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CARS & COURIERS

June 2011 No. 212
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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Call for secondary school rethink

Local Schools for Local Children, the secondary school campaign group, has won a significant victory in its efforts to get better secondary provision for the East Finchley area.

On 28 April, in response to a question tabled by Labour councillor Alex Brodtkin at the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee, Barnet Council agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group.

Campaign co-ordinator Avis Johns said: "There is no space available to build a new school, so we need to re-look at existing provision to ensure that it can meet the local demand for co-ed community schooling."

capital investment for Barnet schools.

"So much to offer"

Members of the parent campaign have lobbied local councillors and Mike Freer, and have been buoyed up by the support they have received. At their second public meeting on 12 May, held at Martin Primary School, parents spoke passionately about their aim that schools should cater properly for children in the area, but should also be performing at excellent levels.

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 tidlywinks at home.

Please send photos by email to the-archer@lineone.net and mark your email *ARCHER* Calendar 2012. Our judges will pick the best 12 and the calendar will be on sale in plenty of time for Christmas, thanks to photobox.co.uk and local traders.

We're accepting images now until the end of August. Contributors whose photos are printed will receive a free copy of the calendar. Look out for news in future issues on the local charity that calendar sales will be supporting. Thank you.



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

This will examine secondary school provision across the borough, with particular focus on south Barnet and on places for girls.

At the time of writing, it was also announced that Mike Freer MP had secured an adjournment debate in the House of Commons on 24 May regarding

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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

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Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries 0845 748 4950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Hospitals

Barnet General 0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
MIND 020 8343 5700
NHS Direct 0845 4647

OAPs' Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

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Emergency 999
Barnet Police 020 8200 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 7161 9014

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E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
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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 dwelling.

55 Huntingdon Road, N2
Single-storey rear conservatory extension.

The Coach House, King Street Mews, King Street, N2
Conversion of existing building into a two-bedroom self-contained residential unit, including

increase in height of roof. Retention of existing commercial unit at ground floor.

394 Long Lane, N2
Rear and part side extension to ground floor, and rear and side extension to first floor.

Haringey Council

14 Eastern Road, N2
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new garden room conservatory.

Blaenavon, Fortis Green, N2
Replacement of existing windows with new UPVC casement windows.

17 Ringwood Avenue, N2
Erection of single-storey rear extension and conversion of existing garage

27 Ringwood Avenue, N2
Demolition of existing single-storey rear extension and erection of single-storey rear extension. Erection of rear dormer including hip to gable roof alterations.

21 Twyford Avenue, N2
Extension of converted garage to rear and addition of pitched roof.

47 Twyford Avenue, N2
Erection of ground floor flank extension.

11 Western Road, N2
Erection of rear ground floor extension.

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 the High 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 South, 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.

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Alan Fulford unveils the memorial plaque in Abbots Gardens. Photo by John Dearing

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 Fulford 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 15th 1944 at 5.18pm 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 Houghton, who was blinded in the attack, her son Georgios Manolis, Sheila Cook (nee Fulford), Gill Rousell (nee Marvell), and Cllr Andrew McNeil. A booklet recording some eyewitness accounts and the background to the attack was on sale at the event.

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 all requests to join the association have been denied by the management committee," said Will 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 Will. "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 07870 647 284 or endofstrife@hotmail.co.uk or come to the action group's next meeting at 7pm on 7 June at the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale.

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 groundbreaking 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

At Channel 4, Adam has also



Adam Gee with his BAFTA awards. Photo by Nick Young

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."

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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 out 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 plenty of inflatable fun and storytelling for children.

Check out the latest news at www.eastfinchley.co.uk or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/East-Finchley-Festival/270157876374

Book your place in the festival parade

The opening of the festival is traditionally heralded at noon, when the themed parade enters the park gates at Summerlee Avenue and makes its way across the field. This year's theme is books, so you're invited to come along dressed as one of your favourite characters. The parade will be accompanied by Indian drumming band Dhoom and the local sea cadets, with neighbourhood police in careful support.

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

Festival line-up

Main Stage:

12pm, 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 Petrou.
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 also 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 Karagul, Lewis Jones and Sam Sloma capped off an amazing season.**

Man of the match Karagul 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.



Wingate & Finchley celebrate their cup win. Photo by Martin Addison

A memorial for Bomber Command

By Dennis Gimes

I must admit I have 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 22, 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 func-

tion 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.



Who ordered mushroom?

This strange sight was spotted on the roof of Park House at the corner nearest to the tube station. Is it advance publicity for a new mushroom farm or perhaps a new public sculpture to rival Archie on the other side of the road? Please contact us if you know its origins. Our contact details are on page 2. Picture by John Dearing.

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Parking fight goes on

By Diana Cormack

Barnet CPZ Action Group is encouraging residents to write to their MPs about Barnet Council's decision to raise the cost of parking permits. Campaigners feel that the only way elected representatives will be convinced about just how many people are angry over this issue is by hearing from them by post or email.

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 voucher is unlawful, 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 fur-

ther request for a cap to be placed on any legal fees faced by Mr Attfield should the matter go to court and lose, has been opposed by Barnet Council.

The group says donations are still needed towards its fundraising target. Cheques made payable to Barnet CPZ Action can be sent to 88 Summerlee Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9QH, or payment can be made online. Visit <http://barnetcpz.blogspot.com> for details, and visit the group's stall at the East Finchley Festival on 19 June for more information.

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 Tollerfield. "I heard a big crash, so I rushed outside and saw a young man thrown from his motorbike lying in the road," said Sue, who called an ambulance. "So many people stopped to help. Some people helped with basic first aid until the ambulance arrived. Others sat talking to him. Someone else helped to sweep the road. There were several eyewitnesses

and they all stayed to help the police when they arrived."

A police spokesman said paramedics treated the 20 year-old man for spinal injuries before taking him to the Royal Free Hospital. An ambulance spokesman said he was conscious, breathing and able to move. His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening or life-changing. Police said that the car was a green Volvo Estate and that it appeared that the driver had no insurance.

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@googlemail.com, where you can also get more details.



Glory 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.

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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 having an additional 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, 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.

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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 'lurk 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. A few delicate white wood anemones were in flower, one of the 'indicator plants' for ancient woodland, David said.

Coldfall Wood is treasured as an ancient wood but it's heaving with very young life. Children were building dens, blue-tits were nesting, new willow saplings line the banks of the stream and new grass is growing in the protected patches of Lovers' Lawn. Amazingly, a frail little monkey-puzzle tree has appeared too, joining the wild service trees on the list of surprises offered by our local ancient wood.

For details of other walks and events visit www.coldfallwoods.co.uk.

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 Hertford 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 4th 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 Buck-



ingham Palace (pictured left).

Lauren, 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



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, chaffinches and a green woodpecker whose distinctive 'yaffle' 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 a blackcap. 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.

Nature sightings

The Finchley Society is starting a page for nature reports. If you have a sighting in Finchley or Friern Barnet that you would like to share with others, please send it to: web@finchleysociety.org.uk.

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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 restructuring 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 Pethybridge 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 coffers 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, comput-

ers, 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.



High fryer: Mark Boon, left, and his assistant Daniel Watson.

Chip off the old block

Mark Boon made a deliberate attempt to keep out of the family business but, in the end, he couldn't resist. Mark is now among the third generation of fish and chip shop owners in his South Wales-Italian family.

Mark has run the Mermaid Fish Bar close to the junction of Long Lane and Squires Lane for almost three years. It is one of four shops still in the family.

He's certainly inherited his father's and grandfather's skills. His shop has just been awarded five stars by the Food Standards Agency, and the Frymax Gold Standard Award for food quality.

His parents and grandparents originally persuaded him to try another career, so he spent 13 years in the British Trans-

port Police, rising through the ranks to become service control manager for the Jubilee Line. But when he fancied a change of job, running a chippy was his first choice.

Mark said: "We've all fallen into it eventually. What I like about the business is that I'm my own boss and I can get to know the customers. We have a lot of local trade and customers come from as far as Mill Hill and Muswell Hill. My parents were up visiting a few weeks ago and they are very proud of what we've done here."



Visitors enjoyed the old time singalong.

Super sing-along

The Rotary Club of Golders Green took a party of people by individual cars to Lauderdale House for an evening of 'Old Tyme Music Hall' presented by the Lissenden Players. The party, including residents of East Finchley, were entertained to songs and humour from yesteryear, and joined in a hearty sing-along, determined to enjoy every second.

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 weigh 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-ageing 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.

Plant centre axed

By Ann Bronkhorst
A long-established plantsman's delight, the Islington Horticulture Centre, tucked away in the north-western 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.

ARCHER 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.

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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 shri.....

BANG! The Nazi men banging on the door. *Fatma Muhammed*

As I sit next to my mother, I cling to her like never before. 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 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 Palach'e*

The distant rumbling of death machines surrounds my ears. Three deafening hammers on my door, and a booming voice. *Nazifa*

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. *Prithika*

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 Divsalar*

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 or even signalling, we must 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.



Pupils preparing for pedal power. Photo by Lisa Huegdon

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.

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- ❖ Coffee & Kids, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ Dads' Club: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ EF National Childbirth Trust contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ Parent & Toddler Group, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ Stepping Stones, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.



Tess alongside a child from the Soweto project.

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 they were 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 still very usable (maths doesn't change that much) or pens with company branding that aren't wanted any



Josh and a colleague on the School Aid project in Africa.

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

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 tranquillity, 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 hollow 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



Linda Dolata uncovers some of the natural secrets of Hampstead Heath. Photo courtesy Neil McNaughton

Ceramics book

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

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 silver 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 charging 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 away. 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 walkies and lampposts 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 lampposts 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 radiator proves once again that cats don't have owners, they have staff.

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, helped with the Muswell Hill Friendship Club, was a member of the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association, founder member of the Jewish National Ex-Servicemen's Club and a devoted family man.

He and his wife, Rene, the other half of the Hyams double act, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in July 2009, lived in Elmhurst Crescent for 54 years, moving to sheltered accommodation in North Finchley a year ago.

They ran the Fairacres Monday Club for 18 years, finally calling it a day in 2005. Described as "bringing Fairacres to life" every week with quizzes, speakers and entertainers, the Club was praised by the Jewish Blind and Disabled Association, the League of Jewish Women, and Finchley's late MP, Rudi Vis. Dr Vis said it always gave him great pleasure to attend the Club's annual big birthday celebration, and he just wished it could happen more than once a year. Everyone 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, some humorous and some very 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 grandson.

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



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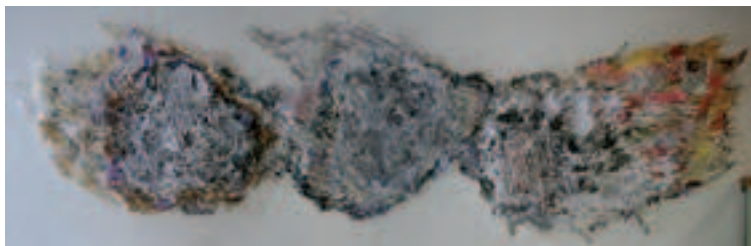
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- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-15 year olds. Mondays 6.30-8pm. Contact Dominic Conway 0777 284 3958
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz** on Mon 6 & 20 June at 8.15pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- ❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music. Contact 07957 344 724 or www.swamprock.org.uk.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Traditional music** at EF Constitutional Club on 2nd Mon each month from 8.30 pm. Free to join in or just listen.

CLUBS & SOCIAL

(See p8 for Parent & Toddler Clubs)

- ❖ **Bingo evening, 8pm Sundays**, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **LGBT?** 1st Weds every month in a local pub. Welcoming atmosphere. Email efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com
- ❖ **Muslim Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita 8886 6140.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.



Paper trail

By Sheila Armstrong

Local artist Anya Beaumont has completed her large 3D artwork based on maps of Barnet: a 'unique mapping of the borough'. It is now on view at artsdepot for a year and is located on the second floor, near the drama space.

Basically it is a large engaging paper sculpture, over five metres long, made from a variety of recycled items including drawings 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 ARCHER* she was pleased this enormous project has been completed and especially that artsdepot 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 £29.50 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 a lifeline for hundreds of disabled children and their families for over 50 years. Through a unique combination of physio, occupational and 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 from all over England 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 the run or any other sponsored event this summer, just call 020 8442 2275 or visit www.bobath.org.uk

to find out about a whole host of ways to support this local charity.

Readers required

National charity Volunteer Reading Help is looking for more people for its London North West branch to assist children with one-to-one reading in local schools.

The charity's readers share books, play games and talk, enabling the children to become more 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 Harriet Watson on 020 7372 7523 or find out more from www.vrh.org.uk.

What's On...

Saturday 11 June

- **Summer Fun Day** at Martin School, Plane Tree Walk, 12pm-3pm. Bouncy castle, plant stall, crafts, tombola, raffle, BBQ, candy floss and much more.
- **Music from Stage and Screen**. The BBC Elstree Band is back by popular demand to play music from stage and screen such as Les Misérables, Star Wars and James Bond; St James's Church, Muswell Hill, N10, 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (concs), £5 (children) available from Peter Kraushar, 2 Lauradale Road, N2 9LU; 020 8883 4736 or East Finchley, Muswell Hill and Crouch End North London Hospice shops. All proceeds to North London Hospice.

Sunday 12 June

- **Holy Trinity Primary School Fair**, Eagans Close, 12pm-2.30pm. Come and enjoy summer fun and games and favourites like cakes, bric-a-brac, raffles, tombola and delicious home-made food.
- **Greenacre Bicycle Rally**. Four and a half miles around North Finchley, Friern Barnet and Whetstone, refreshments and entertainments at Friary Park, then five and a half miles along Dollis Brook to Barnet. Finish with tea and cake at Barnet Countryside Centre's Annual Environment Fair. Escorted by trained stewards, St John Ambulance and police cyclists. Under-12s must be accompanied. Assemble outside artsdepot, N12, from 10am. Registration table closes at 11.30am.

All riders must pre-register at <http://greenacrebicyclerally.blgspot.com> or on the day. Depart at 12 noon.

- **Free concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 7.30pm, **Youth Showcase**. Performers Charlotte Barbour-Condini (alto and descant recorders), Aine Cook (soprano) and Zoë Lakota-Baldwin (folk singer/guitar). Free admission. Collection in aid of the Bobath Centre for children with cerebral palsy. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Thursday 16 June

- **Highgate Counselling Centre 50th Anniversary Lecture**, with Susie Orbach, 7.30pm, Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, London. N6 6BS. Contact 020 8883 5427 for tickets.

Saturday 18 June

- **St Theresa's Primary School Summer Fair**, East End Road, N3, 12pm to 3.30pm. Come along for a fun-filled afternoon, with pony rides, a bouncy castle, raffles, bottle tombola, food, bar and lots more. Entrance £1 adults, children free.
- **The Fair in the Square**, Pond Square, South Grove, Highgate, N6, 12.30-5.30pm. Entertainment, food, stalls, Punch and Judy, dog show and police horses. For up to the minute information visit www.fairinthesquare.co.uk.
- **Sunday 19 June**
- **East Finchley Community Festival**, 12-6pm, Cherry Tree Wood. Music, crafts, entertainment, games

Sin with Rossini

By Marian Bunzl

The main work in North London Chorus's forthcoming concert is Rossini's *Petite Messe Solenne*. The title is misleading, as the piece is neither petite nor solemn and it is a Mass, definitely not a mess. Despite the liturgical text, it is operatic in style, ranging from hushed intensity to a tremendous rhythmic vitality. Rossini himself called it one of the sins of his old age.

We will also perform a few short contemporary American pieces, including Samuel Barber's haunting *Adagio*.

We will be accompanied by piano and harmonium. We do hope you will come and sin with Rossini and us on Saturday 25

June at 7.30 pm at St James's Church, Muswell Hill, N10.

The ticket line is 020 3468 1213 or pick them up from Les Aldrich Bookshop, Fortis Green, or St James's Church. Prices are £18, £13 and £8 (concessions £2 off).

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 Nevrkla, cello) tackled Debussy's *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 very English: strong, warm beer, rather than 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 *String Quintet KV 516*. David Bogle's first violin soared and trilled coolly and stylishly, while the rest fell in behind with admirable, practised competence.

A month later we had 'The Ladies Entertain'. Welcome as ever were Andrea Whittaker (soprano), Viola da Cunha and Jane Rosenberg (mezzo-sopranos), with Muriel Ray accompanying on the Church Hall Bechstein. This was an evening of favourites and what a range of music we had! There were Schubert lieder and a handful of Brahms Zigeunerlieder, a Mozart aria,

Offenbach's *Barcarolle*, *Three Little Maids* from the Mikado and Rossini's *Two Cats* having a noisy night on the tiles. Women composers were represented too: Fanny Hensel, Amy Woodforde-Finden, Clara Edwards, Elizabeth Poston and Laura Shur who was in the audience and took a bow. The ladies concluded resoundingly with *Come to the Fair*.

E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

version of Woody Allen's 1969 hit comedy film. Upstairs at the Gatehouse Theatre, Highgate, N6. Box Office 020 8340 3488, www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com

Until Thursday 30 June

- **Exhibition of local artist Sharon McCloud's** paintings and prints inspired by nature. Chorak, Muswell Hill.

Saturday 9 July

- **Alexandra Palace Organ Appeal** presents a concert spectacular with the **London Welsh Male Voice Choir**, guest soloists and the Kaos Signing Choir for deaf and hearing children and featuring the organ itself. Proceeds will help restore it to its status as "the finest in Europe". 7.30pm. Tickets £15, APOA Friends and Concessions £12. Further information from 01727 861555 or www.allypallyyorgan.org.uk.

Until Saturday 16 July

- **East Finchley Open's** first-ever online art exhibition at nospaceneeded.weebly.com

What's on at artsdepot, North Finchley

Saturday 4 June, 8pm, **Botown** (music). Sunday 5 June, 1pm-2.45pm, **Sunday Buzz Free** (music). Friday 10 June, 8.30pm, **Folk in the Foyer** (music); Saturday 11 June, 8pm, **Paul Chowdhry** (comedy). Sunday 19 June, 1pm-2.45pm, **Sunday Buzz Free** (music). Sunday 26 June, 7.30pm, **Barry & Stuart Live! (Magic)**. Aphorp Gallery to Sunday 26 June, **Lab Craft**.



Letters to the Editor



Shop front uncovered Dear Editor,

After seeing the shop sign taken down from the former Moonlight Café 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, fireworks, Dinky and Corgi toys and Airfix models at Janes and Adams (pictured)? This shop had lovely memories for so many people.

Yours faithfully,
Margaret Cartwright,
Leicester Road, N2.

Write to us with your memories of Janes and Adams. The address is on page 2.

No choice on schools Dear Editor,

Further to your request for views about secondary schools in East Finchley, it is readily apparent that a local school is urgently needed. We live in N2 and have a nine-year-old daughter; there is no chance that we 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 we are very reluctant to do given that we have lived here happily for over 20 years.

Yours faithfully,
Tony Manzi and Sharon Richmond,
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 out of catchment for Fortismere and, being Jewish, 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 ideal as it is a single-sex boys' 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, I am a little concerned about some of the gradings, despite it overall being assessed as good. All I would like is an excellent local, co-educational, non-faith school to which my sons could transfer with their friends, but this ideal, quite common-place in other parts of the country, seems to be something very hard to come by in this part of Barnet.

As I have only sons, I do have at least Christ's College as a back up option. For friends who either have boys and girls, or who have just girls, the situation is pretty dire. I know of several

families who have, reluctantly, been forced to move either to another part of Barnet or out of London completely just because of the inadequate secondary school provision. Something really needs to be done.

Yours faithfully,
Sarah Cohen,
Address supplied.

Isobella and MooMoo Dear Editor

Thank you for one of the most uplifting photographs I have seen in a long time. The image of Isobella and MooMoo on your last front page was inspirational.

Yours faithfully,
Hanan Baradon,
Address supplied.

A taste of the Wild West

By Diana Cormack

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 but it 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.

Creatures from the blue lagoon

By John Dearing

Long Lane Pasture's first event of the year was a Pond Life day on 16 April. It was a bright, clear morning and there was a good turnout of people of all ages who came to enjoy the pasture and some of its flora and fauna. On hand to present some of the amphibian inhabitants was a personable young man called Joshua.



Some of the visitors had fun by naming the stars of the show, so we met Justin the Frog, Thomas the Toad and Sydney the Slow Worm (who, incidentally is neither a worm nor a snake, but is a legless

lizard) plus quite a number of newts and tadpoles.

Those of a more reflective nature could enjoy the view from the seat at the top of the bank, or gaze into the water of the pond made blue by the sky.



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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

By Dr Adam Fagan

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.

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 be able 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 another faith school in our community, parent participation and voice will be minimal. Though a commitment has apparently been made to being part of the local community, (and the admissions policy of the HJPS is seemingly quite liberal), such schools limit rather than extend the local educational provision in our 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.

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New vision for Stanley Field

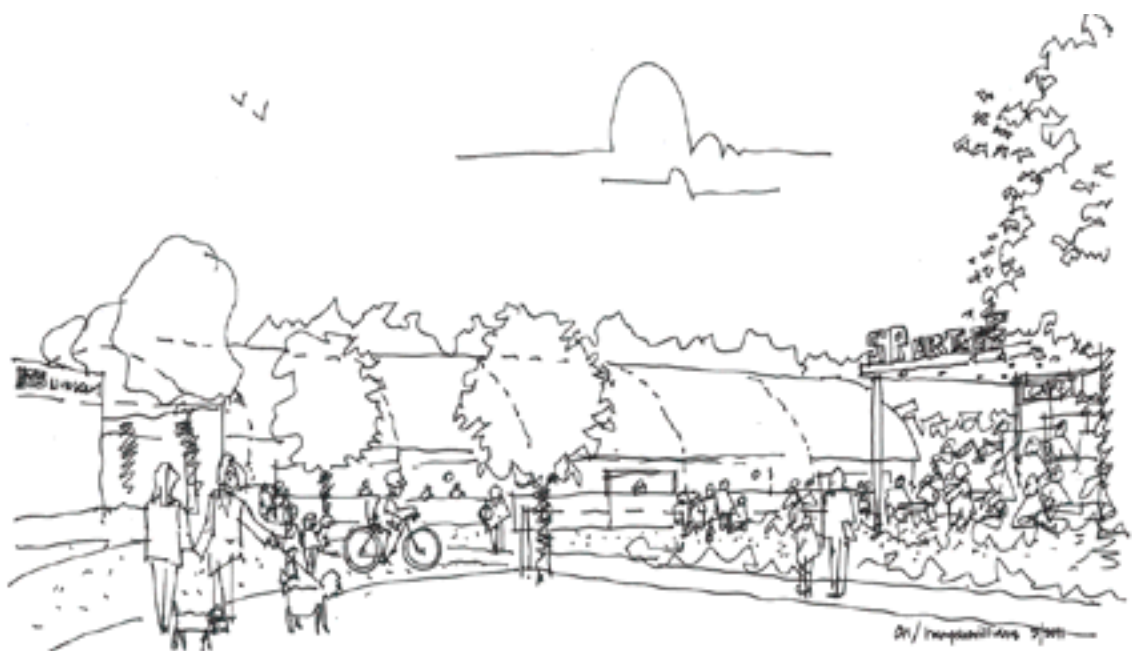
The architects behind the plans for new sports facilities on Stanley Road playing field have released new images of how the site could look. One new perspective shows the entrance to the field near Holy Trinity School with one of the covered sports courts in the background and a café on the right.

Chris Hampson, of Hampson 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.



Plans for new facilities on Stanley Road



The year eight students from Fortismere with Ralph Petrie and Peter Crompton.

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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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.

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