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CARS & COURIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Friends reunited: Isobella and Moo Moo at the station

Isobella and MooMoo reunited

By John Lawrence

Meet three-year-old Isobella and her constant companion MooMoo. The two were inseparable until the day MooMoo was accidentally left on a train at East Finchley station.

As MooMoo sped off in the direction of High Barnet alone, leaving Isobella on the platform in floods of tears, her parents Adam and Karen Scott thought they'd seen the last of the cuddly cow. However, they hadn't accounted for the caring attitude of London Underground station staff.

Our good guys

As soon as they alerted him, station supervisor Derek

sprang into action and phoned ahead to Finchley Central to halt the train. But as he was on the phone, a light on his console changed from red to green, indicating that the train had already left the station and was on the move again.

Undeterred, he phoned further ahead to West Finchley to inform them of MooMoo's plight. An anxious wait ensued but, finally, Peter at West

Finchley phoned back to say that MooMoo was saved and waiting in the ticket office.

Adam said the reunion scene that followed was like something out of Brief Encounter. He said: "We'll never forget the day that we lost MooMoo. All Londoners have got a tale to tell about grumpy Underground staff but the way the good guys perform their everyday tasks shouldn't go unnoticed just because of the growly ones. Big thanks to Derek and Peter and all the great folk we met that day. They are London's finest."

Stanley Road sports plan up and running

Plans to keep Stanley Road Playing Field for sport and recreation have moved one step nearer to fulfilment. The London Marathon Trust has agreed in principle to support the scheme drawn up by local residents; it will now go forward to Barnet Council in late May with this backing.

Roger Chapman, of Sport EF, the residents' group promoting the scheme, said: "The backing of the London Marathon Trust is a real boost. We have managed to convince this charity that our scheme is viable, sustainable and worthy of support. Now we just need to convince Barnet Council, the site owner, to work with us."

Sport EF hopes Stanley Field will become a central home to football, tag rugby and rugby training, netball, basketball, hockey, Kwik cricket, tennis, baseball, softball and rounders.

Roger added that Sport EF also needs to demonstrate the level of support for this scheme amongst the people of East Finchley. There will be stalls on the High Road in future weeks where people can sign a petition

and fill in a survey.

To find out more about the plans, visit www.stanleyroadsports.org where you can keep up to date with the latest developments and complete the petition and survey online.

Stanley Road Field forever

As part of the campaign to keep the field for sport and leisure, there will be a five-a-side football tournament between Holy Trinity and Martin Primary Schools on Tuesday 24 May from 4-6pm.

With a trophy for the winner and medals for all, this promises to be a fun and friendly event, with VIP visits promised from special sporting guests. Teachers, pupils, parents and general supporters are welcome.

See the full plans for Stanley Road on page 6.

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If you have a story for us, please
contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may
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June: 13 May
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Barnet Council:
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
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
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St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

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Team** 020 7161 9014

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E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800 500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
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❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020
8444 0244/ 8489 8774, www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

127 Abbots Gardens, N2
Part single, part two-storey side
extension.

88 Church Lane, N2
Change of Use from A2 Profes-
sional Services to B1 Light Indus-
trial/C3. Residential. Single storey
rear extension. Full width dormer
extension. Conversion of first floor
into two residential units.

101 Durham Road, N2
Single-storey rear extension
7 Fairlawn Avenue, N2
Single-storey rear extension, following
demolition of existing rear addition.

23 Greenhalgh Walk, N2
First floor rear extension. Replace-
ment of sliding doors in rear bay and
insertion of conservation type roof
light to side of roof facing No. 21.

19 Gurney Drive, N2
First floor rear extension including
alterations to roof to facilitate exten-
sion to existing loft.

**Bishop Douglass School, Ham-
ilton Road, N2**
Erection of PVC coated chain link
fencing.

44 High Road, N2
Change of use of existing ground
floor studio flat into additional retail
floor space. Erection of a two-storey
detached self-contained residential
unit including associated courtyard.

21 Howard Walk, N2
Non-material minor amendment
to planning permission reference

F/03970/10.
38 Howard Walk, N2
Two roof lights to rear to facilitate
a loft conversion.

386 Long Lane, N2
First floor rear extension. New
external steel staircase. Altera-
tions to roof including rear dormer
to facilitate a loft conversion.

402A Long Lane, N2
Rear dormer window and two roof
lights to front to facilitate a loft
conversion.

17 Sedgemere Avenue, N2
Roof extension to facilitate a loft
conversion including front roof
lights, rear dormer and Juliet
balcony.

1 Hawthorne Dene, N2
Replacement of front entrance
door. Replacement of both first
floor fire surrounds.

**Former 15, White Lodge Close,
N2**
Formation of entrance gates and
associated works.

Haringey Council

24 Fordington Road, N6
Erection of ground floor rear exten-
sion and first floor side extension.

5 Ringwood Avenue, N2
Gable loft conversion with a rear
dormer, and conversion of integral
garage to habitable accommoda-
tion.

10 Beech Drive, N2
Erection of single-storey rear
extension.

Festival on the starting blocks

By Roger Chapman

**Make sure Sunday 19 June is in your diaries. It's the day
when the East Finchley Festival will be held in Cherry
Tree Wood from 12 noon - 6pm.**

Acts for the main stage and
community stage are in place.
Layout improvements have been
made with a new 'market square'
of stalls in the centre of the field.
There are also lots more activi-
ties for children including a mega
slide, bouncy castle, facepainting,
story-telling and much more. Food
stalls plus over 70 other stalls and
the beer tent will be in place.

The street parade theme this
year will be books. So come
dressed as your favourite book and

join the parade, which will start at
Martin School at 11.30am.

Watch out for raffle tickets
which will be on sale soon at
some East Finchley stores includ-
ing Budgens, The Cherry Tree and
Lazy Sally's kiosk in Cherry Tree
Wood. All proceeds go to keeping
the Festival free.

Check out the latest
information on the Festival
at www.eastfinchley.co.uk/
or [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/East.Finchley.Festival)
East.Finchley.Festival

Free skip service dumped

By Diana Cormack

**Barnet's free neighbourhood skip service came to an
end on 31 March. To dispose of items such as bicycles,
furniture or garden equipment, which could be used by
someone else, get in touch with the Barnet Furniture
Centre for recycling or reuse. This is based at 4 Queen's
Parade Close, London N11 3FY; telephone 020 8361 6802
or email info@barnetfurniturecentre.org**

Any bulky or other waste needing a special collection will
have to be paid for. Details of this can be found online on the
Barnet website under "Special Collections Service". Otherwise
residents can take unwanted goods to the free recycling centre at
Summers Lane, N12.

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Jake chalks one up

The path in front of the kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood has been the site of many chalk drawings. Archer contributor Jake Eiseman-Renyard went one better by creating an elaborate chalk mural on the side of the kiosk itself, capturing all the icons of East Finchley. The verdict from kiosk owner Sally-Anne? "I love it!"

Art show for anyone online

By Jane Dorner

A number of East Finchley Open artists are exhibiting art photography online for the first time, throughout May, June and July at NoSpaceNeeded.weebly.com.

What's different about this exhibition is that although it is time-limited, just like a gallery show, the group will enjoy freedom from physical restraints: walls, hanging paraphernalia, painting plinths, invigilating, promo posters and so on.

The 'no space needed' theme is at the heart of the creative process as well, starting with the disposable film cameras that every participating artist received. All produced a set of images that were converted into digital files and then given to a different artist. The idea was to treat fellow artists' work as one's inspiration, to manipulate, cut and paste, colourise or distort at will. The online exhibition includes comment boxes for visitors to post their remarks.

Pasture comes up roses

Long Lane Pasture has been granted almost £10,000 from the Big Lottery's Awards for All. The money will enable volunteers to complete most of the capital works outlined in their management plan for the nature site.

These include erecting a noticeboard and a panoramic sign interpreting the extensive view over Finchley at the new pedestrian gate by the railway bridge; removing an area polluted by dumped oil which is seeping down a main path and killing the grass; installing visitor counters; and buying more wildlife plants for the butterfly border and embankment.

The pasture, opposite the Fire Station, is open to visitors every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday from 10am to 5pm. The next event there is a Wildflower Day on 28 May when the pasture will be looking at its best.

Safeguard your tools

Small businesses and householders are being warned to take extra care of their tools after garden designer Giovanni Romagnoli had his stolen from the back of his van. Giovanni's van was parked at the corner of Fortis Green and Springcroft Avenue when it was broken into at around 2.30pm on Friday 8 April. The thieves made off with his power tools.

Giovanni said: "Everyone should make sure their equipment is secure at all times and stay vigilant. Whilst working in East Finchley I often see a panelled white Ford Transit driving around with two or three people inside looking around and always ask myself what the intentions of those individuals are."

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Allotment holders challenge rent increases

Allotment holders have started a legal challenge to rent increases agreed by Barnet Council. These will raise the rent for a standard 250sqm plot from £59 per year to £170 for Barnet residents and £340 for non-residents. Allotment holders had lobbied hard against the increases and submitted a petition, but the council backed the rises in February.

Allotment holders say the increases are unjustified. The legal challenge will be based on their claims that the council failed to consult them about the proposed increases; presented no evidence that they were needed, for example to cover costs; did not base the increases on proper criteria or legislation, and failed to justify why allotment holders living outside the borough should pay twice as much as Barnet residents.

Pressure to self-manage

The council has said that the increases will only apply to allotment sites that stay in council management after April 2012. Allotment holders would have the opportunity to take over the management of their sites before then and could set their own rents.

Allotment holders believe, however, that the huge rent increases (far greater than for other recreational facilities in Barnet) are designed to induce allotment holders to go for self-management regardless of the terms of any deal yet to be put forward by the council.

Commenting on the challenge, Richard King, the secretary of the Barnet Federation of Allotment and Horticultural

Societies, said: "We told the council from the start that these rent increases were unjustified and unjustifiable but they took no notice. To increase allotment rents by such huge amounts when other charges for recreational facilities are going up only in line with inflation is completely unreasonable. And to do it in this way, to try and make us agree to manage our own sites, is unfair. Discussions about this have hardly started and there aren't even proposals on the table yet."

Vacant allotments

Do you want to grow your own fruit and vegetables? Does digging in the fresh air and harvesting your own food appeal to you?

Vacant plots are now available at Vale Farm allotments at the end of Tarling Road, East Finchley. Both full and half-size allotments can be rented.

Anyone interested should contact the secretary at lilyehr@rocketmail.com. Priority will be given to local and Barnet residents.

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Eva Schloss talking to children. Photo courtesy of Manorside School

Eva Schloss visits Manorside

By Daphne Chamberlain

Manorside School welcomed a special visitor at the end of March. Eva Schloss, the stepsister of Anne Frank, spoke to Years 5 and 6 about her experience as a Jewish child before the Second World War, about living in hiding in Nazi-occupied Holland, and about surviving the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Her story was grim, but her message was positive.

"I am a very happy person," she told them. "Enjoy life. Never give up hope, and remember it is very important to have no prejudice. If a person is decent, accept them, whoever they are."

Eva's family knew the Franks before they all had to go into hiding. She remembers Anne as a lively chatterbox, interested in clothes, fashion and boys, and keen to demonstrate her double-jointed shoulder. Anne, her mother and sister all died in the death camps, but her father Otto survived and married Eva's mother after the war.

Survival through memory

Anne wrote, "When I die, I would like to live on." As we know, she has. Her father and her diary have kept her memory alive. Otto often said, "Whatever you have done in life, somebody will remember".

Eva's father and her very talented and creative brother Heinz, did not survive either, but

Eva remembered that Heinz had hidden 30 of his paintings before being taken to Auschwitz. When she and her mother retrieved them, Eva knew too that all that Heinz and Pappy had given her could never be taken away.

The Manorside children gave Eva a wonderful welcome, listened attentively to everything she told them, and asked her some very thoughtful questions. Their comments at the end included, "Powerful", "Sad", "Inspirational", "Don't leave people out", "Never give up hope". They will remember Eva's message.

Eva Schloss is now 82 but full of energy and with a great gift of communication. She lives in London and often speaks to schools. She has written two books, *Eva's Story* (ISBN 0-952-3716-93) and *The Promise* (ISBN 978-0-14-132081-6). See next month's *ARCHER* for the children's writing inspired by Eva's visit.

Barnet Civic Award Winners 2011

By Diana Cormack

At the end of March, 57 people from the borough were recipients of a Barnet Civic Award. This annual event honours residents who have made a significant contribution to borough life in a voluntary capacity. All are secretly nominated by fellow residents.

THE ARCHER has tracked down three modest East Finchley award winners (if you know of any more, please let us know. Our contact details are on page 2). In alphabetical order they are: Roger Chapman, Helen Drake and Brian Hooper.

Roger, of Summerlee Avenue, has been involved in many local events and is at present striving to save the Stanley Field as a centre for local use. He is also one of the hard working volunteers organising the East Finchley Community Festival on 19 June.

Helen, of Chandos Road, has worked tirelessly at Martin Primary School where she spent six years on the governing body of which she was Chair, successfully guiding this large and diverse school

through many changes. In her continuing pursuit of better outcomes for children, Helen now supports local families in improving secondary school choices.

Brian's fundraising has featured in *THE ARCHER*, most recently in March when he was pictured handing over a cheque for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Since October 2008, Brian, of Fortis Green, has organised a weekly Tuesday night quiz at The Old White Lion pub. He has also run raffles and events in aid of a number of charities with many businesses on the High Road generously supplying the prizes. With their help, and that of customers and staff at the pub, Brian has so far raised over £6,500.

Congratulations to all of the winners!



Brian Hooper receiving his award

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Keep burglars at bay

By Janet Maitland

Burglars are opportunists and will take any chance they are given. But if you follow some simple police advice while spring cleaning and sorting out your garden after winter, you can make things a lot more difficult for them.

Plant prickly plants like holly and berberis under windows and next to boundaries. The prospect of climbing over them or pushing through them can be unappealing enough to make a would-be burglar move on to somewhere easier.

Make sure that fencing at the front of your property is not so high it provides cover for people trying to hide, but keep it high at the back to make it harder to get over; add some trellis on the top as this makes it more difficult to climb. Make sure side and back gates have good quality locks.

Think about putting gravel on drives and paths instead of concrete: it's an excellent burglar deterrent because it's so noisy to walk on.

The most common way for burglars to break in is to use the owner's own tools. So, if you've got a shed, lock your tools away. If you don't, keep your tools indoors.

Always lock your windows when you go out. When you're indoors, close downstairs windows whenever you leave the room; it only takes a few seconds for someone to reach in and grab something.

Appeal over cemetery plan

By Daphne Chamberlain
A plan to build alongside the cemetery gatehouse at 320 High Road is active again. In December, Barnet Council ruled against an additional development on the neighbouring site, which would have meant a two-storey building going up just a few feet from its windows. Now the developer has appealed to the Government Planning Inspectorate, which was what no.320's owner Iggy Mascarenhas had feared.

The previous applications were to build a three-storey block of flats, which Barnet rejected but the Government Planning Inspectorate allowed. That block is now under construction and the proposed building would be an annexe. Barnet ruled that the extension would mean overdevelopment of the site.

When he heard of the appeal, Mr Mascarenhas commented, "Here we go again". The decision will be made this month.



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Nursery to open in Park House

By Janet Maitland

Park House will soon be full of the sound of children's voices. The council-owned building opposite the tube station, empty for nearly four years, has finally been let to a private nursery on a five-year lease.

The nursery, a franchise of Monkey Puzzle Day Nurseries, will initially take 55 children and employ about 20 staff, subject to Ofsted approval. The plan is to open the nursery on the ground floor in the autumn.

The building has become very dilapidated and will need extensive renovation before it can open, including conversion of part of the rear car park into a secure outdoor play area. In the longer term, there are also plans to sub-let the first floor to a company compatible with a nursery.

Green Travel Plan

"We're hoping that the nursery will not only be used by local parents, but that people living close by will apply for jobs with us," said local resident Paula Curry, the owner. "As part of our Green Travel Plan, we'll be providing a secure buggy and bicycle storage area, an employee Oyster card loan scheme and a bicycle loan scheme to make it easier for people to leave their cars at home."

A public open day will be held during the summer. "If

readers have any questions about the nursery, they can call free on 0870 850 3372," said Paula.

Five years ahead

The council decided in January to allow a five-year lease on the site, whose value lies not in the building but in its prime position. Big national companies are likely to be interested in developing retail or residential premises when the lease expires. However, as we reported in February, Councillor Colin Rogers is hopeful that the five years may provide enough time for smaller organisations and community enterprises to determine the long-term future of Park House.

In 2005 local protests prevented a developer from building a superstore on the site. Later, The Institute hoped to buy Park House but were not able to proceed with the sale and left the building when their temporary lease expired in 2007. Development company Cathedral exchanged contracts for the site in early 2008, but withdrew for legal reasons.

High court action against parking charges

By Diana Cormack

Residents from the Barnet CPZ Action Group met outside the High Court on Monday 11 April in support of the action to be taken on their behalf by solicitor David Attfield. David, of Summerlee Avenue, lodged papers petitioning the court to launch a judicial review regarding Barnet's decision to increase parking charges throughout the borough.

As reported in last month's *ARCHER*, parking permits are to rise from £40 to £100 per year and visitor vouchers from £1 to £4 each. The group believes that these increases are unlawful as the revenue raised would be used for road repairs throughout the borough instead of just controlling parking demands. They must now wait on a judge's decision as to whether there is a point of law which needs to be examined by the courts; they have also requested a cap on their financial liability for the legal challenge.

The Action Group featured on ITV London Today, challenging Barnet's claim that their increased parking charges were in line with other London boroughs and asking Barnet to withdraw it publicly. The campaigners point out that it costs more to park a small car outside your own house in Barnet than in Mayfair or Chelsea and Westminster.

Fighting fund

So far, almost half the amount they are aiming for has been raised. Some members of the group have visited tube stations and other parts of the borough to raise awareness of the parking charge hike and to encourage other residents to



Residents support at High Court. Photo by Philippa Worke

join in the protest.

More fundraising activities are planned and donations are still needed. Cheques made payable to 'Barnet CPZ Action' can

be sent to 88 Summerlee Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9QH. For further information visit www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com or email barnetcpz@gmail.com

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Police clear up the burnt-out scooter in Cherry Tree Wood.

Motorbike thefts on the rise

The Safer Neighbourhood Team has issued a warning to motorcycle and scooter owners following a spate of thefts. This kind of theft often ends with the bike being dumped and set on fire.

Recent examples reported to *THE ARCHER* are a burnt-out moped found in Cherry Tree Wood on 19 March. A stolen motorbike was also set on fire in the alleyway between the end of Durham Road and Creighton Avenue on 3 April. A local resident reported to us that another bike had been dumped

in the same alleyway only a few weeks before.

"We've increased patrols in the areas affected," said Police Constable Eddie Rose. "If possible, bike owners should put their bikes in a secure garage or outbuilding. They should use a disc lock and a substantial chain and padlock."

The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone them on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email them at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

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Central home for sport (continued from page 1)

The plan for the site includes a three-court tennis bubble, a multi-use games area, three all-weather pitches to at least FIFA Football turf one-star quality, and a 400m perimeter jogging or walking path with outdoor gym facilities.

There will be car parking and a community space, potentially incorporating a café, nursery or meeting rooms.

In addition, informal activities including recreational running, jogging, an outdoor gym and outdoor table tennis could also be catered for.

Reading and games at the library

By Lily Hart, aged 11
Local children were joined by Anne-Marie Conway and Jonny Zucker at the East Finchley Library on 2 April for an afternoon of fun drama.

The event was organised by Polly Napper and East Finchley Library Users Group to promote and celebrate our library. Barnet Council has just announced that East Finchley branch is safe this year though sadly two other branches will be shut.

The afternoon started off with children's author Anne-Marie and some fun drama and name games. Anne-Marie then read an exciting scene from *Polly Plays Her Part*, the first in her trilogy of Star-Makers Club books (my little sister Ruby's favourites!).

The afternoon continued with Jonny Zucker, who used East Finchley Library as a child. He started off with the first magic trick ever to be recorded in history (the Cup-and-Ball trick from Egypt). He showed the children some of the books where he finds his inspiration for writing, then quizzed them on the amazing trick pictures, and generously donated free books to the library for correct answers. I was really impressed by a mind reading trick he performed in which he correctly guessed the card chosen by Molly from Martin Primary School.

The afternoon came to an end with a cheerful photo-call. You can see the result with this article!

East Finchley Library saved from cuts

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Library will live to fight another day. Following a period of consultation, Barnet Council has decided to keep our library open. In fact, Cllr Robert Rams, Barnet Cabinet Minister for Libraries and Museums, is considering extending opening hours and increasing stock.

Polly Napper, the driving force behind East Finchley Library Users Group, is "absolutely delighted", but urges us all to keep visiting and borrowing. Polly and EFLUG were praised by local Councillor Andrew McNeil, who said that their efforts to raise the library's profile had been a very important contribution towards keeping our library open.

News for some other branches is not so good. Hampstead Garden Suburb Library has been recommended for closure, with some indication of mobile provision. The public in Friern Barnet and the North Finchley / Whetstone areas will also lose their local branches. The council plan is to combine them, possibly inside artsdepot, in what MP Mike Freer describes as "a brand new flagship library". Church End (Finchley Central) Library is also to be rehoused, though where is not clear.

Burdensome

The national trend in library provision is towards

'flagship' libraries, usually in large shopping centres, while smaller local branches are being closed. At the moment, the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 states that local councils must provide a 'comprehensive and efficient library service' but leaves those terms very vague. The Government is currently considering which services should remain the responsibility of local councils and which are too 'burdensome' and should be put on the market. The website www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/tacklingburdens/reviewstatutoryduties/ makes clear that libraries could be regarded as "burdensome".

Until the end of last month, the public were being invited to give their opinions, which EFLUG members have been doing. Keep up to date with developments at www.eflug.org.uk or their Facebook page www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_202928423070042, or contact Polly at pollynapper@btinternet.com.

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Proposed cuts threaten dads' club

By Diana Cormack

Parents and carers with children under five are again facing the loss of a centre that currently provides a wealth of activities and support. Highgate Children's Centre has been open for just over a year, with many families from East Finchley registered there. People come to see the midwife, get breast-feeding support, and receive baby care and health advice. Along with mums' yoga and parenting classes are activities for youngsters including music, messy play, storytelling sessions, playgroups and a dads' club.

The club was originally set up in East Finchley by Lydik Grynfeldt, then taken on by Adam Porter, of Leslie Road, after he read about it in *THE ARCHER* of August 2009. The club has gone from strength to strength but Haringey Council now plans to make substantial cuts to its children's centre budget. Consultation meetings, held throughout April, could result in the Highgate Centre being open only for baby weighing and 'signposting' to all other services elsewhere in Haringey. This would be a great loss to many local families. Visit childrenscentreconsultation@haringey.gov.uk for an update.

Newstead saved

Newstead Children's Centre in Fallow's Close, N2, was under a similar threat but,

following consultations, Barnet Council decided it would remain open. Parent Cheryl Connell told *THE ARCHER* that funding has been cut for all commissioned services but current staff levels, including a pre-school teacher, are being maintained for the next financial year. However, some staff will be lost while working for ten hours at other children's centres. With no extra budget they face servicing an increase from 1,200 to 1,900 in clientele. The centre is hoping to maintain its Saturday fathers' group meetings every 4-5 weeks on a voluntary self-run basis.

Cheryl said, "We have been told that further cuts cannot be ruled out...we prepare for another fight!"



Lucy Williams, Janine Waterman Cathy Du Vergier and Mike Quigley outside the Houses of Parliament.

Outstanding body

The governing body of Martin Primary School was one of just six from across Britain to be shortlisted for the Outstanding Governing Body Awards. Governors Janine Waterman, Lucy Williams, Cathy Du Vergier and Mike Quigley represented the group in a ceremony at the Houses of Parliament.

The governing body had been nominated by Cathy Du Vergier for its strategic leadership during the infant and junior school amalgamation in 2007 and for highly organised and effective governing.

The National Governors' Association director Doris Neville-Davis commented on the

governors' active engagement in the local community, close relationship with the headteacher and commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all children.

Unfortunately, Martin Primary School was not the winner on the day but as a finalist they came away with a certificate and a glass plaque.

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Parents are asking for better secondary school provision for East Finchley. Photo by Cath Bourne

Parents call for a new secondary school

“We’re not happy with the secondary school provision and we’d like a new school, please,” was the view of around 60 local parents who attended a public meeting on 7 April, organised by the campaign group ‘Local Schools for Local Children’.

Group organiser and parent Avis Johns said: “There has always been a problem with secondary places in this area, particularly for girls, and particularly west of the High Road, but this problem is now becoming more acute.

“The current pressure on primary places is going to filter through to secondary level, making the problem even worse, with East Finchley children losing out on places at the most popular schools.

“We have excellent primary schools that foster a wonderful community ethos and it’s a disgrace that there isn’t a non-faith secondary school, within walking distance, to which all our children, boys and girls, can transfer.”

Implications for young families

Discussion at the meeting focused on concern about Fortismere School’s shrinking catchment area (this year first-round offers were made only

to those living within 0.44 of a mile of the school) and the fact that Christ’s College is a single-sex school, taking in boys from a large catchment area, and is now applying to become an Academy. Questions were also asked about what local politicians have been doing to fix the problem and whether setting up a Free School might be a solution.

“This is a community problem which needs a community solution, otherwise East Finchley will become a no-go area for young families,” said Avis.

To get involved with the campaign email localschools@live.co.uk or join the Facebook group “Local Schools for Local Children” or follow Twitter “LocalSchoolsN2”.

Does East Finchley need another secondary school? Send your views to the-archer@lineone.net or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

Anchor’s away

It’s unwieldy and weighs half a ton, but someone still managed to steal a ship’s anchor from outside the Finchley Sea Cadets’ hall in Long Lane. The massive iron anchor had been in place outside the main entrance for 15 years but was carried off by thieves in late March.

The cadets’ leaders have now welded down its companion but they are keen for anyone who spots the stolen ironware to contact the police.

In the meantime, the cadets are gearing up for a busy summer of activities and new young members, boys and girls, are always welcome. For more information, call 020 8346 1828 or email finchleyunit141@btinternet.com.



Recycling centre protest

Residents are protesting at plans to build a recycling and waste management plant on land once used for sewage treatment. The site is alongside the North Circular close to Muswell Hill Golf Course and the Friern Barnet Retail Park.

They claim the 30-year contract to create “sustainable waste facilities” in Pinkham Way will destroy the existing wildlife on the site and become a health and noise nuisance to residents and schools nearby, as well as to the wider communities of Muswell Hill, Friern Barnet and East Finchley.

Three companies have submitted bids to run the plant for the North London Waste Authority. It would process rubbish from Barnet, Haringey, Enfield, Camden, Islington, Hackney and Waltham Forest. A preferred bidder will be selected in 2012.

Delay decision, say campaigners

Campaigners in the Pinkham Way Alliance say it will be one of the largest mechanical and biological treatment plants in Europe and will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The result, they claim, will be increased traffic congestion and noise pollution on and around the North Circular, more air pollution, a reduced quality of life and the destruction of natural habitats.

They argue that the public consultation took place so quickly most people would have missed it and the land has already been sold to the NLWA for £12 million. They want the views of all residents and businesses to be heard before a final decision is made. To find out more about the campaign, visit www.pinkhamwayalliance.org

The NWLA in turn says the plant will help the boroughs of north London to meet their recycling targets and will divert more waste from landfill. Barnet Council has approved the draft plan for the site.

Cherry Tree Wood pavilion plans on hold

By Diana Cormack

After three years of consulting, organising and planning, Sally-Anne Wigfield’s proposals for the redevelopment of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood have hit an unexpected snag. Though Barnet Council liked her ideas, Sally learned last November that the project was not eligible for the finance she was seeking from the Social Investment Business.

This would have been in the form of a grant/low interest loan but failed because Sally has been operating the kiosk café near the tennis courts as a sole trader and not as a social or community organisation. Trading as either of these for at least six months is a requirement for funding.

A request that Barnet should consider a previous Asset Option from Sally was refused and “For Sale” boards were placed at the pavilion. The original signs were changed at her instigation as both stated “Park Café”, despite the fact that Sally was and still is running the kiosk there.

Still hopeful

She recognises the possibility that the pavilion could be taken over by a property developer who might have little

concern for the local community whereas Sally, her husband Robert and a board of trustees would like it to be used by the community. They envisage the ground floor as a healthy eating, alcohol-free café and believe the top floor could be hired by community groups for exhibitions and leisure activities such as yoga and meditation (see *THE ARCHER*, August 2010).

Despite this setback and though some residents still object to her plans, Sally is searching other avenues, with particular emphasis on community involvement, which might allow the project to proceed. For more information visit www.foctwpavilion.org.uk or look out for regular updates posted outside the pavilion itself.

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Nadia and Adele of the Loop Academy.

Zest for life at Loop Academy

By Lucy Chamberlin

Cheerleading champions and professional performers Nadia Nadry and Adele Keating exude excitement and gusto as they lead their troupe of children round the hall. It is Saturday morning at the Loop Academy, and the pair are doing what they do best: teaching, acting, singing, dancing and enthusing their small charges with confidence and zest for life.

Nadia and Adele have known each other since childhood, attending the same school in Leeds and then meeting again, as if by fate, on the same acting degree course. Last Christmas they set up Loop (which also features an adult street jazz class) at Highgate Primary School on North Hill.

"Acting has always been in us," says Adele, "and we work really well together. The kids seem to love it, and the adult class has really taken off this term."

Personal touch

One mum, Debbie, has just come from the adult dance class, which Nadia runs from 10am-11am while Adele takes the children for acting. "It's great exercise and it challenges your brain as well as your body: much more fun than just going for a run," says Debbie. Her son Emir has autism, and didn't learn to speak till he was five years old. "He gets loads of

confidence here," she says. "He can be himself and really enjoy it too."

Journalist Martin Bright from Park Hall Road has come to drop off his two sons, Felix, seven, and Victor, five. "We've tried lots of things in the area, but a lot of drama schools are oversubscribed. Here you get the t-shirts and the professionalism, but you also get that personal touch."

The Loop Academy is offering a free taster class for next term, which starts on Saturday 7 May. To book a place, call 07758 616774 or email info@loopacademy.co.uk

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<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

Smart moves at Holy Trinity

Pupils at Holy Trinity Primary School have taken part in some high-profile rugby and dance projects.

As part of the Aviva and Premiership Rugby Schools Programme in Barnet, Year 5 and 6 children had tag rugby coaching with a Saracens team coach for five weeks, and were invited to watch Saracens play Newcastle Falcons at Vicarage Road, where they created a Guard of Honour cheering out the teams at half time.

First Team player Andy Saul also visited the school for a question and answer session at assembly. In May, Holy Trinity pupils will be competing against other schools in the Barnet Schools' Sports Partnership at the Saracens Tag Festival.

Year 5 and 6 children also took part in the Barnet Schools' Dance Festival at artsdepot in Finchley, along with pupils from 16 other schools.

They performed an amazing dance version of Shine On, choreographed by teacher Miss Artemiou, and were part of the 'cast' finale with a very colourful 'Waving Flag' dance.

Young Voices sing out

Young people with an interest in singing now have an opportunity to join a new choir. Joel Thomas, a professional conductor with many years of experience working in schools across London, has established a new vocal group called Barnet Young Voices.

Meeting at Trinity Church Centre in North Finchley on Thursday evenings, the group offers its members the chance to explore a wide repertoire of songs and styles including jazz, pop, and classical choral music.

It is open to all young people with no auditions so everyone is welcome to come along and see if singing is for them! Younger singers, aged 7-13, meet from 5-6pm and are followed by the group's older singers, aged 14-18, who rehearse from 6-7pm.

For more information, contact Joel by phone on 020 8445 6898 or 07986 582844 or by email on joelthomas12345@hotmail.co.uk. Sessions are held at Trinity Church Centre, Nether Street, North Finchley, N12 7NN.

YOUNG ARCHER

Red Nose runner

My name is Stanley Dryden and this Red Nose Day I wanted to do something to help people who need our help. I had a great idea to run laps around Stanley Field. So I asked my neighbours and my relatives to sponsor me for my run and they said "yes".



Done it! Stanley Dryden crosses the finishing line on Red Nose Day.

I did the run on Red Nose Day and I did nine laps; it was very hard work but I did it! I raised £152.31 to help children in other countries but in our country too.

Red Nose is a good idea because it engages people to do fun things to raise money to help others. In three words I would explain it as unregretful, enjoyable and unforgettable. I will do something different next year. Hope you had a good Red Nose Day too.

Headteacher under the hammer

By Rachel Ellis

A parent paid £150 for their child to be headteacher for the day as part of a charity auction at Martin Primary School, and raised an impressive £5,000 for the school.

Parents and teachers turned out in force to bid at the event organised by the Parent, Carer and Teacher Association. Other items going under the hammer included a signed Arsenal photo, a tour of the House of Lords, cooking lessons from parents and the chance to join the school office team for the day. All prizes were donated by parents, teachers and local businesses.

The money raised comes at a time when school budgets across the country are becoming tighter. It will be used to improve facilities in the Key Stage 2 school playground. Headteacher Helen Morrison said she was overwhelmed by the generosity of parents and donors.

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Old Barn campaign takes off

By Janet Maitland

The campaign to bring the Old Barn Community Centre back under the control of local people is fast gathering momentum. Nearly 100 people have applied to become members so that they can have a direct influence on how the building in Tarling Road is used.

The centre used to be a hub of activities for children and young people. But after a change in management last year, many community groups moved out and an after-school club was shut. The centre is now used mainly for a religious meeting on Sundays.

The Old Barn Action Group (OBAG), set up last year to bring the centre back to life, has carried out a survey of local people. The biggest concern of respondents to the questionnaire was the lack of provision for young people. The services that people thought were most needed were before and after school clubs, children's sport, fitness and leisure activities and a community café but a wide range of other community activities were suggested.

"We want to safeguard the

Old Barn for generations to come," said Will Hudson, who leads the action group. "The local people who've applied to become members of the Association have signed statements in order to put pressure on the management committee to recommence community services in the building. If necessary, we will take back control of the Association."

The Association leases the building from Barnet Council, who have said that they are reviewing the position in respect of the lease and the building.

The next open meeting of the action group will be held at the Green Man Community Centre at 7.30pm on 10 May. To get involved in the campaign, contact endofstrife@hotmail.co.uk, call 07870 647284 or see OBAG's Facebook page.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Gordon, Iceland and Boris one year on

Is it only a year since Brown Gordon, 'a new kind of super hero,' flew high over London as he embarked on yet another mission to keep the country in the brown? Was it only 12 months ago that Icelandic humour took over as one of its fun-loving volcanoes decided to do its bit for air travel? And did anyone realise that the Eton Rifles idea of running the country would be so retro it would be just like the early 1980s. You know, mass unemployment and a Royal wedding.

Let's start with Brown Gordon, a man who stared victory in the face and watched it turn into defeat. Now he watches impotently as Diddy David Cameron, Slasher and Fag revive good old-fashioned values like poverty and gunboat diplomacy. Brown Gordon saved the world, Blue David saved the rich.

In the weird world of total weirdness no one can match Iceland. The place that nearly bankrupted itself, most of its banks, half our local councils and several airlines still retains its sense of humour. So when they held a referendum on paying some of it back the Icelanders got drunk, celebrated with a meal of fermented shark's head and voted no. Well, if your traditional cuisine includes burying a shark's head for a couple of months, digging it up and eating it, then a bit of bankruptcy is always good for a laugh.

When it comes to jokes there's no one like Blond Boris, a man who thinks that retro is the way to go and wants to reintroduce the ancient Routemaster to London. And it's now a year since he showed off a prototype and gave us all the chance to look forward to retro experience. Why bother? The Routemaster was uncomfortable, noisy, slow, cold and a product of the 1950s. A bit like Boris really.

It's all a bit like the Titanic. It was launched on 31 May 1911, hailed as the great, unsinkable luxury liner. Ten months later it hit an iceberg, sank and gave something new to the English language. Can't see Brown Gordon, Iceland or Boris doing that...



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

Silverware for Wingate & Finchley

Wingate & Finchley won their first trophy for 16 years, with a 2-0 victory in an enthralling Cup Final over Dulwich Hamlet in March. The opening goal came for Wingate three minutes before half-time and the second came an hour into the game. Wingate & Finchley defended their lead well to take the trophy and the man of the match award went to their goalie Gavin King.

Father and daughter raise funds in memory of Ann

Antonio and Caterina Incisa recently raised over £15,000 for the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Unit at UCLH in memory of wife and mother, Ann Vautier-Incisa.

Ann Vautier-Incisa was treated for non-Hodgkins lymphoma at UCLH but sadly died in May 2009. She was an incredibly active member of the East Finchley community: she regularly delivered The Archer and was involved with the East Finchley charity Neighbourhood Contact.

The Incisas raised the money through a fundraising event on 28 March at Christie's auction house in King Street, London. The evening began with a showing of the new Leukaemia and Lymphoma Unit fundraising video, which was sponsored by Antonio Incisa and produced, written and directed by Peter Chipping of East Finchley. This was followed by two short comedy animations, a charity auction and a raffle.

Sara Goldman, fundraiser for the charity, was extremely pleased with the event and told The Archer: "The money raised for the unit goes to improve the experience and environment for patients having treatment." Current projects include



Ann Vautier-Incisa in her garden. Photo by Antonio Incisa.

complementary therapies, such as reflexology, for patients and their families, specialised education for nurses, and Ambulatory Care backpacks, which allow eligible chemotherapy patients to leave the hospital while having treatment, resulting in more freedom and independence for the patients.

Antonio and Caterina hope the money raised will also help keep the memory of Ann alive in the community. Further information about the unit and how to

donate can be found on this website: www.uclh.nhs.uk/aboutus/campaignsandcharities/llu/pages/home.aspx.

Henry Van Emden

By Paula Sanders

On 22 March I lost my beloved partner Henry Van Emden, a wonderful man loved by all who knew him. He was a brilliant musician, as many people know from the numerous concerts he gave for charitable events for many years. Rest in peace. Paula, Sharon, James and family.

The Archer will publish an obituary next month.

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- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk
- ❖ **Tai Chi class** at EF Methodist Ch, Weds at 1pm. Call James Drewe 8883 3308 or james@taiji.co.uk
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **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 9 & 23 May 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)

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- ❖ **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.

Bawdy musical revives royal scandal

By Laura Wheadon

Psst...! Have you heard the rumours about Cleveland Street? In 1889, London was rocked by scandal when an ordinary address in the heart of Camden became known as an infamous male brothel, serviced by telegraph messenger boys and frequented by several notable members of the aristocracy including (possibly) the grandson of Queen Victoria, Prince Eddy.



Director Tim McArthur (pictured left), whose last stage project *My Beautiful Launderette* received rave reviews, explains that the show's format presents a unique and interesting challenge for the actors as a relatively small cast switches between several parts. He promises a fun, high-energy, high-impact show, packed with belly-laughs and innuendo.

Cleveland Street: The Musical runs until 29 May at the Above the Stag Theatre, 15 Bressenden Place, Victoria, London SW1E 5DD.

A law banning homosexuality had been passed in 1885 so the brothel was closed. Yet in a familiar tale of Victorian hypocrisy, the aristocratic clients of the brothel all escaped abroad without charge while a newspaper editor who had printed the truth and a 19-year-old messenger boy were imprisoned for acts of gross indecency. The royal connection was enough to ensure that the whole affair was swiftly hushed up.

Good clean fun

Not any more! Fast forward to 2011 and what promises to be the hottest fringe production of the season. Glenn Chandler, writer of the Bafta-winning TV series, *Taggart*, and composer Matt Devereaux have teamed up with Highgate director Tim McArthur to re-open the case and dish the dirt on all concerned in *Cleveland Street: The Musical*.

This time, though, there's no finger of blame, just good, clean - or not so clean - fun, evoking the spirit and bawdy variety of the ever-popular Victorian music hall.

Small show makes big impression

By Sheila Armstrong
At artsdepot in early April there was a full turnout of the East Finchley Open for the private view of their Small is Beautiful exhibition, which ran until 30 April.

Local ceramicist and EFO member Jenny Rymer told *THE ARCHER* that Christine Watson, organiser of the exhibition, asked all EFO members to use the same size frame (6 x 8 inches) in which to exhibit their work. "A challenge, but stimulating," Jenny said. She made 12 tiny pots and carefully glued them into her frame. The frames were arranged together and made a striking and varied show, giving a taste of the work of each artist.

Over the garden fence

By Susan Bennett

When I took on the role of Assistant County Organiser for The National Gardens Scheme, which raises money for caring charities like Macmillan, Marie Curie and hospices by opening private gardens of quality to the public for a small charge, I asked how I was meant to find new gardens? "Look over the fence." But I'm only 5ft 2ins.

I discovered Jane Meir's pretty plot looking out of Janet Maitland's window. A fellow gardener coerced Stephen Kersley into joining the scheme as they travelled on the tube. Number 66 Abbots Gardens is a delight, enhanced by Ruth Kersley's original glass works and a sparkling fish mosaic

The renowned wildlife photographer David Godny will open his garden in Creighton Avenue for the first time in June. Old hands like David and Caroline Broome, will come up with new surprises in Church Lane. The wheelchair-friendly garden Tudor Spencer created for his wife, with a camomile lawn, vegetables and pond, has matured, growing more abundant each year. Our garden at 5 St Regis Close is also wheelchair friendly.

Local gardens to visit:

Sunday 1 & 15 May, Sunday 26 June and Sunday 24 July: 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10, 2-7pm. Sunday 15 May: 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, 2-5.30pm. Sunday 15 May: 15 & 28 Princes Avenue Gardens, N10, 2-6pm. Sunday 5 June: East Finchley Cottage Gardens, 20 & 22 Trinity Road, N2, 2-5pm. Sunday 5 June: 2 Stanley Road, N2, 2-6pm. Sunday 12 June and Sunday 17 July: 79 Church Lane, N2, 2-6pm. Saturday 18 June: 12 Rookfield Avenue, N10, 5-8pm. Sunday 19 June: 131 Roseberry Road, N10, 2-6pm. Sunday 26 June: 5 Cecil Road, N10, 2-5pm. Sunday 26 June: 269 Creighton Avenue, N2, 2-5.30pm. Saturday 9 July and Sunday 10 July: 27 Wood Vale, N10, 1.30-6pm. Sunday 10 July: 33 Wood Vale, N10, 2-6pm. Sunday 17 July: 66 Muswell Avenue, N10, 2-6pm. Sunday 31 July: 19 Hillfield Park, N10, 2-6pm. Sunday 31 July: 29 Woodberry Crescent, N10, 2-7pm. For more details, visit www.ngs.org.uk

Mozart's Requiem

Review by Marian Bunzl

On 3 April, Henrietta Barnett Community Choir performed Mozart's Requiem at Holy Trinity Church; a first for both choir and church.

Recently, Father Gray Featherstone and the parochial council decided it was time to broaden the church's activities and reconnect with the community. HBCC is a school-based choral society which also wishes to reach out to the wider community, especially to those who would not otherwise have an opportunity to sing in a choir.

Holy Trinity offered their venue (with refreshments provided) in return for a retiring collection for Homeless Action in Barnet. To quote Fr Gray: "Free entry, but pay as you leave". Thus three local community-based organisations collaborated in producing this amazing concert.

The church was full: enterprising 6th formers had distributed leaflets. As pianist Lucy Colquhoun (evoking the whole orchestra!) played the opening bars, an audience of three generations heard the choir go on to give a committed and assured performance of Mozart's lovely music. The soloists were members of the choir, with a beautiful blend of young and adult voices.

At the last Amen, the applause was thunderous. Afterwards, young singers spoke of their enjoyment of rehearsals, the wonderful feeling of coming together in performance, and their delight in the chance to repeat it.

What's On...

Saturday 7 May

- Celebration Press presents **An Evening of Poetry and Music** at 7.30pm at the Church of Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great, 82 Union Street, Barnet, EN5 4HZ. East Finchley poet **Dennis Evans** will read from his new collection, *Paper in the Wind*, with music from **Heather, Janette, Louli and Steph**. Admission £10, including copy of *Paper in the Wind*. 50% of proceeds to Cherry Lodge Cancer Care.

Sunday 8 May

- **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, 7.30 p.m. **Jacquin Trio** (clarinet, cello, piano) play Beethoven's E flat trio Op.38 and works by Saint-Saens. Collection in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Saturday 14 May to Sunday 29 May

- **Finchley Art Society Spring Exhibition** at Trinity Church Centre,

North Finchley, 15 Nether Street N12 7NN. Over 140 artworks and paintings in oil, acrylic, water colour and pastels by local artists will be on show and for sale at affordable prices, with selected art from some local schools. Explore Art Sessions on 14 and 21 May from 3 - 6 pm. Free to all. An opportunity for adults and children to explore art. Further information from Danuta, 020 8368 1977 or Pam, 020 8349 4991.

Until Saturday 14 May

- **Northanger Abbey**, by Jane Austen, Upstairs at the Gatehouse Theatre, Highgate. Box office 020 8340 3488.

Sunday 15 May

- **The Battle of Barnet: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Explore the famous battlefield of 1471. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road at 2.30pm. Phone Paul on 020 8440 6805 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 21 May

- An evening of music and laughter

with **The Confections** at St Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road; 7.45 pm. Tickets (incl refreshments) £8 and £7 (concs) from 0208 440 2817 or at door. Proceeds to support Hall refurbishment.

Sunday 22 May

- **Fun day** at St Mary's Church, High Road, in support of the Aysanew Kassa Trust library project in Ethiopia. Come along in the afternoon for fun and games.

Tuesday 24 May

- **Five-a-side football** tournament between Holy Trinity and Martin Primary Schools, Stanley Road Playing Field, 4-6pm. Supporters welcome.

Thursday 26 May

- **The Finchley Society** hosts *The History of the Welsh Harp*, a talk by Barnet Archivist Yasmine Webb, 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Contact 020 8346 7812. Everyone welcome, but admission fee of £2 for non-members.

Saturday 28 May

- **Wildflower Day** at Long Lane

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

Pasture, entrance opposite the Fire Station on Long Lane, 10am to 5pm. The Pasture will be full of wildflowers and looking its best. Follow the meadow trail leading to plants of particular interest.

Wednesday 1 June

- **Tumbleweed Comedy Show**, Old White Lion Pub, next to the station, from 7.30pm. This month's acts are Helen Arney, Broderick Chow, Fraser Millward, Wendy Wason, Chris Carr and Matthew Crosby, all stars of the London comedy circuit.

What's On at artsdepot, North Finchley

Friday 6 May, 8pm, *Diderot's Collection* (dance). Sunday 15 May, 1pm - 2.45pm, *Sunday Buzz Free (music)*. Thursday 19 May, 8pm, *Rabbi Lionel Blue (word)*. Saturday 21 May, 8pm, *Toby Hadoke: Now I Know My BBC (comedy)*. Friday 27 May, 8.30pm, *Folk in the Foyer (music)*. Sunday 29 May, 1pm - 2.45pm, *Sunday Buzz Free (music)*. Until 26 June, *Lab Craft in the Apthorp Gallery (art)*.



Letters to the Editor

Library questionnaire raises questions

Dear Editor,

When I asked Hampstead Garden Library if they were to be closed I was told that it was still not certain. Barnet was consulting with the public and they themselves had been told they might be amalgamated but did not know what that entailed. There were no forms to complete, only a questionnaire online.

I wonder if you agree with me that the questions were so non-explicit and it would be so easy to agree without having any idea what the implications would be. To me, it seems like getting what they want by stealth.

Firstly, there are many people who do not use a computer. One of the strategies is to make libraries fit for purpose. Well, they are! They have lots of books and CDs and talking books, knowledgeable, helpful, interested librarians, someone to have a word with for those who perhaps live alone and are isolated. Also chairs, tables and computers.

Maybe they would like to add coffee and tea machines to make extra cash but there is a good chance of spills and also dregs left in the paper cups. Or do they mean they want to spend money on rebuilding and refurbishment?

Are we in favour of more technology? Like what? Does this mean that you install those machines where you check out the books yourself? I think one library had them but they were so unpopular that people now go to the desk for the librarian.

Are we in favour of the premises being used by other organisations? Like who? If they are paying would they take more time away from library users?

Do we want volunteers to help people with their reading? Do they mean anyone who would LIKE to help but does not know the many ways that people learn and how to overcome the difficulties each individual has, and do they know that not doing it well could reinforce the person's inadequacy?

I expect you have observed many more questions about the questionnaire.

Yours faithfully,
Lorna Harry,
Address supplied

Voice of the people

Dear Editor,

After reading a letter in *THE ARCHER* about Barnet funding £15,000 on voice coaching for councillors, I can't help asking if it is legal to take money from the people and from improving life in the borough. If councillors need to improve, they should go to night school and pay for this like everyone else does. Misuse of money might be a good point to raise for the solicitor fighting the increase in parking charges.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs M C Gallacher-Mackay,
Leicester Road

Therapy need not be costly

Dear Editor,

I'd like to respond to the letter about NHS counselling, which I think makes the situation sound worse than it is (*THE ARCHER*, April

2011). There are many reputable, long-established training organisations that offer low-fee therapy and/or counselling. It is hardly the case that a person will need to pay extortionate rates to get help.

Anyone who is interested in receiving counselling or therapy should look up the following: British Association of Counselling, Lincoln Centre for Psychotherapy or Westminster Pastoral Foundation.

A good website is that of the Counselling Directory, which lists and gives information about many counsellors and therapists in your own area, depending on your income and needs.

It is true that there are many practitioners who will charge high rates but this is by far the minority.

Yours faithfully,
Victoria Davenport,
Address supplied.



A band welcomed tired walkers at the end of the Big Fun Walk.
Photo by Peter Trumpiel

Strike up the orchestra

By Betti Blatman

On Saturday 21 May at 7.30pm, Finchley Chamber Orchestra and their conductor David Lardi are giving a concert at Muswell Hill United Reform Church, Tetherdown, N10 1NB, which will form part of the North London Festival of Music, Dance and Drama. The programme will include Schubert's *Rosamunde* overture and ballet music, Grieg's *Piano Concerto* (soloist: Asagi Nakata) and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*.

FCO believe they have found another "winner" in the prodigiously talented 15-year-old pianist Asagi Nakata. Born in Japan, Asagi began piano lessons at the age of three and since 2003, has studied at The Royal College of Music under Danielle Salamon, Ian Jones and, currently, Benjamin Kaplan, and is a pupil of The Latymer School in Edmonton.

Tickets are £12, £9 (concessions), £6 (under-16s) and can be reserved in advance on 020 8458 4719 or email: tickets@finchleychamber.org.



By Adam Justice-Mills

April's over and summer will be starting soon. Our garden's in all-out growth but our trees are thirsty, so it's always too dry. Water's an important part of sustainable thinking: moving water around and making it clean takes lots of energy.

Most (60%) of water used in the UK is for domestic purposes, including garden watering. We normally use around 140 litres each day. The average family's annual water use releases as much CO₂ as two transatlantic flights, so we can have an impact on water (and energy and CO₂) use. Metering water can prompt a 4% reduction in use since, with a meter, you can see water usage directly: a shower costs around 9p and uses 35-40 litres; a bath is 18p using 80 litres; flushing is 2p for around 8 litres and a dishwasher cycle costs 5p for 20 litres. However, watering the garden with a hose for one hour costs £1.23 and uses 540 litres. Most hose water runs off the surface so is no good for plants or soil.

How to reduce garden watering

Big butts, mulching and micro-watering make sense. Muswell Hill was named after a Mossy Well and there are many underground streams locally. Unfortunately, wells are very costly and can lead to long-term problems if the underlying clay dries out.

Big butts collecting rainwater running off roofs are relatively cheap and viable, though the water soon runs out if you connect a hose. Mulching (covering soil with something that lets water through but slows evaporation) means any watering you (or the heavens) do lasts longer. Mulches include bark chips, old leaves, well-rotted manure, crushed shells and gravels, each with its pros and cons. Once mulched, try micro-watering. Basically, you can deliver the right amount of water for a shrub, tree or pot, reducing waste and over-watering. Micro-watering works with butts but only if they are raised well above the ground. A starter kit's around £100 but can be extended. Get a timer as watering in the dark is best for plants. It's a fit-and-forget solution (but watch out for frosts).

Musical finish to Big Fun Walk

By Vivienne Bentley

Thank you to all the people who joined us for The Big Fun Walk on Sunday 10 April. This year we had a very large turnout of almost 1,500 walkers, starting at East Finchley Station and ending eight miles later in Hyde Park instead of Storeys Gate, which was closed in preparation for the Royal Wedding. Walkers arrived to the sound of a welcoming band.

The money raised so far is coming in faster and results are higher than in previous years so we're hoping this will be a bumper year: perhaps the best ever in support of the North London Hospice.

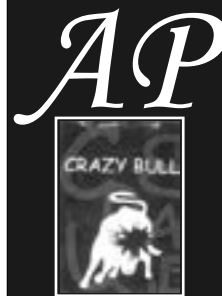
If you weren't able to join us but would like to help the Support Committee raise more funds for the Hospice, perhaps you'd like to throw a games or activities event. Anyone can volunteer to hold a bridge, Scrabble or whist drive, or perhaps the local archers, bowls, tennis or football clubs would like to arrange a tournament. All offers will be very welcome. Please email us at the Big Fun Walk address bigfunwalk@netscape.net.

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Avenue House friends spring into action

By Daphne Chamberlain

As reported in last month's *ARCHER*, the future of Avenue House is under threat due to a drying up of cash flow. The historic house and its beautiful grounds, used for many years as a public park, could be lost to the people of Finchley. However, a new and very active group of supporters, Friends of Avenue House, are doing their best to ensure that doesn't happen.

Their first "awareness" event, an Open Day at the end of March, raised over £4,000 from well-wishers in one afternoon. Later fundraising events have included a quiz night and a table-top sale and children's egg hunt. FOAH and AHET are working together towards launching a major fundraising drive. The immediate aim was to raise £25,000 by the end of last month to prevent the loss of the 125-year lease from Barnet.

A member of the Friends told

THE ARCHER, "There is an enormous amount of goodwill, and summer bookings for use of the house are up. We already attend Board meetings, and we will have representatives on the Board."

Keep in touch with developments, or become a Friend, via info@friendsofavenuehouse.org. Donations can be made through www.avenuehouse.org or sent by cheque, made out to Avenue House Estate Trust, to AHET, 17 East End Road, N3 3QE.



Everyone a winner

By Daphne Chamberlain
Congratulations to our local branch of Age UK on a very successful quiz night, and that's not just because *THE ARCHER* team won!

More than 100 people attended the fund-raising event on 25 March at the Meritage Centre, Hendon. Lisa Dubow, Development Manager for Age UK Barnet, told us that the evening raised £1,250. She said, "This is not going to a specific project, but general fundraising. As with many (if not all) organisations such as ours, we are having to deal with funding cuts and trying to maintain as many of our services as we can."

The £10 entry ticket included a good tuck-in at half-time, with a choice of vegetarian curry made by volunteer carer Taruna Mistry or fish and chips provided by Carole McCarthy, Meritage Centre manager, and volunteer helpers. *THE ARCHER* team had a fun night out, and we enjoyed our Kit Kat Easter egg prizes.

For more information about AgeUK fundraising, or if you would like to help, please contact Lisa Dubow, who is based at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, at lisa.dubow@ageukbarnet.org.uk or on 020 8432 1417.



Feed your need for speed

By John Lawrence

In a secluded garage off Fortis Green, hours of love and care are being lavished on a mean machine that its drivers hope will conquer the racing circuits of Europe this summer.

The machine is one of three Formula Ford racing cars belonging to Alan Crocker, Paul McMorran and Giovanni Romagnoli of the Black Magic Motorsport team.

Formula Ford is a hugely popular and much more affordable version of F1 and F3 racing that began in the 1960s as a way for anyone to race using easily available Ford Cortina engines and parts.

Alan, Paul and Giovanni took their car to Holland at Easter and will travel to five

other races in Europe in the coming season.

Backing a local team

They are hoping to attract sponsors to help them run the team. In return for financial assistance, sponsors are promised invitations to experience the thrills and excitement of the Formula Ford championships.

Alan, an experienced driver who won the Formula Ford British Championship in 2000, says: "It's a friendly but very competitive sport. Being

behind the wheel is unbelievably exciting."

Giovanni adds: "Sponsors are welcome whatever they have to contribute, whether hundreds or thousands. They can come with us to the races and enjoy some really fun weekends."

To get a feel for what it's like to sit behind the wheel of a Formula Ford car, via video, go to YouTube and search for Wizerd58. To find out more about the Black Magic team and to contact Giovanni, visit www.blackmagicmotorsport.net

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