghston, who was blinded in the attack, her son Georgios Manolis, Sheila Cook (nee Fullford), Gill Russell (nee Marvell), and Cllr Andrew McNeil. A booklet recording some eyewitness accounts was presented to the Mayor.

Houghton, who was blinded in the attack, her son Georgios Manolis, several emails from members of the public thanking him for saving their lives after they were encouraged by the show to visit their GP.

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THE ARCHER - www.the-archer.co.uk
Festival 2011: just days to go
The line-ups for both stages at this year’s East Finchley Community Festival have been announced. Nine bands will fill the main stage with non-stop music throughout the afternoon while local favourites, schools, dance and theatre groups will be performing on the Helen O’Toole Community Stage.

Around the field will be some 60 stalls with crafts and local organisations plus the ever-popular food stalls and beer tent, with the Community Stage.
Theatre groups will be performing on the Helen O’Toole Community Stage.

Organisers plus the ever-popular food stalls and beer tent, with the Community Stage.

Meet at Martin School on Sunday 19 June well before the scheduled leaving time of 11.30am, when the procession will set off along the High Road to Cherry Tree Wood.

Volunteers
The festival needs at least 70-80 people throughout the day to keep everything going. The event receives no public funds and is run entirely by local people for the local community. If you can spare an hour or more during the day to help continue to make this one of north London’s most successful free festivals call 07983 360 834 or email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

Bake a festival cake
Organisers are always keen to try out new recipes in the festival food tent. Everyone is welcome to make a contribution to the festival and bake a cake for sale. Ring the festival phone on 07983 360 834 and ask for Helen O’Toole Community Stage.

Festival line-up

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Main Stage:
12.00pm, Official opening of Festival by Councillor Alison Moore and parade presentation.
12.05pm, Shaka Lish.
12.25pm, Jazz Blaack.
12.55pm, Darkwood.
1.35pm, UP.
2.15pm, Spring Park Motel.
2.55pm, Blues Trinity.
3.35pm, SofaSonic.
4.10pm, Festival Raffle drawn and prizes handed out.
4.20pm, Newton.
5pm, Sound of the Suburb.

Helen O’Toole Community Stage:
12.10pm, Martin Primary School.
12.40pm, Jazz Guitar Group.
1.20pm, Friern Barnet School.
2pm, Community Focus.
2.40pm, Finchley Youth Theatre.
3.15pm, K Pietrou.
4pm, Sing Out Voices.
5pm, Garden Suburb Theatre.

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Triumphant season for Wingate & Finchley
Having won the Ryman League Cup earlier this season (THE ARCHER, May 2011), Wingate & Finchley have again won the London Senior Trophy, coming from behind to beat Hendon 3-1. With six changes to the side that beat Brentwood to secure promotion to the Ryman Premier League, goals from Murat Kara- gül, Lewis Jones and Sam Sloma capped off an amazing season.

Man of the match Karağül said: “We’ve won this treble at a fantastic club with a fantastic atmosphere, and we are already looking forward to next year and taking the Premier League by storm.” Follow the club at www.wingatefinchley.com.

A memorial for Bomber Command
By Dennis Gimes
I must admit I had been pretty selfish in my life. Yes, I did serve in the Army for ten years but spent the next 40 years boasting about it. So, in 1971 I joined the Royal British Legion and started selling poppies every year. I thought that was enough, to say thank you for having a free country to live in.

But in the last few years I have been reading about the RAF and Bomber Command, and found out that 55,573 air-crew didn’t make it back during World War II. These men not only helped to liberate us from Hitler’s regime, they also helped liberate the German people.

These brave young men of Bomber Command, average age just 25, gave everything for this country. So many of them died, so who among us can say they don’t deserve a memorial? A little piece of Britain will always be theirs. After all, they paid for it.

On attending a charity function in 2008, I had a chance meeting with David Graham, the chairman of the Heritage Foundation. His charity was raising money for the Bomber Command Association to help build a memorial for these brave young men.

For the first time I really wanted to help, so I joined the Bomber Command Association and soon after met up with some of the surviving air-crew. After getting to know them, I often asked myself how can we ever thank them?

Would you like to help and at the same time have some fun? Then come along to some of our Blue Plaque events, join in the fun, and have the opportunity to meet some celebrities. Please phone either David Graham on 07703 397270 or contact me at d.gimes@googlemail.com, or alternatively join Bomber Command Association. They need us.
Man thrown from motorbike
By Janet Maitland
A man was taken to hospital after his motorbike was in collision with a car on the High Road on the morning of 27 April.

The accident happened outside The Cherry Tree, a shop co-owned by Sue Tollfer, who heard a boom as, “so many people stopped to help. Some people helped with basic first aid until the ambulance arrived. Others sat talking to him. Someone helped with basic first aid until the ambulance arrived. Others sat talking to him. Someone helped to sweep the road. They believe that the increase in charges from £42 to £100 per year for a first parking permit and from £1 to £4 for each visitor was unfair, because revenue raised will not be used solely for controlling parking but also for such things as repairing roads in the borough.

At the time of writing, the group’s chairman, solicitor David Attfield of Summerlee Avenue, is waiting to hear whether the request for a judicial review submitted to the High Court in April has been successful. A further request for a cap to be placed on any legal fees faced by Mr Attfield should the matter go to the High Court in the whole of East Finchley and is the feeder unit for the very successful associated Brownies and Guides groups. Everyone involved is desperate for someone to take it over.

To be the new leader you don’t need to have any background training or knowledge in Girl Guiding, you don’t need much experience with working with children and any training that you need will be provided. Leading a group like this can give you workplace skills, a leadership qualification, training in first aid and will also look great on your CV. To be a leader you must be over 18 and consent to a CRB check, you must have access to email and a phone and you must also be able to attend most weekly meetings during term time.

The Rainbows meet every Thursday evening from 4.20-5.20pm. If you are interested in volunteering then please contact: 4theastfinchleyguides@gmail.com, where you can also get more details.

Save the Rainbows
By Lois Lawrence
The 4th East Finchley Rainbows for girls aged five to seven may have to shut at the end of the summer term if they are unable to find a new leader. Ivana Sharp has run the group until now but she is unable to carry on.

The group, which meets at Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane, is the only Rainbow unit in the whole of East Finchley and is the feeder unit for the very successful associated Brownies and Guides groups. Everyone involved is desperate for someone to take it over.

To be the new leader you don’t need to have any background training or knowledge in Girl Guiding, you don’t need much experience with working with children and any training that you need will be provided. Leading a group like this can give you workplace skills, a leadership qualification, training in first aid and will also look great on your CV. To be a leader you must be over 18 and consent to a CRB check, you must have access to email and a phone and you must also be able to attend most weekly meetings during term time.

The Rainbows meet every Thursday evening from 4.20-5.20pm. If you are interested in volunteering then please contact: 4theastfinchleyguides@gmail.com, where you can also get more details.

Ferry days! Claire Newlands sports her gold medal.

Gold medal for champion Claire
By Archie Patch
Claire Newlands may not be the first name that comes to mind when thoughts turn to great British cyclists of recent years but the achievements of this East Finchley resident should not go unnoticed. Claire finished with a gold medal at the Amateur World Track Cycling Championships in Portugal and a snazzy World Champion’s jersey to boot.

Claire had always cycled from early childhood but her passion for the sport only crystallised into team membership two and a half years ago when she joined her local team, the Welwyn Wheelers.

Claire’s rigorous training regime has been translated into huge success. She also finished in the top 10 for the national time trials, won by Olympic Silver medallist and current world champion Emma Pooley.

Claire reflects on her win in Portugal with fondness and says that when she stepped up on the podium she couldn’t stop grinning. “You go all the way to another country for a race that’s about two and a half minutes but I was ecstatic,” she says. “I just set out with the plan my coach gave me and it all worked out in the end.”

Claire Newlands is supported by Bike and Run, whose shop on the corner of Kitchener Road has moved to 128 High Road.

Extra class at Martin
Martin Primary School is to open its doors to an extra Reception class this September in response to the shortage of school places in Barnet.

In a letter to current families at the school informing them of the decision, headteacher Helen Morrison said: “As we are a popular and over-subscribed school in the area, we have been asked to support the borough in providing additional places to resolve this issue. We will therefore be adding an extra class of up to 30 pupils in Reception next year so that the pupils who currently have no school place can be offered one.”

The additional pupils will be housed in a temporary classroom in the car park and are next to the Reception outdoor learning area so that “it can become part of the existing Early Years provision,” said Mrs Morrison.

The letter states that Barnet will provide extra funding. Parents were also reassured that the high quality of provision currently offered by the school would be maintained.

Glen Garlic: Claire Newlands sports her gold medal.

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A royal knees-up

Many people made the most of the extra Bank Holiday back in April and joined in the celebrations for the marriage of Kate Middleton to Prince William.

People living in Strawberry Vale joined together to create a tea party for everyone to share, (pictured right, photo by Mark Healey).

In Leicester Road, Penny Chambers, Elaine Lancaster and Maggie Law (pictured bottom right) toasted the royal couple in style. The Leicester Road street party attracted the attention of the West Australian newspaper in Perth, Australia, thanks to one of their reporters who lives in Beresford Road. The party had a setback the night before when a lorry drove down Leicester Road, tearing down all the bunting strung across the road, but the decorations were restored in time for the big day.

In Herford Road young and old joined in the fun (pictured top left) with everyone wearing name badges to make the socialising easier. The celebrations went on into the evening with games and music in the street.

For 12 members of the 8th East Finchley Brownies it was a very special day indeed. They were among a group of 250 Brownies and Guides who were specially invited to see the wedding at first hand with a great view of the action at Admiralty Arch, near Buckingham Palace (pictured left).

Laurie, aged eight, said: “My favourite bit was seeing Kate and all the teeny bridesmaids.” Eva, ten, said: “I loved it all and seeing Kate and William wave in their carriage.” Their leader Lisa Attfield said: “It was an incredibly special day for

Spring walk in Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Some of the group were a bit short of sleep (the clocks had gone forward the night before) but an afternoon amble through Coldfall Wood was restorative. Anyway, time seemed unimportant, as we pondered Ice Age pebbles and seeds that can germinate after centuries asleep.

Naturalist David Bevan was our guide on a springtime walk beneath the still-open tree canopy. Light was flooding down into the coppiced areas of the woodland, encouraging new growth. David made the logic of coppicing clear, drawing on his long experience as a botanist and conservation officer. We learnt about tiny low plants, such as herb bennet, surviving because of gaps in the canopy, and about plants that ‘burk in the seed bank’ for maybe 200 years before emerging when coppicing releases enough light.

Old and young

We spotted early dog-violets, brassy yellow marsh marigolds and even a solitary daisy. Many people made the most of the extra Bank Holiday back in April and joined in the celebrations for the marriage of Kate Middleton to Prince William. People living in Strawberry Vale joined together to create a tea party for everyone to share, (pictured right, photo by Mark Healey).

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Bird walk in the woods

By Nick Young

It’s a Saturday morning in April and a group of about ten people have gathered for a bird walk in Coldfall Woods. Our guide, David Darrell-Lambert of Birdbrain UK, proves to be highly informative on what is a blind spot for many birdwatchers old and young: their songs. This is just as well, for with the wood in full bloom (providing lots of cover for the birds) we are much more likely to hear rather than see them.

Within ten minutes we have not seen much but have heard blackbirds, a male blackcap, a great tit, robins, chafinches and even a green woodpecker whose distinctive ‘saffle’ call sounds as though it is mocking our efforts.

Walking into the woods, we hear much but are only treated to a few fleeting glimpses. That green woodpecker continues to mock us. Eventually we reach a clearing and we are able to see birds all around: a nuthatch making its way down a tree, a ring-necked parakeet - one of London’s more exotic recent avian migrants - sunning himself on a branch; the elusive green woodpecker flying across the clearing and chapel. Probably not the one we heard earlier (this one’s a female) but it feels good to put a face to the song.

David’s website is www.birdbrainuk.com or email info@coldfallwoods.co.uk for news of other walks.

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH
197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)
www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

Sunday service at 10.30 a.m.
With Creche and Junior Church

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London N12 9RW
www.homeinstead.co.uk

020-8446-7044
barnet@homeinstead.co.uk
Rally call for advice service

For 29 years East Finchley Advice Service was situated in Church Lane and funded or part-funded by the London Borough of Barnet. Due to a restructing of services, this arrangement came to an end last December and EFAS found a new home at the Green Man Community Centre.

Ruby Joseph and Eldon Pethbridge of EFAS, a registered charity, say their services have been grant aided by the City Parochial Trust (now Trust for London), Finchley Charities and others. Now they are no longer funded by the local authority, however, they are finding it difficult to secure sufficient funding from other charitable sources.

Ruby and Eldon say: “We are looking to the community for support. Not surprisingly, in these difficult times there has been no reduction in numbers of clients who come to us for advice and assistance (some 4,000 consultations per year) but we are running on reserves that will dry up unless co-funders are replenished.

“All of our advisers are volunteers, including some who are legally trained. Our human resources include expertise in debt, housing, welfare benefits and consumer rights. We run fortnightly evening legal surgeries staffed by qualified solicitors and barristers. We have rent to pay, insurance and the costs of telephones, computers, stationery and postage, yet all our services are free to the public.”

Ruby and Eldon urge everyone to visit their stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on 19 June. Meanwhile, if you are able to help, give a donation or support them in any way please contact the Projects Manager at EFAS, 1st Floor, Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, East Finchley, London N2 9BA; telephone 020 8444 6265 or email: help@efas.org.uk.

Plant centre axed

By Ann Bronkhorst

A long-established plantsman’s delight, the Islington Horticulture Centre, tucked away in the northwestern corner of St Pancras Cemetery, faces closure from 30 June, due to cuts required by Islington’s Highways department.

The Centre has grown bedding plants for the cemetery and the borough, trained young people in horticulture and maintained glasshouses for many years. Now its experienced workers will be obliged to take early retirement or seek other jobs.

Archers readers may remember reports about vandals regularly damaging the glasshouses. Now, the patient winter work of replacing damaged glass panes looks like wasted effort, as the structures will be dismantled.

The site is protected from development and will revert to cemetery ground but regular visitors to the cemetery will miss the centre as a valuable amenity.

Source of beauty

Mandana, who runs a beauty therapy business at Jennie Mann in Church Lane, recently travelled to central France to see how the beauty products she uses are made and dispatched.

Sothys started as a small business and now has more than 60 years experience in the beauty market. Their headquarters are in the wonderful, historical city of Brive.

First, we headed to the warehouse, kept at 20°C, where the products arrive and are kept for 48 hours for bacteria checks and safety before going to stock. Products then get a batch number so they can always be tracked back.

To prepare an order, staff use a scanner which tells them how many products to take off the shelf, and then weight the items to make sure the quantity is right. They do 20,000 shipments for the French market alone, in a year.

We could only look at each production room through a glass screen, to avoid contamination. We had to wear special, white uniforms and white covers for our shoes and hair, to enter the building.

The gardens of Sothys cover over four hectares and have strong links with plant research teams, who find ways to extract ingredients from the plants, transfer them into a molecule form and then into creams. For example, extract of rye is used for anti-aging cream. Each cream from start to finish takes 16 days.

Mandana will be telling more about her trip and demonstrating the products in a special open day on 16 June from 9am to 9pm at Jennie Mann, 63a Church Lane.
What it feels like to be hunted

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last month, we reported the visit of Eva Schloss, Anne Frank’s stepsister, to Manorside School. Janette Roth, Manorside’s Year 6 teacher, prepared the children well for her visit. After reading The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, they wore their own pyjamas to school for one day to discover how that changed their perception of their usually cosy nightwear.

They thought a lot about what it must be like to be trapped and hunted down.

Some of their work was on display for Eva Schloss’s visit. Here are extracts from their writing:

My whole body is shaking with fear. All I can do is sit and wait for my death.

Adrian

I am alone, with no one to tell me it’s going to be OK.

Alanna

Why us? Why me? A little part of me has hope. But that just keeps on shrinking and shir……

BANG! The Nazi men banging on the door. I hear the trucks coming closer and closer. I hear their big beast hands banging on the door. I am petrified.

Why me? Daniel C

Screams bursting out. The sounds suddenly stopped. I hear footsteps louder and louder. Then - knock, knock, knock. It was over. Nowhere to go, nowhere to hide. Joe

We sit at as we hear screaming mums and children. We know they are close. Just then we hear the door knock! BANG! Then my mum screamed. What could we do but just sit there? My brother says, “They’re here! They’re here!” Lauren Patache

The distant rumbling of death machines surrounds my ears. Three deafening hammering on my door, and a booming voice. Yazzia

I can hear it coming, time and again, waiting for it to halt to take me away. I hear the knock that will ruin my life for ever. They bombard my space. Prihisha

The powerful, beast-like tank came in our road. My heart was racing as fast as a cheetah. Suddenly someone started banging at our door. I heard a deafening voice, “Open the door, Jew!” Roozy Dividar

New arrivals in the classroom

Children at the Holy Trinity are excited to welcome chick eggs to their school. The chicks found their home in reception’s class for two weeks.

Staff said the children thoroughly enjoyed setting up their habitat to make the eggs feel comfortable and welcome. After just a few days they eagerly watched the eggs slowly hatch and the chicks develop.

Although the chicks have been living in the younger children’s classroom, the whole school has enjoyed regular trips to visit and even hold the chicks. One parent said it was a fantastic real life experience for the children.

PUPILS preparing for pedal power. Photo by Lisa Hugdson

YOUNG ARCHER

Bikeability

By Year 5 at Holy Trinity Primary School

This week we have really enjoyed taking part in some free cycle training at school. Firstly, we had to check that our bikes were roadworthy, following the ABCD check (air, brakes, control and chains, and loose dangly things near the wheels).

In the school playground we learnt how to use signals to show other drivers when we are turning left and right. We also learnt how to do a controlled stop and an emergency stop safely.

We had to pass level one and then, with the instructors, we were allowed to go on the roads. We cycled along quiet minor and major roads, including East End Road. We learnt that before setting off we need to look behind our right shoulder and check there are no cars coming.

We have really enjoyed our learning this week and would like to say a huge thank you to Warren and Eba, our instructors, for teaching us our cycle training. We are now more confident at cycling safely using the local roads.

Tess makes a difference in Soweto

Tess Hadik, a scout from the 8th Muswell Hill group, has won a Jack Petchey award for fund raising to build a shelter for orphaned children in Soweto, South Africa.

She and her mother supported the project after visiting the country 10 years ago and encountering local residents who were determined to improve life for abandoned children.

Tess collected money from friends and her school agreed to collect money as well as books, educational toys and clothing which the children desperately needed.

The house that was built has a large sitting room, a proper kitchen, three toilets, a bath, a shower and several bedrooms with bunk beds. It even has a vegetable garden.

Tess said: “I thought building the house would go much more quickly but it took a very long time. There were many ups and downs but I am very proud that finally these children have a ‘proper’ home.”

The Jack Petchey scheme makes awards to individuals and youth organisations to help fund their activities and recognise outstanding achievements.

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Making a difference
When the right aid reaches the right people, it really can make a major difference to many communities in the poorer parts of Africa. Josh Palfreman can testify to that at first hand after spending time in schools in Tanzania and Uganda.

Josh, who lives on the High Road, volunteered for the charity School Aid last year and was able to do the same earlier this year thanks to financial support from a Vodafone Foundation world of Difference grant.

The 23-year-old International Relations student spent time making sure that donated books, pens, pencils, computers and furniture were reaching the schools that had been intended for. Then, back in the UK, he planned future aid campaigns and produced a documentary about School Aid’s work.

Josh said: “The items that we use might be maths books that are being replaced in this country but are very usable (maths doesn’t change that much) or pens with company branding that aren’t wanted any more. Anyone can donate and everything makes a difference in the schools we help.”

Josh was one of 500 people chosen out of 11,000 who applied for the Vodafone grants. You can see his film on YouTube or find out more details at www.school-aid.org.

Ceramics book
Local potter and teacher Daphne Carney has published a new book of Maiolica, one of the Ceramics Handbook Series published by A & C Black and a must-read for pottery students and potters alike.

Reuby Hyams, 28 May 1918 - 02 May 2011
By Daphne Chamberlain
Reuben (Reuby) Hyams was a man with a very positive attitude, who made an impact wherever he went. Never lost for a word and always ready for a laugh, he organised the Fairacres Monday Club, where Reuby showed the same earlier this year. Even when he could just wish it could happen more than once a year. Eve-eryone was welcome at the Club, where Reuby showed his lightning-quick wit, great sense of humour, and essential wisdom.

He played an active part in the Second World War, serving in the African desert, Salerno, Sicily and Crete, and was mentioned in dispatches. While serving with the occupation forces in Belgium he was befriended by a family in Bruges, with whom he formed a lifelong bond. Typically, he put his time there to good use by learning a little Flemish.

A keen compiler of quizzes, Reuby also wrote poetry, sometimes humorous and sometimes moving. Readers may remember two poems we published in The Archer. One described the tragic plight of a forgotten war veteran, while the other was a quizzical verse about an obviously much loved grandad.

Reuby was survived by Rene, their son David, daughter Lesley and grandchildren Jordan and Riley.

Heath secrets revealed
By Neil McNaughton
On a sunny early May afternoon a group of parishioners from St Mary’s Church were treated to a tour of Hampstead Heath by local resident Linda Dolata, a volunteer Kew Gardens guide. The tour’s main theme was how much we don’t know about the Heath, how much we pass by without noticing and just how many secrets it holds.

Linda described the kitchen garden near the north entrance to the Heath as perhaps its “best-kept secret.” This immaculate garden was indeed once a kitchen garden, but is now a special garden designed to attract insect life. She especially recommended its peace and tranquility, as it is a part of the Heath that most people forget.

We also learned that many of the Heath’s trees are not quite as old as they look, though one hollown oak in the north meadow is certainly 400 years old. The oldest trees on the Heath are, in fact, remnants of the many hedges that were constructed here, mostly to keep livestock from wandering from one field to the next.

Perhaps one of the most fascinating features was left until the final stages of the walk as we approached Kenwood House. This was a reproduction of a Saxon hedge, constructed by Heath staff, containing 11 or 12 different species of tree and bush.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR
By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility
Year of the cat
It’s June, time for the longest day, the shortest night and the Glastonbury Mud Fest. It’s the month of that weirdly French invention, World Music Day, and of Dracula’s favourite, Blood Donor Day. But in the midst of the frivolity comes a very serious event, the first world day created by and for cats. Yes, 4 June is Hug a Cat Day. I should know: my cat just sent me an e-mail.

Cats just love computers; it’s something to do with the mouse. Forget surfer, surfers, welcome to the world of tabby surfers. Cats are the ultimate hackers. The reason why your cat watches you logging onto Facebook is because the moment your back is turned it will be setting up its own account. Status? Hungry. Links? To the local fish shop. Main interest? Ordering a fresh salmon and changing it to your credit card.

Ever wondered why groups of cats congregate on your garden wall? The answer is only a tweet away. And I don’t just mean birds; your cat can make its point in less than 140 characters and still have enough left over to order lunch.

Before the internet, cats had to resort to more devious means to get their own way. When it came to mice they had to actually hunt them. Now they just log on to the pet shop’s site and order them. Last week I had to intercept an order for hamsters, the week before it was canaries. I’m worried about next week.

Dogs are a different matter, they are loyal, obedient and have only just learnt how to use the telephone. They like walks and lamp posts and bones and chasing cats, which is another reason why cats use the internet. Watch out for the online petition calling for a new law banning lamp posts or demanding that leads must be worn at all times. You know who’s behind it.

So, Hug a Cat Day? No, what it actually means is let the cat have its own way day, just like every other day, as he who sleeps next to the radio proves once again that cats don’t have owners, they have staff.
Paper trail
By Sheila Armstrong
Local artist Anya Beaumont has completed her large 3D sculpture, The Archa, a “unique mapping of the borough”. It is now on view at artrope, 181 Church Street, Finchley, and is located on the second floor, near the drama space.

Basically it is a large enigmatic paper sculpture, over five metres long, made from a variety of recycled materials from The Big Draw, and newspapers and documents of various sorts overlaid with maps of Barnet. These represent the past, present and future of the locality. Anya told The Arche she was pleased this project has been completed and especially that artrope has given it a home.

Join Team Bobath
The Bobath Centre on East End Road is offering anyone the chance to run in the British 10k London Run for free. This popular annual race takes place on 10 July.

Entry would usually cost £20, but the centre is offering a free place to all N2 residents who pledge to raise £100 in sponsorship for the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

The Bobath Centre has been helping families of disabled and handicapped children and adults for over 50 years. Through a unique combination of physio, occupational, speech and language therapy, Bobath therapists help children to gain independence, confidence and the enjoyment of life that every child deserves.

Every year, hundreds of disabled children come to the Centre to live and learn, as well as to visit and even the world. You may only live down the road, but your support will have life-changing consequences for them.

If you’d like to take part in this great event, and if you haven’t already signed up, please contact Jon 020 8424 2773 or visit www.bobath.org.uk to find out about a whole host of other ways to support this local charity.

Readers required
National charity Voluntary Reading Help is looking for more people for its London North West branch to assist children with one-to-one reading.

The charity’s readers share books, play games and talk, ensuring that children are confident readers and to see that reading is fun. Training sessions are to be held locally on 13 and 14 July and 21 and 22 September.

If you have time to spare, contact volunteer services manager Helen Hinde 020 7322 7523 or find out more from www.vrh.org.uk.

The Archer – www.the-archer.co.uk

Offenbach’s Barcarolle, Three Little Maids from the Mikado and Foy from Fiddler on the Roof were among the fancy dress and music of Whacker’s Summer Gala at East Finchley Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.

Majorettes performed a lively routine to a tremendous rhythmic vitality. Debussy is not easy, and he was feeling his way into a musical form for the first (and last) time. The result was vigorous, enthusiastic and in the French manner – rich, wine-dark Burgundy. It was certainly a strapping performance, with plenty of attack and rhythm. Later, Jenny Bogle joined them as second viola in Mozart’s Quintet. The drawings (formerly London Bridge Club) were made from Peter Kraushar, 2 Lauradale Road, N21. The exhibition opens on Sunday 12 June at 3pm.

Methodist Church concerts
Reviews by Ken Carter
On Sunday 13 March, four of the Hermitage Ensemble (David Vogle, violin; Paula Tysall, violin; Michael Blee, viola; Elizabeth Nevrika, cello) performed String Quartet. It was a valiant undertaking, Debussy is not easy, and he was feeling his way into a musical form for the first (and last) time. The result was vigorous, enthusiastic and in the French manner – rich, wine-dark Burgundy. It was certainly a strapping performance, with plenty of attack and rhythm. Later, Jenny Bogle joined them as second viola in Mozart’s Quintet. The drawings (formerly London Bridge Club) were made from Peter Kraushar, 2 Lauradale Road, N21. The exhibition opens on Sunday 12 June at 3pm.
A taste of the Wild West
By Diana Carmack
After undergoing extensive redevelopment, the Five Bells on East End Road officially opened to the public on 7 May. The transformed pub is the first in the area with a Flaming Grill and its kitchen now has an authentic chargrill, so the Wild West theme chosen for the opening day’s events was particularly suitable.

The celebrations that day were led by Sippy Azizollah, who had been chosen to launch the new premises in recognition of her long-term fundraising for Lupus UK. Sippy has suffered from this disease of the immune system for many years, and has not prevented her from raising thousands of pounds both for this charity and for others, details of which have often been reported in The Archer. With World Lupus Day on 10 May, the grand opening event was used to raise more funds for Lupus UK.

Letters to the Editor

Shop front uncovered
Dear Editor,

After seeing the shop sign taken down from the former Moonlight Cafe on the High Road and seeing the very old sign underneath, I wonder how many residents of East Finchley remember buying their first bike, TV, radio, clock or Airfix models at Janes and Adams (pictured)? This shop had lovely memories for so many people.

Yours faithfully,
Margaret Cartwright, Leicester Road, N2.

No choice on schools
Dear Editor,

In reply to your request for views about secondary schools in East Finchley, it is readily apparent that local schools are urgently needed. We live in N2 and have a nine-year-old daughter; there is no choice that will be offered a place at a suitable local secondary school given that we are not prepared to pay for private education and object in principle to faith schooling.

Our only option seems to be that we will have to move out of the area which was something we did not want to have lived here and supply for over 20 years.

Yours faithfully,
Tony Manzi and Sharon Rich mond, Manor Park Road, N2.

Action needed on schools
Dear Editor,

My eldest son (I have two boys) will be applying for a secondary school place in a couple of years and I am already worrying about it. We’re not of a faith and for Fortune in and around Lewisham, Bishop Douglass would not be acceptable to us. Our only option is Christ’s College, which is ideal in terms of being local, and means my children could walk to school, but is not as ideal as it is a single-sex school. Something I am very against as my sons have greatly benefited from being in a mixed gender environment at primary level.

Also, having read the latest Ofsted Report for Christ’s College, something I am very against in principle to faith schooling. Whatever the merits of new free school Haringey Jewish Primary School. Whatever the merits of this “big society” long before David Cameron. As the types of school in our area change dramatically, parent power, diversity and active involvement in our local schools are seriously under threat. Within five years we will be a community of faith schools, free schools and single-sex academies and the next generation of parents, families and local residents will have far less opportunity to influence education provision in the area.

Notwithstanding the political arguments for or against the changes currently under way, releasing schools from LA control and supervision inevitably diminishes democratic accountability.

In its quest to become an academy, Christ’s College (CCF) has committed itself to resisting any change (in particular the possibility of becoming co-ed). The Head and Governors of CCF are indeed correct as an academy the school leadership will have to select its governing body and effectively ignore the views and needs of local families in the East Finchley community, such as further discussion about admitting girls or improving sixth form provision.

A similar relationship will exist between East Finchley parents and our new free school Haringey Jewish Primary School. Whatever the merits of this “big society” long before David Cameron. As the types of school in our area change dramatically, parent power, diversity and active involvement in our local schools are seriously under threat. Within five years we will be a community of faith schools, free schools and single-sex academies and the next generation of parents, families and local residents will have far less opportunity to influence education provision in the area.

Ideological and political concerns aside, the reality of academies and free schools for our community is diminished participation in governing bodies, fewer opportunities to shape the development of our local schools, and restricted choice for the next generation of parents. We have excellent primary schools in East Finchley. This is in large part due to the determination of local parents who became involved in governing bodies. Academies and free schools will not extend choice in East Finchley, they will limit community involvement and take away our power to intervene.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this “Soapbox” column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.

The future for East Finchley schools

As Chair of Governors at a local school in East Finchley for several years, I came to value three things: first, the critical involvement of a dynamic parent body, with amazing intellectual capital and expertise, prepared to work late in the evening and early morning to improve our school and to realise its outstanding potential; secondly, the invaluable intervention and support provided by the Local Authority’s inspectors, consultants and School Improvement Partners; and finally, the diversity of our school community, the rich variety of heritage, ethnicity and culture generating a huge commitment to inclusion, participation and excellence. We knew about the “big society” long before David Cameron.

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New vision for Stanley Field

The architects behind the plans for new sports facilities on Stanley Road playing field have released new images of how the site could look. One new perspective shows the entrance to the field near Holy Trinity School with one of the covered sports courts in the background and a café on the right.

Chris Hampson, of Hampshire Williams architects, said Sport EF, the residents' group promoting the scheme, had been racing to prepare its bid for submission to Barnet Council at the end of last month.

Now Sport EF is calling on all residents to show their support for the sports plan by signing the online petition, taking part in the survey at www.stanleyroadsports.org and by writing directly to Barnet Council.

Sport EF hopes Stanley Field will become a home to football, tag rugby, netball, basketball, hockey, tennis, baseball, softball and rounders, and a much- treasured facility for everyone in East Finchley.

Fire in Leslie Road

Four fire engines and around 20 firefighters were called to a fire in a first-floor maisonette in Leslie Road in East Finchley on 19 May. Part of the flat and part of the roof was damaged by the fire. There were no reports of any injuries. “There was no one at home,” said a neighbour.

“Someone called the fire brigade when they saw smoke billowing out of the window.” The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Memories of Finchley Lido

Before the Leisure Park was built just across the North Circular, swimmers and sunbathers came from all over London to the Finchley Lido, an outdoor swimming pool used in the 1948 Olympics. There was a companion children’s pool, opened by the Lord Mayor of London. Both dated from the 1930s, and were demolished amid a storm of protest in 1995.

Mike Gee is writing a book about the Lido and the surrounding open space, known as the Glebelands. If you have any memories, stories or photos you would like to share, please get in touch with Mike. Photos will be immediately copied and returned. Contact him at 32 Long Lane, N3 2PU, mikegee1967@aol.com or 020 8346 5503.

Fortismere students design sports venue

Under the direction of teachers Ralph Petrie and Peter Crompton, year eight students at Fortismere School have designed their ideal community sports venue for the Stanley Road playing field. The students conducted research and had help and advice from Sarah Fawcus and Somi Delano, two civil engineers from Price & Myers.

They then produced designs called The Glass Finch Arena, inspired by a Finch’s wing, and the Star.

The ‘wing’ design recently won the London and South-East final of Create Sport Challenge, a competition to design a sports venue run by the Institution of Civil Engineers and the students were awarded a trophy and a tour of the London Olympics site.

The judges were impressed by their use of an existing site in need of development for the local community. The national final will be held later this month.

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