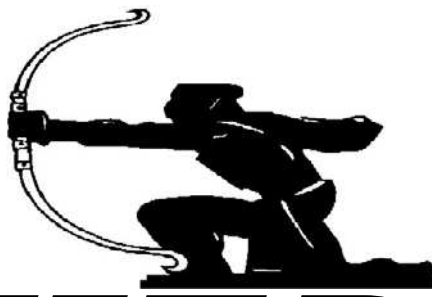


Local News is our Aim

# THE ARCHER



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where sold

*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Cherry Tree Wood pavilion café plan

By Diana Cormack

**Barnet Council has given notice of its intention to grant a 25-year lease for the disused pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood to be used as a café. The applicant does not wish to be named but for many years he ran a café on the High Road and recently opened a similar business there.**

Last October, *THE ARCHER* reported that plans to turn the pavilion into a community café had been dropped. Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the Lazy Sally café in the park, told us then that her proposal had been outbid by another interested party.

The council's notice was dated 28 June and the proposed leased area plan was on view at their North London Business Park property services office. Before making any further decision, the council was considering written representations, which had to be submitted by 13 July.



### Dilapidated condition

Since it closed a quarter of a century ago, the pavilion has become increasingly dilapidated, due to weathering, vandalism and break-ins. The council blocked off the front area with high wire fencing but this is frequently broken through.

Because of this barrier, people found it difficult to read the lease proposal notices on display at the pavilion. One had been stuck on the edge of the wall well behind the fencing. Another was impossible to read, being attached to a pillar on the verandah several feet behind the fence.

Opposition to last year's application included concerns about potential nuisance to near-neighbours, worries about parking problems and objections to the opening hours. According to the new proposals, the café's opening hours would be restricted to those of the park all year round, although this could be subject to varying weather conditions. No trees are to be affected by the development. As the pavilion is on Metropolitan Open Land it is subject to planning restrictions with regard to changes in the character or use of the building

and its surrounds.

The cost of refurbishment for Sally's community café was estimated to be around £175,000. Whether the proposed premises will be as costly we shall only know if and when these new plans for the pavilion come to fruition.



Pyramid scheming: Adrian Terruli, left, and the Christ's College robotics team in Mexico.

## Robot boys make their mark in Mexico

By Adrian Terruli

**Three years ago I started an after-school science club at Christ's College Finchley (CCF) where pupils began tinkering with Lego robots for the fun of it.**

Each year we have entered the UK schools finals of RoboCup Junior and the current school team of Vinesh Khetani, Riku Murai, Nikunj Pindoriya and Shervin Sabeghi have turned out to be highly capable robot builders.

This year we came first in the UK finals and were invited to represent the UK in the 2012

World Championships, which led to us all travelling out for an adventurous week in Mexico City.

CCF made its mark by ranking 20th in the world. Considering we were up against some of the top public schools of China, Japan and Germany, this is a huge achievement.

I am happy to say that I was also able to drag the boys away from their robots long enough for them to enjoy some of the magnificent sights in and around Mexico City, including the amazing Aztec pyramids of

Teotihuacan.

Looking back on the event, our team from CCF left a great impression on the competition, making friends from around the world and acting as fantastic ambassadors for the UK as a whole.

The organisers would like to see us return in future years and CCF is expanding its robotics club to look for new pupils to form the teams of the future.

I would like to thank all staff, pupils and parents who have made donations to the robotics club to keep it going.

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

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

Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

Copy deadlines – **September:** 10 August, **October:** 14 September, **November:** 12 October

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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#### Barnet Council:

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Council Tax	020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust	020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
<b>Haringey Council</b>	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 7484950
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
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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
Whittington	020 7272 3070

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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
MIND	020 8343 5700
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Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014

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Relate	020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector	0300 1234 999
Samaritans	08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

# Did you know you're being consulted?

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Barnet Council is proposing changes to door-to-door transport for people with mobility problems. If you are reading this article before 6 August, you might just have time to tell them your opinion as that is when**

**the public consultation closes. The council have also been asking for opinions on whether Martin Primary School should be expanded, maybe at the expense of part of its playing field, but if you**

**haven't spoken up it's too late now, as the consultation has closed. Another recent questionnaire was about changes to daytime facilities for older people, which could mean shutting day centres such as Ann Owens. That consultation has also closed.**

You can find details of these and more consultations on the Barnet website. I found them when worried users of the Ann Owens Centre told *THE ARCHER* that they had been filling in questionnaires about daytime provision for older people. This was when we were preparing our July issue, just before the consultation closed. It's fair to say that, along with most other people in East Finchley, we knew nothing about the council's proposals.

A Barnet Council spokesperson told us that the consultation was open to everyone who had an interest in day opportunities for older people. They said that a wide range of local groups and provider organisations had been informed, and that a press release and reminder had been issued. It seems that the Hendon Times was informed, but no press release was sent to *The Archer*.

It is increasingly common practice for all organisations to conduct consultations online. As we always aim to bring you all local news, we will now look regularly at the council's website for any upcoming questionnaires. Those of you with internet access can of course do the same, and then think carefully about your response. Consultation documents can be printed and returned by post, or you can respond to proposals in other ways. Look for Citizen Space on [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk).

# Any takers?

**Could you spare 30 minutes once a month to deliver *THE ARCHER*? We have a number of roads where a delivery round is either coming free or where the newspaper doesn't currently reach.**

Our thanks to Alice Fuller for delivering in Southern Road, Buckden Close and Greenfield Drive. Alice is moving away so her round is coming free.

We're also keen to reach readers on three other rounds: first, in Blandford Close, Cornwood Close, Greenhalgh Walk and Lyttleton Road; secondly in Widdecombe Court and Widdecombe Way; and finally in the newly-built apartments in Lancaster Gardens.

Could you volunteer to help us with any of these rounds? We'll bring the papers to your door every month and you can deliver them in your own time. Please email us at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or leave a message by calling 0844 579 6949 and entering mailbox number 63450. Thank you.

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

#### 27 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single, part two-storey side extension with Juliet balcony to the rear, following demolition of existing garage. Alterations to roof, including enlargement of rear dormer window and four roof lights to elevations. New 8ft boundary fence and new decking in rear garden.

#### 62 Abbots Gardens, N2

Extension to roof, including side and rear dormer window with roof light to front elevation to facilitate a loft conversion.

#### 26 Durham Road, N2

Demolition of existing single-storey side conservatory and creation of a new single-storey side/rear extension.

#### 12 Harford Walk, N2

Single-storey front extension, single-storey rear extension, conversion of garage into habitable room, and associated alterations including new garage door. Renewal of existing windows to conservation windows at ground and first-floor rear elevation. Insertion of conservation roof light to rear roof.

#### 60 High Road, N2

New mansard roof with front and rear dormer windows to create two self-contained flats.

#### 238 High Road, N2

Submission of details of Condition No.7 (Part a,b,c) (Desktop Study) pursuant to planning permission Ref: F/01624/11 dated: 13/5/2011. Variation of conditions 1(Plan Numbers) and 18 (Plan Numbers) of planning permission F/01624/11 dated 13 June 2011, for erection of a three-storey building to accommodate eight self-contained flats and a ground floor commercial unit (Class B1 Office Use), following removal of existing Portakabin structures. Provision of eight car parking spaces, cycle storage and associated hard and soft landscaping.

#### 21 Holyoake Walk, N2

Installation of new double-glazed windows and doors to front and rear elevations. Insertion of three roof lights to roof level and one roof light to ground-floor level.

#### Land adjoining 37/39 Leslie Road, N2

Demolition of existing garages and erection of a two-storey building with basement, comprising one one-bedroom flat and one studio flat.

#### 56 Ossulton Way, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### Eastwood, 41 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Extension to time limit to implement planning permission reference F/01911/09, granted 09/07/2009, for demolition of existing buildings and construction of a part two- and part three-storey detached house with basement-level swimming pool, car parking and associated landscaping.

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## It's a yes for free school plan

East Finchley is to get a new secondary school after campaign group Local Schools for Local Children got the go-ahead for its proposal for a free school offering non-denominational secondary education for girls and boys in N2, N3 and NW11.

The Archer Academy will have an initial intake of five forms when it opens in 2013. Parents of children entering Year 6 are being invited to include it in their choice of secondary schools from this autumn.

The government approval comes at the end of an 18-month campaign, during which the group discovered that Barnet Council's ability to address the problem of secondary school choice was limited to expanding existing schools. The group then decided to apply for funding to open a brand new school under the government's Free Schools initiative.

### Community support

Group spokesperson Avis Johns said: "I'm delighted at the news from the DfE. It's a fantastic result, which is the culmination of a great deal of hard work, not just from the core members of our team but also from the wider community who have supported us all the way.

"When we set out on this process we knew there was a real need for a new school for our area, but we were nonetheless surprised by the strength of feeling amongst local parents,

of whom over 1,000 have said they would be happy to send their children to The Archer Academy. We're so pleased to have good news for them today."

East Finchley councillor Alison Moore also reacted positively to the news, saying there had been a longstanding and increasingly acute shortage of secondary school places in and around N2.

### Location question

The group have already started working on more detailed plans for the pre-opening phase, including arrangements for confirming premises, appointing a headteacher and structuring the governing body. The prime question of where the new school will be located is still subject to negotiation.

Avis added: "There were certain issues like premises that we couldn't address formally until we had been approved. Now we've got the thumbs up, we'll crack on with our plans and will keep our supporters posted every step of the way."

To find out more, or register for email updates, send an email to [info@thearcheracademy.org](mailto:info@thearcheracademy.org), uk or visit [www.thearcheracademy.org](http://www.thearcheracademy.org).



TreeHouse School at Sally's café. Jake Chodosh gaining work experience. Photo by Diana Cormack.

## Hands-on experience for autistic pupils

Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood, told The Archer that she is thrilled to be able to provide "real" work experience for pupils from the Tree-House School in Woodside Avenue, as first reported in the June ARCHER. Here Jake Chodosh is pictured learning to prepare tea for a customer.

She said: "It certainly gives you a feel-good factor being able to offer such an opportunity for autistic pupils in a world where such opportunities are virtually non-existent. The fact that the kiosk is just a stone's throw away from the school is what makes this learning programme possible, so I urge other local businesses to consider doing the same. The potential outcomes couldn't be more positive."

## Close shave for hairdresser Kimberley

By John Lawrence

Kimberley Strelley had a miraculous escape when a car crashed into her hair salon in Fortis Green just as she was shutting up shop. She was pulling down the shutters at Kimberley's at 8.50pm when a car ploughed into the front of the premises, missing her by inches.

Six police cars, four fire engines and two ambulances turned up to the scene of the accident on Thursday 12 July. Kimberley was trapped behind the damaged shop front for 45 minutes and the emergency services had to take great care in freeing her in case the front wall collapsed completely.

"I was about to pull the shutter down when a car just came across the road," she recalled. "It hit the shop about a foot away from where I was and destroyed the door of the woman who lives upstairs. I didn't know what was happening. The noise was like a bomb."

Amazingly, Kimberley was totally uninjured and was back in business by Saturday morning. "I went into shock but I wasn't hurt," said Kimberley. "We were just lucky no one was walking past at the time. We patched up what we could and I had customers back in as soon as possible afterwards to keep their appointments. I'll stay open whatever happens."

Police are investigating the cause of the crash. It is believed the driver, who was unharmed, was picking up a relative from a wedding party at the Clissold Arms opposite the salon.



Kimberley Strelley was standing behind her shop door when a car struck just inches away. Photo by John Lawrence.

Kimberley has run her hair salon for two years. At the time of going to press, she was

hoping insurance will cover the cost of rebuilding her shop front.



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Youngsters at Martin Primary School got to handle a genuine Olympic torch.

## Olympic torch lights up school

By John Jackson

The children of Martin Primary had the opportunity of seeing and handling one of the 8,000 torches used in the Olympic torch relay. This particular torch was carried by Lee Hamill in Northern Ireland and was kindly given to Amy and Ben Ablett's mother to bring into our school.

Before the Year 6 show about the ancient Olympics, Amy showed all the infant classes the torch. We then took the torch into the playground for some photos and a parade involving all the junior children, who were lucky enough to get the chance to touch an Olympic torch!

## Motorbike club revs up

By Roger Chapman

A motorbike club is being set up for young people in East Finchley. Six mini bikes will be available one evening a week for members to maintain and ride.

The East Finchley Community Trust, working with the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, has won funding from the John Lyons Trust to set up and run the club.

Five police officers will be trained to take part and we are also looking for five volunteers from the local community to

help run the club. Training will be given. Volunteers will need to have a basic first aid certificate, for which training can also be given.

The young people participating will be given training in basic mechanics and will maintain the bikes themselves.

We hope to get the club up

and running by the autumn. If you are interested in helping to run the club then please ring 07983 360 834 or email: [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com)

## Allotment beds for all

Sixteen specially constructed raised beds have been made available at the Gordon Road Allotments site off Dollis Road, N3. Twelve of these form the largest public gardening facility for people with physical disabilities in Barnet. In addition, schoolchildren from Moss Hall Nursery School and the Southover Partnership School will be growing vegetables on four of the beds.

The beds have been constructed at various heights to cater for differing special needs. Each bed has its own water supply and a secure box for tools. The area has been paved to enable wheelchairs to move around easily.

The Finchley Horticultural Society raised £87,600 for this project and acknowledges the generous funding given by its many supporters.

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## Park murderer given life sentence

By Janet Maitland

A Hornsey man has been sentenced to life imprisonment for two counts of murder and five counts of GBH. Ali Koc, 30, attacked seven men in January 2011.

His first victim was Victor Parsons, 68, who was found by a member of the public lying unconscious and bleeding from multiple head injuries near the gates of Alexandra Park on Alexandra Palace Way. He later died in hospital. Koc also attacked a 29-year-old man and a 36-year-old man in Alexandra Park.

Keith Needell, 84, was found with serious head injuries in Queen's Wood on 31 January. He was taken to the Royal Free Hospital where he remained in a critical condition for several weeks before dying from his injuries. Queen's Wood was also where another of the victims, a 63-year-old man, was struck round the head and body with a tree branch. The other attacks were in Downhill's Park and Priory Park.

An incident room opened under Detective Chief Inspector Tim Duffield of the Homicide

and Serious Crime Command on 2 February and Koc was arrested later that day.

### No remorse

"Koc has never shown any remorse for this wanton spate of attacks committed throughout January last year," said DCI Duffield. "There was no motive. This was simply violence for violence's sake, randomly inflicted upon law-abiding people who happened to be walking or jogging through their local parks, in the wrong place at the wrong time. There can be no doubt that Koc is a highly dangerous and predatory individual."

Detectives are not ruling out the possibility that Koc may have attacked other people. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the incident room on 020 8358 0400. If they want to remain anonymous they can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Fingers crossed for Muswell Hill Festival

Organisers of the Muswell Hill Festival are hoping they don't share the fate of the East Finchley Festival, which was cancelled in June due to heavy rainfall in Cherry Tree Wood.

The Muswell Hill Festival takes place at the same venue from 12 noon to 6pm on Sunday 9 September in aid of the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy. As always, there will be arts and crafts stalls, donkey rides, the monster veg competition and a dog show, along with fun and games in the kids' zone, and an international selection of food and drink.

In addition, there will be a talent competition and performances by local bands to keep the crowds entertained throughout the afternoon. So

it really is fingers crossed for drier conditions.

The London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy, based in Muswell Hill, runs a government-approved centre and school for children with cerebral palsy. It provides early intervention classes for babies and toddlers, giving advice and training to parents and carers; provides primary education for children aged three to 11; trains professionals working with children with cerebral palsy, and runs holiday schemes for children with cerebral palsy and other motor disorders.

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# Plea to preserve pasture

By John Lawrence

**The volunteers who run Long Lane Pasture have launched a centenary appeal to protect the parcel of natural land and safeguard it for future generations.**

The open space was purchased for public enjoyment in 1912. Six years ago, local people saved the pasture from being built over for a housing estate and it is now managed by a charitable trust that relies on public donations. The trust receives no funding from Barnet Council, which owns the land and leases it to the trust.

Trust chairman Ann Brown said major capital works to restore the pasture over recent years are complete and grants for these have been used up.

She said: "We are now appealing for funds to keep our work going, to manage the land and keep it for us all to enjoy for years to come. It is run on a shoestring, but we need money particularly to pay for insurance, for mowers and their fuel, for repairs and for tools and equipment for volunteers. Donations, large and small, are enormously appreciated."

Supporters are encouraged to sign up to Gift Aid as this enables the trust to reclaim the tax on donations, at no extra cost

to the donor. Regular donations by banker's order are particularly welcome.

## Butterflies and blackberries

The pasture, situated opposite the fire station in Long Lane, is open every weekend and bank holiday from 10am to 5pm. Its busy schedule of summer events has been slightly disrupted by the wet weather. A reception and butterfly day on 14-15 July was cancelled as much of the site was waterlogged or slippery.

Ann added: "We hope people will all be able to visit the Pasture when it has dried out a bit. There has been a good show of blackberry flowers so a good crop of blackberries to harvest should follow in August and September."

Donations can be made via the pasture's website at [www.longlanepasture.org/getinvolved.html](http://www.longlanepasture.org/getinvolved.html) or you can get more information by emailing [enquiries@longlanepasture.org](mailto:enquiries@longlanepasture.org).



Jonathan Ross meets a young reader after officially re-opening the Hampstead Garden Suburb library. Photo courtesy of Marjorie Harris.

# Ross cuts ribbon on rescued library

TV presenter and local resident Jonathan Ross cut the ribbon at the official opening of the Garden Suburb Community Library in Hill Rise at the end of June. After being threatened with closure, 45 volunteers have taken over the running of the library from Barnet Council. "A local library is particularly vital for children, people without cars and as part of a vibrant community," said Jonathan.

# Recycling on the catwalk

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Look at the felt top and skirt in our photo. How did Fashion Textiles degree student Edita Tuna make them out of woolly jumpers? That was my question after seeing The Institute's second annual Catwalk Show.**

Tutor Tracey Lord explained: Unravel the jumpers, wet the strands with very hot water and lay them in a lattice arrangement. Roll them up tightly in a bamboo mat, then roll the mat backwards and forwards with a lot of pressure. Repeat the process, building up several latticed layers. Eventually the fibres mesh into a strong piece of fabric. Cut out pattern pieces and sew them together to make the top. Turn more wool into felt for the skirt, and then cut into squares and sew together.

This transformation of jumpers from charity shops was Edita's idea, which Tracey described as "so much a labour of love".

Edita was one of 12 students modelling their own work in the Catwalk Show at The Institute's Arts Centre at the end of June. As well as designs concocted from the recycling box, we saw a lime-green "butterfly" dress, a jacket/shorts/bow tie outfit, retro skirt suits and handbags, an asymmetric evening dress, turbans, tunics and leggings. There was something for most



Edita Tuna models the outfit she made from recycled woollen jumpers. Photo by Declan Driver.

people, but leggings and very high heels were a keynote. The show also featured a digital media presentation, with photography and music.

The Institute is immediately behind East Finchley station. Discover more about available courses at [hgsl.ac.uk](http://hgsl.ac.uk) or on 020 8829 4141.

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# Bomber Command teddy snaps to attention

By Diana Cormack.

Some of the thousands of poppies dropped from a Lancaster flying over Green Park when the Queen unveiled a memorial to RAF Bomber Command landed in East Finchley. Sadly Roger, the official Bomber Command Memorial Bear, could not attend the ceremony at the end of June as he was off to Afghanistan to have his photo taken with the troops. However his owner Dennis Gimes, who lives on the High Road, managed to take a photo of Roger at the site later.

Dennis is president of the Heritage Foundation, which worked hard to raise funds for the memorial commemorating the 55,573 aircrew from Bomber Command killed in action during the Second World War and the victims of bombing from all nations. It was Dennis's idea to raise awareness of the memorial and of its subsequent upkeep by inviting well known people to have their photo taken with Roger. In addition to a number of show business per-

sonalities, the prime ministers of Canada and New Zealand have also been pictured with the bear. Our own Prime Minister David Cameron has written a letter of thanks to Dennis and the Heritage Foundation for all their work on the memorial.

For further information or to make a donation, please visit [www.bombercommand.com](http://www.bombercommand.com) or contact The RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon, London NW9 5LL, telephone 020 8205 2266.



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Wing walker: Martin hard at work restoring the Mosquito.

## Eye on Stanley Field

Stanley Field was at the centre of a typically barbed article in *Private Eye* magazine in July in which London mayor Boris Johnson came under fire for his position on the sell-off of playing fields.

The article claimed that Johnson had once written in the *Daily Telegraph* that selling off playing fields made him "almost wild with anger" yet when it came to supporting Sport East Finchley's bid to turn the field into a sporting facility, rather than hand it over to housing, he refused to get involved and claimed the decision was down to Barnet Council.

The council has rejected Sport East Finchley's plans and indicated that housing development will take place on Stanley Field but the charity is still working with the council to try to secure some leisure space on the site.

## Mosquito comes out of retirement

By Nick Young

As retirement projects go, Martin Bronkhorst's takes some beating. For the past year, Martin has been involved in the restoration of the prototype of the Second World War fighter aircraft the de Havilland Mosquito.

He is part of a 12-man crew responsible for work on the aircraft, which is taking place at the de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre at Salisbury Hall, near London Colney in Hertfordshire. This volunteer-run aviation museum is dedicated to the restoration and display of de Havilland aircraft. Many of the volunteers served in the RAF or worked for de Havilland.

For Martin, who lives in Durham Road, there is a personal element to his involvement. "My father was in the Air Force," he explains. "When I was a kid, we all wanted to be fighter pilots ... I've always been interested in aeroplanes. I still think they're miraculous."

### Wooden wonder

The Mosquito was one of the most important aircraft of the Second World War. Made almost entirely out of wood, it first flew in 1941 and was used by the RAF and other Allied air

forces as a precision bomber, night-fighter, fighter-bomber and for photo-reconnaissance.

Unlike heavy bombers such as the Lancaster or the Flying Fortress, the twin-engine Mosquito was designed for speed, and was the fastest warplane in the world until the first jet fighters were used in 1944. It also was easy to build as no specialist metalworkers were needed, and 7,781 were constructed, with work taking place at de Havilland's subsidiary companies in Canada, South Africa and Australia as well as in England.

However, like their crews, Mosquitos had a short life expectancy. "Just 14 weeks was the normal length of bomber crews' lives," explained Martin. There are about 30 complete examples in museums throughout the world today.

Salisbury Hall was owned by founder Geoffrey de Havilland in the late 1930s, and it was there that the Mosquito was designed and the prototype constructed. Today, the museum houses a number of de Havilland aircraft from the 1920s to the 1950s, several of which are ongoing restoration projects. For details about opening hours, visit the museum's website: [www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk/](http://www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk/)

## Bobath boost

The Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy in East End Road is thanking two recent benefactors. The Bald Faced Stag pub raised £120 during Euro 2012 from a "Guess the minute of the first goal" competition. Whetstone Barclays branch raised over £1,200 at a fundraising day featuring a staff-run coffee and cakes sale and raffle, the proceeds from which were doubled by Barclays' community matched-giving fund.



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## Hopes for 20mph zone and safer crossings

Along-fought campaign to improve road safety on Church Lane and Creighton Avenue could soon see some positive changes. Organisers of the WALKSAFE N2 group say Barnet Council highways officers have indicated they will support most of their demands.

In particular, plans are being drawn up for a 20mph speed limit on Church Lane, assisted by two vehicle-activated signs that will flash at drivers approaching the speed limit. A redesign of the Church Lane junction with East End Road will slow down traffic as it enters Church Lane. There are also plans for a zebra crossing on Creighton Avenue, sited opposite the entrance to Creighton House. The plans include guard rails to guide pedestrians towards the crossing. The highways department is looking at a couple of options to slow down traffic coming in off the High Road and is asking formally for the hedge of Creighton House to be reduced. All these proposals will be put to the Area Environment Sub

Committee meeting in October.

### Setback

However, the group's demand for a three-way signalised junction where Church Lane meets the High Road has been rejected. The campaign group has asked for a copy of the feasibility study and has asked the highways department to look at what other options there are to improve safety, both on the zebra crossing at the end of Church Lane and the pedestrian crossing on the High Road. "Despite this setback, we do not want to give up on increasing safety at this junction, especially with the expansion of Martin Primary," says Emily Burnham, of WALKSAFE N2. If you have ideas or want to join this campaign, contact WALKSAFE on [walksafen2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:walksafen2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Join in the Jamaica fun day

On Saturday 11 August a Jamaica Family Fun Day will be held on Martin School's playing field. The event is being organised by the Monday Club to raise awareness of this local youth club and to mark the 50th anniversary of Jamaica's independence.

There will be plenty on sale to eat and drink, including Caribbean food, a barbecue and a cake stall. Entertainment will be supplied by a DJ, live bands, dancers and a talent competition. A bouncy castle and skate park are also planned and nail art will be on hand!

The five hours of fun begin at 1pm. Come along and show your support as a community for the Monday Club. For further information call 07931 586 740 or 07984 200 918

## Lamppost umbrellas

By Daphne Chamberlain  
Down comes the rain. Again. You're dressed for summer, because you thought the sun might just stay out. No shelter, no trees, no shop awnings, and it's pelting heavens-hard. Here comes another soaking. But wait! All the lampposts are sprouting 2.2 metre (7ft) wide umbrellas. Are you dreaming?

Well, at the moment, yes. However, Russian designer Mikhael Belyaev has had the same dream, and he's presented it to the Moscow Department. So, who knows? Maybe the dream could become reality.

Belyaev's lampbrellas would be operated by sensor, sprouting at the first sign of rain, and closing after three minutes if nobody was sheltering under them. To see for yourself, just Google Lampbrella.



Pupils at Coldfall School learned about the healthiest ways to eat. Photo: Alain et Claire Bollack

## An apple for the pupil

An apple for the teacher may have bought you good marks once but now primary schoolchildren are being encouraged to keep the fruit to themselves as part of a healthy eating campaign.

Children at Brookland, Tetherdown, Coldfall, Coleridge and Highgate Schools have learned about a better diet with the help of interactive talks from Muswell Hill nutritionist Claire Cantor.

Sainsbury's Muswell Hill has supported the project with an apple for every child at the end of each talk.

Claire says she wants to encourage children to begin taking some responsibility for their health from an early age.

"The aim is to awaken and develop the children's natural instinct for healthy eating in a totally different way," she says. "It is not about dieting, and good and bad foods, it's

about recognising our bodies' natural desire for healthy eating and encouraging healthy food choices."

Brooklands staff said the session was well-paced and introduced pupils to foods from a variety of cultures. For more information, visit [www.clairecantor.co.uk](http://www.clairecantor.co.uk)

## Sharing abundance

By Guy Bardoe

How much fruit grows in East Finchley? The answer will never be known, but a local group of volunteers called East Finchley Abundance wants to reduce the amount that gets wasted. We have therefore decided to run an Apple Day event on the High Road on Saturday 20 October, with the support of the East Finchley Community Trust.

Similar events are popping up all over the country, as more people realise the importance of celebrating locally grown food. As elsewhere, people can bring their garden fruit to our Apple Day stall for juicing and also try a range of tasty juices, pressed right there and then.

So do you have fruit trees, not just apples, in your garden that you cannot harvest or that over-produce? Perhaps you know of fruit trees and bushes in the area that never get picked? In the run-up to the harvest season the group

will be compiling an inventory and map of fruit trees in East Finchley. We would like to hear from local people who think this is a good idea.

Members of the group will arrange harvesting of the fruit leading up to the Apple Day; the project is free and voluntary, with all the produce being shared amongst local people.

Please email [efabundance@btinternet.com](mailto:efabundance@btinternet.com) or write to East Finchley Abundance, c/o 32 Park Hall Road London N2 9PU, with information, suggestions or to get involved.

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## YOUNG ARCHER



Candy and Floss kept things sweet at the Martin Primary School fun day. Photo by Frances Buckingham.

## Not much sun, but lots of fun

By Frances Buckingham

**Martin Primary School decided to hold its annual Summer Fun Day indoors, thanks to a waterlogged field and an uncertain weather forecast. This did not stop hundreds of pupils, parents and local residents enjoying some delicious food and a great variety of stalls in the packed school halls.**

Luckily the weather did hold on the day and children were able to enjoy lots of activities in the school playgrounds, including two bouncy castles and the always-popular 'beat the goalie'. Some great music kept everyone inside entertained with the Year 6 band and the school choir packing out the main hall and two great sets from soul band Mixed Company. The event, organised by the PCTA and sponsored by Martyn

Gerrard, GLH and Budgens, raised over £5,000 for the school. The school received generous donations from many local businesses for its mBay auction. Acting headteacher John Pickering said: "What a great day. The whole school pulled together to ensure the event was great success. The weather may have been against us but everyone enjoyed the day and raised valuable funds to support the school."



Sporting youngsters at Tudor Primary School get their hands on Barnet's Olympic torch. Photo by John Jackson

## Olympic Torch reaches Tudor School

The Barnet Olympic Torch visited Tudor Primary School on 27 June, handed over to pupils from Queen Elizabeth's School in High Barnet. Staff and pupils from nearby Manorside School visited Tudor to join in the celebrations. The torch then travelled on to Bishop Douglass School.

## Riddles

1. A bus driver was heading down a street. He went right past a Stop sign without stopping. He went left where there was no left turn. He went the wrong way down a one-way street and passed a police car, yet still, he didn't break any traffic laws. Why not?

2. How many times can you subtract 5 from 25?

3. Four men were on a kayaking trip when their boat unexpectedly overturned, plunging them into the water. They scrambled onto the river bank and not a single man was wet. How was this possible?

4. You are driving with no headlights on in a town where everything is black. The houses are black, the walls are black, the pavement is black and there are no street lamps on. Suddenly, a black cat is in the middle of the road in front of your car, walking away from you, but you still don't hit him. How is this possible?

5. When young, I'm frowned upon; when middle-aged, I make you happy; when old, I'm at my greatest value. What am I?

Answers below

**Riddle answers:**  
1. He was walking.  
2. Once.  
3. They were all married men.  
4. It's daylight.  
5. Sleep.



Three Fortismere teachers get into the spirit of the Fortitude festival.

## First Fortitude festival

By Nate Risser

**With a new name and new ideas, Fortismere School's summer fair turned into the Fortitude festival on Saturday 7 July and was a resounding success, despite intermittent rain.**

The science faculty staged experiments including the making of 'dry ice cream' from liquid nitrogen, whilst design and technology held a mini grand prix with high-speed radio-controlled cars designed by students.

Library staff read stories for younger children, while the religious studies department had a meditation tent complete with massages. Food was provided by Nandos and the language departments supplied international delicacies.

Fortitude was also a platform for the wider community, with representatives from local campaign group the Pinkham Way Alliance talking to fair-goers.

The stage was devoted to musical acts from teachers and

students. There was a constant crowd watching bands such as The Keepsakes, whose folk sound was admired along with the finale of the day, an ABBA sing-along.

Joe Maude, one of the organisers, said the aim of Fortitude was "to have a celebration involving parents, teachers, and pupils." Headteacher Helen Anthony later expressed her enthusiasm for the event, saying that it was "Fortismere at its best and it brought together the community effectively."

Michael Beskin, a student selling own-grown plants, said his service was "returning roots," and he seemed to mirror the sense of celebration and giving back to the community, on which Fortitude was based.

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## Talented lady of letters

By Diana Cormack

**On 9 May, members of the East Finchley Open (EFO) group of artists made a special visit to attend a calligraphy workshop at the Victoria and Albert Museum. But this visit was particularly special because the workshop was being run by one of their own, namely Cherrell Avery.**

Since January, Cherrell has been one of three artists in residence at the museum. Some readers may remember her from Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute where Cherrell taught calligraphy for many years. Others may recall her as one of the organisers of the East Finchley toy library, more than 20 years ago.

After being selected last autumn, Cherrell was amazed to see the whole of her home studio transported to a huge room at the V&A. Her remit was to be there for a minimum of three days a week, one of which was to be spent working with the public, giving lessons and providing activities for both adults and children.

Previous primary school teaching experience no doubt helped when Cherrell designed work sheets for youngsters requiring them to visit different galleries for inspiration and interest. Encouraging adults to look at various displays in the museum to stimulate and support their skills is an important part of Cherrell's work. It is also vital to her own artistic development and the notes and sketches she has produced will no doubt lead to some impressive work in the future.

Cherrell has run a successful calligraphy business for the last ten years. She uses her teaching skills to inform the general public and students of calligraphy. At present she is tutor on a foundation degree course at Kensington Palace; she also teaches handwriting and advises on handwriting difficulties. Cherrell travels to advise and lecture both in the UK and abroad, where some of her work is collected and exhibited. Her lettering expertise has been used by film and TV companies, major clothing stores, contemporary artwork projects and in commemorative products, to name but a few. Visit [www.cherrellavery.co.uk](http://www.cherrellavery.co.uk) to find out more.



*In harmony: the children of Martin Primary School joined voices with the North London Chorus.*

## Rained-off choir sings again

By Adam Chandler

**North London Chorus and Martin School Choir rehearsed long and hard to perform Ballads for a Living Planet at the East Finchley Festival. Unfortunately, the Living Planet gave us some rather terrible weather, leading to the reluctant cancellation of the event.**

However, all their hard work did not go to waste as the group performed to delighted parents and friends in Martin School on Thursday 21 June. The piece was commissioned to contribute to the repertoire of modern 'green' choral music commenting directly on our fragile human relationship with Planet Earth.

It was designed to be a piece with sufficient musical challenges to be interesting but also readily accessible to most choirs of all ages and abilities, so the perfect vehicle for this collaboration.

Natalie Grant, music teacher at Martin School, said: "It really was a great experience for the children and the parents were absolutely thrilled. I don't think I've seen them so happy after a performance! I hope we can do something similar in the future."

NLC's vice-chair Shantini Cooray, who led and conducted the NLC contingent, added: "We really enjoyed the experi-

ence of singing with them. It's not one we do very often and we look forward to similar chances in the future."

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## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Stoned

**It's seriously weird when your wild youth starts drawing its pension and nothing is weirder than when it happens to the Rolling Stones. What was once the most dangerous band in the world is now a bunch of old blokes trying to remember when rock was young and they were younger. Greatest rock'n'roll band in the world? In 1970 maybe; in 2012 they just look old and embarrassing. And it all started so well.**

Ignore all the stuff about the first-ever gig in July 1962, the Stones really start in 1963 when the 'classic' line up of Mick, Keith, Brian, Bill and Charlie got together and became the parent-frightening alternative to The Beatles. And what an alternative. The lovable mop tops sang about holding your hand, but with Brian Jones, the Cheltenham Casanova, it wasn't going to stop with holding hands.

The Stones were the band who told you to get off their cloud, couldn't get any satisfaction and were heading for a 19<sup>th</sup> nervous breakdown and an appointment with the police. They were the wild boys for wild youth.

The madness, debauchery and general mayhem lasted right through the 1960s. It didn't matter that Brian started the trend of dying at 27 when he failed to float in his swimming pool or that they were at Altamont when the hippy dream died. No, they were the Stones, the exiles on main street, or in Keith's case, the exile on mainlining heroin who embarked on a lost decade of drugs and more drugs.

Then it went wrong. Mick started hanging out with the rich and ludicrous, the music got dull and by the time they turned up to play Knebworth in the summer of 1976 they were becoming dinosaurs. Except they didn't stop there. So what if punks could out-sneer them? The Stones had too much money to care and with Keith's mate, the hard-drinking Ronnie Wood, on board the party continued until the rest of us got bored.

Now they look like a bunch of old blokes trying to pretend they are still relevant when they went out of style 30 years ago. Rock writer Nik Cohn was right when he said that the Stones should have stayed forever young by dying in a plane crash before their collective 30<sup>th</sup> birthdays. And he wrote that in 1970.

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## Regular Events

### Sport & Fitness

- **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.
- **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- **Traditional music** at TOC, Highgate Hill on 1st & 3rd Tue each month from 8.30 pm. Free. All musicians welcome. 07958 282898.

### Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, 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](http://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](mailto: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



## The painter and the singer

**Vintage clothing and gift studio A Room in my House is showcasing the work of artist Ben Jensen along with some musical accompaniment on a special open day this month.**

Ben is a British artist based in Surrey who began his career making flyers and art work for hardcore and punk bands in the early 2000s. He now works in acrylic and spray paints on reclaimed plywood and canvas and his work will be available to buy with prices from £30.

The art show will be accompanied by live music

from London-based singer and songwriter Lu Gertsy, who blends folk storytelling with unique vocals and melodic harmonies.

This special event takes place at the studio in King Street Mews, off Church Lane, from 10am to 7pm on Saturday 18 August. Everyone is welcome to browse, shop and listen.



## Arts festival fillip

**The East Finchley Arts Festival returns to All Saints Church in Durham Road from 6-14 October. Organisers received a welcome boost in their annual challenge to find financial support for the event when Jacqui Murrell, of Waitrose, handed over a sponsorship cheque for £2,000 from the John Lewis Partnership to artistic director Geofrey Hanson at Waitrose's North Finchley store in June.**

## The Archer online

Did you know you can catch up with past issues of *THE ARCHER* online? Every edition since the start of 2000 is available on our website [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk). The site also gives information on advertising in our pages and how you can contribute to the paper.

## What's On...

### Saturday 11 August

• **Jamaica Family Fun Day** at Martin Primary School, 1-6pm, organised by the Monday Club to mark the 50th anniversary of Jamaica's independence; Caribbean food, cakes, DJ, live bands, dancers, a skate park and a talent competition. Come along and show your support for this local youth club.

• The inaugural **Running of the Bulls UK**, a unique pub-crawl-cum-running-event, on

Hampstead Heath. Participants will stream across the Heath, wearing the traditional red and white outfits of the Pamplona bull runners, pursued by athletes dressed as bulls. More details at [www.runningbulls.co.uk](http://www.runningbulls.co.uk)

### Saturday 18 August

• Vintage clothing and gift studio **A Room in my House** showcases artist

## Writer gives it straight to the reader

By Andrew Popov

**Writing a novel may be hard enough but Muswell Hill crime writer Lawrence Estrey has also undertaken the enormous task of publishing his work himself, without the help of an agent or publishing house.**

He's hoping to sidestep the difficulties that many new authors face in getting recognised by publishing houses and breaking away from the dozens of bland and repetitive detective stories that go into print every year.

Estrey draws on real experience, using Lancashire dialects and accents in his first novel *Secrets* to develop character depth, and drawing on past brushes with the law for his new novel *Eggheads*.

His latest story follows the turbulent adolescence of a boy in a seemingly hostile environment, as he progresses and delves deeper into psychological and physical distress. The novel addresses a broad range of issues in today's fractured society, touching on underage drinking, social inequality and

anti-authoritarianism.

His decision to follow a teenager's tale, he says, was made on the grounds that raw emotion and real stress can be felt through his, at times, still naive eyes.

"Relationships and emotional connections were an essential element in the writing process," says Estrey. His self-published novel is available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle.



## The Tempest at the FYT

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

**Students from Southgate College rewrote Shakespeare at the Finchley Youth Theatre. A cast of young people in their 20s with learning disabilities gave us their version of The Tempest. The words were different, but the story and the essence were the same. Director Cheryl Ferner-Reeves told *THE ARCHER* that the students had been learning about the play and its author for about six months. They had toured the Globe theatre backstage and seen other plays, and since Christmas had worked on development of their characters.**

This, Shakespeare's last work, is about spirits and dreams, and the element of magic was very strong in this production. The cast appeared at first as shadows, and then solidified into characters they obviously had empathy with. Lighting changes,

music and costumes created an unearthly atmosphere, but there was plenty of humour and a feeling of gentleness.

Everyone did a great job, with Kevin Daly putting in a very dignified performance as Prospero.

## Call to reopen museum

**Archaeologists in Barnet have called on the council to rethink its decision to shut Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon. The Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) passed a motion at its AGM in June urging the council to reopen the site.**

Don Cooper, chairman of HADAS, said: "The building was put up for sale by the council in January 2012 and emptied of its contents, with the museum collection being dispersed. An announcement is expected soon as to whether an offer has been made, but as far as we know no appropriate offer has been received." Despite its desire to save money, the council is still incurring the costs of basic maintenance of the building, says HADAS.

E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

**Ben Jensen's work with musical accompaniment from singer/songwriter Lu Gertsy.** Art available to buy from £30. King Street Mews, off Church Lane, near the Windsor Castle pub, 10am - 7pm.

### Wednesday 29 August

• **The Battle of Barnet**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Step back in time and explore the famous Wars

of the Roses battlefield of 1471. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 11am. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

### Sunday 9 September

• **Muswell Hill Festival**, Cherry Tree Wood, 12-6pm in aid of the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy.





## Letters to the Editor

### Rogue trader alert

Dear Editor,

They are still out there! Recently we have had cold callers offering to repair the roof and resurface the drive. Neither needed attention! Remember that even in these difficult times reputable tradesmen are busy. You call them, they don't call on you!

The minimum requirements for any work are a landline phone, a verifiable address and a written estimate. Ask neighbours, friends and family for recommendations. There are many excellent tradesmen in our area.

Yours faithfully

Mike Holt

Chandos Road, N2.

### A concerted success

Dear Editor,

You kindly advertised in your newspaper a gala concert to celebrate St George's Day. The concert took place on Saturday 28 April in the URC church, Tetherdown, Muswell Hill. The local artists were Dr Jennifer Bate (organ), Margaret Lion (piano), The Finchley Children's Music Group Choir, Alastair Hamilton

(baritone) and Bonnie Taylor (jazz and blues singer).

The concert was well attended in spite of the inclement weather and we raised a total of £1,439. This has been divided between Cancer Research and Parkinson's UK.

You have featured Alastair in your paper before in October 2009 when he shared a concert with Channing School and raised over £1,200 for the Dyspraxia Foundation (Alastair is very dyspraxic). You also did a report on how young people with disabilities find it hard to get a job. He has a job now. He used to do voluntary work for the Barnet Association for the Blind and this has led directly to a paid job with Deafblind UK. He enjoys this work and finds it very satisfying.

Yours faithfully,  
Patricia Hamilton,  
Twyford Avenue, N2.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page",  
The Archer, PO Box 3699,  
London N2 8JA  
or e-mail  
[the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

## Obituary: Laura Davies

**Laura Davies, wife of former East Finchley councillor John Davies, died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage on 11 May at the age of 62 while on holiday in Wales. John and Laura had lived in Manor Park Road for 35 years.**

John said: "Laura was a huge support to me in my work for the community and throughout my whole life. People will remember her organising a committee room in our home at election times. Laura was a great admirer of *THE ARCHER*, read it avidly and said that it provided a great service for the people of East Finchley.

"One of my main reasons for retiring from the council in 1994 was to spend more time with Laura. It is sad that this time has been so tragically cut short."

John has won first prizes in national competitions for verse writing. He frequently used verse to emphasise his points at council and became known as the Bard of Barnet. At Laura's funeral, he read the verse that will be placed on her tombstone:

*"May earth be gentle  
to the touch  
Of one who loved  
so very much  
And hope that on bright days  
the skies  
Will sometimes shine like  
her warm eyes."*

## Summer movie- making

**The Phoenix Cinema is setting up its own pop-up studio over the summer to help youngsters get behind the scenes in the world of movie-making.**

Children aged 11-14 can spend two days writing, directing and starring in their own short film with the help of film makers Hannah Prior and Rohan Wadham on 16 and 17 August from 10am to 3pm. The price is £65.

Children aged 7-11 can come and see the great silent movie and slapstick stars of early cinema on screen and explore the techniques of mime and clowning on 20 and 21 August. The price is £45.

Places are limited and booking for both courses must be done in advance by Friday 10 August. Concession places are available for children on free school meals or families on income support. To book, call the Phoenix on 020 8442 0442 or email [education@phoenix-cinema.co.uk](mailto:education@phoenix-cinema.co.uk)



Onward Christian walkers: the St Mary's parishioners walk for peace.  
Photo by Jean Bailey.

## Parishioners walk for peace

By Tina McNaughton

**Members of the congregation of St Mary's Catholic Church in East Finchley got together on 7 July to mark 100 days of peace, 50 of them before the Olympic Games and 50 after the end of the Paralympics. The occasion was marked by a guided walk along a section of London's Capital Ring.**

The walk was just one of the events organised by the Diocese of Westminster's Justice and Peace Commission to mark the Olympics. Others included an all-night vigil, a family fun day and music for peace concerts.

As well as marking the message of peace carried by the Olympic Games, the walk gave parishioners the chance to discover parts of North London that few people realise are there.

The journey from East Finchley to Finsbury Park can, believe it or not, take you almost exclusively through woodland and natural landscapes.

The Capital Ring runs round the whole of greater London, providing a scenic route for walkers, away from the capital's hustle and bustle. The weather, true to form this year, did not co-operate, but everyone enjoyed splashing through the mud and sheltering from the odd shower.

## Wall of words

**Do you write poetry or fancy trying your hand? Barnet Libraries are calling for entries to a poetry competition, with prizes on offer and a chance to see your work in print.**

Poet Yvonne Green will be judging. She was recently nominated for the Buxton Prize and her publications include *Boukhara* (a Poetry Business Pamphlet Prize winner), *The Assay* and her most recent collection *After Semyon Railevich Lipkin*.

Anyone over 16 can enter up to two poems of no more than 40 lines each. They must be the original work of the author and must not have been published elsewhere. The subject of the poem is up to you.

Deadline for entries is 31 August. The winner will be published in the Barnet Libraries What's On magazine and commended poems will be displayed on the Wall of the Words in Hendon Library. First prize is £100 in vouchers and

second prize is £50 in vouchers.

More details from any library or send your entries to Wall of the Words Poetry Competition, c/o Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London, NW4 4BQ, together with a donation of £2 per poem to cover costs, with cheques made out to the London Borough of Barnet.

## Do you have a story for us?

You can send your stories, letters, and photos by email to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. Tweet us @TheArcherN2 and find us on Facebook. You can also find out more about contributing and advertising at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk)

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## Sedgemere Avenue in the 1950s

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June prompted Gwen Nutting to drop us a line with her memories of Coronation Day. The photo she sent shows Sedgemere Avenue a year later in 1954, in the days before cars lined both sides of the road, with just a lone milkman plying his round. Gwen writes:

As it is the year of the Diamond Jubilee, I thought I would write a little story. I have lived in Sedgemere Avenue for 63 years. At 86, I believe I am the oldest person in the road and also the only tenant living here at the time of the Coronation.

I remember 2 June 1953 very well. One of our neighbours had a very small television and invited my husband and me to watch the Coronation but, having a young baby, we could not accept the invitation.

We did listen to it on our radio. We did not own a radio in those days but rented one for 2/6 a week from Derwent's in Ballards Lane.

Our next-door neighbour arranged a street party for Coronation Day but sadly it had to be cancelled as it was so cold and wet. We enjoyed the day and our neighbours came to see us when it was all over. The television coverage was wonderful, they told us.

Happy memories of 60 years ago.



## North London's new walking trail

By Ann Bronkhorst

A new trail has been launched for walkers from Camden Town via Belsize Park, Hampstead, Hampstead Garden Suburb and East Finchley to Alexandra Palace.

To follow the whole 15-mile trail, passing 500 points of interest, walkers will need some stamina. The route can be tackled in stages, however, guided by five booklets, each with a detailed map and suggestions for refreshment stops. Each walk begins and ends near public transport links.

The Hampstead Heritage Trail is the result of collaboration between several north London amenity groups: the Highgate Society, the Heath & Hampstead Society, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and the Hornsey Historical Society.

In June 2011 Richard Webber of the Highgate Society led the way with an idea for a nine-mile circular walk around London's northern heights. The outcome was a route covered in five booklets, all now available in local bookshops.

Other local amenity groups wanted similar information for

their areas and so the Hampstead Heritage Trail was born. Now, armed with a complete set of booklets at £35 (Circular Walk and Heritage Trail) or with booklets for particular sections at £3 or £5, walkers can discover the history, architecture and even the crimes of a large part of north London. The booklets are available from local shops or via [www.northernheights.eu](http://www.northernheights.eu)



Ted Bagley, wearing Russian Convoy medals and white beret. Photo by Toni Morgan.

## Life on the Arctic convoys

By Daphne Chamberlain

Ted Bagley, born in King Street and living in Church Lane since the age of five, has spoken to *THE ARCHER* about his experiences in the Russian Arctic convoys.

In the Second World War, Russian resistance to the invading German army was kept alive by vital supplies brought by the convoys. "We've got a nice surprise for you, lad", Ted was told as he received his draft chit for Russia. Gallows humour indeed, as Ted was dispatched on what Winston Churchill called the hardest journey of all.

Under continuous attack from aircraft and submarines, Ted's boat withstood the onslaught for four days and nights.

At Archangel, they reached a land with temperatures of minus 40 degrees C. Ice on rivers was up to 14 feet thick, and when it was dispersed by explosions, the water level could rise by 20 feet. Dangerous eddies also cracked the surface. Ted kept one door open when driving over a frozen river, as water immersion meant death within three minutes. He wore a sheepskin coat inside out, and learned that ungloved hands froze to metal.

During the 13 months when he inspected and maintained guns brought by the convoys, he learned other things too. He existed mainly on tinned and dried food, but in cities like Leningrad (now St Petersburg), there was hardly a dog, cat or pigeon left, and

people boiled their boots for soup. Ted and his comrades befriended a Husky-type dog, which was stolen and eaten. He says, "People were desperate to feed their families. How do I know I wouldn't have done the same?"

Since the war, Ted and his wife Eve have visited Russia three times with the convoy veterans, where they were welcomed warmly and loaded with presents, and the problem with the food and drink was how to do justice to it. They have seen Remembrance Day celebrations,

where each man who died on the convoys is commemorated by a red balloon, and Ted has spoken to Russian students and schoolchildren, appreciating their "very intelligent and interested response". Recognising the veterans' white berets, passers-by ask to be photographed with them. Among other decorations, Ted has the Arctic Star, presented to him in the Russian Embassy.

He describes it all as "an experience I would not have done without". Ted turned 90 last month.

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