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# THE ARCHER

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**CARS & COURIERS**

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

## School names the place

By Nick Young

The location of East Finchley's new secondary school has been revealed and a headteacher has been appointed to prepare for the first intake of 150 children in September 2013.

The Archer Academy will be located at the Arts Institute building off The Bishops Avenue, close to the tube station, in a partnership deal that will see the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute continue to offer adult education courses to 6,000 students from the same building.

A team of specialist architects is drawing up plans to ensure that schoolchildren and Institute students have exclusive use of separate sections of the building.

The arrangement alleviates a worrying financial headache for the Institute, whose chairman Greville Waterman said: "I am proud to have ensured the survival of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute after a difficult period for our organisation."

### Headteacher named

The Archer Academy, which has no connection to this newspaper, will be a mixed, non-denominational, non-selective, five-form-entry free school for children living in the N2, N3 and NW11 postcodes.

Its headteacher will be Mick Quigley, 52, who described the role as a "once in a lifetime opportunity". A headteacher of many years experience prior to working as a schools inspector and as the assistant director, schools and learning with Barnet Council, his appointment was unanimously approved by the interview panel.

Avis Johns, the chair of governors, described him as "the perfect person to deliver the school that our community has long been waiting for". When asked why he wished to go back to being a headteacher, Mr Quigley said: "This is a unique opportunity to open a new school that will provide a genuine service to, and be part of, the community."

He confirmed that recruitment for teachers will commence this month. Other aspects of the new school are also taking shape; a meeting with a focus group in November



The Archer Academy's headteacher Mick Quigley.

has led to the formation of a sub-group that will finalise plans for the new school's uniform.

### From THE ARCHER team...

To all our readers, distributors and advertisers, thank you very much for your support in 2012. We couldn't produce THE ARCHER without you. We wish you a merry festive season and a very prosperous 2013.



East Finchley Combat Academy is open to all ages and abilities. Photo by John Lawrence.

## So you wanna be a boxer?

By John Lawrence

Were you inspired by Nicola Adams, Luke Campbell and Anthony Joshua taking boxing gold medals for Team GB in the London 2012 Olympics? British boxing is on an all-time high and a new venue is helping people of all ages get into the sport.

East Finchley Combat Academy has a modern studio in a refurbished joinery workshop tucked away behind 7 Church Lane, running classes in Muay Thai, jiu-jitsu, yoga, power training and boxing for men and women.

Since opening in July, the academy has attracted learners aged from their early teens to their 50s. Owners Ibbey Adem, Mark Watson and Shahab Uddin have done a good job of creating a family-friendly

studio for the whole community.

### Confidence and fitness

Ibbey said: "We don't want this to be just a fighters' gym. We want to keep a friendly atmosphere and get involved with local schools as well as offering apprenticeships for trainee coaches."

Mark added: "Boxing and Muay Thai are good for fitness and for building confidence. We've seen a lot of the younger ones here really come out of themselves since they joined."

Former British boxing champion Fiona Hayes runs a 'Box Fusion' class for women,

which combines aerobic boxing and pad work with toning and Pilates exercises creating an all-over body workout for every level of fitness.

Find out more about membership, classes and times at [www.ef-ca.com](http://www.ef-ca.com) or email [eastfinchleycombatacademy@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleycombatacademy@gmail.com)

### Festival is go

The first East Finchley Christmas festival takes place in the High Road on Saturday 8 December.

Turn to page 2 for the full programme.

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## THE ARCHER

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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 – **December:** 16 November, **January:** 14 December, **February:** 11 January

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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#### Barnet Council:

Admin/Town Hall	020 8359 2000
Council Tax	020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust	020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
<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
Coppetts Wood	020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial	020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic	020 8349 7000
Royal Free	020 7794 0500
St Luke's	020 8219 1800
Whittington	020 7272 3070

### Health Advice

AIDSline	020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555
Barndoc	0300 033 3777
Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688
Cancer Support	020 8202 2211
Drinkline	0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
MIND	020 8343 5700
NHS Direct	0845 4647

### OAPs' Advice

Age UK	020 820 35040
Contact (N2)	020 8432 1415

### Crime

Emergency	999
Barnet Police	101
Mus. Hill Police Stn.	020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Victim Support	0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer	
Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014

### Help & Advice

Advice Barnet Project	0844 826 9336
CAB Money Advice	020 8201 7727
Carers' Line	020 8343 9698
Childline	0800 1111
Disability Info Service	020 8446 6935
Gingerbread	020 8445 4227
National Debt Line	0808 808 4000
NSPCC	0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse	020 8683 3300
Relate	020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector	0300 1234 999
Samaritans	08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

## Festival charities

**East Finchley's first Christmas Festival will be supporting three local charities.**

The Bobath Centre in East End Road is a specialist treatment centre providing individually tailored therapy for children with cerebral palsy and other allied neurological conditions.

Home-Start Barnet offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children. The charity has a large group of volunteers and a range of services including twice-weekly family groups

and outreach for the borough's two-year-old scheme for free childcare. Home-Start also runs events and outings for families throughout the year.

Nazareth House in East End Road is a care home for the elderly, registered to welcome up to 84 people. It is run by the Sisters of Nazareth who treat those in their care with dignity and with a respect for individual choice and lifestyle.

## High Road geared up for festival

**On Saturday 8 December, East Finchley High Road will be the place to be in north London. Twenty community stalls and the European market, along with the High Road traders, will be offering shopping, drinking, eating and entertainment from 10am.**

Highlights include Coronation Street's Michelle Collins turning on the Christmas lights, an East Finchley Gangnam-style event planned for the afternoon and entertainment on the stage all day ending with community carol singing from 6.30pm.

Roger Chapman, chair of East Finchley Community Trust, said: "Local people, traders and residents have pulled together in recent weeks to put this event on. It promises to be a brilliant day out and a great chance to do your Christmas shopping locally."

Here's the full run-down of what's in store on the day:

### All day

- European market from the Bald Faced Stag down to the tube station. Over 20 community and business stalls between Barracuda Café and KFC.
- Performance Stage with carol singers, brass band and rock bands, ending with community carol singing.
- A Santa turbo bike time trial outside Bike and Run.

### Morning

- Storytelling in the Library from 10-10.30am for under-5s; then at 11-11.30am Carey Miller talks to children aged 9+ about her books.
- A 7km Santa Fun Run starting outside Budgens at 11am. The minimum qualification is to wear a Santa hat.

### Afternoon

- Festival Fancy Dress Parade, open to all, assembles at East Finchley Methodist Church at 12 noon and follows a marching band down to Budgens, with judging at 1pm.
- Two performance spaces featuring magicians, street performers and musicians.
- Tea dance from 2-4pm at East Finchley Methodist Church with tea, cakes, music and lots of dancing.
- Phoenix Cinema screens Arthur Christmas at 2.30pm (all seats £3) with the proceeds going to local charities.
- At the Barracuda Café, Santa will be available to have his photo taken from 3.30-4.30pm.
- A choir from local churches will be roving around the streets singing carols.

### Early evening

- A giant Christmas tree will be erected outside Barracuda

Café and East Finchley Open artists will have a stall to make decorations. Lights will be switched on by Michelle

Collins.

• The Cabaret of Pottiness performs at Finchley Youth Theatre at 8pm.

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

**111 Abbots Gardens, N2**

Conversion of garage into habitable room, including replacing garage door with a wall and window.

**78-80 Brackenbury Road, N2**

Demolition of single-storey hall and erection of two houses.

**75 Church Lane, N2**

Single-storey rear extension.

**81-85 East End Road, N2**

Shop front alterations, including new windows, warehouse entrance and security grille. One internally illuminated fascia sign.

**6 Edmunds Walk, N2**

Fenestration alterations at ground-floor rear elevation.

**32B Gurney Drive, N2**

Roof extension to facilitate loft conversion, including three dormers to front, rear and side elevations and three roof lights to side and rear elevations.

**42 Hertford Road, N2**

Single-storey rear conservatory. McDonalds Restaurants Ltd, 11-59 High Road, N2

New brick riser to front elevation. New ventilation kit to existing flat roof. One internally illuminated fascia sign and two non-illuminated signs at front entrance.

**44 Lincoln Road, N2**

Single-storey rear and infill extension to ground-floor flat. Alterations to rear terrace at first-floor flat, including new balustrade and alterations to access stairs to garden.

**49 Park Hall Road, N2**

Single-storey rear extension. New windows to side and rear

elevations.

**10 Talbot Avenue, N2**

Single-storey rear extension. Rear dormer window at first floor level on existing cat slide roof.

**Oldways, 31 The Bishops Avenue, N2**

Two-storey dwelling house, including basement and rooms in roof space, following demolition of existing property. Alterations to hard and soft landscaping.

**Sunningdale, 38 The Bishops Avenue, N2**

Variation of Condition No.1 pursuant to planning permission Ref: F/04195/11 for 'Demolition of existing dwelling and detached Garage'. Variation to include: 'alterations to size and design'.

**Turquoise, 42 The Bishops Avenue, N2**

Part demolition of wings to listed detached dwelling. New two-storey wings within similar height and cross section of original wings. Demolition of garage and out-houses, and erection of single-storey ancillary facilities.

### Haringey Council

**9 Ringwood Avenue, N2**

Rear dormer window and extension of rear extension.

**64 Twyford Avenue, N2**

Glazed balustrade to guard folding doors on rear dormer.

**36 Beech Drive, N2**

New conservatory to replace existing one.

**23 Ringwood Avenue, N2**

Certificate of Lawfulness for single-storey rear extension and side dormer window.

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# Alert after spate of burglaries

By Janet Maitland

**Police are asking people to be extra vigilant about security after a shocking series of local burglaries.**

On 17 September, burglars slipped the night latch on the front door of a house on Church Vale while the residents were asleep and broke in. They stole electrical goods and car keys, which they used to steal a BMW. Another house in the same street was broken into on 22 September and a Toyota car was stolen. It is thought that the burglars got in through a window at the back of the house.

On 10 October at about 8.30pm, two men broke into another house on Church Vale through the front door while an elderly resident was at home. The men demanded cash then wrenched a watch off her wrist, leaving her shocked and scratched. Both men were described as white, one aged

about 18 and 5ft 10 inches tall, the other aged about 30 and 6ft 2 inches tall.

At about 6.30pm on 31 October, some passers-by saw a car pull up suddenly at the bottom of Beech Drive and four men in masks or balaclavas get out. When they saw one of the men put his arm through the letterbox of a house, they dialed 999. Police report that the front door was forced open and several car keys taken. The men were described as white and in their early twenties.

## Warning notices

Local resident Stephanie Cleak decided to take some action, putting a warning notice through the letterboxes in Church Vale and getting in touch with the Fortis Green Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). "The SNT distributed notices a couple of weeks later," said Ms Cleak. "My neigh-

bour's notice warned her that her house was conspicuously dark in the late afternoon."

## Police advice

"Uniformed and non-uniformed officers are patrolling key areas in the west of Haringey, which is being hit by burglary offences, and we are arresting burglary suspects every week," said Detective Inspector Jason Turkington. "If you have any information about any of these burglaries please ring me on 020 8345 0866 or call 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous."

Always lock doors and windows when you go out. Buy time switches so lights turn on while you are out. Fit mortice locks to all external doors. Never leave car keys, valuables or ID documents near a window or letterbox. You can find more crime prevention advice at [www.metbumblebee.org](http://www.metbumblebee.org)



Karyn Johnstone, left, and Maja Djordjic are lighting up the business world with their new venture.

# Esme embarks to Africa

**Eighteen-year-old Esme Girling is heading to Nigeria next year to work on a charity health project. Esme, who lives on Lincoln Road and is a former pupil of Martin Primary and Fortismere schools, will be spending three months in Africa as part of Voluntary Service Overseas.**



Esme Girling, who will be doing voluntary work in Nigeria.

She said: "I was so excited to be accepted by VSO and I can't

wait to find out exactly what I'll be working on. Working for VSO really appealed to me because the charity takes a very personal approach to volunteering.

"In Nigeria I will probably be living with a host family, and the aim is to integrate fully with the community and understand the way of life there."

Esme has to commit to raising £1,500 for VSO before she leaves at the end of January. "The money I raise doesn't go to funding my own personal trip but helps VSO continue with

all the amazing projects it does abroad," she said.

For example, £2 pays for a volunteer to train local medical staff to reduce HIV transmission and £10 pays for a volunteer surgeon to teach local doctors to perform safe surgery. If you would like to help Esme raise funds for VSO, you can make a donation at [www.justgiving.com/Esme-Girling](http://www.justgiving.com/Esme-Girling).

# Ladies of the lamp

By John Lawrence

**A hobby has turned into a business for friends Maja Djordjic and Karyn Johnstone, who make exquisite and sometimes spectacular lampshades to order.**

Maja first turned her hand to making shades at her home in Squires Lane four years ago and when Karyn, who lives in Fortis Green, came along to design her website they decided to set up business together.

The Bespoke Boutique moves away from the mass-produced lampshades offered by most shops into the world of bespoke designs, many with handmade prints and made in the traditional way of stretching silk over the frame before finishing with hand-stitching.

Maja said: "This is a niche area and very different from the standard designs you get in shops. We will make shades for individuals and our aim is also to reach as many interior designers as possible."

Maja and Karyn will visit a

customer's home if requested to take swatches or create colour matches exactly right for the room that will house the lamp. They then make the shade to order using a suitable fabric or creating a new design and printing it themselves.

Karyn added: "At the moment, it's just lampshades but one day we hope to have our own range of fabrics and prints that can be used across other soft furnishings like curtains, sofas and cushions."

Their output is eclectic and fun, ranging from a tiny knitted shade for a table lamp up to a one-metre wide drum shade for a ceiling light, with all kinds of prints including maps, Union flags and vintage patterns along the way. Find out more at [www.thebespokeboutique.co.uk](http://www.thebespokeboutique.co.uk).

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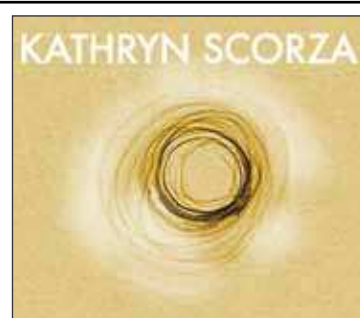
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# Objections grow to houses plan

By Mandy Rabin

Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust (FGCAT), with some local schools and hundreds of residents, have objected to an application to build two houses north of the allotments by Fortis Green's covered reservoir, first reported in *THE ARCHER* in September.

Residents are concerned that the resulting increase in vehicle traffic on the narrow path that contains an entrance to Tetherdown School would endanger children and their parents walking to Tetherdown, St James and Treehouse schools.

Residents also fear that building houses on this plot will serve as a precedent for further development on reservoir land.

Haringey Council's highways and transport department say they have "no highways and transportation objections" to the building application. Residents say they weren't officially consulted.

## Previous application rejected

A spokesperson for FGCAT said three years ago it successfully fought to save the site from

development with the support of both the local community and Haringey Council.

"The proposed new houses would dominate the skyline to the north of the allotments and have many other adverse effects. Only last year the national Planning Inspector vetoed the previous application because of the damaging effect on the area's status as Significant Local Open Land, so FGCAT can see no reason why the current application should go ahead," said the spokesperson.

Haringey's planning department is currently studying over 280 comments on the building application, in order to make a recommendation to the planning committee. For updates on the residents' campaign visit [www.85woodside.com](http://www.85woodside.com)

# Bobath's new appeal

The Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy in East End Road has launched a new fundraising campaign aimed at breaking down the barriers faced by families trying to get specialist therapy for children with cerebral palsy.

Sixty supporters, MPs and grant-makers attended an evening reception at the House of Commons in October to launch the Reaching Out Rising Up appeal. It was co-hosted by Finchley and Golders Green MP, Mike Freer and Paul Maynard, MP for Blackpool North and Cleveleys, who has cerebral palsy.

Among the speakers was Steven Boyle who spoke passionately about how the charity in East Finchley had made a difference not only to his son, Tom, but also to the rest of the family.

He said: "The Bobath Centre is unique and has changed our lives for the better. I can remember how nervous my wife and I were on our first visit, how apprehensive we were at attending a world-famous clinic, and how worried we were about whether our son would benefit. From day one we were made comfortable."

## Therapy funding set-backs

But he went on to say how the changes in NHS funding had left Tom without therapy for a year. Jayne Pearce, Centre director, said: "Children with cerebral palsy and their families are facing ever-lengthening struggles to get approval for therapy funding from their local health service. These delays can have serious consequences for a disabled child's future health, as therapy is most effective when introduced as early as possible."

To find out more about the appeal, call Kevin Gillespie at the centre on 020 8444 3355.



Rosie meets some odd creatures in her adventure.

# Gruesome twosome

Witches, zombies and vampires stalked the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green when the pub transformed two of its rooms into a haunted house to raise cash for charity.

Youngsters enjoyed getting made up in gruesome style for the Halloween event. Make-up artist Mercedes Hayward was there to make visitors unrecognisable and our photo was taken by Caron Westbrook, of Westbrook Photography in Muswell Hill.



# Ghouls just want to have fun

Leading up to Halloween, Sainsbury's Muswell Hill staff and children from their partner charity Action for Kids had a phantom-tastic time raising funds and awareness for their cause.

Scaring customers, bag packing, a Halloween quiz and a Taste and Donate stall all combined to raise a magnificent £545. Pictured here from left to right are fundraiser Lucy Duxbury, students Shruti Gadhvi and Siobhain Nolan,

all from Action for Kids, with Catherine Ling from Sainsbury's. The store also used one of the company's community grants recently to buy a cross-trainer exercise machine for the Ambitious for Autism charity.

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

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### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

6.30 pm Christmas Carol Service

*followed by mulled wine and mince pies*

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Children's Christmas Service with Carols

11.30 pm Sung Midnight Mass

*with Blessing of the Crib  
followed by wine and mince pies*

### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

8.00 am Mass of the Dawn

10.00 am Sung Mass of the Day

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# Our chef v Masterchef

What does *THE ARCHER* have in common with the BBC's *Olive* magazine? The answer is that both have featured contributions from East Finchley resident Allison Goodings.

Allison applied to write for *Olive* magazine's regular 'Pro versus Punter' feature, in which a restaurant is reviewed by both a TV cookery personality (the pro) and a regular reader (the punter).

Allison was tasked with reviewing Chicken Shed in Kentish Town, which was also reviewed by *Masterchef* presenter John Torode. The reviews have been published

in the magazine's December 2012 edition.

Allison's recipes for *THE ARCHER*, which are inspired by family recipes and recipes from her collection of cookbooks, use ingredients sourced from local shops. She is also a regular contributor to the US-based cooking website Recipe Relay ([recipere-relay.com](http://recipere-relay.com)), as well as having her own food blog ([odetoanarti-choke.wordpress.com](http://odetoanarti-choke.wordpress.com)).





## Trial date for parking zone challenge

The legal action to overturn Barnet Council's 2011 hike in residents' parking charges will be decided at a High Court trial in July next year. The increases, by as much as 300%, left residents living in Barnet's controlled parking zones paying some of the highest parking charges anywhere in London.

When the trial takes place on 2 July 2013, it will be the culmination of a two-year battle by opponents who have argued that the charges are unfair and unlawful. The legal challenge is being lead by solicitor David Attfield and is supported by the Barnet CPZ Action Group.

He expressed relief that the trial date has been fixed but also frustration at the delay.

"Unfortunately, the courts are facing an unprecedented number of claims and we must take our turn," he said.

### Achievements

Although the legal action has progressed more slowly than had been hoped, the group highlighted the success of the campaign to date which has included delaying the introduction of the increases after legal flaws

were highlighted and the recent introduction of cheaper half-day visitor parking vouchers. Mr Attfield said: "All the evidence has now been served and nothing Barnet has put forward alters our view that it targeted CPZ residents in order to subsidise transport services across the borough. We say quite simply that this is unlawful."

He also confirmed that the campaign will continue during the period before the trial. "Due to the generosity of supporters we are well placed to prepare for the trial but further funds are needed in case we are ordered to pay Barnet's legal costs."

Donations can be made online at the group's website: [www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com](http://www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com). If the action is successful, the group hopes to be able to return the bulk of the donated money.



Former MP and war correspondent Martin Bell opens the Combat Fair.

## Fair fights combat stress

By Ruth Smith

Former MP and BBC war correspondent Martin Bell opened the fourth winter fair in aid of Combat Stress at the Free Church Hall in Hampstead Garden Suburb on 3 November. Rifle Morgan from the Territorial Army also came along to offer his support and give visitors a chance to talk to him about life in the TA and his recent deployment in Afghanistan.

Nearly 300 people came to the fair and there was something for everyone from home-made refreshments, cakes and produce, books, plants, children's activities and a tombola to Combat Stress Christmas cards. The event raised over £3,000 for Combat Stress, a 50% increase on last year's total.

Combat Stress was founded in 1919 and is the leading UK

military charity and service provider in the care of veterans' mental health, including post traumatic stress disorder. Combat Stress has a current case load of 4,800 veterans including over 800 from the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; the youngest veteran is just 20 years old.



Two-year-old Kadri Krasniqi, of The Grange, turns the fruit crusher to make juice on apple day, watched by Guy Bardoe, of East Finchley Abundance. Photo by John Lawrence.

## Crushing success for Apple Day

By Margi McAlister

Autumn is the season of reds, golds, nights drawing in ... and the apple harvest. That's why on a bright October Saturday morning a group of East Finchley residents set up a stall outside the Post Office on the High Road. They were giving away apples, apple juice, apple cake and information about why they were there.

The group, called East Finchley Abundance, had collected and received surplus apples that would otherwise have gone to waste in people's gardens. Guy Bardoe and Roger Chapman, who live nearby, brought their own fruit presses.

They were kept busy pulping and pressing apples while Harriet Copperman poured the juice into cups for shoppers to taste. It was delicious, as were the cakes, flapjacks and other apple delicacies baked by Dymna.

Luke Berman said the group aims not only to salvage surplus fruit "but to educate children about where food comes from". He said the group was working on a map showing where free fruit could be found in public areas.

### Village atmosphere

Woven baskets made from East Finchley wood by local resident May Poulter held varieties of apples. There were recipes to take home and an interesting newspaper called *Positive News* with articles about protecting bees, the health benefits of camels' milk and lots more. Other members of the group were answering the many questions asked by an animated crowd of shoppers and passers-by.

There are notices at both ends of East Finchley announc-

ing that we are a 'Village' and the atmosphere on the High Road was certainly reminiscent of a country market even though we are only 20 minutes away from central London. Find out more about East Finchley Abundance by emailing [efabundance@btinternet.com](mailto:efabundance@btinternet.com)

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The men's tower class was one of the high-powered highlights of the pilates fundraising day. Photo by John Lawrence.

## David's good cause is no stretch

There were plenty of aching limbs after a marathon day of Pilates sessions to raise money to send breast cancer sufferer David Baldwin to Mexico for a course of alternative treatment. Well over £5,000 was raised in just 12 hours by more than 160 people, young and old, attending classes and by instructors giving their time free at Pilates Nation in Church Lane. The fund now stands at £29,000, just £11,000 short of the £40,000 target.

His wife Nicola and friends are continuing to raise money: David's band, Random Patrol, for which he is lead singer, performed a gig at Northbridge

School, Camden, on 30 November, and there will be an auction at the Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, on 9 December, with all money going to the fund.

David, 54, of Durham Road keeps a blog at [www.david-baldwin.co.uk](http://www.david-baldwin.co.uk), and is also selling a range of personally-designed Christmas cards, which are on sale at the Cherry Tree gift shop, High Road, and Crocodile Antiques in Muswell Hill.

## Tips for the festive season

*Cognitive hypnotherapist Muriel Bouvier gives her tips on surviving the pressures and enjoying the fun of the festive season.*

The festive season is notoriously stressful for a lot of people. Many people are under financial pressure. We spend more time with relatives, which is not always relaxing, and people also give themselves deadlines to achieve something or sort their lives out. To top it all, the party season means that we also consume too much alcohol. A few tips could make it all much easier.

Take time to enjoy the good moments. All too often, we rush to organise and prepare for everything to be perfect. Be part of it, even if it means that some things do not get done.

Go for a few walks; research has shown that enjoying Nature is a powerful way to keep depression at bay, and the exercise is beneficial too.

Include fun and laughter in your day and make sure you remember the good times. Pay attention to them so that you can look back on it and have a positive memory of the festive season, instead of one of stress.

### New Year goals

At the new year, write a review of 2012 as if it had already happened. This prompts your unconscious mind to reach these targets. Think in the positive: "I want to be a size 12", "I want to exercise three times a week", "I want to get As and Bs for my GCSEs". Close your eyes and imagine the results. What will you see, hear and feel when you have achieved your goals?

Plan what you have to do to get there. Aim for small steps in the right direction, and

accept that sometimes we have setbacks. Put those behind you, forgive yourself and carry on towards those goals. Have a great 2013.

*Muriel Bouvier is based in East Finchley and can be contacted on 07903 251636 or at [www.MurielBouvier.com](http://www.MurielBouvier.com)*

## Window dressing

The window of Black Gull Bookshop in the High Road is being transformed more frequently into a gallery space.

Its recent exhibition of the work of Stephen Gottlieb and Jane Dorner, two local artists with far-flung reputations, is one such example. Stephen's lute-making skills brought to bear on exquisitely worked boxes and Jane's celebration of colour in glass were a great success. Plans are afoot to bring more artists into the (window) frame.

## Doorstep scam

By Janet Maitland

Two women thought to be from eastern Europe have been calling at elderly people's homes, pretending that they need a note to be written in English for them. They claim that one of them works as a cleaner and needs a note to explain to her employers that she can't work for two weeks because of an accident to her father. Once inside, one of them stays with the victim while the other slips out of the room to see what she can steal.

One elderly woman in Huntingdon Road had some much-loved jewellery stolen. The pair have also been active in Twyford Avenue and in other parts of the borough. Some of the victims have been offered a small sum of money and a pink nightdress for writing the note.

One of the women is described as being of large build, with a dark complexion and make-up smudges round her eyes. She was wearing a dark skirt and top. The other woman is described as smaller, with a lighter skin and wearing a belted light brown coat.

### Pickpocket links

Sergeant Mark Kelly from the Safer Neighbourhood Team suspects that some recent

pickpocket offences in the High Road may be linked to the women. The pickpocket is described as being of Italian or eastern European appearance, about 5ft 3inches tall, in her early 20s, with a stocky build, an olive complexion, dark hair tied back and wearing a dark coat.

"We've been doing plain clothes patrols on the High Road and the surrounding area since the start of November but to date no suspects matching this description have been stopped," said Sgt Kelly.

You are advised to keep your belongings secure when you are out and about and never to open your door to anyone you are not sure about. Call 999 if these women come to your home.

## Pharmacy in new hands

New owners have taken over the former Coral Pharmacy in East End Road and are promising longer opening hours.

Husband and wife Shanel and Been Raichura, both qualified pharmacists, will open Links Pharmacy from 9am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 2.30pm on Saturday. They are also opening from 10am to 2pm on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

"Our mission is to offer the best healthcare service and advice to our customers and to become fully embedded in and integral to the local community," said Shanel. "Both of

us have had significant retail experience in community pharmacy and have held a variety of positions with a large pharmacy chain in north and central London."

Links Pharmacy will be providing medication use reviews, a repeat prescription service and a free medicine delivery service.

Contact the pharmacy at 129 East End Road by telephone on 020 8883 0442 or by email on [SEC.LinksPharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:SEC.LinksPharmacy@nhs.net)

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# No action at “eyesore” building site

By Nick Young

For several months, workmen have been conspicuous by their absence on the building site located at 411 Great North Road, with residents unable to get an explanation for what has happened from either the developers or Barnet Council.

Building work has happened sporadically at the site for the last couple of years. No work at all has been done on the site since June, when workmen were called in to deal with a blocked drain caused by a manhole that had been blocked with builders' rubble leading to flooding in nearby gardens.

Mutton Brook, which rises in Cherry Tree Wood and is a tributary of the River Brent (itself a tributary of the Thames), runs underneath the Great North Road at that point.

“It’s been a nightmare,” says local resident Ruth Schenirer, who lives next to the development. Ruth describes the site as “an eyesore, a health and safety issue and a security issue”.

## Whose responsibility?

Until 2006, a Texaco garage was located on the site, which is currently owned by a Stoke Newington-based development company called Hilderton Estates Ltd.

The property is actually located in the Hampstead Garden Suburb council ward, which surprised residents who had contacted East Finchley councillors about it. Councillor Arjun Mittra (Labour, East Finchley) advised *THE ARCHER* that he had referred the matter to Pam Wharfe, the council’s interim director for environment, planning and regeneration, but at the time of writing no action has been taken, nor have residents been given any explanation.



Building work has come to a halt at the site on Great North Road. Photo by Nick Young



Martin School reception children look back at the generations before them.

## Martin School tells its story

East Finchley Community Trust is one of the first groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund All Our Stories grant. Its 12-month project, called Martin School, Our School; Our Story, has been given nearly £10,000 to tell the story of the school’s history and centenary in 2013.

Commenting on the award, Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Trust, said: “We want to hear people’s stories about Martin School and its impact on the local commu-

nity. This will be an opportunity for local people to contribute and volunteer to help a superb project that will provide teaching resources for our children’s future and an excellent celebra-

tion of the school’s past.”

If you want to get involved contact the Martin Primary School Centenary by emailing [martinprimary100@gmail.com](mailto:martinprimary100@gmail.com) or call Roger on 07855 304488.

## Snow clearance

Barnet Council is once again offering free grit and spreading equipment to residents who volunteer to clear snow from their street or outside their child’s school.

If four volunteers sign up at Barnet Pledgebank to keep the pavements of their streets clear, the council will support them by offering a one ton bag of grit as well as spreading equipment, wheelbarrows and snow shovels. To volunteer, visit <http://pledgebank.barnet.gov.uk/>

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## YOUNG ARCHER



Andy Day and Mike James with group of children after their show at Noah's Ark's Festival of Theatre

### CBeebies star on stage

CBeebies TV star Andy Day was one of the performers at a day of top children's theatre at artsdepot, North Finchley, in October that raised £6,500 for the Noah's Ark children's hospice service.

The day included Andy and his friend Mike performing Big Box of Bananas and a Tall Stories production of Room on the Broom adapted from the award-winning picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Speaking after the event, Andy Day said: "We had such a brilliant time today, the audience were fantastic and we loved every minute. Noah's Ark is a charity really close to my heart so I am thrilled that everyone could have a laugh at my expense whilst raising money."

### Survey detects squatters

By Ann Bronkhorst

If you checked 30 new homes after five years and found squatters in most of them, you'd be surprised. When the Coldfall Wood bat boxes were surveyed in early October, there were signs of bird and insect squatters as well as respectable bat tenants: not a surprise but certainly fascinating.

Cindy Blaney, who installed the boxes in 2007 and who led a popular bat walk for the Friends of the wood in June this year, found 16 were used regularly by bats, mostly Pipistrelles and some Leisler's (a larger, less common bat). Some had left droppings as clues; others were in residence, asleep.

The six different box designs had affected uptake, with the most bat-friendly homes proving to be the larger boxes and those specially constructed to deter birds from nesting inside.

#### Recycled tennis-ball

The many old bird-nests were a source of great interest at the Woodland Fun Day on 7 October (reported in *THE ARCHER*, November 2012). Blue tits seem to have been the chief squatters, with one or two wrens and robins muscling in.



Pipistrelles in residence.

The nests were often beautifully made and one, woven from bright yellow tennis-ball fluff, drew gasps of admiration. In another nest was a macabre find: a skeleton bird with the remains of an insect larval pupa emerging through its lower jaw.

Old nests of wasps, bees and moths were found as well as plenty of spiders; it's lucky that Cindy isn't an arachnophobe. Lucky for us, too, that she'll check the boxes again in a few years' time, when who knows what creature may fly or crawl out to greet her.

#### PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ❖ **Coffee & Kids**, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ **Dads' Club**: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ **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.



Rosie meets some odd creatures in her adventure.

### Rosie flies in to youth theatre

Children's theatre company Kat's Whiskers will be performing *Rosie and the Seagull* at the Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road, on Saturday 22 December at 12 noon.

The show is an interactive tale of an eight-year-old girl's adventure of discovery when a mischievous seagull snatches her off to a distant land where naughty children are taught a lesson. There are larger-than-life characters, plenty of puppets and poetry, original music and storytelling. Tickets are priced £5. Telephone: 020 8883 9957.

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As the Archer Academy is a new school, we are required to carry out a consultation, so that our community has the opportunity to comment on our plans. Your views will help us shape our school and ensure that it lives up to our community's expectations.

The consultation will run from 1st November until 31st December, after which we will publish the results on our website. To find out more and have your say, visit [www.thearcheracademy.org.uk/survey](http://www.thearcheracademy.org.uk/survey).

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Brian Hooper, right, and event organiser George Andrew hand the fundraising cheque to Sarah Goddard, senior fundraiser of BLESMA, with the bandaged pumpkin still on display. Photo by Greg Best.

## Pumpkin thieves thwarted

By Sheila Armstrong

Tireless fundraiser and Barnet Civic Award holder Brian Hooper spent October this year in the Old White Lion pub, not drinking or carousing, but raising £1,760 for The British Limbless Ex-ServiceMens' Association (BLESMA).

He ran a Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin competition and, in keeping with the theme, the pub made pumpkin soup. Despite a drama when the pumpkin was stolen from the pub (Brian retrieved and repaired it) all went ahead as planned.

The pumpkin was grown and donated by local allotment holders George Andrew and Bill Nicholson, and the two winners of the competition were Thomas Rolles and Dan Bowen.

Brian was able to hand over a cheque to BLESMA on 6 November and the pumpkin has a future as there are plans for some fundraising pumpkin jam.

This month, Brian will be holding his annual Christmas charity raffle in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital, with over 100 prizes donated by local individuals and businesses. Last year's raffle raised £4,000.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Anniversary angst

This has been a weird year. Everywhere you looked there was someone celebrating a birth or death or drowning. And it's not just the Titanic getting far too up close and personal with an iceberg either. 2012 has been a year full of things to celebrate although I'm not sure if the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of the Teasmade is one of them.

Want go back a bit further? Well if you're Russian you've probably played the 1812 Overture to celebrate Napoleon's failure to beat the Russian winter. Never mind that it was written 60 odd years later and didn't become the standard accompaniment to fireworks until Classic FM invented easy listening.

So let's get on with the real deal, yes, music. And what a year we have had, what with celebrating the birth of the charts and the NME in 1952 and the arrival of the first singles from the Beatles and the Rolling Stones in 1962. In the weird world of rock'n'roll, 1962 was one of the truly great years and not just for those guys either. That was the year a bunch of Spurs fans decided that the world needed the Tottenham sound at least as much as it needed Merseybeat and formed the Dave Clark Five.

In America things were happening on both the east and west coasts. In sunny California, the three Wilson brothers with their mates Al Jardine and Mike Love surfed onto the scene. Yes, folks, the Beach Boys combined sun, surf, sand and foreign travel in 'Surfing Safari' and close harmonies haven't been the same since. On the other side of the States, some bloke with a Woody Guthrie fixation got his hands on a record deal and decided that Robert Zimmerman was no name for a self-respecting rebel. Bob Dylan was born and folk music would never be the same again.

Not all anniversaries are doom and gloom. Not when you're marking the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the time The Stones got busted by eating a Mars Bar and also celebrating 80 years of something that helps you work rest and play loud music.

**St Mary's Catholic Church 279 High Road N2 8HG**  
**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Sunday 16th December

5 pm Carol Service followed by refreshments

Monday 24th December

6 pm Children's Mass for Christmas Eve 10 pm Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

10 am Family Mass 12 noon Latin Mass

## Fantastic creations in the Chocolate Factory

By Daphne Chamberlain  
Roald Dahl's chocolate factory held a surprise or two for Charlie. North London's local version is a revelation as well. Tucked away in Clarendon Road, N22, between Alexandra Palace railway station and Wood Green Tube station, it was where Barratt's Liquorice Allsorts, Sherbet Fountains, jelly babies and (later) Caxton chocolates were made. Now it is London's largest studio complex, with space for over 200 artists, sculptors, photographers, printmakers, jewellery makers, leather workers and other creative industries.

At last month's Open Studios Weekend, visitors met artists in their studios, bought presents, and learned more about two organisations with similar aims. Collage Arts manages the Open Studios, but also runs a programme to place 1,000 young people, who would normally struggle to find work, into apprenticeships. The Harington Scheme, a registered charity based in Highgate, helps young adults with learning disabilities to find a job or to go on to further education.

### Productive collaboration

During the weekend, the scheme held a reception for over 100 people at the factory, with TV presenter Joe Swift as their guest speaker. Chocolate Factory artists displayed work to be auctioned, sharing proceeds with the Harington Scheme, and the Scheme sold raffle tickets. The evening was arranged by Harington Scheme Trustee Pauline Treen, well known for her work in raising funds for the North London Hospice, including the annual art exhibition at the East Finchley Arts Festival.

Pauline says: "The collaboration proved a great way for The Harington Scheme to introduce its work to many people, and in turn, the visitors to the Open Studios who came because their favourite charity had been chosen were introduced to the amazing artists at the Chocolate Factory and will no doubt come back next year. We estimate that the event raised over £4,000, which is a wonderful result".

For details on the Harington Trust, see [www.harington.org.uk](http://www.harington.org.uk), or call Joanna Baxter on 020 8341 3657. For Collage Arts, see [www.collage-arts.org](http://www.collage-arts.org), or call 020 8365 7500.

## The show gets better

By Daphne Chamberlain

For the last five years East Finchley Writers have produced an anthology of their work, called Showtime. Each year I have reviewed it for *THE ARCHER*, and each year it has got better. Showtime 2012 is really excellent.

I have to tease you with humans born with feathers, lovers becoming alligators, the sinister academic with his little bronze toys... but it's not all fantasy. There is the modern Lady of Shalott, a woman "half sick of shadows", imprisoned behind a glass wall. There is vivid travel writing, intriguing extracts from novels in progress, poetry and two pieces that really resonated with me. One (pun intended) was by a fellow bell hater, Don't Ring Dem Bells: the other the touching Swing Boat.

A line in one of the stories says, "The book is made by writer and reader between them every time it is read". So do try to read this. East Finchley Writers meet on Wednesdays at The Old White Lion. For details of meetings and how to read Showtime 2012, please call Carola on 020 8883 5808.

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Church of England

#### Christmas Services December 2012

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	6pm	Service of Carols and Readings
24 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Nativity Play/blessing of the Crib
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Christmas Communion

Tel: 020 8346 8591 for more information





## 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.
- **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 Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 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

## New teacher for Alexander technique

By Sheila Armstrong

**There is a new Alexander technique teacher in East Finchley: Adrian Farrell, who can be found working at Chiropractic at 98 High Road.**

The Alexander technique is used to treat headaches, backache, RSI, neck and shoulder pain, stress and poor posture. It was first evolved by Frederick Alexander in Australia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is much used by musicians and performers.

Adrian told *THE ARCHER* that he first practised the technique himself in 2002 because of neck and shoulder pain caused by long hours sitting at a computer.

"At the time I was working as an IT consultant in the City and I found the high demands of the job made taking care of myself difficult," he said. "Within a few months of weekly Alexander lessons, not only did my balance, coordination and posture continue to improve, but I found myself much calmer, and able to handle stressful situations."

### Changing bad habits

Alexander lessons attempt to change the harmful patterns of physical and mental tension that may be built up from childhood. These can cause a wide range of common problems and restrict mobility and alertness. A lesson is concerned with teaching the body to rethink the way it does basic movements like sitting and walking.

Scientific research on backache funded by the Medical Research Council and published in the British Medical Journal in 2008 concluded that the technique was an effective long-term solution to recurrent and chronic back pain.

Adrian can be contacted on [www.adrianfarrell.co.uk](http://www.adrianfarrell.co.uk) or 0780 8612510. He also has a clinic in Highgate. For more information, visit [www.alexander-technique-in-london.co.uk](http://www.alexander-technique-in-london.co.uk)

## Mozart masterpiece

**In the New Year, the North London Chorus will be taking a role in the ITV drama *Endeavour* singing a passage from Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*.**

You can see the choir perform this unfinished masterpiece in real life on December 15 at St James's Church in Muswell Hill, at a concert also featuring the world premiere of Matthew King's cantata *Out of the Depths*.

This work was commissioned in memory of William Brown, a much-loved member of the choir who died suddenly in 2009. The text is based on



The Loop Academy crew with their special birthday guests.

## Star guests bring smiles

**A Highgate theatre and performance school celebrated its second birthday with some very special guests. Actors Marc Baylis, from *Coronation Street*, and Jim Howick, from *Horrible Histories*, joined in the birthday fun at Loop Academy at Highgate Primary School.**

The day was a huge success with live music, workshops for children and stalls from local businesses. The children also raised money for their chosen

charity, Great Ormond Street Hospital and are going to visit the hospital in the New Year.

Loop is currently enrolling for the spring term. For more

information visit [www.loopacademy.co.uk](http://www.loopacademy.co.uk). To reserve a place please call 07758616774 or email [loopacademy@gmail.com](mailto:loopacademy@gmail.com).

## Miriam is remembered

**The New North London Synagogue in East End Road recently hosted a community screening of an acclaimed documentary film about life after terrorism called *Love Hate Love*.**

The film tells the story of three families from around the world whose lives were changed forever by some of the most notorious acts of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including the family of Miriam Hyman, 32, of Ossulton Way, who died on the number 30 bus in the London bombings of 2005.

Executive produced by Sean Penn, and featuring tracks by Radiohead, U2 and Bruce Springsteen, *Love Hate Love* had its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York in April 2011.

Miriam's sister Esther, who now campaigns and fundraises through the Miriam Hyman Memorial Trust, introduced the synagogue screening, timed to coincide with what would have been Miriam's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on 30 November. Find out more at [www.miriam-hyman.com](http://www.miriam-hyman.com)



"Textures of Impermanence" by Elena Sargiuta.

## Artists from three nations

By Sheila Armstrong

**In November the Chorak café on the High Road showed the work of four London-based graduates from the Cass School of Art in Whitechapel. The young artists come from Iran, Romania and Barnet and met while on the MA course.**

Mainly in black and white, a range of graphic work, collage and photography was exhibited, from East End scenes to pure abstraction.

One of the artists, Finchley resident Nye Thompson, told us that her work was about exploring the properties of graphite, and came from an interest in both geometry and organic forms.

If you have seen the work at Chorak and want to find out more, contact Nye on [nye.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:nye.thompson@gmail.com).

## What's On... E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### Sunday 9 December

- **Monthly litter pick** at Stanley Road Playing Field. Volunteers welcome. Meet 2pm, equipment provided.

### Thursday 13 December to Sunday 27 January

- Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate, presents ***Crazy for You***, the Gershwin musical featuring hit songs *Someone To Watch Over Me*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Embraceable You* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*; Tuesdays to Saturdays at 7.30pm, Sundays at 4pm with family matinees on 27 and 28 December at 3pm. Tickets £12-£16, concessions available. Box office 020 8340 3488 or [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com)

### Saturday 15 December

- **North London Chorus performs Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* and Matthew King's cantata *Out of the Depths***, commissioned in memory of much-loved choir member William Brown and based on Oscar Wilde's

*De Profundis*; St James Church, Muswell Hill, 7.30pm. Tickets: £18, £13 and £10 with concession reductions of £2 from Ticketline on 0203 468 1213 and Les Aldrich music shop, Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill.

### Until Sunday 16 December

- **Art exhibition at the Garden Suburb Gallery**, Fellowship House, 136a Willifield Way, NW11. Kochi Okada works in silver and gold using pearls from the Orient; Rachel Dein's wall-hanging plaster and clay tiles range from the natural world to everyday objects. All exhibits for sale. Exhibition open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm with tea and mince pies on weekend afternoons.

### Saturday 22 December

- **Kat's Whiskers perform *Rosie and the Seagull***, an adventure with puppet, poetry and music, suitable for five to 10-year-olds; Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road, 12 noon. Tickets £5 from 020 8883 9957.





# Fashions for all body types

By Daphne Chamberlain

Ann Olivier has had MS for 20 years, and now uses a wheelchair. She is an architect who became a dress designer when, while getting ready for an important occasion, she realised she had nothing suitable to wear. Fellow wheelchair user Sippy Azizollah was delighted to meet her, saying, "What really bugs me is that designs for disabled people are often made by the able-bodied, who don't realise the pitfalls we meet."

At her home in Huntindon Road, Ann talked us through some of those pitfalls: skirts riding up and gathering over the lap, buttons and zips too difficult to use, garments revealing any prosthetic plumbing or other medical necessities, and clothes that simply can't be taken on or off if their wearer can't stand. Her designs are cut away at the seat or vented at the back, and are fastened by magnets, which go safely in the washing machine. Skirts are below knee-level, and trousers have graduated hems, which actually give a more even appearance when sitting.

For convenience, and also to disguise loss of body tone, she is fond of tunics, but all her designs have interest in the upper torso area, because that's where people's eyes focus. When we met her, she was wearing a very elegant jacket with an asymmetric neckline.

## Meeting the challenge

Of course, not all disabled people use wheelchairs, and magnetic fastenings are a godsend for arthritic or immobile hands. Ann also markets jewellery in this range, and hopes that other designers will work with her on this.



Ann Olivier shows Sippy a hooded coat.

Clothes she offers now are for formal or luxury wear, made to order in London. However, her collection was only launched in April this year, and Ann hopes to expand it. She has already had interest from Florida and Singapore, and feels that now is the time to meet the clothes challenge.

She told us, "I have a dream that every fashion show will have at least one design for disabled people". Find out more at [www.xenicollection.com](http://www.xenicollection.com).

## 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 2TD. 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)

## Letters to the Editor

### Neighbourly spirit in Church Lane

Dear Editor,

I read your article (Clash over changes to Victorian house) in your November issue with dismay. I note that a similar article appeared in The Press a few weeks back. The family concerned have simply expanded their living space to accommodate a young growing family and have abided by all planning laws. This is something that very many of your readers have done or may plan to do.

It must have been uncomfortable and embarrassing for the family to be identified in the local paper and I applaud them for their measured response. *THE ARCHER* should think very carefully before allowing itself to be used as a platform by aggrieved neighbours running a public campaign against one household. I do not think that is what *THE ARCHER* should be for. As Christmas approaches, I hope some of its spirit rubs off on the residents of Church Lane and that the parties concerned reflect on their personal relationships with the family identified.

Yours faithfully,  
Helen Drake,  
Creighton Avenue, N2.

### Dear correspondents...

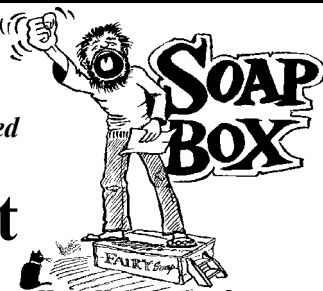
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Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



## Lest we forget

By Bruce Boyd

Those of you who know the small collection of streets on the western side of East Finchley just off East End Road will know the sad sight of the old Royal British Legion building in Manor Park Road.

Manor Park Hall closed last January and was sold at public auction in September. It is now the subject of a planning proposal (Ref: F/03645/12) for demolition and the building of two new houses on the site. All well and good for new housing.

However, what most of you won't know is that behind the doors is a small reminder of the sacrifice of local men in the carnage of the First World War which risks being lost forever. From 1914-18, 22 men of the Manor Park Presbyterian Mission, which met at the hall, lost their lives in action; that's nearly half the congregation removed in four short years.

This must have shattered those left behind. One way to mourn and cope with their loss was to erect a marble plaque as a "Memorial to Heroes Who Fell in the Great War 1914-1918". This was placed just inside the main left entrance door so that "Their name shall remain for ever: Their glory shall not be blotted out".

The memorial hints at the personal tragedy involved. The photograph shows four surnames 'Green' listed, two in each of the Regiments of 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Middlesex, perhaps members of one family.

So, when the Royal British Legion completed the sale of the premises, did they find a suitable alternative location for this memorial? The short



answer is a resounding NO. I wrote to the Legion via their sale agents to point out the importance of the plaque but didn't receive a reply. The new owner of the site appears not to have been made aware of its importance.

Fortunately, local people and councillors have brought it to the attention of Barnet Council's planning committee and there are discussions about removing the plaque and relocating it somewhere close by, possibly in the Finchley Memorial Hospital garden.

Do you have any views on this? Are you a descendant of any of those listed on the Memorial? The planning department may be able to consider any points raised, if sent to them quickly.

As for the British Legion, the words "We will remember them..." seem rather hollow in this case.

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## A normal life after hair loss

By Nick Young

**Coping with hair loss can be very traumatic for people already suffering from cancer, but a Highgate hair salon has started to help people come to terms with hair loss by offering a wig consultation service.**

BBC3 Hair Studios in Highgate Village has offered the service for eight months, with patients from the nearby Whittington Hospital being referred there. It also has links with the Teenage Cancer Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support.

### Dignity and discretion

"Coming to us doesn't feel like coming to a medical appointment," explained studio owner Vaso Louca. "We feel like we are giving people their privacy and dignity back."

Vaso used to work with wigs as a freelancer for TV fashion programmes, and got the idea of offering a wig service for medical hair loss patients last year after a friend started suffering from alopecia. The wigs used are made from either synthetic

or human hair, and prices range from £40 to £3,000.

Many clients opt for a wig that looks like their own hair used to. "They want their life back as it was, therefore we offer a colour and shape match," said Vaso.

Discretion is vital as hair loss is a very sensitive issue, especially for women. Vaso's staff have been trained to deal with cancer patients by Macmillan nurses. The wig service is located in a private viewing room in the basement of the studio, although a home service is offered to clients who live locally. The first consultation is free.

BBC3 also offers a children's range and plans to stock a men's range soon. For further information call 020 8348 3545 or visit [www.bbc3hairstudios.com](http://www.bbc3hairstudios.com)

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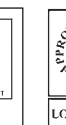
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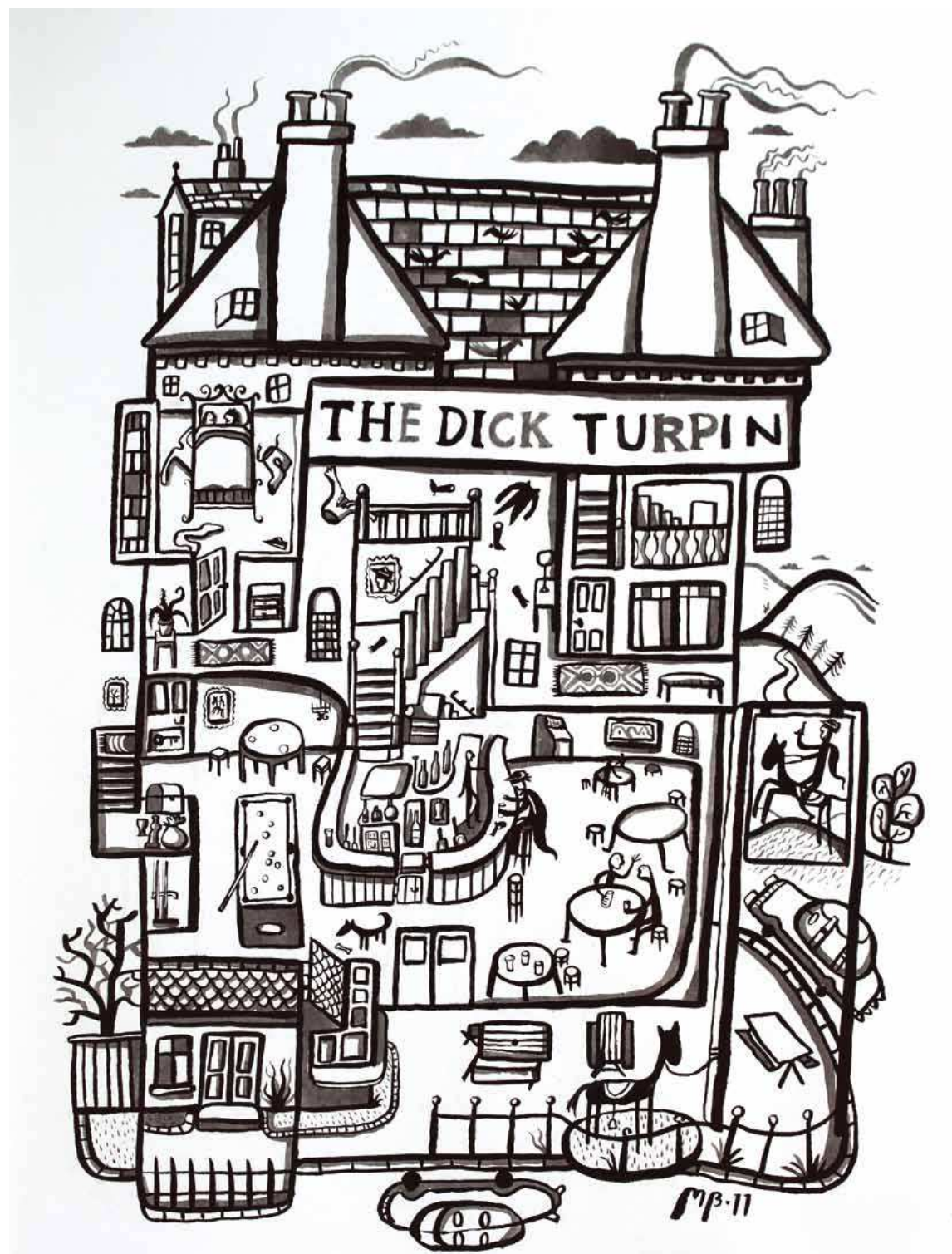
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## Dick drinks in his own pub

By John Lawrence

**Seated at the bar in his black cape and tricorne hat, ruthless highwayman Dick Turpin takes a break from robbing innocent travellers and enjoys a tippie at the pub named after him in Long Lane.**

With a pool table in the next room and his horse tied up outside next to a family saloon car, this is the 18<sup>th</sup>-century criminal rubbing shoulders with modern life along the route of his reign of terror.

It all comes from the mind of artist Martin Barker, who lives on Long Lane and who wanted to use his art to mark the passing of the now-demolished public house.

"It turned into a fantasy pic-

ture," said Martin. "I imagined Dick Turpin was actually there in person and everything else grew around him."

Martin's paintings, many in acrylics, are full of fascinating details inspired by the daily life he sees around him. He works in town as a graphic artist and enjoys giving full rein to his imagination in his spare time.

"It's the small unnoticed things I like," he said. "I try

to keep my work exciting and improvised. It usually starts with an idea in my head and then I let the whole thing grow spontaneously on paper."

Martin's other work includes dramatic cityscapes and panoramas of children's playgrounds, and he's currently working on a lake scene with swan pedaloes inspired by a walk round Alexandra Palace. See his paintings at [www.martin-barker.com](http://www.martin-barker.com)

## New proposals for local buses

**London Buses' consultation document proposes a new stop outside Muswell Hill Boots for the W7, which will also continue to stop on Muswell Hill. However, people who are using the 144 must continue to walk down the very steep hill to reach their first stop.**

Haringey West Bus Watch have protested. Secretary Chris Barker pointed out that it should be easy enough to instruct drivers to leave the stand on the roundabout only when the space by the bus stop is free, and that there should not be excessive crowding on the pavement, as

many people would be waiting for either bus. The new arrangement is for a six-month trial period.

### Route 603

Haringey West Bus Watch have once again asked London Buses to run the 603 all day. They have suggested it should

be routed via Rosslyn Hill and Belsize Avenue, serving the Royal Free Hospital. To enable this, they have proposed diverting the 168 at Pond Street, to run to Golders Green. This would eliminate route 268, so balancing the extra buses on the 603 route.