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THE ARCHER




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CARS & COURIERS

April 2012 No. 222
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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Time running out: Vijay Negi and Robin MacDonald serve customers at the Juice Bar.
Photo by Nick Young.

Juice bar close to running dry

By Nick Young

A juice bar which offers job training opportunities to young people with learning difficulties may have to cease trading if it cannot raise the funds it needs to stay open.

The Drink It Juice Bar has been at the Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road since July. It is a partnership project led by Barnet Mencap and originally ran with the aid of a corporate grant from Barnet Council. Now this grant has ended, the bar's future is in jeopardy.

"We need another £2,000 to

keep the bar going," explained project co-ordinator Laura Davitt. "At the moment we have enough for one more week and then three weeks after Easter ... we'd like to operate until at least the end of July and we need to raise funds to achieve this." Sponsored events are being planned and will be announced in the near future.

The bar opens every Saturday from 10.30am to 1.30pm. So far, it has offered training and paid work experience to a total of 14 young people, three of whom work there each Saturday. It received four stars at a recent environmental health inspection.

The Drink It Juice Bar also has a mobile facility which can cater for local festivals, events and conferences. For more information, Laura can be contacted by email (laura.davitt@barnetmencap.org.uk) or by telephone (020 8349 3842).

Double celebration for green spaces

By Ann Bronkhorst

Two adjoining green spaces, long under-used and at times even neglected, have been given new status, protection and the promise of improvement, thanks to local support and the efforts of volunteers.

Four Haringey parks topped a poll to win special Queen Elizabeth II status and, crucially, protection from future development. One of the four is Muswell Hill Playing Fields, much improved in recent years and increasingly used by local families as well as sports teams. Now, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, this fine open space with its play and sport facilities will be permanently preserved for future generations to enjoy. Soon after hearing that good news, the Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Field were rejoicing again: their application to the Big Lottery Fund's Community Spaces programme had been successful. A grant of almost £50,000 will fund several major projects in Coldfall Wood to improve access, combat pollution in the stream by restoring a damaged reedbed and create a boardwalk in an area prone to flooding. The work will be carried out by Groundwork UK, responsible for the restoration of the gardens at Avenue House, East

End Road.

Committed volunteers

Cllr Nilgun Canver, Haringey Council Cabinet Member for the Environment, congratulated the Friends on their successful bid and acknowledged the hard work and commitment of all Friends groups in Haringey. Indeed, volunteers planted daffodils last autumn along the edges of the Muswell Hill Playing Field, helped by children from three local schools, and regularly clear litter, old Christmas trees and stolen bikes from the woodland.

A programme of work-days in the wood, including coppicing, has continued through 2011 and into 2012, involving Friends of Coldfall Wood and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers guided by Haringey's Nature Conservation Officer. To find out more about plans and achievements for the Fields and the Wood and about forthcoming events such as bird walks, bat walks and more, visit www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

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Seed and plant swap

Attention, gardeners. There is to be a seed and plant swap day at Martin Primary School, High Road, on Sunday 22 April from 2pm to 4pm.

Bring your spare seeds, plants and cuttings, from runner beans to exotics, to swap with others: no money involved. Who knows what you might find? Tell your fellow gardeners and allotment holders.

This is East Finchley's first such event and is an East Finchley Community Trust initiative. For more information contact Charles O'Toole on 020 8444 8461.



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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
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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

Hospitals

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Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000
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St Luke's 020 8219 1800
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Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
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Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
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OAPs' Advice

Age UK 020 8203 5040
Contact (N2) 020 8432 1415

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Planning Applications

Barnet Council

45 Bancroft Avenue, N2

First-floor rear extension.
Roof extension involving rear
dormer window, to facilitate loft
conversion.

58 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey rear conservatory.

First floor flat, 63 Bedford Road, N2

First floor rear conservatory,
above existing single-storey rear
extension.

6 Deansway, N2

Two-storey side extension and
single-storey rear extension,
following change of existing
garage into habitable room.
Replace garage doors with
windows. Extension to roof,
including two front roof lights
and rear dormer to facilitate loft
conversion.

411 Great North Road, N2 (Cherry Tree Allotments)

Revisions to extant consent
scheme: amendments to
planning permission (C00042U/
07). Change of use from petrol
station to B1 use at ground floor,
with seven residential units above
in new ground, plus three-storey
building. Associated basement
with 15 car parking spaces,
associated landscaping, and
amenity space.

Ground Floor, 50 Hertford Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension,
including provision of light-well
and decking.

117 High Road, N2

Lower existing ceiling to second
floor, to facilitate creation of new
floor with mansard roof.

First floor flat, 332 High Road, N2

Loft conversion, to form front and
side roof lights, rear dormer, and
additional bedroom to existing
one-bedroom flat.

21 Howard Walk, N2

Roof extension, involving rear
dormer window to existing loft
conversion.

26 Howard Walk, N2

Replace three existing single-
glazed windows at front elevation
with double-glazed windows to
match existing windows, enlarge
existing window, add two roof
lights to existing flat roof. New
soil vent pipe to side elevation.
Associated works.

77A Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey rear and
side extension (amended
description).

Land adjoining 37/39 Leslie Road, N2

Demolish existing garages and
erect two-storey building with
basement, to contain one one-
bedroom flat and one studio flat.

6 Ludlow Way, N2

Single-storey rear extension
with roof light; new roof light to
side; replace existing dormer
to rear, add double doors and
alter existing window to rear.
Associated works.

84 Ossulton Way, N2

Alteration to roof, including side
and rear roof lights and roof
light to flat roof, to facilitate loft
conversion.

Colwyn House, 22 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Single-storey outbuilding to house
condenser unit.

4 White Lodge Close, The Bishop's Avenue, N2

Demolish existing house and
erect two-storey house with rooms
in roof space, lower ground and
basement levels (Conservation
Area consent)

Haringey Council

5 Aylmer Road, N2

Erection of side and rear dormers
and roof extension

60 Twyford Avenue, N2

Extension of existing crossover
from 2.8m to 4.8m. in width.

Farewell from our ward councillor

Andrew McNeil retired as a councillor for East Finchley in February to move with his wife closer to their daughter's family in Northern Ireland. Here he bids a fond farewell to the ward he served for six years.

I became a councillor in East Finchley in 2006 when I had already been living in the ward for more than six years. I soon discovered that I needed a quite different pair of eyes to watch over the ward and learn what was going on. In much of that I was helped by my more experienced ward colleague Colin Rogers, with whom I would take long walks around the streets, making notes as we went, often about planning matters.

Colin and I share a love of trees and we would eagerly show each other our new 'finds' in the streets of East Finchley, where the council has planted an interesting variety of trees over the years. The ward also offers surprisingly good birdwatching in an urban setting, from the nut-hatches in Cherry Tree Wood to the ever-present rooftop goldfinches. A Brownswell Road resident often emails me news of his exciting sightings, like waxwings and sparrowhawks.

Trees and birds are all very well, but it is the *people* of East Finchley who must take the top spot. Living as I do near the centre of the ward I have found it easy to pick up casework as I walk around or stand at our street stall. A casual remark by a resident who has stopped for a chat can lead to a saga with the council that goes on for months until the matter is settled.



Picture by John Dearing

Ward work is also deeply satisfying where all three councillors pool their knowledge and work together to overturn some of the dafter ideas that can emanate from the council and which, if left unchallenged, can have an impact on residents for years to come. I have loved my years as a councillor in East Finchley. There's no better place to be!

Following Andrew McNeil's decision to stand down, a by-election will take place in East Finchley on Wednesday 11 April. This is the list of candidates published by Barnet Council:

GIBSON, Jane Irene Gooding (Lib Dem)

GUPTA, Anshul (Con)

MITTRA, Arjun (Lab)

Polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm. Further details are on the Barnet Council website: www.barnet.gov.uk/index/council-democracy/democracy-elections/by-elections.htm

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Volunteers get their wellies dirty for the Big Dig at Vale Farm Allotments. Photo by Hester Jones

Big line-up for Big Dig

Many hands made lighter work on Big Dig day at the Vale Farm allotment site off Tarling Road. Volunteers turned out to dig the land and continue the conversion of 15 plots into

a community food-growing centre.

Project leader Louise Wright was there to direct the digging and to pitch in herself. Tree specialist Mick Parkin came along with some of his workforce to remove stubborn tree trunks.

Row upon row of crops and trees will be planted this year and raised beds are being constructed so that wheelchair users and children from Oak Lodge School, off East End Road, can get involved in growing food.

The project is part of London's Capital Growth initiative for food-growing spaces. Produce from the plots at Vale Farm will supply 't5 community food - Barnet', a social enterprise set up by Sally-Anne Wigfield that aims to provide healthy packed lunches for local schools and busy commuters. Sally-Anne and her team started work on the plots last June but this will be their first full growing season.

"It's all coming together as a local sustainable project," said Sally-Anne, who runs the café kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood. "We want to use local produce to provide balanced meals, and get local people involved in growing it."

Anyone who is interested in

volunteering for the project, and taking a share in the spare produce, can contact Sally-Anne at sally-anne@think5.co.uk

Sign up to save Newstead

Following our report last month on concerns over the future of the Newstead Children's Centre in Fallows Close, off Tarling Road, parents and carers from the Newstead Users Group have written to THE ARCHER. They have set up a campaign website at www.savenewstead.com and we print their message below:

New proposals are seeking to cut funding dramatically to Newstead children's centre from September 2012. Unless we let Barnet Council know how much East Finchley's residents value Newstead's outstanding work for families, East Finchley will lose its childcare facility in the near future.

Newstead's budget has been severely cut by 35% despite promises to pay by results. Barnet has closed or merged eight of 21 centres. It is vital that we safeguard this award-winning and top Ofsted-rated centre's future. We need to send a very clear message to Barnet Council that closure of this excellent centre will have a devastating effect on local families.

On a positive note, our campaign last year was very successful and helped to secure Newstead temporarily. Our letters and petition really were heard, we do have a voice!

So please take five minutes to sign up to our petition as well as to shoot off a quick email to the politicians in charge with your thoughts/experiences of Newstead and its childcare. We've prepared proformas and a link on our website making it easy and quick to show your petition and e-mail support. Please encourage others to sign up and write a quick e-mail as numbers count!

Many thanks in advance.
Newstead Users Group

Armed youths rob man on The Walks

By Janet Maitland

A man was mugged by two armed youths as he walked home from work on 16 February. Duncan Watson left the tube station at about 7.15pm and took his usual route home through Market Place. As he approached The Walks, he noticed two youths in their late teens standing close to the gates of the children's playground.

Mr Watson had almost reached Leslie Road when he was grabbed from behind by the taller of the two youths, who demanded his money. "I threw him off me and he landed against the wall behind the garages on Leslie Road," said Mr Watson.

"The taller one held a knife to my throat, then severed my iPod. The shorter youth also had a knife which he used to slash open my bag. They took my iPod, a new smart phone, my wallet and my Oyster card. Then they told me to 'walk'. As I walked away, I saw a young woman coming down Leslie Road. I alerted her to the danger. She then courageously assisted me in calling the police and my mobile provider." The youths went off in the direction of Leopold Road.

"The taller one held the knife close to my eye at one point," said Mr Watson. "Residents of East Finchley should stay on the main thoroughfares until these youths have been apprehended."

Police action

Police have informed *THE ARCHER* that they are making active enquiries and are fully aware of the recent increase in attacks of this nature. The Safer Neighbourhood Team has increased their high visibility patrols around Market Place, The Walks and nearby streets. Metropolitan Police CCTV has also been installed in these areas recently. From April, the team's shift pattern will include many more late shifts, some until 2am. "My team is working as hard as possible to prevent any further incidents taking place," said Sergeant Mark Kelly.

In this incident, one suspect was black, slim and about 6ft 3 ins, wearing a dark fleece hoody. The other youth, also wearing a dark hoody, was skinny and about a foot shorter, possibly of mixed race, with black curly hair and a sculptured beard. If you have any information that might help the police, ring 101 quoting crime reference number 2403774/12 or call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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Roger the official Bomber Command Memorial Bear

By Diana Cormack

Close to 67 years since the end of the Second World War, the Queen is to unveil a memorial to honour a special group of young men who gave their lives for this country. It is the culmination of a project launched in 2008 by the Heritage Foundation and supported by RAF Bomber Command, who lost so many during the Second World War. Their losses were greater than any other service, with 55,573 of their aircrew making the ultimate sacrifice.

Bomber Command was the only British fighting force which took the war directly to Germany, destroying vital infrastructure and supply lines, shortening the war to liberate both British and German people as pointed out by Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees, who spearheaded the project.

The £6 million cost of the memorial in Green Park, which will be officially dedicated on 28 June, has been met by major donors along with funding from the public. However, £50,000 per year will still be needed for its upkeep. To this end one resident of East Finchley has hit upon a novel idea.

A very special bear

Last year Dennis Gimes came across a teddy bear called Roger. Roger was created by The Great British Teddy Bear Company exclusively for the RAF Bomber Command Association to commemorate the heroism of those brave airmen. The 36cm bear wears an RAF issue shirt and tie, plus a leatherette replica of an original sheepskin Irvine jacket and the distinctive flying helmet of Bomber Command.

Dennis decided he could raise awareness of the cause if he asked well known people to be photographed with Roger. So far these include Dame Vera Lynn, Ray Winstone, Vicki Michelle (from 'Allo, 'Allo) Derek Martin (*Eastenders*), James May (*Top Gear*) and other show business personalities, Earl Spencer, Jaki Assheton (Bomber Harris's daughter) and

the Mayor of Coventry (which suffered badly from enemy bombing) not forgetting Barnet's own mayor and our local MP.

Sixty per cent from the sale of each bear will be donated to the Bomber Command Memorial Fund. Visit the Great British Teddy Bear Company website for full details. For the Bomber Command Memorial



Dennis Gimes introduced Roger the Bear to Mayor of Barnet Councillor Lisa Rutter. Photo by Nick Young

and Maintenance Appeal visit www.armedforcesart.co.uk

New future for the Suburb community library

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last month, Speak Up For Libraries organised a lobby of Parliament. Speaking up were professional associations, unions, organisations, and members of the public. Throughout the UK local authorities are closing their libraries or handing them to community groups.

Following Barnet's decision to withdraw funding from Hampstead Garden Suburb library, the local residents' association applied to take it over. A council spokesperson told *THE ARCHER*: "Following very constructive talks, we are working towards a transfer by the end of April".

Under terms made public so far, the Suburb library will continue in its small premises in Hill Rise, just off Market Place, for which Barnet will pay rent and business rates until 2016. Existing equipment and furniture will remain, but the staff will be HGSRA volunteers.

Meeting expectations

Last year's Strategic Library Review identified what the Council expects from community libraries. Put in a nutshell, they should provide better local services for less money. The community library proc-

ess, which includes the Friern Barnet area, was expected to save £1,055,000 over the next three years, with support grants capped at £10,000 a year.

The council said in February that the bid from Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association did not deliver enough savings, but talks continued as they are an established group with over 2,000 members, and an organisation meeting the Council's requirements. A bid by the Friends of Hampstead Garden Suburb was not considered viable.

In Friern Barnet, a community application was judged to be continuing the status quo with the addition of volunteer workers. It would also have lost Barnet market rent on their building, and so the Friern Barnet and North Finchley branches will be combined in a new "landmark" library at artsdepot.

Mixed signals on road safety campaign

By Emily Burnham

WALKSAFE N2 presented their case for improving pedestrian and cyclists' safety to Barnet Council on 29 February. Impressive supporting documentation from parents and other residents, local schools, churches and community organisations received a promising response.

However, the campaigners are worried that the existing signal-controlled pedestrian crossing outside Martin School is to be assessed for possible replacement with a zebra crossing as part of a borough-wide

review. They are also angry because safety guard rails outside the school had been removed without the school being informed.

Guard rail vanishes

Jayne Lobley, a mother of

two children at Martin School, said: "We use these roads and crossings up to six times a day with our children and we must be a part of the whole process. Barnet Council has just removed the guard rail on the High Road in front of the school. This is incredibly dangerous, particularly because of the layout of the school exits.

"Obviously the Highways Department wasn't aware of these detailed issues and they didn't bother to inform us or the school that they were about to take them away. And this is in the middle of a road safety campaign centred on this area."

Karen Pepper, a mother of two from Holy Trinity School, said WALKSAFE N2 was expecting the introduction of a zebra crossing on Creighton Avenue, near the junction with the High Road, additional signs for Martin Primary School and, it is hoped, a vehicle-activated sign on Church Lane that notifies drivers of their speed.

There were promises of consultation on the remaining issues of a three-way traffic light and a 20mph speed limit on Church Lane but that had not materialised as we went to press.

Martin School guard rails, see Letters page 11.



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ARCHER Calendar cash helps Age UK Barnet

By Daphne Chamberlain
Thanks to everyone who sold or bought copies of the *ARCHER* Calendar 2012 and helped us reach a fundraising total of £1,242 for Age UK Barnet, handed over by our finance manager John Dearing last month.

Age UK now incorporates East Finchley Neighbourhood Services, which runs two lunch clubs, a shopping bus and gardening and transport services for older people. Coordinator Amanda Radonich hopes to use some of the money to benefit the Tuesday lunch club, which meets at the Green Man Centre, and the Muslim ladies' lunch club, which meets at the Ann Owens Centre on alternate Wednesdays.

Sharing in the presentation at the Ann Owens Centre were two East Finchley Neighbourhood Services clients. Mrs Violet Crouchley told us she has been going to the traditional lunch club for 30 years, since its early days in



Church Lane. Patricia Novis also takes part in exercises with music on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Ann Owens

Centre.

Age UK Barnet runs a programme of exercise classes for older people, and also offers social and special interest groups, a befriending service and general advice and assistance throughout the borough. To find out more, call 020 8432 1415, visit www.ageuk.org.uk or search online for East Finchley Neighbourhood Services.

Kenwood House closed for refurbishment

By Diana Cormack

Kenwood House, the English Heritage property on Hampstead Heath, is to close from April this year until next summer to enable vital roof repairs to be carried out. At the same time, its famous cream façade will be stripped down and repaired under a £5 million restoration project.

Visitors come from all over the world to see architect Robert Adams's magnificent building, regarded as one of the great stately homes of England, which houses a priceless art collection. During the closure, some of the paintings will be exhibited on a year-long tour of the US whilst others will be displayed in the UK and in other parts of London.

The grounds will remain open and the summer concerts will be unaffected. English Heritage is endeavouring to keep a refreshment facility open throughout the project. The Brew House may not be open all the time but current

plans are for the Old Kitchen and the Steward's Pantry to be open if the main Brew House restaurant is closed. The kiosk down the hill by the lake will probably reopen for snacks.

Once the Brew House café is closed off, dog owners can use the lower part of the walled garden with bowls of water, chairs and tables there as usual. The toilets will be open, as will those in the house for as long as there is access. At Mansion Cottage there will be an exhibition showing the restoration's progress and the shop at the back where plants and gifts are currently sold will remain open.

SUZANNA ADAMS

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Rachel and Michael raise a Rabbi relay

Two newly weds from East Finchley have set themselves a target of raising £100,000 by cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats.

Rachel Marcus and Michael Leventhal, of Trinity Road, who got married in December, are preparing to undertake the 1,300-mile journey in June. And there's an unusual twist to the escapade: they've persuaded more than 20 Rabbis from around the country to join them and help raise money for food poverty and food-related charities. They're looking for other faith leaders and individuals to join them so they can reach their target. Michael, 38, explains: "The event is called the Rabbi Relay Ride because it coincides with the Year of the Bike in the Jewish community. I thought it'd be fun to ask Rabbis from different communities to join the ride and cycle for one or two days. They can also invite their congregations to join them. It sends a very good message to each Rabbi's community and to the wider community about sustainable transport."

So far, 23 Rabbis have agreed to participate as well as other key figures in the Jewish community. Vivian Winemann, President of the Board of Deputies, has agreed to take part and Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner has agreed to cycle 70 miles on a tandem bike with Ben Rich.

Easy riders

Anyone who is interested in joining the ride or hearing more, or sponsoring any of the participating Rabbis, should look at www.gefiltefest.org or email gefiltefest@gmail.com. Michael, who also organises the annual fundraising London Jewish Food Festival, Gefiltefest, said: "You really don't need to be super-fit to cycle for just one day of the ride. Humans normally walk at 4mph and cycle at 10mph, so on a 60-mile day it would be only six hours of cycling. One Rabbi asked for a downhill stretch and another asked for a rain-free stretch: I'm working on that!"



Saddle up: Michael and Rachel get some cycle training under their belts in the Vosges mountains in the west of France.



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CPZ campaigner vows to fight on

CPZ campaigner David Attfield, who leads the Barnet CPZ Action Group, has lodged an appeal against a Court ruling in February rejecting his legal action to overturn Barnet's Controlled Parking Zone parking charges. The aim of the appeal is to obtain an order from the Court of Appeal reinstating the challenge so that it can be heard at a full trial later in the year. The CPZ Action Group point out that the decision to carry on with the legal action has not been taken lightly but is strongly supported by legal advice.

"The important principle at stake," says Mr Attfield, "is whether a small group of residents should be made to subsidise services for the whole borough just by virtue of the type of area in which they live. Barnet's stance that this is lawful is at odds with the position of other boroughs; organisations like the RAC and the AA; and even the Department for Transport.

"If we stop now, Barnet will have succeeded in re-writing the rule book. There would be nothing to stop Barnet hiking CPZ charges again. By appealing, we stand to gain much more than we would lose. If we are granted an appeal hearing it would be a very positive sign that a senior judge recognises that something may have gone wrong at February's hearing." The decision to appeal comes a year after the increased CPZ parking charges were implemented. Many residents in East Finchley will be renewing their permits in April and will face paying the increased charges for the first time (£100 for a resident's permit and £4 for each visitor voucher).

New start for careers advisor

By Ami Patel

After taking voluntary redundancy from her role at Barnet Council, careers advisor Clare O'Boy was looking for a new start of her own.

The freelance training assessor and trained careers advisor has more than 13 years' experience in the industry and decided to launch her own career guidance and coaching service, called Career Time, based in East Finchley.

"My careers guidance training is based on the counselling model, helping and enabling people to explore their goals to take themselves forward," she says. Her service varies from simple CV polishing to conducting psychometric tests.

Clare hopes that her more focused and personal approach will appeal to those who want to change or improve their life by exploring the career opportunities that are available to them.



Clare also offers interview presentation awareness, CV writing, application form assistance and occupation/career choice guidance. She can be contacted at clare@careertime.co.uk

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Visitors always welcome

Get, set, go for the Bobath

By Tash Knight

On 27 May, tens of thousands of runners will take part in the BUPA London Run. This year, two members of East Finchley community are raising money at the event for the Bobath Centre on East End Road.



Rohit and Andreas are running to raise funds for the cash-strapped Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

Rohit Kumar Rajput and Andreas Patsalides will participate while dressed to impress in full costume. Their efforts are to benefit the children at the centre suffering from cerebral palsy, a condition that impairs coordination, sensory development and learning. The Bobath centre provides several therapies to improve a child's quality of life.

Rohit hopes to raise £1,000. The two 18 year-old students are currently at university and balancing their fundraising with a hectic studying programme. Last year they ran for the British Heart Foundation. They have been close friends since secondary school at Christ's College and their mutual passion for sport and charity work has aided many people. "We enjoy keeping fit," says Rohit.

The students became aware of the charity after reading about it in the March issue of *THE ARCHER*. The Bobath Centre is in desperate need of financing as NHS funding is dwindling. To support the boys on their run, visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/rohitrajput1>

We are now part of the Olympics

By Diana Cormack

As the Olympic Games and all they entail approach, there seems to be no let-up in complaints about how they will affect the locals, disrupt people's daily lives, foul up the transport system and generally be a huge expensive nuisance.

However, some of you may be heartened to read the following: "Well done to London. This is setting the tone. Hopefully an example of the welcome that will await most visitors."

To know what this refers to you'd need to look back to last August's *ARCHER* where John Fuller, Herts 2012 Ambassador, wrote about hosting overseas guests during the Games. This was not as a money earner but to help those involved, such as athletes and their families, who could not afford to stay in London. It was also, as he put it "a unique opportunity to be part

of the Games celebration".

We felt it was very much in keeping with the spirit of the Games, so offered our spare room.

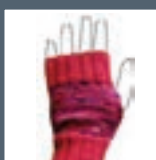
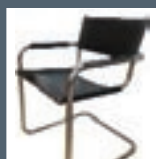
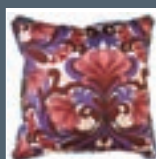
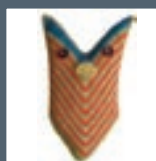
Recently the person allocated to us, an experienced Australian volunteer who will be filling a vital role, contacted us and we're beginning to feel involved.

Welcoming strangers

Host places are still being sought. If you are considering it, the following comment from an organiser abroad might persuade you: "It is great that there are people willing

to participate in the London Olympic Games albeit in a somewhat unusual way. This generosity from families in the host city is crucial to the success of the history of any Games and therefore the perception of visitors that people living in the host city are very welcoming. I can assure you this didn't happen in Athens or Beijing except if visitors were a relative or friend of residents of the host city."

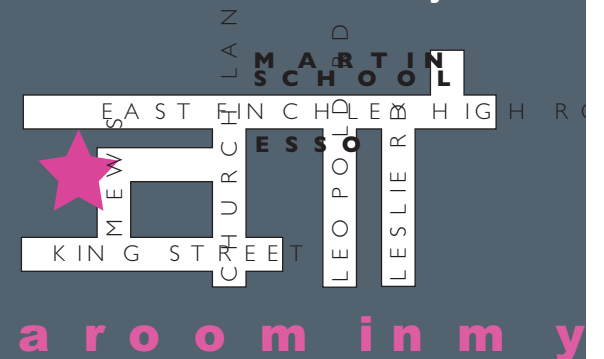
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Wilmot site at centre of Stanley Field future

By Daphne Chamberlain

Could we keep Stanley Field for sport by agreeing to homes being built on the neighbouring site of the former Herbert Wilmot Centre?

East Finchley's bid for the complete area was clearly not enough. Roger Chapman and Chris Hampson revealed the margin by which it fell short at a public meeting at the Constitutional Club on 23 February. The London Marathon Trust, who were prepared to purchase the site for East Finchley, had valued the land at £125,000. The bids of the three commercial developers favoured by Barnet Council ranged from £2.85 million to £10.1 million. As reported previously, the three developers, who are all proposing a mixed use of the site, are Croudace, Fairview and One Housing. Barnet Council directed Sport East Finchley to negotiate with each of them separately, to see if they could reach a satisfactory conclusion. These talks are still continuing. At the public meeting, it was obvious that East Finchley people are still passionate about preserving and developing the field for recreation, and the great majority

trusted our present negotiators to work for the best deal possible.

State of play

Sport East Finchley issued the following statement last month: "We held a public meeting which gave us a very clear steer on how we should progress with Stanley Road Playing Field. Many thanks to those of you who came along.

"We have gone back to Barnet Council to say that the local community wishes to see the integrity of the field maintained for sports and recreation, but we would be prepared to see the adjacent small site (separate from the field and previously occupied by a youth centre) developed for housing. This would generate a capital receipt for the council whilst retaining the field for sport and recreation use. We are now awaiting a response from Barnet and will keep you all informed." Keep up to date with the Stanley Road Playing Field page on Facebook.

A long way for a young lad

Super swimmer Archie Price is hoping to swim 5km in this year's Swimathon charity event at Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre on Saturday 28 April.

Archie, a nine-year-old pupil in Year 4 at Martin Primary School, currently trains for Barnet Copthall Swimming Club four times a week. Although this is the third time he has taken part in the charity event it will be the first time he has attempted the maximum distance of 5km all by himself. His parents, who run swimming website Goggleblog.com from East Finchley, will also be taking part in the event, making it 15km of swimming between them.

Dad Chris Price says: "We are very proud of Archie. He is a great swimmer and we really hope he can make the distance. It's 200 lengths of the pool: quite a challenge for



Archie Price is aiming to swim 5km in the Swimathon.

Photo by Chris Price.

anyone, especially a boy who has only just turned nine." The UK's biggest charity swimming event, the Swimathon raises money for Marie Curie Cancer Care and this year is also partnering with the Big

Splash Mile to raise funds for Sports Relief 2012. For more information on the Swimathon go to www.swimathon.org and to sponsor Archie Price for a good cause visit www.archieprice.com.

Mayor digs in for double centenary

By John Dearing



The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Lisa Rutter plants the centenary oak tree at Long Lane Pasture, accompanied by Ann Brown, chair of the Pasture Trust. Picture by John Dearing

Mayor of Barnet Councillor Lisa Rutter planted an oak tree at Long Lane Pasture to celebrate a double centenary.

One hundred years ago in 1912, this pocket of open land opposite our fire station was purchased for public enjoyment and recreation. The same year marked the death of Octavia Hill, co-founder of the National Trust, who as a girl lived at Brownswell Cottages, formerly on the High Road in East Finchley just south of the junction with the North Circular Road today.

David Gilks of the National Trust made a short presentation on the life and work of Octavia Hill, after which Ann Brown, chair of the Long Lane Pasture Trust, invited the Mayor to plant the oak tree. Assisting the Mayor at the planting on Wednesday 22 February was Wayne Armsby of the Trust. Also present were Councillors Alison Moore and Brian Coleman.

To commemorate the centenary further, the Trust is holding a photo and art competition. Find more details at www.longlanepasture.org/centenary

Nursery open morning

By Lucy Barrett

Parents are invited to have a look around Holy Trinity CE School's nursery and see it working on a normal day at an open morning on Wednesday 25 April from 9.30-11.30am.

The nursery promises to provide opportunities for every child to become the best that they can be. Nursery children are fully integrated into the school day and take part in class assemblies, Christmas and summer shows and sports day.

Holy Trinity also offers 'wrap around' care at the beginning and end of the school day. The free entitlement to nursery education is three hours per day, with fees applicable for both the Breakfast and Afterschool clubs.

All the children who attend Holy Trinity Nursery do so on a part-time basis for three hours a days, five days a week. Places are allocated according to the admission policy, a copy of which can be found at <http://webfronter.com/barnet/holytrinityn2>.



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YOUNG ARCHER

Music of the pipe organ

On 1 March, children from years 4, 5 and 6 at Manor-side Primary School, Squires Lane, went to St Mary-at-Finchley Church on Hendon Lane to learn about the science and music of the pipe organ.

St Mary's Church received a Heritage Lottery Fund grant which helped them to restore their Willis pipe organ. Jeremy Sampson and Hannah Parry Ridout explained the working of the instrument, involving the children in rhythm and music, sound, technology and other physics ideas.



Netball magic

By Leah White, Mollie Byrne and Rosie Dickins.

On Wednesday 29 February, Years 5 and 6 from Holy Trinity netball team went to Queen Elizabeth Girls School for a netball tournament. The team includes Leah White, Mollie Byrne, Rosie Dickins, Jack Wood-Wood, Maisie Cohen, Alex Omerod and Cameron Macleod.

We first played St John's. In the first half we were 3-0 down and we were getting very worried. Then in the second half a miracle happened. We scored and just as the bell went at the end it was 4-4 at the end of a very good game. Then we played Hollickwood and sadly lost 1-0.

We had a very good time and enjoyed every second of it. Mrs Huegdon said "You played the best you have ever played. Well done!"

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5th April 7.30p.m.	Maundy Thursday United Service - Holy Communion (at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane N2)
6th April 10.30a.m.	Good Friday "Reflections on the Cross"
8th April 10.30a.m.	Easter Day Celebration Service - Holy Communion Crèche, Easter Egg Hunt, Refreshments

Let's dance

By Lucas Watson, Year 5

On 7 March, Holy Trinity's Year 5 went to the amazing Barnet Dance festival. First of all, we took a minibus to the artsdepot (thanks, Mr Ritson, for driving). Once there we entered a huge hall. Soon after, the practising began. Flash! The lights came on. Bang! The music juttet in.

Here's a quote from George: "My heart thumped as I slowly entered the vast stage." In no time, sharp moves were being executed and vast smiles were being beamed. As we puffed off stage the next school got ready. After the rehearsal we went for pizza (thanks to the HTSA). The night of fun had only just begun.

The performance was filled with effortless smiles and enthusiasm. It was a great experience and a late night! A big thank you to everyone who helped. One dancer said, "The dance made me proud and enthusiastic", another said "It was the highlight of these six weeks!" One parent said it was "an amazing performance!"

Support the Cool Squad

By Thea Powell, Year 3, Holy Trinity School

Grace, Harvey and Lella and I are going to swim a mile for Marie Curie. The challenge will take place on 28 April. We will be swimming a mile, which is 64 lengths of a 25-metre pool. The plan is we will each swim 16 lengths in relay.

We have all been training with our squads after school, so hopefully, we will be in tip top condition. We have already raised over £60, but we have a long way to go to reach our target of £200. If you would like to sponsor us, please log on to www.swimathon.org and click on 'sponsor a team' under distance challenge. Our team is called Holy Trinity Cool Squad. Thank you.

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Chess success

By Michelle Imber

Congratulations to the chess team from Martin Primary who did their school proud by claiming the bronze medal at the English Primary Schools National Chess Championships. Pictured left to right are: Kiran Jackson, Rees Lyon, Arun Kapoor-

Parsons, Jake Imber, Louis Girling and Sahr Kamanda. The team are now looking forward to representing their school again at the semi-finals, held over the weekend of 18-20 May in Camber Sands. Good luck, boys! Photo by Alan Girling.



Heroes and villains

Superheroes, Harry Potter characters, wicked witches and princesses were the theme of the day at Tudor School, N3, recently, as pupils celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite characters. Starting the day with a parade around the playground, children then had the opportunity to try out a range of fun writing activities, which included writing riddles, publishing a novel and creating the school's very own superhero.

Book club with a twist

East Finchley Library hosts a monthly book club with a twist for readers aged 12-16. The group reads and discusses the same book like a regular reading group but members also chat about and swap their favourite books, films, music and games.

The group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6.15-7.15 pm; the next four meetings are on 25 April, 30 May, 27 June and 25 July. Call in at the library for more details.

The Archer needs volunteer distributors for The Grange (3 rounds)

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. For details contact 020 8883 0433 or the-archer@lineone.net

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❖ **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

❖ **Newstead Parent & Toddler Group**, Thurs 9-12-30, Green Man Ctr. Sajni 8359 3460.

❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276

❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.



Baroness Young meets the students of Christ's College. Photo by Timothy Ng.

Politics students inspired by peer's visit

By Lucas Rudden

Christ's College Finchley hosted a talk in January by crossbench peer Baroness Young of Hornsey to encourage student engagement with the political and parliamentary process.

Baroness Young met with the government and politics sixth form students for an hour to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords. This was followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at Westminster generally. With the current unstable economic situation in Europe the occasion had particular significance for all who attended.

Andrew Bratt, teacher of government and politics, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to have direct interaction with someone who knows the parliamentary system inside out, as it can sometimes seem far removed from their daily lives."

The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's Peers in Schools programme, which has been running across the UK since 2007 and has so far involved around 30,000 young people. This continuing outreach programme sends members of the House of Lords into schools and colleges across the country to give talks in support of the citizenship curriculum.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

That sinking feeling

Well, it's here. I'm talking about the centenary of the longest running saga in popular culture. It's produced 27 films, endless books and more Channel 5 documentaries than any other event this side of the War. Yes, we're talking Titanic. No matter if the facts have disappeared, the arrival of Downton-at-Sea proves that you can't keep a good ship down.

Let's get rid of the inconvenient facts first. The Titanic was one of three Olympic Class White Star liners. When it was launched in May 1911, it was the biggest ship afloat. It was completed on 2 April 1912, set sail on the 10th, hit an iceberg at 11.40pm on the 14th and sank three hours later. 2,224 people were aboard and 1,514 drowned. Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio were not among them. So now let's get on with the real business of lies, damn lies, myths and movie making.

No one ever said the Titanic was unsinkable; all the builders said was that it was virtually unsinkable and, like any virtual reality, they were wrong. And in the world of virtual reality, Kate and Leonardo could only have met in the movies as no third class passenger could have got anywhere near the first class decks. But never mind, the band played on until the last minute, and Captain Smith did what a bad captain should do when he's made a complete mess of things and went down with his ship.

Now, let's go to the cinema and indulge in the 27 odd movies that have been churned out from *Saved From the Titanic*, which hit the silver screen a month after the ship went down, to James Cameron's 3D version that dumps a 3D Kate Winslet in your lap. On the way there's been everything from Italian animation to *Doctor Who*. There was even one made by Nazi Germany in which the ship could have been saved if they'd only listened to the German officer rather than the dastardly Brits. Problem was that by the time it was finished the dastardly Brits were systematically reducing Germany to rubble so it got shelved. And then there's *Raise the Titanic*, the film that helped sink the British film industry...

But all is not lost. You can get your own Titanic experience in Highgate where the theatre Upstairs at the Gatehouse is showing *Iceberg Right Ahead* until 22 April. Why not go along and relive the complete icy experience?

Free school awaits government decision

By Cathy Halstead

The future of a free school for East Finchley is now in the hands of the Department for Education. The team behind the campaign to set up The Archer Academy breathed a sigh of relief last month as they submitted their 150-page application.

The government department will decide which applications will go through to the interview stage from mid-April to the end of June. If successful at both stages, The Archer Academy would be given both financial and practical support to locate suitable premises, recruit a headteacher and get ready to open in September 2013.

Campaign leader Avis Johns told *THE ARCHER*: "We've got a really strong team working with us to try and make the academy a reality, and we know the school that we've set out in our application could provide an amazing opportunity for local children. We just hope the DfE agrees."

However, the team behind

the application aren't just sitting back and waiting for the call. As well as continuing to drum up support for the school, they're researching potential premises, and following up the offers of help that they've received to date.

As Avis explained: "We're not being complacent, far from it, but we could be called for interview at very short notice, so we have to get our pitch ready. And as over 1,000 people have said they'd love to send their children there, we're determined not to let them down."

The campaign can be contacted at www.thearcheracademy.org.uk or by email at localschools@live.co.uk

Get online at the Green Man

A project aiming to help local residents, especially those living on the Strawberry Vale estate, to get online so that they can reap the benefits of using the internet has been launched at the Green Man Community Centre.

The idea for the Net Worx project is simple. Local volunteers in the East Finchley area will train to help others who are taking their first steps getting online. Two volunteers have already stepped forward, Olajide Akinbote and Naphtal Motha, and others are expected to join the team over the next few months.

Centre manager Mark Healey said: "Net Worx is about helping local residents get online and feel comfortable using computers. I've seen how it's helped residents on other estates and I hope it has the same positive impact here. Maria Vitale and Jeanette Manu, who work for Peabody, are really friendly and approach-

able, and I am sure that they will make newcomers to the group feel really welcome."

Net Worx sessions will run every Tuesday 2pm to 4pm at the Green Man. For more information, contact Jeanette Manu on 020 7021 4659 or jeanette.manu@peabody.org.uk

Tennis club plan changes ends

By Betti Blatman

A second public exhibition on proposals to relocate Chandos Tennis Club to East End Road was held at Finchley Cricket Club in February, when members of the development team were available to respond to questions and hear views.

The scheme's layout has been amended by moving the four covered courts to the rear of the site and the clay courts to the front facing East End Road and there will now be 34 car parking spaces instead of 45. A planning application is due to be submitted to Barnet Council and construction may commence in early 2013 with projected completion by mid-2014.

Barratt Homes will register this site with the Considerate Constructors Scheme and as such will comply with strict regulations and supervision of their demolition and construction activity. They will also liaise with Barnet Council to agree working hours and give local residents direct contact numbers should any problems arise. Local residents will receive invitations to discuss the implications of construction work. For further information, visit www.chandosway.co.uk, telephone 0845 460 6011 or email info@chandostennisclubrelocation.co.uk

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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.
- ❖ **Pilates** Beginners Classes Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Lane N2. Contact: Michelle 07767 804 564
- ❖ **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.
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- ❖ **Art Classes.** F or info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
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- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **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 19 & 23 April at 7.45pm, Hall School Sports Ground, 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.
- ❖ **Traditional music** at TOC, Highgate Hill on 1st & 3rd Tue each month from 8.30pm. Free. All musicians welcome. Info 07958 282898.

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 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita 8886 6140.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390

April at the Phoenix

By Cassie Birtwistle, Phoenix Cinema general manager

I'm very excited about a few upcoming events this month. Firstly on 1 April we have an interactive screening for families of *The Prince of Egypt*. This screening, in partnership with the Jewish Community Centre for London, will feature prizes, goodie bags and a fancy dress contest. This traditionally animated film is considered a masterpiece and, in my opinion, features one of the greatest animated scenes ever: of Moses parting the Red Sea. If your little ones have never seen this film it's the perfect time to see it on the big screen.

Also coming up is an advance preview screening of *This Must Be the Place* in partnership with UK Jewish Film on 4 April. This quirky film by Phoenix favourite Paolo Sorrentino (*Il Divo*, *The Consequences of Love*) features Sean Penn as an aging rock star searching for a Nazi war criminal. We weren't able to fit this film into our regular programme so this is your only chance to see it at The Phoenix.

Another partnership with UKJF occurs on 18 April with a screening of *Remembrance*, a remarkable love story that spans continents and generations and won the Audience Award at this year's UKJF Festival.

Plenty of great main features are coming up in April as well so we hope you'll find an excuse to visit us. Now that spring's arrived we'll be welcoming customers back onto our fantastic café balcony for some much needed sun-basking. Our café is now open from 11am every day except Sunday when we open at 1pm. Even if you're not watching a film at The Phoenix you can visit us for a freshly prepared meal or a coffee and homemade cake. It's the perfect place to while away a springtime afternoon. We hope to see you soon.

For more information on our programme, please visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or ring the box office on 020 8444 6789.



The power of groups

By Sheila Armstrong

Sandhya Pai's latest installation was welcomed to the Noble Sage art gallery in Fortis Green in February. Concerned with ritual and the power of groups, photographed and drawn figures peopled a large circle composed of crushed newspaper pulp on the floor of the gallery, symbolising her, and our, recent living history. Circling the large installation we were reminded of rituals in a temple.

Sandhya, who trained in Mumbai and now lives here, told *THE ARCHER* that she felt that collective energy for good or bad is so much stronger than individual energy, citing the riots last summer as an example. The family is the smallest group we belong to and most of her work has strong family connections. A past installation of Sandhya's was in 2010 in Maidenhead's busy High Street with a group of other artists; again it was based on family.

At the private view there were also framed drawings

for sale. Ian Barrett, supporter of the Noble Sage, told *THE ARCHER* that he was happy to support young artists and had on this occasion bought a fine drawing of a boy taking part in a Hindu initiation ceremony.

Jana Manupillai, recently returned from Burma and India, said he was very happy to have the site-specific work in the gallery and reminds readers that to view any work from the gallery they should go to the website www.noblesage.com or email him at thenoblesage@thenoblesage.com.

Music at the Red Hedgehog

Review by Ken Carter

Pianist Colin Stone played Beethoven, Prokofiev and Liszt's Dante Sonata at the Red Hedgehog, near Highgate tube station, on 25 February.

Stone rewards the ear clearly, precisely and appositely. His aim is to present composers' music with due respect, with focused aim. Of less interest to him is astounding an audience with a display of his own muscle and technique or blazoning his name in ever-brighter lights. After the concert, he and I voiced our mutual appreciation of a similar spirit, Imogen Cooper, content to be well-known and kept busy through having won the respect of her peers.

Prokofiev's 7th Sonata had vigour, stature and authority. Often – in other people's hands – the music makes driven, rhythmic noise. Colin Stone gave us something much more articulate: Herculean energy, certainly, but also moments of rest for recuperation.

He played Liszt's *Dante Sonata* as an imperious Victorian monument: undoubtedly a master work of Western Europe. He gave it classical shape and control, with occasional romantic pressure raising the character of the work higher still.

Beethoven's *Sonata in E major Op. 109* was judiciously presented, with vigorous tempos, but Stone lost overall impact through playing the last movement rather too trippingly: it deserves more weight. I recall a more spontaneous performance also at the Red Hedgehog in 2007 from James Lisney when it was, in fact, an encore but the spirit moved Lisney to play the whole sonata, memorably.

What's On in and around East Finchley

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

Saturday 7 April

- **Easter egg hunt** and other activities at Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield, in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, 11am to 4pm. Adults £5.50 Concessions £4.50 Children £2.50 Under 3s free. Family £13.50 (two adults & three children).

Wednesday 11 April

- **Charles Dickens character workshop** for children aged 8-12 at East Finchley Library, 2.30-4pm; imagine yourself as an urchin in Fagin's gang; what kind of job do you have, what clothes do you wear, and what do you do for fun? Learn how to design and draw your character and write a short story about him or her. Booking required. Contact East Finchley Library on 020 8359 3815.

Sunday 15 April

- **Free music concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, 7.30pm; **Oseido Ensemble** (violin, clarinet, piano) plays works by Brahms, Britten, Liszt, Albeniz, Schumann, Finzi and Khachaturian. Free admission, collection in aid of North London Hospice; East Finchley Methodist Church, High Rd., London N2 8AJ. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Thursday 19 April

- **Historic Film Night** at Avenue House, East End Road, N3, presented by Angela English. Includes local shots probably not shown publicly before. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50, available from

Avenue House or info@friendsofvenuehouse.org

Saturday 21 April

- **Quiz for Spike Milligan statue fund.** 7.30 for 8pm start. Utopia Scout HQ, 104 Grove Road, N12. Tickets £5. Nibbles and tea / coffee provided. Can bring own picnics and drinks. Tables for six. Book with Barbara on 020 8346 5258.

- **Three Valleys Choir** perform at St James Church, Muswell Hill, at 7.30pm in aid of North London Hospice. Music from *The Lion King*, *Les Misérables*, *The Beatles*, *Oliver*, *Oklahoma*, etc. Tickets £12, £10 concessions, £5 children, including refreshments, from Peter Kraushar, 2 Lauradale Road, N2 9LU, tel. 020 8883 4736 or from local North London Hospice shops.

- **Barnet NCT Nearly New Sale**, 10am-12pm at Stephen's Memorial Hall, 620 High Rd, N12 (opp Homebase). Entrance £2 per family. Pregnancy, baby and young children's clothes, toys, nursery equipment. Plus refreshments available.

Sunday 22 April

- **East Finchley's first Seed Swap Day**, Martin Primary School, High Road, 2-4pm. Bring spare seeds, plants and cuttings, from runner beans to exotics, to swap with others. No money involved. Tell fellow gardeners and allotment holders. An initiative of East Finchley Community Trust. For more information, contact Charles O'Toole 020 8444 8461.

- **Fortis Green History Walk**, 2.30pm (approx. 2½ hours) £3. Hornsey Historical Society will lead a local history walk round the streets of Fortis Green, an early village of Hornsey Parish. Start beside United Reform Church Hall, junction Tetherdown/Queen's Avenue. Check website before the day, in case of illness: www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk, or ring Joy Nichol: 020 8883 8486 for more details.

- **Alyth Choral Society** performs extracts from *La Juive* by Fromental Halévy; North Western Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, London NW11 7EN, at 8pm. Tickets £15. *La Juive* has glittering choruses and a tragic, spine-chilling ending that inspired later works, among them *Tosca* by Puccini.

Tuesday 24 April

- **Opera Australia** screening of *La Bohème* at the Phoenix Cinema, East Finchley. Box office 020 8444 6789.

Thursday 26 April

- **The Finchley Society** hosts *The Waterways of Finchley*, a trip by digital projection along Mutton and Dollis brooks, plus several Finchley ponds and lakes. At Christ Church, North Finchley (opposite Homebase). Doors open 7.30pm. Show starts at 8pm. Tea or coffee before show and in interval. Everyone welcome. £2 admission for non-members.

Saturday 28 April

- **Gala charity concert** for St George's Day, in aid of cancer research and Parkinson's UK. Jennifer Bate, Margaret Lion, Finchley Children's Music Group, Alastair Hamilton (baritone). 7.30pm at United Reformed Church, corner Queen's Avenue / Tetherdown, N10. Info and tickets 020 8444 7722.

Sunday 29 April

- **Open garden** at St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10, 2-7pm. Home-made teas and plant sale. Part of National Garden Scheme; details at www.ngs.org.uk

What's On at artsdepot, north Finchley

- Friday 13 and Saturday 14 April, **The Pirate Project** (theatre); Saturday 14 April, Pluck – **The Titanic Show** (theatre); Sunday 15 April, **With Good Grace** (theatre); Sunday 15 April, **Circle of Tales** (family); Thursday 19 April, **Dirty Laundry** (circus/dance); Sunday 22 April, **Red Riding Hood** (family); Sunday 22 April, **Robin Grey** (free music); Monday 23 to Saturday 28 April, **National Theatre Connections** (theatre); Tuesday 24 April, **Step by Step** (theatre); Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 April, **Our Country's Good** (theatre); Saturday 28 April, **Andy Hamilton's Hat of Doom** (comedy); Sunday 29 April, **A Roo in My Suitcase** (family). Box office 020 8369 5454.



Letters to the Editor

Rethink this crossings review**Dear Editor,**

On 20 February, Councillor Brian Coleman brought a paper to the Cabinet of Barnet Council with the proposal "that a systematic review of traffic signal controlled junctions and pedestrian crossings be undertaken with a view to removal or replacement with an alternative method of control where these are no longer needed." In other words, he intends to review every single pelican crossing and traffic light in the borough, with a view to removing it.

At the meeting, he stated that "road traffic accidents in Barnet have dropped like a stone" since he was put in charge of road policy in 2002. This statement is not borne out by the facts. Between 2002 and 2010 road traffic accidents in Barnet fell by 18%, whereas in London as a whole they have fallen by 40% between 2000 and 2010, with most of the gains being made in later years.

In 2010 Barnet roads saw nine deaths, the highest number of any London borough, and 1,520 accidents resulting in a personal injury, the second highest of any London borough. The vast majority of accidents occurred on Barnet maintained roads. Given that road traffic accidents are statistically more likely in deprived and densely populated areas (broadly not a description of Barnet) these figures are shocking.

Councillor Coleman also stated that "zebra crossings are often safer than pelican crossings". We would dispute this. Pelican crossings are easier for children to use, as it is recognised that children have difficulty in judging speed and distance. Pelican crossings are also easier and safer for older people and those with disabilities to use, in particular those with sensory impairment. Pelican

crossings have visual cues (green man), auditory cues (beeping tone) and tactile cues (cones which turn under the control box) which help those with sight and/or hearing problems to cross safely.

We, the undersigned, call on Barnet Council to abandon this planned expenditure and, instead, invest the allocated funds to improve road safety.

Yours faithfully,

Julia Hines, Chair, Age UK Barnet; Dee Oelman, Headteacher, St Mary's and St John's Primary School, NW4; Rebecca Mottershead, Headteacher, Church Hill School, Burlington Rise EN4; Philip Taylor, Headteacher, All Saints Church of England Primary School, NW2; Stanley Davison, Chair, Barnet 55+ Forum; Manjit Dulay, Headteacher, Summerside Primary School, N12; Lisa Meyer, Acting Headteacher, Sunnyfields Primary School, NW4; David Howard, Chair, Federation of Residents' Associations in Barnet; Nilottama Patel, Chair, Barnet Asian Women's Association; Susy Stone, Headteacher, Akiva School, N3; Barbara Hogg, Vice Chair, Barnet Borough Sight Impaired; Jeffrey Raphael, Chair, Disability Action in the borough of Barnet; Sally Lajalati, Headteacher, Colindale Primary School, NW9; Chris Read, Chief Officer, A Smile for a Child; Zaheer Ali, Chair, Salaam; Dulcie Burnett, Chair, Burnt Oak District Pensioners' Association; Lynn Maggs-Wellings, Headteacher, Lyonsdown School, EN5; Laura Cohen, President, WI Finchley; Susan Swinburne, School Travel Plan Champion, Courtland Primary School, NW7; Sogand Shaker, Barnet Member of Youth Parliament; Dr Dominic Luckett, Headmaster, Mill Hill School and Chief Executive of Mill Hill School Foundation.

Where have our barriers gone?**Dear Editor,**

Once upon a time, there were robust crash barriers outside Martin Primary School, offering protection to over 500 children every weekday, against the mighty traffic roaring down the A1000. Then, suddenly one day, the barriers disappeared.

Multiple choice. Were they: a) Spirited away by aliens; b) Melted down to make Spitfires; c) Taken away for no apparent reason by the London Borough of Barnet?

These barriers may not have been especially pretty, but they certainly did a good job of stopping small children running/scooting off the kerb and into the road, and protecting the families who gather on that particular corner from any vehicles mounting the pavement. Please can we have them back before a totally preventable accident occurs?

Yours faithfully,
Harriet Connides,
Manor Park Road, N2.

De-clutter our streets**Dear Editor,**

I'm writing in support of Valerie Teague's letter in your March issue regarding what can only be called a 'bin-blight' on our roads.

Our otherwise very lovely street, Sedgemere Avenue, is afflicted with an absurd number of huge wheelie bins which clutter up our front yards. Four houses could easily share one or two of these bins; instead we have five directly outside our front doors. This is of course in addition to the eight (!) recycling bins that we jointly possess.

I have spoken to several neighbours on this issue who all agree that the bins are an eyesore. Many of us would rather they were situated round the back of our houses (as they were in former times) or in a communal area. I would dearly love the council

to come up with some streamlined alternatives to the current situation which perhaps residents could then vote on. I think this would be a very popular measure.

Yours faithfully,
Clare Kneeshaw,
Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Battle of the buses**Dear Editor,**

I, like your reader (Letters, *THE ARCHER*, February 2012), have missed so many buses because they failed to stop. Many passengers wish to alight from one bus and get on another at the stop outside Costa in High Road, East Finchley, but buses do go flying past, unless you can literally jump in front and stop them.

Mothers with buggies and elderly people don't stand a chance. I have berated drivers if I am on the bus that fails to stop. Please shame these bad drivers.

Yours faithfully,
G Barker,
Aylmer Road, N2.

Problem periods**Dear Editor,**

Many teenage girls and young women suffer great pain and discomfort during their periods, often from their first time. Whilst for some this pain and discomfort will settle down as their hormones do, for others a monthly period can become something to dread.

I understand about this pain as I suffered as a teenager, experiencing excruciating pain, heavy blood loss with additional complications of fainting, nausea and dreadful fatigue. Many years later I found out that I had endometriosis and with the right medical treatment I have been able to cope much better with my symptoms.

Endometriosis Awareness Week was 5-12 March, and as part of this the charity Endometriosis UK has developed some new information aimed at helping teenage girls and young women understand more about

their periods and what to do if you are worried that your experience is not normal. All the information is available for free on a new website www.aboutmyperiods.wordpress.com including stories from other teenagers or young women.

Anyone worried can also phone the charity's free helpline on 0808 808 2227 where trained volunteers listen to your concerns and provide help and information on where to go next.

The charity also has a main website www.endometriosis-uk.org which includes lots more useful information including details of local support groups, how to join as a member, raise funds, or ways to help raise awareness.

I suffered for much longer than I should have because I didn't know that what I was going through wasn't normal. I really benefited from asking for help and finding out more. So I would encourage all teenagers and young women to visit the About My Periods website and see how you can help yourselves.

Yours faithfully
Georgina North,
Baronsmere Road, N2.

I made it!**Dear Editor,**

Just a quick note to say "Thank You" so much to everyone who sponsored me on my latest adventure climbing Mount Kilimanjaro (*THE ARCHER*, November 2011). It was a brilliant experience, although even tougher than I'd imagined on summit ascent night, and definitely one that I'll never forget, cheesy though that sounds.

The best bit, though, is that I have managed to raise a fantastic £3,944 for the Alzheimers Society. If you'd like to increase this total, you can donate at www.justgiving.com/amandasawkins-kilimanjaro-trek2012. Next year, Everest Base Camp (no, I'm not joking!)

Yours faithfully,
Amanda Sawkins,
Richmond Road, N2.

Springtime nutrition

By Claire Cantor

Spring is a great time to refresh your diet, as well as uplift your spirit, with a selection of seasonal vegetables. Energising and cleansing foods include cabbage, kale, spinach and watercress; whilst asparagus, leeks, peas, globe artichokes and broccoli are valuable sources of fibre, folate, vitamins C and E, potassium and calcium.

Why not try cooking artichokes with lemon juice, olive oil or sprigs of thyme for extra flavour? Or, to make asparagus even more delicious, roast it in teriyaki or sauté lightly with red peppers and garlic. This particular spring vegetable is known to aid digestion as well as relieve kidney, bladder and liver problems.

The humble cabbage has been the focus of much research for its vitamin C, phytochemical and anti-carcinogenic content. Curried cabbage with raisins is a tasty serving option or tangy sauerkraut which is full of live enzymes for healthy intestinal flora.

Leeks are another powerhouse food and contain saponins, thought to help prevent cancer cells from multiplying, as well as helping to strengthen bones and lower cholesterol. Steam and drizzle with olive oil and lemon, or sauté with ginger and shitake mushrooms.

Enjoy bright green peas brimming with vitamins C and A. Try them minted, or a spring pea soup with a teaspoon of sesame oil with snipped nori and spring onions for a garnish. Wake up to spring! For other delicious and nutritious recipe ideas go to www.Clairecantor.co.uk.

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To catch a thief

By Janet Maitland

Police are recommending owners of iPhones and iPads to download an app that will not only track down their device if it is stolen, but will help to catch the criminal who stole it.

To do this, first download the Find My iPhone App. Then turn on Location Services and Find My iPhone/iPad in your device's settings. Set up and activate a Passcode Lock, which will reduce the chance of the thief being able to turn off the app quickly. Remember your Apple ID and password and give them to police if your device is stolen.

On 15 March, officers responded to a call to a robbery in Fortismere Avenue, N10, at about 11pm. They checked whether the victim had the app on their phone. Police then used an iPad to track the phone to the N7 area in Islington. As a result, a 19-year-old man was arrested.

Smart and proud: the class of 1913



Schoolgirls sit straight-backed at their desks in this fascinating peek into the classroom at Garden Suburb Junior School in 1913. They seem proud of their new school, which opened in that year to 620 infants and juniors.

Architect WG Wilson's attractively-designed one-storey Garden Suburb Elementary School was constructed in 1912 at a cost of £17,748. It had separate buildings for infants and juniors, and even provided cookery and laundry rooms for girls, and a boys' manual training room.

To mark the schools' centenary, staff, pupils and parents are compiling stories and photos from the last 100 years.

"We would be delighted to hear from former pupils and staff to record their reminiscences of school life, and to receive copies of any old photographs or school reports that they may have," says Alan Dein, a member of the schools' Centenary Committee.

"It would be particularly fascinating to hear stories about school life during the war, when bomb shelters were built under what is now the front playground, and when teachers taught classes in children's homes while the schools were closed for months at a time."

Send your memories by email to gsscentenary@gmail.com or telephone Alan Dein on 0778 080 7171 for more details.

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Celebrities perform for Grace House

By Laura Wheadon

Three high-profile celebrities are teaming up to raise money for The Christian Care Trust whose care home, Grace House in North Finchley, offers vital care and support to the elderly.

On Sunday 15 April at 7pm, the artsdepot on Nether Street, North Finchley will welcome Alison Steadman, Stephen Thorne and Timothy West to enthral an audience with readings from their favourite stories, plays and poems on the theme of 'The Seven Ages of Man'. International pianist Stephen Lade will accompany the readings in what promises to be an evening of poetry, prose, and laughter.

The fundraising scheme was devised two years ago, when the family of a patient who had been cared for at Grace House decided to raise funds in gratitude for the excellent treatment she had received. With a little help from some (celebrity) friends, the fundraising event was born.

Tickets to *With Good Grace - An Easter Garland* are priced at £25 (£20 concessions) and include a free drink in the bar with the actors after the performance.

Proceeds will go to The Christian Care Trust, Grace House, 110 Nether Street, N12 8EU. In addition, there will be an online auction for a drawing by famous illustrator Quentin Blake. You can bid online until the day of the performance at www.christiancaretrust.org.



Let us prey

Many thanks to Verna Dalton of Leslie Road for sending us this very interesting photograph, taken from her back window in February. Urban and suburban birdwatchers are accustomed to the notion that anything may turn up at any time, but it's rare to have a camera to hand when something really out of the ordinary shows up!

Verna's picture is of a female sparrowhawk that has recently captured an unidentified smaller bird. Identifiable by their barred underparts and bright yellow eyes, these small birds of prey generally eat birds such as finches and thrushes, although the females, which are larger than the males, have been known to take birds as big as pigeons.

The RSPB estimates that there are over 40,000 breeding pairs of sparrowhawks in the UK. They are woodland birds but in recent years some have moved into towns and suburbs,

where gardens make ideal hunting grounds for them.

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